

County DIGEST



NOVEMBER 2000

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

New Child Care Program Aids Working Parents

Board of Supervisors Chair Gloria Molina recently launched the Infant Care Expansion Grant program by presenting grants to child care providers selected to help meet the County's growing demand for quality infant care.

Rather than building new day care centers, the program addresses the County's child care shortage by helping existing day care providers expand their facilities to create 200 new infant care slots for working parents.

"We're excited to have these child care providers on board with us participating in this program," said Supervisor Molina. "The availability of child care in Los Angeles County does not meet the needs of the working population. The capacity expansion of these identified facilities will help fill



Supervisor Gloria Molina (sixth from right in back row), DPSS Director Lynn W. Bayer (third from right in back row), and program recipients

see Parents on page 4



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, his son Michael Jr., and Frank R. Andrews

Frank R. Andrews was hired as the director of the Department of Animal Care and Control in August

and control agencies. Previously, Andrews headed an animal agency in Detroit and worked for the American

Frank R. Andrews Former Director Department of Animal Care and Control

Humane Association before taking a job as director of animal care and control for the Orlando Humane Society in Florida.

Andrews was born in Canada and got his start in animal work during college when he spent a summer

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see Andrews on page 8

Calendar of Events

41st Annual Los Angeles County

Holiday Celebration
 Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
 Performing Arts Center of
 Los Angeles County
 135 N. Grand Avenue
 Los Angeles
 December 24, 2000
 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 (213) 972-3099
www.lacountyarts.org

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



California Noir (Crime Fiction and Private Eye Genre Film Series)

Through November 28, 2000
 Call (323) 857-6010
 for exact films, dates, and times

Art Classes and Family Programs for Children and Adults

Call for exact dates and times

*"Made in California:
 Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000"*
 Through February, 2001

Sheila and Wally Weisman

Family Sundays
 Sundays at 12:30 p.m.
 Call for exact themes

Family Gallery Tours

Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.
 Call for exact dates

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



La boheme

November 29, 2000 through
 December 21, 2000
 Call for exact dates and times

Le nozze di Figaro

January 16, 2001
 through February 3, 2001
 Call for exact dates and times

John Anson Ford Amphitheatre
 (323) 461-3673

Sleepwalk

Through December 17, 2000
 Call for exact dates and times

Two-Headed

January 11, 2001
 through February 25, 2001
 Call for exact dates and times

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



A T. Rex Named Sue
 Through April 22, 2001

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

*On Gold Mountain:
 A Chinese American Experience*
 Through January 1, 2001

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



Bill Frisell Quartet
 December 9, 2000
 8:00 p.m.

Fourth Annual Hanukkah Festival
 December 17, 2000
 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Revealing & Concealing:
 Portraits & Identity*
 Through December 31, 2000

*Jose Gurvich -
 Drawings and Watercolors: 1947-1974*
 Through December 31, 2000

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

David Rogers' Big Bugs exhibit
 Through November 30, 2000



Touchscreen Voting



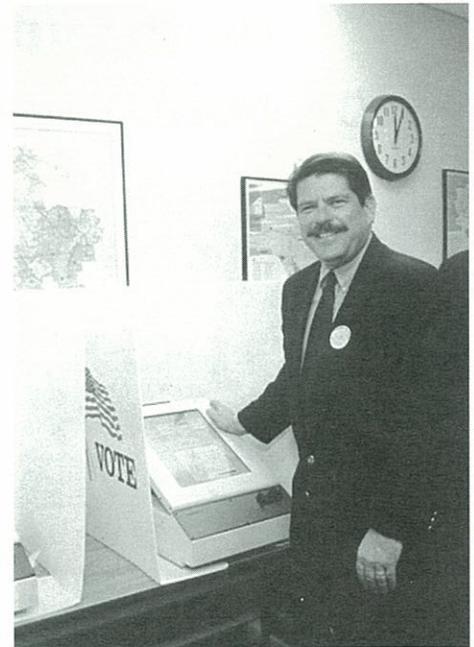
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Conny B. McCormack, Third District Chief Deputy Alisa B. Katz, and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

A state-of-the-art voting system, known as Touchscreen Voting, was successfully introduced to County voters for the November 7, 2000 General Election. A total of 21,963 voters cast their ballots using the new system. Instead of going to their polling places on election day or voting via absentee mail ballot, these voters were among the first in the U.S. to make their voting choices by touching a computer screen, similar to an ATM, instead of punching a hole in a ballot card.

Introduced by the Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) as a pilot project for the Presidential Election, Touchscreen Voting equipment was set up at nine locations Countywide during the three-week period leading up to the election.

It essentially opened the polls for several weeks allowing more time for voters to fit voting into their busy schedules. Availability of the new system was advertised in the sample ballot booklet mailed to all 4.1 million of the County's registered voters and was widely publicized by the media, including a nationally-televised report on CNN. Touchscreen voters expressed great enthusiasm for the new system when completing opinion surveys after voting. Survey comments included "easy to use and I don't know computers at all," "this is a real step forward to have votes cast electronically," and "very clear and quick."

Touchscreen Voting was especially appreciated by voters whose first language is not English because the ballot was presented on the screen in a choice of seven languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean. Additionally, it marked a great leap forward for blind or visual-impaired voters because it contains an option to use an audio headset and raised keypad to allow voting without assistance. Many visually-impaired voters, when using the new system, commented on what a wonderful experience it was to have the ability, for the first time, to vote privately and independently.



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky is enthusiastic after casting his ballot on the new Touchscreen Voting System.

On election night, Touchscreen vote totals were merged with almost three million punch card ballots cast Countywide via absentee mail and at the 4,963 polling places. Seamlessly tabulating votes from two different voting systems was a major challenge successfully accomplished by a partnership between the technical staffs of the RR/CC, the Internal Services Department's Information Technology Services Division, and the equipment vendor Global Election Systems, Inc.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to evaluate the new system for possible expansion in future elections.



With the holiday season fast approaching, our thoughts turn to giving the perfect gift. The County has the perfect gift-giving solution for you--U.S. Savings Bonds! You can buy, as a one-time purchase, both the traditional market-based Series EE Bonds at half of face value for as little as \$25 for a \$50 bond or the new inflation-indexed Series I Bonds at full face value for as little as \$50.

The Series I Bonds have the advantage of making it easier and affordable to begin investing toward future goals and are an investment that guarantees returns over and above inflation for up to 30 years. By choosing to purchase either the Series EE or Series I Bonds, you can give the gift that keeps on giving.

see Bonds on back page

Annual Tournament of Lights Holiday Boat Parade



The year 2000 promises to be the biggest ever for the Annual Tournament of Lights Holiday Boat Parade in Marina del Rey to be held Saturday, December 9, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. After a fireworks display off the Marina breakwater, participating boats will circle the Main Channel twice, until approximately 8:00 p.m. For the first time this year, AT&T will produce a television special on the Parade, to be broadcast over AT&T's Channel 39.

The theme of this 38th annual Holiday Boat Parade is "California Destinations," honoring the many attractions across the State that have made California one of the favorite destinations of Americans nationwide. Sponsors of the Parade are the Tournament of Lights

organization and the Department of Beaches and Harbors. Boat owners vie to win prizes for the most creative and beautifully decorated boats, many with music and dancing as part of their displays. Judges' boats are stationed at various locations along both sides of the Main Channel. Participants board their boats off Chace Park, following a VIP reception in their honor.

County employees and their families are invited to experience the spectacular Tournament of Lights Holiday Boat Parade. The event is free of charge. Parking is available at County lots throughout Marina del Rey at a cost of \$2 for the evening. For additional information, call (310) 305-9545 or log onto www.mdrlights.org.

Parents

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the tremendous and ongoing need for quality child care in the County."

The County Child Care Needs Assessment reports that only nine percent of children needing care could be served by existing licensed providers, and less than four percent for infant care.

"As a working mother, time is of the essence. Quality infant care near home not only helps with work, but allows parents more time with their babies instead of long trips to a day care far from home," said new mother Vanessa Mares.

The child care providers for this program were selected from a group of more than 300 licensed child care applicants who have reputable years of providing child care services in their communities. They are:

*Lillian Aguilar, Wonder World Pre-School, Rosemead

*Dr. Martina Ayala Family Child Care and Learning Play House, Los Angeles

*Fairoz Behiri, Behiri Family Child Care, El Monte

*Armida Calleros, Calleros Family Child Care, Los Angeles

*Graciela Carranza, Carranza Family Child Day Care, Los Angeles

*Pat Davids, Dolores Mission

*Women's Cooperative-Projecto Pastoral, Los Angeles

*Maria Escobedo, Escobedo Family Day Care, South Gate

*Nervin Faragalla, Faragalla Family Day Care, La Puente

*Maria Flores, Flores Family Child Care, Pomona

*Tony Heredia, Burdick's School, El Monte

*Noor Jehan, Noor Montessori Child Care Center, La Puente

*Silvia Loera, Loera Family Child Care

*Antonia Perez, Perez Family Day Care

*Melissa Placide, Placide Family Child Care, Pomona

*Cecilia Ramos, Burlington School, Los Angeles

*Maria Salazar, Salazar Family Child Care, La Puente

*Teresa San Elias, San Elias Family Child Care, Los Angeles

*Mary Anne Chern/Fonny Chen, White Memorial Medical Center, Los Angeles

*Violeta Vargas, Vargas Family Day Care, Los Angeles

"With the advent of welfare reform, we are transitioning many of our participants into the workforce, and this program will help to begin filling the child care gap," said Lynn W. Bayer, director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).

Total funding for this program is made possible through Supervisor Molina's discretionary funds, while the program's administration is handled by DPSS. For information about child care availability, call (213) 974-2440.

New Radio Communication Tool



**Sheriff Lee Baca, Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, and
CHP Chief Mike Brown**

Sheriff Lee Baca, joined by County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman and California Highway Patrol (CHP) Chief Mike Brown, announced the immediate Countywide implementation of a new radio communication feature. This communication, called a "patch," will instantly link the Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and CHP in the

event of an emergency, giving them the ability to talk directly to each other.

more efficient response to calls for help," said Sheriff Baca, whose goal is to ultimately link up all local agencies with the patch.

"This system will better serve the residents of Los Angeles County and provide a safer, This new communication tool will link nearly 4,000 law enforcement and fire units throughout the County, including many contract cities. It will greatly enhance immediate interagency

communication and optimize the use of personnel and deployment of resources. The ability to communicate directly on another station or agency's working frequency has not existed before this pilot program. During the three-month pilot program, Sheriff's deputies, CHP officers, and Fire personnel will test the system's reliability and effectiveness. At the pilot program's conclusion, it will be evaluated, adjusted as needed, and put into practice as a permanent tool.

The patch will also allow a more calculated multi-agency response during natural disasters and all emergencies.

"It's a system whose time has come and it's the right thing to do," said Sheriff Baca.

Extended Child Support Service Hours

Recognizing the public's need for child support services beyond regular business hours, the County's Family Support Bureau is offering extended service hours on an ongoing basis. This includes extended hours in the Customer Call Center and special Outreach Saturday hours at all regional Family Support offices.

Saturday office hours are offered on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at all regional offices, with the exception of Commerce, which is open only on the second Saturday of each month. During the upcoming holiday season, Outreach Saturday will be December 9, 2000, returning to the twice a month schedule in January 2001.

Family Support officers are on duty at the Customer Call Center from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to noon on



Saturdays. Child support information is available 24 hours a day from the Call Center's Automated Voice Response Unit (VRU). Callers can enter their Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) to access case information.

People who contact the Call Center at (800) 615-8858 are given three menu options after selecting English or Spanish as the language for the transaction.

•Automated information from the VRU. Enter your PIN.

•Speak to a Family Support officer about your case.

•Make an appointment for Outreach Saturdays or regular office hours.

There are six regional Family Support offices that put child support services within easy reach.

•Commerce: 5770 S. Eastern Avenue

•El Segundo: 621 Hawaii Street

•Encino: 15531 Ventura Boulevard

•Palmdale: 1020 E. Palmdale Boulevard

•Torrance: 20221 S. Hamilton Avenue

•West Covina: 2934 Garvey Avenue

Regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday hours are as posted.

see Hours on page 11

Holiday Shopping Tips

'Tis the season to be generous! We all love to shop for the holidays and join the fun of gift exchanging. While enjoying this festive time, it is especially important not to disregard common sense in the marketplace. If you remember these tips while you are holiday shopping, you can avoid problems after the Holiday Season.

- Ask each store about its **refund policy** before buying gifts. Be aware that each store has the right to set its own refund policy: some refund the full amount, some offer partial refunds, some give **no refunds at all**. Save your receipts, since proof of purchase may be required.

- When buying children's gifts, examine toys for parts that might come off and be swallowed. Additionally, look for sharp edges and note what age group the item is recommended for.

- Be "e-wise" when buying via the Internet. Guard your personal information, including Social Security Number or Internet passwords. Paying

by credit card gives you certain legal protections if the merchandise is not received. Consider taxes, shipping costs, and return/cancellation policies.



- Prepare a holiday budget before you start shopping and stick to it! Don't spend more than you can afford.

- If you buy on credit, be sure you understand all of the terms of your credit agreement. Pay special attention to the interest rate and the total amount you would have to pay.

- If you buy on lay-away, be sure you understand all of the applicable terms. Make your payments on time and keep track of them. Remember, if you change your mind, you can't always get all your money back.

- When buying decorations, think safety! Don't buy more lights than your circuits can handle and avoid decorations that require the use of extension cords.

- If you're making mail order purchases, deal with well-known companies, order early, and consider paying by credit card for additional protection.

- Compare warranties when choosing products.

- Avoid purchasing pets during the holidays. Remember that many pets end up at the animal shelter once the holiday excitement wears off.

For further information, contact the Department of Consumer Affairs at (213) 974-1452 or log onto the Department's website at <http://consumer-affairs.co.la.ca.us>.

Library Holiday Preview

Throughout the year, County libraries offer special programs and activities for children and families to welcome them into the library setting, showcase library resources, and encourage reading. During the winter holidays, the programs have special appeal with holiday themes, music, and colorful crafts.

A few of this year's library holiday programs are listed below. There are many more programs planned at the 84-County community libraries and three bookmobiles. If your local County library is not on this sample list, call your library for information on the holiday program schedule or check the

"Calendar & Events" page on the County Library website at <http://www.colapublib.org/>.

December 3, 2000 2:00-4:00 p.m.
"Holidays in Harmony"
with Santa Clarita Master Chorale
Valencia Library - 23743 W. Valencia Boulevard, Valencia

December 5, 2000 3:30 p.m.
"Jewish Stories Folktales"
with Karen Golden, Storyteller
Las Virgenes Library - 29130 W. Roadside Drive, Agoura Hills
Funded by a grant from The Ahmanson Foundation

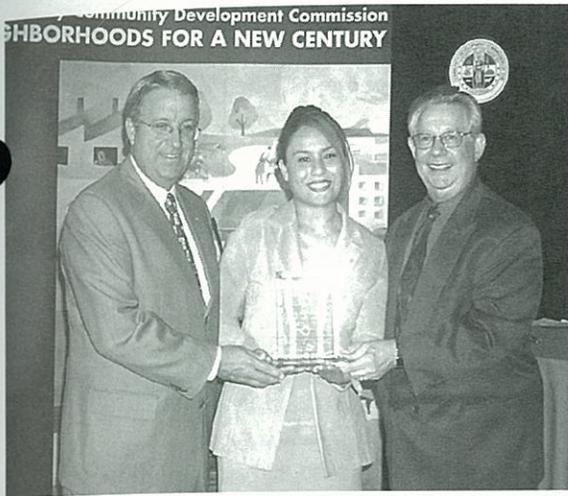


December 9, 2000 2:00 p.m.
"Snow-Flakey Science"
with Mad Science
Hawthorne Library - 12700 Grevillea Avenue, Hawthorne

December 9, 2000 Noon - 2:00 p.m.
"Holiday Craft Open House"
Montebello Library - 1550 W. Beverly Boulevard, Montebello

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First Leaders and Partners Reception



Supervisor Don Knabe, Andrea Romero, and Community Development Foundation Chairman Dave Fisher

Angeles County Community Development Foundation during its first-ever Leaders and Partners Reception.

Additional awardees included Carlos Jackson, executive director of the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission; Dr. Charles Flowers, father of Urban Telemedicine; and Supervisor Knabe, who received the Foundation's first-ever public service excellence award.

"The Community Development Commission has been a true catalyst for change in Los Angeles County,"

Supervisor Knabe commented. "It not only implements innovative solutions for the County's housing, health and welfare needs, but gives our housing residents access to skills and training that eventually lead to jobs and long-term self-sufficiency."

The Community Development Foundation is a private, nonprofit, public benefit corporation, which provides financial support for a number of Community Development Commission programs. Established in 1997, its mission is to diminish poverty concentration among the County's urban poor by reducing barriers to full participation in the social and economic mainstream.

Andrea Romero, a coordinator of the Community Development Commission's "Youth in Focus" photography program was recognized by Supervisor Don Knabe and the Los

Library Offers New Web-Based Services

eBooks

The County Public Library is introducing its patrons to a new way to access information from a collection of over 5,000 eBooks. eBooks are electronic versions of published books that library patrons can search, borrow, read, and return over the Internet, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere in the world. Through its Public Library eBook Introduction Program, netLibrary provided the County Library with a six-month trial of a 1,500 volume digital library collection of eBooks from leading publishers.

This base collection was augmented with electronic titles in the public domain and includes non-fiction titles on computers, business, investing, cooking, health, travel, and history, plus reference materials and literary classics. It even has Cliff Notes! eBooks are available to County Public Library customers at computer terminals in the 84-County community libraries, as well



as from their Internet-connected home computers. Electronic books can be checked out the same as hardbound library books, but eBooks are returned automatically to the library collection at the end of the checkout period. No overdue books!

You can access the eBook collection by clicking on the "netLibrary" icon located at the bottom of the County Library home web page, www.colapublib.org. This will take you to the eBook collection and borrowing

instructions. You can preview an eBook for 15 minutes, or check one out for viewing at your leisure on your home or library computer. You may want to read only a chapter, find a specific piece of information, or copy a recipe. To take advantage of this new library service, all you need is a library card and an Internet-connected computer.

Online Book Club

Online Book Club is a free service offering a "chapter a day" from popular books via email. Customers can join the club by clicking on the "On Line Book Club" icon located on the County Library home web page and then providing an email address. Each weekday, subscribers will receive a portion of a chapter from a selected book, which takes about five minutes to read. Giving readers the opportunity to "try out" a book and, if they like it, check it out from the County Library, is a great way of introducing readers to new books.

Andrews

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working for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals researching mistreatment of horses in lumbering operations. He loved this work and stayed with the agency for a couple of years before moving to Denver to work for the American Humane Association. During his years in Denver, he helped local organizations build shelters and testified before the state legislature in favor of animal treatment reforms. Much of the legislative work had to do with the way animals are killed, either for food or as ill or unwanted pets.

In 1965, he headed the Michigan Humane Society, which despite its name, had just one shelter in inner-city Detroit. After the 1968 riots in Detroit, the organization expanded dramatically, building shelters in Pontiac and Dearborn Heights, with the Pontiac facility being a "mega-shelter" on 10 acres of land with wildlife and rehabilitation facilities. While in Michigan, Andrews met his wife, Syble. They have three sons.

In 1976, he purchased a motel and restaurant in Galio, Ohio, a small town near Columbus. While Andrews and his wife ran the 35-room, German-themed restaurant for six years, he never stopped working in animal care. He worked as a consultant on projects in New York, Miami, and Cleveland. When Andrews sold the motel and restaurant, he found himself volunteering with the Orlando agency.

In Orlando, he built a shelter on a 10-acre plot, which was a joint project with Florida's Orange County.

Andrews is credited with the following accomplishments during his 11 years with the Department of Animal Care and Control:

*Formed the Animal Rescue Field Support Unit (ARF's), a specially trained squad of animal control officers who tackle tough, long-standing problems like packs of free-roaming dogs that menace communities and their residents.

*Emphasized spaying and neutering of shelter pets as a pet over population control measure. Under Andrews' leadership, more than 180,000 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered at County veterinary clinics.

*Designed and launched Spay-Adopt-Vaccinate-Educate (SAVE) 2000, a program that reduced the amount of all County pet adoptions to only \$27, regardless of the size, gender, age, or kind of pet. SAVE 2000 exceeded its original goal of 2,000 more placements by June 2000, six months ahead of schedule. The program is projected to boost adoptions by 4,000 dogs and cats during calendar year 2000.

*Implemented the first real-time website by any major animal control agency in the United States. The website offers a complete description of the Department's programs and activities and publishes color, real-time photographs of all found and available animals.

*Increased pet adoptions through outreach adoption programs and the installation of volunteer run grooming facilities at each shelter.

*First agency to contract to provide services to a city outside the County. Thousand Oaks in Ventura County is one of the cities the Department services.

*Revived and enlarged the Animal Care Foundation (ACF), a registered non-profit foundation that raises money for shelter animal welfare projects. The ACF has raised several hundred thousand dollars since 1989.

*Focused on increasing the Department's income, making it 80 percent self-sufficient.

Andrews became the County agency's director at a time when its annual budget was \$10 million and it had about 225 employees. Since then, the budget has increased to \$15 million and

267 employees. He also served as the president of the Los Angeles County Management Council in 1994 and 1995.

Preview

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December 16, 2000 3:00 p.m.
"Multicultural Holiday Stories"
from J.P. Nightingale
City Terrace Library - 4025 E. City Terrace Drive, Los Angeles 90063
Funded by a grant from The Ahmanson Foundation

December 16, 2000 11:30 a.m.
"Holiday Story and Song"
by Storytellers & Troubadours"
Clifton M. Brakensiek Library, 9945 E. Flower Street, Bellflower

December 19, 2000 4:00 p.m.
"The Season of Giving"
by We Tell Stories
La Verne Library - 3640 D Street, La Verne
Funded by a grant from The Ahmanson Foundation

December 21, 2000 3:30 p.m.
"Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah Stories"
with Binnie Tate Wilkins, Storyteller
Woodcrest Library - 1340 W. 106th Street, Los Angeles 90044

December 22, 2000 3:00 p.m.
"The Magic of the Holidays"
with Magician Tony Daniels
Paramount Library - 16254 Colorado, Paramount

December 23, 2000 11:00 a.m.
"Christmas Fantasy"
with Alina Mendez
La Puente Library - 159 E. Central Avenue, La Puente
Funded by a grant from The Ahmanson Foundation

Add a "visit to the library" to your list of family holiday activities.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Sedik Mikaelian

Sedik Mikaelian has worked for the County for 11 years and is currently an Eligibility Supervisor for the Department of Public Social Services' BCW Division II. She became the West Valley District's Data Systems Analyst Aid in 1999. She has an associate of arts degree from Pierce College and is pursuing a bachelor's degree at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

"I am so honored and happy to be selected. It is an honor beyond my imagination," said Mikaelian. "I am happy to be a County employee and enjoy my work, and I get much satisfaction from the variety of things I do."

Mikaelian has been the "driving force" behind many of the District's accomplishments. She worked closely with the Deputy District Director on the organization of a Re-certification Unit in 1997. Her organization of all the District's master cases in 1998 saved time and resources. For the past four years, Mikaelian's coordination of the District's GAIN Prep Program, GR Workfare Participants, and the Summer Youth Employment Training Program has motivated and inspired some participants to obtain full-time employment.

"I mentor and help them with their self-esteem," remarked Mikaelian. "With the help of EDD representatives, we find job placements even for participants who do not speak English, and encourage them to go back to school if they dropped out. We help them realize they are respected young citizens of our community, and the only way they will get respect is to respect others. I try to teach them how to behave professionally, and train them how to use the computer, answer phones, and do some clerical duties. It is very rewarding seeing the faces of people after we have placed them for jobs, and



Chairman pro tem Michael D. Antonovich and Sedik Mikaelian

talking to them later about their changes in life experiences."

She completed the site preparation layout for implementation of the LEADER system and worked closely with contractors and the LEADER site coordinator. Mikaelian helped to decentralize Max units in CalWORKs and Medicaid programs, and ordered new ergonomic furniture. She ensured that desks were aligned with LEADER drops, and scheduled computer training for the staff.

Mikaelian has organized and scheduled on-site staff training and has been the head of the task force in District clean-ups. She maintains the District's computers and provides technology assistance to staff. Mikaelian is a major participant and an assistant to the District Director in the planning and relocation of District operations and staff to a new building. Thanks to her system of cataloging master cases, the Division has saved time and resources in locating masters for audits or transfers.

She was involved with the District's Holiday Committee and the Team Conference meeting, and has been active on the District, Division, and Bureau Team Supervisors Committees. She was the co-operator of the District's Fund-Raiser Store and takes a leadership role in monthly programs for the Diversity Committee.

"I believe people of diverse backgrounds should help each other with ethnic gathering events," commented Mikaelian.

As a devoted mother who considers her ten-year-old son her greatest accomplishment, Mikaelian also spends time tutoring children with learning difficulties.

"Since I have dyslexia myself, it is easy for me to help children who have the same problem," noted Mikaelian. "I teach them not to get frustrated, and to work with their disabilities and concentrate on their special gifts to build their self-esteem."

She also cares for senior citizens on weekends.

"I help them when they need a ride and with their paperwork, such as citizenship applications, and inform them about available benefits," said Mikaelian.

Congratulations, Sedik!



What's New at Parks and Recreation



A stream feeds into the newly renovated lake at the Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area.

If you haven't had an opportunity to visit your local County park recently, you might be surprised at newly added community buildings, play areas, gymnasiums, and more! For the last couple of decades, decreased funding to many County departments, including Parks and Recreation, limited various operations and precluded new capital improvements. In 1992 and 1996, County voters overwhelmingly approved measures (Propositions A) placing assessments on real property to pay for Countywide park improvements. The measures, also known as the Safe Neighborhood Park Acts, allotted park agencies throughout the County \$800 million for park and beach renovations, acquisitions, and improvements. Competitive grant funding was also earmarked for projects such as tree planting, graffiti prevention, and Santa Monica Bay water quality improvement.

The Department of Parks and Recreation was designated through the propositions as the agency to administer the distribution of funds to park agencies and other qualifying organizations with the formation of a new Department Division--the Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD). The County's share of the funding, \$256.9 million, allows the Department to perform many needed improvements

in parks throughout the County park system, and has provided the majority of funding for the development of new parks--Dr. Richard Rioux Memorial Park in Stevenson Ranch and Pathfinder Park in Rowland Heights.

Outstanding new senior centers have been added to Steinmetz Park in Hacienda Heights and Roosevelt Park

in South Los Angeles, with improvements being planned at additional seniors' facilities. There are new playgrounds being built at many parks that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible, with many park buildings and other amenities also being upgraded to meet ADA standards, allowing them to be fully enjoyed by all park users.

Thus far, 130 of the Department's Proposition A projects are either at or near completion, and an additional 110 are in the works. The Department has been very excited to be able to develop new gymnasiums in many parts of the County--at the Castaic Sports Complex, East Rancho Dominguez Park, and City Terrace Park. Ground has already been broken for a gym at Pamela Park in Duarte, and others scheduled for this addition in the near future are Loma Alta Park in Altadena, Jackie Robinson Park in Littlerock, and Adventure Park in unincorporated Whittier.

These buildings are being constructed in areas that may never

previously have had a gym facility. Other projects include the refurbishment of the popular fishing lake at the Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area in Baldwin Hills, an eagerly anticipated new soccer complex at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in South El Monte, the informative new Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Altadena, and a new community activity building (Hart Hall) at the William S. Hart Regional Park in Newhall. Residents of incorporated cities will notice improvements at their city parks as well, with park funds distributed to them through the RPOSD, which has the responsibility of monitoring their projects.

Many city and County park projects include an "at-risk youth" component which employs young people in some of the park construction activities. In County parks, some of the



Playground equipment at the new Dr. Richard Rioux Memorial Park in Stevenson Ranch

tasks they have been trained in include concrete work, trails construction, and landscaping. It is hoped that this experience will better prepare them for future jobs. Overall, the implementation of these measures is benefiting residents and visitors alike with vastly increased recreational opportunities and safer, updated, and improved facilities in which to pursue their physical-enhancement and leisure time activities.

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 AND FAMILY SERVICES: Maurice J. Falasco, Annie M. Richardson

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Pearlline Hampton

HEALTH SERVICES: Adah P. Douglas, Walter L. Gray, Ted E. Hokom, Andrea Howell, Jettie C. Page, Lorraine M. Smith, Louise Smith, Betti J. Warren, Alphonsa Wiggins

INTERNAL SERVICES: Raymond E. Stout

MENTAL HEALTH: Elizabeth Smith

PARKS AND RECREATION: Craig B. Whiles

PROBATION: C.W. Landis, Betty J. Southard, John Y. Terao



PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Lucille G. Bray, Gloria Glover Woods, Alma Johnson-Chis, Marva J. Remer, Hardy A. Shepherd

PUBLIC WORKS: Kenneth H. Erhard Jr., Gerald K. Iwamoto, Paul Sanchez, Tony C. Yee

SHERIFF: Ronald Baltierra, Johnny Dredd, Robert W. Perry
SUPERIOR COURT: B.C. Howell

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:

COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES: Arthur Jenkins

FIRE: Martin D. Gubrud

HEALTH SERVICES: Stella Avila, Willie B. Boyette, Victoria P. Goh, Demetria Ingkom, Mary L. Johnson, Ella S. Larson, Fernando Martinez, Jeanette L. Moore, Dorothy Smith

INTERNAL SERVICES: Jeannie A. Baylie

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Julie L. Fu

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Jessie L. Solomon

SHERIFF: Dale R Schirman

SUPERIOR COURT: Hermila E. Diaz, Martha J. Hopkins, John W. Sleeter

Sheriff's Youth Foundation Acquires \$100,000 Technology Donation

Sheriff Lee Baca, along with 100 young people from the Sheriff's Youth Activities League, were at the Universal Imax Theater recently to accept \$100,000 worth of high-tech computer animation software, hardware, and training on behalf of the Sheriff's Youth Foundation.

The donation came from Rezn8, one of Hollywood's leading computer animation studios for television and films. Rezn8 has taken a leadership role by supporting the Foundation and has recruited the participation of Compaq Computers, Inc. and Adobe Systems, Inc.

The Youth Foundation is a catalyst for effective youth programs. To create such programs, it works directly with the community through a partnership of law enforcement, educa-



tion, and the private sector. The hoped-for result is to reduce crime by encouraging kids to define and uphold their own self-worth and individuality void of drugs and gangs.

In the past, the Foundation focused primarily on sports programs. Under the leadership of Sheriff Baca,

who is strongly committed to education and mentoring, the programs now strive to offer comprehensive after-school recreational activities, educational tutoring, and mentoring. These programs are open to all young people in the County.

Hours

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Court services for child support cases (civil and criminal) are available at: Central Civil West Court House
600 S. Commonwealth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

The Family Support Bureau's Internet address is <http://da.co.la.ca.us/childsupport>.



Director of Personnel Michael J. Henry, Supervisor Don Knabe, OPS Assistant Chief Ron Newton, Rancho Director of Patient Support Services Carmen Perez, Rancho Chief of Staff Dr. Robert L. Waters, and OPS Sergeant Ed Ramos

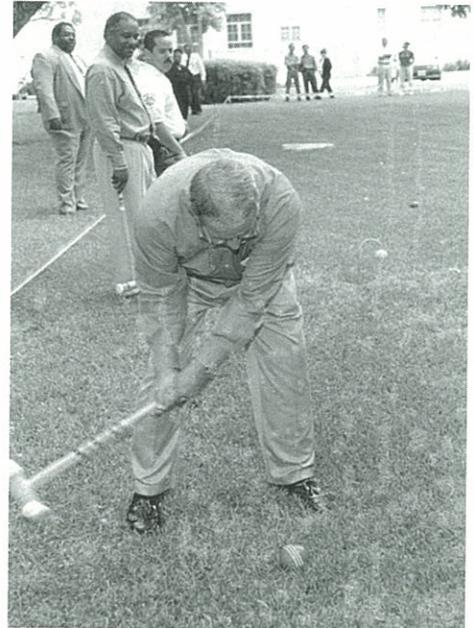
OPS Raises \$10,000 in Croquet Tournament

an increase of \$3,000 from last year's effort. The tournament featured two rounds of croquet and 18 players, including County officials, doctors, and police officers from OPS.

Dr. Robert L. Waters, Chief of Staff at Rancho, won the tournament in the final round after a grueling competition with Supervisor Don Knabe.

Supervisor Knabe was favored to win the tournament after out-maneuvering Dr. Waters in a number of croquet shots in the first round of the tournament. If you are interested in making a donation to the hospital or want more information, please call (562) 401-7022.

The Third Annual Office of Public Safety (OPS) Charitable Giving Croquet Tournament was held on September 27, 2000 at the OPS Headquarters in Downey. The tournament, which benefited the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and its pediatric playground, raised over \$10,000,



Supervisor Don Knabe in action



Bonds

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So, this year, wrap up your holiday shopping the easy way and enjoy the season by giving government-protected U.S. Savings Bonds. After all, money is always the perfect gift.

To purchase your one-time only gift savings bonds, contact your departmental savings bonds coordinator or call Ruben Rivero, Countywide U.S. Savings Bonds Program Coordinator, at (213) 974-2523. You may also wish to give yourself the monthly gift of a Series EE Bond through payroll deductions.

County DIGEST

Dept. of Human Resources
500 W. Temple Street, Room 375
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1301
(213) 613-4789 FAX

The Digest is available online at
<http://hr.co.la.ca.us>

Mailing Address Change



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

Members of the Board

Gloria Molina
Chair
First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

Staff
Mason Fong
John S. Mina