

Maxine Bids Adieu

■ Maxine Williams retires from the DWP.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Communications and Marketing

DWP — Friends and co-workers threw a retirement party for Maxine Williams May 19. The party was held at Receiving Station G, 2625 Fletcher Dr.

During her career, Maxine Williams worked with the DWP, City Attorney and CDD departments. Live music was provided by the Jumbalaya Band. A lunch barbecue was provided as well.

Congratulations, Maxine. Enjoy your retirement!



Maxine Williams, retiree, was well-liked and loved by many with the DWP and the community.



Maxine Williams' husband Jimmy R. Williams, Facility Manager, Rec and Parks, 28 years.



From left: Jessie Adams, Evette Adams and Dora Sabodie.



From left: Ted Higginson, Maintenance Laborer, DWP, 5 years; and Wendell Lagarde, Electric Station Operator, DWP, 6 years.



Merrlin Morris, Management Analyst II, DWP, 1.5 years.



Ed Bryant, Warehouse/TLRM Worker, 26 years.



Raoul McMillan, Warehouse/TLRWM Worker, 24 years.



Donald Bakeer.



Donna Benson, Senior Clerk Typist, DWP, 3 years.



From left: Maxine Williams, retiree, and Althea Turner, Sr. Clerk Typist, DWP, 30 years.



Joe Bradley, Maintenance Laborer, DWP.



Mr. Torres, Assistant Superintendent, Metro OCC, 21 years.

The Pet Club

Um, Excuse Me, But There's a Bear in My Pool



The bear gets ready to go for a swim.



The bear in the backyard.

Animal Services receives some of the most exciting service calls, and on this particular day, May 22, at 6:15 p.m., it was no different.

West Valley received a call for a bear that was in his front yard on the 17800 block of Orna Drive in Granada Hills. An Animal Control Officer was immediately dispatched to the area. Officer Robert Weekley arrived just in time to see a very distressed and panting black bear climb a fence into the rear yard of someone home. The bear was panting heavily, and kept going up to the wrought-iron gate looking toward the pool. Officer Weekley opened the gate leading into the pool area and, low and behold, the bear immediately dove into the water, and spent about 45 minutes swimming. This was all despite the human onlookers who gathered to watch.

It appears that the bear wandered down onto Seson Boulevard from the steep terrain of the Santa Susana Mountains, just north of Granada Hills, and probably came through O'Melveny Park. Once on the City streets, the bear panicked and ran as its presence drew attention.

Animal Services Personnel contacted the California Fish and Game Department, which responded quickly to the incident. Wardens Cindy Wood and Mike Stefanak determined the best course of action was to tranquilize and release the bear. At the direction of Animal Services, LAFD and LAPD made their personnel available, and followed our instructions.

The bear was tranquilized quickly and without incident, which the wardens attribute to the bear beings so calm. As the drug took affect the bear took a misstep and fell back into the pool. It was secured, however, both head and rear leg.

The bear was taken to the nearby mountains to an undisclosed location. Wildlife Animal Control Officer Troy Boswell and Wardens Wood and Stefanak stood by as the bear came to and ensured the bear was mobile and alert before leaving around midnight.

Facts About Bears

California has a large population of black bears, estimated to be approximately 16,000 to 24,000 animals. They range in color from black to cinnamon, often with a white blaze on the chest.

One hungry bear is capable of causing thousands of dollars worth of property damage in a single incident. By law, a homeowner who has taken steps to eliminate bear attractants but

still suffers property damage can obtain a permit from California Fish and Game to kill the bear causing the problem.

Over the years, wildlife agencies around the country have tried to solve bear/human conflicts by capturing and moving "problem bears" to other locations. Almost without exception the bear suffers one of three fates:

- it returns to the place where it was captured (and resumes its problem behavior);
- it remains in its new location, continuing the problem behaviors; or
- it dies in its new location as a result of conflicts with other bears.

If you encounter a bear, never approach it. Give it plenty of room to pass by. Most black bears try to avoid confrontation when given the chance.

Bears are attracted to anything smelly or edible, especially garbage. Bears are also attracted to beehives, orchards and gardens. Animal Services has a pamphlet with information and guidelines to help keep your home "bear-proof." Also, you can contact Department of Fish and Game for further information.



Animal Services Officers (from left) Troy Boswell and Dawn Newman with the tranquilized bear. The bear was later released into the mountains unharmed.

Send Questions

Karen Knipscheer has worked for Animal Services for 16 years; she worked in the field as an officer, then lieutenant, then captain. She was a district manager and a hearing examiner before recently becoming the public information officer. Feel free to welcome her; write to her at: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Karen Knipscheer, Public Information Officer, Animal Services

