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Alive!



LAPD

CSI:LA

The Smoking Gun Squad

LAPD's Firearm Analysis Unit helps solve crimes by inspecting, testing and comparing firearm evidence.

SEE PAGE 6

Doreen Hudson, Assistant Director, LAPD Crime Lab, in the Firearm Reference Collection Room, the department's storehouse of firearm samples.

Alive! photo by Sammy Lam.



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SEE PAGE 45



Alive!

December 2010 • Volume 9 – No. 12

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ZOO

Trunk Space

Zoo opens Elephants of Asia exhibit this month.

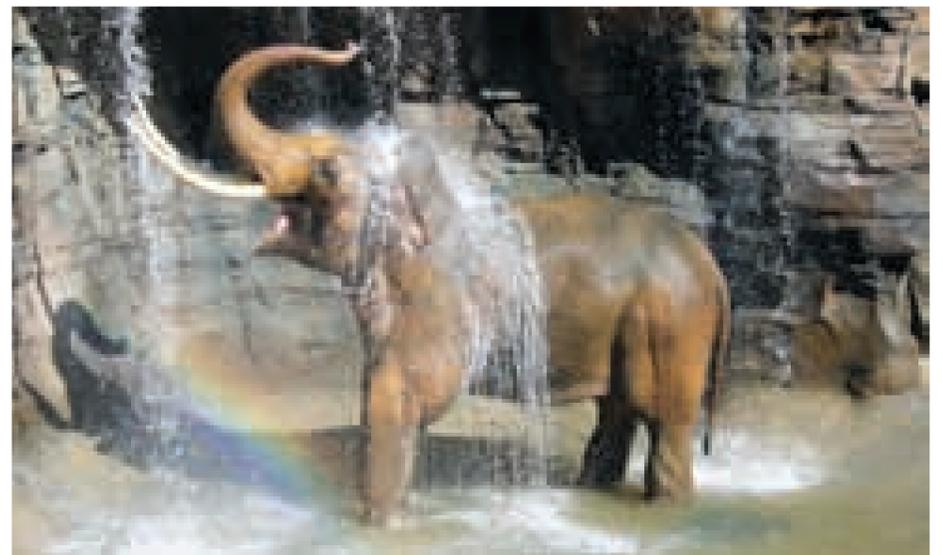
Story courtesy the L.A. Zoo.
Photo by Jason Jacobs/L.A. Zoo

Opening Dec. 16, the Los Angeles Zoo's major Elephants of Asia habitat will include features dedicated to the health and welfare of the elephants including bathing pools, sandy hills, varied topography, enrichment opportunities and a state-of-the-art barn capable of caring for elephants of all ages. Elephants of Asia will focus on the rich connection between elephants and the cultures of Thailand, India, China and Cambodia. The exhibit will familiarize guests with the challenges Asian elephants face in the wild, including their shrink-

ing natural habitat and give visitors the opportunity to directly contribute to conservation programs that support elephants in their native countries.

Billy, the Zoo's 25-year-old male Asian elephant, will be featured in the habitat in addition to Tina and Jewel, two female Asian elephants who arrived from the San Diego Zoo in November.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Admission is \$14 for adults and \$9 for children ages 2 to 12. The Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit the L. A. Zoo Website at www.lazoo.org.

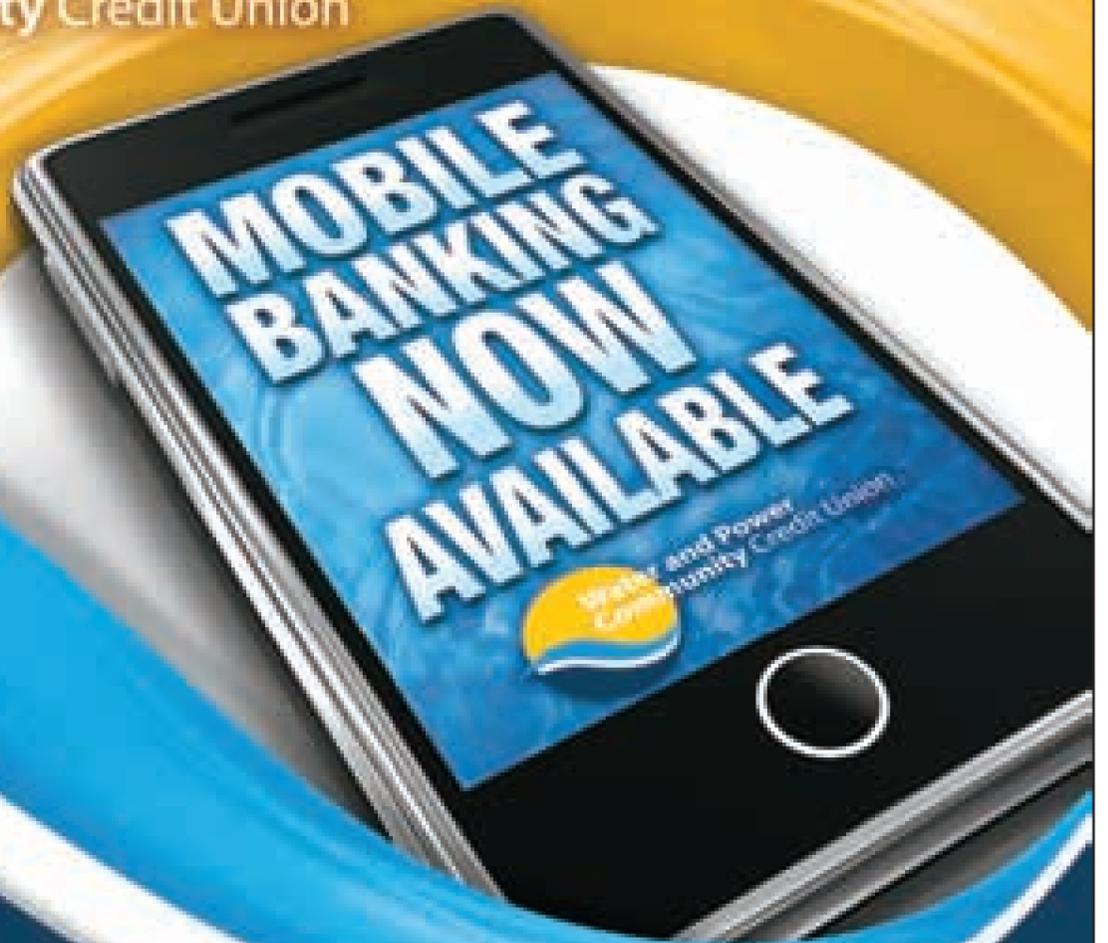


Billy the Elephant at the L.A. Zoo.

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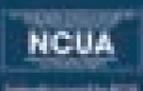
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** A Message From the CEO **

Firearm Unit Is Hawkins Specialty

by **John Hawkins**
President and CEO, The Club

December is family-centered for most, if not all, of us. That's usually due to Christmas and the holidays, and, for me, that's no exception this month.

But there's something else this time. This month's cover story, a look at the LAPD's Firearm Analysis Unit, is the latest in our ongoing series of the men and women who fight crimes via the Scientific Investigation Unit. But it really hits home.

My dad, **Bob Hawkins**, was a career firearm analyst with L.A. County, and then, in his retirement, as a firearm consultant with the LAPD. I always knew what my dad did when he went to work, but seeing the mechanics and intuition of his job firsthand, I was even more impressed, and proud.

Doreen Hudson, the Assistant Director of the LAPD Criminalistics Lab and manager over the Firearm Analysis Unit, was our host for our tour of the Firearm Unit. As it happens, she remembers my dad, and she made our visit even more meaningful to me by talking about him and the impact he made. The same is true for **Daniel Rubin**, Criminalist, who worked with my dad and shared stories. To Doreen and Daniel, many thanks; and to all those in the Firearm Analysis Unit, thanks for the good work you're doing to keep L.A. safe.

Hey, I loved reading about the fun Boss' Day festivities that the staff of Public Works/Sanitation threw for their boss, Enrique Zaldivar. Great idea! Everybody has a story of a bad boss somewhere in their past, but how often do you hear about a staff coming together to throw a party for their boss? Well, you've just heard about one in this month's issue. Nice going, Enrique, and here's to all of those bosses who make our workdays – which take up so much of our lives – productive, pleasant, complementary and worthwhile.

Meanwhile, 'tis the season – to overindulge! We all know that, so it's especially great to read about the successful fitness challenge met by the **LAPD's ITD Team**. The group lost more than 400 pounds, which is nearly 10 percent of their body weight. That's awesome! Let's keep that in mind; we can all help each other stay fit. That's really important. Enjoy the holidays, for sure, but take care of yourselves, too. That's the ultimate gift you can give yourself.

Speaking of the holidays, have you bought your movie tickets yet with the Club discount, to stuff those holiday stockings of your family and friends? What could be better, really? Make the Club Store your holiday headquarters for all sorts of unique City gifts, apparel, tickets and other merchandise. Nowhere else on earth can Santa get all these great things, so help him out and stop by! **Ticket Gal Rachael Brecher** will help you fill all your holiday gift needs.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Club CEO John Hawkins and his family, from left: Kelley, Noah, John, Hannah and Isaiah.

Finally, as is my tradition, I send to all of you the very best and brightest Christmas greetings from my family – wife, Kelley; sons, Noah and Isaiah; and daughter, Hannah. We extend to your home peace, love and all good things. We fully plan on bringing all these good things well into the New Year, and we hope you do, too. So Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a great Club New Year to us all.

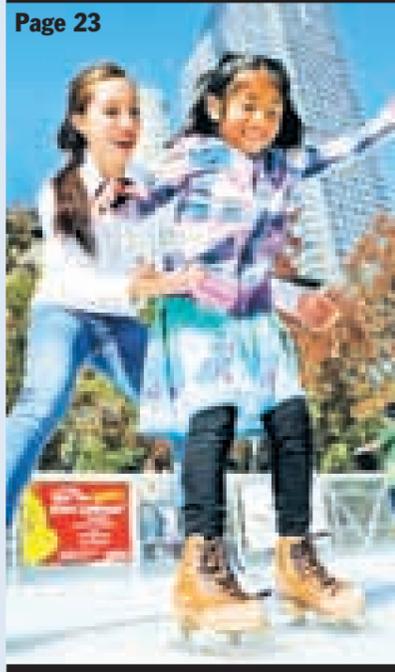
JOHN

(jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)



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The newspaper of the
City Employees Club of Los Angeles



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**Cecilia Talbot,
Claims Manager**

You probably won't get to meet Club Claims Manager Cecilia Talbot very often... until you really need her. That's when her service shines. So, to assure you that you are in good hands, from time to time *Alive!* will reprint letters commending the service given by Cecilia and her excellent staff. — Ed.



**Monica Zamudio,
Claims Assistant**

**Service From The Heart...
When You Need It Most**

Trust the Club's insurance and claims services when you need them the most.



The City Employees Club of Los Angeles Celebrating the Lives of City Employees.

Great Service, When You're in Need

The Club's claims service is "excellent - very thoughtful and always available. [You] kept me informed. [You were] so compassionate, I thought you personally knew my husband, Roger. Thank you for everything. You made an unbearable situation very durable."

— Dee Halenar, July 2010

The Club's claims service is "excellent. I send my gratitude to Monica and to the

rest of the lovely Club Employees! Everything went smooth and easy. I got my life insurance check of my beloved husband earlier than I expected. I received a lot of compassionate words like, 'Thank you for letting us be there for you during your difficult moments.' This book [*The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*] was enjoyable. It teaches that everything has a beginning and an end and that there is a purpose for everyone to participate in the happiness of all."

— Elham Hanna, July 2010

"Both Monica and Cecilia were very helpful and made me and my sister feel that... the process would not take very long. The process was easier than expected. My family appreciates the gift of the book [*The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*]."

— Shirley Krumme, July 2010

The Club's claims service is "very good. You have good employees to take care of my case, seriously and efficiently. Thank you."

— Hope Lin, June 2010

Your Club Insurance Dollars at Work

Total claims paid to Club Members so far in 2010: \$3,695,901.44

Claims paid:

Life insurance claims paid this month: **\$40,723.72**

Life insurance claims paid this year: **\$1,883,897.00**

Long-term disability claims paid this month: **\$104,428.83**

Long-term disability claims paid this year: **\$1,213,740.00**

Long-term care claims paid this month: **\$29,000.00**

Long-term care claims paid this year: **\$328,264.00**

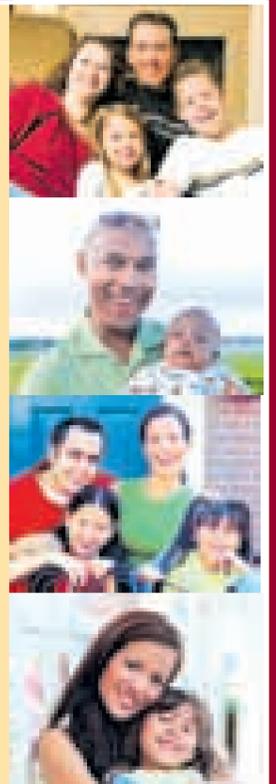
Cancer insurance claims paid this month: **\$0.00**

Cancer insurance claims paid this year: **\$270,000.00**

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- Cancer Insurance (\$10,000-\$50,000)
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*Contact the Club for more details.

Meet the Club Team

These are the faces behind the Club. Our staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.



Member Services



Tiffany Sy
Member Services
Counselor, In-House



Angel Gomez
Director of
Member Services



Eboné Moses
Club Member
Services Counselor

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Arlene Herrero
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Manager



Brent Urban
Club Member
Services Counselor

Administration Aging City Employees Retirement Sys. Community Development Dept. General Services Engineering, Bureau of Environmental Affairs Fire Fire & Police Pensions Information Technology Agency Library Neighborhood Empowerment Personnel Recreation & Parks Sanitation, Bureau of Status of Women Street Services, Bureau of Transportation Zoo



John Hawkins
President & CEO



Brian G. Trent
Chief Financial
Officer



Robert Larios
Director of Operations
"Sports Dude"

Accounting



Leigh Thompson
Controller



Trinh Pham
Senior Accountant



Katie Hesseltine
Application Coordinator



Jennifer Schackelford
Application Coordinator

Claims



Cecilia Talbot
Claims Manager



Monica Zamudio
Claims Assistant



Noelle Kauffman
New Projects
Coordinator

Support

Information Technology



Michael Anderson
Information Technology
Manager



Alan Bound
Information Technology
Programmer



Summy Lam
Director of Marketing

Club Store



Rachael Brecher
Club Store
Assistant Manager



Lupe Medina
Administrative Service
Representative



Megan Debolt
Club Store Services
Coordinator



Chrystopher Green
Customer Service
Assistant

(800) 464-0452

Questions? We're here to help.
Call between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

LETTERS OF THE MONTH

Only Thing Sweeter Than Club Deal on See's Is Mary Rose



Thank you, thank you, thank you for giving us a huge See's Candies discount! I bought 15 certificates, and I'm going to give them out as Christmas presents this year. The Club is always so good about taking care of us members, thank you, you are the best association in the City! In fact, I'm cancelling all of my other association memberships and keeping just yours. You guys are the best!!

– Mary Rose Lechlinski, Rec and Parks

Oh man! \$11.95 for a one-pound box of See's Chocolates? That is such a bargain! I don't know how the Club does it, but you've made my holiday season with this price. This is the price of See's Candies about 10 or 15 years ago! This is why I tell my coworkers who are not Club members to join, because otherwise they lose out on stuff like this.

– Henry Johnson, LAFD

Their Kids Soar Over Story, Schematic of LAFD Air Ops

Hi Club! I just wanted to let you know my son really enjoyed last month's feature story on the LAFD Air Operations. He's always been interested in firefighting so he couldn't wait to read your story from cover to cover. He also really enjoyed the helicopter schematic, where you showed the various parts of their specialized helicopter. Keep up the awesome work!

– Milton Riesman, Transportation

What a terrific story on the LAFD Air Operations. My kids fell in love with the picture on page 11 that shows the schematic of the helicopter. We've been watching the old TV series, *Airwolf*, and my boys keep saying that the Fire Department secretly has the *Airwolf* helicopter and they disguised it with different colors. I've read the story several times and they can't get enough. Thank you for amazing work to put the story together.

– Roy Kingston, General Services

Hi Milton and Roy, you're welcome. I can assure you, we were just like your sons, inspecting those great air machines – and more than that, the men who oper-

ate and support them. Speaking of that, just today – Nov. 21 – I read a news story about the LAFD Air Ops performing an amazing rescue of a person who caught in a swift-water predicament during a down-pour. We worked hard to produce that story, but the real heroes are the ones we featured. –Ed.

The City Mourns the Loss Of LAPD Officer Cullins

As a former Marine, I just wanted to thank you for paying respect to LAPD Officer Joshua Cullins. As I'm sure your readers know, Officer Cullins was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan while serving in the Marines. May God bless him.

– Semper Fi, Thomas Kayne

Picture Perfect at Niagara Has Marvin Fallin' Over

I have never written to the newspaper, but I had to do it this time! That picture that Karl Guder took of Niagara Falls was spectacular! It looks so beautiful and intimidating all at the same time. What really adds to the picture is the addition of the bird flying.

– Marvin Jenkins, Rec and Parks

QUESTION

of the Month

– Collected by Rachael Brecher, Club Store Assistant Manager

Rachael at the Club Store asks Club Members fun questions when they visit to purchase tickets or great Club apparel and gifts. So, stop by and join in the fun!



What is your favorite way to spend the holidays?



"Home."
"At home with family."
– Al Williams and Richard, General Services, 5 years/16 years of City service



"With my family."
– Jose Diaz, CDD, 11 years of City service



"Staying at home."
– Ernesto Garcia, Public Works, 10 years of City service



"Shopping and spending time with family."
– April Douglas-Lawson, Airport Police, 7 years of City service



"Entertaining my family and friends."
– Cheryl Craig, Transportation, 24 years of City service



"Having dinner with family."
– Craig Morris, 13 years of City service



"With family in Sacramento."
– Enrique Palmas, Public Works



"With all my family at my grandmother's house."
– Makebra Williams, Public Works, 4 years of City service



"At home with family."
– Victor Corella, LAPD, Retired, 30 years of City service



"On a cruise ship."
– Andrew Sincosky, Planning, Retired, 34 years of City service

The Club Store

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APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE

Representatives from Club partner, United Agencies will be at the Club Store:

Dec 3 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Dec 10 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Rosa Calderon	Patty Pulido

Note: The Club Store is closed Dec. 24 for Christmas, but will be open Dec. 31 with limited hours.

Your United Agencies Reps:
(888)801-5522



Rosa Calderon, Personal Insurance Agent



Patty Pulido, Personal Insurance Agent



Rose Rangel, Personal Insurance Agent



Suzanne Eggli, Personal Insurance Mgr

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Latent Print Unit

Firearm Analysis

Polygraphs

Electronics

Photography

Doreen Hudson, Asst. Director, LAPD Criminalistics Lab, in the Firearm Reference Collection Room, Firearm Analysis Unit.





LAPD

CSI:LA

The Smoking Gun Squad

LAPD's Firearm Analysis Unit helps solve crimes by inspecting, testing and comparing firearm evidence.

The Smoking Gun Squad

LAPD's Firearm Analysis Unit helps solve crimes by inspecting, testing and comparing firearm evidence.

Photos by Sammy Lam, Club Director of Marketing

An integral part of the LAPD's crime-solving powers is its Firearm Analysis Unit, headquartered at the Scientific Investigation Division's space in the Herzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center on the campus of Cal State Los Angeles. (The Firearm Collection library pictured on the cover is housed in a location the department asks be kept undisclosed.)

The Mission of the Firearm Unit

The Firearm Analysis Unit performs examinations and comparisons of microscopic markings on fired bullets and cartridge cases, serial number restorations, renders firearms safe, scientific field investigations of shooting scenes and provides expert testimony in court. The FAU enters evidence submitted for image capture and search in the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) database to compare other crimes or firearms in the NIBIN database.

Administrative Breakdown

The Firearm Unit is divided into three details:

- **Crossfire Detail:** staffed by Police Officers, support staff and a reservist. This detail is charged with performing the mechanics of creating and entering samples into the NIBIN database. They examine, identify and test fire confiscated firearms that are in questionable or normal working order. They enter evidence and test fire specimens into NIBIN and perform tedious search correlations and NIBIN-based comparisons.
- **Comparison Detail:** staffed by Criminalists, support staff, reservists and consultants. This detail performs microscopic comparisons of fired bullets, cartridge cases, shot shells, firearm test fires and other types of firearm evidence. They chemically test suspected bullet holes for transfers of gunpowder and other bullet residues at crime scenes and in the lab. They identify prohibited firearms and mechanical alterations made to otherwise legal firearms and test them for their operability.
- **Academic Detail:** staffed by Criminalists and support staff. This unit performs all training of personnel new to the unit; restoration of obliterated firearm serial numbers; test fires of rifles and shotguns for NIBIN entry; field response for shooting crime scenes; and methodical completion of practical exercises and exams.

Additionally, the administration provides management and oversees all data and signs off on all official forensic reports.

The FAU primarily serves the LAPD Geographic Area Detectives, Force Investigation Division, the Detective Bureau, and the District Attorney's Office in that order. Although violent crime and homicides have trended downward, 85 percent of all homicides in Los Angeles are committed with a firearm. Detectives have tasted the success of solving serious crimes including homicides by connecting them (using firearm evidence) to less serious shooting crimes. This success continues to fuel the interest and demand for service from the FAU.



Daniel Rubin, Criminalist, compares evidence under a microscope.

Background

Over the past 16 years, the Firearm Analysis Unit (FAU) of the LAPD's Scientific Investigation Division has developed into an active investigative partner with detective personnel of the LAPD. After an intensive external audit conducted in the late 1980s that revealed deficiencies within the former Firearm and Explosives Section, staffing and productivity decreased to record lows. The FAU was effectively closed for business. In January 1990, the FAU received 37 requests for service. In 1991, independent contractors were hired to perform casework and train fledgling Criminalists. Eventually, as quality results emerged from the FAU and credibility with detectives and prosecutors was re-established, the workload demand on the FAU steadily increased.



semi-automatic pistols were routinely test-fired and imaged into the database along with crime scene evidence. Drugfire and its sequel, the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN), forever changed the role of forensic firearm labs and elevated the investigative value of firearm evidence from every shooting incident. Case submissions to the FAU began to escalate steadily. In 2001, the NIBIN system became the networked database, and Drugfire became a stand-alone database in the LAPD. NIBIN offered a bullet system in addition to cartridge cases and this further increased workload demand.

'Walk-in-Wednesdays'

In 2003, the disproportion between service demand and staffing levels prompted the FAU to launch the "Walk-in-Wednesday" program. In this program, detectives are invited to walk their crime scene casings into the FAU (by appointment) and wait while they are subjected to a cursory examination and imaging into the databases. Within hours of their visit, detectives are contacted by FAU personnel if their evidence is linked to any other evidence or firearm in the system. These links are preliminary results but provide meaningful clues to investigators starved for useful information. Eighty-five percent of these links or "potential" matches are subsequently confirmed by conventional time-consuming comparison microscopy. Furthermore, 68 percent of the cases walked into the FAU are linked to another crime or gun in the database. The preliminary, tentative information tends to suffice for the early investigative phase of the case, and so this information is shared with the investigators pending confirmation. But the full analysis process is required to file charges and prosecute defendants.

Workload

Presently, the FAU is backlogged more than 600 test-fires that have yet to be imaged into the national NIBIN database and more than 2,700 firearm comparison cases. This backlog spiked after the implementation of NIBIN in 2001, when bullets were added to the capacity of the database system. The bullet capability prompted the need to expand Crossfire to incorporate revolvers and revolver evidence into the protocol. In spite of the increased workload, the Crossfire Detail was not expanded until 2003. By that time, the backlog of test-fires had climbed to more than 1,500. It reached a record high of 1,900 in September 2004.

The Firearm Analysis Unit (FAU), like many other forensic disciplines, has experienced an increase in demand for service. Judges, attorneys and jurors, once ignorant of forensic science, now have an expectation of a scientific investigation to support every police investigation. This has steadily increased workload in the FAU beyond that previously seen in this unit. Television programs like *CSI*, *NCIS*, *Crossing Jordan* and *Forensic Files* fuel the internal and external interest in forensic analysis. Furthermore, the addition of firearm

— continued next page



METHODS

The Business of Analyzing Firearms

The LAPD's Firearm Analysis Unit goes about investigating evidence in the following ways:

Laboratory Exam Room

The firearm analysis typically starts here: The morning batch of firearm evidence is received, and the process of analyzing each begins. On a typical working day, 20 to 25 firearms collected as evidence are brought here for investigative analysis. Weapons are separated according to type and test-fired by the Crossfire Detail. In parallel, other FAU staff determines the type of analysis requested of them, inventory their evidence packages, create a work plan and the evidence moves on.



Here are below: Doreen Hudson, Asst. Director, Criminalistics Lab, demonstrates to Club CEO John Hawkins how firearm evidence, part of actual case-work, is processed in the Laboratory Exam Room.



Jessica Bullock, Criminalist, 1 year of City service (left), is in training to become a Firearm Examiner. Here, she's preparing fabric evidence as part of a real case. Here, she's preparing fabric evidence as part of a real case, safeguarding against the contamination of evidence. (See her doing the actual fabric analysis under "Gunshot Residue Room.")



Solved!

These three cases, recalled by Doreen Hudson, were linked by the Firearm Analysis Unit.

This successful scenario, with details supplied by the LAPD, illustrates the impact on detective operations of the Walk-in-Wednesday program:

On Feb. 14, 2004, Jorge Lua, an innocent bystander, was shot to death by an unknown assailant in the midst of a shootout between rival gangs in 77th Division. Several hours later, in another part of 77th Division, an armed gunman opened fire on a crowd of people outside an after-hours club. Three people were injured by gunfire, and 14-year old Gregory Gabriel was killed. Witnesses overheard the name "Carlos" and observed the color and make of the shooter's car. This information was insufficient to successfully identify and locate the shooter. However, both cases were walked into the Firearm Analysis Unit (FAU) for direct imaging immediately after the crimes occurred as part of the unit's Walk-in-Wednesday program, where the two shootings were linked. Detectives from 77th Division walked in other shooting crimes for the next two weeks without success, hoping to match them to the Lua and Gabriel murders.

In a separate event, 20 miles away in West Los Angeles, a witness, testifying in a criminal trial against a member of the Argueta family, was intimidated by the family's courtroom vigilance and menacing facial expressions. During the course of the trial, the civilian witness became the victim of a drive-by shooting in Southwest Division. He recognized Carlos M. Argueta as his assailant. West Los Angeles detectives walked in their cartridge case evidence, and the link was made instantly to the murders of Lua and Gabriel. Within hours, homicide detectives from 77th Division were involved in the arrest and apprehension of Carlos Argueta and his fellow taggers for the murders of Lua and Gabriel, in addition to the attempted murder of a witness. The link was confirmed within 48 hours, and charges were filed under special circumstances that will include the death penalty for Carlos Argueta. Neither detectives from West Los Angeles nor 77th Division had any idea that their cases were connected.

The Walk-in-Wednesday program can provide links in real time while cases are under active investigation and the criminals are actively involved in serial crimes. The feedback loop is less than 48 hours, and this enables the LAPD to cut the crime sprees short and save lives. A traditional approach with conventional methods of firearm examination performed weeks and months after the crime has occurred would be ineffective and jeopardize public safety.

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database systems including the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and Drugfire have dramatically increased demand for service.

The FAU has tripled in personnel over the past 12 years. However, demand for service has increased ten-fold. In 1991 the FAU received an average of 16 new requests per week, but in 2004 the average was 78. Furthermore, the FAU currently test-fires and images an average of 100 guns

per week compared to zero in 1991; this is in addition to the assessment of prohibited firearms, type and caliber analysis and conventional microscopy of fired cartridge components in a laboratory setting. The unit processes an average of 100 "Walk-in-Wednesday" cases per month and conducts 15 to 20 field calls per month.

The average training period for a Criminalist aspiring to become a firearm examiner is five years.

Sub-disciplines

The field of Forensic Firearms is painted with a broad brush and includes many sub-disciplines that differ from the next. The chemical etching and restoration of obliterated serial numbers is distinctly different from the examination of bullet holes in clothing, cars, walls and human tissue for determining the proximity of a firearm based on gunshot residues. Likewise, the microscopic comparison of toolmark striae differs widely from the identifica-

tion of assault weapons or fully automatic firearms. Trajectory analysis, database entry and management, mechanical assessment of firearms for operating condition, and assessment of components for silencers, pen guns, etc. are examples of the diversity of sub-disciplines within the field of Forensic Firearms. All of the analysts in the FAU are tasked with performing all of these various applications with competing customers and deadlines. This creates a significant operational challenge. ■

LAPD SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION DIVISION:
Firearm Analysis CSI:LA

Lab Cubicles

Surrounding the Laboratory Exam Room are cubicles where evidence processing and training take place.



Nettie Woiwode, Criminalist, 2 years of City service, is in training on long guns, focusing especially on the marks they leave on spent shells.



Elements used in firearm training.



Jack Seror, Criminalist, 1 year of City service, is going through a training exercise to determine what kind of weapon most likely fired a particular bullet. This is an academic training exercise, not an actual case.

NIBIN Room

In this room, evidence (either a bullet, shell or cartridge) is digitally scanned and then entered into the NIBIN database. NIBIN stands for the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network. Using a database of bullets, shells and cartridges – and the telltale marks on them made in the act of firing – has completely revolutionized firearm analysis, according to Doreen Hudson, the Assistant Director of the LAPD Crime Lab. The NIBIN database operator tries to match scanned evidence with a test fire sample that's already stored in the database. After a Police Officer – all those who perform this NIBIN work in the Crossfire Detail are full Police Officers – scans the bullet, shell or cartridge and enters it into the database, possible matches start coming up in a matter of minutes.



Manny Tarango, Police Officer, 28 years of City service, enters an image of a cartridge into the NIBIN database.

Firearm Reference Collection Room

The LAPD maintains a large reference library of weapons for testing purposes. Analysts who need to research what kind of features and toolmark signatures a particular model of firearm produces come here and check out the appropriate firearm. They then take it to one of the bullet recovery rooms, fire the weapon, and return it.

The Firearm Reference Collection Room contains thousands of guns that can be used to create sample ballistics or other products.
 Note: The location of the Firearm Reference Collection Room is not being disclosed.



Jessica Bullock, Criminalist, 1 year of City service, examines a shirt in an ongoing case for bullet entry and exit holes. She has placed a marker with the letter "A" where she has determined the bullet punctured the shirt. With her is Club CEO John Hawkins.

Gunshot Residue Room

Finding and analyzing gunshot residue – often gunpowder – from fabrics is an important step in establishing facts of the case. This room is specially equipped to manage a range of materials while keeping the Criminalist safe from other elements that might be present in the fabric, namely, blood or other bodily fluid.



A bloody shirt, evidence in actual casework.



The Business of Analyzing Firearms

— continued

Walk-in-Wednesdays

This innovative program, where the Firearms Analysts accept detectives who are working on a particularly hot case, scan and input the evidence into the NIBIN database, and disclose any possible match to the detective as soon as possible. All analysis must be triple checked and go through the slow and methodical comparison stage before it can be considered definitive and usable in prosecution, which can take a much longer time. But the Walk-in-Wednesday program allows partial matchup information to be relayed back to the officer to help expedite an open case where time is of the essence. This program, which the LAPD pioneered, has been copied by many police departments.



During Walk-in-Wednesdays, LAPD Detectives receive preliminary information from the Firearm Unit staff; timely information can prove very helpful in solving time-sensitive crimes. No prosecution is possible, though, until the entire analysis is completed and triple-checked.



Equipment used in the Tool Room.

Tool Room

The tool room is a general purpose workshop where technicians can fix weapons that no longer function so they can test fire them, or use various tools or acids to restore a weapon serial number that for a variety of reasons is no longer visible. Once the number has been restored, it can be run through the Automated Firearms System (AFS) to determine its registration. This room is shared with the Sheriff's Dept.

Firing Range Room

While the Bullet Recovery Room is mostly for handguns, this Firing Range Room is also used for rifles. According to Doreen Hudson, Assistant Director of the LAPD Crime Lab, only about 8 percent of all firearms brought into the Firearm Analysis Unit are rifles; 65 percent are semi-automatic firearms; the rest are revolver-type weapons. Whereas the Bullet Recovery Room uses water to capture the bullets from a handgun, rifle bullets travel at such high rates of speed that they break up in fluid. So here, cotton is used instead of water. This long room is also used to check range and distance, for testing and analysis purposes.

In the Firing Range, Doreen Hudson explains the encapsulator trap to *Alive!* editor John Burnes.



Doreen Hudson explains how the cotton works.



ABOVE: Doreen Hudson explains the encapsulator trap, another way to capture a bullet. This device is used when the cartridge or shell is what's needed; the bullet, being expendable in these cases, goes into the encapsulator trap and is not recovered. It's used almost every day.



Kathleen Hafeli, Criminalist, 3.5 years, an academic trainee, works on restoring a gun's serial number (actual casework).

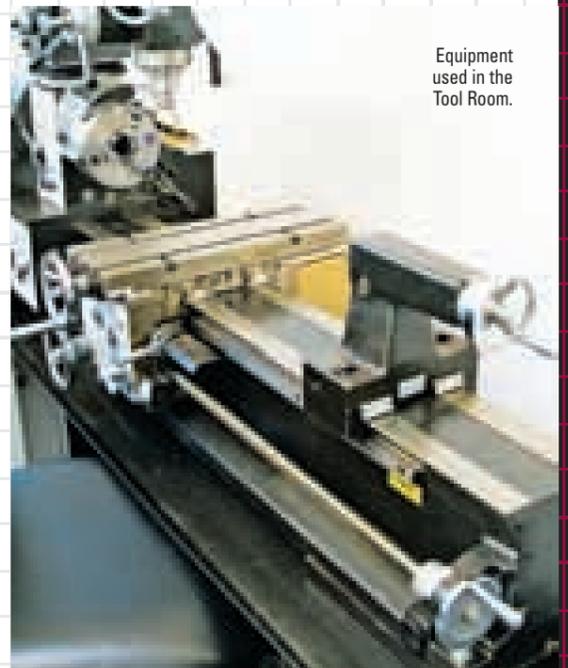
Bullet Recovery Room

Guns are test-fired into this metallic tank to produce the telltale lands and grooves on the bullet, shell or cartridge. The bullet is captured in the water tank; the shells and cartridges are snared in the netting below the weapon.

Julie Wilkinson fetches the spent bullet out of the water tank.



Julie Wilkinson, Criminalist and academic trainee, 3 years of City service, demonstrates how a weapon is test-fired into the bullet recovery tank.



Equipment used in the Tool Room.



The Business of Analyzing Firearms — continued

Microscope Room

Here, some of the most painstaking, time-consuming, detail-oriented and ultimately powerful work is done. Actual case evidence is placed on under the right microscope stage, and a sample (from another case or test fired from a crime gun) is placed on the left stage. Then, using careful lighting, the analyst compares the two, looking for common toolmarks – the telltale signatures of uniquely identifiable firearms.



Daniel Rubin, Criminalist, is comparing two fired cartridge cases to determine whether or not they came from the same source. He identifies these as matching, as coming from the same weapon.



Allison Manfredda, Criminalist, 5 years of City service, compares a bullet on the left from a dead body, with a bullet on the right from a crime scene, to investigate whether or not they came from the same source. Her job is to say yes (identify), say no (eliminate) or say she doesn't know (inconclusive).



Marissa Bowen, Criminalist, 6 years of City service, is comparing two fired cartridge cases. She test fired them both, knowing that they came from the same source. She is studying the shells to familiarize herself with this particular type of weapon.



Ammunition Storage

Weapons to be test fired need ammunition. It is stored here.



A wide variety of ammunition is kept in these cabinets.

THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW

Doreen Hudson, Firearm Analysis Unit

On Nov. 10, Club CEO John Hawkins and Alive! editor John Burnes interviewed Doreen Hudson, Assistant Director, LAPD Criminalistics Lab, and manager over the Firearm Analysis Unit. She has 34 years of City service. The interview took place in Doreen's office in the Herzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center on the campus of Cal State Los Angeles. — Ed.

Alive!: Thanks, Doreen, for giving us that tour. How many years have you worked for the City?

Doreen Hudson: I joined the city in January 1977, so in January of next year, I guess that'll be 34 years.

Which department did you start in?

Doreen: I started in the crime lab. I've always been in the police department and always in the crime lab.

So you know this like the back of your hand.

Doreen: I know it pretty well.

Where did you start in the crime lab?

Doreen: I started as a student professional worker in the Special Testing Unit of the crime lab, working for one of the criminalists who was performing gunshot residue analysis. I worked under her for several months before being drafted into the serology unit, where they test blood and other substances.

How did you make the transition to firearms?

Doreen: When I was promoted to Criminalist from that of a lab technician, I went to the narcotics analysis unit. I spent two years analyzing solid dose narcotics. From there, I transferred into the Trace Evidence Unit, and I spent eight years performing analysis of hairs, fibers, glass, tool marks, shoe prints, et cetera. I left the Trace Analysis Unit to go into the Quality Assurance Unit, where I spent about a year before being promoted to Supervising Criminalist, and I went to the Firearm Analysis Unit as a new supervisor.

How would you describe your duties here?

Doreen: I'm the Assistant Lab Director. I'm a laboratory manager for a group of units in the crime lab, including the Firearm Analysis Unit. I supervised the Firearm Analysis Unit for about 17 or 18 years before being promoted to this position of Assistant Lab Director, where I still have managerial control over the Firearm Analysis Unit. But I don't have direct day-to-day first line supervision.

The other groups that you manage are?

Doreen: The Trace Evidence Unit, the Crime Scene Investigation Unit, and the Questioned Documents Unit.

No Normal Day

Is there a normal day for you here, or does it change rapidly?

Doreen: It fluctuates a lot.

Can you describe what a typical day might be like?

Doreen: A typical day in the firearm unit includes detectives walking evidence in so that they can be imaged into our NIBIN database, the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network. A typical day includes visitors from throughout the department who could be dropping evidence off or picking it up as part of the business that we have to do in such a timely fashion. It invariably

Finding Justice for the Citizens of L.A.

includes detectives or police officers moving evidence in and out of the crime lab. A typical day in the firearm unit involves sending at least one team of criminalists, firearm examiners, into the field to do a crime scene investigation, either at a shooting scene that's just developed or to an impound lot or some sort of police facility where evidence is being secured for a followup investigation. A typical day in the firearm unit includes the physical examination and comparison of firearm evidence. We've always got at least 20 or 30 rush cases in process at any given time. Evidence is moving from the primary examiner, who's performing the initial inventory and assessment, to that of a verification analyst, someone to come along and do the verification work that's necessary to progress the case to the next stage. A typical day involves the technical review of cases that have been completed by both the primary analyst and the verification analyst, and now is subject to technical review by yet another individual who's not involved as the primary examiner. Then the case gets administratively reviewed. There's a lot of processing going on to advance these cases. It's not as easy as just taking the case, [analyzing] it and giving your information back to the submitter. It involves lots of stages so that we're sure that the information we're reporting is technically competent, technically accurate, and technically reproducible by any other firearm examiner with similar training, background, and experience.

You said 25 to 30 rush cases. Is that all of the cases you're dealing with, or are there some that aren't rush cases? How does it break down?

Doreen: If we have 30 rush cases going at any particular time, we've got another 100 cases also assigned to examiners that aren't necessarily rush cases but part of the routine business. Plus we're processing about 25 firearms a day.

I haven't finished yet saying what a day in the Firearms Unit is like.

Oh, sorry! *[laughter]*

Doreen: It's okay. *[She smiles.]* Another part of that day is processing about 25 firearms that have been signed out of Property Division for the day for our crossfire detail to examine, categorize, test fire, and prepare for imaging into the database. Once they're done with preparing and test firing the firearms and returning the guns themselves back to the property room, then it's incumbent upon them to come back into the lab, go up to the workstations and start either reviewing correlations from test fires that they've imaged on previous days, or go to the workstations and start inputting and imaging the test fires that they've received.

There's a lot of activity in the firearm

unit going on every day, from the supervisory level, doing all that reviewing — technical review, administrative review — releasing reports to investigators, talking to district attorneys and investigators, consulting with them on their cases because they've got

something coming to trial or something developing where they need some analysis performed and they are invariably in some sort of time constraint that puts additional baggage on the case.

The Era of the Database

Are you one of the biggest contributors to the NIBIN database?

Doreen: Yes, we are. Not all the guns end up in the database. Some are in poor working condition. Some are so obsolete we don't have ammunition for them. Some are revolvers and we're processing them in a different system.

Have you seen a change in firearm analysis from when you started to today?

Doreen: The biggest change in the field of forensic firearms is the advent of the database — the ability to capture digital images of the tool mark impressions left on the fired cartridge cases and bullets, and filter them through software and algorithms to help us sort through the enormous volume of firearms evidence that passes through a lab like this.

Before the databases [NIBIN and its predecessor, Drugfire] existed, we taped Polaroid photos to the wall by caliber. When you came into our old facility, you would see a wallpaper effect of all these little black and white photographs, as high as we could reach down to the floor, sorted by caliber. We'd sit at the microscope with one of our cases, and we'd photograph it and then carry that photograph over to the wall and see if we could find anything on the wall that matched the one we had in our hand. That's how hopeless our situation was. Believe it or not, we got some matches that way, and we also got matches from a few people who just remembered the cartridge case. They just remembered seeing this before. The struggle became, "which case was it?", because these guys were doing so many cases a week.

Has the choice of weapon changed since your early days?

Doreen: Not so much.

— continued next page

Doreen Hudson, Asst. Director, LAPD Criminalistics Lab, in the Tool Room.



THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW



Doreen Hudson, Asst. Director, LAPD Criminalistics Lab, speaks to Club CEO John Hawkins in her office.

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Have you seen a progression in the use of a particular type of firearm?

Doreen: I've seen change. I've seen a decrease in the homicide rate since I started in the early 1990s. That was really the peak of homicide season in Los Angeles. Thank heavens we've seen a volume decrease.

Of deaths or the use of guns?

Doreen: Well, there's been a decrease in crime overall, so I have to say there is a decrease in the use of guns as well. However, there's actually a reverse trend in that guns are a more popular choice. When I started with the department, people tended to get stabbed to death. I never expected as many firearm-related crimes as I encountered when I came into the Firearm Analysis Unit in the '90s. The numbers were truly staggering. We were supporting a thousand homicides a year back then. Now we're in the 300s, and so that feels like progress when you're in this line of work. It doesn't feel like it's a victory because there's still 300 murders, but it feels like progress.

In terms of the popularity of weapons, it's pretty consistent with 9 millimeter being a very popular choice for criminals. There've been some new calibers introduced, but for the most part, it seems like 9 millimeter still is one of the more popular calibers that comes through as a confiscated gun.

It doesn't mean those guns are crime guns. I'd like to point that out, too. Whenever the police have an encounter with someone and they're in possession of a firearm and the police have a lawful right to take it, they do. So this includes things like domestic violence. Those aren't necessarily crime guns, but maybe there's been a domestic dispute at someone's home and for the purposes of everyone's safety and safekeeping, the [police] take the firearms out of the home and put them in police custody for kind of a cooling-off period, and then people are entitled to get them back by going through a process. Those guns still get test fired. They still get put into the database, but they are not considered crime guns until they are linked to a crime. They're just guns that people had in their homes when they had a domestic dispute.

Did you notice a correlation between the lowering of the number of homicides, especially gun-related, and the beginning of the database era?

Doreen: No. I'd love to claim credit for that. That would be a real career achievement. But what I have seen is that the advent of the database increased the workload in the Firearm Analysis Unit tenfold. In 1991, when I came to the firearm unit, our workload was one tenth of what it is now, and yet, I've just told you that crime has decreased. We have less crime now but ten times the workload in firearms because of the database. Because detectives now have the potential to use the database to solve a crime, they're pouring that evidence in our direction. When I joined the firearm unit in 1991, detectives came to the unit only when they had something they wanted you to compare their firearms evidence to. There was no database. The type of crime was very limited for the most part in 1991, so it had to be pretty much a crime of a higher degree of seriousness, or the detectives weren't even asking us to be involved.

We're getting all types of crime now, so the database flooded us with casework. Crime went down but our workload went up a thousand percent.

The Firearm Reference Collection Room

You have a firearms library.

Doreen: Yes, the Reference Collection.

Tell us about that.

Doreen: The Reference Collection is comprised of about 2,300 firearms that the crime lab has procured over its history. This crime lab was founded in 1923. It's America's first crime lab, and the Firearm Analysis Unit has been collecting exhibits or firearms as part of its collection since its beginning. The collection that we have today is relatively large. Twenty-three hundred guns is a lot of guns. We could have more but we've been in a constrained facility in a very small building for a very long time and we really couldn't physically house any more than we had. So we put the brakes on expanding that collection for many years because we were at capacity for storage.

All the guns in that collection are guns that were issued to us as a result of a process. In the California Penal Code, there's an allowance for law enforcement agencies to retain firearms and have them registered to the law enforcement organization. The purpose of that collection is to help us with our casework. It is valuable, but it's not the kind of collection that a gun collector might have. Our collection is filled with all types of guns, but especially the kind of guns that we're going to see in criminal investigations. So we've got lots of guns that are inexpensive to purchase, cheaply manufactured, low-quality firearms, in addition to the higher-quality firearms. But a collector probably wouldn't have a Raven .25 auto in their collection if they were a dignified collector, whereas we probably have five or six of them because we come across them in police work.

And we use them to reconstruct other firearms that come in that aren't in proper working order.

Never Dull

When people find out you're involved with the firearms section of the crime lab, do you tell them some interesting stories?

Doreen: Supervising the Firearm Analysis Unit has probably been the funnest job I could've imagined ever having. We've had so many interesting cases pass through our doors. Sadly, most of them are borne out of someone's tragedy, but they've created a forensic challenge or a scientific opportunity for us to grow and learn and do something spectacular and hope at least bring closure or find justice for those who were wronged. I get a lot of satisfaction out of that; that's where I have to find my satisfaction because there's nothing joyful about the tragedies that have happened to the citizens that cause their case to end up in the firearm unit. That's been the very difficult part and a very strong counterbalance to all the enjoyment and satisfaction that comes with it.

I guess some of the most satisfaction I derive is from our Walk-In Wednesday program, by bringing the evidence into the lab and having detectives get real-time information about the possible cases that their shooting is connected to.

We started our Walk-In Wednesday program in 2003 to try to leverage this [database] technology and make it work for us. We had a tenfold increase in the number of cases coming at us. How were we going to make this work? We started getting all these hits. And

before we knew it, our backlog [grew]. We had a lot of hits to confirm. We had a stack growing three feet high of hits to confirm, and so we realized "Oh, my gosh, we can't sit on that information that is infinitely valuable to the investigators. We may not confirm it." So if 80 percent [the database's positive identification ratio back then; now it's 89 percent] of this three-foot high stack of cases to compare is going to result in identification, then detectives need that information [now] instead of years to get through that. We had a very progressive Chief, Bill Bratton, and a willingness in the department to take a bold step. We were the first in the country that I know of, in a firearm unit, to actually deliver that [tentative] information before confirming the identification. Most firearms labs would never release that kind of information until they confirmed it, until they put it through the whole process. If you wait for that, by the time that information is available to the detectives, they'll have moved on to some other case because they are moving a lot faster than [that]. They need to know, really, within 48 hours what you can tell them.

Who spearheaded that?

Doreen: I did. I'm very proud of it because it really turned our department around in being more effective in our firearm investigations.

Where did you get the idea?

Doreen: I actually kind of got it from the detectives. I talked to them, and I listened to them, and I heard what their needs were. I am married to a detective, and so I know that he dealt with complex information his whole career. I knew that he had the ability to differentiate between what was fact and what was something that needed to be corroborated. And through my relationship with him and very lengthy conversations with him and other detectives, I was able to figure out that if we told them that it still needed to be corroborated, detectives would understand how to qualify it. They would understand what to do with it and that it required further corroboration before it could be used to file charges.

They got that, and they haven't abused it, so it has been a perfect situation really.

The Future of Firearm Forensics

What is the future of the lab? Other than the database, the microscopes are kind of the same.

Doreen: Yes, comparison microscopy is still the fundamental tool of a firearm examiner.

So in 10 or 20 years, what will be new?

Doreen: Three-dimensional imaging. The future in firearm identification is in three dimensional topographical mapping of the surfaces of these tool marks.

Do you see that happening with the bullet or the cartridge?

Doreen: Both.

Will this be a computer match or a human match?

Doreen: It will start with the computer.

Because that's a lot of data to go from two to three dimensions.

Doreen: It is, but it's out there already. It's just expensive. And it's hard to find funding.

What about an electron microscope? Will that be brought in?

Doreen: The scanning electron microscope? That wouldn't be the future tool of firearms.

Because you don't need to get down to that level?

Doreen: You don't. The types of individual characteristics we're looking for would not require an electron beam to resolve them. But topographical 3D mapping will scour the surface or circumference. We'll have a lot more data to refine the search and hone in on what we've got.

What are the pressures on the lab?

Doreen: One pressure is to produce reliable work in an instant, to do a lot of work and do it quickly, because timeliness is everything in a serious crime investigation. Who wants to wait even for the computer to load? We're all in a hurry, right? So we can't afford to delay this information to our detectives. On the other hand, we can't afford to be careless and to not properly document or meet the criteria of our quality system. If we sacrifice quality for quantity or timeliness, we defeat ourselves in the long run. If we lose credibility, we're out of the game. So getting that information reliable and keeping it accurate goes against the competing need to get it quick.

What about budget? Is that a challenge?

Doreen: No, not at all, we have lots of money.

She smiles as she says that.

Doreen: And laughs out loud! [she laughs]. Absolutely, this all comes at a price tag. This all comes at some cost to the City, and we're competing all the time in a civilian environment with a sworn police force. From the crime lab's perspective, we believe we have a

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resource that, when properly leveraged, can perhaps have a more significant impact on crime than our field force equivalent if we were in uniforms and patrol cars. We can leverage our technology and our information. Years ago before the database in firearms, 70 percent of the detective-initiated casework resulted in a no match, and now 89 percent of the laboratory initiated comparison work results in a positive identification. If we could use technology to drive the work that's done in the crime lab rather than investigative hunches ... if we could allow the precious and scarce resources that exist in the City to be corralled in environments like a crime laboratory where what's called kind of a forced multiplier effect could be so pronounced, we think there'd be a big advantage to gain. However, we hear on a routine basis that more uniformed officers available to respond to calls actually increases a sense of public safety. I don't argue against that. It would for me, too, as a citizen, but there's a lack of understanding as to what the lab can do.

It works to our disservice that the silly shows on television suggest that results are available at the push of a button or the click of a mouse. You watch CSI or any number of these shows that have any forensic person associated with them, they make this work look like -- you place a sample in a tray, close the instrument, push a button and wait for the results to flash by and then it tells you that it's a match. I see that all the time, that flashing match sign. Those programs influence decision makers because it looks impressive. But there's a lack of understanding for how much person power and how many resources have to be used to get a result.

[But] not all firearm labs that I visit have had the kind of flexibility and relationship with their department leaders as we have had. I think that our leaders have, for the most part, listened along the way and been flexible and willing to work with us, considering we're always under a budgetary constraint of some kind and there's always some limitations to how far we can go. Do we need more? Yes, we do. We need more, but I appreciate the support and flexibility the department leaders have given us in the years I have been associated with the firearm unit, to help us find flexible solutions and to work with us to do the best we can with what we have.

Would it help if there were a mobile firearm unit, where they go to the crime scene and they start analyzing the information there?

Doreen: We don't see the value in that because, well, Los Angeles is large - 450 square miles, but we're not so large that we can't get evidence back to the lab where our full resources are available. For example, in the tragic shooting death of [SWAT Officer] Randy Simmons that occurred a few years ago in the Valley, we worked that scene for four days straight and while we were at scene we were recovering physical evidence, but we had lots of staff on scene and we were actually transporting some of the evidence back to the lab. It wasn't a hardship for us to move things around that needed to be done back in the lab. On scene, there's a lot of emotion and a lot of undesirable influences within the crime scene. There's a lot of pressure, there's media, there are a lot of things that wouldn't really be conducive to that. It's better to always do your lab work in a more pristine, quiet, controlled environment,

where the focus is just on the work and not on the commotion around you. We've never been big proponents of the mobile crime lab.

Is that one of the biggest misperceptions about this in your opinion, that it takes more people to come to these conclusions than what they might assume by watching television or reading books?

Doreen: It takes a lot more work to reach some of these conclusions than what you might infer from reading a book.

Dedicated Staff

Tell me about your staff a little bit.

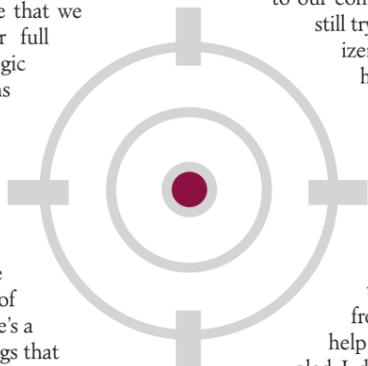
Doreen: Sure. The staff in the Firearm Analysis Unit is a remarkable collection of individuals who come together with a single purpose and a very focused goal, considering they're from very diverse backgrounds from Police Officers to Civilian Criminalists, Clerk Typists, Laboratory Technicians ... some have one year of experience, some with 30 years. Some are single, some are parents, some are grandparents. [They have] different religious backgrounds, different cultural backgrounds They have all this diverse life experience, and yet they're able to pull together for this common purpose and this shared belief that what we do really, really matters, and it really changes lives. I get very emotional about that.

They are amazing. They just bowl me over every day, and just when I think I kind of have them figured out, they surprise me again. They are a terrific group of individuals. They did a phenomenal job in so many cases where they had to set aside their own personal lives, their families, their plans and other things and pull together as a team to get the job done because they know how much it matters; they know how much it's going to affect the rest of this operation and finding justice for the citizens of Los Angeles. They inspire me.

It's clear to me, you find this job very satisfying.

Doreen: Yes, I do. I couldn't be luckier than to have stumbled into this occupation and into this organization. It's not just that I'm so lucky to be in the field of forensic science, but also to have come to work for the City of Los Angeles. I try to recruit all the time for the City of Los Angeles, because I think we are special. We're very close to our community. We all respect the City of LA. We're still trying to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Los Angeles, and I'm really grateful to have come to an organization where there is such a close connection to the community.

I didn't know that when I was 20 years old and came to work here. I had just seen it on TV, you know? I'd seen *Dragnet*. I'd seen *Adam-12*, *Police Woman*, *Quincy*, who was actually a coroner. I was just a 20-year-old kid who wanted to make a difference and thought this was a way to do it, and it looked from what Jack Webb said that this place needed help, so I was lucky to stumble into the City. I'm glad I didn't work for a larger organization with less connection to the community. That has been a gift.



The Hawkins Legacy

Finally, what can you remember about my dad? [John Hawkins' father, Bob Hawkins, was a firearm examiner for the L.A. County Sheriff's Dept. In retirement he worked as a freelance examiner for the LAPD's Firearm Unit to help ease the backlog.]

Doreen: In 1991, I had an 800-case backlog and no one to do them. So we brought in retired contract Firearm Examiners from other crime labs to help us with our casework while we trained new examiners. Well, Bob Hawkins was one of those contract examiners that we brought in. He loved casework, and he just loved the feel of the firearms. He was excellent at that. He was loved by the judges and the juries. He was very highly regarded as a witness, so he worked very well for us.

There came a time when he decided he was willing to take on the challenge of being one of our trainers. Some of the folks that you photographed and met and talked to today are actually trainees of Bob Hawkins.

He's a very good guy. He's still well remembered and highly regarded in our Firearm Analysis Unit.

He is one of a kind.

Doreen: He is.

Thank you, Doreen.

Doreen: You're welcome. ■

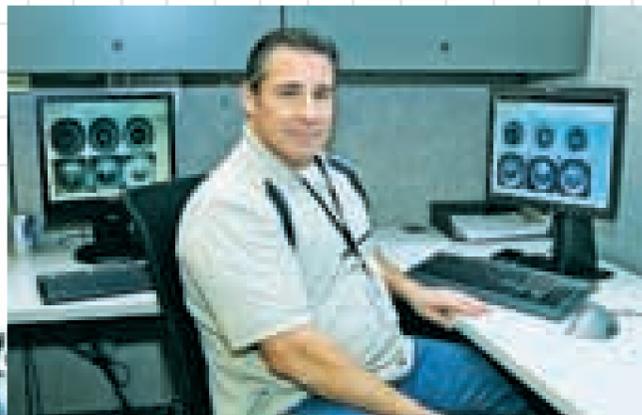


Bob Hawkins, former LAPD Firearm Unit contract analyst, former career Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff Firearm Examiner and father of Club CEO John Hawkins.

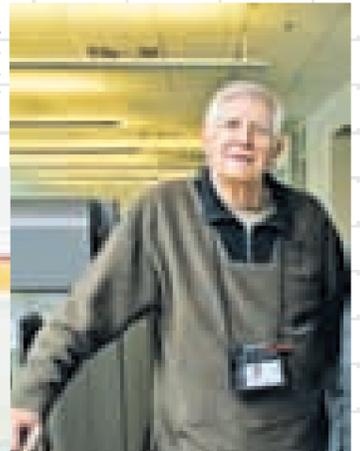
Hard at Work

Here are some other members of the Firearm Analysis Unit.

BELOW: Mark Ramirez, Police Officer, 21 years of City service, is reviewing a correlation from the NIBIN database.



Dave Spelbring, Reserve Officer, Crossfire Detail, provides support staff.



Richard Smith, Police Officer, Firearm Examiner, 30 years of City service.



ABOVE: Paul Choung, Police Officer, is training to become a full Crossfire Officer. He's inputting data into the ballistics database.

RIGHT: The Trainers: These are two of the three trainers the Firearm Analysis Unit uses as part of the Academic Detail, from left: Nathan Cross, Criminalist, 10 years of City service; and Genaro Arredondo, Firearm Examiner, 16 years. Not pictured: Rafael Garcia.



RIGHT: Srinivasan Rathinam, Firearm Examiner, is managing a research project that is looking at patterns and randomness of ballistics characteristics. He's from the Center of Forensics Sciences in Toronto.





John Hawkins, Club CEO

John's Picture Perfect Contest

WIN \$25 Target Card
 NEXT DEADLINE: December 15
 Happy Snapping!



"This picture was taken above Benton during our October SIR (outage) of the Sylmar-Cililo DC line. It is Ben Rodriguez (Club Member) spacing from a cart."

- Ron Angst, DWP

John's comments: Ron, I still am just totally amazed at the guts these guys have! Thank you for always sharing images of the DWP out in the hinterlands.



"Finishing touches in Grandma's house. Shot in black and white with the Canon s90."

- Dominique Daito

John's comments: Dominique, what a perfect picture for Christmas (or a Christmas Picture Perfect!) Thanks as always!



"I am sending this picture of my son, Jonah, feeding the giraffe at the Santa Barbara Zoo. He really enjoyed the experience."

- Cheryl Garcia, LAPD Communications

John's comments: The Santa Barbara Zoo is fantastic, almost as good as the LA Zoo! And I must say, the giraffe exhibit there is one of the best I've ever seen. Thanks so much for sharing!



"This was taken in Cartagena, Colombia, on a recent trip to South America. The courtyard was once a depository for gold being transported from South America to Spain. The building now serves as a convent overlooking the city."

- Walt Schick, Retired

John's comments: What struck me immediately about this shot was how well lit the interior columns were while still capturing the courtyard. Normally, the camera would have underexposed the interior and overexposed the exterior. In addition, the striking brightness of the bougainvillea is really eye-catching. Nice work!

RUNNERS-UP:

- Peter Wei, DWP, with a great shot of an Amtrak train in New Orleans;

- Andrea Wyatt, with two really cool photos of weather extremes: snowmobiling and the beach.

RULES:

- The contest is open to all Club Members in good standing.
- Non-members are welcome to submit, but only Club Members are eligible to win the monthly prize.
- If your photograph does not win, you are welcome to re-submit.
- Winners are chosen by Club staff. All decisions will be final.
- You must certify (if asked) that you indeed took the picture. No ringers!
- Photos can be submitted either on paper or digitally. Please don't send both.
- If you want your print photo returned, please write your name, address and phone number on the back of your photo.
- Photos can be of any subject matter: vacation, portraits, families, landscapes, still lifes, pets, etc. Subject matter must be appropriate for *Alive!*
- Paper prints can be mailed to:
 Picture Perfect Contest, *Alive!*,
 City Employees Club of Los Angeles,
 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- When you send digital photos through the Internet, please send the full, original digital file yourself, rather than using digital photo software like Kodak EasyShare, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, etc. These programs send very low-resolution images, and they don't look good in print.
- We want you to look your best, so send us the original digital file, please! Thanks!
- Digital photos optimally should be between 100K and 2 megabytes in size and may be e-mailed to: pictureperfect@cityemployeesclub.com
- The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.

FINANCE

Accounting for Fun

Finance holds its annual picnic.



From left: Spiritt Garrett, Mai Tran, Antoinette Christovale, Jan Zatorski and Victor Salaiza.

Story and photos courtesy Yvonne Liu, Office of Finance

The Office of Finance held its annual employee picnic event Nov. 7 at Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club, 1880 N. Academy Dr. Special thanks go to sponsors LAPRAAC, ACEBSA, Dino's Burgers, Office of Finance management team, and the picnic committee, which worked tirelessly to make this event possible: Jan Zatorski, Elba Pallais, Victor Salaiza, Andrea Ocampo, Melinda Rosas, Maria Rangel, Mai Tran and Trang McConnaughy. The department would also like to thank everyone who supported the various fundraisers.

At the event there were jumpers for all ages, games booths with a lot of prizes for kids, a mini train, and bingo and volleyball games. A delicious entrée, drinks and a variety of desserts were served. There were also plenty of snacks including popcorn, cotton candy and nachos. Employees along with their family and friends won raffle prizes consisting of movie tickets, gift cards from See's candy and various restaurants, Madame Tussauds tickets and much more. More than 200 attended, including General Manager Antoinette Christovale, Assistant General Manager Ed Cabrera and staff throughout the Office of Finance.

"The picnic was a success," Antoinette Christovale said. "It was great to see so many of our staff and their family and friends in attendance."

The Office of Finance was created in 2000 as a result of Charter reform efforts. On an annual basis, the Office of Finance collects over \$2.5 billion in revenue from various sources including taxes, licenses, fees, and permits, which pay for numerous essential municipal services to City residents and businesses. The department carries out its charter responsibilities through the efforts of 363 employees and an annual budget of \$25 million.

For more information about the Office of Finance, please go to www.finance.lacity.org/



The train carrying Finance employees with Finance Director Antoinette in the first car.



Henry Fong and family.



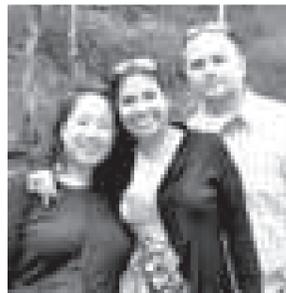
From left: Patricia Galindo-Martinez, Andrea Ocampo, Angel's friend Mike and Angel Ortega.



Andrea Angeles and friend Dezar.



From left: Marieta Chong, Judy Ramirez and Olivia Alvarado-Ford.



From left: Trang McConnaughy, Jeanette Santoni and friend Carlos.



From left: Judy Ramirez with Yestera and Sarah Kachanyan.



Brad Moe and Audrey Childress.



The picture committee, back row, from left: Melinda Rosas, Trang McConnaughy, Victor Salaiza and Jan Zatorski. Front: Andrea Ocampo, Mai Tran and Maria Range. Not shown: Elba Pallais.

CLUB STORE

Here Come the Refund Checks!

The Club's Life Insurance refund for 2010 is approximately \$270,000. Are you eligible?

Here come the refund checks... to your mailbox!

The Board of Directors has approved a Club Life Insurance refund of approximately \$270,000 to be distributed back to the eligible Club members.

The check should be in your mailbox by the time you read this.

The Club continues its tradition of rewarding Club Life Insurance policyholders with a return of unused premiums (total premiums collected less paid claims and expenses). The 2010 refund will be the Club's 79th refund in its 82 years of existence.

The refund checks will be distributed via the U.S Mail. Expect the checks to begin arriving in the first week of December.

"Club Life Insurance is all about being there when our Members are in need," said Brian Trent, the Club's Chief Financial Officer. "That's our first priority. And, when we can, we are happy to return that portion of the premiums that are not needed. And we've been able to do that in all but three years of the Association's existence."

Who is eligible? Anyone who had Life, Spouse Life, Dependent Life, Retiree Life or Retiree Spouse Life Insurance in force for the month of July 2010 is eligible for a refund.

The actual amount Members receive will be determined as a percentage of the total premiums paid by an individual for the period of August 2009 through July 2010. However, those who dropped their insurance coverage prior to July 31, 2010, are not eligible for any refund.

Are you not eligible for a refund check, but would like to be? It's simple. Purchase any Life product from the Club, and you're eligible for next year. Insure your family's future and receive a little reward each year for living!

Talk to your Club Counselor, or call the Club at (800) 464-0452.



Project CARE

(Caring Actions Responding to Elders)

A joint project between the Los Angeles Department of Aging and the Los Angeles Foundation on Aging

Project CARE is an anti-poverty program targeting low-income seniors by finding sponsors willing to fill their holiday wish list.

We are asking for your help...



Adopt A Senior Today!

Call us, and we will provide you with a senior's wish list and needs. We will collect the gifts starting December 6 through December 10, 2010.

To adopt a Senior, please contact:
Mariella Freire-Reyes @ (213) 252-4042
projectcare@lacity.org



LAPD

Tricks and Treats

LAPD Communications hosted its annual Halloween display.

When you have to work on Halloween, it's best to enjoy it.

That's how the LAPD Communications 911 operators see it. They held their annual costume display and potluck party on all three watches in the Valley on Halloween, Oct. 31.

Thanks to Jean Sarfaty, LAPD Communications and Club Member, for sending us the photos.



Adrian Smith came dressed as the Greatest American Hero.



Lorena Garcia-Sanchez played Sally Skellington.



Lourdes Coronado was Raggedy Ann.



Crystal Griffin did a nice job impersonating Wonder Woman.



Nicole Carr was a pop chick right out of the 1980s.



Denise Sicairos portrayed Tinkerbell.



Sal Tillet played a ninja.



Keyshae Paylor was a tough gangster.



Maria Quintero was a cowgirl.



Tracey Page wore a clever "costume."



Deirdre Fonseca was a football player.



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Club Members! Save on your Auto Insurance!

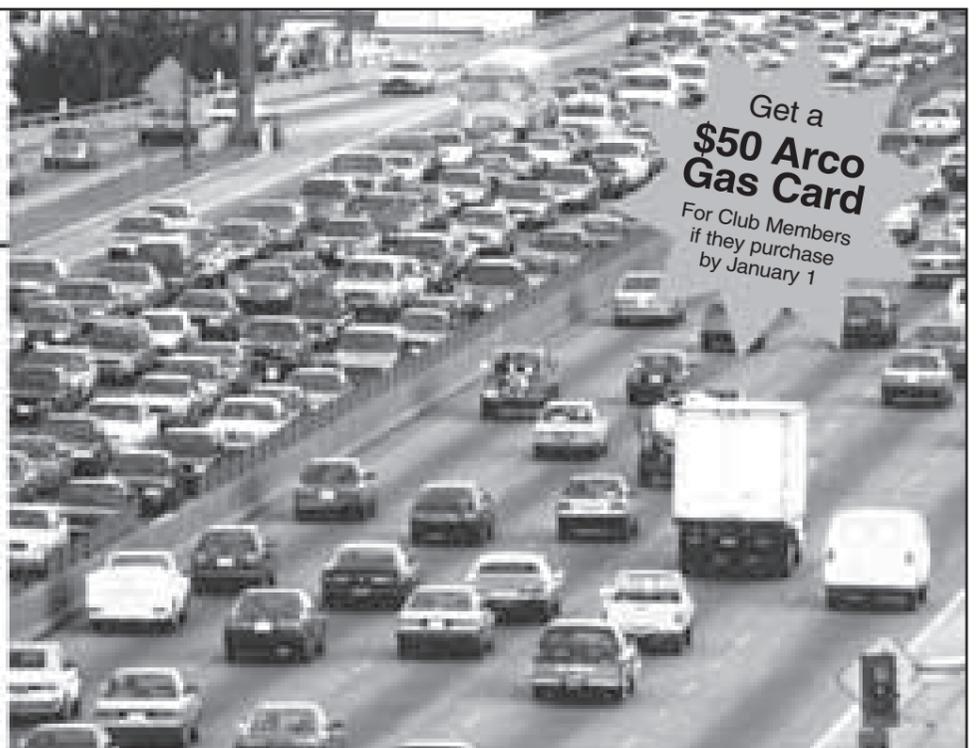
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Home and Auto Insurance
Services provided
for members of the
CITY EMPLOYEES CLUB

We also have great rates on Homes, Boats, Motorcycles, RV's,
Rental Properties and Apartment Buildings.

A FREE Benefit to members of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles



Get a
\$50 Arco Gas Card
For Club Members
if they purchase
by January 1

When it comes to their auto insurance, United Agencies has been serving hundreds of Club Members for years. We provide a high level of personal service, with some of the lowest rates in California. Come experience the difference in service you get when you say, "I'm with the Club!"

Take a look at how **United Agencies** stacks up against the competition!

	COMPANY	91106 Zip Code
California Automobile Insurance Premium Survey	Farmers	\$1,402
	State Farm	\$1,338
	Allstate	\$1,329
	Geico	\$1,311
	Auto Club	\$1,029
	United Agencies	\$876

These insurance products are brought to you by the Club's Partner, United Agencies, Inc. CA Lic. # 0252636. United Agencies represents Mercury Insurance Group, as well as Chubb Insurance, Hartford, Fireman's Fund, Progressive, Civil Service Employees Insurance, Allco Select, Travelers, Unigard and Encross.

PUBLIC WORKS

Happy Boss Day, Enrique!

Sanitation Director Enrique Zaldivar is honored on Boss' Day.

*Story by Brent Urban, Club Counselor;
Photos courtesy Jackie David, Public Works*

On Oct. 14, the Public Works/Sanitation staff honored their boss, Enrique Zaldivar, on Boss' Day.

The event took place in the Public Works Building's atrium downtown.

Congrats to Enrique for having such a strong camaraderie with his staff and employees.



After the ceremony.



Lopez Canyon Manager Paul Blount and IT Manager Robert Irvin.



Assistant Director Adel Hagekhalil presents a list of things Enrique doesn't like.



Surprise!



From left: Latisha Needham and Rhonda Dowdy.



Chief Operating Officer Traci Minamide shares her appreciation.



Enrique Zaldivar with Sanitation Assistant Director Varouj Abkian.



From left: Tillman Plant Manager Hiddo Netto, Personnel Manager Michele McManus and Wastewater Manager Chuck Turhollow.



Enrique C. Zaldivar with his family: his wife, Brenda, and children, Carina and Alonzo.



Public Works/Sanitation Employees (from left) Bladimir Campos, Marcie Reyes and Miguel Zermeno.



From left: Tonya Durrell, Cora Jackson-Fossett and Diane Gilbert.

Staffer Richard Lee came up with a clever poem:

"Faster than a speeding Refuse Collection Truck,
More powerful than L.A.'s sewer flow,
Able to leap through the Public Works Building in a single bound...
Look... over there!

"It's our Environmental Leader.

"Our San-Exec Direc.
It's super Enrique Z.
Yes, it's Super Enrique Z.
Familiar with creatures
From within and outside the Bureau,
With superior Leadership appreciated by all!"



Refuse Collection Truck Operators Efen Corral and Brian Story present a plaque to Enrique.



From left: Daniel Meyes, Karen Coca and Candice Livingston.



Diane Gilbert-Jones, Environmental Engineering Associate, shares her appreciation.



From left: Public Information Director Cora Jackson-Fossett, Rafael Yanez and Tillman Reclamation Plant Manager Hiddo Netto.

AIRPORTS

Officer Lopez Leads the Way

Female Airport Police Drill Instructor trains tomorrow's law enforcement officers.

Story by Airport Police Officer Karla Ortiz;
Photos by Airport Police Officer Shawn Smith.

Airport Police Officer Adela Lopez, Club Member, became the latest Airport Police female drill instructor (DI) to oversee training and graduation of a Los Angeles Police Department Academy class Nov. 5. Although not unheard of, it is rare for an officer representing an outside agency to lead and mentor a class comprised only of LAPD recruits.

Under her leadership, the 31 recruits of class #5-10 were guided from the initial march onto the academy grounds to the swearing-in ceremony that marks successful completion of the training.

"Being a drill instructor is challenging because you have to be knowledgeable, strict and able to teach through discipline while also mentoring the recruits," said Officer Lopez, who started her career with the Airport Police in August 2006.

She added, "I am honored to have been selected for this great responsibility and feel proud and grateful to represent Los Angeles Airport Police."

Lopez started on patrol and quickly was promoted to field training officer, where she successfully trained and mentored many newly hired officers. Following this assignment, she underwent rigorous hours of class study and intense physical training in order to take on her current position as



Airport Police Officer Drill Instructor Adela Lopez, Club Member, during the graduation ceremony for LAPD class #5-10 Nov. 5.

a drill instructor at the LAPD Academy's Recruitment and Training Unit.

"I had great confidence in Officer Lopez' ability, and knew she would be a perfect role model to represent the high standards of the Los Angeles Airport Police," said Airport Police Assistant Chief Brian Walker. Fellow officers have lauded Officer Lopez for her command presence and commitment to her profession.

Under an agreement between the Airport Police and the LAPD, police recruits for both organizations undergo the same training at the academy in order to gain their California Police Officer Standard Training (POST) certificate.



Airport Police Officer Drill Instructor Adela Lopez marches the newly graduated LAPD officers of class #5-10 Nov. 5.

FINANCE

Walking, for Memories

Finance employees walk to raise funds to fight Alzheimer's.

Story and photo by Yvonne Liu, Office of Finance

Nov. 7, a team of City employees took steps to benefit educational efforts for those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Association's 18th annual Memory Walk took place at Century Park in Century City. More than 3,000 people from throughout Los Angeles County participated in this year's walk to raise awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer's disease.

Steve Edwards of FOX 11's "Good Day LA" celebrated his 15th year as host of the event, which included a 5-K walk, live entertainment, refreshments and a health-and-wellness expo. Memory Walk is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer care, support and research, according to organizers – and it calls on people of all ages to take action in the fight. Since 1989, Memory Walk has raised more than \$300 million for the cause.

Ela Vallejo, Executive Administrative Assistant III, Finance, led the 11-member, purple-clad team called Team Hope in the 5-K walk in Century City.

Team Hope consisted of fellow Finance employees Personnel Analyst II Yvonne Liu; Revenue Manager Jeffery Whitmore; Sr. Administrative Analyst II Eva Bitar of CAO's Office; and seven other non-City-affiliated family members and friends, who joined them in the walk.

Together they raised more than \$2,000 for the cause.

"I felt compelled to participate in the Memory Walk because I have seen firsthand the pain, suffering and anguish that are caused by this dreaded disease, said Jeffrey Whitmore. "My mother and two of her sisters were afflicted with



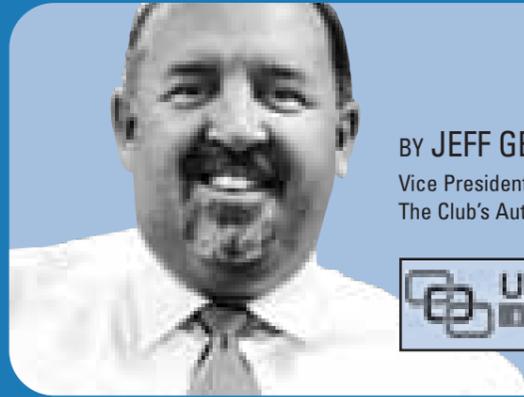
Team Hope, back row, from left: Ela Vallejo, with grandsons Anthony and Isaiah; Greg Arthur; Eva Bitar; Ela's sister, Conchi; Jeff Whitmore; Yvonne Liu; and Conchi's friend, Jackie. Front: Yvonne's sons, Oliver and Ben.

Alzheimer's Disease, and I saw how the life was drained from formerly bright, intelligent, vibrant people. It is a horrible disease and I pray that Alzheimer's Disease is conquered in my lifetime."

"I did this to commemorate my mother, who died in February 2009," said Ela Vallejo. "It feels good to be able to do something active for her and for those afflicted with this illness. Team Hope is looking forward to doing this again next year and be able to raise more money and get more people involved."

All Memory Walk donations benefit the Alzheimer's Association, the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. For more information regarding how you can support the Alzheimer's Association, please go to: www.alz.org/memorywalk/

REST INSURED



BY JEFF GELINEAU

Vice President of United Agencies,
The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner



Going to Mexico For the Holidays?

During the holidays, many people go to Mexico to visit relatives or maybe just for a vacation. Driving to Mexico carries some very specific insurance needs.

First understand that you have to purchase Mexican auto insurance. No standard U.S. policy will extend coverage to Mexico. It's best that you purchase your coverage in advance by calling our office, or finding a reputable company online. If you wait until the last minute and purchase insurance at the border crossing, you may find that the coverage you get is not what you expected. After an accident, a lot of people realize just how limited some of the Mexican insurance products are.

We can provide you with an instant quote, and give you a copy of the policy so that you can actually read about the coverage you are buying.

Here are some issues to consider when purchasing Mexican Auto Insurance.

1. Will the Mexican insurance company allow you to repair your vehicle in the United States or Canada?

Some Mexican insurance companies actually require your vehicle to be fixed in Mexico! So even if you only have cosmetic damage to your vehicle (and the car is still drivable), you will still be required to leave your car in Mexico to be repaired. Unless you live in Mexico, most people would much rather drive their car back to their home in the United States and get it repaired locally. Make sure to purchase a Mexican insurance policy that allows you to fix your vehicle in the country of your choice.

If you are allowed to repair the car in the United States, what labor rate will the Mexican insurance policy pay?

U.S. hourly labor rates are much higher than most hourly labor rates in Mexico, so it is not uncommon for some Mexican insurance companies to pay only the Mexican hourly labor rate (as low as \$20 per hour) for repairs made in the United States. If this is a concern, look for a policy that offers to pay whatever the U.S. labor rate is or up to a certain dollar amount per hour for U.S. labor.

2. Does the insurance include legal service?

Legal service, which includes attorney fees, court costs, and bail, is one of the most important coverages that should be included with every Mexican auto insurance policy.

In the event that there are serious injuries or fatalities, you will need an attorney to guide you through the Mexican court system. Without this coverage, you could spend days in a Mexican jail and pay thousands of dollars out of pocket. All ethical Mexican insurance providers should make this coverage mandatory!

3. Does the Mexican insurance include medical evacuation and plane tickets home?

Most Mexican insurance policies do not include this type of coverage, but some companies will add enhanced travel assistance coverages like medical evacuation – air or land ambulance. A typical air medical evacuation costs between \$10,000 and \$20,000, so it makes financial sense to have this coverage.

Plane tickets home – In the event that your car is stolen or is not drivable, this coverage will pay for you and possibly the rest of the people in your travel group to fly back to your home in the United States or Canada.

4. Do you know what deductibles Mexican insurance includes?

Make sure you know exactly what your deductibles are. Typically, Mexican auto insurance has two different deductibles.

Physical damage deductible: In most cases this is between \$500 and \$1,000. Most Mexican insurance offers deductibles based on a percentage of the vehicle's value. The most common is 2 percent of the vehicle's value, with a minimum of \$500.

Theft deductible: In most cases this is between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Most Mexican insurance offers deductibles based on a percentage of the vehicle's value. The most common theft deductible is 5 percent of the vehicle's value, with a minimum of \$1,000.

There are some Mexican auto insurance products out there that have deductibles of more than \$2,500 – so make sure you know what you are getting!

Feel free to call our agency if you have any questions about Mexican auto insurance, would like to get a quote for your next trip through us, or would like a question answered on any type of insurance.

Call Xavier Rodriguez at (888) 801-5522 for a quote on Mexican auto insurance!

Be safe and have fun!

United Agencies is the Club's partner in helping members with their home and auto insurance, and related products. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner.

Check out our City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website at www.unitedagencies.com/city-club. This website lists the upcoming visits we'll be making to City Department meetings where you can ask us any question in person, and get an instant quote!

Have a question? Is there something about insurance that you've always wanted to know, but were too ashamed to ask? Maybe something that you've just always been curious about? Feel free to send me an email at jgelineau@unitedagencies.com, and I will try to answer your question in one of our monthly columns.

Call United Agencies Burbank today at (888) 801-5522

CA License # 0252636

Be a Part of a Club Holiday Tradition

It's Party Pix Time



We want to print pictures from your holiday office party in the *Alive!*

Is your office having a holiday party? Here are two ways to get your holiday office party pictures into the January Alive!:

Take the photos yourself:

Take the photos yourself and send them in as soon as you can. Digital photos are always best. And make sure you give us a description of the party: when it was, where it was, and if something significant happened, let us know that, too.

If there are just a few photos, then email them to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com. But if there are a lot, then it's best to burn them onto a CD and deliver (or mail) the CD to the Club. The address is on the inside front cover. Make sure the photos are as high resolution as you can make them.

We'll take your holiday photos for you:

Let us know when your holiday party is, and we'll try to send a photographer. Please note: There are more City holiday parties than we can cover, but we will try. That's why it's best to send in your own photos. If you want us to cover your party, talk to your Club Rep (Arlene Herrero, Angel Gomez, Brent Urban or Eboné Moses) or email Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations, at rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com. *We'll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can't guarantee it.* But let us know.



See you at the party!

Blind Childrens Center



A MODEL PROGRAM

Inclusive environment providing specialized services for young children and their families.

All services are FREE and provided in a culturally sensitive environment.

Contact the Blind Childrens Center (323) 664-2153

See *Alive!* reported

- INFANT SERVICES
- PRESCHOOL
- KINDERGARTEN
- FIRST GRADE
- SECOND GRADE
- HALF DAY & FULL DAY PROGRAMS

BLIND CHILDRENS CENTER SERVICES INCLUDE:

Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Orientation & Mobility Specialist

Occupational Therapy Specialist

Speech & Language Specialist

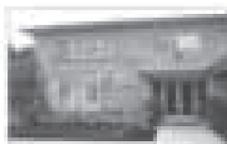
Music Program

Full Time Nurse

Social Workers

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Parent Group



www.blindchildrenscenter.org • info@blindchildrenscenter.org

Blind Childrens Center • 4120 Marathon Street • Los Angeles, CA 90009 • (323) 664-2153

Put the City under your tree.

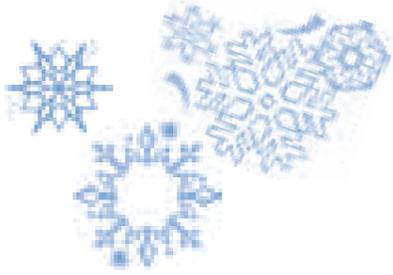
Give Club gifts!

Something to  Think About

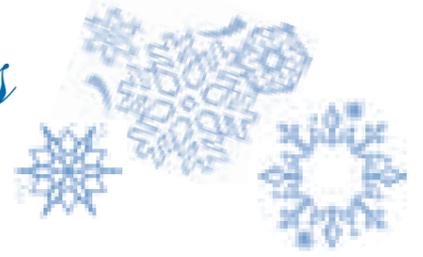
“Failure isn’t a crime. Failure to learn from failure is the crime.”

– Walter Wriston,
former chairman of Citicorp

A reminder from L.A. City's Quality and Productivity Commission:
Always do your best!



Holiday Happenings



CLUB STORE

Donate to the Toy Drive!



The Club's gearing up its annual Holiday Toy Drive, held in conjunction with the Central City Police Boosters. Drop off your unwrapped toys to the Club Store (at 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012) between now and early December. *Please be generous!*



REC AND PARKS

It's Great to Skate

Downtown on Ice returns for its 13th season in Pershing Square.



Downtown on Ice.

Celebrating its 13th season spectacular with holiday fun under the sun and stars, *Downtown on Ice* outdoor skating rink at picturesque Pershing Square, 532 South Olive, will be open every day from Nov. 18 through Jan. 17.

The tradition continues with LA's largest outdoor rink with the low admission price of \$6. As a favorite holiday destination, the facility boasts a medley of free events, including a holiday concert series, a Winter Holiday Fiesta, championship skating exhibitions, and more.

Framed by towering skyscrapers and stunning historical landmarks, the spacious rink is made possible thanks to sponsorship from Rec and Parks, and Councilmember and Club Member Jan Perry.

Centrally located in the heart of the City of Angels, the facility is easily accessible by car, bus or Metro. The convenient stop at Pershing Square Station makes getting there easy. Underground discount parking is available with validation. For more info and a detailed session schedule go to www.laparks.org and click to Pershing Square or call (213) 847-4970.

Downtown on Ice

Hours: Open every day Nov. 18 through Jan. 17

Mon.-Thurs.: noon to 10 p.m.; Fri.-Sun.: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Extended hours: Dec. 17 through Jan. 9, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Thanksgiving Day: 2 to 10 p.m.

Christmas Day: noon to 10 p.m.

New Year's Day: noon to 10 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Cost: \$6 per session. Skate rental: \$2

Information: www.larparks.org (click on Pershing Square)



ZOO

Santa-mals

Zoo to feature Santa and holiday decorations on weekends as it prepares to open major Elephants of Asia exhibit.



Santa at the L.A. Zoo

When: Weekends Nov. 27 – Dec. 19

Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Admission: Free with regular zoo admission; Santa photos may be extra.

Information: www.lazoo.org

Because the Zoo is very busy planning to open its latest great exhibition – Elephants of Asia – in December, it will not be presenting its annual Reindeer Romp. But there's still fun to be had at the Zoo this holiday.

On holiday weekends from Nov. 27 to Dec. 19, the Zoo will host Santa and feature lots of festive

holiday decorations. So there will still be a holiday spirit among the animals.

Access to Santa is included with regular admission. Photos with Santa and other attractions may be at an additional price.

The Zoo is closed on Christmas Day.

REC AND PARKS

All Aboard for the North Pole

Travel Town Museum in Griffith Park offers its miniature train ride to the North Pole.

For the eighth consecutive year, Travel Town Train Museum's Travel Town Railroad in Griffith Park is hosting a unique holiday event starring Santa Claus and thousands of dancing lights and beautiful music. On weekends from Nov. 27 to Dec. 16, and then nightly through Dec. 23, families will be able to take a miniature train ride to visit Santa at his house at the North Pole.

Once they arrive they will visit with Santa, get a picture with him, if desired, then get back on the train to return home along a decorated and music filled track.

While waiting for Santa the kids and parents can visit with Rudolph and one of Santa's helper elves.

This event is operated by Travel Town Railroad in cooperation with Rec and Parks. It is a wonderful alternative to visits to the mall.

Starting at 5 p.m., families may enter the museum and board the miniature train ride at the decorated station. While waiting to board they will be entertained by a dazzling dancing light show and a special corner of the museum where snowmen live and it snows all the time!

Once aboard, they will travel past the decorated train barn and Santa's Workshop to arrive at the North Pole. There they will disembark and visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph and Erin the Elf. Digital photographs will be available for \$5. Families may take their own pictures if they wish. After they have finished their visit, guests will re-board the train and travel along the decorated quarter-mile of track back to the station. The Travel Town Museum Gift Shop will be open most evenings.

Travel Town Train Ride to Visit Santa

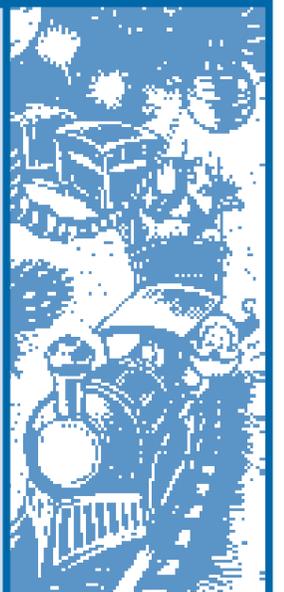
Dates: Weekends from Nov. 27-Dec. 16; and nightly through Dec. 23 (weather permitting; trains do not operate in the rain)

Times: 5 until about 8 p.m.

Where: Travel Town Transportation Museum, 5200 Zoo Dr., Griffith Park

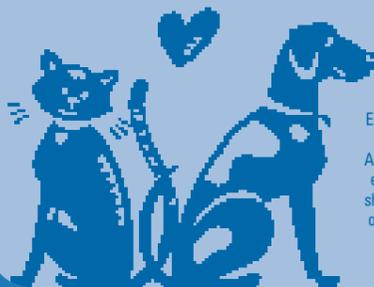
Cost: \$7 per person; infants under 18 months ride free. (Photos with Santa cost \$5 each.) Tickets are available by reservation for specific days and may be bought at the Travel Town ticket booth. Tickets will be sold to walk-ups at the gate until capacity is reached.

Information: (323) 662-9678, griffithparktrainrides.com/content/travel-town-christmas-train



the pet club

Your friend is waiting for you!



The City Employees Club partners with Animal Services each month to showcase some of the pets that are available for adoption.

This Month's Pets For Adoption:

WYNKEN

Wynken is a 4-month-old black and white male Labrador mix. He is super playful but also enjoys lying across your lap. Please yield to temptation and give this smooth character a forever home!

ID# A1161948: South LA Animal Care Center



BLYNKEN

Blynken is a 4-month-old brown brindle and white male collie mix. He may look innocent, but he's all entertainment and energy once he's done showing off his good looks.

ID# A1159841: South LA Animal Care Center.



NOD

Nod is a 4-month-old black brindle male retriever mix. He is a soulful boy who will watch the others romp, and then jump in when the time is right. This is one very sweet puppy!

ID# A1158300: South LA Animal Care Center



DRIZZLE

Drizzle is a 3-month-old brown tabby kitten born in the shelter. Drizzle is sweet and playful and ready for a new home!

ID# A1146719: South LA Animal Care Center.



PIXIE

Pixie is a 3-year-old lynx point female cat that arrived at the shelter nursing four kittens (George, Norman, Dixie and Oliver). She is a sweet and friendly and looking to spend the holidays in a new forever home!

ID#A1160058: South LA Animal Care Center



Meet your New Hope coordinator!



All of the animals below are available for adoption at the South Los Angeles Animal Care Center, 3612 11th Ave., LA 90018.

Tomika Johnson is the New Hope Coordinator: (213) 485-0117.

Don't miss our December Discount Adoption Days, Dec. 17 - 24! Discounts are available at all six LAAS Animal Care Centers and mobile adoption locations. Please visit www.laanimalservices.com for details.

LAPD

Big Losers, and It's Great!

LAPD's Info Tech Division loses weight, gets fit and wins a prize.



Accepting the winning prize were (from left) ITB Police Administrator III Maggie Goodrich, ITD Commanding Officer Jeff Jantz, and the ITB/ITD team members.

Congratulations to LAPD's Information Technology Bureau (ITB) and Division (ITD) Fitness Challenge Team! The team won a second prize of \$5,500 toward their Station Fund during this year's Los Angeles Police Relief Association LAPRA Fitness Challenge contest, which challenged each team to lose weight and get in shape.

The LAPRA contest was held from June 30 to Sept. 30. The final results of the winning teams were held at the Police Academy Oct. 14. More than 50 teams participated this year; each team had 20 to 25 sworn and civilian employees that participated.

The ITB/ITD captains Chris Rose-Beatty and Michi Slaughter motivated their employees to do their best job and win! Throughout the competition, team members focused on eating well and exercising to lose weight and get in shape. Team members participated in a variety of exercise routines including stair climbing, morning runs, lunchtime walks and pairing with other members to start a workout regimen in the new Police Administration Building (PAB) gym.

A cumulative 9.51 percent and 423 pounds were lost by Chris Rose-Beatty, Michi Slaughter, Jorge Aranda, Elena Nihoa-Asucan, Danielle Belt, Chris Berglund, Claudia Caldera, Cynthia Dominguez, Dan Gomez, Robert Hernandez, Allison Hoshizaki, Mike Humphrey, John Kong, Jim Lenoue, Donna Moore, Matt Mulvihill, Felix Perez, Rick Provencio, Sal Romero, Cedric Stepter, Keith Straughter, Elias Tirado, Greg Williams, Trenita Wilson and Peter Yan. Great job by all!



A special Individual Prize of \$500 was awarded to Robert Hernandez for losing 20 percent of his weight. Congratulations!



Team Captains Michi Slaughter and Chris Rose-Beatty.



ITD team members enjoyed a great lunch at the award ceremony at the Police Academy awaiting the winning results of the fitness challenge.

We can print your name or logo on anything including the following:
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[We also do Family Reunions]

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GENERAL SERVICES

Thanks, Custodians

General Services honors City's cleaners on their Appreciation Day.



Story and photos by Brent Urban, Club Counselor

Nov. 9, General Services hosted its annual Custodian Appreciation Day. The event was held at Simmons Lodge in Griffith Park.

Custodial Services is known as "the hands that support" the City. This event is held each year in acknowledgement of the hard and often unglamorous work these men and women provide our City. The City Employees Club of Los Angeles was proud to attend the event and donate prizes to the raffle in recognition of the important role of Custodial Services!

Congratulations to the winners, and all of the custodians for the work they do.

Special thanks to General Services' Loretta M. Quenon, Director; Tony M. Royster, General Manager; and Valerie Melloff, Assistant Manager.



The festive atmosphere inside Simmons Lodge for the annual Custodian Appreciation Day.



Bottom, from left: Warren Green, CSA, 10 years; Juan Flores, CSA, 8 years; Bonifacio Chagolla, Sr. Custodian, 6 years; and Sam Arreola, Sr. Custodian, 11 years. Standing: Bernard Tademy, CSA, 4 years; and Juan Gomez CSA, 6 years.



Club Prize Winner Antwan Thompson, CSA.



Club Prize Winner Maria Rodriguez, CSA.



Club Prize Winner Juan Gomez, CSA.



Club Prize Winner Syilvano Aguilera, CSA.



Club Prize Winner Melanie Garcia, CSA.



Club Prize Winner Patrice Shirley, CSA.



Club Prize Winner Michael Styles, CSA.



Club Prize Winner Jacqueline Reese.



Raffle winner Ernesto Raif, CSA, 5 years.



Warren Green, CSA, 10 years.



Lisa Hampton CSA, 10 years.



Daniel Sparks, CSA 21 years.



Melvin Phillips, CSA 21 years.



Steven Pacana CSA 3 years.



Linda Taren, Vocational Worker, 3 years.



Gary Miller, Vocational Worker, 2 years; and Jean Marquez, CSA, 26 years.



From left: Victor Ruben, CSA, 21 years of City service; Johnetta Vennett, CSA, 10 years; Linda Taren, Vocational Worker, 3 years; Carlos Lopez, Sr. Custodian, 5 years; Sarah Barrayo, Vocational Worker, 20 years; and Manuel Estrada, Metro Jail, 6 years.



Loretta Quenon, Director and event host.



From left: Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations; Loretta Quenon, Director, and event host; and Eddie Cromwell, Head Custodian.



From left: Quinten Cromwell, CSA, 26 years; Lisa Hampton CSA, 10 years; and Dwayne Thompson, CSA, 24 years.

AIRPORTS

Dressing Up, for a Good Cause

Airport Police holds fundraiser cruise in Marina del Rey.



Photos by Tom Hawkins, Club Photographer

The Airport Police Athletics and Activities League hosted "Cruise for a Kid's Cure," a dress-up event Oct. 30 to raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

The elegant affair was held aboard a yacht cruising Marina del Rey.

Congratulations to the organizing committee and sponsors for creating a memorable and successful event.



For Retired Club Members



The Best Years

City Retiree Associations:

DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, President
Phone: (626) 445-7376
E-mail: vinmar@altrionet.com

Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association

James R. Wilke, President
Phone: (323) 283-4441
Fax: (626) 285-1461
E-mail: larfpa@pacbell.net or
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,
Temple City, CA 91780

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ed Harding, RLACEI President
www.rlacei.com
Contact him: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 703
or via E-mail:
postmaster@rlacei.com

Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 713, or write to her at 8372 Arnett Dr. Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS.

Have News About Yourself?

Contact Phil Skarin, 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411-3910, or call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 709.

RLACEI Upcoming Events

Dec. 9: RLACEI holiday party, noon,
Grace E. Simons Lodge,
1025 Elysian Park, Los Angeles.

Call (800) 678-4145,
ext. 701 for reservations.

RLACEI:

Pension Systems Nationwide Facing Tightening Pressures

President, Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"At the annual General Meeting in October, Ken Spiker, Helen Salgado, Mary Beetz, Gary Mattingly and I were re-elected by the members to serve another two-year term to represent you.

"At the Nov. 8 business meeting, the Directors and the Executive Board selected me as President, Ken Spiker, First Vice President; Tom Stemnock, Second

Vice President, and Harold Danowitz, Secretary-Treasurer, to serve one-year terms beginning Jan. 1.

"Also, at our November meeting, the RLACEI Directors appointed Michael R. Wilkinson to fill a vacancy on our Board, left by the resignation of Jack Mathews. Michael is an attorney who recently retired from the

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office as a Retirement Benefits Deputy. (Mary Beetz will have a more detailed biography on a future article).

"RLACEI wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas.

"Do not forget to make your reservations for our holiday party Dec. 9 at the Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park."

Pension Issues by Michael Karsh:



Michael Karsh

"In previous articles on pension issues, I have focused on California entities, our cities, counties and the state systems. Let us now look at other developments nationwide in governmental pension programs, since this issue is controversial and receiving a lot of press from coast to coast. There is a lot of talk, but now there are some trends that are visible in new policies.

"In mid September, CBS News reported that, since 2008, New Jersey and 19 other states have either rolled back pension benefits or seriously considered doing so,

for current employees and for those already retired. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has proposed repealing increases in benefits enacted 'years ago,' eliminating automatic cost of living adjustments, raising the retirement age to 65 from 60, 'reducing pension payouts for many future retirees' and requiring some employees to pay more into their pensions.

"Wyoming's current employees begin paying 1.43 percent of their salary for the first time in ten years. Mississippi began requiring all state, teacher and local government

employees to increase their payments into their pension systems 9 percent, up from 7.25 percent.

"Minnesota has reduced its annual rate of increase of annual pension increases from 2.5 percent to between 1 and 2 percent. Colorado is giving no cost of living increase this year to its retirees instead of the normal 3.5 percent; future increases are capped at 2 percent. South Dakota has replaced a flat 3.1 percent cost of living increase for its retirees with a tiered increase based on the pension funds' values."

LACERS Update: Mary Beetz, LACERS representative, reports:



Mary Beetz

"Here are some corrections to the 2011 Health Benefits Guide.

"**Anthem Blue Cross PPO Out-of-Country Plan:** The benefits table on page 13 of the 2011 Health Benefits Guide incorrectly listed the prescription drug coverage as \$5 copay per 30-day supply (All Anthem Blue Cross approved drugs) when it should be \$10 copay per 30-day supply (All Anthem Blue Cross approved drugs). Plan benefits for the Anthem Blue Cross Out-of-Country plan are unchanged for 2011.

"**SafeGuard Dental HMO Plan:** The benefits table on page 32 of the Health Benefits Guide indicates that coverage for Crowns,

Dentures and Implants are: 100 percent after \$40-50 copay/procedure. However, the SafeGuard Dental HMO plan benefit is unchanged for 2011 and does not include dental implant coverage. Only the MetLife Dental PPO plan covers implants at 50 percent.

"**Enroll and Maintain Your Medicare Part B to Protect Your Medical Subsidy:** To qualify for and continue to receive a medical plan premium subsidy from LACERS, you and your eligible dependents are required to enroll in Medicare Part B upon turning age 65. If you're eligible to receive it free of charge you are also required to enroll in Medicare Part

A. Failure to meet this LACERS Medicare enrollment requirements or being delinquent in your Medicare Part B premium payments, may result in the termination of your medical subsidy and plan coverage.

"If you are a California resident and have both Medicare Parts A and B, you have more medical plan options when you turn age 65. You can choose from the Anthem Blue Cross PPO Medicare Supplement Plan, Kaiser Senior Advantage, SCAN HMO, or Secure Horizons HMO. You will receive an information packet from LACERS on how to enroll in Medicare approximately three months before you turn 65."

RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at www.rlacei.com to find the latest retirement news. If you find it helpful, or have suggestions for improvement, call Hal at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 707.

Contact LACERS

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System is at 360 E. Second Street, second floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans.

The Best Years

ADVENTURES with HAL!



Wine barrels ready for wine at Opus One.

By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Helen Salgado. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, and LAFUCU.

City Employees Retirement System:
(213) 473-7200

RLACEI Retirement Counselors and Retiree Helplines: (800) 678-4145

• Mary Beetz	Ext. 711
• Hal Danowitz	Ext. 707
• Americo Garza	Ext. 710
• Edward Harding	Ext. 703
• Michael Karsch	Ext. 704
• Jack Mathews	Ext. 712
• Gary Mattingly	Ext. 702
• Neil Ricci	Ext. 714
• Helen Salgado (membership)	Ext. 713
• Phil Skarin	Ext. 709
• Ken Spiker	Ext. 705
• Tom Stemnock	Ext. 708
RSVP:	Ext. 701

DWP Retirement Plan Office: (213) 367-1722

RLACEI:

Officers

Hal Danowitz, Secretary
Edward Harding, President
Michael Karsch, Treasurer
Kenneth Spiker, First Vice President
Tom Stemnock, Second Vice President

Committee Chairpersons

Hal Danowitz: Bylaws
Americo Garza: Picnic, Holiday Party and Installation
Jack Mathews: Senior Citizens
Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating
Helen Salgado: Membership
Phil Skarin: Publicity and Parliamentarian
Ken Spiker: Legal and Legislative
Tom Stemnock: Audit
Tom Stemnock and Phil Skarin: Golf

Directors

Mary Beetz
Americo Garza
Michael Karsch
Jack Mathews
Neil Ricci
Helen Salgado
Phil Skarin



Grape Expectations

■ It's days of wine and napping for Hal and Evelyn in Napa

In July, when my wife, Evelyn, and I were in San Francisco, she wanted to go to Napa to have dinner, but we couldn't get our in-laws, Don and Myrna, to agree. So when we got back home, I surprised Evelyn and took her to Napa as her birthday present. I picked the end of September to be there for the harvest, or crush as it is called.

We flew out of LAX on Southwest Airlines to Oakland. When we got to the airport, we found that our flight at 11 a.m. had been cancelled. The 10 a.m. flight had mechanical problems, and everyone was switched to a 10:45 flight that used our plane. In the end, we got to Oakland about 15 minutes late.

Oakland is a much easier airport to navigate than San Francisco (SFO), and the chance of bad weather (fog) is much less. And it is as close to Napa as SFO.

We picked up our car from Dollar, a Mercury that looked like a police undercover vehicle. After our experience in Italy using a portable GPS, I brought one. The car rental companies charge about \$10 per day for a GPS, so it makes sense to own your own.

The drive to Napa takes about an hour, depending on traffic; the distance is slightly more than 50 miles.

We stayed at the Marriott on points and had a nice room overlooking the parking lot. So much for a view.

We arrived about 2:30 p.m., and our room was ready. We unpacked and decided that we needed to have something to eat, but not so much as to spoil dinner. We found an Italian deli, Genova (1550 Trancas St., Napa), very close to the hotel, where we split a great prosciutto sandwich under an umbrella and enjoyed a beautiful afternoon. (Later, we found out it was the best for a sandwich.)

We planned on eating dinner around 7:30 p.m., so we returned to the hotel for a little nap.

We had dinner reservations for the next two nights, but nothing for that first night. I didn't want to eat too heavily, so I picked a restaurant called Downtown Joe's on Main Street in the heart of downtown Napa. When we arrived at the restaurant, we remembered that we had eaten there before and saw a place called The Bounty Hunter (975 First St., Napa) that had a wonderful barbecue aroma coming from it, so we decided to try it. It was a good choice – a small place with a great wine and beer selec-

tion. We shared a large communal table with two young men. The men were brothers, and both were in the wine business.

We had an interesting conversation about wine, and they shared a very good bottle with us. In addition, the food was good. I had the ribs, and Evelyn had a half-pound Kobe burger. We both had a flight (three short pours of wine) recommended to accompany our food. The food and wine were very good, and we really enjoyed talking to the brothers.

The next morning, we had a tour (\$40 per person) of Opus One Winery (Oakville, Calif.), a joint venture between Robert Mondavi and Baroness Philippine de Rothschild. This is my favorite wine, as it should be about \$150 bottle retail. Our tour was scheduled at 10:30 a.m.

Eating is a way of life in the wine country, so we were trying to limit what we ate. That morning, we hung out at Starbucks, where I had a banana and Evelyn had a weird coffee drink. Starbucks has free Wi-Fi, and I was able to read the *Los Angeles Times*; Evelyn read her e-mail.

The Opus One Winery is about 15 minutes from Napa in Oakville. Its signage was not the best, and our directions were to turn into the first driveway past the Oakville Groceries. We first stopped at the market to get a menu to order lunch. Our friends from last night said we should order lunch (the best sandwich in the area) for pickup to avoid the crowd at lunchtime.

We got to Opus on time and joined three other groups. It was an international crowd, with people from Korea and Turkey. One of the highlights of this area is coming here during the crush, or grape picking, time. The night before, Opus picked their first grapes of the season, and we were able to see the process of getting the grapes ready for fermentation. They do the harvesting at night when the grapes are cool. We can now say we were there in 2010 when the wine is released in 2013. At the end of our tour, we were able to taste the 2006 wine. The visit to this winery was a wonderful experience. At the store, we brought a bottle of Overture, a wine they make from the grapes that don't measure up to Opus One. It is the only other wine packaged there. The tour was finished by noon, just in time for us to pick up lunch.

When we got to the market, we waited only a few minutes for our sandwiches, which we ate on a picnic table. The sandwich

was good, but I thought that the sandwiches the day before were better. Basically, it was a country store verses an Italian deli!

We took the time to plan out the rest of the afternoon. There is just so much tasting that you can do, and I still had to drive. The area isn't very big – 20 miles north to south and three miles east to west, with most of the roads being two lanes.

Our first stop after lunch was Peju Winery in Rutherford, where we tasted four wines, of which we liked only one. The tastings are not free; this one was \$15, and Evelyn and I shared the taste. If you buy \$30 of wine, the tasting is free.

The next stop was Silver Oak (in Oakville), a wine we have had and like. The



Hal and Evelyn at Opus One.



Evelyn tasting the wine at Opus One.



Evelyn and Beverly at Benzinger.



cost was \$20 and you get to keep the glass. Again, we decided to share, and we tasted three cabernet from three different vintages. These wines run between \$70 and \$100 per bottle.

Our last stop was Cuvaision (in Calistoga) a moderately price wine (we've had lot of their whites, but never their reds). The tasting was \$15, and we bought separate tastings (no sharing). We also got to keep the glasses. They offered two different tastings of four wines each, and we drank one of each and shared, so we tasted eight wines, plus two extra ones. It was fun, and the wino (the guy pouring the wine) was a lot of fun.

This winery is on the Silverado Trail, which is the eastern side of the area, and we drove back to the hotel on that road. It was a lot faster than Route 29, which we had come up on.

On Route 29, you drive through St. Helena, which has so many traffic lights that the traffic just crawls through town.

Our dinner reservation that night was at Redd (6480 Washington St., Yountville), and we were able to get a quick nap before getting ready for dinner. We seemed to be doing a lot of napping on this trip.

The restaurant has a Michelin star and has been reviewed very well. We sat outside, and the food and service were very good. This was the best food we had on the trip.

The next day, we were meeting a schoolmate of Evelyn's whom she had not seen in 40-plus years. It seems that Evelyn has reached the age when you start to look back at your past and to your roots. It happened to me, and I think it happens to all of to some extent.

We were scheduled to meet Beverly and her husband at the Benzinger Winery in Glen Ellen at noon for a picnic lunch. We slept in a little and didn't leave the hotel until after 9 a.m. We stopped at Starbucks and then drove to Sonoma on the way to Glen Ellen.

We parked on the town square and did a little window-shopping.

We got to Benzinger and found that Beverly and her husband, Isaac, were already there and setting up lunch. Isaac is a trained personal chef, and the lunch was outstanding, as good as any restaurant, and it reminded me of a lunch we had at a winery in New Zealand. After lunch, we took a tour of the winery and then did the tasting. Benzinger is a biodynamic winery, where all growing is done using only products produced at the winery and that are environmentally friendly.

Before returning to Napa, we stopped at Artesa Winery (in Napa) for a quick tasting, though to tell you the truth, I was about wined out.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon meeting new friends.

We had dinner at Bottega Ristorante (6525 Washington St., Yountville), owned by chef Michael Chiarello, a well-known celebrity chef. The food is Italian and was very good, though I liked the food at Redd better. It was interesting that the service was very fast, maybe too fast. What was nice was that the chef came over to our table, and we met him.

We were flying back to L.A. on Saturday, and we planned to visit the de Young Museum in San Francisco to see the second half of the post-Impressionist exhibit that we had seen in July. The opening day was that same Saturday.

We left Napa just after 8 a.m. and arrived at the museum just before 10 a.m., our scheduled entrance time. It took us only about an hour to view the exhibit, which, while we enjoyed it, was not as good as the first exhibit in July. We had lunch in the museum café and decided to try to catch an earlier flight, but because of traffic we didn't get to the airport until after the earlier flight had already left.

The Napa area is a great place to visit if you like good food and drink. Before you go, look online at the wineries you want to visit, for many of them are now open by appointment only. So you'll need to do a little planning in advance. If possible, try to visit during the week, as the weekends are very crowded. With San Francisco less than an hour away, you can visit both on the same trip.

RLACEI HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday,
Dec. 9, 12 noon
Grace E. Simons Lodge
1025 Elysian Park Drive
(near Dodger Stadium)

You're Invited!

The RLACEI's annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers is scheduled for noon Thursday, Dec. 9 at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. The Lodge is at 1025 Elysian Park Dr., near Dodger Stadium. There will be a light lunch (sandwiches, salad and drinks),

entertainment and valuable door prizes. You must make reservations at least a week ahead: (800) 678-4145, x701. Guests welcome. Call one of the officers on the Retirees Helplines. Free taxi service can take you from the parking lot to the lodge.

Retirees No Longer Averse To Annual Poetry Contest

■ The annual poetry contest returns!

The RLACEI announces the return of the annual poetry contest. Poems of any subject, style or interest will be accepted. There will be valuable cash prizes.

Submit your poem by Dec. 30 to Phil Skarin, 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411, or Mary Beetz, 137 Westmont Dr., Alhambra, CA 91801.

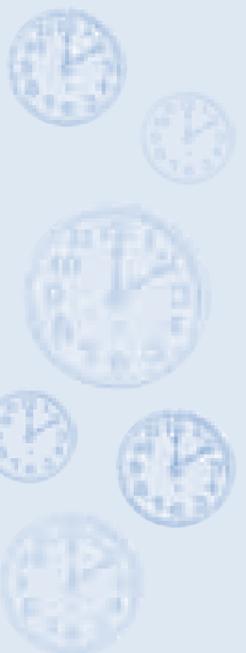
The winner's name and poem will be published in the RLACEI publications.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

My Christmas List

*At this time of the year
We go to parties
And put up Christmas trees
With lots of decorations
We give each other presents.
The more expensive they are,
The greater is our friendship.
But one of the most valued gifts
We could give to others
Is our time.
time to listen quietly
time to make them feel special
time to share their joys and sorrows
time for them to feel loved
When I make my Christmas List
My number one request will be for
A little of
Your time.*



By Phil Skarin

Life's Important Moments

Share your moments!

Did you get married? Have a baby? (Yea!) Get a promotion? (Hooray!) Retire? (Ahhhh.) We want to hear from you. Share your news with the world! Send all notices and **high resolution photos** with the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or send paper notices and print photos to: *Alive!*, 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012



New Members

Welcome New Members!

The Club gives a great big welcome to these new members, who recently joined the Club:

Airports

LaChana Andrews
Lanie Carney
Sally Domingo
Michael Gaynor
Daphne Goss
Heidi Harmon
Diane Imori-Rodgers
Johnny Johnson
Joseph Karbus
Siwon Lee
Marlene Lewis
Dolly Ling
Dee McKenna
Dwayne Myers
David Paris
Saul Ramirez
Olivia Riter
Theresa Sabosky
Joyce Sloss
Jerome Smith
Perla Togonon
Lieu Tran
Lisa Williams

City Attorney

Maria Abreu
Dorys Caropino
Puay-Huang Ng
Marites Vea
Anissa Walker

Building and Safety

Lawrence Quirante
Richard Yee

City Attorney

Maria Lee
Andrea Mills

City Council

Myriam Lopez
Jenny Portillo

Environmental Affairs

Frank Hong

LAFD

Humberto Aponte
Krystal Byrd
Elva Davila
Matthew Gatewood
Mark Gilchrist
Reynaldo Gonzalez
Andrew Gutierrez
John Hendricks
A. Krupnik
William Lugg
Janet Morris
Sunmi Myung
Richard Newton

William Parker Jr.
Joe Reyes Jr.
Clinton Shelton Jr.
Donald Smith

General Services

Allan Brown
Sherry Gomez
Charlotte Hagos
Earnest Hall
Linda Mayfield
Gerardo Moreno
Rochelle Richardson
Rosa Ruiz

Harbor

Dina Aaryan-Zahlan
Carlos Baldenegro
Danny Domingo
Jose Estrada
Frederick Hagner
Linda Haynes
Francinita Lamangan
Richard Lorenzana
Pious Poozhikala
Ralph Tracy
Juan Vega
Mark Velasquez

ITA

Karen Dienhart

Convention Center

Emily Clarida

Library

Charlotte Hagos

Personnel

Patricia Bagot
Robin Greene
Danny Hudson
Eva Lesseos-Lupher
Fernando Rios
Christine Sutton

LAPD

Esther Acuna
Pamela Anthony
Kimberly Antol
Daniel Aramnd
Marisa Assaf
Wendy Beck
Heather Beller
Geoffrey Chavez
Olivia Chavez
Chung Chui
Cherie Clair
Rosalind Curry
Davis Darrell
Steve DiSabato

William Duke
Edwin Evangelista
Deirdre Gomez
Gabriel Grarapragasam
Maria Heredia
Joel Hernandez
Juliana Iizuka
Cheryl Jones
Irene Ling
John Manoogian
Jose Martinez
Thomas Mathew
Daniel Menesez
Mika Neal

Damian Pacheco
Rosaelia Palacios
Keith Penunuri
Michael Pettinato
Sarah Tran
Lee Powell Jr.
Mark Preciado
Percy Roberts
Cynthia Robertson
Eduardo Silva
Paula Tran
John Vasquez
Analyn Vergara
Ralph Ward

PUBLIC WORKS

PW-Contract Admin.

Marino Laborte
Beth Slick

PW-Engineering

Alan Campbell
Christine Reusch

PW-Sanitation

David Escalera
Steven Isoda
Achim Jung
Ning Liang
Reginald Martin
Trevia Miller
Glenn Morikawa
Meloni Nelson
Benjamin Novida
Jonathan Polk Sr.
Hassan Rad
Jeffrey Ramsey
Benjamin Ruvalcaba
LaSonia Smith
Don Smith
Cecilia Torres
Bryan Valenzuela
Kay Yamamoto

PW-Street Services

Jerry Caropino

Rec and Parks

Raul Arelis
David Armstrong
Laura Bauernfeind
Louis Brown
Jhakil Doyle
Craig Edemann
Daniel Gutierrez
Ruben Lopez
JoAnne Luna
Jonathan Merrill
Alexander Pubill
Ottho Reyes
Rodolfo Sanchez

Transportation

Carlos Alvarez
Maurice Austin
Catherine Chan
Hermalinda Contreras
Emmanuel David
Jamil Duerson
Jose Garcia
Jorge Mares
Tamara Martin
Nichelle Roberson
Edilberto Rojas Jr.
Jeff Wright
Roy Zarate

DWP

Lo Chhan
James Laing
Cathryn Lam
Yolanda Mendo
Gabrielle Robinson
David Soto

Zoo

Janice Gooden

Other

Joseph Alberico
Frederick Banuelos
Betty Clark-Cryer
Terrell Grant
Chrys Green
Angelica Hano
Tim McDaniel
Gabriel Ybarra



In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away. The number after the name indicates years of service.

Active

Atwood, John, DWP, 30
Baker, Bernie Ray, Public Works, 4
Delgadillo, Juan, DWP, 25
Meyer, David, City Attorney, 25

Retired

Armstrong, Beulah, Airports, 17
Barbala, Joseph, Rec and Parks, 21
Bennett, Alpercy, Rec and Parks, 29
Billoups, Larry, Airports, 34
Bronder, Frederick, General Services, 15
Cady, Sara, DWP, 11
Cervin, Dwight, General Services, 21
Chavez, Mike, DWP, 28
Cox, Averil, Public Works, 6
Dalmont, Susan Christine, Planning, 25
De Prez, William, Building and Safety, 13
Docherty, Richard, DWP, 5
Edwards, Theodore, Airports, 30
Elkins, Richard, City Council, 10
Escobar, Orlando, General Services, 23
Fare, J. Richard, Public Works, 37
Furci, Gail, Library, 29
Hales, Sam, DWP, 29
Harby, Harold, Public Works, 33
Harkins, Patricia, Zoo, 20
Havlu, Gary, General Services, 21
Jordan, Laroi, DWP, 25
Jungles, Leo, Building and Safety, 21
Kajiki, Hiroyuki, General Services, 33
Kralls, Ralph, Public Works, 33
Lacy, Wilmer, Rec and Parks, 20

Lee, Roy, Transportation, 33
Lewis, Catherine, Library, 15
Maddox, Phillip, DWP, 17
Meacham, John, Building and Safety, 33
Meraz, Demetrio, DWP, 30
McZeal, Bernard, Transportation, 37
Miners, Lewis, DWP, 34
Morales, Telesforo, Transportation, 22
Nixon, Anna, DWP, 39
Oglesby, James, DWP, 35
Perry, Margaret, Mayor's Office, 18
Riggs, Donald, DWP, 25
Rollins, Charles, Public Works, 10
Schmitt, Wally, DWP, 23
Sheld, Marlen, DWP, 17
Sinapi, Antoinette, LAPD, 35
Slick, Wilfred, DWP, 33
Small, John, DWP, 29
Swanson, Evelyn, Rec and Parks, 3
Taliaferro, Orvella, DWP, 17
Thayne, Lawrence, Building and Safety, 24
Thompson, Paul, DWP, 24
Trevino, Roy, Public Works, 17
Trujillo, Tomasita, General Services, 15
Valenzuela, Juan, Rec and Parks, 11
Valla, John, DWP, 27
Varca, Winson, Housing, 4
Washington, Ivory, Rec and Parks, 35
Wickser, James, DWP, 37
Widener, Carl, Public Works, 40
Zacharie, Vincent, DWP, 29



Quinceañera

Have a photo of a recent quinceañera? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



Graduations

Alive! is delighted to publish graduation photos of Club members and their children. Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Peace of Mind

LTC Open Enrollment Coming in March for DWP

BY TIFFANY SY

The Club's Peace of Mind Expert



We wish to thank all of our staff and members who contributed to a smooth, successful Long-Term Care open enrollment. If you did not take advantage of your enrollment, you can still apply today, but you must pass medical underwriting. If you work for the DWP, we didn't leave you out! We are preparing for our DWP Open Enrollment coming up in May. Open Enrollment means there's no medical exam or underwriting, so any pre-existing medical conditions are not considered.

If you have a term life insurance plan with the Club, expect your refund check in the mail any day now, if you haven't already! We are giving back a total of 5 percent. We have con-

tinued the tradition of paying out a refund check in all but three years since 1928. Although we do not guarantee a refund check every year since it is based upon premium dollars we have left over after paying out claims, we have missed it only three times.

The fiscal cycle runs Aug. 1 through July 31. All of the premiums collected in that year are used to pay the death claims of Club Members who have enrolled in our term life insurance plan. Whatever is left over is distributed back to our active and retired City employees who hold life insurance policies with the City Employees Club.

If you have recently moved, please update your address to

ensure delivery of your check. If you are uncertain whether we have updated your current address, a good indication is receiving *Alive!* – if you're receiving the newspaper at the correct address, then you're good to go.

If you do not have life insurance and would like to receive a personalized quote, give us a call and we would be happy to assist you.



Contact me at
info@cityemployeesclub.com

Life's Important Moments

Share Your Good News!



Everyone reads Life's Most Important Moments in **Alive!** Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Has someone in your family had a quinceañera? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

We're looking for:

- Weddings
- Babies
- Graduations
- Quinceañeras
- Special Achievements
- **Alive!** in the Military

Send digital photos (as high a resolution as you can send) to: moments@cityemployeesclub.com
 OR send paper photos (please don't send the only one you have!) to:
 Life's Moments - **Alive!**
 City Employees Club of Los Angeles
 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012



Weddings

Have a photo of a recent wedding? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Births

Have a photo of a recent newborn? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Special Achievements



Congratulations to Jerry R. Bueno, who just completed the first ever undefeated season with the Bishop Alemany Warriors varsity football team. Jerry is a junior at Alemany High in Mission Hills, where he plays second-string linebacker and for the special teams unit. His entire family is proud of him. "Good luck in the playoffs, Warriors!" Jerry is the nephew of Rebecca (Pereida) Lantz, PSR LAPD Valley Communications.



Cornel Norman, son of Cathy J. Norman, Club Member, works with the developmentally disabled in Pennsylvania and has taught photography, one of his passions, to the disabled. A photograph taken by one of his clients, Cary Block, was one of 60 exhibited at the American Visionary Art Museum Nov. 12 in Baltimore. Pictured are (from left) Cornel Norman and Cary Block, photographer; and Cary's photograph, used with permission.

Have you or your children recently achieved something special? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Military



Does someone in your extended family deserve their country as a member of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard? Send us a photo - either formal or on duty, along with your name, City department and relationship to the subject. Send photos to **Alive!** in the Military, City Employees Club of Los Angeles, 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Send digital photos to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Retirements

NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS
Atwood, Jean	-	DWP	-	Harlowe, John	Equip. Mechanic	Airports	11	Ruiz, Joe	Custodian	General Services	11
Bell, Linda	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAPD	11	Haskett, Warren	Clerk Typist	Transportation	32	Ruiz, Louis	Golf Starter	Rec and Parks	5
Black, Thomas	-	DWP	-	Haywood, Sandra	Sr. Legal Clerk I	City Attorney	20	Tesnow, Connie	Crossing Guard	Transportation	8
Brown, Hilary	Child Care Center Dir.	Rec and Parks	13	Koh, Samuel	Airport Guide II	Airports	1	Thompson, Brenda	Management Analyst II	LAPD	29
Canono, Felicisimo	-	DWP	-	Johnson, Vida	Sr. Clerk Typist	Transportation	16	Trammel, Michael	Motor Sweeper Operator	Public Works	30
Castillo, Norma	-	DWP	-	Lee, Keith J.	Cement Finisher Worker	Transportation	24	Vaughan, Winston	Cust. Supervisor	Airports	19
Daly, Donn	-	DWP	-	Maples, George	Wastewater Trmt. Mech. II	Public Works	26	Washington, Craig	Equip. Operator	Rec and Parks	25
Edmonds, Paul	-	DWP	-	Mason, Betty A.	Systems Analyst II	Rec and Parks	10	Wenziger, Joseph	-	DWP	-
Fallon, Nedra	Management Analyst II	Controller's Office	32	McIntyre, Henry	Auditor	Aging	21	White, Stephner A.	Sr. Comm. Operator II	Transportation	20
Felszeghy, Diana	Management Analyst II	LAPD	26	Melom, Constance	Librarian III	Library	6	Works, James	Transitional Worker	Public Works	30
Frye, Roberta	Librarian III	Library	11	Nelson, Craig	Sign Painter	Transportation	5	Young, Calvin	Transp. Engineer Aide II	Transportation	32
Gagolinan, Eipidio	-	DWP	-	O'Toole, Edward	-	DWP	-				
Goldberg, Gail	Dir. of Planning	City Planning	4	Perry, Bobby	Wastewa. Coll. Worker II	-	23				

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 34 in a series.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Lee.

AGE: "I'm 60."

BIRTHPLACE: "I was born in Seattle."

MARITAL STATUS: "I was married twice, but both ended in divorce."

FAMILY: "I have one brother and two sisters."

MILITARY SERVICE: "No."

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "In 1960. My parents moved us here because my mother did not like the rain in Washington."

EDUCATION: "I went up to the 12th grade at Santa Monica High School."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "I only remember trying to get well 24/7 and not being able to do so."

RELIGION: "I pray all the time that my pain would stop, but it don't stop."

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS? "Not really, but I do bump into a lot of the same people."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "I sleep outside, usually across the street 'cause there is a nice covering that keeps the place dry."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "I like the beach because of the view."

WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "I used to play music in a band. I played the guitar, keyboard, and bass."

FAVORITE SPORT: "I like tennis."

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Any Walt Disney stuff."

FAVORITE ACTOR: "Robin Williams."

FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Elizabeth Taylor."

FAVORITE CANDY: "Chocolate Hershey bars."

FAVORITE FOOD: "Strawberry shortcake."

WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ? "*Of Human Bondage*. I carry around many things to read."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Don't get sick."

LAST THING EATEN: "A muffin."

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU CARRY AROUND? "Lots of blankets, books, papers, soap and water."

WHO OR WHAT ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU? "I had SSI [Supplemental Security Income] for about five years but I don't have that anymore. Also, the Human Rescue Mission helps me out."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "To not be sick anymore."

ARE YOU ON ANY MEDICATION? "No. I tried medication, but there was nothing that helped. The convulsions always came back."

IF YOU HAD \$1 MILLION, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? "I would get a nice place to stay with a big screen TV."

IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS? "Build housing for everyone."

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS? "I probably won't be alive that long. If I am, though, hopefully I will have a place to stay."

The Club gave Lee shaving cream, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, hand wipes, some food, \$20 and some bottled water.

The interview took place Nov. 3 at Spring and First Streets downtown and was conducted by Club staffer Noelle Kauffman.

Photos by Angel Gomez



{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, Director of Member Services Angel Gomez and New Project Coordinator Noelle Kaufman, introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



1 England



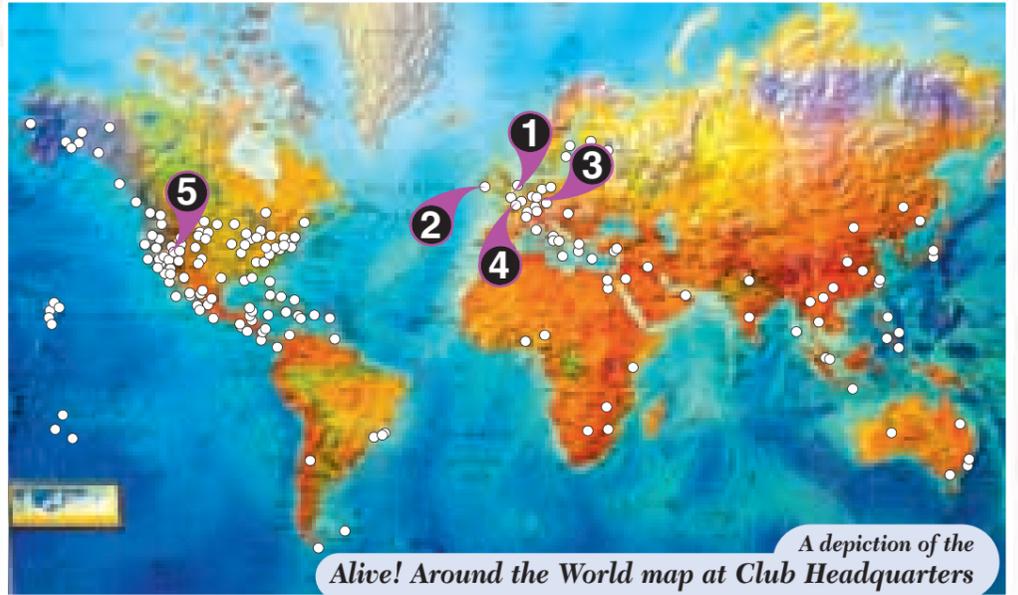
Kerry and Jennifer DeMatos on their recent trip to England, shown here at Parliament and Big Ben. Kerry is a Harbor Pilot.



The Tower of London Jewel Guards.



Stonehenge.



A depiction of the Alive! Around the World map at Club Headquarters

When you send digital photos through the Internet, please send the full, original digital file yourself, rather than using digital photo software like Kodak EasyShare, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, etc. These programs send very low-resolution images, and they don't look good in print. We want you to look your best, so send us the original digital file, please! Thanks!

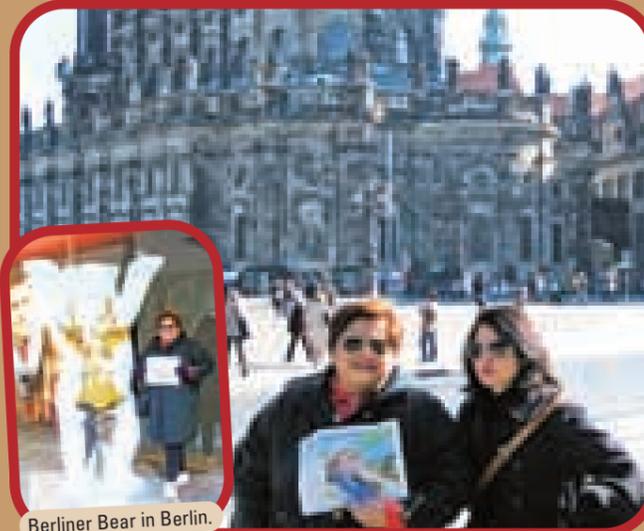
Take the Club with you, wherever you go! Club members are a well-traveled bunch. Bring your copy of Alive! with you. Snap a high resolution photo with you holding a copy, send it in, and we'll publish it. Send to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

2 Ireland



Alive! editor John Burnes at St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, Ireland.

3 Germany

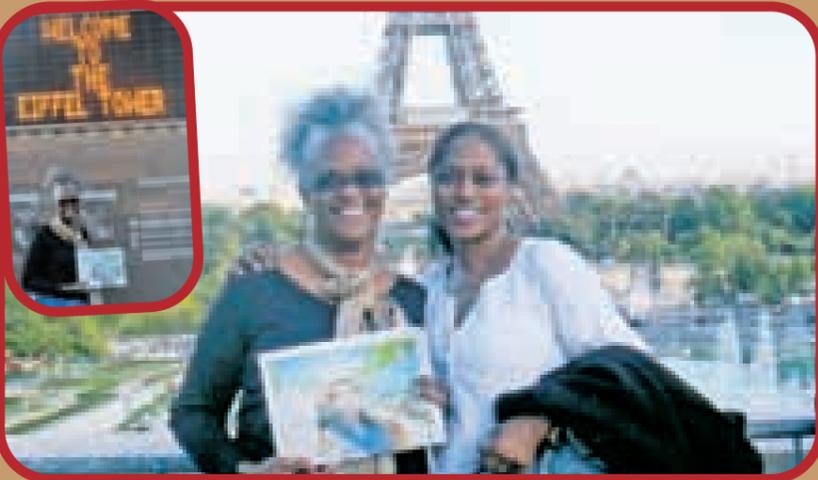


Berliner Bear in Berlin.

"I visited Dresden with my niece, who has been living in Berlin for 20 years. We are in front of the Parliament, which is being built from the ground up after it was leveled by the Americans in World War II. It also survived when the Elbe River overflowed its banks with waters reaching 10 feet."

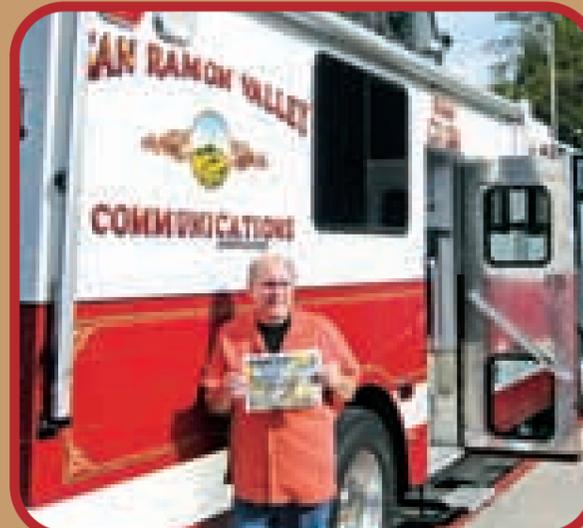
- Gina Enrile-Caguiat, Public Works

4 France



June Ward getting the most out of her retirement in France with her daughter, Junequa.

5 California



Bob Hill, DWP Telecom Division, at the American Radio Relay League Pacific Division Convention "Pacificon 2010" held in San Ramon. He's standing in front of the San Ramon Valley mutual aid communications unit that was on display at the show in addition to a large Exhibit Hall filled with product exhibits, a series of Amateur Television demonstrations, portable and emergency radio activities, an outdoor swap meet and workshops covering a wide range of amateur radio-related topics. It was "loads of fun... if you're a ham, that is!"



Arroyo Pescadero Sign.

Arroyo Pescadero

— in Whittier Loop Trail

Hello again, everybody!

This month, let's take a short, easy hike of three to four miles at the Arroyo Pescadero Park in Whittier.

The Trail: The Arroyo Pescadero trail is about two miles long and continues in a loop. It has an optional extra loop called Deer Loop that adds about a mile onto the hike.

We chose to hike Deer Loop and agreed it was a good walk as well as easy enough for first timers. Special note: Be aware! You will see a stake with a sign that reads, "Arroyo Pescadero Left, and Arroyo San Miguel keeps going straight." Make sure you turn left!

The trail has plenty of ups and downs, but they are

proportionate to each other so that it's easy to continue without having to stop.

The trail road is mostly asphalt, although there are some parts that were dirt. The signs were also pretty easy to follow.

There are tons of cool plants and trees to keep a person entertained while walking the trail. You will come across a concrete circle, which I was told is used by schools and church retreats to have discussions or meetings.

We did hear a little bit of water trickling, so I assumed that in rainier weather, there might be a little creek. We probably walked past only about two other people, so the

tranquility and peacefulness is a plus.

I really enjoyed this short but sweet trail. My wife was kind of nervous because there were mountain lion warning signs posted along the trail. I read a few hiker reviews, though, which prompted me to tell you that you that most of what you will see are rabbits, roadrunners and a few lizards. My wife was okay until about 50 feet into the hike, where someone had written into the dirt road, "mountain lion" with an arrow pointing at a paw print in the dirt. She became a "Nervous Nellie" after that, and every time we heard a small animal walking in the bushes, my arm was squeezed and its blood flow stopped. I felt safe, but I would recommend that everyone bring a small bottle of mace just in case.

Also, at the top of the trail there is a new kiosk with lots of habitat information about birds and other animals that live in the area.

Overall, it was a nice walk that had a beautiful view of the city at the top near where we parked. I would rate this trail as "easy" and give it a 7 or 8 for what it is.

History: A project of the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, this two-acre park is part of the Preservation Authority's plan for a nature preserve in the Whittier Hills between Whittier and Hacienda Heights. Arroyo Pescadero serves as a wildlife corridor that connects lands that reach from the Whittier Narrows Recreation area to the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County. The park's features include an ADA accessible interpretive trail, and decorative gates designed by local high school students and steel artist Brett Goldstone.

Send pictures of your hike to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com. Don't forget to always bring plenty of water and snacks on your hikes. Life is too short to never set some time to hike and enjoy the beautiful nature and scenery.

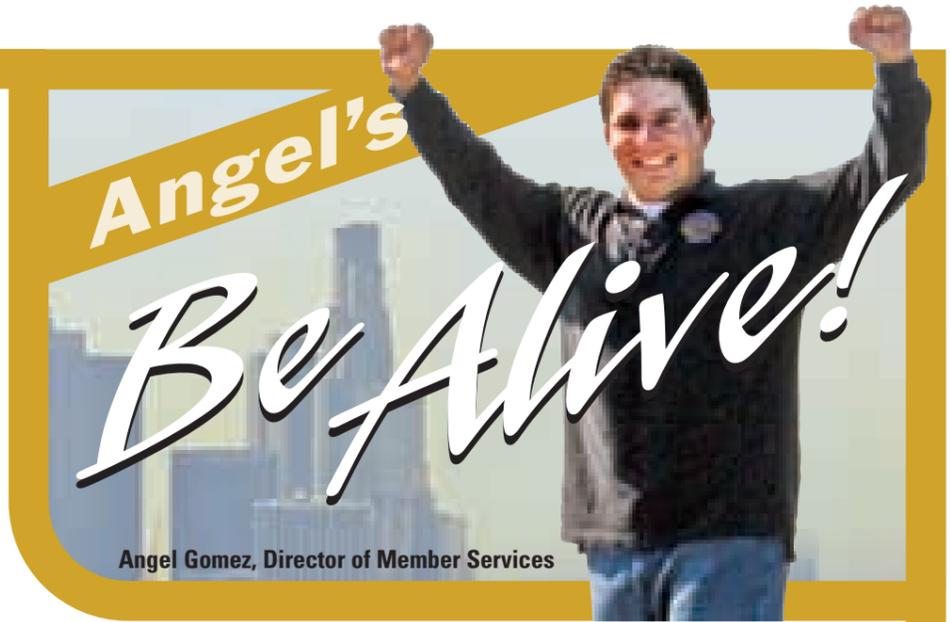
**As always,
be safe and *Be Alive!*
Angel**



The discussion circle, with city views in the background.



You can add an extra mile by turning to your right, Deer Loop, at this sign.



The trail was a little wet but not too bad.



The dirt road you can hike easily.



This is the beginning of your short hike. Enjoy!



The kiosk with wildlife and habitat info.



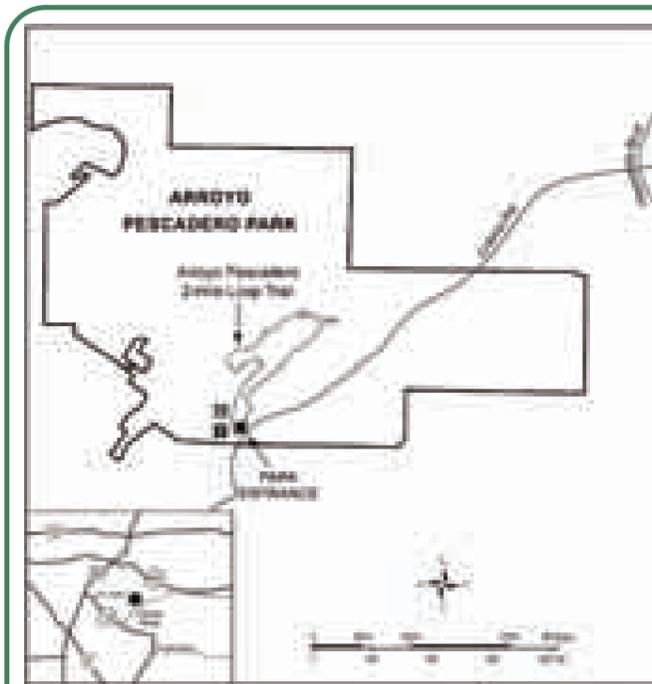
Parking lot spaces and the informational kiosk.



The trail heads down to a turn and loops you around; look closely at left side of photo.



Obey this sign!



Arroyo Pescadero Loop Trail

7531 South Colima Rd., Whittier

HIGHLIGHTS: City views, wide trails, dog-friendly

HIKE DISTANCE: 3.5 miles (round trip)

ELEVATION: 341 feet

APPROXIMATE TIME: 1.5 hours (depending on your pace)

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Parking:

A large parking lot is available at the trailhead. Parking is free but limited. Note: If you are driving north on Colima, you need to pass Mar Vista and make a U-turn at your first opportunity; the entrance is right across from Murphy's Ranch Baseball Diamond.

Directions:

Take State Highway 72 and exit at Colima Road. Head north. Access is on the west side of Colima across from Murphy Ranch Little League fields.

CLUB SPORTS



News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the City Employees Club of Los Angeles • December 2010

Club Softball League 2010 STATS

Team Standings (as of November 15, 2010)

	GAMES PLAYED	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	FORFEITS	TOTAL POINTS
West Division						
Guzzlers	11	9	2	-	-	18
LAX Jets	12	9	3	-	1	17
I'd Hit It	12	7	5	-	-	14
Shockers	11	4	7	-	4	4
Bravo Tango**						

** Withdrew

Central Division

Sluggers	11	9	2	-	0	18
Warriors	11	8	3	1	-	17
Smooth Operators	10	4	6	-	0	8
Transformers	10	3	7	1	0	7
DOT-GERS	10	2	8	-	0	4

East Division

Enforcers	11	10	1	-	0	20
Hitmen	12	10	2	-	0	20
Blue Dragons	9	3	6	-	0	6
Reservoir Dogs	9	2	7	-	0	4
Head First	11	1	10	-	4	-4

Game Scores

October 13, 2010

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION
Hitmen-7	Head First-0	Yosemite
LAX Jets-15	I'd Hit It-10	Yosemite
Warriors-7	Transformers-2	Downey
Bravo Tango-0	Guzzlers-7	Downey
DOT-GERS-8	Sluggers-7	Shatto
Reservoir Gogs-3	Enforcers-29	Shatto

* Postponed.

BYES: Shockers, Operators and Blue Dragons

October 13, 2010

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION
ALL GAMES RAINED OUT		
BYES: BYES: Guzzlers, Transformers and Head First		

October 27, 2010

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION
Transformers-4	Sluggers-11	Yosemite
Hitmen-10	Blue Dragons-7	Yosemite
Head First-0	Enforcers-7	Downey
Bravo Tango-0	Shockers-7	Downey
Warriors-7	Operators-8	Shatto
Guzzlers-9	LAX Jets-8	Shatto

BYES: I'd Hit It, DOT-GERS, Reservoir Dogs

November 3 - Make up Games

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION
I'd Hit It-0	Shockers-7	Shatto
Shockers-0	I'd Hit It-7	Shatto

November 10 - Make up Games

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION
Guzzlers-8	I'd Hit It-2	Downey
LAX Jets-7	Shockers-0	Downey



Headed to the Playoffs

Club Softball League is racing to the finish line.

Photos by Club photographers Summy Lam, Robert Larios and Tom Hawkins

The end of the Club Softball League season draws near, and makeup games were played as the teams headed into the playoffs. The teams that made the playoffs are the LAX Jets, Guzzlers, Sluggers, Warriors, Enforcers and Hitmen.

Stay tuned for the next issue of *Alive!* for news on the league champions.

Interested in joining the league next year? Contact the Club's Sports Dude at (213) 620-0388 or sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com. Information is also available at the Club's Website (www.cityemployeesclub.com, under the Sports pull down).

This season's games were held at:

Downey Recreation Center
1772 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA, 90031

Shatto Recreation Center
3191 Fourth St.
Los Angeles, CA. 90020

Yosemite Recreation Center
1840 Yosemite Dr.
Los Angeles, CA. 90041





Basketball Bouncing Along

Club Basketball approaches mid-season.

Photos by Tom Hawkins, Club photographer



The second season of the Club Basketball League is in mid-season form, with several teams vying to be top of the heap.

The games take place on Wednesday nights (except for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day weeks) at the Expo Center north and south gyms, 3980 S. Menlo Ave. in Los Angeles.

Come out and cheer on your favorite team! It's great entertainment, and it's free (to watch).



Club Basketball League 2010

STATS

Team Standings

(as of November 1, 2010)

	GAMES PLAYED	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	FORFEITS	TOTAL POINTS
DOT Outlaws	4	0	-	-	-	8
Smashers	3	-	-	-	-	6
Traffic Jam	3	-	-	-	-	6
Ones & Zeros	2	-	-	-	-	4
LAX Ballers	2	-	-	-	-	4
105 West*	2	-	-	-1	-	3
Rec & Parks Hoopers	2	-	-	-1	-	3
Poi Dawgs	1	-	-	-	-	2
Hydropower	0	-	-	-	-	0

* Forfeited game to replayed on later date

Game Scores

Oct. 14, 2010		Oct. 28, 2010	
7pm - North Gym	SCORE	7pm - North Gym	SCORE
Hydro Power	30	Hoopers	F
Traffic Jam	58	LAX Ballers	W
7pm - South Gym		7pm - South Gym	
Hydro Power	37	Poi Dawgs	58
105 West	54	105 West	48
8pm - North Gym		8pm - North Gym	
Outlaws	57	Outlaws	52
Hoopers	58	Traffic Jam	34
8pm - South Gym		8pm - South Gym	
Poi Dawgs	39	Ones & Zeros	48
LAX Ballers	47	Smashers	54
Oct. 21, 2010		Nov. 4, 2010	
7pm - North Gym	SCORE	7pm - North Gym	SCORE
Hoopers	55	Outlaws	57
Poi Dawgs	43	Smashers	46
7pm - South Gym		7pm - South Gym	
Smashers	58	LAX Ballers	44
Hydro Power	27	Hydro Power	35
8pm - North Gym		8pm - North Gym	
LAX Ballers	57	Traffic Jam	60
Ones & Zeros	49	Poi Dawgs	56
8pm - South Gym		8pm - South Gym	
105 West	F	105 West	37
Outlaws	W	Hoopers	35

CLUB SPORTS



MORE SPORTS COMING YOUR WAY!

The Club's Sports Dept. is expanding ... and that's great news for City Employees and Club Members.

Here's what's coming up. Interested? Contact the Club's Sports Dude at (213) 620-0388 or sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com. Information is also available at the Club's Website (www.cityemployeesclub.com, under the Sports pulldown).

Call today!

VOLLEYBALL



Volleyball for men and women. Sign up today!

RUNNING



A Club Running Group. The Club's Sports Dept. is putting together a Club Running Group. Contact the Club Sports Dept. and meet up with other Club Members who are runners.

CYCLING



A Club Cycling Group. The Club's Sports Dept. is putting together a Club Cycling Group. Contact the Club Sports Dept. and meet up with other Club Members who are cyclists (bicycles).

CLUB SPORTS

For all the latest scores and schedules, go to: www.eteamz.com/cityemployeesclubbasketballleague/

REVIEWS BY FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS

ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEWS

**The Social Network**

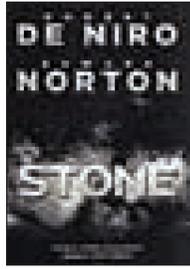
Rated R

My Score: 4 (out of 5)

In 2003, Harvard computer student Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) decided to get revenge on an ex-girlfriend, and the idea for Facebook was created. Today, Zuckerberg is the

youngest billionaire in history. This film is an engrossing, witty and highly entertaining film about a socially inept young genius who is both misogynistic and ethically challenged. The film's most glaring flaw is to lionize Zuckerberg by excusing his shortcomings as just a quirk of intelligence. But, who isn't on Facebook these days? Bonus: Some film music was scored by Trent Reznor.

- Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

**Stone**

Rated R

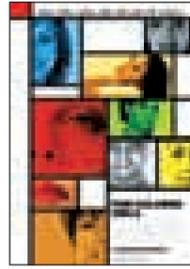
My Score: 2 (out of 5)

Convicted arsonist Stone Creeson (Edward Norton) attempts to manipulate parole officer Jack Mabry (Robert DeNero) in a scheme to secure his parole by placing his seductive wife in

the lawman's path.

With two great actors doing dramatic battle, I expected fireworks. While Stone has drama aplenty, the storyline wanders from one pointless excess to another. Instead of learning anything of the lead characters' background, I ended up caring about only leaving the theatre without a headache. And, like the movie, I failed.

- Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

**For Colored Girls**

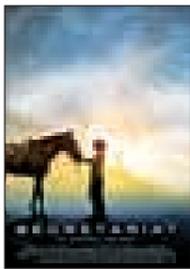
Rated R

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

A film starring Anika Noni Rose, Whoopi Goldberg, Janet Jackson and Phylicia Rashad and directed by Tyler Perry should be pure entertainment, and that it was! His adaptation of the book written by Ntozake Shanges, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf*, is awesome. Scenes intertwined with each monologue are acted out with passion. The actors kept us on the edge of our seats. The monologues come from victimized, saddened and hurt women dealing with a number of different obstacles stemming from infidelity to being a victim of date rape. Somewhat solemn and grim, the film transforms to a sense of liberation as the women unfold a new voice after determining they've had enough. It's truly one for a ladies night out.

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- Ronnita Couch, Airport Police

**Secretariat**

Rated PG

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

The movie, starring Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh and Margo Martindale, is about a housewife who inherits her father's horse stables, and with no real experiences she hires a trainer (John Malkovich) to train a horse for the Triple Crown, something no other woman has ever done. This is a true story of the 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat. It's a great movie for all ages.

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- Pat Saucier, Retired

**Red**

Rated R

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

Retired black ops agent Frank Moses (Bruce Willis) tries to survive as he is hunted by the CIA in this funny, loud, violent and wonderfully inventive buddy action-comedy. With great stars like Mary-

Louise Parker, John Malkovich (who steals the movie as Moses' quirky/paranoid former partner), Helen Mirren, and others, action-comedy film lovers have plenty to enjoy in this non-stop shoot 'em up. *Red* is a real pleaser. And it's not Shakespeare, thank goodness.

- Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

**Life as We Know It**

Rated PG-13

My Score: 3 (out of 5)

The movie, starring Katherine Heigl, Josh Duhamel, Josh Lucas and Hayes MacArthur, is about two people who have nothing in common who are forced into raising their goddaughter after

her parents are involved in a tragic accident. To raise Sophie, they need to put all their differences aside and make a drastic lifestyle change to become a real family for Sophie.

- Pat Saucier, Retired

**Unstoppable**

Rating: PG

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

The movie, starring Denzel Washington and Chris Pine, is all about a runaway train, a true story. It shows how two men (Denzel Washington, with 28 years of experience on the train, and Chris Pine,

with only 4 months' experience), put aside their own lives to save thousands of others. Both actors were exceptional; I was on the edge of my seat all through the movie. It was like I was there.

- Patty Saucier, Retired



DVD Reviews

**Toy Story 3**

Rated G

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

Okay, so I gave *Toy Story 3* a glowing review last summer when it was in theaters, so I purchased the blu-ray edition the day it was released. The four-disk set is packed with tons of extra features, with

behind-the-scenes footage and two separate audio commentaries with the director and producers of the film. The bonus features give viewers a candid and inside look at what it takes to develop and animate the characters in the film, and also provides interactive games and online content related to the film. This is a must-have for your DVD or blu-ray collection.

- Robert Garcia LAPD

Book Reviews

**I Am Number Four (Loreen Legacies)**

Pittacus Lore

Young adult, 448 pages

Harper

My Score: 4 (out of 5)

What's next after *Harry Potter*? *I Am Number Four* is a sci-fi book/series about aliens and space invasion. Aimed at the teen/young-

adult set, the Loreen Legacies is book one of a teen romance that melds the Superman and Terminator storylines in an interesting but overly familiar tale. Will this book series be as big as *Harry Potter*? Steven Spielberg has bet that it will; the film comes out in early 2011.

- Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

**Sins of the Mother**

Victoria Christopher

Murray

Christian fiction,

379 pages

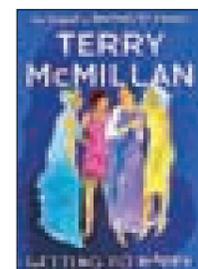
Touchstone

My Score: 4 (out of 5)

Jasmine Larson Bush is back and still as bitchy and hated as ever, but your heart breaks as for her as

her 4-year-old daughter is kidnapped from the mall the day after Thanksgiving. Then just as quickly you wonder if she had anything to do with the crime. Jasmine, a former stripper, has turned her life around, married a minister and strives to be the perfect First Lady. But most of the congregation still doesn't trust her, particularly after it was revealed that Pastor Bush isn't their daughter's natural father. In spite of their dislike for Lady Bush, they band together to look for the missing child. When biological dad Brian comes to town to help with the search and volunteers at the command center, a distraught Jasmine quickly falls back in his arms. While looking for little Jacquie, will they find each other again? Murray tells a good story of betrayal and forgiveness.

- Carmen Y. Steward, Fire and Police Pensions

**Getting to Happy**

Terry McMillan

Urban fiction, 373 pages

Viking

My Score: 4 (out of 5)

The ladies of *Waiting to Exhale* are back and breathing now, but still not entirely happy. We journey with them as they get there in McMillan's sequel.

Bernadine grapples with an empty home because her kids and second husband are not there. Single mom Robin is raising daughter Sparrow, or is her smart aleck and quick-witted daughter raising her? Savannah uncovers information leading her to make a decision about her marriage, and Gloria works through a sudden personal loss while her hair salon flourishes. The divas are still friends, and their no-holds-barred quirky phone conversations and gatherings are wonderful. A movie adapted from this book would be great.

- Carmen Y. Steward, Fire & Police Pensions

Your Reviews

You can be a reviewer! Have you just seen a great movie or DVD? Read a great book? Been to a great play or musical? Write a brief review. It's easy! See the instruction box.



100 Words or Fewer

Here's how to submit your review. *Alive!* accepts entertainment reviews of 100 words or fewer. We might not print them all, especially if we receive multiple reviews for the same movie or DVD. Follow these rules:

- For movies: Make sure the movie is still in theatres. For DVDs and books, make sure they are generally available. For theatre shows: try to submit your review before the show closes.
- Have fun!
- Keep all reviews to 100 words or fewer, but try to write more than one or two sentences.
- Your own comments are more important than a long plot summary.
- Give us your score on a scale of 1 to 5. Use this format: **My Score: X (out of 5)**.
- Make sure you give us your name and City department (or retired).
- Submit your review to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com
- *Alive!* will send you a small but appropriate "thank you" if we publish your review.

Alive! Reviewers Get in the Spirit

What are some great books, shows and movies to watch to get into the holiday spirit? *Alive!* asked our reviewers – City Employees or retirees who send in their entertainment reviews most every month – for their recommendations. Here are their suggestions. And thanks to all. Keep writing those reviews, 100 words or fewer!

Jean Sarfaty, LAPD



A Dog Named Christmas

DVD
Not rated (Hallmark Hall of Fame)

A developmentally disabled boy, Todd, hears about a program that his local shelter is offering to give shelter dogs a home for the holidays. His father believes that on their Kansas farm, animals are only for helping to make a living. Eventually the father gives in, telling his son that after the holiday, the dog must return to the shelter to teach his son to keep his word. Todd uses his special gifts of persuasion to encourage his hometown to participate in the "Adopt a Dog for Christmas" program. What follows from his small act of kindness will teach his family, and his community, about peace on earth and goodwill toward men – and animals.

To spread the love (and receive in return!), please check out www.life4paws.org to help another shelter dog find a loving home for the holidays. If you wish to give a lonely pet a home for the holidays, contact Jean at jean@life4paws.org for personal assistance.

folklore and legend. Twenty-four chapters round out the book, which is perfect, so you can read one chapter a night leading up to Christmas day (what a coincidence). This is an excellent bedtime book to read to the kids or grandkids to inspire visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads.

Linda Rorex, Personnel



Promise Me

Book by Richard Paul Evans
Romance fiction,
334 pages
Simon & Schuster

Beth Cardall's daughter, Charlotte, is suffering from an unidentifiable illness and she discovers her husband is dying. All hope is lost until she meets Matthew on Christmas Day at a 7-Eleven. Matthew diagnoses Charlotte's illness and convinces Beth to give him her home equity loan, and he takes the money and runs. Beth is devastated again, but when Matthew returns with an incredible secret, her life's destiny is changed forever.

This breathtaking holiday story of promises is sure to win your heart.

Finley's that he deserves but can't afford. Along comes Mrs. Miracle to the rescue and wants nothing better but to make children happy, which includes a little bit of matchmaking, too.

This holiday novel will also be broadcast as a Hallmark Channel original movie with Doris Roberts as Emily Merkle.

Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks



Magic Tree House #44: A Ghost Tale for Christmas Time (A Stepping Stone Book)

Book by Mary Pope Osborne, illustrated by Sal Murdocca, Family fiction, 128 pages

(Recommended for grades 2-4.) From the *Merlin the Magician* series, Jack and Annie are sent back in time to Victorian England, where Charles Dickens is suffering from writer's block and has vowed not to write anything else. The two pretend to be chimney sweeps to gain entry to his house. They use magic to conjure up the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future to convince Dickens of the value of his work and to inspire him to write *A Christmas Carol*.



Light the Candles: A Hanukkah Lift-the-Flap Book

Book by Joan Holub, illustrated by Lynne Avril Cravath
Young people,
16 pages

(Recommended for young readers, ages 4 to 8.) This book engages children as they lift the book's flaps and see all the special ways there are to celebrate Hanukkah. Some of the flaps include how to light candles in the menorah, opening presents, eating latkes and chocolate coins, or playing the dreidel game.

Robert Garcia, LAPD



The Autobiography of Santa Claus

Book by Jack Guinn
Family fiction,
304 pages

I highly suggest the book, *The Autobiography of Santa Claus*. It is the true story of St. Nick as he recounts the series of events that led him to becoming Santa Claus. The author, Jeff Guinn was lucky enough to sit down with the big man himself and get a one-on-one interview, which combines historical facts with



Call Me Mrs. Miracle

Book by Debbie Macomber
Romance fiction,
253 pages
Mira Publishing

Emily Merkle (Mrs. Miracle) works in the toy department at Finley's department store in New York City. Jake Finley is her boss, and since a Christmas Eve tragedy years before, Jake and his father have one thing on their mind – profit.

Holly Larson needs a miracle, too, and wants to give her nephew, Gabe, a toy robot from



Tickets Make Great Stocking Stuffers!

Here's a great idea:
Club movie tickets are
the perfect solution!

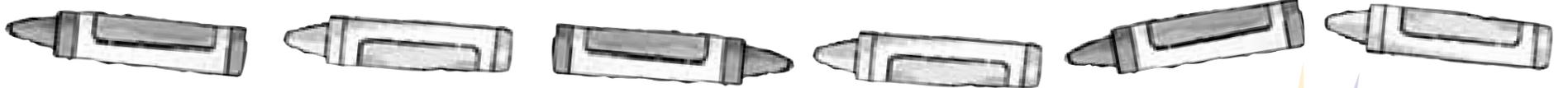
They're affordable
(discounted, with no
markup)... easy to get...
and everybody loves 'em!

Buy yours today!



Use the Club Website

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login required) or call the Club
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Or pick 'em up at the
Club Store and Service Center,
120 West 2nd St. downtown.



Congratulations to the WINNERS!

of our Club Coloring Contest!

Congratulations to the winners of *Alive!*'s last coloring contest. Everyone who turned in a design is a winner in our opinion! But our top three participants win 4 Free Tickets to LEGOLAND!

Look for our next contest in the January edition of *Alive!*



Winner
5 & under
YEARS OLD

Angel A. Reza, 4

- FAVORITE TV SHOW: "CBBis"
 • FAVORITE SNACK: Cookies and Peanuts
 • BEST FRIEND: Omar
 • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO LEGOLAND: I've never been there.
 • PARENT: Guillermo Alonso Reza, Senior Gardener, Rec & Parks.

Winner
6 to 7
YEARS OLD

Jonathan Sandoval, 7

- FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Pair of Kings"
 • FAVORITE SNACK: Egg in a Tortilla
 • BEST FRIEND: Nathan
 • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO LEGOLAND: Because it's fun.
 • PARENT: Noe Sandoval, Electrical Tester, DWP.



Honorable Mention

CHILD	AGE	PARENT/GUARDIAN	DEPT
Mikey Aki	3	Joe Aki	Retired
Logan Swearingen	3	Jessica Swearingen	Zoo
Tyler Sousa	4	John Sousa	Airports
Sydney Hernandez	5	Eduardo Hernandez	Rec and Parks
Emilee Smith	5	Stefanie Smith	Rec and Parks
Alisson Reyes	5	Irma Gonzalez	Personnel
Aleckzandra Cobarrubia	6	Alner Cobarrubia	DWP
Reyna Fletes	6	Raul Fletes	DWP
Kiara Guerra	6	Olga Madrid	General Services
Melissa Gutierrez	6	David Gutierrez	DWP
Hannah Hawkins	6	Kelley Hawkins	Club Mom
Kristin Kohles	6	Chris Kohles	DWP
Elisa Ruiz	6	Robert Ruiz	DWP
Addison Sousa	6	John Sousa	DWP
Paloma Bautista	7	Kathleen Bautista	Harbor
Ryan P. Briegel	7	Bill Briegel	DWP
Kaylee Gabon	7	Audie Gabon	DWP
Olivia Jimenez	7	Valente Jimenez	DWP
Gabriela Madrid	7	Olga Madrid	General Services
Talisa Mateos	7	Carlos Mateos	Rec and Parks
Maraya Montoya	7	William Garcia	Public Works
Mikhail Morrison	7	Michael Morrison	DWP
Desiree Rendon	7	Luis Rendon	Public Works
Angela Reyes	7	Roberto D. Reyes	DWP
London J. Wright	7	Hope P. Wright	LAPD
Jessica Funches	8	Gloria Funches	LAPD
Josalynn De Florencio	9	Alex De Florencio	DWP
Kate Gabon	9	Audie Gabon	DWP
Boglarka Horvath	9	Robert Horvath	Public Works
Celine Millanponce	9	Manny Hernandez	Housing
Justin Sandoz	9	Jerretta Sandoz	LAPD
Katerina Plascencia	9	Gustavo Plascencia	City Attorney
Jonah Flores	10	Cheryl Garcia	LAPD
Manuel Mendoza	10	Manuel Mendoza	Retired
Kamara Merriweather	10	Tishandra Merriweather	Public Works
Amy Grace Olivo	10	Hector Olivo	DWP
Julia Rodarte	10	Manuel Mendoza	Retired
Daniela Tapia	10	Daniel Tapia	DWP
Sarah Acosta	11	Gabriel Acosta	Transportation
Sherell Smith	11	Chermaine Fontenette	Public Works

Winner
8 to 10
YEARS OLD

Jasmine Gonzalez, 10

- FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Victorious"
 • FAVORITE SNACK: Fruit
 • BEST FRIEND: Andrea
 • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO LEGOLAND: It's fun and I've have not been there in a long time.
 • PARENT: Jimmy Hughes, Equipment Mechanic, General Services.



Cooking with the Club

by Chef Robert Larios



Send Us Your Recipes!

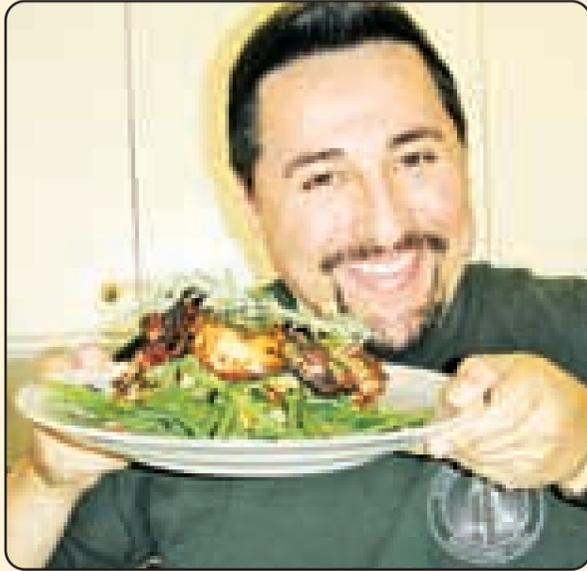
If you would like your recipe published in the next issue of *Alive!*, you may fax your recipes to (213) 620-0398 or e-mail us at talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Cornish Hen with Almond Sautéed Green Beans

Cooking dishes for the winter holidays can be easy for some and a challenge for others. It can be easy if you make the same dishes, but it can be a difficult chore looking for new dishes to prepare.

This recipe works well for the holiday season, and it can even be a summer dish as well. It is important to let the Cornish hens marinate for at least three hours, but it is best to let them marinate overnight. The flavors will be at maximum by doing so. Also, you are free to use regular chicken meat like chicken breast, thighs, legs, etc. If you don't have a grill, you may bake in the oven.

The almond sautéed green beans are an upgrade from the standard steamed or baked green beans. The addition of the almonds and the juice of a lemon send this part of the recipe to a whole new level in flavor.



DIRECTIONS:

Almond Sautéed Green Beans



Make sure the green beans are washed and pat-dried. Also have the half cup of sliced almonds ready. Place almonds in a pan on medium to roast for about five minutes to release the oils and intensify the flavors.



In another pan, add the extra virgin olive oil in medium heat and then add the green beans, salt, pepper, parsley and garlic. Let cook for about five to 10 minutes and then add the water and the juice of one lemon to create steam and soften further the green beans. Add the almonds and toss lightly.



Take a large plate and add the almond sautéed green beans, then place the grilled Cornish hens on top of the bed of green beans. Add a twig of rosemary for presentation if you wish. Chef Larios says, "Enjoy!"

DIRECTIONS:

Marinated Cornish Game Hens



Take a large bowl and add the chopped garlic, chopped parsley, rosemary, salt and pepper, extra virgin olive oil, the cup of white wine and the Cornish hen thighs. Mix the ingredients together. Cover with saran wrap and place in the refrigerator overnight to marinate.



Place the Cornish hen pieces on the grill with medium heat. Cover and then, at about 20 minutes on one side, flip them to the other side for another 20 minutes. Times are approximate, and an eye must be kept on the grill to be sure there is no over-cooking. Once cooked, place the Cornish hens in a tray or bowl to cool.

Almond Sautéed Green Beans

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/4 cup, extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 pound to 1 pound green beans

Makes 2 Servings

- Sea salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 fresh Italian parsley
- Juice of one lemon
- 1/4 cup water



If you can't find almonds, use another type of nut like peanut, walnut or cashews.

Marinated Cornish Game Hens

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup sliced almonds
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup white wine
- Sea salt and pepper to taste

Makes 2 Servings

- 1 cup fresh Italian parsley
- 1/4 cup fresh rosemary
- 6 pieces Cornish hen thighs



If you don't have access to Cornish hens, use regular chicken meat.

[A Cook's Dictionary]

Rosemary:

Used since 500 B.C., rosemary is native to the Mediterranean area (where it grows wild) but is now cultivated throughout Europe and in the United States. Early on, this mint-family member was used to cure ailments of the nervous system. Rosemary can be used as a seasoning in a variety of dishes, including fruit salads, soups, vegetables, meat (particularly lamb), fish and egg dishes, stuffings and dressings.

— From the *The New Food Lover's Companion*, Sharon Tyler Herbst, 1995, Barron's Educational Series.



Food Factoid:

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

— Charles M. Schulz



The Club Store Is Holiday Headquarters!

Great gifts.
The Club Christmas Tree.
Toy drive.

It's all available
at the Club Store
this holiday season.



*Start your holidays at
the Club Store!*

With activities and lots of great Club services, the Club Store is a perfect place to start your holiday shopping!

Here's what's in store for you this Christmas season at the Club Store:

- ❖ **Gift Central:** Buy fantastic Club merchandise that will be great under your tree.
- ❖ **Movie tickets:** great for stocking-stuffers.
- ❖ **Decorate the Club Tree!** New this year: When you stop by the Club, write your name on an ornament (provided), representing you or your department, and hang it on our Club Christmas Tree. Join the Club family this holiday.
- ❖ **Toy Drive:** Bring an unwrapped gift to be given away as part of the Club's Toy Drive. See details in a separate story.



The Club Store is located at:
120 West 2nd Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

CLUB MEMBERS:

Be My Club Valentine

**Send your sweetie a special Valentine ...
to be printed in the February Alive!**



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Send us a photo (high-resolution digital preferred) of you and your sweetie... or just your sweetie... and two or three sentences declaring your forever love! And we'll print as many as we can.

**SEND DIGITAL PHOTOS
AND YOUR TEXT MESSAGE TO:**
talkback@cityemployeesclub.com
(subject line: Valentine)

**SEND PAPER PHOTOS
AND YOUR TEXT MESSAGE TO:**
City Employees Club
Be My Club Valentine
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



**DEADLINE:
JAN. 15TH**



CLASSIFIED ADS

Alive! Members Marketplace

New Ads This Month!



Mobile Wheelchair: Excellent condition collapsible for easy transportation. \$800 O.B.O. Call Mark @ (909)322-5140 or tspgrtr@msn.com. 12/10

1997 Ford Mustang: Green coupe, clean beige leather interior, power windows & locks, automatic transmission, A/C/c/d player w/MP3 input, well maintained, 161,500 mi. \$2,200. Art @ (626) 991-9054. 12/10

Apple Macbook Pro: Core Duo Laptop computer. 1.83 ghz, 1.5GB RAM, 80GB HD, 15" 128VRAM 10.5.8 OSX. Great condition, will sell for \$1,000. Orig price was \$2,500 w/upgrades. Larry @ (818) 521-3517 or trueblue22@sbcglobal.net. 12/10

Opportunity for Holiday CASH! Self starter who is motivated. No selling. (800) 823-9407. 12/10

For Rent: 1BD/1BA front unit of 4-plex in Inglewood near Inglewood Ave/Manchester Blvd. \$900/mo. Marco @ (310) 946-5066. 12/10



2000 Toyota Tundra Truck: Long bed, 84,500 miles, manual windows, A/C, bed liner, needs minor body work. \$5800. OBO. Rudy or Linda @ (323) 255-0237 or ulibarrirudy@yahoo.com. 12/10

Autos / Motorcycles / Boats

Motorcycle: 2005 Yamaha YZ250T1 off road bike. Seldom used, in great condition & runs perfectly. Stored inside & continually maintained. \$2,800 OBO. Gary @ (818) 522-5531. 10/10

2003 Chevy Pick Up truck : 1 ton 4 dr duramax diesel duelly allison trans 5,500 miles w/2004 lance 11 1/2 ft camper w/slideout dinette. Delia @ (562) 698-3928. 10/10



1950 Chevy Fleetline: 2 door, solid floors, straight body, no motor or transmission. All patch panels have been done. Includes seats & inner window moldings. \$2200 OBO. Everett @ (818) 339-2092. 9/10

1989 Mercedes: New tires, moon roof, \$2,300 OBO. Mr. K @ (310) 637-3949. 9/10

1966 Chevrolet C10: shortbed fleetside, wood bed floor, 235 engine, 6cyl. 4 speed on column. Rebuilt eng, w/2,000 mil. new battery. No dents, chrome rims, needs paint. \$6,000. Hugo @ (818) 361-6150. 9/10

1971 Ford Torino: good project car, needs some minor body work, in running condition, has a rebulit 351. \$4000 OBO. Fernando @ (323) 346-7821 or (323) 222-3886. 9/10



2005 Custom Harley "Fatboy": 4,300 miles, custom paint, 95 inch w/power commander, Vance & Hines Headers, Lost of chrome & Accessories, \$15,995. Pete @ (626) 646-7285. 9/10

Enjoy ATV & m/c riding in our area but no one to ride with? Making list of families interested in **camping & riding** together. Rick (DWP) @ (805)433-3195 or email: rihnohd@dslextreme.com. 12/10

For Rent: Lovely apartment in Inglewood (4-units). 1BD/1BA, kitchen, living room, dining room, 1-car garage. Upstairs unit. New paint, carpet, windows & fixtures. Very quiet. 82nd/Crenshaw. Close to public transpo. Info @ (310) 365-1868. 12/10



2008 Dodge Avenger: great condition, 37K miles, automatic,

A/C, power windows & doors, mp3-jack, blue-tooth enabled, tinted windows, no accidents, gas-saver 4-cylinder, \$9K. Brent @ (310) 420-0092. 12/10

For Rent: Clean 2BD home w/garage. 1 block to bus stop & close to 710 freeway. \$1,500mo. (310) 678-5510; (310) 877-2201. 12/10



Kauai: Ocean-front resort close to airport on secluded 25 acres available year round! Ocean-view from lanai. Relax at the pool or travel to snorkeling beaches(20 min.) or the island in an hour. Mention City of LA.kauaivc@gmail.com or (424) 218-6808. 12/10

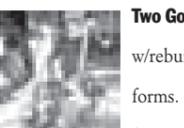


2006 Forest River 37' Toy Hauler: 2 pop-outs, dual AC, generator, much more, excellent cond. \$31,500. Gerald @ (661) 948-1962. 9/10



2008 Mercedes R350, 18K miles. Like NEW, excellent condition, under warranty. Harman

Kardon sound, dual-rear dvd system, moon roof, parking sensors, extras. \$36,000. Shelley @ (213) 688-3232. 9/10



Two Go Peds, 2 stroke engine w/rebuilt carbs & new plat-forms. \$125 each or both for \$200. John @ (626) 757-5341 or jgonzlez@hotmail.com 8/10

Cemetery Plots

4 Cemetery plots: Reduced!!! Rose Hills, \$14,000 for 4 plots. Willing to trade for pickup truck of equal value. (323) 382-2405. 9/10

Electronics/Computers

Polaroid 7" LCD TV widescreen, under cabinet w/ DVD-CD player AM/FM radio & remote. \$125. Regina @ (323) 754-8382. 2/10

Canon Pixma IP 4300 Printer in box with disk/instruction & ink. Like new, asking \$60. Contact Frankie @ (818) 340-3059. 8/10

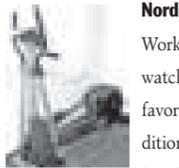
Furniture



MGA 20" girl's bike: custom seat, grips, bell & light. Like new. \$85 OBO. Info @ (310) 408-6431, any time. 11/10

Bombay Chests: 3 excellent condition Bombay Chests. Beautiful decorative designs w/3 to 5 drawers. Each \$350. Frances @ (805) 583-5321. 10/10

Curio Cabinet: Excellent condition oak 2- piece curio cabinet w/glass doors, decorative w/curved legs. Has original key for locking. Great for displaying collectibles! 48" W x 18" D x 6' H. \$350 OBO. Frances @ (805) 583-5321. 10/10



Norditrac CX938 Elliptical: Work out at home while you watch TV or listen to your favorite music! Excellent condition. \$450 OBO. Alicia @ (626) 215-1462. 9/10

Weslo Cadence C42 treadmill: 2 years old. Great condition. \$65. Judy @ (909) 800-0414. 9/10

Hammond Organ: dual-key board, antique. FREE to good home. Mickey Miner @ (310) 833-9997 or David Miner @ (310) 519-8113. 8/10



Handmade oak Loft Bed with Desk and Bookcase: 43" wide x 81" long. Same size as twin bed set, great for smaller rooms. Birch drawers are dovetailed with sliders. Must see to appreciate. \$1000 OBO. Nancy or Jim @ (818) 340-8059. 8/10

Homes/Rentals/Land

For Rent: 2BD/1BA (3 Units), hardwood flrs, laundry, in Pico/Fairfax community. Lovely neighborhood centrally located. Public transportation, shopping & restaurants nearby. Info @ (310) 980-9415. 11/10

For Rent: \$695, furnished Redondo Beach bedroom in 3BD/2BA townhouse; shared bath. 1.2 mile walk to beach. Available now for a female in female household. Full house privileges, low utilities, street parking, free wifi & laundry. \$695 security deposit, 6 mo. lease. Peggy @ (310) 617-7436, for photos. 11/10

For Rent: Condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. 7-Day Getaway for only \$895. Has full kitchen, is a couple of blocks from town & on the beach. Info @ (562) 301-2940. 10/10



For Rent: 1 BD apt. near First/Alvarado, 10 min. from downtown, close to schools, parks, markets, stores, St. Vincent Hospital. Newly cleaned, painted & repaired, one-car garage. No pets; 1-yr. lease. \$750/month. Info @ (323) 919-1163. 10/10

For Sale: 2-story home w/hillside views, Eagle Rock. Hrdwd floors, 2-car attached garage. Upstairs: 2 BD/2 BA, living room w/fireplace, formal dining w/balcony, kitchen w/ nook. Downstairs: 2 private entrances, 2 BD/1 BA, den w/fireplace, kitchen & spacious porch. Flat front & rear yards. 2224 sq ft; 6 miles from JFB. MLS#10-473669. Susan @ (323) 344-9489. 10/10



For Rent: studio apt. in Highland Park. 5-10 mins. from Police Academy, off Pasadena Fwy. Near markets, stores, MTA and Gold Line. Courtyard. Hardwood floors, much new. Street parking. No pets; 1-yr. lease. \$700/month. Info @ (323) 919-1163. 10/10



For Rent: Condo in Palm Springs- for rent weekly or weekends. Gated community, 8 swim pools, tennis court, near shopping, restaurants & Spa Casino Resort. Rates @ (562) 301-2940. 10/10

For Rent: In Montrose- 1 BD/1 BA house, good schools, nice & quiet neighborhood. walk to Montrose shopping park. \$1,200 monthly. Info @ (818) 248-7758. 10/10

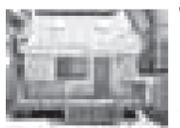
For Sale: Luxurious 1 BD timeshare in the heart of the Las Vegas strip, in Polo Towers Villas. Several amenities: full kitchen, sleeps 4 comfortably, DVD/VCR & private balcony. Best offer! Angela @ (626) 233-5259. 10/10

For Rent: Spacious Townhouse in Ontario. 3 BD, 2.5 BA, dining & laundry room, & attached garage. Large enclosed outdoor patio. \$1400. Info @ (562) 322-6972. 10/10

For Rent: Lovely apartment in LA(5-units). 1 BD/1 BA, kitchen, living room, dining room, 1-car garage. Downstairs unit, new paint, carpet, windows & fixtures. Very quiet on Don Tomaso Dr., close to public transportation. Details @ (310) 365-1868. 9/10

For Rent: Small 5 room, 2 BD Rear House, 2924 S. Cloverdale Avenue, 90016. \$950 per month, (323)937-8390. 8/10

For Sale by owner: 10 acres in Acton, graded, water & power. Ready to build \$249K OBO. Bill @ (661) 400-9893. 8/10



Vacation rental in Big Bear Lake: 3 BD/2 BA house located in the village of Big Bear Lake, CA, near the lake. Fully furnished. Contact John Long @ (909) 837-8347. 8/10

Room for rent: Furnished w/kitchenette, \$450/mo. No pets, no smoking, utilities included. Commute to work w/city employee. Call Marta @ (562) 863-4545. 8/10

For Rent: 2 BD/1 BA back house, 1 car garage, hrdwd flrs, Indry hkups, some utilities paid. San Pedro. \$1300. Raymond @ (310) 293-5407. 8/10

Room for Rent: Whittier, extra large bedroom furnished in 3 bd home, share full bathroom w/other male. Bedroom: comfortable amenities -satellite, wall speakers, custom closet, etc. Near 605 & 60 Fwy in CA Country Club, quiet community surrounded by law enforcement neighbors. Firefighter owned home with 17 yo son. Male preferred, background check fee, plus references required. \$600 mo. & share in house cleaning. John @ (626) 757-5341 or jgonzlez@hotmail.com 8/10

For Rent: Charming Sunland Home. 10417 Eldora Avenue, Sunland. 2BD/1BA, kitchen comes w/fridge & stove, W/D in back. Fenced in front yard, private parking. Location off Sunland Blvd. Close to transpo, school, park w/ recreational facilities, etc. \$1395 per mo. Security deposit \$1995. Small pets welcome w/owner's approval. Contact @ (818) 352-8731. 8/10

Household Items

Craftsman 10" Table Saw: 1 H.P. Motor, safety switch. 120V A/C mounted on heavy-duty steel cart w/casters. Delivery available, from Thousand Oaks to Northridge. Kurt Kaufman @ (805) 300-2147. 10/10

Leather Jacket: Brand new, 2XL, men's official #8 Team Dale Jr. Earnhardt Inc. New w/tags, retail \$300. Made by Wilson's Leather, Chase Authentics; sponsors stitched on, Budweiser, Bass Pro Shops, Gillette. \$150 OBO. Frances @ (805) 583-5321. 10/10

Kenmore Dryer: Super capacity, like new, hardly used \$150. Info @ (562) 301-2940. 10/10

Outside Water Heater Enclosure in orig. box unopened. \$90. Contact Frankie @ (818) 340-3059. 8/10

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

MEMBERS: to place your free classified ad send us your information **(25 total words maximum)** including your name, item, description, price, phone number or e-mail address.

You can fax to (213) 620-0598 or email to **classifieds@cityemployeesclub.com** We'll run your ad in the next available issue on a space available basis. Your ad may be edited for length or appropriateness.

H20 Mop w/extra covers & instructions \$50. Contact Frankie @ (818) 340-3059. 8/10

Miscellaneous

Ballroom Dancing: Beginners, intermediate & advanced. Wednesday's- 7:00pm - 9:00pm The Gallery, 122 N. Market Street, Inglewood 90301. Group workshops too! Contact: Dance instructor/coordinator Erick Weaver @ (310) 351-5303. 10/10

Scenic Flights Over LA: Fly Ricchiazzi Aviation, LLC over the city of LA for a spectacular aerial tour. See local landmarks such as Downtown LA, Dodger Stadium, Rose Bowl & much more. Based at El Monte Airport (EMT). Reserve today. (818) 415-7253. 9/10

Feng Shui onsite consultation: by retired City employee. American Feng Shui Institute certified report package include rooms, occupants, goals, health, buy/sell analysis. Peter @ (310) 854-8952. 9/10

On-site Taco Bars for your special events. Treat your guests to mouth watering tacos! Info @ (562) 884-6069 for pricing & booking. 9/10

All Occasions DJ! Are you seeking a great, affordable, DJ for your special event? \$ Is Tight but we still need to DANCE! DJLEWSIC@aol.com 12/09

Driver: Luxury SUV available for all occasions. Affordable & comes with a DRIVER. Hurry, dates and times are going fast! LEWSIC@aol.com 12/09

Travel / Timeshare

Escondido Timeshare for sale. Studio suite 1 Bdrm; sleeps 4 w/ full kitchen; overlooks 18 hole golf course. \$3,000. Brad @ (626) 297- 2924. 11/09

Collectibles

ESTATE SERVICES - Appraisal or Liquidation of Fine Art, Collectibles and Coin & Stamp Collections. Michael @ (626) 592-2929.

Wanted

I purchase: Coins, Stamps, WWII Items, Hunting/ Pocket Knives, Trains, vintage tools, Fishing reels & lures, Almost anything old! Collections or single items. Michael @ (909) 592-4332 1/10

Vintage stereo/Radio equipment, Receivers. Marantz, Yamaha, etc. 1975 and older. Call (805) 300-2147 7/09

Wanted: Your Childhood Barbie Dolls and Clothes. I collect dolls from 1959 - 1966 and pay top dollar! I will buy 1 - 1,000 dolls. Clothing, structures, cases. Anything vintage Barbie! Cheryl @ (818) 771-4835.

Wanted: YOUR TOY TRAINS, any age, any size. Mike @ (818)-831-0846.

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November 29 - December 31

- Let it Snow! the musical November 20 through December 31
- Nightly tree lighting ceremony December 2 through 24
- The world's largest LEGO® Christmas tree
- Nightly fireworks December 26 through 31
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Club Hats

 <p>\$19.99</p> <p>City Fleece Beanie <small>(Assorted Colors Available)</small></p>	 <p>\$8</p> <p>City of Los Angeles with City Seal</p>	 <p>\$8</p> <p>City of Los Angeles with Script</p>
 <p>\$8</p> <p>City of Los Angeles B-Label Hat</p>	 <p>\$10</p> <p>City of Los Angeles with Departments</p>	 <p>\$8</p> <p>(DWP) Department of Water and Power Hats</p>

Club Watches

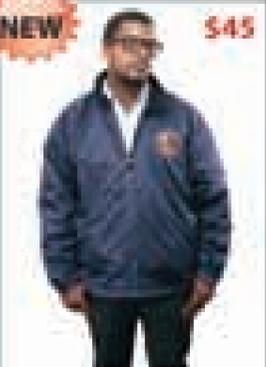
 <p>\$65</p> <p>Los Angeles City Stainless Steel Watch</p>	 <p>\$25</p> <p>Los Angeles City Classic Leather Band</p>	 <p>\$45</p> <p>DWP Classic Seal Watches</p>
 <p>\$28</p> <p>Los Angeles City Women's 18K Gold's Leather Band</p>	 <p>\$64.99</p> <p>Los Angeles City Women's Classic Service Watch</p>	 <p>\$1 - \$1.50</p> <p>Make your bins a gift with the L.A. City Hall Gift Bags</p>

Club Accessories

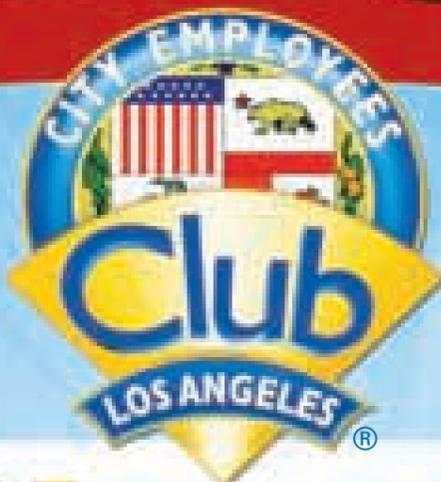
 <p>NEW \$5 - \$9.99</p> <p>Los Angeles City Ceramic Mugs</p>	 <p>\$12.99</p> <p>Los Angeles City Stainless Steel Travel Mug</p>	 <p>\$12</p> <p>Los Angeles City Wall Clock (10")</p>
 <p>\$14.99</p> <p>City of Los Angeles Tie Bar</p>	 <p>\$34.99</p> <p>City of Los Angeles Computer Bag</p>	 <p>\$5</p> <p>Los Angeles City Seal Key Chains</p>

Club Apparel

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 <p>\$8.99</p> <p>City of Los Angeles Kids T-Shirt</p>	 <p>\$15</p> <p>DWP Classic T-Shirt Long Sleeve</p>	 <p>\$19.99</p> <p>Women's Los Angeles City Polo Short Sleeve</p>	 <p>NEW \$37</p> <p>Los Angeles City Heather Hooded Shirt</p>	 <p>\$17.99</p> <p>Women's Los Angeles City Embroidered City Seal</p>	 <p>NEW \$35</p> <p>Los Angeles City One-Color Heavy Sweatshirt</p>
 <p>NEW \$45</p> <p>Los Angeles City Heavy Jacket</p>	 <p>\$12</p> <p>Los Angeles City Classic T-Shirt</p>	 <p>\$10</p> <p>Women's Los Angeles City Classic T-Shirt</p>	 <p>NEW \$25</p> <p>Los Angeles City Embroidered Seal Dress Shirt</p>	 <p>\$30</p> <p>Women's Los Angeles City Full Zip Polar Fleece</p>	 <p>\$12</p> <p>DWP Seal T-Shirt</p>

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