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Summer in the City

# Fun in Miniature

Rec and Parks

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Alive! photo by Summy Lam



Andrew Baird, Sr. Parks Service Attendant, on the back nine of one of Castle Park's three mini-golf courses.

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The United Agencies reps are appearing at the Club Store on select Thursdays:



**Rosa Calderon**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**Aug. 15:** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Lulu Cruz**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**Aug. 22:** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



## JOHN'S BLOG by John Hawkins, President and CEO, The Club

### Mini Family Fun to the Max

Did you know that the City of Los Angeles operates a totally awesome, family-centered fun palace with mini-golf, a big videogame arcade, and batting cages?

And soon, basketball cages just like the batting cages?

Well with that intro, you can surmise that the City does have such a facility. It's unique, it's busy, it's popular, and it's perfect for City families. It's Castle Park in Sherman Oaks.

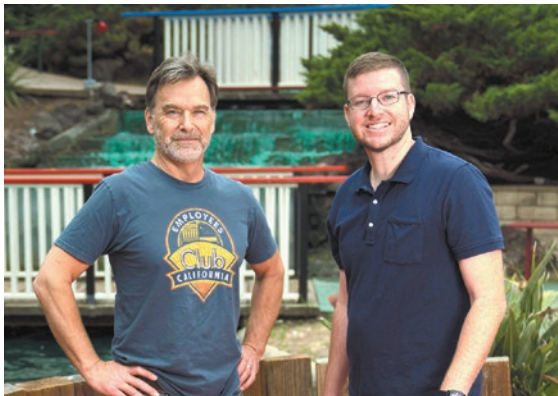
I know a lot about the City. It's been my business passion for decades. But I didn't know that Castle Park was a City facility.

When you visit, you will notice right off the bat, just like I did, how beautiful the grounds are. Thanks to management and the Rec and Parks designers and grounds crew, it's florid, colorful and really pleasant. A lot of family fun centers don't concentrate as much on beauty. But this is a Rec and Parks facility. Outdoor awesomeness is its purpose.

It's also about family affordability. The Club is all about giving you value; we offer strong discounts to other, for-profit family fun centers, and we like them, too. But Castle Park, which turns its profits back into operations, is intentionally kept affordable.

**Andrew Baird**, Sr. Park Services Attendant, Club Member, wrote to us, asking if we were interested in featuring Castle Park (we get many good stories this way). Andrew said he was just completing some renovations at Castle Park, but would be good to go after that. That made the timing perfect for our annual *Summer in the City* feature. And here's that story.

So take your family and enjoy! I already have.



From left: Club CEO John Hawkins with Andrew Baird, Sr. Park Services Attendant, Club Member, at Castle Park.



Moving on ... I love this photo (above) sent in by Retired Club Member **Jill Weismann**. Jill regularly submits photos to my Picture Perfect photo contest from her hometown of Cheney, Wash. She sent this extra photo, too. Already a City Councilwoman in Cheney, she's running for re-election. Jill is living proof of what Retirees can do when they leave their City connection. Good luck, Jill! You're a model for us all.

Everybody, enjoy the rest of your *Summer in the City*; spend time with your family before everything gets impossibly busy again. Time marches on! Let's grab these precious moments while we can.

**JOHN**

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From left: Andrew Baird, Sr. Park Services Attendant, Club Member, with Club CEO John Hawkins at Castle Park.

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## JOHN'S Picture Perfect



**SUBMIT YOUR BEST SHOT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!**

## People We See



Meet Gayle Marie Wallace, the latest video in our ongoing series.

## More From the Lotus Festival

See more great photos from Rec and Parks' Lotus Festival 2019!



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## Cooking with the Club

Follow along as Chef Larios makes super delicious **Instapot Buffalo Chicken Wings.**





## Coloring Contest:

Print and Online Schedule

**Here's the schedule:**

**New art in print:**  
January (winners published in March)  
July (winners published in September)

**New art online:**  
April (winners posted in June)  
October (winners posted in December)

**Download Coloring Art From the Web:**  
[alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest](http://alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest)

The art for all four contests can be found online; Club Members are welcome to download and submit the art anytime, up to the deadline of each contest.

**Alive!** has moved half of its children's coloring contests online.

We'll be continuing our art and winners in the print *Alive!* twice a year (Jan. and July), and moving the other art and winners to the Web *Alive!* twice a year (April and Oct.).

## The Club: Here to Help

Club 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.

**Email us at:**

help@employeesclub.com

if you have an event you want an event covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.

Or call us at: (800) 464-0452

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At Club Headquarters



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Ext. 159



**Cheryl Martin**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 136

At the Club Store



**Tiffany Sy**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 202

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# CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the Employees Club of California — AUGUST 2019



## Softball Starting Soon!

### New season expects to start July 31.

Welcome to the new season of Club softball! The Club expects to start a second season of the new North Division July 31. Stay tuned for field locations and official game schedules. (This will be Club Softball's 11th season overall.)

More than 10 teams have signed up, so it looks to be a full, robust season of great athletic feats ... and excellent City fellowship and sportsmanship.

Locations and times are still be finalized at *Alive!* press time.



### FOLLOW US!

The best way to follow Club Softball news and updates is via the Club's social media pages, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



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Employees Club of California



City Employees Club

### GENERAL SERVICES

## Salvage, to the Rescue

Salvage unit takes care of City's extras, saves money.

In June, and then continuing into July, General Services' Salvage Unit took up a central window in City Hall South to show visitors what the unit is all about.

Through the display, the Salvage unit wanted to make sure City employees knew what the Salvage unit does, why it does it, and how to access its services.

"We staged an informational exhibit at City Hall South titled, "got Salvage?" said DJ Jackson, Sr. Storekeeper, 24 years of City service, Club Member. "We were requested to display the many functions of Salvage and how we may assist not only other departments in the salvage process for assets purchased with City funds, but also how we save departments money as well as for the City taxpayer."

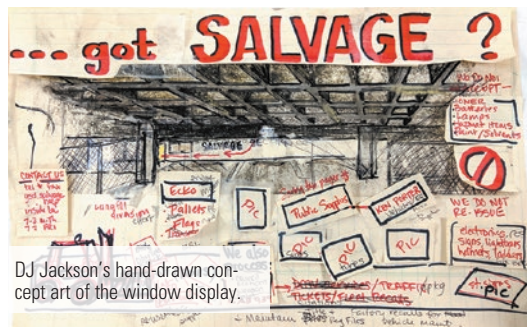
The display was a labor of love for DJ, an illustra-

tor and graphic artist before joining General Services. "Everybody had input into the presentation," she says. How's the reaction been? "Pretty good," she says. "We had a couple of people call us, wanting to buy things. They thought we were a commercial store."

The Salvage unit, located in the basement of Piper Tech (the entrance is in the back), receives a diverse allotment of items ranging from vehicles, tires, copper wiring, metal scraps, office furniture and other supplies from various City departments. These items are then recycled, disposed of, or put up for auction.

Awareness has been good, but the primary purpose of the window exhibit has been more functional, DJ says. "The exhibit is just to get people to fill out the forms correctly!"

Salvage's forms and processes are posted, or interested departments can contact the department directly at (213) 473-8200 for one-on-one customer service.



DJ Jackson's hand-drawn concept art of the window display.



A scale-model forklift helped tell the Salvage story.



Salvage's story was displayed in City Hall South during June and part of July.



General Services' Salvage dept., in their headquarters in Piper Tech, from left: Olga Ramirez, Storekeeper, 3 years of City service, Club Member; DJ Jackson, Sr. Storekeeper, 24 years, Club Member; Joshua Farfan, Storekeeper, 2 years, Club Member; Jesse Delacruz (in the loader), Warehouse Worker, 3 years; and Jeff Mowrey, Principal Storekeeper, 30 years, Club Member.

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# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

## Yucatán, Mexico

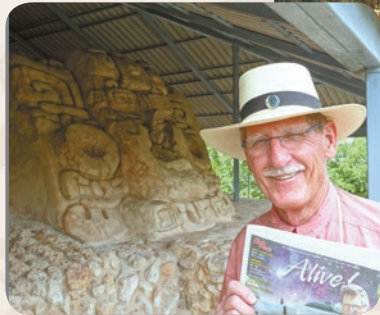
The Club's intrepid traveler and educator, Dr. Ed Krupp, Director of the Griffith Observatory, Rec and Parks, Club Member, recently visited the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico, with specific stops at these ancient Mayan sites: Sayil, Xlapak, Labná, Acanceh, and Mayapán. Here's his report.

"Labná, a Late Classic Maya (ninth century A.D.) ceremonial center in the Puuc, or hill, district of Yucatán, México, possesses an elaborately decorated ceremonial entrance arch at the end of the ceremonial roadway from a two-story building known as the Palace. The plaza on the other side of the arch is dominated by a pyramid known as El Mirador, and the arch may have helped distinguish that precinct as symbolically, mythologically, and ceremonially sacred."



"The ruins of Acanceh include a respectable pyramid fronted by one of the town's main streets. In an earlier phase, the pyramid was decorated with monumental representations of the face of Kinich Ahau, the deified sun, and transforms the ruin into an astronomical destination."

**MORE PICS ON WEB ALIVE!**



## Costa Rica

Robbie Horvath, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation, "went to beautiful Costa Rica to attend a workshop titled: SLS -- Successful Living Summit. This interactive seminar was designed to change our character for the better.

"Its setting was literally in Paradise, at the foot of Volcano Arenal in jungle-like surroundings. I also visited the capital city San Jose (Gold Museum, Jade Museum, etc.).



"In downtown San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica.

**MORE PICS ON WEB ALIVE!**

"The capital has got many great statues. This is one of them."



## Manzanillo, Mexico

**MORE PICS ON WEB ALIVE!**

"Our vacation trip to Manzanillo, Mexico."

Pete DeLeon, Retired, Public Works/Airports

*Alive!* featured Pete and Annie as they adopted their three children after retiring. It's a great, life-affirming story. Read it in the October 2016 issue. — Ed.

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## Larios in the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer



**Madeline Contreras**

Retired from the LAPD with 31 years of City service.



**Alexis E. Oliver**

Retired from Airports with 30 years of City service.



**Mark A. Taylorson**

Retired from the LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens with 25 years of City service.

## Congratulations!

Robert Larios, the Club's Chief Operating Officer, honors Club members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.

Larios in the City is also available on the *Alive!* website for viewing and sharing:

[alive.employeesclub.com/lariosinthecity](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lariosinthecity)

## ZOO

Photos by Jamie Pham, Zoo

# CONTINUING TO ROAR

Zoo's popular Roaring Nights for grown-ups continue this summer.

The L.A. Zoo's Roaring Nights summer series is back and better than ever – offering fun, fascinating explorations at the intersection of music, art, and wildlife on select Fridays monthly through and September.



At a previous Roaring Nights.

The next party is set for Friday, Aug. 16.

Guests 21 and older are invited to travel through an expanded area of the zoo until 8 p.m., with special animal encounters, feedings, and keeper talks. Once the sun sets, the focus shifts to music, with live bands, DJs, and an immersive silent disco experience. Throughout the evening, guests can enjoy interactive art activities and classic backyard games, dine on fare from L.A.'s favorite food trucks and enjoy specialty cocktails and "glamping" vibes at the Watering Hole, an open-air lounge. Zoo talks and special feedings will also be featured.

At a previous Roaring Nights.



**Remaining Roaring Nights Schedule** (hours for each night are 6 – 10:30 p.m.):

**Friday, Aug. 16,** featuring DJ Avi Bernard, Pulp '90s, DJ Johnny Hawkes, the Detroit Nights, and HUSH Silent Disco

**Friday, Sept. 27,** featuring DJ Richard Blade and Flash Back Heart Attack, DJ Severe, the Detroit Nights, and HUSH Silent Disco

Admission to Roaring Nights is additional to regular Zoo admission.

The L.A. Zoo is in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Tickets for Roaring Nights are \$21. Tickets for Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association members are \$16. Must be 21-plus to attend. Free parking is available. <http://www.lazoo.org/roaringnights/>

Story by DeAngelo Thompson, Club Customer Service Rep, and Cheryl Martin, Club Counselor. Photos by DeAngelo Thompson



**LAFD**

# Honoring the Civilians

## Fire Dept. hosts annual Civilian Employee Recognition Awards.

On May 22, the LAFD honored its civilian employees. The event took place at Dodger Stadium.

The LAFD has more than 300 non-sworn members that provide professional support that directly corresponds with pursuit of the Department's mission of saving life and property.

The LAFD's Civilian Employee Recognition Committee (CERC) was established in 1991 to recognize outstanding civilian employee performance. The CERC is comprised of Department civilian and uniformed personnel. At the start of the program, awards were presented quarterly. Then in 1997, the awards program was presented in a yearly format. The Employees of the Year are chosen from the following three categories, based on the Department's civilian civil service classification's memorandum of understanding:

- Clerical
- Shop Maintenance
- Professional/Specialized Skills

During the end of the calendar year, nominations are solicited from the entire Department. Over the course of several days and with the strictest confidence, the CERC reviews each nomination submitted for civilian employee recognition criteria. The CERC then conducts interviews with the nominators. Finally, the CERC Chair performs background checks on the finalists. Once this process is completed, the CERC recommends the candidates to the Fire Chief in the following categories:

- Fire Chief's Award of Excellence
- Employees of the Year
- Certificates of Special Recognition
- Fire Chief's Group Award of Excellence

Upon selection, the Fire Chief and the Administrative Operations Commander notify the Employees of the Year and other honorees. The CERC then plans and coordinates the Civilian Employees Recognition Awards Luncheon to celebrate with the honorees and their families, friends, co-workers, and sponsors. In 2013, the Certificates for Perfect Attendance was introduced to the Awards Program, honoring those employees for their perfect attendance for the past year.

Special thanks go to Jennifer Corona, Chair, LAFD Civilian Employee Recognition Committee. Also thanks to Fred Mathis, Chief Deputy, Administrative Operations, and Alfred Poirier, Chief Deputy, Emergency Operations.

### LAFD Civilian Honorees 2019

#### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

Shop Maintenance: Devin Dekoning, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic  
 Clerical: Kristie Butanda, Secretary  
 Professional/Specialized Skills: Patricia Arias, Sr. Project Coordinator

#### FIRE CHIEF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

Terrance Ito, EMS Nurse Practitioner Supervisor

#### CERTIFICATES OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Dishan Chaudhuri, Equipment Mechanic  
 Julio Banuelos, Sr. Heavy Duty Mechanic  
 Bruce Gallion, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic  
 Peter Sanders, Public Information Director  
 Kathy Nguyen, Sr. Systems Analyst  
 Jasmine Alvarado, Secretary  
 Phil Orozco, Sr. Management Analyst  
 Juan Ramirez-Sanchez, Equipment Mechanic

#### CERTIFICATES OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE:

Alvin Dong	Bryan Fitzgerald
Daisy Quan	Drew Steinberg
Emilio Rodriguez	Erika Cabrera
Gary Hayakawa	Hank Murakami
Jackson Jang	Jorge Sandoval
Laura Triner	Lauren Nakasuji
Lesley Cornejo	Lori Skroce
Mario Pasaporte	Mario Salazar
Mark Davis	Masaki Horii
Mauricio Ramirez	Nam Nguyen
Nilam Patel	Podinilame Dissanayake
Renee Ramirez	Royce Long
Sally Gonzales	Scott Liefeld
Tammy Nguyen	Terrance Ito
Tiana Munoz	Tom Hoang
Vidal Garcia	



Employees of the Year, from left: Terrance Ito, Kristie Butanda, Patricia Arias and Devin Dekoning.

#### Congratulations to the honorees!



Honorees from the day included, front row, from left: Tiana Munoz, Gary Hayakawa, Renee Ramirez and Daisy Quan. Top: Mario Pasaporte, Mark Davis, Emilio Rodriguez, Podinilame Dissanayake, Lauren Nakasuji, Bruce Gallion, Alvin Dong and Terrance Ito.



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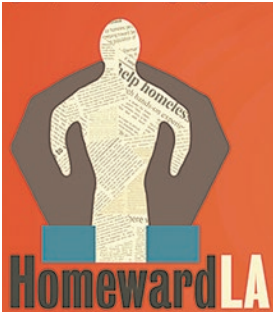
Please see the Club's website for details.

Discount tickets can be purchased at [www.EmployeesClub.com](http://www.EmployeesClub.com).

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**LACERS**

*Photos courtesy Lady Smith, LACERS*

# Lady Goes Homeward

**Lady Smith, LACERS, produces a play to combat homelessness in LA.**

“We could all end up in the street,” Lady Smith, LACERS, 30 years of City service, Club Member, says. “I wanted to raise funds and awareness that the homeless have identities, too. They are people, too.”

So Lady produced a play titled *HomewardLA* in cooperation with the homeless organization of the same name. The theatrical event was unique – it played over 10 days in several venues Citywide. The performances raised more than \$130,000, which was donated to the Midnight Mission on Skid Row.

Lady helped produce the first *HomewardLA* in 2018, and she came back this year to run the show. Ten actors performed the shows, which had two directors/choreographers – QueJonné Smith, LAFD, Lady’s daughter; and David W. Cross II. The performances ran April 26 to May 5.

Lady produced the show through Limited Edition, her production company that’s been working with area underrepresented youths

for more than 25 years.

*HomewardLA* contains monologues, based on stories from people who have been homeless and are striving to find their way home. In 2018, more than 2,000 people saw the shows.

“The monologues in the show aren’t really about how they got there, or how they became homeless,” she explains. “It’s more about their grandest memories, their best hopes and dreams. They are people. It could happen to any of us.

“Sometimes people are stereotyped and treated very badly on the streets. And they’re embarrassed that they’ve ended up there. We could all be in the same boat. We all need to be there for each other.

“It’s getting worse. They need to know that they are not alone. There are people who care for them.”

Does she expect to produce the show again next year?

“Oh, yes,” she says. “God willing.”



Lady Smith (back row, center) and the cast of *HomewardLA*.

Those interested in participating in next year’s productions or wanting more information can go to: [www.homewardla.org](http://www.homewardla.org)

*HomewardLA* is also on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/homewardla](http://www.facebook.com/homewardla)



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**AIRPORTS**

*Story courtesy Officer Rob Pedregon, Airport Police  
Photos by CSI Officer Shawn Smith*



From left: Airport Police Assistant Chief Dan Llorens; Officers Ashley Arranga, Nikko Valdenor and Jesse Amezcua; and Capt. Mario Patrick.

# Welcome, New Officers

**Airport Police welcomes three new Officers.**

On July 3, following a graduation ceremony held at the Los Angeles Police Academy, Airport Police Assistant Chief Dan Llorens swore-in three new Airport Police Officers. They are Officers Jesse Amezcua, Ashley Arranga and Nikko Valdenor.

Family and friends proudly watched as LAPD Academy Class 1/19 received their diplomas. Among the 40 overall graduates from the LAPD and Port Police were three Airport Police Officers. Officer Jesse Amezcua is a liberal arts/political science major at Los Angeles Harbor College and former personal trainer. Officer Ashley Arranga, who was elected academy class treasurer, holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Cal State Long Beach. Officer Arranga is no stranger to LAX or to a life of serving others, having volunteered at the LAX USO for several years. Rounding out the Airport Police graduates is Officer Nikko Valdenor, a Cal State Long Beach graduate with a bachelor’s degree in criminal

science. Officer Nikko Valdenor will join his father, Airport Police veteran Officer Percival Valdenor, in protecting the gateway to Los Angeles, LAX.

Before swearing-in the new Airport Police Officers, Assistant Chief Dan Llorens spoke to the graduates and said, “You join Airport Police at a very unique time in history. There are many construction and innovation projects under way, and LAX is moving rapidly into the future.

“There are many opportunities waiting for you, and the sky is the limit. Welcome to the Airport Police family.”

The three new Officers will now begin a six-month field training program specific to aviation law enforcement under the guidance of a Field Training Officer. Upon completion, they will be assigned to the Patrol Services Section.

Congratulations, Officers Amezcua, Arranga and Valdenor!

**DWP**

*Story and photos courtesy Earl Rodgers*

# Greg Retires in Style

**Gregory Hornsby retires from the DWP after 32 years of City service.**

**See more of Gregory’s retirement party in *Alive!* online!**  
[alive.employeesclub.com/gregory-hornsby-retires](http://alive.employeesclub.com/gregory-hornsby-retires)

After 32 years of City service, Gregory Hornsby Sr. retired from the DWP as an Assistant Director of the Customer Service Division, and celebrated with 40 family members, colleagues and friends in Jamaica.

Greg began his City career Oct. 8, 1986, as a Maintenance Laborer with the DWP. He was promoted up the ladder to Meter Reader, Commercial Field Representative, Sr. Commercial Representative, Utility Theft Investigator, Commercial Field Supervisor, Utility Service Manager (USM), and ultimately Assistant Director in the Customer Service Division where he oversaw several sections during his 17 years as a Manager.

There’s plenty more from Greg’s retirement party in Jamaica – see the whole story on the *Alive!* Website: [www.alive.employeesclub.com](http://www.alive.employeesclub.com)

Congratulations, Greg; keep the good times rolling!



Greg Hornsby (left and above) and his wife, Latrice Williams (above), DWP.



# Castle Park

4989 Sepulveda Blvd.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
(818) 756-9459

## HOURS

(spring, summer, winter break)

Mon.– Fri.: 10 a.m. – midnight  
Sat.– Sun.: 9 a.m. – midnight

(Last call for mini-golf is an hour before closing.  
Holiday hours are subject to change.)

## MINI GOLF

Three similar courses, 18 holes each.

Adults (13 to 64)	\$6.50 (each)
Children (5 to 12)	\$5.50
<i>Note: Children 4 and under are free with a paid adult</i>	
Seniors (64-plus)	\$5.50
Replays	\$3.00 (same day only)
Weekend Early Birds 9 - 10:30 am	\$3.00 per person regardless of age

## ARCADE

At Castle Park's arcade, experience a wide selection of exciting games, ranging from the ever competitive air hockey to thrilling redemption games with big jackpots. Also try your hand at the Vault, a laser maze straight out of a spy movie. Fun for all ages. Bring the family and have a blast.

\$25 game card + \$5 bonus (\$30 value)
\$35 game card + \$10 bonus (\$45 value)
\$50 game card + \$15 bonus (\$65 value)
\$75 game card + \$25 bonus (\$100 value)
\$100 game card + \$50 bonus (\$150 value)

### Laser Maze:

\$5 per person  
Groups of 15 or more, \$3 per person

### Best Deal: \$45

Includes \$50 Game Card  
+ One Lazer Maze Pass  
+ One Simulator Pass

*New card activations subject to a \$1 fee.*

## BATTING CAGES

The Castle batting cages offer a great place to practice your baseball and softball swings. Baseball cages range from 40 - 80 mph. Softball cages are available for low arc and high arc, and there's a 60 mph fast-pitch softball cage.

## PARTIES

Castle Park is the ideal venue to host special events. The center can accommodate family gatherings, birthday parties or any other special occasion. The center provides the perfect combination of food, service and atmosphere.

## Alive! Feature

Summer in the City



# Fun in Miniature

Alive! photos by Summy Lam.

## The Alive! Interview

# Far Above Par

On June 5, Club CEO John Hawkins and Alive! editor John Burnes interviewed Andrew Baird, Sr. Parks Services Attendant, Club Member, at Sherman Oaks Castle Park. He's the facility director.



Andrew Baird, Sr.  
Parks Services  
Attendant, Club  
Member

**Andrew, thanks for giving us a tour of this really fun place. It was a blast to walk along the three courses, see the fun structures, and get in the batting cages.**

**Andrew Baird:** Sure!

**Tell us about your City career and how you got to this position.**

My path with the City started in aquatics, where I started out learning to swim at the pools as a young person growing up.

**Which ones did you go to?**

Primarily Verdugo Hills Pool as a patron; I learned to swim there. I was part of all their teams, the Learn to Swim Program, Junior Lifeguard and the Swim Team, and that led into City employment because that's where aquatics finds its employees – from the people who are members of the community swimming. I became a locker attendant. That's how they find lifeguards, by training these kids to swim, and they end up becoming part of that.

I followed that path. I became a lifeguard a few years later, and from there I became a pool manager. I learned how to teach CPR and first-aid classes, all that kind of stuff. I did all that for

Rec and Parks for about 10 years, and from there I became a full-time Administrative Clerk with Personnel in the Worker's Compensation division. I did that for a couple years, and then this position opened up. I interviewed for it with all of my experience in aquatics running swimming pools, and I was able to acquire this position and bring my skills, knowledge and passion here for trying to grow and develop things.

**You were a City parks kid from the get-go.**

I definitely am.

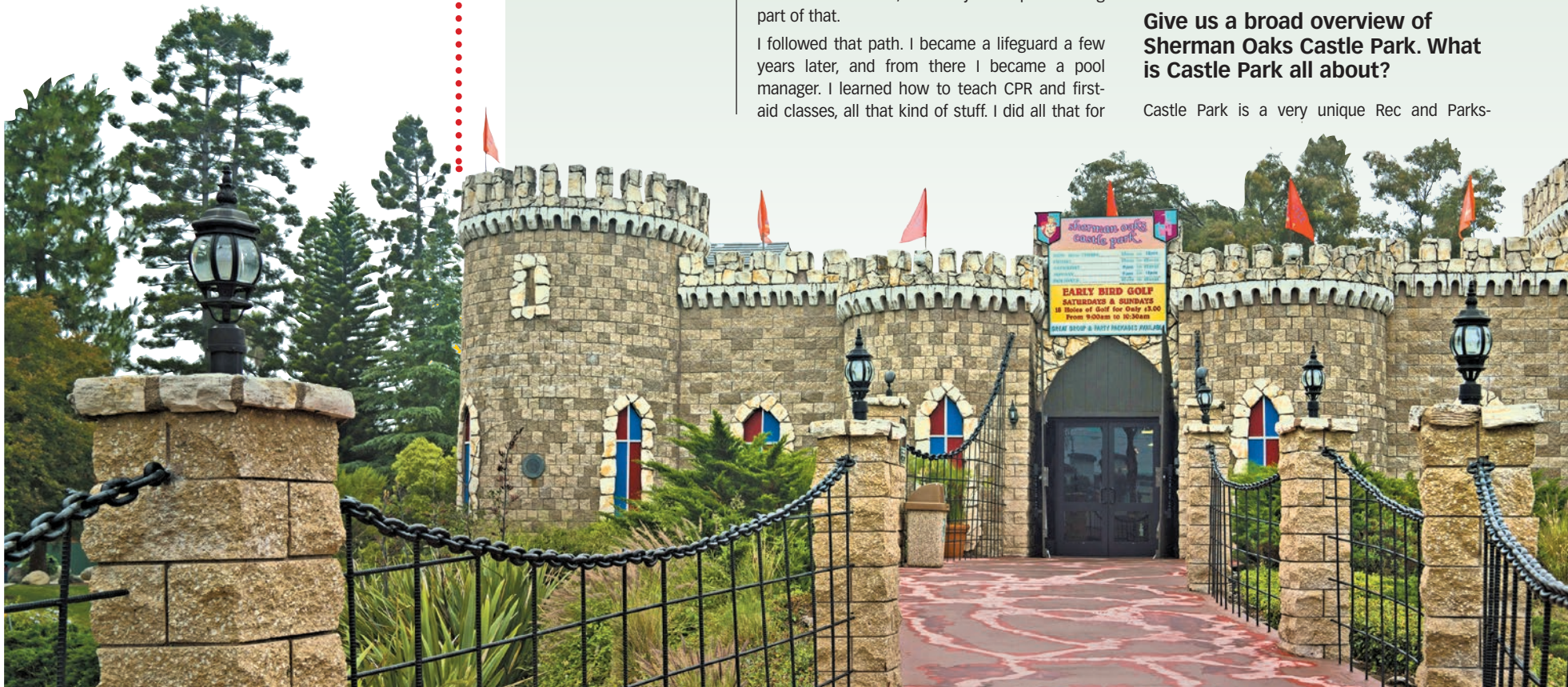
**Do you still swim?**

I'm going to get back into it. I was actually talking about that this morning with somebody. I took a little bit of time away, which I think was good, and now I want to be back in the water. I just needed a little time away to remember how much I appreciated it.

## Castle Park

**Give us a broad overview of Sherman Oaks Castle Park. What is Castle Park all about?**

Castle Park is a very unique Rec and Parks-





**Rec and Parks**

**The City took over Castle Park in 1993 and through ongoing renovations turned it into a full-service affordable fun center for the whole family. Plan your visit!**

**D**id you know the City manages its own mini-golf, batting-cage and video arcade fun center in the Valley, and that it's designed to be substantially less expensive than commercial facilities? And, in most cases, more lushly landscaped and developed?

We do. Many people don't know about it. But it's perfect for families looking for affordable fun, and for groups looking for an affordable party location. And that makes it perfect for *Alive!*'s annual Summer in the City.

Castle Park in Sherman Oaks was originally the Malibu Grand Prix (Malibu Castle) and operated under a City license. But, according to press from the era, by 1993 it was failing, and its degraded atmosphere was scaring off the family market.

So the City took over the lease, made it fam-

ily friendly, and developed it into one of the Valley's most popular family fun centers.

In fact, Castle Park attracts more than 250,000 golfers to its three 18-hole mini-courses per year. That number was limited by last winter's rains, so it's likely to grow this year.

Castle Park has 28 City employees assigned to it, including one Sr. Park Services Attendant, two Park Service Attendant IIs, one Sr. Gardener Caretaker, five Assistant Park Services Attendant IIs (part time); 11 Assistant Park Services Attendant Is (part time), and nine Special Program Assistant IIs (part time).

**Read all about the popular fun center in this month's interview and photos.**



From left: Andrew Baird, Sr. Parks Service Attendant, and Club CEO John Hawkins chat about Castle Park's mission and development.

operated facility. It's a family fun center. Our mission is to provide to the community that we serve – the City of L.A. and residents of Southern California – a family entertainment option at an affordable value. We stay cheaper than all of our competitors. We stay accessible to everybody. We're not for the rich; we're for the community. We're \$6.50 right now for a round of golf. Our competitors are \$12, \$13 or \$14. We've tried to keep it that way.

**It's intentionally done that way to make it affordable to everybody?**

Yes. We may end up adjusting the rates a little bit just because we're putting a lot of money into the courses and trying to make them better, but we're not going to do anything extravagant. Everything is self-sustainable here. Nothing runs off of taxpayer funding. Everything comes from the fees.

**So you either put that back into your infrastructure or you give it back to the general fund?**

We give about half of our money to the general fund, and the other half goes into our account to operate the facility – pay for labor, pay for upgrades, anything like that. Anything that's left, we save,

because some of the upgrades are very expensive, so we need to build up for them.

**This is a public/private partnership – the batting cages and arcade are vendor-operated. That's something like Train Town in Griffith Park, or the Greek Theatre, or Olvera Street. How does this work as a business?**

We have a few different layers here. We're actually sitting on Army Corps of Engineers property land. The City has a long-term lease from the Army, and the City operates the facility here. Within that, we have three concessionaire contractors that run the batting cages, the arcade, and the café. They all have contracts with the City. They pay the City rent to be here. And as part of what we do as City employees, we oversee that they're following the contracts. We all end up having to work together because even though they're not City employees in the arcade or the batting cages, they're still Castle Park employees, just like our employees are with the City. We all have to work together because we want it to feel as much as possible like one business to our customers. We meet with the concessionaires every quarter just to make sure we're working toward a shared vision of what the park is going to be.

**There's really nothing else in terms of a family fun center like this in the City, is there?**

Nothing that the City of LA operates. The closest thing would be up in Santa Clarita – there's Mountasia, but nothing like this. This is one of a kind. You won't find another Sherman Oaks Castle Park anywhere, and our customers acknowledge it. They come in and they love that we are what we are.

Continued on web *Alive!*  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



**PLAY MINI GOLF!**

From left: Andrew Baird, Sr. Parks Service Attendant, and Club CEO John Hawkins play a round — here, under the castle prop.



**BATting CAGES!**

**HUGE ARCADE!**

In the arcade, Club CEO John Hawkins (left) and Castle Park director Andrew Baird go on an Alpine Adventure through alternative reality.



Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.

# RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

Ruth B. Perry, President  
Terminal Annex  
P.O. Box 86264  
Los Angeles, CA 90086  
PHONE: (800) 678-4145, ext. 717  
EMAIL: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org  
ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org



### RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Mary Beetz, Director, Ext. 711

Cliff Cannon, Director, Ext. 715

Beverly J. Clark,  
Publicity Director, Ext. 716

Hal Danowitz,  
Secretary/Treasurer, Ext. 707

Dennis Harding,  
Entertainment Director, Ext. 704

Ed Harding,  
President Emeritus, Ext. 703

Michael Karsch,  
Legislative Representative, Ext. 706

Phil Orland, Health Director, Ext. 709

Ruth B. Perry,  
Membership Director, Ext. 717

Neil Ricci,  
Nominations Director, Ext. 714

Tom Stemnock, Audit and Golf, Ext. 708

### RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

### RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website [www.RLACEI.org](http://www.RLACEI.org) to find the latest retirement news. Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.  
EMAIL: [Contact@RLACEI.org](mailto:Contact@RLACEI.org)

### MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.  
Terminal Annex  
P.O. Box 86264  
Los Angeles, CA 90086

or

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.  
1100 S. Flower Street, Suite 3300  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

### Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or [Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org](mailto:Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org) for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.

### Send in your Interesting

**NEWS**  
**News**  
**Contributions!**

Contact **Beverly J. Clark**, Publicity Director  
Email: [Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org) or  
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

## 2019 RETIREE EVENTS

**Aug. 8:** RLACEI annual picnic and general meeting

**Dec. 5:** RLACEI annual holiday party and general meeting

### RESERVATION LINES:

RLACEI: (800) 678-4145, Ext. 701

Submitted by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

## Meet Your Board: A look at RLACEI Board Members

### Dennis Harding, RLACEI Board Member



Dennis Harding

**R**etiree Board Member Dennis Harding was born and raised in Southern California in the San Gabriel Valley. He is one of seven children born to Mary and Edward Harding. Dennis' first City employment was in the first-ever summer worker program in 1965, following his graduation from Rosemead High School.

He graduated from East L.A. College in 1967 with an associate's degree in psychology. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted into the Army in April 1968, trained as a combat field medic, and was sent to Vietnam in September 1968. Dennis was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service in Vietnam. Upon his return to the States he was assigned to the Fort Ord stockade as a Clinical Psychology Specialist, counseling prisoners. After his military service, Dennis began his City career as a Maintenance Laborer in Public Works/Street Maintenance while resuming his education. He graduated from Cal State Northridge with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology in 1976. Later he earned a master's degree in public administration from Pepperdine University.

Dennis was employed for 36 years in Public Works/Street Maintenance. Twenty-five of those years were in supervision, mid-management, and senior management. The last six years, Dennis was the Street Maintenance

General Superintendent II (Chief Operations Manager) of the Street Maintenance Division, directing the activities of street cleaning, street repair, and street resurfacing for the entire City of Los Angeles.

Dennis; his brother, Bill; and stepbrother, Mario Gomez; all followed in the footsteps of their father, Edward, and grandfather, Clement, who also had careers in Street Maintenance. Dennis retired in 2005 in the same position as his father had in 1981.

Since his retirement, Dennis has been employed as a part-time property manager for Canoga Park Lutheran Church, responsible primarily for maintaining and improving the



Rica and Dennis Harding

church and school property. He is also the project manager for a charter school on the church property.

Dennis has been married to his wife, Rica, for 42 years. They have three children and eight grandchildren. He is a collector of vintage 1940s-'50s plastic toys and 1950s-'60s Superman, Superboy, and science fiction comic books. ■



The RLACEI Board of Directors is looking for members to serve on the Board. The Board ensures that our retirement benefits are protected.

If you are a Retired City employee and enjoy working with people and getting involved with retired City employees to make a difference and an impact regarding Retired City employees, please consider submitting your name. Board members are appointed for a two-year term and the Board meets monthly.

Please email Beverly Clark at [Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org) or leave a message at (800) 678-4145, ext. 716.



# RLACEI 2019

## Summer Picnic

Open to all Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members!

Thursday, August 8, 2019  
\* 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Grace E. Simons Lodge  
1025 Elysian Park Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90012







## Almost Picnic Time!

Retirees, don't forget next month's annual RLACEI summer picnic.

**11:00 a.m.**  
**August 8, 2019**  
Grace E. Simons Lodge

The reservation deadline has passed, but call RLACEI for more information: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701.

See you there!

## RLACEI

### Value or Growth Investing: Why Choose Only One?



**LACERS Board Update**  
By Michael R. Wilkinson

Michael R. Wilkinson

One of the challenges for LACERS in investing for the long term is how to diversify investments, a subject I return to in my column from time to time. If there were one perfect investment, we would not need investment experts, and instead we would all put our money there.

When we look at stocks, one way to differentiate them is using the term value and growth to categorize stocks by how expensive they are compared to some benchmark such as price to earnings ratio or cash flow. The more expensive stocks are called growth stocks, while the cheaper stocks are called value stocks. Think of growth stocks as those that have been bid up to very high prices by excitement in the markets, while value stocks are underappreciated by investors. Value stocks are the Rodney Dangerfield of investments ("I don't get no respect!"). Successful value stock investors include Benjamin Graham and Warren Buffett.

When stock prices are going up everyone wants to be in growth stocks, and those investors seem brilliant. When the inevitable cycle changes (think the bursting of the Internet bubble), then value stocks post big gains and growth investors sulk. Investment magazines are full of charts showing the cycles where value stocks outperform growth stocks and when the opposite is true. There are competing theories on how to predict these trends to take advantage of the cycles going forward, but no agreement on how to know when the cycle is changing.

So, how does LACERS handle this? LACERS invests in both value and growth stocks and keeps a good balance of both investment styles. The LACERS investment policy does not believe in market timing and as such does not try to time the growth and value cycles. This balanced approach is part of LACERS' overall policy of diversification that helps ensure that LACERS is positioned to take advantage of longterm investments without making heavy bets on any one investment or market sector. ■

### DWP Picnic

RLACEI Reps enjoy the annual event.



From left: RLACEI Vice President Beverly Clark and DWP Retirees Association President Dolores Foley.

The DWP held its annual picnic at Whittier Narrows Recreation Park in South El Monte June 1.

Employees were served barbecued chicken, brisket, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, fruit salad and a green salad. A popcorn booth, an ice cream stand and photo booth were available for retirees to enjoy. Retirees were also entertained with a vintage car show.

Everyone had a great time, reminiscing about when they were working, and all enjoyed socializing with those they had not seen since last year's picnic.

### Membership Dues: An Update

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, RLACEI membership dues are now \$3 per month. This new fee includes free membership to the Employees Club of California for all RLACEI members. RLACEI members who carry insurance products with the Club will soon receive a reduction in their payroll contributions for the Club membership.



LACERS and the Club are working to process the appropriate reduction for all applicable RLACEI members. RLACEI has been informed that the correct deduction should be reflected on your payroll statement in the next few months. All RLACEI members will be reimbursed for Club dues deducted from January through the effective date of the correct payroll processing.

**Please contact Membership Director Ruth Perry at (800) 678-4145, ext. 717, should you have any questions.**

### Solid California Rule Guides Cases in Chicago, San Diego

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Pension Law and Policy,**  
By Michael Karsch



Michael Karsch

The California Rule appears to be doing well and is not in jeopardy of dying. One news source, *The American Spectator*, reported in June that "San Diego's final capitulation to union demands signals the end of a reform movement that had once showed promise to help fix California's debt woes." San Diego had tried to validate the 2012 ballot initiative that had been passed by the voters in the city but opposed by organized labor and the state agency for employee relations. The paper said that the "measure is effectively dead." The city decided not to appeal their voter-approved Proposition B any more and side with the unions. The city then decided in early June to invalidate the public vote. The article also mentioned the similar defeat of the City of San Jose's Measure B on pension reform that the voters had approved, but later was challenged by several lawsuits. This measure was described as an assault on the California Rule; its attack by the Public Employment Relations Board led to the State Supreme Court ruling on the on the side of the unions.

The San Diego story also gained the attention of Chicago as it struggles through its deficit problem, much of it attributable to their pension problem. *Crain's Chicago Business* reported in June that the "recent collapse of the 2012 San Diego pension fix is a cautionary tale for Illinois because the fatal flaw cited by California courts – with the U.S. Supreme Court declining to get involved – was the failure of city officials to negotiate with employee unions before putting the proposal to voters."

The stories of the San Diego and San Jose efforts to reform pensions by reducing benefits flew against the California Rule, a judicial principle in California courts, and the staunch protection of negotiated labor benefits remains solid. Illinois enshrines the idea behind the California Rule in its constitution. ■

## ★★★ AUTHENTIC ★★★ Los Angeles City Merchandise

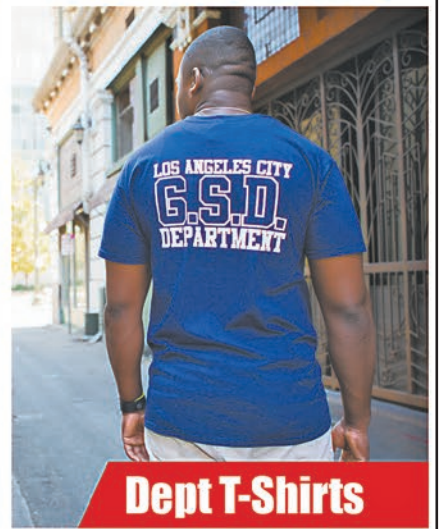
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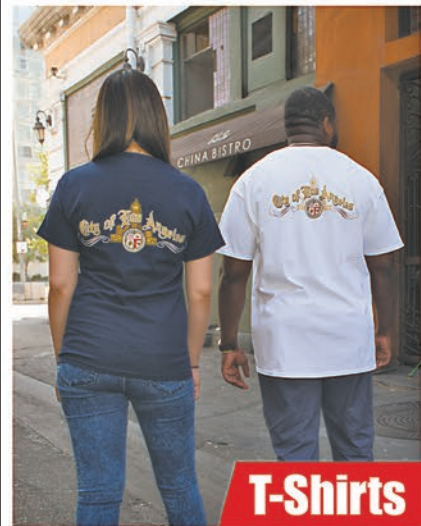
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Dept T-Shirts



T-Shirts



Jackets & Outwear



V-Neck TShirts



Custom Dept Polos



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**PUBLIC WORKS**

# Sun Sets on Open House Fun

**Sanitation's popular open houses conclude for the year at West LA Yard.**

Public Works/Sanitation and Environment's popular Open House program concluded its 2019 season with a big event June 29 at the West LA Yard. It was the final of six open houses for the year.

Each of Sanitation's district yards opened to the public in a series of free Saturday events. The Open House program showcased Sanitation's residential curbside collection programs with the promotion of proper recycling practices and information about bulky item collections. Each event featured trash truck and equipment demonstrations in addition to facility tours, information booths, recycling games, and refreshments.

Last year, more than 6,000 residents attended the open houses with more than 230 City Employees who volunteered their time to give back to the neighborhoods they serve.



Grilling the (free) hot dogs for guests were Steve Deryiades, RCTO, 12 years of City service, Club Member (back); David Pinkney, RCTO, 30 years, Club Member (left); and Jon Reed, Supervisor, 34 years, Club Member.

**MORE PICS ON WEB ALIVE!**

There was no charge for admission and all ages were welcome.

Congratulations to Sanitation's Open House committees and volunteers for once again telling their story to their communities. And thanks to Felix Sanchez, Superintendent of the West LA Yard and Club Member, for hosting *Alive!*



Victor Fregoso, 12 years of City service, Club Member, and his son, Victor Jr.



From left: James Moore, Assistant Division Manager, Club Member; Jonathan Polk Jr., Refuse Collection Supervisor, 10 years of City service, Club Member; Felix Sanchez, Superintendent of the West LA Yard, 29 years, Club Member; and Ron Hamburg, RCTO, 4 years, Club Member.

**REC & PARKS**

Photos by JuanCarlos Chan, Rec and Park

# Lotus Festival Blooms

**Lotus Festival pays tribute to Thailand.**

The Lotus Festival, one of the signature cultural celebrations in the City, took place July 13-14 in Echo Park.

Dates coincided with the blooming of the lotus flower. Admission was free. The festival attracted an estimated 100,000 people.

This year's 39th annual Lotus Festival celebrated Asian Pacific cultures with two days of attractions and entertainment in scenic Echo Lake Park. The weekend kicked off with an opening ceremony, continuing with live music, cultural performances and more. There were martial arts demonstrations and dance showcases, both traditional and contemporary. Each year, the festival focuses on a different ethnicity within the Asian Pacific region. This year, the festival honored the culture and traditions of the Thai community.

In 2012-13, the Lotus Festival was placed on hold while the City embarked on a major Prop O stormwater improvement project, as detailed in the August 2013 edition of *Alive!* The voter-mandated restoration helped protect water quality, enhance the Los Angeles River watershed, and maintain flood control functionality.

According to the Echo Park Historical Society, the Echo Park Lake lotus beds are considered to be the largest in the Western United States.


The Lotus Festival is a program of the Los Angeles Lotus Festival, Inc., in collaboration with Rec and Parks.




The Lotus Festival celebrated Asian culture and the Thai community in particular.



**Continued on web *Alive!*  
alive.employeesclub.com**



**NATIONAL LATINO PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER**



**36TH ANNUAL**

**ALBERT RIVERA**

**MENUDO RUN**

5K/10K RUN & FUN WALK

*Saturday, August 24, 2019*

RACE BEGINS AT 8:00AM AT WHITTIER NARROWS PARK, SOUTH EL MONTE

**PRE-REGISTRATION PRICE ENDS AUG. 1, 2019**

5K, 10K, FUN WALK \$35 BY AUGUST 1, \$40.00 AFTER

TEAM RACE \$30 BEFORE BY AUGUST 1, \$35 AFTER

GROUPS OF 10+ IS \$30 BEFORE AUGUST 1, \$35 AFTER

KIDS RUN (ALL KIDS RECEIVE A MEDAL) AT 7:30AM \$15

PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

WEBSITES: [NLPOASGV.COM](http://NLPOASGV.COM)    [MENUDORUN.ITSYOURRACE.COM](http://MENUDORUN.ITSYOURRACE.COM)

**ZOO**

Story and photo courtesy Zoo

# Congratulations, Denise!

**Denise Verret, Club Member, promoted to Zoo Director, the first African American female zoo director at an accredited institution.**



Denise Verret

On June 28, the City Council confirmed the Mayor Eric Garcetti's nomination of Denise M. Verret, Club Member, as the new Zoo Director of the Los Angeles Zoo. She previously served as the Zoo's interim Zoo Director while a nationwide search was conducted by the Mayor's office, and she assumes her new role immediately.

As the Zoo Director, she will oversee the wellbeing of more than 1,400 animals and nearly two million visitors each year. Denise will continue the Zoo's mission of being a leader in conservation and saving animals from extinction and a champion of the highest standards in animal welfare. A top priority will be the implementation of the Zoo's Vision Plan, a comprehensive redesign and redevelopment of the Zoo's existing 133-acre site to replace outdated buildings and infrastructure and transform the Zoo into something that is uniquely Los Angeles.

"I thank Mayor Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Councilmembers for their vote of confidence in my serving as the next Zoo Director of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens," Denise said. "As the Los Angeles Zoo continues to evolve, I'm humbled to be working alongside the best and brightest staff and volunteers as we strive to make the Los Angeles Zoo an institution that thrives and is relevant and meaningful for all people from all backgrounds."

She began her City career in 1988 at the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) until she was promoted to the L.A. Zoo. Denise earned her bachelor of science degree in administrative studies at the University of California, Riverside.

She played a big role in *Alive!*'s cover story, marking the Zoo's 50th anniversary, published in November 2016. *Alive!* looks forward to profiling more news from the Zoo. Congratulations, Denise, from the Club!



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and **SAVINGS** of California's  
best theme parks.

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**PUBLIC WORKS**

*Story and photos courtesy Public Works/Street Services*

## Thanks for Your Service

Street Services honors three for their service.

On July 9, Public Works/Street Services marked service milestones for three of its employees.

The honors went to:

- Bernice Williams, Principal Clerk, with 25-plus years of City service
- Sherman Torres, Street Services General Superintendent I, with 30-plus years
- Yalin Tam, Street Services General Superintendent I, with 30-plus years.

Congratulations, Bernice, Sherman and Yalin, and thanks for your service to the City of LA.



Bernice Williams, Principal Clerk, is given her honor by Adel Hagekhalil, Executive Director of Street Services.



Yalin Tam (right), Street Services General Superintendent I, is given her honor by Adel Hagekhalil, Executive Director of Street Services.



Sherman Torres (right), Street Services Superintendent I, is given his honor by Adel Hagekhalil, Executive Director of Street Services.

**LACERS**

## Get Tech

LACERS *Well* program to host tech workshop for Retirees Aug. 23.

REGISTER TODAY!

LACERS *Well* is presenting "Tech Help Desk with Mom's Computer," a free workshop for Retirees, at 10 a.m. Aug. 23 at the Mid-Valley Regional Library, 16244 Nordhoff St. in North Hills.

All LACERS Retired Members, plus a guest, are welcome. Please bring your smartphone, tablet, and/or laptop along with any relevant passwords (e.g. Facebook, iCloud, email) to receive free personalized one-on-one support.

**RSVP via MyLACERS or by calling (800) 779-8328, TTY (888) 349-3996.**



At a previous LACERS *Well* tech workshop.





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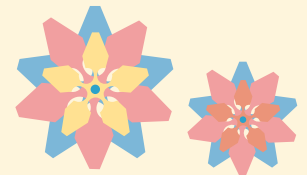
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# Life's Important Moments



## Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

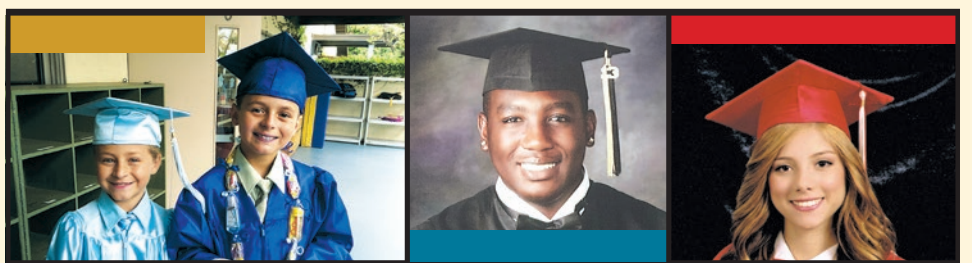
NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abd Rahman, Khalid	Security Officer	LAPD	8	Gonzalez, Susana	Custodian	Airports	14	Parker, Robert K.	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	33
Adams, Samuel	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Govea, Francisco	ITS	DWP	N/D	Perez, Joe A.	Sr. Roofer	Gen. Services	38
Adler, Doris Barbara	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	30	Harris, Hazel R.	Mgmt. Analyst	Bldg. & Safety	32	Petrosian, Gourgen	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	17
Aguilar, Anthony G.	Sr. Project Assistant	Econ/Wrkfrce. Dev.	21	Hawkins, Carla	Sr. Administrative Clk	LAPD	28	Powell, Pamela	Metering Serv.	DWP	N/D
Al Sarraf, Sermid	Sr. Systems Analyst	Public Works	17	Holden, Matthias	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Radtke, Bruce	Sr. Construction Insp.	Airports	30
Allen, Richard B.	Survey Party Chief	Public Works	32	Hontiveros, Maria	Budget	DWP	N/D	Raftefold, Daniel	Water Operations	DWP	N/D
Alo, Tina	Accounting Clk	Public Works	29	Horvath, Carl	Ug. Start Utility Coord.	DWP	N/D	Ramirez, Priscilla	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Armstrong, Douglas	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Huang, Zhan Ling	Database Architect	Public Works	33	Ramos, Onesimo E.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	29
Barajas, Ramon	Assistant Gen. Mgr.	Rec and Parks	36	Hughey, Uta M.	Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	34	Reddix, Kimberly	Customer Service	DWP	N/D
Behrens, John	Chem. Lab	DWP	N/D	Ives, Fred	Fleet Serv.	DWP	N/D	Richard, Lynn	Sr. Systems Analyst	Housing	15
Bobadilla, Fred D.	Env. Compliance Insp.	Public Works	31	Jackson, Rachelle	Business Support	DWP	N/D	Roberts, Boyd	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D
Bragg, Charles	Power New Business	DWP	N/D	Jackson, Terry	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Rodriguez, Gino Cortez	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	30
Brayboy, Elbert J.	Locker Room Attend.	Rec and Parks	4	Jackson, Thomas C.	Patrol Lifeguard	Rec and Parks	12	Rogers, Charles	Labor Relations	DWP	N/D
Brown, Alexander	Sustainability	DWP	N/D	Jensen, Sherman	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Romney, Marilou P.	Pr. Clk	LAPD	37
Burbridge, William	Equipment Operator	Public Works	30	Johnson, Maggie L.	Sr. Librarian	Library	41	Roque, Lydia	Sr. Admin. Clk	Airports	32
Bushey, Craig K.	Investigator	City Attorney	20	Johnson, Paul	ITS	DWP	N/D	Rowghani, Susan	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D
Cahill, Roy	Aqueduct	DWP	N/D	Johnson, Steven F.	Ref. Crew Field Instr.	Public Works	30	Rubio, David	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Campbell, Eric	Finance	DWP	N/D	Jones, Jacqueline	Risk Manager	Airports	37	Rudder, Tim	Water Operations	DWP	N/D
Campos, Marie T.	Pr. Clk	City Attorney	21	Jones, Stanley	JFB Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D	Russell, Michael	Financial Manager	Harbor	17
Castruita, Jess	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Karahagopian, Anahid	ITS	DWP	N/D	Sandoval, Phillip M.	Painter	Harbor	34
Chan, Catherine W.	Accounting Clk	Transportation	18	Kehrmeyer, Steven	Ug. Start Utility Coord.	DWP	N/D	Sauer, Mary Therese	Ch. Admin. Analyst	CAO	38
Chang, Kathy	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Korand, Rameswari	Environmental Eng. Ass.	Public Works	27	Schram, Gary W.	Special Investigator	Personnel	5
Chapa, Octavio	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	42	Koster, Frank	Equipment Mechanic	LAPD	13	Shavely, Eric	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Chavez, Arturo	Metering Serv.	DWP	N/D	Leon-Chatman, Annette	Police Service Rep	LAPD	30	Siciliano, William	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D
Chin, Curtis	Supply Chain Serv.	DWP	N/D	Lesseos-Lupher, Eva	Sr. Admin. Clk	Personnel	13	Sillman, Martha S.	Correctional Nurse	Personnel	23
Cho, Pazrica Morabe	Physician	Personnel	9	Luevano-Villa, Leonor	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Sistoni, Frederick	Business Support	DWP	N/D
Cleitt, Angela C.	Comm. Info. Rep.	Airports	28	Lutgen, Mary K.	Librarian	Library	7	Smith, Kenneth Leon	Electrician	Gen. Services	15
Cole, Roy	ITS	DWP	N/D	Mackinnon, Paul R.	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Smith, Paul McClain	Legislative Analyst	Council	44
Coons, Caesar	St. Services Worker	Public Works	17	Mackinnon, Paul	Construction Insp.	Public Works	17	Spacht, Julie	Water Executive	DWP	N/D
Cordova-Todd, Teresa	Customer Billing	DWP	N/D	Mano, Hikari H.	Vet Technician	Animal Serv.	18	Stone, Leonard E.	Signal Systems Electr.	ITA	38
Cota, Karen	Financial Reporting	DWP	N/D	McGeachy, Robert	Fleet Serv.	DWP	N/D	Sugimoto, Norman	Photographer	LAPD	12
Crist, Helen C.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Harbor	36	Mendez, Clemente	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Services	29	Tan, Joyce A.	Administrative Clk	Library	35
Crook, Estrelita	Administrative Clk	LAPD	41	Mercado, Evelyn M.	Administrative Clk	Library	30	Tanouye, Gary	Signal Systems Electr.	Transportation	38
Crutchfield, Paula E.	Sr. Administrative Clk	LAPD	23	Mills, David	Metering Serv.	DWP	N/D	Tapert, Kenneth	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Cruz, Arnold Y.	Mgmt. Analyst	Housing	30	Moffat, Alexander	Pr. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	19	Thomas, Clive	Sr. Construction Insp.	Public Works	30
Curry, Maria E.	Sr. Administrative Clk	Harbor	30	Mohammad, Svetlana	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Torres, Marisela	Retirement Plan	DWP	N/D
Daco, Judith	Finance	DWP	N/D	Montano, Daniel	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Tran, Kim-Thoa T.	ITS	DWP	N/D
David, Jacquelyn M.	Pub. Info. Director	Public Works	29	Morales, Robert N.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Library	35	Tucker, Stephan	Gen. Manager's Office	DWP	N/D
Davis, Arfield	ITS	DWP	N/D	Moschos, Barbara	Commission Office	DWP	N/D	Udtamadilok, Suvud	Matl. Test. Engin. Ass.	Gen. Services	33
Davis, Kevin Phillip	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	30	Murillo, Rosalina	Crossing Guard	Transportation	9	Van Wagoner, William	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D
Dean, Michael	Chem. Lab	DWP	N/D	Nanne, Taoufik	Comm. Eng. Ass.	ITA	22	Vargas, Larry	Water Operations	DWP	N/D
Dinsmoor, Kenneth	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Neuman, John M.	Police Admin.	LAPD	25	Viechweg, Raymond	ITS	DWP	N/D
Donaldson, Regina	Traffic Officer	Transportation	21	Ngo, Charles	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D	Waters, Charlene	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	32
Eliot, Darlene N.	Library Assistant	Library	17	Nguyen, Thuthuy	ITS	DWP	N/D	White, Kathy Marie	Traffic Officer	Transportation	12
Fernandez, Arleen	Metering Serv.	DWP	N/D	Nixon, Lesleigh	Power Supply Op.	DWP	N/D	Williams, Birdell	Crossing Guard	Transportation	8
Foster, Scott	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Nunez, Paulino	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Williams, Sharon	Comm. Info. Rep.	Airports	31
Fox, Dennis	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Nunez, Rosemary	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Winkelman, Katrina	Accountant	Gen. Services	29
Garcia, Alfred F.	Irrigation Specialist	Public Works	35	Nuno, Martha	Animal Care Tech.	Animal Serv.	28	Woo, Inju	Customer Service	DWP	N/D
Gardner, Steven M.	Painter	Airports	20	O'Carroll, Paul M.	Electrical Insp.	Public Works	30	Wright, Richard	Investigator	City Attorney	20
Garrison, Robert	Power Safety	DWP	N/D	Oliva, Vincent	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Yim, Justin	Ug. Start Utility Coord.	DWP	N/D
Geiger, Ronald	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Oliver, Alexis E.	Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	30	Yorba, Frank	Equipment Operator	Rec and Parks	34
Gentry, Jeffrey	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Olvera, Alejandro	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Yoshinaga, Gloria E.	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	17
Gokey, James	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Orrestad, John P.	Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	21	Young, John Wayne	Storekeeper	Gen. Services	31
Gonzalez, Raul	Labor Relations	DWP	N/D	Palmas, Enrique	St. Services Super.	Public Works	33				

N/D = not disclosed

## Special Achievement



Pete DeLeon's custom will be featured in West Coast Kustom's 2010 calendar. "It's a great honor," he says. (Looks like a late-1940s Ford to us, Pete.) Can't wait to see it, Pete! He's Retired, Public Works/Airports.



## Put your graduation photo in Alive!

**Club members:** Have you had a family member graduate from elementary school... high school... or college? 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 are related



To send a digital photo and your message, go to:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/graduations](http://alive.employeesclub.com/graduations)



**Share Your Life's Moments**

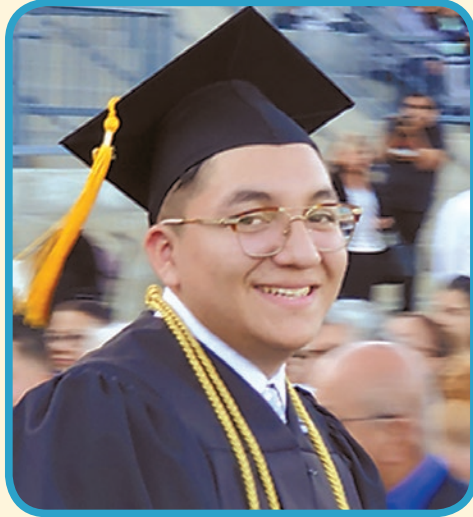
Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

**Send digital photos and text to:**  
(as high a resolution as you can send)  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments)  
OR send paper photos to: **Life's Moments – Alive!**  
City Employees Club of Los Angeles, 120 West 2nd Street, LA, CA 90012  
*Please don't send the only one you have!*

## Graduations



**Ces'Ari "Chez" Garcia-Delmuro** graduated from UCLA with a doctorate. (She previously graduated from Bishop Amat High School and Arizona State University.) She plans to teach high school English in the fall. She's the daughter of Julian Garcia Jr., Public Works/Street Services.



**Richard Hernandez** graduated from Bishop Mora Salesian High School downtown and plans to attend Azusa Pacific University in the fall, majoring in psychology. He's the son of Victor Hernandez, Traffic Officer, Transportation.



**Maya Horvath** graduated from Edgewood High School in West Covina. She has received several awards, including one for outstanding achievement, *summa cum laude*; one for outstanding achievement in math; one in biliteracy; and one California Senate Certificate of Recognition for 2018-19 as a National Merit Scholar Nominee, ink-signed by Susan Rubio. Maya has also been awarded the California Golden State Seal as well as a wooden wall plaque for Outstanding Achievement in World Languages. Maya plans to continue her studies in agricultural engineering at the University of Kentucky in the fall.

She is the daughter of Adriana and Robert Horvath, Retired Mechanic, Public Works/Sanitation/Hyperion. (Photo was taken by her proud father, Robbie, also a photographer, at Maya's graduation.)

## In Memoriam

*Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away.*

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>Active</b>			
Andrade, Robert	DWP 38	Hooker, Robert	Public Works 47
Brand, Lester	Harbor 12	Kennedy, Jerome	DWP 35
Gutierrez, Richard	Public Works 12	Klefstad, Jeannette	DWP 27
Lozoya, Adam	Animal Services 13	Lampkin, Raymond	Transportation 37
Meyers, Gerald	DWP 2	Lespron, Augustine	DWP 30
Montoya, Carlos	Airports 14	Lizzarraga, Johnny	Public Works 35
Mullis, Carl	DWP 13	MacKay, Herbert	DWP 17
Perez, Victor	DWP 40	Manalo, Purificaci	Public Works 25
Schultz, Mark	DWP 18	McCall, Thomas	Rec and Parks 33
Vanegas, Fredy	Public Works N/D	Miner, James	DWP 30
<b>Retired</b>			
Alers, Alejandro	N/D N/D	Moore, Calvin	N/D N/D
Andrews, Sheila	Transportation 26	Mosley, Ralph	DWP 30
Arine-Beer, Mary	N/D N/D	Munoz, Richard	DWP 33
Armstrong, Patricia	Transportation 37	Nave, Elmer	DWP 21
Bailey, Billy	Rec and Parks 33	Norrick, Terrance	DWP 31
Barrow, Fred	N/D N/D	Oddone, Edward	Building & Safety 15
Bernardi, Ernani	ITA 16	Palmer, Jack	DWP 9
Bernoudy, Ethel	DWP 36	Paskett, William	DWP 10
Caceres, Raul	N/D N/D	Patrick, Henry	N/D N/D
Canzano, Michael	General Services 16	Perez, Jose	DWP 30
Carpenter, Garry	Transportation 30	Prado, Daniel	DWP 35
Casillas, Louis	DWP 32	Ray, Charlotte	DWP 32
Crawford Jr., Leslie	DWP <1	Robbins, Richard	N/D N/D
Davis, Joseph	Airports 16	Roesner, Gerd	Harbor 22
Delap, George	DWP 25	Sakahara, Masashi	N/D N/D
Denevan, Lester	Planning 21	Schank, Gene	N/D N/D
Dorsey, Charles	N/D N/D	Sibley, Marsha	General Services 11
Escobar, Rudolph	DWP 29	Southall-El, Willie	DWP 26
Goodson, Suzanne	N/D N/D	Tarango, Rodolfo	N/D N/D
Graham, William	N/D N/D	Velarde, Tony	N/D N/D
Grant, Robert	DWP 22	Walker, Gene	N/D N/D
Harris, Matthew	N/D N/D	Whelan, Margaret	Personnel 44
Hernandez, Gilbert	Public Works 38	Williford, Pearl	DWP 32
		Willis, William	DWP 17
		Wilson, Charles	N/D N/D
		Wolfe, Kenneth	DWP 36

Tell us what you think!  
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## Letters to the Editor

### It's All About Koppány



What a sweet surprise! Thank you, John Hawkins, and your editorial staff so much [*Graduations, July*].

As I arrived back home from my trip to Costa Rica, the newest edition of *Alive!* was waiting for me on our kitchen table with all my other mail that came during my absence.

Automatically I had reached for *Alive!* (of course), and on Page 14 – to my surprise! – I found a picture-story of a familiar face that is so close to my heart, my beloved sonny, Koppány.

I really appreciate your kindness. I'm inspired to send you photos of my latest trip, the one to Costa Rica. I've done quite a bit of world traveling in the past two years since I retired from Hyperion.

I've just realized that the City of LA will always be my beloved home, no matter what.

And within it the Employees Club is like family to me – "womb to tomb," as they say in *West Side Story*. I also sent in a graduation photo of my daughter, Maya Horvath, who just graduated with the highest honor possible from Edgewood High School. Our own Susan Rubio hand-signed one of Maya's award certificates given by the State of California.

My beloved wife, Adriana, and I are encouraging Maya to apply for the Club Scholarship established in loving memory of Joannie Mukai, since Maya has decided to continue her studies at the University of Kentucky, pursuing a degree in agricultural studies and bioengineering. She is such a fantastic young person, ready to better this beautiful world of ours that we are absolutely sure that Maya will succeed with high honor in whatever she does in life.

We wish you, John, and all Club staff excellent health, prosperity and great success in everything for all the days of your lives. Please keep on the good works at Club Headquarters.

Thank you from our hearts for everything.

— Robert and Adriana Horvath,  
Retired, Public Works

Congratulations to Koppány Horvath on his *summa cum laude* graduation from the University of La Verne! I have not met Koppány, but his uncommon first name printed in large letters in *Alive!* on page 14 caught my eye since my first name, Stephen, and Koppány's name are historically linked!

Koppány was the Duke of Somogy in Hungary in the late 10th century. He is believed to have been a member of the royal Árpád dynasty. Koppány was the lord of the southern region of Transdanubia during the reign of Géza, Grand Prince of the Hungarians, who ruled between the early 970s and 997. After the death of Géza, Koppány laid claim to the throne inherited by Géza's devout Christian son, István (Stephen). Koppány's claim was supported mainly by pagan Hungarians, but István's royal army routed Koppány's army near Veszprém in 997 or 998. Koppány was killed either in the battle or in his duchy, to which he had fled from the battlefield. To deter the pagans from further uprising, Koppány's body was quartered and the pieces exposed upon the walls of the main castles of the country.

In the year 1000 or 1001, István received a crown from Pope Sylvester II, and he was crowned the first king of Hungary.

These events have been dramatized in a Hungarian rock opera, *Stephen, the King (István, Akirály)*. The musical premiered in 1983, and it became a smash hit! It is still very popular in Hungary and among Hungarian minorities in neighboring countries.

— Stephen Felszeghy,  
Husband of Diana Felszeghy,  
Club Member



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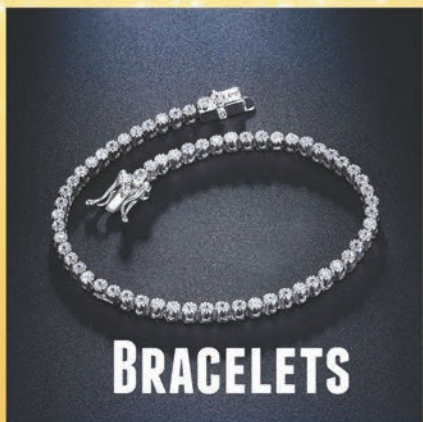
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