

County DIGEST



JANUARY 2001

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Supervisor Antonovich's Message as Mayor

First, I would like to thank Supervisor Molina for her leadership as Chair of the Board during the past year.

Several challenges face Los Angeles County at the dawn of the twenty-first century:

- the on-going presence of juvenile gangs
- the need to expand the Probation Department's "Disarm" Program
- the goal of implementing "Rail Haul" as an alternative to landfills around the County
- the need to effectively utilize our regional airport facilities, such as Plant 42 and Palmdale Airport, to relieve the overcrowding, noise, air and traffic congestion at LAX
- the effort to make the County's tap water supply free of potentially hazardous chromium six contamination
- the need for improving children's services throughout the County, especially in the areas of foster care and adoption, and eliminate bureaucratic red tape to expedite the adoption process
- the need to improve our library system to make it more self-sufficient and better able to serve the needs of our residents.

Juvenile Gangs

Proposition 21, which was supported by both Governor Gray Davis and former Governor Pete Wilson, was vital legislation which passed resoundingly in March 2000. It will keep the most violent youth and gang members in State prison. Proposition 21 sends a clear message: "Commit the crime, do the time!"



Mayor Michael D. Antonovich

Two years ago, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an anti-gang loitering ordinance, designed to keep gang members off the streets and prevent them from taking over our neighborhoods. The ordinance, which prohibits gang members from congregating in public with the intent to commit or conceal a crime, has already resulted in 12 prosecutions and convictions. The law also eliminates the need for gang injunctions in the unincorporated areas of the County.

These are exactly the type of effective laws we need to better allow our police and residents to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Disarm

The Probation Department's "Disarm" Program was implemented in February 2000 and has been highly successful. The program, which enforces the laws prohibiting probationers from

possessing firearms, has yielded 276 illegally owned firearms and \$1.5 million in cash and drugs. The probation searches have resulted in 394 arrests.

We need to expand this vital and successful program and obtain State funding for it.

Rail Haul

Several years ago, a task force was formed to work with the County's sanitation districts to eliminate the need for urban landfills. Their efforts focused attention on the viability of "Rail Haul," and sought to gain approval for sites in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties. "Rail Haul" is an environmentally safe, long-term solution to our future waste disposal needs. The citizens of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys have been very aggressive over the years in working to implement a "Rail Haul" solution to our trash problems.

With Eagle Mountain in Riverside County and Mesquite in Imperial County nearing completion of their permitting processes, it is critical for each of the County's 88 cities and 137 unincorporated communities to work with the sanitation districts to reserve capacity at these facilities. This action will eliminate urban landfills in our County.

The districts are governed by the elected officials of both the cities and the County, and their leadership needs to hear from the cities that "Rail Haul" is an idea whose time has come.

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Calendar of Events

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

"Made in California: Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000"
Through February 25, 2001

Renaissance Splendor in Mantua
February 3, 2001
1:00 p.m.

**Women and Modernity:
In and Around German Expressionism**
Through April 8, 2001



Century in Fashion: 1900-2000
Through January 5, 2003

"Made in California: Now"
Through September 9, 2001

Art Classes for Children and Families
Call for exact dates and times

**Sheila and Wally Weisman
Family Sundays**
Sundays at 12:30 p.m.
Call for exact dates and themes

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



Le nozze di Figaro
January 16, 2001 through
February 3, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

Guilio Cesare
February 23, 2001 through
March 10, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

Don Pasquale
April 11, 2001 through
April 19, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

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

**Americanos: Latino Life
in the United States**
Through February 25, 2001

A T. Rex Named Sue
Through April 22, 2001

**Synthia Saint James:
Recent Picture Books**
January 27, 2001 through
March 25, 2001

**A Communion of the Spirits:
African-American Quilters,
Preservers and Their Stories**
March 16, 2001 through
September 3, 2001

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

Resolutions: A Stitch in Time
January 28, 2001 through
April 29, 2001

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

Discover Day: Art Plates
February 3, 2001
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

John Anson Ford Amphitheatre
(323)461-3673

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

Museum of Tolerance
(310)772-7637
www.wiesenthal.com

Sweat Dreams
February 15, 2001
7:00 p.m.

The Children of Chabennes
February 18, 2001
7:00 p.m.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Preparing For All Hazards



Flooding has certainly had an impact on Southern California. Storms similar to the winter storms of 1992 through 1998 could cause flash floods, contaminate the drinking water supply, create power outages and damage homes and contents. Heavy storms can also strand individuals. Learn now how to prepare before the rains and flooding begin.

Assemble a flood emergency

supply kit that includes sandbags, plastic sheeting, plywood, lumber and tools. Contact your local insurance agent or call the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding special flood insurance at (800) 638-6620.

For more information on the Earthquake Survival Program, contact your local Office of Emergency Services.

Nation's First Pediatric Telemedicine Center



Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke awards Mary Henry with a scroll.

The South Los Angeles community held a dedication ceremony for the nation's first urban pediatric telemedicine center, a partnership between Los Angeles County and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, which will increase accessibility to crucial medical care for lower-income families. The state-of-the-art technology will allow physician assistants to examine young patients at the center and electronically transmit medical data such as patient records, exam photographs, and live video to reviewing physicians located at Drew University.

The center is located on Vermont Avenue roughly halfway between Century Boulevard and Imperial Highway. It will significantly lower common treatment barriers, such as families' lack of transportation, unfamiliarity with the health care system, lack of child care, and inability to pay. The program's services will initially be free. The center will also train members of the community for jobs as telemedicine technicians.

"Mothers can sleep better knowing that their children will receive essential physician care that all people deserve," said Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. "The partnership between Drew University and the County is a technological lifeline for the community."

Charles W. Flowers Jr., M.D., the lead physician for the County telemedicine program and an assistant professor at Drew University, performed a live examination of a child after the ceremony.

"Our studies revealed that pediatric care was a major unmet medical need in South Central Los Angeles," said Flowers. "This unique center will bring pediatric services closer to the people."

The Community Development Commission, the County's community development and affordable housing agency, provided the seed funding for the telemedicine program and started its partnership with Drew University in 1996. Telemedicine centers offering ophthalmology services have since opened in East Los Angeles and Long Beach. Drew University is the wheel's hub, and this first pediatric center is the third spoke in the planned five spokes of the unique and nationally-recognized urban telemedicine program. Funding sources for the program included the Commission, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, the California Telehealth/Telemedicine Center, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Carlos Jackson, the Commission's executive director, said, "This telemedicine program is an example of how our organization is adapting its programs to incorporate evolving technology while maintaining our unwavering purpose of empowering families and strengthening neighborhoods. We are using high-tech to deliver better services. I thank all members of the team for their great work."

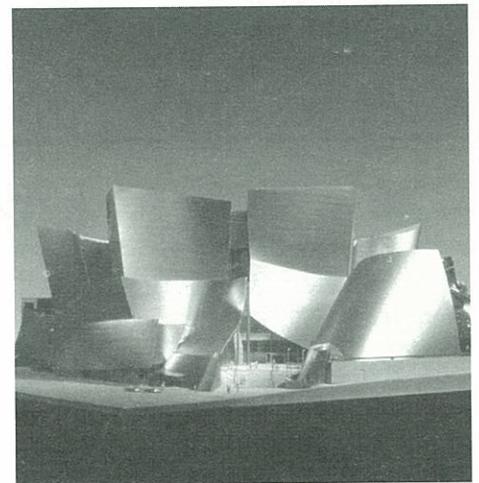
The home for the new Mary Henry Telemedicine Center was made possible due to Peter Zeegan, M.D., a practicing physician who donated his Brentwood house, which was moved to its present location at 10901 South Vermont Avenue, directly adjacent to the County-created Bright Futures child care facility. The center was named after Mary Henry, currently executive director of the Avalon-Carver Community Center. Henry has served and helped improve the community for over 30 years in countless capacities.

Model of Concert Hall on View

A one-tenth scale model of the Walt Disney Concert Hall's interior is currently on view at the southeast corner of the Music Center of Los Angeles County plaza next to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Frank Gehry and Associates, the Hall's architects, created the model.

The Hall's 2,273-seat main auditorium was designed to achieve both visual and acoustic intimacy. The Hall features an open platform stage without any physical barriers between the audience and the orchestra. The 360-degree range of seating around the stage enhances the feeling that the artists and the audience as a group are participating in a singular creative experience.

In fall 1993, highly advanced acoustic tests were conducted on the detailed one-tenth scale model of the Hall. State-of-the-art tests used more than 100 microphones placed throughout the model to record and analyze pumped-in music generated at the conductor's podium and pitched up several octaves to correspond to the one-tenth scale of the model. Testing reflected sublime results in five key acoustical parameters: richness of sound, warmth and deep bass, intimacy, clarity, and spatial impression.



Model view of the Disney Concert Hall

see Hall on last page



George C. Page
1901 - 2000

George C. Page, the entrepreneur and philanthropist who conceived, built and endowed "to the children of Los Angeles" the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries, died on Nov. 28, 2000 at age 99.

James L. Powell, president and director of the Natural History Museum said, "George Page lived a remarkable life that left a lasting legacy for the people of Los Angeles –the Museum in his name. Through his dedication, the Page Museum is internationally recognized as the only active paleontological site in a metropolitan city in the world. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate a distinguished and selfless person who led a truly amazing life. We are eternally grateful for his support and his friendship."

Background on George C. Page

George Charles Page was born on June 25, 1901 in Fremont, Nebraska, the firstborn child of Verna and Fred Page. Although he lost his father in early childhood, he had three brothers, Harold, Oliver and Virgil. As a young boy, Page

In Memory: George C. Page

dreamed big dreams and the future course of his life was set at age 11, when a teacher gave him a large California orange as a Christmas gift. The simple gift seemed like liquid gold and from that day forward he planned to move to California.

At age 16, he arrived in Los Angeles with \$2.30 in his pocket. Page began to create and sell fruit packages as gifts back home. By age 17, he founded Mission Pak Company, officially creating the holiday tradition of sending fruit packages as Christmas gifts.

In 28 years, Mission Pak grew to over 100 stores with a workforce of more than 1,000. In the years that would follow, Page would continue to create new trends and develop new processes that would greatly impact the food industry. He pioneered the use of cellophane in the United States and during World War II, perfected the process of dehydrating vegetables to supply servicemen and women overseas.

Page also built some of the first industrial parks and tract houses on the West Coast. He even started an automobile body business in his spare time, where he designed his own sports car body built on a Ford chassis. Thousands of the sporty models were sold.

Always having an interest in young people, Page began a pattern of philanthropy that lasted for more than 60 years. With his wife Juliette, he established a non-profit foundation. Page financed and supervised the construction of four buildings to Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the stadium at Loyola Marymount University, and numerous buildings and scholarship programs at Pepperdine University.

In 1972, he turned his talents to realizing a long-time dream to build a museum in Hancock Park to house the Ice Age fossils found in the La Brea Tar Pits. The doors to the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries opened in 1977. He continued to play an active role in the Museum's programs and was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Page met and married Juliette Crete. After 36 years of marriage, Page lost her to cancer in 1968. Although they did not have children of their own, they adopted a young Korean named John Haan. Haan and his wife Heisoon have two sons, John Jr. and David. In May 1999, Page donated his home in Bel Air to Pepperdine University and moved to Carpinteria with his family until his death.

The Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits is a research and educational facility that houses the millions of Ice Age fossils recovered from Rancho La Brea Tar Pits, one of the world's most famous fossil localities. Exhibits chronicle the animal life that roamed the Los Angeles Basin during the later part of the Ice Age 10,000 to 40,000 years ago, and includes fossil skeletons of a mammoth, mastodons, dire wolves, ancient bison and California's official state vertebrate fossil -- the saber-toothed cat. The Museum is operated by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The Page Museum of the La Brea Tar Pits is located at 5801 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles on Museum Row. For general information about the Page Museum call (323) 934-PAGE or visit the Museum's Web site at www.tarpits.org.

Library Grant Awarded

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich awarded a \$7,777.73 grant to the Lake Los Angeles Library. The grant money received went toward the purchase of a computer and various educational software. This grant was initiated by the Friends of the Library, an organization which corresponds with the library and the community.

The Friends of the Library President Cynthia Conover said, "The library

needed another computer but it did not have the funds. The purchase of the computer was a fantastic idea. The community is comprised of 20 percent of children in foster homes and many people in the area are unable to purchase a computer. With the new computer, more people can now have access to a computer."

Thanks to the grant by Supervisor Antonovich, the Lake Los Angeles

Library can offer more to the community. The new computer supplies children with a variety of library resources and introduces them to a new tutoring tool. Community members are able to write reports, research papers and produce professional-looking resumes and letters to officials.



28th Annual John Anson Ford Awards

The Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission has named the winners of the 28th Annual John Anson Ford Awards. The awards, dedicated to the former Los Angeles County Supervisor who championed civil rights and human relations, are presented to honor outstanding contributions which promote understanding and cooperation among diverse groups in the Los Angeles community.

The 2000 honorees are:

YWCA of Greater Los Angeles
(First District Awardee)

One of the outstanding features of the YWCA's work has been its commitment to empowering young people to articulate their understanding of bigotry and creative solutions for enhancing intergroup relations. Since the establishment of its Racial Justice Program in 1994, the YWCA has sponsored a regular series of educational forums on race, including hate crime, affirmative action, and news coverage of race-related issues that have brought together educators, students, law enforcement agencies, media organizations, corporations, and local governmental representatives.



Supervisor Burke and members of the Cornerstone Theater

Cornerstone Theater Company
(Second District Awardee)

This artistic organization is dedicated to the creation of theater by, for, and with people in local communities. Cornerstone has collaborated directly with target communities to document their experiences and create works that capture the vibrant synergy and cultural creolization of the Los Angeles region. A recent noteworthy production was "Broken Hearts a B.H. Mystery," which spotlights four communities that share the initials "B.H."--Boyle Heights, Baldwin Hills, Beverly Hills, and Broadway and Hill (Chinatown). Cornerstone Theater Company is based in LA's Little Tokyo.

The Iieto Family
(Third District Awardee)

On August 10, 1999, Joseph Santos Iieto, a Filipino American postal worker, was murdered by a self-declared white supremacist who earlier in the day wounded five at the North Valley Jewish Community Center. Since that tragic day, the Iieto Family -- mother Lillian, brother Ismael, sister-in-law Deena, and sisters Carmina and Raquel -- have been tireless in their quest for justice, traveling coast to coast to denounce bigotry, promote tolerance and understanding, and remind audiences of the human suffering caused by hate violence.



Supervisor Yaroslavsky and the Iieto Family are joined by the Rev. Zedar Broadous and Robin S. Toma.

see Awards on last page

20th Annual Corwin Master Instrumental Classes

Students 16 to 25 years of age who plan professional symphonic careers are encouraged to apply for the tuition free 20th Annual Corwin Master Classes sponsored by The Music Center Education Division.

Two sessions are scheduled:

•9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday, March 11, with musicians from the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion rehearsal rooms

•11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, a special piano class--able for audit only-- with celebrated pianist Murray Perahia, Zipper Hall, Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 South Grand Avenue--two blocks south of The Music Center.

Parents, teachers, and the public are invited to attend the Corwin Master Classes.

Begun in 1981, the tuition free Corwin Master Class program is sponsored by the Dorothy and Sherrill C. Corwin Foundation and presented by The Music Center Education Division.

Applications to train with the Los Angeles Philharmonic musicians or to audit the class with Murray Perahia is due February 5. (Early applications are strongly encouraged.) For information, call (213) 202-2293.

Born in New York City, Sony Classical recording artist Murray Perahia began studying the piano at the age of four

and entered Mannes Colleges of Music at age 17, graduating in conducting and composition. He won the Leeds International Piano Competition in 1972. In 1973, he gave his first concert at the Aldeburgh Festival and was co-artistic director of the Festival from 1981 through 1989.

Perahia tours worldwide, appearing with every leading orchestra. His many recordings include the complete piano concertos of Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn and Mozart. He won the 1995 Gramophone Award for his Sony Classical recording of the Chopin ballades. He is an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, and has received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Leeds.



Liza Ebeth Frias

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Liza Ebeth Frias, the December 2000 Employee of the Month, has worked for the County for nine years and is currently an Environmental Health Specialist IV for the Department of Health Services where she oversees the training program for new employees. In addition, she provides technical support to the district staff and lead support to the department's administration. She develops and revises policies for the division and represents the County on various technical food committees. Frias earned a B.S. degree in Environmental and Occupational Health from California

State University, Northridge. She is a registered Environmental Health Specialist in California, a State Certified Technician in Vertebrate Vector Control, a Certified Trainer for the Statewide Standardization Program (Food) and a Certified Trainer for AB 396 (legislation relative to cooking temperatures).

"I was surprised to be selected. I know that others are just as deserving of this honor," said Frias. "It is one of the greatest honors next to being a mother. I feel proud to be a part of such a large organization that serves millions of people."

In response to a 1997 KCBS 2 investigative report on the poor conditions detected in selected food facilities, Environmental Health (EH) began a critical review of its food inspections program and immediately initiated strategies to enhance its overall food inspection activities.

Frias played a key role in the developed food inspection strategy. She submitted numerous ideas for improving work processes and operations and was instrumental in the development of standardization modules for EH food inspection staff. These modules are used statewide and are designed to assure that food inspections are conducted uniformly.

"The retail food inspection program is responsible for retail restaurants, markets, bakeries, food processing establishments, certified farmers' markets, and theaters, to name a few. Besides inspecting these types of food facilities, the program responds to complaints from consumers of Los Angeles County," commented Frias.

"My role is to develop Environ-



Supervisor Yaroslavsky honors Liza Ebeth Frias as the December 2000 Employee of the Month.

mental Health policies and train all staff on these policies, assist in the coordination and training of all new staff and provide the department with technical support by answering questions from staff, industry and consumers of the County."

Stemming from her active involvement in the development of the first ever Retail Statewide Standardization Training, she developed one of the most critical parts of the training -- Inspection Process. That portion now serves as the model for the State. As a result, she established the current Environmental Health policy and trained staff on the Standardization Program.

As part of her involvement with the food inspection program and in an effort to keep staff informed, Frias created a Monthly Review that is aimed at keeping staff informed of recent changes in the food program. In addition, she designed a guide that provides inspection staff with the public health reasons behind the requirements found in the California Uniform Retail Food Facilities Law and departmental policies that are routinely used for inspections.

She was instrumental in the development of the new Food Official Inspection Report (FOIR) and has provided countless training sessions to assure its correct use in day-to-day operations. Frias also constructed the policy and corresponding glossary for the FOIR. These two tools have helped gauge the consistency and efficiency of inspection staff in the use of the form.

"The development of the new

Food Official Inspection Report was one of the first documents to be developed in partnership with the food industry," noted Frias. Furthermore, she developed a booklet entitled, "Retail Food Inspection Guide" to assist the food industry in the understanding of the FOIR and inspection process.

"I feel that I have been rewarded by having a great team. I have had support not only from management, but from staff within the department. I have been challenged with the opportunity to lead a training program that is, I feel, one of the best in the State."

Frias serves on numerous County and statewide committees. She is currently involved with the Environmental Health Food Committee, the Southern California Food Technical Advisory Committee, the Retail Food Standardization Task Force, the California Uniform Retail Food Facilities Law (CURFFL) Review, the CURFFL Review Sub-Committee B and the CURFFL Review Sub-Committee D.

A devoted mother, she considers her two beautiful children her most rewarding experience and deems being able to be a strength to her children as her greatest accomplishment.

"As for my professional career, my greatest accomplishment has been my involvement with the retail food program especially being a part of the first Statewide Standardization Effort for Retail Food Inspections," said Frias.

"The Department of Health Services--Environmental Health is truly a leader in its field. I have seen how others look to Los Angeles County as a model for their respective programs. The impact that we have, not only in the State, but in the country is far-reaching. I have received calls from our counterparts in states like Nevada, and from outside the country, like Canada, to find out about our food inspection program," said Frias. "We are truly fortunate to have a director like Mr. Arturo Aguirre, who always keeps the interest of the food program a high priority and Environmental Health Specialists who are, I feel, the best in the field."

Congratulation, Liza!

Oath of Office

I, _____ during such times as I hold the office of _____ of the County of Los Angeles, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.



Superior Court Judge Ruth Kwan administers the oath of office to *District Attorney Steve Cooley*.



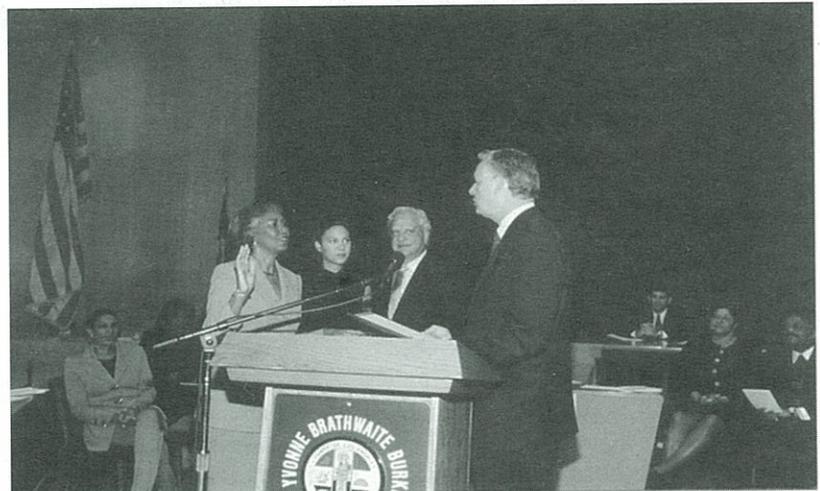
Supervisor Don Knabe shows jubilation after his swearing-in.



Superior Court Judge Arthur M. Lew swears-in *Rick Auerbach* as *Assessor* while wife Sharon and daughter Kelly look on.



District Attorney Steve Cooley administers the oath to *Mayor Michael D. Antonovich* as Christine and Michael Jr. look on.



City Attorney James K. Hahn administers the oath of office to *Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke* while husband William and daughter Autumn look on.

Mayor

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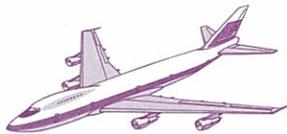
Working through the League of Cities, the League of Independent Cities and the Contract Cities Association, the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys have the opportunity to help realize this goal.

On November 16, 1999, the Board unanimously approved my motion supporting the County sanitation districts potential acquisition of the Eagle Mountain Landfill in Riverside County and Mesquite Landfill in Imperial County. Trash for Los Angeles County will be shipped by rail to these remote locations. These landfills could be operational within two years. It is vital that "Rail Haul" becomes an integral part of our future trash disposal plans.

LAX

The LA City Airport Commission's attempt to cram another 35 million passengers into LA International Airport (LAX) by 2015, instead of developing regional airports, is a vivid example of a lack of vision.

Adding more passengers, highway and air traffic to LAX is like putting a size 12 foot into a size 2 shoe. LAX is strapped into a tight 3,500-acre box. It is the smallest major city airport in the United States. With millions of passengers arriving and departing, and nearly 9 million tons of cargo each year, it's vital to have a LA City Airport with vision.



As we have all experienced, LAX remains a center of traffic and air congestion, noise, pollution, delays and safety concerns. LAX, for instance, has the dubious distinction of being the largest stationary polluter in Los Angeles County with 17.5 tons per day output of nitrogen dioxide. This is three and a half times the amount put out by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's entire bus fleet.

In the 1960s, the LA City Airport Commission developed a strategic plan of regional airports to meet the population increase of the 80s and 90s. The City of Los Angeles acquired the 17,000-acre Palmdale Airport site and the Ontario Airport.

The city also contracted with the U.S. Air Force for Plant 42 in the Antelope Valley, which is adjacent to the Palmdale

Airport site. It has runways, taxiways, ramps and parking. With additional terminal improvements underway, Plant 42 is ready for cargo and airline service – today!

As we enter the twenty-first century, these airports will effectively provide the regional airports which are essential to the citizens of our County and neighboring communities. However, instead of implementing the vision to develop and operate regional airports, the City of Los Angeles is spending millions of dollars on a failed, massive Madison Avenue Public Relations campaign to expand the size of LAX.

Palmdale and Ontario Airports are located in the heart of the fastest-growing areas in California. They would be convenient to the 6.5 million people residing in the Antelope, Santa Clarita, San Fernando, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, as well as our neighbors in Ventura, Kern, San Bernardino, Orange and Riverside Counties. Over 3 million people live closer to Palmdale than LAX, and Ontario Airport is currently serving 3 million residents of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.

Now, what's needed from the LA City Airport Commission is a focused, effective marketing campaign with airlines to inform them about these golden opportunities. To also help with this effort the new LA City Charter, which went into effect July 1, 2000, adds two additional seats on the LA City Airport Commission.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously supported my motion requesting that these two additional seats be assigned to representatives from the San Gabriel-Pomona and Antelope Valleys.

Through successful, committed public-private partnerships, the full utilization of Plant 42, the Development of the Palmdale Airport, and the expansion of Ontario Airport, the future of effective regional air and ground transportation in Los Angeles County will be assured.



Chromium Six

Last September, at the direction of the County Board of Supervisors, the County's environmental toxicology bureau, the agency which is responsible for testing

our food and water and monitoring the environment, conducted a series of tests for the presence of chromium, and specifically chromium six, in 110 County facilities located in 71 cities.

The study, released on October 10, showed that all of these facilities had detectable levels of chromium. Forty-three of the facilities, 39 percent of those tested, contained concentrations of chromium six higher than 2.5 parts per billion.

The problem was wide-spread throughout the County. Among those examined, the top five were:

- Burbank, showing the greatest concentration, with 7.84 parts per billion
- Hacienda Heights showing 7.59 parts per billion
- Palmdale had 6.62 parts per billion
- Rosemead had 6.60 parts per billion
- La Puente showed 6.08 parts per billion

These results confirmed the limited data from the State Department of Health Services that total chromium and chromium six contamination is prevalent in the drinking water supply in Los Angeles County.

As a result of this study, the Board of Supervisors then directed the Los Angeles County environmental toxicology bureau to test the public's drinking water supply from the 44 wells owned and operated by the County Department of Public Works, for total chromium and chromium six levels.

The tests concluded that 73 percent of the wells had detectable levels of chromium 6, ranging from 17.6 parts per billion in Lancaster, down to 3.5 parts per billion in Kagel Canyon.

At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, the director of Public Works is developing a protocol plan, in conjunction with Federal and State agencies, to remove carcinogens and other water impurities from our County-owned water supply – also the impact of limiting and/or discontinuing use of contaminated wells.

While very little is known about chromium six, it has been attributed to adverse health effects, including cancer and DNA damage. The scientific community has little useful information

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“Boom Project” Completed

Supervisor Don Knabe (4th District) recently joined by Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal (54th District) and other key state and city officials to announce the completion of the Los Angeles River Pilot Demonstration “Boom Project.” While the project experienced minor set backs as a result of powerful January storms, it is expected to collect and remove unprecedented amounts of river trash and debris.



With the boom only partially complete during the first storm of the season in October 2000, a crew of Nautilus Marine Protection workers extracted a full 95,000 pounds of trash

“This has been a true team effort between County and State government to help reduce the measure of deposits that compromise water quality at local beaches, harbors, and aquatic habitats,” Supervisor Knabe remarked. “Assemblyman Lowenthal really came through for the residents of Long Beach by securing the \$650,000 for this pilot project,” Knabe continued, “and we are all truly pleased with the early results.”

Innovative technology, developed by Long Beach-based Nautilus Marine Protections, Inc. specifically for the LA River, was utilized in the County’s pilot project, which is part of a considerable overall County effort to clean-up the 51-mile long flood control channel. With the boom only partially complete during the first storm of the season in October 2000, a crew of Nautilus Marine Protection workers extracted a full 95,000 pounds of trash.

“The completion of the Los Angeles River Boom Project is a major step in our fight to keep river debris from fouling our beaches,” said City of Long Beach Mayor Beverly O’Neill. “Supervisor Knabe and Assemblyman Lowenthal deserve much of the credit for seeing this project to its successful conclusion.”



Supervisor Knabe, joined by city, county, and state officials, announces the completion of the Los Angeles River “Boom Project.”

Additional river clean-up efforts by the County include the Educational Outreach Program within public and private schools and the establishment of a Watershed Management Division by the Department of Public Works to oversee the various structural improvements made to the Los Angeles River.



Groundbreaking for a \$2 Million Gymnasium

Even though the event took place at midday on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2000, over 200 people were on hand to celebrate the beginning of a brand new gymnasium that is being constructed at the Jackie Robinson County Park in Littlerock. The groundbreaking ceremony was a real community event for enthusiastic residents of this high-desert area, as it foretells a time when activities will be available during the extreme weather conditions that occur in this part of Los Angeles County. In fact, due to the unpredictability of the weather at this time of year, a large tent was erected to shelter program attendees, which also served to heighten the festive atmosphere of the day. For those unfamiliar with this community, Littlerock is located east of Palmdale and north of the Pearblossom Highway.

The park is named in honor of the respected, late, trail blazing baseball player,



Supervisor Antonovich and Kathy Robinson are joined by county officials and Littlerock community members.

whose niece, Kathy Robinson, was on hand to bring greetings, on behalf of the family, to the community.

Jeff Wheeler, assistant director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, who served as the master of ceremonies,

stated that this project is a win-win for everyone because there will be something offered for all ages, from toddlers to seniors.

The building, expected to be in use by late this year, will greatly expand the department’s ability to offer many types of programs, such as basketball, volleyball, dance and tumbling which can be scheduled indoors, out of the elements. Currently, when an indoor recreation venue is necessary, special arrangements must be made at the Littlerock High School.

Supervisor Mike Antonovich told guests that this new gym was a great tribute to their community. “The wealth of this country is not at Fort Knox, it’s in our children,” Antonovich said.

see Gymnasium on last page

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:

ASSESSOR: Alanna L. Scanlon

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Ronald J. Mellan

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:

Sheryl L. Messenger

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:

Clarence W. Henson Jr., Johnny M. James

CORONER: Ronald W. Jung

DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

Anthony W. Brunetti Jr., M.C. Davis,

Amelia Garay-Ellis, George J. Knoke,

Henry Moraga, George M. Nakata,

Eloise Williams, Lois M. Wiseman

FIRE: Hershel Clady, Vernon F. Curtis,

Frederick Findlay, Edward Murrieta,

Jerry G. Patten, Clifford E. Ritter

HEALTH SERVICES: Judy A. Bush,

Donna M. Evans, Jerilyn Howard,

George E. Koval, Dennis B. Lounsberry,

Tony Padilla

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Merlin Sampson

INTERNAL SERVICES: Alice W. Abram,

John W. Hill, Leonard A. Williams

PARKS & RECREATION: John Christou, Velia Rosales

PROBATION: Mary L. Andres, Eugene R. Monteilh, Robert L. Petersen

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:

Pamela J. Chilson, Beverly J. Collins, Joseph

F. Guerra, Barbara J. Roberts, Karen Walters

PUBLIC WORKS: James L. Moore,

Lawrence R. Stoner

SHERIFF: Joseph L. Anda,

John E. Anderson, Steven Brennan,

Charles R. Brittain, Joel D. Brown Jr.,

Robert H. Cardoza, James J. Daniels,

Douglas G. Estonia, Daniel J. Jarvis,

Duncan W. Jefferys, Richard J. McKeon,

William Riordan, Freddie Sherman,

Robert J. Spierer, Arthur Valenzuela,

Raymond Wetlesen, Dennis D. Wilson

SUPERIOR COURT: Rita A. Cregg,

Jerry L. Dick

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:

Paula M. Sicotte

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: Lynn E. Gaddis

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:

Benita M. Reyes, Jorge Z. Salazar

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Robert L. Cohen

FIRE: John G. Conley Jr.

HEALTH SERVICES:

Willie M. Alexander, Peter Armendariz,

Peter Bargas, Enrique Diaz,

Martha T. Eide, Janet Ford,

Josephine S. Garcia, Ruby Hawkes, Marga-

ret B. Lerma, Barbara McCowan, Rose Ortiz,

Yuphaphga C. Relatores, Gloria J. Word

INTERNAL SERVICES:

Manuel Y. Aguirre, Sandra J. Deaton,

Phillip Evans

PROBATION: Lois M. Doyle,

Virgil L. Spencer-Well

REGISTRAR RECORDER/COUNTY

CLERK: Mildred O. Molinos

SHERIFF: Jose T. Cacadac,

McKinley Capers Jr.,

Marvalene Franklin, David J. Gill,

John Guise, Jerry Hand, Stuart D. Heller,

Richard S. Luna, Sandra L. Spence,

John C. Welch

SUPERIOR COURT: Willi D. Hill,

Betty L. Rousselo, Patricia A. Selegue

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:

Conrado L. Cruz

Mailing Address Change

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

County DIGEST

Dept. of Human Resources
500 W. Temple Street, Room 375
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 893-2257
(213) 613-4789 FAX

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

Mayor

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about the effects of low levels of chromium six on humans, or what, over time, are the cumulative health effects. However, it is not something we can gamble our health on.

Water is the most basic of human needs. The public has the right to a clean, safe water supply. Public officials and agencies, as guardians of the public trust, have the duty and responsibility to protect the public's health and safety. What's needed is a concerted effort at the Federal, State and County level to provide quality water to the residents of California.

Foster Care/Adoptions

There are thousands of children in Los Angeles County who need loving foster homes and permanent adoptive homes. We need to commit ourselves, over this next year, to improve children's services throughout the County, especially in the areas of foster care and adoption.

And we need to eliminate the bureaucratic red tape which makes adoption a cumbersome and uninviting prospect. By improving foster care and expediting the adoption process, we can ensure that no child in Los Angeles is without a loving home.

Libraries

Our library system in the County is something of which we are rightly proud. These temples of knowledge and history serve everyone from our smallest preschoolers to senior citizens. In order to maintain their high level of excellence, our libraries are in need of an effective public-private partnership, between developers, communities and the libraries, and additional fund-raising events, to move libraries out from under total governmental control, and allow them to become more self-sufficient.

Our overall goal is to provide the road map for the County to meet its needs and obligations to the people of Los Angeles County, as we enter the 21st century.

Blood Pressure Advisory

This is not "blood pressure" in the usual sense of the word. Rather, it is the pressure we are constantly faced with to ensure an adequate blood supply is available.

Did you know that ...

- over the past few months this County has had as little as a half day's blood supply on hand

- blood supplies are predictably low in late summer, December and January

- more than 1,000 units of blood per day are needed in Southern California one unit of blood can save as many as four lives

- whole blood can be donated as often as once every eight weeks

- O-negative blood, the universal blood type, is particularly needed

- more than 60% of the American public is eligible to donate blood, but only 5% do, and in Southern California only 3% do

- a considerable amount of the blood used in Southern California comes from other parts of the country

- the blood supply is heavily dependent upon a core of committed, regular blood donors



Blood Facts:

- Red cells are used for the majority of blood needs and have a 42-day shelf life. They can be frozen and stored for ten years, but once reconstituted, they must be used within 24 hours. The freezing-reconstituting process is costly and is used primarily for preservation of rare blood types.

- Platelets are required for clotting and are used in cancer treatment and for bleeding problems. They have a shelf life of five days. They are usually collected by apheresis, a special procedure whereby the donor gets their red cells and plasma back after the platelets have been extracted. Platelets may be obtained from donors with specific tissue types when a large quantity of matched platelets is required for a particular patient.

- White cells are obtained by apheresis from a specially recruited donor who has been matched to the patient. White cells have a shelf life of less than 24 hours.

- Plasma can be frozen and stored for up to one year prior to transfusion. It can also be processed into antihemophilic factor, serum albumin or gamma globulin, all of which are in high demand.

- Less than 5% of all the blood collected by the Red Cross is used as whole blood.

As County employees, we all strive to ensure that we deliver the best services to our "customers." When you give blood, you are truly "going the extra mile" for the people in Los Angeles County. Our trauma system is reliant upon you and we are reliant upon each other to ensure that a blood supply is available when it is most needed.

Each County department has a designated blood drive coordinator who will be organizing blood drives in the upcoming months. Please consider being a blood donor when a blood drive is held at your work site. Someone's life just may be depending upon you.



In October of last year, 30 movie theaters throughout the County began displaying the new elder abuse hotline number: (877) 4-R-SENIORS. The number and slogan, "Help Keep Seniors Safe," are shown prior to the featured movie to alert the public about elder abuse and how to report it to Adult Protective Services (APS), a program administered by Community and Senior Services.

APS elected to use the movies as part of its education campaign because of the medium's popularity. Baby-boomers, in particular, are often movie-goers, and the

Community and Senior Services Goes to the Movies

ones most likely to call APS. Many baby-boomers are beginning to focus on aging issues that they ignored during their youth. One of APS' goals is to focus attention on seniors who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Recently, APS was strengthened by SB2199, which created new mandates, including a 24-hour social worker response to reports of suspected elder or dependent adult abuse that appear to be life endangering, along with new resources such as emergency shelters, food, and transportation.

APS is vital to many seniors. Demographics indicate that as many as 100,000 California seniors may be abused and/or neglected by family members and other caregivers. Most of these victims do not receive the protection they need because the crimes against them are never

reported. Everyone knows about child abuse; a few know about elder abuse. The movie advertisement is one of the steps being taken by APS to enlighten the public so that more reports will be made and more victims will receive the protection they need.

In addition to the movie theater campaign, APS has made available a variety of hand-out materials, including educational pamphlets and useful merchandise, such as pens and refrigerator magnets that are embossed with the elder abuse hotline number for distribution at Senior Fairs and other similar events. Billboards and Public Service Announcements are planned for the future. Reaching out to the public through these methods is one way that APS is fulfilling its mission of keeping seniors safe.

Awards

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Eugene Lentzner (Fourth District Awardee)

Eugene Lentzner has promoted interracial, religious, and cultural understanding in the Long Beach area for more than 42 years. Lentzner is a founding member of the African American Coordinating Council, has served on the Executive Committee of the Greater Long Beach National Conference for Community and Justice for 16 years, and is currently Chair of the Long Beach Human Relations Commission. One of Lentzner's greatest achievements has been the establishment of the Healthy Kids Coalition, which provides free health care for poor children and multilingual and culturally sensitive information for their parents.



Supervisor Knabe and Eugene Lentzner are joined by Robin S. Toma.



Mayor Antonovich and Bruce Galler

Bruce Galler (Fifth District Awardee)

Bruce Galler is a dedicated eighth-grade language arts and social studies teacher at Challenger Middle School in Lancaster, which serves low-income students. To mark the one-year anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre, he organized an "Increase the Peace Day" on April 20 in collaboration with the Museum of Tolerance, at which more than 600 Challenger students rallied in support of intergroup harmony. In recognition of his dedication to his students, Galler was named Wilsona School District Teacher of the Year for 1999.

Hall

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Construction commenced on the Hall in December 1999, and it is due to open in the fall of 2003. The Hall will expand the Music Center campus to 11 acres including the 266-seat Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater and the W. M. Keck Foundation Children's Amphitheatre, which will seat between 250 and 300.

The Walt Disney Concert Hall will be the fourth venue of the Music Center of Los Angeles County complex, which also includes the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Ahmanson Theatre, and the Mark Taper Forum. The initial \$50 million to erect the Hall was given in 1987 by Lillian Disney to create a memorial for her late husband, the legendary movie and animation pioneer, Walt Disney. The Music Center is located at First Street and Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles.



Gymnasium

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The overall project will include a 9,500-square-foot gymnasium as well as renovation and expansion of the existing activity building, providing 1,000 new square feet of assembly space for seniors' program at the park. The \$2.87 million in project funding is being provided by the voter-approved Propositions A of 1992 and 1996. Project management will be performed by the Department of Public Works, with the Department of Children and Family Services and the California Conservation Corps assisting in the provision of at-risk youth to perform work tasks for the project, in compliance with the Propositions.

Stephen N. Thom

(John Allen Buggs Awardee)

Since 1995, the Commission has presented a special award to recognize public administrators who have made outstanding contributions to advancing human relations and resolving intergroup conflict. The award is named after John Buggs, who provided critical leadership in the area of human relations for Los Angeles County from 1954 to 1967.

The 2000 John Allen Buggs Awardee is Stephen N. Thom. Since 1987, Thom has served as a Senior Conciliator Specialist for the Community Relations Service, a specialized arm of the U.S. Department of Justice that assists state and local officials in preventing and resolving racial and ethnic conflict, violence, and civil disorder. During his tenure, he has worked in close collaboration with the Commission and local agencies to mediate numerous race-related disputes, such as repatriation of tribal burial remains, charges of police misconduct, environmental justice, and school violence throughout the Western states.



Members of the Board

Michael D. Antonovich
Mayor
Fifth District

Gloria Molina
First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

Staff
John S. Mina
Catherine B. Ylanan