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# Alive!

## SUMMER IN THE CITY!

# Play Is Serious Fun

Rec and Parks' playground maintenance crew ensures your day at the park is safe and enjoyable.

### INSIDE:

Find your nearest playground, grab your family and have fun!

- SEE PAGE 24



Replacing the surface at the Stoner Park playground in West L.A. are members of the Playground Equipment crew, top row, from left: Alfred Ruiz, Special Projects Assistant II, 1 year of City service; and David Fossett, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 26 years. Middle: Wilfredo Osoria, Mechanical Repairer, 9 years; Andrew Vargas, Special Projects Assistant II, 2 years; Victorino Aguayo, Special Projects Assistant II, 12 years; and Dale Matsumura, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 15 years. Bottom: Paul Warner, Special Projects Assistant II, 1 year, and Alex Lopez, Special Projects Assistant II, 2 years.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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**A Message From the CEO**

# Fun on Purpose

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO, The Club

Raise your hand if you've spent countless hours having a great time on a playground at some time in your life, or have watched your kids do the same.

Thought so. So have I.

But how many have thought about who designs and maintains these places of imagination and exercise?

I didn't. But after our feature story this month, I do now.

It's astounding that the City maintains and upgrades something like 425 playgrounds every month. A lot of work goes into that; I'll let you read all the details.

Beyond the nuts and bolts, though, this group is quite thoughtful about what they do. It's not just rubber mats and paint and springs to them; they actually think about what their work means to tens of thousands of the City's children. They see a larger picture.

Here's what I mean: **Philip Gary**, the playground equipment maintenance man and the focus of this month's *Alive!* interview, gave us some awesome thoughts about the higher meaning of play and imagination. And **David Fossett**, the Club Member who mentioned to us that this group might make a good story, actually writes poetry about the impact that the playgrounds have on kids everywhere. Pretty amazing, right?



Philip Gary of Rec and Parks' Playground Equipment Group (right), with Club CEO John Hawkins in the playground equipment testing area.

Well, I shouldn't be surprised. After all, the Playground Equipment Group and Landscape Architects toil mostly in anonymity, like many of the City departments we feature in *Alive!* Month after month, year after year, we find that City Employees are dedicated and purposeful even when no one knows what they do. We've been changing that perception for more than 13 years with every cover story, and we'll happily continue to do so in the future.

So as we celebrate Summer in the City again in August, we honor the purpose of fun and imagination, and honor those who make it possible for so many people in the City. (We thank **Tom Gibson, Craig Raines, Mel Raiford, JuanCarlos Chan, Rose Watson, Diana Bulnes** and others in Rec and Parks for helping us bring this story to you.)



Club CEO John Hawkins (right) and Joe Govea, Retired, from the July *Alive!*

Meanwhile, I want to note the many personal comments and strong letters we received about last month's cover story on **Joe Govea**, Retired, Building and Safety, and decorated World War II veteran. Its depth and power clearly struck a nerve in you, our readers, as clearly as it did with the editorial team here at *Alive!* when we first put it together. It's one of our most talked-about

features ever. And to say that Joe has been touched by the reaction is an understatement. That's what we wanted, to honor this amazing man and his incredible story of bravery and service. So, thanks to all of you who have let us know what this story means to you. It means a lot to us just to hear that.

August brings our usual assortment of goodies – graduations, travel photos and some really cool Picture Perfects. But mostly, I want to encourage Club Members to spend time with their families before school starts, or the busyness of fall sets in. August is just perfect for family togetherness. Whether that's at a City playground or at a City museum, or at our great Zoo or parks or pools, find some time to be there for each other. You'll never regret it.

**JOHN**

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

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The Club's Summy Lam and John Hawkins (right) photograph the crew fixing the surface of the Stoner Park playground in West L.A.



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<b>The Club's FAX Number</b>	<b>(213) 620-0398</b>
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City Paymaster	(213) 978-1593
Commuter Services	(888) 457-9460
Deferred Compensation	(213) 580-1690
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DWP Retirement Plan Office	(213) 367-1692
Engineers and Architects Association	(213) 620-6920
Fire and Police Pension System	(213) 978-4545
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Local 721	(213) 482-6660
Local 3090	(213) 487-9887 ext. 340
Retired LA City Employees, Inc.	(800) 678-4145
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Whistleblower/Complaint Program	(800) 824-4825
Worker Compensation	(213) 473-3400



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# Alive!

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Cecilia Talbot,  
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– Adela Dominguez, September 2015

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– GWH, September 2015

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– Geneva Dobbins, September 2015

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

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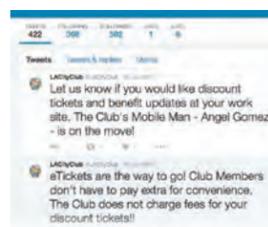


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# Letters to the Editor

## To the Heroes

The cover and subsequent interview with Joe Govea brought tears to my eyes! You could have plugged me into Joe's uniform, and it would have been nearly a perfect fit. With the exception of the Combat Infantryman's Badge, my set of decorations was the same: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, ETO ribbon with battle stars, and lesser awards. The reason I did not have the Badge is that I was in a separate battalion (91st Chemical Mortar Battalion) attached to the Infantry, and the Badge was issued only to those in infantry divisions. But like Joe, I prized the Purple Heart, like the Badge, as the symbol of combat.

I read your interview with rapt attention, as Joe's answers to your questions were quite like those I would have given. Our recollections are the very same about the winter of 1944-45. It was the coldest in modern history. It is one thing to deal with combat alone, but in temperatures below zero, the prospect of freezing to death compounded our fates. In fact, I remember reading in the overseas edition of *Time* magazine that the average temperature during January 1945 was 9 degrees F.

Interestingly, while I read your interview rather carefully, I do not recall much or anything being said about Joe's Bronze Star, one of the higher awards for bravery, although some were given for achievement. Certainly in Joe's case it had to be for valor, as it was in mine.

Just for the record, I worked in the City Administrative Office for more than 10 years under C. Erwin Piper, as Assistant CAO in charge of Petroleum Administration. I very much admired your interview with Joe, and, as I say, it brought back memories I thought had vanished.

– Art Spaulding, Retired, CAO's Office



Art Spaulding, now Retired, CAO, as a soldier in World War II.

**Hi Art,** thanks for sharing your reflections. In speaking with Joe after publication, he does not remember how he earned his Bronze Star. However, he shared a story that he hadn't remembered at our first interview – he actually earned two Purple Hearts. The first was earned after he was hit in the back with a hand grenade somewhere in Belgium. He recalls that he somehow made it to a medical field hospital, but when he saw the level of catastrophic injury there, he went back to the front, thinking his wounds didn't measure up. Nevertheless, he earned his first Purple Heart for that incident. "I don't even know how the Army kept track of that," he said. He also recalled that he was still removing shrapnel from his back from that incident well into his adulthood.

His second Purple Heart, as described in the article, was earned after being seriously wounded in the hip by a German sniper. – Ed.

This Baby-Boomer has always appreciated the sacrifices of veterans. Thank you so much for your service and the contributions your generation made to this great country.

– Richard Newton, Retired, LAFD

I just wanted to say what a great interview with Joe Govea. Thank you for sharing his story. If you have a chance to talk to him again, thank him for his service from the readers. I can't imagine all he's been through. I was in the military myself from 1986-97 - during the tail end of the Cold War.

My most poignant memory was traveling to France in 1988, just traveling across the German border one day to see what France was like. My fellow soldier, PFC East, and I were supposed to pick up a squad from my unit in Pirmasens, but we detoured for about an hour so we could visit the French countryside. From my understanding, French President De Gaulle, had asked NATO and the Americans to leave in 1966-67. We found a small French town, Limbach, I believe, and parked our Army Volkswagen van and walked around in our BDU uniforms. We must have been quite a sight to the population – I was a white woman and East was a black soldier, and we were friends, laughing and talking like buddies. I had my French for Travelers book, since I could speak a little French. We took pictures and were quite impressed with the fountain in the town's center. Then we popped into a small French cafe for lunch. We wanted a quick meal and then we had to be off. I managed to speak enough French to order lunch. Finally, a brave older man approached and in his best English said, "Thank you. Thank you for freeing France. We are grateful." Several other people then approached and thanked us for serving and for freeing France from the Germans. (I don't believe they were fluent, but they tried hard to use English with us.) PFC East and I sat there stunned. We didn't free France. Our grandfathers did. At the end of the meal the waiter came over and said our meal had been paid for. We tried to pay. We had the French francs to pay, but they refused to take our money. We shook hands with everyone who would shake with us, and we said thank you to all. Then we got in our VW van and headed back to Pirmasens.

PFC East and I were truly humbled that day. To think these French citizens had appreciated, truly appreciated, the sacrifice our grandfathers made more than 43 years ago (that's 1988 years). They just wanted to tell us "thank you." People I'd never met, never fought for, never knew, just wanted to tell us "thank you" for something our grandfathers had done. (My grandfather was in WWII; I don't recall if East's was). Now close to 30 years later, I wonder if that sentiment is still strong in the French countryside.

It's a great memory to have, and my heart will always be with the French people.

– Steph Burkhardt, LAPD/Communications; VCDC PSR III

### Color Krista Happy to Find A Club Friend in Monterey

I was at the Monterey Aquarium a few weeks back, and next to me in line was a fellow who was wearing none other than the a City Employees Club cap. Tom was his name, and he said he works for General Services. It was great to see – it felt as though we were away from home and our comfort zone that there was still a little bit of a connection of with familiar people. By the way, it was my nine-year-old daughter, Krista, who pointed out the hat Tom was wearing, saying, "That man is wearing the hat where the coloring contest comes from."

– George Reyes, Rec and Parks

– continued, next column



Joe Govea, Retired, Building and Safety

### Celebrating Retirements Means There Is So Much of Life Left

It is so great to see Retirees represented in the paper. From the RLACEI golf tournament, LACERS Wellness Fair, the DWP Retiree Annual Picnic, Retiree Joe Govea on the cover, and the retirements section that included retirements from all over the City. Many of us who recently retired and I, who will certainly retire soon, are feeling better about moving on to our next chapters in life. Part of the anxiety is the unknown future and loss of being connected with the people you know. The Club and *Alive!* are doing a great job of curbing that for us. Thank you.

– Roselyn Jones, DWP

### Chef Larios Isn't Just Noodling; Easy Recipes Fit for Families

I gave that ravioli recipe a try because it looked so simple to make. Sure enough it was, and on top of that, it was so tasty! Our family had it three days in one week it was so good. Now, our six-year-old son, Charles, wants to be a chef and has a chef toy set that he uses for making his version of recipes from Chef Larios.

– Mia Taylor, LAFD

## Robert's Question of the Month

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



Fellow Club members answer the Question of the Month

### How old were you when you got your first job?



"I was 15, and it was a mom and pop department store called the First Street Store. I worked Fridays and Saturdays."  
– Dolores Foley, DWP Retirees Association President, Retired, 31 years of City service



"I had a great childhood. I didn't have to work until I was 18!"  
– Epifanio Felix, Retired, DWP, 65 years of City service



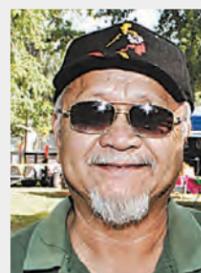
"I started late at 22!"  
– Ralph Mendoza, Retired, DWP, 34 years of City service



"I remember it like it was yesterday ... I was 15."  
– Bob Bower, Retired, DWP, 30 years of City service



"I was a strapping 13-year-old lad."  
– Johnny Clark, Retired, DWP, 30 years of City service



"Oh, man ... a super late start at 30."  
– Pedro Rivera, Retired, DWP, 41 years of City service



"It all started when I hit drinking age, 21!"  
– Jerry Weitzman, Retired, DWP, 31 years of City service



"I was in the Philippines at the time, and I was 21."  
– Quintin Micu, Retired, DWP, 22 years of City service



"Oh golly day! I don't remember that!"  
– Ellen Allen, Retired, DWP, 25 years of City service

**Airports**

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

# Welcome, New Officers

**Airport Police welcomes two new officers.**

Los Angeles natives Fernando Flores and Takeshi Komiyama are the newest officers to join the ranks of the Airport Police, the nation's largest aviation police agency with nearly 550 sworn police officers. The addition of Officers Flores and Komiyama, who were sworn in July 8, continues the Airport Police Division's (APD) efforts to hire diverse and qualified officers as part of its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the third busiest airport in the nation.

Officer Fernando Flores comes to the Airport Police Division with a background in the arts. The former Hollywood Bowl house manager enjoyed a long career working with various organizations including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Opera. Officer Flores was quickly recognized by Class 1-16 for his communication and leadership skills, as they elected him Class President. As Class President, Officer Flores gave an insightful speech about the diversity of Class 1-16 and the challenges each faced, with a common goal and commitment to friendship and serving the community.

Officer Takeshi Komiyama is a second-generation Japanese American from East Los Angeles who for 18 months prior to starting the academy gained valuable public safety experience as an emergency medical technician for a local ambulance company. A veteran of the United States Air Force, Komiyama's experience includes a background in aerospace ground equipment service and repair. Officer Komiyama was selected by class 1-16



From left: Airport Police Graduate Officers Flores and Komiyama are sworn in by Airport Police Deputy Executive Director of Public Safety Patrick Gannon.



At the ceremony, from left: Airport Police Lt. Richard Hinkle, Capt. Tyrone Stallings, Officer Fernando Flores, Officer Takeshi Komiyama, Deputy Executive Director Patrick Gannon, and Assistant Chief of Airport Police David Maggard.

as the Class Guide and was responsible for carrying the class flag (Guidon), which was uniquely designed by the class and is a symbol of pride and honor. Officer Komiyama's experience as a first responder and his discipline as a veteran of the U.S. military makes him a valuable addition to the Airport Police Division.

Before swearing in his newest officers, Deputy Executive Director of Public Safety Patrick Gannon spoke to his newest officers and their families, commending them for their dedication to public service. Noting that theirs was a journey just beginning, Gannon urged them to never lose sight of the values that have been a long-standing tradition to the Airport Police.

Officers Flores and Komiyama were among 40 new officers that made up Los Angeles Police Academy class 1-16. Welcome, Officers Flores and Komiyama!

**Airports**

Story and photos courtesy Officer Rob Pedregon, Airport Police

# Little Dog Saved!

**Airport Police rescue dog and chip in for life-saving surgery.**

June 6 was a day like any other as Airport Police K-9 Officer Havon McLeod made his way to work. Driving through the typically busy Los Angeles afternoon freeway traffic, McLeod noticed cars ahead of him suddenly changing lanes and slowing down as they passed what the K-9 Officer initially thought was a broken-down vehicle or traffic accident in the middle of the freeway.

Activating the emergency lights on his new Chevy Tahoe K-9 Unit, McLeod stopped to see if help was needed when he discovered the backup was caused by a motorist who had accidentally struck a little dog. Officer McLeod immediately jumped into action and assessed that the dog was seriously injured and wedged under the vehicle clinging to life. McLeod and the motorist, a United Airlines pilot and dog enthusiast, used a jacket to safely remove the pinned animal and then rushed the four-legged patient to nearby Westchester Veterinarian Center.

The professionals at the Center examined the dog named Roxy, identified by the collar she was wearing, and contacted her family. A few hours later, Officer McLeod called to check on the little patient and was told that Roxy would likely be put down because she needed extensive surgeries and her family couldn't afford the medical procedures.

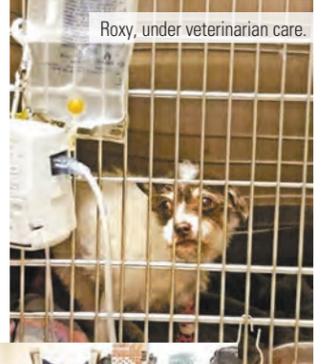
When Officer McLeod's fellow Airport Police K-9 Unit officers heard the news, a quick decision was made to save Roxy. Officers Havon McLeod, Roger Denniston, Michael Garzon, Efen Orlanes, Eric Williams and Luis Zenteno pitched in, collecting \$400 to pay Roxy's medical expenses, generously reduced by the staff of Westchester Veterinarian Center. Roxy underwent surgery and is now resting comfortably, and she is expected to make a full recovery, thanks to her Airport Police K-9 angels.

Roxy was then reunited with her family-owners.

Airport Police K-9 Officers Orlanes, McLeod, Denniston, Williams and Zenteno with Dr. Yoo and member of his staff at the Westchester Veterinarian Center.



Roxy is reunited with her owner.



Roxy, under veterinarian care.



# PAYROLL OR PENSION DEDUCTED

## Funeral Pre-Planning Service

Pre-funding your funeral is easy to do. You've probably already thought about who should receive cherished possessions and how you want your funeral arranged. With the help of a funeral service professional, putting your final wishes down on paper is as easy as having a conversation with a close friend.

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Club Member Services Counselor  
(800) 464-0452  
tsy@cityemployeesclub.com



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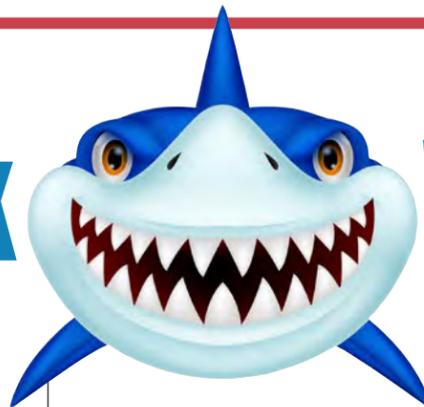
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### Rec and Parks

Photo by Gary Florin, Rec and Parks

# Shark Week!



**Aug. 7-13, 2016**

**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium hosts fun week featuring the feared sea creatures.**

Coinciding with TV's week of sharks, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium presents its own Shark Week from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 7-13. Shark Week features special shark crafts and activities each day.

### Daily Activities

(all event times noon - 4 p.m.)

#### Exploration Center

- Checkout amazing shark specimens like real shark skin, shark teeth and shark egg cases. Plus: You can create your very own shark egg case.

#### Aquarium Courtyard

- Enjoy exciting Shark Week coloring activities and crafts.

#### Marine Research Library

- Visit the library to read up on all things sharks with a special Shark Week book display, check out shark videos playing through-out Shark Week, like BBC shark programs, or test your knowledge with some Shark Week word puzzles!

#### Susanne Lawrenz-Miller Exhibit Hall

- Are you up for a challenge? Stop by the blue tent in the courtyard and pick up a shark fact scavenger hunt forms. Complete the scavenger hunt and receive a cool Shark Week surprise!

#### Other Exciting Shark Week Activities:

- **Surviving Sharks:** An exciting and informational movie about the different sharks that live in our oceans and how humans are impacting their population and environments. (15 minutes)
  - Sunday, Aug. 7 to Sat., Aug. 13, 3 p.m., John M. Olguin Auditorium
- **Shark feeding and talk with a CMA Aquarium animal caretaker.** Space is very limited; reserve your space at the Aquarium's information booth. Reservations for spaces for this demonstration are on a first-come basis.
  - Wed., Aug. 10 and Sat., Aug. 13, 2 p.m., Aquarium's Shark Room
- **Social Media Swag:** Do you use Twitter, Instagram or Facebook? If so, you might be able to win some cool shark swag! Post a photo of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Shark Week with the hashtag #CMASharkWeek2016 and you can be entered in the aquarium's Shark Week photo contest to win a gift basket of some JAWsome shark swag. (\$130 value)
  - Sun., Aug. 7 to Sat., Aug. 13

For more information:  
[cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://cabrillomarineaquarium.org)



A juvenile great white shark.

Cabrillo's shark room.



Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales

# Angel's Be Alive!



# El Moro Trails and Crystal Cove State Park

- Laguna Beach



Aden and I by the trail sign.

## El Moro Trails and Crystal Cove State Park

8471 Pacific Coast Highway  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

**Directions:** From Downtown take the CA-110 south, then the 405 south to Newport Coast Drive in Newport Beach. Take exit 11 from CA-73 south then continue on Newport Coast Drive to Crystal Cove, then turn into School/State Park.

**Hours:** 6 a.m. to sunset

**Parking:** Day use \$15, Senior day use: \$14, Disabled: \$7.50, Annual pass: \$195

### Hello again!

This month we traveled back to Crystal Cove State Park. The views in this area are amazing!

If you want to get a good workout and enjoy the coastal breeze, this is the place for you. Always keep in mind that the earlier you begin hiking any trail, the more enjoyable your hiking will be. A few years ago we hiked in this area; my boys were a lot younger then, and I remember both of them struggling up the hill; but today they are 15 and 13, and although the trails we chose this time were a bit steep, they were able to go up with no problem.

The park is off the Pacific Coast Highway between Corona del Mar and Laguna Beach. There is parking both on the ocean side of PCH at Reef Point and Pelican Point (closer to the Beach) as well as inland parking at El Moro day use parking area by the Ranger Station. I would suggest going to the School/State Park traffic signal (off PCH) then turn inland, and you will find the visitor center located next to El Morro School. You will have to pay \$15 for the day at the visitor center, or if you go to any state beach or park I would buy an annual pass for \$195. The trails begin right from the parking lot. Take a look at the map by the Visitors Center and pick one that you would like to explore.

### Let's begin!

**The Hike:** This hike is accessible from two locations – the visitor center and the campgrounds. We parked and began our hike through the visitor center.

There are many hikes available – some loops are three, six and even 11 miles long round trip. It really depends on what distance you want to travel. We began our hike on the no-dogs trail (0.6 miles), which goes up and keeps winding backward and forward a few times.

Then we continued to No-Name Ridge (0.5 miles) and all the way up to the Muddy Canyon entrance (0.8 miles). At this point we decided we would turn and go back down to W. Cut Across hiking trail (0.6 miles) until we reached Moro Canyon Road (1 mile), then continue on the trail until we reached the parking lot and campgrounds. Once there, hikers can walk under the overpass and arrive at the beach. This is the way all trails should end – right at the beach!

We walked about five miles round trip and it was about two hours of hiking, but finishing at the beach made it so much better. If you don't have time for the beach, then enjoy the view, and when you get to the campgrounds you can walk parallel to the ocean until you get back to the Visitors Center.

The trail is breathtaking going up and also coming down. If you're not used to going up hills, you will be out of breath, so go slow and enjoy. The trail has great views of the beach and ocean below. Please remember to wear your hiking shoes because the trails are not paved – they are mostly rock and gravel. We went on a sunny day, and this trail was quite a workout. The trails are inclined and great for any cardio workout.

Lastly, be watchful for bikers who will be racing down the same hills you maybe walking up. Beware: There are lots of signs for rattlesnakes.

**Recap:** I would definitely recommend this area for hiking; there are multiple trails and lots of options to choose from.

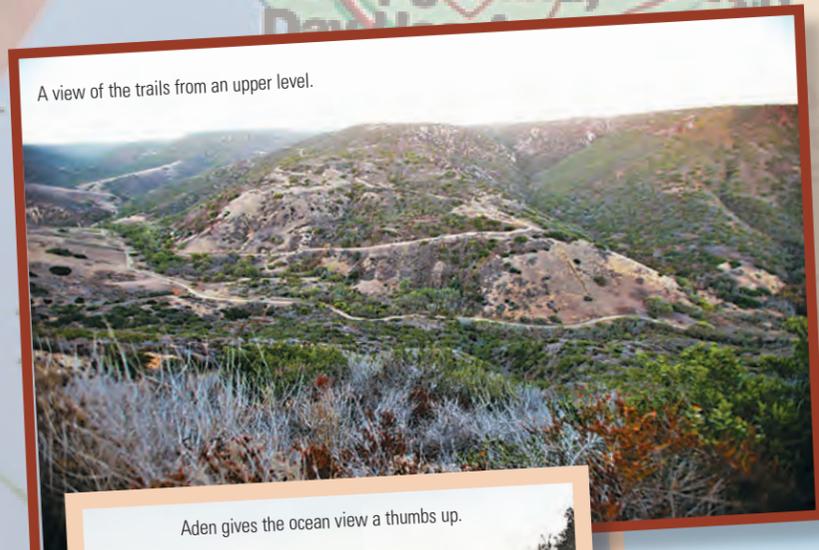
Please plan to arrive early for parking and also to help you begin a cool hike; most of the trails are open and have little shade. Early arrival is a must. If you really want to sweat, wait until 11 a.m. and begin your hike then.

We really enjoyed the hike, and everyone was really friendly and very polite. The memories will last a lifetime.

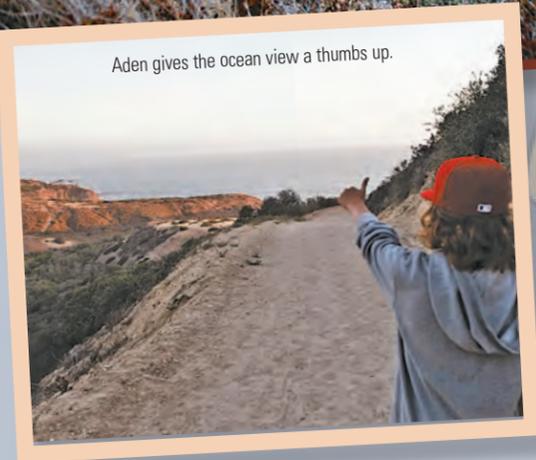
Of course, bring lots of water and sunblock, and if possible wear a hat and good hiking shoes, as most of the trails and dirt and gravel.

Be safe and Be Alive!

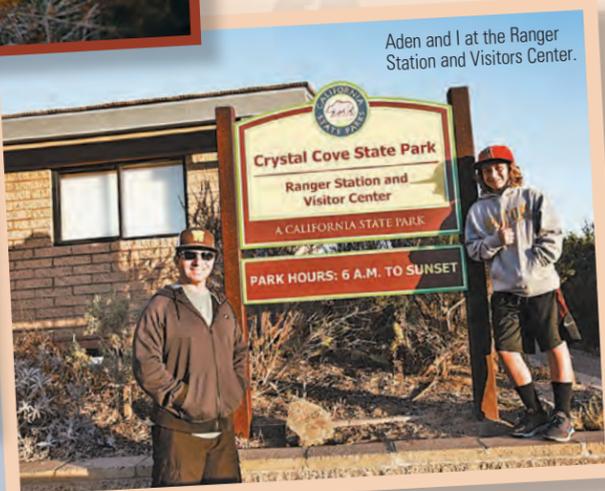
Angel



A view of the trails from an upper level.



Aden gives the ocean view a thumbs up.



Aden and I at the Ranger Station and Visitors Center.

Rec and Parks

# So Long, Socorro!

Socorro Gonzalez retires after 32 years of City service.



**Socorro Gonzalez**

Friends and coworkers held a retirement party June 9 for Socorro Gonzalez, who retired as a Payroll Supervisor II, Rec and Parks.

The retirement event was held in the Rec and Parks conference room on the third floor of 221 N. Figueroa Blvd. downtown.

Special thanks go to Lisa Banuelos, Rec and Parks, for her assistance.



Back row, from left: Brianna Angulo, Administrative Clerk; Martina Ruiz, Accounting Clerk; Blanche Hill, Accounting Clerk; Marianne Vila, Payroll Supervisor I; Socorro Gonzalez, Retiree; Lisa Banuelos, Accounting Clerk; and Charlene Castillo, Administrative Clerk. Front: Rolando Guzman, Administrative Clerk; Mike Molinos, Administrative Clerk; and Joel Dulalia, Accounting Clerk.



From left: Claudia Orr, Socorro's sister, Management Analyst, LAPD, 28 years of City service; and Harold Fujita, HR Director, Rec and Parks, 31 years of City service.



From left: Marianne Vila, Payroll Supervisor I, Rec and Parks, 30 years of City service; Socorro Gonzalez, Retiree; and Noelle Williamson, CFO, Rec and Parks, 28 years.



Assistant General Manager Kevin Regan, Club Member, speaks about Socorro.



Socorro was presented with the coveted Club Retirement Award by the Club's COO, Robert Larios.



From left: Socorro Gonzalez, Retiree; and Harold Fujita, HR Director, Rec and Parks, 31 years of City service.



From left: Rolando Guzman, Administrative Clerk, Rec and Parks, 13 years of City service; Rommel Rufon, Sr. Systems Analyst II, 18 years; Socorro Gonzalez, Retiree; Jenny Hso, Graphic Designer, 10 years; and Mike Molinos, Administrative Clerk, 14 years.



From left: Martina Ruiz, Accounting Clerk, Rec and Parks, 14 years of City service; Blanche Hill, Accounting Clerk, Rec and Parks, 9 years; and Brianna Angulo, Office Assistant, Rec and Parks, 4 months.



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## 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: (888) 288-5063

**Aug. 11:** RLACEI annual corporation meeting and picnic, Grace E. Simons Lodge

**Sept. 7:** LARFPA general meeting, Grace E. Simons Lodge

**Dec. 1:** RLACEI Christmas party, Friendship Auditorium

#### 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  
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[www.larfpa.org](http://www.larfpa.org)

## Your Notes on Parties Help Make Them Better

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



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

By the time you read this in *Alive!*, you've attended the general meeting and picnic at the Grace E. Simons Lodge and enjoyed the hamburgers and hot dogs.

Americo Garza is Director of the Los Angeles City Employees Inc. (RLACEI) and Chairperson of the Entertainment Committee, which are Mary Beetz, Helen Salgado and Phil Orland. They have been going from caterer to caterer to find a meal that our Retirees will enjoy. It is very helpful to us to know whether you did

or did not like the hamburgers, hot dogs and side dishes, and also it helps us to know the comments on how we can improve our service to you.

As you all know, the holiday party is coming up in December. Let us know if you have any ideas or preference of what you would like to eat. Please call Americo at (800) 678-4145, ext. 710, or myself at ext. 703. *It is important to us that our members enjoy being at our functions as we enjoy seeing you there!*

More important: When you do not attend, you miss out on the current pension status or changes that affect our pension or our benefits, as provided

by LACERS' Assistant General Manager Lita Payne and Alex Rabrenovich, Chief Health Benefits Administrator.

The holiday party will be held Dec. 1 at the Friendship Auditorium. Please make your reservations by calling our toll-free number, (800) 678-4145, ext. 701.

Thank you for being a RLACEI member, and if you have any concerns or questions, please let us know; we are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling and leaving a message at (800) 678-4645, ext. 0.

See you soon.

## Real Estate Report



Michael R. Wilkinson

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

When we look at how LACERS invests its money, there are asset classes that many of us are familiar with, like stocks and bonds, and others that are more unusual, such as real estate and private equity. This month will be about real estate; private equity will be covered in another article.

Out of the total \$14 billion LACERS fund, LACERS targets five percent for real estate investments. As you probably know, LACERS is careful to diversify its investments, since different investments go up and down in different cycles. Real estate may be going up while bonds or stocks

are going down and vice versa.

In addition, the real estate investments are themselves diversified over the type of investment: apartment, office, industrial, retail, hotel and other. The investments are further spread out geographically in every section of the United States as well as a small allocation to foreign markets.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of real estate for LACERS? Real estate can produce high returns and act as a good diversifier as discussed above. On the minus side, real estate investments are illiquid, meaning that it is difficult to sell these investments quickly. They are meant as long-term investments.

So, with all that as an introduction, how has LACERS done? Here are the one-, three- and five-

year results for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015:

- One year: 9.15 percent
- Three years: 10.81 percent
- Five years: 10.86 percent

While each of these amounts trails the benchmark of a more aggressive passive real estate index, it is still an impressive return. Another advantage of real estate is that it generates a substantial amount of income in the form of rent on buildings, which is included in the figures above. While all increases in our LACERS investments are appreciated, cash income is especially helpful to meet LACERS month-to-month needs for important things like paying our pension checks!

## Other Cities are Struggling



Michael Karsch

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

A federal Court of Appeals ruled that Fort Worth, Tex. was right in reducing pensions three years ago to meet shortfalls in revenues based on how pensions are calculated and in changes in the cost-of-living adjustments for both current employees and for future ones. It affects the general civilian employees and police and fire. The City's liability for these costs

is \$3.4 billion, which is only partly resolved by the new pension calculation, leaving \$1.3 billion unfunded.

Memphis, Tenn., has a new pension for city employees with less than 7.5 years on the job. The new pension is a hybrid of traditional benefit pension and a 401(k) savings plan. The fire and police unions are suing the mayor.

Chicago Public Schools paid \$657 million into their pension fund, expecting to get \$480 million more from the state, but the latter never materialized. The school system had skipped

making pension payments over the span of three years, which severely aggravated the unfunded liability of that system. The Illinois State Budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year was signed at the last minute in June to give the city schools \$100 million, plus \$250 million for teacher pensions. Reportedly this help is still not enough to resolve the shortfall for the schools of Chicago, even after the governor raided several special funds in the state government to make these special payments to Chicago. The Chicago schools are facing taxpayers with a property tax increase this coming year.

## What About Death Benefit For Fire, Police Pensioners?



Lee Kebler

While looking up the status of an Assembly bill, I realized that there were 1,442 bills submitted for approval. As I continued my inquiry I found the Senate also submitted 730 bills for a total of 2,172 for the 2015-16 fiscal year. And in fiscal 2014-15 they authored 2,772, for a grand total of 4,944 bills. Do you realize that means our Legislators averaged 41.2 bills each for past two years? I think we have too many representatives with too much time on their hands.

I'm sorry that I digressed a bit,

I was trying to find the status of Assembly Bill 1878, which would amend the State's death benefit for retired employees. It would raise the benefit from \$2,000 to \$7,045. The authors realized the \$2,000 isn't enough money to begin to pay the funeral expenses today.

What is so important about this bill is the State has a benefit for all of their employees, the City has a death benefit for all of the LACERS employees but the City hasn't ever provided a death benefit for their Fire and Police retirees. We have the

finest Fire and Police Departments in the country and are probably the only Departments that don't receive a death benefit from their employer.

Something to think about, isn't it?

Don't forget our meeting Sept. 7 at Grace E. Simons Lodge. Coffee, donuts and lunch will be provided. For more information, call our office at (888) 288-5073.

**LARFPA**

## LACERS Wins Award for Financial Reporting



Mary Beetz

### LACERS Update By Mary Beetz

The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) has been awarded the certificate of achievement for excellence in governmental accounting and financial reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. LACERS was honored for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The GFOA is a nonprofit

professional association serving approximately 18,000 government finance professionals.

This marks the 17th consecutive year that LACERS has received this honor. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Judged by an impartial panel, based on the evidence of transparency and full disclosure in an annual financial report that exceeds requirements of the Generally Accepted

Accounting Principles promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, the CAFR is a thorough and detailed annual presentation of LACERS' financial condition. It also documents LACERS' financial and investment activities.

*Congratulations to the LACERS communication team!*

**LACERS**

## 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.

## 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 Stemnock 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 Stemnock: 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 Stemnock: Audit and Golf

### Directors

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



202 W. First Street, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4401  
(800) 779-8328  
TDD (888) 349-3996  
Fax: (213) 473-7297  
www.LACERS.org

### 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.			
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (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



# Eating Through Taipei

Hal and Co. head to Southeast Asia for a 21-day land tour. **Part 6, Conclusion**

In April and May 2015, Hal and Evelyn took a land tour of Southeast Asia, starting in Bangkok and including Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan. In each place they hired a private car and guide, except for Taiwan.

2013 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

May 6, 2015: We left Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, and flew to Taipei. We took the morning to reorganize and repack our bags. We decided to eat a late breakfast. We wanted to take some pictures of the hotel before we left. The tour company was to pick us up at 3:40 p.m. for our flight, which left at 5:35 p.m.

After breakfast we took a walk around the grounds of the Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa. It faced the water, and there was a small swimming beach, lots of pools and a great children's water play area with a large water slide. The resort was very family oriented and had lots of activities. There were diving and snorkeling, but no surfing. Lots of trekking opportunities were available on the mountains outside the city. It would be a great place to visit if it weren't so hard to get to.

The weather promised to be a lot cooler in Taipei, with some real rain. We had a city tour the next day, and I received an email from the tour company asking if it would be okay if a TV crew could come along to video a story about the tour and the company. Sounded interesting. The next day we were also scheduled to have a food tour; we hoped the rain went away.

We flew Malaysian Airlines to Taipei. The plane was half full, so we had lots of room. This was our 10th flight on this trip, with only one more to go. What's interesting is that only one flight was late, and that only by 20 minutes or so. The in-flight meals had been edible, and all the bags arrived quickly.

We landed in Taipei right on time, and by a miracle we cleared immigrations and got our bags and were in the car driving to the hotel in just more than 30 minutes. I used Blacklane car service. They are very reliable, and we used them many times in Europe. This marked our first time using them in Asia and had no problem – they sent a nice big black Mercedes-Benz.

We stayed at the Howard Plaza Hotel. We had a room on the top floor, the Rosewood Club. The package included: breakfast, Internet, mini bar, cocktail hour and some other stuff, all complimentary. When I booked it I was concerned only about the breakfast and Internet. The next day we were to be up at 7 a.m. as we had a 9:15 pickup for our tour.

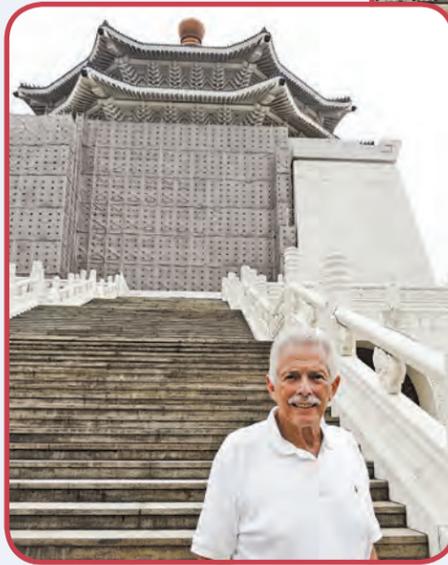
After the next day's (May 7), breakfast, we met our tour at the front of the hotel. The name of the local company was: My Taiwan Tour, and our guide was Fiona. There were five of us on the tour: Evelyn and I, newlyweds from Miami, and a Marine from New Orleans. There were also Sophie, the reporter, and her cameraman.

The first stop was Longhan Temple, the leading Taoism temple in Taiwan. It was one of the better temples we had seen on the trip. We then stopped at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall. There were 89 steps leading up to the memorial; luckily we took the elevator. Fiona was smart – she got us to the memorial just before the changing of the guard, and we had a prime spot to view the ceremony. Why are there 89 steps you ask? Because Chiang Kai-shek was 89 when he died.

Lunch stop was on our own at the Taipei 101, a former tallest building in the world, where we ate in the food court. One of the food stands specialized in beef

noodle soup, which was delicious.

Onward we went to the National Palace Museum to see the art and historic treasures that Chiang Kai-shek took from the mainland when he went into exile. We spent only about 90 minutes, and I would think you needed at least a week to see everything. The ceramics were impressive. Some of the artifacts date back to 1,000 BCE. They don't use BC and AD, but BCE and CE (current era). The museum has a lot to see, and we barely got the highlights.



The 89 steps at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall.

We thought it was pretty crowded, but Fiona told us no, it was more quiet than usual.

We then drove through Yangmingsha National Park to stop at the top of Taipei's tallest peak, Mt. Qixing (Seven Star Mountain). There was not much of a view, as there was too much haze. On the way down we stopped at the Beitou Hot Springs to see the steaming water. The water at the sulfur springs averages 100 degrees Celsius. It's cooled down at the public and private baths.

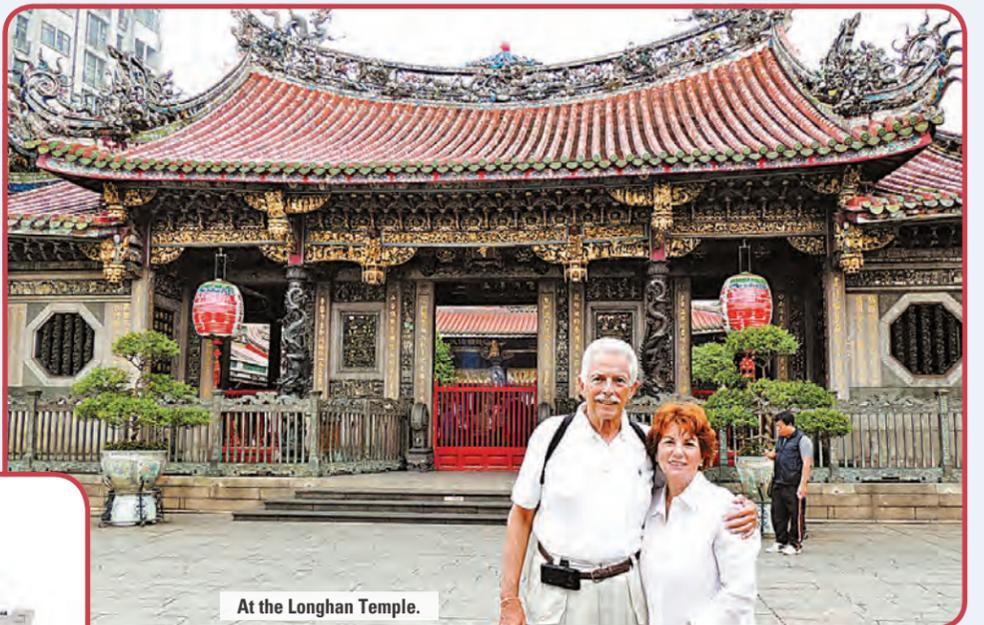
We continued to Danshui Old Street (about 50 minutes outside of Taipei central area). This is where the river meets the ocean. We tasted a number of foods from the many street vendors and had a beer. We walked along the river back to the Metro station and rode it to the Shilin Night Market. By then it was almost 6:30 p.m. (remember we started at 9 a.m.) Evelyn and I took a cab back to the hotel after saying goodbye to our tour companions.

The reporter and camera crew stayed with us until we finished at the Taipei 101, and then again turned up later in the afternoon. Along the way they interviewed each of us on the tour and recorded our thoughts on Taipei.

The next day, May 8, we took a food tour starting at 11 a.m. The weather was great, the sun was shining and there was no rain in sight.

We took a taxi to meet our guide for the food tour. His name was Mike and he and a partner operated TaipeiEats. Mike was born in the United States and moved to Taiwan six years ago. He was in his late 20s, college educated and apparently had family with connections.

In our three-and-a-half-hour walk we tasted lots of different foods; some we knew, but many we did not. My favorite was *gua bao*, pork and pork belly on a Bao bun, like a hamburger. We had more than 10 tastings, and anyone not full had to have a wooden leg. After the about the fourth tasting we started to



At the Longhan Temple.



The statue of Sun Yat Sen.

share. Why waste the food?

We started with a "wax apple," not at all like any of the apples we had ever seen. It was very light, airy and crisp – not as sweet but very delicious. Also we had fresh lychee – delicious. Then we had something else completely new to us – *hakka mochica*. I know many of you have had *mochi* ice cream; this was at room temperature, a spoonful of *mochi* filled with sesame powder and dusted with peanut powder. Pop it into your mouth and it's a party. Onion pancakes – sure you have all had them, right? But not like this, called "thousand-layer green onion cake," over an inch thick and beyond good. It was baked like a big pizza the sliced in small wedges. Great street food.

Peanuts are an ingredient in all kinds of dishes, and they're used widely – boiled, powdered, chopped, spiced. There was no evidence of any allergic issues.

Back to the menu. Next was Hal's favorite, the *gua bao*, then the "stinky tofu." – Evelyn

During our time in Taipei, I kept noticing a very unpleasant odor and I couldn't figure out what it was. It smelled somewhat like sewer gas, but that wasn't it. It was stinky tofu, which we had on the tour. The tofu was fermented and then deep fried, served with pickled cabbage and a spicy garlic sauce. It was supposed to be good for you. I did manage to eat a small piece, which wasn't too bad. The pickled cabbage and garlic sauce were pretty good. For those of you who like tofu, this isn't it.

Next came cold sesame noodles, then "car wheel" cake – crepe-like batter filled with either red bean filling or custard. They were cooked on a rotating contraption and when done looked a little like a white Ho Ho. Then came *tai nan* sticky rice with pork sauce, fish floss and boiled peanuts. Then pork soup dumplings – a delicious broth with a dumpling with a pork meatball inside as a surprise. Finally came a local ice cream that has no

dairy – some favors are creamier and some more like a sorbet. Plum, pineapple, *lychee*, peanut – all delicious. Our guide, Mike, even found me a store that sells *mah jongg* tiles, but all were Chinese sets. American sets have the same tiles, but add jokers.

We finally got a little rain – not enough to cause problem, but it did make it cooler. We decided to walk back to the hotel after all that food. We walked about three miles overall. On the way back to the hotel we did pass through the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall. He is considered the father of modern China.

The next day, May 9, we left for home, but we didn't have to leave for the airport until 3 p.m., so after breakfast we decided to take a walk around the area. We found that most stores didn't open until after 10 a.m., and the department stores opened at 11 a.m.

We waited outside the Sogo department store for it to open. There was a large crowd (mostly young women) waiting to go into the store. On the inside of the store I could see a group of young ladies, all dressed alike, standing in formation and being inspected by their manager. At 10:55 the ladies came outside and gave us all a glass of tea. They all wore cute little black and white dresses with cute little full skirts and lace gloves. To see was to believe. They looked like they were out of a 1945 music video, if there were such a thing. At 10:58, above the front door, a Disneyland clock began to play "It's a Small World," and the clock became animated until it was 11 a.m., when the doors opened and the crowd moved forward. We took the escalator to the top floor; at every floor there was a line of employees waiting to bow and welcome us. It was somewhat unbelievable.

They did carry all the best brands – American, European and from elsewhere.

We got back to the hotel just before it started to rain. There was a large storm heading our way, maybe the first typhoon of the season.

I'm glad we decided to stop in Taipei. It is an interesting city and has a lot to offer the tourist. The people are very friendly, polite and relaxed. The city is clean and no one honks. They do have a lot of security cameras. It's a nice blend of old and new side by side.

We took a cab from the hotel to the airport. It took about 45 minutes, and the cost was about \$45 with tip.

We landed in LA at 3:30 p.m., glad to be home.

That's a wrap for this trip. ■

# 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
Abramian, Elizabeth Ruth	Archivist	Rec and Parks	10	Garrett, Marion	Not Disclosed	DWP	—	Moritz, Cindy	Sr. Clerk Typist	DWP	—
Ali-Ahmad, Samara A.	Pr. Civil Engineer	Public Works	28	Giachetti-Gonzalez, Graciela	Benefits Specialist	DWP	—	Munoz, Francisco	Sr. Elect. Mech. Supv.	DWP	—
Alvarado, Joseph	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	23	Giang, Mai N.	Accounting Clerk	Gen. Services	31	Naranjo, Virginia	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	34
Anderson, Debra Lynn	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Econ/Wrkfrce Dev.	31	Gilbert, Deborah	Principal Clerk Utility	DWP	—	Owens, Keith G.	Civil Eng. Associate	Airports	22
Arias, Maria Lucila	Special Prog. Assist.	Rec and Parks	6	Gonzales, Albert	Communications Electrician	LAPD	13	Petite, Claude	Sr. Comm. Electrician	DWP	—
Baltazar, Magnus	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	26	Gupton, Thomas	Sr. Electrical Mechanic	DWP	—	Portillo, Francisco	Security Officer	Airports	26
Barnes, Cheryl Lynn	Clerk Typist	DWP	—	Hall, Nathan	Storekeeper	Gen. Services	30	Ramirez, William	Storekeeper	Gen. Services	30
Becker, Jennifer K.	Curator	Zoo	35	Hamilton, James Myron	Garage Attendant	LAPD	15	Rand, Gary I.	Golf Starter	Rec and Parks	12
Bstandig, Paul Jeffrey	Motor Sweeper Op.	Public Works	17	Hauser, Brian	Machinist	DWP	—	Reinhardt, Lucy	Exec. Admin. Assist.	Econ/Wrkfrce Dev.	25
Butcher, John J.	Geog. Info. Sys. Chief	Planning	31	Hayes, Timothy	Sr. Rec. Director	Rec and Parks	27	Riccardi, Penny A.	Airport Info. Specialist	Airports	20
Byrd, Linda	Not Disclosed	DWP	—	Hockless, Bobby J.	Sr. Rec. Director	Rec and Parks	38	Rivera, Oscar	Machinist Supervisor	DWP	—
Carapia, Jerry T.	Management Analyst	Housing	22	Holmes, Edward Gene	Street Serv. Worker	Public Works	32	Rodriguez, Sylvia C.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Public Works	36
Carbajal-Waid, Mary	Management Analyst	DWP	—	Huang, Desmond	Systems Programmer	Harbor	28	Ruiz-Real, Ignacio	Chief Elect. Plant Oper.	DWP	—
Chanes, Richard P.	Programmer	ITA	33	Ibarra, Robert	Custodian	Gen. Services	17	Rumi, John	Elect. Mechanic Super.	DWP	—
Cisneros, Isabel L.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	30	Irani, Farid Saffar	Director of Auditing	Controller	15	Santos, Alfredo B.	Custodian	Gen. Services	21
Cole, Eugene	Equip. Repair Super.	DWP	—	Jeffery, Alfred	Sandblast Operator	Public Works	25	Schott, Carol Jean	Sr. Police Service Rep.	LAPD	32
Cooper, Lorenza	Witness Service Coord.	City Attorney	25	Johnson, Cheryl Lynne	Sr. Traffic Supervisor	Transportation	29	Schroefer, Mark	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	27
Cooper, Michael D.	Sr. Build. Mech. Insp.	Build & Safety	25	Jordan, Robert	Not Disclosed	DWP	—	Sheeler, Carmella	Utility Administrator	DWP	—
Davila, Jerry Xavier	Management Analyst	Disability	35	Jurat, Nikola	Ship Carpenter	Harbor	18	Shelton, Clemon	Custodian	Airports	15
Davis, Barbara D.	Event Attendant	Library	14	Kelly, Margaret E.	Pr. Grounds Mt. Supv.	Rec and Parks	30	Shelton, Timmy E.	Street Services Supv.	Public Works	32
Dennis, John	Power Engineering Mgr.	DWP	—	Kuratomi, Leonor	Payroll Analyst	Controller	29	Sosa, Sharon	Sr. Clerk Typist	DWP	—
Derry, Kevin	Power Shovel Op.	DWP	—	Le, Minh	Power Engineering Mgr.	DWP	—	Steiner, Martin S.	Wastewater Treat. Oper.	Public Works	35
Docter, Frank	Elec. Distrib. Mech. Supv.	DWP	—	Lee, John Quentin	Council Aide	Council	10	St. Michel, John	Electric Distrib. Mech.	DWP	—
Doojphulpol, Wichai	Civil Engineering Assoc.	DWP	—	Luna, Louis M.	Equip. Operator	Airports	34	Tang, Lavivanh	Real Estate Officer	Gen. Services	28
Duarte, Arthur	Sr. Wastewater Treat. Oper.	Public Works	38	Manaog, Mercy	Not Disclosed	DWP	—	Teuber, Gordon Braun	Council Aide	Council	5
Dukes, David	Steam Plant Oprg. Supv.	DWP	—	Margin, Michael J.	Storekeeper	Gen. Services	46	Towner, Kelvin	Not Disclosed	DWP	—
Faquir, Ameer H.	Wastewater Manager	Public Works	23	Martinez, Pedro	Constr. Equip. Svc. Wrkr	DWP	—	Tran, Hanh Vo	Fiscal Systems Spec.	LAPD	33
Fernandez, Pedro D.	Maint. Constr. Helper	Airports	35	Mata, Christine Faith	Park. Enforcement Mgr.	Transportation	30	Vasconez, Miguel Rodrigo	Accounting Clerk	Gen. Services	26
Ferrer, Pancho	Warehouse Worker	Gen. Services	5	McCall, Reggie	Water Utility Super.	DWP	—	Webb, Tracy M.	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	32
Field, Amy	Assistant City Attorney	City Attorney	32	McClain, Clifford E.	Sr. Project Coord.	Econ/Wrkfrce Dev.	17	Willingham, John W.	Sr. Rec. Director	Rec and Parks	27
Finnih, Ganiyu Yomi	Detention Officer	LAPD	25	McKay, Daniel	Trans. and Dist. Supv.	DWP	—	Winfield, Kenneth Richard	Garage Attendant	LAPD	6
Freeze, Ralph Allen	Background Invest.	Personnel	11	Melendez, Manny E.	Delivery Driver	Airports	30	Winfield, Terri Lynn	Exec. Admin. Assist.	Public Works	32
Fregoso, Roland	Tree Surgeon Super.	Public Works	27	Mo, Julia J.	Sr. Real Estate Officer	Airports	16	Young, Larry G.	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	26
Frey, Alex G.	Special Prog. Assist.	Rec and Parks	6	Monroe, Wayne	Equip. Operator	Public Works	31				
Garcia, Ruben	Water Utility Super.	DWP	—	Moore, Jeffrey Alan	Sr. Airport Engineer	Airports	30				

## Almost Picnic Time!

Retirees, don't forget the annual **RLACEI** summer picnic. See you there!

**Aug. 11**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**Grace E. Simons Lodge**



Martha and Ed Harding dance to the picnic music.



Make your reservations now. Call **(800) 678-4145, ext. 701.**

RLACEI

## RETIREES: Save Money and Trees!

When you sign up to read *Alive!* on the Internet instead of in print, RLACEI will send you a \$5 gift card from either Starbucks or See's Candies (your choice). Reading *Alive!* online will save RLACEI the cost of printing and mailing ... and lots of trees! It's all the same great *Alive!* content every month – retiree news, wellness information, newly retired lists, and of course all the great ticket and apparel Club deals to stretch your budget.



Receive a **\$5 Starbucks** or **\$5 See's** gift card when you switch to *Alive!*'s digital edition.

### How to switch to the digital *Alive!*:

- Send your request via email to [retiree@rlacei.com](mailto:retiree@rlacei.com). Include your name, address and the last four digits of your social security number (not the whole number), and your choice of either a Starbucks or See's Candies card.
- Gift card offer limited to the first 1,000 RLACEI Members who apply and to members not currently receiving *Alive!* by email.

## Switch Today!





## Ask the Dietitian

Tara Miller, MS RD/N  
LACERS Well Program Coordinator



A monthly question-and-answer feature with Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist Tara Miller, LACERS Well Program Coordinator

# Cracking the Coconut Oil Mystery

“Why is coconut oil so popular now, when it used to be ‘bad for you’?”

– F. Gallagher, LACERS Well Member, Playa del Rey

Health information can be very confusing, especially when popular food items, including coconut oil, are labeled “taboo” one year and a “superfood” the next. Although marketed as this year’s nutritional “darling,” less than a decade ago it was touted as health-harming and unwholesome. So which is it? Like many health claims, the answer is a little bit of both.

In the early 1980s, coconut products became a popular alternative to butter and lard in food processing because comparatively, it was cheaper to use, stayed solid at



room temperature, and allowed manufacturers to increase the shelf-stability of favorite junk foods (like cakes, cookies, pies and chips). This was bad news for heart disease prevention, according to Tom Brenna, a professor of nutritional sciences at Cornell University’s College of Human Ecology, since this ingredient swap was a highly processed “refined-deodorized bleached coconut oil” (RDB), which provided dangerous, cholesterol-promoting compounds. To make health matters worse, coconut oil naturally contains high levels of saturated fat: 90 percent, as compared to 64 percent for butter.

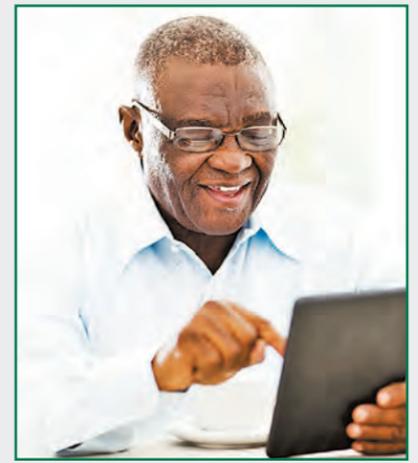
So if coconut oil is high in heart-clogging saturated fat, why has it re-emerged as a “superfood?” Here, the plot thickens. Although saturated fats generally should be avoided, those that occur naturally in plant-based foods may carry some health benefits. For example, Lauric acid, a medium-chain triglyceride (MCT), contributes to about half the saturated fat content of virgin, unrefined coconut oil. Newer stud-

ies indicate that MCTs may be able to improve “good” HDL (high density lipoprotein) cholesterol and protect against Alzheimer’s disease. But while promising, most health professionals agree that more research is needed before being considered worthy of the hype.

The lesson here, like most health choices, is to consider the source of the health claim and proceed with optimistic caution. Unrefined, virgin coconut oil is much closer to the version Mother Nature intended and may have some benefits worth considering. Alternatively, the refined, highly processed RDB variety used by the food industry was never intended to be a health food, despite snazzy marketing. When looking to impart an island-inspired flavor to cooking, enjoy coconut oil in moderation, but otherwise, stick to olive oil. Your heart will thank you for it.

### Questions?

Do you have a question for Tara, the LACERS Registered Dietitian? Write to her: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



## Sign Up for TECH WORKSHOP!

**LACERS Members:** Don’t forget to register for the Technology for Seniors workshop.

Back by popular demand! The next Technology for Seniors event is set for Tues., Aug. 30, at the California Endowment Center. The workshop is open to all LACERS Members plus one guest.

Registration is required and space is limited, so reserve your spot by logging on to [www.LACERS.org/lacerswell](http://www.LACERS.org/lacerswell), or by calling the LACERS’ Member Service Center at (800) 779-8328. Voicemail or email messages will not be accepted as reservations.

# Fats: The Truth May Surprise You



By Tara Miller, RD/N LACERS Well Program Manager

Contrary to popular belief, fat is not only a tasty ingredient in many foods, it is an essential part of our diet. Without some stored fat in our tissues, our body cannot process the necessary vitamins we need to live, and our organs would be prone to cellular damage. Fat also contains essential fatty acids that are vital to good health and promoting a healthy heart and immune system.

But while beneficial to the palate and our overall health, not all dietary and stored fats are created equal. And for seniors, consuming the right kinds of fats, versus the total amount, matters most.

### Different Types of Fat

There are four major dietary fats in the foods we eat: saturated fats, trans fats, mono-unsaturated fats, and polyunsaturated fats. These fats differ based on their chemical structure and physical properties. Saturated fats are usually solid at room temperature and can be found in foods including milk, cheese, meat, coconut oil and butter. This type of fat can raise your cholesterol. Trans fats have undergone a chemical process known as *hydrogenation*, which lengthens their shelf life and, similar to saturated fats, makes the fat solid at room temperature. This type is found in foods including crispy crackers, flaky piecrust and cookies. Hydrogenation is beneficial for food processing, but trans fats will also raise your cholesterol level and increase storage of “visceral” fat – the kind that gathers around our waist. It is important, therefore, to limit your intake of saturated and trans fats, which do more harm than good.

Mono- and polyunsaturated fats are known as the “good fats.” They are typically liquid at room temperature, such as olive or peanut oil. These two types of fat can be beneficial to your heart by reducing LDL or “bad cholesterol” levels and lowering your risk for heart disease and stroke. While they

may be “heart healthy,” these fats should still be consumed in moderation. Some examples of foods, and the oils they produce containing these types of fat are: olive, corn, soybean, sunflower, canola, and peanut oil, fatty fish, nuts and seeds, and avocados. Foods including salmon, halibut, tuna, sea bass, flax seeds and walnuts contain omega fatty acids, which are polyunsaturated fats, and help to lower triglycerides (blood fats) and cholesterol in your bloodstream.

### Eating Well at Any Age

The recommended dietary intake (RDI) for fats is 20 to 30 percent of your daily caloric intake. A concern with older adults is less about the total fat consumed, but rather if they are getting enough omega-3 fatty acids, which are found in “good fats.” These have been shown to provide greater protection against cardiovascular events, diabetes and cognitive decline. Aim to include more of the

mono- and polyunsaturated fats mentioned above into your diet.

Some healthier ways to cook with less fat are: broiling, grilling, microwaving, roasting and steaming. See the table below for a list of healthy fats with their serving size and fat content.

### How Much Fat?

When choosing foods to include in your diet, avoid “empty calories” or foods that are high in calories, but low in nutrients – such as soda, candy, cakes, cookies, pizza and butter. Aim for a total fat intake of no more than 30 percent of calories. If you need to reduce your fat intake to achieve this level, do so primarily by cutting back on saturated and trans fats.

Use the [www.supertracker.usda.gov](http://www.supertracker.usda.gov) site to discover how many calories your body needs a day. Plug your information into the formula below to discover how many grams of fat you should consume in one day.

■ My body needs \_\_\_\_\_ calories a day  
x 0.20 = *minimum* number of calories my body needs from fats.

■ My body needs \_\_\_\_\_ calories a day  
x 0.30 = *maximum* number of calories my body needs from fats.

Fat has nine calories per gram. Take your *minimum* number of calories your body needs from fat and divide it by nine. This will give you the *minimum* grams of fat your body needs a day. Repeat this process to discover the *maximum* grams of fat your body needs a day. Reading food labels will help you to keep track of *how much*, and *what kinds* of fat are in your favorite foods.

### For example:

■ My body needs 1,800 calories a day  
x 0.30 = 540 calories is the *maximum* my body needs from fats.

■ 540 calories / 9 calories per gram = 60 grams is the *maximum* grams of fat my body needs a day.



Food Source	Serving Size	Grams of Fat
Oil (vegetable, corn, canola, olive)	1 tsp.	4.5
Butter	1 tsp.	4
Mayonnaise	1 Tbsp.	10
Salad dressing	1 Tbsp.	7
Walnuts	1/3 cup or 1 1/2 oz.	26
Avocado	1/4 avocado	8
Fish (salmon, tuna, mackerel)	3 oz.	11
Peanut butter	2 Tbsp.	16
Flax seeds	2 Tbsp.	4

# RETIREES AROUND THE WORLD



## British Columbia



Here is **Marilyn Morton, Retired, DWP**, "holding the June issue of *Alive!* while waiting for the ferry to take me and my friends back to Washington state from British Columbia, Canada."

## Southeast Asia



**Pablo Ninofranco Jr., Retired, Harbor**, and his wife, Josie, took the Grand Asia cruise on the *Sapphire Princess* in April and May. They visited Busan, South Korea; Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; the Ho Chi Minh City Hall; the Hong Kong skyline; Nagasaki, Japan; the Singapore skyline; and the Thai Museum.



### 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)



## Fun with the Grandkids

Here's **Jim Dixon, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation**, with his grandkids Patrick Tyler and Mei Sariah in Shoreline Village in Long Beach for a day to relax and have fun. They attend John Muir Academy; Patrick will be entering sixth grade, and Mei first grade, their older brother and their dad attended the same school in their youths.

Patrick is heavily involved in the Cub/Boy Scouts and has been working hard to get his merit badges. He's looking forward to being a middle school student in the new semester.

Mei is helping out in the Boy Scouts with her dad and mom and will try to get into the Girl Scout program in the future.

"My wife, Kathie, and I are proud of them, for they are very special to us," Jim writes. "We wish them well, to be happy and enjoy their life with what they choose to do in their future."

### 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 accom-

plishments, 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.



Thought for the Month

# Why Worry?

**40%** will never happen, for anxiety is the result of a tired mind

**30%** concerns old decisions that cannot be altered

**12%** centers in criticisms, mostly untrue, made by people who feel inferior

**10%** is related to your health, which worsens while you worry, and only...

**8%** is "legitimate," showing that life does have real problems that can be met head-on when you have eliminated senseless worries

## Life

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)

## After

## Retirement

LAPD



Story by Arlene Herrera, Club Director of Product Development  
Photos by Dalila Vielma, Club Counselor



Sgt. Chris Clark and Alan Atkins, Executive Director of Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation, were part of Team 7B with Staff Sgt. Gary and Capt. Castanzo. The team came in first place.



Team 9A, from left: retired basketball player Norm Nixon; Mike Markowich; Frank Naughton; Mike Capuccio; and Actor Andy Garcia.



Arlene Herrera, Club Director of Product Development, with musician/actor Gene Simmons.



Celebrity host Jack Wagner.



Former KISS Bassist Gene Simmons with his daughter, Sophie Tweed-Simmons; North Hollywood Sgt. Thomas Holzer; Det. Doris Andrews, Retired, Major Crimes; and Kara Clark.



Back: Mounted Officer III Scott Coffey, 20 years of City service. Front, from left: Lt. Robert Binder, 26 years, LAPD Air Support; Actress Paula Trickey; LA City Controller Ron Galperin; Sgt. Michael Gannon, Club Member; and Officer III Greg Smith, 77th.



Arlene Herrera, Club Director of Product Development, with L.A. Dodgers legend Tommy LaSorda.



LAPD Chief Charlie Beck welcomes golfers and spectators.



Team 18B, from left: Charlie Isgar; Chuck Isgar; Steve Soboroff, Vice President of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners; and Miles Soboroff.



Team 17A, from left: Backstreet Boys A.J. Mclean and Nick Carter; Ted Beadon from Lojack; and South Pasadena Chief of Police Art Miller.



Team 15A, from left: Actor Brandon Molale; Lt. Il Al Jackson, 31 years of City service; Sgt. Karima Tahir, 18 years; and Brian Ross.



Controller Ron Galperin with Arlene Herrera, Club Director of Product Development.



LAPD Assistant Chief Michel Moore.



An LAPD Tesla on display.



John McMahon, President, Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation.



Team 13B, from left: Actor John Pyper Ferguson; Andy Boston; Officer III Tom Schoonyan, 8 years of City service; and Nancy Claiborne, Hearing Reporter, 34 years, Club Member.

# Celebs Come Out to Play

Police Dept. hosts successful annual golf tournament fundraiser.

The LAPD held its 44th annual celebrity golf tournament and family fun day May 21 at the Rancho Park Golf Course in West L.A. The tournament raises funds for the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation, which financially assists LAPD family members in tough circumstances.

This year's celebrity host was actor/singer Jack Wagner. Each year, more than 30 celebrities from the sports, television and movie industry participate in the Los Angeles Police-Celebrity Golf Tournament.

In addition to the tournament, there were numerous Police Dept. displays, including a helicopter, the bomb squad, LAPD K-9, the LAPD Historical Society mobile museum and LAPD Mounted Unit. There was great food and drink throughout the park golf course, including In-N-Out and Weinerschnitzel.

The event allows fans to meet the actors and actresses up close for signatures and photo opportunities. Attendees included golf enthusiasts, celebrity watchers and those looking for a family day in the park. A large number of children attended the event with their parents.

Proceeds benefited the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation, which financially assists LAPD family members experiencing catastrophic circumstances resulting from injury or death. Since its inception in 1972, the foundation has granted more than \$11.8 million for medical, funeral and educational expenses.

The Club thanks Alan Atkins, Alice Sturdy and Sgt. Chris Clark for their assistance in producing this article.

Congratulations to the LAPD and the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation for another successful celebrity golf tournament!





From left: A.J. McLean from the Backstreet Boys; Rosalind Curry, Special Services Coordinator at LAPD, Club Member; Celebrity host Jack Wagner; and Nick Carter from the Backstreet Boys.



From left: Celebrity host Jack Wagner; Deputy Chief Robert Arcos; and George Davis.



Team 17B, from left: WWE Professional Wrestler Mike "The Miz" Mizanin; Former NHL Ducks Sheldon Souray; and Jimmy McNeal.



Team 2A, from left: Kent Cox, Kaiser Permanente; Peter Algiers; and Herman Acera.



Team 10A, from left: Officer III Dominic Santiago, 18 years of City service; radio personality Frank Kramer; Tim Weiss; and Sr. PSR Rudy Vasquez, 21 years.



Team 13A, from left: LA Lakers Assistant Coach Tracy Murray; Retired basketball player Jason Collins; Officer III Jerry Delgado, 14 years of City service; and Officer III Jeff Von Lutzow, 18 years, Club Member.



Team 10B, from left: Guitarist Stuart Smith; seven-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Andre Reed; Staff Sgt. Rafael Hernandez; and Sgt. Hector M. Ruiz z



Alan Atkins, Executive Director, Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation.



Team 16A, from left: Actor Alan Thicke with his son, Carter Thicke; Det. III Terry Fathauer, 28 years of City service; and Johnny Bradburn from Original Tommy's hamburgers.



Team 15B, from left: Zak Friedlander, representing the Parker Foundation; Yubi Samocho; Shai Zion; and Motty Shalev.



Team 2B, from left: Actor Galen Gering; actor Kendall Schmidt; Sgt. Anthony Azevedo, 20 years of City service, Club Member; and Teresa Azevedo, PSR III, 15 years, Club Member.



Team 7B, from left: Actor Ron Masak; USMC Capt. Castanzo; Staff Sgt. Gary Gunny; and Sgt. Cannon.



Team 6A representing In-N-Out, from left: Ken Kenwood; Mike Leavins; Bob Lang Jr.; and Ken Iriart.



Team 5B, from left: Sgt. Fred Starkey, EAU, 29 years of City service; actor Raymond Cruz; actor Ransford Doherty; and Ryan Gonzales.



Team 7A, from left: Officer II Michael Crame; Det. Vincent Carreon; Officer II Gregory Papik, 7 years of City service; and Dan Wang.



Team 14A, from left: Former LA Dodgers pitcher Frankie Sandoval; Det. II John Dunlop, 21 years of City service; Sgt. II Thongin Muy, 22 years; and Louis Mele, Operations Manager of LA Police Protective League.



Team 11A, from left: Sal Jaramillo, Retired, LAPD; Delia Deas; Kevin Flore; and Capt. Andrew Neiman, Media Relations Officer.



Team 11B, from left: Actor Luke Wilson; Det. I David Purcell, Legal Affairs, 20 years of City service; Officer III Joe Sanchez, 15 years; and Bill Prigge.



Team 8A, from left: Actor Mark Moses; KTLA Morning News anchor Frank Buckley; Phil Englander, Galpin Ford; and actor Mark Paul Gosselaar.

Team 12A from 20th Century Fox, from left: Robert Esparza, Bill Smith, Craig Canfield and Mark Sapya.



Team 3A, from left: Actor Robert Hayes; Chip Beck, Rydel; Bobby Salmon; and Sgt. James Antenucci, FID, 27 years of City service.



Team 3B, from left: Actor Don Most; Det. I Jeremy Hershey, 8 years of City service, Club Member; actor Jonathan Banks; and Officer II Joseph Rooney, 9 years.



Team 4B, from left: Actor Phillip Keene; Sgt. Matthew Vuoso, Club Member; Officer II Maria Fimbres, 11 years of City service, Club Member; and actress Kearnan Geovanni.



Team 4A, from left: Actress Anne-Marie Johnson; Gold Lee; George Lopez, Retired, LAPD; and actor Tony Denison.

# CLUB SPORTS

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



## Softball Off and Running

The Club Softball League for 2016 has begun!

### League Still Accepting Free-Agent Players

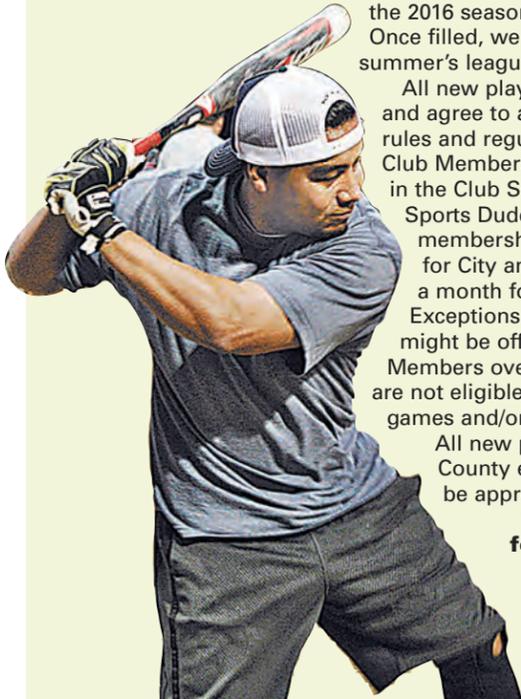
Are you a softball player who's not part of a team but would like to play on one? The Club Softball League has started, but the Club is still accepting free-agent players. Contact the Sports Dude at (800) 464-0452 x 134, or via email [sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com)

**Please note:** Time and space are limited for the 2016 season of the Club Softball League. Once filled, we will keep your name for next summer's league.

All new players must be Club Members and agree to all regular Club Membership rules and regulations. Players who are not Club Members must join the Club to play in the Club Softball League. Contact the Sports Dude for more information. Club membership fees are \$2.25 a pay period for City and DWP employees and \$2.50 a month for retired City employees. Exceptions to eligibility requirements might be offered for relatives of Club Members over 18 years of age. Players who are not eligible to play may cause forfeit of games and/or season.

All new players must be City, State or County employees. Exceptions must be approved by the league office.

**This is a co-ed league: for both men and women.**



**Keep this schedule.**  
(Put it on your fridge!)

### FROM THE COMMISH:

## Softball Starts With a Bang!

The Club's 2016 Softball League kicked off July 13, and it went off with a blast! Old teams returned, carrying dreams of pleasant retribution from last season. Teammates and competitors alike greeted one another with reverence and friendly banter.

The Transformers welcomed the Operaiders to start the games at Downey Recreation Center by scoring four runs to end the first inning. But by the end of the second, the Operaiders scored six to take the lead. The Operaiders scored another two in the top of the fourth, and another six in the fifth inning, ending the game. The final: Operaiders 14, Transformers 4.

The Conquistadors were hosted by the P.F. Flyers in Downey's 8 p.m. game. The Conquistadors were quiet until the last inning when they scored two. But the P.F. Flyers prevailed, scoring in every inning to end the game. Final: P.F. Flyers 15, Conquistadors 2.

For the 9 p.m. match, it was tight between Guzzlers and GameTime throughout the entire game until the last inning, when the Guzzlers scored more than 15 runs. Final: Guzzlers 20-plus, GameTime 8.

Over at Shatto, Team Next hosted the Sewer Rats for the first game of the season. Tight until the end, the game ended Sewer Rats 6, Next 1.

The first inning ended with a tie score in the DoTgers vs. Kilawatts game at 8 p.m. The DoTgers poured it on early, scoring four in the second and three in the third, leading the Kilawatts 10-3. It ended

with both teams truly competitive, DoTgers 12, Kilawatts 5.

The Sluggers hosted the Enforcers at 9 p.m. and held the Enforcers' three-run lead in the first inning at bay through the second. The Enforcers then scored 10 between the third and fourth while the Sluggers fell silent. Final: Enforcers 20, Sluggers 6.

### July 20: Week Two

The second week of the season developed into one for the history books! At Shatto, the P.F. Flyers, a free-agent team, fell to the Sewer Rats. Who would have predicted that? Final: Sewer Rats 7, P.F. Flyers 3. Good game, Sewer Rats! You're looking really good. I've got my eye on you.

At 8 p.m., the DoTgers prevailed against the visiting team, the Transformers, by three runs. This game was jam-packed with awesome defensive plays and outstanding pitches by the Transformers, causing many DoTgers foul- or strikeouts, almost completely shutting down the DoTger ladies. Final: Transformers 4, DoTgers 7.

During the 9 p.m. game, the Enforcers held the Guzzlers at zero and scored the maximum six runs to end the first inning, with just one out. But that was just the beginning on what was to be a real nail-biter! Final: Guzzlers 14, Enforcers 13.

Back at Downey, the Kilawatts defeated the Conquistadors, 11 - 6. Then, Team Next faced the Operaiders, who prevailed by 9. Final: Operaiders 13, Next 4.

At 9 p.m., the Sluggers hosted the Blue Dragons in a head-to-head combat with the game tied at five in the third inning. The Blue Dragons scored two in the fourth, one in the fifth and one in the sixth, ultimately winning the game by four. The record reflects a highly competitive game with multiple

hits on both sides and outstanding plays. Final: Blue Dragon 9, Sluggers 5.

Whew! What a way to kick off the season! With all the obstacles and elements that teams face when playing in the Club Softball League (trash cans, dogs, soccer goals, tractors, people who do not see 20-plus people playing softball!), we are very happy to see our league take off every season with friendly competition between all teams. We have great camaraderie and lots of good wholesome fun. I am looking forward to the All-Star games and the playoffs, when we can see lots of offensive sliding in the dirt and defensive flying in the air.

We are still seeking players for this season's play. Please contact the Sports Dude, Robert Larios, for more information.

Until next month, Batter Up!

— Lady Y. Smith, The Commish

(All scores are unofficial.)

## Lady Smith, The Commish

**Returning for 2016:** The Softball Commish, Lady Smith! Read Lady's comments each month in *Alive!* during the softball season.



## Hoops, Bowling, Softball: 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 and for more information.

Images of past sporting events can be found on the Club Website at <http://photos.cityemployeesclub.com/ClubSports>



**Robert Larios,**  
The Sports Dude

# CLUB SPORTS

## SOFTBALL 2016

# Game Schedule

(Visit the Club website, [cityemployeesclub.com](http://cityemployeesclub.com), for Game Schedule updates)

### Aug. 3

#### Downey

#### Shatto

7 p.m.	Sewer Rats vs. DoTgers	PFFlyers vs. Operaiders
8 p.m.	Transformers vs. Kilawatts	Next vs. Conquistadors
9 p.m.	Sluggers vs. Guzzlers	GameTime vs. Blue Dragons

### Aug. 10

#### Downey

#### Shatto

7 p.m.	Kilawatts vs. Next	DoTgers vs. Operaiders
8 p.m.	Transformers vs. P.F. Flyers	Conquistadors vs. Sewer Rats
9 p.m.	Enforcers vs. Blue Dragons	Sluggers vs. GameTime

### Aug. 17

#### Downey

#### Shatto

7 p.m.	Sewer Rats vs. Kilawatts	Next vs. Transformers
8 p.m.	P.F. Flyers vs. DoTgers	Operaiders vs. Conquistadors
9 p.m.	GameTime vs. Guzzlers	Sluggers vs. Enforcers

### Aug. 24

#### Downey

#### Shatto

7 p.m.	Conquistadors vs. DoTgers	Next vs. P.F. Flyers
8 p.m.	Transformers vs. Sewer Rats	Kilawatts vs. Operaiders
9 p.m.	Sluggers vs. Blue Dragons	Enforcers vs. Guzzlers

### Aug. 31

#### Downey

#### Shatto

7 p.m.	P.F. Flyers vs. Conquistadors	Transformers vs. Operaiders
8 p.m.	Next vs. Sewer Rats	Kilawatts vs. DoTgers
9 p.m.	Enforcers vs. GameTime	Guzzlers vs. Blue Dragons

### Sept. 7

#### Downey

#### Shatto

7 p.m.	Conquistadors vs. Kilawatts	DoTgers vs. Transformers
8 p.m.	Operaiders vs. Next	Sewer Rats vs. P.F.Flyers
9 p.m.	Guzzlers vs. Sluggers	Blue Dragons vs. GameTime

### GAME LOCATIONS

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

**Shatto Recreation Center**  
3191 4th St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90020

### PARTICIPATING TEAMS

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Blue Dragons  | Next         |
| Conquistadors | Operaiders   |
| DoTgers       | P.F. Flyers  |
| Enforcers     | Sewer Rats   |
| GameTime      | Sluggers     |
| Guzzlers      | Transformers |
| Kilawatts     |              |



### Zoo

Photos by Tad Motoyama and Jamie Pham, Zoo

## Dogs of a Different Hue

**African painted dogs join the Zoo family.**



An African painted dog.

The Los Angeles Zoo is excited to welcome three African painted dogs, the second most endangered carnivore in Africa, to the collection. The nearly two-year-old siblings, one male and two females, came from the Oklahoma City Zoo in April and can now be seen by LA Zoo guests out in their habitat getting to know their new surroundings.

"I'm very excited we will continue to display African painted dogs here at the L.A. Zoo," said Dorothy Belanger, Sr. Animal Keeper at the Los Angeles Zoo. "These beautiful siblings are young, active, and alert which makes them very fun to observe. They are not only strong and fast, but also a very social and caring community of individuals that work together for the welfare of the whole pack."

Although their scientific name, *Lycaon pictus*, means "painted wolf," this unique animal is not a wolf or a dog but rather a unique species that has existed for more than three million years as the only member of their genus. African painted dogs have a mottled pattern of black, brown, yellow and white fur that is unique to each individual animal and serves to make the pack look larger, which confuses their predators and prey. They have long legs and streamlined bodies that contribute to their speed and endurance and oversized, rounded ears for enhanced hearing and temperature regulation. They range from about 24 to 30 inches in size and can weigh between 37 and 79 pounds.

While this carnivorous species is known as the most successful hunters in Africa, their numbers continue to decline due to reasons out of their control, including habitat loss, poacher's snares, shooting by ranchers, vehicular traffic, and diseases such as rabies and distemper. There are only approximately 6,600 African painted dogs existing in the wild and around 72 living in zoos in the United States. Guests can now view the African painted dog siblings in their habitat near Gorilla Grill, weather permitting.



African painted dog siblings.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children ages 2 to 12. The Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**Information: (323) 644-4200 or [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org)**

CLUB MEMBER SERVICE

**FREE**

# Free Notary Service



**When you need a notary service, there's never any charge. It's just one of the great services to Club Members.**

**Free notary service available during normal business hours at the:**

**Club Store and Service Center**  
120 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles 90012  
TEL: (888) 777-1744.

Appointments are highly recommended; availability to walk-ins is limited.



The City Employees Club of Los Angeles

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

THIS MONTH AT THE



# Griffith Observatory

## Sunset Walk

**August 16**  
7:25 – 8:25 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.

**FREE!**

Information:  
[griffithobservatory.org/programs/programs.html#walktalk](http://griffithobservatory.org/programs/programs.html#walktalk)

Support the  Griffith Observatory!

Consider joining the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO)  
(213) 473-0879

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

City Owned. City Run. City Proud.

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

## Larios in the City



**Donald Moritz**, DWP,  
Retired after 35 years of  
City service.

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

**Congratulations!**



**Selena Birk**, Airports,  
Retired after 26 years of  
City service.



Los Angeles  
Urban League Guild

# Come To Dinner

S T A Y F O R  
J A Z Z

FEATURING:

David Patterson Quartet (Jazz & Blues)  
Debra Parson, Vocalist  
Rufus "Ray" Jones, Vocalist

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NEW LOCATION:

CARSON COMMUNITY CENTER  
801 E. Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745

TICKET DONATION: \$55

PAY ONLINE AT:

<http://tinyurl.com/huxny24>

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL TO:  
Los Angeles Urban League Guild  
5164 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90056

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Betty Price, President, at  
310.538.8118 or 323.299.9660 x 2823  
or [betty.P8999@sbcglobal.net](mailto:betty.P8999@sbcglobal.net)





# John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Club CEO



"My iPhone 5 did not fail me. This Cuban experience was certainly a memorable one."

– **Rose Serrato, Retired, LAPD**

**John's comment:** Hi Rose: You are absolutely right, your iPhone did not fail you at all. In fact it produced quite a beautiful photo! The black and white contrast is perfect, and the activity on the street adds to the allure of your shot. Well done!



"Some would say that the reason this camping picture worked was not due to the kids' joyous bonding time devoid of smartphones, tablets and videogames ... but the reliable presence of that bucket of primer. I think so."

– **Dominique Daito, LAPD**

**John's comment:** Dominique, I would have to agree – that bucket was the perfect height to get the light just right for this truly beautiful photo! Well done, as always!



"100 South Spring."

– **Aaron Harris, Public Works/Street Services**

**John's comment:** Fantastic picture, Aaron. I don't see black and white often enough!

"Photo taken in Astoria, Ore. in June. This is the point where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean. There was a storm blowing in as the sun was beginning to set."

– **Bob Hill**

**John's comment:** Bob, what a gorgeous shot! I have traveled alongside the Columbia River through Oregon and Washington hundreds of times, but I have never seen where it empties into the Pacific. I will have to go to Astoria!



## 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@cityemployees-club.com](mailto:pictureperfect@cityemployees-club.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.

# Alive! Feature

Sepulveda Inclusive Playground

Hermon Park Playground

Watts Serenity Park Playground

Visit a City  
playground  
and have fun!

Go to [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)  
for locations near you.

Sepulveda Inclusive Playground

Watts Serenity Park Playground



SUMMER IN THE CITY!

# Play Is Serious Fun

Rec and Parks

**Rec and Parks' playground crew designs and maintains L.A.'s centers for creative play, emphasizing discovery, accessibility and fitness.**

**W**hen's the last time you visited one of the City's excellent playgrounds? It's exactly the kind of free activity that makes spending a summer in the City so appealing.

Los Angeles boasts more than 400 playgrounds that are redesigned and rebuilt periodically. And all of them are checked out for safety and maintenance at least once every month.

That's a heck of a responsibility. Rec and Parks' Playground Equipment Group is up to the challenge, with crews stationed around the City to check on the playgrounds daily. If something needs attention, it's either performed right there, or that element is roped off until it can be addressed.

Rec and Parks also leads the design and implementation of the playgrounds. It's about 10 percent of their work, with landscaping and planning of the larger parks, and general administration, taking up the remainder.

It's serious fun they produce – not always easy to accomplish, but always rewarding.

– continues, page 26

Members of the Playground Equipment crew at Stoner Park in West L.A., top row, from left: Alfred Ruiz, Special Projects Assistant II, 1 year of City service; and David Fossett, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 26 years. Middle: Wilfredo Osoria, Mechanical Repairer, 9 years; Andrew Vargas, Special Projects Assistant II, 2 years; Victorino Aguayo, Special Projects Assistant II, 12 years; and Dale Matsumura, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 15 years. Bottom: Paul Warner, Special Projects Assistant II, 1 year, and Alex Lopez, Special Projects Assistant II, 2 years.



## Alive! Feature

– continued from page 25

### LA Rec & Parks Dept: First in the Nation

The City's Parks Dept. was created in 1889, and Griffith Park was donated to the City in 1896. Other major parks soon followed – Elysian Park, Pershing Square, and later, Lincoln Park, MacArthur Park, Echo Park Lake and Hollenbeck Park. But at that time there were no planned or programmed activities associated with the early parks. Children were forced to play on public streets and vacant lots that were hardly suited for organized games. These conditions triggered a civic movement to officially establish a Playground Commission and Department. Their plan was “for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency and to provide wholesome and constructive play and recreation for youth, in supervised playgrounds, as an alternative

to play in the City streets.” In 1904 the City created the first municipal Playground Dept. in the United States. The establishment of several playgrounds followed between 1905-11, with the first being Violet Street (near City Hall) in 1905.

1925 was a milestone year for public recreation in the City. A charter created separate departments – a Dept. of Playground and Recreation, and a Dept. of Parks, and granted both control of their own funds. They were merged again in 1947.

### Universal Accessibility

Rec and Parks offers several universally accessible playgrounds, where children of all abilities can play side by side. The Dept. has a goal of developing additional “accessible play” playgrounds and is working to identify

more parks Citywide that could be enlarged or otherwise accommodate installation of a mid-sized playground to help the vision become a reality.

### Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Rec and Parks has been installing outdoor fitness equipment since 2007. This equipment is built for teenagers and older, and is designed to be simple, sturdy and to hold up to all weather conditions. The variety of the equipment provides for workouts of different types: strength, cardiovascular, flexibility, and combinations of the

above. When combined with jogging trails, an even more varied workout is achievable. And when designed in clusters, a more social workout can be experienced. Rec and Parks firmly believes that the equipment can contribute to the wellbeing of playground patrons by providing a free, outdoor workout located in a park setting, thereby enabling a proactive, hands-on approach to health for anyone using the equipment. Now that ADA accessible equipment is available, we will be able to expand the health benefits to an even wider cross section of the population. Moving forward, all new installations will now include ADA accessible equipment. ■

### Have Fun!

We've given you all the information and encouragement you need. So get going and have fun!



## Designs on Fun



### A lot goes in to designing a City playground.

Landscape Architects Tom Gibson, 15 years of City service; Craig Raines, 10 years; Robert Oyakawa, 31 years; Mark Leung, 10 years; and Chris Atencio, 10 years; have an awesome responsibility – coordinating the design of the City's more than 440 playgrounds.

And that can range from completely designing a new playground, or upgrading its equipment for a variety of reasons.

And their playground work makes up less than 10 percent of their workload, which includes designing and redesigning entire City parks, plus the community input and City administrative tasks that go along with it.

Community input is a big part of what they do. “To me, the biggest change in the last 15 years or so is the increase of community input,” Tom Gibson explains. “In the past, a playground would be designed in-house or just by the designers without much community input. That rarely happens anymore. People are much more connected and more vocal now and want things to feel personalized. It gives the community something that they're more vested in.

“When we go out to design a park, one of the things that the community, or the Council District, wants is a playground,” Tom continues. “The request can come from anybody and, as long as there is funding, we can make it happen.”

“Here's an example,” Craig Raines says. “In Woodland Hills, in the park where Fire Station 84 used to be, we did a fire station theme. The community and all the stakeholders involved said, ‘Let's do a sort-of fire-station theme’

The playground equipment vendors provide much of the ideas and implementation.

“We have three vendors on contract that we work with for the most part,” Tom continues. “We work back and forth with them. They'll come up with ideas, unless we're doing something like a custom piece like we did at the Westchester Rec Center, where we put in an ocean seascape.”

Accessibility is a huge trend, too.

“The biggest change for me has been the focus on designing playgrounds that provide accessible play for all,” Craig says. “This fosters a bias-free world for children with disabilities.” ■

## Back to Being Smart

Two other trends that are remaking the City's playgrounds: fitness, and adapting for the smartphone set.

“We're getting asked by every community group to include fitness equipment,” Tom says. “And that's more for the parents and youths, as opposed to the younger kids.

“And the biggest change I think we're seeing is getting back to having kids explore,” Craig says. “It used to be that, at a playground, you had to figure things out for yourself. And then we got in the mode where everything was totally scripted – a kid would go to a space and everything would be laid out for them. Now we're backing away from that a bit and allowing kids to explore and discover, and figure things out for themselves, which is critical in their development phase. We want them to be critical thinkers.”

“There's some play equipment that actually incorporates a sort of digital platform, where kids can play on a piece of equipment and interact with others,” Craig continues. “They're like digital pads that you hit, and it does something. You push a button and the hippo on the other side spits out water.”

“We're waiting to see how this equipment works out in other places,” Tom points out. “If it becomes widely popular, I'm sure the community will be the first to let us know.” ■

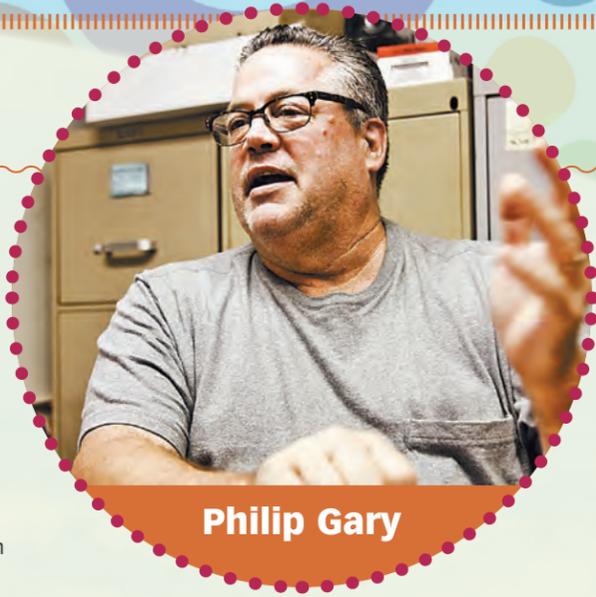


Rec and Parks' Landscape Architects, from left: Craig Raines, Robert Oyakawa and Tom Gibson. Not pictured: Mark Leung and Chris Atencio.

## The *Alive!* Interview

# 'It's All for The Kids'

*On June 23, Club CEO John Hawkins and Alive! editor John Burnes interviewed with Philip Gary, Mechanical Repairer and Assistant to Mel Raiford, Supervisor of the Playground Equipment Group. Philip has 10 years of City service. The interview took place at the Rec and Parks' Central Service Yard.*



**Philip Gary**

**Thanks for speaking with us today, Philip. First, give us a rundown of your City career.**

**Philip Gary:** Sure. I've been with the City about 10 years. I started originally with Street Services as a mechanical helper, rebuilding the chainsaws for the street crew guys who would cut the trees. Then I came over here and interviewed with the pool crew (aquatics) and with the guy who ran the playground crews at the time. They opted to pick me up, and I've been here since.

**Give us an overview of what you and your crew do.**

There are about 325 parks in Los Angeles with playground pits on them. There may be about 60 parks now that have exercise equipment at them. Our crew takes care of the maintenance on all these things. The maintenance can extend from making sure the sand is filled up to the correct level, or general maintenance. Once a month our guys go through and do a complete inspection of every play pit. All 325 play pits are visited at least once a month by our guys who are trained with what to look for out there. You've got standard wear and tear, whether it be rubber items that get torn, or swings will get abused and broken. The standard belt swings are subject to a bit of abuse. We're also looking at all the decks, to make sure there are bolts where they are supposed to be. On any overhead stuff, we make sure nothing's come loose. If it has, and something needs to be dealt with on a maintenance basis, our guys will fill out a form that's basically a job request order, identifying what needs to be repaired. They send it in so we can get it into our computer system so that there's record to show that we're doing regular inspections of it, and then a record of the repair when it's performed. If anything is an emergency, our guys will either put up barricades and chain something down so it can't be used, if it's immediate danger, and fix it if they can. If it's a breaking swing, they usually have one in their truck and can replace it. But, since we've got so many repairs to do or parks to visit in a month, if every time you went out to inspect and you found yourself fixing a swing at every park, you'd never get your inspections done. So often, we simply close off that piece of equipment and don't allow it to be used, and we go out and do it at our soonest possible time.

**But you don't actually build them. You have the vendors do that.**

Right. The City got away from doing the installation of it I think because of the cost of having a crew that big, plus having so many parks. If our job is to maintain and do some maintenance, our crew is barely large enough to handle that on its own right now.

**How big is your crew?**

There are 18 guys on it. There are nine full-timers, and I think we've got nine half-timers.

**For the entire City?**

For the entire City. For about 325 parks with play pits. There could be more than one pit at a given park, but yes, 325 locations, minimum.

**So between nine people plus the part-timers, you inspect every single park and make the repairs as necessary?**

Yes. It's rare that we'll hire in a contractor to do any of the repairs for us unless it requires special equipment cranes or something like that, or cherry pickers to put up some of the shade claws on some of the higher structures where it can't be accomplished with A-frame ladders.

## Trends in Safety

**In terms of safety, how would you encapsulate the trend from maybe the 1980s...**

... you remember the rocket ships?

**The rocket ships! How did you know what I was thinking?**

I had taken some courses to be a certified playground safety inspector, and the rocket ships are one of the first things they bring up. Some of the merry-go-rounds have been problematic, too. The problem with the rocket ship was the thing was 30 feet tall, and even though the ladders were all enclosed within it, there was nothing to prevent a child from climbing up on the outside, right? That's something called attractive nuisance. So, unfortunately, while the rocket ships were a lot of fun, there were enough injuries from them that it just wouldn't cut it anymore.

**What's the issue with merry-go-rounds?**

I don't know if you've seen on YouTube, this guy with his motorbike or a scooter – and he'll kick it on its side and put the rear wheel up against the merry-go-round and crank that out until that merry-go-round is spinning.

It's teenagers who were doing it. So now the engineers have designed rev limiters into the merry-go-rounds, which are typi-

cally some sort of a hydraulic assembly. The faster you push this thing, the more it compresses the liquid, which engages the brake, so it'll go only so fast.

**What about getting caught underneath it?**

Maybe in the past. Nowadays, the ones we have either have skirts around them, or are so low slung to the ground that it's nearly impossible. They're designed exclusively to avoid that kind of scenario.

**It sounds to me like you're in a constant battle between adventure and fun versus safety?**

Absolutely. That in a nutshell is what playgrounds are all about.

There has to be fun, there has to be challenge. Part of our deal is, how do you politely tell a parent that supervision is required?

**Right. So what safety trends are you seeing?**

Professional magazines for playground safety professionals talk about this trend about sanitizing the parks, making them so safe that the child can't get hurt. But when you lock it down so much, it provides no challenge. The whole thing behind a playground is to provide a challenge to the youngsters as they're growing up. It builds hand-eye coordination. It builds confidence in them being able to accomplish something that two months ago they couldn't, or their younger brother can't but they can. It's really an issue in the industry now – how adventurous is too adventurous? It's a matter of finding the right mix of risk to safety. Back in the '80s, you had a lot of hard metal items, protrusions. We still have spring animals, but now most springed animals will have a rounded handle so there are no protrusions.

**What about the springs themselves?**

The biggest problem we have with that is teenagers using them and breaking the springs. It can be a real pain trying to get that huge coil spring off of its under-mounting.

Depending on the size of the park, we've gone away from swings take up a lot of space because you've got to have twice the length of the swing from the beam, from the swing seat out to any hard object. The theory is if the kid's going to leap off the swing, they've got to have enough fall space to be able to not run into another kid or run into a hard object. In a small park, you're not going to have room for swings. But everybody loves swings, and I can't blame them.

**Swings are always popular.**

It's inherent in human beings. The movement that you get in a swing is the closest you're going to come to flying. It's a very exhilarating feeling.

We're putting in zip lines at parks now.



A zipline in action at Griffith Riverside Park playground in Los Feliz.

**I saw that.**

Those things are so popular they're wearing out too quickly.

**It's probably because the adults are using them, too.**

Well, yes, the adults as well. Also there's a certain issue with them – once they're installed, we have to give them about six weeks of stretch, then go back

and retighten them. It had never been relayed to us. So once we learned that after six weeks we have to retighten them to a prescribed torque, then they have lasted longer, but we still need to be out at least every six months and check it and see if it's dragging too far down.

**So you go from repairing to an ongoing maintenance program?**

Oh yes, there's constant maintenance. We do regular maintenance on the swings, among other things.

We all used to have a lot of fun in parks when we were kids, and we all relatively managed to survive. But there used to be a lot more long bone injuries, the breaking of arms and legs when there wasn't an adequate surfacing beneath it. Remember at school we played on asphalt, right? Nowadays this can't be done.

**Jungle gyms were on asphalt.**

Then it went to the rubber mats beneath it, which at least prevented a long bone injury. Believe it or not, sand is the best protector against long bone injuries because it provides a slowing down of your movement and then

it allows your arm or leg to be enveloped by the sand. But unfortunately you get concussions with sand because when a head falls into it, it stops you pretty quickly, versus the rubber stuff, which will allow the head to slow down and then bounce back off. You get fewer concussions with the various rubber products, but you get more long bone injuries. So, it's a matter of weighing one against the other. They figure that the worst injury is a head injury. That's a lifelong impact. But sand is an amazing play element for kids. You bring a kid to a park, and if there's a sand box, they're in the sand and they're building stuff with it. It's textural and they enjoy it.

## The Number One Issue

**What is the number one issue – the most common thing you see – with constant repairing?**

Graffiti has to be a number one scourge – it is just so insulting and unsightly. You go to a park – all the equipment can be working, but you've got your five-year-old who just learned how to read, who sees bad words up there. That's a constant complaint. We go out and we take care of it as best we can. We take care of graffiti on play equipment itself – on the slides, on the poles, on the climbing walls, etc. There's another crew within the City that handles graffiti on buildings or walls, and so forth.



The slide at the universal access playground at Lake Balboa Park.

**Would you report that though, if you saw it on the recreation buildings?**

Yes, exactly, that's a good point. If we found it on the buildings out there, we'd send a report in. The patrons out there are pretty good at reporting graffiti because it's so insulting, I find. Etching is the second worst – you can't get rid of the etching.

## Philip's Favorites

**Do you have a favorite park in the City?**

They just put in a new park in Montecito Heights, and it has what I call stained glass petals that serve as shade structures. A kid down at the bottom can sort of turn this crank, which ends up turning this amazing kaleidoscope above. I cross my fingers that it's going to last.

But overall I can't say that I've got a favorite. Lake Balboa is a beautiful park. That was just redone when I started on the crew about nine years ago, and we've done a lot of work out there keeping it as fit as we can. It's beautiful.

Woodland Hills Park is a pretty nifty one. Chase Park is interesting because it's at the top of a big hill. It's a workout in and of itself walking up the path to get to the thing.

– continues, page 29



Montecito Heights Park, including the stained "glass" petals.

**Alive! Feature**

# Tending to the Playgrounds



Getting ready to replace the bad surface are (from left) Alfred Ruiz, Special Projects Assistant II, 1 year of City service; Victorino Aguayo, Special Projects Assistant II, 12 years; Alex Lopez, Special Projects Assistant II, 2 years; Andrew Vargas, Special Projects Assistant II, 2 years; Paul Warner, Special Projects Assistant II, 1 year; Dale Matsumura, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 15 years; and Wilfredo Osoria, Mechanical Repairer, 9 years.

Rec and Parks' Playground Equipment Dept. both maintains and examines each of the City's more than 420 playgrounds every month. Here's a crew in action, both fixing the surface and repainting some posts, and then visually examining the playground for defects that need attention. In this case, the crew was in action at the Stoner Park playground in West Los Angeles.

## Maintenance

### Repairing the Surface

Over time, the playground's surface has become weak and torn, often due to age and moisture. So the surface must be replaced.

### Painting The Pole



During the inspection, Dale Matsumura, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 15 years of City service, notices that paint is peeling off one of the poles for the swing set. So he grabs some standard blue paint from his truck and gets to it.



The crew removes the old surface.



The ground is now ready for the new surface.



The crew prepares the new pour-in-place surface – a state-of-the-art combination of recycled rubber, coloring and glue. This kind of surface produces no abrasions to the skin of those who play on it.



The glue is poured in.



The mixture is stirred.



The new surface is poured in place.



Smoothing and leveling the new surface with trowels before it hardens is critical.



Job done!

## Examination

Each of the City's more than 420 playgrounds is examined every month. Here at Stoner Park, Dale Matsumura, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 15 years of City service, performs the task. He takes along Club CEO John Hawkins to demonstrate how an examination works.

### Safety Checks



**Benches:** Dale checks to make sure the benches are stable, with paint and welds in good order. This one checks out.

**Sand scooper/sifter:** This unit is in good shape.



**Swing sets:** The swings, maybe the all-time playground favorite equipment, can develop flaws because of their heavy usage. Here, Dale checks for breaks in the chains, seats and connections to the support pole. These are all fine.



**Supports:** Dale makes sure that the posts supporting the turtle seats are strong and not broken.

### Report

The final task of the examination is to document everything that Dale Matsumura, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 15 years of City service, found. On an official report sheet, he writes down any issue that he noticed that needs to be addressed by a future crew, and anything he fixed himself. This report gets processed by a team at the Rec and Parks administration headquarters.



Dale completes the paperwork.



Philip Gary, Mechanical Helper (right) and Club CEO John Hawkins.

The *Alive!* Interview, – continued from page 27

**Fitness Playgrounds**



Lake Balboa Park's playground.

**Speaking of that, what about fitness? Is fitness trending?**

Oh, yes, that's huge. Rec and Parks is trying to appeal to both the kids and the families, so we've put in fitness equipment in more than 50 parks. It's taking up more and more time to handle the repair and maintenance of the fitness equipment because adults use it, and so things wear out more quickly. We have vandalism on it, too, but it just plain wears out.

**Which is good.**

Which is good, right, right. We might need to think about having a dedicated portion of the crew to handling the fitness repair.

**Is your playground equipment used heavily? How would you describe the usage?**

Yes, heavily, and you can talk to any of our vendors that it's heavily used and heavily abused. Things break in the City of L.A. parks that they've never had an issue with at another park. We're a good proving ground for them. If the equipment can last in our parks, it'll last anywhere.

**First in the Nation**

**The city of L.A. has the oldest playground department in the nation.**

I saw that on the Website.

**So does that make you a leader? Are other cities looking at what you do?**

We get asked questions occasionally, but here on the crew, we're pretty insulated from the public at large. Surprisingly not; there are professional organizations out there to garner information from. It's always nice to pick somebody's brain, but surprisingly no, we don't get a lot of questions from other cities, at least here on the crew.

**An App for That**

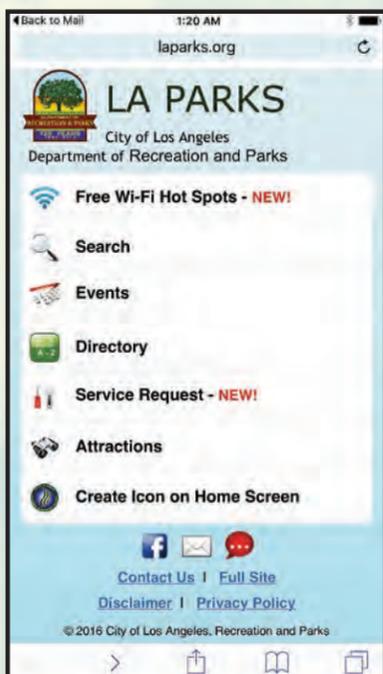
**Can citizens report service requests?**

Yes, there's a Website that people can access on their phones ... L.A. Parks. People can go in and say, "I'm a patron, and I'm at this park and you know what, there's a broken swing." You can even take a photo of the issue. It takes a little learning, but it's efficient. Our crew uses it, too.

**Good Crew**

**How good's your crew?**

Our crew's great, we've probably had the same full-time crew here for at least the past nine years,



**And the fun kind of yelling.**

Yes. I started with the City 10 years ago, and I'm damn lucky I got a second chance at life, to do something I enjoy doing, working with my hands, working on parks and playgrounds. How great is that – to be able to drive around fixing stuff for young people?

**I couldn't have said it better. Philip, thanks for your time.**

Thank you, absolutely. ■

Citizens can report faulty equipment using the LA Parks mobile site.

David Fossett, Maintenance and Construction Helper



**The Poet of The Playgrounds**

Club Member **David Fossett**, Maintenance and Construction Helper, 24 years of City service, loves repairing playgrounds and making sure they are in proper working order, because so much rides on them – the happiness and safety of the City's children.

"We're the City's backyard, for residents who don't often have them," he says. "So let's go save the world, one park at a time!"

It's clear David has a way with words. In fact, he writes poetry about his job. He shared some of them with *Alive!*

**My world, my park**

Wow!  
Look at the castle,  
Man ... look at its size!  
It fills me with wonder,  
I feel so alive.  
This place my mom brings me,  
think they call it the park.  
I'm eager to go there,  
we play until dark.  
There's always kids playing,  
in the grass or the swings.  
The laughter is dizzying,  
the Curly Climber's my thing!  
Up the street's where I live,  
up the stairs, level five.  
In that flat's where I live  
but it's the parks where I thrive.

**My park**

Let's go to the park, and have us some fun.  
The apartment's too small, there's no room to run.  
But at the park down the street, I spend the whole day.  
Digging in sand, laying in grass; we swing and we sway.  
At the park I see friends, where we climb and we roam.  
Spinning ourselves silly, lost in a world of our own.  
The park's for recreation, as the grownups would say...  
... as for me I'm just a kid, and My park's where I play!

**Tomorrow's the day**

Tomorrow's the day,  
they re-open the park.  
The fence will come down,  
and the good times will start.  
We've waited a lifetime,  
or something like 3 weeks.  
To play in the grass,  
far away from the streets.  
It will be nice once again,  
to see Bobby and Faye.  
The playground is back,  
and tomorrow's the day.



Vermont Gage Park, South Vermont Avenue.

THIS MONTH AT THE

**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium**

A REC AND PARKS FACILITY

**Walk  
Cabrillo**

SAT., AUG. 20

2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Pack a snack and join a walk guided by CMA's Education staff. Starting at the Aquarium courtyard, you'll visit the native garden, salt marsh, beaches and tide pools. Explore each habitat and discover signs of the season along the shore. Examine fossils, native plants and beach wrack.

**Free!**

**(310) 548-7562**

**Parking: \$1/hour**

**Support the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium!**

Consider joining the Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium  
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City Owned. City Run. City Proud.

**Public Works**



Cara's engagement ring, which Everett designed and had made.



The original proposal photo, which ran in *Alive!* last month.



Everett and Cara at a post-engagement meal.

# She Said Yes!

**Car columnist gets engaged with the help of Alive!**

Did you happen to catch the special photo that Car Club columnist Everett Bennett, Public Works/Contract Administration, snuck into his column last month? It didn't slip by Cara Chiaramonte, fashion industry executive and Everett's girlfriend ... and now fiancé.

"Everything went as planned," Everett reports.

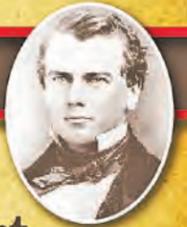
Cara tells the story. "I had gotten the mail, and Everett and I were sitting on the porch going through it," she says. "I saw *Alive!*, so I started reading it. I read it every month."

And when she saw the proposal? "I was ecstatic! All my dreams came true at that moment. We had talked about marriage, but I had no idea he was going to propose. I did know that when the time would come, Everett would do something creative and thoughtful!"

Everett even designed the engagement ring. "He had it made for me, if I may brag a little more!"

Of course you can, Cara. The Club is delighted for you and Everett. We wish you much happiness.

FRIENDS OF BANNING MUSEUM PRESENTS



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Phineas Banning Birthday Celebration and Concert

**Saturday, August 20, 2016, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**  
**The Banning Museum**

401 East M Street, Wilmington, CA 90744  
(Gates will open at 4:30 p.m. for check-in and seating.)

In the spirit of the Rancho-period of the Banning property, we're having a fun-filled, Western-style celebration in honor of Phineas Banning's Birthday.

**VIP Admission - \$45 per person**

Includes buffet dinner (see menu on reverse) served from 5:45 - 6:45 p.m., reserved table seating, gated on-site parking, concert and dancing. You are welcome to bring your own beverage.

**General Admission - \$10 per person** (Kids under 12 years old are FREE)

Bring your own picnic, beverage, blanket or low chair and enjoy the concert and dancing on the front lawn of the mansion. **FREE** general admission for Friends of Banning Museum (FBM) members.

**Information or RSVP:**

**(310) 548-2005 • [www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org)**

Advanced reservation required for ALL guests.  
VIP tickets will not be sold at the door.  
Donations appreciated.



_____ VIP Admission @ \$45.00/person	\$ _____
_____ General Admission @ \$10.00/person (non-FBM members)	\$ _____
_____ General Admission (FBM members)	\$ <b>FREE</b>
_____ No, I cannot attend but enclosed is a donation.	\$ _____

**PLEASE RESPOND BY AUGUST 12, 2016**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Check enclosed (Payable to Friends of Banning Museum)  
 Credit Card:  VISA  MC  AMEX

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_  
CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

LAPD

Story and photos by Tiffany Sy, Club Counselor



# Jeannette Says Goodbye

Jeannette Diaz, Accounting Clerk, 27 years of service, Club Member.

## Jeannette Diaz retires after 27 years of City service.

A retirement party was held June 23 for Jeannette Diaz, Accounting Clerk, LAPD, 27 years of City service, Club Member. The party was held at the Fiscal Operations unit's area in the LAPD headquarters.

Jeannette began her career with the City at the young age of 17 with the City's summer youth program and never turned back. She continued on to work for the Mayor's office, and Cultural Affairs, and wrapped up

her 27-year career with the LAPD in their Fiscal Operations Division. When *Alive!* asked Jeannette if she could share any words about her personal encounters in working for the City, she said, "Working for the City is a rewarding experience. What we do here in Payroll is challenging, but it has been wonderful."

Jeannette's department threw her a retirement party filled with food and fun.



From left: Jeannette Diaz, Retiree; Oliver Belleza, Payroll Supervisor, 16 years of City service, Club Member; Tracie Mathis, Payroll Supervisor II, 22 years, Club Member; Leticia Reyes; Lisa Cordova, Accounting Clerk, 10 years, Club Member; Pio Paisoc, Accounting Clerk, 15 years, Club Member; and Roger Dimaano, Sr. Management Analyst, 30 years.



From left: Tracie Mathis and Jeannette Diaz, Retiree.



LAPD Fiscal Operations Division, comprised of Payroll, Budget, and Appropriations.



From left: Eric Hang, Sr. Accountant, 16 years of City service; Jeannette Diaz, Retiree; Leticia Reyes, Accounting Clerk, 18 years, Club Member; and Joy Brooks-Hearn, Accounting Clerk, 10 years, Club Member.



From left: Claudia Orr, Management Analyst, 28 years of City service, Club Member; Jeannette Diaz, Retiree; Susan Williamson, Accounting Clerk, 18 years; and Elena Asucan, Police Admin, 30 years.



From left: Joyce Wright, Accounting Clerk, 13 years of City service, Club Member; Wendy Edison, System Analyst, General Services, 19 years, Club Member; Jeannette Diaz, Retiree; Jackie Fowler, Accounting Clerk, 27 years; and Miriam Rodriguez, Accounting Clerk, 22 years, Club Member.



Jeannette Diaz, Retiree.

# Rest Insured

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

## Covering Jewelry

You've saved and saved for that special ring, and then it literally goes down the drain when you're doing dishes! How do you properly insure jewelry?

Most homeowners policies limit coverage for personal valuables, and you could fall far short of replacement value if your brand-new ring is lost or stolen.

Homeowners insurance generally covers your possessions up to 50 percent of the value of your home. So if you have a \$300,000 policy, your home furnishings and equipment are insured for up to \$150,000.

But most policies also place limits on specific kinds of items – only paying a maximum of, say, \$1,500 to \$2,500 for all of your jewelry in the event of damage or theft. Other categories that usually have reimbursement limits include silver flatware, firearms, coins, stamps and furs. (Read the "contents and additional coverage" section of your policy for the details.) Accidental loss is generally not covered. So if you lose your engagement ring, you're out of luck.

To raise your coverage limit and ensure that you're protected in case of loss as

well as theft, contact your agent and ask either to "schedule" the specific jewelry item. (You may need a written appraisal, although a detailed receipt may suffice.) Once you set a value and schedule the item, you're covered for the full amount if it is lost, stolen or destroyed. "That makes the claims experience easier because there doesn't need to be an investigation into the value," says Matthew Cullina of MetLife Auto and Home. Plus, there's no deductible for scheduled items.

Extra coverage is inexpensive. A lot of insurance companies charge only about 85 cents to \$1 for every \$100 of coverage for jewelry. Don't forget to revisit your coverage levels frequently – every three years would be a good recommendation.

Generally, homeowners policies don't set limits on personal electronic items (other than your overall possessions limit). But make sure that your policy includes replacement-value coverage, which will pay for you to replace your item with a new one, and not actual cash-value coverage, which will leave you scrounging to buy a used PC or TV with the money you receive.



### Here are some suggestions to help you protect your jewelry:

- Have your jewelry inspected on a regular basis. This can prevent loss of loose stones, faulty clasps and worn prongs. You can update your appraisal at the same time.
- Don't make it easy for burglars and others in your home to find your jewelry. Protect your jewelry and other precious possessions by securing it in a safe or a hiding place in your home. Consider storing barely worn jewelry in a bank safe deposit box.
- Take a home inventory to help get your insurance claim settled faster and more accurately.

### 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.

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{ Who are the people you see every day? }

# People We See

*Shelterless in Los Angeles.*

**No. 85**  
in a series.



## Meet Robert Otto.



Robert (Left) and Club CEO John Hawkins.

**AGE:** "I'm 59."

**BIRTHPLACE:** "Antigua, the Caribbean."

**FAMILY:**

"I have two brothers and two sisters."

**MARRIED?**

"Married, but we separated a long time ago. She lives in Miami."

**RELIGION:**

"I believe in God, but no, I am not religious."

**MEDICATIONS:**

"Yes, for my diabetes, and I am very religious about it. I do not drink or take any drugs, which is why I still have my own legs. My sister just had to have her legs amputated, and I want to keep mine."

**WHERE DO YOU LIVE:**

"On the streets."

**HIS STORY:**

"When I was 28 I left Antigua and moved to St. Thomas to be with my parents. They had moved there earlier, but I was too old to automatically go, so I had to wait until I got my green card. I worked mainly in hotels. From there I made my way to Chicago. I would go back and forth from Chicago to St. Thomas to see my family. But I also played the guitar, and I longed to move to California and get in the music scene. So one day I did. But I got sick and my diabetes got bad. I found it difficult to find work. Before I knew it I was alone in Los Angeles with no money. Now, I hustle whatever money I can get by collecting cans for food and to pay for my storage unit, which is 100 bucks a month. Tonight I'll be spending the night on the street again."

**FAVORITE MOVIE:**

"It used to be The Godfather until they cut it all up."

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "NYPD Blue."

**FAVORITE ACTOR:** "Robin Williams."

**FAVORITE ACTRESS:** "Sharon Stone."

**FAVORITE MUSIC:** "Rock ballads."

**FAVORITE FOOD:**

"Salads, but I miss Caribbean foods."

**FAVORITE CANDY:** "Snickers bars."

**FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:**

"I like this park right here; it's nice."

**LAST THING READ:**

"I read a lot of books; it's what keeps me sane. My favorite book is The Catcher in the Rye; it's a hell of a book."

**MOST HELPFUL ORGANIZATION:**

"None, really. I don't do the missions."

**LAST MEAL EATEN:**

"A turkey sandwich from 7/11."

**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:**

"Songs that I wrote."

**FRIENDS:**

"None, really. I keep to myself."

**ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:**

"Be sensible."

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

*The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place June 9 in Grand Park across from City Hall.*

{ 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. }

# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

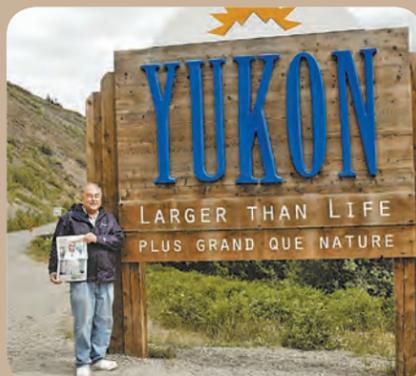


1

## Alaska



**Gary Kotas, LAPD**, "recently flew to Alaska, drove around Alaska, then took a cruise from Whittier (near Anchorage) to Vancouver, Canada. We also drove from Skagway, Alaska, to the Yukon to see the green waters of aptly named Emerald Lake, and Carcross Desert. The scenery was amazing, and we saw many wild animals, including black bears, moose, bald eagles, salmon and Orca whales."



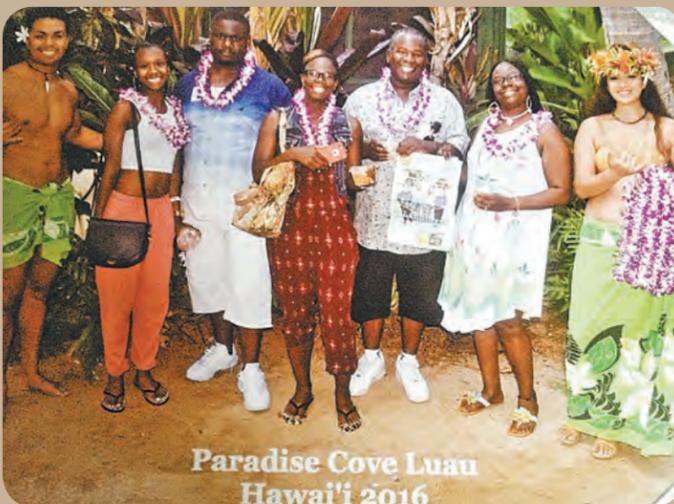
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- attach your picture to an email, and send it to us, and we'll publish it:

**talkback@cityemployeesclub.com**

2

## Honolulu



"We took a family vacation to Hawaii. We stayed at the Outrigger beach resort."  
 – Kim Garrett, Library, and Timothy Mingo, DWP

## More Than Just Tickets!

The Club has great deals on:

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**Save 15%**  
**Gourmet Gift Baskets**

**Save 10%**  
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DWP



From left: Bob Fick, Manager, Extra High Voltage, 28 years of City service; Donald Moritz, Retiree; and Norman Cahill, Manager, High Voltage Station, 30 years.



From left: David Varnon; Stacey Moritz, Donald's daughter; and Cindy Moritz, Donald's wife and Retired, DWP, 35 years of City service. Standing: Donald Moritz.



From left: Donald Moritz, Retiree, with Chris Gerrard, Sr. Storekeeper, 33 years of City service.



Below, from left: Donald Moritz, Retiree, with Rudy Ramirez, Principal Storekeeper, 26 years of City service.

From left: Donald Moritz, Retiree, with the Club's COO Robert Larios, who presented Donald with the coveted Club Retirement Award.

# Goodbye, Donald

Donald Moritz retires after 35 years of City service.

A retirement luncheon was held June 22 for Donald Moritz, Club Member, who retired as Sr. Storekeeper, DWP, after 35 years of City service.

The event was held on the third floor of the DWP's Palmetto Street facility.

Don had been a Club Member for 21 years.

Congratulations, Donald! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.



Below, from left: Donald Moritz, Retiree, with Steve Bassett, Supply Services Manager, 30 years of City service.



From left: Bob Fick, Manager, Extra High Voltage, 28 years of City service; Donald Moritz, Retiree; and Norman Cahill, Manager, High Voltage Station, 30 years.



From left: Donald Moritz, Retiree, with Jesse Carlos, Storekeeper, 13 years of City service.



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	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>

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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.

Airports

# Selena Soars Into the Sunset

**Aviation pioneer Selena Birk retires from Airports after 26 years of service.**

A retirement party was held June 23 for aviation pioneer Selena Birk, Acting Executive Director of Operations and Emergency Management, Airports. She retired with 26 years of City service.

The luncheon was held at the Warehouse restaurant.

During Selena's 26 years with Airports, she was Director of Airfield Operations and Manager of the Airfield Permits Division, which included airside permitting and ground transportation issues at LAX; she managed operations and administration at Van Nuys; she developed a system for ID badging and access control; and she held a wide variety of operations, safety and administration roles at LAX.

Selena is a native Californian. She was the first female to be appointed Airport Manager of Van Nuys in 2000. Selena retires with 23 years

of perfect attendance.

Selena holds a Bachelor's degree in behavioral science from Cal Poly/Pomona. She is on the board of the Southwest chapter of American Association of Airport Executives, a previous chairperson on the Board of the Southern California Association of Government's Aviation Technical Advisory Committee, and a past board member of the San Fernando Valley Economic Alliance and the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations, Selena, on your groundbreaking career, and the Club wishes you much happiness in your retirement.

Special thanks go to Bridget Nickelson, Dorsey Martin and Janice L. Guevara.



The Club's COO Robert Larios presents Selena with the coveted Club Retirement Award.



From left: Janice Guevara, Sr. Management Analyst II, 28 years of City service; and Bridget Nickelson, Management Analyst II, 25 years.



From left: Denise Williams, Secretary, 27 years of City service; Tiffany Burke-Williams, Sr. Management Analyst, 32 years; and Alexis Oliver, Management Analyst II, 28 years.



From left: Agnus Snee, Accounting Clerk, 31 years of City service; Selena Birk, Retiree; and Dorsey Martin, Clerk Typist, 26 years.



Back, from left: Ginny Pruitt, Retired, 40 years of City service; Selena Birk, Retiree; and Susan Washington, Retired, LAWA, 36 years. Front: Chandra Flemister, Principal Clerk, 30 years; and Roselynd Spears, Risk and Insurance Assistant, 25 years.



From left: Jess Romo, Director of Airports, 27 years of City service; Sandy Miller, Commission Election Assistant, 38 years; and Ray Jack, Airport Manager II, 23 years.



From left: Lee Regh, Retired, 39 years of City service; Ron Kochevar, Retired, 32 years; and Lew Winslow, Chief of Operations, 20 years.



From left: Samson Mengistu, Chief Operating Officer; and Selena Birk, Retiree.



Dave Shuter, Deputy Executive Director, Facilities Maintenance and Utilities Group.



Barry Rondinella, former Director of Operations at LAX and current Director of John Wayne Airport in Costa Mesa.



Selena Birk, Retiree, and her husband, Bob.



Selena Birk, Retiree (center), with her parents Milt and Susan Blevins.

## The Club...on Instagram!

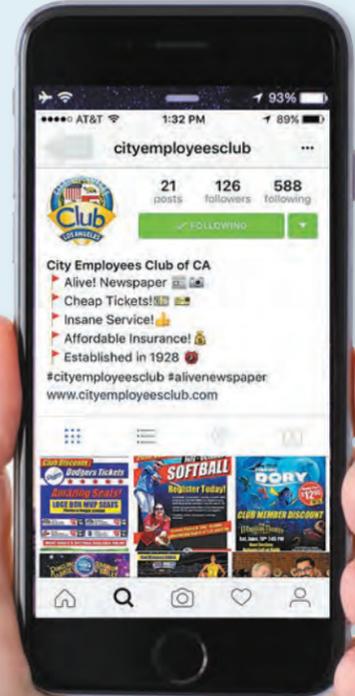
You can now follow the Club on Instagram!

Along with our presence on Facebook, Twitter and email, the Club is sharing its fun photos on Instagram.

Here's how to follow us there:

ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE  
open the app, and search for:  
**cityemployeesclub**

ON YOUR PC  
**www.instagram.com/cityemployeesclub**



City Employees Club of Los Angeles

# JOIN A Toastmasters Group



**Club Members:** Gain confidence in your public speaking and leadership skills; two City Toastmasters groups invite you to join!

Joining the Toastmasters is inexpensive, educational and fun. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit, worldwide organization that helps its members develop their public speaking and leadership skills.

**DWP:**  
The Water and Power Toastmasters Club  
Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m.  
111 N. Hope St., Room 1171  
(last Wednesdays in room 1471)

**QUESTIONS:**  
Eric Yoshida (213) 367-3962

**FIRE AND POLICE PENSIONS:**  
The City of Angels Toastmasters Club 251  
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
City Hall South Room 103  
111 E First St. downtown

**QUESTIONS:**  
Barbara Nobregas (213) 928-9771  
or (213) 847-4707

Guests welcome!

**PUBLIC WORKS:**  
The Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club  
Wednesdays, 12:05 p.m.  
1149 S. Broadway  
6th Floor Conference, Room 6004

**QUESTIONS:**  
Ivan Gerson (213) 485-1169 or  
Dominic Buenaventura (213) 847-0593

**LAPD:**  
The LAPD Code One Toastmasters Club  
Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
LAPD Communications Building  
100 N. Los Angeles St.,  
third floor media room

**QUESTIONS:**  
(818) 389-0803



# 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

Leslie Adams  
Steve Alvarado  
Remedios Aquino  
Lilia Cantu  
Alejandro Gamboa  
Tayllor Gipson  
Jonathan Heaney  
Rydell Oriol  
Rebecca Rivera  
Raquel Romo  
Patrice Shirley  
Chavele Talley

### Animal Services

Andrew Mendez

### Building and Safety

Andrew Beeli  
Blair Benmoin  
Chris Cochran  
Aja Colly  
Keith Edghill  
Melissa Morales  
Ronald Pachelo  
Michael Pelham  
Jonathan Quach  
Elmer Romero  
George Soto  
Ryan James Taguines  
Danny Tolentino  
Raul Vasquez  
Douglas Verral  
Micah Williams  
Sean Wirch

### City Attorney

Grecia Alfaro  
Corey Lee  
Dania Minassian

### City Council

William Stelly Jr.

### LAFD

Jeff Arnold  
Ryan Beltran  
Damian Brown-Olsen  
Jordan Cajiao  
Adrian Carballo  
Jose Carreon  
Matthew Cheaney  
Jose Davalos  
Derek Farrow  
Logan Fogwell  
Marco Franco

Omar Fuentes  
Jean-Paul Goudeau  
Blake Harrington  
Jacob Harris  
Stephen Hazard  
Jason Hing  
Damon Hoga  
Tanner Hutchinson  
William James  
William Kerr  
Ehud Kim  
Richard Kirkwood  
Edgar Lagunas  
Justin Lahr  
Marcus Meza  
Cody Morgan  
Richard Othon  
Falo Tiumalu III  
Kevin Williamson  
Paul Yoon

### Fire & Police Pensions

Adam Perez

### General Services

David Ables  
Carlos Aguilar  
Maria Coreas Arias  
Jessica Davis  
Israel Granillo  
Dorian Iaconis  
John Ramos  
Minh Vong  
Anthony Zamora

### Harbor

Jose Grimaldo  
Allison Peel  
Edgar Ruiz  
Mario Tosolini  
Elvin Villasenor

### Housing

Carlos Cruz

### ITA

Cynthia Simon

### LACERS

Taneda Larios

### Library

Noel Evangelisti  
Erika Fields  
Mellytta Herrera  
Twanda Marks

Daisy Pulido  
James Sherman  
Joshua Wilson

### Mayor's Office

Alisa Orduna

### Personnel

Jesse Adams  
Sam Catalfamo

### Planning

Armando Alfaro  
Abram Leal  
Tony Staples  
Brian Taft

### LAPD

Jazmin Campos  
Bobby Chun  
Mercy Crenshaw  
Vivian Davila  
Kenneth Dye  
Jose Fernandez  
Inti Gonzalez  
Ramon Gutierrez  
Robert Heiserman  
Alex Herrera  
Audrinee Johnson  
Joshua Kniss  
Rafael Lomeli  
Peter Mastrocinque  
Juan Mata  
Keith Metoyer  
Asatur Mkrtychyan  
Adam Moore  
Michael Ng  
Erick Ramirez  
Isaac Reyes  
Robert Rivera  
Manuel Rodarte  
Raquel Rodriguez  
Amanda Salazar  
Sergio Sanchez  
Ysabel Villegas  
Robert Weise

### El Pueblo Historical Monument

Lynard Garcia  
Ailene Ignacio

### PUBLIC WORKS

### Engineering

Sean Kenney

Richard Southerland

### Sanitation

Bobby Benson  
Blanca Calderon  
Cristian Centeno  
Rosemary Cubers  
Christopher Duvall  
Daniel Forslund  
Miguel Garcia  
Jose Gutierrez  
Jon-Mikel Kelley  
Jose Ochoa  
Jesus Orozco  
Mitesh Patel  
Alan Rodriguez  
Ivan Romero  
Leticia Sandoval  
Albert Vega  
Jeffrey Williams

### Street Services

Dinora Argueta  
Thomas Eliades  
Armando Mojica  
Dora Robles

### Rec and Parks

Jose Amesola  
Jose Aviles  
Steven Beltran  
Jose Bernal  
Kimberly Burgueno  
Martin Cardenas  
Mateo Elvira  
Amanda Ewing  
Diana Frias  
Chelsi Griffin-Lofton  
Israel Hernandez  
Tom Leveque  
Kim Ly  
Richard Lyon  
Gerardo Mendoza  
Gonzalo Ornelas  
Eileen Rodriguez  
Zachery Salas  
Steve Silva  
Carmen Vazquez  
Morteza Vojdahi

### Transportation

Dawon Davis  
Carl McCorkle  
Richard Sanchez  
Traci Smith  
Charles Smith

### Retired

Marilou Talbutt

### DWP

Aaron Acevedo  
Jonross Aguirre  
William Alderson  
Brian Alexander  
Nathaniel Bautista  
Chris Bengtsson  
Ian Biddle  
Angela Bullard  
Tranessa Burns  
Brandon Cortez  
Eduardo Cuevas  
La Keisha Davis  
Myra Dorsey  
Adonna Douglas  
Eileen Finau  
Arakel Frankyan  
Roy Geronilla  
Scott Gold  
Anthony Greene  
Abel Guardiola  
Andrew Gutierrez  
Samantha Hanzy  
Eliezer Hernandez  
Dafayeite Hightower  
Audrey Hodges  
Candice Hopkins  
Scott Hungerford  
Tyler Israelson  
Apsit Kaisri  
Kareem Lacey  
Brian Lam  
Evelyn Lavars  
Victor Lee  
Brittanie Lewis  
John Lo  
Patricia Lowry  
Wenses Mazariegos  
Samuel Meade  
Alberto Melchor

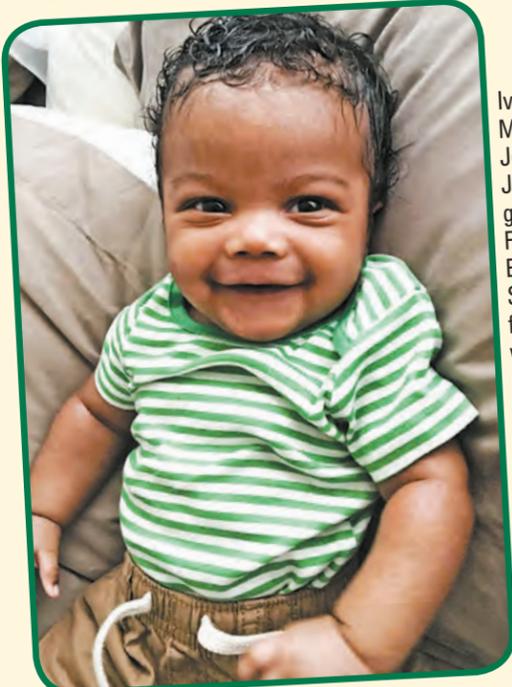
Jason Milar  
Bertha Munoz  
Jose Murillo  
Jonathan Pachero  
Carl Paden  
Tanya Partida  
Ian Penney  
Shaun Petrillo  
Angel Pineda Jr.  
Cicely Preer  
Carmon Pritchard  
Anthony Ramirez  
Ryan Rickford  
Theodore Rinehart  
Ivan Romero  
Ralph Salcido  
Ramon Sanchez  
David Schneider  
Anita Scottstrickland  
Aaron Serrato  
Cynthia Shaw  
Patricia Spinneberg  
Gary St. Pierre  
Marshall Street  
Shalonda Taylor  
Aaron Valdivia  
Christohoper Vasquez  
Vicente Villegas  
Julian Wallace  
Donald Warner  
John Wasson  
Timothy Watson

### Other

Jason Baumer  
Tyler Davis  
Evelyn Empie  
Marva Hinton  
Felix Jamison  
Deborah Lowe  
Andriada Mapson  
Mealia Mayers  
Gabriela Melchor  
Gabriel Mendez  
Angela Perry  
Steven Sanchez  
Sharon Somer Patchen  
LaSheild Williams



## Births



Ivory Jones, born March 10 to Tylor Jones and Lauren Jones. Ivory is the grandson of Christal Foster, DWP, and Eric Jones, General Services. "The Jones family is thrilled to welcome its newest member," Christal writes.

## It's Time to

An *Alive!* feature

## 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

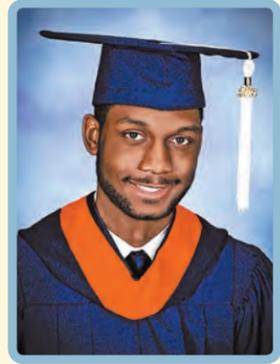
Devin Rodgers graduated from Glendora High School and plans to attend Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn. on an academic scholarship. He plans to play baseball and major in business administration with a concentration in sports management. He is the son of Earl (Retired) and Zebbra Rodgers, DWP. "We are very proud parents. Congratulations, and good luck, son."



Brandon Johnson graduated from Lakewood High School and plans to attend Long Beach Community College and then transfer to Northern Arizona University. He plans to major in computer science, with a minor in business. He's the grandson of Camill and George Benjamin, Retired, Public Works/Street Maintenance.



Lamar D. Davis graduated from Howard University, Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. He plans to join Building and Safety as a Structural Engineering Associate, and pursue his Master's degree in civil engineering. He's the son of Lydia and James Davis, Harbor.



David Rousso graduated from Isla Vista Elementary School in Goleta and plans to attend Goleta Valley Junior High School this fall. He enjoys reading, playing soccer, and playing the violin in the Santa Barbara Youth Symphony, and the piano. He's the son of Mico Rousso, Retired, Public Works/Engineering, 28 years of City service, and Zoe Rousso.



Cameron Reed graduated from Centennial High School and plans to attend California Miramar University in the fall, majoring in computer science. He also plans to play professional baseball. He's the son of Jon Reed, Public Works/Sanitation.



Donte Williams graduated from Cal State, Chico, earning a Bachelor of science degree in agriculture business. Proud parents are Camill and George Benjamin, Retired, Public Works/Street Maintenance.



Lifaite Germeille Jr. graduated from DaVinci School of Science in Hawthorne and plans to attend Alabama A&M University in Huntsville in August to study marketing and advertising. He's the son of Annett Anderson, Fire and Police Pensions.



Tevin Jones graduated from Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets. Tevin, a graduate of the school's sports medicine magnet, plans to pursue an education and career in business, and expects to enroll in a local university this fall. Proud parents are Christal Foster, DWP, and Eric Jones, General Services. "Congratulations, Tevin!"



Christian Slusher graduated from West Adams High School. He plans on attending West Los Angeles College majoring in sports medicine, with hopes of becoming an athletic trainer. Christian is the son of Eugene Slusher, Public Works, and the grandson of Cherry Slusher, Rec and Parks.



Danny Martin graduated from Compton High School. He's the nephew of Cheryl Martin, Club In-House Counselor. "Wishing you much success on your new journey," Cheryl writes. "And thanks to my little brother, Gerald, for making it happen!"



Tobi Laskowsky plans to attend UCLA in the fall, majoring in psychology. She's the daughter of Jeff and Kathy Laskowsky, DWP.



## Share Your Life's Moments

Everyone reads Life's Most Important Moments in *Alive!* Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? 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 [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## In Memoriam

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

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>Active</b>		Ellsworth, Horace	DWP 22	Poindexter, Paul	City Attorney 23
Clark, Diane	Library 1	Franco, Victor	DWP 30	Price, Charles	Public Works 30
Dykens, William	City Attorney 26	Gray, Theodore	Library 21	Ramsay, Warwick	Public Works 19
Ishii, Kiyoka	Airports 6	Gutierrez, Fernando	DWP 31	Riviere, Claude	Rec and Parks 13
Jones, Deshonna		Hampton, Olivia	LAPD 20	Saldumbide, Raymond	LAFD 25
Evette	Rec and Parks 9	Jeans, Gordon	Harbor 32	Slottow, Jeffrey	Finance 29
Joyce, Mistie	Public Works 22	Jimenez, Julian	Rec and Parks 34	Smith, Walter	Rec and Parks 38
Merino, Joaquin	Airports 7	Kopensky, Ruben	Public Works 33	Stern, Howard	Build. & Safety 23
Pacheco, Debbie	Housing 13	Laporte, Jerome	Public Works 34	Strong, Laurie Lynn	Harbor 37
Reese, Wm. Joseph	Public Works 27	Lightner, Charles	DWP 30	Swain, Mary	Transportation 18
Trice, Marlene	Airports 8	Litzsinger, Dale	DWP 27	Swan, James	Public Works 31
Velasquez, Lazaro	Airports 11	Marshall, Oscar	Gen. Services 20	Synagogue, Lenix	DWP 35
<b>Retired</b>		McKay, Hubert	DWP 12	Taylor, Eddie	Public Works 30
Avery, Marcus	DWP 37	Meech, Loren	ITA 36	Taylor, Joseph	Public Works 31
Barclay, Philip	DWP 37	Meza, Cuthberto	DWP 7	Thomas, Fred	Rec and Parks 38
Biffle, Raymond	DWP 32	Miller, R.T.	Build. & Safety 31	Toguchi, Shigeru	Rec and Parks 14
Blanton, James	Gen. Services 18	Mojica, Jose	Build. & Safety 19	Tortorelli, Frank	DWP 11
Blissenbach, Alvin	DWP 15	Nelson, Howard	DWP 29	Tran, Hieu	Animal Services 14
Braden, Robert	Gen. Services 12	Norman-Young,		Van Vlear, Lauren	DWP 39
Brewer, Robert	Planning 34	Beverly Ann	LAPD 12	Walker, Ardelia	DWP 18
Bruner, French	Public Works 28	Okano, Walter	DWP 37	Welsh, James	DWP 34
Donovan, Michael Sr.	LAPD 40	Patchen, William	DWP 19	Wong, Gary	DWP 32
		Perry, Robert	Airports 19		

**Airports**

Story and photos courtesy Officer Rob Pedregon, Airport Police



Officers conduct random vehicle inspections while utilizing various radiation detection devices. No radiation sources were reported found in any of these vehicles.

# Sweeping for Dirty Bombs

**Airport Police conducts sweep for illicit radiation sources.**

On July 15, as part of the "Securing the Cities" (STC) Program, Airport Police and representatives from several STC partners conducted a cold interdiction sweep for illicit radiation sources at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

The Securing the Cities Program, funded by the Department of Homeland Security, is intended to build a capability for first responders to help detect illicit radiological and nuclear weapons or materials. The Securing the Cities (STC) Program seeks to reduce the risk of a successful deployment of a radiological/nuclear (R/N) terrorist weapon against a major metropolitan area in the United States by establishing sustainable capability within Global Nuclear Detection Architecture (GNDA) partner agencies to detect, analyze, and report nuclear and other radioactive materials out of regulatory control within their jurisdictions.

The Airport Police deployed several radia-

tion detection instruments to detect, identify and adjudicate alarms received of radioactive isotopes. The early warning detectors ranged from personal radiation detectors worn by officers to vehicle mounted radiation detectors.

Using multi-agency assets, personnel and equipment, Airport Police swept the LAX perimeter, Central Terminal Area, cargo facilities and airfield for illicit radiation sources. No radiation sources were reported found.

The ability to quickly identify and detect airborne radiation contamination at a critical infrastructure like Los Angeles International Airport is just another way that the men and women of the Los Angeles Airport protect the safety and security of the nation's third busiest airport. No explosives were reported found during the sweep.



**Rec and Parks**

Story and photos courtesy Banning Museum

# Banning Birthday BBQ

**Banning Residence Museum to host annual barbecue/concert fundraiser.**

Friends of Banning Museum plan to celebrate the birthday of the "Father of the Los Angeles Port" Phineas Banning with a special evening of barbecue, music and dancing. The evening is set for 5 – 8 p.m. Aug. 20.

In the spirit of the Rancho-period of the Banning property, guests will be treated to a Western-themed evening with live music provided by local favorite, "JB and the Big Circle Riders;" free line dance instruction; country style dancing; and a good old fashioned barbecue buffet provided by Southland Favorite, the Outdoor Grill. Country-Western attire is admired but not required.

There are two levels of participation: The "picnic" option costs \$10 for general admission, (free for Friends of Banning Museum members). With this option, guests bring their own dinner and beverage and a blanket/low

chair to enjoy the concert. They will be treated to complimentary birthday cupcake, line dance instruction and dancing on the front lawn of the mansion.

The higher level – "VIP" – costs \$45 and includes on-site BBQ buffet dinner prepared by the Outdoor Grill with a birthday cupcake, line dance instruction, reserved seating and gated parking. Guests are welcome to bring their own wine or beverage.

*Reservations required for all guests. The Banning Museum is at 401 East M St., in Wilmington. For more information or to reserve your ticket, call (310) 548-2005.*

*The Banning Museum, a facility of Rec and Parks, is operated in cooperation with Friends of Banning Museum, a nonprofit corporation.*



An outdoor Western barbecue is offered.

## Join us for Los Angeles Fleet Week!

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**2016**

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An Alive! Feature

# Tell Their Story

## Remembering William Joseph Reese

Public Works/Sanitation, 29 years of City service

A remembrance by Leo M. Martinez, Assistant Director, Public Works/Sanitation



**William Joseph Reese**  
1/23/1963 – 6/22/2016

It is with deepest sympathies and regrets to report the passing of one of our closest Sanitation family members and one of my dearest friends, William "Joseph" Reese, best known as "Joe" amongst his friends and colleagues. After enduring many hard-fought battles with cancer, Joe ultimately lost his war.

Joe's illustrious career with the City began in 1987 as a Truck Operator, and his entire tenure was dedicated to serving LA Sanitation and the citizens of our great City. Over his 29-year career, he rose through the ranks and ultimately was promoted to Division Manager II of the Solid Resources Valley Collection Division in February. His extensive knowledge in refuse from the combined 35 years in private and public sector made him an invaluable asset to the department. His humble demeanor never overshadowed the professionalism and drive he brought to work on a recurring basis. I am extremely proud of every one of the accomplishments and accolades he brought to the Division and department as a whole, and knowing Joe as well as I did, I know he would be equally as proud, if not more.

Joe had a love for cars, motorcycles and dirt bikes and talked endlessly to anyone and everyone he could about these passions. He was a great and loyal friend to

many within the Sanitation family and beyond. Anyone who knew Joe could easily describe him as well respected, kind hearted, humorous, and always there for anyone to offer words of encouragement when they needed to have their spirits lifted.

Joe is survived by his wife, Alicia; his son, Brandon; and his brothers (he was one of six). He is remembered as being a devoted member of his church, a loving husband and father.

Our heartfelt prayers and condolences are with his family and loved ones during this most difficult and trying time.

Thank you for everything, Joe! May you finally rest in peace and enjoy those pristine speedways in heaven.



### LACECA

Story and photo courtesy Lupe Durazo, President, LACECA



LACECA board members, top, from left: Gloria Ortiz, Angie Roman and Jackie Zarate-Roberts. Bottom: Anthony Garcia, Lupe Durazo and Charles Rogers.

## New Executive Board

Chicano Employees Association elects new board.

LACECA – the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association – is excited to announce its new Executive Board, elected to serve the term from July 1, 2016 through July 2018.

**The new officers are:**

- President Lupe Durazo, Personnel;
- First Vice President Charles Aguilar Rogers, DWP;
- Second Vice President Anthony Garcia, Public Works;
- Treasurer Gloria Ortiz, DWP;
- Recording Secretary Angie Roman, LAPD.

Each of these individuals has very strong leadership skills and many years of dedicated

City service. The LACECA Website, LACECA.org, carries the biography of each board member.

The LACECA thanks outgoing board members: Recording Secretary Nohemi "Mimi" Walker and Stella Sias for their support and dedication to the goals of LACECA and service to the many events held during the 2014-16 term. They will continue to volunteer with LACECA on various committees.

Jackie Zarate-Roberts, Lupe Durazo, Gloria Ortiz and Angie Roman are returning to the board in different positions.

The new board looks forward to serving the membership, new recruits, and the City as well as in the community. Congratulations to the 2016-18 LACECA Executive Board of Officers.



## The Smart Move

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

### A Great Alternative To College 529 Plans

If you have children or grandchildren who you hope will go beyond high school and receive a college education, there's a good chance you've thought about setting some money aside to help pay their expenses. There are some terrific ways to do this, including using 529 plans, but one savings vehicle that is often overlooked as a way to fund a child's college education is a Roth individual retirement account.

Most people think of the Roth IRA as a terrific method to save for retirement—which it is—but it can also be a great tool to help you cover Junior's university tab. Unlike 529 plans, which can be used only to cover the costs associated with college, Roth IRAs can be used for both college expenses and retirement income.

While it's true that deposits into Roth IRAs receive no tax deduction, it's also true that these accounts then grow tax-deferred. So with a little planning, they can be an ideal source for funding a loved one's higher education.

Here's why: Withdrawals from IRAs, including Roth IRAs, are actually exempt from withdrawal penalties if the funds are used specifically for qualified educational expenses, including tuition, fees, books and room and board.

For most folks who are sending their kids off to college, only the contribution portions of their Roth IRA balances can be withdrawn tax-free. (Any earnings in the account will be taxable for those people under 59, as well as for those over 59½ who haven't held the

Roth for at least five years.)

But Roth IRAs enjoy a rather unique tax treatment. Withdrawals are treated as a "return of contribution" first and as earnings second. This means that a person who has been contributing \$5,000 per year for the past five years can withdraw \$25,000 tax-free, provided the proceeds are used for qualified educational expenses. (Any withdrawals that exceed the total of one's contributions and are attributable to earnings will be taxable for those under age 59½.)

A unique feature of the Roth IRA is the flexibility it offers over the 529 plan. Unfortunately, any money saved in the 529 plan that is not used for educational expenses will not only become fully taxable as ordinary income but will also be subjected to a 10 percent penalty.

Unlike a 529 plan, a Roth IRA allows people who have funds left over after withdrawing for college expenses to convert those dollars to retirement income—with no tax consequences or penalties whatsoever. Simply, this means that if Johnny or Jane doesn't use up all of the funds to pay for college, the remaining bucks can be used to supplement your own retirement income.

You should check with your tax adviser to make sure your situation falls within the rules allowed by ROTH IRAs for tax free and penalty free withdrawals.

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.**

Rec and Parks

Photos by JuanCarlos Chan, Rec and Parks

# Lotus Festival in Bloom

Annual festival took place July 9-10.



Lotuses were on display.

The Lotus Festival, one of the signature cultural celebrations in the City, bloomed again July 9-10 at Echo Park.

The festival returned two years ago after a three-year absence; during the interim, Echo Park Lake, the festival's location, was refurbished.

Dates coincide with the blooming of the lotus flower.

The festival attracts an estimated 100,000 people.

This year's 36th annual Lotus Festival celebrated Asian Pacific cultures with two days of attractions and entertainment in scenic Echo Lake Park. The weekend kicked off with an opening ceremony, continuing with live music, a film screening, cultural performances and more. Teams competed in the colorful Dragon Boat Race on the lake, and there were martial arts demonstrations and dance showcases, both traditional and contemporary. Each year, the festival focuses on a different ethnicity within the Asian Pacific region. This year, the festival honored the

culture and traditions of the Korean community.

The event made its debut in 1972 as the "Day of the Lotus" and takes place in July to coincide with the blooming of the lotus flowers that are cultivated in the lake beds by City crews. The celebration was designed to promote awareness of the contributions by Asian Americans in our local communities.

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

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

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



The Lotus Festival is always a place for fun for the Echo Park neighborhood.



This year's festival highlighted the Korean community, depicted here in traditional dress.



The Lotus Festival celebrates LA's many Asian communities.

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SAMSUNG Galaxy S7

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## 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



## Galaxy Eggs ... and Beyond!

This egg dish has taken several different names over the years. Eggs in a Basket ... Toad in a Hole ... Gashouse Eggs ... Hole in One ... Spit in the Ocean ... and even Pop-eye Eggs. In addition, I have added my own name – Galaxy Eggs, in that it looks like the center of a galaxy. Whatever you call them, this is a simple but delicious dish that cannot be overlooked for publication here.

I normally like to make these for breakfast, along with other breakfast side dishes including bacon and potato hash browns. But don't let breakfast stop you – because these delicious Galaxy Eggs are so easy to make, this is a perfect dish any time of the day or night. If you don't like egg yolks, you may use egg whites instead. Just remember that it needs seasoning, too.

*¡Buen provecho!*

*Chef Larios*

Photography by Patricia M. Larios

### Ingredients:

- Thick slice of bread
- 1/4 tablespoon unsalted butter
- Sea salt and freshly cracked pepper, to taste
- Pinch of dill or tarragon
- 1 egg

Makes 1 serving

### Directions:



**1** Prepare your cooking area with the ingredients. Place a sauté pan on low heat. Cut a slice of bread with a small dish like a ramekin dish or something similar. Press it on the center of the bread and cut out bread to create hole.



**3** While cooking on low heat, place lid on pan to help heat cook the top of egg. Care must be taken not to overcook the bottom of the toast, so check periodically with a spatula by lifting a corner to check underneath.

Serve and enjoy!



### [ Food Dictionary ]

#### Egg:

Legends about eggs have abounded throughout the eons. Early Phoenicians thought that a primeval egg could be split open to form heaven and earth. Most hens' eggs on the market today have been classified according to quality and size under USDA standards. In descending order, egg grades are AA, A and B, the classification being determined by both exterior and interior quality.

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



Place butter in pan to melt. Then place slice of toast so that the first side is browned. Then flip and place the egg in the center hole. Add sea salt, freshly cracked pepper and dill on egg.

### Cooking TIDBIT

*Feel free to add other seasonings instead of dill. Red pepper flakes and tarragon are other alternatives.*

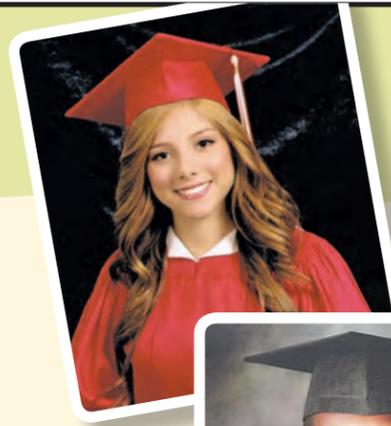
### Fun Food Quote:

*"The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it."*

– Unknown

Let the Club family celebrate with you...

# Put your graduation photo in *Alive!*



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Make sure you tell us:

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

Digital photos are preferred. Send them to:  
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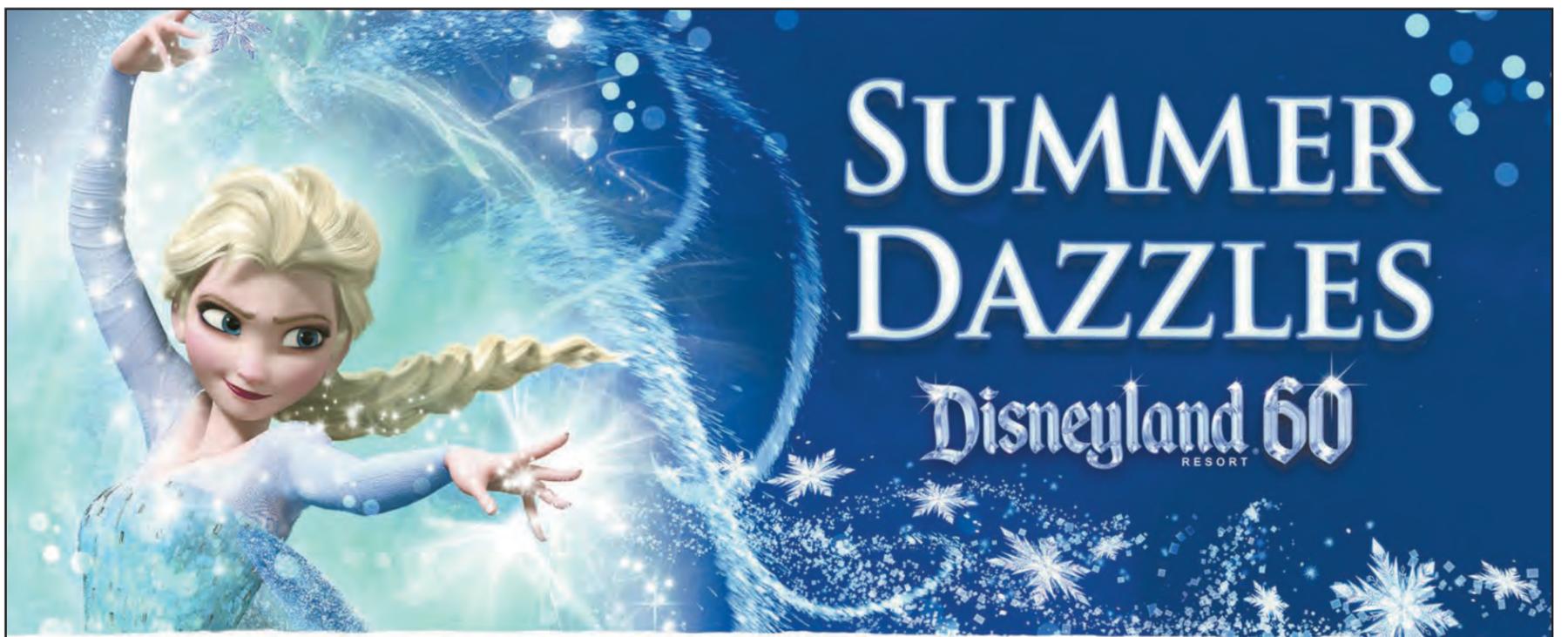
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# CLASSIFIED ADS

## Members Marketplace

### New Ads This Month!

**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 Rent:** House, 3 bd./2 baths. Near Manchester/Broadway. Garage, laundry room, handicap access. No Section 8. (323) 971-1042. 8/16

#### Transport

**For Sale:** Toyota Corolla, 2010, gray. 22,xxx 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. \$9,000 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: dreuw24@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



**1967 Caprice Classic:** Runs great! Has a rebuilt motor & transmission, new tires, power brakes, new shocks, new brakes, hubcaps & a 327 motor. Air conditioning unit is valued \$1,000. Registered & tags are up to date. It's a running project. Asking \$5,000, must sell. Info @ (310) 753-9522. 8/14

**1993 Chevy Corvette:** \$11,000. Great condition inside & out, excellent running condition, 74K miles. Automatic 40th yr anniversary model, maroon color. Sylvester (310) 748-2953 or Tanya (310) 713-0244. 7/14

#### Cemetery Plots

**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

**2 Cemetery Plots:** Eternal Valley Newhall, Premium Garden of Peace. Currently plots here start at \$6,900 each. Sell both \$7,500 total. Jim @ (661) 713-6353. 11/14

**Cemetery Plot:** 1 plot for 2 people. Oakdale Memorial Park, Glendora, CA, \$3,000. Jose or Juanita Rojas @ (818) 799-3516 or at (818) 799-0569. 11/14

**Cemetery Plot:** 1 plot for 2 people. At Oakdale Memorial Park, Glendora, CA. \$3,000. Jose or Juanita Rojas @ (818) 799-3516 or (818) 799-0569. 10/14

**2 Cemetery Plots:** Rose Hills, Whittier. Located in cherry blossom lawn, \$4,850 each + transfer fees. Area is on flat ground & near the lake. Charles @ (310) 386-5041. 9/14

#### Furniture

**For Sale:** Armoire. 36inchWx-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, newvic@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

**Dining table:** w/leaf, 6 chairs, \$300 obo. Jackie, (626) 383-1708. 4/15

**Mattress:** Beautyrest Black (Alexia) queen size, extra firm, new mattress, \$600 obo. Responsible for own pickup. Dwain, (323)754-8382 or dnrhenry@yahoo.com 4/15

**Ping Pong Table:** 5 x 9, fold-up & roll-away, \$75. Joe @ (310) 323-4940. 2/15

**Baby Crib:** Never used, brand new & in great condition. Delta brand, amber model #6925-204, \$130. John @ (562)755-9462. 2/15

**Cocktail/Coffee Table:** New, modern glass-top. \$300 (El Segundo). Espresso colored base w/large glass top elevated by grey posts. 43"x 43". Breakdown is easy. Must be able to lift & transport on your own. Javier Gomez @ (310) 529-0543. 12/14

**Hutch & Cabinet:** Touch light, matching set \$500 OBO, great condition! Valerie @ (951) 315-3920. 11/14

#### Homes/Rentals/Land

**For lease:** House, 2 bd./2 bath, near 101/110/2/5 fvs. Near Gold Line, downtown, Sunset Blvd., Silver Lake, Chinatown, Dodger Stadium, Echo Park, Elysian Park, Pasadena, Burbank, LAPD Academy, Hotchkiss LAFD Training Center. Downtown views. 1 parking space. 1 yr. lease min. No pets. Application process. Doc./credit check req. \$1,500 month, \$1,500 security dep. (323) 919-1163. 2/16

**For Rent:** Studio apt. 1052 W 54th St., 90037. Utilities paid. Deposit req. \$750/month. (323) 915-9300. 3/16

**For Sale:** House, 2 bed/1 bath, remodeled, Bakersfield. Investment property, rented month/month (\$750/month). Large cleared lot, secure. Listed at \$94,000. Sold as-is, seller selects services (title, escrow). tisdaseason2468@outlook.com 11/15

**For Vacation Rent:** Condo, 2 bd./2 bath, beachfront, Puerto Nayarit, Mexico. Private pool on balcony. April 1-8, 2016. \$1,000. Jessie, (323) 893-6570. 11/15

**For Sale:** Timeshare. Pacific Monarch/Diamond Resorts. One full week, two bedrooms. Don't buy direct. \$2,000/obo. Elizabeth, (909) 772-4087. 9/15

**For Sale:** Home/studio apts., three sep. units sold as one package. Bakersfield. Front home: 2 bd., needs work (in progress), flippable. 2nd bedroom rentable. 2 studio apts. in back, rentable. \$110,000 total. Sold as-is; seller selects title/escrow co. Email: tisdaseason2468@outlook.com 8/15

**For Sale:** Townhouse. Las Vegas/Chinatown, near Strip, behind school, near major streets. Has rental tenant. \$85,000, HOA \$100/month. Sold as-is; seller selects title/escrow co. Do not disturb tenant. Email: tisdaseason2468@outlook.com 8/15

**For Rent:** Apt., 1 bed, 1 bath. Near First/Alvarado. 1 of 3 units. 1 car garage. Near Mid-Wilshire, Koreatown, Good Samaritan Hospital, Staples Center, Echo Park, Silverlake. App. process/credit check req. No pets. 1 yr. lease minimum. \$1250 a month. (323) 919-1163. 8/15

**For Sale:** Timeshare, Puerto Vallarta 1+1, 1/2, sleeps 4, beachfront Playa del Sol Costa Sur Resort. Asking \$1,800, extended thru 2030. Jennifer, (818) 517-3675. 8/15

**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

**For rent:** Lovely apartment in Leimert Park (in 4-unit complex). 1 bd/1 bath, kitchen, granite countertops, living rm, dining rm, 1-car garage. New paint, carpet/hardwood and tiled floors, windows and fixtures, Washer/dryer hookup. Close to public transportation. 15 minutes from downtown, USC, beach. (310) 261-2085. 4/15

**For Rent:** Lovely downstairs apartment, 82nd/Crenshaw, very quiet, close to public transportation. 1BD/1BA w/kitchen, living room, dining room, 1-car garage in Inglewood (4-units). Newly painted, new carpet, fixtures, double glazed windows & new granite kitchen countertop. \$1,200. Info @ (323) 292-9989. 3/15

**For Rent:** 1BD/1BA apartment in North Inglewood. Mr. Brown @ (323) 296-1547. 3/15

#### 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. BackLife 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. \$50. (213) 792-3130. 3/16

**For Sale:** Electric toothbrush, Oral-B. Professional Care model 7850 DLX. New. \$35. (213) 792-3130. 11/15

**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:** Heater, Lasko ceramic tower. 1,500 watts, w/remote. New. \$39. (213) 792-3130. 11/15

**For Sale:** Immersion blender, Wolfgang Puck. Black. \$35. (213) 792-3130. 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

**For Sale:** Panini maker. Wolfgang Puck brand. Black/chrome, like new. \$40. (213) 792-3130. 9/15

**For Sale:** Pots/pans. Wolfgang Puck brand. Stainless steel. 13 pieces, like new. \$50. (213) 792-3130. 9/15

**For Sale:** VCR, Mitsubishi HS-U520, 4 head Hi-Fi. Remote. Exclnt. cond. \$25. (213) 792-3130. 9/15

**For Sale:** Printer, color, Lexmark X2470. New in box. \$20. (213) 792-3130. 9/15

**For Sale:** Exercise machine. Rock 'n' Roll Stepper Body Express by Tony Little Designs. New in box. \$65. (213) 792-3130. 9/15

**For Sale:** Lawn mower, 21 inch rotary, good condition. Plus other gardening items. \$58. Don, (818) 780-7788 (leave message). 8/15



**For Sale:** Motorized wheelchair, Go Chair, exclnt. cond., new battery. \$800/ OBO. Peggy LeGras, (323) 314-9100. 7/15

**For Sale:** e-printer, HP Photosmart 7520, brand new in box. \$75 or best offer. James A. Goree, (323) 778-6086. 8/15

**Updraft Range Hood:** Kenmore Elite 42" w/3-setting halogen lighting in white. Sears price: \$379.99. UNOPENED & still in original packaging. \$350 OBO. Peter @ (818) 353-7074 or (818) 254-7391. 2/15

#### Miscellaneous

**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. \$70. (213) 792-3130. 3/16

**For Sale:** Genie 3/4 hp chain drive garage door opener-\$30.00 Write to: ajyourpal@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



**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

**For Sale:** Binoculars. Bausch and Lomb. 7x35, 11 degree field. W/case, strap. Exclnt. cond. \$75. (213) 792-3130. 9/15

**For Sale:** Light meter. Gossen Luna Pro SBC. Manual, new cond. \$65. (213) 792-3130. 9/15

**For Sale:** Dental appliance, WaterPik, ultra cordless. New in box. \$45. (213) 792-3130. 9/15



**For Sale:** Kettle corn trailer. 2010, custom, 10-ft. stell welded frame. Fully wrapped, self-contained. Good cond., incl. equip./training. Go to: captainkettlecorn.com/CKC-Trailer.html. (877) 746-8696. 8/15

#### Travel/Timeshare

**Timeshare:** Welks Resort, San Diego, CA. For Sale. \$20K. Chermaine @ (661) 547-6707. 1/15

### CLASSIFIED ADS

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**7/19/16**

for publication in the April issue of *Alive!*

**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:** 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:** Roommate for large bedroom in Whittier, near 60/605 fvs. In three bedroom home, owned by Firefighter. Use of kitchen, laundry. Non-smoker only, please. \$600/month. John, (626) 757-5341; jgonzlez@hotmail.com 1/16

**Wanted:** Roommate. 3 bd./2 bath home. Chatsworth. Quiet neighborhood. Rent includes 2 bd., own bathroom, all utilities plus cable. App. process/credit check. \$1,000/month. (818) 590-4760. 10/15

**Wanted:** Room wanted in Burbank by caretaker: Experienced caretaker to provide light housekeeping, shopping, driving, companionship to elderly person in exchange for private room. Excellent references. Prefer Burbank area. Karen, (626) 252-1288. 7/15

**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



**DISCOUNT MOVIE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE CITY EMPLOYEES CLUB**

## AUGUST MOVIE RELEASES

- **SUICIDE SQUAD (IMAX/3D):** Opens August 5
- **THE FOUNDER:** Opens August 5
- **PETE'S DRAGON (3D):** Opens August 12 \*
- **HELL OR HIGH WATER:** Opens August 12
- **FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS:** Opens August 12
- **SAUSAGE PARTY:** Opens August 12
- **SPECTRAL (3D):** Opens August 12
- **BEN-HUR:** Opens August 19
- **WAR DOGS:** Opens August 19
- **MORRIS FROM AMERICA:** Opens August 19
- **KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS (3D):** Opens August 19
- **THE SPACE BETWEEN US:** Opens August 19
- **MECHANIC: RESURRECTION:** Opens August 26
- **DON'T BREATHE:** Opens August 26
- **MAX STEEL:** Opens August 26
- **SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU:** Opens August 26
- **THE HOLLARS:** Opens August 26
- **HANDS OF STONE:** Opens August 26

*\* Not Valid with AMC Green Tickets*



Zoo

Story courtesy Zoo; Photos by Jamie Pham, LA Zoo

# 'ROARING NIGHTS' CONCLUDING



At a previous Roaring Night at the L.A. Zoo.

**Bowie, Prince Tributes Added**

**Zoo's summer events for grownups continue through September.**

The Zoo's summer schedule of "Roaring Nights" for grownups continue with two more events in August September.

**Roaring Nights**

Roaring Nights at the LA Zoo, a summer music series open to guests ages 18 and older, continues with all-different lineups:

- **Friday, Aug. 26** (indie rock); and
- **Friday, Sept. 16** ('80s music, with tributes to David Bowie and Prince).

Each evening will feature a live band, DJ dance party, food trucks, full-service bars,

pop-up zookeeper talks, animal encounters, visits to Zoo animal habitats, a game zone and an "Animal Artistry Paint Party" for guests to paint a favorite animal (or whatever inspiration strikes them) on a small canvas to take home as a souvenir. Ticket prices are \$25, and \$22 for Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association members; prices include admission to the Zoo's special Dinosaurs: Unextinct at the L.A. Zoo exhibit.

For additional event information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.lazoo.org/roaringnights](http://www.lazoo.org/roaringnights).  
**Information: (323) 644-6001**





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 Get this limited-time offer now through August 15 for only \$95 (ages 3+)

**DISCOUNT TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT LA CITY EMPLOYEES CLUB OR BY CALLING 888-777-1744**

\*LEGOLAND® Play Pass is valid through December 25, 2016 and must be activated before August 31, 2016 at a LEGOLAND California Ticket Booth. Does not include parking, retail, dining or any annual pass discounts or benefits. Does not include LEGOLAND Water Park or Brick-or-Treat Party Nights admission.

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**AUGUST 2016**

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**MOVIE THEATERS**

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>AMC THEATERS</b>		
Gold Tickets - Good Any Time	\$14.00	<b>\$9.50</b>
Green Tickets - Exclude Disney Productions	\$14.00	<b>\$9.00</b>
Small Popcorn	\$5.50	<b>\$3.00</b>
Small Drink	\$4.50	<b>\$3.00</b>
Movie Bundle - Includes 2 Gold movie tickets, 2 small drinks, 1 small popcorn	\$44.00	<b>\$27.00</b>
<b>BRENDEAN THEATRES</b>		
	\$11.25	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>CINEMARK THEATERS </b>		
	\$11.75	<b>\$8.50</b>
<b>CINÉPOLIS THEATERS</b>		
Traditional Theaters	\$12.00	<b>\$7.50</b>
Luxury Theaters	\$22.00	<b>\$17.00</b>
<b>GALAXY THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time		
	\$11.00	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>HARKINS MOVIE THEATERS</b>		
Restricted	\$10.00	<b>\$6.50</b>
Good Any Time	\$10.00	<b>\$7.50</b>
Small Popcorn	\$5.25	<b>\$4.25</b>
Small Drink	\$4.50	<b>\$3.50</b>
<b>KRIKORIAN THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time		
	\$12.00	<b>\$7.50</b>
<b>LAEMMLE THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time		
	\$11.00	<b>\$6.00</b>
<b>LANDMARK THEATERS</b>		
	\$13.00	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>METROPOLITAN THEATERS</b>		
Unrestricted Tickets	\$13.00	<b>\$8.00</b>
Restricted Tickets	\$10.50	<b>\$6.75</b>
<b>PACIFIC THEATERS</b> - Restricted		
	\$13.75	<b>\$8.00</b>
* \$2 surcharge for use at Americana in Glendale and at The Grove in L.A. - (Not valid at Archlight Theaters)		
<b>READING CINEMAS</b> - Restricted		
	\$12.50	<b>\$7.50</b>
<b>REGAL/ EDWARDS/ UNITED ARTIST</b>		
Good Any Time	\$14.75	<b>\$8.50</b>
Movie Pack	\$30.00	<b>\$26.00</b>
- Includes 2 Good Any Time movie tickets and a \$10 concession gift card		
<b>REGENCY THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time		
	\$11.50	<b>\$7.00</b>
<b>ULTRASTAR THEATERS</b> - Good Any Time		
	\$11.25	<b>\$6.00</b>

**ATTRACTIONS**

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>AQUARIUM OF THE BAY </b>		
SAN FRANCISCO		
Adult	\$24.95	<b>\$19.96</b>
Child (4 - 12)	\$14.95	<b>\$11.96</b>
<b>AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC </b>		
Adult	\$29.95	<b>\$17.95</b>
Child (3 - 11)	\$17.95	<b>\$11.95</b>
<b>BOOMER'S FUN CENTERS </b>		
SELECT CALIFORNIA LOCATIONS	4 Hour Pass	\$42.99 <b>\$24.99</b>
<b>CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE </b>		
Adult	\$34.95	<b>\$29.71</b>
Child (4 - 11)	\$24.95	<b>\$21.21</b>
Youth (12-17)/ Student (with ID) / Senior (65+)	\$29.95	<b>\$25.46</b>
<b>CATALINA EXPRESS </b>		
Round Trip Fare	Adult \$76.50	<b>\$60.00</b>
	Child \$61.00	<b>\$50.50</b>

**ATTRACTIONS CONT'D**

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>DAVEY'S LOCKER </b>		
Whale Watching	Adult \$32.00	<b>\$21.00</b>
	Child \$26.00	<b>\$15.75</b>
Sport Fishing - 1/2 Day	Adult \$41.50	<b>\$31.50</b>
	Child \$34.00	<b>\$25.21</b>
Sport Fishing - 3/4 Day	Adult \$71.00	<b>\$57.75</b>
	Child \$61.00	<b>\$47.25</b>
Sunset / Evening Cruise	Adult \$25.00	<b>\$12.61</b>
<b>GOLF N' STUFF </b>		
3 Hour Unlimited Wristband - (Norwalk Location)	\$30.00	<b>\$16.25</b>
All Park Pass - (Ventura Location)	\$20.00	<b>\$15.25</b>
<b>GRAMMY MUSEUM </b>		
General Admission	\$12.95	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>IFLY INDOOR SKYDIVING </b>		
Hollywood - Earn Your Wings Flight Package (Age 3+)	\$59.95	<b>\$39.95</b>
San Francisco - Save 15% Off All Flight Packages	\$59.95	<b>\$50.96</b>
<b>K1 SPEED RACING</b>		
This pass entitles the owner to (1) 14 Lap race and a annual license for the day.	\$25.95	<b>\$15.25</b>
<b>MADAME TUSSAUDS WAX ATTRACTION </b>		
All Access Pass includes Marvel Super Heroes 4D Experience.		
Hollywood	Adult \$40.00	<b>\$16.00</b>
	Child (4 - 12) \$35.00	<b>\$13.00</b>
Las Vegas (eTickets Only)	Adult \$29.95	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>MEDIAEVAL TIMES </b>		
E-ticket prices will vary depending on date/time selections.		
	Adult \$57.95	<b>\$43.50</b>
	Child (0 - 12) \$35.95	<b>\$31.50</b>
<b>MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM </b>		
	Adult \$39.95	<b>\$34.95</b>
	Child (3 - 12) \$24.95	<b>\$19.95</b>
		<b>\$29.95</b>
<b>MULLIGAN'S FAMILY FUN CENTER</b>		
All Day Pass	Adult/Child \$33.99	<b>\$16.50</b>
- Unlimited use of Laser Tag, Miniature Golfing, Go-Karts/Speedway and the Rock Wall. Valid at Mulligan Torrance, Murrieta, and Palmdale.		
<b>PIRATES DINNER ADVENTURE </b>		
	Adult \$56.95	<b>\$36.00</b>
	Child (3 - 11) \$37.95	<b>\$27.50</b>
<b>QUEEN MARY / BATTLESHIP IOWA COMBO </b>		
	Adult \$42.95	<b>\$31.92</b>
	Youth (12-17) \$34.95	<b>\$25.95</b>
	Child (6 - 11) \$23.95	<b>\$17.95</b>
<b>RACERS EDGE INDOOR KARTING</b>		
Adult: 16-Lap Adult Race	\$23.00	<b>\$18.00</b>
Junior (50" tall): 11-Lap Junior Race	\$20.00	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>SANTA MONICA PIER &amp; PACIFIC PARK </b>		
Unlimited Ride Wristband	\$25.95	<b>\$13.50</b>
Family 4 Pack (includes 4 wristband + 4 meal card)	\$149.00	<b>\$68.00</b>
<b>SPEEDZONE </b>		
3 Hour Unlimited Pass on Rides and Mini-Golf	\$49.99	<b>\$28.00</b>
<b>TEATRO MARTINI </b>		
Buena Park, California	\$75.75	<b>\$42.00</b>
<b>USS IOWA </b>		
SAN PEDRO	Adult \$18.00	<b>\$13.50</b>
	Child (6 - 11) \$10.00	<b>\$7.50</b>
	Senior (62+) or Military (with ID) \$15.00	<b>\$10.50</b>

**ATTRACTIONS CONT'D**

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>USS MIDWAY </b>		
SAN DIEGO		
	Adult \$20.00	<b>\$14.00</b>
	Child (6 - 11) \$10.00	<b>\$7.00</b>
	Senior (62+) \$17.00	<b>\$11.00</b>

**THEME PARKS**

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>ADVENTURE CITY </b>		
	Adult/ Child \$17.95	<b>\$13.50</b>

**DISNEYLAND / CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE**

DYNAMIC SCHEDULE	RETAIL	CLUB MEMBER DISCOUNT		
		VALUE	REGULAR	PEAK
1 DAY - 1 PARK	Adult	\$95.00 - \$119.00	\$91.20	<b>\$100.80</b>
	Child	\$89.00 - \$113.00	\$85.44	<b>\$95.04</b>
1 DAY PARK HOPPER	Adult	\$155.00 - \$169.00	\$142.60	<b>\$147.20</b>
	Child	\$149.00 - \$163.00	\$137.08	<b>\$141.68</b>

ADDITIONAL TICKET OPTIONS AND DYNAMIC CALENDAR SCHEDULES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE.

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>CALIFORNIA'S GREAT AMERICA </b>		
General Admission (Age 3+)	\$67.00	<b>\$36.00</b>

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>CASTLE PARK </b>		
General Admission (over 36")	\$24.99	<b>\$12.99</b>

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>GILROY GARDENS </b>		
General Admission	\$52.00	<b>\$26.00</b>
Luminations Admission (7/26 - 11/29/16)	\$30.00	<b>\$15.00</b>

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>KNOTT'S BERRY FARM</b>		
	Adult \$72.00	<b>\$39.00</b>
	Child (3-11), Senior (62+) \$42.00	<b>\$34.00</b>
Cheaper for eTickets	Adult \$72.00	<b>\$35.00</b>
	Child (3-11), Senior (62+) \$42.00	<b>\$32.00</b>

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>LOS ANGELES ZOO </b>		
	Adult \$20.00	<b>\$16.00</b>
	Child (2-12) \$15.00	<b>\$12.00</b>

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>LEGOLAND </b>		
Includes 2nd Day FREE		
1 - Day , 1 - Park	Adult \$98.00	<b>\$76.00</b>
	Child (3 - 11) \$92.00	<b>\$70.00</b>
Legoland Resort Hopper	Adult \$122.00	<b>\$84.00</b>
	Child (3 - 11) \$116.00	<b>\$78.00</b>
Legoland Play Pass w/ Sea Life Aquarium	\$181.00	<b>\$95.00</b>
Valid until 12/25/16		

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>MAGIC MOUNTAIN </b>		
General Admission	\$76.99	<b>\$44.99</b>

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>SAN DIEGO ZOO / SAFARI PARK </b>		
	Adult \$50.00	<b>\$41.00</b>
	Child (3 - 11) \$40.00	<b>\$33.00</b>
2 - Visit Pass*	Adult \$90.00	<b>\$72.00</b>
	Child (3 - 11) \$70.00	<b>\$56.00</b>
* May be used for 1 visit at each park, or 2 visit to the same park.		

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>SEAWORLD - SAN DIEGO </b>		
	Adult \$89.00	<b>\$60.00</b>
	Child (3 - 9) \$83.00	<b>\$60.00</b>
Admission w/ All-Day-Dining Pass (Adult /Child)	\$124.00	<b>\$88.25</b>
Fun Card (valid until 12/31/16)	\$89.00	<b>\$74.00</b>
One-Day park tickets are valid until 12/25/16		

**THEME PARKS CONT'D**

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>SIX FLAGS DISCOVERY KINGDOM </b>		
VALLEJO	General Admission (over 48")	\$66.99 <b>\$40.99</b>
<b>UNIVERSAL STUDIOS </b>		
	Adult / Child (under 48")	\$115.00 <b>\$95.00 &amp; UP</b>
	12 Month Pass	\$149.00 <b>\$109.00</b>

**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>OAKLAND RAIDERS</b>	Games available online
<b>LOS ANGELES KINGS</b>	Games available online
<b>SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC FC</b>	Games available online

**WATER PARKS**

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>KNOTTS SOAK CITY </b>		
	Adult \$40.00	<b>\$27.00</b>
	Jr. /Sr. \$30.00	<b>\$27.00</b>
<b>HURRICANE HARBOR </b>		
	Adult \$45.99	<b>\$26.99</b>
<b>RAGING WATERS </b>		
Sacramento	\$34.99	<b>\$26.99</b>
San Dimas	\$42.99	<b>\$28.99</b>
San Jose	\$36.99	<b>\$23.99</b>
<b>AQUATICA </b>		
Chula Vista	Adult \$44.00	<b>\$32.00</b>
	Child \$38.00	<b>\$27.00</b>
<b>WET N WILD </b>		
Palm Springs	\$38.99	<b>\$23.00</b>
<b>WILD WATER </b>		
Clovis, CA	\$34.99	<b>\$23.99</b>

**GIFT CERTIFICATES**

	RETAIL	CLUB
<b>HONEYBAKED HAM</b>		
\$25 Gift Card	\$25.00	<b>\$22.50</b>
<b>SEE'S CANDIES</b>		
Good for 1lb of chocolate	\$18.50	<b>\$14.25</b>

**FREE SHIPPING**  
 Club Members get FREE USPS standard shipping on all tickets and merchandise purchased through the Club.

**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 June.

Lists are courtesy Los Angeles Public Library, Central library downtown and 72 branches combined.

### Books loaned

1. *15th Affair*, James Patterson
2. *The Crossing*, Michael Connelly
3. *The Fault in Our Stars*, John Green
4. *The Promise: An Elvis Cole and Joe Pike Novel*, Robert Crais
5. *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Marie Kondo
6. *When Breath Becomes Air*, Paul Kalanithi
7. *The Maze Runner*, James Dashner
8. *The Blood of Olympus*, Rick Riordan
9. *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard*, Rick Riordan
10. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, Ransom Riggs

### DVDs loaned

1. *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens*
2. *The Hunger Games*
3. *The Martian*
4. *Straight Outta Compton*
5. *Bridge of Spies*
6. *The Good Dinosaur*
7. *Ant-Man*
8. *Spectre*
9. *Minions*
10. *Hotel Transylvania 2*

### Books downloaded

(e-books)

1. *A Murder in Time*, Julie McElwain
2. *Me Before You*, Jojo Moyes
3. *Lonely Planet: Pacific Coast Highway Road Trips*
4. *The Nest*, Cynthia D'Apris Sweeney
5. *When Breath Becomes Air*, Paul Kalanithi
6. *The Crossing*, Michael Connelly
7. *Fool Me Once*, Harlan Coben
8. *Eligible*, Curtis Sittenfeld
9. *Lonely Planet: Coastal California*
10. *The Nightingale*, Kristin Hannah

### Download-and-Keep songs\*

1. *Can't Stop the Feeling*, Justin Timberlake
2. *This Is What You Came For*, Calvin Harris feat. Rihanna
3. *Don't Let Me Down*, The Chainsmokers feat. Daya
4. *Just Like Fire*, Pink
5. *Cheap Thrills*, Sia
6. *Me Too*, Meghan Trainor
7. *NO*, Meghan Trainor
8. *You Don't Own Me*, Grace feat. G-Eazy
9. *Work From Home*, Fifth Harmony feat. Ty Dolla \$ign
10. *Send My Love (To Your New Love)*, Adele

\* "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>

## LAFD

# Honoring the Civilians

Fire Dept. honors its best civilians of the year.

The LAFD held its annual civilian employee recognition luncheon June 29 at Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center. The Employee of the Year recognition is bestowed in three categories representing the major areas of civilian support: Fire Chief's Award of Excellence, Employees of the Year, and Certificates of Special Recognition honorees. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

The LAFD's Civilian Employee Recognition Committee (CERC) was established in 1991 to recognize outstanding civilian employee performance. The CERC is comprised of Department civilian and uniformed personnel. Beginning in 1997, the awards program was presented annually.

The Employees of the Year are chosen from the following three categories, based on the Department's civilian civil service classification's memorandum of understanding:

- Clerical
- Shop Maintenance
- Professional/Specialized Skills

During the end of the calendar year, nominations are solicited from the entire Department. Over the course of several days and with the strictest confidence, the CERC reviews each nomination submitted

for civilian employee recognition criteria. The CERC then conducts interviews with the nominators. Finally, the CERC Chair performs background checks on the finalists. Once this process is completed, the CERC recommends the candidates to the Fire Chief.

In 2013, the Certificates for Perfect Attendance portion was introduced to the awards program, honoring those employees for their perfect attendance for the past year.

Special thanks go to Jennifer Corona, Chairperson, LAFD Civilian Employee Recognition Committee.

### This year's CERC Committee was:

- Jennifer Corona, Chair, Management Assistant  
 Judy Hom, Executive Administrative Assistant II  
 Katey Zamora, Sr. Administrative clerk  
 Ingrid Orellana, Sr. Management Analyst I  
 Lilian Kim, Accounting Clerk  
 Capt. Robert Cordobes  
 Mario Salazar, Sr. Administrative Clerk  
 Dawit Gebremeskel, Accountant II  
 Dishan Chaudhuri, Equipment Mechanic Grade 5  
 John Warner, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic



### Fire Chief's Award of Excellence:

**Mark Willardson**  
*Assistant City Radio Officer*  
*ACS Logistics Officer*

### Employees of the Year:

**Robert Nishimura**  
*Sr. Management Analyst*  
*Professional/Specialized Skills*

**Cheryl Flemings**  
*Payroll Supervisor II*  
*Clerical*

**Paul Lawrence**  
*Equipment Mechanic*  
*Shop Maintenance*

### Certificates of Special Recognition:

Dante Mikkelson  
 Muriel Gee  
 Maria Lozano  
 Elizabeth DeAnda

### Perfect Attendance:

Mark Davis  
 Tiana Munoz  
 Mario Salazar  
 Jennifer Cornejo  
 Sam Kim  
 Hani Malki  
 Carmela Espiritu  
 Kurt Sato  
 Michelle Upshaw  
 Maureen Wan  
 Antonio Muro  
 Stewart Young  
 James Wolfe  
 Gustavo Ramirez  
 Podinilame Dissanayake  
 Ed Chua  
 Nancy Balet  
 Larry Pare  
 Ngozi Mbamalu  
 Marcelo Castillo  
 Daisy Quan  
 Dacia Gonzalez  
 Jackson Jang  
 Cherly Flemings  
 Loc Ngo  
 June Gibson  
 Jack Huang  
 Roger Hill  
 Irene Arribillaga  
 Hank Murakami



Fire Chief's Award of Excellence winner Mark Willardson, Equipment Specialist II, Equipment Engineering Section, Club Member 1991 (center) with Assistant Chief Fred Mathis (left) and Chief Ralph Terrazas.



Employee of the Year honoree Paul Lawrence, Equipment Mechanic, Light Vehicle Shop, LAFD, Club Member since 2010 (center), with Assistant Chief Fred Mathis (left) and Chief Ralph Terrazas.



Employee of the Year honoree Cheryl Flemings, Payroll Supervisor II, Payroll Section (center), with Assistant Chief Fred Mathis (left) and Chief Ralph Terrazas.



Employee of the Year honoree Robert Nishimura, Sr. Management Analyst I, Budget Management Section (center), with Chief Fred Mathis (left) and Chief Ralph Terrazas.



Jennifer Corona, LAFD Administrative Operations/CERC and LAFD Civilian Employee Recognition Committee Chairperson, Club Member since 2004.



Certificate of Special Recognition honorees, from left: Dante Mikkelson, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, Triple-Heavy Vehicle Shop, LAFD, Club Member since 2011; Muriel Gee, Sr. Management Analyst I, Revenue Management Section; Chief Ralph Terrazas; and Maria De Jesus G. Lozano, Executive Administrative Assistant, LAFD, Club Member since 2012.



From left: Christine Ozuna, Administrative Clerk, LAFD, 10 years of City service; and Lilian Kim, Accounting Clerk, LAFD, 9 years, Club Member since 2013.



Perfect Attendance honorees, from left: Podinilame Dissanayake, Club Member since 2004; Jackson Jang, Club Member since 2007; Marcelo Castillo, Club Member since 2000; Mark Davis, Club Member since 2012; Gustavo Ramirez; Chief Ralph Terrazas; Dacia Gonzalez, Club Member since 2008; Carmela Espiritu, Club Member since 2002; Cheryl Flemings, Club Member since 1996; and Mario Salazar.



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