

County DIGEST



DECEMBER 15, 1994

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HOLIDAYS IN DEPARTMENTLAND

For many of us, the holidays bring back childhood memories of a magical season when all the world is aglow with decorative celebrations of the season. Perhaps for others, the memories aren't as sweet. But whatever the case may be, County employees always make time to create happy memories for people of all ages served by County programs. Here's a sampling of the County spirit at work throughout "departmentland:"

At the Sheriff's Department...

For the fourth year, deputy sheriffs have joined forces to collect toys and distribute them to many needy organizations in each of the communities served. What started out with a few deputies purchasing toys with their own money and hand delivering them to a few families has turned into a full-scale organized collection of toys at each Sheriff's station. Last year, over \$150,000 worth of toys were collected and given to

almost 40 major non-profit organizations. Sergeant Robert Olmstead orchestrates the annual charity event.

At Public Works...

Public Works is not only tops in customer service, but also in caring for its employees. Their Holiday Card Fund Program enables employees to help other employees. Staff contributes money normally spent on holiday cards into a fund used to buy food baskets for needy employees. Over \$37,000 has been raised since 1985, assisting 380 employees.

At Health Services...

Holiday gift parties are held in many facilities. The Glendale Health District held its fifth annual party for more than 700 children last week. Each child received a Christmas stocking filled with goodies and a special gift, and a photo with Santa. Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center celebrates its 11th year in the provision of 60 food and gift baskets to needy patient families, involving many departments, including Volunteer Services and Social Work teams. The El Monte Comprehensive Health Center provides gifts, food baskets, lunch, and a visit with Santa to 30 needy families, all donated by staff.

At the LAC+USC Medical Center, the Dr. Herman Epstein 49th Annual Christmas Party takes place in the cavernous General Hospital Auditorium, where hundreds of pediatric outpatients enjoy a festive, Hispanic-themed "Feliz Navidad," complete with mariachi players, gifts and refreshments.

Sheriff Sherman Block with two young recipients of his annual toy drive.



BELOW: Public Works employees (l-r) Craig Hirakawa, Steve Dunn, Phil Aguilera and Mark Pestrella proudly display a food basket.



At Public Social Services...

After assisting a young welfare recipient and her children living in a

battered women's shelter, DPSS volunteer Nancy Malone described her experience to her church group. Soon, the group became excited about the prospect of their own involvement in the DPSS Holiday Program and began collecting food items. Volunteerism is contagious!

County employees continue to demonstrate that they are more than just part of a large government bureaucracy. They're making spirits bright everyday, especially at this season of the year. Happy Holidays!



LARRY MONTEILH: New County Treasurer and Tax Collector

It was like coming home for Larry Monteilh, the County's new Treasurer and Tax Collector, when he assumed the role this past July, following an appointment by the Board of Supervisors. After all, he had been there once before, but this time, it was his name on the door.

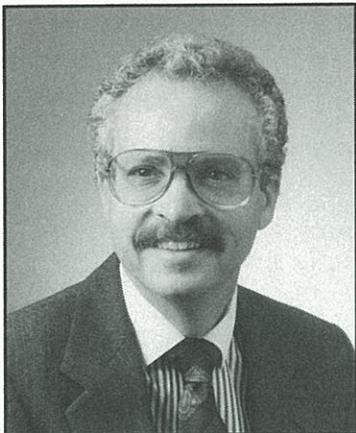
It's been 11 years since he first served in the Office of Treasurer/Tax Collector as assistant chief deputy in the management and investment of precious County assets. Now, at 50, he's keeping track of a much bigger pot, estimated at seven billion dollars.

"It was a familiar feeling returning to this department because of my previous years of experience here," says Monteilh, sitting in his fourth floor office in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

To help him keep the County's assets liquid, Monteilh's staff of 662 and \$55 million annual budget ease the pressure. Monteilh is convinced, however, that his biggest asset is his management team.

"I believe in empowering people and developing managers. Most people want to be recognized for what they do, and I try to do that as best as I can," he says, adding that he likes being the boss. "I don't have any problem making decisions and I feel very comfortable with my management team."

Monteilh first joined the County in 1962 as a clerk. He became an accountant in the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors in 1965. He graduated from California State University, Los Angeles in 1970 with a degree in economics. As Treasurer and Tax Collector, his department is not only responsible for the mailing



and collecting of 2.5 million tax bills, but also in the collection of unpaid hospital bills from County residents. As public administrator, Monteilh also protects assets of the deceased in probate cases.

He admits that his new job is quite different than his previous position, where he worked closely with Board members and was

much more in the forefront of current events as they unfolded each week in the Board's hearing room. With a copy of the "Guide to Public Debt Financing in California" standing upright on his credenza, it's clear that Monteilh's challenges have just begun.

SUITLESS SANTAS: A Holiday Volunteer Opportunity

More than 2,200 disabled, elderly and bedridden adults in the care of the Public Guardian need about 100 "suitless Santas" to help deliver holiday gifts to them to help brighten their holidays.

Play Santa this year by personally delivering one or more of these gifts through their Volunteer Holiday Project. Just one hour can help someone who needs attention.

Although many of the gifts will already have been delivered by the time this issue is published, there are still many stragglers that need delivery. Visit locations are available throughout the County.

Gifts may be picked up Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Free parking is available by reservation. To volunteer for this project or other Public Guardian projects, contact Joan Vitale, director of volunteer services, at (213) 974-0400.

JOANNE STURGES: New Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors

When Larry Monteilh left his post as Executive Officer of the Department of the Board of Supervisors to become the County's new Treasurer and Tax Collector, the Board didn't have to scour the globe for his replacement. She was right down the hall.

Just a week after Joanne Sturges was promoted from Senior Deputy Executive Officer to become the County's new Executive Officer of the Board, she was already comfortable in her wood-



paneled office on the third floor of the Hall of Administration. Her offices, located behind the Board hearing room, are indicative of her new role to provide a smooth, behind-the-scenes presence of assurance to Board members that proceedings will flow each week without a hitch.

"I'm always very well prepared for Tuesdays," says Sturges, referring

to the Board's weekly meetings in the

(See "Sturges," page five)

35th Annual County Holiday Celebration at the Music Center



From the County Archives

CHANDLER PAVILION TURNS 30

On December 6, 1994, the landmark Dorothy Chandler Pavilion turned 30, having raised its curtain for the first time on that date in 1964. The Ahmanson Theatre and Mark Taper Forum soon

Supervisor Gloria Molina, incoming Chair of the Board, invites all County employees to join in the 35th Annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on **Saturday, December 24, 1994, 7-10 p.m.** As in the past, the musical extravaganza is free to the general public, including underground parking at the Music Center!



The United Children's Chorus performed to an enthusiastic audience at last year's Holiday Celebration.

Produced by the County's Music and Performing Arts Commission, the evening will feature professional and community choirs, dance companies, and musical ensembles, including the Los Angeles Mozart Orchestra, Danza Florcanto and the Gay Men's Chorus. The program will also be

broadcast live on KCET-TV, Channel 28.

What better time than Christmas Eve to celebrate the holidays with your family and members of your "County family" at this festive evening of music and songs of the season. This is Christmas Eve, California style!

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and wheelchair access is available. No reservations are necessary. For a complete schedule of events, call (213) 974-1343.



The architecturally distinct Chandler Pavilion in 1964.

TAKE A STAND!



**Friends Don't Let
Friends Drive Drunk**

Forget the Lotto, ZERO POINT ZERO EIGHT (0.08) could be your winning number during this holiday season. That's the legal blood alcohol concentration level in California. To ensure a safe holiday, here is the recipe for a delicious, non-alcoholic punch to make and share with family and friends:

Fruity Holiday Punch

- 1 can (6 oz.) frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 pkg. frozen sliced strawberries
- 1 can (6 oz.) frozen lemonade concentrate
- 1 quart carbonated water
- 1 quart ginger ale
- Sliced bananas and oranges (garnish)

Combine frozen lemonade concentrate, the strawberries (half-thawed with juice), and the orange juice. Place into a punchbowl with ice. Just before serving, add carbonated water and ginger ale. Garnish with thin slices of oranges and bananas. Makes 20 servings. Enjoy a safe and happy holiday!

followed in April 1967, creating the three-theater complex long known to Angelenos as the Music Center of Los Angeles County.

What most people don't know is how it all got started. In 1955, the Board of Supervisors appointed Dorothy Buffum Chandler, wife of *Los Angeles Times* publisher Norman Chander, as chair of a civic committee to promote a performing arts facility for the County. Working out of her home, Chandler raised over \$20 million with the help of hundreds of volunteers. The remaining \$14.5 million was raised by creating a land leaseback arrangement using mortgage revenue bonds. The bonds will finally be repaid in February 1997, and the people of Los Angeles County will then hold complete title to their Music Center!

Christmas Trees Find New Homes

Discounts of \$3.00 off the admission price to Universal Studios in Hollywood and a free 1/2 cubic-foot bag of Kellogg Amend or Gromulch containing recycled Christmas tree chips will be given to all County residents who drop off a Christmas tree for recycling as one of 17 locations throughout the County.

On December 31, 1994, and January 7-8, 1995, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., volunteers from the County's Fire Department Explorer Program will be on hand at each location to assist residents in dropping off their trees. Chips from the collected trees will be used as mulch at selected County parks or landfills.

Be sure to remove the tree stand, nails and decorations, including tinsel, before dropping off the tree.



This project is a cooperative effort of several County departments, including Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Agricultural Commission/Weights and Measures, Beaches and Harbors, and the Sanitation Districts.

Public Works employees use a chipping machine to turn Christmas trees into useful mulch for County parks.

For more information, call 1-800-552-5218, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sturges

(continued from page two)

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. She's in the heart of it all, sitting directly in front of the five supervisors each week and documenting decisions from the often lengthy Board agendas. Sturges is responsible for the five offices of the members of the Board, as well as the Executive Office, as its administrative head of the department and Clerk of the Board. She also serves as administrator of the five Assessment Appeals Boards, and is the filing officer for statements of economic interests filed in accordance with the Political Reform Act of 1974.

"I've trained for this job since 1979, and I'm very comfortable with my staff. We're like a family and, despite our hectic pace, I personally make sure that all of my employees understand that

each one is important to me," she says. "I'm such a mom." Sturges admits that she's been a strong mentor to many of her staff, advising them on career strategies and even when something's gone wrong in their personal lives.

She spends each week preparing Board agendas, communicating Board actions, publishing notices, recording minutes, maintaining officials records, and performing other duties necessary to assist the Board in accomplishing its business. While in the thick of the political world of Los Angeles County everyday, she stays neutral.

"I stay out of the politics. I just focus on providing honest, forthright services," says Sturges, who will celebrate 30 years with the County next July.

This Year's Recycling Sites:



Beverly Hills
Vacant Lot, 9332 Civic Center Drive

Calabasas
Gates Canyon Park
25801 Thousand Oaks Boulevard

Compton
Leuders Park, 1500 E. Rosecrans

Covina
Charter Oak Park
20261 E. Covina Boulevard

La Crescenta
Crescenta Valley Park
3901 Dunsmore Avenue

La Puente
Allen J. Martin Park
14830 S. Giodano Street

Lawndale
Alondra Park
3850 W. Manhattan Beach Boulevard

Los Angeles
Hollywood Bowl
2301 N. Highland Avenue

Marina Del Rey
Dock 52, West of the Public Launch
Ramp, 13483 Fiji Way

Newhall
William S. Hart Park
24151 Newhall Avenue

Pasadena
Eaton Canyon Park
1750 N. Altadena Drive

Pomona
Ganesha Park, 1404 N. White Ave.

Quartz Hill
George Lane Park
5520 W. Avenue L-8

Rowland Heights
Schabarum Regional Park
17250 E. Colima Road

Torrance
Columbia Regional Park
4045 190th Street

Whittier
Gunn Avenue Park
10130 S. Gunn Avenue, or
Sorensen Park
11419 Rosehedge Drive



Special Toys

The challenge of selecting gifts for a physically disabled child is easily met at the Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center's Holiday Adapted Toy Fair. Area merchants and service organizations support this wonderful project by donating funds and merchandise needed to use assistive technology to adapt off-the-shelf, battery-operated toys. By modifying something as simple as the switch, a standard toy can easily be customized to meet the needs of a child with physical limitations.

A Safe Way Out: Domestic Violence Hotline

* A new 24-hour toll-free 800 telephone number, sponsored in part by Pacific Bell and GTE California, is now available. By simply dialing **1-800-978-3600** from any touch-tone telephone, family violence victims will have instant access to valuable information about what they can do and where they can go if they're living in a hostile, abusive or violent home.

Exclusively for County Employees

Join The Peacocks Club At The Arboretum



In the tradition of the L.A. Opera County Employees Club, the Los Angeles County Arboretum has announced the formation of the Peacocks Club, exclusively for County Employees.

Membership provides employees and their families with 127 acres of nature at her best, along with a glimpse of California history and a multitude of programs, events and classes for all ages. Discount memberships are: \$27.50 individual (regularly \$30), \$36.00 couple (regularly \$40), and \$45.00 family (regularly \$50).

Benefits include free admission to the Arboretum in Arcadia, copies of the Foundation's quarterly newsletter and calendar, a 10 percent discount at the Arboretum's gift shop, member rates for classes and special events, and discounts at participating nurseries.

If you would like to join, make your check payable to the California Arboretum Foundation and mail to the same at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91007.

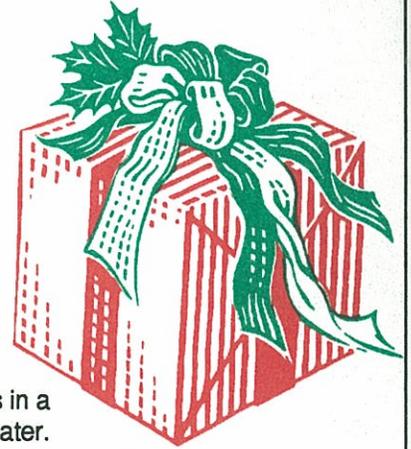
Any questions? Call Membership Chair Nancy Sachs at (818) 447-8207.

Shopping Tips

With just 10 shopping days left before Christmas, here are a few reminders from the County's Department of Consumer Affairs:

- * Don't spend more than you can afford. Prepare a holiday budget before you start shopping and stick to it!
- * Keep receipts and warranties in a safe place. You may need them later.
- * Ask each store about its refund policy before buying gifts. Some stores refund the full amount, some offer partial refunds, some give no refunds at all. Some require proof of purchase; others don't.
- * If you buy on credit, be sure you understand all of the terms of your credit agreement, especially how much you must pay.
- * If you buy on layaway, be sure you understand all terms of the arrangement. Make your payments on time and keep track of them. The merchant must keep the merchandise you have selected off the selling floor, but you must uphold your responsibilities, too. Remember, if you change your mind, you can't always get all of your money back.
- * Don't buy gifts that are sized, unless you are sure of what size to purchase. Merchants are not obligated to accept return of ill-fitting items.

Happy Shopping and Happy Holidays!!!



County DIGEST

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