

County DIGEST



February 28, 1994

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER BRUCE HOFFMAN

NEW DEPARTMENT, ERA Alternate Defender Steps Into Office

Pledging to build an "excellent staff" for a first-rate office, Bruce Hoffman stepped in as Alternate Public Defender December 1 and vowed to make the County proud of one of its newest departments.

A 26-year County veteran, Hoffman has served as head deputy public defender in the Long Beach Superior Court Branch since 1991. A Los Angeles native, the Vietnam veteran oversees a \$3.5 million budget and a team of 27 lawyers.

"An excellent staff makes an excellent office," Hoffman said. "Highly skilled dedicated and diverse staffers can and will exceed expectations in the delivery of quality and cost-effective legal service."

The Department was created by the Board of Supervisors to provide quality legal representation for the indigent.

With staffing almost complete, Hoffman built a team that's 47 percent women and 62 percent minorities. His management

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Beaches Director Faces New Challenge

Stan Wisniewski, a 26-year County veteran who started as a beach parking lot attendant and worked up the ranks, is the new Beaches and Harbors director.

In the post, he heads the Department which operates Marina del Rey, the County's largest revenue producer, and 31 miles of public beaches.

"Taking over the position as the Department faces unprecedented budget constraints and changes in the way it does



STAN WISNIEWSKI

business is a challenge I welcome," Wisniewski said.

While a USC student, he started his career with the Parks and Recreation
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SHAKING ALL OVER

Supervisors Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Mike Antonovich meet with County firefighters during last year's Earthquake Preparedness Fair in Los Angeles. With a Do More '94 theme, the County's Office of Emergency Management kicks off its annual Employee Earthquake Preparedness Expo April 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the mall between the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration and the County Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. County departments, volunteer groups and a wide range of guests will be on hand to help folks prepare for the big one.

Coolidge on Persistence: Nothing Takes Its Place

Calvin Coolidge said "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence." With that adage, our 30th president could have described three award-winning County employees.

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Annette Collins, **October's Employee of the Month** and a GAIN Services Coordinator, works for the Department of Public Social Services and never stops pushing forward. She created a training packet for staff workers and established "equitable" workload standards. She also owns Genesis Bridal and Apparel Company and is co-founder and owner of the Genesis Building and Restoration Center, which provides basic education and training in the building, restoration and maintenance of industrial, commercial and residential buildings. The center reaches out to the low-to-moderate income adults who want to improve their economic condition.



ANNETTE COLLINS AND SUPERVISOR ED EDELMAN

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Val Ann Schneider built a fan club of sorts through her persistence. Working for the Assessor's Department, she's employed as a service clerk in the agency's one-stop public service counter in Newhall. Known for her tax know how, Val Ann has received many letters of praise from taxpayers who say she helps streamline what they call the tax "nightmare." For her efforts, folks now know her as **November's Employee of the Month**.



VAL ANN SCHNEIDER AND SUPERVISOR MIKE ANTONOVICH



YVONNE BEATTY AND SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

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Yvonne Beatty, **December's Employee of the Month**, has also reached new heights on the Eastside. As a public health nurse at Roybal Comprehensive Health Center, the 27-year employee supervises 16 employees and keeps them up to date on changes in regulations. She also keeps health centers up to accreditation standards through a vigorous monitoring system. While conducting seminars on nursing at East Los Angeles College, she also makes presentations to community forums.

POST-QUAKE UPDATE

Shorter Commutes, New Job Sites

The quake shook up more than nerves and lives—it made getting to work a nightmare for some folks. But thanks to a new program, 184 employees spend work days at government buildings close to their homes.

The County Probation and Public Works offices in Santa Clarita serve as worksites, while the cities of Claremont, Lancaster, Lakewood and Manhattan Beach also chipped-in space.

Called the Telework Facilities Exchange, the program is a new alternative to the work-at-home option called telecommuting.

According to Aaron Baum, a Telework Facilities Exchange manager, new workers will be identified and enter the project within the next two weeks.

"Managers often seem reluctant to embrace telework because they see renting space in a telecenter as too expensive or they worry that workers won't be productive in a work-from-home environment," Baum said. "The project offers a way to minimize costs for telework while keeping the benefits of working in a fully-equipped professional office environment."

If you're interested in joining The Exchange, call (310) 204-1897.

Beaches & Harbors Director

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Department as a parking lot attendant.

After graduating in 1972, he joined the County full time in the Auditor-Controller's Department. His next assignment brought him to the Department of Small Craft Harbors, which managed Marina del Rey.

With the merger of Small Craft Harbors and the Department of Beaches in 1982, he was named deputy director and managed a variety of programs, including administration, asset management, safety/sanitation and planning. He held that position until his permanent appointment as director in August.

MORE TO SEE & DO



Helen Levitt's *New York, 1940*, one of 85 photographs in a major retrospective spanning the artist's 60-year career, continues through March 27 at the County Museum of Art. Starting in the 1930s, Levitt took to the neighborhood streets of New York with a hand-held camera, photographing the theater of daily life. Today, Levitt is regarded as a leading figure in the history of American photography and continues to create works of great vitality and originality. The Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, 213-857-6000.

Graffiti Hotline Puts the Rub on Blight and Vandalism

In an ongoing battle against urban blight, the Board of Supervisors recently approved a Countywide graffiti hotline. By dialing 1-800-780-7824, residents can report the vandalism and learn about anti-graffiti services.

The hotline, first recommended by Supervisor Deane Dana, is staffed by trained operators not police and sponsored by the Board of Supervisors, Caltrans and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Callers can remain anonymous when giving information on tagging and gang crime.



Free Series Spotlights Training

A new, free series spotlighting worker training starts March 17 and is open to all employees.

Sponsored by the County Trainer's Network, the 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. event kicks off at the County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. The program features Chief Administrative Officer Sally Reed speaking on the County's commitment to training. Consultant Laura Hauser will also discuss *Management Organizational Change and Transition*.

Other upcoming events include:

May 26—*Forget those Smile Sheets—How Do You Measure Training-Generated Performance on the Job?* with consultant Ann Kelly

September 29—*One Last Time—How Do You Design Valid Needs Assessment?* with Dr. Rose-Lise Obetz.

December 8—Holiday party and training by Dr. Ken Nowack. Seminar addresses *Using Instruments to Assess Developmental Needs*

Coordinated by CAO employee Joyce Labrinos, the Trainer's Network is a group of County officers, coordinators and employees interested in the training field.

For event times, locations and more information, call Debbie Clark-Jenkins at (213) 974-2515.



CASHING IN

Supervisor Deane Dana congratulates Chief Administrative Office employee Marilyn Brown for getting about \$62 million in federal funds to keep youth probation and child welfare services afloat in 1994. Brown, Chief of Federal Development in the CAO, located the money from federal revenues totaling more than \$140 million annually for California.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES VANPOOL PROGRAM RIDERS WANTED

Seats are now available on vans arriving at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration from:

MONTCLAIR	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
COSTA MESA	7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
MORENO VALLEY	7 a.m. – 4 p.m. 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
PALMDALE/LANCASTER	6:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
RIALTO	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information, call (213) 974-8481.

COUNTY HOLIDAYS

Memorial Day	May 30
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 5
Columbus Day	October 10
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 24
Friday after Thanksgiving	November 25
Monday after Christmas	December 26

Alternate Public Defender

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crew includes Janice Fukai, Chief Deputy; Jim Schoonover, Administrative Deputy; David Carleton, Head Deputy; and Neal Collins, Chief of Investigations.

Although all cases will be initially heard downtown, the new office plans to get together with the Courts and the Chief Administrative Office to examine expansion plans.

Hoffman earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a law degree in 1964 from the University's Boalt Hall.

The issues of the 1960s and the community's diversity helped influence his career choice.

"I've always enjoyed working for the underdog, trying to champion positions that were not especially fashionable," Hoffman said.

County DIGEST

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The Digest is published to provide news and information of interest to the employees of the County of Los Angeles.

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