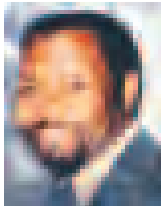


## City Holds Memorial for Flores, Garris

Public Works employees Rene Flores and Ricardo Garris, killed while at field office, are memorialized at service.



Rene Flores



Ricardo Garris

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor; Photos by Robert Larios, Club Operations Director

The City held a memorial service March 10 for Rene Flores and Ricardo Garris, who were shot and killed in late February by a co-worker. Flores was 54; Garris was 49.

The service began as Valerie Lynne Shaw, President of the Board of Public Works, welcomed the attendees. Mayor Hahn, City Council Members, and Members of the Board of Public Works followed with their remarks. Then, several colleagues from the Bureau of Street Services shared their reflections. And, Street Superintendent II the Rev. Bruce Jones offered words of inspiration. Finally, the

See Passings, Page 22

## Club's Annual Meeting Marks Successful Year

Cecilia Talbot, Susan Valencoure are honored with prestigious Club awards.

Photos by Summy Lam, Club's IT Guru

"Explore. Dream. Discover."



Cecilia Talbot  
PRESIDENT'S  
AWARD WINNER

"It's from a quote of Mark Twain's and we felt that it was very appropriate for the next twelve months," said Club CEO John Hawkins to the staffers, Club reps and vendors who gathered Feb. 22 for the Club's 77th annual meeting Feb. 22 high atop City Hall.

Hawkins continued: "The full quote is:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than

See Annual Meeting, Page 22



# Irish For a Day!

Photos by Alive! Staff

Downtown turns green as the annual St. Patrick's Day parade enjoys a new route and more participants and viewers.

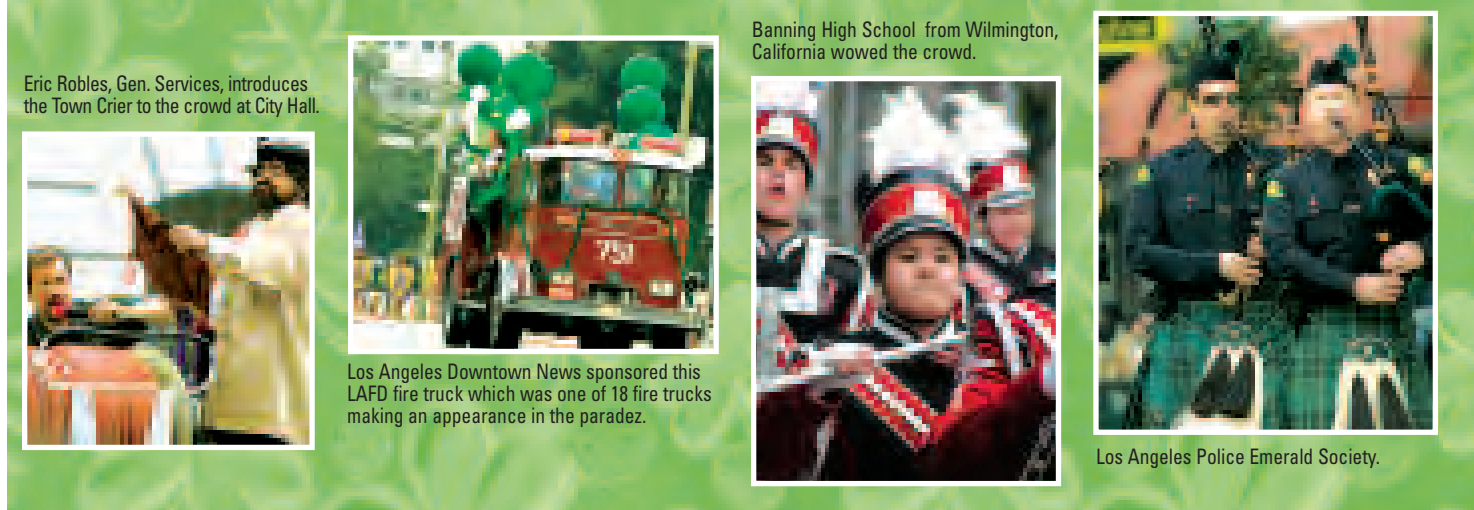
The sixth annual version of the downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade found a new end point (Olvera Street), a new route, a new participant (Mayor Jim Hahn) and new interest all around!

Congratulations to all who made it happen. Club reporters were on location, asking City employees what they thought about the parade. Here are some of the comments:

Mary Reuschel, Management Analyst I, Fire Department: "I went last year, and there is much more participation this year. It's also nice to see so many

ABOVE: Staff members from Councilman Tom LaBonge's office enjoy the annual St. Patrick's Day parade March 17

See Parade, Page 8



Eric Robles, Gen. Services, introduces the Town Crier to the crowd at City Hall.



Los Angeles Downtown News sponsored this LAFD fire truck which was one of 18 fire trucks making an appearance in the parade.

Banning High School from Wilmington, California wowed the crowd.



Los Angeles Police Emerald Society.

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# Two City Employees Are Mourned

## Passings

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Director of the Bureau of Street Services, William Robertson, delivered the closing remarks.

The deaths came as a shock to a City family still reeling from the deaths of three City employees: Julia Bennett and Alfonso Caballero in the fatal Metrolink accident and derailment, and Rory Shaw while he was attending to a sink-hole emergency on Tujunga Boulevard in Sun Valley. The shooting occurred barely a week after the death of Shaw, and on the same day the City hosted a memorial service for him.

At about 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24, a City employee, Thomas Sampson, walked into a Street Services field office south of downtown and shot his supervisor and a co-worker, killing them both.

The field office is at 2474 E. Olympic Blvd. The victims were Flores, Sampson's supervisor, and Garris, Sampson's co-worker. Both victims were discovered by a co-worker who had returned to the worksite.

According to the LAPD, detectives learned that Sampson and his supervisor, Rene Flores, had a phone conversation regarding Sampson being late for work. Following the counseling, Sampson abandoned his City-owned work truck on the 10 Freeway in West Los Angeles and took a bus to where he had parked his personal car. Sampson drove home, changed from his work clothes into a suit, armed himself with an assault rifle, drove to 2474 E. Olympic Blvd, and waited for Flores to return to work, the LAPD says. Sampson confronted Flores inside the office and shot him, the police report says. Sampson also shot Ricardo Garris, a co-worker, who happened to be in the office at the time, according to the LAPD.

Sampson left the Street Services site, drove to Hollenbeck Police Station and surrendered to officers, the report indicates. Police say they recovered the assault rifle at the time of Sampson's surrender. Sampson was arrested and booked for the murders of his co-workers.

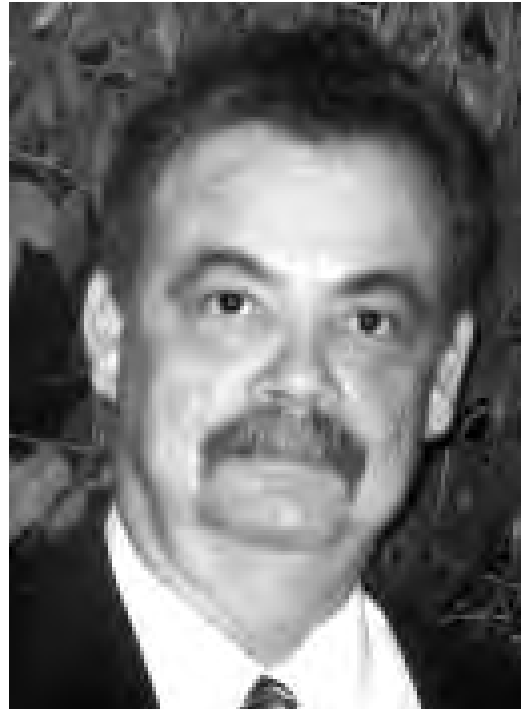
## Rene Flores

Rene Flores was a supervisor and bridge repair expert in the Bureau of Street Services, Public Works. He was a 22-year veteran of the bureau, a very hard worker who volunteered for weekend shifts and planned to retire in two years.

The Sunland resident was engaged to be married this year.

Rene enjoyed spending time with his family, gardening, sailing and riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

He is survived by his mother, his fiancé, children from previous marriages, and five brothers and sisters.



## Ricardo Garris

Ricardo "Big Rick" Garris was reportedly Rene Flores's right-hand man on the bridge repair detail in Street Services. He was a 23-year veteran of the City.

The Inglewood resident enjoyed riding motorcycles and bikes, racing cars, watching boxing matches and helping others.

He is survived by his widow, Yvette Williams.



# Club Recaps Year of Achievements at Annual Meeting

## Annual Meeting

Continued from Page 1

by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. That's very appropriate for us in the year ahead."

### The meeting featured:

- great news of the Club's success delivered by Board President Mike Biagi, and;
- prestigious Club awards to two very dedicated people, Club Claims Administrator Cecilia Talbot and Club Rep Susan Valencoure.

"I'm beginning to realize that 2004 turned out to be one of our more successful years in recent memory," recounted Club Board President Mike Biagi. "LACEA reached 99.6 percent of its revenue goal, and Insurance Services came in at an even 98 percent. Our insurance in force is holding strong at a record high of \$2.17 billion and total membership is climbing past a staggering 15,400!"

"The *Alive!* newspaper made it to 52 pages. Remember when it was just 16?"

"And we had the most 'popular' refund check on record, if not the largest - \$900,000 of the \$1 million was cashed within the first 21 days!" Biagi said.

"Clubfest 2004 at Calamigos Ranch was awesome! It was a beautiful day filled with friends, family, food and fun! We have already begun planning for 2005, and we are looking forward to making it even more outstanding than last year.

"Topping all this off has been staff's relentless pursuit of providing the ultimate in customer service, while at the same time celebrating the lives and work of City employees. It's what the Club is all about.

"I would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions and dedication to the Club," Biagi said. "The continued success of the club will be made possible by the team effort of the staff, the department reps and the board to make 2005 a stellar year!"



From left: Club Board Members Regner Globus, Maria Romasanta, Michael Leighton, Michael Biagi and Rita Robinson. Not present: Robyn Barnes.

Club Board Member Regner Globus enjoys a moment with those in attendance.



New Club Chairman of the Board Michael Biagi addresses those in attendance at the annual meeting.

Club Chief Financial Officer Brian Trent and Club Board Member Regner Globus talk about the current financial health of the Club.



Club Board Member Maria Romasanta and Club CFO Brian Trent.

Back, from left: Ling Kaufman (Club Department Rep from the Controller's Office); Lupe Medina, Club Administrative Services Representative; and Trinh Pham, Club Accountant. Front: Cecelia Talbot, Club Claims Administrator.



From left: Club President John Hawkins expresses his gratitude for the Club's success, and voices optimism for its future.





Mayor and mayoral campaign candidate Jim Hahn, LAFD Chief Bill Bammatre and Miss Olvera Street.

# Irish For a Day!



Celebrity guest star Sheila Kelley.

## Downtown Sees Green

### Parade

*Continued from Page 1*

Councilmembers and the Mayor; I was very surprised to see him and I'm happy that he's out here."

Eloisa Paguia, Management Analyst II, IIA: "This is great. It's the first time I have ever attended. Because it goes by City Hall, I can just come down during lunch."

Councilman Tom LaBonge: "It's a great parade, and it's getting better - we are now going to Olvera Street!"

Jose Linaras, Parking Attendant I: "Awesome!"

Luis Perez, Parking Attendant: "The best I've seen."

Councilman Antonio Villagarosa: "This is my third year. It's great; it's getting bigger and bigger; it's better attended and better organized this time around. In a sense, St. Patrick's Day is almost an American tradition in many ways and it's a great opportunity for us here in L.A. to get out and celebrate the many ethnic communities that make up L.A. We need every chance to bring people together."

Club Member Mark Barrera, Automobile Dispatcher, Gen. Services: "I'm always glad when there is something to celebrate!"

Linda Mikell-Hoyt, IIA: "I'm so happy they changed the parade route to have it go past City Hall."

Eric Maya, DOT, Transportation Engineer: "There is so much activity and excitement here, this parade is fun to watch."

*Erin Go Bragh!*



Councilman Tom LaBonge on foot.



Children performing traditional Irish dancing.



The Jakers!



From left to Right: Jose Flores, Parking Attendant I; Luis Perez, Parking Attendant, and Jose Linaras, Parking Attendant I.



From left: Linda Mikell-Hoyt, IIA, and Alina Yeghyazarians, IIA, enjoying the parade as it passes by City Hall.



The parade begins with the Los Angeles Police Emerald Society.



The Wells Fargo Stage Coach breaks from the trails to participate in this year's parade.



Captain Fowiks, LAFD, talking with the Club CEO John Hawkins.

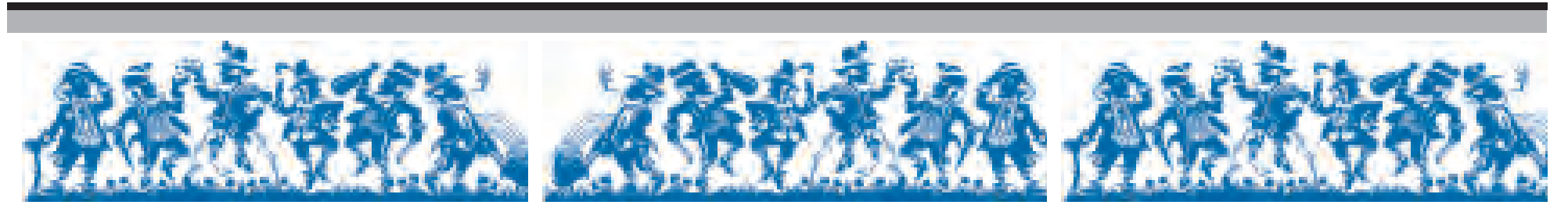


Eric Robles, GSD and Mona Curry, GSD.



Finbar Hill, the Honorary Consul of Ireland.





Los Angeles Police Emerald Society.



LAFD Chief Bill Bammatre and his wife, Liz.



Eric Maya, DOT, Transportation Engineer, 2 years, just moved into the CALTRANS building across from City Hall.



Miss Olvera Street, with LAFD Chief Bill Bammatre and his wife, Liz Bammatre.



The LAPD Rescue Vehicle.



Councilman Benard Parks.



Banning High School in Wilmington participated with a roar from the band and flair from the flag girls.



Councilman and Mayoral Candidate Antonio Villaraigosa.



Eric Robles, Gen. Services, introduces the Town Crier to the crowd at City Hall.



Some staff members from Councilmember Tom LaBonge's office ride in the parade, greeting the parade viewers and enjoying the moment.



Officer Humphrey, DOT West Division, makes sure the traffic flows smoothly.



Banning High School.



Casey's Party Bus was one of the wildest parade participants.



From left: Eloisa Paguia, Management Analyst II, ITA, with Mary Reuschel, Management Analyst I, Fire Department.



From left: Club Member Mark Barrera, Automobile Dispatcher, Gen. Services. He was in charge of maintaining the City Council automobiles during the parade; with new Club member Donald Moreno, Maintenance Laborer, Gen. Services, Safety Representative..



A band at Pershing Square.



Councilman Eric Garcetti.



Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell of the LAPD.