



Alive!

Ticket Guy Buys Ticket To Move On

Favorite Club staffer Navin Cotton leaves for other opportunities.

THE CLUB — The face and sunny outlook so familiar to thousands of Club Store shoppers has moved on. One of the Club's best-known staff members, Navin Cotton, a.k.a. the Ticket Guy, is fulfilling another chapter in his life and has left his employment at the Club to pursue other opportunities.

His last day was March 12. Club Members and staffers wished him well.

"I give my thanks to the Club staff and the members, who've made my experience here so good," Ticket Guy said in an *Alive!* interview before he left.

"We thank Ticket Guy for all he has done, and we're going to miss him," said Club CEO John Hawkins.

For more on Ticket Guy, see the story on page 9.

Leaving the City? You Can Still Have Great Club Benefits

Take the great Club benefits with you as you retire or leave.

THE CLUB — If you're soon to be leaving the City - perhaps a regular retirement, an early retirement, or other reason - you can keep your Club benefits! (An exception: long-term disability insurance). And if you've never been part of the Club, now is the best reason to join as you leave employment with the City.

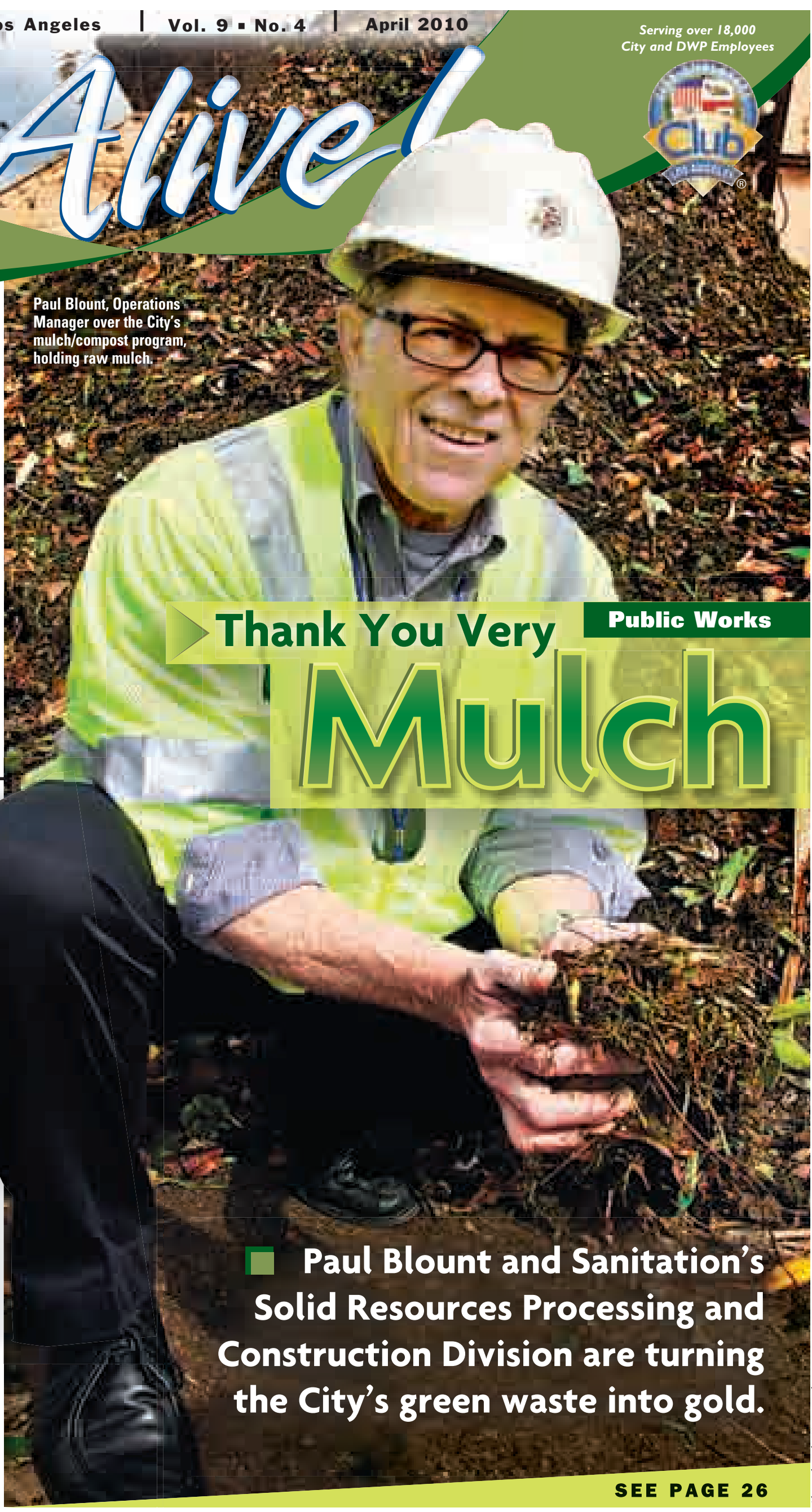
"You can keep your Club Membership and most other plans when you retire or leave City service," said Club CEO John Hawkins. "Most of the great benefits with the Club are portable - that is you can take them with you. Do you love our awesome ticket discounts with no markups? Or great Club events? Are you a big fan of *Alive!*? Then keep getting them. And if you have never been part of the Club, be sure to join the Club family before you leave!"

Those who leave the city will need to set up an alternate method of sending in membership dues. Those retiring receive all Club benefits at a discounted membership rate of \$2.50 a month.

Don't miss any great Club events. Don't pay walk-up prices for tickets and keep getting the discounts you deserve for your fine service to this great City.

Don't leave the Club! You belong here. If you're leaving the City, call (800) 464-0452 and ask for Tiffany. She'll keep you connected.

Paul Blount, Operations Manager over the City's mulch/compost program, holding raw mulch.



Thank You Very **Public Works**
Mulch

Paul Blount and Sanitation's Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division are turning the City's green waste into gold.

SEE PAGE 26

Alive! photo by Tom Hawkins



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Club Scholarships

Applications now available.

SEE PAGE 42

Alive!

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City Employees Club of Los Angeles	(800) 464-0452	Engineers and Architects Association	(213) 620-6920
City Employees Club of Los Angeles FAX	(213) 620-0398	Fire and Police Pension System	(213) 978-4545
City Employees Deferred Compensation	(213) 978-1636	Local 721	(213) 482-6660
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City Employees Retirement System	(213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328	Los Angeles Federal Credit Union	(213) 485-5000
City Paymaster	(213) 978-7480	Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union	(323) 254-1700 or (800) 231-1626
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DWP Health Plan & Medicare	(800) 831-4778	Retired L.A. City Employees, Inc.	(800) 678-4145
DWP Information	(213) 367-4211	Ticket Hotline	(888) 777-1744
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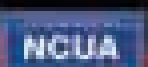


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*Bring in this ad when you open your account — we waive the \$5 membership fee for *Alive!* readers.*



** A Message From the CEO **

I've Got to Be A Mulcho Man

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

There's a lot of talk these days about sustainability, and recycling, and being green. But in all of the talk about "green" jobs and carbon footprints and the like, I don't hear much about a project that's literally and figuratively green – the recycling of the City's yard waste into stuff that can really help the environment.

Sometimes I take for granted that green bin outside my house in the Valley. I fill it and watch it be taken away by the good Sanitation folks. Well, okay, I don't really watch it. That 6 a.m. on Mondays comes pretty darned early.

What happens to it then? Where does it go? Is it put to good use? Well, it is. Very much so. Farmers use it. Regular citizens use it to retain water, to prevent erosion, and on and on.

This mulching/composting program that **Paul Blount** runs is a really good thing. I didn't know what they do; I didn't have a clue, really. But I do, now. And I'm really happy I found out. Thanks to **Jim Kurz**, **Eric Wesson** and the rest of the gang for educating us. Next time I fill up that green bin, I'll do with even more conviction. It's the right thing to do!



Paul Blount, Operations Manager, and Club CEO John Hawkins, touring the Lopez Canyon facility.

Meanwhile, tell me you love the story about **Jim Hoerricks** as much as I do. Jim, a video whizbang expert with the LAPD, was called in an emergency to figure out the truth. When two LAPD officers were accused of lying about evidence, he got busy and set it straight. Check it out; the story is all about what we try to create here at the Club every day – that City Employees should be pulling for one another. Awesome job, Jim!

We're also introducing a new column this month, by our own **Tiffany Sy**. We're calling it "Peace of Mind," and that's really the idea. These can be challenging times for all of us. Tiffany really wants you to know that she's here to help. There are Club services and benefits that you can be taking advantage of. Drop her a line to get more information.

And finally, I can't put down the pen (or mouse, I guess) without a word about our favorite Ticket Guy, **Navin Cotton**, who has left the Club to pursue other opportunities. As you've seen in these pages or live and in person, Ticket Guy was a big part of what we do here at the Club, and that is customer service. He was an integral part of building up the Club Store to the point of it needing its own space. We all worked on it, for sure, to make it happen. But we owe special recognition to Navin for his hard work, his good ideas and his good spirit. Godspeed to you, buddy.

To all Club Members, get out there and enjoy your extra sunshine; being happy doesn't have to cost anything!

JOHN

(jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)

Features

Alive! April 2010
The newspaper of the
City Employees Club of Los Angeles

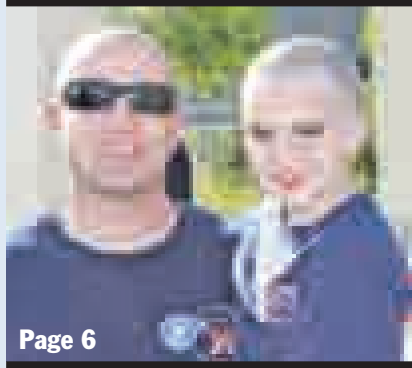
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What happens to your yard trimmings after you put them into your green bin? Here's your answer!



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The City celebrates St. Paddy's Day with annual fundraiser, and a new public festival format downtown.

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The Club says goodbye to Navin Cotton.

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Club's new Basketball League starts. Give 'em some support!

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LAPD Forensic Video Analyst and Club Member Jim Hoerricks saves the reputation of two LAPD officers on trial.



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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.

**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. The employees of [the Club] were considerate, helpful and polite. All of our questions were answered promptly and courteously. The book *[The Fall of Freddie the Leaf]* was well received."

— Hugh McNab, August 2009

"The [Club claims] service provided was excellent. All questions were answered in a

timely manner by your support team. The book *[The Fall of Freddie the Leaf]* was very educational."

— Yolanda Hall-Meggison, August 2009

The Club's claims service is "very good. Cecilia was very helpful in guiding me in filing an application for long term disability benefits. The process went smoothly."

— Curtice J. Conway, August 2009

"You guys were the most caring and prompt in dealing with the passing of my husband. I read this book *[The Fall of Freddie the Leaf]* to my grandchildren, and it made this situation a little more understanding."

— Agnes Carr, August 2009

Your Club Insurance Dollars at Work

**Total claims paid to Club Members
So Far in 2010: \$512,604.45**

Claims paid:

Life insurance claims paid this month: **\$103,530.47**

Life insurance claims paid this year: **\$138,586.35**

Long-term disability claims paid this month: **\$121,585.02**

Long-term disability claims paid this year: **\$239,626.41**

Long-term care claims paid this month: **\$24,725.00**

Long-term care claims paid this year: **\$64,391.69**

Cancer insurance claims paid this month: **\$50,000.00**

Cancer insurance claims paid this year: **\$70,000.00**

**Trust your insurance needs to the Club. Contact an Insurance Counselor today:
(800) 4640452**

It pays when you buy your insurance through the Club!

- Accidental Death and Dismemberment
- Term Life Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Pet Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Long-Term Disability
- Cancer Insurance
- Legal Services



CLUB Member Benefits

Club Insurance

Your life and well-being are important to the Club. Get peace of mind with the Club's strong insurance programs:

- Group Rated Term Life Insurance (\$10,000-\$300,000)
- Auto and Homeowners Insurance Call Toll Free (888) 801-5522
- Group Rated Spouse Life Insurance (\$10,000-\$300,000)
- Group Rated Long Term Disability
- Comprehensive Long Term Care Insurance
- Cancer Insurance (\$10,000-\$50,000)
- Group Rated Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance

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Club Partner Discounts*

Enterprise Rent-a-Car

Call the Club for discount code and password!

1-800-flowers

Save 15%. Call the Club for discount code and password!

Office Depot

Save up to 40%. Call the Club to activate your credit card.

Dunn Edwards

Show your Club membership card and save 20%.

*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.

Need help? Contact your Counselor:



Arlene Herrero
Club Products Manager

Police (LAPD)

Harbor



Eboné Moses
Club Member Services Counselor

Accounting, Bureau of
Animal Services
Building & Safety
Chief Legislative Analyst, Office of the City Administrative Officer
City Attorney
City Clerk
City Council
Community Redevelopment Agc.
Contract Administration, Bureau of
Controller, Office of the Convention Center
Cultural Affairs
Disability, Department on

DWP-Administration
DWP-Energy Services
DWP-Financial Services Executive
DWP-Integrated Support Services
DWP-Marketing & Customer Svcs
DWP-Water Aqueduct District
DWP-Water Services
El Pueblo De Los Angeles
Emergency Preparedness
Finance
Housing Department
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
Los Angeles World Airport
Mayor
Planning
Street Lighting, Bureau of



Brent Urban
Club Member Services Counselor

Administration
Aging
City Employees Retirement Sys.
Community Development Dept.
General Services
Employee Relations Board
Engineering, Bureau of
Environmental Affairs
Fire
Fire & Police Pensions

Information Technology Agency
Library
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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"



2008 President's Award Recipient

Angel Gomez
Director of Member Services



2004 President's Award Recipient

Cecilia Talbot
Claims Manager



Monica Zamudio
Claims Assistant



Leigh Thompson
Controller



Trinh Pham
Senior Accountant



Katie Hesseltine
Application Coordinator



Michael Anderson
Information Technology Manager



2007 President's Award Recipient

Alan Bound
Information Technology Programmer

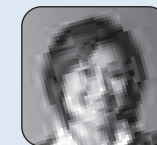


2005 President's Award Recipient

Summy Lam
Information Technology Business Analyst



Rachael Brecher
Club Store Assistant Manager



Tiffany Sy
Member Services Counselor, In-House



Megan Debolt
Club Store Services Coordinator



Lupe Medina
Administrative Services Representative

(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

Great Disney Day, Thanks To Rachael at Club Store

Thanks so much to Rachael [Brecher at the Club Store] for processing our Disneyland tickets at the last minute. My husband printed them out, and we went yesterday and had a really great time! It's a great place to have your birthday -- about 20 people (including park employees) said "happy birthday" to me, and one young couple let us use their FastPasses when they saw my birthday button!

– Susan Collette, Club Member

Under the Microscope, CSI: LA Story Had Evidence of Greatness

Hey Club! I really liked the "Testing the Evidence" article [cover story, March 2010]. Cherie Will really knows her stuff. This is the real CSI, huh? Nice! The narcotics color test is pretty interesting. I never knew that City Employees did this sort of stuff. Feels good to be a City Employee!

– Fred Jamestown, Rec and Parks

Can Extra Sunshine Lead To Health, City Longevity?

That's great that most of the people that answered the Question of the Month said that they liked exercise if they had extra sunshine at the end of the day. Does this mean we are going to be healthier and working for the City longer?

– Tony Helmsley, General Services

Hi Tony, that's a good point – using that extra sunshine to stay healthy can only help in all of our activities. Now that the extra hour of sunlight has returned, no more avoiding exercise! —Ed.

Dave Continues to Rack Up Savings with Club Benefit

It's me again! Here's my latest savings at Office Depot with my Club Office Depot dis-

count that I linked onto my credit card. So, the cashier rang up \$77.10, and when I gave her my credit card, my new total was \$53.97. What can I say about the value of being a Club Member!

– Dave Finkle, Housing

And You Can Add Running the Club Sports League to the List

Okay... stop everything. I see your director in a business suit around City Hall. Then I see him on another day in a email flyer that has him wearing a Knight armor to promote the Club's Medieval Times private party. Then I see him taking photos at a retirement luncheon. And just yesterday, he was ringing up my tickets and City shirts at the counter of the Club store. Let's not forget the cooking recipes he makes for the newspaper. Is there anything this guy can't do, and is there anyplace in the City he doesn't appear?

– Tina Larsen, LAPD

Keeping Club Members Happy Is Small Potatoes to Chef Larios

Nice going Chef Larios! I see you're looking out for my countrymen in Ireland with your Irish recipes!

– Richard O'Leary, General Services

Hi Richard, Chef Larios aims to please, but it's not always easy: He's still looking for an Irish recipe that includes avocados, as they are his favorite. Might take awhile; we'll keep you informed. —Ed.

Sometimes Alive! Around World Can Feel Like a High-Wire Act

Woozers! That picture of Shirley Gatlin and her Son James II is pretty amazing. Hanging from way up there while on their trip to the Philippines is super cool! I'm thinking her Son is the one that was screaming and not Shirley.

– Gina Montes, LAFD

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!

If you could play the best April Fool's joke on someone, who would it be?



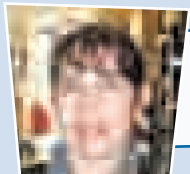
"My high school baseball coach."

– Roberto Ruiz, DWP, 12 years of City service



"My job."

– Elenora Browne, LAPD, 20 years of City service



"My sister."

– Socorro Gonzalez, Rec and Parks, 25 years of City service



"My wife."

– Hector Lucero, DWP, 8 years of City service



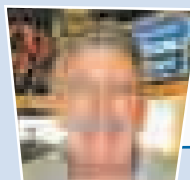
"My son."

– Raul Cobos, Public Works, 6 years of City service



"My wife."

– Guillermo Carreon, Neighborhood Empowerment, 4 years of City service



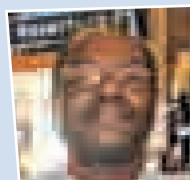
"My boss."

– John Osollo, Public Works, 23 years of City service



"A friend."

– Francisco Castro, Public Works, 10 years of City service



"My wife."

– Derral Franklin, Public Works, 21 years of City service

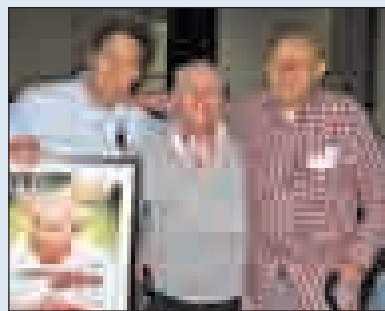


"My brother, Kyrene Ballard."

– Louis Ballard, Public Works, 16 years of City service

A Note to Readers

- Sadly, we pass on the news of the passing of John Bogdanoff, retiree, longtime leader of Rec and Parks' boxing program, and *Alive!* cover subject in February 2009. We are glad to know, however, how much the story meant to him and his family. His model of strong mentorship and guidance for young men in danger of being swallowed up by the streets has become the definition of tough love for us here at the Club. We'll miss you, John. And we send our sympathies to John's family and countless friends. —Ed.



Club CEO John Hawkins (left) and John Bogdanoff (right) after the Club presented Bogdanoff with a replica cover, to commemorate his service to the City. In the center is Tony Alvarez, Club Member, Retired, Parking Manager.

Something to Think About



"The secret of joy in work is contained in one word – excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it."

– Pearl S. Buck

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

Annual event raises funds to fight childhood cancers.

Story and photos by Brent Urban, Club Counselor

LAFD, LAPD — The St. Baldrick's Foundation held its local annual event at LAFD Fire Station 81, involving LAFD, LAPD and others who shaved their heads bald in exchange for "pledges" towards the fight against childhood cancer.

The event was held March 20.

The bald heads signify solidarity with child victims of cancer, who often lose their hair while undergoing treatment. All money raised goes to the St. Baldrick's Foundation and is distributed to doctors and other researchers on the front lines of the war on childhood cancer.

The event locations were Fire Station 81, 14355 Arminita St. in Panorama City; and Fire Station 112, 444 S. Harbor Blvd., Berth 86, in San Pedro.

The event featured a free pancake breakfast, a blood and bone marrow drive, childwatch registration, and more.

Special thanks to Lt. Greg Doyle and Firefighter Danny Wu.

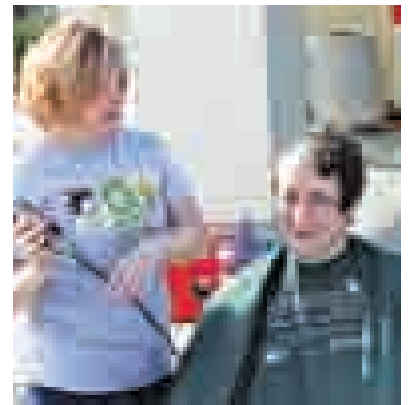
St. Baldrick Shaves the Day



The cutting station.



Scott Anderson, Fire Station 33A.



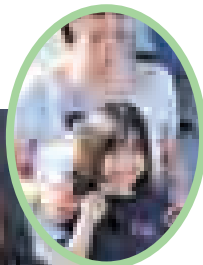
Joseph Tourouk.



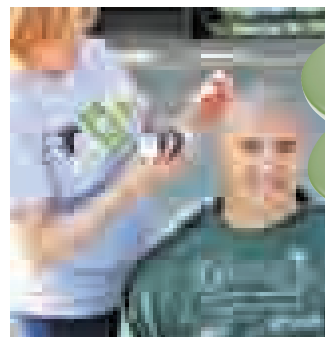
Josh Rosenwald, Fire Station 98A.



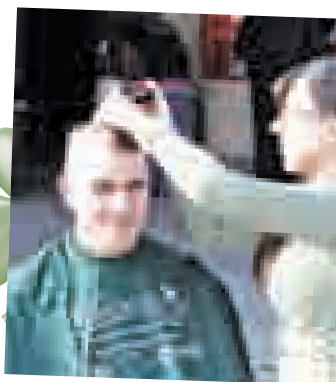
Alyssa and Chris Bustamante together after the hair cut.



Alyssa Bustamante, 8, gets her hair cut for the cause with a big smile.



Brian Smith, Fire Station 33A.



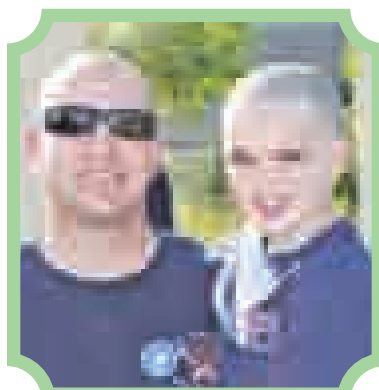
Mike Cunningham, Fireman, FS 66B.



Art Martinez, Fire Station 60C.



Landon Rupright, Fire Station 33A.



Brandon Carton, John Carton's son.

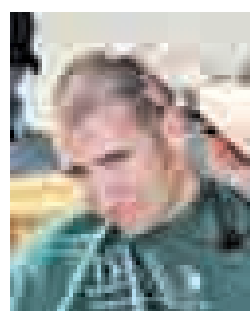


From left: Matt Hennessey, Firefighter Fire Station 33A; and Ryan Medina, Firefighter, Fire Station 33A.



Greg Doyle, Club Member, and his son, William Doyle, pose for a picture with a family friend.

Garbo Jonas, the bass player from the Jonas Brothers, a popular rock band, cutting hair. Here he is cutting William Doyle's hair.



John Carton, Club Member, Fire Station 89C.



Dustin Bulmer, Fire Station 89A.



From left: Danny Wu, Firefighter; Joey Leonard; and Lt. Greg Doyle, Club Member.



Ricardo Romero, LAPD.

St. Patrick's Day Festival

Annual St. Pat's event downtown, now a festival, drew the Irish and Irish-at-heart.

Photos by Tom Hawkins, *Alive!* photographer

CITY COUNCIL — On Wednesday, March 17, LA Live! downtown near the Convention Center was filled with the sights and sounds of the Irish, as the City's annual and official observance of St. Patrick's Day was in full bloom.

Due to budget cuts, the annual parade was scrapped in favor of this "festival" event, which featured many of the attractions of parades gone by, including pipe bands, historic fire and police vehicle displays, Irish music and food, and other attractions.

The festival was sponsored by the Office of Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member, and L.A. Live!, a division of AEG. The event was a benefit for the Los Angeles Fire Department Historical Society.

Enjoy these Club photos, taken by *Alive!* photographer Tom Hawkins.



At the festival.



The festival banner.



From left: Javier Rivera, LAFD FS 81; Raymond Ortiz, LAFD, Retired; Jesse Ortiz, U.S. Forest Service; and Jesse Ortiz Sr., LAFD.



From left: James Finn, LAFD, and Donald Dodd, LAFD.



George Carrol, Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept. (retired).



Mr. LA, Councilmember and Club Member Tom LaBonge, who sponsored the festival, meets with festival-goers.



From left: Phillip Weireter, LAFD, and Tim Griffin, LAFD Engineer, Retired.



From left: Javier Rivera, LAFD FS 81, and Raymond Ortiz, U.S. Forest Service.



From left: Jesse Ortiz Sr., LAFD; Joe Ortiz, LAFD, Retired; and Frank Borden, LAFD, Retired, and Director of Operations for the LAFD Historical Society.



LIBRARY

Digital Debut

Library's "Digital Bookmobile," a 71-foot, 18-wheeler, that's a high-tech update of the traditional bookmobile, toured the City in March.

Story and photos courtesy Library

Music, cameras and even television have gone digital, but many people are surprised to learn that library collections have gone digital as well. In March, the Los Angeles Public Library showcased its extensive downloadable electronic books, audiobooks, music and videos when its Digital Bookmobile visited the Central Library downtown and the Mid-Valley Regional Branch in North Hills.

The 74-foot, 18-wheel tractor-trailer's stops were part of a national tour designed to raise awareness of libraries' electronic resources. "We're excited to bring this high-tech update of the traditional bookmobile to L.A. and help people discover the Los Angeles Public Library's free downloadable collections," said City Librarian Martin Gomez, Club Member.

Inside the Digital Bookmobile, readers of all

ages can learn how to download digital material from the library through interactive demonstrations and high-definition instructional videos. A gadget gallery featuring iPod, Zune and Sony Readers helps visitors discover how best to download the library's electronic media on the latest gear.

The vehicle is also equipped with broadband Internet-connected PCs, high-definition monitors, premium sound systems and a variety of portable devices, all of which help visitors explore the Los Angeles Public Library's download services. Interactive learning stations give visitors an opportunity to search the library's digital media collection, use mobile devices and sample digital books and more.

Patrons can take advantage of the Los Angeles Public Library's download service 24/7 by visiting the library's Website at www.lapl.org. From there, they can browse the growing collection of best-selling, new release, and classic



The Library's Digital Bookmobile sets up shop outside the Central Library downtown.

titles, and check out digital titles with a valid library card. Once downloaded, digital titles can be enjoyed on a computer or transferred to supported portable devices. Many audio titles can also be burned to audio CD. At the end of the lending period, titles will automatically expire and are returned to the digital collection. There are never late fees or damaged items.

About the Digital Bookmobile

The Digital Bookmobile, developed inside a 74-foot, 18-wheel tractor-trailer, is a high-tech update of the traditional bookmobile that has served communities for decades. The one-of-a-kind community outreach vehicle creates an engaging download experience with the host

library's "Virtual Branch" download Website and digital collection of eBooks, audiobooks and more. The Digital Bookmobile is operated by OverDrive, which powers download Websites at more than 10,000 libraries worldwide. More information can be found at: www.digitalbookmobile.com

About the Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest population of any library in the country through its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than six million books and other items, and its Website (www.lapl.org). These resources and its more than 18,000 public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

CENTURIONS FOOTBALL

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hosted By Former NFL Great Rod Martin

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Newsbrief

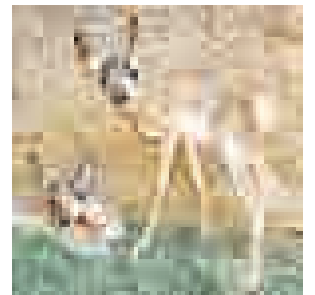
ZOO'S NEW BABY:

The Zoo is proud to announce the births of two rare Peninsular pronghorn twins. The pair has been pulled for hand rearing in the Zoo's nursery to ensure that they are given every opportunity to thrive.

On Feb. 26, two Peninsular pronghorns, one male and one female, were born. This is the third pair of pronghorn twins born at the L.A. Zoo, the other pairs were born in March 2008 and March 2009. So far, the L.A. Zoo is the only institution in the U.S. to breed this rare species. Native to Baja California Sur, Mexico, these graceful animals are mostly active at dawn and dusk.

This birth is a great leap for conservation efforts of this critically endangered species because one of the two fawns is female; the first female born in the United States. Breeding efforts in the United States have been hindered due to a lack of females. "Before this pair, we had two sets of twins born here, all males," explains Curator of Mammals Jeff Holland. "The only way the Peninsular Pronghorn Recovery Project (PPRP) could keep moving forward is if we got a female fawn." Hunting, cattle ranching and agriculture have resulted in the significant decrease of this species.

Newborn pronghorns take their first steps within 30 minutes of birth. By the time they are four days old, they can outrun humans. After just a week, fawns can run faster than dogs and



The Peninsular pronghorn twins. Photo courtesy of Tad Motoyama.

horseback riders over short distances. They are the second fastest land mammal and the fastest ungulate (hoofed mammal), clocking in at anywhere from 40 to 60 miles per hour. They can maintain this speed, without showing any sign of distress, for an hour or longer.

Typically, a pronghorn mother will have one or two fawns weighing in at around seven or eight pounds. When they reach adulthood, pronghorns weigh up to 125 pounds and reach a height of 35 inches. The females are usually 10 to 25 percent smaller than males.

The Zoo is partnered with the Vizcaino Desert Biosphere Reserve and the Mexican Government in the PPRP. Since 2000, the Zoo has provided both financial assistance as well as personnel support to the PPRP. The Zoo's breeding herd is a part of the Species Survival Plan for Peninsular pronghorns.

THE CLUB

Club Says Goodbye to the Ticket Guy

Navin Cotton is moving on to other opportunities.

"This will be the first time I haven't been around the City since 1995, when my first job was with Rec and Parks at the Harvard Park Swimming Pool," said the Club's Ticket Guy, Navin Cotton, about his leaving his Club employment for other opportunities.

Cotton, the Club's Director of Retail Sales and Operations and the Club Store's most recognizable personality, left the Club March 12 to pursue other opportunities.

Cotton joined the Club in 1999, splitting his time in the claims department and selling tickets with the Club's famous discount and no-surcharge policy. But soon the Club Store's growing demands pulled his attention there full-time. "Back in October 2002," he remembers, "the Club Store was processing about 10 orders a month. By May 2003, we were processing 100 orders a month. Now, as I leave, we're processing 1,000 orders a month."

"With Navin's great assistance, our Club Store has been a huge hit," said Club CEO John Hawkins. "We're grateful for his service to Club Members."

During Ticket Guy's tenure, and in concert with Club leadership, including Club CEO John Hawkins, Club Director of Operations Robert Larios, Club CFO Brian Trent and the Club



Navin Cotton.

Board, the Club Store portion of the operation has created several firsts. Among them:

- The Club Store is the first to offer online ordering for City products and offers, for City Employees;
- The Club Store was the first to offer officially licensed City apparel, with an official license from the City;
- The Club Store was the first to offer e-ticketing solutions with Club discounts to City Employees; and
- The Club Store was the first for City Employees to feature a freestanding retail location.

"The Club Store will continue to be a success, definitely," Ticket Guy said. "With the retail location and its visibility, and lots of great new merchandise and gifts, the Club Store is going to continue to thrive."

"I'm going to miss a lot of people – the Club staff, the Members, and a lot of people in the City," he said. "It's been a great experience."

For now, the Club Store is being managed by CEO John Hawkins, Director of Operations Robert Larios, and Merchandise and Club Store Assistant Manager Rachael Brecher.

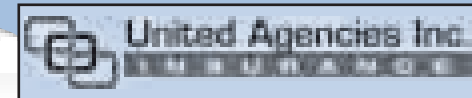
Please join the Club in giving a big round of applause to Navin Cotton, and wishing him great success in his future endeavors.

REST INSURED



BY JEFF GELINEAU

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



Do You Need Gap Insurance?

The moment you drive a new car off the lot, its value plummets, sometimes as high as 30 percent! The used-car market is not what it used to be. With a few exceptions, a car that you paid \$30,000 for six months ago might easily be worth less than \$20,000. If you have a loan or a lease on your car, then you are probably "upside down" for the first few years of the term, meaning the car is not worth as much as you owe on it.

What happens if you get in an accident? The insurance company is obligated to pay you only for the "current value" of the vehicle. While that sounds reasonable, the bank still wants the full value of what is left on the loan.

A recent example in our office looked like this:

Our customer purchased a Honda Civic a little more than a year ago. As she had put "\$0 down" on the car, her loan balance remained \$16,000. The car was totaled in an accident, and the insurance company determined that it was worth only \$13,000. Our customer was "short" \$3,000 on the difference between her loan and the value of her car.

That's why you need gap insurance!

As the name implies, gap insurance covers what traditional car insurance doesn't. In other words, it closes the gap between what your auto insurance company pays if your car is stolen or totaled and what you owe the finance company. Gap coverage is a very inexpensive endorsement that can be added to most automobile policies to provide this valuable coverage.

"Even though gap insurance is important for people who buy cars, it is essential for those who lease," says Mary Butler, senior editor of cars.com. "Gap insurance basically originated with leasing."

The upside-down nature of a typical lease is even more common than a purchase situation because the lessee usually has no trade-in and usually puts little or nothing down. Similar to a purchase, if the car is a total loss, you owe the difference between what you have paid and what you owe on the balance of the lease.

That's why gap insurance is a must for many drivers. In fact, gap insurance is usually mandated by lease contracts or included within them. If a gap policy is required but not included in your contract, you should make sure you add it to your auto insurance coverage. If gap coverage is included in the car lease, check

to see how much is offered and how much you're going to be paying for it. (In some cases, lease contracts may include what is known as a gap waiver, which protects you from gap charges in the event that the leased vehicle is declared a total loss — eliminating the need for a gap policy.)

Here are a few things to keep in mind when buying gap insurance:

- Although most people purchase it when a lease is initiated, some car insurance companies will sell you a gap policy any time during the lease term.
- You must be in compliance with all terms of the lease.
- Your gap insurance policy may not be honored if you don't have collision and comprehensive insurance coverage. Further, you may not be able to get the coverage if you are financing a used vehicle.

Many policies now provide gap insurance automatically, or we can quote you with one that does.

Feel free to call our agency if you have any questions about gap Coverage, or would like an auto insurance quote. Call us if you would like to get a quote for your home or boat through us also, or would like a question answered on any type of insurance.

United Agencies is the Club's Partner is 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.

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Check out the City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website at: www.unitedagencies.com/cityclub

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.

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LAFD

Goodbye, Valerie

Valerie Smith retires from the Fire Dept. after 30 years of City service.



Valerie Smith with her son, Eric.



Valerie Smith with her grandson, Ryan.



From left: Veronica Vela, Senior Personnel Analyst I, Retired, with Valerie Smith.

Story by Barbara Nelson, Retiree, Public Works;
Photos by Frances Garza, Rec and Parks

On March 11, colleagues honored Valerie J. Smith, Senior Personnel Analyst, LAFD, during a luncheon held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Many of Valerie's co-workers, family members and friends attended this farewell salute to celebrate the occasion.

Valerie wound up her City career after completing 30 illustrious years of City service. She began her City service with the Public Works in 1979 with an eagerness to be the best City employee she could be. Valerie worked in Personnel, Community Development, Finance, Public Works, and finally the LAFD in its Human Resources Division. Early in her career, Valerie spent time honing her training and supervisory skills and was quickly noticed for her ability to resolve problems. Her ability to train, educate and analyze complex issues was well known and utilized in each position she held. One of her proudest accomplishments was the development and implementation of one of the Personnel Department's first layoff procedures manuals. She trained more than 200 employees on this process. Many recognize her as the City's guru on layoff and civil service rules provisions and procedures.

Because of the outstanding service provided, Valerie has been commended for her dedication and commitment to excellence. Valerie's supervisors have praised her. Comments overheard: "Not only will it be tough to fill her shoes, but it will be hard for anyone to wear all those hats." "Valerie has so much knowledge and experience



Valerie Smith and her husband, Eric.



Valerie and "the princesses."

in so many areas, going to her for information is like a one-stop shop. We will dearly miss her."

Valerie and Eric Smith have been married for 35 years. They are proud of their children Tamara, Tashia and Eric; son-in-law, Ryan; and grandchildren, Ryan and Kaia. They are also proud godparents to Juleen Smith and Bryan Shofner. In her spare time, Valerie enjoys spending time with her friends and family playing board games including Guesstures, Scrabble and Spades.

Valerie has no plans to sit down now that she is retired. She plans to become an advocate for special-needs children, travel with her husband, and attend her son's football games. She has already signed up for photography and fitness classes. Valerie said she also plans on encouraging her husband to retire, too.



From left: Cynthia White, Valerie Smith and Norma Gutierrez, Personnel Director, LAFD.



From left: Georgia Matterna, Fire Administrator, LAFD, with Valerie Smith.



From left: Barbara Nelson, Senior Management Analyst I, Retired, Public Works, with Valerie Smith, retiree.

Congratulations, GRADUATES



Let the Club family celebrate with you ...
by putting your photo in *Alive!*

Club members: Have you had a family member graduate from elementary school ... high school ... or college this summer? Send us a photo, and we'll publish it in *Alive!*

Make sure you tell us:

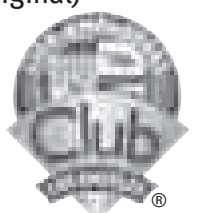
- The name of the graduate.
- The school from which they graduated. If a college, tell us their major.
- Their future plans (briefly)
- The name and department of the Club member they're related to (and how they're related)

Digital photos are preferred. Send them to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

If you have a paper print, send a duplicate (we prefer you not send the original) to: **Grad Photos**

**City Employees Club of Los Angeles
120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Print photos will be returned within two months after publication if you request it, and if you write your name and address on the back.



AIRPORT POLICE

Commendation for Officer Dye

Airport Police Officer Thomas Dye awarded for honoring fallen soldiers.



From left: Los Angeles World Airports Executive Director Gina Marie Lindsey, Officer Thomas Dye and Los Angeles Airport Police Chief George R. Centeno after he presented the Chief's Commendation to Officer Dye.

Story by Sgt. Belinda Nettles, Public Information Officer; Photos courtesy Airport Police Officer Shrode and Officer Smith.

Airport Police Officer Thomas Dye of the Patrol Services Section was recently commended for his efforts to establish the Airport Police Honor Guard Detail for the return of fallen soldiers. He was honored in early March during the Westchester Elks Lodge's Law Enforcement Appreciation Night. Officer Dye, a seven-year veteran of Airport Police, also received a commendation from Airport Police Chief George R. Centeno, recognizing Dye's efforts before the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners.

The Airport Police Honor Guard Detail began in May 2005, following the loss of Airport Police Officer Tommy Edward Scott, the first Airport Police officer to die in the line of duty. Relying on his prior training as a U.S. Navy mas-



From right: LAPD Detective I Axel Delcon, Councilman Bill Rosendahl, LAPD Officer II + II Willie Durr, LAPD Officer III Larry Johnson, Airport Police Officer Thomas Dye, LAPD Officer III Jeffrey Lovick, LAPD Sgt. I Dennis Beacham and LAPD Detective I Damon Hogan, Club Member.

ter chief petty officer, Dye organized and trained fellow officers to provide an Airport Police Honor Guard for Officer Scott's funeral services.

Soon afterward, with remains of U.S. soldiers killed while serving in the Middle East conflicts and at other locations around the world arriving at LAX, Officer Dye received authorization from Airport Police senior com-

mand to coordinate with the airlines at LAX to provide the Honor Guard Detail's uniformed field-side honors and escorts for the

Officer Dye organized and trained the Honor Guard Detail in the disciplines and protocols of a military detail in order to be sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Defense to perform these honors at LAX.



Bottom row, from left: Officer Angela Yang; Officer Thomas Dye; Los Angeles Airport Police Chief George R. Centeno; and Sgt. Belinda Nettles. Middle: Officer Deluca, Club Member; Officer B.G. Davis, Club Member; and Sgt. Robert Richardson. Back: Sgt. George Holt III.



From left: Westchester Elks Lodge No 2050, Master of Ceremony Dan Baccelliere; Honoree Officer Thomas Dye; and LA Airport Police Chief George R. Centeno.



From left: Officer Ocon; Officer Maturi; Officer Thomas Dye; Officer Gonzalez; and Sgt. Masis Sossikian after the LAWA Board of Airport Commissioners Meeting.



At the Podium: Councilman Bill Rosendahl, District 11, presented officers with an award from his district.

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Los Angeles City Councilmember
Jose Huizar

BRINGING BACK BROADWAY

An artist's rendering of a revitalized Broadway downtown.

■ **Bringing Back Broadway is an initiative to revive Broadway downtown to a glimmer of its theatre-and-streetcar glimmer from decades past.**



Councilmember
Jose Huizar.

Photos by Councilman Huizar's office; and from theatre historian Marc Wanamaker's personal collection.

Bring Back Broadway, announced a few years ago before the recession took hold, is a ten-year project that began in January 2008. It began with Councilmember Jose Huizar, with support from Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, an imposing slate of City leaders, downtown residents, civic and business organizations and property owners of the largest historic theater district west of the Mississippi. These local groups share an interest and vision of *Bringing Back Broadway*.

This historic corridor, in the center of downtown, is said to be the birthplace of vaudeville and cinematic entertainment. Within a nine-block area, there are 12 magnificent theaters, interspersed between architectural jewels. This area represents the apex of early 20th century engineering and architecture. From a pragmatic point of view, this area was a popular destination for Los Angelenos and tourists using the City's former, classic streetcar system. The Broadway corridor is part of an important National Register Historic District.

At this time in the 21st century, the site is not quite the same as it was. Today, Broadway is highly active with Latino shoppers and others during the day. But progressively there are more and more ground floor



The only other theater to open in downtown Los Angeles before the Great Depression was the French "Versailles"- style Los Angeles Theatre, which opened with the premiere of Charles Chaplin's *City Lights* in 1931.

vacancies of retail stores and shoppers who are being motivated to go elsewhere for their needs, variety of goods, services and family activities. The glorious theaters from yesterday are no more than museum facades of the past. There is more than one million square feet of commercial space vacant in the upper stories of Broadway's buildings.

The following are the *Initiative Proposals* to be focused on within the ten year period: revitalize the historic Broadway district between Second Street and Olympic Boulevard; activate inactive theaters; re-activate more than a million square feet of vacant commercial space; assist retailers and prevent further retail vacancies; increase parking and transit options to serve Broadway; encourage cultural, entertainment and retail uses that will support the area for generations to come; create a sense of place and history through urban planning, design and lighting guidelines and streetscapes and make the dream of riding a streetcar to this Broadway district by 2014.



The Orpheum, which opened in 1926, was the Los Angeles showcase for the Orpheum Vaudeville circuit and a favorite venue for performers Will Rogers, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Jack Benny.

History Comes Alive!

Tales From the City Archives



by Hynda Rudd,
City Archivist (Retired),
and Club Member



An artist's rendering of a revitalized Broadway downtown.

This vibrant link between the past and present Broadway corridor will ensure that Broadway, between Second Street and Olympic Boulevard, will move through a normal period of growth for such a huge metropolitan area.

Streetscape Update

On Nov. 24, a final public meeting was held to review and provide input on the final concepts for the design of Broadway's public right-of-way areas. These also include new elements on the sidewalk and streets to improve the environment and historic character of the corridor, and better serve pedestrians and transit riders including: Street Configuration and Station Design; Planting, Materials and Furnishings; Wayfinding Signage and Identity Elements.

History of the Project

The Los Angeles Broadway theater district must be remembered as the heart and soul to generations of movie goers *before* the "Golden Age of Hollywood" appeared. It was glamorous and exciting. This Theater District featured the largest concentration of movie palaces and theaters on one street in this country. In the 1920s and 1930s, entertainment was always king of Broadway. But the first half of the 20th century, Broadway enjoyed success as a business and retail destination. It was considered the commercial capital in the nation. Broadway's elegant high-rise buildings only comparable to the great city of New York.

The Broadway district boasts block after block of stunning Beaux Arts, Art Deco and revival-style buildings, which endow the district with historic integrity not found in many major metropolitan downtowns.

When the theaters were built, Vaudeville stages were the rage. Famous acts in this district included the Marx Brothers, Bob Hope, Houdini, Bing Crosby, Jack Benny, Will Rogers, Charlie Chaplin, Eddy Cantor, Lena Horne, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Duke Ellington, Judy Garland and W.C. Fields.

Behind the deceptively simple theater exteriors, Broadway's theater interiors were ornate and spectacular, with sweeping marble staircases leading to ornate balconies and plush seats. Above on the soaring ceilings were decorated with star-sprinkled ornamentation. The walls were covered with gilded rococo designs and flamboyant architectural styles.

When the cinemas became vogue, the theaters were mostly converted to grand movie palaces, where many functioned as such for many years before closing their doors.

The first Broadway department store was at Third Street and Broadway. Other flagship stores for Bullocks, the May Company and the Fifth Street Store, among others, filled other spaces along the Broadway corridor.

Beautiful examples of then-modern engineering, coupled with dedicated craftsmanship and architecture, created high-rises all along Broadway, which reached to heights of 12 stories and more. These buildings were filled with offices and manufacturing operations and workers.

The Streetcar

The historic streetcar in Los Angeles dates back from the early 20th century until 1961. For most of its life, it was the most popular mode of transportation down the



The Los Angeles Theatre, as seen today.

Broadway corridor. It was known as Henry E. Huntington's baby, the Pacific Electric, which developed into the largest system of its kind in the world by the 1920s. Residents and visitors alike were able to travel and visit areas and neighborhoods miles from the city center for the first time. But by 1961, the public wanted more freedom and availability of travel when the freeway system became the priority for Los Angelenos. This became the end of the Los Angeles streetcar system.

Reviving the streetcar in Los Angeles is an idea that has widespread City and community support. The *Bringing Back Broadway* has given the momentum to make this project into a reality. One important aspect of the Broadway project is that it has a component, the Streetcar, Parking & Transportation Committee, which with the active CRA and Metro efforts relating to the streetcar, along with the Red Car Advisory Group which was formed with the Central City Association.

Together, the Trustees are working with the nonprofit LA Streetcar, Inc. to design, plan and build a downtown



An artist's rendering of a revitalized Broadway downtown.

streetcar system that will allow residents, workers and visitors to ride a streetcar downtown by 2014.

Modern streetcars are environmentally safe, clean and quiet. There are no steps to climb -- just step off the curb, and right on the streetcar.

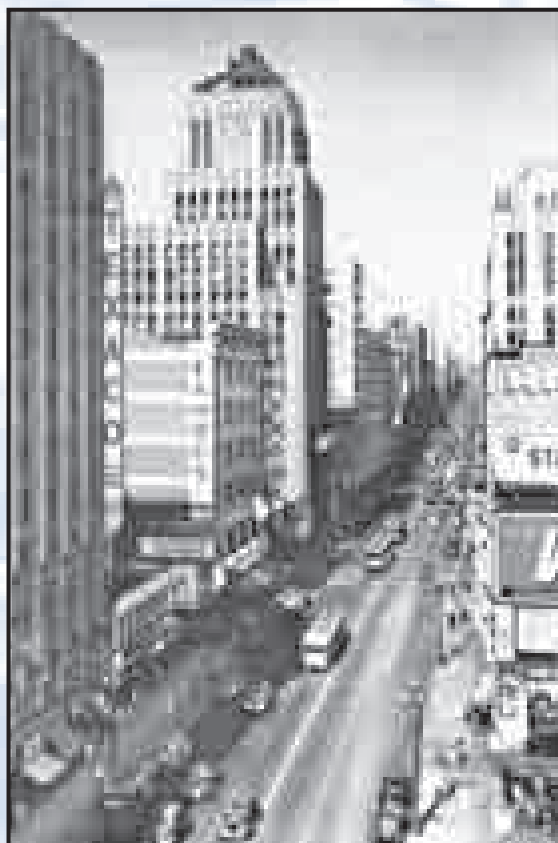
Streetcars have great impacts on economic development when they are implemented in the right place in the right way. This has been acceptable in some of our western city sisters, e.g., Seattle, San Diego, Portland and Tacoma.

Reviving the streetcar represents an approximate \$100 million local, state and potentially federal project. Councilmember Jose Huizar and his Trustees know that their desire is to have the streetcar run down Broadway and connect to points of interest downtown, but the exact route it uses is yet to be determined.

Latest Streetcar News: On Dec. 10, an initiative to revive a streetcar along Broadway received \$250,000 in Congressional funding to move the streetcar project into its environmental phase of analysis. This funding was secured by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

According to Huizar: "A downtown streetcar will create jobs, help people circulate between destinations, connect transit options and spur economic development while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I applaud Congressman Roybal-Allard for believing in our goal of riding a streetcar downtown by 2014. We're very fortunate to have a strong streetcar advocate in Washington D.C."

I'll write more of these articles in the future. This is a very important modern historical event for the City. Congratulations to all of us, and especially to you, Councilmember Huizar, for the progress that has been made so far.



Broadway in its heyday.



REC AND PARKS

Earth Day at Cabrillo

Aquarium celebrates the 'ocean planet' with free programs April 17.

Photos by Gary Florin, Photographer, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

You are invited to join the 30th annual Earth Day Celebration of our "ocean planet" at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Saturday, April 17, with a day of free programs, including a beach cleanup, speakers, information and activities. Participation options include joining the beach cleanup, sharing information, grunion egg hatching, guided walks to the salt marsh, and more.

You can be a part of the solution by joining in a beach cleanup from 8 to 10 a.m.; supplies and refreshments are included. Then you can stop by the auditorium to view selected presentations of the day and visit with more than 40 organizations and agencies as they share how they are working to care for the earth. Musicians will be sharing their thoughts about the ocean through songs. And you can educate yourself about choices we can make every day to

make a difference in protecting our planet. Throughout the day, the Aquarium will be open with opportunities to examine Southern California marine life, where you can visit the touch tank; search the Virginia Reid Moore Marine Research Library for more information about local sea life; observe the aquarium's newest arrivals in the Aquatic Nursery; and investigate the interactive Exploration Center. Free parking is available at 22nd and Miner Streets with access to a shuttle in each direction. Guests can also connect to the shuttle from the Marina station of the Pacific Red Car Line along the Port Waterfront.

Red Car info: www.railwaypreservation.com/page8.html. Limited car parking at Cabrillo Beach is \$1 per hour.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is at 3720 Stephen M. White Dr. in San Pedro, and is a Rec and Parks facility. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or go to: www.cabrilloaq.org.

Earth Day at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

- When:** Saturday, April 17
- Time:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Where:** Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 3720 Stephen M. White Dr. San Pedro.
- What:** Beach cleanup, free aquarium admission, grunion hatching, food, music, booths, activities, representatives of more than 40 organizations.
- Cost:** Free; some attractions might have minimal cost.
- Parking:** Free parking at 22nd and Miner Streets, with Red Car access. Limited car parking at Cabrillo, \$1.
- Info:** www.cabrilloaq.org, or (310) 548-7562.



A previous Earth Day at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

ZOO

... and at the Zoo, Too

The Zoo celebrates Earth Day.

The Los Angeles Zoo and K-EARTH 101's Earth Day Expo 2010, themed Celebrating California Wildlife, features education, conservation and recycling information in an interactive and fun Earth-friendly environment. The two-day event includes a bevy of information booths, fun crafts and the opportunity to meet K-EARTH DJs.



The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is at 5333 Zoo Dr. in Griffith Park.

Information: (323) 644-4200 or www.lazoo.org

Newsbrief

PYLONS GO DARK:

On March 27, the 100-foot-tall LAX Gateway pylons that illuminate the entrance to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), were lighted solid green one hour before Earth Hour. Then, during Earth Hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., the pylons were turned off as part of a coordinated worldwide effort to raise public awareness of climate change and the need for energy conservation.

Last year, the second year of Earth Hour, more than 80 million participants in the U.S. and nearly a billion people worldwide dimmed their lights in support of action for climate change and for a cleaner, safer and more sustainable future.

The World Wildlife Fund, sponsor of Earth Hour, identified Los Angeles as a leader in environmental issues and chose it as a flagship location for Earth Hour. Earth Hour officials noted the event is a voluntary power down of non-essential lighting by participants. Lighting required for public safety will not be turned off.

The LAX Gateway pylons have become a symbolic gateway to Los Angeles since they were first lit in August 2000. In 2005, airport workers installed a new system of light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures that were unavailable in 2000. LEDs are small devices that convert electrical energy directly into light.

Significant cost savings were realized with the new system. The 2,000 LED fixtures in the pylons consume 75 percent less electricity than the previous 736 lamps and burn for 75,000 to 100,000 hours, compared to 3,000 hours for the original lights. With the elimination of moving parts, motors, lamps and filters not required by the new system, maintenance costs also significantly dropped.

The 1.5-mile lineup of 11 translucent, tempered glass columns of increasing height, from 25 to 60 feet along Century Boulevard, culminates with a ring of 15 100-foot-tall columns at the intersection of Century and Sepulveda boulevards. Together, with 32-foot-high "L-A-X" letters facing eastward to welcome incoming motorists, the pylons create what is considered the world's largest permanent public art light installation. The pylons, oriented skyward and designed to mimic an aircraft takeoff pattern, are visible to airline passengers from 3,000 feet.

The pylons are illuminated in a variety of colors - 16 million color possibilities - and sequences as designed and programmed by lighting artists and airport staff.

The pylon lights resumed their color-changing display beginning at 9:30 p.m., following Earth Hour.

In addition to the LAX Gateway pylons, other famous L.A. landmarks that were set to turn off their lights during Earth Hour include the Santa Monica Pier and Nokia Plaza.

Los Angeles Airport Police Athletic Fund

Tax ID# 26-4498013

In Sponsorship with the
POLICEUNITYTOUR

The 2nd Annual 5 on 5 TOMMY SCOTT CO-ED BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT STARTS @ 8:00 AM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 24 - 25, 2010

WESTCHESTER PARK
7000 WEST MANCHESTER BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CA, 90048



All proceeds from this event will be used to support the Police Unity Tour to raise awareness of Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty and funds for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum

REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 10, 2010

This Event Is Limited To 8 Teams
So Register Early

Or Call: 310-877-1067

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.

Upcoming Events:

April 8: Annual membership meeting, 1 p.m.,
Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr.
RSVP: (800) 678-4145, x701

June 3: 32nd annual Retirees Golf Tournament,
7:30 a.m., Alhambra Municipal Golf Course,
630 S. Almanson St., Alhambra.

RLACEI:

Will Cost of Living Mean Eight Percent Reduction?

President, Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"On Jan. 19, our Treasurer for the last 15 years, Jerry Bardwell, resigned from our board. However, Jerry was kind enough to attend our February board meeting to assist Michael Karsch, our new Treasurer, with the transition to his new duties.

"I cannot say enough of how valuable Jerry has been to our organization and to me. He has made the last 15 years that I have been your President much easier and pleasant ones. Again, con-

gratulations to Commissioner Bardwell. You will be an asset to LACERS Commission Board.

"The Retired Fire and Police Association reported that the Post Retirement Benefit Program, which allows a member to remarry or marry after retirement and which provides the new spouse with a portion of the member's pension, is well on its way. There have been 150 applications requested, and 28 members are enrolled in the program. The sta-

tus of this benefit program is waiting for an actuarial report. This is being discussed with LACERS.

"Don't forget to call and make reservations for lunch at our General Meeting April 8 at the Friendship Auditorium, at 3201 Riverside Dr.

Reminder: When you receive voter's ballot for LACERS' Commissioner, we urge you to "Vote for Ken Spiker for Board of Administration Commissioner." Submit your ballot prior to April 9.

Legislative Update, Ken Spiker reports:



Ken Spiker

"A preliminary report indicated the COLA (cost of living) figure for July 1, will be minus-8 percent.

The City Attorney's representative is reviewing the City Ordinance and may recommend that the COLA Bank, for all 15,000 retirees, be reduced by 8 percent. I have notified the Board that I do not agree with that interpretation and will oppose any vote to make that reduction.

I will also like to ask for assistance from retired City Attorneys to review the statutes and give us their opinion. I am also going to suggest to the RLACEI Board of Directors that we fund an opinion from a private law firm.

The real threat is not the loss of 8 percent from our COLA bank, but the threat to the word "vested." Does the word "vested" mean the benefits earned are ours or can they be taken away from us?

Until better interpretation or clarification is presented, I will oppose my vote to make the reduction.

Recession and Politics Killing Initiatives, by RLACEI Treasurer, Michael Karsch: "Several pending

initiative petitions for the state ballot are facing dim prospects of qualifying for the ballot due to tightening money donations which have a lot to do with the recession as well as politics. The initiative affecting public agency pensions on which we have reported previously, pushed by the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility (previously pushed by former Assembly Member Keith Richman), has lost the support of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and leading Republican gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman. The Sacramento *Bee* reported that this is "the death knell for the initiative" because the promoters were counting on these two politicians' support to help collect signatures, both as publicity and as money raisers. Schwarzenegger and Whitman had urged cutting public employee pension costs due to the unfunded liability they impose on government budgets. According to the *Bee*, political consultants explained that this initiative (which would only affect new hire government employees) would mobilize the public employ-

ee unions to bring more liberal voters to the polls in November. A Foundation spokeswoman said they would come back with a tougher measure to replace defined benefit pensions for new-hires with a 401(k) type defined contribution plan. This would mean an initiative for one of the 2012 ballots.

"Other pending initiatives are also doubtful of their ability to collect signatures for the fall ballot, due mainly to lack of money to fund the signature drive. California Forward, chaired by Robert Hertzberg, former Speaker of the Assembly, has two initiatives in need of signatures and money. The key initiative issue is lowering the vote requirement for passing a state budget from two-thirds to a simple majority. Proponents have raised only \$132,000 of the \$2 million needed to qualify a petition for the November ballot, but the signature-gathering must be done by mid-May. Another group, the Bay Area Council, announced it is suspending its initiative to call for a constitutional convention, due to weak financial support."

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!



Santorini from sea level.

By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Call the Helpline to reach the officers of RLACEI. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership, call the helpline. Each officer's extension is listed below.

City Employees Retirement System:
(213) 473-7200

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

• R.S.V.P.	Ext. 701
• Edward Harding	Ext. 703
• Phil Skarin	Ext. 709
• Michael Karsch	Ext. 704
• Jerry Bardwell	Ext. 706
• Harold Danowitz	Ext. 707
• Jack Mathews	Ext. 712
• Helen Salgado (membership)	Ext. 713
• Americo Garza	Ext. 710
• Tom Stemnock	Ext. 708
• Mary Beetz	Ext. 711
• Neil Ricci	Ext. 714

DWP Retirement Plan Office: (213) 367-1722

RLACEI:

Officers

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

Committee Chairpersons

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

Directors

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



Mamma Mia! It's Greece

■ Hal, Evelyn and Co. continue their Mediterranean cruise. Part 5.

Evelyn and I took a 35-day trip, which included a self-guided week in Italy and then a 28-day cruise with ports in Italy, Croatia, Greece, Spain, Morocco and Portugal, with an ocean crossing to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This month, we pick up our travels in Corfu, Greece, on board our Holland America (HAL) ship, the Oosterdam.

Corfu is a small island between the heel of Italy and the west coast of mainland Greece. It was one of the first to attract large amounts of tourists in the 1960s. The ship docked in the port, and we walked the 1.5 miles into town. The weather continued to be wonderful -- no rain, lots of sun and moderate temperatures. A lot of walking seemed to take the place of formal exercise in the fitness center. We had seen the fitness center, but that's close as we got to it. So far the walking substitute seemed to work, with no large weight gains (yet). The town was renovated for a European Union summit in 1994 and is now one of the most elegant island capitals in the whole of Greece. We stayed in town a couple of hours. In the afternoon, we played a little bridge and did the team trivia again. We almost won, or at least did better than yesterday.

The evening show was Leo Ward, a comedic/magician who was very entertaining. The star of the show was our traveling companion, Myrna, who became the magician's assistant. She had started to form a fan club.

The next morning, we docked in Argostoli, Cephalonia, Greece, in the Ionian Sea. We were to tender into shore,

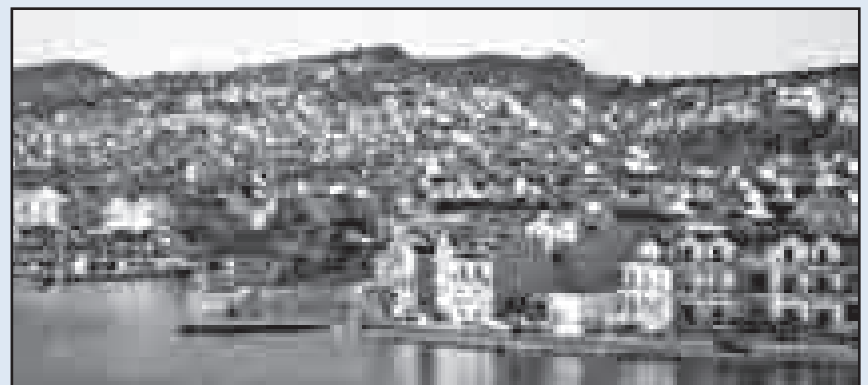


Myrna, Don and Hal sit by the dock in Argostoli.

but a new dock recently opened, and the ship was allowed to use it. This made it easy to disembark. It was a short walk into town, a very picturesque fishing village with tile roofs, whitewashed buildings and a lot of quaint churches. The town was very clean, and the water was so clear that you could see to the sandy bottom. There was a walking street, which was dotted with cafés and gelato stands and had all the major shops. We spent about two-and-a-half hours just looking around. After we came back to the ship, we had lunch and then tried our hand at trivia again; this time we came in second. The ship sailed a 3 p.m. for Santorini, and we were to arrive there at noon the next day. The entertainment that night was Preston Coe, a tenor, who was very good and sang all types of music, including rock and roll.

after the ship disembarked the tours, we were able to go ashore.

Santorini was the first port where we used tenders. The operation was very well organized, and we were on shore about 2 p.m. The capital is Fira, about 300 meters about sea level. The only way to reach it is either by mule or cable car. You can also walk, but you need to stay out of the way of the mules. We opted for the cable car (Myrna, Don and I opted for the cable car, and Evelyn voted for the mule. *(How can a grown-up person be afraid of a mule? - Evelyn.)* The cable car cost \$4 each way. Santorini is a real tourist town -- all the buildings are white, and there are lots of souvenir stores and restaurants, which are not inexpensive. We walked around for a few hours and then headed back to the ship. We weren't to sail until 11 p.m., and



Argostoli, Greece.

We met a lot of people on this cruise -- during breakfast and lunch we often shared tables with other people, and we heard all kinds of stories, some happy, some sad. That day, we had breakfast with a woman who just divorced her husband of 41 years. People tell you many things when they don't think they will ever see you again.

That morning we continued our sail to Santorini in the Aegean Sea. As we didn't arrive until noon, we played trivia and took a tour of the galley in the morning. The ship reached Santorini about noon, and

the next day was going to be a sea day and an opportunity to hit the gym. Santorini was really pretty. It almost wanted me to stand up and sing the soundtrack from *Mamma Mia*.

The night sky was filled with points of light from all of the buildings perched on the top of the cliffs. It is truly a very romantic city, both day and night. Its season was just about to end and the locals take off during the winter, although I was told the weather still remains pretty mild.

That night we had dinner in the



were on. Don and I cheered them on. Evelyn and Myrna ate lunch in the dining room just to try it out; I went to the Lido; and Don skipped it. We had to start cutting back or we would be getting off as freight. We played bridge for about two hours and then joined our trivia team; we didn't fare as well that day.

We had a great discovery -- two more drawers. I found them in the bottom of the small sofa. I hoped to find another bathroom soon.

Overall we were very pleased with the service and the food on the ship. It seemed to be at a higher level than we had had on other Holland America ships. The staff was very friendly and tried to learn our names and how we like our coffee or adult beverage.

That night was the second formal night, and we dressed for the event. I'm even considering getting a dinner jacket one of these days. I don't know if you can wear a dinner jacket anywhere but on a cruise. Oh well, that is a discussion for another day. The show was just mediocre -- an ensemble of dance numbers. It seemed just too disjointed and rushed. We had

Canoletto dining room, a specialty restaurant that serves Italian food. It was very good. Afterward, we sat out by the pool and joined the Lido Pool Party. You haven't seen anything until you see a lot of senior citizens doing a conga line.

That was our seventh day on the cruise, and our first day at sea since we left Venice. We didn't feel the need for a day off from touring, but it was nice to just relax and not have to get off the ship. Evelyn and Myrna did the 5-K walk for the Susan G. Komen "Walk for the Cure" to fight breast cancer, which they also did on the last Holland America ship we



Corfu.



Don by the hop-on, hop-off bus in Catania.



Myrna and Hal at the evening cocktail party.



Evelyn finishing the Komen "Walk for the Cure."



The central square in Catania.

21 more days to go, so I'm sure we will have both good and bad talent.

The next day, we were in Catania, Sicily. We docked early that morning within walking distance of the tourist area. We left the ship around 9 a.m. and intended to walk around the area. We found a hop-on, hop-off bus to take us around the city for \$5, plus \$2 for the earphones. It was a nice 40-minute ride, which ended at the Piazza Duomo, a short walk back to our ship.

Catania sits at the foot of Mount Etna, which continues to destroy the city on a regular basis. The city had lots of smells, most of them bad. It was a lot like Rome, but without the glitter. It's not high on my list to return to. Other cruise ships stop at Messina in Sicily, which is considered a better stop. We were hopeful that when we left later that evening,

we may have a view of the Stromboli volcano on a nearby island. It rises 3,031 feet about sea level and is considered active.

That night at dinner, we celebrated Canadian Thanksgiving, and, with our Canadian dinner mates, we ate turkey and all the familiar fixings.

After dinner, the weather turned bad, with rain, heavy winds and rough seas. The ship really was moving. Luckily it was late in the evening, so most people were in their cabins. They locked the doors closed on the promenade deck to keep you inside. We never got to see the volcano.

We sailed through the Straits of Messina, which separates the mainland of Italy from Sicily. In the morning we were scheduled to dock in Naples. We'll continue our cruise story next month.

FOR RETIRED CLUB MEMBERS

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





LACERS Update

RLACEI LACERS Correspondent Mary Beetz reports:

The City Clerk of Los Angeles will mail LACERS retired members a ballot of candidates to serve on the LACERS Board of Administration to represent LACERS Retired Members for the term July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2015. The ballot will contain each candidate's qualifications.

Beginning March 13, members must mail in their ballot or deposit it in the election box located in the City Clerk's Election Division during regular business hours of the seven calendar days, preceding the April 9, 2010 election. All ballots must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day. The Election Division is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at:
Piper Technical Center
555 Ramirez St., Space 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Here are the candidates in the order they appear on the ballot:

- Earl Anschultz
- Shelley Smith

- Ken Spiker
- Kurt Neswald
- Gary Boehm
- Oscar Peters, and
- Leo Rosen.

LACERS Surpassing Numbers: "During the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) discussions, LACERS committed to retiring at least 350 members per month until the 2,400 ERIP retirements are completed. LACERS retired 360 members in March and is set to retire another 365 in April. As of today, LACERS has retired 1,561 members as part of the ERIP. To help the City achieve the maximum possible General Fund savings, LACERS has been retiring as many General Funded members as possible each month.

"LACERS hold large Medicare Workshop for Retirees and ERIP Applicants. The largest Medicare workshop to date was held Feb. 11 at the Friendship Auditorium. Nearly 200

retirees and their dependents attended the workshop to learn about LACERS Medicare requirement that members need, to enroll in Medicare Part B upon turning age 65 to continue receiving their medical plan subsidy.

"LACERS Medicare workshops are held for members turning age 65 and attendance is by invitation only, due to the increasing numbers. On hand were LACERS staff, representatives from LACERS health plans, as well as representatives from the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Incorporated (RLACEI).

Spring Wellness Workshop: "The next LACERS carrier-sponsored wellness workshop is scheduled for Thursday, May 27, at the Friendship Auditorium in Griffith Park. The workshop is entitled Bone Up on Your Health and will feature presentations on bone and joint health. LACERS retired members will receive an invitation in the mail about one month prior to the event. Attendance is by reservation only. Members should RSVP soon after receiving their invitations because these wellness workshops fill up quickly.

News and Notes: "Gary Mattingly is our new RLACEI Director. He retired after 38 years with the City. After a stint in Public Works, he spent about 12 years in the City Administrative Office. His last 23 years were as General Manager of Fire and Police Pensions.

"He graduated from Cal State LA with a degree in finance. He was later honored with an Outstanding Alumnus Award from the same university. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, stamp collecting and investments. He and his wife enjoy their place in the desert and visiting his home state of Kentucky. He has three children and two grandchildren"

"To find out the latest retirement news, visit www.rlacei.com

"If you have any news about yourself or other retirees that you would like to share, send it to: Publicity Chair Mary Beetz, 137 Westmont Dr., Alhambra, CA 91801. (800) 678-4145. You may also Email her at mbeetz4841@aol.com"

32nd Annual Retirees Invitational Golf Tournament



The 32nd Annual Retired Los Angeles City Employees Invitational Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 3, 2010 at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course with a "Shotgun Start" at 7:30 a.m. The course is located at 630 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, CA 91801. Check-in is at 7:00 a.m. SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!

- The tournament is open to retired and active employees and friends. The cost is \$65 for R.L.A.C.E.I., City Club and All City Employee Benefits Service Association members (\$75 for all others) and includes green fees, carts, prizes and lunch at the Almansor Court restaurant. Lunch only is \$25.
- Those interested in participating must complete the reservation form and mail it with their check payable to **"R.L.A.C.E.I."** by **May 20th** to: Tom Stemnock, Co-Chairman, 4040 Vineland Avenue, Suite 108, Studio City, CA 91604. For any questions, call either Chairman Tom Stemnock at (818) 487-6789 or Phil Skarkin at (818) 784-0130.

2010 Golf Tournament Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Amount Included \$ _____ \$65 for R.L.A.C.E.I. and City Employees Club Members. (\$75 for all others)
 Luncheon: \$25

Make checks payable to R.L.A.C.E.I.

NOTICE: SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!

FOURSOME

Member R.L.A.C.E.I. Member A.C.E.B.S.A. or City Club Guest

(check all that apply)

Name	Member R.L.A.C.E.I.	Member A.C.E.B.S.A. or City Club	Guest
1. _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reservation deadline: Thursday, May 20th. Mail completed reservation form and check to:
 Tom Stemnock, Chairman
 4040 Vineland Avenue, Suite 108, Studio City, CA 91604, (818) 487-6789

HARBOR

Beatlemania for Barnes

Michael Barnes attends Walk of Fame dedication for Ringo Starr.

Michael Barnes and friends attended the ceremony in which former Beatle Ringo Starr received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"In celebration of former Beatle Ringo Starr receiving his very own star in front of Capital Records earlier this month, we took a 'magical mystery tour' of our own: The Metro," writes Michael Barnes, Club Member. "It was actually a pleasant experience, especially the absence of gridlock and parking lots.

"There was a modest crowd gathered when the party finally began. Not only was Ringo the 2,401th celebrity to receive a star, it was the 50th anniversary of the Hollywood Walk of Fame. [There were] too many politicians for my liking. Luckily, we were not kept waiting very long before the man of the hour gave a humble speech, his wife by his side. He needed very little help from his friends, but they were there. There was fanfare, there was a marching band, and there were even Sgt. Pepper's costumes. He announced plans for his upcoming tour and a date of Aug. 8 at the Greek Theatre. Ringo joined [former] band mates John Lennon and George Harrison on the Walk of Fame."

Glad you had a good time, Michael!



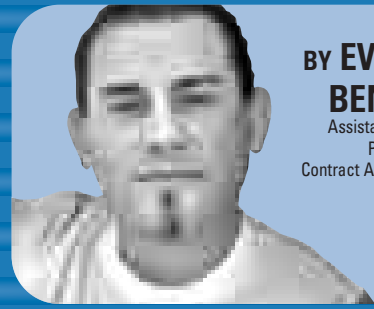
At Ringo's newly minted star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame were, from left: Michael Barnes; his wife, Rebecca; and friends Bruce LeClair and Summer Etter.

Retiring? Leaving the City?

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now to keep
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THE CAR CLUB



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Assistant Inspector,
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Contract Administration

Muscle, in Kit Form



When you are young, you think you know everything. Before I could drive, I thought a Ferrari or Lamborghini were the ultimate rides that money can buy. As my automobile education grew, I learned I knew very little about what is out there. Believe me, I would not say no to a ride in an Italian beauty or even having one in the garage, but with options ranging from a Hemi-powered 1970 Cuda, a Rolls Royce Phantom or a 1987 Buick Grand National, the choices are endless as to what you can own or dream about owning.

One car on the list of many collectors is the 1965 AC Cobra, otherwise known as the Shelby Cobra. I am sure you have seen a few on the road, but the probability of it being an original is slim. Why, you ask? There are only about 300 in existence, and many are valued in the \$1.5 million range. The only version in existence of the "Super Snake" model sold a couple of years ago for \$5.5 million. Bill Cosby owned the other "Super Snake" just long enough to take it for one scary ride and decided that was plenty, so he gave it back. That same car landed in the Pacific Ocean with the new owner a short time later. The original car was comprised of hand made aluminum panels and housed a 427 Ford V8 with almost 500 horsepower and a top speed of 180 mph. The Shelby became known as the Corvette killer.

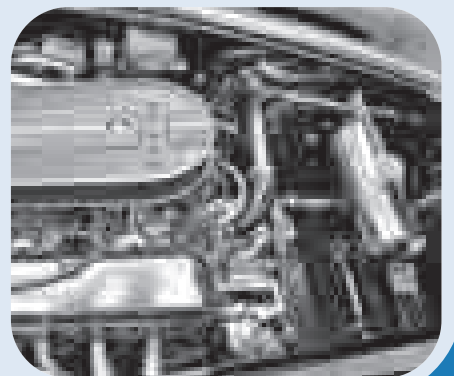
Ramon Naval is a Garage Attendant at the West Valley Station, LAPD, and a 19-year City Employee. In the 1980s, he took a ride in a Shelby replica and was hooked. From then on it was a desire to have one in his possession. After 20 years of saving, it was finally time to buy. In 2006, a leisurely evening on eBay would change his life. What Ramon came across was a jet black Shelby Cobra replica with gold racing stripes. After one click on the "buy" button and a short ride up the 101 freeway, Ramon's dream was now a reality. When asked why he decided to sell the car, the previous owner replied, "I have owned it for two months and my last drive I managed to get it sideways at a high rate of speed and decided that was it."

Ramon's Cobra has a custom-built two-by-four-inch steel frame that has a BMW 3 series suspension and steering bolted to it. Fuel is housed in a custom 18-gallon stainless-steel tank that fits between the frame rails at the rear of the car. The Cobra rolls on aluminum Halibrand-style wheels. The rear wheels are 17-inch-high by 10.5-inches deep, and the front wheels are 17 inches by 8.5 inches wide. The body of the car is all Fiberglass and is 2.5 inches wider than the original. The car gets its guts from a polished 342-R Ford motor with the Roush

fixings, including a 770 Street Avenger carburetor. Those fixings help the motor have an output of 450 horsepower in case Ramon is in a hurry. A Tremec five-speed transmission was bolted to the Roush motor and the perfect choice due to its reliability and ability to handle large amounts of horsepower. To stop this machine, disk brakes were placed at all four corners.

The interior of the car has a replicated semi-competition dash with nostalgic-style Auto Meter gauges. Bucket seats are upholstered in black leather, and four-point harness belts help keep Ramon and his passengers in the car while they are holding on for dear life. The cockpit is stripped down, lacking distractions that would take away the full effect of being in a street legal race car.

After four years of owning this car, Ramon says he still gets goosebumps when sliding into the cockpit of this beauty to take a drive with his Tri County Cobra Club counterparts. "It takes me about five minutes to calm down from the excitement," Ramon said with a big smile. Ramon expressed he has not once had a bit of buyer's remorse and manages to drive it at least one to two days a week. I had to ask one last question: Will you ever sell it? Without hesitation, Ramon replied "No way!"



PROUD OF
YOUR WHEELS?
SEND IN
A PHOTO!

Send in a photo of you and your car, and we might publish it!

Send us your information, too – name, title and City department, a phone number (we won't print it) and a paragraph or two about why you love your car, what kind of car and year it is, and maybe some fun details of how you got it, how you restored it, etc. Send it all to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



LACECA

Women's Mixer

LACECA board attends Affirmative Action Association for Women mixer.

Story by Leonor V. Garcia, First Vice President, LACECA; Photos courtesy LACECA

The Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA) Executive Board attended the Affirmative Action Association for Women (AAAW) board installation and holiday mixer, held Jan. 21 at Elysian Park's Grace Simmons Lodge.

Established in 1974 and approved by the Los Angeles City Council as the official representative for female City employees, the Affirmative Action Association for Women (AAAW) has been representing women and minorities for almost 30 years.

Presently, the AAW has 350 members from various City departments. Their membership consists of people from all levels of government with different backgrounds, willing and eager to engage in an exchange of a variety of knowledge and experiences. Members serve on department

and Citywide committees that influence policies and practices that affect women and minorities in the City of Los Angeles.

In addition, members benefit from the association's exam preparation workshops, mock oral interviews, network opportunities, personal and professional development seminars, scholarship program, and assistance with human-resource issues. Its work supports our continuing commitment to affirmative action programs and equal employment opportunities as a basic principle of the City's merit system.

Regular events or workshops held by AAW throughout the year include the annual holiday mixer; the board officer installation every two years; the Stairway to Success Conference every two years; and training or workshops twice a year. All events are scheduled as resources and volunteers make it possible.

During the mixer, outgoing board members were recognized and presented a Council resolution provided by Councilwoman and Club



From left: Susana Reyes, DWP HR Director; May Ong, Asian American Association Member, Retired; Raul Lemus, Personnel Dept., Chief Personnel Analyst; Ann Marie De La Riva, AAW President; Dora Sanchez, AAW First Vice President; Lilly Calvache, AAW Treasurer; Charles Aguilar Rogers, LACECA President; Lupe Durazo, LACECA Recording Secretary; Michelle Nagin, DWP Assistant General Manager and former AAW President; Cecilia Weldon, DWP CAO Assistant General Manager and AAW Past President; and Leonor V. Garcia, LACECA First Vice President and AAW Member.

Member Jan Perry's office, thanking them for volunteering their time and dedication to the organization.

Araceli Campos, Human Services/Commission on the Status of Women, installed and performed the oath of office to the 2010-11 incoming board.

Many door prizes were given to the membership.

Want to Join AAW?

AAAW is seeking women who are interested in joining the organization. They need your ideas and support. If you're interested, visit their Website at www.laaaaw.org for more details and to download a membership application. AAW committees include training advisory; grievance advisory; scholarships; at-large representatives; bylaws; fundraising; elections; membership; finance; conferences; newsletter; and publicity.



From left: Ann Marie De La Riva, Club Member, AAW President, and Irene Sae Koo.



From left: Maryann Torres, Club Member, and Dora Briseno, Club Member, DWP.



From left: Ann Marie De La Riva, accepts a Council resolution from Councilwoman and Club Member Jan Perry.



From left: Ann Marie De La Riva, Club Member, AAW President, and Angie Roman.

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1.3MP camera, 250MB storage, 11.5mm thickness.

LG720 by LG™
1.3MP camera, 250MB storage, 11.5mm thickness.

HTC Sling™
1.3MP camera, 250MB storage, 11.5mm thickness.

BlackBerry® Curve™ 8300
1.3MP camera, 250MB storage, 11.5mm thickness.

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CONVENTION CENTER

Alex Retires

Alex Organista, Club Member, retires from Convention Center after 20 years of part-time service.



From left: Sr. Painter Bill Lopez and retiree Alex Organista.

Story and photos courtesy Luis Aguilar, Convention Center

Last November, part-time Event Attendant II Alex Organista, Club Member, retired after 20 years of dedicated service to the City and to the guests of the Los Angeles Convention Center. Alex' work ethic made him a household name, recognized for being reliable, hard-working and pro-active, as well as for a strong character that left no doubt where he stood, and how he viewed the world.

Senior Event Attendant Barbara Mack, his direct supervisor, was glad for Alex, but sad to see him go into a well-deserved retirement. In her words, "Losing Alex is like losing three men."

Employees who attended shared food, laughter and some very interesting and funny stories. Alex thanked everyone, and stated that he will now have more time to dedicate to his passion: painting.

Thank you Alex, and may your bold strokes continue adding color to those around you, as you have done to this place and to us all.



From left: Clerk Typist Heddy Guinto, Sr. Event Attendant Barbara Mack, retiree Alex Organista and Sr. Painter Bill Lopez.



From left: Building Repair Supervisor Tim Stratton and retiree Alex Organista.

LAPD

Remembering Kenny

On the anniversary of his death, a mother remembers LAPD Dep. Chief Kenneth Garner.

Story and photo courtesy LAPD

March 1 marked the one-year anniversary of the sudden death of then-LAPD Dep. Chief Kenneth Garner. Here are excerpts from a letter written in his memory by his mother, Mary Garner. —Ed.



The late Kenneth Garner, former Dep. Chief, LAPD.

"Nothing is more endearing than to honor a loved one passed and to bestow a purposeful and meaningful tribute to their memory. Kenny, as he was fondly known by so many, will always be remembered and honored as a man who gave so much to so many and for touching the lives, hearts and souls of literally thousands.

"Although finding the words to convey my feelings on the first anniversary of my very painful loss is difficult, I reflect on my son's passing and I think of not how Kenny died but how he lived and the legacy he left with all of us, and I smile and a sense of calm comes over me. I remember that no matter how long we exist, we have our memories, and that Kenny, my son, you haven't gone away, because you are forever in all of our hearts, and your spirit continues to live on in each of us every day. Also, although we all continue to mourn your loss, we are comforted in knowing that for one year now you have been seated at the right hand of the supreme chief, 'Chief Jesus.'

"As I look toward the day when we all shall be reunited with you again, the following phrase brings me comfort:

"This day is remembered and quietly kept,

No words are needed, we shall never forget,
For those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen and unheard, but always near,
So loved, so missed, and so very dear."

"Love, Mom"

CLUB SPORTS

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



Nothin' But Net!

The Club Basketball League season starts April 8. **Cheer 'em on!**

The inaugural Club Basketball League's 2010 season gets under way early this month! Go out and support your fellow Club Members as they get the ball rolling.

All games are scheduled for Thursday nights at the Expo Rec Center, a great Rec and Parks facility.

Here are your Club Basketball League teams:

- LAX Ballers
- BSL Blue Dragons
- Hydropower
- DOT Outlaws
- Ones 'n' Zeros
- Rice and Beans
- Rec and Parks Hoopsters
- Traffic Jam



Club Basketball League GAME SCHEDULE

Here's the complete schedule. Make plans to head on out. Show some support, and have a great time – for a reasonable price (free)!

Games will be held at: Expo Center, 3980 S. Menlo Ave., just south of downtown.

North Gym

South Gym

April 8, 2010

7:00 p.m. Rice & Beans vs. Hoopsters
8:00 p.m. Ones & Zeros vs. LAX Ballers

8:00 p.m. Blue Dragons vs. DOT Outlaws
9:00 p.m. Hydropower vs. Traffic Jam

April 15, 2010

7:00 p.m. Traffic Jam vs. Blue Dragons
8:00 p.m. Hoopsters vs. Hydropower

8:00 p.m. LAX Ballers vs. Rice & Beans
9:00 p.m. Dot Outlaws vs. Ones & Zeros

April 22, 2010

7:00 p.m. LAX Ballers vs. Blue Dragons
8:00 p.m. Ones & zeros vs. Traffic Jam

8:00 p.m. Dragons vs. Hydropower
9:00 p.m. Rice & Beans vs. Dot Outlaws

April 29, 2010

7:00 p.m. Hydropower vs. Ones & Zeros
8:00 p.m. Dot Outlaws vs. LAX Ballers

8:00 p.m. Traffic Jam vs. Rice & Beans
9:00 p.m. Hoopsters vs. Blue Dragons

May 6, 2010

7:00 p.m. Dot Outlaws vs. Hoopsters
8:00 p.m. Rice & Beans vs. Hydropower

8:00 p.m. Ones & Zeros vs. Blue Dragons
9:00 p.m. LAX Ballers vs. Traffic Jam

May 13, 2010

7:00 p.m. Traffic Jam vs. DOT Outlaws
8:00 p.m. Blue Dragons vs. Rice & Beans

8:00 p.m. Hydropower vs. LAX Ballers
9:00 p.m. Hoopsters vs. Ones & Zeros

May 20, 2010

7:00 p.m. LAX Ballers vs. Blue Dragons
8:00 p.m. Dot Outlaws vs. Hydropower

8:00 p.m. Rice & Beans vs. One & Zeros
9:00 p.m. Traffic Jam v Hoopsters

May 27, 2010

7:00 p.m. Traffic Jam vs. Hydropower
8:00 p.m. Dot Outlaws vs. Blue Dragons

8:00 p.m. Hoopsters vs. Rice & Beans
9:00 p.m. LAX Ballers vs. One & Zeros

June 3, 2010

7:00 p.m. Ones & Zeros vs. Dot Outlaws
8:00 p.m. Rice & Beans vs. LAX Ballers

8:00 p.m. Blue Dragons vs. Traffic Jam
9:00 p.m. Hydropower vs. Hoopsters

June 10, 2010

7:00 p.m. Hydropower vs. Blue Dragons
8:00 p.m. Traffic Jam Ones & Zeros

8:00 p.m. Dot Outlaws vs. Rice & Beans
9:00 p.m. Hoopsters vs. LAX Ballers

June 17, 2010 Play Off

7:00 p.m. 4th Place vs. 1st Place
8:00 p.m. 3rd Place vs. 2nd Place

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





Angel Gomez,
Director of
Member
Services

WILDWOOD

Hello again, everybody!

This month, we visit Wildwood Canyon Park in Burbank. Located off Harvard Road, Wildwood Canyon Park offers a variety of outdoor activities. There is a two mile trail system for solely hiking, which traverses the Burbank side of the Verdugo Mountains. The well-maintained park offers areas off of Wildwood Canyon Road that provide picnic and open grass areas. The moderately strenuous Link Trail, which connects to the Verdugo Mountain way, starts from Wildwood Canyon. Many of the Burbank Nature Programs hikes and activities are conducted in Wildwood Canyon.

The History

In May 1962, Wildwood Canyon Park summer campsites and overnight camping was made available for families. On July 18, 1963 the City of Burbank dedicated Wildwood Canyon Park. It was named for the canyon in which the park is located. In 1965, a brush fire burned all the chaparral and natural growth from the slopes of Wildwood Canyon Park. Later, heavy rains washed tons of soil and rock through the area. The picnic tables, dinking fountains and many trees were lost. Campsites were filled with debris, and sections of the parking lot had eight feet of mud. In 1992, the City of Burbank rededicated Wildwood Canyon Park. The

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy awarded the city a \$1 million grant to renovate the 500-acre park in the Verdugo Mountains, including trail access, signage, restrooms, trail head trellises and a gate house.

The Hike

Attention, hikers: You should bring plenty of water and a leash if you bring your dog. Lone hikers or walkers should also bring a cell phone for emergencies.

Wildwood Canyon Park exists on two levels: the parking and picnic area with benches and fountains, and the trails the lead up to the top of the hill and beyond.

The small hike near the yoke of the entrance is considered a beginners' hike by most. The track is sandy, and it can be fairly narrow in places. The view is spectacular, and picture-taking is common. As you move up the hill, the road fork goes down and comes steeply back to the Wildwood green level park space.

Wildwood Canyon is composed of several tiny canyons that make up the hike to the top of hill. The

radio tower at the top of the mountain is where hikers can turn left and take the fire road down to the Stough Nature Center, or continue hiking to the right along the crest of the trail south to the Glendale Verdugo Hills hike path. Half way up the first trail you will see the Burbank Police Shooting Range.

This is a very difficult hill to climb; I say this because it looks easy, but the continuous climbing gets you pretty tired very quickly. I was out of breath because of the continuous upward climb.

Remember, if you bring your dog, there is a leash law.

I would also recommend being there early because the sun will add another layer of difficulty to the hike. Early morning is the best time; the trail is open at dawn. Bring plenty of water, a snack lunch and a small backpack, too.

If you're cold at first, don't worry, you will begin to sweat in just a few minutes. I plan to return to this site because of the challenge; it's actually a short hike, but, again, the elevation climb makes it worth your time.

The hike is right next to the Castaways golf course in Burbank, so it is not too far from the city. I would recommend this trail to everyone looking for a real Stairmaster experience; you won't need your gym membership on this day.

Bring plenty of water and snacks, and maybe have a picnic at the waterfall.

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

Details

The park features:

- hiking trails
- parking areas
- rest rooms
- picnic and grass areas
- water fountains, and
- plenty of running space for dogs.

HIKE DISTANCE: the park contains a trail system of about two miles

HIKE TIME: two hours

DIFFICULTY: Hikes of various difficulties and distances are possible at Wildwood.



Dakota and I at the entrance to Wildwood Park.

Burbank, CA

CANYON PARK



We made it half way up the trail, with Burbank in the background.

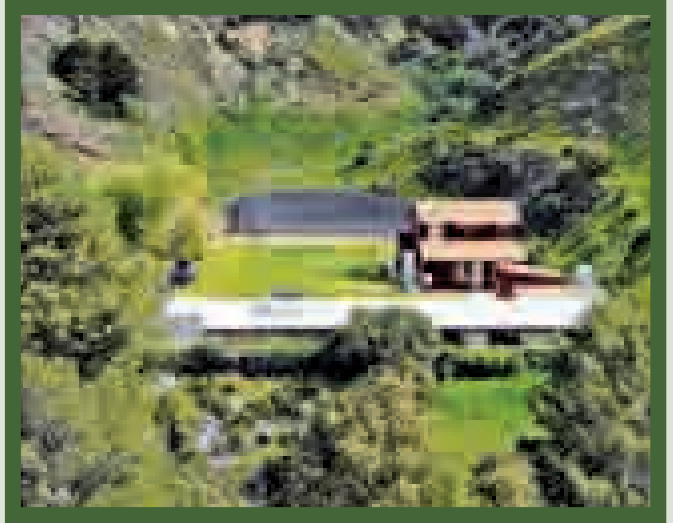
Send me your pictures!
If you go, I would love to see your pictures! Send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com



Dakota and I take a short break.



Dakota and I start our climb up the first trail nearest to the entrance.



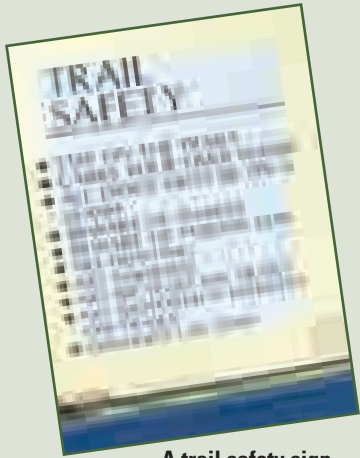
This is a very difficult hill to climb; I say this because it looks easy, but the continuous climbing gets you pretty tired very quickly. I was out of breath because of the continuous upward climb.



Looking back the way I came, you can see there are many trails.



Sign with Trail Rules



A trail safety sign.

Directions

- From Glenoaks Boulevard, take Olive Avenue north towards the mountains.
- Turn left onto Sunset Canyon Drive. Turn right onto Harvard Road.
- The entrance to Wildwood Canyon Park is on the right.

ADDRESS:
Wildwood Canyon Park,
1701 Wildwood Canyon Drive,
Burbank, CA 91501

PHONE: (818) 238-5440



Hillside Recreation Area Sign



Map of the Wildwood Canyon Trail layout.

DWP

John Andre Retires

John Andre leaves the DWP after 39 years of City service.



Lorita Lilley, John's ex-wife, with John and Pam, his wife.



John Andre, Club Member; and Debbie Coffin, DWP, 37 years, who coordinated the party. Thanks, Debbie!

Story and photos by Eboné Moses, Club Counselor

A morning reception was held in honor of the retirement of John Andre, who retired from the DWP after 39 years of City service.

The reception was held at the DWP Water Yard on Temple Street.

John started with DWP in June 1970 as a Meter Reader in the downtown Los Angeles District. On May 17, 1976, he was promoted to Commercial Field Representative. This position required John to turn electric and water service on or off for the customers of DWP. He remained in that position until another promotion on May 30, 1989. This new position of Senior Commercial Field Representative was in Field Investigations and involved more face-to-face customer contact. He dealt with customer billing inquiries and complex billing issues.

John was (and still is) very professional and could be counted on to tackle any problem that would arise. Those in Metro Field Investigation will miss his expertise, humor and knowledge of music and movies.

The Club wishes him well in his retirement. Alive! thanks Debbie Coffin for her assistance.



John joins the retired crew. From left: Michael Wickham, Club Member, Retired, John Andre, Club Member, Retired; and Robert Saenz, Club Member, Retired.



From left: Peter Skacan, Water Services Rep, 24 years; John Andre, Club Member, newly retired; and Corazon Skacan, Club Member, Commercial Services Supervisor, 20 years.



From left: Joan Chastang, Club Member, Field Investigator, 30 years of city service; and John Andre, Club Member, newly retired.



From left: Earl Rodgers, Club Member, Commercial Field Supervisor, 32 years of city service; Joe Villareal, Club Member, Field Investigation Coordinator, 13 years of city service; John Andre, Club Member, newly retired; and Cruz Palmas, Club Member, 23 years of city service.



From left: Clyde Flowers, Club Member, Field Investigator, 22 years of city service; Andrew Garcia, Club Member, Field Investigation Coordinator, 27 years of city service; and Juan Vazquez, Club Member, Sr. Field Investigator, 24 years of city service.



From left: Bill Bates, Field Investigator, 37 years; Earl Rodgers, Club Member, Commercial Field Supervisor, 32 years of city service; and E Sai L. Chong, Field Investigator, 34 years.



From left: John Andre, Club Member, and Steven Starks, Sr. Utility Services Specialist, 28 years



From left: Theron Rucker, Assistant Supervisor 18 years; Martin Villa, Club Member, Meter Reading Coordinator, 30 years of city service; Rod Rodriguez, Sr. Commercial Field Rep, 19 years; and Grant Lewis, Assistant Supervisor of Harbor Field Group, 23 years.



From left: Joe Villareal, Club Member, Field Investigation Coordinator, 13 years of city service; and Ed Binder, Customer Relations Special Investigator, 37 years.



From left: George Evans, Club Member, Sr. Commercial Field Rep, 29 years of city service; Cesar Cuevas, Club Member, Sr. Commercial Field Rep, 23 years of city service; and Ken Ortiz, Club Member, Field Investigator, 23 years of city service.



Terri Dominicus, Clerk Typist, 29 years, and John Andre, Club Member.



David Sanchez, Revenue Security, 21 years, and his wife, Karen Sanchez, Field Investigator, 25 years.



From left: John Bush, Club Member, Custodian, 5 years of city service; and Dale Diaz, Sr. Commercial Field Rep, 21 years.



From left: Ben Cola, Club Member, Sr. Commercial Field Rep, 45 years of city service; and Keith Ray, Club Member, Sr. Commercial Field Rep, 24 years of city service.



From left: Michael Kellenberger, Club Member, Commercial Field Rep, 28 years of city service; and Richard Strauss, Club Member Sr. Commercial Field Rep, 27 years of city service.



Javier Cuevaz, Utility Services Specialist, 27 years.



From left: Ben Cola, Club Member, Sr. Commercial Field Rep, 45 years of city service; John Andre, Club Member; and Michael Wickham, Club Member, Retired.



From left: Monique Harrell, Utility Services Specialist, 21 years; and Steven Starks, Sr. Utility Services Specialist, 28 years.



From left: Sai L. Chong, Field Investigator, 34 years; Edward Xiong, Club Member, Field Investigator, 12 years of city service; Jesus Jaime Jr., Field Investigator, 11 years; and Michael T. Ball, Club Member, Field Investigator, 22 years of city service.



Dionne Inchaurrequi, Customer Service Rep 1 year of city service, with her baby girl, Ava Inchaurrequi, 9 months.

HOUSING

Goodnight, Irene

Irene Scaduto retires after 36 years of City service.



Irene Scaduto presents some of the attendees with parting gifts. So thoughtful of her!



From left: Peter Havas, Club Member, Financial Development Officer, 15 years; and Stephen Cundiff, Retired.



Leon Davis, Club Member, an old friend and co-worker, shares a few thoughts about Irene Scaduto.



From left: Susan Riney, Financial Officer, 32 years; Mariano Napa, Financial Officer, 9 years; Yaneli Ruiz, Club Member, Financial Officer, 6 years; Georgina Tamayo, Financial Officer, 2 years; Lisa Shinsato, Management Analyst, 23 years; and Magdalena Zakaryan, Club Member, Financial Officer, 8 years.



From left: Marvel Morada, Club Member, Rehabilitation Construction Specialist, 21 years; Phil Meyerson, Retired; Clifford Sumida, Retired; and Craig Arceneaux, RCS 44 years.



From left: Shelly Lo, Club Member, Environmental Specialist II, 4 years; J Vida, Land Use Supervisor, 8 years; James "JC" Johnson, Club Member, Construction ICS III, 32 years; and Lasisi Azeez, Financial Development Officer, 10 years.



From left: Rosa Santana, guest of Irene Scaduto; Tsegalem Woldemariam, Club Member, Housing; Lemono Lott, Club Member, Financial Development Officer; Lydia Olivares, DWP, 32 years; Christina Haro, sister of Irene Scaduto; Pedro Nava, brother-in-law of Irene Scaduto; and Gloria Nava, sister of Irene Scaduto.

Story and photos by Eboné Moses, Club Counselor

A retirement luncheon was held Feb. 11 for a family, friends and coworkers of Irene Scaduto, who retired from Housing after 36 years of City service.

The luncheon was held at Luminarias in Monterey Park.

Here's Irene's City resolution:

"Whereas, Maria Irene Haro was born and raised in the City of Los Angeles, graduating from El Sereno Elementary School, Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, and graduated from the newly built Woodrow Wilson High School in 1971. Irene continued her education and earned her associated of arts degree in secretarial science from Los Angeles Trade, Technical College in June of 1973; and

"Whereas, Irene began her career with the City as a Clerk Typist Aug. 27, 1973, with the LAPD, Bunco, Forgery Division. In October 1974, Irene transferred to the Northeast Division of LAPD; and

"Whereas, in 1979, Irene transferred to the DWP, working on various assignments for 12 years, beginning with General Services Stores Section, and then to the Water Operating Division; was promoted to Sr. Clerk Typist in September 1982. Irene worked at various divisions: The Power Operating and Maintenance Division, Customer Service Division, Power Design and Construction, General Services Fleet Division, and Human Resources Division; and

"Whereas, in September 1988, Irene worked as the Area Clerical Supervisor, Transportation, Central Area Parking Enforcement. In 1991, Irene accepted a position with the Customer Service Division of the Convention Center. In August 1992, Irene joined Housing to work at the Eastside Field Office of the Neighborhood Preservation program in El Sereno. In July 2004, she was assigned to work at the Housing main office, Homeownership Section; and

"Whereas, she became Maria Irene Scaduto on May 29, 1976, when she married Anthony Scaduto, a Youth Parole Officer for the State of California. The Scadutos raised their family in Temple City, where they have lived for more than 30 years. Irene is very proud of her family. Her son, Michael, is a Los Angeles City Engineer, and Diane is studying toward her doctorate at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston; and

"Whereas, Maria Irene Scaduto will retire on February 13, 2010, after 36 years of dedicated and outstanding service to the City. Her life of leisure will be spent on her favorite hobbies of photography, scrapbooking and party planning, in addition to enjoying many field trips to the happiest place on earth, Disneyland. Most importantly, Irene will continue to be a loving wife and devoted mother."

Congratulations, Irene, from the Club! Special thanks to Edna Meraz for providing information for this article.



Irene receives her Certificate of Appreciation.



From left: Edna Meraz and Irene Scaduto, friends and now past co-workers, share a moment together.



From left: Martha Carrasco, Management Analyst II, 25 years; Martha Ocon, Club Member, Sr. CT, 9 years; Edna Meraz, Club Member, Sr. Clerk Typist, 37 years; Courtney Durham, RPC, 12 years; Anita Sibayan, Club Member, SCT, 10 years; Priscilla M. Lopez, Club Member, Administrative Support, 16 years; and Joe Berumen, Club Member, RCS II 7 years.



Top, from left: John Santiago, Managers Assistant, 3 years; Heather Smith, Manager's Assistant, 2 years; Angela Chang, Club Member, Manager's Assistant; and Mary Arredondo, Executive Administrative Secretary, 26 years. Bottom: Anabel Luna, Accounting Clerk, 29 years; Soly Corona, 11 years; Irene Scaduto, newly retired; and Margie Lopez, General Manager's Executive Administrative Assistant, 39 years.



From left: Doug Smith, Project Manager, 36 years; Gorge Alcantar, RCS II, 6 years; Paul Meza, Construction Specialist II, 16 years; and Gus Vendell, Club Member, Construction Specialist, 3 years.



From left: Bob Valdez, Sr. Clerk, 6 years; Emmanuel Yuen, Club Member, Manager Assistant, 2 years; Christin Wai, Manager Assistant, 3 years; and Brittany Batong, Club Member, Management Analyst I, 6 years.



From left: Elidia Haro, Irene Scaduto's mother; Veronica Haro, Irene Scaduto's niece; Tony Scaduto, Irene Scaduto's husband; Rosalio Haro, 33 years, DWP, and his wife, Rosa B. Haro; and Theresa Reyes, guest of Irene Scaduto.



From left: Liseth Romero, Club Member, RPC II, 3 years; Ted Tulle, guest of Irene Scaduto; Alvaro Reyes, Club Member, RCS I, 3 years; and Thomas Antonio, RCS I, 3 years.



From left: Melanee Newkirk, Club Member, Retired; Ted Tulle, guest; Deborah Irving, Club Member, Clerk Typist, 4 years; Tawana White, Club Member, Sr. Clerk Typist, 9 years; Leon Davis, Club Member, Retired; James "JC" Johnson, Club Member, Construction ICS III, 32 years; Jerry Hunter, Club Member, Retired; Gayle Hall, Secretary, 33 years; Rosie Wimbisch, Club Member, Retired; and Mark Hollaway, Club Member, RCS, 11 years.

Public Works



► Thank You Very Mulch

How your yard cuttings become rich mulch.



Ever wonder where your green yard trimmings go, after you've cut your lawn and filled the green bin outside your residence? Well, Paul Blount and Sanitation's Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division take it from there, turn it into compost, and return it for use by any City resident.

Here, Club CEO John Hawkins follows the process of turning the City's green waste into gold.

Alive! Feature



Paul Blount, Operations Manager over the City's mulch program, explains the details of grinding to Club CEO John Hawkins.

Alive! Feature

Waste Not, Want Not

The City's mulching and composting dept. recycles the City's yard trimmings, producing a very popular product.

Photos by Tom Hawkins, Club photographer

Ever wonder where your yard waste – the trimmings you put into the green bins – goes? The answer is, it comes back to the City, in a very usable form, thanks to Public Works/Sanitation's Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division.

One of the largest single components of the City's waste stream is green waste (grass and tree trimmings, leaves, garden waste and other vegetable material). Currently, the City recycles more than 380 tons of yard trimmings per day.

Public Works/Sanitation operates three mulching/composting facilities: the Harbor Yard Trimmings Facility in San Pedro, which uses the contents of the Bureau-collected residential green bins in the Harbor area; the Griffith Park Composting Facility, which uses green waste from Griffith Park, biosolids from the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant and animal waste from the Los Angeles Zoo; and the Lopez Canyon Environmental Center, which uses green waste collected by the Bureau of Sanitation and tree trimmings generated by private contractors to mix with horse manure collected from nearby residents. The mulch and compost produced by these three facilities is a high-quality product, and is given away free to community gardens, City residents, businesses and farmers.

Composting is a natural process, which transforms decomposable organic material into carbon dioxide, water and stabilized organic matter (compost). In nature, compost forms slowly, depending on ambient conditions. Although composting utilizes a natural process, successful operation of a compost site does not happen automatically. Composting requires daily



THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW

'A Very Environmentally Sound Product'

On March 3, Club CEO John Hawkins and Alive! editor John Burnes sat down with Club Member Paul Blount, Solid Resources Manager I and Operations Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division, Public Works/Sanitation. We talked about the benefits and long-term plans for the City's mulching and composting functions. – Ed.

Alive! Thanks for meeting us today and giving us a tour of the processing facilities.

Paul Blount: Sure.

What things are you responsible for other than the mulch and compost function?

Paul: In addition to mulch and compost, I'm in charge of all landfill operations. We have five closed landfills, meaning that they're not accepting trash. And [I'm responsible for] any of what we consider offsite projects – where we might be asked to assist in debris base and cleanup.

Let's start with a really basic question. What is mulch?

Paul: Mulch is ground-up plant material.

So you process the green yard trimmings and pile it up and turn it, and slowly it becomes compost. Talk about the plant science and what's happening when a pile of yard trimmings becomes compost.

Paul: I would call it simply microbial action. The microbes break down the material. If you overheat the material, then it kills those so that

microbial action is stopped. It's the activity of the microbes working in that moist environment to break it down.

And why is mulch valuable?

Paul: Well, our customers use mulch for several different reasons: weed abatement, erosion control, soil amendment and water retention. It's a very environmentally sound product.

Who are your customers?

Paul: Our main customers are the citizens of the City of Los Angeles. We operate nine giveaway sites where people can come and get mulch for free. All they have to have is a shovel and a container. And we support the Mayor's Million Tree Program. Various and sundry civic groups use it; and a lot of schools, colleges, and universities use it. Some of the elementary schools with their gardening programs have used our mulch. Just about anybody who wants it, and needs it can be our customers.

And we give some away to farmers in Ventura County, too. That's the raw mulch.

So they don't have to live in the City?

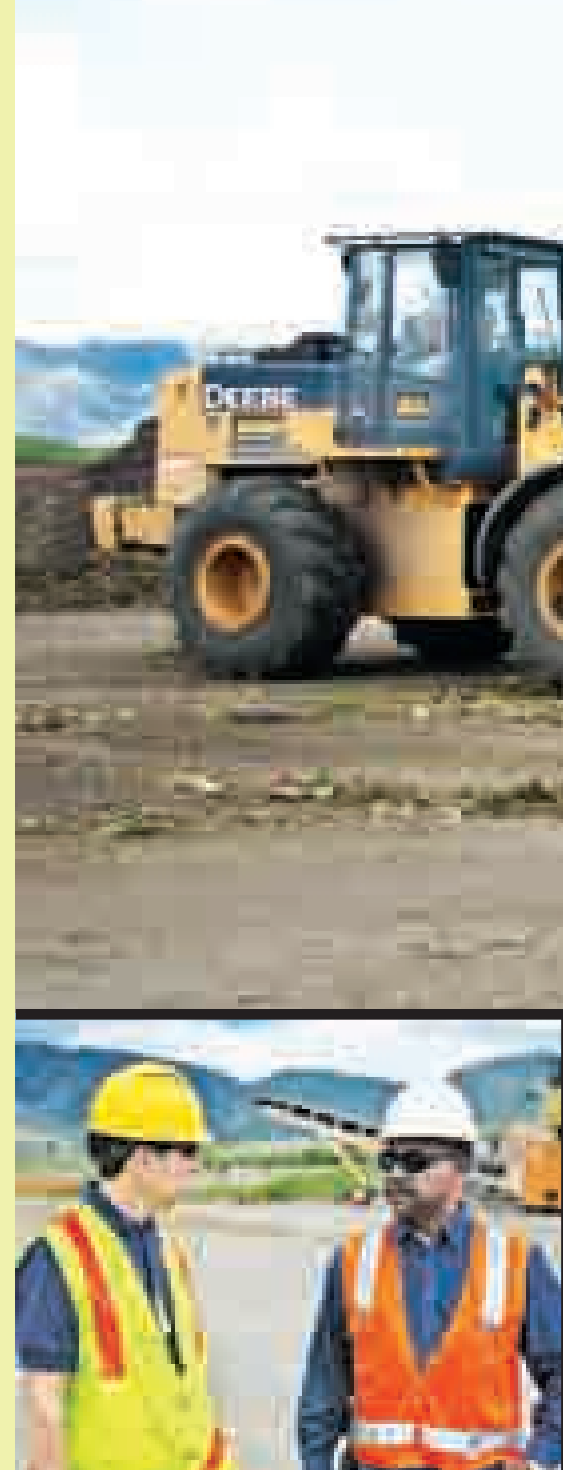
Paul: Not really.

There's no verification.

Paul: We don't require verification. Our sites are unmanned, so generally there's no way that we could check on it, anyway. We're part of the environmental community. I like to think we're part of the solution, and the solution is to provide mulch to somebody who needs it. We're going to put it to a good beneficial reuse.

– continued, page 30

Alan Davis, Equipment Operator, comes to pick up the trimmings after they have been picked clean of solid contaminants. Operations Manager Paul Blount and Club CEO John Hawkins look on.



Club CEO John Hawkins chats with Eric Wesson, Equipment Supervisor, at the Lopez Canyon facility.

Paul Blount in his office at the Lopez Canyon facility.

Thank You Very **Public Works**

Mulch

Mulch can be cultivated for up to 90 days before it becomes full compost.

management. Operators must intervene with specific control measures to establish and maintain the composting process. The composting process should progress at a predictable rate under ideal microbial conditions so that a high quality product is produced in the minimum amount of time to meet applicable standards.

Composting Education Center

An education center, located near the Griffith Park composting facility, teaches the public more about various composting techniques, many of which can be done at home. Once a significant number of Los Angeles residents become compost-friendly, millions of tons of recyclable organic "wastes" will be diverted away from collection trucks and put to beneficial use at home. The savings in municipal sanitation budgets will add up to millions of dollars annually, and be available to fund other public services.

The facility currently processes around 7000 cubic yards of green waste per year. Rec and Parks receives half of the produced compost, Topgro®, while the remainder is sold to private entities, such as landscape companies.

The materials used in the compost are mixed in an aerated pile for 15 days at a temperature of 135°F - 145°F.

When ready for use, compost helps soil and plants in numerous ways, including:

- Increasing organic matter and microbial activity in the soil. Compost "feeds the soil," making it easier for plants to get the nutrients they need by releasing them slowly and in small doses, the way nature does.
- Improving the soil's water-holding capacity, which helps soil retain moisture longer. This stimulates healthy root development.
- Loosening and aerating clay soils to make it easier for roots to establish themselves.

Tree trimmings collected from Griffith Park by Rec and Parks are grinded at their recycling plant and given to the composting facility. More than 3,500 tons of organic material becomes compost at the Griffith Park Composting facility. This facility and the recycling plant are the first of their kind in the United States.

Compost is donated to nonprofit organizations and

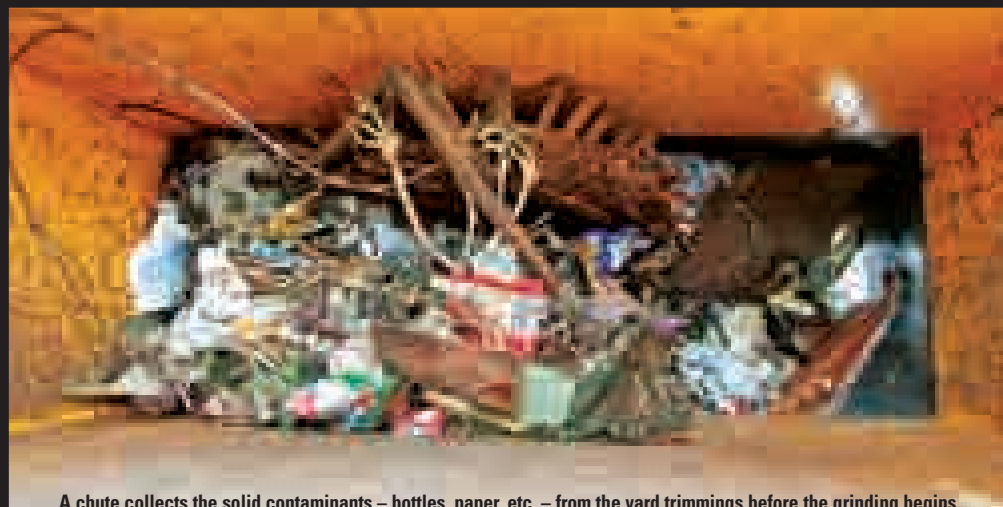
schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District; it is also used in the garden areas at the Los Angeles Zoo and in park landscaping projects throughout the City.

Seal of Testing Assurance

Public Works/Sanitation strives to provide the highest-quality compost and adhere to standards adopted by agricultural organizations. Learn more about the Seal of Testing Assurance for the City's compost at san.lacity.org/srpcd/sta_info.htm. Copies of the most current quarterly lab STA data sheets alongside instructions on the recommended use of the STA compost products produced by the City can be obtained for the respective products.



The Lopez Canyon mulch processing facility.



A chute collects the solid contaminants – bottles, paper, etc. – from the yard trimmings before the grinding begins.



Alive! Feature

THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW, – continued

When the giveaway stations are empty, people call you and request more.

Paul: Yes. When a giveaway site is empty, we do receive phone calls. That's how popular the program is.

Wow. It's a valuable commodity it sounds like.

Paul: It is. It is valued.

The Three Facilities

Tell us about the differences between the three facilities that you have.

Paul: Okay. The first place where we initially began our operation was in at the Harbor facility, and that is a small operation. We take in approximately 80 tons [of yard waste] a day. That's considerably smaller than we do here at Lopez Canyon. We do grinding there, but we don't have any windrows in that area. We did at one time have a place on Terminal Island where we could do windrows and cure the material, but that was borrowed territory. It belonged to the Harbor Department and they needed the land for something else, so we closed that down.

The primary site became Lopez Canyon, and we have agreements [relating to] environmental issues with the community. We've tried to limit the number of trucks coming in, the amount

of noise, hours of operation, that sort of thing, but even within those parameters, we are producing a significant amount of material here.

The other site that I have is the Griffith Park Composting Facility, and this is a unique operation that started entirely separately. The Griffith Park Composting Facility is comprised of trimmings from the park; "zoo doo," a manure from the zoo; and biosolids from Hyperion Treatment Plant. [The Griffith Park facility] originally began as a pilot program to see the feasibility of doing it.

And at Griffith Park, in addition to the different feedstock, we also have the concept of aerated stockpiles. We have channels underneath the piles, and we have a vacuum line and a turbine that draw air through the piles from below and provide the same service as if we were turning it with a turner. We're still drawing air and we're making a high-grade compost with the feedstock we have. Half of that we're giving back to the park because it originated in their area and they can use it. And the other half, we sell. We have people who buy it by the truckload.

Why do you need the biosolids?

Paul: It's part of a pilot program and it's a biological product that augments the other material we're using. There are strict controls on the formula and testing and monitoring. We keep records of that.

I see. And Lopez Canyon ...

Paul: The third one is Lopez Canyon. The products we produce here are full compost, that's the material with the manure in it, and that [cures for] over 90 days. Then there's our what we call mini-composted material or the mulch, the partially composted mulch; I know for that our minimum is 21 days. We like it to go 50. We like the idea of making it as close to compost as he possibly can.

And the third product that we produce out of Lopez is what we call raw mulch, and farmers use that material primarily for weed abatement and erosion control, soil amendment, that sort of thing. They put it down in large quantities. We just bring them an 18-wheeler load or several, and they spread it with their own tractors. The farmers have known for a long time the value of using this because those who have used the material have cut their water usage tremendously. We live in a Mediterranean climate here in Southern California, which means that we're just one small step above a desert, and water retention or wise water use is a very, very important endeavor that we all ought to be involved in.

Good for the City

When did the concept of mulch and processing it, when did it really grow? Was it like five years ago, ten years ago, 20 years ago? Take us through that.

Get Your Free Mulch Here!

Public Works hosts nine sites where you can get free near-compost (cured for 21 days). On occasion, full compost (90 days) is distributed at these locations, too.

INFORMATION:
san.lacity.org/srpcd/mulch_giveaway.htm

Club CEO John Hawkins grabs a handful of raw mulch.



FREE MULCH PICK-UP LOCATIONS:

- 1 Lake View Terrace**
 11950 Lopez Canyon Rd.
 Los Angeles, CA 91342
 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day
- 2 Sheldon-Arleta**
 12455 Wicks St.
 Los Angeles, CA 91352
 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day
- 3 West Valley**
 16600 Roscoe Pl.
 Los Angeles, CA 91343
 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day
- 4 Donald C. Tillman**
 15800 Victory Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 91406
 Enter south of the Densmore Avenue intersection
 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon. – Fri.;
 8 a.m. to noon Sat.
- 5 West L.A.**
 6000 W. Jefferson Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90016
 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day
- 6 East L.A.**
 2649 E. Washington Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90023
 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Fri. – Sun.
- 7 Elysian Valley**
 3000 Gilroy St.
 Los Angeles, CA 90039
 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day
- 8 San Pedro**
 1400 N Gaffey St.
 Los Angeles, CA 90731
 6 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Mon. – Fri.
- 9 N. Mission Road**
 850 N. Mission Rd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90033
 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Tuesdays and Thursdays

Thank You Very **Public Works**

Mulch

Paul Blount, Operations Manager (right), describes how solid contaminants (bottles, paper, etc.) are picked by hand from the raw mulch, along a conveyor belt.

Paul: Our program began maybe 15 years ago or so, and we've refined it considerably.

In the early '90s we began seriously taking care of the mulch program. We started off assisting the Harbor Department with dust control and weed abatement. We found out that we had some problems – pumpkins and tomatoes and squash began growing in the areas that we had mulched. Left alone and just thrown out there, apparently the seeds and whatever would germinate on their own, and this was not what the Harbor Department wanted. And so one of our employees, who had quite a bit of experience in farming, said that we ought to begin to compost it a bit. We didn't have to run a full compost process, but [we had to] water it and turn it long enough to kill weed seeds, and it'll begin to break down, and it will make a much better material. We found that by doing that, we wouldn't have squash and tomatoes and corn and things growing. We got better and better at making a product that people wanted. For a while we were even providing material to Caltrans to use along the freeway right-of-way. We produced more when we lost Caltrans because they only wanted a certain amount. We began looking around for somebody to take it because it was too good to throw away. And that was the birth of our giveaway sites. We would get complaints that the material at the giveaway sites had more contaminants than

– continued, page 32



Compost Processing Facilities

Griffith Park Composting Facility

The Griffith Park Composting Facility began operations in January 1996. It is designed to compost the organic matter produced in the regional park. Maintenance crews collect dropped leaves, lawn clippings and trimmings from acres of landscaping. Zoo doo (collected from herbivores such as elephants and zebras) and biosolids are blended with chipped park greenery and composted. Topgro, the final compost product, is then used in Griffith Park, thus completing the full cycle of recycling. It is also available for retail sale to Los Angeles residents for their own urban landscaping projects.

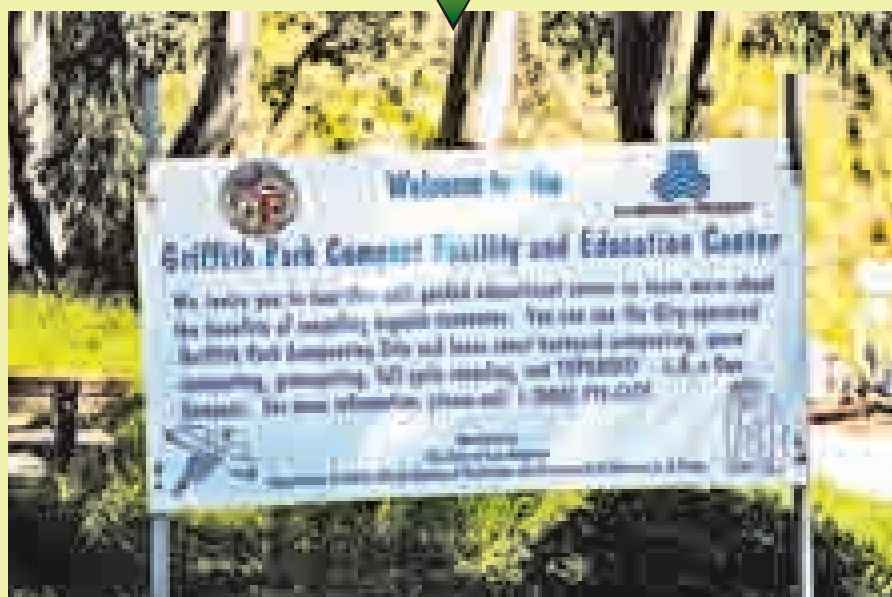
The Griffith Park Composting Facility reuses Zoo manure, Griffith park green trimmings and a small amount of City biosolids to produce a compost product that will enhance City parks and build healthy soils without creating any negative environmental

impact to Griffith Park patrons and local residents.

Topgro is a registered, trademarked product owned and produced by the City of Los Angeles. The product is a natural organic product derived from pesticide-free yard clippings, animal manure from the Los Angeles Zoo and anaerobically digested Class A biosolids from the City's Hyperion Waste Water Treatment Plant. The product is non-hazardous, non-toxic and not subject to hazardous waste regulations.

At the Griffith Park facility, about four tons of zoo doo are combined with 20 tons of biosolids and 50 cubic yards of yard trimmings to form static piles through perforated pipes leading to a biofilter. The biofilter is made of natural ingredients – wood chips, limestone, and peat moss – that organically reduce odor-producing contaminants.

After 60 days of composting, curing and screening, 15 tons per day of Topgro organic compost will be ready for use and distribution.



Harbor Yard-Trimming Facility

This operation is at the Gaffey Street Landfill, which has been reclaimed for recreational and mulching use. It receives Bureau of Sanitation collected yard trimmings (green waste), which are cleaned, processed and spread for purposes of weed and erosion control. The mulching facility is not open to the public.

The facility processes curbside collected green waste delivered by Sanitation's Solid Resources Collection Division. The site is about 2.5 acres in size. On the average, there are 20,000 tons of green waste delivered annually.

The facility utilizes a picking station, a screening machine and a tub grinder to process the material. The resulting product is given away to farmers for use as moisture retention and soil amendment.



Lopez Canyon Environmental Center

Lopez Canyon Environmental Center is the processing site for curbside collected yard trimmings from the East Valley area as well as horse manure collected by the City, into valuable mulch and compost.

History of the facility: In 2002 it became clear to Bureau of Sanitation managers that the three small-scale green trimmings management sites operated by City staff were not enough to accommodate City needs. A task force of Lopez Canyon Landfill neighbors met with Bureau of Sanitation representatives to consider putting a composting facility at the closed landfill. After careful mitigation agreements and production work, the facility became a reality in December 2003.

Over the decade, better environmental changes have been incorporated into the facility, sometimes based on requests by the community, sometimes based on needs identified by the Bureau of Sanitation.

The Lopez Canyon Environmental Center at the closed Lopez Canyon Landfill:

- Provides a much-needed green recycling facility for East Valley residents
- Provides the finished product, free, to the local community (mulch only)
- Increases employment opportunities for nearby residents
- Saves the City money by operating its own mulch and compost facility
- Provides an end product that is very beneficial for the environment

Since 2004, yard trimmings collected from residents in the San Fernando Valley have been processed at this City composting facility. Today, an average of 300 tons per day of yard trimmings are mixed with about 125 tons per day of woody materials to produce high-quality mulch that is given away free to City residents, delivered to farmers and donated to schools, nonprofits and community groups. Another specialized product consists of horse manure and yard trimmings, compost. This horse manure compost is an STA-certified product.

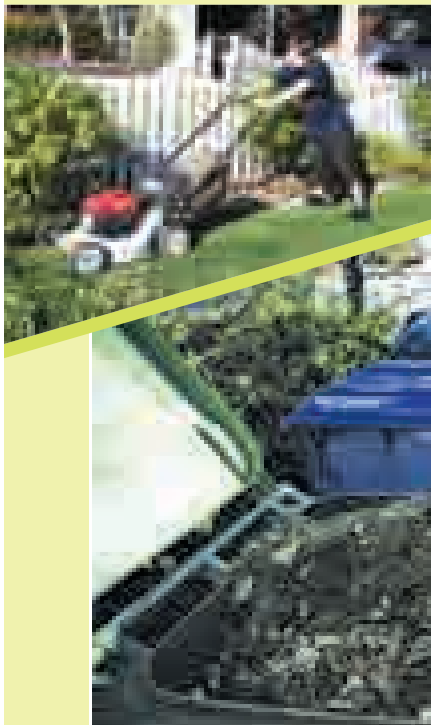
Alive! Feature

[T H E P R O C E S S]

From the Yard, and Back Again

Here's how Public Works turns your yard trimmings into mulch or compost.**Producing a high-quality product (either mulch or compost) involves removing contamination (anything besides organic material) from the raw materials, making piles of the cleaned material, keeping it moist, mixing it and letting it sit and decompose. The finished product looks dark and rich, like the rich soil you see under trees in the woods.**

Step 1 Doing Your Part



The process starts when you cut your lawn, trim your hedges, or perform other yard tasks. Here, Noah Hawkins, son of Club CEO John Hawkins, mows the family yard and places the trimmings in their green bin.

Step 3 At the Plant

The LNG sanitation truck arrives at Lopez Canyon Environmental Center and delivers its payload – yard trimmings from City residents.



Step 2 Sanitation Pickup

The Hawkins family's yard recyclables are picked up early ...



THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW, – continued

some people liked, so we got better at cleaning it and we learned as we went how to make a good product. We're at the point now where I would put our giveaway material up against any of the commercially produced mulch materials that you'd get at the home centers.

Very good. Why do you think this department is important to the City?

Paul: It's good on a couple of different levels. One, we can deal with our yard trimmings, a green solid resource. It's important because it is of value, and it conveys to the citizens that we have a product that is not something to be discarded, buried in the ground or otherwise thrown away. It's being put back to immediate reuse by the people who actually generated it, the citizens who cut their yards and trimmed their trees.

Now, I'm not processing the entire green waste stream for the City. I'm getting about 25 percent of it, but that's 25 percent that we're not paying somebody else to process. When we go to outside vendors to take it, the City has to pay for that, and although there are costs associated with my process, it is going back to the citizens in a product that they can use. And I'd like to think that we are keeping the private vendors competitive. The fact that we are there and doing it in a competitive manner keeps the prices low.

Would you like to take more of it in-house?

Paul: Yes, I would. I'd like to be able to capture more of the City's products so that we don't have to pay somebody else to take it. Also we've started making actual compost that we'll run for 90 days [as opposed to "near" compost, which is cured for 21 days – Ed.]. I would like to market that at a competitive price to whoever would like to buy it. I think there's a viable market for it.

Ideally, that other 75 percent [that the City isn't currently processing in-house] would go a long way toward providing feedstock for a viable industry that the City can get into. The City, as such, can't make a profit, but we could certainly defray costs. Avoiding costs is another way of saying that it's a very sound concept economically. And we'd be avoiding the costs that we realize when we have somebody else do this.

And you're writing a business plan for this, right?

Paul: Yes, I am researching a business plan, a marketing plan. Has the dept. always handled about 25 percent of the City's yard trimmings, or has it changed over the years?

Paul: It's changed. We started off probably doing maybe ten percent or less, and we keep increasing the amount we can do. I need people to be able to do it. We are in very trying economic

times in the City right now. It's very labor-intensive, but I think it would pay off and when things ease up a bit, if I could go ahead and add people. The more material I can process, the better the economic result for the City.

So you'd like to see it grow.

Paul: I'd like it to grow, yes. Right now it's sort of stable because we are hindered by a lack of personnel. This is a very labor-intensive endeavor and, with the furloughing of so many people, if I don't have enough people to do it, then I can't produce as much. I will not put out a bad product of low quality. I don't want to jeopardize my certification, and I don't want to give the citizens who have been using the stuff a product that doesn't measure up to what they've been used to getting.

Good for the Environment

Talk about the environmental sensitivity of it.

I know the process that you use is approved. Talk about the environmental sensibility of what you do.

Paul: We are dealing with a product that had not too long ago been considered a waste, so we are returning it to beneficial reuse. So that in a sense is an environmentally sound aspect, its sustainability.

Thank You Very **Public Works** Mulch

[T H E P R O C E S S]

Step 4 Cleaning Begins

a) The process begins when City workers remove large contaminants by hand.



Rodolfo Baltierrez picks the pile clean.

b) The cleaned material is then loaded into a trommel screen.



Anceo Francisco, Equipment Operator, dumps raw mulch into the trommel screen machine.

Step 5 The Trommel Screen

In the trommel screen, the material is separated by size into coarse and fine material (less than two inches in size).



Paul Blount, Operations Manager, explains the trommel screen to Club CEO John Hawkins.

Step 6

The Picking Station

a) The coarse material is transported by conveyor belt to a picking station, where workers again remove non-organic materials.



ABOVE: Susan Whitman, William Galicia and Ivan Soriano hand-remove the contaminants from the yard trimmings, while Paul Blount, Operations Manager, and Club CEO John Hawkins observe.



b) The coarse material is then piled at the end of the picking station. At this point, it's called raw mulch.

Are there good ways to process mulch and bad ways to process mulch?

Paul: Yes. If you don't adhere to good processes, your mulch won't be processed properly and it'll be of little or no value. If you don't turn it properly, if you don't water it properly, if you don't cook it long enough; all of those things will keep you from providing a viable product. We've sent people back to school for training on how to properly mulch and compost, and they know the science. We monitor it closely, we keep our temperature reading set so we get optimal return from the amount of work we put into it. So it's environmentally sound.

You have on your Website that you're certified by the American Composting Council. Talk about that.

Paul: It's a certifying agency, and they establish and monitor standards of the material that is produced. You can't get certified by them unless you meet those criteria. They could have anything to do with any lack of pathogens or contaminants, that sort of thing.

How do they certify you?

Paul: We give them samples of it over time, and they review it. They have test labs that review our material and tell us how we stand in those critical areas.



Paul Blount, Operations Manager, at the Lopez Canyon facility.

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Alive! Feature

THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW, – continued

I see. And we saw some dust mitigation and odor neutralization processes, too.

Paul: Yes. Mulch is going to create some odor. Some people find it offensive, some don't. But we have begun recently adding odor neutralizer to our process. It actually neutralizes the odor-causing components in it so that it won't be offensive to our neighbors. As far as dust, we have water trucks working in the area constantly. In addition to watering our windrows, they also keep down any dust that may be generated from the operation.

You also mentioned that you also process some horse manure from around the area from the ranches in the Lopez Canyon area.

Paul: We take a percentage of manure and mix it with some of our mulch. I think it's an 80/20 mix, 80 percent mulch to 20 percent manure, because it's regulated. We are approved by the American Composting Council to a set formula, and that's the stuff that we turn into full-blown compost. That is an excellent product and I think a very saleable product.

Living Green

What is the best future for composting? Do you see it growing and being used a lot more by your customers?

Paul: Oh absolutely. A big thing right now is living green, and the byword, and I don't say this lightly, is sustainability. Sustainability means environmentally, socially and culturally sound practices that enable the communities to thrive. And this is just one area. I can see people becoming more and more conscious of the value of it. Mulching and composting prevents erosion and helps water retention. These things are very paramount in everyone's minds now. If a farmer can grow better crops and use less water, it's a benefit. That helps everybody. If someone in the neighborhood can grow better houseplants or keep their lawn from washing into the gutter, there's a benefit there. You're preventing erosion of your soil. Water retention is a very important thing in our environmental consciousness, also.

How long have you been doing this?

Paul: I came over to this division in the mid to late 1990s, and it was already established on a rudimentary basis.

Why did you come over to do this?

Did you have interest in this operation?

Paul: I am interested in waste management. I have spent most of my career in the collection side, and then I had an opportunity to come over to this side. I didn't realize that there was so much more going on than was apparent. Once I saw this, it

became just fascinating to me, and I became more and more interested. It's turned into a passion.

And you teach waste management, right?

Paul: I do. I teach a municipal solid waste management certificate course at LA Trade Tech College, and I guess technically I'm still on the faculty at UCLA Extension, teaching waste management there, although I haven't taught there for a long time.

You're proud of this operation, aren't you?

Paul: It's a wonderful operation. You know, Thoreau said, "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation," indicating that people dread coming to work. I have excellent staff. Jim Kerr's, a wonderful superintendent, and Paul Labelle, my superintendent at the transfer station, is top-notch. With people like this and my staff out there, laborers and equipment operation and all that – with people like that, why wouldn't I want to come to work? And the kind of work they do, why wouldn't I be proud?

Why should people go to the trouble of collecting their yard waste and then putting it in their green bins?

Paul: Our name is Solid Resources, and we like for people to understand that just as the newspapers, bottles and cans are a resource, so is the stuff that goes in the green container.

[THE PROCESS]

Step 7 The Grinder

The cleaned material is now fed into a tub grinder, where it's reduced in size to about two inches or less. When it comes out of the tub grinder, it's very finely ground material.



Step 8 Some to the Farmers

At this point, some of the raw mulch is distributed to farmers in Ventura County.



Step 9 The Windrows

a) This finely ground product is mixed with the other fine material that came from the trommel screen and laid in piles (windrows) on the asphalt pad.



b) Water is added, and the windrow is mixed using a compost turner.



c) Some of the cleaned, fine material is mixed with horse manure and placed in separate windrows. Each windrow is approximately 20 feet wide, eight feet high and 300 feet long. Once placed into windrows, the material is periodically turned, monitored for proper temperature and moisture for approximately 30 days for mulch and 60 days for horse manure compost.



Thank You Very **Public Works**
Mulch

Paul Blount, Operations Manager, and John Hawkins, Club CEO, touring the Lopez Canyon facility

The cleaner the residents make their green material, the cheaper it is to produce a better product. So one message I could get to all the citizens, don't contaminate your recyclable containers with trash; don't contaminate your green container with anything but green material. Conversely, don't throw green material that can go in the green bin in your black can, and don't put your recyclable cans and bottles in the black can. Just adhere to the process, and it will simplify our whole waste management program.

And I don't even know, is it a regulation that they have to put the green waste in the green can?

Paul: You know, no. [Not green waste. - Ed.] And this is funny because we have AB-939, the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, and that was the first law of recycling of any consequence in the United States, really. It was so well written and so well designed that other states literally took AB-939 and changed the name on it and adopted it as their own. The basic tenets of AB-939 were that we were to divert 25 percent of waste from the landfill by the year 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. Los Angeles met those goals, and we have far exceeded them by now.



There are four main reasons that people don't recycle. When I say recycle, I'm talking about not only the blue container but the green container, too. One, they don't know about it. Two, they don't care. Three, it's inconvenient. And four, it's messy. So my mission to you and everybody else would be to show how you can avoid those pratfalls, that it's not really inconvenient. Here's why you should care, because it's an environmentally

sound thing to do. We made it as convenient as possible when we went to single stream recycling.

Do you collect yours?

Paul: Absolutely. If I have some really good material like some plant trimmings and stuff that I use, I have a little compost area set aside in my yard. I use a lot of my own stuff that is really beneficial and rich like coffee grounds, for instance, and banana peels and other organic things that work really well. The problem I have is that I've got this curious dog. It wouldn't go well if he decided to investigate my compost pile so I have to be careful.

So you're basically running a big one here for the City and a small one for yourself?

Paul: And a small one for me, right.

That's great.

Paul: I like what I do and I like the people I do it with, and I like talking about what I do. And I need to apologize because I slipped into my schoolteacher mode there.

No, no. It's very helpful. Thank you for your time today.

Paul: It was my pleasure.

[T H E P R O C E S S]

Step 10 Final Check



Doug Fisher, Equipment Operator, demonstrates the final product to Club CEO John Hawkins.

After the material has cured into near-compost (30 days) or full compost (90 days), it is sent through a final filter to make sure it is finely ground. If so, it is brought to one of the City's nine giveaway sites for free distribution. If not, it is sent back to a windrow for more curing.



Step 11 Giveaway to the Public



The final near-compost or full compost is then given back to the citizens of Los Angeles, for water conservation and soil enrichment. See page 30 for locations.

The Cleaners

Here are some of the men and women who clean the green matter before it can be turned into mulch or compost. Hats off to them for their hard work!



ABOVE: Donald Vaughns



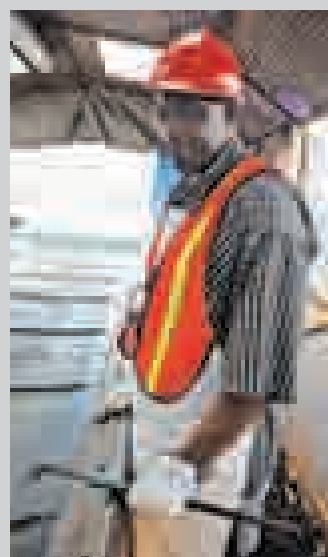
William Garcia



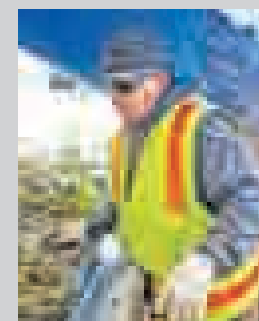
ABOVE: Monica Cruz and Gerardo BalaDez



Ivan Soriano



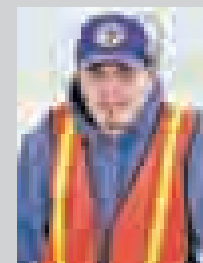
ABOVE: Dijohn Bernard (workfare worker)



Raul Ornelas



Susan Wittman



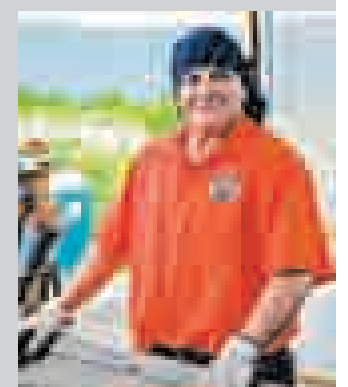
Armando Rodriguez M/L



ABOVE: Eugene Calloway (workfare worker)



RIGHT: Anthony Quitte (workfare worker)



Juan Gonzales M/L

This Month at the

Club Store



Here are the highlights of the Club Store and Service Center for April:

TICKETS



Try the Club's E-ticket system! Buy your tickets to Disneyland, SeaWorld and Aquarium of the Pacific, and have them delivered to your email box. It's that simple! Go to www.CityEmployeesClub.com



MERCHANDISE SPECIALS



United Agencies APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE

GET A FREE QUOTE ON AUTO AND HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE



April 16

Rosa Calderon, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

April 30

Patty Pulido, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

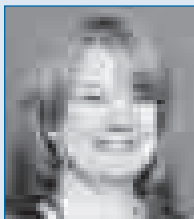
Your United Agencies Reps:



Norma Angulo, Personal Insurance Agent



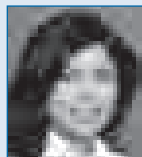
Rosa Calderon, Personal Insurance Agent



Suzanne Eggi, Personal Insurance Mgr



Patty Pulido, Personal Insurance Agent



Rose Rangel, Personal Insurance Agent

Club Store and Service Center
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(888) 777-1744

PERSONNEL

Goodbye, Gail

Gail Thomas retires from Personnel after 34 years of City service.



From left: Tap Camacho, John Dunlop, Joseph Mariani and Gail Thomas.

Story and photos by Tap Camacho, Personnel

Gail Thomas Plakos has retired as Chief Personnel Analyst, Personnel, after 34 years of City service.

Gail has had a very active career with the City since she started in June 1976 as a Relief Retirement Worker with the DWP on loan to the Personnel's Examining Division.

She stayed with Personnel in her subsequent promotions to Administrative Intern, Management Assistant and Personnel Analyst. She left as a Sr. Personnel Analyst with the LAPD/ Employee Relations Section and returned to Personnel in 1990, promoted to Sr. Personnel Analyst II with the Equal Employment Opportunities Section.

She managed the Police Officer and Firefighter examination processes and the Case Managers who reviewed police office background investigations to ensure compliance with the Commission's Background Standards. Meanwhile, she established the use of civilian Background Investigators to conduct Firefighter applicant background investigations as a Sr. Personnel Analyst II until 2001.

She was promoted to Chief Personnel Analyst in October 2001 and established the Background Investigation Division. In April 2002 she returned to the Examining Division, where she had more than seven years of prior experience. In August 2007, she was reassigned to the Background Investigation Division, where she implements the Mayor's Public Safety goal of increasing LAPD's sworn workforce by 1,000 officers.

Some of the highlights of her City career include having received a Commendation from the Board of Civil Service Commissioners to the Background Investigation Division for her efforts in achieving the largest sworn police force in LAPD history in 2009; and a Quality and Productivity Project Collaboration Award for developing and implementing a Streamlined Police Selection Program in 2003.

Gail has shaped City operations by having researched and written the Pre-Employment Drug Testing Policy and Guidelines for the City, which were adopted by the City Council and implemented in 1990.

As an active member of the Parish Council at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Northridge, she served 17 years on the Board of Directors as a past President of the St. Nicholas Chapter of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. Philoptochos has been called the largest women's Christian philanthropic organization in the nation and has earned nongovernmental agency status with the United Nations and UNICEF. Philoptochos, meaning "friend of the poor," is the official philanthropic auxiliary of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Gail will enjoy her retirement while her husband, Paul, continues to work for Public Works/Contract Administration as a Senior Construction Inspector. She will be looking forward to her daughter's expected graduation from Cal State Northridge in May. In her retirement, she will have more time to spend with her dogs Missy, a miniature Dachshund, and Harley, a Maltese.

Congratulations on your retirement, Gail. Best wishes from the Club!



From left: Bennie Sadler, Gail Thomas, Jon Nerlinger and Tom Ward.



From left: Gloria Sosa, Tom Mears and Gail Thomas.



From left: Gloria Sosa, Joseph Mariani and Gail Thomas.



From left: Phyllis Lynes, Jim Abalos, Gail Thomas and Margaret Whelan.



From left: Gloria Sosa, John Dunlop, Gail Thomas and Joanne O'Brien.

DWP

West Water Division Health Fair

DWP's Water Division in Sylmar holds health and safety fair.

Story and photos by Eboné Moses, Club Counselor

The annual Sylmar West Health and Safety Fair was held Feb. 17-18. DWP employees stopped by to inquire about benefit options and health status, and some even took advantage of the free massage offers. The Fair was a two-day event, and each day hot dogs, popcorn, chips and drinks were available.

The Club was happy to be invited! Thanks to Tonya Howard-Taylor for her assistance.



From left: Steven Malinoski, Director of Water Distribution, 40 years; and Joe Castruita, Club Member, Assistant Director of Water Distribution.



From left: Daniel Tapia, Club Member, Equipment Operator, 6 years; Michael Smith, Club Member, Water Utility Worker, 25 years; Albert Valencia, MCH, 3 years; Charlie Alarcon, Water Utility, 10 years; Joe Hickman, Club Member, MCH, 9 years; and Leslie Peacock, Club Member, Water Utility Supervisor, Harbor, 24 years.



From left: Devon Boldt, Club Member, Water Service Specialist, 8 years; and Terrance Black, Club Member, Water Utility Worker, 12 years.



From left: Rudy Martinez, Club Member, Water Utility Worker, 21 years; and Jeffrey Dash, Club Member, Equipment Operator, 17 years.



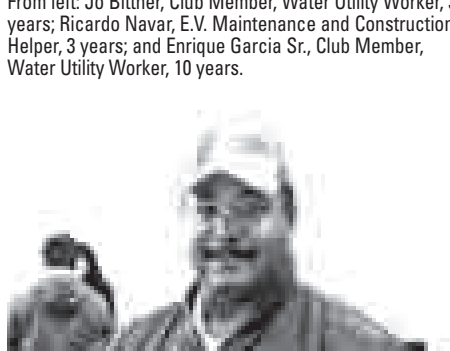
From left: Joan Alexandria Tagle-Wong, Club Member, Management Analyst, 9 years; and Tonya Howard-Taylor, Industrial Hygienist, 5 years.



From left: Jo Bittner, Club Member, Water Utility Worker, 3 years; Ricardo Navar, E.V. Maintenance and Construction Helper, 3 years; and Enrique Garcia Sr., Club Member, Water Utility Worker, 10 years.



From left: Jeffrey Dash, Club member, Equipment Operator, 17 years; and Ray Algorri, Club Member, Superintendent Grapevine, 40 years.



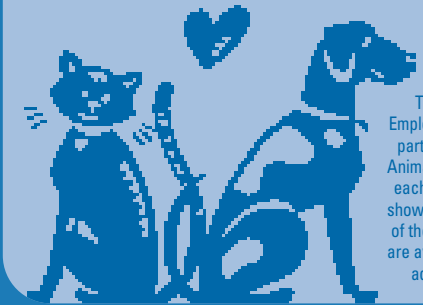
Joe D. Hickman, Club member, MCH, 9 years.



From left: Reuben Toujillo, Club Member, Water Utility Worker, 5 years; Blase Lopez, Club Member, MCH, 12 years; Michael C. Sullivan, Construction Maintenance Supervisor, 28 years; and Moises Tapia, Utility Worker, 10 years.

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:

roger

Roger is an eight-year-old black and tan neutered German shepherd mix. He is very playful and eager to please. He is good with other dogs and is housebroken. Please help Roger find a new home!

ID# A0440651- West Los Angeles Animal Care Center.



kitty

Kitty is a six-year-old black-smoke spayed domestic short hair cat. Kitty would make a perfect addition to any home. She is good with other cats and loves hanging out indoors.

ID# A1089548 - West Los Angeles Animal Care Center.



annie

Annie is a six-year-old black and brown spayed Rottweiler. Annie is a very sweet lady that walks well on leash and loves to have her belly rubbed. She is looking for a home where she can be number one!

ID# A1081536 - West Los Angeles Animal Care Center.



jazzy

Jazzy is a three-year-old black spayed domestic short hair. Jazzy is a little shy, and she would be best suited for an older couple or single person looking for a companion.

ID# A1087651 - West Los Angeles Animal Care Center.



momma

Momma is a two-year-old black and white female Labrador mix. She is a sweet young lady that loves to go for walks, is great with other dogs and adores people! She would make a great addition to any home.

ID# 1085938 - West Los Angeles Animal Care Center.



Meet your new hope coordinator!



All of this month's animals are available at the West LA Animal Care Center, 11361 W. Pico Blvd. The New Hope/Baby Bottle Coordinator is **Samantha Westbrook**. She can be reached at (213) 485-0494.

To see more animals available for adoption, please visit www.laanimalservices.org

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



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

Alive! Around the World Contest!



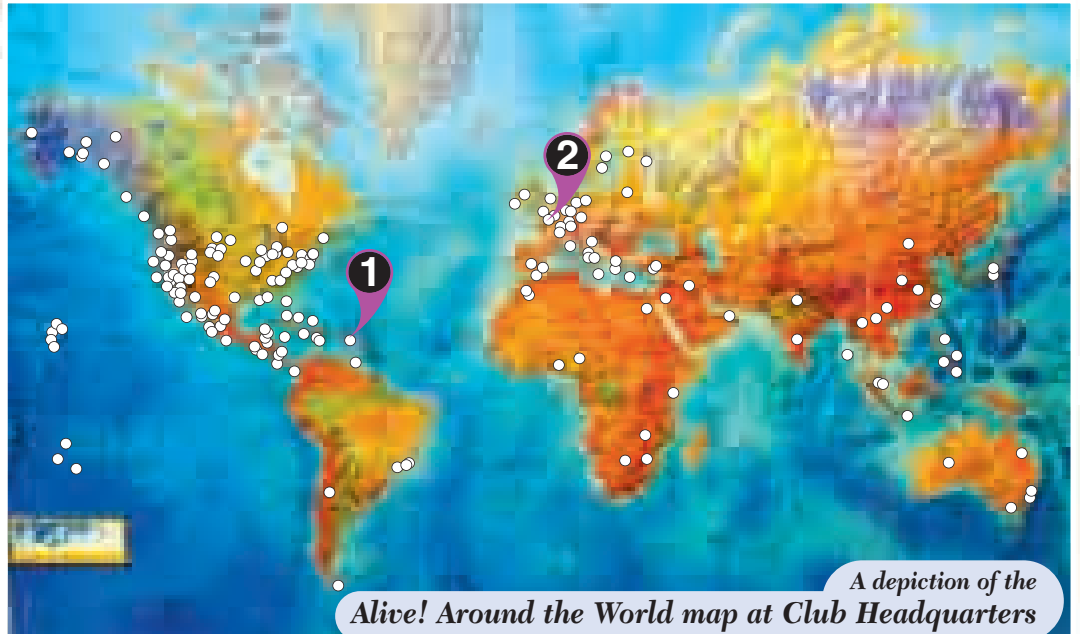
Whoops! Here's the Actual Winner

Back in January, *Alive!* ran the results of our contest: Who can take their *Alive!* the farthest from Los Angeles? And we announced a winner. Except that ... our math was faulty! The actual winner should have been Robert Whitaker, Rec and Parks (retired), at the Chobe National Park in Botswana. That's a distance of approximately 10,100 miles ... almost half the globe, and some 2,000 miles more than our listed winner. Sorry about that, Robert. Please accept our apologies ... plus, of course, the prize of a \$100 gift card. Enjoy it, while we go back to school to study math again.



Winner: Robert Whitaker, Rec and Parks (retired)

DESTINATION: Chobe National Park in Botswana – 10,100 miles
PUBLISHED: November 2009



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!

1

The Caribbean

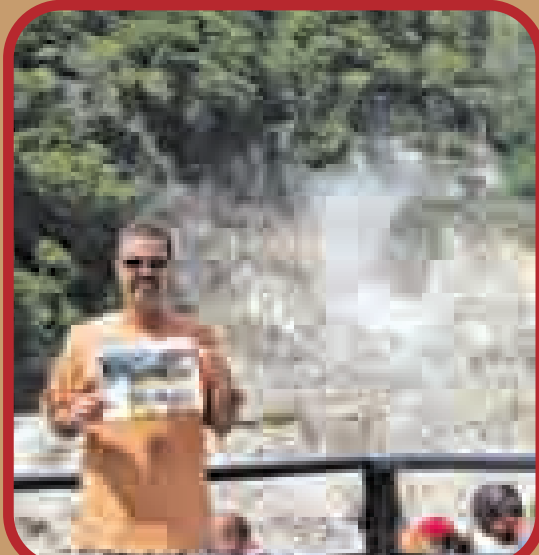
Here's another installment of **Mike Boyd, Public Works/West Valley Sanitation**, as he goes "*Alive!* Around the World"



Antigua: Mike Boyd in Antigua, overlooking Nelson's Dockyard, where the Royal Naval ships were maintained in the 18th century.



St John, U.S. Virgin Islands: On the beach at Trunk Bay in St. John.



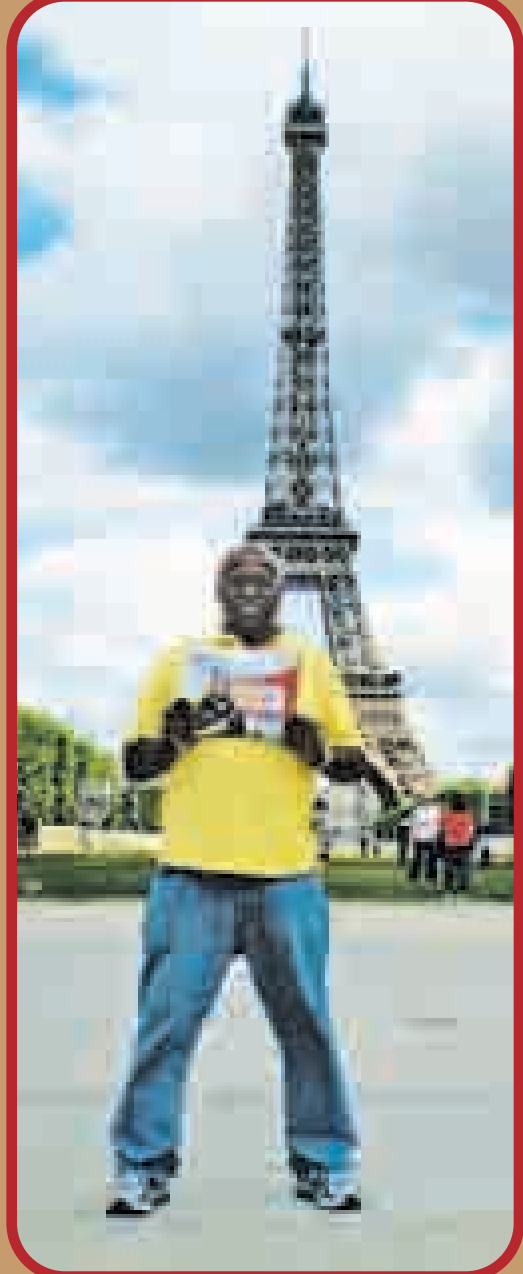
St. Lucia, U.S. Virgin Islands: Standing inside of the only drive-through volcano, in St. Lucia.



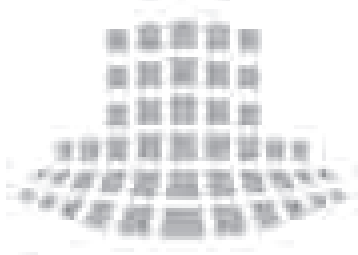
Pitons: Mike is pictured in front of the Pitons in Soufriere, St. Lucia

2

France



Here's **John Wilborn, retired**, "studying abroad" in Paris, 2008.



Los Angeles Convention Center

Work Opportunities For Retirees

Electrical Craft Helpers, Electricians/Communication Electricians, Plumbers

\$34.84/hr – Electrician/Communication Electrician

\$24.44/hr – Electrical Craft Helper

\$36.33/hr – Plumber

(Plus Overtime if applicable)

Dear Retiree,

Are you looking for a part time job with great pay, great atmosphere, flexible work schedule, and exciting projects? Then working part-time at the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) may be just the opportunity you have been looking for. We employ retirees throughout the year to supplement our Electrical, Audio/Video, and Plumbing operations to help meet the service demands of large events, including:

- Greater L.A. Auto Show
 - The Grammy's
 - Westec
 - Boat Show
 - E³
- And Many More

If you have retired from the City of Los Angeles or the LADWP and previously worked in one of the above classes, their equivalents, or in a qualified higher class, you are encouraged to apply for this great opportunity.

The Electrical, AV and Plumbing operations at the award-winning Los Angeles Convention Center have established a stellar reputation throughout the trade show and convention industry as one of the best in the world.

Are you interested
in joining our great team?

Contact LACC Human Resources at (213) 741-1151 ext 5420, email humanresources@lacclink.com, or go to our website at www.lacclink.com for an application and/or more information.



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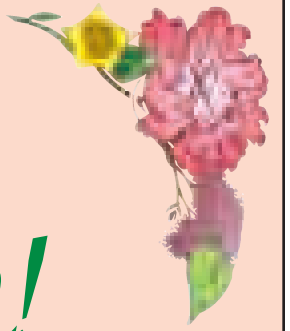
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UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD

Pay Tribute to Your Mom!



Mom, I want to thank you for always being there for me when I most needed you. You're not only my mother, but my best friend as well. I thank you for all the wonderful moments we have shared. I love you so much, and God bless you.

Moms love tributes. It's the least you can do, after all she has done for you!



Mom, you told me what you thought, but you let me think for myself. You told me where to go, but you let me look for myself. You told me where to go, but you encouraged me to go further. I look back and say, thank you, Mom, for teaching me how to be a mother.



Mother, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for being so wonderful and supportive. I love you and appreciate all you do. Wishing you a Happy Mother's Day!

CLUB MEMBERS: Pay tribute to your mom this Mother's Day... with a photo and message of lifelong love, published in *Alive!*

In our May issue, we'll print a photo of you and your mom (or just your mom) ... and a two or three sentence message of Happy Mother's Day from you. Photos can be either print or digital. Send it in now!

- Send in a print or digital photo of you and your mom (or just your mom). Send **high resolution** digital photos to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com. Send print photos (or drop them off in person) to the Club Store at 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Include a message of Happy Mother's Day (up to three sentences).
- Deadline: April 15.**



Newsbrief

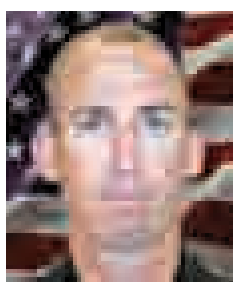
LAPD OFFICER DIES IN AFGHANISTAN:

Just in at press time, LAPD Officer R.J. Cottle, who was killed during military deployment in Afghanistan.

From a press release from the LAPD: "It is with great sadness that we report the death of a respected and valued member of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), who was killed during combat operations in Afghanistan while serving in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"The LAPD has learned through family contacts of the death of 45-year-old Sgt. Major Robert J. Cottle, United States Marine Corps (USMC). In the near future, the Department of Defense and the USMC will formally release his name and the circumstances related to his death in accordance with military protocols. Cottle had been deployed on active duty since August 2009. He served with the Fourth LAR Battalion, Headquarters Company, Fourth Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California.

"Cottle was appointed to the LAPD on Sept. 10, 1990. He had been assigned to Metropolitan Division since February 1996, and his most recent assignment was in 'D' Team, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), as a Police Officer III+I.

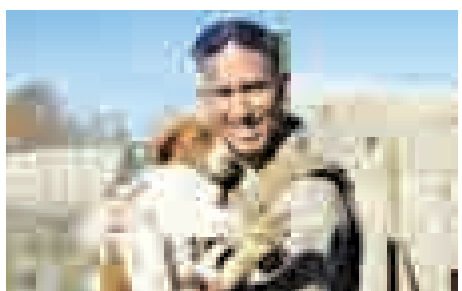


LAPD Officer R.J. Cottle.

"This deeply saddens me, especially since I've known RJ for over 20 years," said LAPD Chief Charlie Beck. "He is a fine man and a great example of the best LAPD has to offer. He will be missed."

"Whether Cottle was serving the people of Los Angeles or serving the people of the United States, he did so with honor, integrity and commitment. His death will leave a void in the hearts of all who knew and loved him, and his contributions to the Department will be greatly missed.

"We ask that community members keep Officer Cottle's family members, friends and his extended LAPD family in their thoughts and prayers."



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BROADVIEW SECURITY



...and a two or three sentence message of Happy Mother's Day from you. Photos can be either print or digital. Send it in now!

LAPD

Club Member Saves the Day

With intrepid skill, police work and timing, Police Dept. Forensic Video Analyst Jim Hoerricks, Club Member, saves the reputation of two officers.

The following is an edited version of a column by Gary Ingemunson, attorney, from the March issue of the Los Angeles Police Protective League's Thin Blue Line newsletter. —Ed.

The officers were lucky. Very lucky. It hadn't started out that way. The captain had called them in and told them Internal Affairs was en route. "You'd better get a rep," she advised.

It had all started a few months before. It was a routine traffic stop. No license plates and tinted windows. The stop led to the recovery of a gun. Unfortunately for the driver, he was an ex-con who was allegedly a gang member. No guns allowed. An arrest was made and a hearing in court eventually followed.

The hearing in court was routine, too. The officers were called to the stand and testified to the probable cause of a vehicle being driven on the streets with no plates, then discovery of the gun and the subsequent arrest. Then things started to change. Suddenly, the defense attorney produced a videotape that, he said, would prove the officers had testified falsely. The deputy district attorney objected to this last-minute evidence and demanded to review it.

The assignment of this particular deputy district attorney to this case was the first stroke of luck for these officers. She was an aggressive prosecutor and brooked no nonsense from defense attorneys. She was also ex-LAPD. When it came to police work, she had been there and done that. To her, this surprise video stunk to high heaven.

The video was copied and the defense attorney ... had a date with Fox-11 news. His interview was televised that night.

"The cops lied. Clearly," he told Fox-11 news, as they played a supposedly "enhanced" copy of the video, which clearly showed a license plate on the car. "I have been practicing 42 years, criminal law, and this is the first time in 42 years that I have a videotape that shows the police lied," the defense attorney told the camera and the nation. And he had more, the reporter stated. [The news] cut back to the defense attorney, who said, "My client denies he had any knowledge of that gun in his car, and we think it could have been planted by the police." Then the reporter stated that the suspect had been so harassed by the LAPD that he was fed up and was going to move his business elsewhere.

The defense attorney jumped straight from trial by court to trial by media, and the media was more than happy to play. So was the deputy district attorney. It was after-hours, and she began calling all over the City, looking for an expert to examine the video before court resumed the next day. Many would have said it was an impossible task. Difficult maybe, but not impossible when you have dedicated people working for the Department. The officers' luck

held when this dedicated deputy district attorney was put in touch with [Jim Hoerricks], a dedicated employee assigned to LAPD's forensic video lab. The video analyst was called at home at night by the deputy district attorney, who explained the need for speed in analyzing the video. The analyst agreed to meet the deputy district attorney at the lab early in the morning before his watch to perform an analysis.

In the early hours of the morning, the deputy district attorney, video in hand, met with [Hoerricks] at his lab. For the next several hours, the analyst did his work. The video had been falsified and he could prove it. They took the information to court, where a camera crew

and when the dust settles he will prove that his client was the victim of LAPD misconduct."

Two weeks later, the hearing resumed. The cameras were in court. The defense attorney called his expert witness. The expert had no training in forensic video examination. He testified that he had not "enhanced" the video, but had located another file on the security system that had been shot by another camera. So the enhanced video was not enhanced, but a different camera shooting at the same time. The defendant then took the stand and said that he received the video from the expert, but did not have time to talk to him. Therefore, he had assumed the video had been enhanced.

Regardless, enhanced or different camera shooting at the same time, it "proved" that he had a license plate on the car.

The next day it was [Hoerrick's] turn. His expertise in forensic video training was impressive, and he was the author of a textbook used by analysts worldwide in video forensics. In laymen's turns, he clearly laid out all of the reasons that the video was not authentic — and he had a lot of them. The defense attorney tried to effectively cross-examine the analyst, but the answer to every question only made things look worse for the defendant. In the analyst's opinion, the so-called enhanced video was a re-enactment after the fact with a clumsily changed file date.

The defense attorney demanded the court provide a transcript of the analyst's testimony so he could have another expert (who presumably this time would have a forensics background) examine the analyst's opinion and provide rebuttal evidence.

The court granted his request. The hearing was continued for six weeks.

The big day arrived. The defense attorney and his expert met with the deputy district attorney in the hallway. No cameras were there. Too bad, because the defense attorney advised that he would stipulate that the video had been fabricated. Apparently, this time, he had retained a real expert.



Jim Hoerricks' book, *Forensic Photoshop*.

was waiting to record the hearing. The suspect took the stand and the prosecutor and the defense attorney argued. The judge continued the hearing to listen to the experts. Fox-11 reshaped the story that night and aired the prosecutor's allegation that the tape was false, but the story ended with the reporter stating the defense attorney had told them that "questions about the videotape would be cleared up soon,



LAPD Forensic Video Analyst Jim Hoerricks.

The hearing began, and the defense attorney admitted to the court that the video showing the license plate had been fabricated, but it was unknown who had done the fabrication. Others had access to the security system and certainly it hadn't been his client who had done this dastardly deed. Also, just because the video had been fabricated didn't mean that the car didn't have license plates on it, he said; the officers were still lying. The judge disagreed and the defendant's motion to exclude the gun was denied.

I said the officers were lucky. It might seem to be a strange thing to say since the officers had been publicly accused of committing perjury on television and had to live under that allegation for over two months. But they are lucky. What if there had been no aggressive deputy district attorney willing to work overtime, diligently demanding the system listen to her? What if there had been no analyst willing to answer his phone after-hours and willing to come in early for an unscheduled examination of evidence just because it was the right thing to do? What if everyone had jumped on the "LAPD is always guilty" bandwagon, as has happened so many times in the past, instead of examining the evidence? What then? No one would believe the officers. Their careers would be in ruins. It has happened before. So, I say again, they were lucky.

And the sad thing is that something like this should not have to rely on luck.

We owe thanks to Deputy District Attorney and former-LAPD officer Deann McCarthy. Thank you for having faith in our officers and the gumption to fight the good fight. We also owe thanks to SID Forensic Video Analyst Jim Hoerricks, both for his dedication and for his skill, not to mention his ability to communicate difficult concepts in layman's language. His book, *Forensic Photoshop*, highlights this ability. Everything you need to know about imaging analysis is on his Website at www.forensicphotoshopbook.com

The moral of the story is that not only can you not believe everything you hear, you also cannot believe everything you see.

Club Member Jim Hoerricks tells Alive! that the case against the driver allegedly in possession of a gun illegally continues.

Great going, Jim! Your dept. is indebted to your hard work and skill, to save the reputation of two officers — and the department as a whole. —Ed.

Retiring? Leaving the City?

Call the Club now to keep your great Club benefits!

(800) 464-0452

THE CLUB

Club Scholarship Applications Available

Applications are available online and at the Club Store. **Deadline is noon, June 30, 2010.**

Aryel Gilmer received a Club Scholarship stipend last year.



Pick up your Club Scholarship application at the Club Store, or download an application today!

The 2010 Club Scholarship Program, which expects to grant 10 awards, is now accepting applications.

All materials must be physically in the Club Store and Service Center downtown, 120 West 2nd Street by noon, June 30, 2010.

Ten college scholarships are available. Each recipient will receive a stipend of \$1,000.

Those eligible include Club Members, their spouses and their children who are in college or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2010.

"We know that times are tough right now, and we want to do something special to meet the demand," said John Hawkins, Club CEO. "We expect to offer 10 awards."

"Every year, we're amazed at the quality of the applicants. We expect this year to be even better."

You can pick up an application at the Club Store and Service Center, 120 West 2nd Street downtown, or download an application at:

www.cityemployeesclub.com/scholar.asp

"We fully support the dedication of our Club families to taking care of the educational needs of themselves and their children," Hawkins continued. "We want to help them in every way possible. We look forward to giving back."

Eligibility requirements:

- All Club Members and their spouses, and children of Club members under the age 25, are eligible to apply. Club members must be in good standing.

- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2010. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2010 are eligible.

- Candidates will be judged for academic excellence, community service and financial need.

- Ten (10) scholarships are expected to be awarded, in equal amounts of \$1,000 (each).

- Deadline: Applications must be in the Club Store and Service Center, 120 West 2nd Street downtown, by noon June 30, 2010. All applications must be physically in the Club office at that time to be eligible. Sorry, but the Club is not responsible for delays in delivery.

- Decisions will be made by Club personnel and will be considered final.

- Club Store and Service Center address: 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Send questions to: scholarship@cityemployeesclub.com

Newsbriefs

SPENDING FREEZE:

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Controller Wendy Greuel issued a memorandum to all City Department Heads announcing a citywide spending freeze on all expenditures from non-salary General Fund account appropriations.

"The City of Los Angeles has had to endure enormous financial challenges this fiscal year, brought on by economic forces and factors that were not entirely within the control of our city government," stated the Mayor and Controller in their memorandum. "Working together, our response to these challenges has been focused and multi-faceted, but ultimately not enough to ensure the confidence of the rating agencies. Furthermore, even as our budget deficit solutions begin to take shape, we must take aggressive steps to guard against cash-flow shortfalls."

Under the City Charter, the Mayor and City Controller are granted the authority to direct City departments to freeze City spending and, as such, for the remainder of the fiscal year every department must comply with the following extraordinary spending controls for the remainder of the fiscal year:

- Suspending furniture and equipment purchases, including electronic and IT equipment.
- Ceasing all food and beverage purchases for employee-related events and activities.
- Abstaining from remodeling City offices and desisting negotiations for all new leased office space.
- Refraining from expending funds on mailings that are not legally required or related to revenue-generating activities and reduce the size of these mailings to the greatest extent possible.
- Decreasing the frequency of contracted services such as shredding services, custodial, tree-trimming, and landscaping. The delays created by these expanded service intervals should not create larger liabilities for the City.
- Disencumbering current year encumbrances in particular for such items as personal services contracts.

Additionally, following the Controller's Citywide Travel Policy, all non-reimbursable General Fund travel has been suspended with the exception of:

- Travel to Sacramento or Washington, D.C., for the purpose of participating in City advocacy.
- Unanticipated travel by members of the LAPD for the purposes of pursuing criminal investigations, serving warrants, conducting extradition, or related events.

Newsbriefs, continued on page 43



Personal Finance Series

Financial Management Basics



Financial Management Basics is free to Active LACERS Members. It will help you:

- Develop money management skills
- Get out of debt
- Increase savings
- Gain control of credit cards
- Improve credit scores

The course also covers retirement planning and information about:

- LACERS Defined Benefit retirement plan
- LACERS Large Annuity Program
- The City's Deferred Compensation plan

Financial Management Basics

June 29, 2010 – 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
July 16, 2010 – 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

LACERS
380 E. Second Street, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Interested Active LACERS Members can sign-up for this course on www.LACERS.org or by calling (800) 779-6326. Space is limited, so RSVP early.

Reserve your seat today! Space is limited!



Financial Finesse practices an unbiased approach to financial education so course instructors will not be selling or recommending specific products to workshop attendees.



COUNCIL / COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT

The Zine Community Center Opens

The Dennis P. Zine Community Center has grand opening ceremony.

Story and photos courtesy Councilman Zine's Office

On Feb. 18, approximately 500 enthusiastic community members, government officials, and nonprofit leaders celebrated the grand opening of the Dennis P. Zine Community Center in Canoga Park. Councilman Dennis P. Zine was joined by Congressman Brad Sherman; City Controller Wendy Greuel; LAPD Police Chief Charles Beck; Chairman of the Community Redevelopment Agency Board Bruce Ackerman; Community Development General Manager Richard Benbow; and Chief Executive Officer of New Economics for Women Bea Stotzer.

The celebration kicked off with poetry readings and a live band performance by New Academy Charter School Students. A video presentation then followed, inspiring those in the audience to witness firsthand how Tierra Del Sol and Councilman Zine

have made a difference in the lives of the many children and families living in the local community. One of the program's most touching moments came as the Child Care Resource Center's tiniest participants presented Councilman Zine with several hand-painted pieces of art, which will now be displayed at his City Hall office.

Councilman Dennis P. Zine has spent his entire career serving the public as both a member of the LAPD and as a Councilman.

Under the direction of New Economic for Women (NEW), this two-story, 12,000-square-foot community center will offer adult learning classes and provide asset-building programs to help residents and the surrounding community become economically self-sufficient. This project marks the completion of the award winning Tierra Del Sol five-acre planned community, comprised of Tierra Del Sol, quality affordable housing, and the New Academy Canoga Park Charter School. Funding, \$6.6 million, was made possible by Community Redevelopment.



Councilman Dennis Zine, left, helps to cut the ribbon to open the facility named for him.



Councilman Dennis Zine (center, holding picture), poses with some of those who will enjoy the new community center.



Personal Finance Series

Investing Basics: Increasing Retirement Income

I finally understand the other options available to fund my retirement.

In the Investing Basics: Increasing Retirement Income workshop you will learn about making the right long-term investment choices.

- Learn how to research the right investments for you
- Decipher your mutual fund statements
- Get a better grasp of your personal investment style

Investing Basics: Increasing Retirement Income

June 29, 2010 – 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

July 16, 2010 – 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

LACERS
360 E. Second Street, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Interested Active LACERS Members can sign-up for this course on www.LACERS.org or by calling (800) 779-8328. Space is limited, so RSVP early.

Reserve your seat today. Space is limited.



Financial Finesse practices an unbiased approach to financial education so course instructors will not be selling or recommending specific products to workshop attendees.

continued

3. Travel directly related to the prevention of liabilities for the City or the degradation of its financial position.

The memorandum also directed departments to immediately move allotment amounts of non-salary General Fund account appropriations from March, April and May accounting periods to the June accounting period. Departments can submit requests to reallocate funds back to March, April, or May to the City Administrative Officer (CAO) for review. The CAO may then submit recommendations to the Mayor's Office for approval or disapproval.

"We understand that the above actions are extraordinary measures that will certainly limit the discretion general managers have enjoyed with regard to department expenditures," the memorandum concluded. "Nonetheless, these actions are necessary to address our projected year-end deficit and our diminished cash balance."

CHERRY TREES ABLOOM:

The 2010 blooming of cherry blossoms at Lake Balboa should be at peak viewing in early April. Situated in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, the trees present a breathtaking drive, bicycle ride, walk, or photo opportunity.

The lake is in a picturesque portion of Anthony C. Beilenson Park, a Rec and Parks facility in the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area. With daylight saving time having started March, there is an additional hour of sunlight.

At lakeside and in the surrounding area are nearly 1,000 Japanese cherry blossom trees of the Pink Cloud variety, which are ornamental flowering trees and not fruit-producing; the flower has a single row of bright pink petals in a circular shape.

Donated by an anonymous benefactor from the Far East nation, the trees originated from a single parent tree and were developed to grow in warm climates. Rec and Parks began planting them in 1992. Visitors can enter Beilenson Park on the east side of Balboa Boulevard, between Burbank and Victory Boulevards. Features include a path for bicycling and another for walking/jogging, picnic areas and a children's play area, as well as pedal boats, kayaking, fishing, and more.

The location is also easily accessible using public transportation, with an Orange Line stop at Balboa and Victory Boulevards; the park is a short distance from there. The Orange Line connects with the Red Line, which travels to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

The 2,000-acre Sepulveda Recreation Area also has three 18-hole golf courses, two sports centers, an off-leash dog park, a garden center, wildlife refuge, archery range, a model airplane field, and more. For more information about the recreation area, call (818) 785-5798.

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**
 - Juan Alba
 - Jessie Brown
 - Maria Iniguez
 - George Pierce III
 - Estelle Stevens
- Finance**
 - Renee Ramirez
- General Services**
 - Kevin Dawson
 - Juan Gonzalez
 - Juan Navarro
- Housing**
 - Brittany Batong
 - Mark Holloway
 - Tyesha Mims
 - Anita Sibayan
- LAPD**
 - Jami Aiken
 - Paula Alvarez
 - Shawn Beale
 - John Borquez
 - Alison Cate
 - Vivian Chester
 - Margaret Collier
 - Victor Corella
 - Gary Correa
 - Keith Davis
 - Leeann Flores
 - David Gomez
 - Josuel Gooden
 - Robin Grasso
 - Donna Harris
 - Peter Harris
 - Leticia Hayakawa
 - Eric Holyfield
 - Mark Horton
 - Allison Hoshizaki
 - Andrew Hwang
 - Cristina Korne
 - Timothy McCarthy
 - Edward Osipian
 - Dennis Quiles
 - Antonio Quirante
 - Michelle Richards
- Cindy Robles**
- Ricky Santos**
- Robert Sieger**
- Amira Smith**
- Lia Vargas**
- Michelle Veenstna**
- London Ward**
- Phillip Watson Jr.**
- Artillar Watts**
- PUBLIC WORKS**
- Sanitation**
 - Bruce Aker
 - Robert Bustamante
 - Philip Gomez, Sr.
 - Hollis Gould
 - Sarah Jones
 - Adan Moreno
 - John Newsom
 - Trent Richer
 - John Van Der Gugten
- Street Services**
 - Valerie Huerta
- Rec and Parks**
 - Simon Guzman
 - Jacqueline Koci
 - Sharon Nishihara
 - Leilani Reed
 - Johnny Rivera
 - Danny Scott
 - Joshua Viscarra-Estrada
 - Walidah Williams
- Transportation**
 - Tariq Halcromb
 - Edwin Koja
 - Jose Ramirez
- DWP**
 - Nick Banuelos
 - Corazon Bautista
 - John Cox
 - Shuandy Galvez
 - Diane Price
 - Joan Alexandria Tagle-Wong
 - Arthur Torres
 - Calvin Wiebe
- Retired**
 - John Cota
 - Angela Yeung
- Other**
 - Jose Almaraz
 - Joel Amador
 - Jesus Barba
 - Raymond Bennett
 - Sean Bukowski
 - Shawn Bushler
 - Camilo Casas Jr.
 - Herman Castillo
 - Michael Cayton
 - Pamela Clardy
 - Benjamin Conant
 - Guillermo Contreras
 - Edward Cosio
 - Canddice DeCastro
 - Jay Delos Santos
 - Suren Franklin
 - Christopher Garcia
 - Luis Gonzalez
 - Robert Hernandez
 - Philip Horton
 - Gina Hubert
 - Josue Jimenez
 - Hope Lage
 - Chi Lam
 - Mark Leyva
 - Allan Liquigan
 - Miguel Miranda
 - Terri Monk
 - Ralph Moyano
 - Leslie Peacock
 - Gilbert Quiroz
 - Zachary Romanak
 - Stephen Sanchez
 - Javier Serafin
 - Tarek Souhaid
 - Michael Williams
 - Mark Yates

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**
 - Bonpua, Charmette Pioquinto, Council, 4
 - Chapman, Joyce, Public Works, 4
 - Daw, Najib, Public Works, 23
 - Kramer, Pamela, City Attorney, 19
 - Marshall, Tewana, Airports, 2
 - Miyamoto, Yukio, Public Works, 23
 - Moore, Benjamin Lee, General Services, 12
- Retired**
 - Albriton, William, Building and Safety, 36
 - Bailey, Willie, Airports, 21
 - Beals, Ruth, Clerk Typist, 30
 - Blanton, Raymond, Public Works, 37
 - Bobbs, William, Public Works, 34
 - Boudreau, Leon, Personnel, 34
 - Callaway, Glenn, DWP, 29
 - Campbell, William, DWP, 30
 - Caudle, Jerry Ann, LAFD, 33
 - Chavez, Julian, Public Works, 18
 - Clardy Jr., Percy, DWP, 19
 - Cogbill, Socorro, Library, 17
 - Conley, Ralph, DWP, 35
 - Councilman, Carlton, Airports, 20
 - Dandos, John, DWP, 27
 - Demas, Theodore, Convention Center, 24
 - Dodson, James, Public Works, 10
 - Escarcega, Tomas, General Services, 21
 - Esquer, George, Public Works, 33
 - Falt, Richard, General Services, 29
 - Fappiano, Felix, DWP, 27
- Figuroa, Fernando, LAPD, 33
 - Frierson, Edward, Animal Services, 20
 - Gomez, Concepcion, General Services, 23
 - Gonzales, Heriberto, Transportation, 31
 - Hanson, Carol, DWP, 19
 - Houchen, Marilyn, DWP, 21
 - Jarmon, LaVerne, LAPD, 18
 - Johnson, A.O., Public Works, 23
 - Jones, Sedalia, City Clerk, 26
 - Keilen, Ralph, DWP, 28
 - Krastman, Hank, Building and Safety, 13
 - Leach, Robert, Public Works, 32
 - Lindsey, Theresa, DWP, 13
 - Meyers, Zethel, Public Works, 39
 - Oliver, Vincent, DWP, 28
 - Owens, John, DWP, 17
 - Peterson, Rosemary, LAPD, 38
 - Quimby, Roger, Library, 35
 - Ramos, Ruben, DWP, 16
 - Rosenberry, Georgia, Public Works, 14
 - Rossteuscher, Mary, LAPD, 18
 - Santillano, Perfecto, DWP, 32
 - Sprunger, William, Public Works, 26
 - Swirin, Norman, Library, 10
 - Taylor, May, Public Works, 29
 - Videau, Bobbie, Transportation, 12
 - Thurston, Raymond, DWP, 36
 - Walsh, Ruth, Public Works, 37
 - Woodard, Winifred, DWP, 29
 - Wray, Charles, Public Works, 11

Military



Does someone in your extended family serve 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, continued on Page 46

NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS
Acevedo, Dennis	Env. Compliance Insp.	Public Works	33	Brown, Dorothy	Sr. Clerk Typist	Public Works	25
Aglibot, Lawrence	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	19	Brown, Gary	Envir. Affairs Ofcr.	Airports	33
Alcala, Albert	Park Services Att.	Rec and Parks	35	Brown, Lilkenynna	Clerk Typist	LAPD	36
Alejandro, Leslie	Mech. Engr. Assoc.	Building and Safety	28	Brown, Patricia	Assoc. Zoning Admin.	Planning	31
Alston, Donna	Management Asst.	LAPD	20	Bryant, David	City Atty. Investigator	City Attorney	13
Alvarado, Salvador	Plumber	General Services	28	Buck, Allan	Risk Manager	Airports	35
Alvarez, Michael	-	DWP	-	Buggs, Willie Joe	Storekeeper	City Clerk	32
Armijo, Robert	Air Cond. Mech.	General Services	16	Burkley, Brenda	Clerk Typist	LAPD	30
Aros, Rachel	-	DWP	-	Burns, Evelyn	Clerk Typist	LAPD	17
Ayala, Mary	Exec. Admin. Asst.	LAPD	46	Burwell, David	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	30
Bahn, Ronald	Auto Electrician	General Services	24	Caballero, Arcadia	Accountant	ITA	28
Bartle, Robert	Sr. Construction Insp.	Public Works	56	Cairns, Susan	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAPD	30
Barton, Shirley	Clerk Typist	Library	17	Callaway, Gloria	Workers Comp Aide	Personnel	33
Basoco, Yolanda	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Public Works	39	Cascone, Louis	Printing Press Opr.	General Services	31
Bass, Almary	Sr. Clerk Typist	Airports	37	Ceci, Jay	-	DWP	-
Bates, Gloria	Management Analyst	LAPD	24	Chaney, Robert	-	DWP	-
Baysic, Benjamin	Construction Estimator	Public Works	29	Chang, Carolyn	Pr. Accountant	General Services	31
Bengtsson, Chris	-	DWP	-	Chatman, Donna	Sr. Workers Comp Anst.	Personnel	30
Bennett, John	-	DWP	-	Chavez, Anna	-	DWP	-
Benton, Brenda	Clerk Typist	LAPD	34	Choi, Jean Soon	Data Process Tech	ITA	35
Bermudes, Rudolph	Maint. Constr. Helper	General Services	24	Chow, Debra	Detention Officer	LAPD	10
Bolden, William	Street Services Supv.	Public Works	34	Christanelli, Ronald	Bus Operator Supv.	Airports	28
Bond, Etsuko	Clerk Typist	LAPD	32	Cole, Mark	-	DWP	-
Borisoff, Alex	Elec. Constr. Estimator	Public Works	28	Coleman, Jerry	Maint. Laborer	Transportation	30
Bravo, Romero	-	DWP	-	Contreraz, Robert	Irrigation Specialist	Rec and Parks	26
Bratton, Martha Ann	Clerk Typist	Library	25	Conyers, Charles	Management Analyst	Rec and Parks	11

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

Births



Madison Marie Medina, born Dec. 1, to Mark and Monica Medina. Madison is the ninth grandchild of Red Medina, Construction Inspector, Public Works/Contract Admin, and Lupe Medina, Club Administrative Representative.



Christian Guevara, born Sept. 3 to Hugo and Christina Guevara. Hugo is a Waste Water Treatment Mechanic I at Hyperion Treatment Plant.



Taylor Isabella Patino, born Dec 16 to Chris Patino and Staci Avila, Rec and Parks/Aquatics. Taylor is the first granddaughter to Frank Avila, Rec and Parks Mechanical Repairer Supervisor, Citywide Construction.



Khoy Channing Lee Clements, born Nov. 18, to Troy Clements and Sa'Brina Tasker-Clements. Sa'Brina is a Communication Information Representative III, Airport Police, Airports.



Sophia Anne Aubin, born Feb. 24 to Michael and Perlita Aubin. Michael Aubin works for Airports.



Isaac Martin Guevara, born Oct. 22, 2007 to Hugo and Christina Guevara. Hugo is a Waste Water Treatment Mechanic I, Hyperion Treatment Plant, Public Works/Sanitation.



Bradley Charles Gunawan, born Feb. 7 to Sheila and Danny Gunawan. Danny is an Electrical Design Engineer, DWP.



Mason James Mastrolia, born Jan. 5 to Anthony and Kristie Mastrolia, LAFD Shops.

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

Peace of Mind For Retirees



Leaving the City? Keep the Club!

BY TIFFANY SY

The Club's Peace of Mind Expert

Hi, I'm Tiffany Sy, the Club's in-house Member Benefits Generalist and "Peace of Mind" expert! I'll be writing a column in *Alive!* about special tips and advice for Club Members.

Congratulations to all of our fortunate City employees who are retiring early and to those who are simply ready to close this chapter in their career with the City. This is an exciting time, and we understand that you want to charge head on to your next vacation destination, learn a new hobby, or enjoy your newfound freedom in the comfort of your home with your family. Whatever it is that your heart desires, you certainly deserve it!

During the transition, we also understand that tying up loose ends requires time and careful attention. As your Retiree Benefits Counselor, I've heard from numerous retirees about the concerns involved. The combination of the experi-

ences I've shared with our members in response to the City's announcement of thousands of early retirees has inspired me to write this column. I would like to offer my assistance and bring you peace of mind. It is my responsibility to present your retiree options and smoothly transition your benefits as simply and efficiently as possible.

Allow me to explain how you may continue your benefits with the Club. With the exception of Short Term Disability and Long Term Disability, most of your insurance plans may continue as a retiree, and monthly deductions can also continue from your pension. For retirees, Club memberships are available at a reduced rate of \$2.50 per month. The following can be continued with your Club Membership: Life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment (restrictions apply if you are over 60 years of age), long-term care, cash cancer plan, legal plan, and pet and auto insurance.

The first step of continuing all your great

benefits with the Club is as simple as filling out an application. Kindly notify us of your retirement, and I will send you a retiree form in the mail.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, your "Peace of Mind Expert." Come see me at the Club Store downtown at 120 West 2nd Street or call me at (800) 464-0452, ext. 202.

For you computer-savvy retirees, I can also be reached via email at tsy@cityemployeesclub.com. I look forward to speaking with you!

I, and everyone here at the Club, wish to thank you for choosing our City of Angels to share all of those hardworking years of your career.

Having a Retirement Party?

Do you have an upcoming retirement party? Would you like for the event to appear in *Alive!*? If so, let me know at (800) 464-0452, ext. 202.

Stay tuned for next month's column on the topic of Long-Term Care: *How to Protect Your Retirement Income*



Life's Important Moments

Special Achievements



J'zon Collins was named the valedictorian for his eighth-grade class. He attends Lifeline Charter School in Compton. He's the son of Jerry and Tamara Armstrong, Harbor.

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

Weddings

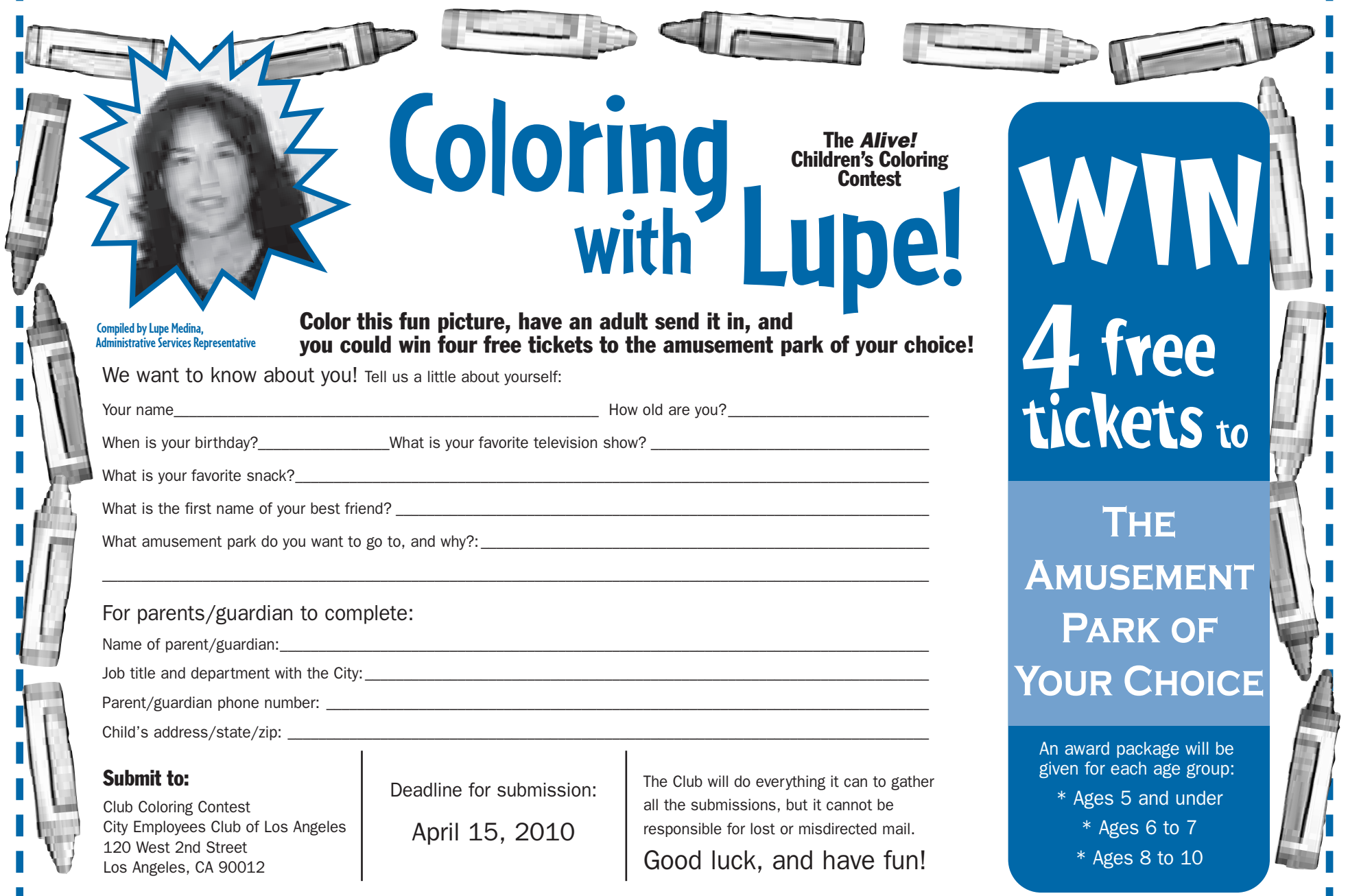


Earl Wright III, Police Officer II, LAPD, and Keyosha Armstrong, May 23, 2009 at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. Earl III is the son of Earl Wright Jr., Sr. Lead Officer, LAPD, and Lynne Wright, Principal Communications Operator, Airport Police.

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

Retirements, *continued from Page 44*

NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS
Cortinas, Betty	Sr. Clerk Typist	Building and Safety	25	Majak, Zdzislaw	Building Inspector	Building and Safety	23
Cotton, Wesley	Sr. Traffic Supv.	Transportation	26	Marilao, Danny	Accountant	Transportation	15
Cureton Jr., Gonzelo	-	DWP	-	Markham, Ernest	Building Mech. Inspector	Building and Safety	22
Dabbs Mann, Gloria	Dep. City Atty.	City Attorney	36	Martin, David	Build. Mech. Engr.	Public Works	25
Dallas, Jerry	Bus Operator	Airports	18	Martinez, Jerry	Build. Inspector	Building and Safety	28
Dean, David	Ch. Constr. Inspector	Public Works	31	Mason, Dorothy	Personnel Analyst	Personnel	35
Delgado, Gilardo	Welder	General Services	30	Maxwell, Helga	Management Analyst	General Services	18
Delgado, Linda	Workers Comp Analyst	Personnel	26	Maynard, Sherry	PSR	LAPD	33
DeMaster, Saant	Drafting Aide	Planning	27	McClelland, Linda	Sr. Clerk Finance	32	
Dionisio, Alex	Clerk Typist	Library	23	McDermott, Carol	Sr. Gardener	Public Works	32
Doane, Larry	-	DWP	-	McDonough, Kevin	-	DWP	-
Doraiswamy, Cadambi	Accounting Clerk	Finance	28	McHargue, Paula	Supervsg. Trans. Planner	Airports	30
Douglas, Pamela	Dep. City Atty.	City Attorney	34	Meeks, Terry	-	DWP	-
Dungo, Jesus	Tax Renewal Asst.	Finance	10	Meichtry, Kenneth	Street Svcs. Supt.	Public Works	19
Dunne, Laura Anne	Sr. Clerk Typist	Public Works	30	Meighan, Barbara	Accounting Clerk	Transportation	34
Edwards, Gary David	Mech. Helper	Public Works	19	Mejia, Rosendo	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	32
Efferson, Joseph	Custodian	Airports	23	Metcalfe, Daphne	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAPD	33
Enriquez, Richard	Rec. Facility Director	Rec and Parks	32	Meza, Francisco	-	DWP	-
Ephraim, Julius	Planning Asst.	Planning	23	Mollman, Grant	Supt. of Operations	Airports	25
Fenderson, Alex	Traffic Paint. Sign Post	Transportation	32	Morales, Rene	Security Officer	General Services	25
Finneran, John	Welder	General Services	20	Morris, Sharon	Asst. General Manager	CDD	26
Flemmings, Sharron	Personnel Analyst	Personnel	30	Munoz, Gilbert	Maint. and Constr. Help.	General Services	33
Folgate, Robert	Field Engr. Aide	Public Works	33	Nazarian, Gregory	-	DWP	-
Fournier, Marguerite	Management Analyst	LAPD	18	Nellum, Elbert	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	30
Fuller, Steve	-	DWP	-	Nelson, Laurence	Signal Sys. Electrician	Transportation	30
Gabel, Emily Jean	Pr. City Planner	Planning	34	Newman, Shirley	Transitional Worker	Airports	34
Gallardo, Ronald	Street Lighting Elec.	Public Works	30	Nguyen Cung	Custodian	General Services	26
Gallegos, Anastacio	Housing Inspector	Housing	17	Osbourne, Gloria	Sr. Clerk Typist	ITA	28
Garcia, Alexander	City Atty. Investigator	City Attorney	13	Pearson, Paul	Sr. Build. Mech. Inspr.	Building and Safety	30
Garcia, Samuel	Sr. Build. Mech. Inspr.	Building and Safety	34	Perez, Leandro	Maint. Laborer	Public Works	26
Gaw, Myamya	Env. Compliance Insp.	Public Works	32	Persi, Steven	-	DWP	-
Gibson, Lionel	Civil Engr. Draft Tech.	Public Works	32	Pfeiffer, Robert	-	DWP	-
Gilmore, Willie	Traffic Paint. Sign Post	Transportation	38	Policarpio, Naty	Sr. Accountant	Transportation	31
Gonzales, Ned	Sr. Accountant	Airports	27	Prado, Arturo	Accounting Clerk	Library	30
Gorum, Judith	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Airports	24	Quinton, Wayne	Sr. Custodian	Airports	41
Graves, Jacqueline	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Airports	34	Redwine, Debra Ann	Sr. Clerk Typist	Airports	30
Griego, Gloria	Sr. Clerk Typist	Personnel	30	Reyna, Oscar	Street Ltg. Elec.	Public Works	26
Guss, Iskender Alex	Industrial Hygenist	Personnel	30	Rojas, Rosalia	Management Analyst	LAPD	35
Gutierrez, Hugo	-	DWP	-	Ryerson, Frederick	-	DWP	-
Hawes, Rosalyn	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAPD	35	Savellano, Nestor	Sr. Accountant	Controller	26
Ho, William	Civil Engr. Draft Tech	Transportation	23	Scherbenski, Jerome	-	DWP	-
Hobson, Michael	Park Services	Rec and Parks At.	34	Schneider, David	-	DWP	-
Hosterman, Laurence	Mech. Repairer	Airports	37	Shim, Choon Khil	Programmer/Analyst	ITA	32
Huang, Andrew	Environmental Supv.	Airports	14	Smith, Bradford	Pr. Construction Inspr.	Public Works	28
Huang, Anne	Programmer/Analyst	ITA	33	Stark, Douglas	-	DWP	-
Huang, Ming Hsin	Civil Engr. Draft Tech	Public Works	30	Stephens, Marilyn	-	DWP	-
Huerta, Rafael	Civil Engr. Draft Tech.	Public Works	21	Sulit, Cristina	Management Analyst	LAPD	24
Hyde, Jere	-	DWP	-	Taga, Janet	Sr. Systems Analyst	LAFD	35
Hyde, John	Inspector Building and Safety	25		Thompson, Crawford	Traffic Paint Sign Post	Transportation	30
Ingalla, Alfredo	Civil Engr. Associate	Public Works	30	Thompson, Gregory	-	DWP	-
Jabido, Angelito	Accounting Clerk	Treasurer	26	Torres, Fernando	Custodian	Airports	32
Jackson, Carolyn	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Transportation	34	Tran, Van	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAFD	30
Jenkins Jr., David	-	DWP	-	Tucker, Sandra	-	DWP	-
Johnson, Audrey	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	35	Vaccaro, David	Pr. Inspector	Building and Safety	34
Johnson, Brenda	Sr. Custodian	General Services	24	Vella, Marlene	Sr. Real Estate Officer	Airports	31
Johnson, Charles	-	DWP	-	Vitangcol, Cesar	-	DWP	-
Kan, Sherri	Management Analyst	Public Works	28	Vizcarra, Rodolfo	Storekeeper	General Services	28
Kane, Michael	-	DWP	-	Wang, Joseph	Transp. Eng. Assoc.	Transportation	30
Key, Eldon	Sr. Build. Mech. Inspr.	Building and Safety	34	Weisel, Cheryl	-	DWP	-
Kleban, Daniel	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	23	Wells, Bobby	-	DWP	-
Krall, Steven	Sr. Heating/Refrig. Inspr.	Building and Safety	30	Willis, Louis	Carpenter	General Services	34
Kuan, Tsun	Civil Eng. Associate	Public Works	23	Winfrey, Thomas	Public Relations Dir.	Airports	30
Larino, Melencio	Building Operating Engr.	General Services	29	Winkler, Christopher	-	DWP	-
Larson, Leon	Housing Inspector	Housing	14	Woo, Yin Man	Accounting Clerk	Transportation	30
Lee, Joong	Ch. Aud. Controller	Controller	34	Wright, Ricardo	Sr. Security Officer	General Services	35
Lewis, Albert	Pr. Storekeeper	General Services	39	Ybarra, Martha	Library Asst.	Library	30
Leyden, Lourdes	Clerk Typist	LAPD	25	Zendejas, Virginia	Personnel Analyst	LAPD	31
Lim, Robert	Transp. Eng. Assoc.	Transportation	26	Zuniga, Marisela	Clerk Steno	LAPD	32
Lindsey, Joann	Witness Service Coord.	City Attorney	32				
Lipkowski, Russell	Supt. of Operations	Airports	25				
Lomsky, Naomi	Supervising Tran. Planner	Transportation	30				
Lubs, Randall	-	DWP	-				
Mackey, Nancy	Sr. Clerk Typist	Public Works	29				
Macleod, Mary Ann	Sr. Clerk Typist	Airports	35				



Coloring with Lupe!

The *Alive!* Children's Coloring Contest

WIN
4 free tickets to

THE AMUSEMENT PARK OF YOUR CHOICE

An award package will be given for each age group:

- * Ages 5 and under
- * Ages 6 to 7
- * Ages 8 to 10

Compiled by Lupe Medina, Administrative Services Representative

Color this fun picture, have an adult send it in, and you could win four free tickets to the amusement park of your choice!

We want to know about you! Tell us a little about yourself:

Your name _____ How old are you? _____

When is your birthday? _____ What is your favorite television show? _____

What is your favorite snack? _____

What is the first name of your best friend? _____

What amusement park do you want to go to, and why?: _____

For parents/guardian to complete:

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Job title and department with the City: _____

Parent/guardian phone number: _____

Child's address/state/zip: _____

Submit to:

Club Coloring Contest
City Employees Club of Los Angeles
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Deadline for submission:

April 15, 2010

The Club will do everything it can to gather all the submissions, but it cannot be responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

Good luck, and have fun!



LAABP / LABCAA

Trailblazers Honored

Black employees associations honor those who have made a difference.

Story courtesy LAABP; Photos by Malcolm Ali

More than 125 people came out Feb. 17 for the fourth annual Trailblazers Reception in the Tom Bradley Room at City Hall. The event was sponsored by the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP) and the Los Angeles Association of Black City Attorneys (LABCAA).

"We are pleased to join with LABCAA in recognizing employees who have contributed to the progress of African Americans in City government as well as achieved notable positions in their City careers," said LAABP President Cora Jackson-Fossett, Public Works/Sanitation.

The honorees were Dorothy Alexander, Joe Greenhoward, Olivia Mitchell, Millage Peaks and Earl Thomas.

Among the guests offering salutes to the honorees were Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Councilmembers Bernard Parks and Tom LaBonge, Club Member; City Attorney Carmen Trutanich; Deputy Mayor Miriam Long; and Public Works Commissioners Valerie Lynne Shaw and Paula Daniels.

Also attending were Detrich Allen, General Manager, Environmental Affairs; Richard Benbow, General Manager, Community Development; Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer; John Reamer, Inspector of Public Works; Tony Royster, General Manager, General Services; Grace Harper, Assistant General Manager, Building and Safety; Deborah Weintraub, Chief Deputy City Engineer; and Linda Smith, director of the Mayor's Minority Business Opportunity Center, Joseph Rouzan of Community Development, and Jeffery Whitmore, Office of Finance.

Committee members for the event were Chairperson Shelia Brooks-LeFridge, Controller's Office; Carmen Steward, Fire and Police Pensions; Ruby Love, Controller's Office; Sandy Davis, Fire and Police Pensions; Niesha Louis, City Clerk; JoAnn Moss, Public Works/Sanitation; Shawn Magee, Public Works/Sanitation; Alexis Oliver, LAPD; Linda Gillespie, ITA; Sharon Loudd, Controller's Office; Blanche Hill, Controller's Office; Janeshia Robinson, Personnel; Connie Williams, DWP; DeMarlo Sims, DWP; Michael Hollomon, DWP; Regina Young, Controller; DeWanna Sharp, Personnel; Donyale Hall, EMD; Inez Williams, Controller's Office; and Maaliq Elliott of Amadeus Salon, Inglewood.

The LAABP is the official representative for City of Los Angeles employees of African American heritage. Incorporated in 1972, the LAABP advocates equal employment within the City's workforce and increased opportunities for "people of color" to attain management and executive positions. Among the services the organization provides are career development seminars, a mock interview program and networking forums. Since 2003, LAABP has presented more than \$60,000 in scholarships to college-bound students.



LAABP Board, LABCAA Board and elected officials pose with 2010 Trailblazers. Seated, from left: Dorothy Alexander; Joe Greenhoward; Olivia Mitchell; Millage Peaks; and Earl Thomas. Standing: DeMarlo Sims; City Attorney Carmen Trutanich; Capri Maddox; Shelia Brooks-LeFridge; Sharon Loudd; Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Carmen Hawkins; Cora Jackson-Fossett; Kimberly Willis; Dewanna Sharp; Terrence Montgomery; and Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Club Member.



At the reception.



From left: Dr. Roslyn Blake, Deputy Mayor Miriam Long and guests of Honoree Dorothy Alexander.



Sharon Loudd, LAABP Treasurer; Terrence Montgomery, LAABP First Vice President; Joe Greenhoward, honoree; and Tony Royster, GM, General Services.



At the reception.



From left: Stacey Anthony, LAABCA Board member, and Monica DeAlba.

DOROTHY ALEXANDER

Senior Construction Inspector, LAX

Dorothy Alexander is the first African American female Senior Construction Inspector at Los Angeles World Airports. She joined the City as an Office Engineering Technician after working at Rockwell International. At Rockwell, she was a member of the flight support team for the first Space Shuttle missions. Dorothy entered the City's Assistant Construction Inspector training program, then was promoted to Construction Inspector and finally to her current position. While climbing upward, she says she learned from other inspectors, but her greatest challenge was learning to work effectively in the male dominated construction industry. Dorothy credits her success to (1) willingness to work hard, (2) being undaunted by difficult assignments, (3) following through, and (4) providing feedback. She said, "A successful worker should always keep their superiors informed." In addition, she counsels others about their careers and participates in the Wings to Fly Mentoring Program, sponsored by Los Angeles World Airports.



Honoree Dorothy Alexander.



Honoree Joe Greenhoward and grandchildren.

JOE GREENHOWARD

Maintenance Laborer, General Services

Joe Greenhoward, Maintenance Laborer, General Services, provides arrangements for all events in the Civic Center from heritage programs to press conferences to Lakers celebrations. He began his City career 1983 as an Occupational Trainee during the Mayor Tom Bradley administration. He was promoted to Custodian that same year, then to Maintenance Laborer in 1988. Joe said, "I came to the City because I wanted to make a change in my life by completing a solid goal. My children were my main focus, wanting to be an example in their lives, so I decided this was the path I wanted to take." He added that his success lies in hard work, dedication and having great management and excellent leadership. Joe's philosophy of life is, "Do your job to the best of your ability, and the reward will always be gratifying."



Honoree Joe Greenhoward.



From left: Cora Jackson-Fossett, LAABP President, Joseph Ruzan and Karran Rouzan.



Trailblazers Honored

- Continued



From left: Gary Lee Moore, Grace Harper, Detrich Allen and John Reamer.



CDD employees congratulate Olivia Mitchell.



Olivia Mitchell and Richard Benbow.



Tony Royster, General Manager, General Services.



Richard Benbow, General Manager, Community Development.



Michelle Banks, Maurice Dawkins and Intissar Durham.



Deputy Chief Jimmy Hill, and honoree Millage Peaks with his wife.



From left: Capri Maddox, LAACBA Board member; Sharon Loudd, LAABP Treasurer; Earl Thomas, Honoree; Carmen Trutanich, City Attorney; and Kimberly Willis, LAABCA Board member.



Councilmember Bernard Parks.

OLIVIA MITCHELL

Director of Research, Community Development

Olivia E. Mitchell serves as Director of Research for Community Development, where she manages the Research, Legislation and Resource Development Unit. Her City career started with Mayor Tom Bradley. For 22 years, she directed his Office of Youth Development, providing programs for more than 2,000 young people and creating internship and jobs programs. Under Mayor Riordan, she served as interim director of the Commission of Children, Youth and Families, then 10 years as Assistant Executive Director and Chief Accountant. In 2005, she moved to CDD, managing eight (8) Youth and Family Centers and several special projects before assuming her current position. She serves or has served on many boards, including California Community Foundation, YWCA of Greater Los Angeles, Black Jewish Youth Experience, and currently, national board of the Tavis Smiley Foundation. Olivia has advised others, "Never miss an opportunity to learn, to try new things, to meet new people, to love. Each life is an adventure best spent with joy, good humor and, most importantly, with others."



Honoree Olivia Mitchell.

MILLAGE PEAKS

Fire Chief, LAFD

Fire Chief Millage Peaks is only the second African American to serve in this position. He started his 33 year career as a firefighter and, from there, blazed upward from Recruitment Officer to Captain to Battalion Chief. Throughout his career, he has helped others. In 1996, Chief Peaks assumed command of LAFD's Battalion 18, covering six stations in West Los Angeles. He became a mentor to firefighters under his command, and aided seven of eight to advance to the rank of captain. Special assignments include Employee Relations Officer, Planning Section Commander, and Operations CEO.



Honoree Millage Peaks.

EARL THOMAS

Chief of the Criminal and Special Litigation Branch, City Attorney's Office

Earl Thomas is Chief of the Criminal and Special Litigation Branch and the highest ranking African American in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. In this position, he manages the day-to-day operations of the Safe Neighborhoods Division, Branch and Area Division, Anti-Gang Division, and Special Operations and Litigation Division, responsible for all of the criminal prosecutions, investigations and prosecution related activities of the branch. He began his career as a trial deputy in 1980 and also served as Supervisor, Central Trials Branch and Assistant Chief of Criminal Division before being appointed to his current position.



Honoree Earl Thomas.



At the reception.



From left: Kelvin Fossett, Robert Brown and Bob Blake.



{ *Who are the people you see every day?* }

No. 27 in a series.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Fredrick Williams.



- AGE:** "I'm 51."
BIRTHPLACE: "Downtown Los Angeles, Queen of Angels Hospital."
MARITAL STATUS: "Single."
FAMILY: "I have six brothers and nine sisters."
EDUCATION: "Mt. Carmel High School."
RELIGION: "Catholic."
MILITARY: "No."
FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "Downtown."
FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "Winning a basketball game in fourth grade."
WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "In the Second Street tunnel."
WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "As a custodian in Oakland."
FAVORITE SPORTS: "Basketball."
FAVORITE FOOD: "Chicken."
FAVORITE ACTOR: "Eddie Murphy."
FAVORITE MUSIC: "Barbra Streisand."
FAVORITE CANDY: "Snickers."
FAVORITE TV SHOW: "*Bill Cosby*."
WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ? "*The Crossing*."
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE WAR IN IRAQ? "It's bad."
ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Make every day a good day."
IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "To be rich."
IF YOU HAD A MILLION DOLLARS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? "Go to the beach, and save the rest."
WHAT'S YOUR SOLUTION TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS? "Spend wisely."
IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS? "Help build more shelters."
WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU ATE? "Roast chicken."
WHO OR WHICH ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU? "The Los Angeles Mission."
WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF FIVE YEARS FROM NOW? "Rich."

The Club gave Fredrick a McDonald's gift certificate, some cash, snacks, and a Club tote bag.

This interview took place March 18 near the Second Street Tunnel downtown.
Photos by Tom Hawkins

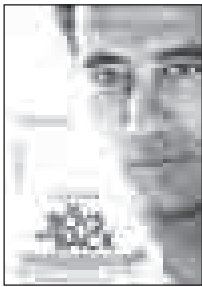


{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

REVIEWS BY FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS

ENTERTAINMENT

DVD Reviews



The Boys Are Back (2010)

Rated PG-13
My Score: 5 (out of 5)
Australian sportswriter Joe Warr's wife dies of cancer...



Brute Force (1947)

Unrated
My Score: 5 (out of 5)
This hard boiled prison drama features conventional characters...

Book Reviews



A Dog in a Hat: An American Bike Racer's Story of Mud, Drugs, Blood, Betrayal and Beauty in Belgium

Joe Parkin
Nonfiction, 205 pages
Velo Press
My Score: 3 (out of 5)

A Dog in a Hat is a biography of an American cyclist who moves to Belgium to turn pro. He encounters many challenges along the way...

- Linda Rorex, Personnel

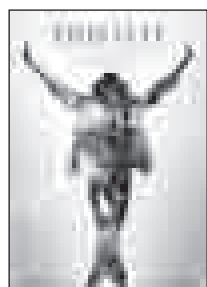
with the loss of a spouse. Clive Owen is Joe, and little of this movie is downbeat or depressing.

I recommend that all fathers see this earnest and witty movie. Wives will enjoy it, too, but I think they already understand its upbeat lesson.

- Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

intensifies when the men of cell R17 plan and execute a break. Nothing happens beyond the walls of the prison, except in memories and dreams. I highly recommend it.

- Erin Knight, Public Works



Michael Jackson: This Is It (2009)

Rated PG
My Score: 3 (out of 5)
Is this really it? The film is a compilation of interviews, rehearsals and backstage footage...

start in London. Sadly, Jackson died before the show's opening, but we are still able to catch a brief glimpse at the King of Pop's talent in his attempted comeback.

- Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks



The Naked Prey (2007)

Rated R
My Score: 5 out of 5
What happens when a group of hunters on safari in Africa offends a local tribe? They get captured, tortured and killed.

leader's attempt to outrun the chasing tribesmen as they chase him down to kill him.

- Erin Knight, Public Works



Shutter Island

Dennis Lehane
Mystery/thriller, 275 pages, Harper
My Score: 5 (out of 5)

This mystery takes place in an asylum on an island near Boston, and features a U.S. Marshal investigating a missing patient. His motivations for accepting this assignment are called into question when it is revealed that his wife's murderer may also be housed at the same institution.

- Erin Knight, Public Works



The House of the Devil (2010)

Rated R
My Score: 4 (out of 5)
This horror film is a throwback to 1980s slasher films like Halloween and Terror Train.

in the kitchen are all homages to the genre.

- Erin Knight, Public Works



Treeless Mountain (2008)

Unrated
My Score: 5 (out of 5)
Two young sisters are sent to live with their mean aunt in rural China.

like much, but it packs a powerful emotional punch that resonates long after the closing credits. I highly recommend this family melodrama.

- Erin Knight, Public Works

MOVIE REVIEWS

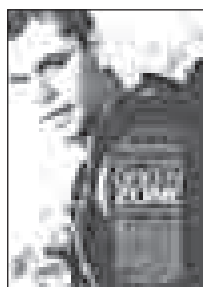


The Piano Teacher (2001)

Rated R / Unrated Version
My Score: 5 (out of 5)
Michael Haneke makes disturbing, unsettling films.

some young student, and tries to get him involved in her dark, sexual fantasies. She lives out some of these fantasies with her other students, humiliating and hurting them, and she hurts herself, too.

- Erin Knight, Public Works

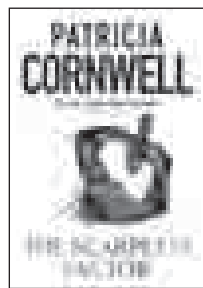


The Green Zone

Rated R
My Score: 3 (out of 5)
Actor Matt Damon and director Paul Greengrass team up once again to give us another action-filled movie...

era effects. Matt Damon plays an Army Chief Warrant Officer Roy Miller, assigned to find Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) hidden by the Iraqis at the start of the second Gulf War.

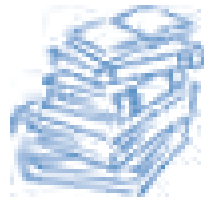
- Chuck Beas, DWP



The Scarpetta Factor

Patricia Cornwell
Police fiction, 494 pages, Penguin
My Score: 5 (out of 5)

Dr. Kay Scarpetta -- the (fictional) senior forensic analyst for CNN -- probes the murder of a Central Park jogger and looks into the disappearance of Hannah Starr, a wealthy financial planner.



realizes that the tentacles of the case reach further than she imagined. Her niece, forensic computer whiz Lucy Farinelli, has her own reasons for digging into Starr's disappearance.



I, Alex Cross

James Patterson
Thriller, 374 pages
Little Brown and Co.
My Score: 5 (out of 5)

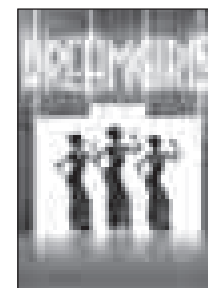
Alex Cross's niece is found brutally murdered. Overcome with grief, Alex vows to take down her killer before he strikes again.

after he begins the investigation, Alex discovers that his niece had gotten mixed up with some very important, very dangerous people. And she's not the only one who has disappeared.

The hunt for the murderer leads Alex and his girlfriend, Det. Brianna Stone, to Washington's most infamous club -- a place where every fantasy is possible.

- Linda Rorex, Personnel

Theatre Reviews



Dreamgirls

Musical
Ahmanson Theatre
(through April 4)
My Score: 4 (out of 5)

Several people told me this Broadway musical is based on Diana Ross and the Supremes, so I thought I would recognize most of the songs.

The lead performer was replaced by her understudy, but since I had never heard of the lead, I was okay with this. The understudy was amazing. I could have listened to her all night.

- Gail Seltzer, DWP

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.
- 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.

REC AND PARKS

Griffith Obs. Takes the Cake

In honor of its 75th anniversary celebration coming up in May, Observatory takes part in TV "Cake Off."

Story courtesy Rec and Parks

Griffith Observatory was featured in an all-new season of TLC's "Ultimate Cake Off" March 1. The hour-long special episode titled "Griffith Observatory" celebrated the renowned



The Griffith Observatory.

national leader in public astronomy and featured Dr. E.C. Krupp, Director of Griffith Observatory, as the special client judge.

In the Griffith Observatory episode, "Ultimate Cake Off's" three contestants competed to create the winning cake that best represents the combined theme of the Observatory's 75th anniversary and a special birthday celebration "Cosmic Conjunction 2010: Diamond Nights*Northern Lights," a gala fundraiser to be hosted May 15 by Friends of the Observatory.

"Ultimate Cake Off" pits three professional cake artists against each other as they create edible masterpieces in hopes of winning \$10,000 and having their cakes featured at a marquee event.

For more information on "Cosmic Conjunction 2010: Diamond Nights * Northern Lights," see www.friendsoftheobservatory.com or call (818) 419-4413.

POLICE

Congrats, Jim!

Longtime LAPD leader and Club Member Jim McDonnell becomes the Long Beach Police Chief.


Alive! gives a special shoutout to longtime Club Member and good friend Jim McDonnell, who after a long and distinguished career with the LAPD, left the City to become the new Chief of the Long Beach Police Dept. Jim was sworn in March 13 at the Terrace Theater in Long Beach.

Nice going, Jim!



Jim McDonnell, longtime Club Member, is sworn in as the new Chief of the Long Beach Police Dept.






The Cancer Plan that Pays Cash To You

With the Cash Cancer Plan from Kanawha Insurance Company, you will receive a cash payment upon first diagnosis of internal Cancer or malignant melanoma:


- Use the cash benefits for any purpose, including:
 - Doctors, hospitals, cancer centers, home health care
 - Transportation to and from treatment facilities, child care
 - Day-to-day living expenses, such as mortgage or rent, utilities, groceries, or credit card payments
- Benefit pays in addition to other insurance you own.
- Benefit choices are \$10,000, \$20,000, \$25,000, \$30,000, \$40,000, and \$50,000.
- Available to spouse and children.
- If you purchase the Return of Premium Benefit (ages 18-64) and after 20 years you've had no claim, 100% of your premium will be returned to you.
- Policy is guaranteed renewable for life if premiums are paid on time.
- Easy to enroll - no medical exams - just complete the application.



To find out more about the Cash Cancer Plan, please contact:

City Employees Club
(800) 464-0452

Women have a one in three chance of developing invasive breast cancer that kills them and men have a one in two chance.



Cash Cancer Plan Policy Form 04/09/09. Not all beneficiaries receive benefits in all states and may vary by state. © American Cancer Society, American Cancer Society, 2009

Newsbriefs

ROSE GARDEN OPENS:

Exposition Rose Garden had one new type recommended to grow in 2010 when it reopened March 16 following its annual winter pruning. The addition is "Easy Does It" and it was picked by the All-American Rose Selections organization as the best rose for the upcoming season. For more information about the 2010 winning rose, go to www.rose.org.

In addition, one unnamed type that will be the only 2011 rose of choice was among the 140 styles of this flower at the garden, which is home to about 5,600 rose bushes in all. Exposition Rose Garden is at 701 State Dr. (near the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and the University of Southern California). It's open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk through December, with no charge for admission. The pruning period is from January 1 to March 15, during which time the facility is closed.

For 80 years, Rec and Parks has operated and maintained the rose garden, which is visited annually by thousands of Los Angeles area residents and tourists, and is a peaceful location with a backdrop of downtown skyscrapers.

The rose beds are oval-shaped and surrounded by grass, and are arranged around a delightful central fountain, with charming gazebos. This combination of features makes the Rose Garden a popular place for weddings and other celebratory events, and a location for photos and filming, all of which require a permit.

For more information about Exposition Rose Garden, call (213) 763-0114, or go to www.laparks.org and select Horticulture Centers and Gardens.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:

The LAPD has begun a pedestrian safety and crosswalk enforcement program.

The department announced at a news conference March 11 of its increased program to enhance pedestrian safety and crosswalk enforcement.

The program is intended to promote pedestrian safety through enforcement of the rules of the road pertaining to vehicle verses pedestrian violations as part of the Pedestrian and Child Safety Campaign. The goals of this operation are to improve pedestrian safety by changing hazardous pedestrian and driver behaviors, especially those near schools, and to reduce injuries, death and property damage associated with these types of collisions.

Information: (213) 486-5910.

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.

Slow and Delicious

Many of you have slow cookers at home that may be collecting dust and don't have a good use for it. I know this tends to happen to many of my friends and neighbors, but I have a great vegetarian chili recipe. This one is perhaps the most complex to make of any I have ever shared with you because of the number of ingredients it calls for, but it is well worth it.

It is almost unbelievable that all these robust flavors can be packed into the small space of a slow cooker, but it happens, and cooks around the world should thank the inventor for such an amazing kitchen contraption – at least this Chef does! For those who need extra protein in this recipe, feel free to incorporate your favorite meats to the chili.

Lastly, we have another delicious recipe from Catherine Hinkle, wife of Richard Hinkle, Airports. She tells me that her husband and teenager who love meats also love this vegetarian dish. Thank you for sharing, Catherine!

Catherine's Vegetarian Tofu Delight

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (12 oz.) extra-firm tofu packed in water, drained
- 1 cup frozen whole kernel corn
- 1 can (14.5 oz.) diced tomatoes*
- 1 package Spanish rice pilaf mix
- 1 1/4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend (4 oz.)
- 1 1/2 cups shredded lettuce
- 1 tomato chopped
- 4 green onions
- 1 lime
- 2 tablespoons cilantro



Cooking TIDBIT:

When a recipe calls for canned diced tomatoes, like this one, buy canned whole ones and dice them if you would like higher-quality tomatoes. Producers dice only inferior tomatoes. But, if you are short on time, use the can of chopped tomatoes in puree like I did.

DIRECTIONS:

Catherine's Vegetarian Tofu Delight

Step 1:

Place drained tofu between two layers of paper towels; press gently to remove as much water as possible. Cut into one-half-inch cubes, set aside.

Step 2:

In a 12-inch nonstick skillet, mix the corn, diced tomatoes, rice mix and broth. Gently stir in tofu. Heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 12 to 14 minutes, stirring occasionally, until rice is tender.



Step 3:

Remove from heat and stir in cilantro. Sprinkle cheese over mixture, cover and let stand four to five minutes or until cheese is melted.

Step 4:

Top with lime juice, lettuce, chopped tomato and onions. You can also add avocado and sour cream if you wish, serve with either corn or flour tortillas. Yummy!

Chef Larios' Slow Cooker Vegetarian Chili

INGREDIENTS:

Makes 8 to 10 servings

- 1 (14 ounce) can black beans
- 1 (14 ounce) can kidney beans, drained
- 1 (14 ounce) can garbanzo beans
- 1 (14 ounce) can chopped tomatoes in puree
- 1 (14 ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 onion, diced
- 1/2 green bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 red bell pepper, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1 jalapeno, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- Sea salt and fresh cracked pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon dried dill
- 1 tablespoon dried tarragon
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon powder yellow mustard
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil



DIRECTIONS:

Chef Larios' Slow Cooker Vegetarian Chili



Have all your ingredients ready. Dice your red and green bell peppers, onion, jalapeno and celery. Mince the garlic cloves. Place them to the side and complete the measuring amounts for the spices. Set aside the bay leaves for later.



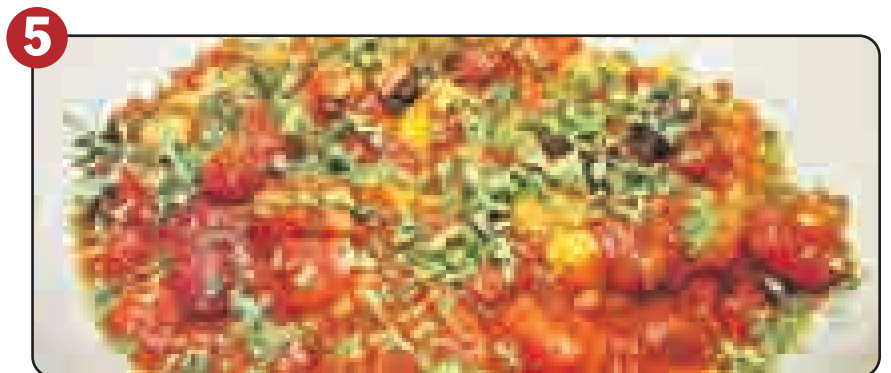
Place a pan on medium heat and add the extra virgin olive oil. Add all your diced ingredients into the pan and sauté for about three minutes. Add salt and pepper and then all of your spices. Let sauté and stir for about five to 10 minutes.



Take your sautéed ingredients from the pan and add it to the slow cooker. Also, this is when you add the canned beans, corn and tomatoes. Stir gently. Turn the heat of the Crock Pot up to high. Let cook for four to six hours.



Plate in a bowl and serve.



Enjoy!

[A Cook's Dictionary]

Slow Cooker:

Also called a Crock Pot, the slow cooker is an electric "casserole" that cooks food with low, steady, moist heat. It's designed to cook food over a period of eight to 12 hours. These appliances range in size from one to six quarts. Slow cookers can cook a dish while you're at work, and they don't heat up the kitchen. On the minus side is that some vegetables (like celery) can become mushy before the other ingredients are done.

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



Food Factoid:

"If hunger makes you irritable, better eat and be pleasant." – Sefer Hasidim

Working Together to Keep Los Angeles Beautiful
The City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Discover Recycling

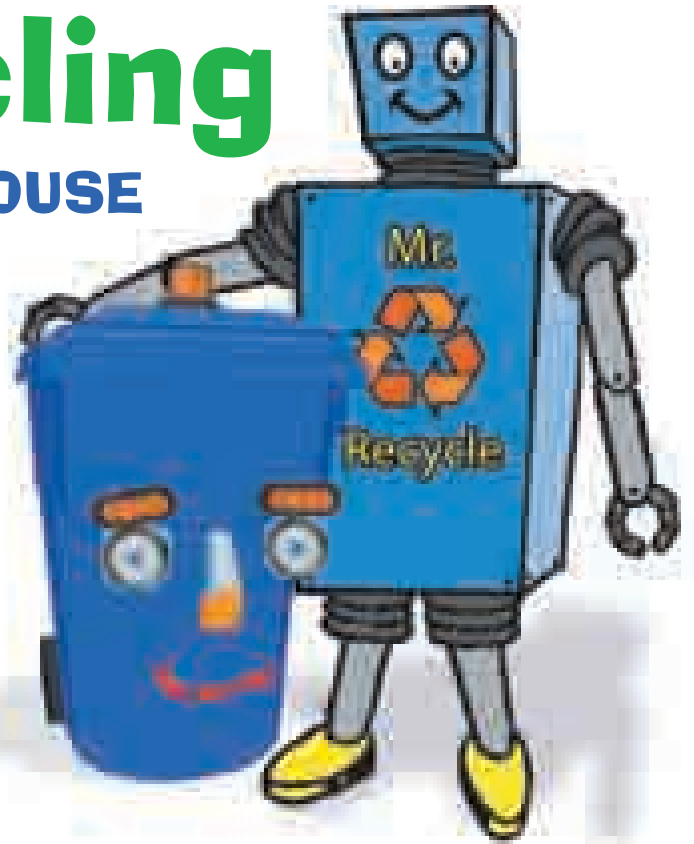
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We will have complimentary:

- Truck Demonstrations and Tours
- Free Food and Refreshments
- Free 5 Gallon Trees and Mulch
- Games and Prizes



Time: Saturday, 9:00am to 3:00pm

<p>East Valley District Yard <i>May 1, 2010</i> 11050 Pendleton St. Sun Valley, 91352</p>	<p>West Valley District Yard <i>May 15, 2010</i> 8840 Vanalden Ave. Northridge, 91324</p>	<p>North Central District Yard <i>May 22, 2010</i> 452 San Fernando Rd. Los Angeles, 90031</p>	<p>So. Los Angeles District Yard <i>June 5, 2010</i> 786 S. Mission Rd. Los Angeles, 90023</p>	<p>Harbor District Yard <i>June 12, 2010</i> 1400 N. Gaffey St. San Pedro, 90731</p>	<p>W. Los Angeles District Yard <i>June 26, 2010</i> 2027 Stoner Ave. Los Angeles, 90025</p>
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For more information call 1-800-773-2489 OR 3-1-1 OR visit our website at: www.lacity.org/SAN OR www.kids.lacity.org

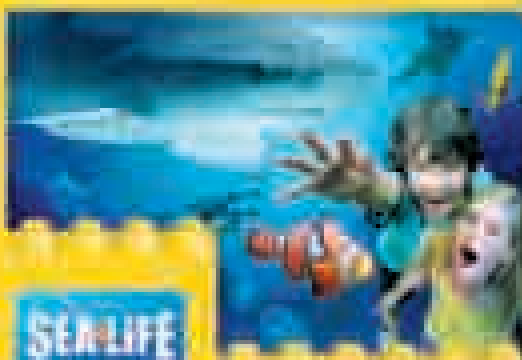
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Resort Hopper Ticket includes two visits to LEGOLAND California, SEA LIFE Aquarium and the new LEGOLAND Water Park! Visit LEGOLAND California and SEA LIFE now, and return this summer to visit LEGOLAND California, SEA LIFE and the Water Park!

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For easy ordering, go to www.cityemployeesclub.com

TICKET GUY Tips for Visiting the Club Store:



- I would strongly recommend that members place their orders by phone using a debit/credit card before visiting. This will help you avoid lines.
- The best time to visit the new Club Store would be around 9:15 a.m. Parking is abundant and portions of downtown are still sleeping.
- When visiting the Club Store, try to bring a co-worker who is not a member. If they sign up, you will receive a \$10 Gift Card. So bring Johnny or Lisa down.

Club Store



Men's Watches with City Seal

These watches have been meticulously crafted using only high-quality quartz movements. These new diver watches are made from solid stainless steel and genuine leather. *Plus tax and shipping



Men's Silver "AG" Watch
ITEM: #4623
PRICE: \$39.99*



Men's Silver "MA" Watch
ITEM: #WTCHMA
PRICE: \$39.99*



Men's Silver Dial Watch w/ Leather Band
ITEM: #MWCTY1000
PRICE: \$29.99*



Men's Silver Dial Watch w/ Two-tone Gold and Silver
ITEM: #MWCTYGLD2000
PRICE: \$29.99*



Men's Silver "RL" Watch,
ITEM: #4622
PRICE: \$39.99*



ITEM: #VVS2500
PRICE: \$50.00* **Now \$25**



Men's Large Seal, Stainless Steel Band
ITEM: #VVS2500
PRICE: \$65.00*



Men's Small DWP Seal, Stainless Steel Band
ITEM: #DWPVWS2700
PRICE: \$55.00* **Now \$40**



Men's Small DWP Seal, Leather Band
ITEM: #DWPVWS3050
PRICE: \$45.00* **Now \$35**



ITEM: #SF2000
PRICE: \$25.00*



Men's Watch, Leather Band
ITEM: #SF2000
PRICE: \$25.00*



Men's Large Seal, Leather Band
ITEM: #VVL2600
PRICE: \$45.00*

Women's Watches

Women's Professional Watch
ITEM: #WTCH6550
PRICE: \$34.99*



Ladies' Watch, Leather Band
ITEM: #LVVBLK5000
PRICE: \$29.99*



Ladies' Watch, Classic City Services
ITEM: #001608
PRICE: \$64.99*



Poster

Club Exclusive, Limited-edition:

City Hall Poster!

- Produced by the Los Angeles City Historical Society, this poster – featuring a collection of historic Los Angeles City Halls, along with their histories – is now available to Club Members.
- Drawn by artist Herb McNeely, suitable for framing.



Small **\$10*** Large **\$15***
*per poster

FOR EASY ORDERING OF DISCOUNT TICKETS AND CLUB MERCHANDISE:

ONLINE

Go to www.cityemployeesclub.com

and click on "Club Store"



PHONE

(888) 777-1744 (213) 617-1294

FAX

MAIL

Complete the order form to and mail to:
Ticket Guy
City Employees Club of Los Angeles
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

PICK-UP

WE'VE MOVED TO:
The Club Store and Service Center
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
– downtown, between Spring and Main Streets

For Dash routes, go to:
www.ladottransit.com/dash/



Club Store

City Department Shirts

City "Bold" Department Shirts

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL**

Size: **3XL** **\$13**
Size: **4XL** **\$14**


Member Price: **\$12** per shirt*




Back

Front

ITEM: #RECPKSLAC6000



ITEM: #D.P.W.LAC1000



ITEM: #LADBSTSH1000



ITEM: #D.O.TLAC3000




ITEM: #L.A.W.A.LAC5000




ITEM: #G.S.DLAC4000



ITEM: #ASDTSHT1000



ITEM: #ITATSHT1000



ITEM: #LAHDTSH1000



ITEM: #BOSSTSH1000

City "Harbor" Short Sleeve Shirt

Available Colors: Navy Blue, Sky Blue



ITEM: #HARBORLAC2000

City "Harbor" Long Sleeve Shirt

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL**

Size: **2XL** **\$15**
Size: **3XL** **\$16**
Size: **4XL** **\$17**

Available Color: Navy Blue



ITEM: #CHRBL3000

L.A. City T-shirts

New City LA-Hall Long Sleeve T-Shirt

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL**

Available Colors: Black, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, White

Member Price: **\$12** per shirt*

Size: **3XL** **\$13**
Size: **4XL** **\$14**



ITEM: #NCI1000

LA City "B-Label" T-Shirt (with Depts.)

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL**

Size: **3XL** **\$11**

Member Price: **\$10** per shirt*

Available Colors: Black, Gray, Navy Blue, Maroon, Green, Carolina Blue, Cedar, White



ITEM: #LAC-5000

LA City "B-Label" Sweatshirt (with Depts.)

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL**

Member Price: **\$22** per shirt*

Available Colors: Black, Navy Blue

Size: **3XL** **\$23**



ITEM: #LAC-6000

Short Sleeve "Classic" T-shirt

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL (all colors)**

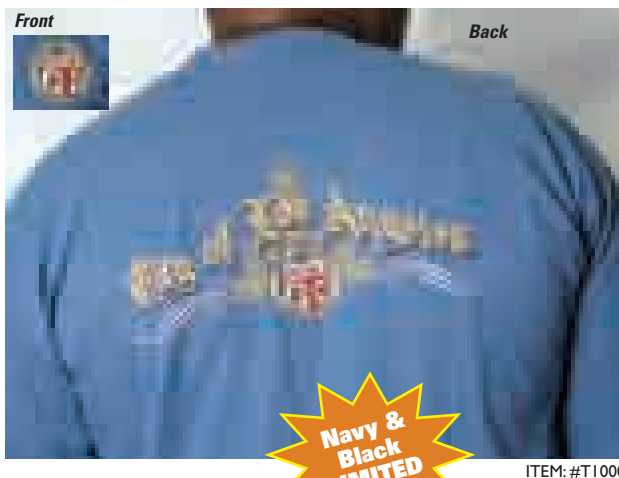
Member Price: **\$12** per shirt*

Non-Member Price: \$25 per shirt

Available Colors: Blue Dusk, Charcoal, Chestnut, Forest Green, Indigo Blue, Leaf Green, Light Pink, Maroon, Olive, Orange, Royal Blue, Sport Gray, Texas Orange, White

White available with front pocket.

Front



Back

ITEM: #T1000

Navy & Black LIMITED

Sizes: **3XL** **\$13**
Size: **4XL** **\$14**

Available Colors: Blue Dusk, Charcoal, Forest Green, Indigo Blue, Royal Blue, Sport Gray, White, Black, Navy Blue

White available with front pocket.

Available Colors: Indigo Blue, Sport Gray, Black, Navy Blue

*Plus tax and shipping

New City LA-Hall Short Sleeve T-Shirt

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL**

Available Colors: Black, Blue Dusk, Navy Blue, Sport Gray, Tan, White, Forest Green, Charcoal, Red

Member Price: **\$8.50** per shirt*

Sizes: **3XL** **\$9.50** Sizes: **4XL** **\$10.50**

Available Colors: Black, Navy Blue, Sport Gray



ITEM: #CNI1000

Retired Employee T-Shirt

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL 3XL**

Sizes: **3XL** **\$12.99**

Member Price: **\$11.99** per shirt*

Available Colors: Black, Navy Blue, White



ITEM: #RCE3000

LA City Seal T-shirt

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL**

Member Price: **\$10** per shirt*

Available Colors: Cedar, Dark Heather, Metro Blue, Military Green, Sand, Sky Blue, Black, Navy Blue



ITEM: #MOC51000

"Your City" T-Shirt

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL 3XL**

Available Colors: Black, Navy Blue, Royal, White

Sizes: **3XL** **\$10.99**

Member Price: **\$9.99** per shirt*



ITEM: #YCYR11000

Long Sleeve "Classic" T-shirt

Sizes: **S M L XL 2XL**


Available Colors: Charcoal, Dark Chocolate, Forest Green, Indigo Blue, Sport Gray, White

Member Price: **\$15** per shirt*

*Plus tax and shipping

Size: **3XL** **\$16** Size: **4XL** **\$17**

Available Colors: Dark Chocolate, Forest Green, Indigo Blue, Sport Gray, Black, Navy Blue, White



ITEM: #T1500

Navy & Black LIMITED

Club Store

City Umbrellas

Large City Umbrella

ITEM: #CTYUMB1000

Member Price:
\$19⁹⁹
each*

*Plus tax and shipping



Small Umbrella

ITEM: #SMUMB3000

Member Price:
\$14⁹⁹
each*

*Plus tax and shipping

Identification Holders

LA City Clear Badge Holder with City Seal



Member Price:
\$1³⁷
per badge*

ITEM: #CLRBGHLDR

Retractable Badge Holder



Comes with clear ID holder sleeve.

Member Price:
\$2⁴⁹
per badge*

ITEM: #RBH1000

City of LA Lanyard

Comes with clear ID holder sleeve.



Member Price:
\$4⁹⁹
per badge*

ITEM: #CTYLYRD1000

City Seal Key Chains

City Seal Key Chain – Silver

ITEM: #LAKC2000

Member Price:
\$5
per chain*



Club Discount Price!
(\$10 Retail)

City Seal Key Chain – Gold

ITEM: #LAKC001

City Seal Tie Bars

LA City Seal Tie Bar – Silver

ITEM: #001521

Member Price:
\$14⁹⁹
per bar*



LA City Seal Tie Bar – Gold

ITEM: #001520



City Seal Mugs

Hot Beverage Mug

ITEM: #MGS1000

Member Price:
\$9⁹⁹
per mug*



Member Price:
\$12⁹⁹
per mug*

City of LA Travel Mug

ITEM: #CLAMG3000

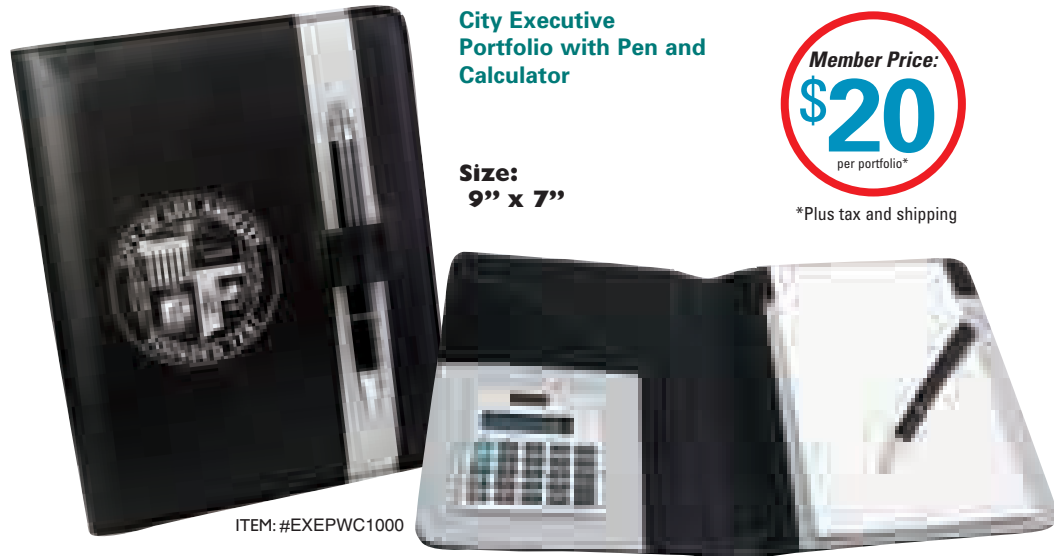
City Seal Office

City Executive Portfolio with Pen and Calculator

Size:
9" x 7"

Member Price:
\$20
per portfolio*

*Plus tax and shipping



ITEM: #EXEPWC1000

City of LA-Letter Size Portfolio w/ Calculator

Size:
13" x 10"

Member Price:
\$24⁹⁹
per portfolio*



ITEM: #4680

City Engraved Pen & Case

- Elegant electro-plated two-tone 24k gold plated and chrome silver pen with solid brass construction.
- "City of Los Angeles" is engraved on the pen.

Member Price:
\$19⁹⁹
per pen*



ITEM: #CLPEN3000

City Professional Bag

Available Colors:

Forest Green Black

Member Price:
\$25
per bag*



ITEM: #BAG1000

City of LA Expandable Computer Bag

Available Color:

Black

Member Price:
\$34⁹⁹
per bag*



ITEM: #PBCTYFCMPI000



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**APRIL 30
2010
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7PM - 9PM

\$32.25

Ticket sales are limited. First come, first served. Season Passes not accepted. Tickets will not be available at the gate. Wristband required after 6pm. Free parking after 6 PM.