



# DIGEST

SEPTEMBER 14, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Fady Mattar and Supervisor Pete Schabarum

## Mattar: Close Call With Mideast Crisis

**T**he Mideast crisis is no stranger to Fady Mattar, an Egyptian native and the August County Employee of the Month.

On a recent trip to Cairo, the Department of Public Works supervising engineer and his family fell into a web of bad timing. After Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait August 2, Mattar and his 19-year-old son faced a possible call to arms under Egyptian dual citizenship laws.

### Employee of the Month

But after some tense moments, the family returned to the United States only hours before Fady's scheduled presentation. Supervisor Pete Schabarum welcomed Fady back to Los Angeles and commented, "We heard it was touch and go.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ISD Director Gets Confirmed as National Guard General

William Stewart, Internal Services Department Director, has been confirmed as a California National Guard Brigadier General.

Stewart, who has served in the California National Guard for 29 years, was confirmed by the United States Senate in May.

"As an employee of the County for 30 years, Stewart has brought credit and honor not only to his country and family, but to the County of Los

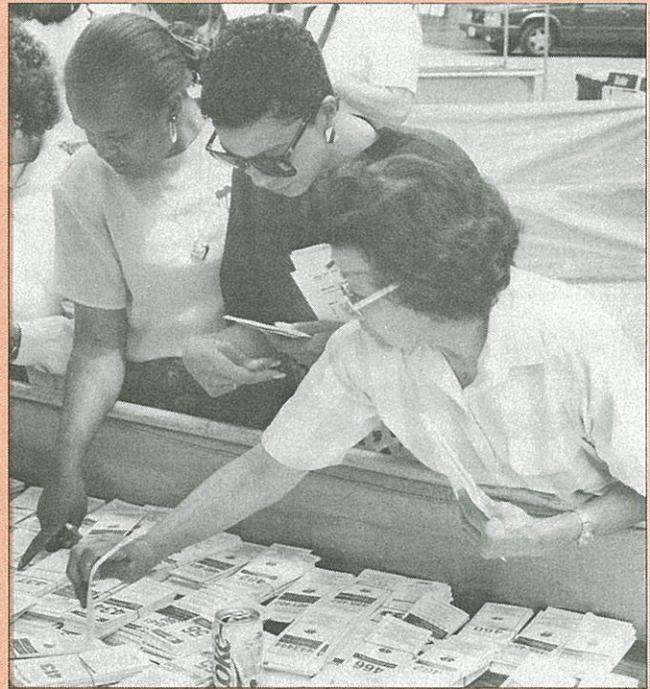
Angeles as well," said Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, a former U.S. Navy lieutenant.

"I enjoyed reminiscing with Brigadier General Stewart about the armed forces," Hahn added. "And I am also glad that Los Angeles County has an employee who has reached this distinguished rank."

See photo on page two.

## DIGGING FOR A RIDE

*Employees shuffle through bus schedules during the August 8 Way to Go rideshare fair. See story and additional photos on page three.*



## Investment Plan Offers Employees New Options, Benefits

Employees participating in the County's Deferred Compensation Plan will get improved benefits under a restructured and streamlined series of investment options. Participants in the thrift, savings and deferred earnings plans are affected.

The new options follow an evaluation of the County's Deferred Compensation Plan by William M. Mercer, Inc., a deferred compensation specialist firm. About 36,000 County employees participate in the plan.

During September, participants will receive information packets detailing the new options. Accounts will automatically transfer to the option most closely resembling the current investment.

Under the plan, which takes effect October 16, participants deferring payroll wages to the compensation plan receive a wide range of improved benefits, including:

- \* Fixed and variable investment options offered by two highly respected firms:

Metropolitan Life and Fidelity Investments.

- \* A guaranteed rate of return for the Metropolitan Life investments.
- \* Eliminated penalties for withdrawals (retirement, hardship, death, disability or leaving employment) in lump sum, periodic payments or annuity.

For more information, call the Deferred Compensation Hotline, (213) 887-2230.



Supervisor Pete Schabarum congratulates top County officials on winning the 1990 National Association of Counties Achievement Awards.

## Mattar: Employee of the Month

(Continued from page 1)

Well, it's good to see you safely home."

Emigrating from Egypt in 1969 with only \$200, Mattar went to work for the County. While rising through the ranks, he earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering. Now, he heads the Department of Public Works Mechanical Engineering Section.

His duties include supervising the County staff who check building construction compliance with state and county codes.

"I saw all the privileges in America, all the freedom," he said. "I knew if I worked hard I could make it. This is the greatest country in the world."

Under Mattar's leadership, the section became a statewide model for its efficiency and state of the art computerized operation.

A former lecturer at Los Angeles Trade Tech, Fady was selected as the Department of Public Works 1990 Employee of the Year.

## 95 County Programs Win NACo Awards

Innovative and efficient government was lauded by the National Association of Counties in August when 31 County departments received 1990 Achievement Awards.

During the August 7 Board of Supervisors meeting, 95 County programs received honors for contributing to effective local government.

Programs ranged from air pollution display greenhouses to Spanish speaking professional recruitment, from high risk drug baby units to an urban search and rescue program.

Winning programs originated in the following departments: Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Beaches and Harbors, Chief Administrative Office, Children's Services, Community and Senior Citizens Services, Community Development Commission, Consumer Affairs, County Counsel, Board of Su-

pervisors Executive Office, Forester and Fire Warden, Health Services, Human Relations Commission, Internal Services, Municipal Court, Probation, Public Defender, Public Library, Public Social Services, Public Works, Regional Planning, Registrar-Recorder, Sheriff, Superior Court, and Treasurer and Tax Collector.

## NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK Combat Fire With Education

The smoke alarm is blaring. You try to see where you're going but it's pitch black. You feel as if you're blindfolded. Panic takes over your mind and body. You need help and only precious seconds are left. What should you do?

The answer: drop to the floor and crawl to the nearest exit, checking closed doors with the back of your hand in order not to enter a room full of flames. Once outside, call the fire department.

Approximately 5,000 people die in fires every year, according to the National Safety Council. In order to combat this problem, organizations throughout the nation are participating in National Fire Prevention Week, October 7 - 13.

"Many unfortunate myths about fire are created by television shows and movies," says Ann Daubach, fire safety specialist at the National Safety Council. These misconceptions include:

- \* You can see by the light of the fire.
- \* It takes a long time for fire to spread.
- \* You'll have time to gather keepsakes.
- \* A fire's heat isn't life threatening.

The facts are just the opposite. During a fire, a room can fill up quickly with thick black smoke and become so dark that you may not be able to see your hand.

Most people die even before flames can reach them because poisonous smoke and gases can make a person pass out in less than two minutes. In addition, a fire's heat

can be even more hazardous to a person than its flames. The air can become so hot it can sear your lungs, not letting you breathe, and so hot your clothes may fuse to your skin.

### Steps to Preventing Fires

Everyone should install UL or FM labeled smoke detectors that sense smoke and sound an alarm that will wake you in time to escape. Detectors should be placed on the ceiling or high on walls outside bedroom areas. In a multilevel home, each level should have a smoke detector. Smoke detectors should be tested monthly, especially when children are present. This allows children to learn what the smoke detector sounds like and they will be less afraid if it goes off in a fire.

All families should get together to discuss and practice a fire escape plan. Be sure to have a main and alternative exit for each room, if possible.



Supervisor Kenneth Hahn congratulates newly appointed California National Guard Brigadier General William Stewart after he was confirmed by the United States Senate.

## Productivity Commission Innovation Grant Program

\$1.9 Million Available

Proposals due November 9, 1990

Contact your Departmental Productivity  
Manager or the Productivity Office

(213) 893-0322

## 2,000 ATTEND RIDESHARE FAIR

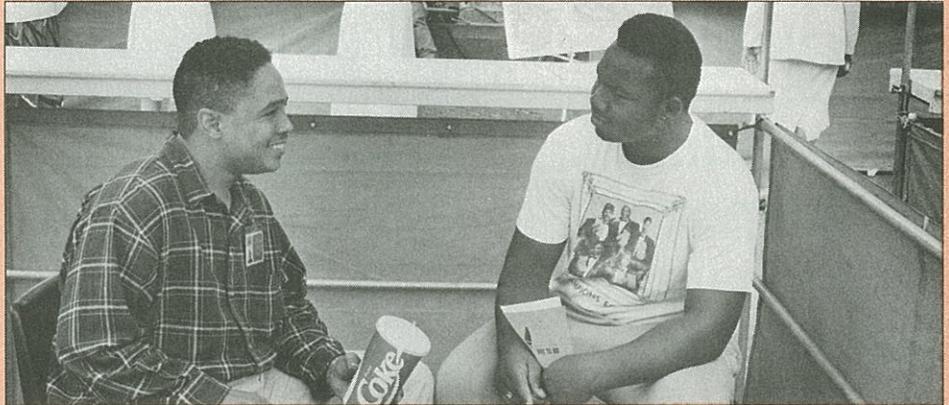


*Sights at the Fair:*

*Department of Public Social Services employees Norvin Armstrong and Juaria Moore sing the solo-driver blues.*

*Derrick Callicoalte, left, and Danon Wirt wait for a Hollywood connection. Both work for the Superior Court.*

*Vicki Grenewetzki, Internal Services Department, gives fair participants rideshare information.*



With hopes of ending the commuter blues, more than 2,000 employees packed the County Mall August 8 for the Way to Go rideshare fair.

The lunchtime crowd strolled through the booths identified by city, region or transportation agency. And while folks discovered new ways to commute to work, Norvin Armstrong and Juaria Moore, a Department of Social Services musical duo, turned out a top-notch set of jazz standards.

More than 300 employees received vanpooling information at the Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Office-sponsored event. In addition, a wide range of prizes were raffled off to employees registering for commuting information.

For more information on carpooling and public transportation, call Kim Boatman of the CAO Trip Reduction Services Office, (213) 974-1771. For vanpool information, call Holly Isbitsky, (213) 738-4066.

Remember, 60 percent of our air pollution

comes from cars, buses and trucks. And the average freeway speed during prime commuting hours, 37 mph, is predicted to be 17 mph by the year 2,000.



## Savings Bonds: New Guidelines for Payroll Deductions

Purchasing \$50 and \$75 Savings Bonds through payroll deduction ends this month, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. The \$100 bond, which may be purchased through a variety of options, is now the lowest denomination available.

Employees currently purchasing \$50 or \$75 bonds through payroll deduction will get a letter this month detailing the new options, including increasing deductions.

Under the new plan, a \$100 bond can be purchased every four months with a \$12.50 monthly deduction. A \$25 monthly deduction gets the employee a \$100 bond every other month, and with a \$50 deduction, a \$100 bond every month.

Fifty-dollar bonds for a \$25 purchase price are still available through the year-round purchase program. Simply complete a request form, attach a check and send it to the Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St., Room 464, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Workers in the civic center area can deliver the form to the Hall of Administration, first floor, windows 1-4.

Whether saving for retirement, a new home or car, Savings Bonds help fulfill dreams. When held for five or more years, bonds pay a guaranteed six percent interest rate or a market-based average rate, whichever is higher.

For additional information, call your departmental Savings Bonds coordinator or the county-wide Savings Bonds Program coordinator, (213) 974-2172.

**U.S. SAVINGS BONDS**



## Participants Needed for Health and Stress Study

The Research and Training Center on Aging at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center seeks married men and women 55 and over to participate in a health and stress study. The study investigates daily life stress and its impact on health among older adults.

Participants spend one weekday morn-

ing filling out general questionnaires on health, stress and social support. Next, a certified physician's assistant gives a free physical examination, with a summary of results going to the participant.

For further information, contact Dr. Judith Mitchell, (213) 940-8953.

# KICK OFF

## Community Support Campaign

*At right, Brotherhood Crusade helps support the Department of Beaches and Harbors W.A.T.E.R. program, which introduces inner city youth to water sports.*

*United Way agencies like East Los Angeles' Eastmont Community Center, below, provide needed services to the elderly.*



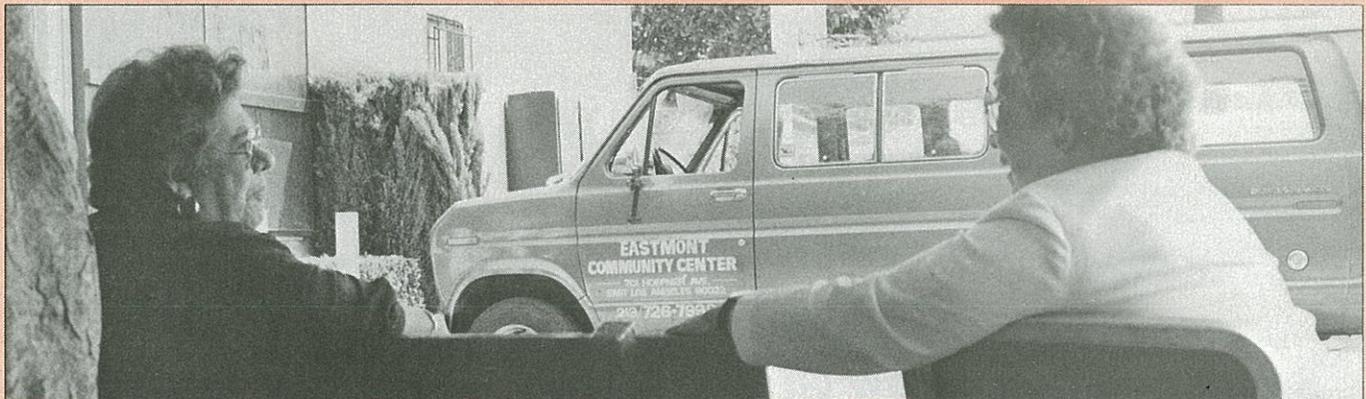
Departments throughout the County have kicked off the Fall 1990 Community Support Campaign, which brings together management, labor and employees to help non-profit human service agencies.

Chaired by Supervisor Pete Schabarum, the fall campaign runs September 10 to November 30.

"The County has effectively worked in partnership with Brotherhood Crusade and

United Way for years," said Program Director Evelyn Gutierrez. "We share a common goal, and are raising funds to help the homeless, mentally ill, elderly, abused children and others in our communities that need our help."

For details on donations or department events, contact your departmental community support coordinator.



## 11,000 Attend Hazardous Waste Roundups

More than 11,000 households took part in the Los Angeles County hazardous waste roundups held during the last few months, according to Supervisor Pete Schabarum.

The program included events at the Rose Bowl, Long Beach Veterans Stadium, County Sanitation District headquarters, and Cal Poly Pomona. The Rose Bowl Roundup, handling 4,200 households, was the largest single-day event of its kind ever held in the nation.

The Long Beach event attracted 3,116 participants, and about 2,000 attended each of the other two roundups.

Residents brought more than 48,000 gallons of paint, making it the most common waste brought to the roundups. Used motor oil was the second most common waste, totalling almost 20,000 gallons.

Residents received information on the use of these household materials as well as alternative

products. Volunteers from the County Department of Public Works and County Sanitation Districts assisted in traffic control and emergency response.

"These roundups were held in order to protect our citizens and our environment," Schabarum said. "The wastes collected were directed wherever possible to recycling, reprocessing, or alternative-use facilities to ensure that goal by minimizing the amount directed to landfills."

The roundups are part of an interim waste management program authorized by the Board of Supervisors and co-funded by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to provide an immediate household hazardous waste disposal alternative.

Information gathered during the roundups will be used in the establishment of a permanent County household hazardous waste collection program.

County of Los Angeles

### DIGEST

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