

County DIGEST



MAY 1997

County of Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT SAVING LIVES SEVERAL HEARTBEATS AT A TIME

The scorching sun and gusting winds are causing tremendous dry spells for the brush-covered hills of Southern California. The early arrival of the brush fire season has put the lives and properties of people in jeopardy. And who better to protect them but the men and women of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACOFD). They see brush fires more as a challenge than a problem.

The LACOFD is the hometown fire department for 52 cities, 3.2 million residents and 2,258 square miles. The department serves the County's unincorporated areas and cities ranging from Agoura Hills to Whittier.

County firefighters are trained to perform a variety of life-saving roles. Not only are they adept in fighting fires, but they are also skilled in paramedic rescues, handling hazardous materials accidents, saving lives and property in major disasters, teaching children and adults fire and life safety, inspecting for fire and life safety dangers and performing forest conservation. Their training leads them to become paramedics, swift water rescuers, hazardous materials responders, fire safety inspectors and emergency preparedness planners.

The LACOFD has earned the phrase "saving lives several heartbeats at a time" because it proudly protects lives, the environment and property by

providing prompt and skillful fire protection and life safety services.

By performing multiple functions, the LACOFD serves its jurisdiction better in spite of an increase in population, an increase in calls for assistance and a



ONE OF LA COUNTY'S FIREFIGHTERS TRAINED TO PERFORM MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS.

slight increase in staffing. And while routinely performing these many life-saving efforts without fanfare, the department is not widely known until it is needed or when a major disaster occurs.

For instance, the LACOFD is the Region I Coordinator for major incidents in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Orange counties and, of course, Los Angeles County. It led and coordinated the emergency response to the riots of 1992, the firestorms of 1993, the Northridge earthquake of 1994 and other major flood efforts.

Also known for its innovative approach to problem-solving, the LACOFD initiated the use of the SuperScooper, an amphibious aircraft designed to scoop up from 1,400 to 1,600 gallons of water in a minute and a half to be delivered and

dumped at specific fire ravaged locations. This aircraft has been used to augment firefighting during the Santa Ana wind season. The SuperScooper is leased from the Government of Quebec with the approval of the County's Board of Supervisors. Other innovations include swift water rescue and special rescue functions. In addition to firefighting and paramedic services, the LACOFD is also responsible for providing ocean lifeguard services from Malibu to Cabrillo Beach. It also administers Countywide hazardous materials and waste programs.

In April, thousands trooped to six Southern California locations to turn in their applications for the County firefighter exam. The rewarding and humanitarian duties that the men and women of the LACOFD perform prompted the huge response.

From the desert to the sea throughout the entire Southland, the Los Angeles County Fire Department provides fire and rescue services in urban, wildland and industrial areas. This protection is world-class and is cost-effectively delivered.

Congratulations

APRIL 1997 COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

STEVEN COFFMAN

A SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND REVENUE

Are you looking for a lost friend or relative? Would you like a profile of a business you are considering dealing with? Or would you like to find out if the person you are planning to marry has not been married before?

Look no further. Steven Coffman, a Librarian III with the Public Services Division of the Public Library, has the means to answer your inquiries.

A 12-year County employee, Coffman was named the April 1997 County Employee of the Month by the County Board of Supervisors. The honors were bestowed on him during National Library Week.

Coffman, who began his professional library career in 1985 as a reference librarian at the Norwalk branch, directs the Public Library's fee-based research service: FYI. This unit has three distinct operations: 1) FYI, which provides research and information products to customers worldwide; 2) BSSC, which stands for Business Subject Specialty Center, provides expert business research services to the Library's customers through 88 service outlets; and 3) Municipal Reference, a fee-based service to County departments.

To further increase revenue to the County and provide more information to local governments, Coffman developed the FYI Government Information Services. This specialized operation established last year is a comprehensive

new information service designed to bring the Library and research services to the desktops of 54 city governments served by the Library.

Developing innovative programs, as well as establishing well-founded affiliations, are several of Coffman's hallmark. In 1993, he established working relationships with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the University of Illinois, the California State Supreme Court and other entities to

extend the Library's research capabilities without additional staff or resources. With the use of technology, Coffman initiated a quick turnaround time for business reference services, improving response time for most business reference questions from 48 hours or more to less than 20 minutes.

Coffman received his undergraduate degree in foreign languages from San Fran-

cisco State University and his graduate degree in Library Science from the University of California at Los Angeles.

As a nationally recognized expert on database researching, information brokering for libraries and innovative and productive solutions for developing service programs, Coffman has served on various committees and makes numerous presentations to an assortment of groups including the Reference Division of the California Library Association. He has also published articles on his craft in professional journals and was

editor and compiler of FISCAL Directory of Fee-Based Information Services.

When away from the library, Coffman enjoys exploring the desert in the Southwest and hikes and backpacks with his family. They enjoy Arizona's Grand Canyon and frequent the County's Placerita Canyon.

Music is also in the heart of Coffman and his family. He finds the time to bring his wife and daughter to the Hollywood Bowl to listen to the classics. They consider Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart a favorite. Concerts at the Bowl have become a Coffman family affair.

Coffman lives in Saugus with his wife, Susan, also a librarian at the County's Valencia branch. They have been married since 1981 and have a seven-year-old daughter, Kirsten.

In accepting his commendation from the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Coffman thanked his staff composed of six highly productive individuals "for it is they who do the real work in our outfit which explains why they are not here today and without their help and dedication I would never accomplish anything."

Steven Coffman, who commutes 106 miles round-trip from Saugus to Norwalk, has demonstrated his commitment to work and to those who seek assistance. It is in the confines of his office in the Norwalk Library where he continues to be a source of knowledge and revenue.

More power to you, April 1997 County Employee of the Month.



COUNTY LIBRARIAN STEVEN COFFMAN BEAMS AS HE RECEIVES HIS COMMENDATION FROM BOARD CHAIRMAN ZEV YAROSLAVSKY.

COMING SOON TO A VENUE NEAR YOU!

Supervisor Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Department of Human Resources and Department of Community & Senior Services in partnership with Private Industry present the second annual "Community Job Fair 1997" on Saturday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sheriff's Training Academy, 11515 S. Colima Road, Whittier.

Contact the Sheriff's Recruitment Unit at (562) 946-7012, (888) 661-6601 or (213) 267-6651 TTY for more information.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, a valued member of the County family, is an equal opportunity employer, and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES DELIVERING KNOWLEDGE NOW MORE THAN EVER

Have you been to any of the 88 County of Los Angeles Public Libraries lately? If not, then you are in for a surprise. Hidden treasures and essential services are available in the County's public libraries stretching from Carson to Lancaster to West Covina and Agoura Hills with an "overseas" branch on Catalina Island.

During the week of April 13 to 19, all County libraries celebrated National Library Week. The annual week long celebration highlights the libraries' special services offered to the entire community with special events. This year, the emphasis focused on library services for children and youth with the theme "Kids Connect @ the Library!" showcasing the new electronic information and homework support centers at several County libraries.

Here are some of the many services offered by the County libraries:

HOMEWORK HELP CENTERS are now available for students at 14 County libraries providing computers and homework helpers to assist participating children after school with understanding homework assignments and using a variety of library materials to complete their projects.

CONNECTING WITH SCHOOLS ensures that students are exposed to the public library with interaction between

library staff and surrounding schools through class visits, school visits and special programs. Last fall, the County library launched "Educational Success/ Arts Passport" program with the help of



corporate sponsorships. The new program enables the distribution of school supplies to thousands of children. Nearly 17,000 new library cards were issued to children as a result of this program.

BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING WITH BOOKS, now a nationwide model for other libraries, motivates pregnant women in the County and non-profit health clinics about the joys of reading and the importance of exposing their babies to books at a very early age. "Graduation" from the program comes after one year and by then often the entire family has signed up for library cards.

GRANDPARENTS AND BOOK, a unique volunteer program, allows senior citizen volunteers to work with children to encourage a love of reading. Older adults are trained to read aloud to groups of children. The adults are stationed in the library at selected times after school to work with individuals and small groups of children. The adults share stories and generally serve as surrogate parents. This program supports the needs of latchkey children who often stay at libraries after school. There are currently eight County libraries that carry this program. More are planned with interested volunteers.

READ ABOUT ME PROGRAM provides books for young children in various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The program is currently funded through a corporate grant.

And there's more! To find out, check out the Los Angeles County Public Libraries. The County libraries, frequently serving as one stop operations, are in business of meeting the educational, recreational and information needs of its customers directing them to love reading and learning and making connections to the world of knowledge. Last year, more than 650,000 children participated in County Library activities.

The *County Digest* is the official employee newsletter of Los Angeles County. Established in 1968, the *Digest* serves as a vehicle to inform, educate and provide County employees and interested members of the public on the numerous services provided by the County departments and the activities within their various units.

The *Digest* reaches approximately 80,000 County employees and is published monthly by the Department of Human Resources.

our Web site at <http://www.co.la.ca.us/hr/main.html-ssi>

YOU ARE INVITED!

The Family and Children's Services Trust Fund (FCSTF) is pleased to announce that the fourth "All For The Love Of Kids" fundraising event will be on Thursday, May 29 at the Edwards Cinema in Alhambra at Atlantic and Main.

The event, to be hosted by Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, will feature a catered dinner provided by Panda Express and an array of public officials, community leaders and celebrity guests including Doug Savant who plays Matt on "Melrose Place." Live entertainment and a live and silent auction are also highlights of the event.

The cost is \$25 per person and is tax deductible.

In the past, "All For The Love Of Kids" has been FCSTF's biggest and most successful fundraising event. It has allowed the trust fund to meet and fill the many unmet needs for the department's children which cannot be paid for with governmental funds. The FCSTF is solely funded by in-house fundraising efforts and donations.

If you have any questions or need additional information, call Leslie Griffith at (818) 858-5915 or the fundraising event hotline at (213) 351-6486.

MAY RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Clarence N. Warren

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Weldon L. Feezell, Celia Perez, Janis J. Rohrer

FIRE: John Broohyser, Robert C. Contreras, Robert A. Pasqua, Gaylord F. Ward, Thomas S. Benton, Gerald C. Nolls, John C. Olver, Lloyd D. Schueller, Robert A. Mundt, Johnnie R. March

HEALTH SERVICES: Opal D. Gordon, Frances Harrod, Neva G. Hughes, Joseph Jefferson, Kay H. Kim, William G. McGehee, Marcus Romero, Mario Sewell, Bettye J. Verge, Sylvia Williams, Curtis W. Williams

INTERNAL SERVICES: Curtis F. Easton, Calvin L. Matthews, Charles E. Mixon, Carolyn Morgan, Sandra Rabben, George H. Sims, Arthur Wisniewski

MUNICIPAL COURT: Elizabeth A. Howard

PARKS AND RECREATION: Robert L. Williams, Etsel K. Yamasaki

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Irene V. Steinman

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Cordelia V. Anderson, Dorothy M. Buckner, George Kato, Norbert B. Witherspoon

PUBLIC WORKS: Thomas Basford, Charles E. Shannon, Linda E. Smith, Michael T. Vietti

PROBATION: John Copley, Henry Leopold, Jr., Ruel Mizrahi

SHERIFF: Gregory D. Carter, William L. Early, Jr., Kurt G. Hardy, Donald G. Johnston, Arthur O. Robinson, Jr., Lois A. Rollins, David M. Winkler, Roy F. Brown, Dorothy Joseph, Raymond A. Sanchez

SUPERIOR COURT: Arthur J. Hannum

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the County for more than 25 years:

ASSESSOR: Don E. Kelly

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Velia J. Garay, Celinda Henry, Donna H. Smith

COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES: Varre Stimmell

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: John A. Delavigne, Katherine King, Nancy M. Nassar, Vera White

FIRE: Donald R. Campbell, William H. Harrison, Duane B. Trotter

HEALTH SERVICES: Sylvia J. Bell, Curlie B. Bryant, Ruth Caldera, Amanda L. Doss, Mary L. Fernandez, Keeps V. Forrest, Steve W. Fraijo, William M. McGrath, Anne M. Morgan, Emilio Portilla, Emma R. Torrence, Sandra Felder

INTERNAL SERVICES: Domenic S. Rizzi, Manuel G. Arias

MENTAL HEALTH: E. E. Kunzman

PARKS AND RECREATION: Marlene J. Davis

PROBATION: R. A. Evrard

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Jerry L. Seiberling

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Miyoko Yamada

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Maria A. Garcia, Isidro B. Parducho, Gretchen Schwinn, Sandra K. Stuart, Martha J. Roberson

PUBLIC WORKS: James R. Wilson

SHERIFF: Glen R. Bartholomew, Marvin L. Cheyno, Samuel I. Combes, Herbert W. Giron, Jr., Fulvio G. Serafini, Carlos R. Bowers

SEND US...
YOUR COMMENTS, STORY IDEAS OR QUESTIONS!

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DUE TO SPACE CONSIDERATIONS, WE CANNOT
GUARANTEE PUBLICATION OF SUBMITTED ARTICLES.

ARTIST WANTED!



The search is on for County employee artists! The Internal Services Department is holding a contest to create a new cover for the County Directory by soliciting original drawings or camera artwork produced by County employees. A byline credit for the illustration will be printed in the Directory.

To enter, submit your original, **camera-ready** artwork on a white 8 1/2 x 11 sheet by June 9, 1997. Colors must be limited to two. Pastels are discouraged because the printer cannot guarantee its printing accuracy.

Remember to include your name, department and workplace phone number. Send your entry to: Directory Unit, Internal Services Department, 9150 E. Imperial Highway, Mail-Stop 37, Downey, CA 90242.



Members of the Board

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