

## Political Forum



by **Tom LaBonge,**  
Councilmember, 4<sup>th</sup> District

## Volunteer Your Time To Make Los Angeles a Better City

■ Everyone benefits when you get involved.

One of my favorite sayings is: "To love Los Angeles, you must live Los Angeles." This is my way of encouraging Angelenos to become engaged in their neighborhood, their community, local causes and projects. Once you get to know the names of people living and working around you on something of mutual concern and interest, Los Angeles becomes a much friendlier and more intimate city.

Ways to become connected include becoming active in homeowners groups, neighborhood councils, business improvement districts, police and park advisory boards and "Friends of ..." organizations. There's also a whole host of associations that help determine the ways things are managed on a grass-roots level. Another way is by becoming a volunteer.

Volunteer is an old-fashioned term for a private citizen who gives his or her free time to schools, institutions and non-profits without compensation. They are invaluable human resources to countless people and places throughout Los Angeles. City Hall has them—they are called the Angelinas—and they give tours of our historic landmark building. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and all museums, have them—they are called docents and give visitors guided tours of permanent and traveling exhibits.

Council District 4 is distinguished by the fact that so many city landmarks are within its borders, plus the city's largest urban park, Griffith Park. If I could communicate one message to you, a committed resident of any of our great neighborhoods, it is this: become involved! Give a little of yourself, and I'll guarantee that you'll get so much back in return. You can join an existing group, or spend a day with others cleaning and beautifying a local park or other public space. ■

### Council District 4 includes these communities:

- Atwater Village
- Hollywood
- North Hollywood
- Hollywood Hills
- Griffith Park
- Toluca Lake
- Mid City
- Silver Lake
- Studio City
- Wilshire Center/Koreatown

### Here are some suggestions for how you can make a difference. Join:

- Your neighborhood council
- Your homeowners association
- Your Neighborhood Watch group
- Friends of the Griffith Observatory (323) 664-1191 [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)
- Travel Town Museum (323) 662-5874 [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)
- Autry Museum of Western Heritage (323) 667-2000 [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)
- Friends of the Los Angeles River (323) 223-0585 [www.folar.org](http://www.folar.org)
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art (323) 857-6000 [www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)
- Page Museum at the La Brea Tarpits (323) 934-7243 [www.tarpits.org](http://www.tarpits.org)
- Friends of the Los Angeles Library (213) 228-7515 [www.lapl.com](http://www.lapl.com)

Thank you!

Each month, *Alive!* invites political leaders to speak directly to City and DWP employees and retirees. *Alive!* brings you these views as a public service. The opinions of those on this monthly column are independent of *Alive!* and the City Employees Club of Los Angeles.

## Just the Facts, Ma'am: Detectives to Be Honored at 'Joe Friday' Event Nov. 22

The Los Angeles Police Museum and Community Education Center plan to host "A Night With Joe Friday": A Tribute to LAPD Detectives Real and Reel" from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

The event will be held at the Los Angeles Police Museum and Community Education Center, 6045 York Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Cost is \$20 each. Tickets include barbecue dinner and door prizes.

The evening will feature the debut of the new detective logo.

### Other highlights of the evening:

- The Copper Creek Band
- A special awards ceremony honoring the Area Hat Squad Detective of the Year, the Specialized Detective Division Hat Squad Detective of the Year, and the Ray Pinker Forensic Specialist of the Year
- The first showing of the North Hollywood Band Shootout display
- Several LAPD authors
- And no neckties are allowed!

Checks should be made payable to the LAPHs (Los Angeles Police Historical Society). The last day to purchase tickets is Nov. 14.

For more information, contact LAPHs at (323) 344-9445, or Det. Lorie Taylor or Merna Oakley at the Detective Bureau: (213) 847-4491. ■



"A Night With Joe Friday"

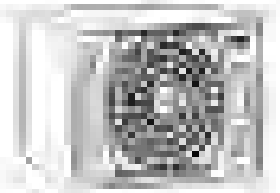
Tribute to LAPD Detectives Real & Reel  
Saturday, November 22, 2003

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