

** A Message From the CEO **

Budget or Not, City Work Goes On

by **John Hawkins**
President and CEO, The Club

Have you ever watched *CSI* and wondered: That's amazing! Is that the way it really is?

We traveled to the LAPD's crime lab to answer that question. The truth is, reality might seem less dramatic to the people who do this great service to the City – the scientists there even call it "routine" – but to our eyes, there's nothing routine about it. These remarkable chemists, City employees just like you, are doing great things for all of us.

This new *Alive!* series has been a long time in coming. We've been working with **Yvette Sanchez-Owens** and **Doreen Hudson** in the Scientific Investigation Division for nearly a couple of years now to get our heads around the complex and important things they do, and to figure out away to tell you their story in print. And with the recent headlines, it seemed to be a better time than ever. So we're delighted to bring you the first of this really awesome series.



Club CEO John Hawkins and LAPD Commanding Officer Yvette Sanchez-Owens.

In some ways, this series promises to be our most complex one ever. Everyone in the lab, from Supervising Criminalist **Cherie Will** to Criminalist III **Rick Raffel**, was great in helping us get it right. We think we've gotten the style of this series down now, so you can expect to see more in the future.

Yvette, Cherie and I talked a lot about the City's budget woes. But it's important to remember that, while we talked about it, really good City work was going on all around us. Budgets might be tight, but the great work City employees are doing just continues, day in and day out. That's a tribute to your integrity.

We here at the Club realize that some of you might soon be leaving your City employment, through retirement, early retirement or other ways. Let me reassure you that *you don't have to say goodbye to the Club, when you say goodbye to the City.* You can keep on receiving those great Club benefits. Make sure to give **Tiffany Sy** a call here at the Club, to make your new arrangements. Give her a buzz at (800) 464-0452.

We're seeing quite a few retirements, and, in great *Alive!* tradition, we're covering a lot of these retirement parties. We cover four or five in this month's issue alone, and you can expect to see more. At the Club, we celebrate the lives of City employees, and retirements are no exception.

Great City work continues, and the great Club benefits continue, too! I was going to talk about the fun Club event at Medieval Times, but **Ticket Guy** tells me you've already bought every last ticket. I'm not surprised in the least; that's what I love to see! I'll see you there!

As the sun shines longer every day, I remind you to enjoy what each day brings, to celebrate you and your family and the work you do. Simple pleasures are the best, aren't they? Let's all be grateful for what we have been given, and celebrate our lives. That's what *Alive!* does, and I hope you do the same.

JOHN

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LA, *Alive!* visits the LAPD's narcotics lab and discovers the science behind crime prevention. Also: an interview with Yvette Sanchez-Owens on the division's recent headlines.



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The annual St. Patrick's Day parade downtown has turned into a static festival at L.A. Live!, co-sponsored by Mr. LA, Councilman and Club Member Tom LaBonge.



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Veteran City employee Linda Wyatt retires. Also: *Alive!* features other retirements this month, including Willie Buggs, Tony Cardenas, Ralph Torres and Linda Lanier.

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