DIGEST

MARCH 31, 1988 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Jerry Kaono Combats Gang Violence

Jerry Kaono of the Sheriff's Department was honored as the February 1988 County Employee of the Month during a recent scroll presentation by Board of Supervisors Chairman Deane Dana. Sheriff Sherman Block and

Employee of the Month

several fellow workers also attended the ceremony.

A State of California grant-funded Gang Awareness Resource Program (G.A.R.P.) places Deputy Kaono on the Carson High School campus as a gang investigator in a highly visible "resident" capacity. He serves the high school, feeder junior high, and elementary schools through the following services: Training/instruction of faculty, administrators, school police, parks and recreation personnel, community groups, parents and civic officials on gang awareness; coordination of information between schools and between schools and law enforcement, and the establishment of a partnership with the business sector for their support in the effort to eliminate street gang violence. Over 100 such meetings with concerned groups have been conducted since the program's inception in April 1987.

The bridge which Deputy Kaono has built between law enforcement and the schools (both faculty and students) has led to enhanced communications, reduced gang vs.

Supervisor Deane Dana and Deputy Jerry Kaono

gang incidents, and resulted in diminished gang activity on/about the high school campus. Deputy Kaono and the G.A.R.P. staff have developed and are in the midst of publishing a gang-awareness pamphlet for community distribution.

Deputy Kaono has been a member of the Sheriff's Department for 18 years, with 17 of those years spent in the patrol station environment. He has been particularly active over that period in the Carson area where he is a resident and is active in civic, community, and athletic affairs.

Since he was assigned to the Carson Station in 1974, he has found pleasure and success by showing true concern for area youth. He has also served as an instructor at Carson

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Assessor Seeks Citizen Involvement

In an effort to expand citizen participation in government, particularly in the process of taxation, County Assessor John J. Lynch has announced the formation of a blue ribbon panel to assist his agency in improving services to the public and guaranteeing equitable treatment of all property owners.

The new Assessor's Advisory Council will focus initially on issues ranging from public education about the process of property valuation to how best to provide a forum for debate on proposed changes in agency policies.

"We have the most effective and dedicated work force in the 138-year history of this department," said Assessor Lynch, "but the public also has a right to be informed on how we do our job as well as to expect us to listen to advice on how we can do a better job."

In announcing the names of the first appointees to the Advisory Council, Assessor Lynch called the group "an outstanding example of those who know that just wishing government would improve isn't enough . . . you have to get involved."

At its first meeting held late last month, the council members voted to establish three standing committees. In addition, an Executive Committee was created, headed by West Los Angeles attorney Lawrence J. Straw, and including the chairs of each standing committee.

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Task Force Focuses on Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has established the Cancer Prevention and Control Program under the direction of a task force composed of representatives of DHS' public health programs and services and hospitals, the State Department of Health Services, American Cancer Society, and American Lung Association. Projects currently in process will provide opportunities to apply and evaluate specific prevention and control intervention services while testing DHS' capacity for increasing services.

The projects, in collaboration with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Center, include the study of the cancer situation and control opportunities in Central Los Angeles, the development of an appropriate cancer control plan, expansion of cervical cancer screening services for low income, minority women 45 years of age or older, training of staff to provide smoking cessation programs, and exploration of ways to expand mammography services for breast cancer screening.

Administration of the program and participation by the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center is currently funded by a grant from the National Cancer Institute.

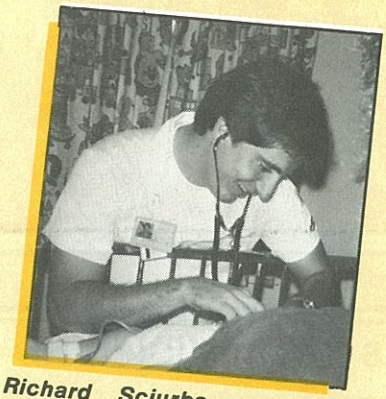
Diagnostic, therapeutic, and screening programs, including low-cost cervical and breast cancer screening services, are offered at most comprehensive health centers. An evening clinic for cervical cancer screening was recently added to the Hudson Comprehensive Health Center schedule with similar plans in progress for other comprehensive health centers.

DHS hospitals also provide a wide range of multidisciplinary services. Some have established support groups for patients and their families. In addition, many of the hospitals are involved in ongoing cancer research. For example, several studies regarding the relationship between nutrition and cancer are underway at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center is involved in epidemiological studies in the areas of cervical and lung cancer and laboratory research in the immunological aspects of cancer.

For the well-being of yourself and family, you are encouraged to take advantage of these available services.

Remember, April 18-24 is Cancer Awareness Week in Los Angeles County, but employees of the Health Services Department urge you to look for early warning signs and promote cancer prevention year-round.

Joan Burgess, LVN, and Maggie Henn, changing careers after seven years as a medical assistant, "hit the books" in the Nursing Library.



Richard Sciurba, a recent graduate, demonstrates sensitivity in caring for an infant.

New Program Increases Career Mobility

Enrolled in the January 1988 class at Los Angeles County Medical Center (LAC-USC) School of Nursing are ten Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) who are the first to begin a new career mobility program. They met the entry requirements for a special option which gives qualified LVN applicants 16 units of credit. This feature makes the LVN students eligible to graduate in just three semesters, instead of the usual two years.

Financial assistance for students can be obtained through Los Angeles County's deferred tuition plan, federal grants, and guaranteed student loans. During the 1986-87 school year, 409 students received financial aid, said JoAnn McNair, Financial Aid Officer.

Applications for the June 1988 and January 1989 classes are now being accepted, and inquiries about the program are welcome. Contact Carolyn Bloch, R.N., or Maria Caballero, R.N., at (213) 226-4917 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Status of Bargaining

On March 2, the County reached tentative agreements with two additional bargaining units - Clerical and Supervisory Clerical which represent approximately 16,500 employees. The tentative agreements provide for certain language changes, salary increases, and recruitment and retention adjustments. The latter monetary adjustments, which were originally scheduled for February 1, will now become effective March 1, 1988.

Registered Nurses and Supervisory Registered Nurses ratified on February 26. Management also reached tentative agreement with the Attorneys Unit on March 6. Employees in these five units should begin to receive their March 1 salary increases in their paychecks in late June or early July.

As of this date, a total of 36 bargaining units have signed tentative agreements or ratified successor Memoranda of Understanding.

Some bargaining units that remain unsettled were also scheduled to receive increases in February; however, any such increases will be delayed until the parties reach a negotiated agreement on salary and other outstanding language issues. County management is hopeful that settlements by the following units will be reached in the immediate future.

- Superior Court Clerks
- Administrative Technical
- Supervisory Administrative & Technical
- Accountants
- Pharmacists
- Blue Collar
- Supervisory Blue Collar
- Health Investigative & Support
- Supervisory Nonprofessional Paramedical Health Employees
- Professional Paramedical Health Employees
- Supervisory Professional Paramedical Health
- Criminalists
- Deputy Probation Officers
- Supervisory Deputy Probation Officers
- Professional Social Workers
- Social Services Investigators
- Supervisory Social Services Employees
- Librarians

Ethical Issues Addressed

The County Commission for Women has begun an educational series on controversial ethical issues at which invited speakers and panel discussions will provide information and education.

"Surrogate Parenting" was the first issue addressed at a recent meeting by specialists in medicine, law, and bioethics.

Additional topics to be presented will include euthanasia, organ transplants (how recipients are chosen), genetic engineering and palimony.

Anyone wishing to provide information on any of the selected topics may contact the Commission office at (213) 974-1455. Articles pertaining to the subject issues are also solicited by the Commission Office at 383 Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Warning: Potential Hazard

The County Fire Department and Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department have begun their 1988 brush and weed enforcement/abatement program by mailing more than 48,000 notification cards to owners of improved and unimproved property that have been found to be a potential hazard.

These **notification cards** are the first step of the enforcement procedure and inform owners of the responsibility to maintain property in a fire safe condition.

The identified parcels with a potential brush/weed hazard will now be reinspected and, if hazardous conditions exist, the owner/occupant will be issued a **noncompliance notice** which will specify the hazardous conditions, state the clearing requirements, and set a compliance deadline date.

On or after the established compliance deadline date, another inspection will be made and, if the hazardous conditions have not been abated by the owner/occupant of the improved property, the Fire Department will request the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department to perform the necessary brush/weed clearance with service charges included on the owner's tax bill.

All questions regarding brush and weed clearance activities on improved parcels should be directed to County of Los Angeles Fire Department personnel at the local fire stations.

Questions regarding brush/weed clearance activities on unimproved parcels should be directed to the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department at (818) 575-5483, 5484, 5485, 5486 and in the Antelope Valley at (805) 945-6484.

Kaono Honored

(Continued from page 1)

High School teaching relationships between Students And The Law.

In February 1987, as you would expect, the natural choice for the G.A.R.P. program was Deputy Kaono.

We join the Board of Supervisors and Sheriff Block in giving high praise to Deputy Kaono for his professionalism, commitment to our youth, and his dedication to the elimination of gang violence.

Congratulations, Jerry!

Health, Fitness Speakers Available

Looking for an interesting speaker to address your department? The Health and Fitness Committee of the Department of Health Services can help solve your problem. The committee's Speakers Bureau Directory contains a list of people who will come to your facility to speak on health and fitness. For information, telephone Cheryl Guinn, 974-7342, or Patricia Kennedy, 857-6276.

Clockwise from top left: Playful dog helps provide motivational therapy; Kathy Carr, Animal Control Officer I, visits Downey Care Center every Thursday afternoon; A cuddly puppy brings a smile to a patient; A loving puppy "makes his day."

Pet Therapy Lifts Spirits of Shut-ins

The Pet Visitation Program is one of the many special programs of the County Department of Animal Care and Control.

Homeless, shelter animals are taken on a regular basis to visit with patients at local convalescent homes, rehabilitation hospitals, and senior citizens centers. The animals provide entertainment, diversion, and companionship.

This program was started in 1984 with a pilot study conducted at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center (RLAMC) to evaluate the use of companion animals in a hospital setting. With the cooperative efforts of the RLAMC staff, County Comparative Medical and Veterinary Services, and County Animal Care and Control, the program was and continues to be very successful.

With this proven success, the Pet Visitation Program has since been expanded Countywide and is in operation at each of the County's six Animal Care Centers. Visitations now include many other locations such as libraries and special education classes.

If you would like more information on the program or would be interested in volunteering at a scheduled visitation, please call (213) 940-8907.

Free Transportation Available for Needy

Free transportation to and from medical facilities and social service agencies in downtown Los Angeles is now available for homeless and low income individuals in the Skid Row area.

The Non-Emergent Transportation (NET) Project was initiated last fall to increase health care accessibility to people who cannot afford bus fare and have no other means of transportation.

A joint effort of public and private agencies, the project is funded by Proposition A funds through an agreement between the City Department of Transportation and Community Development Department, Human Services Division. The JWCH Institute, Inc., a nonprofit agency, is responsible for project operations while coordination and space are provided by the County's H. Claude Hudson Comprehensive Health Center (HCHC).

People in need of transportation can access the service through referral by an agency or by personal request.

The 12-passenger van's route covers homeless shelters, health center out-patient clinics, various social service agencies, and LAC-USC Medical Center. Service is provided Monday through Friday, except holidays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anthony Rodgers, project administrator, is very impressed with the response which has grown from an initial two or three passengers a day to 20-30 a day now.

For more information, call Rodgers at (213) 744-3677 or Marie Brown at (213) 744-3822.

Leticia Shepherd, HCHC Administrative Assistant, developed N.E.T. grant application, negotiated contracts, hired initial staff, and arranged logistics.

Assessor's Advisory Council

(Continued from page 1)

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Ms. Hazel McIntosh, Chair; Monroe Richmond, M.D.; John B. Kelly; Steve Owen; Howard Winkler; and Peter Lynch.

LEGISLATIVE: Arnold G. Regardie, Esq., Chair; James E. Hescox; and Steve Owen.

MANAGEMENT: Charles G. Novak, Chair; Dale Thune; Joseph A. Vinatieri, Esq.; Larry G. Gray; Alden Chase; Sherman Gardner; Robert D. Selleck; Jerry Krainock; Robert R. Mallicoat; Arnold Regardie; and James E. Hescox.

Following a presentation on goals from Assessor Lynch, the panel adopted the following Statement of Purpose:

- To establish an advisory council of civic leaders for the purpose of providing counsel as to the management and public service elements of the Assessor's Office;
- To assist the assessor by identifying administrative, processing, and management matters which effect constituent relations;
- To increase the visibility of the Assessor's Office and to provide a vehicle to educate and inform the public regarding assessment practices;
- To provide a forum for proposed changes in management, policies or law which may impact the operation of the Assessor's Office.

"This is the beginning," John Lynch added, "of a new effort to not only provide Los Angeles County with the best assessment services possible, but to make sure its taxpayers, whether they are property owners or not, know that this department is run efficiently and fairly."

The 1987 WalkAmerica top County team, Department of Public Social Services, challenges other departmental employees to top their record!

Join the March on 'WalkAmerica Day'

Set for Saturday, April 23, 1988, WalkAmerica Day is the number one walkathon in the nation and is the single largest fundraising activity for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

Joining in the walkathon for the third year, County employees will be meeting at this year's primary walk site, the South Bay Walk. This route will take walkers along the shores of Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Redondo Beach's King Harbor!

A special "WalkAmerica" pep rally will be held at Miracosta High School, 701 South Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach to kick off the walkathon at 8 a.m. Saturday morning. There will be special registration tables for County employees.

If you cannot join us at the South Bay Walk, March of Dimes Representatives will also be available to assist with general information and sponsor sheets at each of the following other "WalkAmerica Day" locations:

Antelope Valley:	Lane Park 55520 West Ave. L 8, Quartz Hill
Long Beach	Recreation Park 4900 East 7th St. Long Beach
San Fernando Valley:	Pierce College 6201 Winnetka Ave., Woodland Hills
San Gabriel Valley:	Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park Group Picnic Area, San Dimas
Santa Clarita Valley:	College of the Canyons Valencia Blvd., East of the 5 Fwy.
Westside:	Federal Building 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, West Los Angeles

Several checkpoints will be set up at each site with rest areas and refreshments provided. The average time required to walk the route is three to four hours.

Many premiums, such as T-shirts, radios, televisions, videotape recorders, cameras, and even a trip for two to Puerto Vallarta or Hawaii may be earned by walkers. Check your sponsor form for details.

So, get ready, sign up sponsors, and form a team with your family or co-workers. Remember the City of Los Angeles, Firefighters and employees have challenged us once again. We need your support on Saturday, April 23 at 8 a.m.!

Can WALKING Prolong Your Life?

What is the simplest, safest, and least expensive exercise? Of course, it's walking.

Medical research has shown that walking benefits nearly everyone, regardless of your previous state of fitness. These same studies suggest that a long-term walking program (an average of nine miles a week) can significantly prolong life.

Don't count the casual stop-and-go walking you do around the office or at home as part of your exercise program. It does not provide significant conditioning benefits for your heart and lungs. Set aside special time just for nonstop, brisk walking.

Brisk walking (at speeds of three and one-half to four and one-half miles an hour) is said to produce cardiovascular benefits. Slower walking (two miles an hour) can be advantageous for older people, cardiac patients, or people recuperating from an illness.

If you are just beginning a walking program, find a rhythmic, easy pace that doesn't cause you to become breathless. Gradually work up to a point where you can walk briskly without having to stop for a rest.

For weight control, the simple addition of walking to a daily routine can help one lose weight by curbing appetite, reducing stress, and burning calories. Walking at speeds of five miles an hour can burn as many calories as moderate jogging, but even slow walking can burn 60 to 80 calories per mile.

Many fitness professionals believe that walking is the ideal aerobic exercise because it can offer these great benefits with low risk of injury. Also, by wearing loose comfortable clothing and shoes with cushioned soles for walking, expensive exercise equipment or cost for gym use are avoided.

So start today by planning a regular walking program that could help you look better, feel better, think better, and live longer!

Carol Koelle Honored for Service to Children

Carol R. Koelle, a County Probation Department employee for over 28 years, has received the Long Beach Area Child Trauma Council Annual Award for dedicated service to the rights and protection of children. Ms. Koelle is the Director, Central Adult Investigations, and coordinates the Probation Department's Child Threat Caseloads, in which adult offenders are supervised for crimes in which children have been victims.

Carol has been a member of the Long Beach Area Child Trauma Council for more than ten years and has served on the executive board as treasurer and member-at-large. She is currently the council's liaison with the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

The Long Beach Area Child Trauma Council represents a broad cross section of professionals from both the public and private sector who work with children at high risk of physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Carole Koelle receives honor.

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