

# County DIGEST



SEPTEMBER 15, 1995

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Employee of the Month

### Sree Kumar: Keeping Mother Nature in Check



*Kumar receives his scroll of commendation from Board Chair Gloria Molina.*

Part of the Universal Studios back lot tour in Hollywood is the famous village flood, when water suddenly gushes down a hillside headed straight for tourist-packed tramcars. To civil engineers like Public Works employee Sree Kumar, it's ironic that people pay to see what he is paid to avert in the protection of County residents.

As supervising Civil Engineer III in the Hydraulic/Water Conservation Division, Kumar heads up the Department's Dam Safety/Reservoir

Management section, a job that he finds continually challenging, even after 15 years on the job. Meeting those challenges with great success led to his distinction as August County Employee of the Month on August 29, 1995, when the Board of Supervisors honored him in a Boardroom ceremony.

In 1980, Kumar was recruited by the County while completing his master's degree program in civil engineering at the University of Iowa. After spending only two years in the United States, he decided that Los Angeles had a lot to offer to an energetic young engineer seeking experience.

"Los Angeles County, as a region, offers some of the most erosive and geologically active mountain ranges in the nation.

With hundreds of miles of flood control channels feeding down from the mountain dam systems, I saw it as a great opportunity to learn and also to apply my graduate studies," explains Kumar.

Entering the Department as a civil engineering assistant, Kumar actively sought solutions to the region's problems and soon became a certified California civil engineer. After working his way up through several engineering

*(See "Kumar," page two)*

## Los Angeles County Open House '95

Dance to the beat, check out an exhibit, or explore new neighborhoods during Los Angeles County Open House '95, when more than one hundred museums, libraries, theatres and music organizations from 25 cities will join together to throw open their doors for FREE to the public on Saturday, October 7, 1995, coordinated by the Los Angeles County Music and Performing Arts Commission.

Open House Day is part of a month-long celebration during October as National Arts and Humanities Month, coordinated by the National Cultural Alliance. A recent public opinion survey commissioned by the Alliance found that more than 80 percent of Americans consider the arts and humanities inseparable and integral parts of our society that improve the quality of life.

Highlights of Open House '95 include the Museum Row Open House '95 -- free admission to the County's Museum of Art, Natural History Museum, George C. Page Museum, Petersen Automotive Museum, Craft and Folk Art Museum, the Museum of Miniatures, and the Santa Monica Museum of Art. Also included are free theatre performances at the American Renegade Theatre, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, Bob Baker Marionette Theatre, City Garage, Downtown Playhouse, International City Theatre, Oasis Theatre Company at the Pacific Design Center, and the Santa Monica Playhouse.

For more information, call Theatre LA's free, 24-hour hotline at (213) 688-ARTS.

# County Night at the Opera Is Back!

For just \$10, County employees can join the L.A. Opera County Employees Club and receive one ticket per member to the dress rehearsal of ***Così fan tutte*** (loosely translated as "All women are like that") by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Members receive a special discount ticket offer to Mozart's ***The Abduction from the Seraglio*** and Donizetti's ***The Elixir of Love***. Couples can join for just \$20, and groups of three or four can join for only \$30.



*Celebrated mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade will perform during County Night at the Opera.*

The dress rehearsal of ***Così fan tutte*** will be presented on Saturday, February 24, 1996, at 7:30 p.m., at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. This bittersweet comedy is sung in Italian, with English supertitles (English translations of the singers' lines projected on a screen above the stage), so you'll be able to follow every twist in the plot and enjoy every joke. This beautiful production, featuring celebrated mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, is not to be missed.

To join the Club, or for more information, call (213) 972-7219 and ask for the County Employees Club.

## Kumar

*(continued from page one)*

positions, he became a supervising civil engineer, with eight staff members now reporting to him on various projects in his section.

The biggest professional challenge has been the recent series of fires, floods and earthquakes, beginning in 1992.

"Many flood control reservoirs and debris basins were impacted by the fires, floods and the Northridge earthquake, and we're still working on structural rehabilitation to several of the County's aging flood control dams, constructed during the 1930s and 40s. Following the 1992 and 1993 storm sea-

sons, over five million cubic yards of debris were removed from County reservoirs, enough to fill Dodger Stadium eight times," explains Kumar. His expert pursuit of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and State funding saved the County millions of dollars in reservoir cleanout project costs alone.

Kumar's achievements were recently recognized by Public Works when he received the Department's 1995 Employee of the Year award. A native of Malaysia, Kumar lives with his wife Radhika and their two children in Diamond Bar.



## This Month's Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who have joined the ranks of the retired, after 30 years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

**Assessor:** Pat D. Miller

**Beaches and Harbors:** Joseph D. Lathrop

**Children and Family Services:** Mary McNeal

**County Counsel:** Allan B. McKittrick  
**Fire:** Joseph Ferrara, Jerry L. Haney, Roland K. Krumm, Jerome P. Shoemaker

**Health Services:** Marie Davis, Jannette Hanna, Travestine Hardy, Pedro D. Moret, John Siemann, Robert Torrence  
**Parks and Recreation:** Robert Hamilton, Jr.

**Probation:** Napoleon Davis

**Sheriff:** Larry D. Bodensadt, Gerald P. Dunphy, Henry W. Griffin, Virgil Littlejohn, Howard D. Manning, William P. McComas, Olin L. Mayfield, Jr., Alan M. West

Congratulations to the following employees who served the County for 25 years:

**Assessor:** Ruben V. Chagoy

**Children and Family Services:** Alona R. Burrell, Cecilia Castillo

**Health Services:** Beulah B. Benson, Lydia M. Contreras, William L. Gosey, Jr., Doris J. Gray, Mary C. Knox, Cora Martin, Annie Reza, Lillian Salazar

**Internal Services:** Robert L. Holmes

**Probation:** William K. Wilson, Jr.

**Public Defender:** Edward S. Van Gelder

**Public Library:** Seymour Rimer

**Regional Planning:** Rosario E. Herrera

**Sheriff:** Kenneth R. Duffey, Joe N. Dukes, James A. Feiga, Melvin Rebel

# Commuter Connection

Fall 1995

Volume 4, No. 2

## Thousands Take the Green Line

Saturday, August 11, 1995, marked the official opening day of the Metro Green Line, a rail line that stretches 20 miles across the Glenn Anderson (105) Freeway.

"Inauguration of the Metro Green Line increases the Metro Rail system from 26 to 46 miles and builds upon the success of the Metro Blue and Metro Red lines," stated MTA Board member, Supervisor Deane Dana.

The 20-mile ride from Norwalk to Redondo Beach takes about 35 minutes and includes 14 stops at stations in Norwalk, Downey, Lynwood, South Gate, Compton, Watts, Willowbrook, Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lennox, El Segundo, Westchester, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach.

The Green Line runs from 4:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The fare is \$1.35 each way; token users pay 90 cents and Blue Line and MTA bus transfers will be 25 cents. Monthly passes are \$49.

For additional information, call 1-800-COMMUTE.



Supervisor Deane Dana

## TELECOMMUTE



AMERICA

## National Telecommuting Week!

The first nationwide program focusing on the benefits of telecommuting and non-traditional work environments, "TELECOMMUTE AMERICA," has been initiated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. General Service Administration, AT&T and ACT (Association for Commuter Transportation).

During the week of October 23-27, 1995, public and private employers are asked to support a full range of telecommuting activities.

In support of this national celebration promoting "The Discovery of a New Workplace," the CAO's Office of Special Programs is promoting **one free telecommuting day** at various telebusiness centers and the loan-for-a-day of a lap-top computer for new home-based telecommuters. The first fifteen requests will be honored.

For further information, call Suzette Cecchini at (805) 726-7700.

## Distance Learning Becomes A Reality

The County of Los Angeles, in partnership with California State University, Northridge (CSUN) announces distance learning 1995 fall classes at the County's Antelope Valley Telebusiness Center.

Credit courses and extension classes provided by interactive television through CSUN's educational television network now

offer the following classes for residents of the Antelope Valley:

- **Purchasing and Management Techniques: Mondays, Sept. 11-Nov. 20**
- **Human Resources Management: Tuesdays, Sept. 12 - Nov. 14**
- **Production and Inventory Control: Wednesdays, Sept. 13-Nov. 15**

(See "Distance Learning," page four)

# Ride the Hollywood Bowl Express



A new Park and Ride express bus service from East Los Angeles to the Hollywood Bowl was inaugurated mid-July as a special service. Board Chair Gloria Molina is joined by James M. Rosser and Estella Herrera, members of the Community Advisory Committee of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, to celebrate the opening of the new Hollywood Bowl Express. For more information, call (213) 626-4455.

## Metrolink News

### *New Station Opens:*

Metrolink recently opened its San Clemente station, running between Oceanside and Union Station. Orange County Transit Authority's Route 394 will provide free connecting bus service to and from the station. For more information, call 1-800-COMMUTE.

### *Groundbreaking for Third Child Care Center:*

The Sylmar Metrolink Station is the future site of a third child care center. The Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station Child Care Center is scheduled to open in February 1996 and will accommodate 70 children, from infants to five year olds. The first child care center is located at the Montclair Station and the second, in Chatsworth, is due to open later this fall.

### *Metrolink It To The L.A. County Fair:*

On September 9, 1995, Metrolink began a Saturday service between San Bernardino and Los Angeles, with a special stop at the L.A. County Fair. Four round trips each Saturday during September are included. Discounted \$5 round trip tickets to the Fair are available by mail. Just complete the ticket order form and, as an added bonus, you will receive a coupon for discounted Fair admission. To order, just cut out the order form at the left and return to Metrolink Marketing.

### SPECIAL L.A. COUNTY FAIR TICKET OFFER

Ticket orders must be received 10 days prior to the Fair visit; all others will be returned. Tickets are only valid for travel to the Fair. Check or money order only, payable to Metrolink. No rain checks or refunds. Mail self-addressed, stamped business envelope to: **Metrolink Marketing, P.O. Box 86107, Los Angeles, CA 90086-0107. This coupon has no cash value.**

#### TICKETS

Sept. 23rd \_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Sept. 30th \_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_ tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAILING ADDRESS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

October is Open Enrollment Month

## Using Your Dependent Care Spending Account

Did you know that you could use pre-tax dollars to pay for child care? For County employees who are also parents of children up to 13 years of age, the Dependent Care Spending Account offered as part of the County employment benefit package is probably one of the most important and useful benefits.

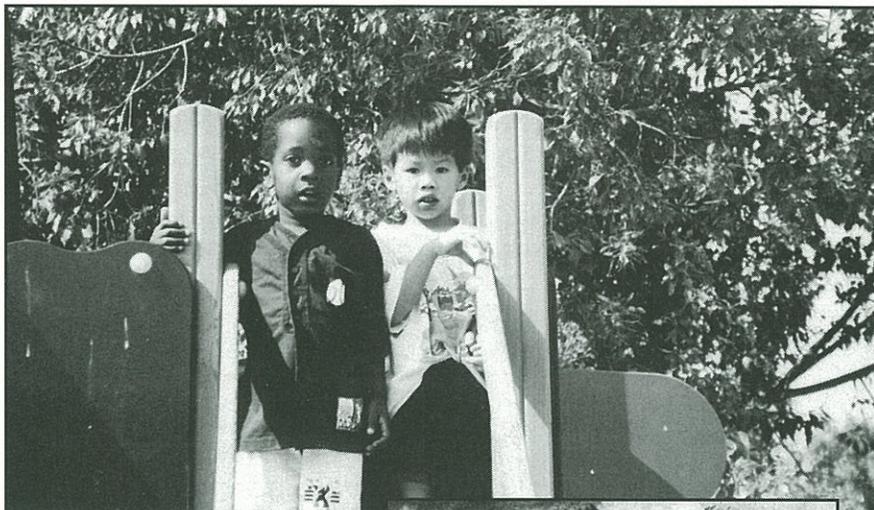
A Dependent Care Spending Account allows you to set aside your own pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible dependent care expenses. If you pay dependent care expenses, such as nursery school or summer day camp, or for your spouse, parents, or dependents of any age who cannot care for themselves because of a mental or physical disability, you can save money in taxes by using a Dependent Care Spending Account.

Before signing up for a Dependent Care Spending Account, you should evaluate whether tax credits taken on your federal income tax return will save you more money than the Spending Account. If your total family income is less than \$37,500 (\$28,000 if you are single), then the income tax credit may be a better alternative. Consult a tax advisor.

An open enrollment period to elect a Dependent Care Spending Account is October 1-31, 1995, for the 1996 calendar year. Even if you currently participate in a spending account, you must enroll again if you want to participate in 1996. Please refer to your Megaflex, Flexible Benefits, Choices or Options open enrollment booklet for enrollment procedures. If you do not have a booklet, call the Benefits Hotline at (213) 887-2233.

**For more information about any of the centers listed on this page, tuition rates and space availability, contact your personnel officer.**

*Youngsters at County Kids Place discover the wonders of outdoors through hands-on play activities.*



## Discounted Child Care Services

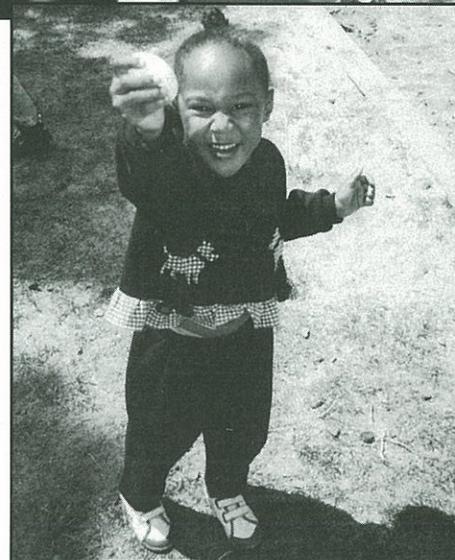
Did you know that the County offers employees affordable child care services at six County-affiliated centers? These centers are conveniently located at or near County facilities:

LAC+USC Medical Center  
Child Care Program  
Contact: Lisa Wilkin  
(213) 226-2201

Olive View Medical Center  
Infant/Child Development Center  
Contact: Jan Bensch  
(818) 364-3444

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center  
Employees Children's Center  
Contact: Dione Proviser  
(310) 212-4274

Discovery Time Employee  
Child Care Center  
(sponsored by Public Works,  
Alhambra Municipal Court and the  
City of Alhambra)  
Contact: Hilarie Dyson  
(818) 458-1373



Rancho Los Amigos Children's  
Center  
Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center  
Contact: Barbara Schutte  
(310) 940-7981

County Kid's Place (located next to  
the H. Claude Hudson Comprehensive  
Health Center)  
Contact: Patrice Tims  
(213) 744-6241

In addition to these County-operated centers, County employees also receive a special "County Employee Rate" at all Children's World Learning Centers, La Petite Academy, and KinderCare locations throughout Southern California.

# Edelman Children's Court Celebrates With Scholarships



Credit: Dan Madden, Chief Administrative Office

Rashida Morrow (center) received \$4,500 as the recipient of the Regina Johnson Memorial Scholarship Award, presented to her by Retired Third District Supervisor Ed Edelman and Children's Court Judge Richard Montes. Morrow, a June 1994 graduate of Crenshaw High School, is now attending California State University Los Angeles and plans to become a teacher. The Regina Johnson Memorial Scholarship award is named in memory of Scholarship Fund co-founder Elizabeth Johnson's daughter.

Marking its third anniversary of service to the children of Los Angeles County, the staff of the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park celebrated the occasion on August 10, 1995, with an evening presentation of 12 college scholarships from the Children's Court Scholarship Fund to recent high school graduates.

As the sun set across the Monterey Park hills, Children's Court staff, scholarship recipients, and their family members gathered in a festive atmosphere on the third floor rooftop patio. Following a recognition of staff members who worked hard to raise this year's scholarship money, totalling \$66,000, Retired Supervisor Ed Edelman led the

scholarship award presentations to the 12 youth recipients. Reflecting on the importance of education, he saluted those who tirelessly work to make the Court's Scholarship Fund successful.

"It's not the building, but the people inside the building that count," said Edelman.

The Scholarship Fund was co-founded by Children's Court social worker Elizabeth Johnson and Court-appointed defense attorney Mary Smiley in July 1993 to raise private funds for educational scholarships for abused and disadvantaged children who are or were dependents of the County's Juvenile Court.

## Nordstrom Giveaway

Win a \$50 gift certificate to Nordstrom's by entering the County DIGEST's Nordstrom Giveaway! To enter, just mail a postcard with your name, department, work address, and work telephone number to "Nordstrom Giveaway," c/o Kristina Balian, County DIGEST, 500 W. Temple Street, Room 588, Los Angeles, CA 90012. One entry per County employee, please. Winner will be notified by telephone and announced in the October issue. **Entry deadline is September 29, 1995, so hurry!!!**

## Correction: LACERA Elections

Two dates were incorrectly reported in last month's DIGEST regarding the upcoming safety member slots for the LACERA Board of Investments. Election ballots must be received by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, **not** December 14. Duplicate ballots must be requested by Tuesday, November 7, **not** November 14. Sorry!

## County DIGEST

### Members of the Board

**Gloria Molina**  
Chair  
First District

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Deane Dana**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

**Michael J. Henry**  
Director of Personnel

**Susan Toy Stern**  
Human Resources Manager

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