

# PALS Art Exhibit and Reception Showcases Young Talent

The Greig Smith LAPD Devonshire Youth Center will be hosting its' First PALS Art Exhibit and Reception on Friday May 4, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 pm. The exhibit will feature the art work from the participants of LAPD Devonshire PALS. This exhibit of over 100 pieces of art work is being led and directed by PALS art instructor Ingrid Skillman-Hudshon.

PALS provides enrichment activities Monday-Thursday from the hours of 1:00-6:00 including school holidays and summer vacation. In addition to art instruction, Devonshire PALS programs include after-school tutoring, homework help, dance, martial arts instruction, drama, literacy support, cheerleading, science classes, sports clinics, teen leadership, and computer access. PALS is not only fun, but teaches values like responsibility, citizenship, hard work, respect, and concern for others.

The youth center program's includes Police Cadets (for youth looking to law enforcement as a career) and DAPS (a program designed for younger children who are interested in police work and community service).

Programs at the youth center are open to all youth ages 7 to 17. Along with the daily activities described, PALS offers crime prevention education, field trips, leadership training, camping excursions, and career and college planning assistance.

Devonshire PALS also sponsors projects involving children and families that develop community pride and participation in the improvement and beautification of their neighborhoods. Core programs are free to all who wish to participate and provides area youth with a wide array of academic, athletic, artistic activities again, under the mentorship and direct supervision of police officers, youth center staff and local community volunteers. There are 23 screened and trained program volunteers who currently support the day to day operations at the youth center teaching classes, supervising children and tutoring.

For more information about the art exhibit, volunteering or the Devonshire PALS program please contact Devonshire PALS at 818/885-6432.



*Xiomara Torres, age 16, finds that art is way to express herself. She quotes artist Frida Kahlo, "I never paint dreams or nightmares, I paint my own realities". Through art class she learned painting techniques like dry brush and even how fingers can be used to spread paint. Xiomara will be presenting multiple pieces at the exhibit.*



*Eric Lopez, age 10, is looking forward to displaying for the first time his drawing of a polar bear done with colored pencils. He learned the technique of shading for this piece. His favorite artist is Picasso.*

## On The "Lighter" Side

*(Continued from page 3)*

on. It is obvious why they call them smart phones --- you need a college degree to figure out how to keep them working.

We now have to use a flashlight to leave the house because when we are charging all of these electron eaters the outside lights won't go on. Yes, you guessed it, the flashlights are rechargeable too.

There is some good news in all of this and it is not a new "app" for the phone. It turns out that all this charging has an unintended safety and security element. If we leave the lights on in the house at night and almost everything charging

## Ask the Plant Guy

# What to Do About Mushrooms

By Carl Brodock

Every Spring to early Summer I have seen customers bring in fungal growths and mushrooms that come up in their lawns and flower beds. Invariably the first thing they ask is how to get rid of it. These growths happen each year as the ground temperature gets warmer and spores are released by decaying wood. Sometimes these fungal growths appear as mushrooms, and sometimes the growths are more sinister looking and look like vomit. You can see why people seem so alarmed when they are confronted by these growths in their own yard.

Usually when we get to the heart of the problem, these growths are located where a tree has been removed, and the remaining roots are slowly decaying, or in new lawn areas, or flower beds where composted wood chips have been worked in for additional organic material. The fungi that produce these mushrooms are beneficial, because they decompose organic matter in the soil, making nutrients available to other plants. These growths are prominent in the early mornings, and slowly deflate as the spores are subject to the sun's rays.

Sometimes you can eliminate mushrooms growing from organic matter or hasten decomposition of organic matter by applying nitrogen fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. There are fungicides available to drench the affected areas but we do not recommend them. We would have you pluck or scoop the offending growth to keep a well groomed look to your lawns and flower beds, while simultaneously keeping these growths out of the reach of children and pets. You could also take your pitching wedge out for a little

practice and chip the revolting mass into your neighbor's lawn each morning.

Four Seasons Wholesale Nursery has enough answers to help keep your gardening enjoyable. We welcome your questions by email at asktheplantguy@gmail.com

You can call the nursery, or simply stop by and talk plants with us. As a member of your community and local

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