

# LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## LETTER OF THE MONTH

### Chef Larios Fan Wonders How He Gets the Details to Pan Out

Ah ha! Chef Larios has returned to form with his Parmesan recipe. I tried it; it was easy to make, and tasty. The chef knows his stuff. I'm a believer. I have two questions about the photography, though. Who takes the photos at the kitchen? Is this the kitchen at the Club?

— **Elena Gomez, Chef Larios fan**

*Very observant, Elena. When Chef Larios does not have the help of staff or family to take the photographs, he in fact takes them himself. It is a challenge to do this while making sure that the food does not burn. If the Club had a kitchen like those used by the chef, everyone would want to work at the Club. The truth is that he likes to use the kitchen at the Larios family ranch. —Ed.*



### Support City Employees on The Labor Negotiating Team

Hello fellow Club Members. My name is Brian Hollenbaugh. I am a Detention Officer for the Los Angeles Police Department. I am also a member of the contract negotiation team that will be negotiating our next contract with the City.

This time SEIU has joined with the following unions: AFSCME district council 36, IUOE Local 501, Teamsters local 911, the Los Angeles and Orange Counties Construction trades, and the Laborers local 777. We are known as the Coalition of LA City Unions. By negotiating with all the unions as one, we feel that this will help us against the City of L.A.

Contract negotiations are now under way. I am sure that you are aware of the importance of this contract. I know that I understand the importance of it. I would like to remind everyone, that even though we were elected to do the negotiating, we only get paid if the meetings occur during our scheduled shift. If the meeting goes beyond our scheduled shift, or takes place on our day off, then we are on our own time. The members of this contract negotiation team will be putting in long hours, and we will be sacrificing time with our family and friends. Nonetheless, we are committed to making sure that we bring back a good contract. So, if you happen to work with someone who is on the bargaining team, please thank them for what they are doing. The union has had bumper stickers and buttons made, saying that we are proud to serve L.A. Please place a

sticker on your city vehicle, or wear a button. Show that you are proud to serve L.A.

The City is a good employer, and who knows where we would be without the job that we do.

Thanks. It would mean a lot to us, and we sure appreciate the support.

— **Brian Hollenbaugh, Detention Officer, LAPD; Club Member**

### Griffith Park Fire Story Had This Reader on Fire

The Griffith Park fire story was the kind of reading I could not put down until I finished. I mean this was really good stuff, and the photos were out of sight. I had not a clue that flames could get that large, and I would not be surprised to learn that one of the *Alive!* cameras melted. It was such a sad deal.

Based on your article, it was good to know that all kinds of City Departments helped out to put the fire out and restore order.

— **Joe Trevor, Retired**

### Tom LaBonge's Griffith Actions Make Him a Hero to Mary Rose

Boy oh boy, you fellas really outdid yourselves this time. The pictures of the Griffith Park fire coverage were visually captivating, and the interviews were mentally stimulating. And it was real nice to see my hero, Tommy LaBonge, out there doing whatever he could to protect his beloved park. It really made an old soul like me wish I were back in Los Angeles working for the City again. Keep up

the wonderful work, *Alive!* staff. You make me proud.

— **Mary Rose Wilkens, dyed-in-the-wool Club Member, Retired City Employee**

### Taking Kids to Work Helps To Make Families Stronger

My favorite article in the newspaper was the one about taking the children to work. It was great to see the various departments like DWP, Harbor, Fire, and others dedicate a day to bring the kids to work. I think it's healthy for the children to see where their parents go every day. Sometimes, parents and their children can't spend as much time as they like during the workweek, and a day like this is precious.

— **Tina Gertrude, Rec and Parks**

### A Light Turns On for Jerry To Try to Start Saving Energy

The Forbes house is incredible. I wish more homes were like this. I wish my home were like the Forbes home. Imagine if all the homes everywhere that used electricity were green. If there are people who don't like the idea of going green — why not do it for the reason of saving some green. What I mean is saving money. It looks like you can save a lot of money on utilities if you do anything with solar power. I'm ready to buy some solar panels!

— **Jerry Riley, DWP**

### Can DWP Do More to Make Power With Solar Panels?

After reading your article on the Forbes family and what they did to create free electricity, why doesn't the DWP put thousands of solar panels in all that empty property where the power lines run? It could go right back into the grid! Maybe someone at *Alive!* could present this question to the DWP, as I'm sure you will get a better response than me.

— **Brenda Roberts**

*What a great question! We'll forward this to the Power division of the DWP. Look for an answer soon. — Ed.*

### Forbes House Story Reminds That We Should All Be Doing It

Loved your story on the family that turned their house into an energy-independent dwelling. We should all be doing this.

— **N. Guerra — Public Works**

### Zine Awards Is Just One Way City Employees Are Honored

The Zine awards story was nice. Honestly, I didn't know this existed. I asked around to see if there was something like this for City

Employees working for other departments, and it looks like the Career Service Awards and the Quality and Productivity Awards do something similar. Have you guys thought of covering those for the newspaper?

— **Toby Smith, Airports**

*Thanks for the kind words. Everyone involved with the Zine Awards does a stellar job, and it gets bigger and better every year. We were honored to have been invited by Dennis Zine and his staff to cover the event for *Alive!* You may have noticed already that we published articles on both the Career Service Awards and the Quality and Productivity Awards in this issue (as we do most every year). Enjoy! — Ed.*

### Nice to Know That Something Like Zine Awards Does Exist

Hey, just wanted to say that I was impressed with Councilman Zine's Z Awards. I never heard about this before until I read it in *Alive!* Thanks for keeping me up-to-date, and it's nice to know that heroes still exist in the City.

— **George Zamara, *Alive!* fan**

### When It Comes to Picture Perfect, Terry and George in Same Boat

The photo that George Cormany took for the Picture Perfect Contest was super cool. It looks like something out of a pirate's movie.

— **Terry Milestroh, DWP**

### He Wonders if City Benefits Are Going to the City Dogs

Last month, I read the article called Training the Dog Trainers. It's nice to see City departments team up to make things happens like the LAPD and the Airport Police in maintaining the dog explosive detection program. I wonder if police dogs like Eno and Lusi have City benefits like City Employees.

— **Troy Hillenbrand, Airports**

*Troy, we aren't sure if City benefits are being afforded to the City dogs, but we would never say you're barking up the wrong tree. Perhaps the Club will consider creating some great Canine benefits to compliment the Club's Pet Insurance. We'll keep you informed. — Ed.*

### More Nice Words for *Alive!* For Showcasing the City's Best

Thanks Club for always highlighting the best of what us city employees have to offer!

— **Paulette Jaccamazzi**

# NOW'S THE TIME FOR CLUBFEST