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Councilwoman Greuel Launches “Senior Friends” Program to Protect Seniors During Hot Summer Months

Nearly 140 seniors passed away from heat-related illnesses in California in 2007

(LOS ANGELES) – Working to protect the nearly 350,000 seniors who live in Los Angeles, Councilwoman Wendy Greuel launched the “Senior Friends” program at the East Valley Senior Center in Valley Village today. 40 Angelenos have passed away from heat-related illnesses in the past 5 years, 22 of whom were senior citizens.

“With temperatures soaring, we all need to do our part to protect our seniors who are among the most vulnerable Angelenos,” said Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. “Last year an elderly couple in my district passed away because their air conditioning went out and no one went to check on them during a heat wave. I want to protect our seniors and ensure that doesn’t happen again.”

“Senior Friends” will ensure senior citizens Citywide are being properly cared for – particularly during the hot summer months. Younger Angelenos will be paired with needy seniors to ensure they are safe and have the necessary supplies such as food, water and a fan or air conditioner to keep cool. Under the Councilwoman’s plan the City will also coordinate 116 “cooling centers” to provide all Angelenos a place to stay cool when the temperatures rise. Finally the Councilwoman is working with the Department of Aging to fund fan and air conditioner giveaways to low-income seniors throughout Los Angeles.

“The City’s seniors are invited to visit their local multipurpose and senior centers, make new friends, learn new things and stay cool during the summer heat,” said Laura Trejo the General Manager of the City’s Department of Aging.

“We encourage our seniors in particular to always put your health and welfare first,” said David Nahai, General Manager of the Department of Water and Power. “We want all seniors to know that when your power bill comes, we’ll work with you to allow you time to pay it off. Seniors on low, fixed incomes are eligible for discounts on garbage pickup and on water, power and sewer charges.”

- more -

NEWS

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILWOMAN WENDY GREUEL



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Councilwoman Greuel helped launch the program by becoming a “Senior Friend” to a local senior citizen Lori Dinkin.

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