



**P. MICHAEL FREEMAN, FORESTER AND FIRE WARDEN, CUTS THE RIBBON AND OPENS FIRE STATION #130 IN LANCASTER. FREEMAN IS JOINED BY SUPERVISOR MIKE ANTONOVICH AND A HOST OF OTHER DIGNITARIES.**

## Lancaster Gets 2 New Fire Stations

**U**nder blue skies, a host of officials and dignitaries recently cut ribbons and opened County Fire Stations 130 and 134, two state-of-the-art facilities in Lancaster.

The Fire houses, which broke ground in Spring 1993, are joint efforts between the County, state and city. To complete the stations, County financing joined state funding and city utility assistance.

According to County officials, the stations feature above-ground diesel fuel storage, energy-efficient utilities and access for the physically disabled.



**READY TO ROLL AT FIRE STATION #130.**

## Director Leaves City, Takes Top County Human Relations Position

Ron Wakabayashi, L.A. City Human Relations Commission Director, has been hired by the County Commission on Human Relations to lead the organization into its 50th year.

Taking over from Eugene Mornell, who served as the commission's director for 12 years, Wakabayashi pledges to build "infrastructures" to ease group and individuals' problems. He starts May 9.

Wakabayashi said people are quick to cite race and ethnic relations when issues such as employment, housing, service and communication need the attention.

"Human Relations is not well understood," he said. "People think it's holding

hands and singing. It is really a design process where systems have to be put in place to support the diversity of our area."

Founded in 1944, the commission is the oldest agency of its kind in the country.



**RON WAKABAYASHI**

## SOS: LIBRARIES ARE WORTH SAVING

Think of the many ways you use information. Where do you turn to help your child with a tough homework assignment? How do you find information or articles relevant to your work projects? Have you needed some clever quotations to use in a speech? Has your child enjoyed a summer reading program?

If any of these situations caused you to turn to your local County Public Library, you need to know it may temporarily close due to a severe budget shortfall.

Though most County departments are now managing within very tight budgets, the County Library lost 50 percent of its annual revenue due to the state's shift of

property taxes this year. As a special district and because of very limited legal authority to charge customers for service, the Library must await legislative action before the Board of Supervisors can authorize alternative methods to replace the \$30 million lost annually in the property tax shift.

The Los Angeles County Public Library Foundation, Friends of the Library groups and the staff of the Library want to prevent temporary closure of up to 50 of the 87 community libraries during this bridge year while alternative revenue sources are established. A broad-based, fund-raising campaign, which started in April and will con-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## In the Neighborhoods and Trenches, County Style

The County's heart and soul lives in the trenches, places where workers go one-on-one with folks from the neighborhoods.

Phillip Egans, **January's Employee of the Month** and a Deputy Probation Officer, made his mark helping troubled kids. He created the English/Spanish Parenting Program, along with other outreach projects in peer counseling, probation explorer training and setting up a teen court. He's received honors from a wide range of organizations, including the California Youth Authority, the Chief Probation Officers of California and United to Service America.



PHILLIP EGANS AND SUPERVISOR MIKE ANTONOVICH.

Thomas Ctibor brought a neighborhood together in Pico Rivera. Working as a Sheriff's Deputy, he expanded a Neighborhood Watch program from a handful of folks to about 100 teams. He also helped establish the South Whittier and the Whittier/County Sheriff's Community Advisory Councils, where he serves as the Sheriff's liaison. The groups help beef up law enforcement through community involvement. For his efforts, folks now know him as **February's Employee of the Month**.



THOMAS CTIBOR AND SUPERVISOR DEANE DANA.



STEVEN TIMBOE AND BOARD CHAIR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE.

Steven Timboe, **March's Employee of the Month**, has also reached new heights in helping youth. As a Fire Department captain, Timboe supervises an engine company and rescue squad at the Walnut Fire Station. He also coordinates a special RESCUE program which monitors and encourages youth. Under the program, the District Attorney refers youth in danger of criminal activity, truancy and gang violence to the Fire Department. Due to its success, the program is expanding from the San Gabriel Valley to South Central

## County Spotlights Programs for Public Service Recognition Week

**W**ith Public Service Recognition Week kicking off May 2, the County has picked 10 of its top programs to spotlight as the best in government service.

Celebrated since 1986, the week-long national celebration educates Americans about the broad variety of services provided by government and shows appreciation to public employees at the federal, state and local level who ensure our government is among the best in the world.

### *This year's honorees include:*

#### **Administratively Unified Courts**

- ▲ Dependency/Delinquency Early Alert Program
- ▲ Parents and Children Together

#### **Children's Services**

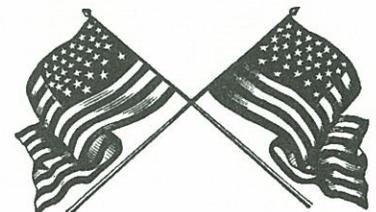
- ▲ Family Preservation Program
- ▲ Rites of Passage Program for Youth in Foster Care

#### **Health Services**

- ▲ Begin at the Beginning with Books
- ▲ Health Planning Branch
- ▲ Health Services Purchasing Group

#### **Probation**

- ▲ Independent Study/Occupational Training Program
- ▲ Gangs for Peace
- ▲ Chaplain's Eagles



# Public Social Services Expands Fingerprint System



HEWLETT-PACKARD OFFICIALS HONOR DPSS DIRECTOR EDDY TANAKA WITH THE 1994 HIGH TECHNOLOGY AWARD FOR LONG-TERM COST SAVINGS.

## Don't Pass the Buck, Pass the Meal Coupon

Are you concerned that cash given to panhandlers won't be used productively? There is an alternative.

Redeemable for a hot meal at the Weingart Center Cafe in downtown Los Angeles, Weingart Center Meal Coupons can help you assist those truly in need.

While dining in the cafe, needy people often take their first step toward self-sufficiency, as they are exposed to the Center's broad spectrum of essential services: transitional housing and comprehensive case management, medical and mental health clinics, alcohol treatment, literacy and job programs.

Purchased by individuals, businesses and organizations, meal coupons can be handed to people in the streets or donated back to the Weingart Center for use on their clients.

To purchase the coupons, send your check for \$25 for each book of 10 coupons to:

**The Weingart Center  
Attn: Meal Coupons  
566 S. San Pedro St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90013**

**C**alling it another step in the continuing effort to curb welfare fraud, the Board of Supervisors in March awarded a contract to expand the Automated Fingerprint Image Reporting and Match System (AFIRM) to folks getting Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) funds.

Since its start in 1991 by the Department of Public Social Services, the fingerprinting system has nabbed a handful of national awards, including the 1994 Hewlett-Packard High Technology Award for Long-Term Cost Savings.

Within six months of its start up, DPSS discontinued more than 3,200 clients who

failed to meet AFIRM's requirements and saved \$5.4 million. The department expects to save almost \$18 million in assistance savings by the end of its five-year contract with Electronic Data Systems, the vendor who manages AFIRM.

DPSS copyrighted the AFIRM system software and marketed it through its vendor to Alameda and Contra Costa counties as well as San Francisco. And Orange County is considering the option.

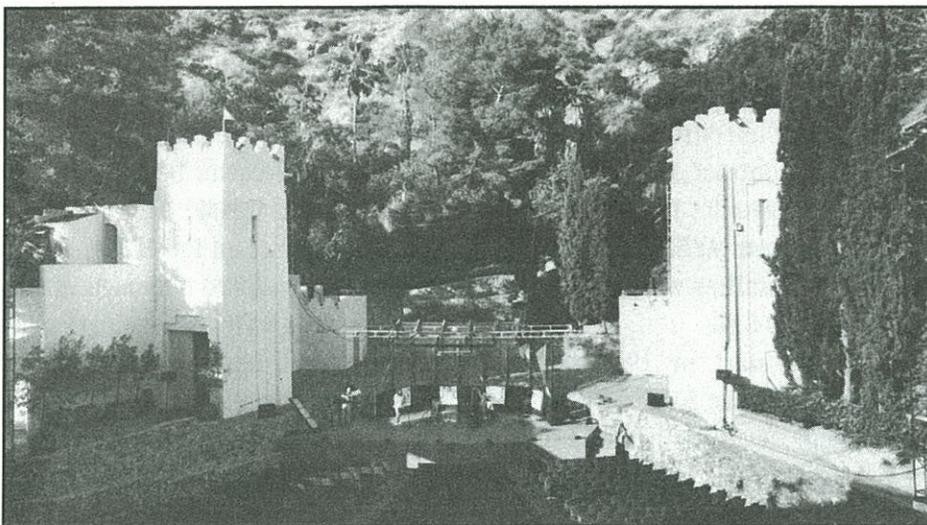
"The biggest plus of the system is regaining the integrity of the General Relief Program," DPSS Director Eddy Tanaka said. "The system has weeded out several thousand people who shouldn't have been on our rolls."

## RANCHO OFFERS THANKS



**Don Knabe, Supervisor Deane Dana's Chief Deputy, left, and Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Connie Diaz, right, congratulate the award winners during the hospital's Eighth Annual Amistad Awards Dinner Dance in March. Amistad, Spanish for friend, annually honors an organization and an individual who made significant fund-raising or volunteer contributions to the medical center and foundation. Bob Pelstring, second from left, picked up the award for GTE California while Bruce Hume received recognition for his work as a social work coordinator.**

## Summer Nights at the Ford to Kickoff Second Season June 18



JOHN ANSON FORD AMPHITHEATRE, HOME TO THE *SUMMER NIGHTS AT THE FORD* SERIES.

**K**icking off its second season, the 1994 *Summer Nights at the Ford* features 31 performances of music, dance, opera and theater staged by 17 County-based arts organizations.

The season, held at the outdoor John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in Cahuenga Pass near the Hollywood Bowl, runs June 18 through September 4 and includes expanded world arts and culture events and

a new series of seven children's programs.

"During our 1993 inaugural season, many people discovered the amphitheatre for the first time and our audience surveys showed they loved the space," Supervisor Ed Edelman said. "This summer we want to continue to build that audience."

Built in the 1930s and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the 1,200-seat facility provides a wild, natural backdrop for the performing arts.

### *The performance schedule includes:*

**June 18 and 19:** *Moon Over Madness*, a comic spectacle in the tradition of Cirque du soleil staged by the L.A. Physical Theatre Project.

**June 24:** *Ken Nordine and Friends*, the king of voice-overs and inventor of "word jazz" delivers monologues to a jazz beat.

**June 25:** *Music of Bach, Pacheibel and Telemann* enters the spotlight when the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra presents *A Baroque Feast*.

**July 9 and 10:** *Jazz Tap Ensemble* mixes rhythm tap with live jazz.

**July 16:** *Los Angeles Mozart Orchestra* presents a one-hour children's program where the music director arrives in a time machine from the 18th century.

**August 6:** *Dance Kaleidoscope*, a showcase featuring the folk traditions of India, Mexico, the Philippines, Spain and Korea.

**August 27:** *Salsa L.A.*, a Caribbean music festival featuring the Afro-Cuban Cojunta Cespedes, Latin jazz by Marcos Loya Band and the folkloric drummer Francisco Aguabella.

For complete ticket information, call THEATIX at 213-466-1767.

## Libraries Are Worth It

(continued from page 1)

tinue through June, is attempting to raise the \$10 million necessary to keep all 87 libraries open during 1994-95. County Librarian Sandra Reuben points out, "Many County employees have library cards and are active users of library services. If each gave a minimum of \$10, it would go a long way to keeping services available. It is a great investment in quality of life."

For those who can help save our County libraries, please send your tax deductible donation to the Los Angeles County Public Library Foundation, 7400 East Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242. Checks should be made payable to the Los Angeles County Public Library Foundation with the memo line indicating Worth It! Every dollar raised in this campaign will be used solely for keeping library doors open. For more information and other ways that you can help, please contact Stephen Klein at (310) 940-8418.

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