



Serving over 40,000  
City, County and  
State Employees

# Alive!



Alive! photo by Tom Hawkins

Helping pack toys into a bulky items truck for delivery to the needy are, front: Brian Sibert; and second row, from left: Brian Van Sloten, Brian Moen, Nereida Santiago, Jovanna Dorsey and Roy Jimenez. Third row: Jaime Garcia and Anthony Fenderson. Back row: Ruben Lasoya, Billie Medina, Steven Deryiades, Louis Arrazon, Steve Tennant and Art Sanchez.

Public Works

## The Season of Giving

For ten years, the West Valley Sanitation Yard has donated thousands of Christmas toys to the less fortunate.

INSIDE: Read about the team effort, and learn how you can take part.

- SEE PAGE 24



**Cheap Tickets. Insane Service. Affordable Insurance.**



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

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\*\*APR: Annual Percentage Rate. † Some restrictions on Cash Rewards Points apply. See wpcu.org/mastercard-credit-cards for details.

**A Message From the CEO**

# The Gift of Giving Back

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO, The Club

The more I experience the Christmas holidays, the more I realize that the old adage is true – it really is more about giving than receiving.

Case in point: Two City departments take this to heart. We've covered them before – mostly after the fact – but this year we're giving them a lot more coverage, and giving Club Members a chance to join in their generosity. What they're doing is worth the extra coverage.

In this month's *Alive!* Interview, we caught up with **Brian Sibert**, Refuse Collection Truck Operator II, and his holiday crew at the West Valley Sanitation Yard gearing up for their Thanksgiving canned food drive. (The toys you see in this month's feature were purchased by the Club for the photo shoot and then donated to West Valley's toy drive.) We asked Brian and **Art Sanchez**, Yard Superintendent and another Club Member, why they put so much effort into it. They kept answering: to give back. We are fortunate, they said. How can we not?



At the West Valley Sanitation Yard, from left: Brian Sibert, RCTO II, Club Member; Art Sanchez, Superintendent, Club Member; John Burnes, *Alive!* editor; and Club CEO John Hawkins.

Indeed. That humbleness has moved them and their incredible team to donate literally *thousands* of toys to the less fortunate over the decade they've been doing it. Think about that – it means that thousands of children have had Christmases to remember in part because of West Valley's efforts. (And that's not to mention the hundreds of families that benefit each year from the yard's canned goods drive.)

In another story in this month's issue, we asked **Lt. Tovonni Price**, Sr. Traffic Supervisor II in Transportation's West Parking Enforcement Office, Club Member, the same question: Why does your Inspiration team "adopt" 60 children from a nearby school each holiday season and give them toys, clothing and school supplies? She gave us the same answer: to give back to the community.

We know there are others out there doing similar things. (Here's another: **Zaki Mustafa**, Principal Traffic Engineer, Club Member, distributes a lot of food and clothing to the less fortunate.) To all of you known and unknown in the City who take it on your shoulders to make things better for others, we salute you.

Brian and Art at the West Valley Yard would be happy to take your toy donations (by Dec. 14); read the details in this month's feature. Also, the Club wants to help you help others, too: If you drop off a toy (unwrapped) to the Club Store by Dec. 14, we'll make sure it gets out to the West Valley Yard. Or you can donate funds to Club Angels, the Club's official charity, anytime (see instructions on page 33). We'll use your donations to help those in need living on the streets downtown.

We know many of you are raising families, and budgets can get tight over the holidays. Our awesome Club discounts help make your holidays more affordable, and lots of fun in the process. Once again, **Mariana Guevara** and the Club Store crew have put together awesome Club Holiday Specials on gifts, See's Candies, Honeybaked Hams, and my favorite stocking stuffers, the Club-exclusive holiday ticket packs. Take advantage and save money. (And don't forget about the Art of Honor career milestone keepsakes, and also the Club's new polo shirts, hand-crafted by the Club's **Angel Gomez**. They both make great gifts for your officemates!)

This December issue is packed with other stories of people doing good: the Fire Marshal Awards, Custodian Appreciation Day, LAX hosting a career day for high-school students, and so forth. There are a lot of good things going on in the City.

With that I'll just say, from my wife, **Kelley Hawkins**, and me, and from everyone here at the Club, we wish you a joyful Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. Let's remember those in need, and then enjoy our time with our loved ones knowing we have done a good thing.

**JOHN**

[jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)

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Donate to the  
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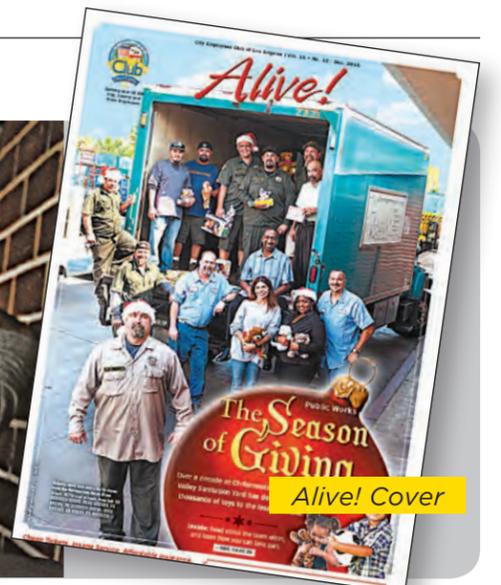
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## Behind the Scenes



Club photographer Tom Hawkins (right) takes this month's cover shot.



## IMPORTANT Telephone Numbers

<b>The Club's Main Phone Number</b>	<b>(800) 464-0452</b>
<b>The Club's FAX Number</b>	<b>(213) 620-0398</b>
City Bureau of Sanitation	(800) 773-2489
Bulky Item Pick-up & Recycling	(800) 773-2489
City Employees Benefit Office	(213) 978-1655
City Paymaster	(213) 978-7480
Commuter Services	(213) 978-1593
Deferred Compensation	(888) 457-9460
DWP Credit Union	(213) 580-1690
	or (800) 300-9728
DWP Employees Association	(213) 367-3146
DWP Health Plan & Medicare	(800) 831-4778
DWP Information	(213) 367-4211
DWP Intake Magazine	(213) 367-1361
DWP Paymaster	(213) 367-1106
DWP Personnel	(213) 367-1934
DWP Retirement Plan Office	(213) 367-1692
Engineers and Architects Association	(213) 620-6920
Fire and Police Pension System	(213) 978-4545
LACERS	(800) 779-8328
LA Federal Credit Union	(213) 485-5000
LA Firemen's Credit Union	(323) 254-1700
	or (800) 231-1626
LA Fire Department Museum	(323) 464-2727
LA Firemen's Relief Association	(213) 380-2900
LA Police Federal Credit Union	(800) 872-2843
LA Retired Fire and Police Association	(888) 288-5073
Local 721	(213) 482-6660
Local 3090	(213) 487-9887 ext. 340
Retired LA City Employees, Inc.	(800) 678-4145
Ticket Hotline	(888) 777-1744
Whistleblower/Complaint Program	(800) 824-4825
Worker Compensation	(213) 473-3400



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# Alive!

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### Alive! Staff

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### The Club's Board

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*Fire and Police Pensions*

Terry Carter

*Commanding Officer, Property Division, LAPD*  
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Andrew Virzi Jr.  
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Capt. Danny C. Wu  
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Rose Hyland

*Office of the Controller, Retired*

Marilyn Holley

*Public Works: Bureau of Sanitation, Retired*

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Total claims paid to Club Members in the last 12 months:

# \$4,713,579

## Claims Paid

Your Club Insurance Dollars at Work:	Previous 12 Months
Life Insurance	\$1,843,855.98
Long-Term Disability	\$1,632,205.35
Long-Term Care	\$902,517.81
Cancer Insurance	\$315,000.00

**Total claims paid to Club Members in the last 12 months:** **\$4,713,579.14**



Cecilia Talbot,  
*Director of Claims, Member Advocate*



Monica Zamudio,  
*Claims Coordinator*

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



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## Club Members' Praise

"The Club's claims service was excellent. Monica Zamudio was sympathetic, courteous and helpful with gathering the information. To Monica and the City Employees Club of Los Angeles, I offer sincere thanks and appreciation. I read the book you sent [*The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*] and I enjoyed it. I am passing the book down to our four children and grandchildren."

— C. Harris, June 2016

"Your claims service was very good and right on time. Most of all you were right there when I needed you during our difficult moments. I thank you very much for your help."

— Luevenia Lucien, May 2016

## Meet the Club Team

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

Email us at: [info@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:info@cityemployeesclub.com)

if you have an event you want covered in the *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance. Or call us at: (800) 464-0452

### Member Experience Team



Noelle Kauffman  
*Manager of Member Services*  
Ext. 105



Gedina Bergstrom  
*Member Services Counselor*  
Ext. 107



Dalila Vielma  
*Member Services Counselor*  
Ext. 137



Jeanette Gadut  
*Member Services Counselor*  
Ext. 110



Sophia Hawkins  
*Member Services Intern*  
Ext. 104



Lucas Everett  
*Member Services Counselor*



Steven Lambert  
*Member Services Counselor*



Sheldon Sklar  
*Member Services Counselor*



Mia Sulak  
*Member Services Counselor*



Megan Smith  
*Member Services Counselor*



Scott Sulak  
*Member Services Counselor*



Charlotte Swanberg  
*Member Services Counselor*

### In-house Counselors



Cheryl Martin  
*Member Services Counselor*  
Ext. 136



Tiffany Sy  
*Member Services Counselor*  
Ext. 202

City Employees Retirement System  
DWP Retirement Office  
Fire and Police Pensions

### Club Store



Mariana Guevara  
*Club Store Manager*



Megan DeBolt  
*Club Store Assistant Manager*



Ronald Cortez  
*Customer Service Associate*



Guadalupe Lira  
*Customer Service Associate*



Dylan Noel  
*Customer Service Associate*



Jalelia Solomon  
*Customer Service Associate*



MaryAnn Urdiales  
*Customer Service Associate*

### Marketing & Advertising



Summy Lam  
*Director of Marketing*

### Team Leaders



John Hawkins  
*President & CEO*



Brian Trent  
*Chief Financial Officer*



Robert Larios  
*Chief Operating Officer, "Sports Dude", and "Chef Larios"*



Arlene Herrero  
*Director of Product Development*

### Accounting



Carole Lovato, CPA  
*Senior Controller*



Leigh Thompson  
*Controller*



Trinh Pham  
*Senior Accountant*



Yaressa Raymundo  
*Accounting Assistant*



Clara Flores  
*Accounting Assistant*

### Claims



Cecilia Talbot  
*Director of Claims, Member Advocate*



Monica Zamudio  
*Claims Administrator*

### Database Management / IT Team



Hava Berman  
*Director of Database Management*



Michael Anderson  
*Information Technology Manager*



Alan Bound  
*Business Analyst*



Citlali G. Bon  
*Data Processing Coordinator*



Rebecca Platero  
*Data Processing Coordinator*



Prathima Vaisya  
*IT Developer*

City Employees:



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**Cheryl Martin**

Club Counselor

cmartin@cityemployeesclub.com

Ext. 136

**Tiffany Sy**

Club Counselor

tsy@cityemployeesclub.com

Ext. 202

Call today – we can help you complete the application.

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**Did you know?**

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**Club Life Insurance**

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**This month at the Club Store** • 120 West 2nd Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

## Get a FREE Quote on Auto and Homeowners Insurance



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

*Note: The Club Store will be closed Friday and Monday, Dec. 23-26, in honor of Christmas.*

Contact Your United Agencies Rep:  
**(888) 801-5522**



**Rosa Calderon**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**Dec. 1:**  
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Dec. 22:**  
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.



**Patty Pulido**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**Dec. 15:**  
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Club

# The Word Is Out: Club Polos Are Awesome!

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– Marie Saraos, General Services

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– Robert S. Irvin, Public Works

*"Thank you so much for my polos – great quality and colors. I am always getting complimented and asked where I got them. I say the Club Store on Second Street! Great prices, too."*

– Cindy Serrano, Emergency Management

This Club-exclusive product is for everyone who is proud of their department. Now you can show it!

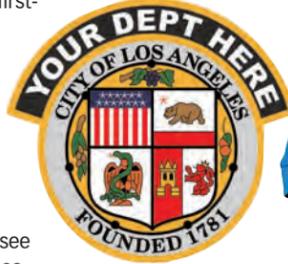
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Get department polo shirts custom-made by the Club!



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**CITY DEPARTMENT**

# Polo Shirts

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When you trade-in your current smartphones and buy new ones on AT&T Next.\*

\*Each line reqs elig. service & qual. trade-in, \$650 = trade-in credit (may be AT&T/store promo card) + prepaid card (w/in 90 days) for device balance/early termination fee amount less trade-in. See below for details.

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<sup>^</sup>If you visit a local AT&T store, please have proof of eligibility.

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Tell us what you think! [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

# Letters to the Editor

## Club Softball Hits It Out of the Park Again

I want to express a big thank you to the Club's SportsDude, Robert Larios, for making another softball season possible. As a fan, I experienced many games, and it was great to see the teamwork and respect employees had for one another. I especially enjoyed seeing Gedina Bergstrom sing the National Anthem at the championship games – that was a treat. What a beautiful voice she has! I look forward to watching more entertaining sports under the direction of the SportsDude.

– J. Meza, LAPD



From left: MaryRose (Hawkins) Lovgren, Club CEO John Hawkins, and their mom, Yvonne Hawkins, Zoo Docent, from the 1990s.

### Zoo's 50th Story Unearths Photo of Hawkins Family

Great story on the Zoo's 50th anniversary. Where else would we get a this story, but in *Alive!*?

Did anyone catch that historic photo of the young and handsome John Hawkins (now Club CEO) with his mom and sister, MaryRose, in the L.A. Zoo story on page 26? What a photo, and kudos to his mom for being a Zoo Docent!

– Hillary Jacobson, Retired

### Meatballs, Sauce, Cheese ... Time for a Sandwich Break

The meatball sub recipe that Chef Larios published in the November newspaper was out-of-this-world delicious! What got me was how easy it was to make. This instantly became a family favorite, and we have tried a few variations with different cheeses and breads. But if it weren't for Chef Larios, we would have never figured out that we love meatball subs. I recommend this to anyone who is hungry!

– Kyle Redding, General Services

### Club Van Brings Benefits To Members at Hyperion

Big thanks to Angel, Jeanette, Dylan, Noah and the rest of the Club crew for coming out to the Hyperion Treatment plant and bringing the Club to us! It can be hard to make our way up to Downtown LA and visit the Club Store, so them coming to us in their Club van earned high praises from all of us. It helped with morale and saved us money with insurance and City of LA apparel. Love those polo shirts!

– Johnny Lopez, Public Works

### Club Store Ticket Discounts Have Very Wide Appeal

Thank you to the Club Store for making the Disney on Ice discount available in the shows in Sacramento. Although I don't live there, I have family members that do, and I purchased the tickets for them to see this wonderful show there at the Golden 1 Center. 30 percent off those tickets is a wonderful deal and makes my membership worthwhile. Keep up the great work!

– Kenny Thompson, LAPD

### Club's Auto Insurance Deals Sent Jordan Into High Gear

I was in a bind and needed auto insurance before my other insurance expired. So I called the Club and they patched me over to their auto insurance office. Not only did I get the insurance policy written within hours, but I also saved more than \$300 on the new policy! I jumped for joy and I am still giving it a few high kicks when I think about it. It really does pay to be a member of the City Employees Club – I am proof!

– Jordan Kendrick, DWP

## Correction

In the Best Years section of last month's *Alive!*, we misstated the offerings at the annual holiday party to be held Dec. 1 by the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI). The dinner was to be a turkey dinner, and taxi service was not to be offered.

*Alive!* regrets the errors.

## Robert's Question of the Month

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer  
[rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com)



Fellow City Employees answer the Question of the Month

### Which film puts you in the Christmas spirit?



"Watch *Elf* for maximum holiday spirit!"

–Carlos Rodriguez, Transportation, 19 years of City service



"There is nothing better than *It's A Wonderful Life*."

–Officer Raed Kailany, LAPD, 18 years of City service



"*Scrooge!*"

–Wilson Wang, Equipment Specialist, General Services, 20 years of City service



"I feel the holiday spirit with *It's a Wonderful Life* – love it!"

–Linda Brown, Payroll Supervisor, Harbor, 27 years of City service



"Although I am nothing like it and I know no one who is, *The Grinch* puts me in the holiday mood."

–Christine Rose, GIS, LAPD, 29 years of City service



"The best of the best is *Home Alone!*"

–Lorena De La Torre, CIR III at LAPD, 22 years of City service



"How many people have said *It's a Wonderful Life*? Include me!"

–Armando Nunez, Budget Analyst, Mayor's Office, 10 years of City service



"I can already hear his jolly laugh; it's *The Santa Clause* for me!"

–Barbara Johnson, DWP, 19 years of City service



"All the animated movies of *Frosty the Snowman!*"

–Andrew Virzi Jr., Assistant Controller, DWP, 30 years of City service

## The Club Store: Your Holiday Gift Central!

See's Candies  
Gift Certificates

Skechers Work Shoes  
(online)

HoneyBaked Ham  
Gift Cards

Omaha Steaks  
Deals (online)

For all the holiday details, go to [www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com)

# Oso Creek Trail

## - Mission Viejo



**Oso Creek Trail**  
24932 Veterans Way • Mission Viejo

**Trail distance:** Up to 5.5 miles of trails  
**Elevation gain:** 196 feet  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Dog-friendly**  
**Parking:** Free  
**Restrooms:** None on the trail. Restrooms are available by the community center

**Points of interest:**  
 • Character Garden  
 • Butterfly Garden  
 • Plant Maze  
 • Peace Obelisk  
 • Festival Murals  
 • Wave Wall  
 • Norman P. Murray Community Center  
 • Kids playground  
 • Picnic area

### Hello again, everybody!

For this month's adventure, we traveled to Mission Viejo. I wanted to show you a gorgeous walking garden trail where the spirit of the community is alive and where people gather to make a difference in their community by actively volunteering many hours for the beautification of the trail. Volunteers have planted more than 130,000 plants here, spending 70,000 hours of labor. More than 15,000 volunteers have contributed, and the number keeps growing each year. A great and beautiful effort!

Mission Viejo is about 50 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. The trail gives you and your family an opportunity to enjoy a casual walk with many points of interest along the trail. There is a character garden, a butterfly garden, a plant maze and a playground, just to name a few of the exploring areas along the trail.

### Let's begin!

The Hike: Once you arrive and begin to walk on any part of the trail, you will begin to feel relaxed and one with nature. The trail has so much to see, it will take you at least a few times to explore all the mini-sites along the way. If you arrive early you will have the trail and the playground all to yourself.

We really liked the tranquility of the area. There is plenty of shade throughout the trail and small tiny hills. The trail has a dirt path that is next to a small stream of water. This path leads to a bridge where you can cross from side to side. At one point there is a Y-intersection with a tunnel on one side. The tunnel leads to more trails but takes you out of the shade and into new, less explored areas.

Making a left and coming back the path leads to the bridge, as



Angel Jr., Aden, and Kathy enjoy their walk.

well as the option to see the plant maze and butterfly garden. The trail is perfect for small kids. You can walk or actually jog along the trail. The trail is so beautiful you shouldn't be surprised to see photographers taking gorgeous morning photographs. There are plenty of flowers, shrubs, trees and greenery overall. There is also a place to lounge and rest. We saw workout stations, baseball diamonds and open soccer fields, for those looking for even more exercise activities.

**BEWARE:**  
Coyote warning signs are posted in the area.

The Oso Creek trail has something for everyone to enjoy. I recommend, you come visit at least two or three times and sit in a different location each time to enjoy what the area has to offer. Most points of interest have a small educational signboard and a shaded place to sit.

The best part is everything is free, even the parking. If you want the best experience, start early, get the most out of your day and of course bring plenty of water.

The southern end of the trail (south of La Paz Road) also provides access to the shops that line Marguerite Parkway.

Until next time, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from our family to yours. Remember, be safe and "*Be Alive!*"

*Angel*



Mountain Wall, designed by artist Marilyn Brame in 2001.



Oso Creek Trail continues through the tunnel.



Angel Jr., Kathy, and Aden enjoy the garden maze.



A fence line along the trail is covered by trees on both sides.



Aden and Kathy sit on the oso statues.



A lounging area is close to the playground.



There's a green path along the trail.



## Featured Club Businesses

Get your business in front of 30,000 City Employees and their families.

The Alive! newspaper is mailed to over 30,000 recipients each month throughout Los Angeles and beyond. The Alive! is also viewable digitally from all over the world. If you would like to feature your business below or anywhere else in the Alive!, contact Summy Lam, Director of Marketing, at [slam@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:slam@cityemployeesclub.com) to start your ad placement right away!

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### Airports

Story and photo courtesy Airports

# Gilbert Heads Capital Program

Airports appoints new Chief Development Officer Robert Gilbert.



Robert L. Gilbert

Robert L. Gilbert has been appointed Chief Development Officer for Airports. Gilbert's appointment was announced Nov. 4 by Airports Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Deborah Flint. In his position, Gilbert will be responsible for leading and coordinating the planning and delivery of all elements of the department's capital program, including the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Capital Improvement Program (CIP). In this role, he will act as the Program Executive for the Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP), and is responsible for overseeing LAWA Planning and Development Group and Environmental Programs.

Gilbert brings 40 years of global experience in aviation and airport management. Over the last 15 years, Gilbert has been involved in various levels of automated people mover (APM) and light rail connections to airports, from conceptual development, to construction, to operations and maintenance. Gilbert has past experience at LAWA as Program Manager for the LAX Improvement Program. He successfully led a group of 17 diverse consulting firms that developed the \$13 billion LAX Master Plan and its associated Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). "I am thrilled that Robert has agreed to rejoin the LAWA team at such a pivotal time in its history," said Flint. "Robert's experi-

ence will greatly benefit LAWA, and add strength and support to the many ambitious programs that are underway as part of the \$14 billion capital program designed to re-imagine, renovate and rebuild LAX." Gilbert will begin his employment with LAWA November 14, 2016.

As the organization transitions to new leadership at the executive level, additional changes in the roles and responsibilities of existing executives was also announced. Roger Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, APM Executive, will expand his portfolio by assuming the role of LAMP Program Executive and will oversee the Landside Access Modernization Program including the APM, roads and Consolidated Rent-A-Car Center.

Samantha Bricker, Deputy Executive Director, will expand her role and become the executive manager of the LAWA Environmental Programs Group. She will continue her current role in LAMP as the organization's representative for agency development and coordination.

The Commercial Development Group, led by Debbie Bowers as Chief Commercial Officer, will become a direct report to the CEO. Bowers will continue to lead the commercial development functions including real estate and concessions development, Northside and surrounding area development, while focusing on airline strategies and lease negotiations.

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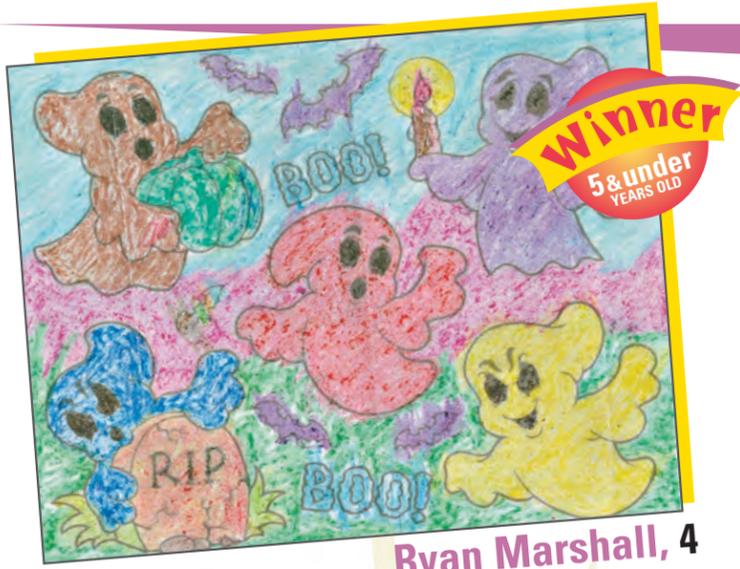
63822  
 NOTE: Free shipping does not apply to items purchased through Paycheck Direct.

The *Alive!* Children's Coloring Contest

# Coloring with Mariana!



Compiled by Mariana Guevara, Club Store Manager



**Winner**  
5 & under YEARS OLD  
**Ryan Marshall, 4**

BIRTHDAY: October 6 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Sharks"  
FAVORITE SNACK: Fruit Snacks • BEST FRIEND: Khamani  
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTTS? It is a fun place to go for kids.  
GREAT-GRANDMOTHER: Lendell Walker, Airports, Retired

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

**Congratulations to the WINNERS!**  
of our Club Coloring Contest!

Everyone who turned in a design is a winner in our opinion! But our top four participants win **4 Free Tickets to Knott's Berry Farm**

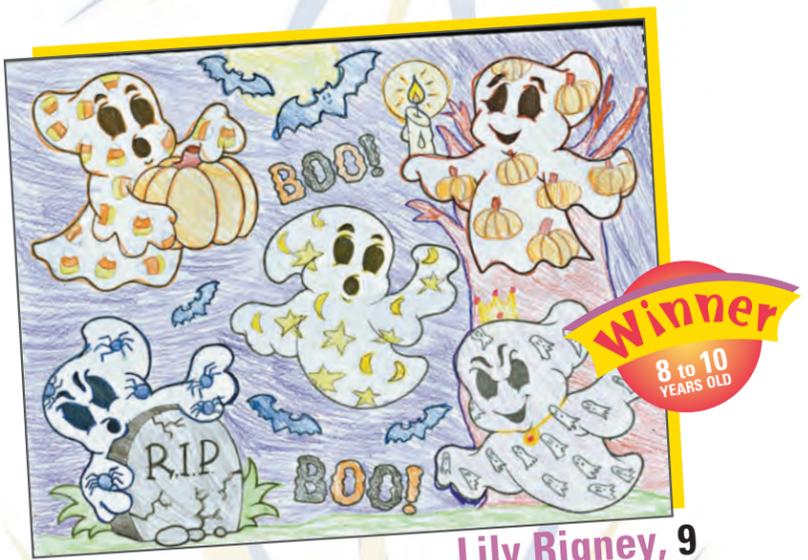


**Winner**  
6 to 7 YEARS OLD  
**Jadyn Fogt, 7**

BIRTHDAY: May 18 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Clarence"  
FAVORITE SNACK: Hot Cheetos • BEST FRIEND: Logan  
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTTS? I have never been there.  
PARENT: Eric Fogt, Firefighter, LAFD

## Honorable Mention

CHILD	AGE	PARENT/GUARDIAN	DEPT.
Kennedy Abarca	1	Samantha Townsend	LAPD
Catalina Abarca	3	Samantha Townsend	LAPD
Paige Curtis	3	David Hadley	Retiree
Jc'ion Perkins	3	Evelyn Fitzpatrick	Retiree
Dylan Soto	3	Juan Soto	LAPD
Emma Tiet	3	Than Tiet	DWP
Eloise Alejandre	4	Luis Alejandre	Airports
Julian Carreon	4	Guillermo Carreon	General Services
Duke Dominguez	4	Manny Romero	DWP
Halen Heredia	4	Rickie Schwabke	General Services
Leila Hernandez	4	Manny Hernandez	Bldg. and Safety
Jasmine Parra	4	Janelle Parra	DWP
Harper Taft	4	Brian Taft	LAPD
William Wamsley	4	Steve Wamsley	Rec and Parks
Abigail Cadby	5	Ed Wold	DWP
Tristan Calderon	5	Blair Calderon	LAPD
Demetrio Gamboa	5	Demetrio M. Gamboa	Public Works
Alan Hernandez	5	Jake Hernandez	Airports
Abigail Kuzichev	5	Alfred Kuzichev	LAFD
Jayde Martin	5	Mario Martin	General Services
Jaythan Newman	5	Nathaniel Newman	Animal Services
Milo Parish	5	Ed Wold	DWP
Lorenzo Alvarado	6	Jasmine Alvarado	Housing
Sophia Aubin	6	Michael Aubin	DWP
Liam Delgado	6	Moises Delgado	Transportation
Isabella Fregoso	6	Victor Fregoso	Public Works
Marissa Munoz	6	Rose Hernandez	LAPD
Domenic Baez	7	Alejandro Baez	Airports
Aaniyan Currie	7	Louise Currie	Public Works
Scarlett Esparza	7	Trinidad Quiroz	Retiree
Natalie Hernandez	7	Marco Hernandez	Transportation
Emily Medina	7	Bill Medina	Transportation
Noah Mendoza	7	Gerardo Mendoza	Rec and Parks
Malia Murga	7	Vicky Chan	Retiree
Kelsey Remolino	7	Kyle Remolino	LAPD
Kenny Rodriguez	7	Jose Rodriguez	Public Works
Collin Sousa	7	John Sousa	Airports
Skylar Williams	7	Shawna Williams	Retiree
Ethan Alvarado	8	Carlos Alvarado Chavez	DWP
Jackson Cadby	8	Ed Wold	DWP
Ashley De La Cruz	8	Edgar De La Cruz	DWP
Brooke Drake	8	Larry Keeling	Retiree
Jade Glenchur	8	Mark Glenchur	LAFD
Sierra Hernandez	8	Manny Hernandez	Bldg. and Safety
Emily Kakita	8	Jon Kakita	LAPD
Isaac Lucero	8	Christopher Lucero	DWP
Emerson Parish	8	Ed Wold	DWP
Robert Ruiz	8	Robert Ruiz	DWP
Emily Simmons	8	Douglas Donovan	Public Works
India Townsend	8	Ansinee Townsend	Animal Services
Alyah Villamar	8	Luis Lara	Airports
Blake Watrin	8	Michael Watrin	Public Works
Damaris Baez	9	Alejandro Baez	Airports
Angelica Diaz	9	Jose Diaz	Transportation
Khamani Gardner	9	Lendell Walker	Retiree
Rossalyn Glenchur	9	Mark Glenchur	LAFD
Kayla Hargrove	9	Ean Hargrove	DWP
Amy Lindsey	9	Rita Lindsey	Public Works
Olivia Parish	9	Ed Wold	DWP
Olivia Cruz	10	Mardoqueo Cruz	Public Works
Joel Duarte	10	Mario Duarte	General Services
Makhi Grant	10	Tanisha Rivas	Airports
Jaelyn Parish	10	Ed Wold	DWP
Zachery Paulson	10	Vanessa Paulson	Retiree
Addison Sousa	10	John Sousa	Airports
Garrett Viado	10	Leticia Lopez	Rec and Parks
Teayahn McSwain	11	Robin Cannon	Retiree
Natalie Ochoa	11	Armando Ochoa	Public Works
Arianna Roberts	11	Satoru Tanaka	Retiree
Margaden Rounds	11	Hazel Harvey	Retiree
Victor Tario	11	Jennifer Quintanilla	Airports
Nadia Gallarzo	12	Georgina Tamayo	Housing
Cheyenne Garcia	12	Gilbert Garcia	DWP
Myah Green	12	Chel Tinsley	Airports
Deanna Hughes	12	Jim Hughes	General Services
Maryam Mala	12	Saeed Mala	Airports
Angela Miranda	12	Dynl Miranda	Public Works
Tyler Sousa	12	John Sousa	Airports
Angel Galica-Cooper	12	Aracely Galica	DWP
Madison McNair	12	LaCarol Holloway	Airports



**Winner**  
8 to 10 YEARS OLD  
**Lily Rigney, 9**

BIRTHDAY: Dec. 11 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Sally Bollywood"  
FAVORITE SNACK: Peanut butter celery sticks • BEST FRIEND: Sophia  
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTTS? Because I can go any time of the year. Also it might be fun. • PARENT: Patrick Rigney, Landscape Arch. II, Sanitation



**Winner**  
11 to 13 YEARS OLD  
**Allison Kim, 12**

BIRTHDAY: April 6 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "National Geographic"  
FAVORITE SNACK: Cookies • BEST FRIEND: Kayleen  
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTTS? Because I haven't been there since I was 6 years old, and my sister has never been there.  
PARENT: Yang Kim, ESM, LADWP

**Club Annual Meeting  
Nov. 8, 2016  
City Hall Tower**

# Club S.U.G.A.R.!

Annual meeting emphasizes great Club service, swears in new board.

## “Stellar Unbelievably Guaranteed Awesome Response.”

That’s Club S.U.G.A.R., and it was the theme of the Club’s 88th annual meeting, held Nov. 8 in the Tom Bradley Room high atop City Hall.

Club S.U.G.A.R. is a theme conceived by Club Chief Operating Officer Robert Larios, who hosted the afternoon meeting. “It’s a model we at the Club follow, to make sure our response to customers is consistently at the highest level.”

A video was shown with each Club staff member talking about the universal Club dedication to rapid customer response.

After the singing of the National Anthem, once again performed excellently by Club Counselor Gedina Bergstrom, and then lunch, Club CEO John Hawkins asked Andrew Virzi Jr., DWP, and Club Board Member, to present the new board, which was accepted unanimously and then sworn in by Brian Trent, the Club’s CFO.



### 2016 Club Board

- Robyn L. Wilder, Chairperson
- Terry Carter
- Neil Guglielmo
- Selwyn V. Hollins
- Andrew Virzi Jr.
- Capt. Danny C. Wu

**Congratulations to the Club on an excellent year. Here’s to even greater years ahead!**

Club Board Members, from left: Capt. Danny Wu, LAFD; Neil Guglielmo, DWP; Terry Carter, LAPD; Selwyn Hollins, Finance; and Andrew Virzi Jr., DWP.

## Club Making a Comeback Award



From left: John Hawkins, Cheryl Martin and Robert Larios.

**Club Making a Comeback Award**, given to a Club staff member who was once an employee of the Association and has returned years later to become a bigger star than before. The award went to Cheryl Martin, Club Counselor.

“Cheryl was employed with us before we were known as the City Employees Club,” John Hawkins said. “Fifteen years later, she has returned home to help members with their insurance benefits and does it by educating them and advising them on what is best for them. She is developing quite a following of members who want

her help anytime they call the Club. I had the opportunity to work with her when we were both Member Service Counselors, and I know what a hard-working and motivated staff member she is. Fifteen years later, those characteristics have not diminished – in fact, she is even more ready today than she ever was ... and she doesn’t even drink coffee!

“It is my great honor to recognize Cheryl Martin as the recipient of the ‘Making a Comeback’ Award. Congratulations, and welcome back!”

## Club Dream Team Award



From left: John Hawkins, Rebecca Platero, Citlali Bon and Robert Larios.

**Club Dream Team Award**, given to team members of Club staff who go above and beyond the scope of their jobs, all the while working together to form a dream team. The award went to Data Processing Coordinators Citlali Bon and Rebecca Platero.

“This Dream Team works to process thousands of applications for Club Membership and insurance each year, entering every name, every address and every detail into our database,” John Hawkins said. “They do this in an unfailingly cheerful, upbeat and positive manner, even in a profession where it is human nature to struggle

behind the stresses of the details – one typo, one missed number or missed box-check could make for a bad day. I am here to tell you that there have been no bad days with them.

“It is my great honor to recognize Citlali Bon and Rebecca Platero as the recipients of the Dream Team Award.”

## Club S.U.G.A.R. Quad Squad Award



From left: Jalelia Solomon, Ronald Cortez, Guadalupe Lira and , Dylan Noel.

**Club S.U.G.A.R. Quad Squad Award**, given to Club staff members of a team that has gone above and beyond the scope of their jobs. The award went to Customer Service Associates Guadalupe Lira, Jalelia Solomon, Dylan Noel and Ronald Cortez.

“This team of Club staff interacts with Employees every day in person, by phone, by mail and by email,” John Hawkins said. “They do

this in an unfailingly cheerful, upbeat and positive manner, even when other teams struggle to be positive every hour of every day.

“It is impressive what they accomplish each day. You will see them at the Club Store and even at City offices and yards. Say hi when you see them – these Millennials are the best of the best.

“They will take your orders at the Club Store for tickets, hats, jackets and shirts. They make sure that your orders are packaged professionally and shipped quickly. They will help you pick out the best holiday gift from the Store and take the time to do it to be sure the Club Member is happy with the selection. They interact with Members by phone and email, always with a cheerful tone.

“This foursome squad does this for one reason – to bring Members and their families happiness and S.U.G.A.R. – honoring the lives and work that Employees do for the City. It’s a hard job, but someone has to do it ... and they do it well.

“It is my great honor to recognize Guadalupe Lira, Jalelia Solomon, Dylan Noel and Ronald Cortez. Congratulations!”

## Father and Daughter United Award



From left: John Hawkins, Mia Sulak, Scott Sulak and Robert Larios.

**Father and Daughter United Award**, given to Club staff members who are related as father and daughter, but who have also together contributed to the growth of the Club in the City, County and State. The award was presented to Member Service Counselors Mia and Scott Sulak.

“This father-and-daughter team interacts with employees every day in person, by phone, by mail and email,” explained Robert Larios. “They do this in a way that is very much aligned with the Club’s motto, which is to celebrate

the lives of government employees with cheap tickets, insane service and affordable insurance.

“They spend most of their days visiting offices and yards, but on occasion we see them come into Club Headquarters and, no matter if they had a terrific week or a very difficult one, they always come in with big smiles and contagious enthusiasm. It’s a treat.

“It is my great honor to recognize Scott Sulak and Mia Sulak as the recipients of the Father and Daughter United Award. Congratulations!”

## Club Absolutely Award



From left: John Hawkins, MaryAnn Urdiales and Robert Larios.

**Club Absolutely Award**, given to a Club staff member who shows a can-do attitude and endless positive energy. The award, presented by Club Mobile Man Angel Gomez, who won the first Absolutely Award, went to MaryAnn Urdiales, Customer Service Associate.

“MaryAnn has demonstrated extraordinary enthusiasm for her job as the person you hear first with anything to do with tickets and discounts,” Angel said. “Whether she helps you in person, emails you a reply or helps you with an order over the

phone, you will immediately know she gives absolutely the best service.

“MaryAnn, you are absolutely awesome ... you are absolutely a model for what the Club stands for ... you are absolutely an example for all others to follow ... you are absolutely absolutely! Congratulations.”



For Retired Club Members

# The Best Years

**RLACEI**

## CITY RETIREE ASSOCIATIONS

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



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

#### Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Cliff Cannon, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145, x725, or cell: (310) 218-6646. Or write to Cliff: 1942 Radlett Ave., Carson, CA 90746.

#### Have News About Yourself?

Contact Mary Beetz, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 711

### Three Retirees Groups Hold Events; Make Sure You're at the Right One

#### RESERVATION LINES:

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

DWP events: (626) 445-7376 (Dolores Foley)

LARFPA events: (888) 288-5063

#### DEC. 1

RLACEI Christmas party, Friendship Auditorium

#### DEC. 11

LARFPA Christmas party, Sportsman's Lodge, Studio City

#### RLACEI Website

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

#### Contact the LA City Employees' Retirement System

The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System is at 202 W. First Street, Suite 500, (LA Times Building), Los Angeles, CA 90012. Hours: 8AM-5PM. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans. [www.lacers.org](http://www.lacers.org)

#### DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, President  
Phone: (626) 445-7376  
E-mail: [vincedolores@gmail.com](mailto:vincedolores@gmail.com)  
[www.dwpretirees.org](http://www.dwpretirees.org)

#### Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)



Robert L. Olsen, President  
Phone: (323) 283-4441  
Fax: (626) 285-1461  
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,  
Temple City, CA 91780  
[www.larfpa.org](http://www.larfpa.org)

## There's a Vacancy on The RLACEI Board

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

### President's Report By Edward J. Harding President, RLACEI

As I mentioned in my monthly *Alive!* message, due to Ken Spiker's retirement, there is a vacancy for an RLACEI Director. If you are an active member of the City Retirement System, male or female, you are eligible to apply. We meet once a month at Taix Restaurant. Please contact me at (800) 678-4145, ext. 703, or Neil Ricci, Chairman

of the Nominating Committee, at (310) 650-2745, or (800) 678-4145, ext. 714. Join us to continue our mission and goal – to protect, maintain and improve Retiree benefits.

As we prepare this, we're looking forward to the annual holiday party Dec. 1. But by the time you read it, you will have already attended. I hope you enjoyed it, along with the many raffle prizes of cash, See's Candies, and the lunch and entertaining music.

Happy Holidays! ■

## It's a Good Time to Explain Cost of Living Adjustment



Michael R. Wilkinson

### LACERS Board Update, By Michael R. Wilkinson

Our cost of living adjustment (COLA) is a benefit to our pension plan that members look forward to each year. However, it generates a lot of questions and even a few complaints when members ask why the COLA isn't larger.

There is a little bit of the old adage that "the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." Why is Social Security or another pension plan "always" more than LACERS? News flash! It isn't. Sometimes LACERS is more and sometimes LACERS members get substantially more, but it is rarely exactly the same.

Going back to 2010, comparing LACERS to Social Security and the Los Angeles Fire and Police Pension Plan (Tiers 5 and 6), LACERS had an equal or higher percentage than Social Security in every year except 2011 and more than or equal to Fire and Police in three of the years.

The reason for the difference is the Consumer Price Index used and the timing of measuring of the CPI. LACERS and Fire and Police both use the Bureau of Labor Statistics All Urban Consumers in the Los Angeles-Orange-Riverside County Area.

However, LACERS measures the change at the end of December, while Fire and Police uses the end of February. This produces a different result.

Social Security uses a national Cost Price Index (CPI), the Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. Again this is completely different and prices will not be the same as in our area.

A final thought on another reason the CPI used to set a COLA may not be the same as your actual cost of living: The CPI is an average based on a basket of products and services for food, transportation, clothing, housing, energy, medical expenses, recreation and education.

It is an average. It is not you.

Let's say your house is paid for, but you bought a new car. Well, all of the sudden, you are different from the average consumer. If mortgage rates were low that year, but car prices were high, then the average CPI would not capture your situation because your costs went up higher than the average since the low mortgage prices (for the mortgage you do not have) did not offset any of the hike in the new car price.

I hope this explanation helps. The LACERS Board will consider the CPI for the 2016 calendar year in May 2017 to set the new COLA to take effect July 31, 2017. ■

## The Swamp of Pension Debt



Michael Karsch

### Legislative Report: Pension Law and Policy, By Michael Karsch

*Townhall* reported in early October that Moody's Investment Services estimated the current total cost of state governments' pension program liabilities at \$1.25 trillion.

Many states are addressing the rapidly rising debt for promised pension benefits for hundreds of thousands of future retirees from state systems. The Texas legislators increased the amount of money government employees are required to pay into a pension fund for their own pensions. At the same time, Kentucky approved an increase in what that state pays into their pension systems. Moody's research also showed that Alaska, Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland and New Jersey have liabilities exceeding 200 percent of their governments' revenue. California and Illinois both owe more than \$100 billion to their government employees. Illinois' pension program owes about \$192 billion in entitlements, and has revenue levels of about one-quarter of what it promised.

Most of these pension systems had bet on receiving annual investment returns of 7.5 percent, but earned only 0.52 percent last year. The City of Chicago is in deep trouble; it voted to increase taxes on residents, but the program anticipates earnings on its investments of 7.5 percent, hence the tax increases will be no match for low investment returns. Missing an investment return by only

0.7 percent points would cause their fund to fall \$30 billion deeper in debt, according to Moody's Investment Services.

LACERS is not in danger of imminent collapse, as pointed out by our representative on that board, Mike Wilkinson. He notes that Los Angeles continues to make monthly payments that keep the payouts for benefits safe for the foreseeable future. This is due largely to smoothing out payments and obligations over several years, thus anticipating sufficient revenues from years that have better returns. LACERS Board reviews our investment returns on a quarterly basis and along with staff and consultants, will continue to pursue the best risk-adjusted investments for our pension plan. Attaining good risk-adjusted rates of return over time helps minimize the City's annual contribution to LACERS. Additional value is achieved by LACERS hiring skilled investment managers who are able to outperform their respective benchmarks.

An end of October report in the *Los Angeles Times* reports that the governor of our state had launched a pension reform in 2011 that included 12 steps. In the next year the legislature agreed only to a few of the easiest steps, such as increasing the age of retirement. The significant reforms were dropped out of the bill and a weak reform was passed in 2012. The gist of the article was that the legislators and the public unions believe that anticipated employment growth will cure the problem. But how is that growth going to occur? What if it continues to be anemic? ■

## Pensioners Must Stay Vigilant For Changes in Our Systems

**LARFPA**



Lee Kebler

We're always on the outlook for reformers like Reed and DeMaio – two California politicians who sponsored a measure that could have rolled back pension benefits. (It lost.) We are always looking out for measures like that, or incidents that may jeopardize our pension system. The Marin County Employees Association filed a lawsuit against their retirement board for changing the rules to determine the final salary for their pension income. The board made their decision based on a legislative change in 2012 to prevent “spiking” when calculating final benefits for employees.

In 1937, the pension board adopted rules to determine which income would be used to determine final pension income. When the pension board changed those rules, it included both active employees and new hires. The employee association claimed that the

new rule should not be allowed because it violates the “California Rule” by including existing employees with new hires. The “California Rule” is a 1955 California Supreme Court ruling that states one can't constitutionally increase contribution rates or reduce cost of living allowances.

A lawsuit was filed and the lower court ruled in favor of the retirement board. It was appealed and the First District Court of Appeals upheld the lower Court's decision. An appeal has been filed with the California Supreme Court. If the final decision by the Court upholds the lower Court's decision, we must be more vigilant than ever. We don't know when or where these challenges to our pension system may occur.

Hope to see you at the Christmas party Dec. 11. For more information, call our office at (800) 288-5073. ■

## LACERS Surviving Spouse Benefit Questions Answered

**LACERS**



Mary Beetz

### LACERS Update By Mary Beetz

At RLACEI, we get questions about LACERS benefits for surviving spouses. This information from LACERS should help.

#### Are surviving spouses covered for any medical and dental benefits?

**Eligible Surviving Spouse/Domestic Partner:** An eligible survivor (i.e., surviving spouse or domestic partner) may continue receiving LACERS medical/dental coverage at the time of retiree's death, if he/she:

- Was covered as a dependent at the time of your death; and
- Is eligible to receive a LACERS monthly Continuance or Survivorship allowance; and
- Has a LACERS Continuance or Survivorship allowance that is enough to pay any monthly medical premium payroll deduction; and
- Re-enrolls in a medical/dental plan within 60 days of your death.

If the eligible survivor (i.e., surviving spouse or domestic partner) was not covered by a LACERS medical/dental plan at the time of a retiree's death, but is receiving a Continuance or Survivorship allowance from LACERS, he/she may enroll in a LACERS medical/dental plan during the annual Open Enrollment period (Oct. 15 – Nov. 15).

**Eligible Surviving Spouse/Domestic Partner Subsidy:** An eligible surviving spouse/domestic partner is entitled to a medical subsidy if, at the time of the

retiree's death, he or she was receiving or were eligible to receive a medical subsidy.

If a retiree dies prior to receiving a medical subsidy (e.g., while working for the City), the eligible surviving spouse/domestic partner would be eligible to receive a medical subsidy on the date when the retiree would have become eligible to receive the subsidy.

The eligible survivor's (i.e., surviving spouse or domestic partner) subsidy is based on:

- The retiree's years of City service (minimum of 10 years)
- The date the retiree would have turned age 55
- The eligible survivor's (i.e., surviving spouse or domestic partner) eligibility for Medicare

If you are the eligible survivor (i.e., surviving spouse or domestic partner) of a LACERS member who retired on or after July 1, 2011 and who did not make additional retirement contributions pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 4.1031.2(c), please refer to the Health Benefits Guide Supplement for your subsidy information and deduction charts.

**Note:** Eligible survivors (i.e., surviving spouses/domestic partners) are not eligible to receive any medical subsidy toward coverage for their dependents; they must pay the full cost of their dependents' premiums through deductions from their monthly Continuance or Survivorship allowances.

For additional questions and answers, contact LACERS: (800) 779-8328. ■

## For Retired Club Members

# The Best Years

### CONTACT THE CLUB:



**Tiffany Sy**  
Club Member Services Counselor, In-house  
(800) 464-0452, Ext. 202

TSy@cityemployeesclub.com  
www.cityemployeesclub.com

## RETIREMENT HELPLINE

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Cliff Cannon. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA and LAFUCU. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership. Each officer's extension is listed below.

**Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System:** (800) 779-8328

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

• Mary Beetz	Ext. 711
• Cliff Cannon (membership)	Ext. 715
• Hal Danowitz	Ext. 707
• Americo Garza	Ext. 710
• Edward Harding	Ext. 703
• Michael Karsch	Ext. 704
• Gary Mattingly	Ext. 702
• Phillip Orland	Ext. 709
• Neil Ricci	Ext. 714
• Helen Salgado	Ext. 713
• Ken Spiker	Ext. 705
• Tom Sternock	Ext. 708
• Michael Wilkinson	Ext. 712
Questions:	Ext. 0
RSVP:	Ext. 701

**DWP Retirement Plan Office** (213) 367-1722

## RLACEI:

### Officers

Edward Harding: President  
Tom Sternock: First Vice President  
Phillip Orland: Second Vice President  
Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer

### Committee Chairpersons

Mary Beetz: Publicity  
Cliff Cannon: Membership  
Hal Danowitz: Finance  
Americo Garza: Picnic, Holiday Party and Installation  
Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating  
Michael R. Wilkinson, Legal and Legislative  
Tom Sternock: Audit and Golf

### Directors

Mary Beetz  
Cliff Cannon  
Americo Garza  
Michael Karsch  
Gary Mattingly  
Neil Ricci  
Helen Salgado  
Michael R. Wilkinson



# Retirees Holiday Parties in December.

**Don't forget to attend a retiree party this holiday season!**

**RLACEI:** The RLACEI's annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers event is scheduled for noon Thursday, Dec. 1 at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. Lunch will be served, and there will be entertainment and valuable door prizes. You must make reservations at least a week ahead: (800) 678-4145, x701. Guests welcome.

Call one of the officers on the Retirees Helplines.

**LARFPA:** For Retired Fire and Police, your Christmas party is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 11, at Sportsmen's Lodge, 12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. Contact LARFPA for more information.

# The Best Years

## For Retired Club Members



# Peruvian Days

Hal and Co. take a one-way cruise from South America. **Part 4.**

*Last March, Hal and his wife, Evelyn, and relatives Don and Myrna took a one-way cruise that began in Chile, but first visited the Galápagos Islands.*

The morning of March 15, we were awakened by the sound of tenders being lowered at around 6:30 a.m. in the port of La Serena, Chile. We joined Don and Myrna at 9 a.m. for breakfast in the Horizon Court buffet. The first thing I noticed was that the Princess cruise line had redesigned the food area and I think for the better. It was now more open and easier to navigate, and the breads and pastries were in a separate area, which was very accessible – a little like “food stations.”

We took the tender from the ship to La Serena (the port for Coquimbo) and walked for about an hour and half through the town. It was nothing special, but lot of shops, people and dogs. The city was very well maintained; we didn't see any trash or graffiti. Myrna and Don lasted only about ten minutes before they returned to the ship. Evelyn did okay on her injured ankle, but it was still slowing her down a bit.

On the way back to the ship I heard someone call my name. It was a retired City Employee who reads my travel articles in *Alive!* We had a nice chat about the cruise. I always enjoy talking about travel.

We had lunch in the International Cafe. This is one of the best features of Princess. There was a coffee bar for regular or specialty coffee, for which there was an extra charge, but you could buy a coffee card, which we did. Then there was an area with food; for breakfast, they offered very good doughnuts; for lunch there was soup, salads and sandwiches. It was open 24 hours a day and was a great place to hang out. They also had entertainment in the Plaza, which was in the same area. Then there was Vines, a wine bar, which was great for a glass of wine, and they offered sushi and tapas in the evening.

After lunch we played bridge for a couple of hours. We didn't yet know if there would be a bridge director on board this cruise. We had heard that Princess was not using them anymore.

We decided to eat in the specialty restaurants on the three formal nights, so I made the reservations that morning.

We planned to have dinner at 6 p.m. and see the 8:15 p.m. show. We had a reservation in the Capri dining room, and we were seated at a window table for four. Again the wait staff was very attentive; we ordered wine and drinks and waited to order after we had received our drinks. The food was very good.

The show was Nathan Foley, Princess Cruises 2015 entertainer of the year. Don and I got to the Princess Theater at 7:30 p.m. to stake out seats. The place was packed. Nathan performed an hour show of music from the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s and was excellent; Myrna even brought his CD. We were looking forward to his next show.

Our cabin was on the port (left) side of the ship, and every time we got to our floor we didn't know which way to turn. Princess had signs posted, but they faced away from the elevators. It would have made it a lot easier if the signs faced the elevators. On other Princess ships the carpet in the hallways were of a different color – one color for port and a different color for starboard, but not on the *Star*.

The next day, March 16, we were at sea heading north toward Pisco, Peru. The weather was overcast and not warm at all. The sea was calm.

We had breakfast in the International Café. I had the breakfast of champions – two dough-

2013 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

nuts, one jelly and one sugar. Next time I'll pass on the jelly doughnut – it was okay but not worth the calories. Not to worry, they had a great selection of doughnuts and pastries. Evelyn purchased a coffee card that entitled her to 15 specialty coffees and unlimited brewed coffee around the ship. That way she got her no-foam soy lattes and I got fresh-brewed coffee.

On the way to trivia we stopped by the shops and bought a jacket. This was a repositioning cruise from South America, so anything with South America on it was on sale. As we got closer to Los Angeles the prices get lower, but the selection and sizes reduced dramatically.



The pelican.

That night was a formal night. We used to bring formalwear (a tux for me), but this cruise I decided to wear just a sports jacket and no tie.

Dinner was in the Crowne Grill (the steak house), so we had a light lunch in the International Cafe.

Princess no longer offered organized bridge games, but did set up a meeting area for bridge players. One of the passengers organized a duplicate game and there were 13 tables. We all played, but while it was enjoyable it took too long, more than three hours. There was also a non-hosted Mahjong game available.

When we got back to the cabin we found two carnation corsages (boutonnieres), with no note. Then a plate of canapés showed up.

Don and I wore the boutonnieres and we took the canapés to the suite party lounge to have a drink before dinner. The ship held the party each night for suites, platinum and elite passengers. There was no host, but they offered a different appetizer each night.

The dinner was very good. I try not to overeat. I had the onion soup and lamb chops. They also offered a crab leg appetizer. For dessert we had a sampler of all the desserts, which was nice. The food and service were very good.

We played an hour of bridge before calling it a night. As we headed northeast we gain an hour.

When I woke up on March 17, Evelyn was already showered. The weather was getting better, with a temperature in the mid-70s, with broken clouds.

We met Don and Myrna and had breakfast in the buffet. Afterwards I stopped by the



The beach in Paracas.



Evelyn and Myrna in La Serena.

Peru, with the ship docking in San Martin. Seeing that Princess schedule say Pisco, I think they should offer a free shuttle to Pisco. Maybe they will someday.

On March 18, we gained another hour, so we were both up early. We had nothing planned and would try to get into San Martin for walk around. The weather was much better; the sun was shining, and the temperature was supposed to be in the low 80s. There was a Princess shuttle into the closest town, Paracas, from the port of San Martin for \$16 round trip per person.

Looking at the offered tours, there were none that went to Pisco, and the main reason that we stopped here was to offload passengers who were taking a side trip to Machu Picchu.

After breakfast the four of us boarded the shuttle to Paracas, about a 20-minute ride. Our ship was docked in a bay, and Paracas was across the bay. The landscape was barren, stark and mostly sand. The Mohave Desert was greener than this.

Paracas is a small resort/fishing village with a two-hole golf course. The shuttle dropped us in the town plaza where there were many vendors offering tours, fishing and who knows what else. We chose to ignore them politely and just walked until we found the shopping area next to the marina and the beach. We took a nice picture of a pelican bribed with a fish. I gave \$2 to the guy with the fish.

Continuing our adventure, we found the shuttle bus stop and made our way back to the ship. Evelyn and Myrna purchased magnets. We discovered that, although the vendors would take U.S. dollars, they had to be fairly new with no creases or corners missing. I guess the banks don't like old bills.

Back aboard the ship, Evelyn and I ate in the grill, where I tried the bratwurst, which I would have again. We sat by the pool for an hour before playing bridge.

Before dinner we went to Friday night synagogue services. Services were held in the wedding chapel; there were about 40 people there. Princess supplied the wine, challah and prayer books. The service was a little mixed up – there was no structure, and it needed work. We met some nice people.

The next day we were scheduled to be in Lima and dock in Callao, and shuttle to a mall where we were to meet our guide for the day. More about Lima next month. ■

tour desk to get information on our stop in Lima. We planned to have a guide pick us up, and I wanted to know where the ship's shuttle would be dropping us off. The staff was very helpful and provided the info.

We played trivia and got 15 out of 20 – not enough to win, but respectable. We took a turn around the Promenade deck as best we could. It seemed we were not as young as we would like to think we were. We sat in deck chairs watching

the people walk by and feeling the nice ocean breeze while we waited for lunch.

We went to the pool area for lunch. I had a hamburger, which was good, and a slice of pizza, which was just okay. It could have been baked a little longer.

The sun was shining and it was not too warm. There were lots of people by the pool.

We played a little bridge, and that night we planned to see two shows: Scott Harris, a comic, at 7:15 p.m., and Nathan Foley again, the singer, at 10:15 p.m. Between the two we planned to have dinner in the buffet.

We went to the Vista Lounge for a drink before the Scott Harris show. We had seen him before on other Princess ships; he does elder humor and is quite funny. We enjoyed the show.

We went to the buffet for dinner, and I was disappointed – not so much in the food, which was fair, but in the service. In the morning if your coffee cup was empty, staff was there to fill it; if you emptied a plate it was taken away immediately. Staff must be tired by the evening, because it was hard to get a drink, and the plates piled up. That was very disappointing, concerning how good the service had been in all the other areas of the ship.

Nathan Foley put on another great show, and for a 10:15 p.m. show, it was well attended. The next day we were scheduled for Pisco,

# Retirements

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

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abdoh, Feraidon	Struct. Engr. Assoc.	Public Works	20	Gomez, Chris John	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	27	Pare, Larry B.	Equipment Mechanic	LAFD	20
Annala, Chris J.	Sr. Manage. Analyst	Fire Police Pens.	36	Gonzalez, Angela M.	Customer Srv. Sp.	Finance	32	Perkins, Laurie J.	Administrative Clerk	Library	7
Banh, Phat Thoai	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Services	30	Grant, Volver Renee	Systems Analyst	Airports	36	Peterson, Gil E.	Librarian	Library	17
Bookman, Becky A.	Admin. Clerk	Transportation	39	Gregorio, Anita See	Fin. Manage. Sp.	Controller	19	Platt, Alison Roberta	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	17
Brown, Marlene M.	Benefits Specialist	LACERS	35	Gregorio, Ramon	Sr. Accountant	Public Works	13	Rodriguez, Ronald C.	Sr. Storekeeper	Gen. Svcs.	33
Burnett, Temeker Lavonza	Traffic Officer	Transportation	15	Grummett, Robert G.	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Services	27	Rodriguez, Veronica	Rec. Supervisor	Rec and Parks	30
Carter, Rondee M. St. Ange	Sr. Property Officer	LAPD	34	Guirguis, Diaa S.	Struct. Engin. Assoc.	Build. & Safety	12	Romero, Celia	Legal Assistant	City Attorney	30
Chao, Carol Siew Lian	Sr. Librarian	Library	30	Hernandez, Federico P.	Special Prog. Assist.	Rec and Parks	6	Rufino, Rosalinda M.	Sr. Accountant	Airports	16
Charvis, Gretta C.	Sr. Traffic Supv.	Transportation	28	Jackson, Robin L.	Management Analyst	Harbor	36	Ruiz, Denise	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	30
Chillis, Cheryl Anita	Police Serv. Rep	LAPD	26	Kushiner, Gregg S.	Sr. Plumber	Public Works	25	Scurlock, Michael R.	Ele. Mechanic Super.	Harbor	22
Cote, Rose Dolores	Management Analyst	Airports	22	Lu, Peggy Iping	Fiscal Systems Spec.	Controller	30	Soto, Emiliano	Sr. Event Attendant	Convention Ctr.	31
Cruz, Jesse	Solid Resource Super.	Public Works	28	Luna, Cruz Steven	Equipment Mechanic	LAPD	23	Steven, Ava Alice	Comm. Info Rep	Transportation	23
Dendy, Kellen D.	Admin. Clerk	Library	26	Lyons, Marcus C.	Wastewater Manager	Public Works	30	Sullivan, Dorothy Ann	Traffic Officer	Transportation	32
Devilbiss, Mark	Airport Safety Officer	Airports	20	Mariano, Germelina S.	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	27	Tarver, Teresa L.	Management Analyst	Fire Police Pen.	10
Diego, Maria D.	Crossing Guard	Transportation	2	Martin, Michael E.	Pr. Inspector	Build. & Safety	27	Thompson, Keith E.	Port Electrical Mech.	Harbor	25
Diego, Meliton	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	30	McFarland, Glover J.	Special Prog. Assist.	Rec and Parks	6	Turhollow, Charles B.	Wastewater Manager	Public Works	35
Doan, Kim Oanh T.	Database Architect	Airports	17	Moore, Chinsook K.	Sr. Manage. Analyst	Transportation	11	Wall, Steven K.	Street Services Super.	Public Works	30
Garcia, Lupe	Comm. Info. Rep.	Public Works	6	Moore, Sandra	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Aging	27	Wolf, Mark Paul	Assistant Gen. Mgr.	ITA	31
Garcia, Raul B.	Irrigation Specialist	Rec and Parks	25	Moran, Kathleen	Sr. Librarian	Library	10	Wong, Karen Y.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Gen. Services	26
				Moreno, Gustavo	Detention Officer	LAPD	21	Young, Herbert A.	Customer Supervisor	Gen. Services	18
				Mosman, Christian L.	Constr. Maint. Super.	Public Works	30				

## RETIREES AROUND THE WORLD

**Take the Club with you, wherever you go!**

Club members are a well-traveled bunch. Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you. Snap a **high resolution** photo with you **holding a copy**, send it in, and we'll publish it. **Send to:** [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## Show Us Your Grandkids!

RETIREES: *Alive!* wants to show off your grandkids! So send in those photos!

Here's how:

1. **Make sure to have the permission from their parents.** If you send in a photo, *Alive!* assumes you have already received that permission.
2. Photos with you in them are better, but if not, that's okay, too.
3. Make sure you list the names of your grandkids.
4. Tell us, in a sentence or two, a little bit about them – their school, their accomplishments, what they love to do, how proud you are of them, etc.
5. Digital photos are best! Send them to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)  
**Send Prints To: Grandkids**  
 City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
 120 W. 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012  
 (800) 464-0452

If you want the print photo returned, make sure you write your name and phone number on the back.

### Stay in Touch With LACERS

LACERS requires all plan members to have your physical address on file. Has your address changed? Use this form to update your information.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUEST - All Members

Dear Retiree:

Please provide your new address information below. LACERS requires all plan members to have physical address on file. Pursuant to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 575, failure to provide a physical address will result in the change of your Federal Tax Withholding to married with three withholding exemptions.

**Mail to:** Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS)  
 202 W. First Street, Suite 500  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012-4401  
 Attn: Membership Processing Unit

**FAX to:** (213) 473-7202 – Attention: Membership Processing Unit

Member's Name	Social Security Number		
Address	City	State	Zip Code
C/O Trustee	Effective Date		
Telephone	Email		
Please check the box if you would like your 1099-R mailed to your home address.			
<b>CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS</b> (if different from home address)			
Address	City	State	Zip Code
C/O Trustee			
Please check the box if you would like your 1099-R mailed to your correspondence address.			
Member's Signature	Date		

Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Best Years

## For Retired Club Members

### The Gift of Healthy Holidays

By Tara Miller, MS RD/N, LACERS Well Program Manager, and Candace Wilkie, LACERS Well Intern



There are many reasons why this could be the most wonderful time of the year: spending quality time with loved ones and friends, sipping hot chocolate, nibbling on holiday treats, and celebrating traditions. But if your holiday season seems more like an exercise in overeating, overspending and over-stressing, it may leave you thinking, "Is it over yet?" Find the joy this time of year can bring by using these tips to keep this holiday season healthier.



#### Never Arrive Hungry

You've probably heard experts say to never be hungry when you do your grocery shopping, but that same advice goes for holiday gatherings. Despite popular belief, opting to "save" calories by skipping a meal usually results in over-consuming later, especially when there's open access to party fare. Instead, plan on having a small meal or a moderate snack before social engagements, and you'll likely make better food choices throughout the event.

#### Bring Your Favorite "Fitter" Dish

As the social calendar ramps up, maintaining a healthy routine can be challenging. Luckily, you may not be alone in wanting to stay on track. Resources like [www.cookinglight.com](http://www.cookinglight.com) or [www.sparkpeople.com](http://www.sparkpeople.com) can help you lighten up favorite holiday dishes, and may even prove to be a welcome and delicious surprise to your guests or host/hostess.

#### Be Mind-FULL

According to WebMD, by simply giving people a larger plate size, the average person will end up eating 25-50 percent more food. To avoid this, consider using a small cocktail plate and refrain from overloading or stacking your portions. Indulgences can be just as rewarding in little packages, so mindfully enjoy small portions of your holiday favorites and skip the food items that are unhealthy, and less appealing to you.

#### Plan a Food-Free Event

Food, as the main attraction, is not required for making memories that last a lifetime. The

real ingredient needed is quality time with friends and families, so try planning an event that centers on conversation. Consider creating holiday greeting cards and customizable gift tags, decorating ornaments and wreaths, or wrapping gifts together. You can add physical activity to the mix by leading a stroll through your neighborhood to enjoy the lights and festivities, or walking the mall before the stores open.

Additionally, you can join a volunteer organization and use the holiday season as an opportunity to make sure those who are less fortunate enjoy the season.

#### It's the Most Expensive Time of the Year

A well-planned budget is the linchpin of a stress-free holiday season. An NBC News poll indicated that of those surveyed with holiday debt, 59 percent of participants expected to take that debt into the New Year. This year, take a moment to plan out a budget that includes the practical dollar amount for everyone on your list and potential gift items that are within your means. Additionally, if using a credit or debit card, consider maintaining a notebook to track receipts, total amount spent on each transaction, and payment method (cash or charge). Reviewing your budget regularly will ensure you stay debt-free.

For a tool you can use now, and to add a point to your "Passport to Health," check out the featured challenge "Healthy Stress-Free Holiday Budget" at [www.LACERS.org/lacerswell](http://www.LACERS.org/lacerswell).

*We here at LACERS Well wish you a happy and health holiday season!* ■



### Walking the Hills

Retirees group takes hike, enjoys healthy dessert in Griffith Park.

On Sept. 30, LACERS Well Members enjoyed a fun-filled event in Griffith Park. At the Ranger's Station Auditorium, 32 LACERS Members, wellness Champions and guests learned how to gain strength by using their own body weight, resistance bands, homemade fitness tools and more.

Led by Tara Miller, LACERS Well Program Manager, and Frankie Gallagher, RN, MN, CHFI, LACERS Well Champion and certified personal trainer, the presentation focused on proper alignment, injury prevention, and the "how-to's" of beginning and improving a personal strength-training routine.

Afterward, LACERS Board Member, fellow LACERS retiree and wellness Champion Cynthia Ruiz led an energetic three-mile walk along a scenic Griffith Park golf course, encouraging Members to stay hydrated and enjoy the many outdoor facilities available in Los Angeles. As an avid hiker and fitness enthusiast, Commissioner Ruiz served as a great example of how a healthy lifestyle makes for a better retirement.

After the walk when everyone returned to the auditorium, they enjoyed a frozen-yogurt social, an especially welcome treat since it was an especially warm day. ■

## Life after Retirement

If you have news about yourself, family or other retirees that you would like to share with our readers, send it and we will publish it.

If you would like to contact a former City Employee that you met or worked with, send your contact information and we will publish it so they can contact you.

**Note:** Due to our confidentiality policy, we do not give out any information without authorization.

#### Mail information to:

**Mary Beetz:**  
137 Westmont Drive, Alhambra, CA 91801 or  
Email: [mbeetz4841@aol.com](mailto:mbeetz4841@aol.com)

## Thankful, Even for A Dry Turkey Dinner

By Mary Beetz

As you are enjoying your holidays and making memories with family, friends and neighbors, or volunteering for groups or organizations? Do you want to share your news with our readers? Submit to me for publication. Pictures are welcome. Stories are welcome. (See below):

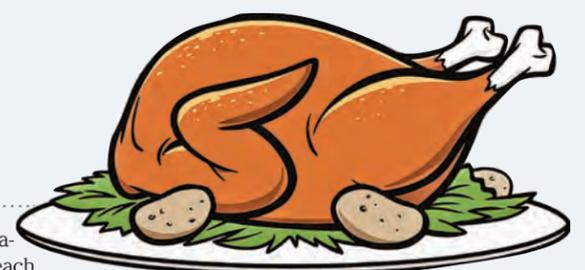
#### Here's my own story to share: my first Thanksgiving as a chef.

It was Thanksgiving 2015, and it was my turn to cook – and my first chance to prepare Thanksgiving dinner with relatives, friends and even strangers who were brought by friends (after asking permission!). That is to say, that my house does not have a sign that says, "Mi casa es tu casa" or a welcome mat. That's unlike my parents, who never locked the doors. People would just drop by as early as 6 a.m. every day for coffee, homemade

biscuits or my favorite, empanadas, filled with lemon, apple, peach or raspberry filling. I remember my father in the kitchen, smoking a Lucky Strike cigarette, working on his newspaper puzzle with an ink pen (he didn't need a pencil; he had all the answers). He would welcome all who came. I think it was the aroma throughout the rolling hills and valleys, coming from our house every morning starting at 5 a.m. My mom was in front of her stove with a rolling pin on hand, rolling dough making tortillas, bread or biscuits.

Okay, back to my Thanksgiving dinner story. When I prepared the turkey, it was dry and slightly charred in some places. The mashed potatoes (from a box), cranberry sauce (canned), stuffing (from a box) and the gravy were great, of course!

We all sat around this large table, holding hands and saying what we were thankful for.



I would say a prayer, only to be told to stop. I would respond, "I have to add a special prayer for the turkey." We all grabbed our wine (brought as a gift) and held the wine up high, each making a toast. Most popular: "to good health."

After the pumpkin pie (store bought) and coffee, we played a game called Taboo, a charade-type of game – the men against the women. Guess who won?

On Friday, calls came in thanking me for my hospitality. I was surprised that the strangers who ate would call to thank me. I must admit it was fun! Fun!

The following week, I went to Olvera Street and bought a sign: "Mi casa es tu casa," with another one, "Walk in as a stranger and leave as a friend." ■

Transportation

Story and photos courtesy Lt. Tovonni Price, Transportation



# Hope for Children

Western Office sponsors nearby children all year, and at Christmas.

The DOT Western Parking Enforcement Office's Inspirational Committee sponsors children all year, and is organizing a Christmas event to ensure that the holidays are special for children from kindergarten through the third grade at the committee's adopted school.

**The yard's adopted school is Marvin Elementary School.**

DOT West's Inspirational Committee has each donated \$100 to supply children with toys, clothes, school supplies and other accessories just for this holiday event, a luncheon and party with a special appearance by Santa for the 60 children who have been selected by the school. The event is set for Dec. 9.

If Club Members would like to participate, they are asked to contribute unwrapped toys or other items to the parking enforcement facility, 11214 Exposition Blvd.

"We think it's important to give back to the community," said the Inspirational Committee's Lt. Tovonni Price.

An essay about the program is also on this page.



At the Marvin Avenue School are members of the DOT West Inspirational Committee, from left: Hector Chun, Traffic Officer II; Sgt. Barbara Bowers; Sgt. Cheryl Shanks; Marilyn Washington, Traffic Officer II; Macrida Moore-Patterson, Traffic Officer II; Katherine Herrera, Traffic Officer II; Jessica Rodriguez, Traffic Officer II; Lakeetha Mosley, Traffic Officer II; and Sgt. Connie Rozier.

Outside the Marvin Avenue School are, back row, from left: Hector Chun, Traffic Officer II; Sgt. Barbara Bowers; Jessica Rodriguez, Traffic Officer II; Lakeetha Mosley, Traffic Officer II; Macrida Moore-Patterson, Traffic Officer II; and Marilyn Washington, Traffic Officer II. Front: Lt. Tovonni Price; Elizabeth Banuelos, Principal; Katherine Herrera, Traffic Officer II; and Sgt. Cheryl Shanks.



## Everyday Angels

By Macrida Moore-Patterson, Traffic Officer II



The following is an essay written by a member of the DOT Western Area Parking Enforcement Office's Inspirational Committee, which is sponsoring 60 children at the nearby Marvin Avenue Elementary School. The sponsorship is year-round.

The economy of the magnificent City of Los Angeles is driven by global exchange, petroleum, entertainment, style, tourism and some say greed. However, there are some unsung heroes who are everyday angels who give back to their community in a very real and helpful way. These overlooked and often unappreciated "angels" are DOT Western Parking Enforcement Traffic Officers, Supervisors and one awesome Lieutenant, Tovonni Price. They started a tradition to adopt a school, not only just for the holidays, but year round. Currently, the DOT Western Parking Enforcement Office is sponsoring more than 50 elementary school students.

Marvin Elementary School's Principal, Elizabeth Banuelos, is grateful to have the "Inspirational Committee" at DOT Western Parking Enforcement sponsor her kindergarten-through-third-grade students. In September, the Committee visited the school and gave office supplies to the staff and visited six classrooms to deliver boxes of school supplies for the students. While in the classrooms, Lt. Price spoke to the students about their own dreams of a career when they get older. She encouraged them to stay in school so they will get a good education to become whatever they want to be.

The Inspirational Committee has also raffled off numerous items and holiday-themed baskets as well as had bake sales, a pizza day and BBQ luncheons to raise money for these students and staff at Marvin Elementary School, 2411 S. Marvin Ave. These everyday angels will perform an original Christmas play, written by a Traffic Officer from DOT Western. This play was written specifically for these students and will be performed by other Traffic Officers at the Winter Wonderland-themed Christmas party at the DOT Western Facility Dec. 9. The students will each receive gifts from none other than Santa Claus with their personal name on it, chosen, just for him or her.

Next year another school in the community will have the opportunity to be adopted by the DOT Western Area Office. This is a year-round sponsorship. The DOT Western Inspirational Committee has one goal – to give back to the community they serve. They are accepting any donations anyone would like to give to provide additional support to the local schools. If anyone wishes to get "Inspired" to help in any way, please feel free to contact Lt. Tovonni Price, (310) 312-3500.



In a classroom at the Marvin Avenue School are, back row, from left: Sgt. Connie Rozier; Hector Chun, Traffic Officer II; Macrida Moore-Patterson, Traffic Officer II; Jessica Rodriguez, Traffic Officer II; Katherine Herrera, Traffic Officer II; Sgt. Barbara Bowers; Sgt. Cheryl Shanks; Marilyn Washington, Traffic Officer II; and Lakeetha Mosley, Traffic Officer II. Front: Principal Elizabeth Banuelos; and Lt. Tovonni Price.

*The Club wishes you...*

*Family to love you  
Friends to lift you  
Challenges to inspire you  
The stars and heavens to amaze you  
And a big smile knowing  
That life is pretty darn good.*

*This holiday season, may you be given  
All that you wish for  
Except one thing to grow on.*

Merry Christmas + Happy Hanukkah  
FROM THE CLUB



Celebrating the City family for 88 years.



**General Services**

Story and photos by MaryAnn Urdiales, Customer Service Associate



# Thanks, Custodians!

**General Services hosts annual Custodian Appreciation Day.**

On Nov. 3, General Services held its 19th annual Custodian Appreciation Day downtown. Custodians, Dept. Directors elected officials and union representatives gathered together in the LAPD Auditorium and on the South Lawn of City Hall to enjoy fellowship, a delicious barbecue lunch and award presentations. This event is sponsored by SEIU Local 721 and LIUNA Local 777.

Thank you, Custodians, for everything you do to make our City great!

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

## 2016 Honorees Included:

**Custodian of the Year:**  
*Outlying District: Pablo Diaz*  
*Civic Center: Mitchell Skinner*  
*LAPD: Dwayne Thompson*

**Sr. Custodian of the Year:**  
*Outlying District: Deanna Nichols*  
*Civic Center: Lisa Edwards*  
*LAPD: Lloyd Lewis*

**Custodian Supervisor of the Year:**  
*Civic Center: Leonardo Velasquez*  
*LAPD: Aldridge Carter*



Awarding the Custodian Supervisor of the Year (Civic Center), from left: David Sanders, Eunique Ferguson, Valerie Melloff, Leonardo Velasquez, Tony Royster and Loretta Quenon.



Salvador Talavera, 16 years of City service, and Aurora Garcia, 10 years.



From left: Maria Rodriguez and Joann Gage, 15 years of City service.



From left: Cesar Avalos, 12 years of City service; David Lincoln, 27 years; Glenn Penny, 17 years; Janice Bonner, 10 years; Larry Blackmon, 10 years; and Loretta Quenon. Seated: Larry Maldonado, 17 years.



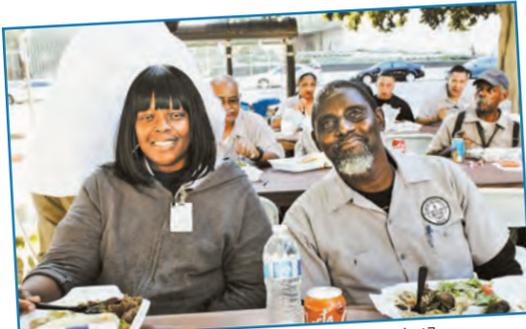
From left: Maria Coreas and Maria Rodriguez.



From left: Janice Bonner, 10 years of City service; Danna Geddes, 15 years; and Jerome Holt, 16 years.



At the Custodian Appreciation event.



Charlotte Dunn, 17 years of City service, and Lloyd Lewis 17 years.



From left: Beatriz Galvez, Custodian, 10 years of City service; Manula Galvez, Custodian, 2 years; and Teresa Gomez, Custodian, 9 years.



From left: Guillermo Fierros, 2 years of City service, and Filadelfo Calderon, 17 years.



At the Custodian Appreciation event.



Honoring 35 years of City service, from left: David Sanders, Eunique Ferguson, Valerie Melloff, Carlos Amaral, Miguel Garcia, Tony Royster and Loretta Quenon.



Cesar Avalos announces raffle winners.



James Parker, 16 years of City service, and Yvette Lloyd, 16 years.

# Thank You

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- Accounting
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- Street Lighting

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Email Address:  State:  Zip:

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------	------

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Full Name

Address

State  Zip

**Ordering Instruction**

Scan or take a photo of this form and email it to Angel Gomez, Mobile Man/Uniforms Guy [uniforms@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:uniforms@cityemployeesclub.com)

Once your order is received, we'll contact you for payment information and order updates.

**Polo Shirt Colors & Sizes**

**Available Colors**



**Available Sizes**

Men: Small - 5XL  
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\* 3XL - 5XL (Add \$3.00)



Isabel Gomez



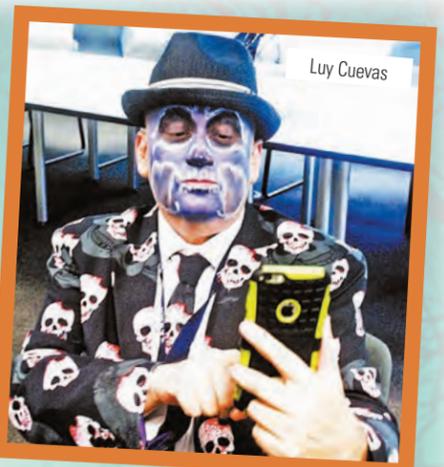
Teresa Jones



Daniela Ramirez



Cindy Robles



Luy Cuevas



Lorena Garcia-Sanchez



Amy Tariq



J.C. Vizcarra



Jazmine Epperson and Quinette McLeod

# LAPD Halloween Fun

LAPD Story courtesy Jean Sarfaty, LAPD Communications, Club Rep.

**LAPD Communications hosts annual dress-up day.**  
 On Oct. 31, the men and women of the LAPD Valley and Metro 911 Emergency Call Centers had their annual Halloween fun by dressing up for the holiday. Pictured here are many of the participants.

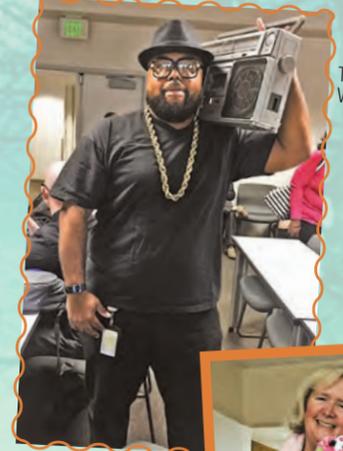
## Metro Communications Center

- Cindy Robles as a possessed nun.
- Luy Cuevas as Dia de Los Muertos.
- J.C. Vizcarra as Hannibal Lecter.
- Manny Garcia as a fisherman and Sharon Dormitorio as a fish.
- Marisa Trujillo as Wonder Woman.

## Valley Communications Dispatch Center

- Deondra Massey as a transient.
- Lorena Garcia-Sanchez as a voodoo doll.
- Tony Wells as RUN DMC.
- Isabel Gomez as a Raiders player.
- Lily Gomez as a purple witch.
- Tonya Mills as a '60s flower child.
- Jazmine Epperson and Quinette McLeod as twin babies.
- Teresa Jones as a pink lady.
- Marisela Leon as a Starbucks barista.
- Jean Sarfaty as a "Crazy Cat Lady."
- Jessica Cepeda (left) and Tiffany Soliz as "black-eyed Ps."
- Amy Tariq as, apparently, a storm.
- Deby Herdrich as the Statue of Liberty.
- Daniela Ramirez as a Target employee.

**Thanks, LAPD Communications, for sharing your fun with the Club!**



Tony Wells



Jean Sarfaty



Marisela Leon



Deby Herdrich



Deondra Massey



Jessica Cepeda (left) and Tiffany Soliz



Lily Gomez



Marisa Trujillo



Tonya Mills



Manny Garcia as a fisherman and Sharon Dormitorio



# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



1

## Paris

John Radovcich, Carpenter, Harbor, 15 years of City service, recently took a trip to France.



"On my last day in Paris, I told the seven female relatives that this was my day. Right after breakfast, I took off. I basically rode buses all day, going from neighborhood to neighborhood, getting off and walking around, popping into delis, bakeries, clothing stores, hardware stores, motorcycle shops, car dealers, whatever was in that particular neighborhood. I was not shopping. For that day I did have one particular destination in mind. I wanted to go to Pere Lachaise Cemetery. 'Why there?' Because this is where Jim Morrison, lead singer for the band The Doors, is buried. There are only two crypts in the cemetery that are fenced off, Jim's and Oscar Wilde's.

"In this photo of me standing next to Jim's tomb, I had to step over a waist-high fence. Fortunately for me, there was a young couple from London, both in their mid-20s, visiting the burial site – James with blue hair, Abby with green. (Maybe it was the other way around.) Anyway, the two of them come once a month from London to visit Jim Morrison's gravesite. I asked them if they would take some photos of me standing next to the tomb. They kindly obliged, but they also told me to be mindful of the cemetery guards who walk by Jim's grave on a regular basis. If caught inside the fence, I would be escorted out of the cemetery. After the photos, I sat with James and Abby, and they shared their bottle of Jack Daniel's with me as we spoke of Jim and our favorite Doors songs for an hour.

"This was a good day."

"Here I am in Paris with the obligatory photo in front of the Eiffel Tower. On this trip, I was traveling with seven females, all relatives, so I pretty much just followed along with what they decided to do. However, trying to get seven females all to agree on what to do while in Paris is a nearly impossible feat. 'Let's go here, let's got there.' 'Let's go to Notre Dame, let's go to the Louvre.' 'Let's go shopping, let's go shopping some more.' Fortunately for me, they all agreed on seeing the Eiffel Tower first before we did anything else."

2

## Playa del Rey



Here's **Ismail Nanabawa**, Airports, with his wife, Khin Nilar Soe, at Dockweiler Beach.



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## The Smart Move

BY PATRICK MILLER, CBLIFE, The Club's Insurance Partner

### Baby Boomers And Healthcare

#### What effect will the baby boomer retirement wave have on healthcare?

It seems almost impossible that those of us with solid health insurance plans would ever have to worry about getting medical care at any point in our lifetime. However the phenomenon of the baby-boomer generation could have dire consequences down the road when, as we age, we have a greater need for affordable accessible medical treatment.

The baby boomers have already begun to enter their retirement years, and the decisions they make could have profound implications for the economy, healthcare system and future generations of retirees. Today, approximately one in eight Americans is age 65 or older. By 2030, one in five people will be considered a senior citizen. And the number of baby boomers age 85 and older will expand to an estimated 21 million by 2050.

As these numbers indicate, down the road there will be significantly more senior citizens, flooding the healthcare system. Besides the sheer numbers, the nature and severity of their health conditions are more complicated, costly and time consuming to treat, putting even more pressure on the healthcare system. Your only defense against this upcoming bottleneck will be to stay out of the healthcare system if possible.

Begin today with regular checkups. Be sure to have your doctor look into any suspicious things going on with your body

or mental state. Do not put off treating any medical conditions that could get worse over time. Be sure to check out any injuries, even those that seem minor, since they could lead to complications later in life. Get serious with your diet and exercise. Good eating habits often take years to sink in, and the older you get the harder it is to change your habits and desires. Exercise is an absolute must. Same with eating habits, exercise habits take a while to take hold, and you want to start with a gradual buildup of your routine. Find fun things to keep your body in motion. Involve your spouse so you can hold each other accountable to an ongoing routine. No spouse? Find an exercise partner or group to hang with.

Finally be prepared to protect your retirement nest egg should you need medical care. Unfortunately many folks are forced to dip into their retirement dollars in the event of critical illnesses including heart attacks, cancer and strokes. Coming down with one of these major illnesses often requires specialized transportation, or home modifications, outside help or extended stays for family members near your treatment. Consider purchasing critical illness insurance in your younger years while you can still qualify medically at an affordable price. Critical illness policies can pay thousands of dollars on the diagnosis of the most common critical illnesses to get you through these tough financial times.

CBLife is The Club's new partner for four areas – life insurance, critical illness insurance, retirement income and accident medical expense insurance. Currently the Club offers three CBLife products: the Security Builder Plan, the Timber Ridge Critical Illness Plan, and Accident Medical Expense Plan.

Ask your Club Counselor for details, or call (888) 443-8829.

# Club Store Holiday Hours

## The Club Store Will Be Closed

<b>Friday &amp; Monday</b>	<b>Dec 23 &amp; 26</b>	<b>Christmas</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jan 2</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan 3</b>	<b>(Open at Noon)</b>

Members can still purchase certain eTickets online at [CityEmployeesClub.com](http://CityEmployeesClub.com) 24/7, however, some orders may take longer to process due to the holiday schedule.

### FREE SHIPPING

If you want your online orders to arrive by Christmas using the Club's free standard shipping service, please order by 4:00 PM Monday, Dec. 12 to ensure your order gets shipped out on time.

[www.CityEmployeesClub.com](http://www.CityEmployeesClub.com)

THIS MONTH AT THE



# Griffith Observatory

## Sunset Walk

**Tues., Dec. 13**  
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

The Observatory offers a sunset hike led by a Park Ranger and a museum guide. The easy walk starts on the Observatory's West Terrace, proceeds up the Charlie Turner trail to the Berlin Forest on the hill just north of the Observatory, and then returns to the West Terrace. The distance covered is about half a mile over the course of an hour at a very moderate pace with stops along the way to discuss the highlights and history of Griffith Park, and objects visible in the evening sky.

NOTE: The Charlie Turner trail is a moderately steep earthen trail. The Observatory recommends footwear appropriate for hiking.

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Information:  
griffithobservatory.org/  
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html#walktalk

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### Airports

Story and photos courtesy Heidi Huebner, Airports

## Doggone Halloween

LAX's PUP program dresses up its dogs for holiday.



PUP Kai and volunteer Marwick Kane as pandas.



PUP Tina as a pilot. (Tina's volunteer is Haydee Alayaza.)

Airports' PUP program – Pets Unstressing Passengers – at LAX held its second "Howling Halloween" parade Oct. 27 in the Tom Bradley Terminal at LAX.

Twelve dogs and their volunteer handlers sported costumes for Halloween and paraded in a passenger area of the international terminal.

The LAX Pets Unstressing Passengers (PUP) program provides stress relief and comfort to passengers through interaction with pets. Therapy dogs and handlers roam the departures levels in the gate areas of each terminal, visiting passengers awaiting flights and providing

comfort, as well as airport information. The program educates and informs passengers about the LAX projects and construction related traffic impacts.

PUP volunteers wishing to apply must have at least one-year experience working with a recognized dog therapy organization. The dogs must be privately owned and be at least two years old. All PUP volunteers and dogs must be registered with Alliance of Therapy Dogs, a national organization that registers, insures and supports members who are involved in volunteer animal-assisted activities. These activities include visits to hospitals, special needs centers, schools, nursing homes and airports.

For more information please contact Heidi Huebner, Director of Volunteers, at (424) 646-8471 or hhuebner@lawa.org



PUP Tru as Danny and PUP Eve as Sandy (from the movie Grease) with volunteers Kathy and Lanny Goodwin.



Volunteer Jena Williams and PUP Tucker as Ghostbusters.



PUP Serjio, dressed as a flying monkey from The Wizard of Oz, is pulled by volunteer Tiffany Butcher as the Wicked Witch.

### Rec and Parks

Photos by Gary Florin, Cabrillo Aquarium

## A Whale of a Fiesta

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium to host annual event in January.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is scheduled to present the 47th Annual Whale Fiesta from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29 at the Aquarium.

This fun-filled family event, co-sponsored by Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Cetacean Society, celebrates marine mammals, and the beginning of the migration of the Pacific gray whales along Southern California.

In the past, more than 20 marine life organizations have exhibited and provided information about their efforts to bring awareness and protection to these animals. Throughout the day, expert Cabrillo whale-watch naturalists will give talks on various marine mammals.

The highlight of the day is the "Great Duct Tape Whale Contest," where model whales are created by all ages. Other special activities throughout the day will include face painting, music, marine mammal-related arts and crafts projects for all ages, a puppet show, a life-sized walk-through whale and a passport contest for fabulous prizes.

The fiesta's grand finale will be "Expando the Whale," where participants walk through a life-sized whale.

The Aquarium's Exploration Center, Aquatic Nursery and the Marine Library will be open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Spend the whole day enjoying the many activities; there is no admission charge.

The Aquarium is at 3720 Stephen M. White Dr. in San Pedro, and is a Rec and Parks facility with support from Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. For more information or to receive a calendar of events call (310) 548-7562 or visit our Website at [www.cabrillomarinaquarium.org](http://www.cabrillomarinaquarium.org)

January 29, 2017







## How to Donate

If you want to participate in this year's West Valley Sanitation Yard toy drive, you have two choices:

### Drop off toys at the yard:

8840 Vanalden Ave.,  
Northridge  
(between 8 a.m. and  
2 p.m. weekdays);

— or —

### Drop off toys at the Club Store:

120 W. Second St.  
Downtown Los Angeles  
(between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays),  
and the Club will take care of it.

All toys must be unwrapped.

Toys must be dropped off by  
Dec. 14, as West Valley donates  
the toys to the Guadalupe  
Center the next day.



## The Giving Team

Toy drive leader Brian Sibert, RCTO II, Club Member, credits his team for putting together West Valley Sanitation's successful Thanksgiving food drives and Christmas toy drives and holiday party. Here are those who make the drives successful:

Richard Guzman, RCTO  
Miguel Corneijo, RCTO  
Santos Duran, RCTO  
Marcus Chacon, RCTO

J.R. Viega, RCTO (memorial plaque)  
Jimmy Guzman, Safety and Training  
Jose Hernandez, RCTO  
Steve Dierydes, RCTO

Brian Moen, Fleet Services Supervisor  
Jovanna Dorsey, Administrative Clerk  
Nereida Santiago, Administrative Clerk

Kenny Lampton, Supervisor  
Art Sanchez, Superintendent

Anthony Cardenas, RCTO  
Kevin House, RCTO  
Alex Aguilar, RCTO

## PUBLIC WORKS

# The Spirit of Giving



Getting ready to deliver toys to a toy drive for the needy are, front: Brian Sibert; and second row, from left: Brian Van Sloten, Brian Moen, Nereida Santiago, Jovanna Dorsey and Roy Jimenez. Third row: Jaime Garcia and Anthony Fenderson. Back row: Ruben Lasoya, Billie Medina, Steven Deryiades, Louis Arrazon, Steve Tennant and Art Sanchez.

# Holidays in the City

# Top of



**Over a decade at Christmastime, the West Valley Sanitation Yard has donated many thousands of toys to the less fortunate. It's a team effort; you can take part, too.**

*Photos by Tom Hawkins, Club photographer; and courtesy West Valley Yard*



We've all heard the lesson: It's better to give than to receive.

West Valley Sanitation takes that to heart. Each holiday season over the last decade, the yard collects canned goods and toys for the less fortunate. And to celebrate the season, they have a large holiday luncheon amongst their friends and colleagues.

"This yard has always been a little more together," says Art Sanchez, Superintendent, 30 years of City service, but who has returned to West Valley a year ago after starting his City career there. "There's a lot of pride here."

The toy drive started modestly ten years ago, collecting a few dozen toys and donating them to the LAFD's Spark of Love toy drive. But West Valley's efforts really kicked into gear three years ago when Brian Sibert, RCTO III and one of the toy drive leaders, got a call from a nearby church, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Woodland



Hills. Prince of Peace had its own toy drive, but was burglarized right before Christmas. They lost all their toys.

Can you help us? The pastor asked of Brian and the people at West Valley. Yes, indeed. Since that time, the West Valley's efforts have grown to an average of 300 toys collected each year. The past two years, West Valley has donated its toys to the nearby Guadalupe Center; West Valley donates canned goods before Thanksgiving to the Guadalupe Center, too.

Donating two unwrapped toys – one for boys, one for girls – is the price of admission at the West Valley's annual holiday luncheon. The act of celebrating the Christmas season turns into an act of giving for the less fortunate.

West Valley's efforts are some of the biggest we know of for a single department location at *Alive!* We want to know about your holiday donation drives and events, too. Let us know at [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com) ■

## The *Alive!* Interview

# Doing Something Good

*On Nov. 1, Club CEO John Hawkins and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Club Members Art Sanchez, Superintendent, West Valley Sanitation Yard, 30 years of City service, and Brian Sibert, Refuse Collection Truck Operator II, 28 years, at the yard. The topic: The yard's great track record of giving.*

Thanks for talking to us today. We wanted to talk about the West Valley yard because of all the giving you do here during the holidays. Give us an overview of all that you do here.

**Brian Sibert:** Sure. We do a Thanksgiving canned good drive, which is what we're doing right now. We also do a toy drive and a big Christmas party.

Which I think is one of the biggest in Sanitation. I remember a couple of years ago we ran a photo story of your yard adopting a family for Christmas. Do you still do that?

**Brian:** We didn't do that this year, but we have done it in the past. And we do a Red Cross blood drive as well, twice a year. We have a memorial plaque in our dispatch room for all the active employees we lost either on the job or that were still active that passed away over the years.

Give us more details of these events during the holidays here.

**Brian:** We start off with the food drive for the Thanksgiving holidays. It's a canned food drive of nonperishable items. We deal basically with the local food bank, which is right here in the Canoga Park area, in the west part of San Fernando Valley. We've been doing it approximately ten years. When we first started, it would go to any food bank in the valley that requested it. Lately we've been working with this center called the Guadalupe Center.

Do they come and pick up those canned goods?

**Brian:** We deliver them, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

We officially kicked it off today. We got the barrels set up.

They do a big Thanksgiving lunch for all the people who are in need, then they make up packs for all the people in the surrounding areas.

How many canned goods do you collect, generally?

**Brian:** We go by containers. Those barrels hold 90 gallons.

The blue bins?

**Brian:** The big blue bins, about four of those.

That's a lot.

**Brian:** Oh yes.

Great. Now tell us about the Christmas toy drive.

**Brian:** The toy drive originally began approximately ten years ago as well. At first it was for certain areas where people had requested it ... teachers from local schools, that sort of thing. And then as it got bigger, the whole Valley Division got involved. The East Valley and us got together with the Fire Department for the Spark of Love, which I'm sure you guys are familiar with.

Yes, absolutely. We've donated toys to that drive, too.

**Brian:** We did that for several years, and then one year about three years ago one of the churches that we used to take food to made the news. It was Prince of Peace Episcopalian in Woodland Hills. They had been robbed of toys. We heard about it because it was in the media. They were having a big toy giveaway drive, and somebody burglarized it – broke in and stole all the toys. We got a call from the minister over there. He said, "Hey, can you guys help us out?"

The LAPD went over there and checked it out. They came and talked to us. We said, "Sure." So we asked the Fire Department if they minded that we help the church instead of Spark of Love. They said, "No, by all means, take all the toys from the west side and give it to them." So we did, and then the year after that we heard about the Guadalupe Center, which does a toy drive in conjunction with the LAPD's Topanga Division. The Guadalupe director called me and asked for our assistance. Everybody here was on board. We took a vote. It keeps our effort right here on our side of the Valley.

How has it grown through the years?

**Brian:** It's gotten a *lot* bigger. The food drive started with maybe one container. And now all of the sudden it's up to four or five barrels.

How many toys?

**Brian:** Well, if 150 come to our Christmas party, that's 300 each year.

**Art Sanchez:** Two toys is the price of admission – or to get a food ticket.

**Brian:** We provide a good lunch. You've got to bring two toys, one for a boy and one for a girl. So we average about 300 toys each year, maybe more. A lot of guys will even go extra – they'll bring in whole bags of toys. We get bicycles, carts and wagons. We nearly load the big trucks like you took our picture in [cover photo]. The first year we started doing it, we had a regular half-ton pickup truck full to the cab, yet there were still toys. So that's why we went with the big van.

How much has it grown?

**Brian:** When it first started, I would say maybe 50 to 70 guys would bring in a couple of toys, just a toy here and toy there. Now we've made it a lunch deal and we fill this room.

— continues, page 26



From left: Club CEO John Hawkins with Brian Sibert, RCTO II, Club Member, and Art Sanchez, Superintendent, Club Member.



**The Alive! Interview**, continued from page 25

Got it.

**Very Fortunate**

You do all this giving, but you don't see the children actually get the toys?

**Brian:** I haven't been there yet. We've had a couple of our guys from the bulky items unit deliver them when there were a couple kids there.

We're humble about that. We just want to make sure that no one's making off with them, that they do actually get to the kids. The center is very good about that. The LAPD makes sure, too.

**Art:** It's not so much about the moment when they receive the gifts. It's the fact that it's people less fortunate than us. We're very fortunate to have these jobs and to have a career with the City of L.A., and we just want to give back to the community we serve. We see these people every day, and that's our goal. We're not looking for any recognition; we're just looking to give back to the community, for the less fortunate. That's all.

Each yard has a board chapter for work relations. You have a little board. You get a president, vice president, secretary, sergeant of arms and a treasurer. We meet with management throughout the year, to organize a couple picnics, barbecues and employee appreciation days to show the guys we're still family and team oriented. We care about one another and doing what we're doing.

**The Spirit of Giving**

Why is it important at this time of year to give back?

**Brian:** It's in spirit of the holidays. We're blessed to have what we have. There are a lot of people out there who are not as fortunate, especially after the economic downfall of 2008 and 2009. A lot of people are struggling to get back on their feet, and to have this good City job; we're very fortunate. It's just our way of just giving back. These kids see us out on the street every day, and those refuse trucks are rock stars. They see that trash truck and they drop what they're doing.

Let's say over ten years, you average 300 toys, that's 3,000 kids who are touched and different because of what you do at this yard. Do you ever think about it like that?

**Brian:** Not really. It just makes us happy that we're doing something to give back to the community.



From left: Brian Sibert, RCTO II, Club Member, and Art Sanchez, Superintendent, Club Member, with Alive! editor John Burnes and Club CEO John Hawkins.

**A Special Yard**

Art, since you started your career here and now you've come back as Superintendent, tell us – is this level of giving typical, or is this pretty amazing?

**Art:** Oh yeah, very special. At the other yards, we just did it on a volunteer basis – bring a toy, help the Spark of Love. At North Central we went to the local Fire Station and dropped off toys there. The truck was not overflowing, just a few toys. But here, it's like everybody's willing to participate.

Why do you think it's different here?

**Art:** This yard has always been a little more, I want to say, together as far as their camaraderie. Ever since I was here, even back when I started here – the drivers always got together and did things.

**Brian:** West Valley pride.

**Art:** But now there's been a lot more participation through everybody getting together on different things – softball teams, picnics.

What's the secret ingredient? How does that happen? It's not by accident.

**Art:** I don't know. Picking up trash is a whole different animal here. It's a brotherhood that we have; it's a second family. When I first started, we used to call this our first family and our home the second family because we were together more here at work than we were at home.

**Brian:** Absolutely.

**Art:** Everybody works together to get the job done, and I think that's probably what it is, is us working together on the job and off the job. It's just the camaraderie that we have here.

Someone must step up and be a leader for these drives. Brian, you're the leader here in terms of the food and toy drives.

**Brian:** We're a team. The guys in this yard are just a little bit different. Everybody's more family- and teamwork-oriented, and we try to keep it that way.

**Art:** Right. It's a good feeling to know that you're giving back to the community where you serve, where you work. We hope people out there see what we're doing and appreciate it. And as I said, we're not in it for any type of glory. We're just in it to give back to the community and to the less fortunate.

Does this make your life richer in any way, giving back?

**Art:** Oh yes. Definitely yes.

**Brian:** Yes. You know, you had asked about the Adopt-a-Family event a few years ago. That was a good year.

Yes, that was Christmas 2013.

**Brian:** That came from a teacher at a school who said, "This family is hurting bad," and they alerted one of our other drivers. So we took food, clothes, everything to their apartment and gave them a Christmas tree.

What would you say to people to encourage them to give? What do you get out of it?

**Art:** I would tell them, "Where are you at in life? Can you afford to give something to somebody who's less fortunate than you and make their life a little bit better? If you can, do it. We live in a society where there are a lot of bad things going on, and there's nothing wrong with doing something good now and then.

It really does make a difference.

**Art:** Oh yes, it does.

**Brian:** It does. It does. When you think, "San Fernando Valley, west side? That's a pretty high-income area" – you'd be surprised. Up in Winnetka, Reseda and Canoga, there are a lot of barrio areas. Right down the street from here, actually.

**Art:** We've been fortunate all these years to have these City jobs. Giving back is our civic duty.

Thanks for hosting us today.

**Brian:** We thank you guys for coming out here and covering it. We appreciate it.

**Art:** Thank you. ■

**The Guadalupe Center**

West Valley Sanitation sends its collected canned goods and toys to this Canoga Park center.



The Guadalupe Community Center in Canoga Park is a lifeline to tens of thousands in the West Valley.



The Guadalupe Center's Thanksgiving dinner.

When the West Valley Yard employees pack up the canned goods for Thanksgiving and the toys before Christmas, they unpack them at the Guadalupe Community Center in Canoga Park, which distributes them to the needy.

The center helps approximately 24,000 individuals each year with emergency food and clothing. In addition, hundreds of community youngsters and their families are guided toward a better future through our programs such as English as a Second Language, tutoring, sports and recreation, cultural art classes, pre school, and holiday programs.

Guadalupe Center Director Skip Wrightson, who early in his career was a City Employee in the City's legislative office in Washington, D.C., is grateful for West Valley's contributions. "The crew from West Valley Sanitation started giving us toys last year, and food a few years before that. It started small, but went huge very quickly. We're so excited that they are helping us."

The nonsectarian Guadalupe Community Center is managed by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles. Its many programs are run nearly entirely by more than 200 volunteers from nearby mosques, synagogues, Protestant churches and Catholic parishes.

Nearly 1,000 children receive toys for Christmas each year, and the center's dinner on Thanksgiving feeds more than 2,000.

"Some of the West Valley Sanitation drivers grew up in this area, or were helped out by the Guadalupe Center somewhere along the way, and they remember us," Skip Wrightson continues. "It's wonderful what they do for us, and the community. We're so grateful for them. They put their heart into it. They really believe what we say: 'Where hope blooms, the spirit soars.'" ■



The Guadalupe Center's Christmas party gives toys to nearly 1,000 area children.

**For more information or for volunteer opportunities:**

Guadalupe Community Center  
21600 Hart St.  
Canoga Park, CA 91303  
Tel: (213) 251-3549



# Holidays in the City

# Giving In Action

**Giving back is important to the employees at the West Valley Sanitation Yard. Here are some photos from previous events.**

## Blood Drive

Last March, the West Valley Sanitation Yard held a blood drive in support of coworker Felix Alonso, who was suffering from leukemia. Sadly, Felix passed away.

To honor Felix and other active employees of the West Valley Sanitation Yard who passed away, the employees set up a memorial plaque.

The memorial to the active yard family employees who have passed away.



Rick Fisher, Refuse Truck Operator (RCTO), Public Works/Sanitation, 28 years of City service.



Felix Sanchez, Supervisor, Public Works/Sanitation, 25 years of service, had his blood drawn.

## Christmas Lunches/ Toy Gatherings

Admission to the yard's annual in-house holiday luncheon is two unwrapped gifts – one for a boy, one for a girl. This brings in some 300 toys each year that the yard donates to the Guadalupe Center's toy drive.



Here's the team at last year's holiday party at the West Valley yard. This event was organized by the West Valley Sanitation Chapter at Sanitation. The Officers are: Richard Guzman, President; Brian Sibert, Vice President; Felix Alonso, Treasurer; and Kevin House, Sgt.-at-Arms. The party was organized by staff members, including Jovanna Cowart, Kevin House, Lenore Jones, John Diaz, John Elizondo and Ray Cruz. All employees helped with donations and participation.



From 2013, this crew helped collect toys, from left: E. Duarte, Julio Cruz, Santos Duran, Paul Minette and Leonardo Guerra. Bottom: Miguel Lopez.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

During November, the West Valley Yard sets up clean blue barrels (bins) in the dispatch room. Employees bring non-perishable foods. And then, drivers at the yard deliver the food to the Guadalupe Center for its giant dinner for the poor and needy.

Director Skip Wrightson at the Guadalupe Center estimates that West Valley donates up to 10 loaded bins each year.



A bin set up in the yard's dispatch room for last month's Thanksgiving food drive.



The children and their families thank West Valley Sanitation for their help.



From 2012, from left: James Moore, Refuse Collection Supervisor, 23 years of City service, Club Member; Victor Moran, Refuse Collection Supervisor, 22 years, Club Member; and Julio Cruz, Maintenance Laborer, 6 years, Club Member.





# John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Club CEO



"I took this photo in September 2015, when my mom and I traveled down the coast along Highway 1. This photo was taken along the coast in Carmel. I love the slant of the trees and the curves they grew into. This was just such a beautiful spot showing the beauty we can find in our own state."

— Elizabeth Rios Carrillo, Retired, LAPD

**John's comment:** I love Carmel, and I'll never forget my first trip there when I was a kid. We packed all nine of us into a Ford Country Squire station wagon, and away we went listening to Andreas Vollenwieder the entire way. Great shot, Elizabeth, you truly captured the essence of Carmel.



"Antelope Valley Fairgrounds."

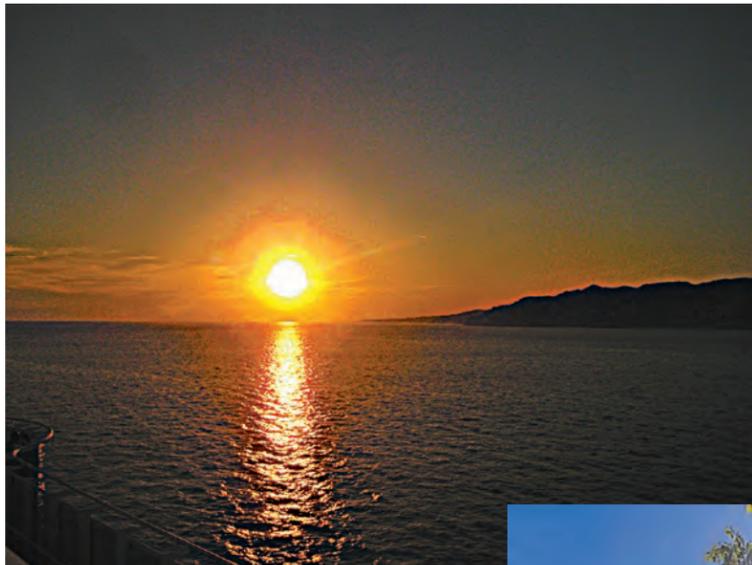
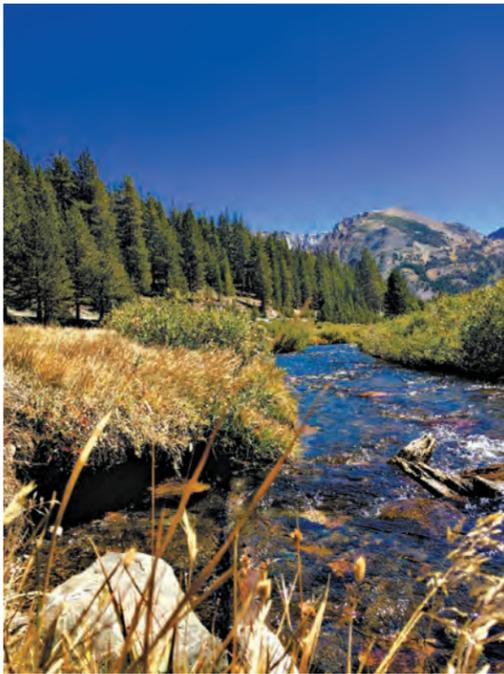
— Shaudi Pishvaie, LAPD

**John's comment:** Shaudi, I love this photo – it is truly magical. The angle you used, the overexposed Ferris wheel and the contrast between black and white, and color make this a Picture Perfect for sure!

"Mammoth Mountain."

— John Hicks, LAFD

**John's comment:** The colors are so crisp and clear I feel like I am standing in this little river. Also, I love the reeds in the foreground, giving perspective and depth. Thanks as always, John!



"Sunset."

— Joe Apohen, Retired, Public Works/Contract Administration

**John's comment:** Joe, one of the greatest sunsets I ever caught was when I was 21. It was of a fisherman in the Mediterranean, off the Coast of Nafplion, Greece, and this shot reminds me of that photo. There is just something unique about a Mediterranean sunset. Well done, Joe!



"The St. Thomas Bridge in Long Beach."

— Victor Ladd, LAPD

**John's comment:** I am not sure how well this will print in the newspaper, but what an amazing shot this is, Victor – the reflections, the blue lights on the bridge, their glowing lights of the cranes: Beautiful!



"Central Park in New York City, Sept. 11."

— Paul Gonzales

**John's comment:** A brilliant photo! You really captured the essence of Central Park on a typical beautiful September day — bright sun, blue skies, green grass, a splash of a cloud and our flag waving proudly. This is how I want to remember New York on 9/11. Thank you, Paul!

## RULES:

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



# CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the City Employees Club of Los Angeles • December 2016



## Club Softball: Champions!

Photos by Sports Dude Robert Larios

### Blue Dragons, DOTgers are crowned season winners.

The Club's Softball League 2016 season came to a fantastic conclusion Nov. 9 with the Blue Dragons of Public Works/Street Lighting winning the upper division and overall title over Game Time. The Blue Dragons have won three straight titles.

In a shocking result, the DOTgers (Transportation) took the lower division title by defeating a tough Sewer Rats of Public Works/Sanitation.

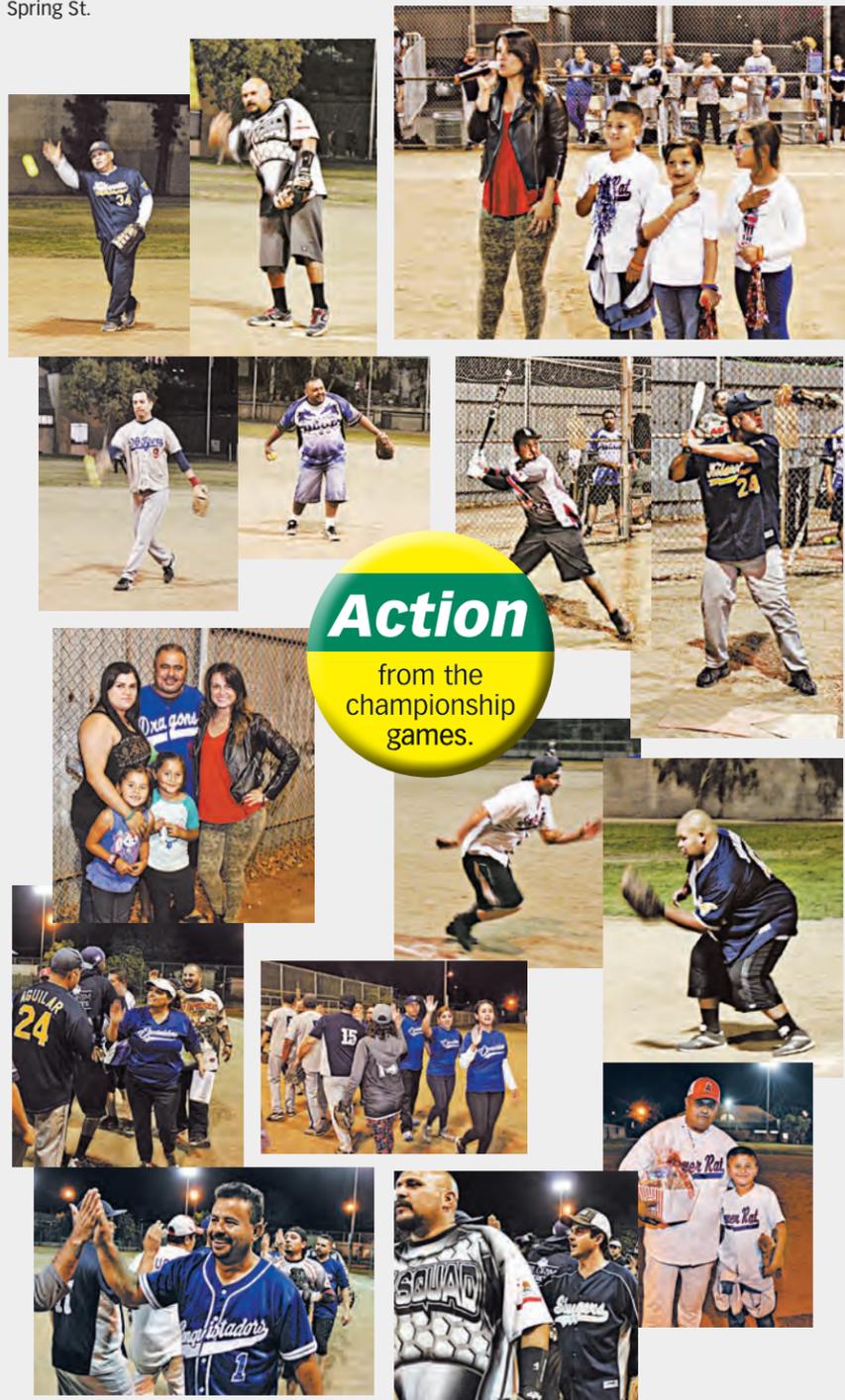
Championship night was filled with excitement and plenty of fans from each of the teams. The Club's very own Club Counselor Gedina Bergstrom sang the National Anthem.

The championship games were played at Downey Recreation Center, 1772 North Spring St.

The Club wishes to thank all of the 2016 teams, the final four teams and their managers for a wonderful season and for representing the Club and the City of Los Angeles in a positive way for the entire country to see. Also, the Club sends its deepest appreciation to Club Sports Commissioner Lady Smith for her efforts at making this a fun and successful season.



**Congratulations to the Blue Dragons and Game Time, and the DOTgers and the Sewer Rats for making it a terrific Championship game night!**



**Action**  
from the championship games.

## The Commissioner's All-Star Awards



Lady Smith,  
The Commish



The Commish, Lady Smith, Fire and Police Pensions, is giving awards for play and conduct now that the 2016 Club Softball League is concluded. Here they are.

### Individual Achievements

- DIVISION A**
- Women**  
SINGLES: Maggie Amaya, Game Time  
DOUBLES: Rachel, Blue Dragons  
TRIPLES: Davina Redhouse, Game Time  
HOME RUNS: Natalie Montoya, Guzzlers
- Men**  
SINGLES: Raul Devora, Game Time  
DOUBLES: Azar Yaver, Guzzlers  
TRIPLES: Hans Sosa-Lanza, Guzzlers  
HOME RUNS: B.J. Archer, Game Time

- DIVISION B**
- Women**  
SINGLES: Nancy Pineda, Sewer Rats  
DOUBLES: Claudia Luna, DOTgers  
TRIPLES: none  
HOME RUNS: Myndahlee Jennings, Kilawatts
- Men**  
SINGLES: Vincent Rectra, Next  
DOUBLES: Fernando Prieto, Next  
TRIPLES: Reyes Nunez, Next  
HOME RUNS: Aurelio, Operaiders

### Team Medallions

- COACH APPRECIATION:**  
Oscar Berumen, Operaiders  
Vincent Avina, Pfflyers  
Vincent Rectra, Next
- INFIELD PLAYS:**  
DOTgers (104), Blue Dragons (100)
- MOST AT-BATS:**  
Game Time (47), Pfflyers (46)
- OUTFIELD PLAYS:**  
Operaiders (38), Enforcers (54)
- PITCHER PLAYS:**  
Next (71), Guzzlers (42)
- SUPPORTIVE:**  
Robert Larios, Club COO and Club Sports Dude

### Acts of Kindness

- HELPFUL:**  
(Female to remain anonymous), Sewer Rats  
Dominick King, Game Time  
Jonteyn Prewitt, Next
- KINDNESS:**  
Bryan Trussell, Sluggers  
Elena Nihoa-Asucan, Sluggers  
Fernando Prieto, Next  
Jordan Price, Sewer Rats  
Lina Mokhdad, Operaiders  
Mikey, Blue Dragons
- SUPPORTIVE:**  
Luis Figueroa, Sewer Rats

### Team Hypes

- Angel Vidales Sr., Kilawatts  
Tammy Lindquist, Operaiders  
Marisela Montes, Conquistadors  
Mariela Vivar, Next  
Nathaniel Gale, DOTgers  
Geno Gandara Sr., Sewer Rats  
Elena Nihoa-Asucan, Sluggers  
Daniel DiFranco, Blue Dragons  
B.J. Archer, Game Time  
Victor Pallares, Guzzlers  
Tania Sanchez, Enforcers

### Fan Gifts

- (buckets of movie tickets, popcorn and candy)
- Antonio Cordoba, Guzzlers  
Luis Figueroa, Sewer Rats  
Jonteyn Prewitt, Next



**Club Sports on the Horizon**

The Club Sports Office welcomes all individual players to inquire about the Club's sports leagues. Currently, the Club is coordinating efforts for

**basketball, bowling and softball.**

Please contact [sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com) or call the Club at (800) 464-0452 to be placed as a free agent or for more information.

Images of past sporting events can be found on the Club's Facebook page: [facebook.com/cityemployeesclub](https://www.facebook.com/cityemployeesclub)

**Congratulations to those winning the Commish's All-Star Awards!**



# Rest Insured

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

## Christmas Tree Safety

Many of us have great childhood memories of the holidays – gifts and family times. I also have a strong childhood memory of a Christmas tree bursting into flames! (Thankfully, nothing was damaged, and no one got hurt.)

I grew up in the country, so it wasn't uncommon for us to have a fire out in the middle of the snow in the wintertime as a great way to warm up after ice skating or riding a toboggan. One year, the day after Christmas, my brothers and I brought out the family Christmas tree and propped it up in the middle of the snow. I remember distinctly holding a single match under one branch, and watching that thing *leap* into flames! It was fully engulfed within seconds, and completely consumed in a few minutes.

If you've seen a YouTube video similar to this, it might have caused a chill to go down your spine. I remember sitting there thinking that this thing was sitting in our living room less than an hour ago. It was like having an unexploded bomb sitting next to your TV!

Sure, a tree is a beautiful thing, and it carries with it a lot of great memories. But let's all remember how flammable they are, and treat them with respect.

Every year several hundred homes burn due to fires caused by Christmas trees, causing almost \$20 million in property damage every year. What is more tragic, an average of six people die every year due to this easily solved problem.

Here are some guidelines for proper holiday safety from the National Fire Protection Association:

**Picking the Tree**  
If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant. If you go natural, choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

**Placing the Tree**  
Before placing the tree in the stand, cut away one to two inches from the base

of the trunk. Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit. Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

**Lighting the Tree**  
Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

**After the Holidays**  
Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Of course, a homeowners policy or renter's policy provides fire insurance that would cover a loss like this, but it's best to be safe and not have to deal with an insurance claim.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from United Agencies!



**About United Agencies**  
United Agencies is the Club's Partner in helping members with their home and car insurance, and related products. Feel free to call us with any questions about rental cars, auto insurance, or any other topic. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner.  
Call our office today at (888) 801-5522.  
Check out the City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website: [www.ua-insurance.com/city-club](http://www.ua-insurance.com/city-club)

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

## POLL WORKERS NEEDED

There are many challenges facing elections officials across the country, including low voter turnout and aging voting equipment. But among the most challenging is finding the thousands of qualified Election Day poll workers needed to properly staff the polls.

For the City of Los Angeles, the third largest voting jurisdiction in the country, adequately staffing its approximately 1,600 polling places is a huge undertaking. To address the challenge of finding qualified poll workers, the City implements the City Employee Poll Worker (CEP) Program for the municipal elections that take place every two years. In its seventh cycle, the CEP Program aims to help fill this gap by partnering with City departments to hire nearly 1,400 City employees throughout the City to work on Municipal Election Days, March 7 and May 16, 2017.

A CEP is a City employee who serves as a poll worker at an assigned polling place on Election Day. CEPs provide a valuable service to the community by ensuring that polls open on time and that Election Day is a positive experience for everyone. The CEP Program is a chance for employees to break away from their normal routine and provides a rare opportunity to be a part of the electoral process. CEPs assist the City's voters and uphold the integrity of the City's election by following the policies and procedures that are in place.

CEPs are paid for working at the polls on Election Day (approximately 14.5 hours) and may earn up to 1.5 times their hourly rate, if applicable. This opportunity provides City employees a chance to earn extra money by working extra hours while serving their community. Previous experience is not necessary. CEPs are trained by the Election Division prior to Election Day, how to set up and break down a polling place, how to address Election Day concerns, and, most importantly, how to address the needs of the voters. They support the community, meet new people, and earn extra money!

In addition to English, the City also provides voter resources and language assistance in 11 federal and City mandated languages. To meet the needs of the ever growing diversity of the voters of Los Angeles, the City is also seeking poll workers who are bilingual in English and one of the following languages: Armenian, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. Bilingual City employees are encouraged to apply!




**APPLY TODAY:**  
Application Deadline:  
**December 9, 2016**

For information and to obtain an application, call the Office of the Clerk - Election Division, CEP Hotline at (213) 978-0001.



**Would you like a pen with your company's name on it? How about a coffee mug or a mouse pad?**

[We also do Family Reunions]

**Call 323-667-1985**

"If you can imagine it, we can create it."

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[rosebud@getpromos.com](mailto:rosebud@getpromos.com)

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[www.RosebudMarketing.com](http://www.RosebudMarketing.com)

**THIS MONTH AT THE**

# Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

A REC AND PARKS FACILITY

## TIDEPOOL WALK

**SAT., DEC. 10, 11 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

CMA's educators conduct tours of the Point Fermin tidepools. Attend an informative slide show in the John M. Olguin Auditorium, then come along on the naturalist-led ramble on the rocks to see animals in their natural habitat. Outdoor clothing and sneakers advised. Young children must be accompanied by adults.

**Open to all ages.**

**Free!**  
(310) 548-7562  
**Parking: \$1/hour**

**Support the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium!**

Consider joining the Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium  
(310) 548-7410  
[cabrillomarineaquarium.org/support.asp](http://cabrillomarineaquarium.org/support.asp)

[www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org)  
**City Owned. City Run. City Proud.**





# CLUB EXCLUSIVE Holiday Special

## Good Deals Don't Last Very Long!

You worked hard all year long and now it's time for you to relax! Enjoy your holidays with friends and family this year with these spectacular deals exclusively to Club Members.



### See's Candies

#### Gift Certificate for 1lb of Chocolates

Club members can enjoy a sweet treat at a sweet price! Enjoy a pound of See's Candies just for you or give it as a gift during the holidays.

*Limit: 10 gift certificates per member.*



### HoneyBaked Ham

#### \$25 Gift Card

Celebrate the holidays with a spiral baked ham or any gourmet products at any of the HoneyBaked Ham locations. Your discounted gift card can be used at any HoneyBaked Ham stores all year long!

*Limit: 4 gift cards per member.*

## Club Deal Expires December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Gift certificates and gift cards are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, and are limited to availability. This is a very popular Club Holiday Special, so order today before they are sold out!



**Available at [CityEmployeesClub.com](http://CityEmployeesClub.com)**

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 88  
in a series.



# People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.



Meet  
**Darrell Ford.**

Club CEO John Hawkins and Darrell Ford.

**AGE:** "I'm 64."

**BIRTHPLACE:** "Chicago."

**FAMILY:** "I have a younger brother and a younger sister."

**MARITAL STATUS:** "Never been married, but I have a girlfriend."

**RELIGION:** "None really, but I believe in God and was brought up Baptist."

**MEDICATIONS:** "I take aspirin every day for my heart, and then I take some cholesterol medication."

**HIS STORY:** "I was born in the City of Chicago, and when I was 13 my family re-located to Riverdale, a suburb of Chicago. My dad was a route driver for Sealtest Ice Cream, so we had lots of ice cream growing up. I was eating so much that my dad finally told me I had to switch to sherbet because I was gaining too much weight. My mom worked for Victor Dana; they made gaskets for cars and such. My dad was on the quiet side while my mom talked a lot. She also cursed like a sailor but always had words of wisdom. My parents always said I always had a cavalier and nonchalant attitude and was hard-headed."

"When I graduated high school I worked for a bank – me and another guy rolled coins. I was there for a couple of years until I was laid off, then I got a job at a law firm. I worked in the mailroom there. I was there for another three years and got laid off again. My next job was at the National Association of Realtors, in the mailroom again. I was quickly promoted to supervisor but again, after about three years I was let go."

"I received unemployment for a little while and when that ran out I started working at a gas station pumping gas, cleaning windshields, changing tires and cleaning the lot. Money began to get thin and I lost my apartment. Thus began my life on the street. One day a kind lady felt sorry for me and gave me some boots; they were good boots but not good for the coming winter. You see they were steel-toed boots for construction workers

and such. But, that steel toe works against you in the winter. I ended up getting frostbite on both feet. They were able to save my left foot but they had to cut all my toes off of the right foot. I wasn't discouraged, though, and it didn't keep me from being the positive person that I am. Like my mom said, 'You never lose your personality.'

"So then my friend says, 'Let's move to California!' So he and I came by bus. We arrived on Jan. 1, 2005. When I got here I first went to the Union Rescue Mission. I did their year-long program. After that I was living in SRO Housing at Fifth and Maple for eight years actually. But then they hired a new building manager who evicted me because my room was too cluttered. My mom used to say, 'Give a man some keys and they think they own the world.' And that's what happened, he started evicting people left and right. Eight years in that apartment, can you believe that? So for the last couple months I have been living over by the main library out in the open, with no shelter. But I'm not going to let that get me down. I am staying upbeat and optimistic."

**FAVORITE SPORTS:** "I used to play softball and basketball after school, but it wasn't with my high school."

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "I love shoot-em-ups, cowboy movies, mysteries, suspense and comedies. Not too big on romance-type movies."

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "The Lone Ranger."



Darrell shows frostbite damage to his right foot.

**FAVORITE ACTORS:** "Al Pacino, Clint Eastwood and Bruce Lee."

**FAVORITE ACTRESS:** "Cybil Shepherd."

**FAVORITE MUSIC:** "R&B."

**FAVORITE FOOD:** "Fried chicken! Oh, and sweet peas, mashed potatoes and apple pie a la mode."

**FAVORITE CANDY:** "Oh boy I have a sweet tooth – I love Snickers, turtles, anything really."

**FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:** "Pershing Square and the main library."

**LAST BOOK READ:** "I don't read too much."

**LAST FOOD EATEN:** "I had a Subway last night."

**IF YOU WERE MAYOR:** "I would create a program to get the homeless off the streets ... I mean everyone off the streets, a clean sweep. And I would convert apartments to house them, like five apartments or so. All the amenities would be free."

**WITH \$1 MILLION:** "You and I both know a million dollars really isn't that much these days. The first thing I would do buy some necessary items that wouldn't amount to much, you know, small essentials. Then I would help people, maybe buy an apartment building and use it to house people like me. The rest, if there was any left over, I would invest."

**ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:** "Humble yourself, get a good mattress, rest plenty, drink water and walk slow!"

*The Club gave Darrell a Bucket and a Blanket, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, hand wipes, some food, \$20 and bottled water.*

*The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place Nov. 14 on Broadway between Third and Fourth Streets.*

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

**LAFD**

**2016 Recognition of Excellence Award recipients:**

Capt. II Daniel Dragotto, Environmental Unit  
 Susie Adamian, FPEA IV, Fire/Life Safety Plan Check  
 Inspector II John Vigil, Environmental Unit

**New Civilian Members to the Fire Prevention Bureau included:**

Royce Long, CUPA Manager  
 Helen Neal, Secretary  
 Vidal Garcia, FPEA/FDS  
 Kanisha Leonard, Admin. Clerk  
 Yvette Whitaker, Sr. Admin. Clerk

**Civilian Promotions in the Fire Prevention Bureau:**

Dave Meyers, promoted to Fire Protection Engineer  
 Hani Malki, promoted to Sr. Fire Protection Engineer  
 Kacy Williams, promoted to Sr. Administrative Clerk

**Sworn Promotions in the Fire Prevention Bureau:**

Emile Williams  
 Shane Bystrom  
 John Stuhlman  
 David Tu  
 Herbert Reddick  
 Javier Godoy  
 Michael Gillissie  
 Brian Quinn  
 Miguel Perez  
 Joe Mendoza  
 Matthew Stevens  
 Francisco Acevedo  
 Matthew Craig  
 Joel Guzman  
 Jeremy Carter  
 Charles Elzie  
 Dwight Sankey  
 Damon Leach

**Fire Marshal Certificate of Special Recognition:**

*West Industrial Unit staff:*  
 Capt. I Nat Lauro  
 Inspector Steven Normis  
 Inspector Ken Guardado  
 Inspector Sir Habersham  
 Inspector Quenton Trenal  
 Verna Roy, Sr. Admin. Clerk

# Honoring Service

Annual Fire Marshal Awards honor LAFD employees for their service.

The Fire Dept. held its 12th annual Fire Marshal Recognition of Excellence award ceremony Oct. 12 in the Fire Commission Room in City Hall.

These awards are presented to recognize Fire Prevention members who have distinguished themselves by their consistency, contributions and dedication to the Fire Prevention Bureau, the Department and the public.

This was the first award ceremony under the direction of newly promoted Fire Marshal Deputy Chief Kristin Crowley, who is also the first female Fire Marshal in the history of the LAFD.

Nominees were submitted by fellow employees of the Fire Prevention Bureau. This year's winners were selected by last year's winners.

**Congratulations to all those receiving recognition!**

*The Club thanks Renee Ramirez for her assistance.*



The Fire Marshal's Awards plaque.



The first female Fire Marshal in LAFD history, Dep. Chief Kristin Crowley.



From left: Assistant Fire Marshal Roy Harvey, Honoree Capt. II Dan Dragotto, and Fire Marshal Kristin Crowley.



From left: Capt. I Nat Lauro, in charge of the West Industrial Unit; Dep. Chief Kristin Crowley; and Assistant Fire Marshal Roy Harvey. Both Chiefs are newly promoted to the Fire Prevention Bureau.



The West Industrial Unit won the Special Recognition Award.



From left: Assistant Fire Marshal Roy Harvey, Honoree Susie Adamian, and Fire Marshal Kristin Crowley.



From left: Assistant Fire Marshal Roy Harvey, Honoree Inspector II John Vigil, and Fire Marshal Kristin Crowley.

# Help Us Blanket the City!



Help the Club take care of those living on the streets this winter.

The last five years, we put out the call to help those in need downtown. And Club Members came through! So we're continuing *Blanket the City*.

It started five years ago with John Hawkins, Club CEO, and Angel Gomez, Club Mobile Man, coming into the Club Store one December night, shivering from the cold. And if they were chilly, they thought, what about those living on the streets?

So they hatched a plan: pass out blankets those living on the streets downtown. That first night, they gave

away eight blankets. Now the number is into the hundreds.

*Blanket the City* is an official part of Club Angels, the Club's charitable outreach. During the fall, winter and spring months, the Club will be handing out military-grade blankets to those who really need them.

***Blanket the City has become a new winter tradition here at the Club!***



Join the effort? Here's how:

- The military-grade blankets cost \$9 each.
- Contribute what you can, and the Club will purchase blankets and hand them out for you.
- Mail your donation of any amount with the completed form below.
- Donations could be tax-deductible. Contact your tax professional.

**Want to contribute?**

Contact John Hawkins or Angel Gomez with any questions:  
 jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com or agomez@cityemployeesclub.com

## Help us to Blanket the City!

Enclosed is my check (made out to **Club Angels**) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please bill my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.



Send this completed form to:  
 Club Angels  
 311 S. Spring St., Suite 1300  
 Los Angeles, CA 90013

Name on Card

Card Number

Expiration  -  CV#  Last 3 digits on back of card

Signature

Please provide the following information so we can send you a receipt:

Name

Home Street Address

City  State  Zip

Home Phone  Work Phone

Club Member Number (if you are a member):

Club Angels is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. Contributions to Club Angels are tax-deductible as defined by the U.S. tax code. Consult your tax professional.

*Your donations will be acknowledged with official letters of receipt.*



# Holiday Happenings



## Rec and Parks



## VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT BANNING

The Banning Museum to host annual Victorian Christmas celebration.

The community is invited to welcome the holiday season at the Banning Museum's Annual Victorian Christmas Celebration and Open House, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 3-4 at the Banning Museum, 401 E. "M" St., in Wilmington.

This free event is open to the public and promises to be a weekend to remember. Visitors will enjoy period entertainment, tours of the museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the Banning Museum and Drum Barracks Civil War Museum, which is also presenting a Christmas event that weekend.

Victorian Christmas at the Banning Museum has been an annual holiday tradition in the greater Los Angeles area for more than 30 years. The museum grounds are transformed into a Christmas Festival featuring Victorian-period entertainment, walk-through tours of the festively decorated Banning Mansion, blacksmith demonstrations, refreshments, family holiday crafts, a bake sale, local food vendors and handmade crafts by area artisans, and Jolly Old St. Nick himself will pose for photos with the little ones in an historic carriage. The visitor center will feature a new special exhibit, "The California Column to 900 Miles to Battle," based on the Civil War. The exhibit includes countless impressive artifacts.

Also, the annual Victorian Christmas luncheon is scheduled to take place Friday, Dec. 2, in the Banning Museum Stagecoach Barn and feature special live holiday entertainment. Those attending enjoy an elegant plated lunch, a special sneak preview of the Banning Museum decorated for a Victorian Christmas,

a tour of the Transportation Exhibition and a special exhibit in our Visitor Center. This event has limited seating and sells out quickly. Reservations are being taken now. Tickets for the special luncheon are \$95 for non-members and \$85 for Friends of Banning Museum Members. Information: (310) 548-2005.

The Banning Museum is a Rec and Parks facility, operated in cooperation with Friends of Banning Museum, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "Preserve History, Promote Education, and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit."

### Banning Museum Victorian Christmas

**When:** Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3-4  
**Hours:** 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
**Where:** The Banning Museum, 401 E. "M" St., Wilmington  
**Cost:** Free admission

#### Regular museum tours:

**Dates:** Throughout November and December: Tues. – Thurs.: 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.; Sat. – Sun.: 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.  
 Closed Christmas Day  
**Cost (regular tours):** \$5 (suggested donation; \$1 for children)  
**Info:** (310) 548-2005 or [www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org)

## Zoo



Photos by Jamie Pham, L.A. Zoo

## Holiday Lights in Full Swing

Holiday Lights continues its third season.

Use Your Club Discount!

Club Members can save \$2 off an adult ticket to L.A. Zoo Lights, and \$1 off for children. Go to the Club Webstore: [www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com)

L.A. Zoo Lights' third season is in full holiday swing, with more lights and new features to illuminate a dazzling wonderland at the Los Angeles Zoo now through Sunday, Jan. 8.

The after-hours attraction, which requires a separate ticket from the Zoo's regular day hours, sets the Zoo's environment aglow with displays, among them tens of thousands of LED lights, flurries of illuminated snowflakes, 3-D animated projections, a musical light-and-water show and glittering light tunnels. A fanciful menagerie of shimmering animal characters brought to "life" include mischievous animated monkeys, a gigantic glowing snake coiled on a roof, animated elephants and much more.

A self-guided 60- to 90-minute walking tour through select areas of the Zoo – while most L.A. Zoo animal residents are asleep – offers a unique experience that features the only opportunity in Los Angeles to see real reindeer; visits with Santa Claus on select dates; and steaming hot chocolate, irresistible churros and other holiday treats and goodies for sale.

The attraction, presented by the private, nonprofit Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA), is open every night from 6 to 10 p.m., except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Dec. 24-25). Tickets are available at [www.lazoolights.org/](http://www.lazoolights.org/)

L.A. Zoo Lights has been developed in collaboration with art director Gregg Lacy and Bionic League, entertainment-industry partners renowned for remarkable large-scale installations for festivals, stadiums, arenas, clubs, and artists like Daft Punk, Kanye West and many others.

### LA Zoo Lights

**What:** LA Zoo Lights, an immersive display lights that guests walk through  
**When:** Through Jan. 8 (nightly except Christmas Eve; closed Christmas)  
**Time:** 6 to 10 p.m.  
**Cost:** Requires a separate admission: \$14 for adults/ seniors and \$11 for children 2-12; children under age two are free. Premium night prices higher.  
**Tickets Available:** Now. Online: [LAZoolights.org](http://LAZoolights.org)  
**Location:** LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr.  
**Parking:** Free  
**Info:** (323) 644-6042 or [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org)

## Rec and Parks

### A Wonderland Train Ride

Griffith Park children's railroad offers a holiday-themed experience.

The Griffith Park and Southern Railroad is back to offering its Holiday Light Festival train rides.

Starting the day after Thanksgiving, families are invited for an evening train ride around the festively decorated one mile of track. Magical scenes and tens of thousands of lights are set to captivate families and set the mood for a wonderful holiday season.

The ride, now in operation starting at 5 p.m., continues every night until Dec. 23. The holiday rides resume from Dec. 26 – 30, weather permitting. The trains do not operate in the rain.

The last train leaves at 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 p.m. Friday - Sunday.

This event requires separate tickets that can be bought at the ticket booth in advance or the day of the ride, if available. Tickets, at \$4 per person, are not available online. 18 months and under ride free. Limited tickets will be sold for each evening.

The Griffith Park Railroad is different from Train Town, which used to offer holiday-themed rides as well.

### The Griffith Park & Southern Railroad

**What:** Evening train ride around one mile of track decorated with holiday themes  
**Where:** 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park  
**When:** Now through Dec. 23; Dec. 26-30  
**Hours:** 5 – 8 p.m. nightly  
**For Whom:** Adults and children  
**Tickets:** \$4 each; free for children 18 months and under  
**Information:** (323) 662-9678, [www.griffithparktrainrides.com](http://www.griffithparktrainrides.com)

# Holiday Happenings

**Movie Packs Make Perfect Gifts**

**FREE Gift Box with Movie Pack Purchase**

**Club Member Price Starting at \$26**

**AMC THEATRES** **REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP**

Includes movie tickets, popcorn, and soda vouchers. Movie pack selection varies depending on the participating theatre.

*Holiday gift boxes are available for in-store purchases only and are limited for the holiday season!*

Club Store, 120 W. 2nd St., L.A., CA 90012 | [www.CityEmployeesClub.com](http://www.CityEmployeesClub.com)

**Great Gift Idea!**

## Movie Tickets Packs!

**A Club Holiday Hit:** Club Movie Ticket Packs! Beautifully wrapped bundles of movie tickets, wrapped and ready to go, at the great Club discount. As always, they're the cheapest in the state: Regal movie packs for \$26, and AMC movie packs for \$29.

**Grab some today at the Club Store!**

## The Club Store Is Holiday Headquarters!

**Great gifts! The Club Drive for the needy! They're all available at the Club Store this Christmas season.**

- ❖ **A Club Holiday Hit:** Club Movie Ticket Packs! Beautifully wrapped bundles of movie tickets,
- ❖ **Gift Central:** Buy fantastic Club merchandise that will be great under your tree.
- ❖ **Great deals** on See's Candies and Honey Baked Hams.
- ❖ **Free standard shipping** on all Club tickets and merchandise!!

*Start your holidays at the Club Store!*

**Returning this year:** Free holiday gift boxes and bags, with the purchase of select items.



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

# Holiday Happenings



## Be a Holiday Angel

This Christmas, help Club Angels bring goods to those in need.

Christmas is the time of giving. Remember those all around us in need by giving to Club Angels.

Club Angels is the Club's umbrella organization that supports the Club's charitable outreach and includes the Buckets and Blankets program, the Club Holiday Toy Drive, and other initiatives.

For more information, see the Club Angels story on page 21.



## Club Store Holiday Schedule

Make your plans now to visit the Club Store for all your holiday shopping and end-of-year insurance needs!

### Club Store Hours

The Club Store will be open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the following exceptions:

- Closed Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26, for Christmas
- Closed Monday, Jan. 2, for the New Year's holiday
- On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the Club Store will open at noon after its annual inventory

### Club Webstore

The Club Webstore will be open 24/7 online, but fulfillment of some orders will be processed according to the Club Store schedule.

### Free Shipping

Free Shipping: If you want your Club Webstore order to arrive by Christmas using the Club's free standard shipping service, the Club recommends you order by the close of business Monday, Dec. 12. Don't wait!

Members can order from the Club Webstore at:

[www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com)



The Club Store  
120 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Club Store!



## Harbor

# Christmas by the Sea

Port celebrates the season with two events Dec. 3.

On Dec. 3, the Port is hosting an event – Wilmington Winter Wonderland – and sponsoring a second one, the LA Holiday Harbor Afloat Parade.



The Wilmington Winter Wonderland.

### Wilmington Winter Wonderland

You'll believe it can snow in the Port during the Wilmington Winter Wonderland. Bring the family and let the kids play in the snow at Wilmington Waterfront Park, 1004 W. C Street in Wilmington. This free event, scheduled from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., is hosted by the Harbor.

### Los Angeles Holiday Harbor Afloat Parade

Join harbor community members for this free and festive boat parade on the LA Waterfront, sponsored by the Port. Enjoy the sparkling spectacular parade of boats and celebrate the nation's busiest international trade gateway. Before the parade, at 4 p.m., viewers are invited to enjoy holiday festivities at Banning's Landing Community Center in Wilmington. 6-9 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.laharborholidayafloat.org/>.



A previous Holiday Harbor Afloat Parade.

## Christmas by the Sea

**What:** Two holiday-themed events  
**When:** Sat., Dec. 3  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; 6 – 9 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [www.portofla.org](http://www.portofla.org)

## Rec and Parks



# Skating in the City

Rec and Parks' annual ice skating season in Pershing Square has begun.

The Rec-and-Parks-sponsored Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square enters its 19th season for ice-skating under the sun and stars in the heart of downtown Los Angeles through Jan. 16.

The event formerly was named Downtown on Ice.

This season's unique roster of free community and special events includes the Ice Breaker: Opening Celebration, the popular DJ Spotlight Series, Polar Bear Skate, Learn to Curl and its first-ever Silent Night Skate Party.

The City's largest outdoor rink is open

every day throughout the season—including holidays—and is the perfect urban gathering place for tourists and locals alike. A portion of proceeds will benefit Rec and Parks.

The rink is easily accessible by car, bus or Metro (Pershing Square stop) and there is also convenient underground parking. General admission is \$9. Figure skate and hockey skate rental is \$4. Group rates and private party options are available. Skate session admission tickets can be purchased online in advance or at the rink.

Rec and Parks is a sponsor of the event.

## Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square

**What:** Ice-skating rink in Pershing Square  
**Where:** 532 S. Olive St. downtown  
**When:** Every day through Jan. 16  
**Cost:** Regular skate session admission \$9. Figure and hockey skate rental \$4. Purchase tickets at the rink or in advance at: [www.holidayicerinkdowntownla.com](http://www.holidayicerinkdowntownla.com) Group rates, private party and special event pricing available.  
**Info:** (213) 624-4289 #HolidayIceRinkDTLA  
**Facebook:** HolidayIceRinkDTLA  
**Twitter:** @HolidayRinkDTLA  
**Instagram:** @HolidayIceRinkDTLA  
[www.holidayicerinkdowntownla.com](http://www.holidayicerinkdowntownla.com)

**Hours: Through Dec. 15:**  
Mon. – Thurs., 11:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Friday, 11:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.  
Sunday, 10 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 16 – 30:**  
10 a.m. – 11 p.m. daily  
**Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve):**  
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
**Dec. 25 (Christmas):**  
11:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve):**  
10 a.m. – 11 p.m.  
**Jan. 1 (New Year's Day):**  
10 a.m. – 11 p.m.  
**Jan. 2 – Jan. 16:**  
Mon-Thurs.: 11:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Fri.-Sat.: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

# Holiday Happenings

## Zoo

Photos by Jamie Pham, L.A. Zoo

### Visit Rudolph

Zoo brings presents its reindeer for the holidays.



Reindeer in LA for the holidays.

**Reindeer Romp**

**What:** Reindeer Romp, Los Angeles Zoo: reindeer, holiday fun, visits from Santa Claus

**When:** Through Jan. 8 (daily except Christmas Day)

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Cost:** Free (except Santa photos) with paid Zoo admission (\$20 for general admission, 13 to 61; \$17 for seniors 62-plus), and \$15 for children 2 to 12). No ticket is required for children under age two. Admission for Zoo Association members is free.

**Location:** LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr.

**Parking:** Free.

**Information:** (323) 644-6042 or [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org)

In addition to its big holiday lights festival, the Zoo also offers holiday fun during the day with its annual Reindeer Romp, the only opportunity to see real reindeer in Los Angeles, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through Jan. 8 (except Christmas Day). Guests can make the most of the season with a full day of adventure highlighted by the sight of four wintry visitors – two adults and two adorable youngsters – in their Reindeer Village home. A flurry of other fun on weekends includes holiday crafts for youngsters and more. All Reindeer Romp activities, except Santa photos, are free with paid Zoo admission, which is \$20 for general admission (ages 13 to 61); \$17 for seniors (ages 62+), and \$15 for children (ages 2 to 12). No ticket is required for children under 2. Zoo admission for Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association members is free.



## Rec and Parks



### A Civil War Christmas

Drum Barracks Museum in Wilmington recalls the holidays of yesteryear.

The community is invited to welcome the holiday season by traveling back in time at the Drum Barracks Museum, the City's only surviving Civil War-era military structure. Experience the holiday as it was celebrated in the Civil War era.

**A Civil War Christmas**

**Dates:** Special event: Dec. 3-4  
Regular hours: Tues.-Thurs., and Sat.-Sun. Closed Christmas Day.

**Tickets:** Free for special event (tickets for regular tours: \$5 suggested donation)

**Address:** 1052 Banning Blvd., Wilmington

**Info:** (310) 548-7509 or [www.drumbarracks.org](http://www.drumbarracks.org)

The 16th annual "A Civil War Christmas" is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 3-4. Guests can travel in the height of style on the popular horse-drawn, holiday-red trolley. Music will fill the rooms of the Drum Barracks with joyous sounds, and bell ringing will occur. An encampment will be set up on the museum grounds – visit the camp, and learn how Civil War soldiers and their families celebrated the holidays. Arts and crafts of the era will be taught during the weekend, including the decorating of a soldier's Christmas tree. Admission to Drum Barracks is free for this special event.

Drum Barracks Museum is a Rec and Parks facility.

Be a Part of a Club Holiday Tradition

# It's Party Pix Time

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

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

**Take the photos yourself:**

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

Email the photos to [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com). If there are a lot, it's best to send them in on a thumb drive; put 'em up on Dropbox, Box, or some other cloud service; or deliver (or mail) a CD or DVD to the Club. The address is on the inside front cover. Make sure the photos are as high resolution as you can make them.

**We'll take your holiday photos for you:**

Let us know when your holiday party is, and we'll try to send a Club Counselor. Please note: There are more City holiday parties than we can cover, but we will try. That's why it's best to send in your own photos. If you want us to cover your party, talk to your Club Rep (Arlene Herrero, Angel Gomez, Gedina Bergstrom, Dalila Vielma, Jeanette Gadut, Tiffany Sy, Cheryl Martin or Noelle Kauffman) or email Robert Larios, Club Vice President of Operations, at [rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com). We'll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can't guarantee it.



See you at the party!

# Holiday Happenings

Club Angels

## Donate to the Club's Toy Drive!



As part of its Club Angels program, the Club is gearing up its annual holiday drive for children. This year, the Club is helping the **West Valley Sanitation Yard** collect toys for the Guadalupe Center in Canoga Park (see our cover story). The Club invites all Club Members to drop off a new toy, unwrapped, for underprivileged children at the Club Store **before Dec. 14** – and we'll take it from there! (Or you can bring them to the West Valley Yard – see information in this month's feature story.)

**Please be generous!**

### Holiday Newsbrief

El Pueblo Historical Monument

## Las Posadas on Olvera Street

Mexican Christmas tradition begins again Dec. 16-24.

**L**as Posadas, a Mexican tradition that's one of the City's oldest Christmas events, returns to Olvera Street Dec. 16-24. Each night's festivities run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The *Las Posadas* celebration commemorates what Christians believe was the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter in preparation for to Jesus' birth.

*Las Posadas* has been played out in Mexico for centuries. The tradition goes back to 1538, when Jesuit priests came to New Spain to convert the natives to Roman Catholicism. At the time, the natives celebrated a nine-day feast honoring the coming of an Aztec sun god. The missionaries used the nine-day framework and adapted it to Christianity. The tradition has thrived for nearly six centuries in Mexico and throughout Latin American.

On Olvera Street, the event will feature a candlelight procession starting at the historic Avila Adobe at approximately 7 p.m. The leaders of the march, usually children, will be dressed as shepherds, angels, and Mary and Joseph. They will be followed by dozens of other worshippers. The public is invited to join in or merely observe.

The procession will run up and down Olvera Street with the group singing songs in English and Spanish. They will make stops requesting lodging at designated points ("posadas," or stores), but will be denied, usually in song. Eventually they will be admitted. Complimentary *champurrado* (a Mexican hot beverage) and *pan dulce* (sweet bread) will be served, and piñatas will burst.

Information: (213) 628-1274.

## Fee-Waived Kitten & Cat Adoptions

Starting Saturday, October 29 until grant is exhausted

MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE



**East Valley Shelter**  
14409 Vanowen St., Van Nuys, 91405

**Harbor Shelter**  
957 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, 90731

**North Central Shelter**  
3201 Lacy St., Los Angeles, 90031

**888-452-7381**

**South LA, Chesterfield Square Shelter**  
1850 W. 60th St., Los Angeles, 90047

**West LA Shelter**  
11361 Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, 90064

**West Valley Shelter**  
20655 Plummer St., Chatsworth, 91311

**LAAnimalServices.com**

Club Store

*Celebrating the Lives of City Employees*

# A Beautiful Retirement Gift of Art

Art of Honor's quality keepsakes are now available at the Club Store



**Consider an Art of Honor gift for that special retiree or City employee of achievement. They deserve the best.**

A unique selection of City Employees, Police Officers and Firefighters' retirement gifts are now carried at the Club Store. One of our representatives will assist you in ordering your customized piece that you will surely be proud to present.

Beautiful and handsome, Art of Honor pieces are the perfect way to celebrate a special moment of a family member or coworker. When you want to say thank-you and congratulations with real impact and meaning, Art of Honor is unmistakably the way to go.

And it's a Club exclusive – another unique benefit of Club Membership.

Art of Honor, an L.A.-based company, handcrafts three-dimensional pieces in wood and metal that emulate City, County and State seals, Police and Fire badges, and other government agency insignias. The nation's only traveling



Imagine a spectacular piece of art hanging in a home or an office of a retiring friend or fellow coworker, a beautiful piece that will be the center of conversation for many years to come. And you will be remembered as the one that made it happen.

There is no better way for a group of colleagues or work associates to recognize a retiring friend than with an Art of Honor gift. All Art of Honor creations are custom designed, handmade and personalized. They are the only gift capable of fully recognizing and paying tribute to a lifetime in public service.

Memorial Wall honoring the LAPD fallen officers is an example of Art of Honor's fine work, along with Firefighter Glenn Allen's Memorial in the LAFD Museum in Hollywood.

**One of a Kind**

Art of Honor creates art made specifically to recognize individual careers. Every legacy art piece is custom designed and handcrafted, using only the highest-quality materials to memorialize life-changing events.



**See For Yourself**

Visit the Club Store and see first-hand the great quality of Art of Honor – the Club is displaying an L.A. City seal art piece for you to see and inspect. It's just one example of the beautiful art pieces available for you to see in the Club Store showroom.

**You can also see them online at:**

[www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com) or [www.facebook.com/CityEmployeesClub](http://www.facebook.com/CityEmployeesClub)



DWP



RETIREMENT  
Goodbye, Adolph!

**Adolph De La Cerda retires after 43 years of City service.**

A retirement gathering was held Sept. 29 in honor of the retirement of Adolph De La Cerda, who leaves the City with a fantastic 43 years of service.

Well done, Adolph! And congratulations on your impressive City career.

The party was held at the Saticoy Yard in Van Nuys.

Special thanks go to Theresa Hildebrand for her assistance.



From left: Daniel Davis, Retiree Adolph De La Cerda and Gary Montenegro.



From left: Donald Hall and Retiree Adolph De La Cerda.



From left: Glen Harwell and Retiree Adolph De La Cerda.



From left: Joseph Doss, Retiree Adolph De La Cerda and Gabriel Fisher.



From left: Anselmo Collins and Retiree Adolph De La Cerda.



From left: Louis Feldmeier and Retiree Adolph De La Cerda.



Adolph was all about giving hugs.



From left: John Romeriez, Retired; and Retiree Adolph De La Cerda.



From left: Toya Sullivan, Marlene Babero, Retiree Adolph De La Cerda and Thuy Mauge.

**Congratulations, Adolph!**



# Life's Important Moments

## Share your moments!

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



## New Members

## Welcome New Members!

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

### Airports

Lamont Akens  
 Troy Allen  
 Aranies Joy Andrews  
 Narmin Awad  
 Cassandra Barajas  
 Brody Benard  
 Jesus Bravo  
 Joshua Bretado  
 Crystal Canedo  
 Robert Estrada  
 Jonathan Garcia  
 Braulio Gomez Sandymbi  
 Maximo Gorospe  
 Linda Gossett  
 Michael Govea  
 Joycette Herndon  
 Antonio Holley II  
 David Jenkins  
 Kevin Kong  
 Duron Levy  
 Lousylvia Lockhart  
 Nicholas Martin  
 Erik Martini  
 Sophia Mascorro  
 Tamara McCrossen  
 Wilson Mendez Palma  
 Richard Mock IV  
 Tatiana Montalvo  
 Marcus Moore  
 Wilfredo Morales  
 Marcus Nance  
 Jose Ramirez  
 Hector Ramirez  
 Victor Reyes  
 Jimmeness Robotom  
 Jovany Rodriguez  
 Amanual Rondeau  
 Terri Ross  
 Jasmine Sharp  
 Irvin Solis Carbajal  
 Brandon VanHook  
 Petronilo Villafana  
 Arlisha Walker  
 Jacquye Williams  
 Julian Won  
 Jade Young

### Animal Services

Linda Delarosa  
 Monica Estrada

### Building and Safety

Lamar Davis  
 Ara Hagnazarian  
 Hamik Hartounian  
 Derold Hauff  
 Nicholas Larocca

Bryan Meyer  
 Christophe Thelia  
 John Yakubyan  
 Artin Zarukian

### City Attorney

Anna Garcia

### City Council

Brittney Johnson

### Controllers Office

Ben Reyes

### Finance

Edna Zafra

### LAFD

Jared Bennett  
 Ryan Boswell  
 Brandon Frere  
 Henry Hsieh  
 Victor Jimenez  
 Andre Raya  
 Alfredo Rocha  
 Joann Sanders  
 Ian Soriano

### General Services

Juan Arana  
 Edward Clark  
 Maria Guzman  
 Arnie Hernandez  
 Benton Lahodny  
 Oscar Manalo  
 Brittany Medina  
 Anthony Nunez  
 Kenneth Rogers  
 Daniel Sanchez  
 Joe Vandermeer  
 Juan Villa

### Harbor

Hector Banuelos  
 Tracy Boehm  
 Carmencita Bognot  
 Miguel Cueva  
 Dennis Fetterman  
 Thomas Gazsi  
 Joe Kunkaew  
 Ryan Martinez  
 Carmen Ramos  
 Steve Salas

### Housing

Angelica Wafer  
 Deborah Wood

### ITA

Saran Atwal

### Library

Alberto Alvarez  
 Angela Charles  
 DiAnna Neal

### Mayor's Office

Robert Park  
 Kevin Taylor

### Personnel

Johanna Neighbors

### Planning

Xandro Donado

### LAPD

Ruben Avalos  
 Jesus Bravo  
 Dezele Brown  
 Arnita Brown  
 Barbara Carranza  
 Gabriele Castillo  
 Sherry Chou  
 Sonja Coleman  
 Noel Collins  
 Kimberly Davis  
 Katrina Garcia  
 Rebecca Gonzales  
 Manuel Hernandez  
 Aaeron Jefferson  
 Dennis Kato  
 David Lagesse  
 Eric Lee  
 Lori Leonard  
 Enrique Mendoza  
 Buffy Miller  
 Eric Miller  
 Aida Pedroza  
 Anthony Popper  
 Raul Riojas  
 Justin Scott  
 Eduardo Serrano  
 Amanda Silverstein  
 Aaron Tolliver  
 Christian Ventura  
 Constance White Mongenel  
 Keith Williams

### PUBLIC WORKS

### Sanitation

Alvaro Agredano

Richard Aldana  
 Rita Aparicio  
 Erik Avila  
 Timothy Brink  
 Colin Brooks  
 Jeffrey Cambrano  
 Regina Carter  
 Andres Covarrubias  
 Arian Ghaffari  
 Zipora Gipson  
 Rodger Hill III  
 Charlotte Hudson  
 David Hudson  
 Yolanda Leal  
 Yong Qin Liang  
 Marc Lopez  
 Edward Lowe  
 Michael Marshall  
 Trenton Moore  
 Jesus Navarro  
 Bing Neris  
 Trineca Palacio  
 Darrell Pennyman Jr.  
 Scott Porter  
 Oscar Robles  
 Carl Stokes  
 Elaine Teo  
 Steven Wesson  
 Carvella Woodand

### Street Lighting

Benjamin Lozano  
 Joseph Zwart

### Street Services

Enrique Diaz  
 Rachel Garcia  
 Tad Germain  
 Randy Johnson  
 Peter Kurt  
 Victor Morales  
 Ray Moreno  
 Victor Serrato  
 Ernie Terrazas  
 Jose Villalobos

### Rec and Parks

Alemania Garcia  
 Danya Garcia  
 Feliciano Garcia

Miguel Gonzalez  
 Miryam Hernandez  
 Larry Moore  
 Francisco Nava Jr  
 Mike Pineda  
 Victoria Samayoa

### Transportation

Ben Acuna  
 Michael Craven  
 Juliard Doneza  
 Rose Marie Dymally  
 Linda Edey  
 Crisanta Gonzalez  
 Sandra Magana  
 Teresa Mayer  
 Alexander Molina  
 David Ochoa  
 Michael Oliver  
 Gary Olson  
 Krista Perez  
 Rodolfo Pira  
 Laemicia Porter  
 Kelly Ritter  
 Ricardo Rivera

### DWP

Daniel Alcalá  
 Kristenne Alvero  
 Steve Apodaca  
 Francisco Carrera  
 Amber Chapman  
 Ramon Cortez  
 Bjorn Disselkoe  
 Leon Dunn III  
 Omatseyin Edah  
 Erik Flores  
 Michele Gonzalez  
 Chris Gruber  
 Carlos Guevara  
 Edgar Gutierrez  
 Bridgette Hernandez  
 Joseph Hsiao  
 Benjamin Iglesias  
 Michael Jackson  
 Anthony Jones  
 Fernando Macabagdal  
 Candy Mathews  
 Martha Montoya  
 Brandon Paris

Ricardo Perez  
 Javier Ramirez  
 Daniel Rocha  
 Daniel Rodriguez  
 Carlos Romero  
 Nisselly Rossell  
 Miguel Salazar  
 Chris Sanchez  
 Everardo Santacruz  
 Che Sargent  
 William Sundry  
 Artin Termado

### Other

Barbara Adams  
 Fredric Allen  
 Dan Argueta  
 Anton Atallah  
 Timothy Bradfield  
 Ruben Estrada  
 G. LaVerne Gentry  
 John Guillen  
 Caroline Gutierrez  
 Jane Hauptman  
 Vicki Humphrey  
 Alvin Katz  
 Mimi Lin  
 Ronald Malleis  
 Kathleen Miller  
 Faegheh Mofidi  
 Santiago Monge  
 Bruce Monroe  
 Carol Moorman  
 Zach Morales  
 Anna Murzynowski  
 Ellen Oppenheim  
 Edelmira Pantoja  
 Cynthia Perez  
 Tayo Popoola  
 Jeffrey Russell  
 Sabrina Sandoval  
 Teri Lynn Schmidt  
 Marijane Settlemeyer  
 William Siciliano  
 Margaret Simpson  
 Luis Solis  
 Edmund Sutterley  
 Greg Vergara

## In Memoriam

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

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>Active</b>		Elmore, Harold	GSD 36	Romero, Rene	DWP 33	Silva, Jesus	LAPD 29
Amato, Victor	Airports 18	Famous, Vernon	Transportation 11	Rosenthal, Benjamin	Animal Services 32	Thomas, Terry	Public Works 33
Forney, Nicholette	Library 18	Finn, John	GSD 30	Saenz, Daniel	DWP 49	Wainer, Richard	Public Works 38
Helm Jr., Clarence	DWP 14	Finn, Robert	LAFD 35	Schlx, Arlene	LAPD 42	Wilkins Jr., Robert	DWP 29
Joseph, Keith	Public Works 27	Green, Gary	Airports 31	Schuster, Norma	Public Works 18	Yasuhara, Victor	DWP 31
Navarro, Phillip	Public Works 22	Hall, Philip	Conv. Center 30	Shishima, Robert	DWP 36		
Williams, Keith	DWP 21	Hatter, Marvelyn	DWP 29				
		Hendershott, Hammond	DWP 30				
<b>Retired</b>		Holmes, Howard	Harbor 26				
Alfter, Glen	Rec and Parks 20	Jones, Athalia	Public Works 16				
Alirez, Benito	LAPD 40	McCollum, Jack	DWP 31				
Atkins, Keith	DWP 29	Miranda, Silverio	LAPD 24				
Atkins, Robertdey	DWP 41	Moore, Jacqueline S.	Housing 27				
Bartholomaeus, William	DWP 23	Nash, Thelma	Transportation 16				
Bongolan, Geronimo	DWP 22	Netzner, James	DWP 34				
Booker, Samuel	LAPD 24	Newton, Diane	DWP 26				
Boyer, Buckley	DWP 27	Nguyen, Duc	DWP 16				
Chan, Jason	DWP 30	Ontiveros, Michael	DWP 23				
Chernoff, Martha	City Clerk 18	Ota, Tsuyoko	Harbor 34				
Cote, Claire	DWP 17	Pagarigan, Mary E.	LAPD 34				
Cuniberti, Remo	LAPD 22	Peterson, Thomas	Rec and Parks 34				
Demid, Robert	LAPD 28	Plasencia, Barbara	Transportation 5				
De Renzis, Angelo	City Clerk 38	Quintanar, Leo	Public Works 7				
Dubberke, Wolfgang	Airports 39	Reese, Helen	DWP 27				

## It's Time to Tell Their Story

Every month, *Alive!* publishes the names of those current or retired City Employees who have died. But who were they? Did you know them? If you worked with any of these people, knew a story or two about them or were related to them, consider writing to *Alive!* and letting us know. *Tell their story!*

- Write a few sentences or paragraphs
- Send in a photo, if you have one
- Let us know your name and connection to the deceased
- Send your memories to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)  
*Subject line: Tell Their Story*

## Graduations



**Samiyah Simone Muhammad** graduated from Gahr High School in Cerritos and has been accepted to attend Cal State, Fullerton, majoring in psychology. She hopes to become a social worker, working with troubled youths. She's the granddaughter of **Debora N. Fore**, PCPII, LAPD, Retired.



# Share Your Life's Moments

**Everyone reads  
Life's Important Moments in *Alive!***

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

**Send digital photos to:** (as high a resolution as you can send)  
**[talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)**

OR send paper photos to:

**Life's Moments – *Alive!***

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

*Please don't send the only one you have!*

## Births

## Weddings

## Special Achievement

## In the Military



100 N. 1<sup>ST</sup> St., Ste. 301, Burbank, CA 91502  
877-801-5522 CA License #0252636

# Club Members! Save on your Auto Insurance!

## (888) 801-5522

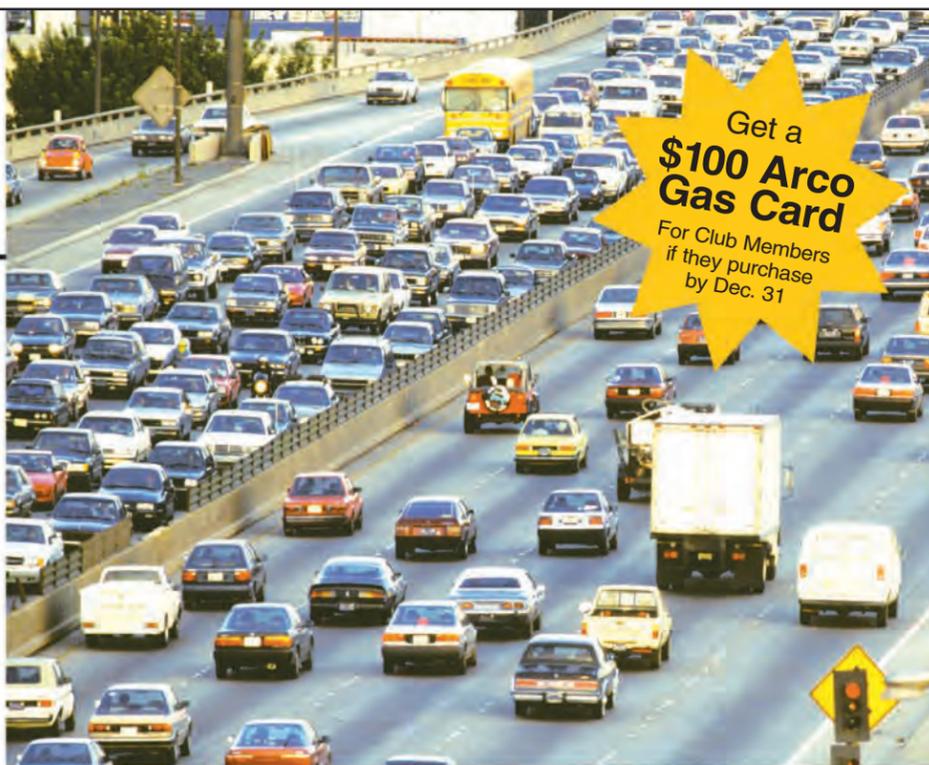
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**CITY EMPLOYEES CLUB**

**We also have great rates on Homes, Boats, Motorcycles, RV's,  
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A FREE Benefit to members of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles



Get a  
**\$100 Arco  
Gas Card**  
For Club Members  
if they purchase  
by Dec. 31

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

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

	COMPANY	(91105 Zip Code)
California Automobile Insurance Premium Survey	Farmers	\$1,482
	State Farm	\$1,339
	Allstate	\$1,329
	Geico	\$1,311
	Auto Club	\$929
	<b>United Agencies</b>	<b>\$876</b>

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

## 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](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

# Cooking with the Club

with Chef Robert Larios



## Potatoes au Gratin

There appear to be so many variations of *Potatoes au Gratin* and you can't go wrong with any that are tried and true. For the recipe I made here, I use heavy cream; in some recipes it is not required. But I think it adds a thickness and creaminess for a unique dimension to the texture. I would also suggest simmering the mixture of heavy cream, milk, butter, garlic and flour to a boil so that the ingredients are well mixed once you begin pouring it over the potatoes. I have also seen dishes where the potatoes are laid sideways instead of face down like the one I made. I do like the idea of it being sideways since it achieves a crispier texture. Nonetheless, try this one and it will be a crowd favorite.

*¡Buen provecho!*

*Chef Larios*

Photography by Patricia M. Larios

### Ingredients:

- 4 to 5 medium russet potatoes, peeled
- 1/2 cup finely sliced sweet yellow onions
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- 2 cups grated cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley
- Sea salt and freshly cracked pepper, to taste

Makes 4 to 6 servings.

### Directions:



**1** Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Peel the potatoes and place in water.



**2** With a mandolin, cut the potatoes into 1/4-inch slices. Beat together cream, milk, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Coat the inside of large baking dish with extra virgin olive oil.



**3** Place sliced potatoes at the bottom of the dish. Add salt and pepper, slices of onion and cheddar cheese. Add several layers, then add the cream mixture. Cover potatoes and bake for 20 minutes, then uncover and bake another 60 minutes or until brown on top. Sprinkle remainder of cheddar cheese and Parmesan cheese. Sprinkle parsley just before serving.



**4** Serve and enjoy!

### [ Food Dictionary ]

#### Gratin:

A gratin is any dish that is topped with cheese or breadcrumbs mixed with bits of butter, then heated in the oven or under the broiler until brown and crispy. The terms *au gratin* or *gratineé* refer to any dish prepared in such a manner. Special round or oval gratin pans and dishes are ovenproof and shallow, which increases a dish's surface area, thereby ensuring a larger crispy portion for each serving.

Bibliography: © Barron's Educational Services, Inc. 2009, Adapted from *The New Food Lover's Companion*, 2007, by Sharon Tyler Herbst and Ron Herbst

*Onions are not required, so if you are not a fan, leave 'em out.*

### Cooking TIDBIT

### Fun Food Quote:

*"What I say is that, if a fellow really likes potatoes, he must be a pretty decent sort of fellow."*

— A.A. Milne

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## Members Marketplace

### New Ads This Month!

**For Rent:** Wilmington, near Anaheim/110 freeways. Carpeted 2 bd/1 bath downstairs, 2 bd/2 bath upstairs. Hardwood, granite counters, 2-car garage. \$2,995/month. Evelyn, (310) 377-1730. 12/16

**For Sale:** For sale: electric lawn mower. Black and Decker. Like new, works great. \$50. (213) 792-3130. 12/16



**For Sale:** Delivery truck. Ford Vanette, 1955. Original engine, solid body, new brakes, suspension. Could be your next food truck or rat rod! \$6,500. (951) 532-5766. 12/16

**For Sale:** Undeveloped ranch near Victorville. 10 acres appraised at \$16,000; 160 acres appraised at \$160,000. Make offer. (310) 488-6140, or barysylvan@live.com 12/16

**For Rent:** 1 bd/1 bath. Inglewood. Upstairs. Kitchen, living room, dining room. 1-car garage. New paint, hardwood, fixtures, double-glazed windows, granite countertop. 82nd/Crenshaw. \$1,350/month. (323) 292-9989. 12/16

#### Transport



**For Sale:** Motorcycle. 2003 chopper. Black cherry. Special construction 8UP, four visor handlebars, 4 back. 113CC. \$26,000 OBO. Camilo, (310) 708-8525, flow-n-arts@mail.com 11/16



**For Sale:** 1967 Chevy Camaro convertible. Original everything. Perfect project car. Must go, make an offer. \$25,000 OBO. (310) 753-9522. 11/16

**For Sale:** SUV. Range Rover HSE, 2003. Green. Cream leather int. 180,000 miles. Well-maintained family vehicle. \$7,200 OBO. (424) 477-9694, rayproca@gmail.com 9/16



**For Sale:** 2015 CAN-AM Turbo side by side. Like new only 20 hours. Good Condition. Really fast and recently serviced. FOX adjustable suspension. Only \$17,500. Can deliver to serious buyer. Additional pic avail on request. Contact John 661 857 1396. 9/16

**For Sale:** Toyota Corolla, 2010, gray. 22,000 miles. In Montebello. \$10,000 OBO. Delia, (208) 262-8031. 7/16



**For Sale:** Travel trailer, 2008 Forest River, 29 ft., clean, fifth wheel, toy hauler. 4,000 Onan generator, power awning, fuel station, more. \$14,000 OBO. Gilbert, (909) 714-4071. 4/16

**For Sale:** RV trailer. 2003 Wanderer, fifth wheel, model 367TB. Onan generator, 12-ft. garage, power hitch, fuel station. AM/FM CD stereo, super slide. \$10,000 OBO. Mike, (661) 557-0975, maddad111@yahoo.com 3/16



**For Sale:** 1980 Cadillac, red, white int., immaculate. New tires, gas tank, fuel pump, stored since 2010. 91,400 miles. \$9,495. (805) 649-1940. 3/16



**For Sale:** Cadillac Brougham, 1989. Leather interior. Very good shape. 77,000 miles. \$4,000 OBO. (626) 797-8328. 12/15

**For Sale:** 1984 F-150 - w/camper shell and carpet kit. As is. \$1100 OBO. Call 310-764-4478 9/15



**For Sale:** 1963 Chevy Corvair, convertible. Good cond., runs great. Light green ext/int., white top. \$9,900 OBO. Alex, (323) 691-0872. 8/15



**For Sale:** Watercraft, his and hers, '93 Bombardier Seadoo, '91 Waverunner w/trailer. Great condition. Jackie, (626) 383-1708. 7/15



**For Sale:** 2003 Harley "ROAD KING" Davidson (100th anniversary edition) motorcycle, 5087 miles, stage 1 with detachable windshield, passenger back support, hardbags, battery charger, black and chrome, hardly ridden, always garaged, 1 owner only. \$10,000.00 OBO. Please call 818-366-3273 John or text 818-633-4164. 7/15



**For Sale:** Motorcycle, 2007 Kawasaki, like new/15 hours ridden, runs great, must see. \$3,000. Robert, (661) 964-7837 bet. 2-7 p.m. 7/15



**For Sale:** RV trailer/toy-hauler, 2006 Forest River Sierra Sport, 29 foot. Very good cond., new tires, new roof, 4,000 onan generator, low hours. \$15,000 OBO. Call/text John Long, (909) 837-8347. 7/15

**2005 Honda Civic Si:** Hatchback, manual, 2-door, sun roof, power windows, security system, XLNT running condition, tan color, 68K miles. \$10,500 OBO. Info @ (310) 642-0522. 10/14

**1993 Infinity Q:** Automatic, 4-door, power windows, XLNT running condition, green color, 125K miles. \$3,000 OBO. Info @ (310) 642-0522. 10/14



**1959 Buick Invicta:** Fully restored, 4 door asking \$25,000. Located in Tehachapi. For more pictures & info: drewlu24@aol.com 9/14

**Pop-Up Trailer Tent:** 2005 Rockwood Freedom, in good condition, very clean interior. Everything works well & ready for camping. Sleeps 6-8. 1 propane tank, stove, sink, spare tire, stabilizer jacks, water heater, awning & refrigerator. \$4,200. Yervand @ (818) 355-7704. 8/14

**5th Wheel Trailer:** 2010 Cougar High Country, excellent condition. Sleeps 4. Slide outs, awnings & full bath. All accessories & new 5th wheel hitch can be towed by 1/2 ton truck, it's ready to go. \$32,000 or TOP. Ken Hawkes @ (310) 505-5733. 8/14

**2013 Dodge Challenger:** Like new, fully loaded, excellent condition, very low mileage asking \$30K OBO. "PATY" @ (626) 242-4365. 8/14

#### Cemetery Plots

**For Sale:** Plot, Inglewood Park Cemetery. Double grave F, Lot 38, Park Terrace. \$8,600. JoAnn, (805) 238-6929. 11/16

**For Sale:** Cemetery plots. Rose Hills, Whittier. 4 plots side/side. Lot 858 Memory Lane. Valued at \$18,000. Sell for \$12,000 H. August, (208) 949-9858, 11/16

**For Sale:** Double cemetery plot. Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, Section Tenderness, Lot 2127 Space A, B. Valued at \$13,000, asking \$11,000 OBO. Robert, (626) 899-2174. 7/16

**For Sale:** Cemetery plots. Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. Valued at \$13,000. Asking \$10,000 OBO. Robert, (626) 899-2174. 3/16

**For Sale:** Burial plots, 4 (spaces 1, 2, 3, 4), Forest Lawn Cemetery, Cypress. Lot 1187, Constant Love section. \$4,100 each OBO. Michelle, (310) 648-5506. 2/16

**4 Cemetery Plots:** Cemetery plots, 4, side by side on the hill at Greenwood Gardens, Rose Hills/Whittier. Approx. value \$18,000, selling \$12,000, or trade cemetery plot for pickup truck of equal value. Cortez, (323) 382-2405. 2/15

#### Furniture

**For Sale:** Bed frame. Antique Cal-king, heavy iron/brass mixture. \$150 OBO. (626) 260-3787. 11/16

**For Sale:** Grand piano. Yamaha C3 Conservatory. Like new. Humidifier. Cover. Concert bench. Internal felt dust cover for soundboard. \$17,000 OBO. Victor Vallejo, (323) 356-7595. 8/16



**For Sale:** Armoire. 36inch Wx-62Hx21D. Wood. 5 deep drawers. Right side hanger could be shelves. \$450. Jeanne, (626) 281-2907. 6/16



**For Sale:** cabinet. Vintage, blond oak. Great condition. Glass shelves, mirror back, interior light. \$450 OBO. (626) 359-0023 5/16

**For Sale:** Furniture. Oak. King size bedroom suite; china cabinet; dining room table, six chairs; more. \$2,000 OBO. Vic, newtvic@gmail.com 3/16



**For Sale:** Bedroom set, 5 piece, cherry wood. Good cond. \$650 OBO. (818) 281-1488. 10/15

**For Sale:** Crib, cream colored, designer style. Good cond. \$350 OBO. (818) 281-1488. 10/15

**For sale:** Sofa and chair, great condition, leather/upholstered, "reversible" pillows/cushions. Carved wood, unique design, nail heads. \$600 OBO. Charlene, (661) 916-2970. 5/15

**For Rent:** Lovely apartment in Los Angeles (5-units). 1 bed / 1 bath, kitchen, living room, dining room, 1-car garage. Upstairs unit. New paint, carpet, windows and fixtures. Very quiet on Don Tomaso Dr. Close to public transportation. Call for more details (310) 365-1868. 8/15

**For Sale:** Cabin, A frame, San Bernardino mtns., secluded, views. 765 sq. ft.; 1BD/1BA; new cabinets; needs work; 30903 Live Oak Dr., Running Springs. Photos on Realtor.com. \$127,000; Dan Teter: (866) 214-8587. 7/15



**For rent:** Vacation rental, Big Bear Lake. 3 bd/2 bath house in village. Fully furnished, near the lake. John Long, Call (909) 837-8347. 5/15

**For rent:** Studio apt. in safe, quiet La Crescenta, Wifi-ready, semi-furnished, double-pane windows, glass-sliding doors opening to vegetable garden, fruit trees, succulents, seating areas, mountain views. Close to Montrose and Trader Joe's, 2 blocks to public transportation. \$1,400 includes utilities. Lita, (818) 795-4074. 4/15

**Vacation rental:** Condo in beautiful oceanfront resort, Cabo San Lucas. 7-day rental for \$795. 1 bd, 1 bath; completely furnished, full kitchen w/ views of El Arco on Medano Beach. Close to downtown, shopping, restaurants, entertainment. View at clubcascadasdebaja.com. (562) 301-2940. 4/15

#### Household Items



**For Sale:** exercise equipment. Chair Gym, w/ mat, twister, ball, instructions. Open box, never used. \$150. (818) 242-8644. 5/16



**For Sale:** Exercise equipment. Ab-Doer Twist Ex. Abdominal workout machine. DVD. Exclnt. cond. \$125. (818) 242-8644. 5/16



**For Sale:** Fitness equipment. Back2Life back relief machine. With a/c. Exclnt. cond. \$75. (818) 242-8644. 5/16

**For Sale:** Kitchenware. V-Slicer Pro Mandoline by Swissmar/Borner. New. \$25. (213) 792-3130. 3/16

**For Sale:** Light meter. Gossen Luna Pro SBC. New condition. Manual. \$45. (213) 792-3130. 3/16



**For Sale:** DVD/CD player/storage, Sony ES DVP, jukebox style, stores up to 150 disks. Categorize/play on demand. Incl. remote, keyboard for input. Door does not close but can be done manually, or may be repaired. John, (626) 757-5341; jgonzlez@hotmail.com 11/15



**For Sale:** Oven, Kenmore 30-in. wall unit, electric, self-clean, white. Brand new in package. 30 inch/wide x 29 inch/high x 24.5 inch deep. \$600. (562) 301-2940. 10/15



**For Sale:** TV/entertainment center. Phillips Magnavox 60-inch TV, \$200/obo. All maple entertainment center, 3 piece, glass doors, tall sliding compartment doors, \$800/obo. Martha, (213) 367-4094. 9/15

#### Miscellaneous

**For Sale:** Portable generator. Honda 5000. Wheel kit, electric starter, shop manual. Avail. from noon - 8 p.m. \$1,000. (818) 893-1805. 11/16

**For Sale:** Vintage magazines. Architectural Digest. 150 issues dated 1981-82, 1991-99. Well kept. 25 cents each, \$25 all. Don, (818) 780-7788. 11/16

**For Sale:** treadmill. Sears Crosswalk. \$200. (818) 893-1805, noon-8 p.m. only. 9/16

**For Sale:** Turtles, fresh water, 3, 10 yrs old, w/ large aquarium. \$100 OBO. George, (818) 308-7644 or george.pardo@lacity.org 3/16

**For Sale:** Board games. Trivial Pursuit. Master Game Genius Edition and Silver Screen Edition. \$15. (213) 792-3130. 3/16

**For Sale:** Exercise device. Easy Shaper by Tony Little. Exclnt. cond. \$15. (213) 792-3130. 3/16

**For Sale:** Model railroad track. Kato Unitrack oval set, Atlas power pack, HO scale. \$30. (213) 792-3130. 3/16

**For Sale:** Genie 3/4 hp chain drive garage door opener-\$30.00 Write to: ajoyoupal@juno.com 1/16

**For Sale:** 2-way radios. Motorola Talkabout T7400. AA or NiMH batteries. Long-range transmissions, weather channels. Ideal for camping/boating safety. And fun! \$55. Mike, (562) 596-1346 12/15

**For Sale:** Suze Orman's Protection Portfolio, new w/case. \$85. (213) 792-3130. 11/15



**For Sale:** neon sign for game room. New, never used. Valued at \$250. \$175. John, (626) 757-5341;jgonzlez@hotmail.com 11/15

#### CLASSIFIED ADS

**FREE**  
for Club Members!

**\$50** for non-Members.  
per month

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

Email your ad (and picture) to

Classifieds@cityemployeesclub.com or you can fax your ad to (213) 620-0598

We'll run your ad in the next available issue on a space available basis. Your ad may be edited for length or appropriateness.

**Classified Submission Deadline:**

Dec. 2016 issue of *Alive!*:  
**12/15/16**



**For Sale:** Aquarium, "cube" salt water, 38 gallon. Incl. aquarium, stand, extras (no fish). Valued at \$2,000 in equipment, supplies. \$600. John, (626) 757-5341; jgonzlez@hotmail.com 11/15



**For Sale:** Plumeria trees. White. Scented. From Hawaii. Assorted heights. \$10/foot, potted. Buyer picks up. Michael, (310) 339-7684. 10/15

**For Sale:** Exercise set. Tony Little Easy Shaper. Exclnt cond. \$40. (213) 792-3130. 9/15

#### Travel/Timeshare

**Timeshare:** Welks Resort, San Diego, CA. For Sale. \$20K. Chermaine @ (661) 547-6707. 11/15

**Timeshare:** For sale or rent. 1BD, Palm Springs, CA, deeded float week anytime during the year, can be exchanged for another resort worldwide. Info @ (310) 329-0682 or e-mail: time31011@yahoo.com 7/14

#### Wanted

**Wanted:** Baseball teams to join Saturday league. Recreational level. Tony, (310) 764-1792 11/16

**Wanted:** Riders for van pool, Lomita to Lincoln Heights. Leaves Lomita @5:40 a.m., BOA Carson @5:45, JFB @6:10, Main St. @6:15, arrives Artesian St. @6:20. Return to Lomita by 5 p.m. James, (310) 626-7169 or (213) 354-4790. 7/16

**Wanted:** I buy all kinds of collectibles: crystal, Disney, fishing gear, military items, musical instruments, pocket knives, gold & silver, Radko, WDCC. Michael @ (626) 592-2929. 11/12

**AMC December 2016 Films**

<b>BELIEVE</b> IN THEATERS DECEMBER 2ND	<b>OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY</b>	<b>COLLATERAL BEAUTY</b> WE ARE ALL STRANGERS	<b>ROGUE ONE</b>
December 2	December 9	December 16	December 16
<b>ASSASSIN'S CREED</b>	<b>PASSENGERS</b>	<b>SING</b> FROM THE CREATORS OF UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY	<b>WHY HIM?</b> BY ALL MEANS THE REASONER JAMES FRANCO • BRYAN CRANSTON
December 21	December 21	December 21	December 23

**Black Tickets** are good for these movies & more

©2016 AMC

## Larios in the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS,  
Chief Operating Officer  
rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com

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

**Beverly T. Mims,**  
Retired from Housing  
with 34 years of City  
service.

**Congratulations!**

# DISCOUNT TICKETS + 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY FREE

**LEGOLAND® CALIFORNIA RESORT**  
**HOLIDAYS**

**SAVE BIG ON TICKETS + GET A 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY FREE TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON!**

**CITY DISCOUNT TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT LA CITY EMPLOYEES CLUB OR BY CALLING 888-777-1744**

**LEGOLAND**  
CALIFORNIA RESORT  
**LEGOLAND.com**

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# FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNT TICKETS

CHEAPEST TICKETS IN THE STATE **UP TO 60% OFF**  
CHEAP TICKETS - INSANE SERVICE - AFFORDABLE INSURANCE

## DECEMBER 2016

**ICON REFERENCE** eTicket you can print on demand 24/7  
 eTicket available Mon - Fri 8AM - 4:00PM

### MOVIE THEATERS

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>AMC THEATERS</b>		
Gold Tickets - Good Any Time	\$14.00	\$9.50
Black Tickets - Good Any Time	\$14.00	\$10.25
Green Tickets - Exclude Disney Productions	\$14.00	\$9.00
Small Popcorn	\$5.50	\$3.00
Small Drink	\$4.50	\$3.00
Movie Bundle	\$45.00	\$29.50
<i>- Includes 2 Gold movie tickets, 2 small drinks, 1 small popcorn</i>		
<b>BRENDEAN THEATRES</b>	\$11.25	\$8.00
<b>CINEMARK THEATERS </b>	\$11.75	\$8.50
<b>CINÉPOLIS THEATERS</b>		
Traditional Theaters	\$12.00	\$7.50
Luxury Theaters	\$22.00	\$17.00
<b>GALAXY THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time	\$11.00	\$8.00
<b>HARKINS MOVIE THEATERS</b>		
Restricted	\$10.00	\$6.50
Good Any Time	\$10.00	\$7.50
Small Popcorn	\$5.25	\$4.25
Small Drink	\$4.50	\$3.50
<b>KRIKORIAN THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time	\$12.00	\$7.50
<b>LAEMMLE THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time	\$11.00	\$7.50
<b>LANDMARK THEATERS</b>	\$13.00	\$8.00
<b>METROPOLITAN THEATERS</b>		
Unrestricted Tickets	\$13.00	\$8.00
Restricted Tickets	\$10.50	\$6.75
<b>PACIFIC THEATERS</b> - Restricted	\$13.75	\$8.00
<i>* \$2 surcharge for use at Americana in Glendale and at The Grove in L.A. - (Not valid at Archlight Theaters)</i>		
<b>READING CINEMAS</b> - Restricted	\$12.50	\$7.50
<b>REGAL/ EDWARDS/ UNITED ARTIST</b>		
Good Any Time	\$14.75	\$8.50
Movie Pack	\$30.00	\$26.00
<i>- Includes 2 Good Any Time movie tickets and a \$10 concession gift card</i>		
<b>REGENCY THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time	\$11.50	\$7.00
<b>ULTRASTAR THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time	\$11.25	\$6.00

### ATTRACTIONS

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>AQUARIUM OF THE BAY </b> SAN FRANCISCO		
Adult	\$24.95	\$19.96
Child (4 - 12)	\$14.95	\$11.96
<b>AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC </b>		
Adult	\$29.95	\$17.95
Child (3 - 11)	\$17.95	\$11.95
<b>BOOMER'S FUN CENTERS </b> SELECT CALIFORNIA LOCATIONS		
4 Hour Pass	\$42.99	\$24.99
<b>CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE </b>		
Adult	\$34.95	\$29.71
Child (4 - 11)	\$24.95	\$21.21
Youth (12-17)/ Student (with ID) / Senior (65+)	\$29.95	\$25.46
<b>CATALINA EXPRESS </b> Round Trip Fare		
Adult	\$76.50	\$60.00
Child	\$61.00	\$50.50

### ATTRACTIONS CONT'D

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>DAVEY'S LOCKER </b>		
Whale Watching	Adult \$32.00 Child \$26.00	\$21.00 \$15.75
Sport Fishing - 1/2 Day	Adult \$41.50 Child \$34.00	\$31.50 \$25.21
Sport Fishing - 3/4 Day	Adult \$71.00 Child \$61.00	\$57.75 \$47.25
Sunset / Evening Cruise	Adult \$25.00	\$12.61
<b>GOLF N' STUFF</b>		
3 Hour Unlimited Wristband - (Norwalk Location)	\$30.00	\$16.25
All Park Pass - (Ventura Location)	\$20.00	\$15.25
<b>GRAMMY MUSEUM </b>		
General Admission	\$12.95	\$10.00
<b>IFLY INDOOR SKYDIVING </b>		
Hollywood - Earn Your Wings Flight Package (Age 3+)	\$59.95	\$39.95
San Francisco - Save 15% Off All Flight Packages	\$59.95	\$50.96
<b>K1 SPEED RACING</b>		
This pass entitles the owner to (1) 14 Lap race and a annual license for the day.	\$25.95	\$15.25
<b>MADAME TUSSAUDS WAX ATTRACTION </b> <i>All Access Pass includes Marvel Super Heroes 4D Experience.</i>		
Hollywood	Adult \$40.00 Child (4 - 12) \$35.00	\$16.00 \$13.00
Las Vegas (eTickets Only)	Adult \$29.95	\$12.50
<b>MEDIAEVAL TIMES </b> <i>E-ticket prices will vary depending on date/time selections.</i>		
Adult	\$57.95	\$43.50
Child (0 - 12)	\$35.95	\$31.50
<b>MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM </b>		
Adult	\$39.95	\$34.95
Child (3 - 12)	\$24.95	\$19.95
	\$34.95	\$29.95
<b>MULLIGAN'S FAMILY FUN CENTER</b>		
All Day Pass	Adult/Child \$33.99	\$16.50
<i>- Unlimited use of Laser Tag, Miniature Golfing, Go-Karts/Speedway and the Rock Wall. Valid at Mulligan Torrance, Murrieta, and Palmdale.</i>		
<b>PIRATES DINNER ADVENTURE </b>		
Adult	\$56.95	\$36.00
Child (3 - 11)	\$37.95	\$27.50
<b>QUEEN MARY / BATTLESHIP </b> IOWA COMBO		
Adult	\$42.95	\$31.92
Youth (12 - 17)	\$34.95	\$25.95
Child (6 - 11)	\$23.95	\$17.95
<b>RACERS EDGE INDOOR KARTING</b>		
Adult: 16-Lap Adult Race	\$23.00	\$18.00
Junior (50" tall): 11-Lap Junior Race	\$20.00	\$15.00
<b>SANTA MONICA PIER &amp; PACIFIC PARK </b>		
Unlimited Ride Wristband	\$25.95	\$13.50
Family 4 Pack (includes 4 wristband + 4 meal card)	\$149.00	\$68.00
<b>SPEEDZONE </b>		
3 Hour Unlimited Pass on Rides and Mini-Golf	\$49.99	\$28.00
<b>TEATRO MARTINI </b> Buena Park, California		
	\$75.75	\$42.00
<b>USS IOWA </b> SAN PEDRO		
Adult	\$18.00	\$13.50
Child (6 - 11)	\$10.00	\$7.50
Senior (62+) or Military (with ID)	\$15.00	\$10.50

### ATTRACTIONS CONT'D

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>USS MIDWAY </b> SAN DIEGO		
Adult	\$20.00	\$14.00
Child (6 - 11)	\$10.00	\$7.00
Senior (62+)	\$17.00	\$11.00

### THEME PARKS

<b>ADVENTURE CITY </b>		
Adult/ Child	\$17.95	\$13.50
<b>DISNEYLAND / CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE</b>		
<i>*Disneyland no longer offers discount etickets as of 9/15/16* Please check website for options.</i>		
<b>CALIFORNIA'S GREAT AMERICA </b>		
General Admission (Age 3+)	\$67.00	\$36.00
<b>CASTLE PARK </b>		
General Admission (over 36")	\$24.99	\$12.99
<b>GILROY GARDENS </b>		
General Admission	\$52.00	\$26.00
Luminations Admission (7/26 - 11/29/16)	\$30.00	\$15.00
<b>HERSHEY PARK (PENNSYLVANIA) </b>		
Adult	\$63.80	\$48.10
Child	\$40.80	\$36.10
<b>KNOTT'S BERRY FARM</b>		
Adult	\$72.00	\$39.00
Child (3-11), Senior (62+)	\$42.00	\$34.00
Cheaper for eTickets	Adult \$72.00 Child (3-11), Senior (62+) \$42.00	\$35.00 \$32.00
<b>LOS ANGELES ZOO </b>		
Adult	\$20.00	\$16.00
Child (2-12)	\$15.00	\$12.00
<b>LEGOLAND </b> <i>Includes 2nd Day FREE (expires 12/25/16)</i>		
1 - Day , 1 - Park	Adult \$120.00 Child (3 - 11) \$114.00	\$76.00 \$70.00
Legoland Resort Hopper	Adult \$144.00 Child (3 - 11) \$138.00	\$84.00 \$78.00
Sea Life Hopper	Adult \$138.00 Child (3 - 11) \$132.00	\$65.00 \$65.00
<b>MAGIC MOUNTAIN </b>		
General Admission	\$76.99	\$49.99
<b>SAN DIEGO ZOO / SAFARI PARK </b>		
Adult	\$52.00	\$42.64
Child (3 - 11)	\$42.00	\$34.44
<b>SEAWORLD - SAN DIEGO </b>		
Adult	\$89.00	\$64.25
Child (3 - 9)	\$83.00	\$64.25
Admission w/ All-Day-Dining Pass (Adult /Child)	\$124.00	
Fun Card (valid until 12/31/16)	\$89.00	\$76.50
<b>One-Day park tickets are valid until 12/25/16</b>		

### THEME PARKS CONT'D

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>SILVERWOOD THEME PARK (IDAHO) </b>		
Adult	\$48.00	\$39.00
Child (3 - 7)	\$25.00	\$20.00
<b>SIX FLAGS DISCOVERY KINGDOM </b> VALLEJO		
General Admission (over 48")	\$66.99	\$40.99
<b>UNIVERSAL STUDIOS </b>		
Adult / Child (under 48")	\$115.00	\$95.00 & UP
12 Month Pass	\$149.00	\$109.00

### WINTER SKI RESORTS

<b>SIERRA @ LAKE TAHOE</b>	Comming Soon!
<b>SUGAR BOWL @ LAKE TAHOE</b>	Comming Soon!
<b>MAMMOTH SKI AREA</b>	Comming Soon!
<b>BIG BEAR/ SNOW SUMMIT</b>	Comming Soon!
<b>SNOW VALLEY</b>	Comming Soon!

### SPORTING EVENTS

<b>LOS ANGELES DODGERS</b>	Games available online
<b>ANGELS OF ANAHEIM</b>	Games available online
<b>SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS</b>	Games available online
<b>SAN DIEGO PADRES</b>	Games available online
<b>LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS</b>	Games available online
<b>LOS ANGELES SPARKS</b>	Games available online
<b>LOS ANGELES KINGS</b>	Games available online
<b>SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC FC</b>	Games available online

### MORE MEMBER DISCOUNTS

<b>GODIVA CHOCOLATE</b>	Save 15% OFF regular price
<b>HOTEL STORM</b>	Up to 60% OFF hotel bookings
<b>MRS. FIELDS COOKIES</b>	Save 15% OFF regular price
<b>OMAHA STEAKS</b>	Extra 10% OFF online orders
<b>SKECHERS SHOES</b>	30% OFF select styles

### GIFT CERTIFICATES

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>HONEYBAKED HAM</b>		
\$25 Gift Card	\$25.00	\$22.50
<b>SEE'S CANDIES</b>		
Good for 1lb of chocolate	\$18.50	\$14.25

**Club Benefit** **FREE SHIPPING**  
**On Every Order!!**

**THE CLUB DOES NOT CHARGE ANY PROCESSING OR HANDLING FEES!**

Los Angeles Public Library  
**Library's**  
**TOP**  
**10**

Here's what LA was reading, watching and listening to in October.

Lists are courtesy Los Angeles Public Library, Central library downtown and 72 branches combined.

**Books loaned**

1. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, Ransom Riggs
2. *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family*, J. D. Vance
3. *The Girl With the Lower Back Tattoo*, Amy Schumer
4. *The Hidden Oracle*, Rick Riordan
5. *15th Affair*, James Patterson
6. *Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates
7. *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Marie Kondo
8. *The Son of Neptune*, Rick Riordan.
9. *Apprentice in Death*, J. D. Robb
10. *The Titan's Curse*, Rick Riordan

**DVDs loaned**

1. London Has Fallen
2. American Crime Story
3. Deadpool
4. Keanu
5. The Walking Dead: The Complete Sixth Season
6. Star Wars, Episode VII: The Force Awakens
7. The Revenant
8. Allegiant
9. Hail, Caesar!
10. Whiskey Tango Foxtrot

**Books downloaded**

(e-books)

1. *This Is Where It Ends*, Marike Nijkamp
2. *The Girl on the Train*, Paula Hawkins
3. *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, J.K. Rowling
4. *Truly Madly Guilty*, Liane Moriarty
5. *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead
6. *The Woman in Cabin 10*, Ruth Ware
7. *The Girls*, Emma Cline
8. *All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr
9. *Commonwealth*, Ann Patchett
10. *The Girl With the Lower Back Tattoo*, Amy Schumer

**Download-and-Keep songs\***

1. "Closer," the Chainsmokers feat. Halsey
2. "The Greatest," Sia feat. Kendrick Lamar
3. "Love Me Now," John Legend
4. "All We Know," the Chainsmokers feat. Phoebe Ryan
5. "My Way," Calvin Harris
6. "Waste a Moment," Kings of Leon
7. "True Colors," Anna Kendrick and Justin Timberlake
8. "Don't Let Me Down," the Chainsmokers feat. Daya
9. "Find Me," Kings of Leon
10. "Eyes on You," Kings of Leon

\* "Freegal" music via the Library lets users download and keep up to five songs a month – it's seriously free and legal! Check it out at <http://lapl.freegalmusic.com>

**The Club**

# Here Come the Refund Checks!

The Club's Life Insurance refund for 2016 is approximately \$175,000. Are you eligible?

Here come the refund checks! The Board of Directors has approved a Club Life Insurance refund of approximately \$175,000 to be distributed back to the eligible Club members.

The Club continues its tradition of rewarding Club Life Insurance policyholders with a return of unused premiums (total premiums collected less paid claims and expenses). The 2016 refund will be the Club's 85th refund in the Club's 88 years of existence.

The refund checks will be distributed via the U.S. Mail; some will be hand-delivered. The checks will be mailed in late December.

"The Club is proud to offer its Members with strong insurance products that are there when our Members are in need," says Brian Trent, the Club's Chief Financial Officer. "That's our first priority. And when we can, we are happy to return that portion of the premiums that are not needed, to those who are eligible. We've returned funds in 85 of our 88 years."

**Who is eligible for the refund?**

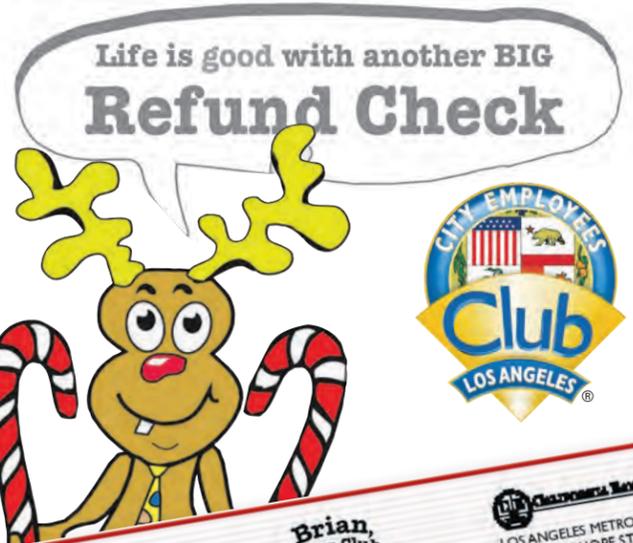
Anyone who had Life, Spouse Life, Dependent Life, Retiree Life or Retiree Spouse Life Insurance in force for July 2016 is eligible for a refund.

The actual amount Members receive is determined as a percentage of the total premiums paid by an individual for the period of August 2015 through July 2016. However, those who dropped their insurance coverage prior to July 31, 2016, are not eligible for any refund.

Do you want to be eligible for next year's refund (if any)? It's simple. Purchase any Life product from the Club, and you could be eligible for next year. Insure your family's future and receive a little reward each year for living!

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

Brian, your Club CFO says...



**Airports**

Photos by Stephanie Sampson, Airports

# Careers Ready for Takeoff

LAX Employees demonstrate aviation careers to high school students.

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) officials welcomed more than 700 local high school students to the first LAX Aviation Career Day Nov. 9. The event, hosted by LAX's Community Relations Division, focused on giving students the opportunity to discover careers in the aviation field and showcasing aviation-related companies that offer entry-level jobs to high school graduates.

LAX Aviation Career Day featured more than 30 exhibitors from airlines, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Customs and Border Protection, Airport Police, air cargo companies and other aviation/aerospace companies. Student attendees met industry professionals, viewed interactive exhibits, toured helicopters and Beechcraft and Cessna aircraft, and saw live demonstrations.



An Airport Police Officer explains his responsibilities to high school students.



An LAFD Firefighter (center) and an LA County Firefighter (foreground, right) talk about aviation careers to high school students.

"Aviation experts project a critical decline in the pool of pilots and technicians to maintain airlines, and other industry professionals by 2031," said Trevor Daley, Airports Deputy Executive Director of External Affairs. "This event shows us we can fuel the future of aviation by inspiring students to develop a passion for aviation at an early age."

Participating schools from Los Angeles and nearby communities

included Augustus Hawkins High School, Centennial High School, Cesar Chavez Learning Complex, Miguel Contreras Learning Complex, Manual Arts High School, Bernstein High School, Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet High School, Compton Early College High School, St. Bernard High School, Culver City High School, and Canyon High School Aviation Academy in Anaheim. Students from Torrance Unified School District, Inglewood Unified School District, Gardena and Hawthorne also participated.

The LAX Community Relations Division develops and implements ongoing community outreach programs designed to optimize effective two-way communications with various publics. A key focus of the division is establishing programs and services that address the needs and concerns of surrounding airport communities through opportunities such as youth programs, aviation education, speakers bureau, and community and civic participation. In addition, the division handles liaison activities with community-based organizations and oversees public agency-private industry partnerships.

**For more information on LAX Community Relations' educational programs, contact LAX Career Day Coordinator Harold Johnson at (424) 646-7465.**



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