

PUBLIC WORKS

West L.A. Open House

Sanitation's West Yard holds annual open house.

Story by John Hawkins, Club CEO, and Tanya Edwards, Club Counselor; Photos by Tanya Edwards

On July 16, Public Works/Sanitation's West L.A. Sanitation Yard held its annual open house. More than 3,000 people attended, a record!



Families with children and residents visited the yard for the chance to meet with truck operators and learn how the City collects and removes its trash, recyclables and yard trimmings. There were experts on hand to talk about mulch and composting, and they were giving away free plants and trees. The event, a favorite among parents and children, caused one parent to comment, "This is the best day of the year in my house."

Children got the chance to experience what it's like to be a truck operator by honking the horns, operating the lifts and taking rides in the trucks. Children got to meet Mr. Recycle, who gave high-fives for recycling and received lots of attention and appreciation.

Thanks to everyone who worked and volunteered at the West L.A. Sanitation Yard, who made our visit memorable!



From left: Rosalia Rojo, Environmental Engineer, Public Works/Sanitation, with her niece, helping out for the day; Paul Blount, Manager I, Operations Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division, Public Works/Sanitation; and John Hawkins, Club President and CEO.



Heidi Gonzalez, Clerk Typist, holds the coveted mini trash cans.



Connie the Couch with John Hawkins, Club President and CEO.



Rosalia Rojo, Environmental Engineer, Public Works/Sanitation, with her niece (left) talking with the public about the City's mulching program.



Sterling Davis, RCTO, 6 years of City service.



Anthony "DJ Sweat" Hatten, Heavy Duty Truck Operator, 22 years of City service, with Robert Sosa, Supervisor of Bulky Items, 21 years of City service.



Genero "G.R." Perez, Retired Driver and Event Volunteer, 29 years of City service; and Adriana Nunez, Sr. Clerk, Club Member.



Parents and kids alike enjoyed the truck rides.



From left: Anthony Cardenas, Maintenance Laborer, 13 years of City service; and Richard Humphrey, RCTO, 23 years, who is known for his chalk murals.



Neighbors enjoyed the truck demonstrations.



Bryan Johnson, RCTO, 23 years of City service, with Tanya Edwards, Club Counselor, who appears to be training for a second career.



Can't quite reach the pedals!



The chefs of the event, from left: Joseph Norwood, RCTO, 25 years of City service; Willie Hunt, RCTO, 27 years; and Andre Green, RCTO, 20 years.



Mr. Recycle.



Starting out early.



Elissa Jackson, Environmental Specialist, 9 years of City service, shares information on the City's T.I.R.E (Terminal Island Renewable Energy) program.



Participants watch a demonstration of how trash is compacted in a truck.



Radio Disney was on hand, conducting hula-hoop contests. The City's Elissa Jackson took the lead.



From left: Jimmy Tokeshi, Public Information Officer, and Sal Miranda, Acting Division Manager, Club Member.



Dewayne Turner, RCTO, 3 years of City service, with a new recruit.



From left: Victor Perez, Event Attendant II, 4 years of City service; Michelle Mikesell, Management Analyst, 6 years; and Tanya Edwards, Club Counselor.



Kids line up to take part in the games.



Jimmy Guzman.



Freddie the Refrigerator poses with Tanya Edwards, Club Counselor. Freddie is promoting the City's large-item pickup program.