



## Everything Toluca Lake

By STEVE HAMPAR

### 12th Annual Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station 86

#### 'Fire Service Recognition Day'

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Toluca Times welcomes Steve Hampar to our pages. This column will appear periodically.*

*The second Saturday of each May is designated "Fire Service Recognition Day" by the Los Angeles Fire Department, which was created to bolster community relationships. On that day each year all neighborhood fire stations throughout the City open their doors for tours, learn about the services they offer, interact with firefighters, promote fire safety knowledge and enjoy some family fun.*

Twelve years ago the Toluca Lake Chamber of Commerce helped promote this concept to the local Community by hosting a Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station 86. Each year over 1000 guests enjoy a nice day with their family, including lots of activities for their children. This concept has become so popular, other fire stations have followed suit.

Fire Station 86 serves the local community, including Toluca Lake, which bears its name on the fire trucks. According to Captain Neil Romine, there are 1500-2000 incidents per day throughout the

City which the LAFD respond to, up from around 1000 incidences just a few years ago. Because of fire safety improvements, in large part due to smoke alarms in residences, casualties have been greatly diminished. Because of these safeguards only around 15 percent of their calls are now due to fires, with a preponderance of calls due to medical emergencies.

Unbeknownst to most people, it is the firefighters, and not the City, who pay for their supplies at the fire station. Captain Romine explained that all the food, laundry, and other ancillary supplies are in fact paid for by the firefighters. It was with this in mind that the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast in large part go directly to Fire Station 86 to provide capital items for their use.

Some of these items have been an outdoor storage container, washer and dryer, lounge chairs, treadmills, coffee makers, landscaping and an electric generator, to name just a few. The balance of the proceeds go to the Widows, Orphans and Disabled Firemen's Fund: WODFF.org.

The Annual Old Fashioned Pancake Breakfast is truly a community event, having support from the Toluca Lake Homeowners Association, Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, Councilmember David Ryu, and NBC Universal. For pictures from this year's event and for a complete list of sponsors visit [TolucaLakeChamber.com](http://TolucaLakeChamber.com) and click on the photos tab.

#### Everything Toluca Lake!

This column is intended to keep you informed on local events



At the 12th Annual Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station 86 is (l-r) Jon Molin, Alice Roth (Senior Field Deputy for David Ryu), Diane McCreary (Chairperson) Tim Hawkins, LA City Councilmember David Ryu, Janice Eaton, Darnell Tyler (NBCUni) and Jeff Cafuir (NBCUni).



Some of our local Firefighters at Fire Station 86, including (3rd from left) Captain Neil Romine.

and news relating specifically to Toluca Lake, thus the "Toluca" in *The Toluca Times*.

Steve Hampar is a 20+ year resident of Toluca Lake and

helped create the Toluca Lake Neighborhood Watch. He is past President of the Toluca Lake Chamber and currently serves as Vice President of the Toluca Lake Homeowners Association. He is al-

so Broker/Owner of Hampar Properties real estate brokerage. Contact him with newsworthy tips relating to Toluca Lake at [steve@hamparproperties.com](mailto:steve@hamparproperties.com).

## 5 tips for an intimate wedding

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#### Stick to your budget

Create a budget using money you already have in the bank. There's no need to go into debt when planning an intimate wedding. If you have \$1,000 to spend, then plan a \$1,000 wedding. If you stick to a moderate budget, you're more likely to keep the planning and actual event in control.

#### Think outside the box

A small wedding may require a bit of strategic thinking and DIY projects. For example, you can make your own invitations and party favors to not only save money, but to reflect your unique personality as a couple. You can also get creative with the venue, like a small bed and breakfast, restaurant or historic home. There's no need to book an entire banquet hall.

Let these straightforward ideas take some of the stress out of your wedding planning. After all, your wedding day is supposed to be one of the happiest occasions. For more wedding planning tips and helpful options visit [rentalhq.com/weddings](http://rentalhq.com/weddings).



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