

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

No. 13 in a series.
JANUARY 2009



Meet Mario Gonzales.



AGE: "I'm 44 years old."

BIRTHPLACE: Los Angeles

MARITAL STATUS: "Single."

FAMILY: "I have one brother, but I haven't talked to him in 10 years. No sisters."

RELIGION: "I am a Catholic."

STRONGEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "When my house was robbed during Christmas time and all our presents were stolen."

EDUCATION: "I made it to ninth grade."

TROPHIES: "Nope."

MILITARY: "I was never in the military."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "To be happy."

FAVORITE FOOD: "I love Mexican food, especially *carne asada* and *carnitas burritos*."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "I love *Pretty Woman*."

FAVORITE ACTOR: "Richard Gere."

FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Julia Roberts and Goldie Hawn."

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "I love comedy, especially George Lopez."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "I love the oldies, from the '50s, '60s and '70s...and little bit of the '80s and '90s."

FAVORITE BOOK: "I've never read a book in my life."

FAVORITE CANDY: "I love chocolate."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "On the streets."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY? "Right here!"

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Be respectful, polite and courteous to people."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR? "Do it right, or don't do it at all."

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? "To love as many beautiful women as I can."

The Club gave Mario a Club t-shirt, snacks, Club tote bag and \$20.

This interview took place Dec. 19.



Newsbrief

REUSABLE BAGS:

Public Works/Sanitation joins the regional environmental group Heal the Bay and a coalition of municipalities, environmental groups and businesses Dec. 15 to encourage Southland residents to move away from single use plastic or paper bags and consider using reusable bags when shopping.

"A Day Without a Bag" highlights a major environmental and educational event created to raise awareness of the ecological hazards and disposal costs of single-use bags that commonly litter streets, neighborhoods, waterways and oceans.

"A Day Without A Bag is a great opportunity to connect our personal shopping needs with our collective environmental challenges," said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works. "Hands-on volunteer stewardship through the use of a reusable bag can have a huge impact on our local neighborhoods, communities and city. A million residents in the city not using a plastic or paper bag, just once a week, saves a million bags a week from entering the waste stream. It's a simple concept, but one with far reaching benefits over time on preventing litter, reducing waste, beautifying communities, and saving marine life."

Sanitation will staff and distribute reusable bags at four locations in the City targeting areas that maybe most impacted by the plastic bag ban or fee. The City Council voted in July to prevent the use of plastic carryout bags in city supermarkets and stores by July 2010. Should the state of California fail to impose a 25-cent fee on shopper's who request plastic bags before then, the city ban will go into effect.

Sanitation donated 1,500 reusable bags to Heal the Bay for distribution at approximately twenty other sites staffed by community based organizations in the City. The main City staffed locations are:

- Vons - 3461 W. Third St., Los Angeles, CA 90020 - (1,000 reusable bags donated by Vons and 500 provided by Sanitation)
- Food 4 Less (Ralphs) - 2750 E 1st St, Los Angeles, CA 90033 - (500 reusable bags donated by Food 4 Less and 500 provided by Sanitation)
- Food 4 Less (Ralphs) - 1820 W Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90047 - (500 reusable bags donated by Food 4 Less and 500 provided Sanitation)
- Panorama Mall near Walmart - Van Nuys Blvd. and Roscoe Blvd, Panorama City, CA 91402 (500 reusable bags provided by Sanitation)

For all City of Los Angeles locations and more information on "A Day Without A Bag," please visit Heal the Bay's Website at www.healthebay.org/nobagday.

About Board of Public Works

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City's second largest municipal division focused on the essential needs of residents for a better quality of life and environmental protection. With a \$559 million operating budget, the department awards more than \$500 million in public service contracts annually that provide for the construction, renovation, and operation of public programs and services including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and urban forest; bridges and sidewalks; sewers and storm drains; integrated solid waste management and recycling; graffiti removal and beautification grants.

The Board is committed to the delivery of quality customer service, to help neighborhoods thrive and benefit from healthier living and working environments. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/bpw.

LIBRARY, INSTANTLY:

Did you know you could reach the Library through several different instant message applications? You can. Here are the addresses:

AOL (AIM): Asklapl
Yahoo: Asklapl
MSN: Asklapl@hotmail.com

IM service is available from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Note: Problems with your library card cannot be resolved through this service.

Who are the people you see every day?