



Holiday Luncheon

The Chamber Ambassadors got into the spirit of the holidays at the Chamber's Annual Holiday Luncheon

► See page 3

Networking Mixer "Chick-Fil-A Cerritos"

Thursday, January 15, 2009

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Chick-Fil-A 18605 Gridley Road

Chamber Members: Please be our guest

State of the County

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts

Lunch is \$30/person - Sponsorship Tables are available

Labor Law Workshop

Thursday, January 22, 2009

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Cerritos Library - Skyline Room

\$25/person - includes continental breakfast

Candidates Forum

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Cerritos City Hall - Council Chambers

Please be our guest - Sponsorships are available

New Laws Affecting Businesses in 2009

Below is a list of new laws scheduled to take effect in 2009 or earlier that will impact businesses in California. The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 2009 Labor Law Update and Workshop on January 22, 2009 at the Cerritos Library. Presented by Ann Smith, Esq. of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, and Romo, this comprehensive workshop is a valuable resource for California-specific and employment law information. Space is limited, so register with the Chamber soon at 562/467-0800 or chamber@cerritos.org.

The following is a list of new laws that have recently gone into effect or will take effect in 2009:

Cell Phone Use

Since July 1, 2008, drivers have been required to use a hands-free device while talking on a cell phone and driving. Starting January 1, 2009, text-based communication while driving is prohibited as well, with the same penalties: \$20 for the first offense and \$50 for subsequent offenses. Specifically, the law prohibits writing, sending or reading text-based communication including text messaging, instant messaging and e-mail, on a wireless device or cell phone while driving.

Temporary Employees

Wages for employees of temporary service employers shall be paid weekly or daily if an employee is assigned to a client on a day-to-day basis or to a client engaged in a trade dispute. This requirement does not apply to employees who are assigned to a client for over 90 consecutive calendar days unless the employer pays the employee weekly. Failure to do so can result in civil and criminal penalties.

Passport Cards for Identification on I-9

The Departments of State and Homeland Security have begun to issue "passport cards" which may be used as a "List A" document to verify employment in accordance with the I-9 form. The passport card is more limited in its uses for international travel (e.g., it may not be used for international air travel), but it is a valid passport that attests to the U.S. citizenship and identity of the bearer. Accordingly, the card may be used for the Form I-9 process and can also be accepted by employers participating in the E-Verify program.

The passport card is considered a List A document that may be presented by newly hired employees during the employment eligibility verification process to show work authorized status. List A documents are those used by employees to prove both identity and work authorization when completing the Form I-9.

► Continued on page 6

President's Report



Ken Kraus
2008-09
Chamber President

Well, the shopping is done, gifts were opened, parties were attended, the New Year celebrated, and the holidays are just about over as we say "farewell" to 2008 and look forward to a brighter (I'm forever optimistic) 2009!

Although I personally couldn't attend the Chamber Holiday Luncheon this year, I did wish to thank all those who did attend the event as I heard it was a "joyous" occasion with Santa Bob Sobel doing his best "Ho, Ho, Ho" for the audience and entertainment provided by the Concordia Lutheran School choir who inspired all who attended. I'm sorry I missed out in delivering my Elvis impression of "Blue Christmas", but it was probably best for all of you!

In January, the Chamber will be hosting several events starting with our first mixer of 2009 at the Chick-fil-A Cerritos (off Gridley) on January 15th at 5:00pm. Then on January 21st, our next event will be the always well-attended State of the County luncheon featuring Cerritos' own Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, which will be held in the Sierra Room of the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts at 11:30 am. This is usually a "sell out" event, so please get your RSVP into the Chamber EARLY for this luncheon. On January 22nd, the Chamber will host the 2009 Labor Law Update presented by Ann Smith, Esq., an attorney for Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo law firm (whom also sits on our Chamber Board of Directors) at the Cerritos Library starting at 8:30 am. Ann does an incredible job of keeping us all up to date with the most recent changes in California's labor laws, and we look forward to this event as well. We end the month with the Candidates Forum for open City Council seats on the Cerritos City Council. This event starts at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers (and it will be videotaped for local cable viewing) so don't miss this opportunity to see and hear from our candidates running for Cerritos City Council.

February will bring our Board's mid-year retreat in which the Board of Directors will convene to review the Chamber's year-to-date progress and look at new opportunities that may be available for the remaining 2009 fiscal year - which ends in June.

2009 will bring about new changes in each of our lives and in many different ways. As we will all get a new President who has promised "the need for change", we all need to conduct our businesses a little bit different in as we can no longer rely on a "business as usual" attitude in this ever changing and challenging economy. We must all work hard to reinvent ourselves in the way we each conduct our business in order to not only survive, but thrive during these troubled economic times. I firmly believe that these new challenges will present new opportunities, and we must be open to new ideas and new processes in order to stay in tune and "in-step" with this ever changing business world we all live in.

From the Board of Directors and the Chamber Staff,
we wish all of you a Safe and Prosperous 2009!



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1/8 page color ad: \$25/month
1/4 page color ad: \$50/month
1/2 page color ad: \$100/month

Contact the Chamber:
562/467-0800 or
chamber@cerritos.org

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Chamber Happenings

Annual Holiday Luncheon: “The Sounds of Christmas”

The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted its Holiday Luncheon on December 4th at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel. Upon their arrival, guests were treated to a surprise visit with Santa while Concordia Lutheran School students performed a medley of holiday songs. The “Chamber Feud” had antler clad contestants guessing the top answers to holiday themed questions. Incorporating the luncheon’s theme, “The Sounds of Christmas”, the festivities ended with a special holiday story that included the audience participation of singing favorite holiday songs. The event was sponsored by Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary, Merriwood Management Company, ABC Unified School District, Los Cerritos Community Newspaper Group, and State-Farm – Jim Barr.



Christine Borrelli, Allen Wood, Metre Anthony, Christine Rodarte, and Cindy Skovgard played the “Chamber Feud”



Chamber Board Member Marianne Hughlett with Julie Knabe and Diane Padelford



Cerritos Mayor Jim Edwards, Bernice Sandoval, David DeKriek, and Joseph Derthick



The staff from ABC Unified School District with Santa Bob Sobel



The staff from Cerritos College and Cerritos College Foundation pose with Santa



Council Member Joseph Cho, Nancy Narikawa, and Melanie Broad



Chamber Vice President Jim Richardson with his staff from Rose Hills



City of Hawaiian Gardens Council Member Betty Schultze and Steve Gomez



Pau Ling Guo and Gloria Kappe



Chamber Board Members Dr. Mary Sieu and Diana Needham



Margaret Madonna, Bob Sobel and Theresa Brunella

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 15 NETWORKING MIXER**
Chick-Fil-A Cerritos
5:00 pm -7:00 pm
Chick-Fil-A - 18605 Gridley Road
Chamber Members: Please be our guest!
- 15 AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE**
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Chamber Board Room
- 19 OFFICE CLOSED - Martin King Jr. Holiday**
- 21 STATE OF THE COUNTY LUNCHEON**
Presented by LA County Supervisor Don Knabe
11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts
Lunch is \$30/person - Non Members: \$35/person
- 22 2009 LABOR LAW UPDATE**
Presented by Ann Smith, AALRR
8:30 am - 10:30 am - Cerritos Library - Skyline Room
\$25/person - *includes continental breakfast*
- 28 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
10:00 am - 11:00 am - Chamber Board Room
- 28 CANDIDATES FORUM**
Cerritos City Council Race
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Cerritos City Hall - Council Chambers
Please be our guest: Sponsorship Opportunities are available

FEBRUARY

- 10 MISS CERRITOS ORIENTATION MEETING**
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Chamber Board Room
- 12 CHAMBER BINGO LUNCHEON**
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Sheraton Cerritos Hotel - Cerritos Towne Center
Lunch is \$30/person - Non Members: \$35/person
Bingo Squares: \$25/square - \$100/center square
- 16 OFFICE CLOSED - President's Day Holiday**
- 18 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
10:00 am - 11:00 am - Chamber Board Room
- 19 AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE**
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Chamber Board Room
- 24 MISS CERRITOS SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST & NETWORKING MIXER**
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts - Sierra Room
\$10/person - *Sponsorship Opportunities are available*

NETWORKING MIXER

Chick-fil-A Cerritos

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

*18605 Gridley Road
outside of the Los Cerritos Center*

Chamber Members:
Please be our guest!



CANDIDATES FORUM

Cerritos City Council

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Live broadcast begins at 7:00 pm sharp

Cerritos City Hall - Council Chambers
18125 Bloomfield Ave. - Cerritos

PLEASE BE OUR GUEST

The event is free and open to the public

Sponsorship Opportunities are Available:
Event Sponsor: \$100

Are You Receiving the Chamber's Email Alerts?

Send us your email address & we will add you to our list:
chamber@cerritos.org

New Chamber Members

Please join us in welcoming these new Members to the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce. Stop by their respective locations and welcome them to our business community! If you would like information on joining the Chamber, please contact our office at 562/ 467-0800 or join online at www.cerritos.org.

EDWARD JONES - PARVEZ HOWLADER

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Cypress, CA 90630
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562-860-2555

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Artesia, CA 90701
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City of Cerritos
Su Casa - Ending Domestic Violence

15 Years or More

Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors

10 Years or More

David Sparks, D.D.S.
The Medicine Shoppe

5 Years or More

Pioneer Medical Group
Walton Roofing, Inc.
CB Richard Ellis - Sam Chu
Family Outreach & Community Intervention Services
Friends of Arts Education at the Cerritos Center

1 Year or More

Comerica Bank
AT&T Mobilty
Artesia Historical Society
Mac's Radiator and Complete Auto Services
Child Evangelism Fellowship
Adrian's Chimney Cleaning
Arts Technology Academy - Gahr H.S.



The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce

invites you to attend the annual:



STATE OF THE COUNTY

2009



Presented by:
**LA County
Supervisor
Don Knabe**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts

Seating is Limited

Please RSVP before January 16th

Phone: 562/467-0800
chamber@cerritos.org

New Laws in 2009

► Continued from page 1



Catherine Gaughen
Executive Director

Invalid Waivers

A bill amended Labor Code 206.5 making null and void the execution of any release on account of wages due. Employers who violate this law are guilty of a misdemeanor. The new law, effective January 1, 2009, adds the following language: "For purposes of this section, 'execution of a release' includes requiring an employee, as a condition of being paid, to execute a statement of the hours he or she worked during a pay period, which the employer knows

to be false." In other words, an employer can't force an employee to sign a document stating the hours he or she worked, when the employer knows those hours are not correct.

Minimum Pay for Exempt Computer Professionals

Effective January 1, 2009, Labor Code 515.5 was amended to allow payment to computer professionals as a monthly or annual salary. Before this change, computer professionals had to earn a minimum hourly rate, set by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research (DLSR) annually. The hourly rate for 2009 is increased from \$36.00 to \$37.94. For 2009, the minimum monthly salary exemption is \$6,587.50, and the minimum annual salary exemption is \$79,050.00.

Exemption for Physicians Paid on Hourly Basis

A licensed physician or surgeon who is primarily engaged in performing duties for which licensure is required is exempt from overtime if he/she is paid at least the minimum hourly rate set annually by the state. Effective January 1, 2009, the minimum hourly rate is \$69.13. This exemption does not apply to employees in medical internships or resident programs, physician employees covered by collective bargaining agreements or veterinarians.

Political Speech

In July 2008, the president of the National Labor Relations Board issued guidelines to employers concerning employee participation in political advocacy activities and providing guidance to employers as to when disciplinary actions for these activities may be appropriate. The memorandum provides that:

- Non-disruptive political advocacy for or against a specific issue, related to a specifically identified employment concern that takes place during employees' own time and in non-work areas, is protected;
- On-duty political advocacy for or against a specific issue, related to a specifically identified employment concern is subject to restrictions imposed by lawful and neutrally applied work rules;
- Leaving or stopping work to engage in political advocacy for or against a specific issue, related to a specifically identified employment concern may also be subject to restrictions imposed by the employer.

Family and Medical Leave Act

The U.S. Department of Labor published the final version of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) regulations pertaining to military families and qualifying exigencies. Importantly, among numerous, significant changes, the regulations define what a "qualifying exigency" is for purposes of qualifying for up to 12 weeks of FMLA leave. Families with active military personnel may now be eligible if their situation meets one of the new qualifying exigencies: short notice deployment, attendance at official military events, arranging or providing childcare, attending school or daycare meetings, handling financial and legal matters, and rest and recuperation visits when the soldier is on leave.

Workers' Comp Injury Reporting

Labor Code section 6409.1 was amended to change the reporting of work related injuries and illnesses. Currently, form 5020 must be filed with the Division of Labor Statistics and Research (DLSR) within five days of an incident. Once the regulations are finalized, insured employers must file a form as prescribed by the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) with the DWC, and self-insured employers must use a new, yet to be created, electronic form within the time specified by the DWC. Amended reports following a death must now be filed with the DLSR instead of the DWC. Insurers must use a new, yet to be created, electronic form with the DWC. The bill specifies that regulations must be created to implement these changes, which will not go into effect until the regulations are finalized.

Nutritional Information for Chain Restaurants

A new law requires chain restaurants with 20 or more facilities in California to post nutritional information. Beginning July 1, 2009, to December 31, 2010, each facility must disclose nutritional information or calorie count information about the food it serves. Nutritional information includes, but is not limited to, all of the following, per standard menu item, as that item is usually prepared and offered for sale:

- Total number of calories;
- Total number of grams of carbohydrates;
- Total number of grams of saturated fat; and
- Total number of milligrams of sodium.

The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce is committed to helping local businesses grow and succeed. The Chamber will continue to monitor new laws and other important issues affecting the business community. To receive additional information on legislation affecting the business community, please attend the Chamber's monthly Government Affairs Council meetings or contact the Chamber's Executive Director, Catherine Gaughen, at 562/467-0800 or catherine@cerritos.org.

Holiday Networking Mixer At the Sheraton Cerritos Grille 91

The Chamber's Holiday Networking Mixer was held at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel on December 11, 2008. Upon entering the beautifully decorated banquet room, guests embraced the holiday spirit while enjoying a vast array of special chef created appetizers and beverages, making new acquaintances, and greeting old friends. A special thank you to Sheraton Cerritos General Manager Chris Halderson for hosting this wonderful event. Also, a thank you to all of our generous raffle prize sponsors who donated the wonderful items for the holiday raffle.



Chris Halderson and his staff from the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel



Cerritos Mayor Jim Edwards with Miss Cerritos Sheila Tejada and Princess BrieAnna Gomez



Bob Buell, Nancy Narikawa, Efren Baca, and Bob and Barbara Ashley



Chamber President Ken Kraus with Howard Abrams, Nancy Narikawa, Cindy Yen Chen, and David DeKriek



Erin Stibal, Marianne Hughlett, and Sue Arthur



John DiMario, George and Bev Ray, Cerritos Council Member Carol Chen, Diana Needham, & Christina The



Renee Chomiak, Gordon Miyamoto, and Chamber Ambassador Gary Chomiak



Catherine Gaughen and Chamber Ambassador Karen Baker



Lori and Ramon Diaz of Troy & Bob's Auto Works



Past President Allen Wood, Mayor Jim Edwards, and Chamber President Ken Kraus



Michelle Yun and Dayna Cho of Wilshire State Bank

Sheraton Cerritos Hotel Wins Community Service Award

The Sheraton Cerritos Hotel has been honored with a prestigious Community Service Award by the ABC Unified School District Board of Education. The award is given to recognize businesses that volunteer to help with and participate in the districts educational improvement programs.

In 2008, the Sheraton Cerritos participated in the Apple/Rise Program, in which hotel employees read to elementary school children. "It is rewarding to share my passion for reading with the school children," said Tamara McLaughlin, the hotel's Director of Sales.

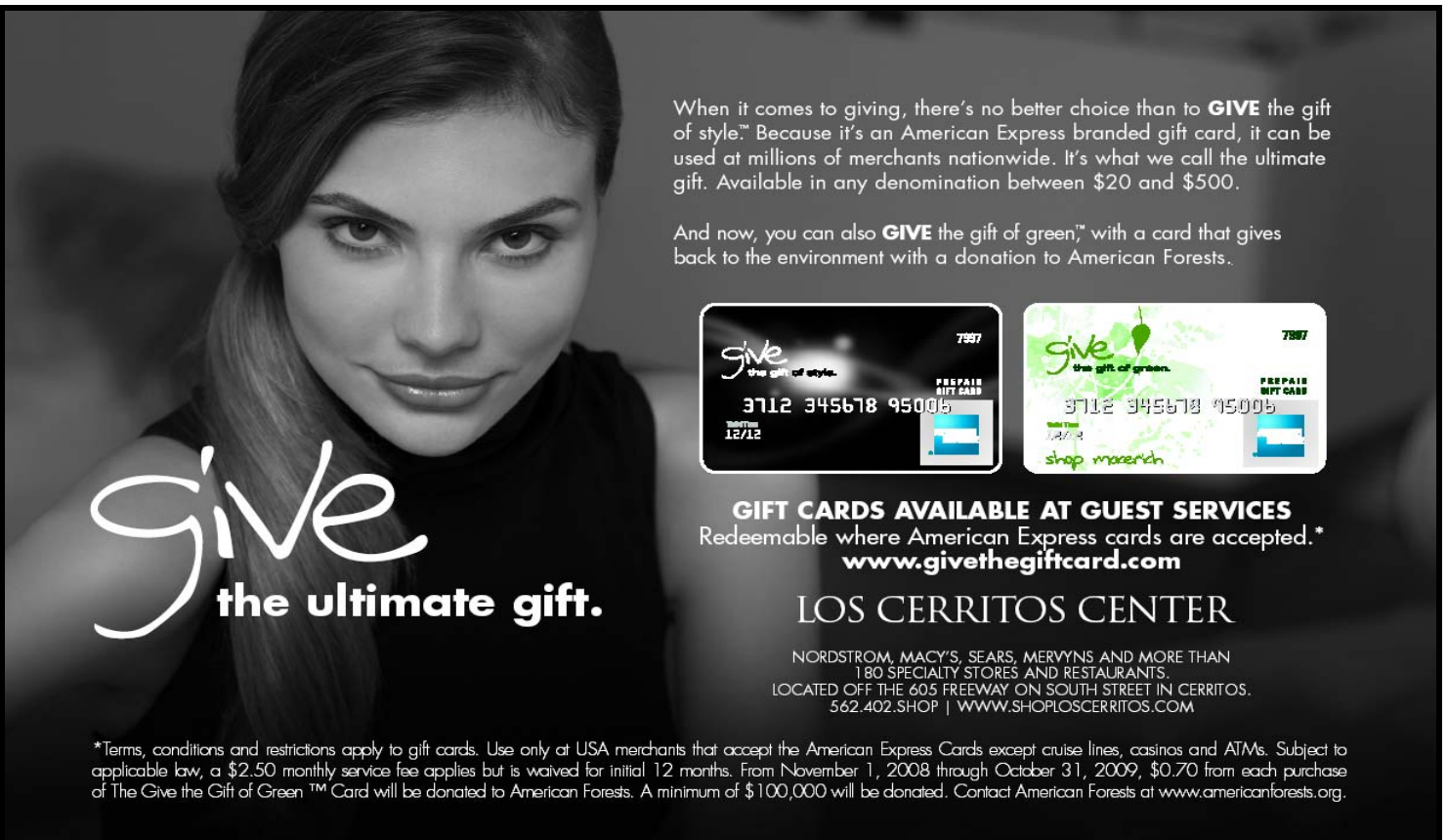
A favorite program amongst the ROP students in the district allows them hands on experience working in different departments at the hotel. It was so much fun to have students working at the front desk, in the restaurant and in the engineering department. "Wow, who knew so much work goes into a running a hotel," said one student. "It's so much fun to talk to the guests", another student added.

The hotel's General Manager, Chris Halderson, will be principal for a day at Cerritos High School next month. It's a great way for students to see first hand what great opportunities await them in their own backyard if they work hard and focus on their education.



"I'm looking forward to being principal for a day," Mr. Halderson said. "It will be a treat to be on the other side of the principal's office," he added with a laugh.

For more information about the Sheraton Cerritos and how they can meet your accommodations or event planning needs, please visit them at www.sheraton-cerritos.com or by calling (562) 809-1500 and asking to speak with the Sales & Catering Department.



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Cerritos Rose Parade Float Wins Grand Marshal's Trophy

The City of Cerritos' float in the 120th Annual Tournament of Roses Parade was honored with the Grand Marshal's Trophy for "Excellence in Creative Concept & Design". The float, entitled "Camelot - A Knight's Tale", was designed by award winning float designer Raul Rodriguez, built by Fiesta Parade Floats, and decorated by dedicated community volunteers.

Celebrating the world-class Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts and the idyllic quality of the City of Cerritos, the float featured a king and queen in elegant floral costumes, a pair of knights, a castle and lush floral gardens.


Riding on the 55 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 28 feet tall float were the City's Mayor Jim Edwards, his wife Connie, the Chamber of Commerce's own Miss Cerritos, Sheila Tejada, and the 2008 Junior Miss - all dressed in Renaissance costumes.

This is the eighth year that the City of Cerritos has participated in the Rose Parade. The City was honored with the Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy in 2008,



The City of Cerritos 2009 Rose Parade Float "Camelot - A Knight's Tale"

the Bob Hope Humor Award in 2007, the Animation Award in 2006, the Tournament Special Trophy in 2005, the Craftsman Trophy in 2004, and the Judge's Special Trophy in 2003.




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*comScore Press Release, April 2008
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Members in the News

Relay For Life Kick-Off Celebration

The Relay For Life of Cerritos/Artesia will be hosting their Kick-off Celebration on January 29th at the Skyline Room of the Cerritos Library starting at 6:30 pm. This will be the 8th annual event that raises funds for the American Cancer Society's research, education, advocacy and service programs that are available free of charge in the community.



Whether you are new to Relay For Life or a veteran, come enjoy a night to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and learn how to fight back against the disease that has taken too much. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information contact Event Chair Kathy Lira at: (562) 653-8840, or email KLira@vtaig.com.

Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary FREE WORKSHOPS



Rose Hills Memorial Park hosts an ongoing program called "The Bridge" which is a series of free workshops for those who have experienced a loss. The next workshop is titled: "The Psychology of Grief" on January 8th at 6:30 pm at the Rose Hills Reception Center: 3888 Workman Mill Road in Whittier. The workshop will cover the stages of grief, appropriate self care, and the importance of social support.

Another workshop will be held on January 22nd, also at 6:30 pm at the Rose Hills Reception Center, on the topic "Identity Theft". This workshop will cover the effects of identity theft, how to protect your identity, and the five areas of theft. Seating is limited for both workshops. Please call 562/692-1212 ext 8833 to RSVP. Also visit www.rosehills.com for a schedule of other upcoming Bridge workshop topics.

Los Cerritos Center Welcomes New Nordstrom Store

LOS CERRITOS CENTER

A brand new Nordstrom will open at the Los Cerritos Center in the spring of 2009. The current Nordstrom will move to a new two-level, 138,000 square-foot store (20,000 square feet larger than its current location). The new store will be located on the site of the former Robinsons-May, which was recently demolished. To reduce the environmental impact of the demolition, many of the demolished materials will be recycled.

The existing Nordstrom store will remain open until the new location opens. Completing the new Nordstrom will be 36,500 square feet of new in-line shops featuring a variety of merchandise, which will create a new interior shopping court with more selections for shoppers. The adjacent entrance to the Los Cerritos Center will also be upgraded.

The expansion of the Los Cerritos Center is anticipated to increase the sales tax revenue for the City of Cerritos by approximately \$360,000 per year. The new developments will also increase the Cerritos Redevelopment Agency's annual property tax increment by an estimated \$1,000,000 per year.

Parvez Howlader
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
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California Warns Companies They May Owe "Use Taxes"

Over the last six months, California tax officials have quietly mailed thousands of official letters to doctors, beauty salons, insurance agents and other service providers looking for some badly needed state tax revenue. The letters asked these service businesses to check records on their out-of-state purchases for the last three years and pay any back taxes they owe. Failure to do so could lead to an audit of the taxpayer's books going back eight years, the letter warned.

Californians know all too well about sales taxes they pay almost every day on purchases. But less known is the "use tax" that the state requires consumers to pay on goods bought out of state. California consumers, both individuals and businesses, must pay a use tax if they buy something in another state and if the seller does not collect a sales tax on the purchase. The use tax -- the same amount as the sales tax -- ranges from 7.25% to 9.25% depending on where the buyer lives.

Compliance with the use-tax obligation is spotty at best. However, maximizing revenue from existing taxes is crucial at a time when the state government faces a projected \$41-billion budget gap over the next 18 months. California, along with 44 other states and the District of Columbia, is eager to collect taxes on out-of-state purchases. But the "use tax" is highly complicated. Out-of-state businesses must collect sales tax if they have stores, warehouses or any physical presence in the taxing state. If not, the California buyers are supposed to pay "use taxes" instead. But many local businesses and individuals ignore it. Enforcing the use-tax law has proved to be time-consuming and costly. That's why California tax authorities now are focusing their efforts on a more manageable target: service businesses.

Small-business owners should be aware that they have a legal obligation to pay use taxes on all out-of-state purchases, such as computer equipment or office supplies. If your business has received a letter stating you owe "use taxes", the Chamber recommends you contact your CPA or tax advisor to help you review your case. For a list of local tax specialists, please visit the Chamber's online Membership Directory at www.cerritos.org.

2009 LABOR LAW UPDATE

Thursday, January 22, 2009
8:30 am - 10:30 am

Cerritos Library - Skyline Room

Presented by: Ann K. Smith, Esq.

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, Romo

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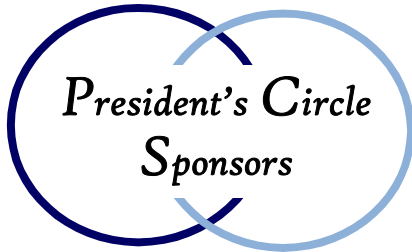


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Tuesday, February 24, 2009
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

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