

South Bay Cities

Featuring the Weekly Newspapers of Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lawndale

Hawthorne Press Tribune
The Weekly Newspaper of Hawthorne

Inglewood News
The Weekly Newspaper of Inglewood

Lawndale Tribune
AND LAWDALE NEWS
The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

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Santa Flies into the South Bay



More than 130 students from three local elementary schools got an early visit from the North Pole's most famous resident during the annual Santa Fly-In event at LAX. Students, ranging from pre-kindergarten to first-grade, were treated to a show that included a performance from Kiddle Karoo, a demonstration by a Los Angeles Airport Police K-9 officer, and interactions with the airport therapy dogs from LAX's Pets Unstressing Passengers (PUPs) program. But the star was Santa, who arrived outside the Flight Path Museum and Learning Center via one of the airport's Aircraft Rescue Firefighting trucks, operated by the LAFD. Santa was escorted to the stage, and greeted the students. He then read *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, before heading back to the firetruck and riding out for his holiday preparations. Photo courtesy LAX.

Provides Enrichment for Teens

By Ron Sokol

Hawthorne, the "City of Good Neighbors," seeks to uphold its end of the bargain. For example, the Police Department is well known for innovative programs that reach out to the community, including Coffee with Cops. The Ginny Lambert Senior Center is dedicated to showing respect for elders, with a very nice facility and programs (including meals). On this occasion, please let me tell you about the Hawthorne Teen Center, which is another sign that Hawthorne takes its motto very seriously. Drum roll, please...

On December 15th just past, the Hawthorne Teen Center celebrated its fourteenth anniversary. The Center is a collaboration between the fine City of Hawthorne and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. You know about the City, but do you know about the Board? Its laudable goal is "putting people to work; helping businesses succeed." Thus, one of the significant services provided by the Teen Center is to help young people with internships and job training. This complements, well, the Center's efforts at developing leadership, providing college and career readiness, and resume building for teenagers. The job fields are varied, such as nursing, retail, warehouse, and plumbing.

In addition, the Center has two pool tables, an excellent array of computers, good ping pong tables, books, a television, an outdoor patio, and several dedicated staff members. Assistance with homework and tutoring is available. There are even cooking courses, and there have been field trips to local colleges, including USC, UCLA, Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Dominguez Hills,

and LA Trade Tech.

I am not listing here all that the Teen Center offers. You can learn more online, or call (310) 970-7001 or emailing the Coordinator Sharina Williams at swilliams@sbwib.org.

For local young people to enroll, the ages are 13 to 18. Simply fill out the enrollment package, and have it signed by a parent or guardian; review and approval typically is quite prompt. And, yes, the services are free. Hours presently are Monday through Friday, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, during school, then during winter break from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The Center is located at 3901 West El Segundo Boulevard, in Hawthorne (specifically at the Hawthorne Memorial building, and easy to find).

Above I mention Sharina Williams, the Youth Program Coordinator. She has a job before getting to the Teen Center each workday, at which point she oversees not just the Hawthorne Teen Center but also the Teen Center in Inglewood. Sharina's words speak to her genuine devotion:

"One of the main goals of the Teen Center is to provide an opportunity for young people they simply may not get from school or the community. We seek to help them think about a career and consider what may be a good choice. We also provide a haven for a bit of downtime, to meet and talk with other young people, and work with staff. I am a college graduate from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in history. But I began doing after-school programs several years ago in several South Bay Cities and loved it! Now I have been here since 2019, and hopefully, we are through the Pandemic. I can tell you that the

Center strives to be useful to the members, to be a springboard, and thereby enrich the young people and the community itself. It is tireless work."

After I spoke to Sharina, visited the Center, and saw some of the goings-on, I had a tear (or two) in my eyes. Helping young people, guiding them, providing a place for them, well, Hawthorne can rightfully be very proud. The City of Good Neighbors for young and not as young both. •

See Teen Center, page 4



Teen Center

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Partly
Cloudy
63°/50°



Saturday
Sunny
71°/54°



Sunday
Mostly
Sunny
74°/55°



Lawndale Tribune

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The Grinch Comes to Anderson Elementary



The Grinch made a special appearance and brought holiday excitement and cheer to all of our students. Mrs. Rivas and the Grinch want to wish you all a safe and joyous Winter Break. Photo courtesy Anderson Elementary School.

Teen Center

from front page



Pool and ping pong table.



Books and more.



Image courtesy Freepik



Computer terminals