

County DIGEST



AUGUST 2000

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke serves lunch to children attending her sixth annual beach party.

Supervisor Burke Hosts Sixth Annual Children's Beach Party

More than 300 foster children from the Second Supervisorial District attended Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke's sixth annual beach party on July 17, 2000. The children arrived at Mother's

Beach in Marina del Rey at 9:00 a.m. on buses provided by Supervisor Burke. She also provided each child with a goody bag containing sunglasses, sun block, beach shoes,

see Party on page 6

New County Public Library Project for City of San Fernando

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has announced that a project will soon be underway to develop Library Plaza in the City of San Fernando, an 8,601 square foot facility housing office and library space located at the southwest corner of Maclay Avenue and Third Street.

"We're very excited about this project for a new and expanded County Library in San Fernando," Yaroslavsky said. "Since 1988, we've been leasing a 47-year-old building nearby that we've simply outgrown. This new facility allows us to serve the community with a

full range of services in a state-of-the-art building that's 33 percent larger."

Yaroslavsky also noted that the new free-standing building is part of an Astrip Center commercial development which will be shared with other tenants in an adjacent structure, including a florist, mailing service, exercise studio, juice bar, coffee house, and barber shop.

Yaroslavsky said the new library project will offer improved amenities and services for patrons, including two



(L to R) Silverio Robledo, Mayor of San Fernando; Alma Martinez, County Library Commissioner; Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; Martha and Severyn Aszkenazy of Pueblo Contracting Services.

additional Internet computers for public use, an expanded children's area, a new Young Adult area, an expanded Homework Center, the

see City on page 9

Calendar of Events

John Anson Ford Amphitheatre
(323) 461-3673

L.A. Modern Dance and Ballet:
Twelve Dancing Princesses
September 2, 2000
8:00 p.m.

L.A. Baroque Orchestra:
Bachfest at the Ford
September 3, 2000
8:00 p.m.

Hysterica Dance Company: Noir
September 8, 2000
8:00 p.m.

**First AME Church and
The International House of Blues
Foundation: The Gospel Train**
September 9, 2000
10:00 a.m.

First AME Church Freedom Choir:
The Spirit of the Lord is Falling
September 9, 2000
7:00 p.m.

**Ivri-Nasawi presents: The Poetry of
Peace-Middle East Arts Festival**
September 10, 2000
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Elba Ramalho & Geraldo Azevedo
in Concert**
September 16 & 17, 2000
8:00 p.m.

Dona Rosita's Jalapeno Kitchen
September 29, 2000
8:00 p.m.

Stefon Harris
September 30, 2000
8:00 p.m.

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

Inside View of the Sunset Gardens
August 24, 2000

David Rogers' Big Bugs Exhibit
Through November 30, 2000

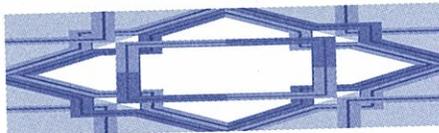
Los Angeles Opera
(213) 972-8001
www.laopera.org

**Season Opening Celebration and
Opening Night Gala Benefit**
September 6, 2000
7:00 p.m.

Aida
September 6 through 28, 2000
Call for exact dates and times

La Cenerentola
September 8 through 24, 2000
Call for exact dates and times

**Placido Domingo
with the Kirov Orchestra**
September 10, 13, and 15, 2000
7:30 p.m.



Page Museum
(323) 934-PAGE
www.tarpits.org

Mammoths: Wild and Woolly
Through September 17, 2000

Pit 91 Excavation
Through September 10, 2000
Wednesday through Sunday

Autry Museum of Western Heritage
(323) 667-2000 extension 329
www.autry-museum.org

**On Gold Mountain:
A Chinese American Experience**
Through October 29, 2000

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

Art classes for Children and Adults
Contact the education department
for exact dates and times
(323) 857-6139

Edward Ruscha: Editions 1959-1999
Through August 27, 2000

**Color and Fire: Defining Moments in
Studio Ceramics, 1950-2000. From the
Smits Collection and Related Works**
Through September 17, 2000

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

Pavilion of Wings
Through September 4, 2000

**The Bahia:
World's Largest Cut Gemstone Sculpture**
Through September 4, 2000

Savage Ancient Seas
Through October 9, 2000

Noontime Parenting Training Seminars
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles
Conference Room 743
(213) 974-2313

**Transitioning from
Kindergarten to First Grade:
What to expect from you and your child**
August 23, 2000
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Balancing Work and Family Obligations
September 27, 2000
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Skirball Cultural Center
(310) 440-4500
www.skirball.org

Cool Art 2000
Through September 22, 2000

Petersen Automotive Museum
(323) 930-CARS
www.petersen.org

**Hollywood Star Cars:
Great Cars of the Movies**
Through September 24, 2000

Ahmanson Theatre
(213) 628-2772
www.TaperAhmanson.com

Finian's Rainbow
Through September 3, 2000
Call for exact dates and times

Marina del Rey Summer Symphony



The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony Orchestra, presented by The Westchester Symphony Society, will give its first concert in Burton Chace Park, Marina del Rey on Thursday, August 31, 2000, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Conducted by its Music Director, Frank Fetta, the 60-member orchestra will appear as the final event in the Department of Beaches and Harbors' "Hot Summer Nights" series of musical offerings, which are free to the public. This marks the first time that a symphonic concert has been presented in Burton Chace Park.

The orchestra will perform a varied program, which includes "The Academic Festival Overture" by Johannes Brahms; "The Moldau" by Bedrich Smetana; Berceuse and Finale from "The Firebird" by Igor Stravinsky; "Porgy and Bess" Selections for Orchestra by George Gershwin, arranged by Robert Russell Bennett; "New World" Symphony in E minor; "Opus 95" by

Antonin Dvorak; "Olympic Fanfare" by John Williams; and "Victory at Sea" Symphonic Scenario for Orchestra by Richard Rodgers, arranged by Robert Russell Bennett.

The Thursday evening "Hot Summer Nights" series premiered last season with a successful series of pop concerts in Burton Chace Park. Audiences come early to picnic in one of the County's most beautiful settings and enjoy a magical sunset over the Marina's Main Channel, while listening to live music on the Park's outdoor stage.

The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, guided by its versatile and talented conductor, Frank Fetta, is comprised of professional musicians and talented community players. As the Culver City/Marina del Rey/Westchester Symphony, the orchestra has just completed its 37th season. Besides concerts during its regular season, the Symphony performs in a variety of venues and has been featured on radio, festival and film projects. Additionally, the Symphony sponsors the annual Parness Young Artist Concerto Compe-

titution held at West Los Angeles College.

The first three concerts of the August 2000 "Hot Summer Nights" event featured The Lyle- Douglas Jazz Quartet, Shakeh, and The Doo-Wah Riders.

A crossover concert with two highly unusual ensembles, the Calico Winds and the Belle Air Brass, performing a mix of classical and pop favorites, will be featured on August 24, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to "Hot Summer Nights," the Department is presenting "Summer Concerts in the Park," from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. every Sunday through September 10, 2000. This popular series is also free to the public.

The Department would like to invite all County employees who love music to come out to beautiful Burton Chace Park, at the end of Mindanao Way. Bring a blanket or beach chair, picnic, and enjoy the music. There is a concession stand in the Park for those who want to buy food. Parking is provided in Lot 4 on Mindanao Way, past Admiralty Way near the Park at a cost of \$2 per vehicle. For more information, call (310) 305-9545.

"Back to School" Time is Library Time

Boost School Success with the Help of Your County Library. Reading, writing, and arithmetic will soon take the place of summer softball and free time as school and learning come back into focus for children and their families. Parents and students alike have high hopes of a successful school year, reflecting progress and achievement. The County of Los

Angeles Public Library can help families reach their educational goals. County community libraries are important educational resources for students of all ages.

Here are some of the many school support services students and families can find at their neighborhood County community libraries:

- A broad variety of books and materials, on all reading levels, at each library with access to the full County

Library collection of over seven million items.

- Assistance from trained librarians for help in locating materials for homework and research needs.

- Access to a variety of online information sources, including Internet, and CD Rom databases.

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Violet Varona-Lukens

Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Violet Varona-Lukens was appointed Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors (Board) on February 1, 2000, culminating a 32-year career with the County. In her role as Executive Officer, Violet oversees an office of 150 employees responsible for performing ministerial functions for the Board, and provides a wide variety of services to the public, County departments and commissions. This includes:

- Administering the County's Assessment Appeals Board and Assessment Hearing Officer programs.

- Serving as the building manager of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

- Administering the County's lobbyist registration ordinance and the provisions of economic disclosure law contained in the Political Reform Act.

- Providing payroll, personnel, budget accounting and purchasing services to more than two dozen small departments, commissions and other County budget units.

- Staffing a wide variety of County boards, commissions and committees, including the Arts Commission, Civil Service Commission, Employee Relations Commission, Business License Commission, Commission for Women, Commission on Disabilities, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee and many more.

Violet's goal is to provide the finest quality support to the Board, client departments, and the citizens of this County. Among the first steps in implementing her vision of the Executive Office, during her first year as department head, the Executive Office will complete a total revision of the Board Letter/Agenda Procedures booklet used by all County departments in preparing items that come before the Board of Supervisors each Tuesday. The procedures contained in this booklet are undergoing extensive revision in order to provide the Board with better organized and more complete information,



and to provide County departments with clearer and more concise instructions in organizing their information for the Board.

Violet, her staff, and managers will also immediately begin work on her long-term goal to develop and implement a departmental succession plan. This plan will ensure future orderly transitions within the office and allow the Executive Office to continue to meet the fast-changing needs of a multi-cultural and technologically advanced environment.

Prior to her current appointment, Violet served as manager of the Board Operations and Commission Services Divisions in the Executive Office. Assisting in the absence of the Chief Deputy Executive Officer, she oversaw the final preparation of the Board's weekly agendas and official minutes and attended their weekly meetings. She managed all areas of support staff for dozens of specialized commissions, including the Commission for Women, the Commission on Disabilities, and the Business License Commission.

Violet's career with the County began in 1968 as a Senior Board Clerk in the Executive Office. In the intervening

years, she moved into progressively higher supervisory and managerial positions. During this time, she was responsible for developing and implementing numerous programs which resulted in improved services to the Board, their advisory commissions, and the general public. Amongst these were an orientation program for newly appointed County commissioners, regional conferences for Southern California Fish and Game Commissions, an audit program for the Joint Power Authority Commission and Non-Profit Corporations, and annual luncheon/awards ceremonies for the Commission for Women and Commission on Disabilities. These luncheons recognize individuals throughout the County for their advocacy efforts. They also provide the Commissions with funds to better outreach to their constituencies, as well as assist in developing commission-sponsored community-based programs.

Violet was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and relocated with her family to Los Angeles as a young girl. She attended local schools and in 1981 received a bachelor's degree in political science from California State University, Los Angeles. She has received recognition as an honoree from Concerned Black Women and the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities. Violet and her husband, Clark Lukens, a chemist with Honeywell International, reside in the San Gabriel Valley. Her son serves in the United States Air Force as a Technical Sergeant in Clovis, New Mexico. In addition to her busy career, Violet has made time to

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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Rolando Juniel

“I was in disbelief”

Rolando Juniel is a Safety Police Officer for the Office of Public Safety's (OPS) Administrative Services Bureau. This seven-year County veteran has assisted with the OPS Recruitment Unit and Peer Counseling programs. He attended the Zoe Christian Leadership Training Center and the University of Colorado at Pueblo, and completed his Peace Officers Standards Training at Rio Hondo Community College in 1997.

“I was in disbelief, but at the same time I was very, very happy,” observed Juniel about his initial notification reaction. “When I was a nominee, I felt honored, but when I was actually selected for the award, I was truly elated that I was chosen over other worthy employees throughout the County.”

After Juniel suffered a severe stroke in November 1997, medical personnel informed his family that he would never walk again and possibly be unable to speak at all in the future. However, thanks to his perseverance and faith, he learned to walk, talk, and regain all of his faculties. This dedicated employee returned to work as a police officer a scant 10 months following the stroke.

He assisted in the research and development of the policies and procedures manual for the OPS Police Bike Patrol at King/Drew Medical Center. The Bike Patrol has enhanced law enforcement services and improved relationships with hospital staff and patients. Juniel recommended and assisted in establishing the Chaplains and Peer Counseling programs.

“I received my Peer Support training from the Sheriff's Department. This program is a resource for officers; anything that is discussed remains confidential,” said Juniel.

His contributions to these programs include the development of the OPS Chaplains' Manual, the selection



Rolando Juniel and Chair of the Board Gloria Molina.

and organization of a Chaplains' Corps, the formation and implementation of funeral procedures for fallen officers and other personnel, and the organization of peer counselors in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department. His work on the Chaplains and Peer Counseling programs has significantly helped improve organizational morale and pride.

“I try to meet the needs of the fallen officers and their family members, and make available to them all the means and recourse within the department,” noted Juniel. “As a part of the Peer Support Program, I counsel officers, civilian and sworn, on any issues that affect them on a personal and professional level.”

Juniel's coordination of recruitment represents OPS' first concerted effort in this area, and includes the establishment of a recruitment committee, the development of recruitment brochures and a video, and the identification of and staffing at recruitment events. He has served as a Field Training Officer for new police officers, and was instrumental in establishing an OPS Honor

Guard. Since 1998, he has received five commendations from Bayan Lewis, Chief, Office of Public Safety, for his assistance and support as a Senior Chaplain and for his recruitment contributions.

Juniel feels his greatest accomplishments have been becoming a minister, serving as a police officer, assisting with the Peer Support Program for sworn and civilian personnel, and being selected as a Chaplain. He has been involved with the OPS Annual Public Service Recognition Event, the Charitable Giving Croquet Tournament, and a number of promotional ceremonies. As an ordained minister since 1990, Juniel has participated in a number of ministries with the Church of the Harvest, primarily as a youth minister, counseling adolescents in crisis. He is a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains, has coached baseball, and is active at his son's school.

“I am very fortunate and blessed to have the wholehearted support of my very beautiful wife Tammi,” commented Juniel. “On many nights, when I come home with my head hung down or just weary from the day's load, she continues to be my solid rock and keeps me grounded and ready for each new day.”

Congratulations, Rolando!

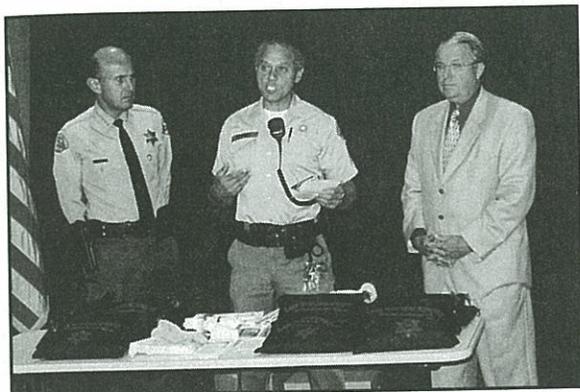
Varona

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pursue two favorite pastimes--fashion design and ballroom dancing.

Violet invites your questions and suggestions regarding the services provided by the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors. The Executive Office's e-mail address is executiveoffice@bos.co.la.ca.us.

Sheriff Baca Displays New Life Saving Tool



(L to R) Sheriff Lee Baca, Deputy Jerome Después, and Supervisor Don Knabe.

Angeles County Sheriff's Department with the best safety equipment available," said Baca.

The Law Enforcement Trauma Shooting Kit is an emergency treatment option for deputies in the field. It is a small self-contained first aid kit which can be kept in a patrol car and deployed at a moment's notice. Its primary purpose is to treat a victim

Moving forward in his commitment to ensuring both officer and community safety, Sheriff Lee Baca announced the immediate Countywide distribution of a new life saving tool: the Law Enforcement Trauma Shooting Kit.

"It has always been my goal to provide the men and women of the Los

of a gunshot, stab wound, or similar life-threatening injury, prior to the arrival of emergency medical personnel.

In April of this year, the Department purchased 5,000 of these Law Enforcement Trauma Shooting Kits

for issuance to all sworn personnel assigned to the Field Operations Regions and Detective Divisions. The purchase and deployment of these kits were made possible, in part, by funds raised and donated through Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe of the Fourth District.

"The new Trauma Shooting Kit gives each deputy in the field the tool and option to provide meaningful on-scene treatment to severely wounded victims, greatly enhancing their chances for survival," concluded Baca.



(L to R) Sheriff's deputies Gary Wilkerson, James Harrell, and Jerome Después from the Emergency Services Detail.

Party

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Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (8th from left) with County Lifeguards and participants of the Junior Lifeguard Program.

T-shirts and shorts. Children who arrived without proper swimwear were provided with swimsuits at the beach.

The majority of the children, ages five to 14 years old, were visiting a beach for the first time. County lifeguards and firefighters were on hand to help with water activities and beach games. Staff from the Departments of Beaches and Harbors and Children and Family Services helped the children with arts and crafts activities and with face painting.

Just before noon, Supervisor Burke arrived to help serve lunch. The

children were provided with a full meal, including hot dogs and fresh fruit, by the Marriott Hotel and the Marina Business

Lease Holders. On hand to entertain was positive rap artist, Dr. Geek, who is well known for his ability to improvise songs around subjects chosen by his listeners. Later, the children were served ice cream.

They departed the beach at 2:00 p.m., to be bused back home. Supervisor Burke said, "By the way they were smiling and chatting to each other, it's clear they had a great time. That's why I have this party every year. It's so important to provide these children with life experiences that they might otherwise never have. It expands their points of view, and also helps them become productive participants in their families and communities. Besides, it's fun."

August 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:

ASSESSOR: Geoffrey C. Halstead
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Marilyn A. Stagg, Annie L. Stevenson
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Wilmer C. Abram Jr., Ethel I. Mauro
FIRE: Francis V. Coley, Gregory H. Omartian, Gary L. Rycraft, Bernard G. Penticoff
HEALTH SERVICES: Alicia Escobedo, Edward A. Guerrero, Mary F. Hester, Judith Hopkins, Clinton Kennedy, Lyndsay N. Lee, Kay Moon, Leman A. Smith, Arthur Y. Uyesato
HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Prem Notani-Sharma, Marilyn J. Silver
INTERNAL SERVICES: Gerald P. Jones
MENTAL HEALTH: Gerard A. Knappik

OFFICE OF EDUCATION: Marva Long
PROBATION: Mark E. Benkendorf, Eldred Y. Caffey Jr., Patricia Gonzales, David L. Levine, Joseph W. Malveaux Jr., Verna M. Offley, Loise J. Walker
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Robert C. Smith
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Norvin Armstrong, Bobbie J. Bonner, Jeanette H. Williams, Lolita M. Williams



PUBLIC WORKS: Anthony W. Cihonski, John C. Reagan, Brian E. Scanlon, C. D. Taylor, David Y. Yamahara
SHERIFF: Linda Collins, Michael D. Papp, Raymond A. Terhorst, James R. Willis
SUPERIOR COURTS: David I. Jarkoff

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

ASSESSOR: Jan R. Hines
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Joanne Dozier
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Virginia C. Channels, Edward L. Hawk, Geneva R. Sublett
FIRE: Thomas W. Tibbett
HEALTH SERVICES: Peter N. Heseltine, Yvonne Hill, Shaul G. Massry, Helen Medina, Manuela L. Miranda, George A. Nichols, Myung J. Oh, Carolyn Sapenter, Guadalupe Sotelo, Servando M. Tolentino, Jeanette B. Tolsma, Dolores Vallejos
INTERNAL SERVICES: James H. Herron, Benson C. Wong
PROBATION: Janet K. Delaney
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Gloria Lewis, Larry Phan, Linda Warwick
PUBLIC WORKS: William J. Chebul
SHERIFF: Paul R. McGraw
SUPERIOR COURTS: Patrick J. Fallon, Stephen J. Vossler

“Ready for the Big One” Emergency Preparedness Expo

Are you ready for the big one? Whether the next “big one” is an earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami or other widespread disaster, there are things you can do in advance to help make you more safe and secure.

The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management is sponsoring a “Ready for the Big One” Emergency Preparedness Expo on Saturday, August 26, 2000, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The location is the popular Universal Citywalk Palm Court,

100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City. The expo will feature the Yogi Bear Schoolhouse Earthquake Simulator, displays by County departments, utility companies and others, free giveaways, live entertainment and more. Admission to the expo is free.

This will be a day of great family fun and one-stop information gathering that you won’t want to miss. Everyone is welcome! Make plans now to attend. Call (323) 980-2260 for further information.



The Expo is co-sponsored by the Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness (BICEPP), <http://www.bicepp.org>.

The Race is On Again



Excitement, planning and participation are in line for the "2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run & Health Expo for Girls at-Risk," to be held on Saturday, September 23, 2000, at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

"Opportunity Through Education" is the theme for this prestigious event, presented by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women and sponsored by the Northrop Grumman Corporation (Diamond Sponsor). All proceeds from the event will be used to provide education scholarships for girls at-risk, which will give them the best opportunity to improve their quality of life. A diverse group of 6,000 girls from all walks of life go through the County's Office of Juvenile Court and Community Schools per year. Last year, the "1st Annual 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run & Health Expo" netted 15 scholarships, and this year it is hoped that more will be raised.

Registration forms are now available for this United States Association of Track and Field sanctioned scenic and fast course around the Rose Bowl. Miles are well marked for the run/walk, with water stations along the course and at the finish line. Registration can be made online at www.active.com or by mailing a check or money order payable to the Los Angeles County Commission for Women (500 West Temple Street, Room 383, Los Angeles, CA 90012). The cost is \$18 per entrant through September 16, 2000, and \$22 per entrant afterwards. In-person registration will be available on September 22, 2000 from noon

to 6:00 p.m. at Run With Us-- 235 North Lake Avenue, Pasadena, (626) 568-3333, or on September 23, 2000 at the Rose Bowl from 6:30 a.m. to the start of the race.

The 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run & Health Expo will start at 8:30 a.m. and the Kiddie-K Fun Run/Walk & 10K will start at 9:45 a.m. by the official Kiddie-K Race starter, Kellogg's "Tony the Tiger." The entry fee is \$10 for the Kiddie-K Fun Run/Walk, with no late fees charged. Team competitions are urged, and formed with five or more co-workers, friends or family. The team individuals qualify for both age group and team awards.

There are many exciting award categories: first, second, and third place for male and female; age group winners in both the 5K and 10K Run/Walks; and first, second, and third place teams in both run/walks. All Kiddie-K participants will receive a Finishers Ribbon. Cash prizes will be awarded to the Elite Men and Women Runners; first place: \$400, second place: \$200, and third place: \$100.

Extra features include a quality T-shirt and Goodie Bag to each registered entrant; an aerobics warm-up prior to the races; food and drinks galore; sports massages; and live entertainment and door prizes to random registered winners.

One of the many highlights of the day will be the Korean Airlines sponsored 11:00 a.m. race day drawing for a chance to win two economy round-trip tickets to Sao Paulo, Brazil or to any single destination in Asia. Tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20.

Anyone wishing to participate in this charitable cause can do so as a "Goodie Bag" donor, an exhibitor, a sponsor, or a volunteer on the day of the Races. To get involved, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 974-1455.

For further Race information, contact the Commission's Run/Walk



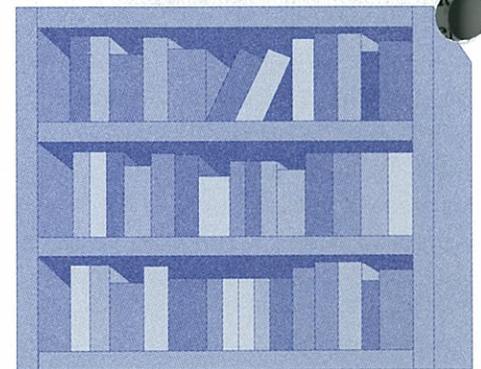
Participants at the "1st Annual 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run & Health Expo for Girls at-Risk."

Hotline at (213) 974-0792 or W2 Promotions at (310) 828-4123 or W2Promo@aol.com.

A helping hand (and in this case, also feet) is all a motivated young girl needs to find a life of unlimited potential. So remember, the Races are on-- September 23, 2000!

School

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- Personal assistance with computer use and Internet navigation.
- Homework Centers in selected libraries.
- Reading motivational programs for children, preschool and up.
- Help in selecting books for book reports and assigned reading.
- Parenting information and tips for helping children read.

These resources are free of charge. So, get a library card today and use your community library to boost school success.



Take Precautions to Prevent Typhus

Rats, feral cats and opossums are known carriers of fleas that transmit illness such as typhus. Health officials at the County's Department of Health Services encourage residents to take precautions to deter disease-infested animals from visiting their neighborhoods this summer. Endemic typhus fever, also called murine typhus, is a bacterial disease that can warrant hospitalization, but rarely is fatal. Symptoms begin 1-2 weeks after a bite from an infected flea and include severe headaches, shivering, chills, high fever, malaise and rash. It is easily treatable with antibiotics.

The County averages 11 typhus cases a year. This year, health officials

have confirmed three cases, all in areas along the foothills of the San Gabriel Valley mountains.

"Endemic typhus is transmitted by fleas, so it's important that residents take steps that discourage animals from coming near their homes," said Frank Hall, Chief of the County's Vector Management Program. "It's also critical to seal all outside openings to attics, crawl spaces and similar locations so rats, feral cats and opossums can't get into houses, garages or other structures. Additionally, pet owners should make an extra effort to keep their domestic animals free of fleas and avoid leaving out pet food where it can attract wild animals."

Residents can discourage animals from their property by trimming

ivy, ground cover and other heavy vegetation which harbor rodents. Also, residents should not leave food and water on their property and make sure fruit trees are trimmed and off the ground.

Individuals who observe rodent infestations should contact the County's Vector Management Office at (323) 881-4046. For specific medical questions about vector borne disease, call the County's Acute Communicable Disease Unit at (213) 240-7941.

If you or someone you know has had these symptoms of typhus, contact your physician. The County also offers free and low-cost health care and prescription medications. For a referral to a local health facility, call (800) 427-8700.

Approval of 2000-2001 County Arts Commission Grants

Recently, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky announced Board approval of \$1.9 million in County Arts Commission grants to various Los Angeles-based non-profit organizations in a wide variety of performing and creative disciplines.

"This year's grant recipients offer one of the most diverse and dynamic talent pools that we've seen," Yaroslavsky said. "I'm delighted that we're able to help them follow their Muse in pursuit of new creative endeavors."

Yaroslavsky said that small-budget arts organizations would receive \$382,000 in funding; mid-sized budget organizations a combined total of roughly \$705,000; and large-budget organizations some \$815,000.

Third District recipients in the small-budget category range from the

Aeolian Ballet Theatre and Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company to the Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles, Theatre of Hope for Abused Women and Yiddishkayt Los Angeles.

Recipients in the mid-sized budget category include the American Youth Symphony, El Portal Center for the Arts in North Hollywood, the Jazz Bakery and the writers' group PEN Center USA West.

Large-budget organizations based in the Third District include the American Film Institute, the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, L.A. Theatre Works, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Skirball Cultural Center, and the UCLA Hammer Museum.

In awarding the grants, Yaroslavsky explained that the process utilizes discipline peer panels to

review and score all applications and to make recommendations to the Arts Commission. In turn, the Board-appointed commissioners review these scores, make appropriate adjustments and submit their funding recommendations to the Board for final approval.

City

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reestablishment of a Literacy Center for tutoring and literacy services, and space to expand the library's collection in the future.

Yaroslavsky also noted that the new facility will include expanded parking, eliminating the current need to lease parking spaces at additional costs.

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Wins Top Ranking



conditions. The *U.S. News & World Report* research effort, designed and executed by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, assesses performance in 17 medical specialty areas at thousands of American hospitals.

Consuelo Diaz, Rancho's chief executive officer said, "It's wonderful to be a member of the *U.S. News & World Report* all-star team! All of us here at Rancho are dedicated to the task of helping patients forge meaningful, productive new lives in the aftermath of disabling health crises. We are thankful for the professionalism of our dedicated staff, and the courage of our patients, who make this special recognition possible year after year."

For the eighth straight year, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho) has been named among the very best physical rehabilitation facilities in the country by physicians polled for *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "America's Best Hospitals" survey. Operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, the 112-year-old Rancho is the only rehabilitation facility in California to consistently make the *U.S. News's* survey list.

The "Best Hospitals" rehabilitation category rates the quality of care delivered to people in the aftermath of stroke, brain damage, spinal chord injuries, and other severely-disabling

Ranking in four of the specialty areas, including rehabilitation, is based on reputational data--in Rancho's case, how the facility's patient care performance is viewed by board-certified physiatrists (physicians specializing in physical medicine).

Located in Downey, Rancho was founded in 1888 and today averages more than 3,000 inpatient admissions and 54,000 outpatient clinic visits each year. The world-renowned facility is staffed by teams of physicians; nurses; social workers; psychologists; speech pathologists; physical, occupational, and recreation therapists; and support personnel. Among 20 distinctive Centers of Excellence operating on campus, Rancho's spinal cord injury service and the traumatic brain injury and stroke programs have each earned national recognition for outstanding patient outcomes.



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Mason Fong
Staff

County DIGEST

Dept. of Human Resources
500 W. Temple Street, Room 375
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1301
(213) 613-4789 FAX
<http://hr.co.la.ca.us>

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