

COMMUNITY FORUM

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

Fourth of July event dazzles crowd again

By Steve Pierce

Our Crescenta Valley community was treated to another spectacular Fourth of July fireworks event Friday.

Fun carnival rides, great food, activities for the kids, choreographed patriotic music and most of all an unbelievable fireworks display directed by Robert Hutchins, Fireworks America's special effects supervisor, his crew as well as Chuck Hughes, NBC special effects pyrotechnic.

It was all there for everyone to enjoy.

So let's take a moment to reflect on what it takes to put this show together.

First, you have the Cres-

centa Valley Fireworks Assn. This special group of dedicated community volunteers started meeting in January to make this show a reality. Our team met often to discuss fundraising, event layout, getting the required permits from Glendale Unified School District and Los Angeles County, insurance needs, food and entertainment, electrical requirements to ensure our show was adequately powered, security needs and finally the last-minute "walk-through" to ensure it all came together.

Literally thousands of hours of family and work time given up by Crescenta Valley Fireworks Assn. members to make this event hap-

pen for each of you. And, most importantly, it was done for free, all volunteer time.

Second, it takes the numerous groups and agencies who donate their resources to make our event so successful and safe. This list includes Glendale Unified School District, Los Angeles County Public Works, Crescenta Valley sheriff's deputies and sheriff's volunteers, California Highway Patrol officers, Crescenta Valley Arson Watch team, Los Angeles County and Glendale city fire personnel, J's Maintenance that kept the grounds clean both during and after the event and even our friends at La Crescenta OSH who provided misters

to keep us cool.

Truly a team effort.

Third, it takes the unconditional support we receive each year from the city of Glendale. The City Council recognizes the value our fireworks event brings to the community and has supported our efforts from day one.

Finally, many in the community have the misconception this is an event put on by Los Angeles County and funded by tax dollars. This is not true. The reality is this event is privately funded.

Funded by the 175 individual donations sent back in remittance envelopes supplied in the Valley Sun newspaper. Some of those donors even purchased tickets at the

gate on fireworks day.

Funded by contributions from local businesses who recognize the value this event brings to our community.

Funded by our many residents who enjoy the fireworks show from their backyards and along Foothill Boulevard but still send in their donations to show their appreciation.

Funded by those in our community who recognize the value of having a safe, professional fireworks show for families to enjoy.

And finally, funded by those of you who come to our event with your families and friends. They carried blankets, chairs, as well as coolers and purchased tick-

ets, sat back and enjoyed the show.

Next year the Crescenta Valley Fireworks Assn. will again provide our Crescenta Valley community with a spectacular fireworks show and family event.

But, as we prepare for next year's event, please consider what it takes to put this event together.

Its success and continuance depends on your support.

On behalf of the 2008 Crescenta Valley Fireworks Assn. team, I hope you enjoyed our show.

• STEVE PIERCE is president of the Crescenta Valley Fireworks Association and a La Crescenta resident.