

City Holds Memorial for Flores, Garris

Public Works employees Rene Flores and Ricardo Garris, killed while at field office, are memorialized at service.



Rene Flores



Ricardo Garris

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor; Photos by Robert Larios, Club Operations Director

The City held a memorial service March 10 for Rene Flores and Ricardo Garris, who were shot and killed in late February by a co-worker. Flores was 54; Garris was 49.

The service began as Valerie Lynne Shaw, President of the Board of Public Works, welcomed the attendees. Mayor Hahn, City Council Members, and Members of the Board of Public Works followed with their remarks. Then, several colleagues from the Bureau of Street Services shared their reflections. And, Street Superintendent II the Rev. Bruce Jones offered words of inspiration. Finally, the

See Passings, Page 22

Club's Annual Meeting Marks Successful Year

Cecilia Talbot, Susan Valencoure are honored with prestigious Club awards.

Photos by Sammy Lam, Club's IT Guru

"Explore. Dream. Discover."



Cecilia Talbot
PRESIDENT'S
AWARD WINNER

"It's from a quote of Mark Twain's and we felt that it was very appropriate for the next twelve months," said Club CEO John Hawkins to the staffers, Club reps and vendors who gathered Feb. 22 for the Club's 77th annual meeting Feb. 22 high atop City Hall.

Hawkins continued: "The full quote is:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than

See Annual Meeting, Page 22



Irish For a Day!

Photos by Alive! Staff

Downtown turns green as the annual St. Patrick's Day parade enjoys a new route and more participants and viewers.

The sixth annual version of the downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade found a new end point (Olvera Street), a new route, a new participant (Mayor Jim Hahn) and new interest all around!

Congratulations to all who made it happen. Club reporters were on location, asking City employees what they thought about the parade. Here are some of the comments:

Mary Reuschel, Management Analyst I, Fire Department: "I went last year, and there is much more participation this year. It's also nice to see so many

ABOVE: Staff members from Councilman Tom LaBonge's office enjoy the annual St. Patrick's Day parade March 17

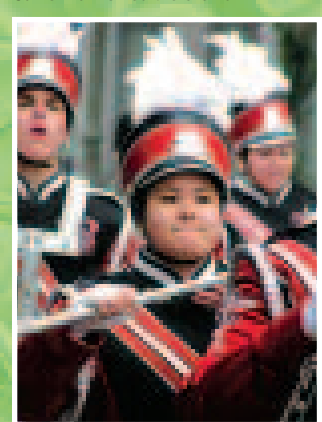
See Parade, Page 8

Eric Robles, Gen. Services, introduces the Town Crier to the crowd at City Hall.



Los Angeles Downtown News sponsored this LAFD fire truck which was one of 18 fire trucks making an appearance in the parade.

Banning High School from Wilmington, California wowed the crowd.



Los Angeles Police Emerald Society.

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Inside This Issue

Letters to the Editor.....	3	Pet Club: Jackie David Moves On.....	27
History Comes Alive!.....	4	Police Horse Elvis Dies.....	27
LAX Police Chief Wilson Earns State Certification.....	5	John's Picture Perfect Contest.....	28
Retirees NEWS.....	6	Lt. George Mossman, Animal Svcs. Transfers.....	29
Zoo Opens New Playground.....	7	Lives Moments.....	30-31
St. Patrick's Day Parade.....	8-9	Dept. of the Month: Dept. of Animal Services.....	32-37
LA Council of Engineers and Scientists Awards.....	10	National Dispatchers Week, LAPD.....	38
Travel Talk: Most Popular Vacations.....	12	LAX Names Alejandro Sanchez Employee of the Quarter.....	38
ClubFest 2005: Calling Bands and Artists.....	12	Where in LA? Contest.....	39
Armando Alba, Club Member, Retires from GSD.....	13	Ken & Sharon Perry Retire From Building and Safety.....	40
Coloring Contest for Kids.....	14	Coloring Contest: For Adults!.....	41
Black History Luncheon.....	15	Join These Clubs: Club Listing.....	43
Zoo Welcomes New Baby Orangutan.....	16	St. Baldrick's Event a Success.....	44-45
Asian Association's New Year.....	17	Cooking with the Club.....	46
Wanda Williams-Brown Retires from DWP.....	18-19	Cartoon Corner: Lewis The Mule.....	47
Central City Police Boosters Recognizes Its Best.....	20-21	Movie and Book Reviews.....	48
David Pongvarin Baby Shower in Mail Services.....	23	Classifieds Ads.....	49
Bill Lamb Retires From City After 32 Years.....	24	Ticket Express Discount Tickets.....	50
Events 411: What's Happening Around the City.....	26	Club Store: Club Merchandise.....	51

Alive!

April 2005 • Volume 4 – No. 4

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



Don't Forget Mom, And Resetting Clocks

Captain Andrade of Fire Station 3 and his loyal volunteers did it again at the sixth Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown. The Club had its top photographers at the parade, so don't miss the special spread beginning on pages 8 and 9. Also, make sure you move your eyes a little to the right from this column and read the *Letters to the Editor* – they are really starting to pick up both in volume and content; and hey, it's the best way around to have your voice heard on issues that matter to you, a City employee.

And...

- It's Daylight Savings Time again: April 3, to be exact. Make sure you set your clocks and watches one hour ahead (e-mail me with the name of the person who came up with the idea of Daylight Savings Time, and I'll send you a free movie ticket to a theater of your choice – see my e-mail address below).
- Support your fellow City employee 911 dispatchers! April 10-16 is National Dispatchers Week. Tuesday, April 12, the Metropolitan Communications Dispatch Center (MCDC) will host its open house, and the Valley Communications Dispatch Center (VCDC) will host its open house Monday, April 11. See page 38 for all the details.
- Mother's Day is just around the corner (May 9), so that means that it's time to show your appreciation for one of the most important persons in your life; and the best way to do that is to send in a picture of you and your mom (or just your mom) with a summary of all the things that make her great. We'll publish every single one we get in the May issue. Look on page 11 for all the details.
- Make sure you don't miss the premiere of our new cartoon, *The World According to Lewis the Mule*. It's on page 47 and it will be a monthly feature created by Matt Bennyworth, a gifted artist who also happens to be a member of the Mounted Platoon!

Lastly, I want to give a big **thank you** to Guerdon Stuckey and his awesome employees at Animal Services for their enthusiastic participation as April's Department of the Month – keep up the excellent work!

- John

jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com

Numbers YOU CAN USE

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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 347	(213) 482-6660
City Employees Benefit Office	(213) 978-1655	Los Angeles Federal Credit Union	(213) 485-5000
City Employees Retirement System	(213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328	Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union	(323) 254-1700 or (800) 231-1626
City Paymaster	(213) 978-7480	Los Angeles Fire Department Museum	(323) 464-2727
City Personnel Office	(213) 847-9240	Los Angeles Firemen's Relief Association	(213) 380-2900
City of L.A. Clerical and Support Services Union, Local 3090	(213) 487-9887 EXT. 340	Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association	(888)288-5073
Commuter Services	(213) 978-1593	Office Depot Discount Hotline	(818) 837-2524
DWP Credit Union	(213) 580-1690	Retired L.A. City Employees, Inc.	(213) 255-9082
DWP Employees Assn.	(213) 367-3146	Ticket Hotline	(888) 777-1744
DWP Information	(213) 367-4211	Whistleblower/Complaint Program	(800) 824-4825
DWP Paymaster	(213) 367-1106	Worker Compensation	(213) 847-9405
DWP Personnel	(213) 367-1934		
DWP Retirement Plan Office	(213) 367-1712		

Have a number you'd like us to include? Send it in: alive@cityemployeesclub.com

club Member Benefits

All active or retired City of Los Angeles and DWP employees are eligible to become members of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles.

To join, call (800) 464-0452.



Discount Rates at Enterprise Rent-a-Car

You can save money when you book through the Club's exclusive deal with Enterprise. Savings depend on vehicle class and a number of other factors. But, these are low, flat rates that you pay any time, all the time. To make your reservation, call any one of the convenient Enterprise Los Angeles area locations. Make sure to mention customer number 32W2864 when making your reservation. When asked, use PIN "CIT" for on-line reservations.



Office Depot

Bulk purchasing plan can save you up to 40 percent on selected items. Call the Club's Office Depot hotline, (818) 837-2524, or kmeyer@officedepot.com, to link your credit card. (Your Club card will not work with this benefit. You must call to link your credit card.)

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Check out a full list on page 42!

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- Group Rated Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance
- Group Rated Auto and Homeowners Insurance

History Comes Alive!



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



LEFT: Dodger Stadium under construction, 1961. MIDDLE: Eviction in Chavez Ravine: Abrana Arechiga, 63, weeps as she reads an eviction notice tacked on her home by Deputy Sheriffs, ordering the family to move from Chavez Ravine to make way for the Dodger ballpark. Five children are members of two families who must get off the property by 9 a.m. Monday. Photo date: April 10, 1959. (This photo originally appeared in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner.) RIGHT: Walter O'Malley in front of an almost-completed Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine, 1962.

From Brooklyn to Los Angeles: The 'Unbelievable' Story of the Dodgers

■ With another baseball season upon us, *Alive!* columnist Hynda Rudd tells the story of how a baseball team was born, and a neighborhood died.

As Los Angeles approaches the rites of Spring and the opening day at Dodger Stadium April 12, it became obvious when my daughter, Melinda Feldman, suggested that this column should review the history of how this beloved sport came to Los Angeles. And so it shall be.

Dodger Stadium was the first privately financed Major League facility since the opening of Yankee Stadium back in 1923. Opening day for this monumental occasion was April 10, 1962. The cost to build the Stadium with a 56,000 seating capacity was \$23 million. The Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley paid \$494,000 to complete the purchase of Chavez Ravine. The property was valued at the time at \$92,000. The architect was Emil Praeger. Dodger Stadium, which also hosted the Los Angeles Angels from April 1962 to September 1965, was considered one of the sport showcases of its time in the United States. But, the Stadium did not become a reality in Los Angeles without a troubled local past.

The story begins in an area known as Chavez Ravine that overlooks downtown Los Angeles. This canyon community was named for pioneer Julian Chavez. He lived in the area from approximately 1810 to 1879. He was a member of the City's first Common (City) Council in 1850. Those minutes, with the Chavez signature, can be found in the City Archives in Spanish with an English translation. He was also known to have served on the first County Board of Supervisors.

Originally, Chavez Ravine was a potter's field in 1850. Later, the site became a small-pox infirmary, then a tuberculosis sanitarium, and then a Jewish site for the Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery from 1855 to 1910 prior to the land becoming a barrio for an established but poor Mexican-American community. Many of these residents had fled persecution in Mexico with the intent of finding a secure home nestled in the hills of this canyon. But, in time, they once again, would become uprooted!

A later account of the Chavez Ravine transition begins back in 1946 when it became known to the City of Los Angeles through the City's Planning Commission as

one of eleven "blighted urban areas" in the City. This area was considered improper land use.

Most housing was considered sub-standard; there were poor street layouts; there was a lack of proper sanitation; juvenile delinquency was rampant; and tuberculosis was evident. By 1948, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) had taken an interest in Chavez Ravine.

On July 24, 1950, the residents of Chavez Ravine received a letter from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. This overwhelming communication stated "that a public housing development will be built on this location for families of low income ... The house[s] you are living in [are] included."

The letter continued by stating that the new federal housing project, the Elysian Park Heights development, co-designed by Robert Alexander and world-renowned architect Richard Neutra, would be available to the Chavez Ravine residents, if they were eligible for public housing. In October 1950, the City Council approved \$110 million for 10,000 public housing units for all eleven "blighted urban areas."

In 1951, foes of public housing often referring to it as 'creeping Socialism,' were beginning to rear their public head. By December of that year, the City Council voted 8 to 7 to cancel the contract for redevelopment.

The Housing Authority then asked the courts to rule on the legality of the Council cancellation. In response, the Council asked for a referendum on June 3, 1952, for the public to vote to continue or abandon the public housing developments. The California Supreme Court in April 1952 ruled that the City Council could not revoke the Housing Authority contract. Also, the referendum would not have legality for the contract cancellation. Nevertheless, the City held the election, and more than 600,000 people voted by a 3-to-2 margin to abandon public housing. California Senators William F. Knowland and Richard M. Nixon pressed for federal legislation to make the contract cancellation legal.

Meanwhile on the other side of the country in Brooklyn, New York, Walter O'Malley, an attorney and owner of the major league baseball team the Brooklyn Dodgers, was turned down by local authorities when he requested to build a new, larger stadium in New York to replace their home, Ebbets Field. Other major league teams were moving from their original habitats to far off destinations, sometimes halfway across the

country. This was an inspiration to O'Malley.

Back in Chavez Ravine, most of the residents of the area had sold their property and left according to the law set down by the Housing Authority. Some of those properties were torched for the purposes of training

Fire Department personnel. Other sites were auctioned off for valuable items including bricks, windows, etc. Still other people of the area refused to leave because they wanted fair value for their property and resented what had happened to their neighborhood. Later, many of those independent individuals were literally removed from their property by force.

By the fall of 1952, the U.S. Supreme Court had reaffirmed the findings of the California court rulings that the cancellation of the housing contract was illegal. During that era of "communist red-baiting" in America, three top administrators of the Housing Authority had been fired after being called before the State Senate Un-American Activities Committee; they all pled the Fifth Amendment. In July 1953, Norris Poulson became the 47th mayor of the City. His platform was to remove "federal domination of the City." He then renegotiated with the weakened Housing Authority so that Chavez Ravine and other urban blighted area housing projects would be abandoned. In August of the same year, the Housing Authority sold 170 acres of Chavez Ravine land to the City for \$1.25 million, a loss to the federal government of \$4 million. Congress mandated that the City use the land "for public purposes only."

It has been said that Mayor Poulson and some of the City Council of the time were interested in turning the City-owned acreage in Chavez Ravine into a major league baseball field. The first team considered was the Washington Senators. It became apparent later that O'Malley and local Democrats, the Mayor, City Council

members Kenneth Hahn and Rosalind (Roz) Wiener Wyman, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's son James found each other. The City felt that a major league team would be profitable economically and positive for public relations for the country's third largest city.

In March of 1957, the Mayor and other city and county officials met with O'Malley to offer him a site in Chavez Ravine for the Brooklyn Dodgers. On June 3, 1958, a referendum was set allowing the city to sell an additional 130 acres or 300 acres total to the Dodger organization. By a vote of less than two-percent, the Dodger organization won. In October of that year, the City Council approved a resolution to transfer Chavez Ravine to the Dodgers. Once again the City Council was admonished by the courts for illegal delegation of duty and public trust. Also, at that time, after much legal and political negotiations, Walter O'Malley convinced New York Giants owner Horace Stoneman to move his team to San Francisco.

On January 13, 1959, the California Supreme Court ruled for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

In May of that year, under the use of eminent domain the City had the police compel then bulldozers evict the final few families that had refused to leave Chavez Ravine. Construction of Dodger Stadium began on June 3, 1959, on the one-year anniversary of the referendum vote approving the transfer of Chavez Ravine to the Dodgers. Original plans to open the Stadium in 1960 suffered from many building delays. Finally, Dodger Stadium, on the hill, became a reality on April 10, 1962, for its opening day festivities.

It should also be noted that the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles in 1958, and played major league baseball for four years at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The new Los Angeles Dodgers team played their first game on April 18, 1958, defeating the San Francisco Giants 6-5 before a crowd of more than 70,000 people.

In last month's *Alive!*, Hynda wrote about the history of the various former City halls in Los Angeles. Here is another photo (taken near the time of the building's official use) of the earliest of L.A.'s first City Hall. (The photo we used is a modern photo of the same building.) Enjoy!



That's a Winner!



Cheryl Chase, Police Service Representative and Club Member, proudly holds her two tickets to the movies. She won the tickets after dropping her business card during her visit to the City Employees Club office. If you're a Club member, next time you visit the Club's world headquarters, make sure you drop your business card in the bowl for the drawing, too.

This Is to Certify

■ LAX police chief Bernard Wilson earns highest state certification.

Chief of Los Angeles Airport Police Bernard J. Wilson received an executive certificate from the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). It is the highest level of certification awarded by the agency to a California police chief or sheriff following completion of rigorous education, training and testing at the law enforcement executive level.

The presentation was made Feb. 22 by Greg Murphy from the POST executive office at a regular meeting of the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners.

POST fosters professionalism in law enforcement by recognizing achievement in education, training, and experience through its professional certification program. The program seeks to raise the level of competence of law enforcement personnel and to foster cooperation among the POST Commission, agencies, organizations, jurisdictions and individuals.

A City of Los Angeles employee for 30 years, Wilson was appointed chief of Airport Police in April 1999. At the same time, he was designated to hold the federally mandated position of Airport Security Coordinator for LAX. In both roles, he is responsible for physical security of the six-square-mile airport facility with a total population of travelers, non-traveling visitors and airport workers estimated at more than 140 million annually. Chief Wilson has served as a key decision-maker for numerous major crisis incidents, including aircraft crashes, labor disputes, bomb threats, natural disasters, industrial accidents, terrorist incidents and major crime events. As an instructor in aviation security, terrorism and traveler victimization, Chief Wilson has instructed hundreds of police and security officers from around the world.

In addition to meeting the requirements for the executive certificate, Chief Wilson earlier earned the POST Supervisory Certificate and the POST Management Certificate.

He also has been awarded the California Commendation Medal from the State of California Military Department and the Leadership Award from the International Association of Airport & Seaport Police. He has been named an Honorary Special Agent from the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Chief Wilson is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Airport & Seaport Police, International Counter-Terrorism Officers Association, International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, Airport Law Enforcement Agencies Network, American Association of Airport Executives, American College of Forensic Examiners Institute, and the Los Angeles Police Emerald Society.



From left: Greg Murphy, a senior law enforcement consultant with the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) executive office, congratulates LAX Airport Police Chief Bernard Wilson after presenting him an executive certificate. The executive certificate is the highest level of certification awarded by the agency to a California police chief or sheriff following completion of rigorous education, training and testing at the law enforcement executive level.

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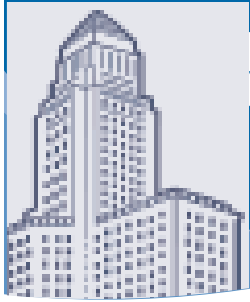
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Retirees NEWS

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Following is a list of contacts for the City and for the DWP:

City Employees Retirement System: (213) 473-7200

City Retirement Counselors:

• Edward Harding (805) 584-9417	• Jack Mathews (310) 762-1942
• Phil Skarin (818) 784-0130	• Helen Salgado (323) 728-4930 (membership)
• Robert Wilkinson (818) 886-1000	• Americo Garza (562) 928-2051
• Jerry Bardwell (818) 782-5568	• Neil Ricci (310) 394-1971
• Harold Danowitz (310) 472-0224	

DWP Retirement Plan Office: (213) 367-1722

For Retirees *By Phil Skarin, RLACEI Publicity Chair*

MEMBER NEWS

Wedding anniversaries: Bob and Sue Knox, Hollywood, celebrated their 40th on Jan. 3 with a trip to Antarctica aboard the *Clipper Adventurer*. They first met while serving as Peace Corps volunteers in Peru...

James H. and Dona Smith celebrated their 60th on Jan. 9. James worked for the Survey Division in Van Nuys for 30 years. Dona worked for the County for 32 years, including 25 years as a court reporter...

Earl Rogers, Mariposa, since his retirement from the Bureau of Engineering, has enjoyed traveling and a new career as an artist and art instructor at Merced College. He has painted a mural titled "Early Mariposa" at the Mariposa Museum. His wife of 60 years, Eileen, hasn't yet given him the "brush." Call him at (209) 966-2901...

June Grose, past president and secretary of RLACEI, has passed away. She was an avid gardener and loved roses. This leaves us with only one living past president, **Anthony Mafrika**, Van Nuys...

A number of our members are active on the Credit Union Board: **Neil Ricci** is the Secretary, **Cliff Cannon** is the Treasurer, and **Jack Mathews, Gary Mattingly** and **Denise McGee** are Directors. The Credit Union can, through the Credit Union Services Org. provide financial management, insurance, travel discounts and vehicle purchases, call the Credit Union...

If you have news about yourself or other retirees that you'd like to share,

send it to
Phil Skarin

5301 Norwich Ave.,
Van Nuys, CA 91411-3910, or
phone (818) 784-0130 or
fax (818) 906-3722.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
*Our differences define us, but our common humanity can redeem us.
We just have to open our hearts.*

— Karen Armstrong



Changes Affecting Pensions, Bylaws Subject of Meeting



Ed Harding,
RLACEI President

By Phil Skarin, Publicity Chair, RLACEI

Ed Harding, RLACEI President, reports: Our next Membership Meeting will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center at 5040 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks.

A free lunch will be served at noon only if you have made reservations a week ahead by calling one of the officers on the Retirees' Help-Lines on page 2. Bring your spouse. There will be speakers who will tell about current matters affecting your health plans and retirement benefits.

You will be asked to vote on a Bylaws amendment that will change the way officers are elected. The proposed changes to Articles III and V

are shown below.

Revamped Pensions: The Governor is attempting to get an Initiative on the ballot that will revamp the pensions plans of all public employees in the State. The affect it might have on retired employees is not known at this time. More info next month.

Ballots will be mailed out on May 14 for electing a retired member to be a commissioner on the LACERS Board. Ken Spiker has been doing a great job and our Executive Board recommends that you re-elect him.

Legislative Update: Ken Spiker, our elected Commissioner on the LACERS board, regarding the forced sale of \$318 million, due to a Commission conflict of interest, has been resolved without a negative impact to the retirement fund.

DFA, the small cap investment fund manager, was directed on October 12, 2004, by the Board of Directors to sell off the fund's assets within 120 days. All the assets were sold within the required timeframe for a total of \$340 million, \$22 million higher than their valuation on October 12, 2004. DFA started in their final report that there were no liquidation costs incurred as a result of the forced liquidation.

In conclusion, while it is unfortunate that LACERS no longer has access to this high-performing fund, at least there has been no adverse impact to the overall fund.

Upcoming Events: The 27th Annual Retiree's

Invitational Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, June 14, at the Alhambra Golf Course. If you would like to be a prize sponsor, contact Phil Skarin at (818) 784-0130 or Tom Stemnock at (818) 487-6789. Hal Danowitz asks you to visit our Website www.rlacei.com to find the latest retirement news ... The LAFUCU is sponsoring a "Walk for Someone You Love" for this Year's March of Dimes WalkAmerica at Griffith Park from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 30.

Upcoming events:

- **April 14** - Membership Meeting & Luncheon at Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center;
- **June 14** - Golf Tournament
- **August 11** - Picnic at Grace Simons Lodge
- **Oct. 6** - Annual Corp. Meeting & Elections at VN/SO Senior Center
- **Dec. 8** - Christmas Party at Grace Simons Lodge

Retiring Soon?

Are you planning to retire soon? Well, then, why not contact Helen Salgado, Membership Chairperson at (323) 728-4930 and she will arrange to get you enrolled in RLACEI and you can begin to receive the benefits of membership.

Bylaws Amendment

Article III Officers and Directors

Section 1

The Executive Board shall consist of twelve (12) elected directors and the immediate Past President. The officers of this Corporation shall be a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers and directors shall perform the duties prescribed by these by-laws and the parliamentary authority adopted by the Corporation.

Section 2

The election of ~~officers~~ directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting in October, with their installation at the ~~October~~ December meeting. The ~~new~~ elected officers ~~directors~~ shall assume their offices on January 1.

Section 3

~~The President, the Second Vice President, and four (4) Six (6) Directors shall be elected at the October meeting each year. Hold in the even years and the First Vice President, as five (5) Directors shall be elected at the~~

~~October meeting held in the odd years.~~ All officers and Directors shall be elected to serve two years or until their successors are elected.

Section 4

The President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President shall be selected from the elected directors of the Executive Board at the November meeting, with their installation at the December meeting for a 1-year term beginning on January 1. The Treasurer and the Secretary shall be selected and appointed from among the elected Directors and shall serve at the pleas-

ure of the Executive Board. The President may appoint a chaplain, Parliamentarian and a Sergeant-at-Arms, who may attend meetings of the Executive Board.

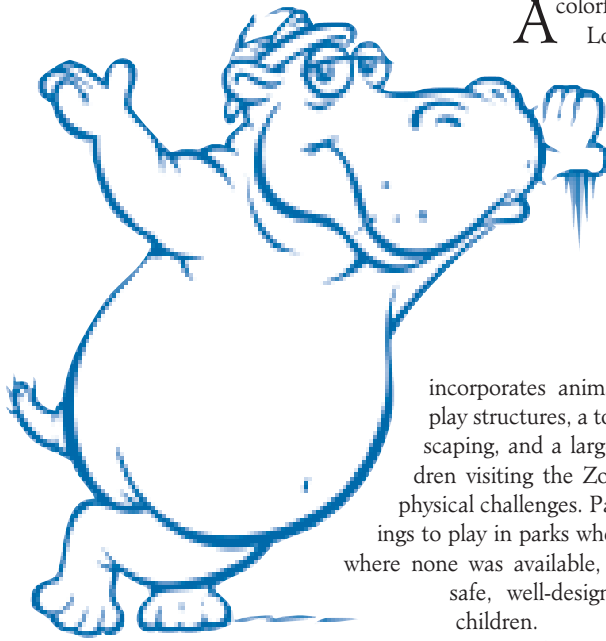
Article V The Executive Board

Section 1

The Executive Board shall consist of ~~the officers, and eight (8) twelve (12) elected Directors and the immediate Past President~~.

Playtime at the Zoo

■ Zoo opens a playground for families.



A colorful new children's park opened at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens March 3 thanks to a generous \$250,000 donation to the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) by prominent attorney Neil L. Papiano. Joining the exuberant children at the opening ceremonies were Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) and Zoo officials.

The Neil Papiano Play Park, which incorporates animal-themed climbing sculptures, large play structures, a toddler area, water misters, grassy landscaping, and a large picnic area, is accessible to all children visiting the Zoo, including those with medical and physical challenges. Papiano, prompted by childhood yearnings to play in parks when he lived in an urban neighborhood where none was available, has committed himself to providing safe, well-designed, top-quality play areas for city children.

Councilman LaBonge presented Papiano, a powerful force in the legal arena for many years, with a City proclamation recognizing his considerable contribution to the Zoo.

"Thanks to a very generous Neil Papiano, children of all ages and capabilities can experience this very special animal-themed playground while playing amidst a whole Los Angeles Zoo of animals," said Councilmember Tom LaBonge. "The people of Los Angeles are very grateful to Neil for making this happen. He is an angel in the City of Angels."

Neil Papiano Play Park's design was a collaboration by Valley Crest of San Fernando and Zoo staff for the construction of the park.

"We are exceedingly grateful to Mr. Papiano," said Connie Morgan, president of GLAZA. "Because of his generosity, Los Angeles has a new play park that is available to every child who visits the Zoo."

According to Zoo Director John Lewis, "It is important to us that the Zoo is not just a source for education to the public but serves as a memorable place to visit. The park is a captivating, vibrant setting that reflects the Zoo commitment to the public. We extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Papiano."

The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association, with more than 60,000 members, is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1963 that raises money for exhibits, research, capital projects, education programs, conservation, community outreach and other programs of the city-owned Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

The Los Angeles Zoo is home to more than 1,200 mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles representing more than 370 different species. The Zoo participates in cooperative worldwide Species Survival Plan projects and is dedicated to the conservation of rare and endangered wildlife.

Zoo admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2 - 12. For information about the Los Angeles Zoo, call (323) 644-4200.



Neil Papiano, the man who made the park a reality and for whom this new park was named.



From left: Councilman Tom LaBonge; Sharon Coggin, LA Zoo Public Relations & Marketing; and Darryl Pon, LA Zoo Planning and Development.



From left: Gina Dartt, LA Zoo Public Relations and Marketing; Gail Dwyer, LA Zoo Public Relations and Marketing; and Sharon Coggin, LA Zoo Public Relations and Marketing.



DWP General Manager Ron Deaton expresses his gratitude for the new park.



Even the grownups were having fun!



Former Executive Directors of LAX Lydia Kennard and Jack Driscoll show their support for Neil Papiano.



Apolinar Castro, Gardener Caretaker.



Richard Lewis, LA Zoo Volunteer Docent.



One of the specially commissioned animal sculptures that have been designed to appear as though they are emerging from the water (there's also a hippopotamus).



Tad Motoyama, Zoo Photographer II.



Frank Ramirez, LA Zoo Senior Security Officer (and Club Member who frequently contributes entertaining movie reviews for Alive!).



Ross Hendricks, Gardener Caretaker, and Carlos Carrillo, Gardener Caretaker, make sure everything looks great for the guests.



Tom Anderson, Zoo Security Officer, making sure the kids and adults have a safe time.



Zoo Director John Lewis extends his gratitude to Neil Papiano.



Kayla, one of the children on hand, took advantage of the wheelchair accessibility of the park.



Mayor and mayoral campaign candidate Jim Hahn, LAFD Chief Bill Bammatre and Miss Olvera Street.

Irish For a Day!



Celebrity guest star Sheila Kelley.

Downtown Sees Green

Parade

Continued from Page 1

Councilmembers and the Mayor; I was very surprised to see him and I'm happy that he's out here."

Eloisa Paguia, Management Analyst II, ITA: "This is great. It's the first time I have ever attended. Because it goes by City Hall, I can just come down during lunch."

Councilman Tom LaBonge: "It's a great parade, and it's getting better - we are now going to Olvera Street!"

Jose Linaras, Parking Attendant I: "Awesome!"

Luis Perez, Parking Attendant: "The best I've seen."

Councilman Antonio Villagarosa: "This is my third year. It's great; it's getting bigger and bigger; it's better attended and better organized this time around. In a sense, St. Patrick's Day is almost an American tradition in many ways and it's a great opportunity for us here in L.A. to get out and celebrate the many ethnic communities that make up L.A. We need every chance to bring people together."

Club Member Mark Barrera, Automobile Dispatcher, Gen. Services: "I'm always glad when there is something to celebrate!"

Linda Mikell-Hoyt, ITA: "I'm so happy they changed the parade route to have it go past City Hall."

Eric Maya, DOT, Transportation Engineer: "There is so much activity and excitement here, this parade is fun to watch."

Erin Go Bragh!



Councilman Tom LaBonge on foot.



Children performing traditional Irish dancing.



The Jakers!



From left to Right: Jose Flores, Parking Attendant I; Luis Perez, Parking Attendant, and Jose Linaras, Parking Attendant I.



From left: Linda Mikell-Hoyt, ITA, and Alina Yeghyazarians, ITA, enjoying the parade as it passes by City Hall.



The parade begins with the Los Angeles Police Emerald Society.



The Wells Fargo Stage Coach breaks from the trails to participate in this year's parade.



Captain Fowiks, LAFD, talking with the Club CEO John Hawkins.

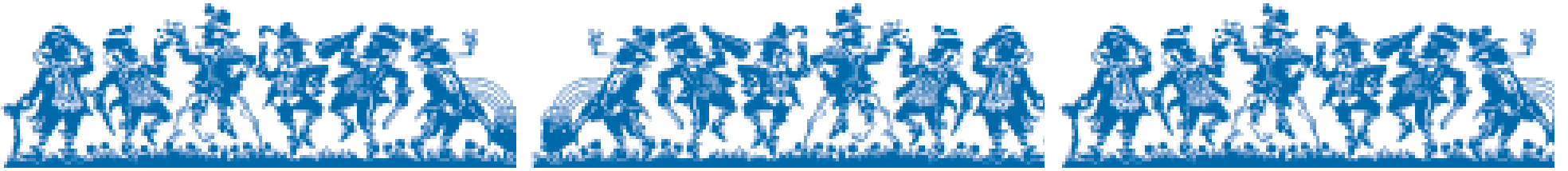


Eric Robles, GSD and Mona Curry, GSD.



Finbar Hill, the Honorary Consul of Ireland.





Los Angeles Police Emerald Society.



LAFD Chief Bill Bammatre and his wife, Liz.



Eric Maya, DOT, Transportation Engineer, 2 years, just moved into the CALTRANS building across from City Hall.



Miss Olvera Street, with LAFD Chief Bill Bammatre and his wife, Liz Bammatre.



The LAPD Rescue Vehicle.



Councilman Benard Parks.



Banning High School.



Councilman and Mayoral Candidate Antonio Villaraigosa.



Banning High School in Wilmington participated with a roar from the band and flair from the flag girls.



Some staff members from Councilmember Tom LaBonge's office ride in the parade, greeting the parade viewers and enjoying the moment.



Officer Humphrey, DOT West Division, makes sure the traffic flows smoothly.



Eric Robles, Gen. Services, introduces the Town Crier to the crowd at City Hall.



Casey's Party Bus was one of the wildest parade participants.



From left: Eloisa Paguia, Management Analyst II, ITA, with Mary Reuschel, Management Analyst I, Fire Department.



From left: Club Member Mark Barrera, Automobile Dispatcher, Gen. Services. He was in charge of maintaining the City Council automobiles during the parade; with new Club member Donald Moreno, Maintenance Laborer, Gen. Services, Safety Representative..



A band at Pershing Square.



Councilman Eric Garcetti.



Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell of the LAPD.

Engineered for Excellence

■ LA Council of Engineers and Scientists sponsor 2005 awards banquet.

Photos by Robert Larios, Club Operations Director

In celebration of National Engineer Week, the Los Angeles Council of Engineers and Scientists (LACES) held its 2005 Engineering Awards Banquet Feb. 24 at the Sempra Energy Resource Center.

The banquet serves as a celebration to National Engineers' Week celebrated February 20-26, 2005. Engineers' Week was first established in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers and is recognized

throughout the United States as the important annual event that is designed to bring to the public's attention, the work and contributions of the nation's engineers.

One of LACES' missions is to promote, recognize and publicize the critical importance of the achievement and the many contributions engineers make to the enhancement of the quality of life. The banquet recognizes and honors those outstanding engineers in the various engineering disciplines in our communities, the nation and the world. Following are the City of Los Angeles awards.

The Club congratulates all the City employee winners, and thanks Michael Simpson, LACES president, for all his assistance.



LACES President Michael Simpson.



Representatives for Haynes Units 3 and 4 Repowering Project, for DWP.



Employees representing the Integrated resources plan, Bureau of Sanitation.



From left: Stan Horwitz, Club Representative and Senior Engineering Manager; Jose R. Fuentes, Construction Services Manager; Serge Michael Haddad, Project Manager; Debbie Pham, Sanitary Engineer; and LACES President Michael Simpson.



Employees representing the East Central Interceptor Sewer Project, Bureau of Engineering.



Employees Representing the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, a joint project with the Department of Rec and Parks.



Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway Project Community and Media Relations Team, Department of Public Works and LADOT.

THE POWER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

■ The Valley Generating Station Repowering Project, for DWP. Located in Sun Valley is a replacement of four older generating units that were nearly 50 years old with a 533 megawatt combined cycle power plant. Approximately 1 million man-hours were expended in the construction of this project over a 30-month period with an on-site labor force peaking at 550 people.

■ Haynes Units 3 and 4 Repowering Project, for DWP. Located in Long Beach is a replacement of two older generating units with a 575 megawatts combined cycle power plant. Approximately 1.1 million man-hours were expended in the construction of this project over a 30-month period. This \$375 million project met DWP's safety, schedule and quality expectations.

■ Hollywood Water Quality Improvement Project was designed to meet new water quality regulations. Seven tunnels were constructed. Tunnels ranged from one mile long/10.5 feet diameter, to 150 feet long/six feet diameter.

■ East Central Interceptor Sewer Project, Bureau of Engineering. An 11-mile long, 11-foot diameter sewer tunnel placed into operation on August 9, 2004.

■ Integrated resources plan, Bureau of Sanitation. A visionary process that provides many benefits:

- o Meet future wastewater needs
- o Increased use of recycled water
- o Increased local water supply
- o Reduced stormwater pollution
- o Improved water quality
- o Clean beaches
- o Improved air quality
- o Increased open space
- o Enhanced quality of life
- o More Jobs

■ Los Angeles Center For Enriched Studies, a joint project with Rec and Parks. Located on the existing campus of the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, a new sports facility complex will house an indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, weight room, two multi-purpose rooms, locker room and offices.

LEADERSHIP IN ENGINEERING AWARD

■ Lakeview Terrace Branch Library, Bureau of Engineering. This library represented the culmination of successful partnering of City departments, which include the Library Department and the Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering. The building's design promotes energy efficiency by utilizing aspects of location and interior/exterior or building systems to maximize the use of natural light and air, landscaping and recycled or environmentally conscientious materials.

HARRY STAUBS AWARD

■ Sewer Science Program, Bureau of Sanitation. The Sewer Science Program is an interdisciplinary microbiology, chemistry, physics and environmental curriculum for high-school and middle-school students. It provides a comprehensive education program for traditional and off-track students by having a hands-on mobile treatment lab unit that teaches students about wastewater treatment. The program is an effective long-term approach to deliver the City's pollution prevention message and an innovative way to introduce the youths to the City services.

MEDIA AWARD

■ Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway Project Community and Media Relations Team, Department of Public Works. The Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway Project involves the reconstruction and reconfiguration of Santa Monica Boulevard between the I-405 Freeway and the Beverly Hills City limit in West Los Angeles. This 2.5-mile project is the largest street improvement project ever undertaken by the City of Los Angeles.

NEW OUTSTANDING ENGINEER AWARDS

■ Debbie Pham, Bureau of Sanitation-Wastewater Engineering Services Division, 11 years. Sanitary Engineer.

■ Serge Michael Haddad, Bureau of Engineering, 2.5 years. Project Engineer.

■ Jose R. Fuentes, Bureau of Engineering, 12 years. Construction Services Manager

GEORGE WASHINGTON ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

■ Roger Tim Haug, Bureau of Engineering, 22 years. Deputy City Engineer.



Lakeview Terrace Branch Library, Bureau of Engineering.



Michael Simpson, President, LACES, delivers his opening remarks.



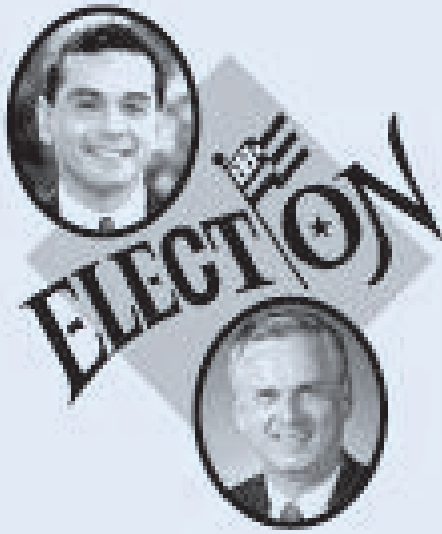
The Harry Staubs Award, Sewer Science Program, Bureau of Sanitation.



George Washington Engineer of the Year Award: Roger Tim Haug, Bureau of Engineering, 22 years. Deputy City Engineer.

Newsbrief

MAYORAL ELECTION



With just 26 percent casting ballots (we're sure Club members voted in higher numbers), City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa and Mayor Jim Hahn won the March 7 primary election, outpacing a field of candidates that also included Bob Hertzberg, Councilman Bernard Parks and Richard Alarcón.

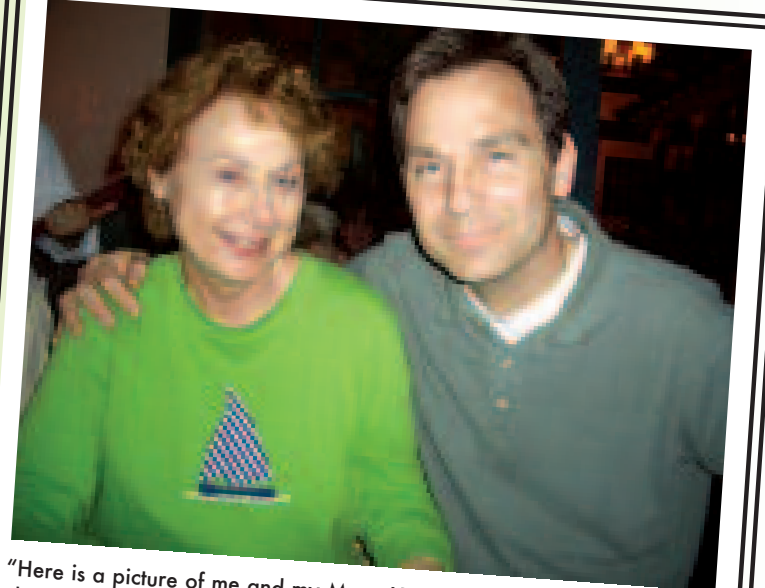
Villaraigosa had the highest percentage of votes, at 33 percent. Hahn had 23 percent, and Hertzberg 22 percent. The day after the election, Hertzberg conceded to Hahn, as the number of outstanding votes would not have put Hertzberg in the lead, he reportedly concluded.

A runoff election between Villaraigosa and Hahn, a recreation of the last mayoral election in 2001, is set for May.

In other pertinent races, current officeholders Rocky Delgadillo, Eric Garcetti, Jan Perry, Ed Reyes, Jack Weiss, Alex Padilla, Dennis Zine and Janice Hahn all won reelection.

Pay Tribute to Your Mom!

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



"Here is a picture of me and my Mom, Yvonne Mary Hawkins. Through thick and thin she has always been there for me, even while raising six other children (six boys and one girl). Currently she's living in Chico with my dad. She is President of the Chico Catholic Ladies Relief Society as well as an Extraordinary Minister at her local church. My mom is a native of Pennsylvania yet was raised in Echo Park during its heyday. And hey, she's a Taurus just like me so that's got to mean something! Thanks, Mom, for everything."

CITY EMPLOYEES: 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. But you have to act quickly, as our May issue is fast approaching.

- Send in a print or digital photo of you and your mom (or just your mom).
- Send digital photos to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com.
- Send print photos (or drop them off in person) to: City Employees Club, 350 S. Figueroa, Suite 700, Los Angeles 90012.
- Include a message of Happy Mother's Day (up to three sentences).
- Deadline: April 12.



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MODELS TO MODEL	MODELS TO MODEL	MODELS TO MODEL	MODELS TO MODEL	MODELS TO MODEL	MODELS TO MODEL	MODELS TO MODEL	MODELS TO MODEL

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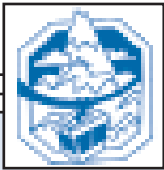
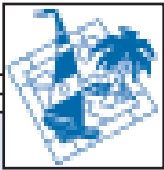
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OFFICIAL CLUB PARTNER



TravelTalk

by Tony Adler, President,
Cruise and Resort, Inc.
Club Travel Partner



Vegas, Africa, the Caribbean Are the Most Requested Trips

What could possibly be the common thread linking Las Vegas, Caribbean cruises and African safaris? You could have answered the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas because it has a Caribbean theme with tigers and elephants, but it wasn't what I had in mind. For me, the commonality is that these are among the most popular destinations we book at Cruise and Resort.

I've been going to Las Vegas since I was a child. I drove there on my 16th birthday and managed to play blackjack without being carded. I arranged for casino credit on my 21st birthday. I believe that some of the amazing growth in Las Vegas was due to my loyalty (addiction?) and willingness to spend my money there. Eventually, I learned to hedge my bets by buying stock in the casino/hotel companies. That certainly helped, but it was sort of like betting on both heads and tails when flipping a coin.

Las Vegas has definitely grown up (and so have I). It is such an exciting town with way more than just gambling to offer. Some of the best spas, shopping and entertainment attract millions of visitors each year. We were just there last month. We stayed at the newly remodeled MGM Grand. It's worth a few dollars more to stay in what they call Bungalow Suites. The extra room is welcome and the bathroom is much bigger than standard rooms. We took our kids to the Outlet

Shops for great deals on Nautica and Polo shorts and shirts. Although we had our car on this trip, we took the new monorail up and down the strip many times. We ate at a terrific steakhouse at Harrah's called The Range, and we enjoyed seeing the Lance Burton show at the Monte Carlo. We can also recommend Diego's, the new Mexican restaurant at the MGM Grand with unusual twists on Mexican cuisine and wonderful margaritas. We have special rates at most of the properties, and we are happy to share with you our knowledge of each property. My personal favorites include the MGM Grand, Bellagio and Four Seasons.

We love the Caribbean and we love Princess Cruises. We are sailing on the new Caribbean Princess on June 11 for a one-week cruise from Ft. Lauderdale to St. Thomas, St. Maarten and Princess' private island in the Bahamas, Princess Cays. Can you join us? As of press time, we still had some rooms available. We'll have a private cocktail party, and lots of fun on and off the ship! We are bringing our children, so if you have kids - that's great too! By the way, this huge ship has all the bells and whistles including Anytime Dining and an outdoor movie theater. Just another tie-in to Las Vegas, this ship also has one of the largest casinos at sea.

Even if you can't make our cruise in early summer, please call us for any cruise

in the Caribbean or elsewhere. Did you know that one of your Club representatives at our company, Julie Wallace, used to be a cruise line sales manager for Holland America, Windstar and NCL? Julie's cruise knowledge is incredible, and she knows the ins and outs of those particular cruise lines better than anyone. In fact, your representatives Kristy, David and Julie, have been on more than 100 cruises! Our rates are competitive with the Internet companies, but nobody can compete with our knowledge and experience. We actually like talking to our clients!

Okay, I admit that I was surprised that we sell so many African safaris and vacations. It is not a short trip, and most people want to stay at least a few weeks once they commit to traveling so far. It is precisely because it is such a unique destination and so few people have visited this continent that so many seek our expertise and advice. We custom-create unbelievable adventures. Most of our trips are with Micato Safaris and Abercrombie and Kent. Our clients are well taken care of, and most of our safaris are more about

pampering than roughing it. This isn't pitch-a-tent camping! The bush lodges and tented camps are luxurious and romantic. Our Micato Safaris are fully escorted with preferred accommodations, all meals included, a no-tipping policy and interesting guest lecturers. We help you choose from safaris that visit South Africa, Botswana, Kenya,

Tanzania and more. We have never had a client return without being in awe of what they saw in Africa - the totally amazing wildlife, the friendly people, and the joy of fulfilling a lifetime dream. We book singles, couples, families and multi-generational reunions. We hope you get to experience this adventure that will be forever embedded in your memory!

Thank you, Club Members, for calling about our Hawaii trips. Many of you were surprised by our Hawaii bargains that included airfare, car rentals and some of the best hotels. We have access to so many different companies, which allows us to compare and find the best deals for our valued clients. It is often about much more than price. We tell you exactly what we think of the hotels, the tour companies and any other component of your trip. We don't make enough on any one sale to have any incentive to lie to you. We make money by creating regular customers that come back again and again. It's a simple concept, but it works.

Remember we can help you with short weekends to extended vacations, hotels and villas to cruises, tours and spas. How about a weekend golf outing in the desert? We even handle in-bound travel to Los Angeles, so if you have guests or business associates visiting, be sure to give us a call. We love working with Club members!

Call your Club representatives at (888) 652-6400 - Julie, David or Kristy - to talk about any travel destination. Be sure to mention that you are a Club member for your maximum discounts.

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HELP DESIGN the Official ClubFest 2005 T-shirt.



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For more information

Contact John Hawkins, Club CEO
jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com

He Kept Things 'Right'

■ Club Member Armando Alba retires from Gen. Services.

By Larry Smith, City Employee
Photos by Robert Larios,
Club Director of Operations

After 33 years of service, Armando Alba retired from City service. The great day was celebrated with friends and family March 8 at Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park.

Armando began working for the City of LA March 7, 1972, as a tree trimmer with R & P. His tree-trimming job was short lived and two months later ended up working as a maintenance laborer on a crew transplanting trees and weed control. This led to work at the Hansom Dam Golf Course. Apparently early on the course was only nine holes. Armando spent much of his time moving rock when the course was being expanded to 18 holes. He also worked guard duty on nights and weekends.

In October 1972 Armando was promoted to Mechanical Helper and transferred to 2310 E. 7th St., where his duties included minor vehicle repair and New Equipment Prep.

January 1973 brought a transfer to the DWP and a permanent position. His work location was on Main Street, where he worked with machinists, welders and plumbers.

In January 1975 DWP's loss was Fleet Service's gain. Armando was promoted to Equipment Mechanic and transferred to 2222 E. 7th St. (nights). Within about a year he ended up working days at his current location. Except for a brief period when the powers that be decided to let individual departments receive their own equipment, Armando has been a fixture with Technical Services.

Armando's work with Technical Services has affected nearly everyone in the City. While his direct involvement with City employees could be considered limited, you would be hard pressed to find employees who had not heard of him.



While a local TV reporter was attempting to defame the department's procedures, Armando stood out as cool and calm and very professional. During the last five years, everyone in the department could count on the receiving and the prep of new equipment being handled. There wasn't much the spec writers and inspectors could throw at him that he could not straighten out.

Armando has always kept us in line. The streets are clean... traffic signals operate... the lights go on... trash is picked up... the list is endless. Armando is the best example of what is right in the City. He will be missed.



Armando Alba getting his city plaque.



Armando Alba, a man a few words, has a positive attitude.



From left: Terry Lien, Equipment Specialist II, 39 years; and Ralph Quintero, Equipment Specialist I, 31 years.



From left: Herald Combs, Equipment Specialist, 25 years; and Art Flores Automotive Dispatcher II, 18 years.



From left: James Okikawa, Auto Body Builder/Repairer, 19.5 years; and Ben Baca, Auto Painter, 17 years.



From left: Dan Rivera, Auto Body Builder, 11 years; and Ben Baca, Auto Painter, 17 years.



Arden Hough, Equipment Mechanic, 20 years.



Paul Fadul, Mechanical Engineering Associate II, 3 years.



From left: Armando Alba, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 33 years; and Larry Smith, Equipment Specialist, 17 years.



From left: Sean McMorow, Equipment Specialist I, 16 years; and Oscar Bustos, Equipment Specialist II, 20 years.



From left: Jim Bonville, Director, Fleet Services, 25 years; and Tony Declue, Assistant GM, 32 years.



Dan Parker, Automotive Supervisor, 15 years



From left: Kevin Lee, Automotive Engineer II, 21 years; and Mike Graham, Equipment Specialist II, 20 years.



From left: Larry Smith with Lynn Ho, Sr. Clerk Typist, LACERS, 5 years.



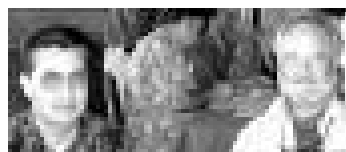
From left: Joseph Palumbo, Auto Body Supervisor, 20 years; and Enrique Bellegas, Welder, 30 years.



From left: Alan Morioka, Equipment Mechanic, 4 years; and Kris Goolsby, 20 years.



From left: David Orozco, Equipment Mechanic, 3 years; and Herb Schmid, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 13 years.



From left: Robert Garcia, Auto Painter, 17 years; and Ed Segal, Equipment Mechanic, 20 years.



From left: Jess Tiznado, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 32 years; and Bryant Tarumoto, New Car Prep-Tech Services, 5 years.



From left: Jose Hernandez, Equipment Mechanic, 5 years; John Nerio, Welder, 15 years.



Alvin Blain, General Manager, 31 years; Dave Wilson, Equipment Superintendent, 30 years; and Rob Simanovich, Equipment Specialist, 20 years.



From left: Leo Villasenor, Equipment Mechanic, 19 years; and Louis Armstrong, Retired, General Services after 32 years.



Allie Taylor, Clerk Typist, 30 years.



From left: Rosa Ruiz, Clerk Typist, 10 years; Shannon Cahill-Hayman, Sr. Clerk Typist, 6 years; and Lydia Chagolla, Clerk Typist, 1 year.

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What is your favorite snack? _____

What is the first name of your best friend? _____

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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
World Trade Center
350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Deadline for submission:

May 10, 2005

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

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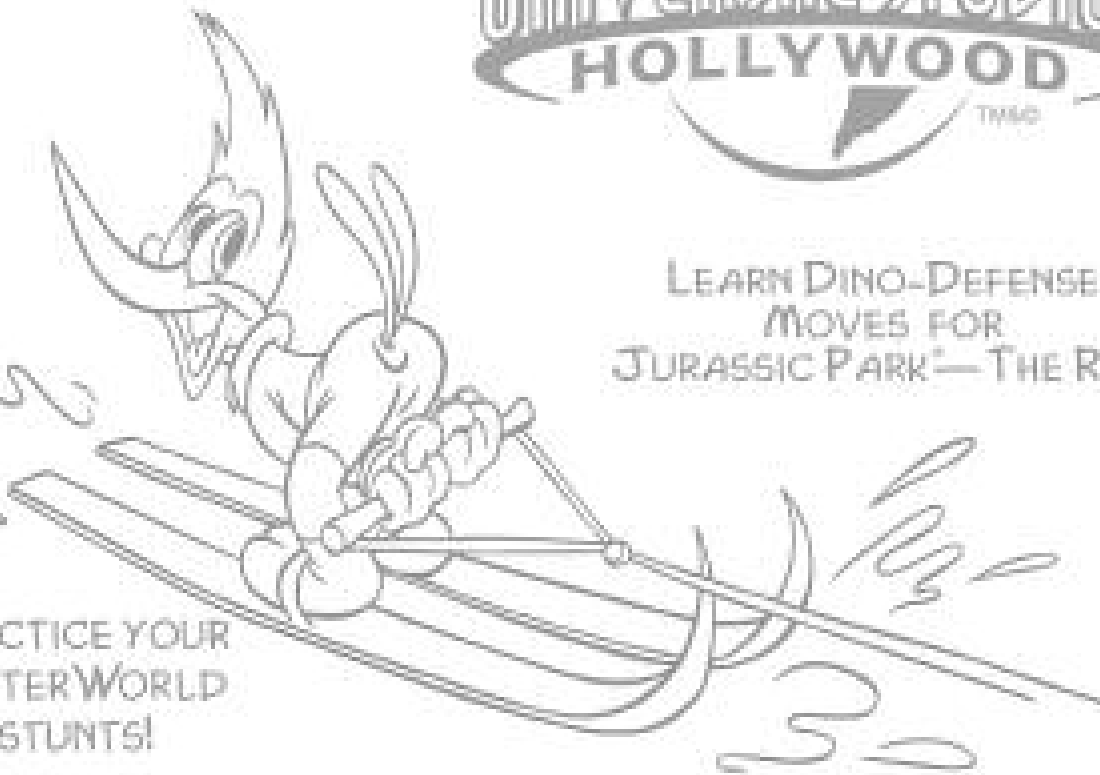
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Black History Luncheon

■ Black Personnel Association holds fourth annual Black History luncheon.

Story by Irene Key, President of the Black History Committee
Photos by Robert Larios, Club Operations Director

The Black Personnel Association held the fourth annual Black History luncheon Feb. 24 at the New Otani Hotel. February was Black History Month.

Special City Employee Awards were chosen by Bureau of Sanitation employees. The recipients mirrored the great efforts and dedication to their craft.

After a live music selection from "Momma and Me," the BOSS (Bureau of Street Services) Choir sang several heart warming musical selections for the attendees.

Host Cora Jackson-Fossett serves as Public Information Director II for the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Appointed in April 1999, she is responsible for developing, executing and administering comprehensive programs and projects in media relations, community relations, marketing communications and crisis communications for the third largest municipal agency in Los Angeles.

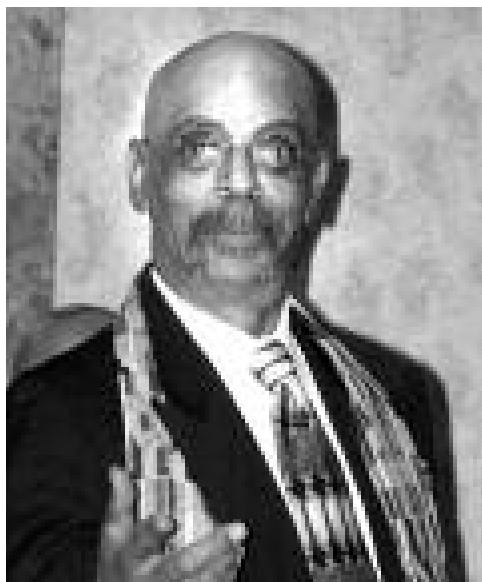
Congratulations to the awardees.



From left: Cora Jackson-Fossett, 15 years, Public Information Director II and host for the luncheon; James Duncan, Street Services Supervisor II, Program Director, 15 years (presented the special awards ceremony); and Irene Key, Principal Clerk, 21 years.



Irene Key, Principal Clerk, 21 years.



Marcus McNeil Black History Committee Member and Street Services Supervisor II, 16 years, accepts award on behalf of Leroy Young, recipient of the Rosa Parks Award.



Cheryl Elam, recipient of the Woodson Award.



Nazario Saucedo, recipient of the Martin Luther King Award.



Shelia Shannon, Payroll Supervisor I, 33 years, conducted the scholarship presentation to high school students.



Larry Walton, recipient of the Jackie Robinson Award.



Christine Giddings, Clerk Typist, 7 years, participates in the fashion show during the program



Shelly Wilks, Maintenance Laborer, 5 years, participates in the fashion show.



Patricia Sweets, Principal Clerk, 21 years, participates in the fashion show.



Erin Jones, Clerk Typist, 4 years, participates in the fashion show.

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Asian Assn.'s New Year

■ LACEAAA holds association meeting, celebrates Chinese New Year.

Information and photos for this story were provided by Mike Fong and Joe Quan.

More than 140 City employees and guests ushered in the Year of the Rooster at the Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association (LACEAAA) Annual Lunar New Year luncheon at Empress Pavilion Restaurant Feb. 17. During the event, Association President Doug Shur introduced the new board.

The event was a wonderful occasion with delicious Chinese food and great entertainment including a lion dance! Every attendee received a "lai see" lucky money envelope with a new California quarter.

Doug Shur gave remarks regarding his vision and goal for LACEAAA during the next two years. LACEAAA Vice President Mei Ong did a great job in organizing the luncheon.

Special guest included LAPD First Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell; Public Works Board President Valerie Lynne Shaw; CRA Commissioner Shu Kwan Woo; and West Valley Planning Commissioner David Iwada.

The new board consists of:

- Doug Shur, President, LAPD
- Mei Ong, Vice President, Public Works
- Joe Quan, Vice President, ITA
- Kathy Khou, Vice President, Controller
- Irene Sae Koo, Treasurer, Transportation
- Glenn Kawahata, Recording Secretary, ITA
- Mike Fong, Corresponding Secretary, CDD
- Jaime Truong, Immediate Past President Building and Safety

Please visit the LACEAAA website at www.laceaaa.org for information on upcoming events. The Association invites you to a future LACEAAA event!



The crowd participates to receive gifts from the entertainer.



LACEAAA President Doug Shur welcomes everyone.



Some of the attendees enjoying the luncheon.



A member of the audience tries to maintain his composure while balancing the spinning dishes.



LAPD Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell came to celebrate.



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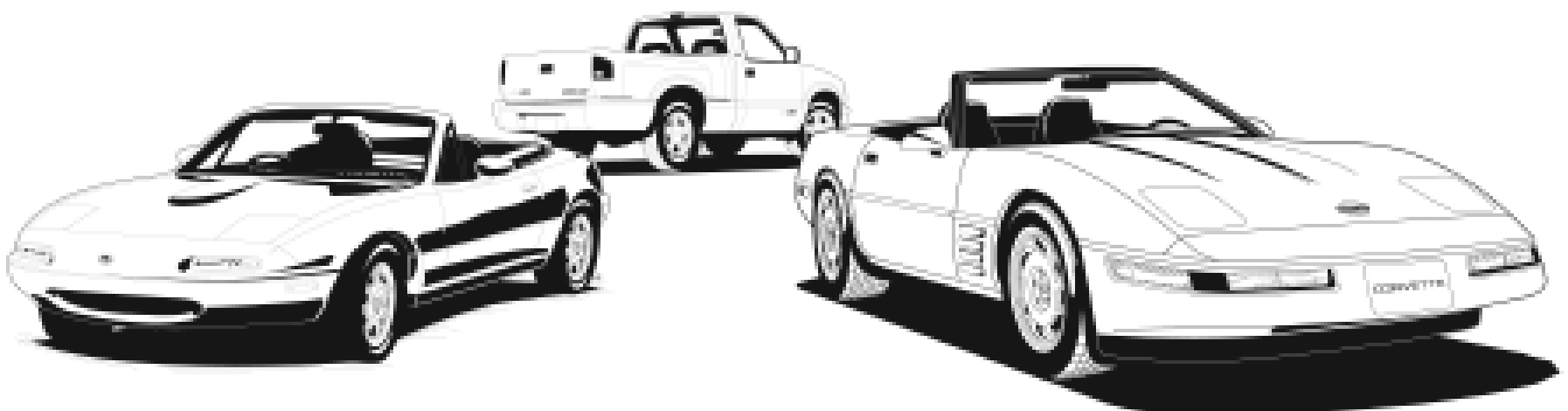
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Waving Goodbye to Wanda

■ **Wanda Williams-Brown retires from DWP. Now she's off to Texas.**

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor
Photos by Robert Larios, Club Operations Director

Wanda Williams-Brown retired from the DWP Customer Service with a festive event March 12 at the Proud Bird Restaurant in Westchester. She spent 28 years in service to the City.

Wanda started as a Commercial Service Representative at the DWP and at one time was the only female Commercial Field Collector (collecting delinquent DWP bills in the field or turning off service for nonpayment). She worked on the committee that developed the department-wide DWP Earthquake Preparedness Program.

She was one of the first group of Residential Conservation Representatives hired by DWP after the federal government mandated that utilities of a certain size were required to hire and train individuals to conduct energy conservation surveys. And she worked several years as an Account Executive in Major Accounts, providing personalized service to some of the

DWP's largest commercial and industrial customers.

She considers her greatest accomplishment as starting at the DWP with just a high school diploma. As a single parent, she obtained a Bachelor of science degree in business management and a Master's degree in business administration, both from Pepperdine University.

Married to the Rev. Willie Brown, Wanda is the mother of one son, Christopher Williams Sr. and one daughter, Tracey Renee Williams, three stepsons, one stepdaughter and eleven grandchildren.

Other accomplishments:

- Member of the DWP Choraliers
- Member of DWP Toastmasters
- Founding Board Member of Water and Power African American Association (WPAAA)
- Former member of the Association of Blacks in City Government (ABCG)
- Former member of the Affirmative Action Council
- Former DWP Rep to the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE)
- Represented DWP as a speaker for various civic and community organizations on energy



conservation and rates issues

- Staffed DWP booths at conventions and trade shows
- Soloist for DWP Good Friday services
- Participated for two years as a speaker from DWP for Career Day at the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies
- Provided musical selections for numerous DWP retirement celebrations and memorial services
- Member of Park Windsor Baptist Church since July 1981
- Lead vocalist with the Voices of Park Windsor Choir
- Former member of the Trustee Board serving as Financial Secretary

In her retirement, she looks forward to singing, entertaining family and friends, planning parties and reunions, traveling, baking, floral design and decorating.

*What a life! What a career!
Congratulations, Wanda.*



Wanda Williams-Brown and her husband, Willie.



Happy Retirement, Wanda!



Gwyn Walker presents Wanda with a Toastmasters award.



From left: Harrison Chastang, Retired DWP, 32 years, with wife Ruth Harrison.



From left: Jimi Roberson, Retired DWP, 28 years, with Betty Dixon-Edwards, Retired DWP, 32 years.



From left: Carolyn Carter, Retired DWP, 32 years; and Barbara Merrick, Data Entry Supervisor, 30 years.



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From left: Schiry Monroe, Documentation Technician, 25.5 years; and James Monroe, DWP-retired-Info Systems Supervisor, 33years.



Master of Ceremonies Keith Brown.



Betty Quarter, DWP-retired



Maybrie Lasuere, Retired DWP, 32 years.



Selina Roberts sings the first song during Wanda's retirement party.



Beverly Swann, Retired DWP, 37 years.



Conney Williams shared his special and moving poem for Wanda, and then received a standing ovation by attendees. Retired DWP, 23 years.



From left: Beverly Tagger, Retired DWP, 33 years; and Darrylyn Johnson, St. Commercial Service Rep., 30 years.



From left: Mary Sneed, Retired DWP, 35 years; and Anna Redd, DWP-retired.



From left: Mary Burns, Retired DWP, 32 years; and Ellie Riley, Retired DWP, 30 years.



From left: Pat Houston, Retired DWP, 30 years; David Jones, Field Service, 21 years; Jean Godfrey-Bell, Sr. Commercial Rep., 33 years; and Susan Washington, Management Analyst, 33 years.



From left: Penny Brown, Sr. Clerk Typist, 29 years.



Peter Garra, DWP Photographer, 29 years.



From left: Pearl Williford, Retired DWP, 31 years; and Robert Garcia, Supervisor, 34 years.



From left: Gloria Lee Ray, Utility Services Manager, 28 years; and Heidi Bas, Sr. Premier Account Manager, 17 years.



From left: Yvonne Woods, Computer Operator II, 11 years; and Wanda Clark, Sr. Costumer Service Rep., 27 years.



From left: Sharon Kendrick, DWP-Call Center Manager, 25 years; and Vernon Kendrick, Retired DWP, 33 years.



From left: Martha Hernandez, Utility Marketing Rep, 25 years, with her son, Kevin Garcia.



Master of Ceremonies Baron Brown



Slappy White crashes the retirement party (performed by Keith Brown).



From left: Janet Dunham, Sr. Utility Buyer, 17 years; and Zara Madison, Utility Marketing Rep, 18 years.



From left: Connie Garrison, Customer Service Rep, 30 years; and Joyce Bodley-Walker, Customer Service Supervisor, 29 years.



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April Steffen, representing the DWP Choraliers, honors Wanda.



Belinda Crawford presents Wanda with a certificate from the DWP Employees Association.



Ida Smith of Park Windsor Baptist Church says a few words on behalf of the congregation.



Gregory Black, representing DWP management, presents Wanda with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of DWP.



Back, from left: Marilyn Washington, Sr. Clerk Typist, 30 years; Billy Younger, Retired DWP, 36 years. Front: Vivian Dode, Sr. Clerk Typist, 30 years; and Belinda Crawford, Administrative Assistant, DWP 26 years.



Linda Colley dressed in the Texas attire to welcome everyone at the retirement party and to welcome Wanda to Texas...this is where she will be living her years after DWP.



Steve King, former ACEB-SA president, shares his appreciation for Wanda for her help during his tenure.



Tracy Williams, Wanda's daughter with her mother.



From left: Shelia Le Fridge, LAPD Management Analyst II, 15 years; Norma Brooks, Retired DWP; and Sandy Mack, Office of Finance, 33 years.

Central City's Heroes

Central City Police Boosters recognizes the precinct's best employees of the year.

By Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor;
Event photos by Michelle Moreno,
Club Events Guru

The Central City Police Boosters held the group's annual Police Recognition Day luncheon March 8 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel. The event recognizes sworn and civilian employees and volunteers for their exemplary service.

Honored were:

- Liliانا Herrera, Volunteer of the Year
- Officers Pernell Taylor and James Lenoue, both of the Bicycle Unit, Officers of the Year
- Sgt. Leonard Perez, Supervisor of the Year
- Maria Lucy Rios, Civilian Employee of the Year (and Club Member)
- Det. Jamie Bennett, Detective of the Year

Sgt. Leonard Perez, recipient of the Supervisor of the Year award, was not present to accept his award. He was called to active duty and is in Iraq. His wife Christina, daughter Briana and son Brandon accepted on his behalf. Brandon read an acceptance letter.

The Club congratulates the winners, who are much-deserved.

Additional information was provided by Officer and Club Member Marie Kardiban.



Liliana Herrera, Volunteer of the Year, stands next to her award.



From left: Cecilia Tatum, Central Police Station, 4 years, and Stephanie Sancez, Volunteer, staff the table as all guests check in for the luncheon.



From left: Gloria Le Noue, guest of Officer Le Noue; Keith Le Noue, guest of Officer Le Noue; Margie Blessing, guest of Officer Le Noue; and John Le Noue, guest of Officer Le Noue.



From left: Police Officer Darrion Carlyle, PSU; Police Officer Maniel Melgoza, PSU; Police Officer Angel Guerra, PSU; Lieutenant Robert Hauck, Internal Affairs; and Detective Tricia Hauck, Central Homicide.



From left: Officer Chris Jarvis, Central Bike Unit; Officer John Rice, Central Bike Unit; Carlos Lopez, Director of Security, Bank of America Plaza; and Milon Morgan, Director of Security, Ernst and Young Plaza.



From left: Mitch Honda, Little Tokyo Public Safety Association; Satoru Uyeda, Little Tokyo Public Safety Association; Hisako Uyeda, Little Tokyo Public Safety Association; and Nancy Kikuchi, Tokyo Public Safety Association.



Universal Protection Services, from left: Michael Zackoff, Edward D. Salsameda, Louis Boulgarides and William Timberlake.



From left: Officer Donna Cornejo, OCB; Cindy Feng, Management Analyst; and Celeste Garin, Management Analyst, Club Member.



From left: Sgt. Caulford; Police Officer James Le Noue, Central Bike Unit; Alison Le Noue, 6-year-old daughter of Officer Le Noue; and Kimberly Le Noue, wife.



Universal Protection Services, from left: David Lamber, Chris Rike, Roger Langner and Patrick Silver.

CENTRAL AREA OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



Pernell Taylor

James Lenoue

Police Officer II Pernell Taylor and Police Officer II James Lenoue are assigned to the Bicycle Unit as partners in the Central Area Problem Solving Unit. Their specific assignment is violent crime suppression.

Officers Taylor and Lenoue targeted violent crime locations within Central Area. They developed strategies to combat aggravated assaults and street robberies. One of the strategies was to develop expertise in narcotics enforcement. Officers Taylor and Lenoue vigorously arrested narcotics offenders who were also known to be involved in violent crimes. Officers Taylor and Lenoue are one of the highest producing team in Central Area. Their duty performance is outstanding based on their powers of observation, motivation and dedication. Officers Taylor and Lenoue's initiative and professionalism greatly contributed to the 26 percent reduction in Aggravated Assaults and a 20 percent reduction in Robberies in Central Area. Officers Taylor and Lenoue confronted extremely violent individuals every day. Their professionalism and ability to make sound tactical decisions under stress resulted in maintaining control of the situation.

Officers Taylor and Lenoue supported the Central Area community policing efforts. They responded to citizen concerns and requests for police assistance, which resulted in a positive partnership with community members.

Officers Taylor and Lenoue received numerous commendations from their supervisors and citizens in the community. Their dedication and commitment to the Department and the citizens of Los Angeles cannot be overstated. Officers Taylor and Lenoue represent a positive image of the Los Angeles Police Department.

CENTRAL AREA SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Sgt. Leonard Perez

Supervision in the complex and ever-changing world of law enforcement requires an individual of staunch character, unwavering leadership and the ability to sustain a motivational level that returns dividends to the employees, organization and community. When one looks at what makes an exemplary supervisor, initiative and the respect garnered from subordinates, peers and supervisors makes for a solid and indisputable gage of quality of an individual. In addition, a balance must be struck between exceptional tactical skills and solid, insightful administrative acumen.

All of these qualities are embodied in Central Patrol Division's Watch 5 field supervisor, Sgt. Leonard Perez.

Under Sergeant Perez's model supervision, Central Mid PM Watch has become one of the most productive and coveted assignments in the division. The reason: the stamp of excellence coloring the members of Watch 5, as Sgt. Perez raises the bar for quality proactive policing. The Z cars under his insightful eye function in unison, forming what could best be described as a special problems unit. Yet the tone Sgt. Perez sets underscores the fact that the officers are members of a larger team, with challenging goals to fulfill.

With ease, he navigates through a myriad of demands each and every day. It truly appears that the more challenging the situation, the greater Sgt. Perez's abilities shine. Often asked to substitute for the assistant watch commander or watch commander, he is at home balancing watch demands, utilizing common sense and good judgment. Sergeant Perez has the innate ability to not only look at the issues at hand, but also assess the totality of circumstances and their potential impact on the Department. His maturity and professionalism cause others to embrace his advice, counsel and discipline, even if it is unpopular, with genuine acceptance.

Sgt. Perez's institutional knowledge creates an environment of confidence among the officers who work for him. Leonard keeps abreast of all changes in Department policies, making his knowledge of the pursuit and use of force policies outstanding. His written work product is completed staff work. He often volunteers to do more than his share of the work. He immediately acknowledges and responds to supervisor requests, supporting the officers' field enforcement efforts. Sgt. Perez shies away from nothing. He genuinely cares about the quality and caliber of the individuals who are members of the Department.

It is with pride and confidence that Central Patrol Division has selected Sgt. Leonard Perez for Central Area Supervisor of the Year.

CENTRAL AREA CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Maria Lucy Rios

Central Area is pleased to recognize Clerk Typist Maria Lucy Rios as the Civilian Employee of the Year for 2004.

Lucy began her career with the Department in February 1978, as an office trainee. After her appointment to Clerk Typist, she was assigned to the Central Area Records Unit in July 1982. Record Clerks are the unsung heroes of the Department, providing crucial support services to field officers and detective personnel. Lucy ranks among the best of the best. Her extensive job knowledge and expertise in Records Unit functions have earned her the reputation as the unit's "resident problem-solver." Lucy loves a challenge and never shies away from a difficult assignment.

Lucy's strong commitment to Department and unit goals is evident in all she does. Due to the hiring freeze, the Records Unit has struggled with a staffing shortage, particularly on Day Watch. Lucy rose to this challenge, demonstrating her ability to juggle a heavy workload while still providing exceptional support service to officers, citizens and personnel from outside agencies. During this past year, Lucy was commended for providing outstanding service to Parole Agents. Central Records handles a heavy volume of



Back, from left: Chief of Police William J. Bratton; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter. Front: Maria "Lucy" Rios, Civilian Employee of the Year, Club Member.



From left: Police Officer Jesse Mojica, Central PSU; Police Officer Craig Rensch, Central PSU; Emmett Badar, Central Detective; and Albert Marengo, Central Detective.



From left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Chief of Police William J. Bratton; Liliana Herrera, Volunteer of the Year; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Deputy Chief Lee Carter; and Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters.



The Perez family accepts the award on behalf of Sgt. Leonard Perez, who was called to active duty in Iraq. Front, from left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Chief of Police William J. Bratton; Bianca Perez; Christina Perez; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter.



From left: Charlie Boone, Hamilton Pacific; Greg Monsour, Hamilton Pacific; Scott Bradshaw, Hamilton Pacific; Sgt. Brad Wise, Central Police Station; and Sgt. Rosalie Garcia, Central Police Station.



From left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; and Sgt. Campbell.



From left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Chief of Police William J. Bratton, Police Officer II Pernel Taylor, Bike Unit; Police Officer II James Le Noue, Bike Unit; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter.



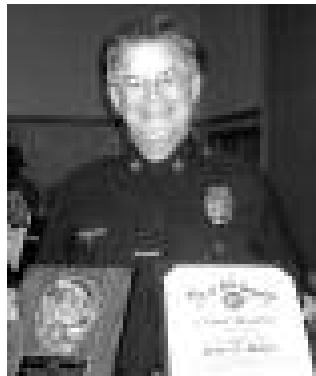
From left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Chief of Police William J. Bratton; Jamie Bennett, Detective of the Year; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter.



Dennis Needleman receives a Special Recognition Outstanding Community Service Award. Left: Officer Marie Kardiban, Club Member.



Chief of Police William J. Bratton congratulates the award recipients.



Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer, proudly holds his Outstanding Leadership award presented to him on behalf of Councilwoman Jan Perry and the Central City Police Boosters' Board of Directors.



From left: Deputy Chief Lee Carter with Carol Schatz, President, CEO, Central City Association, guest speaker.



From left: Police Officer Kris Werner, Central PSU; Police Officer II Pernel Taylor; Police Officer II James Le Noue; Police Officer Candelaria; Sgt. James Baker, Club Member; and Cathy Susim, Central Station, Club Member.

requests from Parole Agents and Probation Officers, and often these individuals have only minimal information on the arrestee under investigation. Researching the information they need can be difficult and time-consuming, but Lucy never hesitates to provide the same top-quality level of service she provides to our own officers. In addition to her regular clerical functions she provides invaluable assistance to the Records Unit supervisor, consistently demonstrating her initiative and resourcefulness. Despite the many obstacles she faces on a regular basis, such as supply shortages, system downtime and equipment failure, she never loses her "can-do" attitude and positive outlook.

Lucy's outstanding job performance and dedication to duty makes her a most deserving recipient of the honor of Central Area's Civilian Employee of the Year.

CENTRAL AREA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Liliana Herrera

Liliana Herrera has been a devoted and dedicated volunteer with the Central Division Juvenile Impact Program since 1999. Liliana is a loyal volunteer who teaches and counsels Juvenile Impact students once a week. Liliana teaches a curriculum from the Los Angeles Commission on

Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) called "In Touch with Teens." The curriculum covers alcohol and drug abuse counseling, anger management and violence prevention. It is a curriculum that was created by LACAAW and is recognized nationally.

Liliana has been employed with LACAAW since 1998, as the High Risk Youth Program Coordinator. Liliana counsels female juveniles who are incarcerated and helps them with self-esteem, assists with job training and also teaches violence prevention.

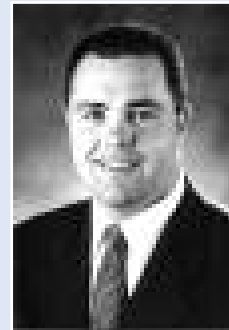
Liliana believes the key to saving the youths of today is helping parents. While employed at LACAAW, Liliana has received additional training in parenting through the KCET Parenting Program. Liliana helps parents who have students in the Juvenile Impact Program. Parents walk away from the outreach meetings with a sense of understanding on how to deal with and better raise their children.

One of Liliana's passions in life is to prevent violence against women. She has received her self-defense training and knowledge through several training courses given at LACAAW. Liliana teaches the female students in the program basic self-defense techniques and methods to defend themselves.

A majority of the activities offered at the Central Division Juvenile Impact Program are due to Liliana's knowledge and generosity. Liliana always goes above and beyond what is required of her and receives personal satisfaction knowing that she has helped families and students.

It is with great pride and honor that Central Area has selected Liliana Herrera as the 2004 Volunteer of the Year.

CENTRAL AREA DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR



Jamie Bennett

In early 2003, Detective Trainee Officer Jamie Bennett, after being recognized as an individual who possessed the attributes of a good investigator, was selected to work the Central Homicide Unit. From the onset, Officer Bennett was a standout individual who possessed a fresh perspective and raw tenacity. He quickly established himself developing into an accomplished and savvy investigator. In the months that followed, Officer Bennett sought opportunities to challenge himself as Lead Investigator in several complex and cumbersome investigations.

Officer Bennett's most notable case was the result of an in-depth investigation that included a search warrant of a suspect's makeshift residence located in an overgrown field. The investigation began when a plastic tarp containing the decomposed remains of a female was found in a field along the Los Angeles River. During the initial investigation little was known of the unidentified victim and the circumstances surrounding her death. However, the persistence and relentless investigation on the part of Officer Bennett soon caused a break in the case.

A transient male who lived in the proximity of where the victim was discovered was identified,

and this caused a shift in the investigation. Officer Bennett, who had assumed the role of primary investigator, concluded that the transient's tent was the likely crime scene and immediately prepared a detailed search warrant. During the serving of the warrant Officer Bennett recognized an abundance of forensic evidence, including blood, hair, fibers and a unique ring previously described by a witness. Armed with this information, he consulted with Scientific Investigation Division criminalists who responded and successfully collected several items containing forensic value.

The suspect, later arrested by Officer Bennett for nearly beating his girlfriend to death, was found guilty of the brutal assault at a jury trial after Officer Bennett provided compelling testimony. The suspect was sentenced to 50 years in State prison for the brutal beating.

In spite of Officer Bennett's efforts, the District Attorney's Office declined to file murder charges. Officer Bennett however, has not relented to this day and continues to seek potential witnesses and evidence in hopes of someday filing the case.

It is Officer Bennett's tenacity, commitment and steadfast dedication that make him such a valuable member to both Central Area and the Community he serves. It is therefore with pride and great honor that Detective Trainee, Jamie Bennett, be recognized and honored as the Central Area 2004 Detective of the Year.



Two City Employees Are Mourned

Passings

Continued from Page 1

Director of the Bureau of Street Services, William Robertson, delivered the closing remarks.

The deaths came as a shock to a City family still reeling from the deaths of three City employees: Julia Bennett and Alfonso Caballero in the fatal Metrolink accident and derailment, and Rory Shaw while he was attending to a sink-hole emergency on Tujunga Boulevard in Sun Valley. The shooting occurred barely a week after the death of Shaw, and on the same day the City hosted a memorial service for him.

At about 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24, a City employee, Thomas Sampson, walked into a Street Services field office south of downtown and shot his supervisor and a co-worker, killing them both.

The field office is at 2474 E. Olympic Blvd. The victims were Flores, Sampson's supervisor, and Garris, Sampson's co-worker. Both victims were discovered by a co-worker who had returned to the worksite.

According to the LAPD, detectives learned that Sampson and his supervisor, Rene Flores, had a phone conversation regarding Sampson being late for work. Following the counseling, Sampson abandoned his City-owned work truck on the 10 Freeway in West Los Angeles and took a bus to where he had parked his personal car. Sampson drove home, changed from his work clothes into a suit, armed himself with an assault rifle, drove to 2474 E. Olympic Blvd, and waited for Flores to return to work, the LAPD says. Sampson confronted Flores inside the office and shot him, the police report says. Sampson also shot Ricardo Garris, a co-worker, who happened to be in the office at the time, according to the LAPD.

Sampson left the Street Services site, drove to Hollenbeck Police Station and surrendered to officers, the report indicates. Police say they recovered the assault rifle at the time of Sampson's surrender. Sampson was arrested and booked for the murders of his co-workers.

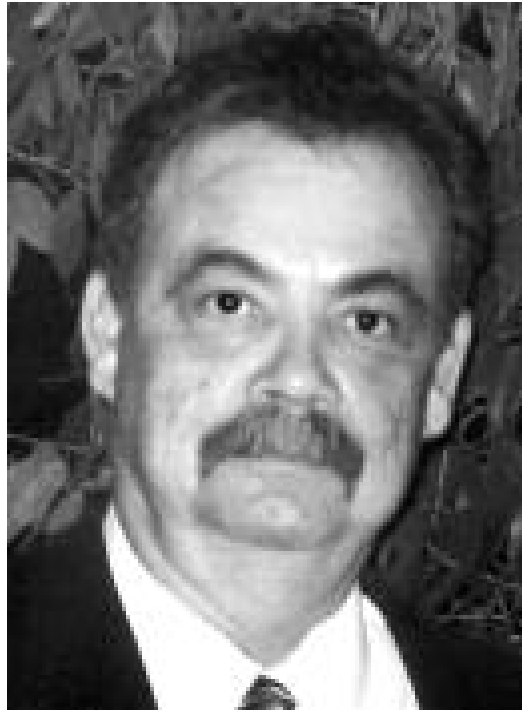
Rene Flores

Rene Flores was a supervisor and bridge repair expert in the Bureau of Street Services, Public Works. He was a 22-year veteran of the bureau, a very hard worker who volunteered for weekend shifts and planned to retire in two years.

The Sunland resident was engaged to be married this year.

Rene enjoyed spending time with his family, gardening, sailing and riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

He is survived by his mother, his fiancé, children from previous marriages, and five brothers and sisters.



Ricardo Garris

Ricardo "Big Rick" Garris was reportedly Rene Flores's right-hand man on the bridge repair detail in Street Services. He was a 23-year veteran of the City.

The Inglewood resident enjoyed riding motorcycles and bikes, racing cars, watching boxing matches and helping others.

He is survived by his widow, Yvette Williams.



Club Recaps Year of Achievements at Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting

Continued from Page 1

by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. That's very appropriate for us in the year ahead."

The meeting featured:

- great news of the Club's success delivered by Board President Mike Biagi, and;
- prestigious Club awards to two very dedicated people, Club Claims Administrator Cecilia Talbot and Club Rep Susan Valencoure.

"I'm beginning to realize that 2004 turned out to be one of our more successful years in recent memory," recounted Club Board President Mike Biagi. "LACEA reached 99.6 percent of its revenue goal, and Insurance Services came in at an even 98 percent. Our insurance in force is holding strong at a record high of \$2.17 billion and total membership is climbing past a staggering 15,400!"

"The *Alive!* newspaper made it to 52 pages. Remember when it was just 16?"

"And we had the most 'popular' refund check on record, if not the largest - \$900,000 of the \$1 million was cashed within the first 21 days!" Biagi said.

"Clubfest 2004 at Calamigos Ranch was awesome! It was a beautiful day filled with friends, family, food and fun! We have already begun planning for 2005, and we are looking forward to making it even more outstanding than last year.

"Topping all this off has been staff's relentless pursuit of providing the ultimate in customer service, while at the same time celebrating the lives and work of City employees. It's what the Club is all about.

"I would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions and dedication to the Club," Biagi said. "The continued success of the club will be made possible by the team effort of the staff, the department reps and the board to make 2005 a stellar year!"



From left: Club Board Members Regner Globus, Maria Romasanta, Michael Leighton, Michael Biagi and Rita Robinson. Not present: Robyn Barnes.

Club Board Member Regner Globus enjoys a moment with those in attendance.



New Club Chairman of the Board Michael Biagi addresses those in attendance at the annual meeting.

Club Chief Financial Officer Brian Trent and Club Board Member Regner Globus talk about the current financial health of the Club.



Club Board Member Maria Romasanta and Club CFO Brian Trent.

Back, from left: Ling Kaufman (Club Department Rep from the Controller's Office); Lupe Medina, Club Administrative Services Representative; and Trinh Pham, Club Accountant. Front: Cecelia Talbot, Club Claims Administrator.



From left: Club President John Hawkins expresses his gratitude for the Club's success, and voices optimism for its future.

Oh, Baby!

■ Co-workers of David Pongvarin in Mail Services throw him a baby shower.



David Pongvarin, Delivery Drive I, 5 years, Mail Services Division - GSD

The colleagues of David Pongvarin in the Mail Services Division put together a baby shower for him and his wife, Sharon. Their child, Logan, was 2 months old at the time of the excellent shower.

The shower was held Feb. 18 in City Hall.

There was cake, punch and presents. David had a huge smile throughout the event. Employees at the Mail Services Division all respect David greatly for his dedication and hard work. He is always willing to do the extras to meet the division's commitment to provide each City Department professional and quality messenger and delivery service. This is why his colleagues voted him as the Employee of the Year.

Chandra Mosley contributed information for this story.

Congratulations, David and Sharon!



ABOVE: From left: Sharon Pongvarin, Baby Logan and David Pongvarin.

FAR LEFT: David Pongvarin arrives with his mail dolly only to realize that there is a surprise for him and expresses his happiness with a gracious smile.

LEFT: David Pongvarin with Chandra Mosely, 23 years, Mail Services Division Head - GSD.



Annual Meeting Awards

The Presidents Award

- Cecilia Talbot, Club Claims Administrator

From John Hawkins, Club CEO:

"The president's award is given to a club staff employee who has gone above and beyond the scope of their job. Cecilia has one of the toughest jobs at the Club. Every time her phone rings, she's guaranteed to talking to someone in grief, pain or anger. You see, Cecilia is the Claims Administrator for the association and with over 2 billion dollars of insurance in force, you can imagine the number of claims she manages in the course of a year. Now just imagine hearing about death, disease, injury, day in and day out. It takes a special person to stay focused and positive. Congratulations Cecilia!"



The Club Rep Award

- Susan Valencoure of the Los Angeles Zoo

Robert Larios, the presenter of the award expressed his gratitude:

"When I think of this years' recipient, I think swift acting, speed, and velocity when we ask for her help. Not only that but when I got a chance to meet with her she was alongside with last years Department of Rep of the year recipient, Olivia Figueroa of the Controller's Office ...so you know greatness rubs off on greatness."



The City Employees Club of Los Angeles recognizes her for the supreme service she has given to the City of Los Angeles as well as the extreme excellence she has demonstrated for the City Employees Club of Los Angeles. Her continued support of the Club has never gone unnoticed. Because of her service, she has been chosen as the recipient of the 2004 Department Representative of the Year Award.



www.socaltourdecure.com

Join the City of Los Angeles and ANGEL CITY PEDALLERS

On the ROAD for a CURE!

- When:** Saturday, May 21, 2005
- Where:** El Dorado Park, Long Beach, CA
- What:** Southern California Tour de Cure is a cycling event for the entire family, from the recreational to the avid cyclist who wishes to raise money for diabetes research and educational programs. The ride will give you three great routes ranging from easy to challenging: 1. Family Fun Ride (20K, easy) 2. Huntington Beach Tour (50K, moderate) 3. Newport Coast Balboa Island Adventure (100K, challenging).
- Who:** Join those riders who have accepted the Tour de Cure Challenge all over the country, including the City of Los Angeles and the LADWP!
- Why:** To raise awareness and to ride for a cure - for a disease that affects 21.2 million Americans.

Get Involved!!! Sign-up TODAY!

(Please check all that apply)

- 1. Please register me on the Angel City Pedallers TEAM!
- 2. I would like to Volunteer for the SoCal Tour de Cure!
- 3. I cannot participate, but would like to make a donation to benefit the Angel City Pedallers TEAM in the fundraising competition!

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Company: _____

Mail to: Donations to: American Diabetes Association, 6300 Wilshire Blvd. Ste #100, Los Angeles, CA 90048, ATTN: SoCal Tour de Cure

Phone: 800-542-3383 ext. 7437 OR 323-966-3890 ext. 7417 Fax: 323-966-3798

*For Donations, please make checks payable to the American Diabetes Association and reference "Angel City Pedallers Team" so proper credit can be given to the TEAM

*For more information, please contact: Kim Buggles, ADA Market Manager at the number listed above or Email: kbuggles@diabetes.org Website: www.socaltourdecure.com

Saying Goodbye To Bill

■ Bill Lamb retires after 32 years with the City.

Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor
Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

Friends and family of William "Bill" Lamb gathered at Luminaria Restaurant in Monterey Park Feb. 24 to say goodbye. William retired from the City after more than 32 years of service. His last department was the Controller's Office.

He began his career with the City in 1972 as a Junior Administrative Assistant with LAPD. He was promoted to CAO in 1978 as a Senior Administrative Analyst. He then joined the Controller's Office in 1989 as a Chief Accountant. He managed the Single Audit Section until 2001, and then became a Financial Specialist managing the Financial Reporting Division.

Under Bill's management, the Controller's Office has received the Government Finance Officer's Association excellence in financial reporting for the last nine years. He was also instrumental in the implementation of the City's financial management information system and conversion of financial reporting to meet professional standards.

Congratulations, Bill. Thanks for your service, and enjoy your retirement.



From left: Laura Chick, Controller, and William Lamb.



From left: Jeff Lamb, son; Silvina Salvi; William Lamb; and Jason Lamb, son.



From left: Irene Lim; Shriley Tan; Amy Robles; William Lamb; Vicky Ancajas; Melani Rejuso; Jemmie Tam; and Tessie Bautista.



Back row, from left: Lucita Yan; Teresa Kyu; Shu Lee; Amelia Cua; Min Chen; and Sharon Chow. Front: Frieda Huang; Ling Kaufman; Wanee Jeerapaet; and Perla Veneracion.



From From left: William Lamb and Tony Miera, Retired Chief Deputy Controller.



From left: Rudy Bayan; Greg Vergara; Dorothy Tamashrio; William Lamb; Mei Yee; Aida Almanzor; and Eileen Yoshimura.



Back row, from left: Cathy Khou; Lydia Schmitz; Nam Huymh; Henry Chisom; and Raty Khou. Front: Raquel Iletto; Christine Tabirara; Imelda Sy; Noemi Marasigan; and Rina Bautista.



From left: Helen Lee; Sally Rocio; Julieta Barba; and Imelda De Guzman.



Back row, from left: Elgina Woods; Beverly Jones; Michael De La Rosa; Jovanne Lavender; Mark Hoffman; Elaine Owens-Sanchez; and William Lamb. Front: Manny Paguio; Charlene Lee; Kathy Hayakawa; and Sonny Gonzales.

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14 Days Before Game Date

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DATE OF GAME REQUEST	Circle the desired level				TOTAL ORDER
	Platinum	Gold	Upper Box	Lower Box	
Mon. April 18 @ 7:05 PM Vs. Seattle	Calendar		\$19.00	\$0.00	
Wed. April 20 @ 8:05 PM Vs. Cleveland	Calendar AT MYP FLIGHT		\$19.00	\$0.00	
Fri. May 22 @ 7:05 PM Vs. Chicago White Sox	General Club Class (All-Included Deal)		\$19.00	\$0.00	
Wed. May 25 @ 7:05 PM Vs. Chicago White Sox	T-Shirt		\$19.00	\$0.00	
Tue. June 14 @ 7:05 PM Vs. Washington Nationals	Autograph (All-Included Deal)		\$19.00	\$0.00	
Tue. June 21 @ 7:05 PM Vs. Texas Rangers	Picture Frame		\$19.00	\$0.00	
<small>PLEASE NOTE: THIS ORDER IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-EXCHANGEABLE. IF YOU REQUEST AN UPGRADING, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 714-948-2073. TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR SEATING BEHIND HOME PLATE. TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR SEATING BEHIND HOME PLATE. TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR SEATING BEHIND HOME PLATE. TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR SEATING BEHIND HOME PLATE.</small>				HANDLING	\$0.00
				TOTAL	\$

Name: _____ Day Phone: (_____) _____

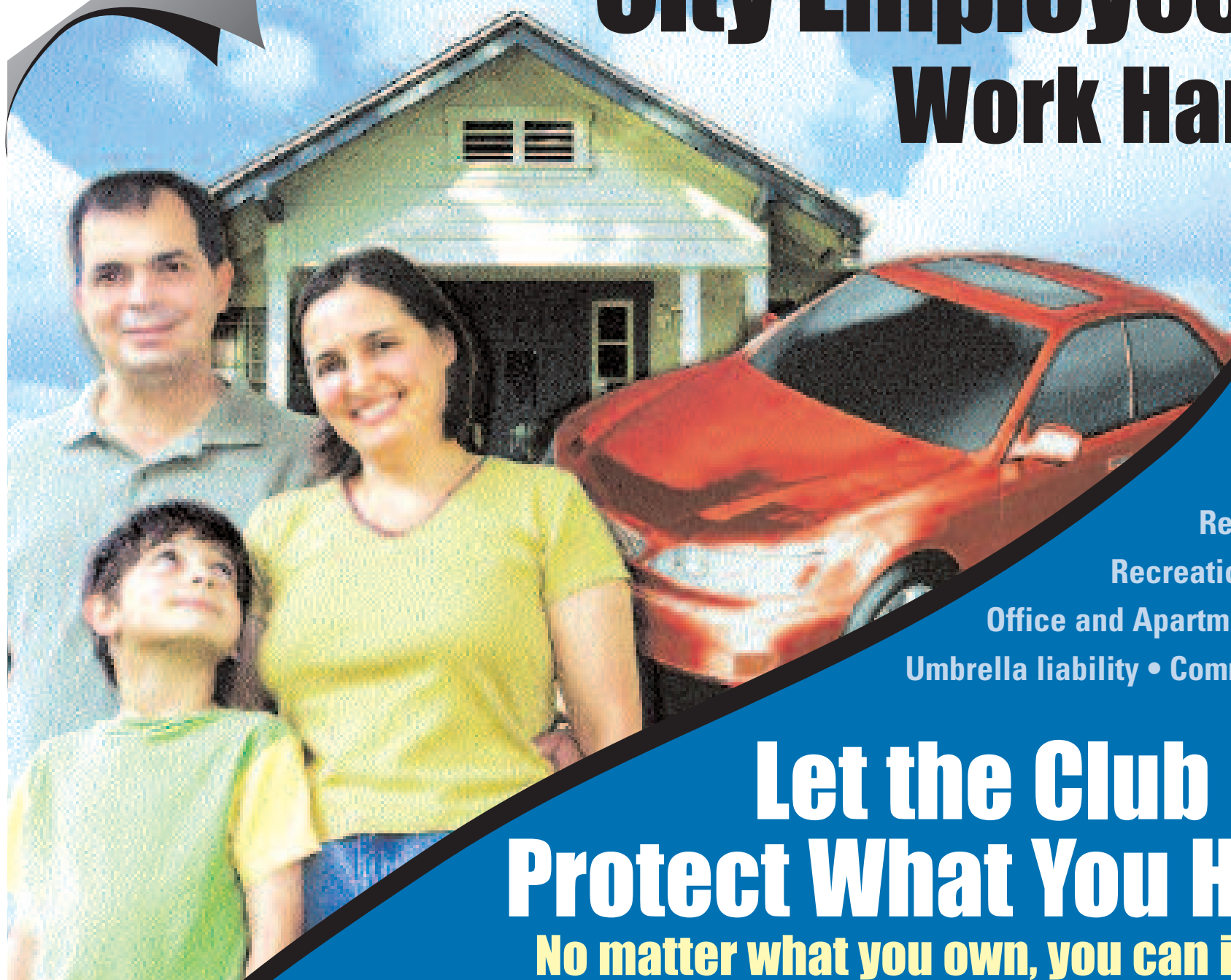
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- Your Club membership ID number
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Club Insurance Raffle Entry Form

Everyone who fills out the coupon below and sends it in to the Club insurance partner will be eligible to win four free passes to Disneyland. **SECOND PRIZE:** \$50 gift certificate to the Disney Store. Two forms will be chosen. No purchase necessary. One entry per Club Member only - UPON COMPLETION OF QUOTATION. Winners need not be present to win.

ENTRY DEADLINE:
4/30/2005

Name: _____ Club Member ID #: _____

Day phone #: _____ Evening phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

Home address: _____

What kind of insurance are you looking for? _____

MAIL YOUR ENTRY TO:

Crusberg Decker Insurance Services, Inc. • 285 N. Hill Avenue #200, Pasadena, CA • 91106, or fax to: (626) 585-8517.

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Another great benefit offered to members of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles



BY Michelle Moreno, City Events Guru

Michelle On the Move

EVENTS

Olvera Street, Mother Nature On Tap for April

Hello folks!

Welcome back to Events 411! I hope you had a great Easter, St. Patrick's Day, or just a great March in general. If you didn't, well there is always April to make up for it and boy are there plenty of fun activities going on.

First off, April 30 is the 75th anniversary of Olvera Street, one of the oldest streets in Los Angeles. Now if you're like me and don't know much about the history of Los Angeles but would like to learn more, make sure you attend this event. Also don't forget to read our "History Comes Alive!" section in this month's issue. It's full of so many interesting facts about another Los Angeles mainstay, the Dodgers.

Speaking of history, would you like to travel back into time? Well then there are three events for you! The Annual Heritage Day at Banning Museum, the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival, and the Renaissance Pleasure Faire are three great events that not only transport you hundreds of years back into time, but also do so in a fun way. Just remember the theme is historical, not the prices.

Well, if you have had enough of history, let's talk about the present. April is the month to celebrate the importance of Mother Nature and learn more about conservation. There are several events including the EcoMaya Festival and Earth Day at Cabrillo Beach and the L.A. Zoo, that celebrate our wonderful planet. These are great events to take your kids and teach them about the environment and how to take care of it for future generations.

There are several other events going on out there. But I would like to change the subject a bit and ask that you look at our Military Recognition Section on the next page. I would like to encourage you to send photos of your loved ones who are currently serving in the military. Here at the Club, we want to recognize the bravery and sacrifices of the men and women who risk their lives to protect not only our country but also more importantly the freedom and lives of every American citizen. We would also like to recognize the brave families that support such great individuals. So if you happen to know of anyone serving, please be sure to send their information in. Also, be sure to always look for this section in future issues.

Well that's it from me. I thank you for taking the time to read Events 411 and I wish you a wonderful month full of fun times and great memories. See ya around the City!

If you know of any events occurring in the Los Angeles or have any opinions or suggestions on the events listed, please send them in: michelleonthemove@cityemployeesclub.com

For more information about events around Los Angeles, visit these websites:
www.culturela.org
www.experiencela.com
www.losangelesalmanac.com
www.laweekly.com
www.olvera-street.com

Know of any great City events? Let me know!

I'll be happy to include your event in my monthly column. (Listings are limited to City events, with an emphasis(although not exclusively) on families. Make sure to include dates, times, locations, costs (if any) and contact information. Email me at: MichelleOnTheMove@cityemployeesclub.com or call me at (800) 464-0452.

? what's happening ? what's happening ? what's happening ? what's happening ? what's happening ? what's happening ? what's happening ?

April

Annual Feria de los Niños

Bring the kids and "celebrate the wonder of youth, this event offers families a festive atmosphere with exciting activities featuring boat rides, tortilla making contests, an inflatable obstacle course, plenty of food and a nighttime display of 2,000 candles floating on the lake." (L.A. 2005 Festival Guide)

Date(s): April 9 - 10
 Time: Sat: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Site: Hollenbeck Park
 415 S. St. Louis St., East Los Angeles
 Cost: Free
 More info: (888) 527-2757 or www.laparks.org
 Sponsor: Rec and Parks

Meet the Grunion (Closed Season)

Come watch the silvery fish come up on the beach to spawn. Don't forget to bring a flashlight, and warm clothing. Please note that grunion may not be taken by hand - only observation is allowed. (Day is subject to change; please call or visit the Website to confirm.)

Date: April 10
 Time: 8 p.m. (aquarium opens)
 9 p.m. (auditorium program begins)
 10:50 p.m. - 12:50 a.m. (Grunion Run)
 Site: Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
 3720 Stephen White Dr., San Pedro
 Cost: \$5/adults, \$1/seniors and children (free for Aquarium)
 Free (Grunion Run)
 More info: (310) 548-7562 or www.cabrilloaq.org
 Sponsors: Rec and Parks

California Poppy Festival

Come and celebrate California's official state flower with a day of crafts, great food, live entertainment, plenty of activities, and much more.

Date(s): April 16-17
 Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Site: Lancaster City Park
 43011 N. 10th St West
 Cost: \$7/adults, \$3/seniors, children (6-12), free/children (5 and under)
 More info: (661) 723-6077 or www.poppyfestival.com

Renaissance Pleasure Faire

Haaaa! Come and enjoy the annual Renaissance Faire. There are tons of activities, lots of food, and lots of fun.

Date(s): April 16 - May 22
 Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Site: Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area
 15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale
 Cost: \$22/adult, \$12/child (5-11), free/ children under 5,
 \$19.50/students, senior, military
 Club Discounts - TBA
 More info: (626) 969-4750 or www.renfaire.com/socal

San Gabriel Annual Street Fair and Festival Birthday

Bring your family and/or friends and celebrate San Gabriel's birthday with a day of fun, food, and lots of activities.

Date(s): April 22-24
 Time: Fri: 5p.m. - midnight
 Sat: Noon - midnight
 Site: Historic San Gabriel
 425 S. Mission Dr.
 Cost: Free
 More info: (626) 576-2525 or www.sangabrielchamber.com

Earth Day Fair at Cabrillo Beach

Come and help out Mother Nature by participating in Earth Day. This event begins with a beach cleanup and ends with a fair: activities for kids, prizes, food, guided walks to the adjacent salt marsh, Salinas de San Pedro, and more!

Date: April 23
 Time: 8 - 10 a.m. (Coastal Cleanup)
 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Fair)
 Site: Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 3720 Stephen White Dr., San Pedro
 Cost: Free
 \$7/beach parking
 More info: (310) 548-7562 or www.cabrilloaq.org/spevents.html
 Sponsor: Rec and Parks

Ninth Annual Arbor Day Celebration

Yay trees! Come and learn more about these shade-providing, air-cleaning gifts from Mother Nature. Activities will include demonstrations, crafts, food, music and much more.

Date(s): April 23

May

16th Annual Fiesta Broadway L.A.

Come and participate in the "largest Cinco De Mayo celebration in the world." (Website)

Date(s): May 1
 Time: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Site: Downtown L.A.
 Broadway, Hill, and Spring St.
 Cost: Free
 More info: (310) 914-0015 or www.fiestabroadway.la

Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Olvera St.

Come and celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a day of workshops, food, live traditional music and dance, and much much more!

Date(s): May 6 - 8
 Time: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 Site: Olvera Street, Los Angeles
 845 N. Alameda St.
 Cost: Free
 More info: (213) 625-5045 or www.olvera-street.com

Eighth Annual Dog Faire and Pet Adoption

Are you an animal lover? Come and bring your pooch for a

Time: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Site: Griffith Park, 3401 Riverside Dr.
 Cost: Free
 More info: (888) 527-2757 or www.laparks.org
 Sponsor: Rec and Parks

Fifth Annual Blooming of the Roses Festival

If you enjoy flowers, this event is for you. Come and watch the beautiful roses of Exposition Park. Enjoy the rest of the day participating in exhibits and other fun activities.

Date(s): April 23-24
 Time: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Site: Exposition Park,
 741 State Drive, Los Angeles
 Cost: Free
 More info: (888) 527-2757 or www.laparks.org
 Sponsor: Rec and Parks

L.A. Zoo Earth Day Expo

Want to teach your kids about the importance of the environment? "Join the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens and K-EARTH 101 FM for two days of festivities that will include recycled crafts and more." (Zoo Website)

Date(s): April 23 - 24
 Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Site: Los Angeles Zoo
 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles
 Cost: \$7/adult, \$4/child (discount prices at Club Headquarters)
 \$10/adult, \$7/senior, \$5/child (ages 2 to 12), free/children (under 2)
 More info: (323) 644-4200 or www.lazoo.org
 City Sponsor: Los Angeles Zoo

10th Annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

If you are a fan of literature, come to the L.A. Times Festival of Books. There will be lectures, workshops, storytelling, demonstrations, book signings from well-known authors, and much more. There will also be a great section for kids. Please note that tickets are required for indoor panel and speaker sessions. Tickets will be available Sunday, April 17th, at 12 p.m. at all Ticketmaster locations throughout Southern California, free of charge.

Date(s): April 23-24
 Time: April 23: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 April 24: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Site: UCLA Campus, Westwood
 Cost: Free
 More info: (213) 237-7335 or
www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks

Eleventh Annual EcoMaya Festival

Also known as the Mother Earth Day Celebration, this event celebrates Mother Nature as well as the Mayan Culture. Come and enjoy the various exhibits, dances, music, food, and much more.

Date(s): April 23-24
 Time: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Site: Los Angeles Eco Village
 117 Bimini Place, Los Angeles
 Cost: Free
 More info: (323) 960-7879 or www.ecomayafestival.com



Annual Heritage Day at Banning Museum

Want to see how life was in the 1880s - that's right, more than 100 years ago! Well if you are interested come to the Banning Museum for a trip back into time: "Take a leisurely self-tour of the historic 1864 residence. You can learn a Victorian Dance step at a barn dance! Play hoops and tug-of-war or enter a sack race. Listen to live music from the era on the front porch. Artisans will be invited to demonstrate their special crafts. You'll see ladies sewing a quilt, woodcarvers carving their creations and much more!" (Website)

Date(s): April 24
 Time: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Site: Banning Residence Museum
 401 East "M" St., Wilmington
 Cost: Free
 More info: (310) 548-7777 or www.banningmuseum.org
 Sponsor: Rec and Parks

day of "fun in the sun. Activities will include an agility aptitude test, a microchip identification clinic, vaccinations, product demonstrations, doggie psychics, pet portraits and much more." (Website)

Date(s): May 7
 Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Site: Sepulveda Basin Dog Park
 17750 Victory Blvd., Lake Balboa
 Cost: Free
 More info: (888) 527-2757 or www.laparks.org
 Sponsor: Rec and Parks

Meet the Grunion (Closed Season)

Come watch the silvery fish come up on the beach to spawn. Don't forget to bring a flashlight, and warm clothing. Please note that grunion may not be taken by hand - only observation is allowed. (Day is subject to change, please call or visit Website to confirm.)

Date: May 10
 Time: 8 p.m. (aquarium opens)
 9 p.m. (auditorium program begins)
 10:40 p.m. - 12:40 a.m. (Grunion Run)
 Site/Cost/More info: See April 10

World Trade Week Harbor Tour

In celebration of World Trade week, the Port of Los Angeles is offering free one-hour harbor tours. Come and

12th Annual 50+ Fitness Jamboree and Expo

Are you or do you know a senior interested in fitness? Well come and enjoy a health fair, massage booths, foot reflexology, entertainment, demonstrations and much more. Participants can also register for a 1K and 5K walk.

Date(s): April 28
 Time: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Site: Griffith Park Ranger Station
 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles
 Cost: Free (fee for walks)
 More info: (888) 527-2757 or www.laparks.org
 Sponsor: Rec and Parks

Meet the Grunion (Closed Season)

Come watch the silvery fish come up on the beach to spawn. Don't forget to bring a flashlight, and warm clothing. Please note that grunion may not be taken by hand - only observation is allowed. (Day is subject to change, please call or visit the Website to confirm.)

Date: April 10
 Time: 8 p.m. (aquarium opens)
 9 p.m. (auditorium program begins)
 10:55 p.m. - 12:55 a.m. (Grunion Run)
 Site/Cost/More info: See April 10

Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival

Howdie Partners! If you want to take a trip back in time to the Old West, come and enjoy the Cowboy Festival. There will be food, music, poetry, cowboy gear and much, much, more. Call or check out the website for the daily schedule. Daily Admission tickets are only available for April 30 & May 1.

Date(s): April 28 - May 1
 Time: April 28 - 29: Specific showtimes for events are available online.
 April 30 - May 1: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Site: Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studio
 24715 Oakcreek Ave, Newhall
 Cost: \$15/adults, \$10/child (12 & under), free/child (under 3)
 2-day pass: \$25/adults, \$15/child
 More info: (800) 305-0755 or www.cowboymfestival.org

World City Music Festival - Daughters of the Purple Sage & Kanata Native Dance Theatre

Enjoy the music of the Old West and the Plains and Woodland tribal dances. There will also be a Hoop Dance of the Hopi and myths of many Native American tribes. This is part of the 2005 season of "World City," an admission-free Saturday performance series designed to celebrate the diverse cultural traditions reflected in the Los Angeles population."

Date(s): April 30
 Time: 12:30 and 2 p.m.
 Site: Walt Disney Concert Hall
 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles CA
 Cost: Free
 More info: (213) 972-7211 or
www.musiccenter.org/education/worldcity.html

Olvera St. 75th Anniversary Celebration

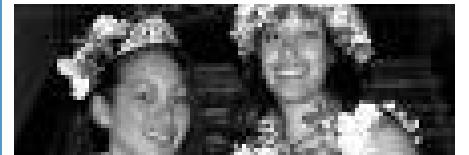
Come and celebrate one of the oldest streets in Los Angeles. Please call or see Website for time information.

Date(s): April 30
 Time: TBA
 Site: Olvera Street, Los Angeles
 845 N. Alameda St.
 Cost: Free
 More info: (213) 625-5045 or www.olvera-street.com

16th Annual Pacific Islander Festival - Tahiti

Want to learn more about Tahiti and its culture? Come for a day of exhibitions, food and more.

Date(s): April 30 - May 1
 Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Site: Harbor Regional Park
 2580 Vermont Ave., Wilmington
 Cost: Free
 More info: (714) 968-1785 or www.culturela.org
 Sponsor: Cultural Affairs



bring the family and catch a glimpse into one of the busiest ports in the world!

Date(s): May 14-15
 Time: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Site: Tours depart Ports O'Call in San Pedro and Banning's Landing in Wilmington
 Cost: Free
 More info: (800) 831-7678 or www.worldtradeweek.com
 Sponsor: Port of Los Angeles

World City Music Festival - Olga Loya and Quetzalcoatl

"Latina storyteller and author Olga Loya uses a dramatic mix of Spanish and English to share traditional tales from Latin America, as well as stories from her own varied and colorful life growing up in east Los Angeles. Quetzalcoatl, Alfredo Loya's internationally-renowned band dedicated to the preservation of the rich Latin culture, plays authentic music of Mexico, South America, and Cuba in a dynamic concert." (Website)

Date(s): May 28
 Time: 12:30 and 2 p.m.
 Site: Walt Disney Concert Hall
 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles CA
 Cost: Free
 More info: (213) 972-7211 or
www.musiccenter.org/education/worldcity.html

? what's happening ? what's happening ? what's happening ? what's happening ? what's happening ?

The Pet Club

New Leash on Life: Jackie Transfers to Personnel Dept.

Jackie David, Public Information Director, L.A. Animal Services



The news is out. I have left L.A. Animal Services and have transferred to the Personnel Department to work as Public Information Director for the Public Safety Bureau's Fire & Police Recruitment Program. What an exciting challenge!

I leave L.A. Animal Services with a sad heart in that I will miss my City family and the many real and true friends I have been so fortunate to have made while at the Department. They were, they are, the best! I will also miss the excitement and thrill of not knowing what each day, or each moment for that matter, will bring.

Here are a just a few of the calls, incidents and other things I will not forget:

- A call at 1:30 a.m.: "A truck carrying cows is down on the 210 Freeway ... lots of dead cows, lots of media, what do we do?"
- First call at around 6 a.m. on a Sunday: "A horse is down, a chopper is waiting at Van Nuys Airport and we need you out there to handle the media. Be there in half an hour!"
- I go into the home of the son of a famous movie producer on a search warrant. The LAPD, the Department of Fish and Game and our Animal Control Officers are there to confiscate wild, predatory animals. There were bobcats hidden in a closet. The tipoff? This wealthy young man also owned a serval that got loose. His neighbors reported it. He had a really beautiful home. He had his famous lawyer meet us on site.
- A call on the way home: "One of our officers shot herself and her baby."
- Friday at around 6 p.m., I join the Director of Field Operations and go into a home in a nice section of San Pedro fronting the ocean. From the outside, the house looks like any other home - well maintained and worth a lot of money. I walk in with our Animal Control Officers and the police. We are all covering our noses. The stench is unbearable. Here is what we find: Animals everywhere - some healthy, some sick, and some dead. There are holes in the wall. There are feces everywhere. To get to the bottom of the stairs, we have to climb over overturned furniture, manure and what looks like dead animals. There's an open refrigerator with rotting food in the kitchen. Lots of empty and half-filled cans of food on the tables and counters. Animals roam in and out of the fridge. We get to the second floor. Much like the first. We do notice quite a few empty liquor bottles strewn about. I am called into a room. The room, just like the rest, is filthy beyond description. There's a little boy's

bed - with animal feces in it. The stench is unbearable. I glance over at the boy's open closet. On a hanger is one set of clothes for the boy: a very clean, neatly pressed and starched shirt and pair of slacks. It's more than I can take. I leave.

- A day at Disneyland with my son for his fifth birthday. I'm on the cell phone between rides, talking to the news media as my pager demands calls be returned.
- Many live remote morning broadcasts with Gayle Anderson of KTLA Channel 5. It's enjoyable every time, with a gem of a person.
- Photos of dog bite victims. Lots of children and senior citizens.
- Going into a Van Nuys warehouse that raises rats (more than 25,000) for the purpose of feeding other animals. There were quite a few snakes slithering about, too. I was in heels. I was not comfortable.
- Working with all kinds of news media, day and night, to get the word out about what responsible pet ownership is truly all about.
- The family dog kills an 18-month-old baby. I get calls. People are concerned about the dog.
- An 80-plus-year-old woman, who takes care of cats, has collapsed. Her cats are hungry. They are nipping at her and eating her alive. She is rushed to the hospital. She has no money to pay. I get a phone call at my desk later in the evening. Someone is concerned and wants to donate money. I eagerly share information on the elderly lady. The caller says: "Well, actually, I'd like to donate the money for the cats."
- Waiting in my car, alone and in the dark at 5 a.m. on a Saturday. I'm in an empty park in the heart of gang territory. I'm waiting for trucks to arrive and set tents up for our Pet Fair. We had more than 1,000 folks show up for the Pet Fair. A real success.
- Again waiting in my car, alone and in the dark at 5 a.m. on a Saturday. I'm waiting to set tents up for our Pet Fair in Pacoima. We had more than 5,000 folks show up for that event. We vaccinated some 1,600 dogs!
- The Grand Opening of the South Los Angeles Shelter was a total success - everyone was

Best
Wishes...
Jackie

happy and there was an abundance of news media!

■ The launching of the Spaymobile - again a total success with an abundance of news coverage.

■ Working many 12-18 hour shifts ... days in a row. Work is demanding. I am overwhelmed.

■ Collapsing on the job, being hauled away in an ambulance and spending three days in a cardiac unit...just a little too much fun on the job.

■ Hearing our General Manager Dan Knapp say, as he hands me my 10-year pin at a Commission meeting, "Jackie walks on water!"

■ Working with a new General Manager with many more 12-18 hour shifts and hardly any days off. Kids are sick. The house is falling apart. Work is demanding beyond comprehension. I am overwhelmed.

■ Collapsing on the job again. This time I spend four days at the Northridge Hospital's cardiac unit. Again too much fun on the job. I still hadn't learned my lesson! My doctor told me I would die if I didn't slow down.

■ Hearing our General Manager, Jerry Greenwalt, state publicly at a Commission meeting, "We have the best Public Information Officer in the City!" (Blush!)

■ Getting pats on the back from shelter staff: "No Public Information person has done as much for this Department as you have."

■ Getting a tip, "There's a group called the Animal Defense League that's after your General Manager and the Department."

■ Two years of harassment, day after day, from the Animal Defense League and their followers.

■ Four General Managers in six years.

■ Waking up on the morning of Christmas Eve to discover \$15,000 worth of damage to my personal property by the Animal Liberation Front. My mother is crying. My children asking, "Why?" Merry Christmas.

■ Death threats. My children asking, "Why?"

■ Making the decision to move.

What I have mentioned is just a sampling of all the excitement, challenge and yes, pain endured, while working for a Department filled with its own challenges and supported by workers who are dedicated enough to stand up and meet those challenges.

While I will miss the fun of working for L.A. Animal Services, I move forward with a strong determination and many plans to meet the chal-

lenge of raising recruitment numbers for Personnel. The City needs firefighters. The City needs LAPD officers, officers for the Harbor Department, the Airport and General Services. I look forward to reaching our future heroes and helping bring them into this great service.

At the annual meeting of the City Employees Club and *Alive!* in February, I realized for the first time that I had a following - a group of folks who so kindly came up to me to tell me how they looked forward to enjoying my articles every month. I was deeply touched. So, here's the scoop. I am not leaving *Alive!* and, in fact, hope to be able to contribute articles as they relate to the Personnel Department and Personnel issues. I promise it will be of interest to *Alive!* readers. At the same time, I am not done writing animal-related articles from "afar" and, as always, welcome any questions you may have on the subject.

And so, as I "get my feet wet" with the new job, let me share with you a few last tidbits of advice from L.A. Animal Services that should carry you, your children and your pet safely through life:

- Treat your pets as members of your family. Take care of them. Think of your needs and then think of your pet's needs: food, water, shelter, exercise, vet care and definitely a lot of love. You get back what you put into your pet.
- Being a responsible pet owner means that you not only provide for your pet but that you make sure your animal is spayed or neutered. It is the right thing to do.
- Get a microchip for your pet to make sure you get it back should it stray.
- Get your animal trained - for everyone's sake - including the animal's.
- Keep your dog on a leash when off your property. Keep it secured when on your property. (In most dog bite cases, we hear owners say, "But my dog would never bite ..." or "this is a first ...") Remember that your home insurance rates are tied to your animal and that it will hit you in the pocket if your dog does bite. (Note: Every year, in the City of Los Angeles, some 70,000 people become victims of dog bites and dog attacks. Most of these are children under the age of 12 - mostly boys 10 and under.)
- Remember that all dogs can bite so don't take any chances. Keep your children safe by training them how to act around animals. Be aware and never ever leave children unattended with an animal - especially a dog.
- Pick up after your pet - your neighbors, your community and the environment appreciates being "poop-free."
- Treat wildlife with distance and a healthy respect. Know the wildlife in your area and let them know you don't want them on your property by keeping it free of debris, brush, vegetation and water. If you do not give them a reason, wild animals will not hang around your property. Keep a healthy respect for all life. It will keep you safe.

Stay strong. Keep *Alive!*

Police Horse Elvis Dies

■ Esteemed member of mounted platoon dies after ten-year service.

The Los Angeles Police Department, Metropolitan Division, Mounted Platoon regrets to announce the death of "Elvis," a member of its equine ranks. Elvis, who died in February, began his LAPD career in September 1995 as an eight-year-old registered Arabian. He quickly proved to be capable of performing the challenging job of a police horse. The Mounted Platoon is involved in a wide range of law enforcement activities including crime suppression, crowd management and control, search and rescue, and various community relation functions. Elvis was effective and quiet in the completion of these duties.

Throughout his nearly ten-year career, Elvis was deployed consistently during major events held in the City. These events included a multitude of major demonstrations, labor disputes, street festival and sporting events. Mounted Platoon deployment for crime suppression tar-

gets specific high crime locations and usually results in a significant reduction in crime. Elvis helped his human partners make hundreds or arrests to effectively reduce crime in these areas.

Accomplishments

Elvis was used in a number of high-profile situations, among them:

- 2000 Democratic National Convention
- Three Los Angeles Lakers victory parades
- 2004 NBA All-Star Game and All-Star Jam events
- More than 20 major labor disputes and demonstrations
- Nine Martin Luther King Jr. Day parades
- Four major anti-war demonstrations
- Countless crowd control incidents, including rock concerts and street festivals
- 200-300 arrests while working crime suppression details throughout the City
- A significant number of community service events at schools, hospitals and churches throughout the City

The impact of Elvis' loss is considerable. Horses of Elvis' caliber are rare and require significant investment. To train and maintain police horses requires an investment of equipment, care and a commitment of time and extensive training. Budget shortages have prevented the City from providing the support necessary for the continuous purchase of horses for the Mounted Platoon.

The Los Angeles Police Equestrian Fund, a partnership of business, the local equestrian community, concerned and caring citizens, and neighborhood volunteers was established to bridge this need. Members of the organization assist the Mounted Platoon through charitable donations and fund-raisers so high quality police horses and supplies critical for



Elvis

effective operations can be purchased.

Contributions may be sent to: Los Angeles Police Equestrian Fund, 3934 Rigali Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.

The Mounted Platoon's Lt. Tingirides and Maggie St. Clair provided information for this story.



Read the rules below, and happy snapping!

Rules:

- The contest is open to all Club members in good standing. Non-members are welcome to submit, but only Club members are eligible to win the monthly prize.
- If your photograph does not win, you are welcome to re-submit.
- Winners are chosen by Club staff. All decisions will be final.
- You must certify (if asked) that you indeed took the picture. No ringers!
- Photos can be submitted either on paper or digitally. Please don't send both.
- If you want your print photo returned, please write your name, address and phone number on the back of your photo.
- Photos can be of any subject matter: vacation, portraits, families, landscapes, still lifes, pets, etc. Subject matter must be appropriate for *Alive!*
- Paper prints can be mailed to: Picture Perfect Contest, Alive!, City Employees Club of Los Angeles, 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071
- Digital photos optimally should be between 100K and 2 megabytes in size and may be e-mailed to: pictureperfect@cityemployeesclub.com
- The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.

We have a winner... and lots of great images!

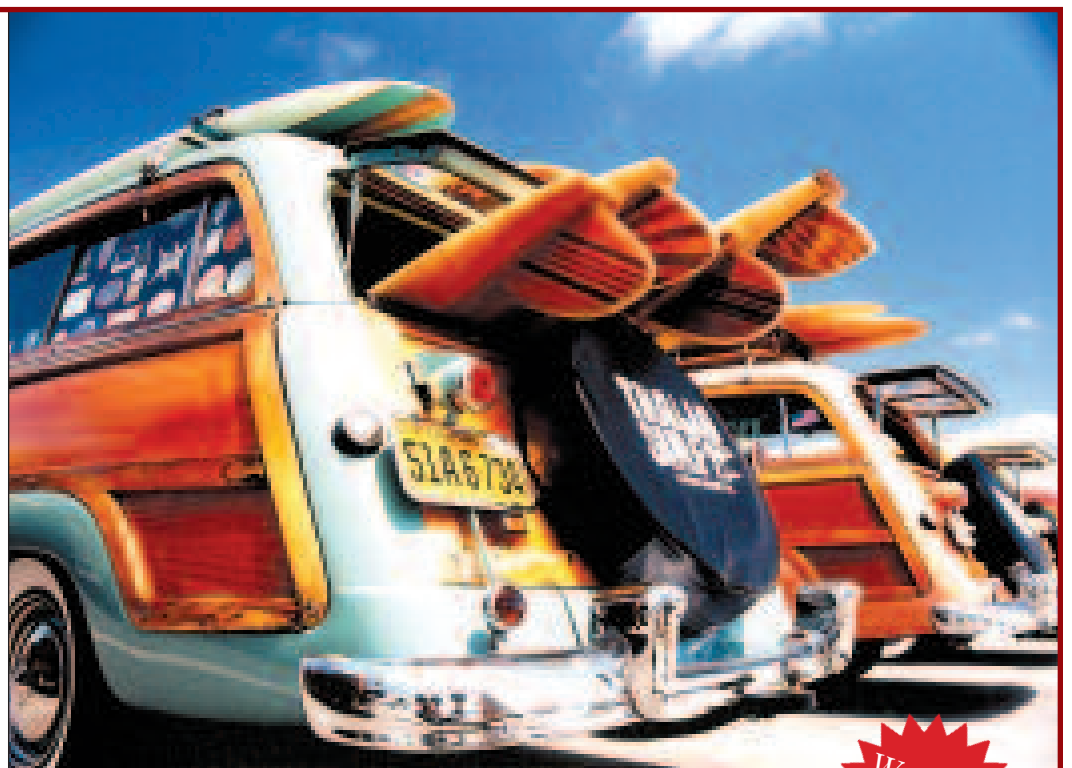
Here are the others who submitted great shots this month:

- Ernesto Ramos - Retired
- John Otoshi - DWP
- Edwina Valencia - Library
- Ilda Diaz - Library
- Jose Aviles - Rec and Parks
- Barbara Johnson - Personnel
- Allyn Rifkin - DOT
- Carlos Aranda - DWP
- Jenny Arzate - Rec and Parks
- Johnny Raxtun - DOT

Start snapping today, and send us your best results! The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Best Buy.



DEADLINE: May 15



This month's winner:
TOM "TAG" GARBER

I am a Wastewater Mechanic at the Terminal Island Treatment Plant and have been working for the City over 22 years. My passions are: restoring vintage automobiles, surfing, diving, photography and spending time with my seven grandchildren. I have a very full life.

We have been in the National Woodie Club for 15 years and love going to all the local club events. It was at the 2004 Doheny Wood Car Show that I shot this picture of three 1950 Ford Woodies all in a row, showing off their beautiful pastel colors on a sunny spring day. It was these cars and the great vintage surfboards of my youth which first caught my eye. I kept coming back to these cars all day until the light was just right. Persistence paid off and I finally got the shot I was after. I call it "The Good Old Days" and I hope you all enjoy it.

Great shot, Tag!



Runner up: FERNANDO TAPIA - DWP

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Mossman Heads East

■ Animal Services Lt. George Mossman transfers to the East Valley District.

Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor, Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

On March 3, Harbor Animal Services Shelter employees hosted a party for District Manager Lt. George Mossman, who transferred to the East Valley District to work as a Hearing Examiner.

The Harbor Shelter employees tried to keep the news quiet as they brought in special international homemade cuisine: Mexican, Filipino, Italian, Chinese and American – a feast of chips, salsa, rice, chicken, egg rolls, tamales, chicken, macaroni, spaghetti, pancit, empanadas, etc. for the boss they loved. Although he was ill and could barely walk, Lt. Mossman did make it to the District to say goodbye to the employees who meant so much to him and to accept a special gift: a Fountain of Luck for his new desk at the East Valley Shelter.

"We hate to lose him," said Hal Moore, the Harbor's Animal Care Technician Supervisor, "He was so good to us and for us and for all the animals. He ran a tight ship yet did so in such a way that he made each and every one of us feel special and cared-for."

"I wish he weren't leaving," said Animal Control Officer Marie Ushman. "We will miss him so very much."

One thing is for sure: Wherever his work takes him, Lt. Mossman quickly earns the respect and love of those he works with!

Lt. George is relocating to the East Valley Shelter to conduct hearings as Hearing Examiner. Prior to the Harbor, Lt. Mossman was District Manager of the North Central Shelter for some two years. Before working for the City, Lt. Mossman was a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force where he worked as Law Enforcement Specialist/Military Police in command of some 15 soldiers. He was also Base Customs Inspector and received training and was a member of the Anti-Terrorist Threat Base Team.



From left: George Mossman, Sr. ACO, 20 years, who transferred from his previous shelter; and Jackie David, who transferred to Personnel.



Back row from left: Renee Jones, Sr. Clerk Typist, 5 years; Kristi Navarro, ACT, 4 years; Hal Moore, Sr. ACT, 7 years; Jackie David, (former) Public Information Director, 15 years; Esperanza Castro, RVT, 5 years; Orlando Calayag, RVT, 17 years; Erika Vela, Clerk, 4 years; Darline Mallet, ACT, 4 years; and Julie McIntyre, ACT, 4 years. Front row: Marie Ushman, ACO, 6 years; George Mossman, Sr. ACO, 20 years; Doreen Vail, ACO II, 20 years; and Davina Holbert, Clerk Typist, 2.5 years.

The Doctor Is ... Moving

■ City's medical services is moving to a new building in early May ... temporarily.

If you've used the City's Medical Services Division (formerly the Occupational Health Services Division) in the past, or you need it now, you should know:

The service is moving in early May.

The new temporary location:

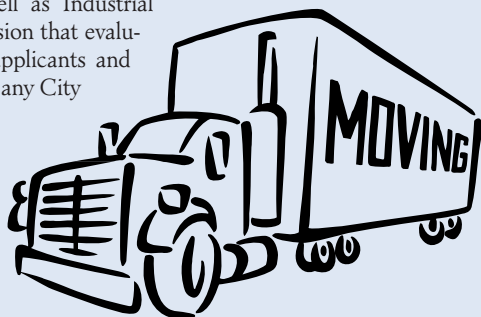
432 East Temple St., near Alameda Ave.

So don't go to the old location on West Sixth Street.

The Medical Services Division is where you go for a health exam when you first join the City or for a medical exam when you need special evaluation or a health accommodation. This Division also provides psychological and administrative services as well as Industrial Hygiene. In short, this is the Division that evaluates the medical fitness of City applicants and employees – a valuable support for any City department.

The move is scheduled for the first week in May and so, until that date, do continue to go to the current facility located at 1401 West Sixth St.

Stay tuned as *Alive!* keeps you posted on what's going on with your City.



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Send paper notices and print photos to: *Alive!* 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Retirements



Gary Mattingly

A Job Well Done

■ Gary Mattingly to retire from Police and Fire Pensions.

Gary Mattingly has announced he is retiring after 38 years with the City. He has worked hard to ensure the happy retirements of so many City employees, and now it is his turn. For the last 23 years he has been the General Manager of the Fire and Police Pension System, which is not only the largest of the City's three pensions systems, but also the only one that is 100 percent funded. When Gary started, Fire and Police Pensions was just 23 percent funded. Gary was also the first in the City to fund retiree health insurance costs on an actuarial basis, virtually ensuring that there will be no cutbacks in the subsidy paid to retirees for health and dental insurance costs. He began in the Bureau of Street Lighting for three years, spent one year in the Bureau of Personnel and 11 years in the City Administrative Office, before assuming charge of the Fire and Police Pension System.

Congratulations from the Club, Garry, on a job well done!
The Club thanks David Stielow, who contributed information for this story.

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	#YEARS
John Afford Dept.	Chief	DOT	36
Thomas Allen	Signal Systems Elec.	DOT	18
William Allender	Helicopter Mechanic	Gen. Services	30
Bayani Aquino Sr. Bldg.	Inspector	Bldg. and Safety	30
Linda Arnold	Sr. Cartographer	Public Works	32
Frank Atwood	N/A	DWP	N/A
John Baker	N/A	DWP	N/A
John Beems	N/A	DWP	N/A
Deborah Berg	N/A	DWP	N/A
Gerald Berg	N/A	DWP	N/A
Michael Berru	N/A	DWP	N/A
Corazon Biscocho	Accounting Clerk	Gen. Services	30
Jeanne Blakely	Mgmt. Assistant	CDD	30
Clarence Brawn	N/A	DWP	N/A
Ramon Cordova	Signal Systems Elec.	ITA	39
Louise Corwin	N/A	DWP	N/A
Leo Couron	N/A	DWP	N/A
Roy Daniels	Building Inspector	Bldg. and Safety	20
Bobbie Jean Davis	N/A	DWP	N/A
Donna Delaney	N/A	DWP	N/A
James Durkin	N/A	DWP	N/A
Verita De Hesa	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAPD	27
Robert DeVilbiss	N/A	DWP	N/A
Victor Esquivel	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	23
Joseph Feinblatt	N/A	DWP	N/A
Thelma Feliciano	Accountant	Controller	18
Anne Flayer	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	CDD	26
Darrell Fullingam	N/A	DWP	N/A
Gerald Gewe	N/A	DWP	N/A
Peter Goff	N/A	DWP	N/A
Henry Green	Pr. Security Officer	Airports	29
David Griffith	Sr. Recreation Dir.	Rec and Parks	39
Margaret Harmon	N/A	DWP	N/A
Willie Harris	Plumber	Public Works	25
John Harris	N/A	DWP	N/A
Kenneth Hart	N/A	DWP	N/A
Thomas Hatcher	Ref. Coll. Truck Operator	Public Works	31
Glenn Haynie	N/A	DWP	N/A
Robert Henry	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Harbor	35
Clifford Higa	N/A	DWP	N/A
James Hodges	N/A	DWP	N/A
Joseph Hoffman	N/A	DWP	N/A
Jack Holmstrom	N/A	DWP	N/A
John Horling	N/A	DWP	N/A
Marciene Hunter	N/A	DWP	N/A
Octavio Hurtado	N/A	DWP	N/A
Patricia Ialongo	City Planning Associate	City Planning	23
Michele Iuvara	Equip. Operator	Airports	29
Laurel Jeffreys	N/A	DWP	N/A
Cheryl Jenkins	N/A	DWP	N/A
Bernadette Kirkwood	N/A	DWP	N/A
Richard Kosanovic	N/A	DWP	N/A
Dennis LaFrance	N/A	DWP	N/A
Loretta LaMarca	Development/Marketing Dir.	Zoo	28
John Latimer	Traffic Officer	DOT	35
Robert Leitch	Sr. Construction Inspector	Bldg. and Safety	43
Christine Leung	Fiscal Systems Spec.	Rec and Parks	31
Edward Lewis	N/A	DWP	N/A
Adolph Lisberg	N/A	DWP	N/A
LeRoy Longo	N/A	DWP	N/A
Peter Lowery	N/A	DWP	N/A
Dianne MacCary	Librarian	Library	35
Anthony Marufo	N/A	DWP	N/A
Alice Mauthe	N/A	DWP	N/A
Milan Metcalf	N/A	DWP	N/A
Michael Micciche	N/A	DWP	N/A
Frederic Michael	Emerg. Prepare. Coordinator	Animal Services	32
Julia Miller	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	16
Sam Molmud	N/A	DWP	N/A
Patrick Morse	N/A	DWP	N/A
Phillip Mudd	N/A	DWP	N/A
Donald Nichols	Communication Electrician	ITA	34
Henry Norman	N/A	DWP	N/A
Jeffrey Parker	N/A	DWP	N/A
Warren Paul	Refuse Collection Supervisor	Public Works	43
Jack Pearson	N/A	DWP	N/A
Philip Peterson	N/A	DWP	N/A
Harry Petty	N/A	DWP	N/A

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	#YEARS
Gunter Pick	N/A	DWP	N/A
Mary Pinch	Secretary	Rec and Parks	32
James Preusch	Chief Financial Officer	Harbor	13
Mario Quitariano	Sr. Build. Operating Engr.	Airports	36
Edith Quigley	N/A	DWP	N/A
Harvie Randall	N/A	DWP	N/A
John Ross	Refuse Collection Operator	Public Works	36
Albert Salcedo	N/A	DWP	N/A
Robert Schmidt	N/A	DWP	N/A
Joseph Schneider	N/A	DWP	N/A
Gary Shimabukuro	Heavy Duty Equip. Mechanic	Airports	36
Thomas Silva	N/A	DWP	N/A
Otis Slaughter	Sr. Bldg. Inspector	Bldg. and Safety	30
Wayne Smith	Sr. Build. Inspector	Bldg. and Safety	30
Frederick Speaker	N/A	DWP	N/A
Reggie Spearman	Traffic Officer	DOT	31
Esther Stein	N/A	DWP	N/A
George Stigile	Asst. GM	Rec and Parks	33
Meryl Sundberg	N/A	DWP	N/A
Barbara Taylor	Police Adm.	LAPD	30
Guido Teren	N/A	DWP	N/A
Dora Tom	Data Process Tech	ITA	27
Irma Tom	N/A	DWP	N/A
Robert Tripp Jr.	N/A	DWP	N/A
Robert Ulrich	N/A	DWP	N/A
Susan Vasquez	Exec. Secretary	ITA	34
Albert Vega	Carpenter	Gen. Services	36
Joseph Whalen	N/A	DWP	N/A
Earline White	Systems Analyst	ITA	23
Victor White	N/A	DWP	N/A
John Whitney	N/A	DWP	N/A
Max Wiener	N/A	DWP	N/A
Howard Yandell	N/A	DWP	N/A

Alive! and your City Employees Club wishes to thank each and every one of the following, who have spent many years making Los Angeles the great city it is. Congratulations, and enjoy your well-deserved rewards!



Births

Gizelle Lymani Garcia, born Feb. 22nd to **Manny and Lici Garcia**. Manny is a Club Member and a Traffic Officer II with DOT Parking Enforcement, Valley Division.



Aaron David Doss, born Feb. 2 to **Joseph and Luz Doss**. Joseph works for the Record Retention Center, Airports.



Kristina Alejandra Sabad, born Feb. 2 to **Kristen and Bernie Sabad**. Granddad is Red Medina, Construction Inspector, Public Works. Grandmom is **Lupe Medina**, Club staff member.



Births: Send us the following information: full name of the newborn, date of birth, name of parents, job title of the parent(s) who work(s) for the City or the DWP, your phone number and a baby photo. Send to moments@cityemployeesclub.com



In Memoriam

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

NAME	DEPT.	# YEARS			
Active					
Julia Bennett	LAFD	23	Richard Humphreys	Public Works	47
Jimmy Bryson	Airports	2	Kaoru Ikeda	Public Works	13
Walter Kepner	DWP	22	Beverly Johnson	DWP	17
Eugene Proctor	Transportation	1	Carl Johnson	Harbor	22
Richard Ramos	LAPD	24	John Jones	DWP	27
Rory Shaw	Public Works	18	Gudrun Kamper	City Attorney	12
Marva Taylor	LAPD	27	Harvey Lewis	Rec and Parks	21
Robert Trimble	DWP	31	Shelton Lewis Sr.	DWP	34
Luis Zuniga	Rec and Parks	16	Victor Lucas	Gen. Services	11
Retired					
Jimmy Amaya	DWP	33	Hugh Merida	Public Works	31
Sarah Anderson	Gen. Services	24	Mario Miranda	DWP	34
Robert Beasley	Airports	7	William Moore	Public Works	30
Cora Beauregard	Controller	14	Donald Moore	Harbor	25
Dorothy Block	DWP	23	Albert Morley	LAPD	10
Ray Booth	DWP	19	Agnes Mudzinski	DWP	12
Carolyn Brown	DWP	6	Robert Muller	DWP	17
Melvina Brumfield	Rec and Parks	8	Hollis Netherly	Public Works	27
Edmund Butler	Public Works	23	Elmer Nosler	Public Works	27
Herman Butler	Rec and Parks	29	Frances Nourse	DWP	21
Eli Camacho	DWP	34	Gengo Okura	DWP	11
John Campbell	DWP	17	Luella Ostrander	Transportation	10
Floyd Cooley	DWP	27	Cecil Parr	DWP	32
Charles Davis	DWP	16	Ferdinand Patin	Gen. Services	33
E.D. Dyer	Public Works	35	John Pengilly	DWP	15
David Faxon	Harbor	30	James Peterson	City Council	9
Gene Foster	DWP	23	Sumuel Polonsky	DWP	27
Elvie Fursee	DWP	10	Frank Reinhard	Bldg. and Safety	30
John Green	Bldg. and Safety	19	Helen Reuser	LAPD	19
Theodore Hames	CDD	22	Eddie Roberson	Gen. Services	32
Lucille Henderson	DWP	31	Johnnie Roberts	DWP	32
Gerald Hoffman	Gen. Services	35	Howard Robinson	DWP	24
Frederick Honda	Rec and Parks	30	Henry Rodriguez	DWP	27
John Horrocks Sr.	DWP	33	Roman Romero	DWP	33
Samuel Hudson	DWP	29	Carlo Romito	Transportation	16
Reginald Humphreys	DWP	27	James Sakamoto	DWP	34
			Lily Samson	Harbor	31
			William Sondergaard	Bldg. and Safety	18
			Frank Stanisch	Gen. Services	12
			William Tolin	Rec and Parks	31

In Memoriam: We receive this information directly from the City and the DWP. But send us the name of the deceased, and we'll print the notice. Send in a photo of the deceased, too, if you have one, and include your phone number. Send to moments@cityemployeesclub.com.



Weddings

Sheka Wilson, Clerk Typist, Airports, and **Derrick Stocker**, Feb. 26 in Las Vegas.



Weddings: Recently married? Congratulations! Share the news with your City employee family. Tell us the names of the bride and groom, the date and place of the wedding, and the City or DWP job title of the bride and/or groom. (Include a photo, too, and we'll try to print it.) Send it in! Send to moments@cityemployeesclub.com.



Club Graduations

Alive! is delighted to continue publishing graduation photos of Club members and their children. Have a photo of a recent graduation? Send it in to *Alive!* Graduations, City Employees Club of Los Angeles, 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071.



New Members

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

Welcome New Members!

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Laura Acevedo | Emma Garcia | Craig Patterson |
| Douglas Adger | Javier Gomez | Cesar Pedroza |
| Ana Aguilar | Jose Gonzalez | Paul Phillips |
| Andy Aguilar | Jerry Green | Sunita Pidech |
| Anita Ali | Laurie Guillen | Martha Pinckney |
| Migoi Ali | Eliseo Gutierrez | Guillermo Pinelo |
| Thomas Allen II | Ramona Hallstead | Ernie Preciado |
| Sergio Alvarez | Leonora Harmon | Tommy Quiroz |
| Patricia Anciano | Thomas Hatcher | Constance Randle |
| Sara Anela-Kelly | Rosalyn Hawes | James Reed |
| Alise Asadourian | Patricia Heuer | James Reeves |
| Ronnie Ayala | Akilah Hite | Daisy Rendon |
| Kenneth Bailey | Joseph Hoffman | Elizabeth Revell |
| Claudio Barraza | Brandi Holley | Fortino Reynoso |
| Robert Beaudry | Daniel Hurst | William Riddle |
| Kim Bendimez | Masaaki Iwaoka | Rafael Robeniol |
| Veronica Bizarro | Kerisha Jackson | Carlton Roberson |
| Melvic Blanco | Jenai Johnson | Ricky Robinson |
| Jacqueline Boucher | Bridgett Johnson-Jackson | Augustine Rodriguez |
| Homer Boulin | Bridget Jones | Sandra Rodriguez |
| Lawrence Calderon | Juan Juarez | Luis Rubalcava |
| Sylvia Calloway | Rina Kelly | Sheriece Russeau |
| Albert Campos | Gabriela Kennedy | Miriam Sandez |
| Gary Canales | Sherrell Lampkin | Carolyn Sawyer |
| Fernando Carrasco | Richard Laquey | Matthew Schneider |
| Camille Carter | Jennifer Lindstrom | Mechelle Sherman |
| Patrick Chen | Shawnie Livera | Stephan Shuff |
| Michel Claiborne-Thompson | David Lopez | Anita Sibayan |
| Beverly Clark | Alvin Lopez Jr. | Denise Sinclair |
| Maria Contreras | Rackiel Lord | Andrew Smith |
| Catherine Cordero | Lenore Lucio | Reynaldo Solorzano |
| Timothy Cottrell | Stan Ludwig | Marco Soto |
| Dean Cox | Emilia Lugo | Tami Sotomayor |
| Mercy Crenshaw | Johnny Lugo | Joe Stackhouse |
| Nida De Jesus | Susan Luna | Michael Stadler |
| Snezana Deh | Carlito Magiba | Thomas Starkey |
| Ted Demas | Jean Markham | Leroy Stevens |
| Josh DeZiel | Gloria Martinez | Gabriel Subia |
| Willie Dockery | Katy Martinez-Ramirez | Leo Surratt |
| Synorve Drake | Kimberly McClendon | Dwayne Thompson |
| Nora Duenas | Lea Meighan | James Tran |
| Laronda Echols | Carlos Mejia | William Valdez |
| Behzad Eghtesady | Johnnie Miranda | Tai Vu |
| Jesus Espinoza | Elisha Mitchell | Anita Whited |
| Beatrice Estrada | Rhonda Mitchell | Denise Williams |
| Lakeisha Evans | Marilyn Moore | Stephanie Williams |
| Edna Flitcraft | Richard Morales | Henry Williams |
| Chiwanda Foster | Oscar Munoz | Stephany Williams |
| Mary Fountain | Robin Nash | Paul Wong |
| Yolanda Fountain | Bridget Nickelson | Judy Worthen |
| Tashanda Fredrick | Al Noble | Judy Wright |
| Elliot Galindo | Angelina Ortega | Danilo Yap |
| Elsa Gallegos-Rodriguez | Regina Osuna | Nick Zingo |
| Shuandy Galvez | Patrick Owairu | |
| Alfonso Garcia | Cherie Parker | |



During last year's National Dispatchers Week, Stephanie Brown-Smith, Police Service Representative, sits in front of her console ready to provide assistance.

Thank a Dispatcher

■ LAPD to note National Dispatchers Week in April. Tour signups are available.

Story and photo by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

Make sure you thank an LAPD 911 emergency dispatcher during the second week of April, which has been designated National Dispatchers Week April 10-16.

As we did last year, the Club is proud to donate prizes for the festive week, which is being recognized locally by the LAPD.

In 1992, then President George H. Bush proclaimed the second full week of April as National Dispatchers' Week to honor the hard working and often overlooked police dispatchers throughout the country who provide a vital service to their communities. Los Angeles Police Department's Communications Division is responsible for the operation of the Los Angeles City 9-1-1 system and the police dispatch system. Our dispatchers, known as Police Service Representatives (PSRs) are an integral part of the public safety net. In 2004, they answered 3.3 million calls while providing dispatching service to field officers.

Among the activities Communications Division has planned to honor and thank the PSRs will be the presentation of Communications Division's Annual Most Valuable PSR awards.

Each year, a PSR from each watch and a supervisor are selected by their coworkers as best epitomizing the spirit of teamwork, service to the community and leadership that is the hallmark of Communications Division.

Communications Division has two dispatch centers that handle the 911 calls and the police dispatch system. An Open House will be held in each of the new high-tech, state-of-the-art dispatch centers. Open houses are scheduled:

- Tuesday, April 12, at the Metropolitan Communications Dispatch Center (MCDC). The MCDC is at 100 North Los Angeles St. in Los Angeles.
- Monday, April 11, at the Valley Communications Dispatch Center (VCDC). The VCDC is located at 23001 Roscoe Boulevard in West Hills.

Open House tours will be provided for all police officers, City employees, members of the media and other interested parties only during these scheduled times: 12:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 5 p.m., and 8 p.m., on each center's respective open house dates.

To RSVP for a tour or questions concerning this event, please contact PSR Marco Mendoza, Community Relations Unit, Communications Division at (213) 978-6511 or (213) 978-6510.

PSRs Marco Mendoza and Marisol Vielma provided information for this story.



From left: Susan Smetana, Supervisor; Alejandro Sanchez, Equipment Operator, 5 years; and Dave Waldner, Assistant Chief of Construction and Maintenance.

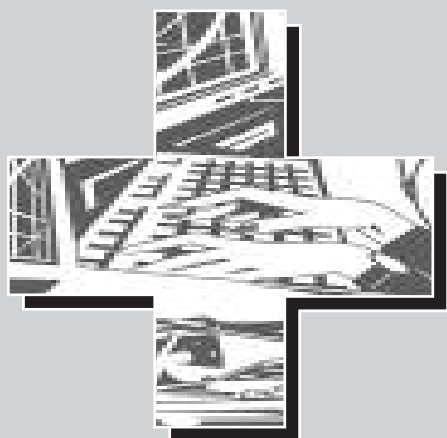
Employee of the Quarter

Story and photos by Liz Montes, Club Counselor

■ On March 8, LAX named Alejandro Sanchez as its employee of the quarter. He was awarded at LAX.

Here is his commendation:

As an Equipment Operator, Alex Sanchez has proven to be an asset to the Construction and Maintenance Division. Alex is a dedicated employee and a team player who takes pride in a job well done. He can be depended upon to complete his duties thoroughly and goes above and beyond what is asked of him. Alex is assigned to the Asphalt Paving Crew. He demonstrates a high level of initiative and pays close attention to detail. Alex is a natural leader who takes an active roll in training new employees and assists his supervisors whenever needed. He continuously thinks of good recommendations and his contributions to projects are always positive and constructive.



CITY EMPLOYEES ARE INVITED TO TOUR THE LAPD'S EXCELLENT 911 EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTERS AS PART OF NATIONAL DISPATCHERS WEEK.

OPEN HOUSES ARE SCHEDULED:

- **Tuesday, April 12**
Metropolitan Communications Dispatch Center (MCDC)
100 N. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles
- **Monday, April 11**
Valley Communications Dispatch Center (VCDC)
23001 Roscoe Blvd., West Hills

TO RSVP:

Contact PSR Marco Mendoza
(213) 978-6511 or (213) 978-6510.

Open House tours will be provided for all police officers and City employees during these scheduled times: 12:30AM, 8AM, 10AM, 1PM, 5 PM, and 8PM on each center's respective open house dates.



Float Your Boat, for Free

Free Boat Tours During
World Trade Week
May 14 - 15

■ **Port of LA offers free boat tours in observance of World Trade Week May 14 - 15. The whole family is invited.**

Free boat tours of the Port of Los Angeles will be available to Southland residents and visitors Saturday and Sunday May 14 and 15, in observance of World Trade Week 2005. The hour-long tours of the nation's busiest port will depart both days between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Ports O'Call Village in San Pedro and Banning's Landing in Wilmington.

An impressive array of ships, machinery, wildlife and other sights unique to the harbor provides a fascinating sightseeing adventure for visitors of all ages.

After the tours, visitors can enjoy the shops and restaurants in Ports O'Call Village, learn about harbor area history at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, or take free rides on the Port's Waterfront Red Car Line. The Red Cars offer free transfers to the rubber-tire San Pedro Electric Trolley, to access the shops, galleries and restaurants in historic downtown San Pedro, and to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Cabrillo Beach and the Cabrillo Beach Bathhouse. The Waterfront Red Car Line also goes to the Cruise Ship Promenade, where visitors can stroll the

beautiful new boardwalk and visit the historic S.S. Lane Victory, a floating museum.

In addition, exhibits at Ports O' Call Village and Banning's Landing Community Center will highlight the Port's upcoming waterfront development projects. Reservations are not required for the free boat tours, which board on a first-come, first-served basis. Handicap passenger access is available at each departure point.

Information about the Port's World Trade Week Boat Tours program is available 24 hours a day on the Port's toll-free special events line at (800) 831-PORT; at (310) 732-3508 during normal business hours; and at www.portoflosangeles.org.

World Trade Week is a national, month-long program of tours, seminars and other events to educate the public about the importance of international trade to the local economy. For information about other local World Trade Week activities, call the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at (213) 580-7538, or visit the official event website, www.worldtradeweek.com.

Where in LA?

WIN \$50 Claim Jumper RESTAURANT CERTIFICATE

New Photo ... Same Great Prize

Get ready for another great contest. We wish you could all win!

For April, we're keeping the same great prize: a \$50 gift certificate to Claim Jumper Restaurant. Excellent, you say! All you have to do is send in a correct and substantial answer (in your own words) to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com, and you could win!

**What is this?
Where is this?**



The Club member who gives us the most complete, detailed description of the object related to the City of Los Angeles wins the great prize!

- This month's deadline: April 11. See complete list of rules.
- Thanks for playing, and good luck!

Send your response along with your Club card number by e-mail whereinla@cityemployeesclub.com), by fax ((213) 620-0598) or by surface mail (350 S. Figueroa, Suite 700, Los Angeles 90071).

The winner of last month's contest is:

Paul Munz,
Engineering



"This month's photo is of the waterfall in the Rock Garden at the Los Angeles Police Academy. Many weddings, reunions and parties take place in this beautiful garden. There was a time when the entire staff of the Police Academy was sworn police officers. Trustees also assisted in the maintenance of the Academy grounds. This peaceful rock garden was built by trustees and off duty Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club members and is now a City historical landmark on the Academy grounds in Elysian Park. The garden is located behind the main building and is definitely worth a visit."

Also submitting a correct answer:

Honorary mention goes to another correct response from Club Member Theodore J. (Ted) Aquaro of the Fireman's Relief Association. But we have it on good authority that the Rock Garden at the LAPD Academy is where you proposed to your wife, Maggie... and of course she said yes. Good job!

Contest Rules:

1. Winning contestants must be Club members in good standing. Everyone is welcome to submit responses, however. (Responses without Club membership numbers will be accepted but not eligible for the winning prize.)
2. Responses can be delivered by mail, fax, e-mail or in person (phone responses will not be accepted).
3. Winning responses will be determined by official Club personnel. All decisions will be final.
4. The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.



ADOPT A SHELTER ANIMAL

The following is a list of upcoming Mobile Adoption events:

Tour for Life WindWard Plaza Venice Beach Board Walk	SUNDAY, April 3rd 10am - 4pm
Farmer's Market 3rd/Fairfax Clocktower	Saturday, April 9th 11am - 4pm
Kiehl's Santa Monica 1516 Montana	Sunday, April 10th 11am - 4pm
Petco Studio City 12800 Ventura Blvd	Sunday, April 17th 11am - 4pm
Sepulveda Dog Park Victory/WhiteOak, Encino	Saturday, April 23rd 10am - 4pm

Please bring cash or check for adoption fees

For more information, please contact the Volunteer Office @ (213) 485-8542

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Off to Oregon

■ Ken and Sharon Perry retire from Building and Safety.

Photos by Robert Larios, Club Operations Director

Ken and Sharon Perry headed off to a retirement life in Oregon, starting with a party held in their honor. They were both Senior Inspectors with Building and Safety.

The retirement party took place March 2 at the Bear Pit barbecue restaurant.

Reid Daub helped coordinate retirement party.

The Club congratulates Ken and Sharon, and wishes them bon voyage!



Ken and Sharon Perry enjoying their retirement party.



From left: Doug Devine, Sr. Building Inspector, 16 years, with Bob Nunn, BMI, 5 years.



From left: Stan Angelotti, Sr. Plumbing Inspector, 24 years, with Michael Tharpe, Chief Inspector, 28 years.



From left: John Zolnikov, Sr. Building Inspector, 29 years; and Brian Trupin, Sr. Building Inspector, 20 years.



From left: Shannon Haas, BMI, 5 years, with John Whipple, BMI, 2.5 years.



Michael Martin, Principal Inspector, 16 years.



Reid Daub.



Roger Woodland, BMI, 5 years.



Angel Sindayen, BMI, 4 years.



From left: Jim Bangham, Sr. Building Inspector, 16 years; and John Kelly, Sr. Building Inspector, 20 years.



From left: Patrick Gilbert, Principal Inspector, 20 years; and Craig Davis, Sr. Building Inspector, 16 years.



Dennis Hawks, Electrical Inspector, 16 years.



Ken Perry.



Sharon Perry.

Haven House

Helping battered women and their children on their way towards a life free of violence.

We need your help to help some lives. You can help in so many ways — cash donations, clothing, food, volunteering. Every little bit helps more than you'll know. Every donation is greatly appreciated — no matter how much. Contact us today at 323-694-8880 to find out how you can help.

For more information on how to donate, please visit our website at www.havenhouse.org or call us at (323) 694-8880.

If you or someone you know needs help, call us now at our 24-Hour Helpline — 1-323-694-2626.

Haven House is the oldest shelter of its kind in the United States, founded in 1904 to shelter families of violent alcoholics.

Our services include counseling services for women and children in residence and counseling for community clients who are not residents of the shelter:

- emergency shelter, food and clothing
- bilingual counseling services for both adults and children
- assistance with finding permanent housing
- assistance with finding employment
- court and social services advocacy
- assistance with getting papers
- legal assistance (TRO's, etc.)
- medical services



From left: Ruben Perez, Assistant Bureau Chief, Building and Safety Code Enforcement, 32 years; Lee Clifton, Principal Inspector, Housing Department, 19 years; and Keith Gordon, Sr. Housing Inspector, 25 years.



From left: Jack Barton, Fire Sprinkler Inspector, 15 years; Karin Izumi, Fire Sprinkler Inspector, 5 months; and Lee Garcia, Fire Sprinkler Inspector, 15 years.



From left: Mike Lee, Chief Inspector, 33 years; Jeff Paxton, Principal Inspector-Housing, 18 years; David Lipton, Principal Inspector-Housing



From left: Carl Stude, Plumbing Inspector, 18 years; Howard Stern, Electrical Inspector, 15 years; and Edward Mitchell, Sr. Electrical Inspector, 18 years.



Ken and Sharon receiving the coveted Building and Safety Badge.

IT'S A NEW CLUB CONTEST!!



WIN \$100 Target Gift Certificate

It's a Coloring Contest! for Adults!

That's right ... why let your kids have all the fun? So get out your crayons, your colored pens, or your oils and start coloring in this picture. And whatever you do, make sure you have fun!

One winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate from Target.

Make sure you read the rules, and good luck!

PLEASE PROVIDE

Club Membership Number:

Please Complete:

Name: _____

Job title and department with the City: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Send Entries to:

Club Adult Coloring Contest
City Employees Club of Los Angeles
World Trade Center
350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Rules of the Club's Adult Coloring Contest:

- Winning contestants must be Club members in good standing. Everyone is welcome to submit responses, however. (Responses without Club membership numbers will be accepted but not eligible for the winning prize.)
- Responses can be delivered by mail or in person at the Club World Headquarters. Address: City Employees Club, 350 S. Figueroa, Suite 700, Los Angeles 90071.
- The Club will do everything it can to gather all the submissions, but it cannot be responsible for lost or misdirected mail.
- Winning responses will be determined by official Club personnel. All decisions will be final.
- Deadline is May 10.
- The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering Alive!, or for delays in the transmission of responses.
- All responses must be completed by the person indicated: no ringers (including your children!)

Deadline for submission:
May 10, 2005



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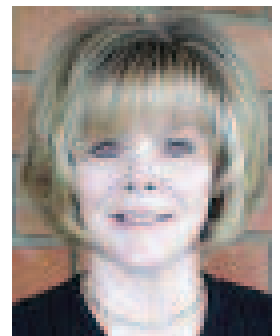
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Loan Officer
E-Mail: RPerrenoud@pffsi.com



Mary Fishkin
Jr. Loan Officer
E-Mail: MFishkin@pffsi.com



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*Miles accrued, awards issued and bonus offers are subject to the rules of the United Mileage Plus program. United, its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products and services of other participating companies and partners. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for bonus miles to be posted to your Mileage Plus account. The Mileage Plus program, including accruals, awards and bonus miles offers, is subject to change without notice. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the passenger. United and Mileage Plus are registered service marks. For complete details about the Mileage Plus program, visit www.united.com.

CLUB CORNER

Join These Groups

Fly Fishing Enthusiasts

A club is forming in the Santa Clarita area for fly fishing enthusiasts with all levels of skill. Call Theodore J. Aquaro, (661) 513-1595.



LA City Employee's Asian American Association



Douglas Shur, President

Established in 1971, the Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association (LACEAAA) was formed to represent employees of Asian/Pacific Islander descent and assist in protecting them from discriminatory acts in their application to, and employment, with the City; and advance employment, education, economic, and social concerns of Asian/Pacific Islanders in City service; and resolve unique work-related problems of any Association member. Call (213) 847-2229 or write to LACEAAA, P.O. Box 86323, Los Angeles, CA 90086 or visit us at www.laceaaa.org.

Association of City Employees with Disabilities

The Association of City Employees with Disabilities (ACED) is committed to the recruitment, employment, retention and promotion of persons with disabilities. Also, ACED counsels and represents employees faced with discrimination on the job. Call Joe O'Toole at (213) 847-9213.

Affirmative Action Association for Women

Established by the City Council as the official representative for female City employees, the Affirmative Action Association for Women (AAAW) has been representing women for more than 25 years. The AAW is an employee advocate organization that gives particular attention to the advancement of women and minority employees of the City of Los Angeles. Its members, both male and female, serve on association, department, and Citywide committees that focus attention on personnel policies and practices and support a continuing commitment to equal employment opportunities as a basic principle of the City's merit system. Call (213) 847-AAAW, write to AAW, P.O. Box 53488, Los Angeles, CA 90053, or visit the Website at www.la-aaaw.org.

Alive! offers this space every month for Club members to invite other Club members to join their group. It could be work-related, or social, or all about your hobbies. Whatever it is, send us a notice at talkback@cityemployeesclub.com, and we'll post the notice free ... as a service to our members!

Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA)



Jackie Zarate, President

The Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA) was established in 1971 and was the first City recognized employee Affirmative Action Association. Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting the goals and objectives of the organization. LACECA is dedicated to promoting equal employment opportunities in our workplace, City government and community. It sponsors and supports a variety of training events and seminars to assist employees in their career development. Meetings are usually held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Personnel Department Building, 700 E. Temple Street. Contact Leonor Garcia, at (213) 847-2229, ext. 3 or write to LACECA, P.O. Box 53590, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel

The mission of the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP) is to motivate, encourage and educate individuals to realize their dreams and move forward in their career within City government. Contact Steve King at (213) 580-5387 or write to LAABP, P.O. Box 53822, Los Angeles, CA 90043-0822.

Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees

In 1980, the Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees (LAFACE) was organized to serve as an advocate to the fast-growing number of Filipinos in City service. Its primary goal is to promote the general advancement of Filipinos in the City. LAFACE works cooperatively with other minority groups in promoting equal employment opportunities in the City. LAFACE does not limit its function to assisting Filipinos in acquiring employment, promotion, and passing examinations in the City, but also to promoting the economic, educational, social, and cultural advancement of Filipinos in the community. Contact Caroline Lorenzo (213) 978-3004 or write to P.O. Box 53389, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

CLUB PHOTO FEATURE



Eric John Uehlinger
Lieutenant Corporal
in the United States Marines

Club Member John Uehlinger writes: "I feel honored and proud to have a son, Eric John Uehlinger, Lieutenant Corporal in the United States Marines, stationed in Camp Fallujah, Iraq. The 19-year-old marine believes in freedom and serving his country. His tour of duty will end in April, and he plans to continue college. Eric is the son of John W. Uehlinger, a pipe fitter at the Bureau of Sanitation at Hyperion Treatment Plant with 19 years of service. Semper Fi!"

The Club in the Armed Forces

If you have a family member in the military and would like to honor them in Alive!, please send in a photo and include their name, their branch of military service, where they're stationed, your City department, and any other information about them that you would like to include, to:

**Alive! Military Service Recognition
City Employees Club
350 S. Figueroa St. Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90071**

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Close Shave!

■ **St. Baldrick's event shaves the heads of the LAFD, LAPD... for a good cause.**

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor
Photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

Captain Waldie Brangham of Fire Station 89 and Sgt. William Doyle of the LAPD organized the St. Baldrick's event together. St. Baldrick's is an international day of voluntary head shaving for a good cause – fighting cancer via the CureSearch Children's Oncology Group. The event takes place on St. Patrick's Day every year. This year's event took place at the LAPD Police Academy garden area, where members of the LAFD and LAPD got their heads shaved and raised money via sponsorships.

It marked the third St. Baldrick's event for Brangham and Doyle.

Patricia White, a Police Service Representative (Metro), was the top fundraiser. She raised \$3,615. The second place winner was Firefighter Danny Wu, who raised \$2,850. He tried to increase the donations in his name by offering to pay for dinner for the top donor. In third place was William Doyle, son of Sgt. Doyle, who raised \$1,920. People made donations to sponsor a "shavee" via the Website, stbaldricks.org, or in person at the event.

The City Employees Club sponsored a drawing for a PlayStation 2 and movie packages. Participants donated one dollar for each drawing ticket at the event. Of course all of the proceeds were given back to St. Baldrick's. The winners were announced at 11:30 a.m. and \$145 was raised from the drawing.

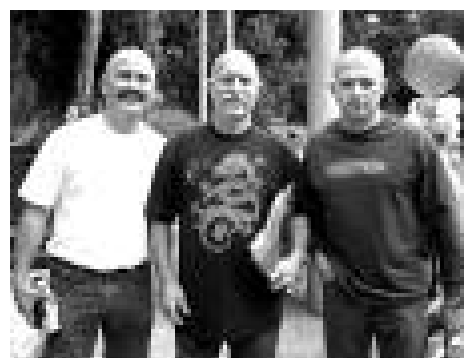
The Club thanks the LAFD and LAPD, and Waldie and William for inviting us to your great event!



That's the last of it, Pat! Way to go.



From left: Captain Waldie Brangham, LAFD; Kathleen Ruddy, St. Baldrick's Executive Director; and Sgt. Greg Doyle, LAPD Communications, Club Member.



From left: Dave Soto, Fire Station 1, 28 years; Jim Hall, Fire Station 70, 36 years; and Frank Hurtado, Fire Station 70, 7 years.



Another good sport and first-year participant Captain John Incontro, 26 years, Pacific Station, asked his barber to go easy on the top.



Lieutenant Ludwig attempts to attain a Mohawk look.



Looks like the Mohawk for Lt. Ludwig had to go.



Too late to stop her now, Lieutenant!



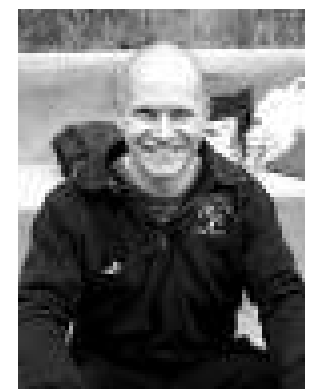
Lieutenant Stan Ludwig, LAPD Communications, Club Member, smiles happily in anticipation.



Danny Wu, LAFD, contributed his second outstanding contribution, thanks to an anonymous donor, who donated \$1,000.



Danny Wu before he was shaved.



David Flynn, 1 yr, Fire Station 83C, was one happy customer!



Capt. Smith proudly stands next to Pat White, the top fundraiser. Pat raised more than \$3,500. What a pricey haircut, Pat; way to go! From left: Pat White, Sr. PSR II, 28 years, Club Member; and Captain Andrew Smith, LAPD Communications.



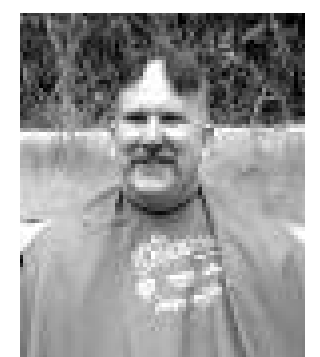
Capt. Waldie Brangham welcomes and thanks everyone for coming. From left: Sgt. Greg Doyle, LAPD Communications, Club Member; and Captain Brangham, LAFD.



Pat White, Sr. PSR II, 28 years, Club Member, stops everyone in time to put on some lipstick.



Frank Gutierrez, barber, was the lucky winner of the dollar donation drawing. He came to shave some heads and walked away with the PlayStation 2, donated by the Club.



First-year participant Ron Matthews, 19 years, Fire Station 27, experiences a "parting of the Bald Sea."



A group photo of the brave men and women from LAPD Communications who participated. What a happy bunch! Hope to see you all next year.



Bev Haro, Club Counselor, represented the City Employees Club, which donated movie packs and a Sony PlayStation 2 for the drawing. The drawing raised \$145.



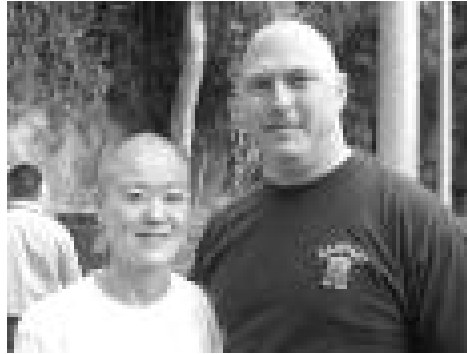
Sgt. Greg Doyle, LAPD Communications, Club Member, requested a Mohawk.



The crowd looks on in amazement.



Christine Perkins, Police Officer, 17 years, Central Bureau, closes her eyes for her shave. This was her first year.



A brave husband and wife team, from left: Christine Perkins, Police Officer, 17 years, Central Bureau, and Jeff Perkins, Police Officer 17 years, PSB. This was their first year participating.



Asta Webster, Police Officer, 15 years, OCB, Club Member, a first-year participant.



First-year participant Wes Buhrmester, Police Officer, 18 years, Internal Affairs.



First-year participant Jeffri Norat, Police Officer, 15 years, Central Bureau.



Larry Martinez, Sr. Lead Officer, Foothill Station, requests a "little off the top."



Third-year participant Kelly Taggart, Fire Fighter III, 4 years, Station 37A. Kelly's son, a cancer survivor, was unable to attend as he was undergoing treatment.



First-year participant Steve Romas, Firefighter, 18 years, Station 6.



Captain Tom Reyes, Fire Station 2, at his first St. Baldrick's event, was the first to have his head shaved this year. He wants to thank everyone at Fire Station 2 for all the contributions he collected.



The "F" stands for Fire! Tim Halloran, 5 months, Fire Station 86C, experiences his second St. Baldrick's event, even though he has been on the job just five months. How is that? Turns out, his dad is a Retired Firefighter.



Doing a great job staffing the registration table were, from left: Jed Fernandez, PSR II, 4 years; Howard Tien, PSR III, 5 years, Club Member; and Michael Eling, PSR III, 25 years.



Thanks go to Police and Fire for providing items for the Club's goodie bag. From left: Don Witty, 20 years, Fire Station 20; Mary Fishkin, Jr. Loan Counselor, Police & Fire Home Loans, Club Partner; Jim Ruiz, 19 years, Fire Station 20; and Rick Miller, 17 years, Fire Station 20.



Having fun were, from left: Michelle Rodriguez, Police Officer, Foothill Station, and Julian Almaraz, Sr. Lead Officer, Foothill Station.



Howard Tien, PSR III, 5 years, Club Member, was another team player from LAPD Communications.



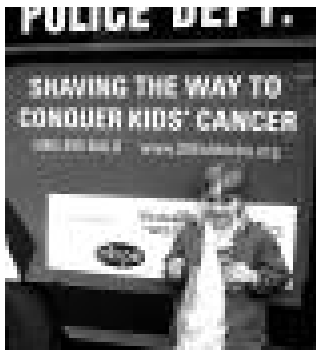
Scott Hamilton, 4 years, Fire Station 27B, was still smiling, considering it was his first year.



Second-year participant Shawnie Livera, PSR III, 10 years, Club Member, proudly shows off her new look.



A family affair! From left: Kristine Doyle, wife; son Tom Doyle; Sgt. Greg Doyle, LAPD Communications, Club Member. Tom was proud to grow his hair during the year to be shaved during St. Baldrick's.




Cancer survivor William Doyle, son of Sgt. Greg Doyle, is ready to get his head shaved.



What a bunch of troopers, all seated for a shaving!



Ladies who came to show their support for Pat White and the rest of LAPD Communications were, from left: Sherry Kemp, Sr. PSR I, 26 years; Tracy Page, Sr. PSR I, 15 years, Club Member; Pat White, Sr. PSR II, 28 years, Club Member; Yvette Bentley, Sr. PSR I, 17 years, Club Member; Dorine Thomas, Sr. PSR I, 19 years, Club Member.

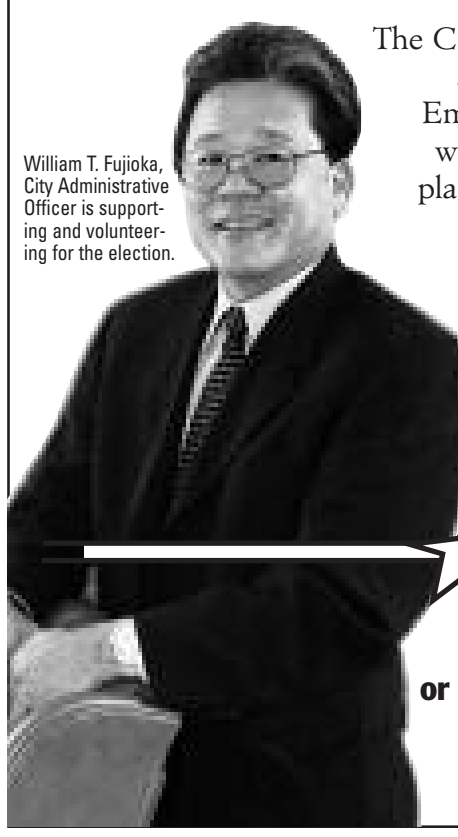


CITY EMPLOYEE POLLWORKERS SOUGHT FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Positions could include overtime pay.

The City of Los Angeles has established and funded a comprehensive City Employee Poll Worker Program that will place City employees at polling places to assist community volunteer poll workers for the upcoming **May 17 municipal elections.**

City employees assigned to work at polling places may be paid overtime, in accordance with their Memorandum of Understanding.



William T. Fujioka, City Administrative Officer is supporting and volunteering for the election.

**To apply
for a pollworker position,
or for more information, please call
(213) 978-0001.**

Cooking with the Club

by our own
Robert Larios



Send Us Your Recipes!

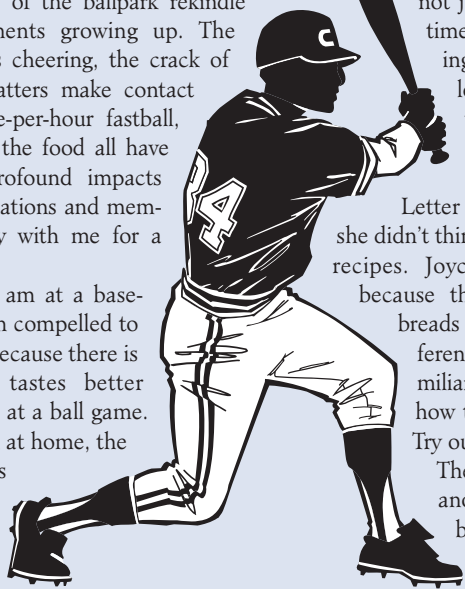
If you would like your recipe published in the next issue of *Alive!*, you may fax your recipes to (213) 620-0398 or e-mail us at talkback@cityemployeesclub.com.

Food To Get You Into The Game

This is one of my most favorite times of the year. April to me means the start to a brand new baseball season. The sounds and the experience of the ballpark rekindle fantastic moments growing up. The sounds of fans cheering, the crack of the bats as batters make contact with a 90-mile-per-hour fastball, and of course the food all have made such profound impacts that these sensations and memories will carry with me for a long time.

Whenever I am at a baseball game, I am compelled to eat a hot dog because there is nothing that tastes better than a hot dog at a ball game. But when I am at home, the hot dog seems to lose some of the flavor found at the ballpark.

That is why I have put together a variety of recipes that are perfect for watching baseball games on television.



The Big League Breakfast Burrito is one of the most filling and energy packed meals I have ever had. It is perfect not just for breakfast but for any time of the day. If you are watching your cholesterol or if you are looking for a healthy alternative, try egg whites instead of using whole eggs.

Joyce Miller submitted a Letter to the Editor suggesting that she didn't think I have ever included baking recipes. Joyce has a good observation because the subject of baking cakes, breads and deserts are an entirely different area of cooking that is unfamiliar to me. However, I do know how to make a fantastic apple pie. Try out the MVP's Apple Pie.

The Mustard 'n' Potato Salad is another great addition for your baseball-watching pleasure. Ingredients can be substituted, including mayonnaise for salad dressing or chives instead of onions. Experiment with a variety of mustards to get your personal

favorite flavor.

Whether it is baseball or a summer barbeque, baked beans are an American tradition. Joe Riley from DWP knows that to be true with his recipe called Coach's Baked Beans. It is a simple recipe but very flavorful. It is just the way I like recipes to be!

The Homerun Corn Dog is brought to us by Freddy Fargo the Bureau of Sanitation. It's also a quick and easy recipe with tasty results. If you have children, this is the recipe for you.

Enjoy the recipes and the new baseball season!

Big League Breakfast Burritos

INGREDIENTS

- 8 eggs
- 8 tortillas
- Pepper
- 1/2 cup shredded cheese
- 1/2 pound Canadian bacon
- 1/2 cup mushrooms sautéed (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Cook bacon, pour off fat. Combine eggs and bacon and cook until soft done. Sprinkle in cheese.

Place portion onto tortilla, fold once, fold each end and roll. Serve with salsa or picante sauce. Makes 3 or 4 servings.

You may also use sautéed green peppers or chopped ham or crumbled bacon instead of sausage.



MVP's Apple Pie

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons cold milk
- 1 1/2 teaspoons white sugar
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 6 Fuji apples, cored and sliced
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup butter



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

To make crust: In a large bowl, mix together 1 1/2 cups flour, oil, milk, 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar and salt until evenly blended. Pat mixture into a 9-inch pie pan, spreading the dough evenly over the bottom and up sides. Crimp edges of the dough around the perimeter.

To make filling: Mix together 3/4 cup sugar,

3 tablespoons flour, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Sprinkle over apples and toss to coat. Spread evenly in unbaked pie shell.

To make topping: Using a pastry cutter, mix together 1/2 cup flour, 1/2 cup sugar and butter until evenly distributed and crumbly in texture. Sprinkle over apples.

Put pie in the oven on a cookie sheet to catch the juices that may spill over. Bake 45 minutes.

Mustard 'n' Potato Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 6 large potatoes – peeled and cubed
- 3 eggs
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 stalks celery, diced
- 3 teaspoons sweet pickle relish
- 1 (4 ounce) jar pimentos
- 2 teaspoons prepared mustard
- 3 tablespoons creamy salad dressing
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon sea salt



DIRECTIONS

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add potatoes and cook until tender but still firm, about 15 minutes. Drain, place in a large mixing bowl and beat until smooth.

Place eggs in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring water to a boil; cover, remove from

heat, and let eggs stand in hot water for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from hot water, cool, peel and chop.

In a mixing bowl, combine the potatoes, eggs, onion, celery, relish and pimentos.

Blend together the mustard and salad dressing, add to salad and mix well. Sprinkle with paprika and refrigerate until chilled.

Coach's Baked Beans

By Joe Riley, DWP

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (28 ounce) can baked beans
- 1/2 pound bacon, cut into small pieces
- 8 ounces brown sugar



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Pour beans into a two-quart casserole dish. Place bacon in a nine-inch skillet, completely covering bottom of pan. Spread brown sugar over bacon and cook on medium heat. When

bacon grease starts to bubble up through the sugar, transfer to the casserole dish and mix with beans.

Bake in preheated oven for 45 minutes.

Homerun Corn Dog

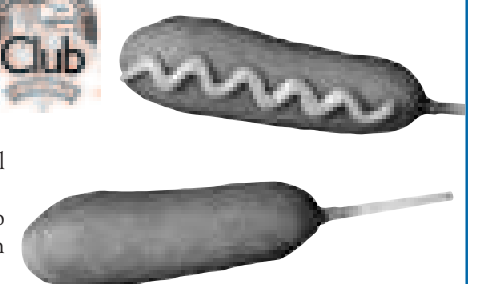
By Freddy Fargo, Bureau of Sanitation

DIRECTIONS

In a medium bowl, combine cornmeal, flour, salt, pepper, sugar and baking powder. Stir in eggs and milk.

Preheat oil in a deep saucepan over medium heat. Insert wooden skewers into frankfurters. Roll frankfurters in batter until well coated.

Fry two or three corn dogs at a time for 8 to 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Drain on paper towels.



Newsbrief

RECREATION FOR GIRLS



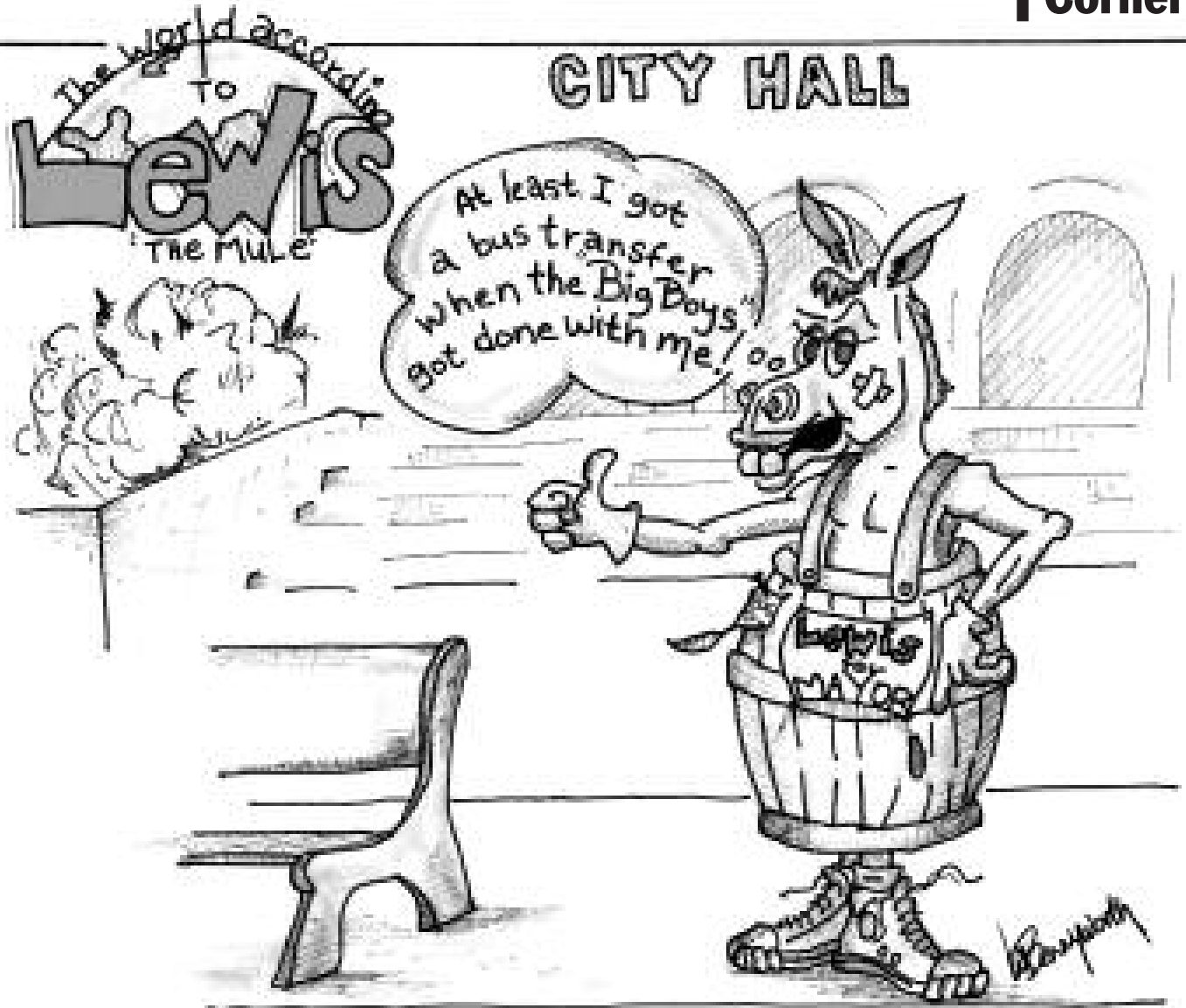
The seventh annual Girls Sports Day L.A., an event devoted to increasing female involvement in athletics, will be held on Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex, a Rec and Parks facility in the Crenshaw area. Hundreds of females ages 6-18 will spend the day learning about and participating in various sports activities, including free clinics in golf, soccer, tennis, and volleyball. The theme of this year's event is "Girls Got Game."

In addition, there will be guest presentations by college and professional athletes, including former Los Angeles Sparks player Timicha Kirby (who is now a Rec and Parks employee), and a display of women's sports memorabilia. Each participant will also receive lunch and a free T-shirt. The event was established through a partnership between the Rec and Parks and Los Angeles Women in Sports (LAWiNS).

Girls who participate in sports do better in school, are more likely to take on leadership roles, and learn to set personal goals. In addition, sports participation improves self-esteem, helps create friendships, and breaks down social barriers; physical activity is also an effective way for girls to fight depression while lowering their risks for heart disease and breast cancer. For more information about Girls Sports Day L.A., call the Municipal Sports Section of Rec and Parks at (213) 485-7611.

The World According to Lewis the Mule by Matt Bennyworth

Cartoon Corner



The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Alive!, the Alive! staff, the City Employees Club or its staff.

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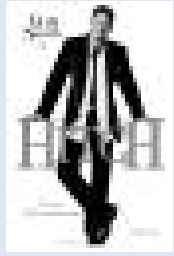
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NEXTEL
COMMUNICATIONS

Critic's Corner What I Saw

Write a brief review of a current movie — give us the general plot line, whether you liked it, and whether it's appropriate for family audiences. If we print it, we'll send you two free movie tickets! So let's hear it! Send them to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

WIN TWO FREE Movie Tickets



Hitch

The film stars Will Smith as the cure for the common man. Meaning, in this particular case, guys who are hopelessly smitten by the love bug, without an inkling of game. (Skill with the ladies, for those who don't know.)

The film starts off as one might imagine, quite charming and somewhat offbeat. Eva Mendes stars in this one as Sara Melas, who works for a leading gossip magazine. Who just so happens to be single and waiting on someone like Mr. Fresh Prince-Charming. Seems there just aren't any decent guys who aren't either full of themselves or bringing some serious game for Ms. Major League to take a swing at.

Enter Hitch (Will Smith), who quickly brings his "A" game to the table. The only thing is his "A" game quickly becomes a "D" for dud. The movie bounces around the notion that there are certain moves in dating that work and lead to love and bliss. It's quite entertaining, and both actors have very good comedic timing. Rounding out the cast is funny man Kevin James (King of Queens) whose dance routine is one for the ages.

The movie is a definite commercial hit, with enough panache to be a good date movie. This one will make for great future Blockbuster nights!

—Dory Boyd, Sanitation

Hitch is a romantic comedy for every male over 10 years of age. All girls are exempt since they are studying boys from the time they are old enough to chase them on the playground. Will Smith plays Alex Hitchens, a.k.a. "Hitch," Date Doctor extraordinaire. He promises, "Three dates, gentlemen. After that you are on your own," and he does deliver. Kevin James, from King of Queens fame, plays Alex Brenneman, who is in love with Amber Valletta (Raising Helen), an heiress named Allegra. We are taken through the steps for each of the three dates as promised by Hitch, and the courage that must be mustered by all of the men to be successful with the ladies of their dreams.

Eva Mendes is Sara, a gossip columnist who is a little too attached to her job. She meets Hitch in a club when Will Smith is at his most charming, and practicing what he preaches. They go no further until Hitch does his homework on Sara (men, pay attention) and pursues her in ingenious ways. Their dates are a disaster, yet somehow charm Sara enough to continue to see him, until she discovers that he is the infamous "Date Doctor," who has had a hand (mistakenly, she believes) in a disastrous date her closest friend suffered.

A front-page gossip column scandal puts Hitch on the line, and all of the men he has helped (some he didn't) on the spot with their women. Albert loses Amber and confronts Hitch about his belief in his own "product." Traditional sappy scenes, amid comedy, ensue and all ends well.

On a broader scale, Hitch should appeal to all men and boys who are good people and seem not to succeed in attaining "the one" who always alludes them in deference to the guy with looks or money. Surprisingly maybe, to them, they will learn that there really are steps that can be taken to attract and keep the attention of someone they thought other-

wise would not give them a second thought.

Overall it's a sweet romantic comedy that rates a high score. No violence, and not too many sexual references. Men can check out the Website for some tips on dating, and some of the advice given in the movie. If men see it with a woman, ask her to explain it. If you go with another male, see if you can figure it out together, then ask a woman!

—Barbara Johnson, Personnel

Hitch (Will Smith) is the guy guys call on when they want a girl so badly, but are too nervous or whatever to go for it. He coaches, sets up opportunities, and offers whatever help you may need to get the girl. The two major plotlines: Hitch setting up his newest and toughest client (Kevin James) with a beautiful and wealthy celebrity. The other is Hitch solving his own love life with columnist Sara Melas (Eva Mendes).

This is a funny romantic comedy that makes a fantastic date movie. Enjoy.

—Gwen Lew, DWP

If you enjoy romantic comedies, then this is the movie for you. It's about a "love doctor" (Will Smith) who provides dating advice to men that need a little extra help to capture the women of their dreams. The "love doctor" faces a little trouble of his own when he tries to impress Sara Melas (Eva Mendes), a journalist of a tabloid magazine. In the process, it ruins everything for his client (Kevin James) who is pursuing a celebrity (Amber Valletta). This is a great date movie that kept me laughing from beginning to end. Will Smith is not only charming, but also humorous and his dancing brought back memories of his character in the television series "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air".

—Rotundra Greene, Airports



Hide and Seek

This movie was way better than what I expected it to be. The previews made it look great, and another good thing was that it didn't give away too much. It's

not the scariest movie, it beats White Noise by far, but don't get me wrong, there were some very intense suspense scenes throughout the whole movie.

Acting is perfect. I don't think there was a better choice for the part rather than Robert De Niro. He's one of my favorite actors. He does a great job in all his roles, no matter what the genre of the movie is. And the little girl (Dakota Fanning) is perfect; she's very creepy. And there are good performances from Elisabeth Shue and Famke Janssen.

The story of the movie is very simple. The thing I love about it is you can watch it, understand it, and be frightened all at the same time; it doesn't really have that many twists or turns until the end. By the way, the ending is great, very intense and creepy, but that's all I'll say.

I'll admit, it starts off slow, but then when the suspense starts taking place, it hardly lets up. The main part of the story revolves around the little girl, coping with the death of her mother, and her imaginary friend Charlie. You're left to decide who Charlie is. He seems harmless at first, then strange events start happening, from threatening messages

to murder. That's where the real intense stuff comes in: Who is Charlie, you ask yourself: a harmless little boy, a ghost, a psychopathic killer, or just made up? You be the judge. You'll find out, and the result is terrifying.

If you liked Secret Window, you'll like Hide and Seek. It's worth the money.

—Nyra Smith, Sanitation



Winn-Dixie

This was a fantastic movie. It is marketed for children's pleasure, but adults like myself will enjoy the movie. The story is about a dog that found its way to a little girl who had no friends, when she met the dog he opened her world and all the characters of the movies heart open from the pain that they had felt in the past. This movie has Cicely Tyson, a very versatile actress who draws you into whatever character she portrays. The focal character is the dog that cannot speak with words, but speaks a lot with the heart. The movie was a little long, but kept me watching for the almost the entire two hours.

—Laronda Echols, LAPD



In Good Company

This is a good movie, starring Dennis Quaid, Topher Grace, Marg Helgenberger (from CSI) and others. Quaid is the head of an ad agency for a major magazine. The company is going to reorganize and hires Grace to be the new head of the ad agency. Grace, who is half Quaid's age, is now his boss. Grace meets Quaid's daughter, played by Scarlett Johansson, and they have a romance.

Quaid's style of getting clients is the old-fashioned way and this is not the new management's philosophy. The magazine company is not doing well and they begin laying off workers. Quaid's wife, Helgenberger, becomes pregnant and his daughter is going to college. Quaid is worried about his job, but in the end everything works out. The movie keeps you interested with the different plots. It's funny, kind of sad, but has a good message. This movie would be fine for teenagers.

—Stephanie Lazarus, LAPD



Diary of a Mad Black Woman

Prior to this movie, I had never heard of Tyler Perry. Perry plays three parts in this movie, a lawyer, a woman by the name of Madea, and Madea's brother. This is a funny comedy, also starring Steve Harris, who played a television lawyer on The Practice, Shemar Moore (very good looking) and Kimberly Elise. Elise is married to Harris. Harris is a very famous lawyer. He wins an award for lawyer of the year and then throws his wife out of their mansion. Elise, who is Madea's granddaughter, helps Elise with restarting her life. Madea is too funny to describe; you have to see the movie. The movie is not only a comedy, but there is a love story that slowly develops between Elise and Moore. The movie also has

a message, that money cannot buy happiness. The language and content of the movie may not be suitable for young children. I would definitely recommend the movie; do not listen to the other movie critics.

—Stephanie Lazarus, LAPD



Be Cool

This movie has a lot of stars: John Travolta, Uma Thurman, Cedric the Entertainer, Danny DeVito, Christina Milian, Harvey Keitel, The Rock, Steven Tyler (of the band Aerosmith) and others. So you would think with all those stars the movie would be great. Well, the movie was just okay. It was 118 minutes and it seemed longer. Travolta plays a mobster who was in the movie industry and wants to now get into the music industry. Travolta hears a talented singer (Milian) sing at the Viper Room and wants to be her agent. Milian has a contract with Keitel's character, and he does not want to release Milian from the contract. The movie drags on with who is going to produce Milian's record. The music through out the movie is good; you would almost think this was a musical. The movie was a comedy and had some suspense. It had its moments, but I would not rush out to see it. There is violence, sexual references and profanity, probably not a good choice for children or young teens.

—Stephanie Lazarus, LAPD



Maria Full of Grace

This is a harrowing story that takes you into the world of young Colombian woman who agrees to become a "drug mule" — a person hired to smuggle cocaine into the United States. The catch is that drug mules must swallow packets of the drug and carry it in their body as they fly into America. Once there, they are held up in a hotel room until each packet is passed through their system. It is a dangerous business as they must get through immigration, hoping that the pack of the lethal drug does not break inside them. They are not to use the toilet until they arrive at their destination for fear of flushing the valuable cocaine packets, otherwise risking harm from drug dealers. In her film debut, Catalina Sandino Moreno plays Maria Alvarez, a young woman from a small town in Colombia. After quitting her low-paying job and finding out she is pregnant, Maria meets a young man who entices her to work as a drug mule. What makes the story work is its ability to help the viewer understand Maria's plight and decision to become a drug mule without any judgment. It is a compelling journey as Maria faces the consequences for her decisions. This movie was based on interviews from real-life experiences of drug mules and is worthy of its intention. It is in Spanish with English subtitles and is filmed in Colombia and New York City. All of the performances are realistic, and it brings you into a world you might never have known about. Catalina Sandino Moreno was nominated for a Best Actress Oscar.

—Dan Basiglio, LAPD Comm. Division

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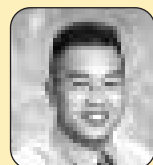
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