

LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

LETTER OF THE MONTH



We All Have Names and Stories; We Are All Human

You know, I see the guy you featured in your "People We See" section, Mike McDowell, all the time, but I never really gave him the time of day. Now I usually buy him a sandwich when I go to Quizno's, and best of all I can call him by name.

Thanks *Alive!* You are always thinking of new ways to connect with fellow humans.

— Tommy Langsley

Is the Red Carpet Really The Best Place for Mayor?

Hi, *Alive!* Here's just an off-the-wall comment. My wife was looking at all the Oscar Award pictures online, and suddenly she let out a cry of disgust. I ran over to see what all the fuss was about, and she was pointing at a picture of Mayor Villaraigosa on the red carpet. First thing she said was, "What's he doing there?"

Anyway, I have to admit, it does look silly when he's supposed to be a man of the people. He should have been out with the poor street people who were displaced by the Oscar show, making sure they had warm food and shelter. But instead, he donned his tux and schmoozed with the celebrities. Maybe one day we'll start electing politicians who are really there for the people -- you know, people like Councilman Tom LaBonge or Janice Hahn. Oh well, one day, I guess.

— Michael, Public Works

Where's the Mayor? I haven't heard anything about him like I used to.

— Jim Russell, Rec and Parks

Well, we know one place he was. See above. — Ed.

Apparently the City Created At Least 2 More Lovebirds

Now I really wish I had sent my Valentine story of my and my hubby. We too met in the City. Hopefully next year *Alive!* will do this again. I loved this article!

— Edwina Johnson, GSD

It was one of our favorites, too. Congrats to Yvonne Liu, Finance, who came up with the idea, found the couples and wrote a nice story for Valentine's Day. — Ed.

Downtown Revival: Better Place for City Employees

I really like the redevelopment that is going on in Downtown Los Angeles. I remember 10 years ago, it was a dismal place to go, but how

things have changed with the new business coming in, the creation of Staples Center, the new housing opportunities, and there's even a Ralph's supermarket, the largest in California. I also hear that Trader Joe's is coming in along with Whole Foods Market. My how things have changed.

— Reggie Jones, General Services

The new Parker Center is looking great! Those construction workers are really moving. I remember it was just a few weeks ago that all I saw were the steel beams and in just a few weeks, walls and windows have been put up. I hope that when it's all said and done that the building is inviting and pleasant to look at as well as inviting to the community.

— Lori Tramelle, Transportation

If Only Tom LaBonge Could Represent Her District, Too

I really don't know how you guys do it. That story last month on Tom LaBonge was fantastic. It really captured the essence of his energy and enthusiasm. I wish he were the Councilman in my district!

— Lucy Hartman, LAPD

Nice job on the interview with Tom LaBonge. Keep up the great work!

— Salvador Menendez, Public Works

Tax on Home Sales Could Pay for Local Street Services

I look forward to the day that all of our streets and sidewalks are redone. I hear that the City Council wants to add a tax to homeowners when they move out to help pay for the services needed on the streets. There are pros and cons to that, but the day my neighborhood potholes and cracked sidewalks are redone, I know my property value is going to skyrocket. That's something for us all to think about.

— Julie Hewitt, Retired

QUESTION of the Month

Our Club Counselors are all over the City, every day, serving our Club Members. While we're out, we'll be asking City employees a fun question. Keep your eyes open... you never know when we'll be asking you what you think!

You can take only one item with you while stranded on a deserted island. What would it be?

"My wife."
— Mario Macias, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, 3 years of City service, Club Member since 2006.



"The Bible."
— Christy Sherrod, LAX, Club Member since 2002.

"A crate of tequila!"
— Pete Vega, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, 7 years of City service, Club member since 2003.



"My wife, Susie."
— Roland Cooper, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, 3 years of City service, Club member since 2008.

"The Bible."
— Latisha Swader, LAX, 24 years of City service, Club Member since 2002.



"A giant knife."
— Manuel Placencia, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, Club member since 2002.

"A water-filled canteen."
— Ken Fox, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, 21 years of City service, Club member since 2005.



"A cell phone. No, wait ... a satellite phone with fully charged battery pack."
— Steve Hall, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, 18 years of City service, Club member since 2002.

"A high carbon stainless steel survival knife."
— Jeff Quemada, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, 23 years of City service, Club member since 2004.



"The Bible."
— Anthony Hatten, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, 20 years of City service, Club member since 2007.