



DIGEST

Parks and Recreation Department Provides Varied Services to County Residents; Many Volunteers Assist

Many County employees, their families and friends have enjoyed at least a few of the best known facilities and programs of the County Department of Parks and Recreation. However, probably only a limited number of employees know that the department maintains over 125 facilities, including local and regional parks, golf courses, natural areas, landscape maintenance districts and specialized facilities.

Though its prime responsibility is to meet the leisure time interests of the County's population in the unincorporated area, the department's services and facilities are available to all County residents.

The department divides its operations into three broad geographic regions - Eastern, Northern and Southern. Each operational region provides recreation programs, park and golf course operations, grounds maintenance, planning and construction, and park patrol services for its own area.

Of the two types of parks, regional parks are the largest in land acreage. In addition to picnic and play areas which most parks have, many regional parks have lakes for fishing, boating, swimming and water-skiing; equestrian and hiking trails; and overnight group

camping. (A State fishing license is required.) Facilities at Castaic, Bonelli and the Whittier Narrows recreation areas are, perhaps, the best known. Other regional facilities are the Baldwin Hills, Friendship, William S. Hart, Ernest E. Debs and Santa Fe Dam areas. Few people know that the Hollywood Bowl Performing Arts Complex, the John Anson Ford Theatre and a 41,000 acre park on Santa Catalina Island are included in the department's jurisdiction.

Local parks are found in most communities and provide some or all of the following services: baseball diamonds, basketball courts, children's play areas, a community or senior citizens' center, a gymnasium, shuffle board, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, multi-purpose fields and a swimming pool. There are 40 pools providing free swimming and "learn-to-swim" classes this summer.

The County operates eight of its 18 golf courses. The others are serviced under management leases. Green fees are nominal and some courses require reservations. All but four courses are 18 hole, which also have driving ranges and cart rentals.

The Board of Supervisors has established a system of fees and charges designed to make certain specialized services and facilities partially or completely self-supporting. Income from these fees and charges are not intended to create a profit, but are used only for the service or facility from which the income is derived. Reduced rates for senior citizens and disabled persons are available.

Examples of specialized facilities include recreation vehicle campgrounds, boat launches and rentals, community meeting rooms, rifle and



Parks and Recreation Department Director Ralph Cryder with Parks and Recreation Commissioner Gloria Heer at the dedication of Gloria Heer Park in Rowland Heights. Commissioner Heer has been a spirited volunteer since 1974.

archery ranges, and a 36 acre water-theme park featuring huge slides and a wave-action swimming area.

Natural resource protection areas make up two-thirds of the County's park open space. Six nature centers, eight wildlife sanctuaries, Vasquez Rock and Devil's Punchbowl preserve some of the unique geographical and ecological features of Los Angeles County.

Additional functions performed by the department include grounds maintenance for 341 County buildings and 46 local civic centers as well as close to 300 miles of hiking and riding trails throughout the County. The department also operates a 678 acre tree farm to supply landscaping needs of the park system.

Approximately 60% of the department's basic services and programs are

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July Employee of the Month

Roberta Carpenter, Witness Coordinator, Office of the District Attorney, was selected as the July 1985, County Employee of the Month. She was presented a scroll of recognition by Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Edmund D. Edelman in recent Board Room ceremonies.

Mrs. Carpenter, a 17-year County employee, joined the District Attorney's Office in 1975 following seven years in the Department of Public Social Services as a Typist Clerk. She has been a Witness Coordinator since 1981 and rendered what her co-workers describe as a "role model" performance in her job of locating and ensuring that prosecution witnesses are available for felony trials. She is also responsible for contacting and soliciting the cooperation of victims of crimes to ensure their court appearance.

Despite high volume caseloads involving hundreds of witnesses, Mrs.

Carpenter has demonstrated a strong concern for the needs of individual witnesses and victims. Using her knowledge of the judicial system, she is able to encourage reluctant witnesses, diminish their confusion and allay their fears. She arranges transportation, lodging and child care if necessary and, often, uses her own time for phone calls to maintain contact with witnesses and victims as court dates approach.

In one case, Mrs. Carpenter is credited with contributing to the successful prosecution of a death penalty homicide case that involved witnesses from four states. Also, an out-of-state judge who testified in a local case, later wrote a letter to the District Attorney commending Mrs. Carpenter as "top notch, professional, helpful, courteous and a credit to your office."

Admired by support staff and attorney co-workers for her organizational skills and dedication, Mrs. Carpenter had fifteen nominations submitted in her behalf for the Office of the District Attorney —Jemison Award. One of 40 nominees this year, she was named the recipient of the award during a special District Attorney Day luncheon in May.

The Jemison Award was established in 1978 by the estate of Frank (a former District Attorney Investigator) and Jane Jemison. A part of the estate provided for a \$50,000 endowment fund and the purchase of two trophies to annually honor two District Attorney awardees — one from the investigative staff and a support staff person. Annual interest from the endowment fund provides a monetary award to each recipient. The names of the honorees are engraved on the trophies which are prominently displayed in District Attorney Headquarters. Among the criteria influencing selection of the awardees are outstanding work records and the positive image of the District Attorney as projected to the public. During the Board room ceremonies, District Attorney Ira Reiner spoke of Mrs. Carpenter's superior work performance, strong public relations and the impact of her efforts on the outcome of trials. Also wit-



Roberta Carpenter

nessing the presentation were Mrs. Carpenter's husband, Michael, their daughter, Mary Ellen, and several District Attorney staff.

Board Awards Work Simplification Contract

On the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Board of Supervisors recently approved a special services contract designed to develop a comprehensive training program in Work Simplification and to provide the first year's training. The award winning consulting firm, The LRT Group, Inc., has extensive experience in developing and conducting a variety of on-site training programs designed to the needs of the client. In addition, LRT has successfully completed projects on productivity and cost improvement in both white collar and operational environments.

Work Simplification will be a major addition to the County's long established work measurement program, Group Performance Control (GPC). The introduction of Work Simplification is consistent with the Board's

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County of Los Angeles

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Work Simplification Contract

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efforts to encourage utilization of modern management techniques in County Departments.

According to Chief Analyst Richard Midgley, whose team will be coordinating the consultant's efforts, "The objective of this contract is to help County managers and supervising staff become aware of easily learned techniques that can in a very short time result in improved productivity."

The contractor is required to develop a training program that has vitality and originality while assuring that problems unique to L.A. County are addressed. Participants will, therefore, be required to submit to class a work simplification project that relates to their County department.

Completion of the training program will enable participants to provide their management with systems or methods improvements that result in actual savings or cost avoidance.

Present training class planning calls for a total of 250 participants at the levels of supervisor and above, for the first year. Departments are encouraged to begin the process of identifying individuals it plans to enroll.

Interested parties can get immediate answers to questions regarding the Work Simplification Training Program by telephoning Richard Midgley, Chief Administrative Office, at 974-1184.



Supervisor Kenneth Hahn presents a Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Scroll of Commendation to Captain Hershel Clady (center) of the Los Angeles County Fire Department for his leadership in battling the recent Baldwin Hills fire, as his wife, Sandy, Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief Deputy Earl Fordham, and Los Angeles County Fire Commission President John Stevens look on.

"Captain Clady acted in the finest tradition of the Los Angeles County Fire Department," Supervisor Hahn said. "Even though the fire took place in the City of Los Angeles, Captain Clady and his Engine Company 58 were the first firemen on the scene. Thanks to their prompt and professional action, several homes were saved that would have otherwise been lost to the fire. As great a tragedy as the fire was, it would have been even worse had it not been for the efforts of this outstanding individual."

Captain Clady lives in Inglewood.

RETIREES . . .

The following people have retired or have been approved for retirement by the Retirement Board in recent months after more than thirty years of service to the County:

Public Health: Paul D. Blair.

DPSS: Effie Brooks.

Data Processing: Jessie R. Campbell.

Art Museum: Cecil Ferguson.

Facilities: James C. Green.

County Clerk: Fredessa Gresham.

Parks & Recreation: Lucille J. McDaniel, Ralph Schwarz.

Public Works: Yashushi Mikuriya, Glenn J. Muir.

SCAQMD: Walter E. Olson.

Probation: Leon M. Siff.

The following have retired or have been approved for retirement by the Retirement Board with over twenty-five years of County Service:

Fire Department: Wilbur O. Noss,

John Dennis O'Hara, Fred Shafer.

Health Services: Rudolph Bravo, Lucy M. Medrano.

County Clerk: Edwards Dickey, Jr.
Facilities Management: James W. Hunter.

Probation: Randolph Washington.

Sheriff: Ollie R. Baker.

Comm. & Sr. Ctz.: Ruth Fox.

DPSS: Johanna Johnson.

Parks and Recreation

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maintained through the General Fund, with the remaining 40% made up through special fees and charges for various programs and specialized services.

The department's 1985-86 budget of over \$39 million provides for 989.9 positions to maintain the current level of service. A large, effective volunteer program enables the department to increase programs available in historical, cultural and natural area facilities. In one recent year, over 40,000 volunteers donated 394,644 hours assisting in classes, sports programs and other activities.

For brochures and further information, call (213) 738-2961.



Director Ralph Cryder (front), Supervisor Peter Schabarum (middle), and an unidentified member of the Pack "n" Paddle Canoe Club participate in dedication activities at the Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale.

County Blood Drives Continue Throughout Summer

In the wake of Blood Donor Month (June, 1985), County departments continue to schedule Red Cross blood drives. County employees have again demonstrated their awareness of the needs of this community by donating blood when the Bloodmobile is in their area. You can participate too. The Bloodmobile will be in the following locations in August:

- August 19 - D.P.S.S. (Exposition Park District)
3965 South Vermont, 3rd Floor Conference Room
Los Angeles 9:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Public Works
2250 Alcazar Room A-111
Los Angeles 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- August 20 - Adams and Grand
Multi-Department Drive
2615 South Grand, Room 601
Los Angeles 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
- August 21 - D.P.S.S. (Compton District)
211 E. Alondra Blvd. - Conference Room A
Compton 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
- August 21, 22, 23 - D.P.S.S. (Pasadena District)
Drive held at Red Cross Center
129 W. California
Pasadena 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
(daily)
- August 26 - D.P.S.S. (Southwest Family District)
1326 W. Imperial Hwy. - Lunchroom
Los Angeles 10:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- August 29 - D.P.S.S. (Cudahy District)
8130 South Atlantic - Conference Room
Cudahy 9:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Each day in Los Angeles County over 1,000 people use blood. Blood supplies are traditionally low during heat waves or following summer vacations. Please see your Departmental Blood Donor Recruiter to make an appointment. Share the gift of your good health this summer.



NEW DEPARTMENT SIGN DONATED
— The Board of Supervisors recently sent a letter of appreciation to Mr. Clint Cramer, owner of the Downey Sign and Lighting Company, for his gift of a sign to the Department of Animal Care and Control. The sign is lighted at night and will assist the motoring public in locating the office and animal shelter.