

# County DIGEST



JANUARY 1999

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Chairman Knabe Looks Forward to a Productive Year

I am very proud to assume the role of Chairman of this distinguished Board. And yes, I will use the title of Chairman. I am especially proud to serve as Chairman of a Board that is made up of four other individuals for whom I have the highest measure of respect.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the outstanding way in which Supervisor Burke discharged the duties of Chair this past year. I feel that this Board effectively built upon our past successes and that the Board — while not always in complete agreement — clearly shares a common objective of enhancing the quality of life for Los Angeles County's 10 million residents. A great deal of the credit for the successes of last year is owed to Yvonne's dynamic and inclusive style of leadership.

As we complete the last years of the millennium, we face unprecedented challenges from Y2K compliance to the implementation of welfare reform.

On the Federal front, we must present a clear and convincing case that our Medicaid Section 1115 waiver should be extended and that we have made significant and fundamental changes in moving our public health system from an in-patient, in-hospital based system to one based on preventative and wellness care. The outstanding successes of our public-private partnerships in the health arena and our nationally acclaimed hospitals are a testament to our commitment to see this transformation completed. The extension of the 1115 waiver will be our top Federal priority. The Board must continue to insist that the transformation of our healthcare

delivery system is completed and that we do not find ourselves in the same situation in the year 2000 that we were during the 1995 health crisis.



**Chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Don Knabe receives a baseball bat from Matt Luke of the Los Angeles Dodgers at the Board's September 8, 1998 meeting.**

On the State front, we have a new Governor and a new Legislature that afford us the opportunity to make our case for the return of property tax money to local government. We can articulate our arguments free of the baggage of past battles and form new partnerships where our elected officials in Sacramento realize that we all answer to the same constituents.

While I recognize the position of

Chairman is largely an honorary one, it also presents opportunities to set forth a common vision for this Board to strive toward. In that vein, I would propose a theme for 1999 for this Board and that theme would be "increasing County accountability." As many of you have heard me say before, it is easy to make the tough decisions in the hard-times — when your back is up against a wall and you have no choice — but it is hard to make the tough decisions in the good times. It is hard to tow the line and prepare for the inevitable fiscal challenges that will befall County government. I don't ever want to be in the situation of choosing jail beds over hospital beds because that's no choice at all. To avoid that scenario, we must prepare today.

To that end, I will be putting forth for this Board's consideration a number of proposals that I believe will increase our efficiencies and the quality of the services we deliver.

My first recommendation will be the creation of an independent Inspector General for Risk Management. The Inspector General would report directly to the Board of Supervisors and would be charged with reviewing claims and settlements countywide to assess whether corrective measures have been implemented and whether these were the right corrective measures to prevent the County from ever having to pay out for a similar claim. The days of Los Angeles County

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500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1765  
(213) 613-4789 FAX

## Give BLOOD...the Gift of LIFE

January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. In conjunction, the Board of Supervisors has proclaimed this month as Los Angeles County Employees Blood Donor Month.

The County, with major support from SEIU Local 660 and the American Red Cross, will be hosting blood drives at many County departments beginning with a major kick-off this month and continuing throughout the year. By giving just a little bit of your time and just a little bit of your blood, you are helping to heal our communities one pint at a time. Lives of people undergoing surgery or who suddenly face the need of emergency care depend upon people like you to donate blood.

"The need for blood is constant," said Associate Director of Health Services Dr. Donald C. Thomas III. "If everyone who could give blood gave blood on a regular basis (three or four times a year), then blood needs could be met and shortages would become a thing of the past."

Watch out for upcoming opportunities to give blood, the gift of life. For dates and location of blood drives, call the Red Cross hotline at (213) 739-5594.

## Rosa Piñon

### *Team Work is Key to Success*

How could she have done it? Here's a single parent with eight children, all of whom have stayed away from gangs and drugs.

Rosa Piñon brought three of the eight children, two of whom now work for the County's Department of Public Social Services, to the Board of Supervisors meeting as she received the December 1998 County Employee of the Month award from Supervisor Don Knabe.

"This award represents 26 years of work experience and knowledge," she said. "Experience and knowledge are not gained alone, but by working with others to develop solid relationships that lead to team work."

The soft-spoken honoree is a Head Clerk with the Public Health Programs and Services - Community Health Services division of the Department of Health Services. She is the facility administrator at the Ruth Temple Public Health Center where she is responsible for coordinating facility services and ensuring that the facility is maintained and operating within established State and Federal codes.

Through her many years of County service, Piñon has offered suggestions and made recommendations to improve the efficiency of the Department and consequently better serve the public. She received recognition for her work in Cost Containment Forms which resulted in \$14,000 annual savings for the department and for the consolidation of the Billing Instruction and General Consent Forms which resulted in \$52,000 annual savings.

During her free time, she volunteers as a crisis counselor for the East Los Angeles Rape and Domestic Violence Hotline and is currently training to be a health educator on Women and HIV for the East Los Angeles community.

Piñon credits among others her grandfather for the motivation to succeed.

"To be the best at whatever I did and excel in all aspects of my life" was her grandfather's advice.



She has been commended for coordinating the March of Dimes' annual walk and for providing external promotions for the National HIV Testing Day program. She also works with the Foshay High School Learning Center's student volunteer program.

Her involvement with work does not interfere with her role as a parent.

"I know their teachers, attend school functions and make sure they are enrolled in sports and after-school programs," said Piñon. "I also make sure I know their friends and their friends' parents."

She considers among her forms of recreation dancing, fine dining and reading.



# Knabe

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having "deep pockets" to settle suits is long over.

Second, I will be bringing forward a County Charter Amendment to appear on the March 2000 ballot to remove top County managers from the Civil Service program. This is not a punitive move but rather a pro-active one that will allow this Board and Department Heads to set reasonable and attainable performance goals and have the ability to see that these goals are attained. It is a basic tenet of good management that performance measured is performance increased. This would not apply to current top managers but would to future ones.

Third, I would like Los Angeles County to be on the cutting edge of budgeting and implement a two-year budget. I believe it is essential for the long-term planning of our departments. This will not be without challenges as we are tied to the Federal and State budget cycles for so much of our funds but I believe that it is the wave of the future. With late budgets have come shrinking time frames which have resulted in the County basically preparing a

budget year-round when, in fact, funding sources have not changed very much during the past three years.

Finally, while we are all ultimately accountable to the voters of this County, we are especially accountable to the next generation. This year we will have the important task of implementing Proposition 10 and to make sure that these new funds are put to the best use for our children. We also have a responsibility to make sure that the Tobacco Settlement funds are used wisely and for programs aimed at increasing the health of our children — not just to bail out a budgetary black-hole.

We also have a responsibility to make the Healthy Families Program work because clearly when there is \$1.4 billion in unspent Healthy Families moneys available to this State that are being left unspent while 25% of LA County's children are still uninsured, the program is not working. To correct this problem will take effective advocacy in Washington. I plan for Los Angeles County to lead that effort and form collaborations with other counties and States.

I am looking forward to a busy and successful year as Chairman. I appreciate the confidence that this Board has shown in me to give me this honor as I begin my third year in office.

## A New Office to Serve You

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke joined Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Conny McCormack and other officials for the grand opening of the new Florence-Firestone district office of the County's Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

The new office, located at 7807 South Compton Avenue, Room 215, in Los Angeles, will accept birth and death certificate requests, issue

marriage licenses and perform marriage ceremonies. People will also be able to register to vote and get proof of voter registration.

"People needing these services no longer have to commute to Norwalk where the Registrar's headquarters is located," Supervisor Burke said.

Office hours are

Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Supervisor Burke cuts the ribbon to officially open the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's new office located in the second supervisorial district.



## Passport to Educational Success!

The County of Los Angeles Public Library offers its annual Educational Success and Arts Passport Program from January 19 through February 14, 1999. Children, who are accompanied by their parents to visit a County Library and register for a library card or show their current card, are entitled to pick an item from the School Supplies Grab Bag. They will also receive a family Cultural Arts Passport to visit museums in Los Angeles County for free or a reduced rate.

## Calendar of Events

The Music Center of Los Angeles County  
(213)628-2772

*Titanic: A New Musical*  
previews begin January 5, 1999

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
(323)857-6000

*Van Gogh's Van Goghs: Masterpieces from the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam*  
January 17 through April 4, 1999

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County  
(626)821-3222

*Baiko-En Kenkyukai Bonsai Show*  
January 23 and 24, 1999

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County  
(213)763-DINO

*The Great Russian Dinosaurs*  
January 23 through May 2, 1999

# A Rare Exhibition

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is proud to present an unprecedented and extraordinary exhibition of 70 paintings by Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890). The exhibition will open on January 17, 1999 and continue through April 4.

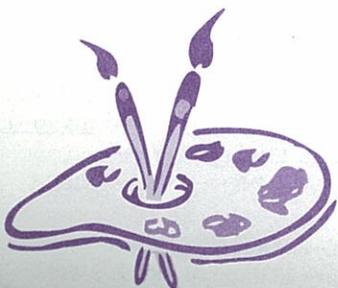
*Van Gogh's Van Goghs: Masterpieces from the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam*, will be based entirely on the holdings of the Van Gogh Museum whose renovation and expansion provides this rare opportunity to view these remarkable paintings outside of the Netherlands.

The exhibition will illustrate Van Gogh's entire career, from the *Potato Eaters* of 1885 through *Wheatfield with Crows* of 1890, the year of his death. It will include such famous works as the *Self Portrait as an Artist* (1888), *The Zouave* (1888), *The Bedroom* (1888) and *The Harvest* (1888).

This exhibition is being organized by the National Gallery of Art and the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam in collaboration with LACMA. It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities and is sponsored by Washington Mutual.

"LACMA is pleased to be uniquely suited to bring an exhibition of this scale and importance to Southern California and the Western United States," said Andrea Rich, the museum's president and chief executive officer.

This exhibition will require a special timed and dated ticket. Tickets can be ordered through Ticketmaster at (213) 462-ARTS. LACMA members will receive two free tickets. A complete catalogue of the exhibition will be available.



## January 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:** Paul A. Dow

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Susan J. Bertotti, Weldon L. Feezell

**COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:** Joan Pinchuk, Kazuo Nimori

**CORONER:** Roy R. Hemzacek

**FIRE:** Stanley C. Bixler, Thomas H. Kenney, David C. Moyer, Michael F. Idol, David P. Horn, Richard E. Raabe

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Margaret Calhoun, Grant B. Hieshima, Robert C. Higgins, Darryl Perrault, Grozdana Racic, Robert L. Rathbun, Carmen A. Sanchez, Margaret E. Suttles

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Frank R. Sandoval  
**PROBATION:** Robert La Vine, Bennie Love, Albert J. May, Suzanne Ryan, John B. Copley

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Janett J. Carraway

**PUBLIC WORKS:** David K. Cooper, Robert P. Johnson, Augustine A. Martinez, Frederick S. Raymond, Leonard W. Stockwell, Howard Tom

**SHERIFF:** Leon Durlene, Franklin J. Girard, Jerry L. Harper, Stephen C. Lee, William J. Ross, William E. Woodcock, Walter O. Baehr, Iverson S. Bunn, Blanche Coleman, Jack L. Danbacher, Marian A. Townsend, Robert D. Bell, Claude L. Farris

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

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** Margery A. Gould

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Kay W. Jones

**COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:** Benita M. Reyes

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Rolando M. Dulla, Judith M. Keller, Frederick G. Stewart

**FIRE:** Ernest M. Strong, Jr.

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Rafael M. Asignacion, Shirlyn T. De Berry, Luis Lancero, Jr., Mary E. Mabrie, Earnestine McNeil, Louise Miller, Robert C. Murchison, Dolores A. Quitasol, Ronnie L. Merriman, Diane McCullough

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Beverly A. Campbell

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Kwangyoul T. Choi, Harry Franklin

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Oliver Thomas, Sr.

**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM:** Robert J. Lavenberg

**PROBATION:** Donald L. Moses

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Olivia Carlson, William Ivey, Barbara M. Johnson, Mayra Rosacker, La Verne Scruggs, Rita J. Spencer

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Betty L. Flippen, Florentino M. Mejia, Khorin Salmassian

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Jaime N. Aplit, Sally B. Innes

**SHERIFF:** Cenovio Gomez, Jr., Loretta I. Eason, Barbara Y. Johnson, Ernest H. King, Linda J. Quiñonez



### 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