



DIGEST

NOVEMBER 2, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

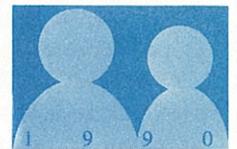
TELECOMMUTING County Shares Success Story

More than 100 folks from three states got an inside look at the County's pioneering telecommuting program October 3 and were urged to take advantage of "the wave of the future."

During the County cosponsored workshop, representatives from cities, counties, school districts and private companies learned telecommuting's benefits, including stress reduction, productivity increase and improved morale. Telecommuting is working at home or an office close to home.

Supervisor Mike Antonovich, who greeted the attendees, said the County started the program just over a year ago "with one important employee who began working at home after
(Continued on page 2)

L.A. COUNTY
GOVERNMENT-
STUDENT
PARTNERSHIP



Hispanic Youth Get Guidance From County

The drop-out rate among Hispanic high school students in the United States has reached an all-time high of 32 percent, according to the Department of Education.

Sparked by concerns that many young Hispanics will be locked out of successful careers, the County is teaming up with the Pepsi-Cola Company of Los Angeles for a two-week pilot program aimed at educating students about local government and the employment opportunities available after high school.

The Government-Student Partnership program, running October 22 - November 2,
(Continued on page 3)



American Legion County Adjutant Frances Borucki, left, and Veterans Services Division Chief Furman Stagers examine the hall's balcony ribbon.

American Hostages and Military Remembered at Patriotic Hall

Remembering Americans held hostage in the Middle East, the County's Patriotic Hall has joined a wide range of organizations by placing huge yellow ribbons over its entrance.

Visible to more than 200,000 Harbor Freeway motorists each day, the ribbons

on the 1816 S. Figueroa St. historical landmark serve as a constant reminder of the Iraqi government held hostages and the U.S. deployed forces.

The largest ribbon, 3 feet wide, extends across the hall's eighth floor balcony and
(Continued on page 2)

VETERANS DAY



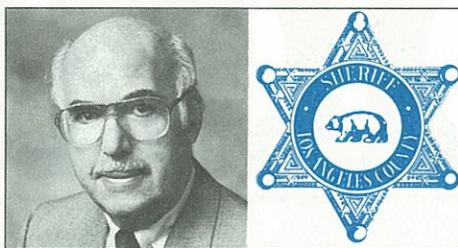
Supervisor Kenneth Hahn presents commendations to William Stewart, left, and Gerald Crump, who recently achieved the rank of Brigadier General with the California National Guard and Air Force Reserves, respectively. Stewart is the Department of Internal Services Director, while Crump serves as the Chief Assistant County Counsel. "These are two outstanding men who serve both the County and their country with distinction," Hahn said. "It is a high honor and rare privilege to commend them."

Jail Overcrowding: An Update from Sheriff Sherman Block

Los Angeles County is in the midst of a crisis. Our jails can no longer hold the massive numbers of people who are being arrested.

Gangs and their violence, drug trafficking and usage, and increasing property crimes have plagued our County with higher arrest rates than ever before. As a result, our jails are literally bursting at their seams. Suspects who have not yet had their cases adjudicated, and those convicted and sentenced, are finding themselves returned to the streets prematurely. Justice is not being served; nor are the people of our County. Together, we must strive to find a solution.

In June 1980, the Los Angeles County jail inmate population averaged 9,300 daily. At that time, our jails were designed to house approximately 13,000 inmates. We still had room to grow...and grow we did. Ten years later, we must now provide housing for over 22,000 inmates; yet, our jails are designed to hold only 15,528 inmates. Our inmate population has increased over 140 percent in one



Sheriff Sherman Block

decade while our bed space has only increased by 15 percent. We now hold over 20 percent of California's total inmate population.

Since 1987, the Sheriff's Department has been under a federal court order to keep the County jail system's inmate population below 22,383. To facilitate this order the Federal Court created a relief valve by giving the Sheriff broad controls to release inmates as necessary.

Today, inmates complete only a portion of their actual court ordered sentence because of

the necessity of releasing people early. People arrested for committing misdemeanor crimes and on misdemeanor warrants are released from jail on their written promise to appear. We don't know how many actually show up for their day in court. To date, over 317,000 suspects have legally escaped custody or the completion of their sentences because of jail overcrowding. If trends continue, it is projected that in the year 2000, the Sheriff's Department will be responsible for the care of a daily average inmate population reaching numbers over 34,000.

In the final analysis, we are faced with an immediate shortage of jails, which will continue into the next century. Our choices are tough. We must resolve to find new places to confine criminals, or agree to allow mandatory federal inmate population controls to force more and more inmates back onto the streets. While our goal is to ensure that criminals are behind bars where they belong and not on the streets victimizing our law-abiding fellow citizens, the severe jail overcrowding problem is making the accomplishment of our goal very difficult.

Yellow Ribbons At Patriotic Hall

(Continued from page 1)

features a 5-foot-wide bow in the center. A second ribbon, encircles the eagle above the hall's entrance.

Purchased at no County expense, businesses, veterans organizations and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' staff pitched in for the ribbons.

And with Veterans Day on November 11, additional recognition is on the way.

KABC's Michael Jackson will broadcast live from the hall to the Middle East on November 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Worldwide Armed Forces Network. Fami-



Wrapped for remembrance at Patriotic Hall.

lies of service personnel in the Persian Gulf area are invited to send greetings and make private tapes for mailing. Call (213) 744-4827 for more information.

County Featured at Telecommuting Workshop

(Continued from page 1)

giving birth to a baby. She relayed her work back to her County office by computer.

"Now, more than 700 County employees are involved in this innovative program, working at home one to four days per week, with the average telecommuting employee working at home about two days a week," Antonovich said.

The County intends to expand the program in the upcoming months.

The workshop included a panel of telecommuters from the departments of Health Services, Assessor, and Community and Senior Citizens Services. All panelists reported great

satisfaction with the program.

A Department of Community and Senior Citizens Services survey showed 89 percent of telecommuters experienced increased productivity and 79 percent with improved work quality.

The Assessor's office also reported improved morale, lower stress level, reduction in overtime and increased productivity.

"The door of opportunity is wide open to implement innovative programs such as telecommuting...," Antonovich said. "The County is leading the way with this new program."

Pacific Bell and Commuter Transportation Services, Inc. cosponsored the event.

Congratulations Retirees

Warm wishes and congratulations go to the following employees who are retiring after 30 years or more of County service:

Animal Care & Control: Ralph R. Dessy
District Attorney: Coy O. Barnes, Phillip Millett, Dewayne R. Smith

Fire: Robert J. Ricard, Willard H. Sparks
Health Services: Clarie M. Anderson, Mary D. Roberts, Lois K. Sweet, Mosher M.S. Yen

Internal Services: Leonard Cascarano, Isaiah Thornton

Municipal Courts: Jay E. Koch

Probation: General C. Jones

Public Social Services: Delores Gaines, Georgia M. Stewart

Sheriff: Deloris A. Hannah-Butts, Arthur C. Rinard, Robert D. Ross, Easie Williams

Treasurer-Tax Collector: Sarah K. Overstreet

Best wishes are also extended to the following retirees with 25 years or more of County service:

Assessor: Jennie Garcia

Children's Services: Dolores I. Rodriguez, Elizabeth M. Warner

Health Services: Georgia Mae Flowers, Denice Greathouse, Archerine Greene, Antonia McGuffin, Robert Richard, Jane N. Simpson, Ezelma Sudds

Internal Services: Oliver T. West

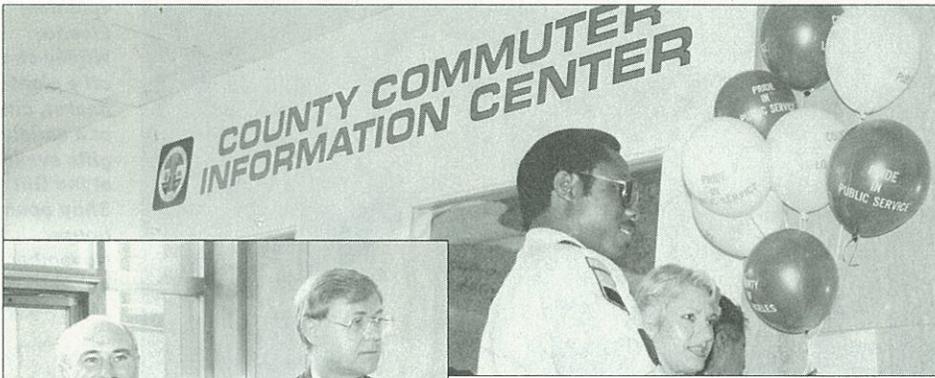
Public Defender: Joseph C. Fontaine

Public Social Services: Anthony J. D'Errico, Nancy L. Goddard

Public Works: Jeremiah J. Lynch

Sheriff: Diana M. Corrington, Charles E. Overlease, John F. Texeira Jr.

Treasurer-Tax Collector: George-Ann Ulen



Clockwise from left: Jim Sims, left, President of Commuter Transportation Systems, and Supervisor Mike Antonovich; Free balloons and commuter mugs helped kick off the grand opening; and Center Manager Valerie Hill inputs rideshare information.



COMMUTER CENTER'S NON-STOP ACTION

Getting help with bus routes, carpools and vanpools, more than 2,300 employees packed the Commuter Information Center during its two week kick off, October 1 - 14.

The Hall of Administration "commuter store" is backed up by five mini centers in the civic center area.

According to Center Manager Valerie Hill, 58 percent of the customers wanted public transportation information with 21 percent interested in carpooling. In addition, Hill said "We just can't keep up with the demand for bus schedules."

1991 OVERVIEW

New Medical Insurance Options

During the upcoming election for Choices and the Flexible Benefit Plan, the County is offering new indemnity medical insurance options.

Enrollment materials, which will be mailed to participants, explain expansion of the CIGNA program for Choices and a new plan for Flex. There are no changes to the Kaiser medical plan benefits.

Here's a brief overview of next year's County-sponsored medical plans:

Available in Choices:

- * Kaiser medical plan
- * Four CIGNA medical plans:
 - Option A: Staff Model HMO (receive all treatment at a medical care center)
 - Option B: IPA Model HMO (receive treatment by network physicians at their individual offices)
 - Option C: Health Access HMO/Indemnity (receive treatment at health care center or by network private practice physicians at their individual offices; or, visit any out-of-network doctor)
 - Option D: Preferred Provider Program (use in-network "preferred provider;" or, use any other doctor)

(Blue Shield and Maxicare medical plans unavailable)

Available in Flexible Benefit Plan:

- * Kaiser medical plan
- * Metropolitan Life medical plan: The Metropolitan Life Indemnity medical plan offers improved benefits in two modes:
 - Receive treatment from network private practice physicians and hospitals,
 - or receive treatment from any other doctor
 (CIGNA/Ross Loos and Blue Shield medical plans unavailable)
 (Participation in Maxicare medical plan limited to current subscribers)

Medical plan changes elected during this open enrollment become effective January 1; current County-sponsored medical insurance is not affected during 1990.

Changes, benefits and rates for plans offered are fully explained in enrollment materials. For complete information, contact your departmental personnel/payroll office. Meanwhile, discussions with Local 660 continue regarding 1991 benefits. Final decisions will be announced.

Student Partnership Helps Hispanics

(Continued from page 1)

brings County officials from 16 departments into D.W. Griffith Junior High School in Los Angeles to give an inside look into County government. In addition, selected students spend the day with a County department and attend a Board of Supervisors meeting.

Griffith Junior High School was selected based on its 99 percent Hispanic enrollment.

"It is our hope that the program will make the students aware of the vast opportunities available in local government as high school graduates," said project consultant Josh Berman, who spent the summer working with the County's Affirmative Action Compliance Office. "If they see that the community depends upon them as the future work force, it is our feeling that they will have greater motivation to stay in school."

Each day, selected County departments will host motivation and education presentations for 800 students in the school's auditorium.

The program wraps up November 2 with the Los Angeles County Festival, a school-wide party on the athletic field with a celebrating education theme. Featured speakers include Supervisor Ed Edelman, Chief Administrative Officer Richard Dixon, District Attorney Ira Reiner and Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Leticia Quezada.

MARCINE'S STAR



Marcine Shaw, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn's Senior Deputy, unveils a star in her honor September 22 on the Promenade of Prominence in Watts. The walk of fame is similar to the Hollywood Walk of Fame. "Marcine is very hard working and dedicated to improving the quality of life for everyone in the community," Hahn said. "She is very deserving of this honor, and I am delighted that she is a member of my staff." Also taking part in the gala ceremony on Success Avenue near 103rd Street was her husband Frederick Douglas Shaw, Sr.



Arboretum volunteer Eleanor Wigley shows off a planted basket, one of a variety of gifts available at the Gift Shop open house, November 2 - 4.

NOVEMBER AT THE GARDENS

Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Ave.

Arcadia

(818) 446-8251

Gift Shop Open House: November 2 - 4, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Christmas shoppers have two choices: buying natural gifts or attending gift-making workshops. Miniature Christmas trees, vine wreaths, garden books, ceramics and sundials are some of the gifts offered. Craftspeople will conduct a series of workshops showing how to shape tabletop topiaries from ivy or fragrant rosemary.

Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Dr.

La Canada Flintridge

(818) 790-5571

Artists of the Month: November 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Five watercolor artists who have studied and painted together for seven years will fill the Hospitality House Gallery with their varied works. The award-winning artists use birds, cats, flowers and landscapes as subjects. Massive bronze and marble figures by sculptress Charlette von Trousch will complement the exhibit.

South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula

(213) 772-5813

Chrysanthemum Show: November 3 and 4, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The South Coast Botanic Gardens Foundation will feature container-grown chrysanthemums to convince visitors of the flower's adaptability to balconies and small gardens. The vibrantly colored flowers have been shaped into cascades, shrub forms and tree shapes. Japanese style arrangements of cut "mum" blooms and an exhibit of watercolors will complement the potted plants. Plants similar to the displayed items will be for sale.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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Children's Services Art Auction Proceeds to Help Non-Profit Groups

Employees, family and friends are invited to the Department of Children's Services Community Support Art Auction November 8 at the Baldwin Park Hilton, 14635 Baldwin Park Towne Center.

The preview starts at 6:30 p.m. with the

auction at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door. Musical entertainment and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. For additional information or ticket purchase, call Leslie Griffith (213) 351-5766.