

Local History 101: Hawaiian Gardens Could Have Been Named El Dorado Park

By Randy Economy

It is the “smallest municipality” in all of Los Angeles County, but it is has the biggest heart and a colorful history.

This weekend residents of Hawaiian Gardens are celebrating 49 years of city hood.

The city began to take shape when tract homes sprang up south of Carson Street, and while searching for a clever name that would attract new prospective buyers, a housing developer decided to call his newly constructed area “Hawaiian Gardens.”

With several cities in the area already declared official cities by its residents including Cerritos, Norwalk, and Lakewood, the people running the City of Artesia in the early 1950’s wanted Hawaiian Gardens to be “annexed” into their municipality.

Community meetings were held at Bloomfield School to hash out a possible deal that Hawaiiaian Gardens become an official part of Artesia but instead of joining forces HG residents countered with their own proposition by launching an official campaign for city hood.

The first incorporation movement took in everything including El Dorado Park, off as far as Del Amo Boulevard and the Orange County line, as well as parts of the river bed. But after a long drawn out, and sometime heated negotiation sessions, the El Dorado Park area was scrapped in the deal.

It wasn’t an easy legal process for Hawaiiaian Gardens to earn “cityhood” status; it was complex, argumentative and contentious.

But on March 31, 1964, residents in Hawaiiaian Gardens went to the polls and by a vote of 182 in favor and 80 opposed, California’s 75th city was officially born, and Hawaiiaian Gardens has not looked back since.



The Lions Club was responsible for establishing Bloomfield Park. At the park’s ground-breaking were (from left to right) L.A. County Parks and Recreation Director Norm Johnson, Lions Club President Glen Turner, County Supervisor Frank Bonelli, Leland S. Johnson, Jack Leaf and James Alderson.



Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli presented certificates of election to Hawaiian Gardens’ first city council in 1964. Pictured (left to right) are Venn Furgeson, Robert Leach, C. Robert Lee, Glen Turner and Lee Ware.

Even though it was the “smallest city in California” residents took enormous pride in their new enclave. The voters ended up selecting the name “Hawaiian Gardens” as opposed to “El Dorado Park” by a vote of 164 to 128.

The first City Council consisted of Lee Ware, Robert Leach, Venn Furgeson, C. Robert Lee, and Glen Turner.

Today, Hawaiian Gardens is one of the most known cities in Southern California and it attracts millions of visitors each and every year to the world famous Hawaiian Gardens Casino and the Hawaiian Gardens Bingo Club.

Happy 49th Birthday Hawaiian Gardens!
You’re looking GREAT!

(This number shall be torn off by inspector and handed to the voter)

No. 32184

SAMPLE BALLOT

MARK CROSS (+) ON BALLOT ONLY WITH RUBBER STAMP; NEVER WITH PEN OR PENCIL. (ABSENTEE BALLOTS MAY BE MARKED WITH PEN AND INK OR PENCIL.)

(Fold ballot to this perforated line, leaving top margin exposed)

PERFORATED LINE

GENERAL BALLOT — COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES — MARCH 31, 1964

PROPOSED INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS OR CITY OF EL DORADO PARK ELECTION

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote on the measure for incorporation or against incorporation, stamp a cross (+) in the voting square after the words “For Incorporation” or after the words “Against Incorporation”. To vote on the name for the proposed city, stamp a cross (+) in the voting square after the name of your choice. To vote for a candidate of your selection, stamp a cross (+) in the voting square to the right of the name of the candidate. Where two or more candidates for the same office are to be elected, stamp a cross (+) after the names of all the candidates for that office for whom you desire to vote, not to exceed, however, the number of candidates who are to be elected. To vote for a person not on the ballot, write his name under the title of the office in the blank space left for that purpose. All marks, except the cross (+) are forbidden. All distinguishing marks or erasures are forbidden and make the ballot void. If you wrongly stamp, tear or deface this ballot, return it to the inspector of election and obtain another. On absent voter ballots mark a cross (+) with pen or pencil.

FOR INCORPORATION	FOR CITY COUNCIL	Vote for Five
AGAINST INCORPORATION	ANN ANDERSON DAVIS Real Estate Broker	
FOR NAME OF CITY	VENN W. FURGESON Plastering Contractor	
IF THE PROPOSED CITY IS INCORPORATED, SHALL IT BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS?	ROBERT G. LEACH Merchant	
	ROBERT (BOB) LEE Paint Hardware Merchant	
IF THE PROPOSED CITY IS INCORPORATED, SHALL IT BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF EL DORADO PARK?	KENNETH L. MCBRIDE Purchasing Agent	
	LOIS E. RYDALCH Homemaker	
	GLEN O. TURNER Mechanic	
	LEE WARE Real Estate Broker	

The Small Hospital with the Big Heart

Free Women’s Health Fair

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

at Tri-City Regional Medical Center

21530 S. Pioneer Blvd., Hawaiian Gardens 90716

Tri-City Regional Medical Center will be hosting a FREE women’s health fair offering health screenings and interactive physician lectures on gynecological and urological issues such as heavy bleeding, pelvic pain and more. Doctors will discuss minimally invasive surgery treatments using the da Vinci robot. In addition, there will be “Ask the doctor” booths to answer your health and wellness questions.

Free screenings include:

Colon Cancer • Body Mass Index measurements (BMI) • Glucose
Cholesterol • Blood Pressure • Ultrasounds • Foot • Vision • Dental

For more information, call 877-877-1104.



Pioneer at Carson
21530 S. Pioneer Blvd.
Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716
(877) 877-1104
www.tcrmc.org

Public Invited to Celebrate Hawaiian Gardens' 49th Anniversary

Three-day Festivities Promises Fun for the Whole Family

The City of Hawaiian Gardens will be celebrating its 49th Anniversary during a three-day celebration starting Friday, April 12th and ending Sunday, April 14th. The festivities will include a grand parade, with Tito Ortiz, UFC Hall of Famer and President of Punishment Athletics Enterprises, State Senator Ron Calderon and Cerritos College Board of Trustees President Marisa Perez serving as Honorary Grand Marshals. Musical performances this year will include popular latin performers Vilma Diaz on Saturday and Los Tiranos Del Norte on Sunday. The event will take place at Furgeson Elementary School, 22215 Elaine Avenue in Hawaiian Gardens.

The free event and festivities will include a carnival, international music & performances, competitions and information booths. Food, games and carnival rides will be available at nominal fees. Tickets will be available day of event (40 for \$30). Most rides need between 3 to 4 tickets for enjoyment.

"We are excited to be celebrating this fantastic milestone in our City's history. As always, our community and area residents are invited to take part and enjoy themselves while they commemorate this special celebration. Advanced ticket sales



are exceeding our expectations, and we expect an excellent celebration," said Juan Serrano, Director of Special Events for the City of Hawaiian Gardens. "Please come join us, there will be activities for people of all ages."

CARNIVAL HOURS:

Friday, April 13, from 5pm – 10pm
Saturday, April 14, from 1pm – 10pm
Sunday, April 15, from 2pm – 10pm

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE:

Friday April 13th

From 5-10 pm, musical acts and performances will include ballet folklórico and The Rudy Roman Band

Saturday April 14th

From 2-10 pm, musical acts and performances will include Swedish dancing, Taiko drummers, Polynesian dancing, Peruvian music, The Heat, Grupo Neblina, and Vilma Diaz Y La Sonora (headline performance from 6-7 pm)

Sunday April 15th

From 3-10 pm, musical acts and performances will include country music, Susie Hansen and the Latin Band, Mariachi music, The Boomers, Salvaje, La Sonora Tropical and Los Tiranos Del Norte (headline performance from 9-10 pm).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HAWAIIAN GARDENS!



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City of Hawaiian Gardens

Established 1964

Commemorating 49 Years of Progress

For the City's dedication toward refurbishing our schools, funding for summer school programs, after school programs, the Fedde Sports Complex, and "Activate Hawaiian Gardens Program"

City Motto "Our Youth, Our Future"

Thank you from The Community of ABC Unified School District Board of Education

Celia Spitzer, President

Sophia Tse, Vice President – Lynda Johnson, Clerk

Olympia Chen, Member – James Kang, Member

Maynard Law, Member – Armin Reyes, Member

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu



Moskowitz Foundation Key to Construction of Sports Complex in Hawaiian Gardens

By Brian Hews

The Sports Complex at Fedde Middle School built by the City of Hawaiian Gardens could not have come true if it were not for Mrs. Irving Moskowitz and Irving Moskowitz Foundation.

The complex houses four baseball/softball diamonds, backstops, bleachers, drinking fountains, three football/soccer fields, one storage building, restroom, snack bar and multi-purpose room building. The construction also modified the irrigation system, saw parking lot im-

provements, new sports field lighting and a multi-purpose athletic field.


“This was a huge undertaking for the city of Hawaiian Gardens,” stated Mrs. Moskowitz, “and we were delighted to be part of that development.

Retired ABCUSD Superintendent Dr. Gary Smuts described an Education Program consisting of a solid combination of Health and Classroom Instruction. “The Sports Complex will make a difference to our adults and children in our community for many years to come,” he stated.


Mrs. Moskowitz said she and her hus-

band have had a close association with Hawaiian Gardens for almost 40 years when the Tri-City Regional Medical Center opened as Cerritos Garden Hospital. She said the Foundation has contributed to numerous projects in the city, but the one the Foundation they are especially proud to sponsor is the Food Bank. “We will continue to serve the neediest of the Hawaiian Gardens family.”






*The City of Cerritos
congratulates the
City of Hawaiian Gardens
upon the occasion of the
community's 49th birthday.*



We Proudly Salute

**The City of
Hawaiian Gardens
49th Anniversary
Parade & Carnival
Celebrating Unity
in Diversity!**



Don Knabe
Supervisor, Fourth District
Chairman Pro-Tem
County of Los Angeles
www.Knabe.com

**Happy Birthday
Hawaiian Gardens!**

**Thank you for your
unwavering support
and partnership.**



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