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**PUBLIC WORKS**

## South Sanitation Open House

The south yard hosts its annual open house for the community.

Story and photos by Brent Urban, Club Counselor

Sanitation's south yard held its annual open house for the community June 5.

The general public may not be aware of just how important Sanitation is to our City. Sanitation Truck Operators keep the streets clean, unclog storm drains and remove fire hazards. They're responsible for disposing of the several metric tons in garbage produced each week in the City. Refuse Collection Trucks are quite expensive and require extremely skilled operators to function. Operators, almost without having to think about it, manipulate a refuse truck's complex control system to shake 500-pound Dumpsters empty before neatly setting them down again. A gaggle of buttons, leavers and shifters on board is enough to make the laymen dizzy, but for some, the truck seems like an extension of the body.

Truck Operators work all hours, day or night, like a doctor on call for our streets' vascular system. Their phones go crazy with activity when it rains. Soaking wet junk from every corner of the City washes down and attempts to find the Los Angeles River. Anything larger than an office chair can clog a drain, instantly causing an intersection to flood. Special vehicle attachments either blast or suck debris from storm drains, ensuring streets don't flood and traffic flows uninterrupted.

Specialized vehicles exist for almost every job imaginable. A particular Refuse Truck has rather large and intimidating claws and that are useful in removing old furniture from alleyways. Public safety and fire prevention are also functions of the department. When cigarette butts are flicked from car windows, or when sparks fly from an exhaust pipe and land on discarded sofa cushions, fires can start easily. The work of this department may sometimes go unnoticed as they travel around the City in early morning hours or late at night, but if they went missing, you'd be unable to do much except to think about them.

*The Club thanks Jonathan Polk for his assistance in producing this article.*



From left: Marcus Horace, Refuse Collection Operator, and Luis Moreno, Refuse Collection Operator, working the barbecue!



From left: Paul Lebel, Superintendent; Khalil Gharios, Manager; and Jon Polk, Labor Maintenance.



The Hula-Hoop extravaganza!



Frederick Glover, Ambassador, with an Automated Truck.



Armondo Gatewood, Vector Operator.



From left: Adriana Nunez, Sr. Clerk Typist; Heidi Gonzales, Clerk Typist; and family and friends.



John Moore, Assistant Division Manager.



Carlos Frias, Refuse Collection Operator, with his nephews.



From left: Edwin Smith, Truck Operator; Donte Chandler, Refuse Collection Operator; Jonathan Polk, Superintendent; Cory Griggs, Truck Operator; and Chris Bell, Truck Operator.