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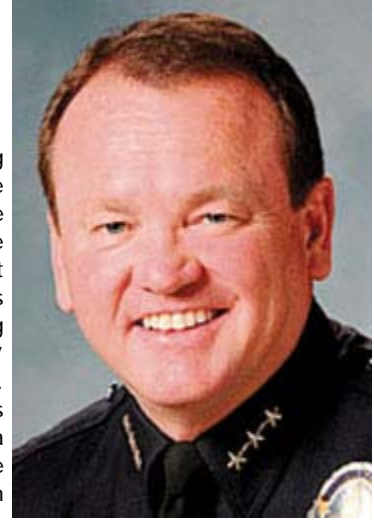
Palm Springs Resource Guide

Briefs

by James F. Mills

MEET THE CHIEF

Long Beach's new police chief has a long history of being gay friendly. During his time at the LAPD, Jim McDonnell was one of the gay community's biggest supporters. The Center Long Beach hosts a meet-and-greet to welcome McDonnell to town. "This reception is a good way to start building stronger ties to the police department," explains Center board member Raul Anorve. "Considering the history of LGBT relations with law enforcement, we figured this was a good way to let him get to know us." All are welcome to come meet the chief on Thursday, April 15 from 6-8 p.m. Refreshments provided.



FUZZY FRIENDS

The friendliest night at area clubs may just be the second Saturday of each month. That's when Club Fuzz, an eight-month-old club night that grew out of the bear community, takes over Hamburger Mary's. But it's more than just a bear night. "We try to transcend all the cliques of the gay community, strive to break down all those barriers between groups," explains Martin Free Ramos, Club Fuzz event promoter. "We create a club night where you feel like you know everyone, sort of like a Cheers environment." This month's gathering has a 1990s theme where everyone's invited to put on their best '90s-style outfits. Club Fuzz starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 10.

SPELL THIS

Spelling bees aren't just for middle schoolers anymore. The National Adult Spelling Bee strives to improve everyone's spelling. "It's important not to totally rely on spell checks," says organizer Justin Rudd. "This bee encourages adults to continue their spelling practice and introduces more words into people's vocabularies." Last year's Adult Spelling Bee had 45 entrants; the winning word was cumshaw (which means tip, gratuity). The Bee is open to anyone 16 or older; the winner takes home \$500. The Bee is Sunday, April 25 at 2 p.m. at Bay Shore Church in Belmont Shore.

GETTING IN GEAR

Changing Gears, the AIDS bike ride originally scheduled for April, is moving to the fall. The Center Long Beach-sponsored ride will now be held in September. "We've been so busy getting the Center's HIV-testing operation up and running, we haven't had the time to devote to Changing Gears," explains coordinator Ishmael Morales. "We want to promote it properly to bring out the largest number of riders, so we'll be pushing it at Pride, at AIDS Walk, the Center's 30th anniversary party and other events throughout the summer." Last year's inaugural ride raised \$10,000 for AIDS programs.

the details

Adult Spelling Bee
Sun., April 25, 2 p.m.
justinrudd.com/adultbee.html

Changing Gears Bike Ride
centerlb.org


Club Fuzz at Hamburger Mary's
 Sat., April 10 at 9 p.m.
clubfuzz.net

Meet and Greet with Police Chief Jim McDonnell
 Thurs., April 15, 6-8 p.m.
centerlb.org

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