

A Spotless Open House

■ West L.A. Sanitation Yard holds first ever neighborhood open house.

On May 24, the Western District of the Department of Sanitation had its first open house. More than 130 residents in West Los Angeles attended; it was created to educate and reach out the public. The Public Affairs Office distributed fliers inviting the surrounding neighborhoods of West Los Angeles.

Booth displays set up by the Recycle Commodity, Safety and Training, and other units within the Sanitation Department were busy handing out information about the program and services that are ready and available to the public. There were refreshments and a free BBQ with hamburgers and hot dogs, yard tours, and an educational ride aboard a satellite sanitation truck as well as sanitation equipment operation demonstrations.

West L.A. District Superintendent Salvador Miranda, Public Works Commissioner Adrian Rubalcava and Councilmember Tom LaBonge of the Fourth District attended the open house. Miranda is the visionary of the Open House and expected a small turnout for the event, but was happily surprised to see that there was a large turnout. There were 137 residents at the Open House, not including staff and volunteers.

Ed Campbell from the Customer Service Center of the Department of Public Works for the Bureau of Sanitation told *Alive!* that, although the Open House was a pilot event at a Sanitation yard, the Bureau has strived to educate the public about home composting and recycling that incorporates the use of yard trimmings, fruit scraps and vegetable peels into a humus-rich, sweet-smelling soil conditioner. "We have made presentations at the

local schools, community groups and the rest of the general public about the various ways and programs that help recycle, reclaim and keep our neighborhoods clean and safe ...while making it fun doing so," Campbell said.

And fun it was as the employees of the Western District who volunteered their Saturday off before Memorial Day handed out T-shirts, miniature-sized city trash cans that were a big hit with the children, as well as other prizes. Club member and employee Richard Humphrey at the Western District yard is among the many city employees showcasing their auxiliary talents as he utilizes his drawing skills to reproduce detailed illustrations of Sanitation equipment used at the yard offices chalkboard. Other city employees like Refuse Collection Truck Operator Michael Antwine demonstrated the use of a refuse collection truck as it lifted refuse collection containers and educated residents that one truck can take 1500 containers a day totaling almost 10 tons.

"It is a little-known fact that 33 employees donated their time to the West Los Angeles Open House without getting paid," said Marviana Johnson, who works at the West LA Sanitation Yard. "The total amount the City of Los Angeles saved without paying employees was more than \$13,467. We hope that this will open the doors to other Districts that they too can educate the community about the functions of the Sanitation Department."

If you would like to learn more about the many Sanitation programs including the Worm Suppliers for compost, the compost bin and workshop sales events, or you are looking to place a replacement order of your refuse containers, you may start by calling the Sanitation hotline at 800-733-CITY.

The Club donated the Knott's Berry Farm tickets, which Tonya Hollis won. Darrell Bose Jr. and Kylon Theus won the AMC movie tickets. ■



From left: Paul Blount, who promoted the Green Recycling at Lopez Canyon and is a committee member of the Club; Adrian Rubalcava; Commissioner from the Department of Public Works; Salvador M. Miranda, West LA Superintendent; Tom La Bonge, 4th District Councilmember; and Ed Campbell.



Children learning how worms play an important role in composting.



Tami Watson and Crystal Serrato with the Bureau of Sanitation Hotline Service.



Salvador M. Miranda, Solid Resource Superintendent and creator of Open House (left), and Ed Campbell representing the Customer Service Center of the Department of Public Works for the Bureau of Sanitation.



Michael Jackson (left), supervisor for 12 years, and Ronda Paul (right), the only female truck operator and daughter Warren Paul, the Supervisor of the North Central Yard.



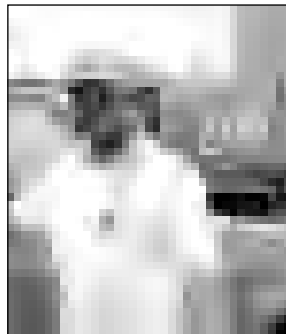
Richard Humphrey, yard "artist" and Club Member.



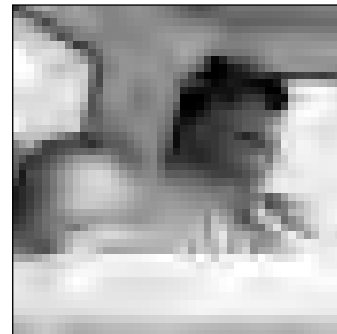
From left: Michael Antwine, Gregory Antwine, L.T. Gardner, Raymond Lucas, Gabriel Miranda, Paul Porter



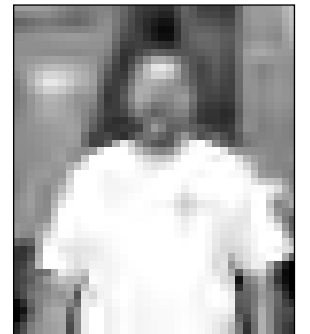
Truck and facility tours.



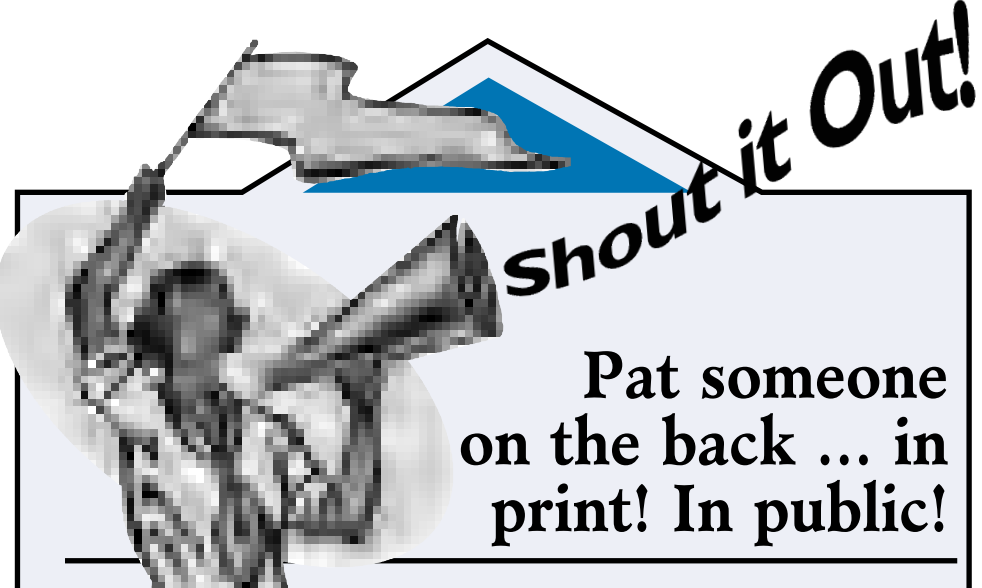
Isaiah Lucas, Refuse Truck Operator



Children are enjoying the truck rides at the Open House.



Michael Antwine, Refuse Collection Truck Operator



Pat someone on the back ... in print! In public!

A Shoutout to **Lakeisha Keith** and **Richard Martinez**, both for graduating from Cal State Fullerton recently. Lakeisha earned a degree in communications, and Richard in criminal justice.

— Congratulations from proud parents Adolfo and Rosie Alderete.

Thank you **Carmen Steward** for putting your employees first.

— John Burnes.

Introducing Shoutouts!, *Alive's* new FREE section for Club members to congratulate ... thank ... "hug" your favorite people.

Has one of your friends or family graduated? Gotten married? Had a baby? Helped you move? Fixed you great lasagna last night? Just said something that brightened your whole day? Tell them in print!

There's no cost. Send 'em in via regular mail to the *Alive!* office: World Trade Center, 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles 90071. Or via e-mail: shoutout@cityemployeesclub.com. We'll print as many as we can.