

# Lomita

N e w s l i n e

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March

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## City receives grant for smog-free electric vehicles

Lomita, known as the “friendly” city, is also environmentally friendly. Two Global Electric Motorcars (GEMs) have been purchased using grant funds provided by the South Coast Air Quality Management District from fees collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles (\$8,700 for both GEMs). These vehicles are bubble shaped and seat four passengers. Since they run on electricity, no smog or other toxic emissions are produced. The vehicle can achieve speeds of up to 25 mph and is legal on streets posted up to 35 mph.

One of the cars will be used by city personnel at the Parks Department, the other one at City Hall. To recharge, the vehicles must be plugged into a standard socket overnight.

To find out more about the Global Electric Motorcar, call 1-888-871-4367.



## Remodeling your home or office?



Please don't make the mistake of not checking with the Planning and Building departments when you hire a contractor to do some work on your house or place of business! Some home repairs like new roofing, water heaters, or windows seem like minor items. However, these and many other building-related items are regulated by the building code and require inspection by the building department.

The State law requires disclosure about real property at the time of sale, including building permit records. Because of this, buyers are more likely to ask for information about permits for remodeling and upgrades in a home.

Not only is it embarrassing, but it is also troublesome to speed through the building permit and inspection process when you are trying to close escrow. The proper time to apply for a building permit is **before** construction starts. In the worst cases where the contractor is unfamiliar with the local codes, the homeowner might have to demolish and rebuild an unpermitted structure or addition. Unfortunately, there are even a few contractors who will say they obtained permits but in fact did not.

For your peace of mind, call the City about your remodeling projects and obtain copies of the building permits for your own records. When you eventually sell your property, a complete building record might save you heartache and stress.

If you need information from the Building and Safety Department, please call (310) 534-3760. If you need information from the Planning and Zoning Department, call (310) 325-7110.

Get involved

Lend a helping hand

Show community spirit



*City Officials*

Mayor

**Bob Steinbach**

Councilmembers

**Ken Blackwood  
Susan Dever  
Margaret Estrada  
Tim King**

**City Administrator**

**Tom A. Odom**

**City Clerk**

**Dawn Tomita**

**City Newsletter to Inform Community**

Lomita Newslines is published by the City to provide information about City programs, services and issues.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Please contact:

Monika Martinez  
Newslines Editor  
Lomita City Hall  
24300 Narbonne Ave.  
Lomita, CA 90717  
or call  
325-7110.

**Help the railroad museum preserve history**

The recent separation of the Lomita Railroad Museum Board and Museum Foundation into two distinct entities has opened several opportunities for interested volunteers to serve on either Board.

**The Museum Board**

- ◆ Advises City Council on all matters dealing with the museum
- ◆ Promotes the Railroad Museum
- ◆ Provides guidance to the Foundation Board
- ◆ Must be Lomita resident and registered voter
- ◆ Meets monthly with city staff
- ◆ Is appointed by City Council

**The Foundation Board**

- ◆ Raises funds for the Railroad Museum
- ◆ Plans and participates in community events
- ◆ Applies for grants and endowments
- ◆ Recruits volunteers
- ◆ Increases public awareness
- ◆ Is appointed by City Council
- ◆ Non-residents are welcome

Download an application form by logging onto ([lomita.com/cityhall](http://lomita.com/cityhall)) or call 325-7110 to have one mailed to you.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, there are several other ways to become involved:

- ◆ Participate in fundraising programs
- ◆ Staff booths at community events
- ◆ Assist in generating grant proposals
- ◆ Prepare mass mailings and perform general office work
- ◆ Help out at the museum
- ◆ Contribute articles for the newsletter.

For more information please contact Monika at 310-325-7110.

**The Workforce Investment Network Needs You!**

The Carson/Lomita/Torrance Workforce Investment Network Board (Carson/Lomita/Torrance WIN) is a public/private partnership board that works closely with local government to plan, establish policy and maintain oversight for local employment and training programs. Members are appointed city elected officials. The Lomita City Council is currently seeking applications from local businesses.

If you are interested in serving on the C/L/T WIN Board, information and applications can be obtained from WIN Staff, Linda Tse at (310) 518-8200.

Get involved

Lend a helping hand

Show community spirit



### You can help stamp out Gangs and Drugs

The Lomita Public Safety Commission is planning their annual "Follow me, I'm gang and drug free" walk. Fifth graders from Lomita Math/Science Magnet, Eshelman Avenue Elementary and St. Margaret Mary School will participate in a rally against gangs and drugs.

The Commission is looking for sponsors to help with the cost for lunch for the students, prizes for the poster/slogan contest winners or other committee efforts directed to eradicate gangs and graffiti in Lomita. Please make your donation check payable to

**City of Lomita Public Safety Commission** and mail to: PO Box 339, Lomita, CA 90717, ATTN Linda.

Last year the committee received over \$1,500 from generous business and private sponsors.

### Become a FoodFinder!!!

The City of Lomita is working with Food Finders, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing food donations to those in need.

When businesses donate food, they feed the needy and also help reduce the amount of waste taken to landfills. Food Finders coordinates with volunteer drivers who pick up food donations on a daily basis from grocery stores, bakeries, restaurants and other businesses and then deliver the food to nearly 250 service agencies in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas. The Good Samaritan Law protects the donors from liability.

Food Finders picks up approximately 16,300 pounds of food per month in the South Bay area, but more help is needed. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact:

Food Finders  
3434 Atlantic Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807  
Phone: (562) 598-3003  
Fax: (562) 283-1403  
[www.foodfinders.org](http://www.foodfinders.org)

### Arbor Day and "Looking Good Lomita" Celebration

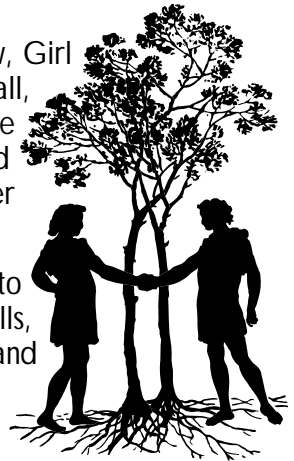
This year's Arbor Day and "Looking Good Lomita" celebration is planned for Saturday April 26, 2003.

For the fourth year in a row, Girl Scout Leader Lani Marshall, local volunteers and the City's Tree Committee and city staff will join together for this event.

Volunteers are needed to plant trees, clean tree wells, pick up trash and debris and pull weeds.

The Committee is also requesting donations of money or prizes for a raffle which will be held for the younger volunteers.

Please contact Virginia Lortz at the Field Services Department at 325-9830 as soon as possible if you would like to participate in this popular event or request further information.



### Safeguard your personal information!

Beware of telemarketing scams that ask for your social security number, PIN Number, bank account, credit card, etc. Personal information given out over the telephone can be used fraudulently to open accounts in your name which you may be liable for.

Incidences of identity theft and telemarketing scams have increased in the past. Often the targets of unscrupulous operators are senior citizens.

Not all telemarketing companies operate legitimately. Do not give out personal information, unless you know who you are talking to and you have originated the telephone call.

## Special Offer for South Bay Residents Only

If you are a customer of Southern California Edison or Southern California Gas Company, you are eligible to reserve special discount coupons for selected ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> products at Liberty Appliance located at 1859 Lomita Boulevard, Lomita, CA, and other South Bay retailers.

South Bay Energy Rewards Program is a new program sponsored by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to promote energy conservation and to provide financial incentives for South Bay residents for practicing energy efficiency. This is a great opportunity to purchase a new dishwasher, ceiling fan, clothes washer, window AC units, water heater, gas space heaters, etc. at a discount.

There are two ways to receive an Energy Rewards coupon:

1. Visit Liberty Appliances or any of the participating retailers: Expo Design Center in Redondo Beach, Townsend's Appliance in Gardena, Sears in Torrance and Carson, Home Depot in Hawthorne and Inglewood, Pacific Sales in Torrance and Genuine Maytag HAC in Torrance
2. Go shopping! Look for the ENERGY STAR label when you select your appliances and energy saving products.
3. Ask for an Energy Rewards coupon. The amount of the coupon will be immediately deducted at the cash register. There's no need to wait for a rebate check in the mail.

**OR** Call toll free at (888) 467-7776 and request your coupon today. Once it arrives in the mail, you can go shopping and start saving. Claim your energy rewards today! It's first-come, first served.

The South Bay Energy Rewards Program is funded by California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Program funds are subject to availability.



## Trash Collection Schedule

If your regular trash pickup day is on Mondays, pickup will be delayed by one day on Memorial Day, May 26,

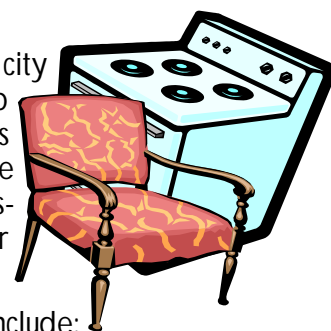
## Free income tax help

for qualified seniors  
and low income persons  
at Lomita Hall, 2nd Floor  
24300 Narbonne Avenue  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
8:30 am until 2 pm

No appointment needed  
Walk ins only

## Large Item Pickup

During the week of April 7, the city will hold a large item pickup for all its residential customers of 5 units or less. Please place the items you would like to dispose of on the curb on your regular trash pickup day.



Items that will be collected include: household appliances, furniture, carpets, mattresses, white goods, tree trunks and other oversized yard waste that is not larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length.

Additional large item pickups for a fee may be requested by calling CALMET at 212-3496. They will usually respond within three days.

Seniors needing help getting items to the curb should contact the Field Services Department at 325-9830.

## You asked:

### "What can I put in the blue barrel?"

**GLASS:** Clear and colored bottles and jars

**PLASTIC:** Milk, soda, juice, water and soap containers (#1PET and #2 HDPE)

**METAL:** Aluminum cans, metal food cans, coat hangers, foil and empty aerosol containers

**PAPER:** Newspaper, cardboard, magazines, envelopes, junk mail, white and colored paper, computer paper, cereal and tissue boxes, egg cartons, shopping bags, and non-metallic wrapping paper

Styrofoam articles cannot be recycled and must be placed in the regular trash.

## Community Development Department Receives Program Awards



At an awards ceremony hosted by the County of Los Angeles Community Development Commission held on January 16, 2003, the Lomita Housing & Community Development Department received two awards and was nominated for a third:

- ◆ *Outstanding Drawdown Performance for FY 01-02.* This recognition indicates staff works proficiently in performing fiscal objectives of the department.
- ◆ *Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation for Administration and Enforcement of Labor Standards Provisions.* This certificate compliments the comprehensive accuracy in meeting the labor compliance objectives of the federal government during the City Council Chambers Upgrade.

The department's *Lifeline Personal Response System* program was nominated as an 'innovative program', a category which recognizes unique approaches in assisting a specialized population within the city.

As the department's director, I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to Amelio Bello, Barbara Paulson, Rafael Mendoza and Juan Carranza for their professionalism in helping the HCD department achieve this recognition.

*Greg McPherron, Housing and Block Grant Director*



## City Employee of the Year 2002

Last year's "Employee of the Year" award was presented to Linda Goldberg, Steno Clerk III in the City Clerk's Department. The presentation of the plaque was one of the highlights of this year's City Holiday Dinner for commissioners and employees.

Linda is mother of two grown sons and lives with her husband in Torrance. She has worked for the City of Lomita since October 2000 and reflects a positive attitude towards her job and the city, enthusiastically supporting all city programs and projects. Linda takes on new projects with a smile and with no hesitation and is always willing to help her fellow workers.

City Hall is proud and fortunate to have Linda working at the front counter.

## Annual Tree Maintenance Report

The City of Lomita and West Coast Arborists have been working together for over three years. Systematic tree maintenance reduces the long term expenses of the urban forest while maintaining the financial value of one of Lomita's most valuable assets: trees. In the past fiscal year, West Coast Arborists has



- ◆ pruned 917 trees
- ◆ removed 17 trees
- ◆ planted 104 trees

The number one species pruned was the Canary Island Pine, a evergreen tree that flourishes in full sun with little water. It is a fast growing tree with a graceful, pyramid appearance. It can reach 60—80 feet in height. Brazilian Pepper, London Pine and Ornamental Pear follow the Canary Island Pine in the list of top species.

## Beetle Endangers Pine Trees

In recent months, city staff removed several pine trees infested by a Western Pine Beetle. After killing one tree, the Western Pine Beetle moves onto the next.



If any pine trees are located on or near your property, please examine them carefully. Signs of a beetle infestation are

- ◆ Excessive sap
- ◆ Boreholes
- ◆ Tree is losing its color and turning brown starting at the tips of the branches.

If you notice any of these tell-tale signs, please contact the Field Services Office at 325-9830. Any information you provide may help us contain this pest.

**Your vigilance and cooperation can stop the infestation and save our precious pine trees.**

The City of Lomita welcomes the following new businesses/owners:

NAME	ADDRESS	TYPE	PHONE
Suzie's Flowers and Gifts	24421 Narbonne Ave.	Florist	530-2948
RJP Security Group, Inc.	25404 Narbonne Ave.	Security	539-9841
Auto Bank	1940 Pacific Coast Highway	Used Car Sales	259-1945
Cal Stream Inc.	2429 Lomita Blvd.	Used Car Sales, Auto Parts	326-7884
Response Import Auto Fashion	1815 PCH	Automotive Accessories	534-4910
Harbor Hills Transport	1800 W. Lomita Blvd.	Auto Transport	534-4636
B & D Auto Upholstery	1800 W. Lomita Blvd.	Auto Upholstery	534-0107
Kobe Clinic	24205 Narbonne Ave. # 101	Acupuncture/Acupressure	539-1977
Moreau Chiropractic	2383 Lomita Blvd #111	Chiropractic	938-8436
Cho Mok Jang	2117 PCH	Restaurant	530-1725
Freddy's Black Whale	2158 W. Lomita Blvd.	Beer, Wine, Food	539-8090
Sagano Restaurant	2383 Lomita Blvd.	Restaurant	830-9966
World Donuts	1842 Lomita Blvd.	Donut Shop	539-9859
Art's Recycling Center	2354 PCH	Recycling Center	818-355-3586
Rick's Forklift Service	26302 Western Ave. Suite 8	Mobile Forklift Repair/Service	739-7938
Eldorado Coast Hotel	2037 PCH	Motel	534-0700

**New business locator internet data base makes finding Lomita businesses easier**

Looking for a Lomita business? Want to know where they are located? Need to know how many dentists, accountants, etc. are in Lomita? Check out the newest feature on the Lomita web site ([lomita.com/cityhall](http://lomita.com/cityhall)) - an interactive data base of all businesses located within the city. The database is based on information from the Franchise Tax Board and lets you sort alphabetically by business name, address or type of business. Additionally, a single click on the address takes you to a map of Lomita with a big red arrow pointing to the location of the business.

A big **thank you** to Brad Miyasato and Brad Duerre, the two web volunteers for all their hard work in putting this information on the internet.



**Water Meter Alert**

If you need to have your water service turned on or off for any reason, please contact the Field Services Office at 325-9830 during regular working hours (Monday - Friday from 7 am until 3:30 pm). After hours and on weekends, please call the emergency pager 538-6370.

Water meters are considered city property and residents or contractors are not allowed to work on city property without prior written permission. In case of damage the homeowner is responsible for necessary repairs.

# COUNCIL CORNER

*Since November of 2002,  
the City Council:*

- ◆ Presented a plaque to outgoing Traffic Safety Commissioner Joe Smith for 20 years of volunteer service to the city
- ◆ Presented Certificates of Appreciation to: Tammy Chung Ryu for appointment to Superior Court and to Scott Gobble, outgoing President of the Lomita Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Presented in lieu donation for former Railroad Museum Boardmember Michael Palmer
- ◆ Presented Business Beautification Awards to Clothes the Deal, Oak Plaza and Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- ◆ Approved a contract with Conrad and Associates for audit services
- ◆ Appointed Mike Miller as Interim City Attorney
- ◆ Established a new compensation plan for city employees
- ◆ Approved a work place violence policy for city employees
- ◆ Awarded bid to City of Manhattan Beach for unused water pumping rights.
- ◆ Approved an investment policy for city funds
- ◆ Adopted the County of Los Angeles Building, Mechanical and Plumbing Codes
- ◆ Approved the separation of the Lomita Railroad Museum Board and Museum Foundation
- ◆ Adopted an ordinance allowing site plan modifications and revocations after approval has been granted
- ◆ Approved a resolution setting fees for massage businesses
- ◆ Approved establishment of a Technical Traffic Advisory Committee and merger of the Traffic Commission with the Public Safety Commission.

**City Hall now open  
Monday through Friday  
8 am to 5 pm**

In order to better serve Lomita residents, City Hall has extended the hours of operation by 45 minutes each day starting March 1, 2003.

Formerly, City Hall was open from 8:15 am until 4:30 pm.

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The city recently received a check for \$50,000 from the TransMachine Foundation which will be used for improvements to the Railroad Museum. The Lomita Railroad Museum Foundation was given \$25,000 for an interactive transportation related display at the museum.

These funds come from the dissolution of the TransMachine Foundation.

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A heartfelt "Thank you" to all those who participated in the annual Holiday Food Drive. Your donations are much needed and appreciated!! This year we received more donations than ever before.

# Calendar

*The following meetings are held at the  
Lomita City Hall, 24300 Narbonne Avenue, Lomita  
Phone: 325-7110*

- City Council -----1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 PM
- Planning Commission -----2nd Monday, 7:00 PM
- Parks & Recreation Commission -----4th Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- Traffic Safety Commission-----4th Monday, 7:00 PM
- Museum Board -----2nd Monday, 7:00 PM
- Public Safety Commission-----4th Wednesday, 6:00 PM

***The following community organizations also meet at City Hall:***

- Sister City Association -----3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
- Women's Club -----2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- Historical Society -----2nd Tuesday every other month, 7:00 PM

City Hall offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM.

24300 Narbonne Ave., Lomita, CA 90717

PRSR-STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 100  
LOMITA, CA

ECR-WSS

Attention Postal Patron

**Important Numbers**

**Lomita City Hall**  
325-7110

**Chamber of Commerce**  
326-6378

**Library**  
539-4515

**Lomita Sheriff Station**  
539-1661

**Lomita Park**  
326-0140

**Railroad Museum**  
326-6255

**Water Department**  
325-7114

**Field Services**  
325-9830

**Emergency Water Service**  
538-6370

**Animal Control**  
523-9566

**Animal License (City Hall)**  
325-7110

**Rubbish Collection (CalMet)**  
212-3496

**Anti-Gang/Graffiti**  
325-3694

**Sheriff Complaints**  
800-698-8255

**Shopping Cart Retrieval**  
800-252-4613

**Emergency Numbers**  
Sheriff, Fire,  
Paramedics, Ambulance  
**Dial 911**

Note: In any emergency, if above numbers do not respond, Dial 0 and inform operator of the emergency.

**Recreation Department Events & Excursions Spring 2003**

**April 5 – Lomita Presents.... Animal Adventures** at the Women's Club Craft Fair on the City Hall lawn. Featuring Animal Magician John Abrams. Show begins at 2:00 pm.

**April 12 – 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament**

**April 18 – LA Avengers Football Game:** All ages, Cost: \$25.00 Bus leaves 6:15 pm and returns at approximately 11:00 pm.

**April 19 – Easter Eggstravaganza!** Egg Coloring, Arts-N-Crafts, Easter Egg Hunt at Lomita Park. Times will be announced later.

**May 17 – Moonlight Horseback Ride:** Watch the sunset as you ride through the beautiful Hollywood Hills, stop for dinner at a Mexican Restaurant and ride back to the ranch under the stars. Age 16 and up. Cost: \$48.00 (cost for dinner—\$ 6 to \$12). Bus leaves at 4:00 pm and return at approximately 11:30 pm. Maximum 25 people.

**May 26 – Memorial Day Ceremony** at Veteran's Park beginning at 11 am.

**May 31 – 7:30 pm Lomita Presents... Movie Under the Stars** Free fun for the entire family. Watch a feature film on the lawn at City Hall. Bring blanket, lawn chair, and snacks.

**If you have any questions please call Lori Mohler at 326-0140.**

**Friends of Lomita Library  
Book Sale**

Saturday, April 5  
9 am—2 pm  
In front of Lomita Library



**Lomita Library Programs**

Family Story Time 6:30 pm  
third Tuesday of every month

Pre-School Story Time 10 am  
every Wednesday

**Spring Craft Faire**

**Saturday, April 5 9 am –4 pm City Hall Lawn, 24300 Narbonne**

The Lomita Women's Club is hosting this semi-annual craft faire featuring many specialty items. Take advantage of this opportunity to shop for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and other special occasions. Ample parking in back, including handicapped spaces

**Attention, Crafters** Booth spaces are available for \$25 each  
For additional information contact Linda Fisk at 539-2599.

In addition to hot dogs and baked goods, homemade tamales will be available for \$15.00/dozen. Pre-order now! 534-1538