Cecilia Talbot,
Club Claims Administrator

The Word on the Street

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

PRAISE

I can only say one word about your service: beautiful. Tell all of the staff thank you from the bottom of my heart. Like I said, I evaluate the service as beautiful. Thank you again. Love to you all.

—Beverly Ealey

Your services are exceptional. I evaluated your services exceptional because you acted in a professional manner and knew when you what you were doing.

—Jose Solis

The people I spoke to over the phone were very compassionate and prompt in taking care of my request. I received my husband's insurance benefit shortly after my request. I appreciated the quick service. Thank you to the City Employees Club.

—Rochelle E. Snyder

I had no knowledge that the deceased had this insurance until [I was] notified by your representative. Your letter to me was precise about what you needed to process the claim. I submitted those documents and subsequently received your check… She was courteous and assured me that I could contact her if she could be of further assistance.

—Barbara Criner

Trust the Club …
with your family's insurance needs.
Trust the Club …
with your long-term disability concerns.

We have more than $2 billion of insurance in force, protecting you and your family.

… Trust the Club

LETTERS to the Editor

City Council Should Address Violence Against City Workers

Regarding the attacks on Animal Services employee Jackie David—we in Rec and Parks have long been subjected to every type of attack, i.e. verbal threats, physical threats and actual use of weapons guns, knives) against our people, with some injuries as a result (to my knowledge no deaths; last death was in the 1970s, when an Aquatic Employee was shot to death at the Coliseum Pool). These threats have resulted not only in physical injuries, but more importantly on mental stress, forcing some employees to resign or suffer stressful working environment.

Most of us that have been working many years, have "accepted" this as part of our job and have dealt with it in different forms as most of the time neither the department nor the City have been able to do much, except instruct the victim (employee) to "write a Special Occurrence & Loss Report." Several years ago when I was assaulted by a father, I made a police report and I was desperately trying to have the department help me with this situation as I did not feel safe at my work location, but I did not receive any help from anyone or any department. I had to do a restraining order by myself.

I have also been threatened and attacked by gang members; the department's response has been negligible . One time I was even accused of "cowardness" for failing to stop gang activity leading to my attack by them (gang).

I don't know what the answer is, but perhaps the City Council might want to start considering making it unlawful to attack or threaten City employees while on performance of our work, just like the postal employees and other federal employees have, by perhaps making the attacks felonies instead of misdemeanors, making threats a crime, and adding stiffer sentences to these threats and attacks. (This should also include property damages. For example my vehicles have been heavily vandalized due to attacks by patrons.)

—Richard Nieto, Rec and Parks

YOUR LETTERS

City Deaths Remind Him to Live Each Day Like It's Last

I wouldn't have known about the passing of City employees if it weren't for *Alive!*

Dang. What's up with our own? I'm really sorry to hear that last month several City employees passed away. These regrettable events make me think about life in general. The reality is that this is a rude awakening for anyone thinking that we're invincible. We've all got to take better care of ourselves, like having a healthy diet, using common sense in all of our decisions and not do things like drinking and driving, getting enough sleep, eating hamburgers and fries for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

But even then, there is nothing we can do about accidents, so it's best to live like today is your last day. That's what I do, and life today (right now at this minute) couldn't be better for me.

—Jaime Avila, Street Services

Congratulations to DOT for Coming Up Roses in Pasadena

You know I've worked for the City for over 22 years, and I've never heard about our work being outsourced. All I ever heard were rumors about the City jobs being replaced by contract workers. So, I guess what I'm trying to say is congratulations to the DOT! I read about how you were asked by the City of Pasadena to help them cover the Rose Parade in the last issue and was really impressed. Hopefully we'll see more and more of this happening – and you know, it makes me proud to be a City employee.

—John Lechlinski, General Services

Retiree Really Enjoys Page With Phil Skarin, Ed Harding

Hello *Alive!* I am a retiree who lives all alone at Lake Elsinore. I just wanted to tell you that I really enjoy reading the Retiree News page, especially the Member News section. It gives me quite a lift to know that there are other retirees out there celebrating anniversaries and the like.

I also really like Phil Skarin's "Thought for the Day." Do you know if he writes those himself? Oh, and one more item, do you know if that Ed Harding fellow is single? I think he's quite handsome. Thanks for listening.

—Mary Rose Wilkins, Club Member

Mary Rose: Phil Skarin often does write the "Thought of the Day." He will be happy that you enjoy them.—Ed.

Billy's Golf Bragging Sounds A Lot Like a Challenge to Us

Since my most embarrassing start to my golfing career last year at the RLACEI Annual Golf Tournament, I spent long-excruciating hours after working long-excruciating hours as a golf starter. I've spent hundreds of dollars on customizing my golf clubs to get my perfect swing. I have read 73 golf books. Even spent over $4,000 on training sessions with PGA golfers.

I've done all this because I will never again experience the defeat I experienced last year at the hands of the RLACEI members or any other City golf tournament again. So, now I welcome anyone with enough City courage to compete against me. It's my goal to enter every City golf event and win! That's right, win! This is my pledge to all my fellow colleagues: Pound for pound, I'm the best golfer the City of Los Angeles has ever existed, and I'll show it starting with the 19th annual Building and Safety Golf Tournament on April 18th at the Porter Valley Country Club. There'd better be an *Alive!* photographer there to document my performance as the City's greatest city employee golfer of all time!

—William "Billy Big Clubs" Greene, Rec and Parks

Now Retired, She Has Time to Bake, Send Recipes to Club Chef

After 30 years of City service, I have a lot of time on my hands to do the things I didn't have time to do while I was working. For one thing, I've taken up cooking and I'm learning to bake. I wonder if Chef Robert Larios can offer some baking recipes and tips, especially with baking breads. I've read every column and I don't think Chef Robert has ever had a baking recipe. I reckon he's not a baker. Once I get better at baking, maybe I'll send in a few of my own delightful baking recipes.

—Joyce Miller, Retired, Engineering

Joyce, read this month's Cooking With the Club, for a response from Chef Larios. And feel free to send us your recipes any time you want. Our mouths are watering already.—Ed.

There Was a Lot of Barney To Go Around Last Month

My sister said my favorite cartoon Barney works with Daddy. Daddy's newspaper has a picture of a man. His name is Lawrence Barney. He is not the real Barney from TV. Daddy said people like Lawrence Barney. Daddy said kids like him. I think Barney and Lawrence Barney are friends.

—Heather Howard, Daughter of Tim Howard, DWP

Heather, thank you for writing. You are charming! The Barney on TV is very lucky to have a friend as nice as you. (Heather is referring to the story we published last month about the retirement of Lawrence Barney.)—Ed.

Call Him Crazy, But This Adult Is Coloring With Green

A coloring contest for adults? I have to admit I thought it was a joke at first. But I guess you guys are really serious. And once I saw the prize of $100 I went scurrying for some crayons and pens and whatever else I could dig up. My grandkids think I'm crazy but I don't care, I'm going to win this one; I may be retired but I can still color inside the lines!

—Leroy Clemens, Retired Tree Surgeon

Lindsay Teaches Us a Lesson About Gratitude, Happiness

Hi. Thank you for sending me a Beanie Baby. I know I didn't win the coloring contest, but it's okay because I got the Beanie Baby in the mail. My mom said I should say thank you so that's why I'm writing.

Does anyone like Avatar the Last Air Bender? It's a new show on Nick. I really like it.

Thanks.

—Lindsay Lovgren, 8 years old

WRITE TO US TODAY!

Send your letters by email to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or conventionally:

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