

February 16, 2015

## Hogans will be king, queen of Saturday's Mardi Gras

Robyn Flans 5:11 PM, Feb 2, 2015 9:32 PM, Feb 16, 2015 [conejo valley](#)

### Westlake Village couple receive royal honor

Hogans get Mardi Gras salute for work

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, Calif. - Westlake Village residents Ed and Lynn Hogan, who founded Pleasant Holidays in 1959 and went on to become major philanthropists in the area, will be honored this month as the king and queen of the 23rd Mardi Gras Ball, an annual fundraiser for Community Conscience.

The event will be held Feb. 21 at the Hyatt Westlake Plaza.

Robin Britt, executive director of Community Conscience, said the Thousand Oaks agency "is here to insure that the people in Conejo Valley who are struggling and in need of human services have a place to go to receive those services."

Community Conscience provides rent-free space "under one roof" to 11 nonprofit organizations so low-income and homeless people and others in need can get help ranging from prenatal care to end-of-life care. The organizations include Conejo Free Clinic, Hospice of Conejo Valley and Senior Concerns.

Every year, the Mardi Gras honors two charitable community members. The Hogans are being recognized for their work with the Hogan Family Foundation, which they created in 1998.

"The Hogan Family Foundation promotes the individual entrepreneurial spirit, education and giving back for the blessings my wife and I have received," said Hogan, 87.

One of the humanitarian programs in the foundation is Rancho St. Francis-Equestrian Education, which rescues and rehabilitates abused and abandoned horses and uses them to help disabled and needy children.

"Horses are great therapy," Hogan said. "They are so gentle."

The foundation also supports the Gardens of the World, which the Hogans built in Thousand Oaks in 2001. Hogan said the 4.5-acre park costs the foundation \$700,000 a year.

"We get no money from the city or the state or federal government," Hogan said.

Hogan is a self-made man. Born and raised in New Jersey, he met his future wife in high school, but after they graduated, they went their separate ways — she went to Brooklyn's Pratt Art Institute and he went into the Naval Air Corps for World War II. They reconnected when he got out of the service. He went into aviation and took her flying — and now they've been married for 63 years. They moved to California in 1951 and raised four children.

"People ask how can you maintain that good of a relationship over that many years. You learn early in life to say, 'Yes dear,'" Hogan teased.

Pleasant Holidays, which Hogan founded more than half a century ago, went on to become the largest tour operator serving Hawaii. Hogan owns two hotels in Hawaii, where some of his employees have worked for him for decades.

Hogan said he and his wife are thrilled to be honored at this year's ball.

The event begins at 5 p.m. with a champagne reception and music from the Riverboat Dixie Jazz Band, which includes a Silent Auction. The Live Auction will begin at 6:30.

Britt said the attire is formal or "wear costumes."

"You can wear your mask and we give out beads," Britt said. "It's so much fun — you can strut your stuff and help a great cause."

Hogan said he plans to strut to the sounds of the Fifth Avenue's The Music Connection Orchestra.

"I went to the gym this morning, and the legs are still working, so I plan to dance the night away," Hogan said.

#### **If you go**

**What:** 23rd Annual Community Conscience Mardi Gras Ball

**When:** **February 21** 5 p.m. reception & silent auction; 6:30 pm dinner & live auction

**Where:** Hyatt Westlake Village, 880 S. Westlake Blvd., Westlake Village

**Cost:** \$175, or \$1,500 for a table for 10

**Info:** [www.communityconscience.org](http://www.communityconscience.org).



Ed and Lynn Hogan (from left) will serve as the Community Conscience Mardi Gras king and queen. Mardi Gras Ball Chairwoman Phyllis Rickert (right) shares laughs with them.

CARLOS CHAVEZ/SPECIAL TO THE STAR



Cara Cohen, a Community Conscience trustee, enjoys time with Mardi Gras Queen Lynn Hogan during the Community Conscience reception at the Hyatt Westlake plaza on Feb. 8, a prelude to the Mardi Gras Ball on **Saturday, February 21st**.

CARLOS CHAVEZ/SPECIAL TO THE STAR