

TAKE BACK THE WALL

For a Graffiti Free Riverside

City of Riverside Public Works Department

E-Newsletter

Winter 2012-13

Thank You Riverside!

The Public Works Department, Graffiti Program, wishes you and your family a Happy New Year! Thank you for subscribing to the first year of our e-newsletter. This issue is about those who helped make 2012 a successful year for all of us. The graffiti program would not be possible without the help and support of countless individuals.

We hope that you join us in 2013 as we expand and improve our programs. If there is an article or topic you would like to see in a future newsletter, please let us know! We are open to comments and suggestions to make this newsletter enjoyable for all readers!

Thank you for your continued support!

Community Group Spotlight

We wanted to give a special thank you to Gilbert Espinoza and the Eastside Community Health Partnership, Eastside Community Residents and M.A.S. (Mujeres Activas en la Salud). Residents learned that reporting graffiti vandalism was easier than it seemed. Residents enjoyed interactive presentations that addressed concerns about safety, graffiti removal times, and responsibility.

"These meetings could not be done without the strong partnerships with Borrego Health and the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Borrego Health provides the clinical operators who run both our clinics, the Eastside Health Center and Arlanza Family Health Center.

The Eastside Community Health Partnership was formed to focus on a broad range of community health issues, and build a strong connection between the Eastside Health Center, non-profit agencies, schools, churches, and County service agencies for a healthier Eastside community, Meeting monthly at the Arlanza Family Health



Center and hosting numerous events, the women of M.A.S. are always striving to make a difference in the lives of their families as well as the lives of those in our community."

-Gilbert Espinoza

Thank you, Gilbert, for inviting us to present to these active members of our community! We appreciate the work that is being done through these partnerships.

Interested in having a graffiti presentation at your next community meeting? Contact us at 826-5311.

Teacher Spotlight

Ms. Froukje Schaafsma-Smith is an artist and arts educator with over 20 years experience. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Teaching Credential from the University of California, Riverside and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles. She currently teaches art at Loma Vista Middle School.

Her passion for the arts inspires her students through their involvement in community projects and activities. This is the second year she has chosen to enroll her students in the optional Anti-Graffiti Poster Contest. She incorporates the contest into her class curriculum, giving the poster as much assignment weight as an exam.

Ms. Schaafsma-Smith scheduled presentations for each of her classes so that students would understand the contest. Students learned the difference between art and graffiti through an engaging conversation about the contest.

One month before the contest deadline, Ms. Schaafsma-Smith hand-delivered 145 quality poster entries with contest packets to City Hall. She wanted her students to create art; and she ensured it arrived well within deadline. Ms. Schaafsma-Smith is an inspiration to these students by providing them opportunities to grow and utilize their talent to express themselves in positive, constructive ways.



"This is the second year that students at Loma Vista Middle School participated in the City of Riverside's 'Take Back the Wall' Contest.

Samantha Eshelman from the Department of Public Works visited our school to educate students about the negative effects of graffiti. The students were very excited to illustrate appropriate ways to use art in an urban setting. Their posters reflected the power of art as a tool to communicate ideas."

Froukje Schaafsma-Smith

Name This Newsletter!

Help us rename the Graffiti E-Newsletter. We're looking for something fun, community friendly and graffiti-themed. We'll publish our favorite three submissions in the coming newsletter.

RPD Spotlight

We would like to formally welcome our Riverside Police Department Detectives to the Graffiti Program!

Detective Kim Gerhardt has been with the RPD Special Operations, Graffiti Unit since April, 2012. Detective Clarence Dodson has been assigned to the Graffiti Unit since June, 2011. Both Detectives work closely with us at the Public Works Department, Graffiti Program. Go Team!

Our TBTW Video and Poster Contest winners will be announced in the next newsletter! Thank you to all students who submitted entries.



City of Arts & Innovation