

** A Message From the CEO **

Transfer Station Reveals Heap of City Coolness

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

I love it when we find unexpected City coolness.

We took a chance with our cover story this month. We were intrigued when great Club friend **Paul Blount**, Public Works/Sanitation, invited us to come explore the City's CLARTS – the Central Los Angeles Recycling and Transfer Station. *The what?* we said. Hey, we're always interested in the great stuff that City Employees are doing; it's what the Club is all about. So we said, sure, tell us about it!

He explained what it was, so we paid him a visit. And then, when we spent the day with Paul Blount and **Paul LeBel**, who runs the station, we knew we wanted to cover it. It's a big but simple facility that nonetheless saves the City tons of time and money. And it also taught us lessons about how important it is to recycle right at the home level.

That's all awesome, of course. But aside from that, we found a great place to take some of our signature *Alive!* photos. We returned when the facility opened, at 5 a.m., and we were greeted with an amazing scene of a vast space, and a big shed, glowing light, and those otherworld-looking misters. Wow! The Club's **Angel Gomez** got some really cool *Alive!* photos, which you can see starting on page 6. It really points out how much pride we here at *Alive!* take in the photos we bring you. We're happy that you really appreciate them.

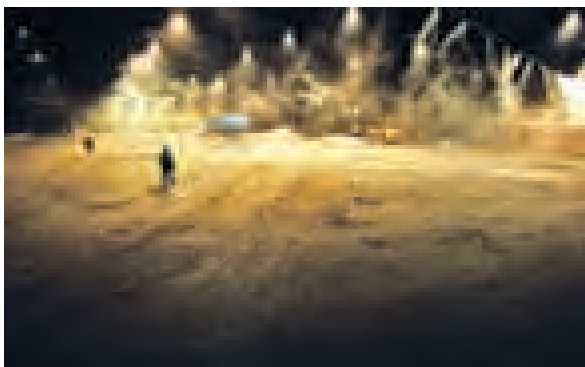


Photo by Angel Gomez.

Back last month when we started talking to Paul Blount about a big facility where the City transfers its trash, frankly we didn't know what we were in for. But here at *Alive!*, we just keep discovering more and more interesting facets of being a City Employee. You make that happen, and we're really glad to get to cover it.

So read the story, see where your trash goes and how it's handled, and take those lessons to heart. But I hope you enjoy the amazing photos, too. Like I said, I love it when we find unexpected City coolness.

This is also the last month of the Open Enrollment period for the Club's Long-Term Care insurance. I could tell you why it's important, and emphasize that you really should take care of yourself and your family by applying for this insurance, and remind you that you have just until the end of this month to get it done (DWP employees will have their Open Enrollment next year). But instead of doing the job myself, I'll use the words of **Barbara Arenzana**, Club Member, who went through some catastrophic health issues as a City Employee. "If you are a Club Member, don't think about it twice," she tells *Alive!*. "Buy Long-Term Care insurance. It gives you peace of mind and is extremely affordable. It was one of the best things I could have done for me [and] for my family as well." She tells it like it is. Please use this great opportunity to apply for Long-Term Care insurance during this Open Enrollment period. You owe it to yourself, and your family.

Well, the fall is really heating up – literally, as we had such a cool summer! – and there are lots and lots of awesome things coming up soon for Club Members. The Dodgers game (which will be over when you read this) ... Halloween events ... Medieval Times ... it's one great thing after the next. And then the holidays! *Whew*. We're all still waiting for the economy to kick back into gear, but until then, I try to remember every day that it's great to be *Alive!*

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