

CITY RETIREE **ASSOCIATIONS**

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ed Harding, RLACEI President www.rlacei.com Contact him: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 703 E-mail: edwardjharding@rlacei.com

Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 713, or write to her at 8372 Arnett Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS.

Have News About Yourself?

Contact Mary Beetz, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 711.

RLACEI Upcoming Events

Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 701 for reservations.

Aug. 9: RLACEI Picnic, 11:30 a.m., Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Los Angeles

Oct. 4: RLACEI annual corporation meeting and elections, 1 p.m., Friendship Auditorium

RLACEI holiday party, noon, Friendship **Dec. 6:** Auditorium

RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at www.rlacei.com to find the latest retirement news. If you find it helpful, or have suggestions for improvement, call Hal at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 707.

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System is at 360 E. Second Street, second floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans.

DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, President Phone: (626) 445-7376 E-mail: vincedolores@gmail.com www.dwpretirees.org

Los Angeles Retired Fire and **Police Association (LARFPA)**



Bill Quinn, President Phone: (323) 283-4441 Fax: (626) 285-1461 9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4, Temple City, CA 91780 www.larfpa.org

Pension System Health Varies In Other Locations



Ed Harding

By Ed Harding, **RLACEI President**

Treceived many, many calls **I** regarding the letter from the City Employees Club of L.A., sent to all members welcoming them to the City Employees Club and its monthly Alive! newspaper.

Evidently, this confused many of our retirees. I can understand why, as you have been receiving the El Pueblo for many years.

As you know, El Pueblo asked for an increase in price to continue publishing and mailing the asking, so, Alive! will be your official newspaper at no additional cost to you, and everything else will remain the same.

RLACEI and staff feel we made a good decision for our members and are confident you will feel the same.

I also received complaints that my 'President's Message' is filled with personal stuff and information about our social and seminar events and not about legislative items.

I have Commissioner Ken citizen centers.

RLACEI

paper to our retirees. We could Spiker and Michael Karsch as not afford the price they were Legislative Directors and Mary Beetz as Publicity Director and LACERS' Reporter. They are doing a good job reporting, and anything I would say on their subject would be infringing on

their territory.

On a final note, I would like to welcome Philip Orland, a retired City Recreation and Parks employee, to our Board of Directors. Philip will bring a lot to the table with his experience in developing programs at senior



Michael Karsch

RLACEI Legislative Report by Michael Karsch

The State of Illinois has stirred L concerns recently with grim forecasts of its public pension systems. According to the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has asked for a ten-year 'pause' in cost of living increases one percent increase in current pension fund for five years. The

mayor reported that if there is no reform, the fire department system will go broke in nine years, the police system in four years, and all four of the retirement systems will be bankrupt by 2030.

Another May report in the press said that Illinois is the worst in the nation on funding its pension systems; the figure is 50 percent funded, another report puts for city employees, as well as a it at 45 percent. Illinois Governor Quinn is pushing drastic reforms employees' contributions to the in the state system (raise retirement age to 67 years from 55; cap

pension cost of living increases at the lesser of three percent or half of the CPI, and increase current employee contribution to his/her pension fund by three percent), which, if not accepted, should trigger forfeiture of retiree health

The New York Times reported in late May that New York State and city pension plans are projecting overly rosy returns on their investments, against a background of growing pension costs. The City of New York's chief

-continued page 16

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Annual Summer Meeting Highlights Police Museum



Lee Kebler

LARFPA Director

By Lee Kebler,

Tune 6 is a significant date in **J** American history. On this date in 1944, the Allied Forces made the largest amphibious landing in history on the beaches of Normandy, France, that led to the defeat of Nazi Germany. It should be remembered by all Americans.

June 6, 2012 was a beautiful sun-filled day at Grace Simons Lodge, where the Retired Fire and Police Association celebrated its general meeting and annual barbecue. We were a little concerned because our guest speaker, Councilman Joe Buscaino, canceled due to a commitment in Sacramento. But our very capable V.P., Paul Enox, managed to persuade the Executive

Police Historical Society to be the replacement speaker. Glynn did an excellent job presenting a slide show on the Police Museum at the oldest LAPD Police Station, 6045 York Blvd. in Highland Park. If you haven't seen the Police Museum or haven't been there recently, you should make the effort. They have made this an outstanding venue.

Also at our business meeting was the new GM of Fire and Police Pensions, Bill Raggio, Asst. GM Joe Salazar and Commissioner George Aliano. Raggio addressed the audience with the goals and problems that confront our pension system and all pension systems today, and then fielded questions from the floor. We adjourned the meeting to the picnic area, where everyone enjoyed great barbe-

Director Glynn Martin of the cued tri-tip and chicken, beans, salads and other goodies to the music of the LAPD Jazz Band. Everyone enjoyed the events, the camaraderie and door prizes. It was a good day.

The runoff vote for the Active Firefighter Commissioner on the Board of the Fire and Police Pensions System was announced June 5. The winner, incumbent Ruben Navarro, received 54 percent of the votes, and L. Scott Gribbons received 44 percent. Congratulations, Ruben.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our next general meeting at Grace Simons Lodge in September. We will be holding our annual election for board offices and directors. You know we do serve lunch and sodas.

Don't forget to take a day off and visit the Police Museum!

RLACEI Retirectub! RLACEI to the Welcome to the Welcome to the Welcome to the Yealt'S SALE OF CARPE DAR AL-IBTISAM SHOPPING MARKET TO DE 回

Starting our shopping adventure.

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Helen Salgado. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, and LAFCU. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership. Each officer's extension is listed below.

City Employees Retirement System:	(213) 473-7200
RLACEI Retirement Counselors and Retiree Helplines	(800) 678-4145
Mary Beetz	Ext. 711
Cliff Cannon	Ext. 715
Hal Danowitz	Ext. 707
Americo Garza	Ext. 710
Edward Harding	Ext. 703
Michael Karsch	Ext. 704
Gary Mattingly	Ext. 702
Phillip Orland	Ext. 706
Neil Ricci	Ext. 714
• Helen Salgado (membership)	Ext. 713
Ken Spiker	Ext. 705
Tom Stemnock	Ext. 708
Michael Wilkinson	Ext. 712
Questions:	Ext. 0
RSVP:	Ext. 701
DWP Retirement Plan Office	(213) 367-1722

RLACEI:

Officers

Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer Edward Harding: President Kenneth Spiker: First Vice President Tom Stemnock: Second Vice President

Committee Chairpersons

Mary Beetz: Publicity Hal Danowitz: Finance Americo Garza: Picnic, Holiday Party and Installation Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating Helen Salgado: Membership Ken Spiker: Legal and Legislative Tom Stemnock: Audit and Golf

Directors

Mary Beetz Cliff Cannon Americo Garza Michael Karsch **Gary Mattingly** Phillip Orland Neil Ricci Helen Salgado Michael R. Wilkinson





By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

On to Muscat

Hal and Co. continue their 28-day cruise from **Europe to Singapore. PART SEVEN**

On Oct. 11, Evelyn and I, with our cousins Don and Myrna, left for Rome, where we were going to board the Ocean Princess Oct. 15 to sail for 28 days to Singapore. On the cruise we were scheduled to visit Sorrento, Italy; Athens; Ephesus, Turkey; through the Suez Canal; two ports in Egypt; Aqaba, Jordan; Dubai in the United Arab Emirates; Muscat , Oman; and India. In India, we were scheduled to take a side trip to the Taj Mahal. Finally, the cruise would take us to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, before ending in Singapore. We both had reserved minisuites on deck eight. The Ocean Princess is a small ship, which accommodates only slightly more than 600 passengers and a crew of 250.

We left Dubai and sailed in the Gulf of Oman. It's not really a gulf, but a strait that connects the Arabian Sea with the Strait of Hormuz, which then runs into the Persian Gulf.

After breakfast, I sat out on the Promenade deck and read until it was time for trivia, and Evelyn found a mahjong group. She discovered two games of all men playing the Chinese version of mahjong, which is different from the American. The staff member in charge knew nothing about the game, so Evelyn wound up teaching three interested women who had zero experience.

After trivia, where Myrna was a great help, we relaxed by the pool, building up energy to eat lunch. Evelyn and I really hadn't done much for the past three days while fighting our head colds, but we were recovering.

After lunch, I still didn't feel like bridge; my head just wasn't into it, so we picked a couple of deck chairs on the Promenade deck and fell asleep until we were awakened for afternoon tea and scones. It made me think of the Titanic very civilized.

We were in a heavily traveled sea route, and we saw ships around us, tankers and container ships. The captain said we were still in pirate territory; however I personally think we were too far north. Let's hope I'm right.

The show was at 7 p.m., and we went to the showroom early to have a drink and snack on the cheese plate that was delivered to our room. The performer was the English singer Chili Gold – a very good singer with a somewhat unusual name.

The next morning we awakened to rainy weather, which had been predicted. It seemed to be intermittent. Evelyn and I were at the gym working out for the



first time since our colds. We both had recovered without complication. Travel note: Always pack a small first-aid kit.

The rain stopped and the sun came out. I was waiting for trivia at 11 a.m. We planned to have lunch and then go ashore at 1 p.m. We took the shuttle bus (free) to the souk, in the hope that it would be open. The dress code in Oman, we were told, is much stricter than Dubai - women

must be covered up, showing no elbow or knees, and the locals would like women to wear a headscarf if possible. It would be interesting to see how our fellow passengers took to the dress code.

We were in Oman only until 6 p.m. before spending two days at sea on the way to India. Evelyn and I were to leave the ship for three days to take the Taj Mahal tour. It was expensive, but it could have been our only chance to see the Taj, and we didn't want to miss the opportunity. There were 140 passengers on the tour. More on this later.

We docked in Mina Qaboos, the port for Muscat. It was quite pretty as the ship sails in; high hills surround the port, with a fort. You may recall my comment yesterday about harbors. Well! Mina Qaboos is the largest natural deepwater harbor in the entire region and has been a shipping hub for many centuries.

We decided to not take a tour in town, but just ride the shuttle into the old town of the port. It was only a short way, but because of security we could not walk. There was another cruise ship in port from the MSC line (German), and for that reason most of the stores were open. This was the kind of shopping Evelyn was made for. She bargained for everything and made some good deals. The souk was very large and meandered like a maze. After a while we kept seeing the same things in every shop. We did find some fun souvenirs but no



With my new best friends

Starbucks in sight. In fact, in comparison to Dubai, Muscat has no franchised American fast food or stores. Most of the shopkeepers we met were expats from India. The town was friendly and clean. We felt safe and enjoyed people watching. A note about the tourists dress: There was no modesty there... we saw shorts, tank tops and everything else. Luckily the

All dressed up for the formal night.

RETIREES: Enjoy These Great

Member Benefits

As a member of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles, you'll enjoy these amazing benefits:



City Employees Club of Los Angeles

Celebrating the Lives of City Employees

The Alive! Newspaper

Your own personal edition of Alive!, delivered to you each month. (Sent to all RLACEI members in good standing). Stay connected to RLACEI, and to all your Retired City friends, read about exciting City projects, take full advantage of free Alive! classifieds, and much more.

For more information, contact the Club:

- talkback@cityemployeesclub.com
- www.cityemployeesclub.com
- (800) 464-0452

Full Club Membership

Through May 2013, full Club Membership*, including:

- The cheapest tickets in the City-UP TO 70% OFF
- Great Club apparel and gifts
- Group-rated insurance products for purchase
- Club-exclusive events
- E-mail notices about upcoming events and promotions
- Access to Club Website
- And much more!
 - * After May 2013, members must join the Club and pay the regular (reduced) rate for City Retirees to retain Club benefits.

Sailing into Mina Qaboos, the port for Muscat locals did not seem to take offense. It

is inappropriate, though, to take pictures, especially of the women in any of these countries without their permission. The women in each of the Arab countries dress slightly differently but always with modesty

It was overcast, and the temperature was about 86 degrees and humid.

We walked around for about two hours and took the shuttle back to the ship. Don and Myrna had gone back sooner; she doesn't have the shopping gene, and we called them when we got back. We sat in the buffet and had a beer while we played a few hands of bridge.

It was a fun afternoon. The ship sailed at 6 p.m., and we were looking at two days at sea on the way to India.

Sea days give you an opportunity to get into a routine. If you like to keep busy, the ship has all kinds of organized activities, from line dancing, backgammon, ceramic painting and other crafts to duplicate bridge and trivia. Trivia is very popular and has become very competitive. There was one team that apparently was going to need a suitcase for all of the Princess logo prizes they won. How many key chains can one use? Oh! I forgot it's for bragging rights. Other options included just lying by the pool or reading in the library or one of the other public rooms. You could do as much or as little as you wanted. And somewhere there was always food or some type of music. Last night the entertainment was provided by Brett Cave, a very talented pianist. We really enjoyed his act.

After dinner we played bridge and then took a look at the Arabian Night party on the pool deck. At least a quarter of the passengers bought some type of Arab clothing to wear. There were men and women in full regalia and some in partial outfits. It was hard to understand where they would wear these items on their return home. When we were in Egypt in 1993, I bought an outfit and wore it only one time – the Halloween the year my granddaughter, Maddie, was born, and I have a picture of me holding her in

After trivia that next morning, where we placed high, we had lunch in the dining

We played duplicate bridge that afternoon and, after starting out strong, we quickly burned out like a shooting star.

That night was a formal night, and there was a cocktail party for Captain's Circle passengers. The Captain's Circle is for passengers who have sailed with Princess more than once. The more days you have sailed, the better are the benefits.

The party was fun; the captain was English and had a good sense of humor. The passenger with the most sea days on the Princess was introduced – they had more than 800 days sailing with Princess.

The show was a production with the ship's singers and dancers. They continued to put on great performances.

The next day was our last day before leaving the ship for our side tour to the Taj Mahal. We had to pack a small carry-on bag each. We were to leave tomorrow at 8 a.m. for a flight to Delhi. We then would have a five-and-a-half-hour bus ride to Agar. We would spend the night and get up early to see the Taj at sunrise. After a visit to the Red Fort, we would hop on the bus again back to Delhi. Then there was the plane ride to Cochin, where we would return to

Yesterday at trivia, the Cruise Director (Peter) was upset because a passenger had berated one of the staff members over a question, so he asked the trivia players to write their own questions and he used them today. It was no fun, but I believe he made his point. It was good to see Peter take a stand; you can pick your cruise, but not your cruise mates

After lunch in the dining room, we played our last session of duplicate bridge until we reboarded the ship in Cochin.

Next month I'll tell of our adventure to see the Taj Mahal.

Show Us Your Grandkids!

"This is my 'mini-Me,' my granddaughter, Joi Siaki, who is two years old. She already knows how to read and write, clear and concise! My little genius!"



- Janice Norwood-Waller, **Traffic Training** Officer II, **Transportation**

Show Us Your Grandkids!

Retirees: Alive! wants to show off your grandkids! In an upcoming issue, we intend to beginning running a small section of retirees and their grandkids. So send 'em in!

- 1. Make sure to have permission from their parents. If you send in a photo, Alive! assumes you have already received that permission.
- 2. Photos with you in them are better... but if not, that's okay, too. 3. Make sure you list the names of
- your grandkids. 4. Tell us, in a sentence or two, a little bit about them - their school, their accomplishments, what they love to do, how proud you are of them, etc.
- 5. Digital photos are best! Send them to: talk back @cityemployeesclub.com

Print photos can be sent to: Grandkids City Employees Club of Los Angeles 120 W. Second St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 (800) 464-0452

If you want the print photo returned, make sure you write your name and phone number on the back.

RLACEI Legislative Report - continued from page 13



lowering the expected rate of return from eight percent to seven percent, which would mean increasing budgetary payments by \$1.9 billion just

to keep the pension plan afloat (this amount is 10 percent of the city's budget). Private businesses use an average interest rate of 4.8 percent to calculate their pension costs. The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) lowered its expected rate of return from 7.75 percent to 7.5 percent, not as far as its actuary recommended, 7.25

Another initiative is pending

the Government Employee Pension Reform Act. It would require current and future public employees to pay annually at least half of the projected costs of their pension plan's defined benefit. For all new hires, a hybrid pension system is proposed to be part defined benefit, part defined contribution and part social security. It would mean a pension of no more than 75 percent of final salary after a full career (retiring no sooner than age 57), capped at the federal social security base. To get retirement health benefits, an employee would have to work 15 years as a minimum. The proponent is Thomas Hiltachk, formerly an adviser to Governor Schwarzenegger, and a Sacramento lawyer.

The June 5 municipal elections

actuary proposes approval for circulation in California, in San Jose and San Diego gave substantial voter approval to two pension overhauls in those cities. The voter approval level in San Jose was 71 percent and 67 percent in San Diego. The San Diego proposal provides for a six-year freeze on pay levels to determine pension benefits unless a two-thirds vote of the City Council provides differently. New hires will be given a 401(k)-type of pension, not one with defined benefits. Pension costs in San Diego grew to 20 percent of the general fund budget.

In San Jose, current workers will now pay 16 percent of their salaries for their pension. Pensions in San Jose now consume 27 percent of the general fund budget. Over the last ten years, the City of San Jose has laid off 27 percent of its workforce.

LACERS Update

By Mary Beetz, RLACEI Publicity Chair



Did you know?

LACERS Retired Members may work for the City of Los Angeles if:

- You are an election officer, an elected officer of the City, or a Retired Member of the LACERS Board of Administration; or
- You have the Mayor's approval to work under special circumstances and your period of employment does not exceed 120 days in any fiscal year; or
- You work as a temporary election employee for no more than 120 days in a calendar year; or
- You work as a contractor.

Retirement **Allowance Calendar**

Below is the schedule of Retirement Payroll dates for the remainder of Calendar Year 2012.

Retirement Roll	Direct Deposit Settlement Date	Check Date
July	July 31, 2012	July 31, 2012
August	Aug. 31, 2012	Aug. 31, 2012
September	Sept. 28, 2012	Sept. 30, 2012
October	Oct. 31, 2012	Oct. 31, 2012
November	Nov. 30, 2012	Nov. 30, 2012
December	Dec. 31, 2012	Dec. 31, 2012

RLACEI MEMBER NEWS

BY MARY BEETZ



Tell Us Your News!

Alive! has a special section - the Best Years for Retired City Employees. If you have news about yourself or other retirees that you would like to share with our readers, send it to:

> Mary Beetz 137 Westmont Dr. Alhambra, CA 91801 mbeetz4841@aol.com



Manuel De La Cruz, Public Works, Retired 1987



"Ted Rosval." Joseph Govea, Building and Safety, Retired 1990



"Capt. Wendle Young. Mary Beetz, Personnel, Retired 2009



"Marty Reiser." Bebe Jacobsen, Behavioral Sciene, LAPD, Retired 2003



"Robert Horii." Leo Rosen, Public Works/ Engineering, Retired 1996



"Paul Ward." Joe Etheredge, Airports, Retired 1994



"Joe Amamoto, Superintendent, South District, Public **Buildings**.

Sam Hochberg, Convention Center, Retired 1997



"Lewis Smale." LeRoy Richards, Public Works/Sanitation, Retired 1994



From left: Sgt. Bill Dailey, Investigator III, 31 years of City service; Van Leeuwen, Investigator III, 26 years, and current chaplain for LARFPA; and June Leeuwen.



From left: Oscar Carreon, LAPD Motor Div., 25 years of City service; Det. III Ben Van Deavender, 27 years; and Mack Rhodes, LAPD Motor Div.,



From left: Det. Brian Tindall, 36 years of City service; and Capt. II Douglas Brown, EMS, Paramedic, 30 years.



From left: Capt. II Bill Quinn, 40 years of City service; Mae Tourtillott; and Capt. II Lee Kebler, 31



From left: Det. Joseph Gomez, Valley Traffic, 28 years of City service; Det. Donald MacLennan, 31 years; and Howard Bogusch, Motor Div., 27 years.



Mary Beetz, Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. board member, with Robert Larios, Vice President of Operations, the Club.





Retired Fire, Police BBQ



Capt. II Bill Quinn, 40 years of City service; and Paul Enox, LAPD, 28 years.



From left: Det. Tom Vincello, 28 years of City service; and Lt. Gary MacNamara, 35 years.

LARFPA hosts general meeting and barbecue.





Story by Debbie Schroyer, Club Counselor; Photos by Robert Larios, Club Vice President of Operations

On June 6, the Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA) held its sum-

mer general meeting and barbecue.

What a fabulous day at the C

What a fabulous day at the Grace E. Simons Lodge, where LARFPA held its general meeting and barbecue! Retirees, family and friends enjoyed BBQ beef, chicken, beans and salad. Prizes were given away, and the entertainment was provided by the Police Department Band.



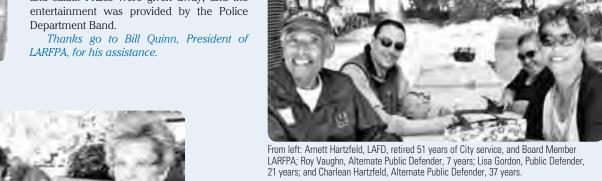
From left: Lt. Virginia Van Houtte, 25 years of City service, with Carol Dailey.



Capt. Charlie Trejo, 35 years of City service, and Becky Trejo.



and Tony Matulich, Engineer, 30 years of City service; Fred Inde, 33 years; and Tony Matulich, Engineer, 30 years.





From left: Robert Larios, Vice President of Operations, the Club; with Capt. Jim Chastain, 30 years of City service, Treasurer LARFPA.



From left: Charley Boone; Oscar Moreno, Asst. Retirement Counselor; 23 years of City service; and Mad Carranza, Asst. Retirement



Maggie and Ted Aquaro, LAFD, PSO, 21 years of City service.



From left: Lynn and Sgt. Al Rodriguez, 30 years of City service; Det. Sgt. John Grogan, 30 years, Club Member; and Blanche Grogan.



Counselor, 16 years.

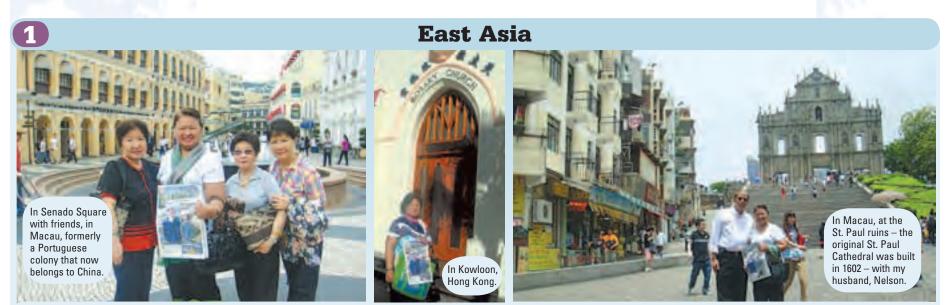
From left: Robert Larios, Vice President of Operations, the Club; and Capt. II Bill Quinn, 40 years of City service, President, LARFPA.



From left: Marion Yates and her niece, Linda Rustad; with Officer III Bert Fernald, 23 years of City service, Club Member, and Anita Fernald.







"Here are my first pictures after I retired May 1, taken the weekend of Mother's Day." - Leticia Yapana, DWP, Retired







Modern World."











"Here are my photos from Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar."

– John Gale, Retired, Rec and Parks, with his wife, Barbara

Take the Club with you, wherever you go!

Club members are a well-traveled bunch. Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you. Snap a **high resolution** photo with you **holding a copy**, send it in, and we'll publish it.

Send to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Sending Digital Photos:

When you send digital photos through the Internet, please send the full, original digital file yourself, rather than using digital photo software like Kodak EasyShare, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, etc. These programs send very low-resolution images, and they don't look good in print. We want you to look your best, so send us the original digital file, please! Thanks!