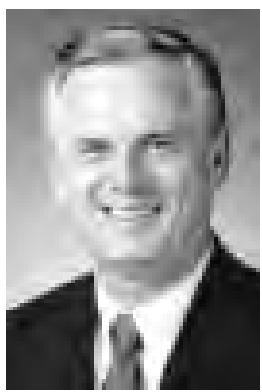


No Layoffs Expected in Proposed City Budget

■ Plan in front of Councilmembers would help LAPD, housing, libraries, but many departments could feel the pinch.



Mayor James K. Hahn

There appear to be no layoffs of City employees forthcoming, at least for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

That's according to the \$5.1 billion budget proposed by Mayor Hahn and sent to the City

Council Friday, April 18, one day after his annual State of the City address.

But the proposed budget, subtitled "Protecting Our Neighborhoods" by the mayor, won't be finalized until Councilmembers vote on it, which is expected to occur by the end of May. At press time, early reaction appeared mixed.

Also, the City budget could be threatened by the budget of the State of California. If the State, which is in a large financial pinch of its own, takes away some City funding, the "no layoffs" position at the City level could change.

For the past several months, Alive! has been reporting on the possibility of layoffs and service slowdowns, as ways to offset reduced budgets due to the fiscal crisis at the state level. No layoffs is good news, but the budget does call for some service slowdowns (in street paving and tree trimming, for example) and increased fees for many services provided by City employees (including residential trash pickup, municipal golf courses, zoo admissions, and sewer services). Many departments might see funding decreases.

See Budget, Page 12



Loading the truck for the KZLA Hugs From Home program in Huntington Beach were (from left) Steve Summers, Senior Water Utility Supervisor, and Randy Leedom, who spearheaded the effort.

DWP West Sends Hugs From Home

■ Western District supports our troops with almost \$1,500 in supplies for Hugs From Home.

It started as a challenge from Water Utility Worker Randy Leeder at the DWP's Water Distribution Business Unit Western District. As he sat in a regular safety meeting Wednesday, March 26, he told his co-workers about a promotion he had heard on the radio: Hugs From Home, promoted locally by radio station KZLA. The program was collecting supplies and letters, to send to our troops fighting in Iraq.

"I'm putting in \$100. Who's with me?"

And they responded. Before the meeting was over, the 80 colleagues in the room collected almost \$1,000.



Some of the goods purchased with the money raised by the DWP Western District's Hugs From Home effort.

See Hugs, Page 5

Big Club Discounts Are Just the Ticket

■ Ticket discounts are some of the best Club benefits. Don't pay full price this summer: Take advantage!

You know when people start calling you the service you provide, you're a big hit. That's what has happened to Navin Cotton, the Club's Ticket Guy.

"People are calling me that now," the Ticket Guy says. "I walk into rooms, and people say, 'Hey, Ticket Guy!'"

"I don't mind at all. In fact, I was the one who started calling me that."

That was to remind himself of his dual role at the Club: claims coordinator for four years, and, since the launch of the Club last October, the Ticket Guy.

He's the one who responds to Club members when they request tickets at unbelievable Club prices. Whether you request them by mail, fax, phone or the Club Website, he's on top of it.

And boy, are Club members taking advantage.

"When we started offering this great benefit last October, I was filling about 10 orders a month. Now, half a year later, it's about 100 orders a month. And still climbing fast.



Navin Cotton, "The Ticket Guy"

"I'm glad so many people are aware of the ticket service," he went on. "It's really one of the strongest benefits of the Club. We pass along the ticket discount right to our members. We don't add a charge or profit from the ticket sales at all," he said. "That's what you

See Discount Tickets, Page 3



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In This Issue

Your Letters.....	3	Life's Important Moments.....	10-11
Political Forum.....	4	Around the City.....	12
César Chávez Day.....	5	White Point Nature Preserve.....	13
Dept. of the Month:.....	6-7	Kids' Coloring Contest.....	14
Emergency Preparedness		Employee of the Year: Winter.....	15
Nat'l Public Works Week.....	8	Movie Reviews.....	16
LAFD Cook-off Benefit.....	8	Free Classifieds.....	17
March-of-Dimes Fund Raiser.....	9	Cooking With the Club.....	18
Retirees News.....	9	Discount Tickets.....	19

César Chávez Day: A Time to Pay Tribute to the Hero

■ Family members, schoolchildren and politicians are among those who celebrate the late leader's birthday.



Julie Chávez Rodriguez, granddaughter, spoke to the crowd.

César Chávez was a man of dignity, power and truth, who worked hard for the civil rights of the country's Mexican Americans ... and everyone whose voice went unheard.

Those were the ideas, spoken in Spanish and English by host Hilda Cevallos, at the third annual celebration of César Chávez Day, held March 30 at Placita Olvera, next to Olvera Street in downtown Los Angeles.

A formal program scheduled for the actual Chávez Day—Monday, April 1, was postponed due to war concerns. Instead, many local leaders held a lower-profile march through downtown Los Angeles April 1.

But the day before, a number of elements came together for the celebra-



Children from two schools named for Chávez marched in his honor.



Councilman-elect Antonio Villaraigosa spoke of Hispanic pride.

tion, sponsored by the Instituto Cultural Mexicano del Los Angeles.

The festivities began with mariachi music provided by the group Los Arrieros, and a parade of children from two elementary schools named after Chávez: one in Bell Gardens, and the other in Norwalk. The students marched around the plaza, ending in front of the bandstand.

Susana Bautista, director of the Mexican Cultural Institute, then introduced special guests: Councilman-elect Antonio Villaraigosa; Ed Novarro, director of the El Pueblo historical site; Liberty Mesa, representing the office of Councilman Nick Pacheco, District 14; and Bernard C. Parks, newly elected councilman, District 8.

Julie Chávez Rodriguez, granddaughter of César Chávez, spoke a few words of her grandfather's legacy.

Then, keynote speaker David Hayes Bautista, director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at UCLA, spoke about the strength of the Hispanic community.

The celebration ended with more entertainment and educational workshops for children in the plaza, and with art presentations at the offices of the Mexican Cultural Institute.



César Chávez

Wanna be heard?

What would you like to say about the legacy of César Chávez? Write to us: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

DWP West Supports Our Troops With Donation of Supplies, Funds Hugs

Continued from Page 1

Vendors threw in some supplies, too, creating a truckful of "hugs" that Mark Lucero, Water Utility Supervisor, drove to the radio station's drop-off point in Huntington Beach Friday, March 28.

The collection was especially poignant for Lozano, whose daughter, Nicole Lozano, is a sergeant in the Marine Corps, a communication specialist stationed at Central Command in Qatar. Others at the DWP's Western District have children serving (or about to serve) in the conflict. They brought photos of their children to the collection March 28.

They are:

- Garcia Genaro, Mechanical Repairman. His son is Marine Sgt. Andres Garcia, presently in Kuwait;
- Robert Lopez, Sr. Water Utility Worker. His son is Navy Seabee Raymond Alaya, presently in Kuwait;
- Darren Schamber, Maintenance Construction Helper. His son Army Pvt. Brandon Mason, due to ship out in mid-April;
- Scot Spoon, Welder. His son is Army Cptn. Michael Spoon, presently in Iraq;
- Lauren Malinoski, Sr. Clerk. Her son is Marine Cpl. Arnold Lara, presently serving in covert operations in Iraq;
- Keith Snyder, Water Utility Worker. His son-in-law, Scott Kulisch, is a midshipman aboard the USS Carl Vinson;



Randy Leedom, who spearheaded the DWP's participation in Hugs From Home to support our troops, is interviewed on KZLA, which sponsored the effort.



Some of the employees of DWP Western District who have relatives serving in the Armed Forces' war in Iraq. Pictured are (from left) Garcia Genaro, Darren Schamber, Robert Lopez, Scot Spoon, Lauren Malinoski and Mark Lozano. At right is Randy Leedom, who spearheaded the effort.

- Frank Millan, Water Utility Superintendent. His son, Anthony Millan, is an Army medic with the Field Artillery Unit, 1st Cavalry Division. His cousin Art Millan is a medic with the 101st Airborne in Iraq.

James Rivera, Equipment Operator, is on leave, a sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve, serving in Fort Lewis, Wash.

"We are all deeply proud of all the men and women serving in the armed forces, but especially of our family members who are serving this nation on our behalf," said Tom Bilich, DWP District Superintendent. "I was deeply touched and honored by the enthusiastic support, positive energies and commitment that was directed by Western District in making this 48-hour effort a total success." ■

Participating vendors included:

- Mike Parker, D'Angelo Co.;
- Ron Soyka, WCT Products;
- Guy Forrest, Snap-On Tools;
- Tom Sommerville, Hoseman, Inc.
- Carin Barnes, VER Nickke Postulu, Omega Industrial Supply;
- Brian Stark, American Industrial Supply;
- Jennifer Koeplin, Superco Co.;
- Carol Christopher, United Rentals; and
- Debbie Gould, Nexgen Corp.

Wanna be heard?

Tell us what you think of the DWP Western District's efforts for our troops: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com