

County DIGEST



DECEMBER 1998

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

A Chair Says Farewell

By Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Last year, when I took over the gavel from Zev Yaroslavsky, I noted that 1998 would be the year in which we must find ways to implement policy changes made in 1997. We have moved forward to meet the challenges of conforming to mandated new ways of delivering County services, while remaining true to the County's mission to provide services of last resort to our needy constituents. We entered an era of an expanding economy, with funding resources less scarce than in previous years, and with telecommunications and computerization playing an increasingly large role in the disbursement of payments to welfare clients.

However, upgrading the family support system remains a major issue. While the District Attorney's Office has made advances in computerizing information, it may be that the system as we know it is too large and unwieldy to work properly without major re-engineering at both the County and State levels.

It has become easier for County constituents to register, and to vote by mail. The County has also added Korean to its list of languages in which sample ballots are available. However, problems have been revealed with fraudulent voter registration.

Health care delivery, of course, is a major priority, and we have made advances. Planning for the replacement of our major County facility, LA County-USC Medical Center, is now firmly underway. The report of the First Women's Health

health care coverage for their children.

The lot of the mounting number of children in our child protective services has been lightened somewhat, thanks to the new policy that has been initiated, directing the placement of foster children in or near their own neighborhoods whenever possible. The Board has also taken steps to relieve the onerous burden MacLaren Hall has faced in becoming a repository of clinically troubled juveniles by default, instead of carrying out its original mission to provide a secure environment for children with social problems.

It's also worth noting that the first-ever cross country, interactive audio-video news teleconference was held October 27, when U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman announced a grant of \$1.2 million to the County, to lessen the impact on health care workers of the restructuring of the County's public

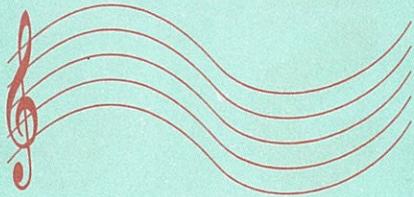
health system. The Board of Supervisors meeting room is now wired for that capability, yet another example of our commitment to making the latest in telecommunications technology available to the County. This complicated project



In keeping with her promotion of children's programs, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, presented a scroll to the Focus on Youth Photography Program director at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 1998.

Summit in California has been delivered to the Board of Supervisors, and the Office of Women's Health is now a reality in the Department of Health Services. The first Children's Health Summit has been held, and health care delivery to children in LA County is being boosted by a campaign to inform working poor people about Healthy Families and other programs that provide

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American Music Awards

Ticket Give Away

And the Song of the Year goes to... Watch the live telecast of the American Music Awards to find out who the winner will be. But what better way to find out by being part of the live telecast.

Through the generosity of the Dick Clark Productions and the County's Film Permit Office, a County employee and a guest will be given the opportunity to watch the festivities live from the Shrine Auditorium. The event featuring top performers in the music industry will be held on Monday, January 11, 1999.

To enter, mail a postcard with your name, department and work telephone number to American Music Awards Ticket Give Away at 808 South Ridgeley Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Entry deadline is January 5. Only one entry per County employee, please. The lucky winner will be notified by telephone.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to see the world's greatest musicians perform live at the American Music Awards to be broadcast on ABC.



November 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:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Peter J. Hanson, Verlena Walker

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Paul A. Davis

CORONER: Walter L. Shuster, Jr.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Carolyn L. Moreno, Helmut Bauer

FIRE: Robert J. Sheets, Richard E. Sorenson, Kenneth J. Dorn, Chester J. Epperson, Delbert K. Harter, II, Michael L. Steele, Charles A. Holtzendorff, Roy A. Spear, Jr.

HEALTH SERVICES: Cassandra K. Adams, Geraldine V. Anderson, Bernadine Bergman, Lula M. Calhoun, Mary J. Curry, Douglas Friend, Geraldine Travlee, William P. Underwood, Jr., Pinkie Young

INTERNAL SERVICES: Teresa M. Disarufino

MENTAL HEALTH: Richard N. Harvey

PROBATION: Ronald R. Grebel

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Janice Boettcher, Almeter Carroll, Beatrice A. Escalera, Elizabeth T. Parsons, Nancy A. Walker

PUBLIC WORKS: Richard K. Fuchino, Ignacio V. Rivera

SHERIFF: Homer P. Castille, Patrick M. Robinson, Ronald M. Wallach, Florence S. Rowell, James A. Pendergist, Donald E. Reeves, Henry R. Roberts, Thomas M. Sears

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

ART MUSEUM: Albert Reyes

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Marian M. Hammond, Steven D. Ogden

FIRE: Terry L. Butler, Robert T. Payne, Arthur J. Wesselman

HEALTH SERVICES: Jerome Clayton, Lydia Cortez, Leona Hawking, Fannie M. Jones, Donald Kane, Ashis K. Mandal, Celia Martinez, Rachel A. Rodriguez

INTERNAL SERVICES: Mary E. Livenero, Generoso Morales, Celeste Ryan

MENTAL HEALTH: Ruth J. Viertel

MUNICIPAL COURTS: June Stewart

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Berta H. Barrera, Susanna E. Morneau

PUBLIC SAFETY: Virginia A. Richie

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Rose M. Guerrero, Bertha Salvatierra, Mary A. Seltzer, William R. Walker, Dorothy R. Wynne, Ralph Russo, Victoria Vega

PUBLIC WORKS: David J. Gabay

SHERIFF: Thomas M. Horan, Vincent Rupp, Ernestine R. Carter, Frankie M. Hebert, Gerald E. Reedy, Larry V. Buttes, James D. Maupin

SUPERIOR COURTS: John E. Iverson



Shyamal Roy Chowdhury

Humble By Nature

His community service reflects the nature of his humanity.

While a high school student in Calcutta, India, Shyamal Roy Chowdhury worked with Mother Teresa at food distribution camps on several occasions. When he migrated to the United States, he continued this humanitarian endeavor by working with Sister Alice Marie Quinn, D.C., founder of Meals on Wheels. This program aids seniors, disabled and homeless people in Los Angeles with food, medicine and other necessities.

On the day that was meant to honor him, he again deflected the accolades to his co-workers many of whom were present to witness the ceremony. They filled the Board Room with thunderous applause and enthusiastic cheers to demonstrate their great admiration and respect for this man.

Chowdhury, the November 1998 County Employee of the Month, is an Ownership Clerk I with the Ownership Division/Roll Services Subdepartment of the Office of the Assessor. He processes legal documents to maintain records of Ownership and legal descriptions of Real Property for assessment purposes; processes more complex documents which require further investigation; assists with training other employees in the Division; and prioritizes and quality checks completed work of other employees for accuracy. He also assists in training other employees in Ownership Coding since incorrect coding of documents could affect the taxable assessed value and allocation of revenues collected by the County.

"To be awarded the County Employee of the Month is a great honor because it shows that my department cares enough to acknowledge not only my job



performance but also my community involvement," Chowdhury said.

The eight-year County employee completed computer training and basic programming at Metro Skill Center and is presently studying the A+ Computer Hardware Training Program through the Internet. He enjoys reading, photography, music and bowling.

His experiences in India have served as a catalyst in his involvement in the Indian community of Los Angeles. He works with the Bangalee Association of Southern California; serves as editor of the organization's newsletter; conducts seminars for youths on chemical dependency, drug abuse and school problems, e.g., peer pressure; and counsels families who are experiencing assimilation anxiety.

"I consider my greatest accomplishment the gift of giving," he said. "Through charitable programs, I can assist those in need, be part of their lives and thereby giving them hope."



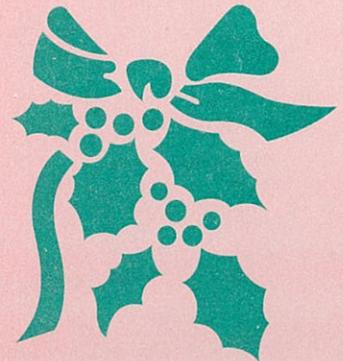
Burke

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took place with the dedication and overtime work of the Executive Office and ISD.

A major event that took place over which the Board of Supervisors had no control was the untimely death of Sheriff Sherman Block. He'll be greatly missed, and the election of Leroy Baca to the post of Sheriff adds another dimension of change to County affairs. The Board of Supervisors looks forward to working with the new Sheriff to address the many challenges that face the nation's largest Sheriff's Department.

I'm proud of what the Board of Supervisors has accomplished this past year, and look forward to meeting the new challenges of the coming year under the leadership of my colleague, Don Knabe.



County DIGEST

Department of Human Resources
375 Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1765
(213) 613-4789 FAX



A Grand Holiday Celebration



**AguaLuna
Dance Company**

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission marks the holiday season with its gift to the community at large: six hours of music, dance and theater. The **FREE** presentation, produced by the County in cooperation with KCET, runs from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m., Thursday, **December 24** in the **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion** of the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles. Admission and parking are free. No reservations are necessary. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Detailed information is available by calling the Holiday Celebration Hotline at (213) 974-1396 or checking www.lacountyarts.org, the Commission's website.



Art In Motion



Inner Voices

A Holiday Gift that Goes a Long Way

The generosity of County employees is evident in the monies raised for various charitable campaigns. Now more than ever, this generosity is again challenged to help our neighbors in Central America. The people of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua need our assistance as their lives and properties have been ravaged by Hurricane Mitch. As many as 9,000 people may have lost their lives, an estimated 13,000 are still missing and over a million are homeless.

Let our holiday spirit extend to those in most need. Monetary donations may be sent to any of the following relief agencies:

American Red Cross

For donations using MasterCard or VISA, call (800) HELP NOW
For checks, make payable to: Hurricane Mitch Relief Fund
Send checks to: American Red Cross International Response Fund
P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013

Catholic Relief Services

For donations using MasterCard or VISA, call (800) 736-3467
For checks, make payable to: Catholic Relief Services - Hurricane Mitch
Send checks to: Catholic Relief Services, Hurricane Mitch
P.O. Box 17090, Baton, MD 21203-7090

The Salvation Army

For donations using MasterCard or VISA, call (800) 725-9005
For checks, make payable to: The Salvation Army - Hurricane Mitch
Send checks to: The Salvation Army, Hurricane Mitch
900 West 9th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015

World VISION

For donations using MasterCard or VISA, call (888) 511-5665
For checks, make payable to: World VISION - Hurricane Mitch
Send checks to: World VISION
P.O. Box 70200, Tacoma, WASH 98481



Members of the Board

Don Knabe
Chairman
Fourth District

Gloria Molina
First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

John S. Mina
Staff