

County DIGEST



SEPTEMBER 1999

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Wanted: Cost-Saving Ideas it Pays to Think About

Arts organizations in Los Angeles County will be presenting over 150 performances, exhibitions and other cultural events **free to the public** on Saturday, October 2, as part of the celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month. Complete schedules are available at public libraries throughout the County, on the Los Angeles County Arts Commission web site www.lacountyarts.org and through the Open House 24-hour hotline (213) 972-3099. This event, now in its fifth year, is coordinated by the LA County Arts Commission.

For the convenience of patrons, there are 11 designated **centers of activity** where the public can come, park and spend the day easily walking between events. They are:

- 18th Street Arts Complex with Crossroads School (Santa Monica)
- Baldwin Park Performing Arts Center
- Cal State LA (east of downtown Los Angeles)
- Cal State Northridge
- Conjunctive Points Dance Studio (Culver City)
- DA Center for the Arts (Pomona)
- Long Beach
- Museum Row (mid-Wilshire)

see Arts on next page

Do you want to earn extra money for ideas which save the County money? The Employee Suggestion Awards (ESA) Program may hold the answer and in the process make you look good.

Kattina Harris, a Senior Typist Clerk with the Materials Management Section at King/Drew Medical Center of the Department of Health Services, was awarded \$15,850 for suggesting that the hospital change the vendor in its photocopying partnership lease program.

Her award is based on the ESA guidelines, which give a percentage of the first year's documented savings to the employee. The Program is a productivity-related activity approved by the Board of Supervisors and supported by the County Quality and Productivity Commission.

The Commission is one of the County's most active with 17 members from the business, academic and labor communities. Its mission is to advise and assist the County in improving and promoting effectiveness, efficiency and quality of service. The Commission volunteers its expertise by consulting with departments, conducting studies for the Board, developing new improvement methods and promoting several Countywide programs, such as ESA. It works closely with the Quality and Productivity Managers' Network to implement numerous programs. Each department has one or more representatives on this Network.

Each year, the Commission also sponsors the Productivity and Quality Awards to honor departments, teams and individuals who have developed programs that are innovative and effective. Commissioners and Network managers select the top programs from more than a hundred entries submitted by County departments and agencies. This year's awards program will be held on October 14, 1999 at Universal Studios and is sure to be an exciting event.

Another important Commission program is the Productivity Investment Fund, a revolving fund that offers loans and grants to departments for productivity improvements.

So, if you have a good idea for cost-savings or for improving efficiency or effectiveness in delivering County services, contact your department's Productivity Manager. For more information about the Commission, check out its web site at <http://qpc.co.la.ca.us> (Internet Site) or <http://qpcweb.co.la.ca.us> (Intranet Site) or call the Commission office at (213) 974-1390.



Arts

continued from previous page

•Music Center of Los Angeles County (downtown Los Angeles)

•Pasadena Arts Space at One Colorado

•Watts Towers Arts Center

Several Open House events are sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. A number of music concerts are sponsored by the Recording Industries Music Performance Trust Funds with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission through the Professional Musicians Union Local 47. Other sponsors include radio stations KCSN, KKGQ and KUSC and the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

**AIDS
WALK
LOS ANGELES**
**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 17, 1999**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently proclaimed Sunday, October 17, 1999, as AIDS Walk Los Angeles Day in the County.

This year marks the fifth year that County employees have walked as a team. In 1998, the County team, with approximately \$60,000 raised, finished in third place among the 700 participating fundraising teams at the Walk. In fact, the County was the top government team in 1998 and for the first time, raised almost \$15,000 more than the City of Los Angeles.

Let's do it again. Join TEAM: LA County on October 17 on the Sky Set of Paramount Pictures in Hollywood. The event, a ten-kilometer (6.2 miles) walk, will begin at 9:00 a.m. For more information, call Gina Reyes, AIDS Walk Los Angeles, at (323) 466-9255 or contact your departmental coordinator.

Funds raised will help provide comprehensive support services to more than 7,000 men, women and young children living with HIV or AIDS through AIDS Project Los Angeles.

What Can Your Dollars Do?

Altheada and her five children were forced to leave their home due to domestic violence. As a result, they ended up sleeping in the park. With the assistance of the El Monte/South El Monte Emergency Resources Association, temporary shelter was provided for the family until safe, permanent housing could be located. The organization made sure that the children could have a stable environment and a chance to attend school, while Altheada worked and gained self-sufficiency. Food, clothing, furniture and job placement were provided, along with referrals to domestic violence counseling programs. The family now lives with the hope for a brighter future.

Mrs. Edna G. and her husband were welfare recipients and struggling to keep their family, including their seven children, together until she was accepted in the African American Unity Center's Waiter/Waitress & Hospitality Program. She graduated from the program in 1998 and immediately applied for employment with the Hotel Inter-Continental. She was hired in Room Service and today is the Lead Employee on her shift, directing the activities of others.

"From my point of view, the center is a school with a heart," said Mrs. G. "I was 50 years old when I enrolled in the program. I had never held a full time job and I was a diabetic. All of the staff encouraged me and helped to provide the inspiration I needed to advance to the point where I am now."

Joseph F. had to leave high school because he was behind in credits. Although vocational school was recommended to him as well, the L.A. Conservation Corps appealed to him more. The group provided an opportunity for him to earn some money and get his high school credits at the same time. He studied for five months, received his GED and marched in the corps' commencement while his family watched and cheered.

"It felt great," he said. "After getting the GED and having good things come to me, I need to get my education," said Joseph. This fall, he is a freshman at Pasadena City College.



(Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Women's Foundation.)

This is what your dollars can do. Sign up for payroll deduction today and support the agency of your choice. Contact your Charitable Giving Campaign Coordinator or call Marjorie Edmondson at (213) 974-2466 for more information.

a reminder

**Mailing
Address
Change**

If you have changed your mailing address, please notify your Personnel Office immediately.

Lee Bonds

A Remarkable Person with an Equally Remarkable Work Ethic

For several years now, County facilities have had the pleasure of avoiding countless and endless periods of time waiting for things to get fixed due to the hard working plumbers of the Internal Services Department (ISD) staff, such as Lee Bonds, the August 1999 County Employee of the Month.

An employee with the Facilities Operations Services Division of ISD, Bonds has been with the County for 14 years and is responsible for plumbing repairs, alterations and construction in County facilities in the North County area. His expertise in the area of plumbing is due to his Certifications in Underground Fuel Tank Installations and Removal and Soil Remediation from the University of California at Riverside.

Bonds, who began his career as a helper with C.H. Stone Plumbing, is a remarkable employee who is able to adapt to the constant changes that can emerge within the County. For instance, he can handle a standard plumbing repair call one day and be assigned as a manager on an emergency or high profile project a day later. He works extra hard in order to complete County projects. In fact, he once spent the night in a deep pit filled with water at one of the County's Probation camps removing old equipment and installing new equipment in order to restore the 24-hour facility's sewer system.

Along with the many different aspects of plumbing Bonds is familiar with, he specializes in underground fuel tank installations. This specialization has led him to work on several key projects as the lead crafts person for various undertakings in his area. In 1998, when the Underground Storage Fuel Tank program was initiated by the Department of Public Works, Bonds was appointed as the project resource manager. He worked alongside the County's Chief Administrative Office, Municipal Courts and outside contractors to ensure that Federal requirements for underground



fuel tanks were met. His familiarity with the County's building security needs and the need to keep the facilities operating with minimal downtime has led him to work with other divisions within ISD for certain projects involving underground fuel tank systems, leak detection control and automatic fuel delivery pumping equipment.

Bonds is a remarkable and valuable source for plumbing related information and is exceptionally proficient in mastering the unique requirements of servicing County facilities.

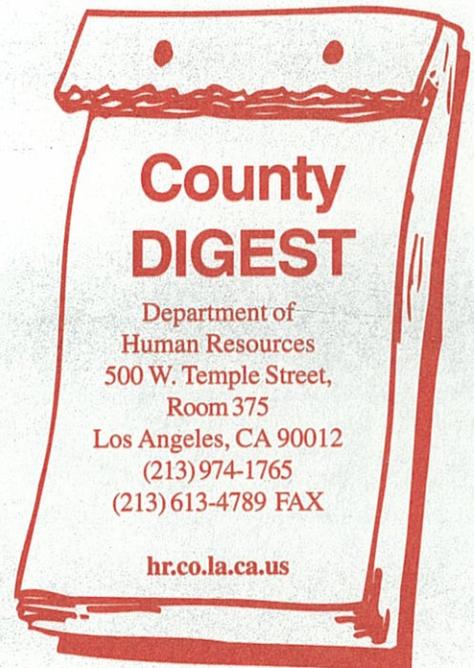
He is an enthusiastic employee who is not afraid of taking on complex and challenging projects and truly exhibits what it means to be a team player. He is usually the first one to get involved and is successful at any project he attempts. Many a time, he has been caught lending a hand to electricians and generator and refrigeration mechanics when they are in need of assistance.

Bonds is always willing to help his fellow employees; however, his generosity is not only displayed in the work place, but also in his involvement with

church and the community. He volunteers for ISD's annual charity golf tournament that raises funds for Children's Hospital. He is also an "on-the-job" mentor for the department's Foster Care Youth Project Team where emancipated youths are trained in learning trade skills thereby readying them to enter into an apprenticeship program.

As an active member of the First Baptist Church of Hesperia, he volunteers his time to raise funds for a substance abuse ranch sponsored by his church. Furthermore, in addition to raising two children, he and his wife have embraced 13 foster children into their home. Although he is very delighted to have his work recognized as employee of the month, he feels that his association with the foster children, watching them grow up and become successful has been one of the most rewarding experiences of his life. Lee Bonds is not only an astonishing plumber, but he is also a generous person.

Congratulations!





September Retirees

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

Masks: The World in Me
July 10 through November 7, 1999

Los Angeles County Arts Commission
(213) 972-3099
www.lacountyarts.org

Los Angeles Countywide Arts Open House
October 2, 1999

Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park
(909) 599-8411 ext. 2002

*9th Annual Johnny Otis Family Music Festival featuring Ray Charles**
October 10, 1999
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*presented by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the Department of Parks and Recreation

Music Center of Los Angeles County
(213) 972-8001
www.laopera.org

The Capulets and the Montagues
October 13, 16, 20, 23, 28 and 31, 1999

Los Angeles County Secretarial Council
(323) 267-2438 or (562) 908-8634

*Annual Boss-Secretary Luncheon**
October 14, 1999
11:30 a.m.

*The luncheon will held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles.

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:

ASSESSOR: Margarita Ortiz

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Estella Washington

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Diane Berres-Gardi

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Joe H. Yamanishi

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Joseph A. D'Virgilio

FIRE: Gary R. Dewhirst, Patrick M. O'Donnell

HEALTH SERVICES: Samuel Bellamy, Margie Boyd, Clara L. Calvin, Leslie McClure, Tjing A. Ong, Gloria J. Prowtle, Lola Sorrells

INTERNAL SERVICES: Ruben A Duarte
OFFICE OF EDUCATION: Dora Olea, Bruce N. Zentil

PARKS & RECREATION: Thomas A. Blair, Manuel Calderon Jr., Charles Disbrow, Jr., John W. Provine

PROBATION: Christine Berger, Virginia C. Jones

PUBLIC LIBRARY: David A. Camp

PUBLIC SAFETY: Joe R. Jackson

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Virginia L. Maguire, Sandra G. Salamon, Edna M. Thompson

PUBLIC WORKS: Frank A. Azzariti, Raul J. Cruz, Frank E. Lancaster, Manuel M Ramos, Tzuo R. Su

SHERIFF: Ronald R. Ablott, Daniel R. Castillo, Eddie F. Harris, Jr., Felix Robles, Ronald S. Rocha, Frances Smart, Donald W. Vine

SUPERIOR COURTS: Carol A. Burge, James R. Piper

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Jessie C. Badillo

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Wanda Vazquez

FIRE: David C. Hutchinson

HEALTH SERVICES: Erlinda Arambulo, Tae W. Chung, Delores S. Garrison, Edna A. Gutierrez, Betty J. Harris, Barbara J. Hogg, Moses P. Ng, Mary L. Quick, Alice Sanchez, Nancy A Stancil, Evelyn Ward, Ruthie D. Moten

MENTAL HEALTH: Carol L. Morton

PARKS & RECREATION: Basil Courseault, Alfred G. Huerta

PROBATION: Harry P. Neville, Stanley C. Weiss

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Charlotte Roberts, Lois George

PUBLIC WORKS: Ernesto M. Esguerra

SHERIFF: Hattie M. Brice, Cenovio Gomez, Jr., Ingrid M. Oswald

SUPERIOR COURTS: Richard P. Martinez



Members of the Board

Don Knabe
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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