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Metro is building and funding hundreds of projects to better mobility throughout Los Angeles County's 88 cities. From transit service expansion to highway repairs, intersection improvements and new bikeways, Metro is playing a major role. For more information, visit [metro.net/projects](http://metro.net/projects).

**Stay Safe Around Trains**

September is Rail Safety Month and a good time to remember to be alert near trains. Always look both ways and follow the posted signs at crossings, whether on foot or in a vehicle. And never run to catch your train. More important tips for rail safety at [metro.net/safety](http://metro.net/safety).

**Meet the New LA Metro Transit Watch App**

Help Metro be more secure by becoming the eyes and ears of the system. The Transit Watch smartphone app allows riders to quickly and easily report any suspicious activity or non-emergency crimes. It's available for both iPhones and Android devices - download it free at the Apple App Store or Google Play. More information at [transitwatchla.org](http://transitwatchla.org).

**Safe Routes to School Program Launches**

Metro is leading a program to help children get active while traveling to school safely. Safe Routes to School will organize activities for schools, parents and students to develop safe options for walking, biking and taking public transportation. More information at [metro.net/srts](http://metro.net/srts).

**Free Service for Passengers in Wheelchairs**

Metro offers a free service to help bus riders in wheelchairs board more easily and ride more safely. Metro will help find and mark the best spot on each wheelchair for securement and in some cases attach a free safety strap. To find out more and make an appointment, call 213.922.8800.



**Metro**

If you'd like to know more, visit [metro.net](http://metro.net).

**South Gate eliminates red-light cameras**

**WAVE STAFF REPORT**

SOUTH GATE — Red-light cameras, used for traffic enforcement by taking pictures of vehicles running red lights, will be removed from seven intersections in the city.

City Council members voted Sept. 10 not to renew the city's contract with Redflex Traffic Systems. The contract ended Aug. 26 and the program has been in operation on a month-to-month basis.

Mayor Gilbert Hurtado told The Wave South Gate had no complaints against the company itself but many residents have complained about the cameras, saying they cause accidents by making motorists slam on their breaks.

"We listened to our constituents and have heard the same complaints from other cities," Hurtado said.

He said he had no statistics on red-light violations but said the intersections with the cameras seemed to have more accidents than those without cameras.

"No doubt the cameras would be beneficial at some locations, but it didn't work out in South Gate," the mayor said Monday.

In a written report to the council, Police Chief Randall Davis noted that the system has been in force in South Gate since September 2003. During the last fiscal year, the system generated \$442,083 in fines from motorists charged with running red lights. Maintenance and personnel costs

for 2012-13 was \$411,480, resulting in net revenue of \$30,602 to the city.

Davis said the company has estimated the same amount of revenue for the coming year but with lower maintenance and personnel costs of \$356,319, with revenue to the city of \$75,764.

Each of the seven intersections has two cameras, covering two approaches. Redflex has charged the city for just 12 of the 14 approaches at \$2,800 per approach at six intersections. The company had proposed charging the city for 10 approaches at five intersections in the coming year, Davis said.

Intersections monitored were Atlantic Avenue and Tweedy Boulevard, California Avenue and Tweedy, Firestone Boulevard and

Atlantic, Firestone Boulevard and California, Firestone Boulevard and Garfield Avenue, Garfield and Southern Avenue and Imperial Highway at Garfield.

When a light turns red and violators drive over installed sensors at a rate of at least 15 miles per hour the camera is activated and takes four still photos, one showing the driver's face, one of the rear license plate and two showing the vehicle. Of the two pictures showing the vehicle, one shows the vehicle entering the intersection and the second shows the vehicle in the intersection with the light red, Davis said.

There are also 12 seconds of video that depicts the violation, he added.

**Blood tests offered people near battery plant**

**FROM CITY NEWS SERVICE**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will offer free blood testing for lead poisoning to address worries that a Vernon battery recycler has jeopardized the health of hundreds of thousands of residents in southeast Los Angeles, it was reported.

The large-scale effort, which is likely to stretch from Boyle Heights to Huntington Park, comes amid rising fears about

emissions and leaks from the Exide Technologies facility. Surrounded by dense immigrant and working-class neighborhoods, it is one of the largest such plants in the nation, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Officials said Exide will pay for the tests, The Times reported.

Residents have increasingly expressed outrage over lead and arsenic emissions from the plant. Health authorities said they are

not testing people for arsenic levels — arsenic is a known carcinogen — because such tests do not provide clear-cut answers, according to the newspaper. Far easier to measure is lead contamination, which can lead to a variety of problems, including learning disabilities in children.

"Our responsibility is to protect our constituents," county Supervisor Gloria Molina said in remarks quoted by The Times.

"Something had to be done."

The blood testing could begin late next month. State regulators have already ordered testing of dust around the plant for lead and arsenic and plan soil tests in October as well, The Times reported.

Dr. Cyrus Rangan, the director of the county public health's bureau of toxicology, said a main reason for the testing is "to provide a measure of reassurance to the public."

**H.P. chamber plans fall street festival**

**WAVE STAFF REPORT**

HUNTINGTON PARK — The Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce will present its 21st annual Sabor de Mexico Lindo (a Taste of Beautiful Mexico) street fair Oct. 4-6 on Pacific Boulevard between Florence Avenue and Randolph Street, according to Chamber Manager Leticia Martinez.

Admission is free. She said the celebration will pay tribute to the culture and heritage of Mexico with art, music, food and dancing.

It will include popular singing artists and musical groups performing live, combined with displays of arts and crafts, she said.

Also included will be commercial vendor booths and exhibits, food and beverage booths, a petting zoo and carnival rides along the nine-block celebration, Martinez said.

There will be cultural art displays, a children's handmade piñata contest and various other special family events during the three days, she added.

Folklorico dance troupes and prominent recording artists and

bands will be featured in free shows on the main stage, Pacific Boulevard art Gage Avenue, throughout the weekend.

The chamber will work with Mexican tourism and federation groups to set up a special area of displays and artifacts from the state of Michoacan, Mexico.

Those interested in taking part in the celebration by setting up a booth may contact the chamber at (323) 585-1155.

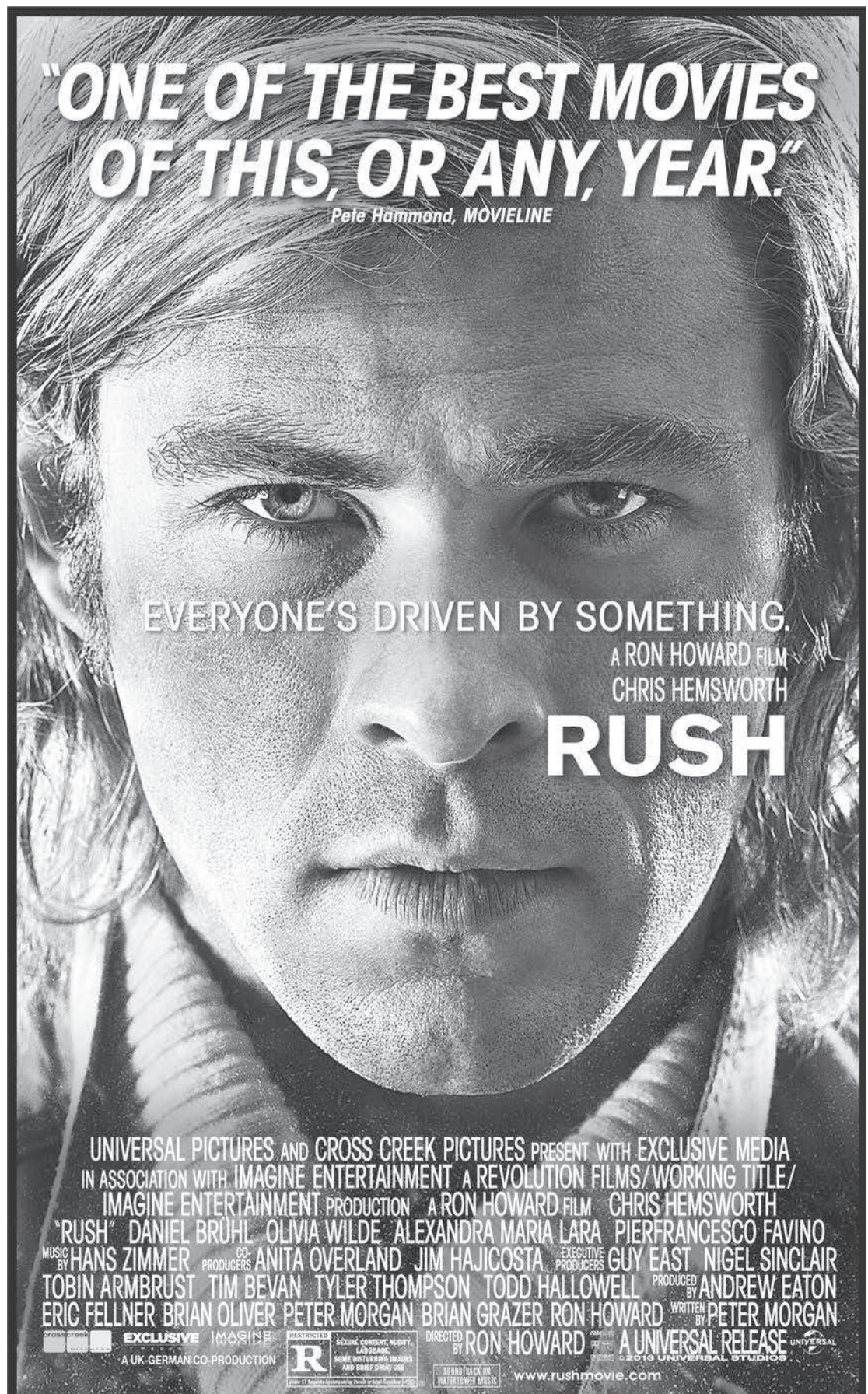
Operating hours are 5 to 11 p.m. Oct. 4, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 5 and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 6.

**For The Record**

A headline on an article in the Aug. 22 Press Edition of The Wave was possibly misleading.

The headline "H.P. City Council levies annual tax to pay employees' pensions," was on a story that referred to the City Council making its annual vote to place the levy on the county's property tax roll to cover the cost of city employee pensions with the California Public Employees Retirement System.

The action taken by the City Council was not levying a new tax, but a procedural move to place the tax on the county property tax roll. The tax has been levied by the city every year since it was approved by voters in 1976.



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