

LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Search Dog Story Is Great, But It Really Gave Her Paws

The article you did on the [LAFD] Search and Rescue [K9] team [*Alive!*, February] was one of the most fascinating articles I've ever read in *Alive!* It was very impressive to read how the K9 teams train in the Sunland landfill to find "victims" and how these people allow themselves to be "buried" for hours at a time. It's a wonderful sacrifice for the greater good.

It was also very interesting to hear how these teams assisted the recoveries in New York on 9/11, Oklahoma City and after Hurricane Katrina had struck. Your staff did a great job on bringing us such wonderful details that we normally wouldn't get to see.

I had one question, though. In looking at the pictures, I observed the dogs walking through quite a bit of rubble. Do they ever wear any sort of protection for their feet?

Thanks again for a great article!

— **Jean Sarfaty,**
LAPD Communications, Club Rep

Hi Jean, thanks for the kind words! We had a terrific time producing that article, and we're glad you enjoyed it as much as we did.



We put your question about paw protection to Deresa Teller, Inspector/Paramedic, and the supervisor of the LAFD's K9 Urban Search and Rescue Team. Here's her answer. —Ed.

"As a whole, we do not have the dogs wear 'booties' because they like to feel what's beneath them, and booties actually make them less sure-footed. We do, however, have the dogs train with

the booties sometimes, just in case they are needed. The times that the booties have been used are if there are chemicals around that can injure the dogs if they walk through them, such as anti-freeze, and if a dog has injured its paw, such as a cut, and possible stitches, to keep the injury as clean as possible. But in the latter case, usually only one paw will be covered. We do not like to cover their paws because dogs cool off by sweating through their feet, as well as panting, of course.

"I have used the booties more often in searches where there were burned-out areas (last year at a mobile-park fire) and, more recently, when search dog Charlotte needed to do a detailed cadaver search in a large garden area where there were lots of thorns (stickers) where she was searching."

Sharing Travel Photos Is Reason For *Alive!* Around the World

Hi, *Alive!* Thank you for the *Alive! Around the World* section, for all the members to share the memorable places we visited. Keep up the excellent work and cheers! to your staff.

— **Shirley Gatlin,**
widow of James Gatlin, Building and Safety

Hi Shirley, we love *Alive! Around the World*, too. We get to see all the great places that Club Members have gone, and maybe even collect an idea or two for our next travels. Keep traveling and sending those photos in. —Ed.

This Club Event Could Last For Three Knights in a Row

Hey Club! I really like the ad you placed in the last newspaper for your Medieval Times Club event. The back page is really cool! It's Knight Hawkins, Knight Larios and Knight Gomez. The knights of the Club, right?

Also, that is great price for the dinner and tournament. I could be wrong, but each ticket is usually something like \$55, right? It really is great to be a Club member when you can get them for \$19.99! Thanks, Club!

— **Roy Jenkins,** General Services

Hi Roy, yes, it's proven to be one of most popular ads. Give a big *Alive!* shoutout to Club Tech Guru Summy Lam, who put it together. It's proven so popular that the event is now sold out. See you there! —Ed.

Dave Reports In on How His Credit Card Loves Club Benefit

Hey there! It's Dave Finkle again and I just wanted to share another one of my fine experiences at Office Depot. The cashier rang up \$65.43 and when I gave her my credit card, it went down to \$42.53. Nice!

— **Dave Finkle,** Housing

Hi Dave, keep on using that great Club benefit at Office Depot, and keep on saving big bucks! This editor uses it all the time. —Ed.

The City Parties in Grand Style In Life, and in Pages of *Alive!*

Whoa! I was pleased to see more holiday parties and gatherings from the Christmas season. Everyone is so very happy and jolly! I feel as though Christmas never really left. I especially like the one from Transportation on page 31. Tanisha Boyd is wearing the reindeer horns headpiece. I love it!

— **Gina Jones,** retired

Hi Gina, we love publishing the stories and photos from all the great City holiday parties. We have to agree with you on the Tanisha holiday haberdashery choice. We love her holiday spirit. —Ed.

Chef Larios Goes Upscale and Gets Mayra, Hubby Cooking

I showed my hubby the cooking column on page 56 of the February newspaper, and, while I think it was a perfect column for the rainy days we've been having, he thinks that Chef Larios could have just used the sharp cheddar cheese because the hubby had never heard of Havarti. He thinks Chef Larios is going too gourmet. But I told him that it was perfect just the way it is, and he later agreed after I made it for him.

— **Mayra Timms,** Rec and Parks

Hi Mayra, so it seems the proof is in the ... cheese! Glad you showed your hubby a better way. —Ed.

Valentine Feature Proves That Even Softball Players Can Love

I think the "Be My Club Valentine" section was darling! I didn't know that love was so strong in the City and with the employees. This is what life is all about. And I even saw a few photos of couples that played in the Softball League like Jordan Price. Happy! Happy! Happy!

— **Julian Reynolds,** LAPD

Hi Julian, it seems that our annual "Be My Club Valentine" has grown more popular than ever. With the way things are in the world at the moment, we couldn't be happier to see Club Members focusing on what really matters. Thanks for writing. —Ed.

QUESTION of the Month



— Collected by Rachael Brecher, Club Store Rep

The Ticket Guy and Rachael at the Club Store ask Club Members fun questions when they visit to purchase tickets or great Club apparel and gifts. So, stop by and join in the fun!

What do you do with the extra sunshine at the end of the day?



"Exercise."

— Russel Flores, Transportation, 11 years of City service



"Go golfing."

— Oscar Atlantis, Public Works, 6 years of City service



"Work out."

— Tanesha Smith, General Services, 13 years of City service



"Go out with my son, enjoying the afternoon at the park."

— Anna Ruiz, LAPD, 24 years of City service



"Go for a walk."

— Tsegalem Woldemariam, Housing, 9 years of City service



"Walk around the neighborhood."

— Joseph Moreno, LAPD, 25 years of City service



"Work in my garden."

— Edward Holmes, 25 years of City service



"Run around playing soccer with my kids."

— Cruz Palmas, DWP, 23 years of City service



"Squeeze in an outdoor workout."

— Kimberly Pipkins, Housing, 3 years of City service



"Work around the house or play with my kids."

— Jose Rodriguez, DWP, 12 years of City service

Something to  Think About

"If you're not frightened that you might fail, you'll never do the job. If you're frightened, you'll work like crazy."

— Cesar Chavez

A reminder from L.A. City's Quality and Productivity Commission:
Always do your best!