

A Message From the CEO

Happiness Is The Gift Of a Bike

by John Hawkins,
President and CEO, The Club

You're holding in your hands a lot of great stuff this month!

Normally I begin with some thoughts on our cover story, and the City employees who make it happen. And we'll get to that. But there's something else that I can't stop thinking about – the awesome news that we found a bike for **Thomas Mazzone**.

Doesn't sound that earth-shattering, does it? Hear me out.

One of our most compelling features every month is "People We See," in which we chat with City dwellers who live in the shadow of City Hall. A few months ago, we ran into Thomas Mazzone, whom we had interviewed before. Thomas told us that his bike – one possession that meant just about everything to him – had been stolen.

Alive! kicked into gear, telling everyone of the bad news in our June issue. And what happened? **Jose Chavez** of Joseph's Bikes and Books in Granada Hills stepped up and donated one. I find that incredibly generous. (See the story on page 15.) When you hear that our world, our City, can be a tough, selfish place, please know that it doesn't have to be, when we put our mind to it. A big thanks to Jose and Quennie for their generosity.

And now back to our regularly scheduled column! I have to say, I had almost no idea how old, or how important, the Survey Division is (read the cover story). Our *Alive!* team had a great time learning about this critical City function. Big thanks to Chief Surveyor **Tony Pratt**, a Club Member who reads *Alive!* every month, and Acting Survey Supervisor **Cesar Bregaudit** for hosting our several visits. Who knew there's a lot about how the City works... right under our feet.



Club CEO John Hawkins (right) with a survey crew on the First Street Bridge project (from left): Eugene Ching, Land Surveying Asst.; Eric Ramos, Survey Party Chief; Rolando Romero, Field Engineering Aide; and Cesar Bregaudit, Acting Survey Supervisor.

Meanwhile, *Alive!* has several changes that reflect the onward march of technology. First, I'm glad so many of you took part in our QR search – the squarish barcode that you access with a smartphone or tablet. We had tons of response! We're working on further developments, so stay tuned. (And thanks to the Club's Director of Marketing, tech whiz **Summy Lam**, for developing this.) Secondly, did you notice that we have new titles in our entertainment section? We couldn't use the title DVD reviews any longer, so now we're using "On a Screen Near You" to track DVDs, downloads and streams. (Thanks to **Dearbhla McNulty**, fiancé of *Alive!* editor John Burnes, for the new title.) On a related note, have you signed up for the Club's email alerts? It's the best way to stay on top of the latest Club events and ticket deals. Sign up at the Club's Website.

And finally, we have new Counselors for you to meet. They are **Tanya Edwards, Gedina Bergstrom, Noelle Kauffman, Jackie Causillas** and **Debbie Schroyer**. They are the Club's face and spirit there in the City's hallways and cubicles and yards, where all our great Club Members work. Make sure to say hello when you meet them. They're awesome. I know you're going to be as impressed with them as I am.

As we relax and enjoy these last days of summer, let's stop for a second and be grateful for the quiet, wonderful things in our lives -- our families, our friends, and... our bikes.

JOHN

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Alive! IN THIS ISSUE

Alive! August 2011

6 FEATURE STORY:

Survey Says

City Surveyors, performing one of the City's oldest functions, keep track of where the City begins and ends.

15 Good News: A Bike for Thomas

Through the generosity of a bike shop, a "People We See" subject has another bike, after his was stolen.

22 Hope for Firefighters

LAFD hosts annual fundraiser for fallen firefighters and their families.

26 Goodbye, Kent

Officer Kent Hobbs retires from the Port Police after 29 years of City service.

27 Library Mondays

City libraries reopen on Mondays after severe budget cuts closed their doors on that day of the week.

30 LAPD Gang Unit

Police Dept.'s Gang Unit meets downtown for strategy, support.



Page 6



Page 15

City Department Coverage

The Club
Bike Shop Responds to "People We See" Story15

Airports
Airport Police Promotes Several Leaders.....31
Police Special Olympics Torch Run.....21

Council
Janet Hahn Elected U.S. Congresswoman31

DOT
405 Fwy Closure: Carmageddon12

Harbor
Kent Hobbs Retires26

LAFD
Hope for Firefighters22
Brian Cummings Named Interim Fire Chief19

LAPD
Gang Task Force Meets.....30
Officers Save Woman14

Library
Libraries to Open on Mondays27

Public Works
Public Works Hosts Chinese Students, Faculty..19
Reusable Bag Giveaway14
Sanitation Open House18

Rec & Parks
Banning Museum Exhibit Opening32
Banning Museum to Host Big-Band Concert.32
Griffith Cupcake21
Joy Picus Daycare Center Graduation.....17

Sections & Columns

Adventures With Hal24-25
Alive! Around the World34-35
Be *Alive!*38-39
Births29
Car Club16
City Employees at Work... **NEW!**21
Classifieds42
Club Store47
Coloring Contest20
Cooking With the Club.....41
Deaths28
Graduations29
History Comes *Alive!*13
Letters.....5
Peace of Mind.....28
People We See33
Pet Club.....31
Picture Perfect36
Retirees Section.....23-25
Retirements.....29
Reviews: Movie, Rentals & Books37
Special Achievement29
Sports43
Ticket and Gift Order Form45
Trivia Game5
United Agencies at the Club5

Advertiser's Index

AMC Theatres44
Blind Children's Center17
Disneyland46
DWP Federal Credit Union2
Joseph's Bikes and Books46
Kyoto Hotel27
LEGOLAND44
Ricchiazzi Aviation27
Rosebud Marketing27
SeaWorld43
United Agencies Inc. Insurance14

Alive! Behind the Scenes



Alive! Feature Picture

Club Photographer Tom Hawkins takes a photo featuring the City surveyors in Potrero Canyon, Pacific Palisades.