

# IN THIS ISSUE

*Alive!* July 2014

## 24 Cover Story: Smarter Soil

DWP Landscaping's capital group is making beautiful designs while saving water.

**8 Transportation**  
Crossing Guards enjoy their annual picnic.

**11 Goodbye, Paul**  
*Alive!* bids farewell to great Club Member Paul Blount, who retires from Public Works.

**32 Banning 150**  
Banning Residence Museum set to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

**34 Baker to Vegas**  
It's time to party! *Alive!* visits three teams celebrating their success.

**35 Back to Work**  
Economic and Workforce Development offers new jobs program to get laid-off employees back to work.

### City Department Coverage

#### The Club

Baker to Vegas: Airport Police, Port Police and Transportation teams celebrate their success ..... 34-35  
Scholarship deadline extended to July 31 ..... 18

#### Airports

Airport Police Sgt. Sam Pittman retires ..... 31  
Chief Gannon to oversee Homeland Security ..... 18

#### Economic/Workforce Development

Dept. offers *Get LA Back 2 Work* program ..... 35

#### General Services

Mail Services Appreciation Day says thanks ..... 46

#### Harbor

Port names new Executive Director ..... 10

#### LACERS

Retiree Nick Buckroff: Camping With Friends ..... 13  
Retirement system hires wellness coordinator ..... 15

#### LAFD

Hope for Firefighters: Event raises funds for families of the fallen ..... 7

#### LAPD

Awards held for National Dispatchers Week ..... 22-23  
Detectives gather for symposium ..... 17  
New LAPD Cadet class begins July 26 ..... 21

#### Public Works

"Mr. Mulch" Paul Blount retires ..... 11  
North Central Sanitation Yard hosts open house ..... 9  
West Valley Sanitation Yard hosts open house ..... 10

#### Rec & Parks

Banning Museum plans a 150th birthday party ..... 32

### Advertiser's Index

AMC Theatres ..... 44	Sprint ..... 35	Mishgienterprises Jewelry & Clothing ..... 7
DWP Federal Credit Union ..... 2	United Agencies ..... 31	MJP Clinic Acupuncture ..... 7
LEGOLAND ..... 44	<b>Club Featured Businesses</b>	Onyx Hair ..... 7
Onyx Hair ..... 9	Grijalva General Contracting ..... 7	Rosebud Marketing ..... 7
PetProject LA ..... 40	Law Offices of Terry Porvin ..... 7	United Agencies ..... 7
Rosebud Marketing ..... 21		



Banning Museum seeks volunteers ..... 32

#### Transportation

Crossing guards host annual picnic ..... 8

### Sections & Columns

Adventures With Hal ..... 14
<i>Alive!</i> Around the World ..... 30
Be <i>Alive!</i> ..... 20
Births ..... 38
Car Club ..... 40
Classifieds ..... 43
Club Store ..... 47
Coloring Contest ..... 19
Cooking ..... 41
Deaths ..... 38
Graduations ..... 37
Letters ..... 5
Peace of Mind ..... 36
People We See ..... 33
Picture Perfect ..... 42
Question of the Month ..... 5
Retirees Section ..... 12-16
Retirements ..... 15
Reviews: Movies, Books & Video Games ..... 39
Seen Around Town ..... 18
Smart Moves: Dearborn Insurance ..... 6
Special Achievements ..... 38
Sports ..... 46
Ticket and Gift Order Form ..... 45
United Agencies at the Club ..... 5
Weddings ..... 38

**For Retirees**  
Best Years ..... Pages 12-16

### A Message From the CEO

## Beauty Deeper Than the Dirt

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO, The Club

It's summer here at *Alive!* – well, everywhere north of the equator – and that means lots of Club Members working on their lawns. I know I am. So that's why we thought a story on the DWP Landscaping crew would fit right in. And it does, but it goes deeper than we were expecting. A story on the beauty of the earth turned out to have a serious ecological theme. More on that in a minute.

Here's how it came about – the **Gedina Bergstrom**, Club Counselor, attended the dedication ceremony for the refurbished Centennial Garden project in Los Feliz last November. The DWP, noting the 100th anniversary of William Mulholland bringing water from the Owens Valley to LA, freshened up the gardens surrounding the Mulholland Fountain. Gedina was covering it for *Alive!*, and there she met **Carlos Gomez**, head of the DWP Landscaping crew that installed the revised garden. She thought the crew and its work would make a good story, and she was right. So it was scheduled for the summer, when things in the City would be in full bloom.



With the Club's John Burnes (left) and Robert Larios (right) are (from left) DWP Landscaping's Carlos Gomez, David Vara and Charles Kagan.

But the story, which we intended to be strong graphically, turned into something more interesting. There's a lot more to what the Landscaping crew, also led by **Charles Kagan**, is up to. As we're in a tough drought, their work has turned quite serious; with all the smart water savings they're bringing about, beauty runs deeper than the dirt.

That's what I love about celebrating the lives of City employees – has anyone done a story on how landscaping in the City has become very serious business? Not that I'm aware of. Here's a crew, working pretty quietly, and yet saving up to 70 percent of the water that the lawns used to use. That's awesome.

While we're on the subject, did you know the DWP will pay you to remove your thirsty lawn and replace it with more drought-tolerant designs? The DWP's incentive program is a good idea if it's right for you; that's up to you to decide. But if you're interested, you'll have to apply first online before you do anything else. Check it out if you want to; the Website is [www.ladwp.com/CF](http://www.ladwp.com/CF)

On another subject, *Alive!* is well known for the Christmas/New Year parties we chronicle in our January and February issues. It looks like we've found a summer party complement – the Baker to Vegas celebration parties. It's only right that the City's public safety employees celebrate their great achievement after completing the grueling and notorious desert footrace. Thanks to **Noelle Kauffman**, Club Counselor, for bringing us this month's fun stories and photos, and for our **Arlene Herrero**, Club Director of Product Development, who started this *Alive!* tradition a decade ago.

Congratulations to **Paul Blount**, Public Works' Mulch Master, and great Club Member over the years (I was out of town), on his retirement. Whenever we would meet while we were producing a newspaper feature, I would always enjoy the stories he told. Paul, thanks for your service to our country and our City, and have a great retirement.

Congratulations also to Club Counselor **Jackie Causillas**, who tied the knot with LAPD Municipal Senior Lead Police Officer **Isaac Burciaga**. We're happy for you both, and wish you a great life together.

Before I go, I recommend you attend the 150th anniversary celebration of the Banning Residence Museum in Wilmington; the details are in this month's story. **Michael Sanborn** and **Melanie Streitfeld** put on a great event. It will be a lot of fun, and the museum is a real City treasure. Go and have fun!

Speaking of fun – have a fantastic and meaningful Fourth of July with your family, and enjoy your summer.

**JOHN**

[jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)

## *Alive!* Behind the Scenes

Here's the Club's Summy Lam (foreground) photographing DWP Landscaping Capital Group members (from left) Joseph Sanchez, Sr. Gardener; Chevo Serna, Gardener/Caretaker; Charlie Kagan, Sr. Park Maintenance Supervisor; and German Perez, Gardener/Caretaker.



### *Alive!* Cover Picture

