

County DIGEST



MAY 2001

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

County of Los Angeles 19th Volunteer Recognition and Awards Luncheon



Mayor Antonovich, Supervisor Burke and Supervisor Knabe pay tribute to Inger A. Dix, a 91-year-old Volunteer of the Year honoree.

Mayor Antonovich, joined by Supervisors Burke and Knabe, saluted 70 outstanding County volunteers on April 23, 2001 at the County's 19th Annual Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon. This exciting event was held at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Grand Hall.

Stephanie Edwards, television personality was Mistress of Ceremonies, with a special awards presentation by Raul R. Rodriguez, Premier Designer of the Tournament of Roses Parade. The Inka Kings, a Peruvian classical group, provided a musical salute to the honored volunteers.

This year's honorees ranged from 12 years old to 91 years young and represented a County volunteer corps of over 80,000 who donated over 4 million hours to the County of Los Angeles in the year 2000. In recognition of their generosity and commitment to public service, the County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the week of April 22 through April 28, 2001 as "Volunteer Recognition Week" throughout the County of Los Angeles.

Congratulations to all the caring people who donated their time to help others!

DPSS Partners with Food 4 Less

Food 4 Less customers will soon be able to apply for health care and nutrition programs while shopping for their groceries. That's the result of a new partnership between the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Food 4 Less Market chain.

The outreach effort is designed to help bring Medi-Cal (Health) and Food Stamp (Nutrition) Programs to low-income medically uninsured families in the County of Los Angeles.

"We appreciate the opportunity to join forces with Food 4 Less," said DPSS Interim Director Steven J. Golightly. "This

see DPSS on page 9

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Calendar of Events

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

*Shifting Tides: Cuban Photography
after the Revolution*
Through July 1, 2001

*L'Esprit Nouveau:
Purism in Paris, 1918-1925*
Through August 5, 2001

*The Road to Aztlan:
Art from a Mystic Homeland*
May 13, 2001 through August 26, 2001

*Winslow Homer and the Critics:
Forging a National Art in the 1870s*
June 10, 2001 through September 9, 2001

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

Tosca
June 6, 2001 through June 27, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
(213) 202-2287
www.performingartscenterla.org

The Family Series
Through June 16, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

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

Contact
June 29, 2001 through August 26, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

Mark Taper Forum
(213) 628-2772
www.taperahmanson.com

The Body of Bourne
May 27, 2001 through July 15, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

In Real Life/Another American
July 12, 2001 through September 16, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

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

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

"Pavilion of Wings" Butterfly House
Through September 3, 2001



*Tiniest Giants:
Discovering Dinosaur Eggs*
May 19, 2001 through October 14, 2001

The Huntington Library, Art Collections,
& Botanical Gardens
(626) 405-2100
www.huntington.org

Selections From The Darwin Collection
Through June 24, 2001

The Aboretum of Los Angeles
(626) 821-4623

Tai Chi in the Garden
Every Tuesday & Friday
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Call information

Wellness Fair 2001
June 27, 2001
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Civic Center West
Community & Senior Services
3175 West 6th Street Parking Lot B
Los Angeles, CA 90020

August 29, 2001
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Southeast District (Long Beach)
Superior Court
415 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

Bay Days

Bay Days is a two-day event co-sponsored by Heal the Bay and the County of Los Angeles designed to generate enthusiasm about our wonderful resource, the ocean. Bay Days reaches out with a message of how to have fun in the sun and surf with respect for the ocean and protect coastal resources.

On June 30, there will be a free, public event at Venice Beach's Windward Plaza. Activities will include trapeze demonstrations, kite flying, arts & crafts, marine aquarium displays, sports exhibitions,

street performers, lifeguard demonstrations, sand castle building, a finale concert, and much more.

The second day, July 1, will be a beach cleanup. Volunteers will see firsthand the result of pollution as cigarette butts, Styrofoam cups and other trash are picked up.

For more information, call 1-800HEALBAY or log on to www.888CleanLA.com. We hope to see you at the beach.



Some of the 15,000 participants who attended last year's Bay Days listened to actor LeVar Burton between stops at the booths.

Supervisor Burke Hosts Gala Re-Opening of Victoria County Golf Course



Just before the Shotgun Tournament at the re-opening of Victoria Course, Supervisor Burke (second from left) was joined by City of Carson Mayor Darryl Sweeney, baseball great and program master of ceremonies Don Newcombe, Parks and Recreation Department Director Rodney Cooper, and President and CEO of Arnold Palmer Golf Tim Tierney.

Joined by baseball great Don Newcombe, music great H. B. Barnum and local political leaders, Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke presided over the gala opening day ceremonies for the newly renovated Victoria County Golf Course on April 10, 2001.

Before a crowd of nearly 200 avid golfers and County employees, Supervisor Burke thanked Don Newcombe for serving as Master of Ceremonies. She went on to reminisce that when the golf course was first opened in 1967, "we were using new technologies of building on landfills. Some of them worked, and some of them didn't," she said referring to problems with ground subsistence that by the late 1990s had become so bad that usage of the course sank to only 72,000 rounds a year. Most other 18-hole regulation golf courses in the County system were experiencing 100,000 or more rounds a year. Victoria Golf Course was closed for renovations in September 1999.

"Now we have better technology in terms of design," said Supervisor Burke. "It's looking good, and I promise we're going to keep it looking good," she said of the

course, which has literally been rebuilt from the ground up. She noted the renovation cost a total of \$6.8 million, of which \$4.5 million came from funds contributed by the Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company, which owns the company that manages the course. The remaining \$2.3 million was funded through the County. "This is a unique partnership of the public and private sector for a golf course renovation of this scale," said Supervisor Burke.

Some 240,000 cubic yards of soil was used to fill in the subsided area, and to regrade and elevate most of the course an average of two to three feet. Renovation also included planting 500 trees throughout the course, installation of a new irrigation system, new drainage, and improved tees, greens and sand bunkers.

Supervisor Burke thanked the Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Rodney Cooper and members of his staff, including George Ichiyama (now retired), Steve Duron, David Mesa and Larry Lee.

The dedication ceremonies ended with Supervisor Burke teeing off (she used

a five-iron), followed by lunch and a Shotgun Tournament, with more than 100 enthusiastic participants. Players included Don Newcombe; H.B. Barnum; state Assemblyman Herb Wesson; Carson Mayor Darryl Sweeney; Inglewood City Councilman Lawrence Kirkley; Lawndale City Councilman Neil Roth; Gardena City Councilman Steve Bradford; and Culver City Councilman Ed Wolkowitz.

Victoria County Golf Course opened to the public on Sunday, April 1, but revitalization of the park's social club was already evident. Helen Gerard, president of the Victoria Women's Club, said the organization's membership had declined to 20 during the late 1990s, but was now at 200 and still climbing. Ken Taylor, president of the Victoria Men's Club, said membership in his organization was up nearly threefold. Justin Pecot, president of the Victoria Seniors Club, said membership is up, and that they are enthusiastically preparing to make full use of the golf course again.

Victoria Golf Course is located at 340 East 192nd Street in the City of Carson.

Hollywood Bowl Announces Summer Season 2001

Summer in Southern California officially begins with the opening of the Hollywood Bowl. Now in its 80th season, the 12-week series of concerts under the stars features top artists, orchestras and conductors performing classical, Broadway, jazz, world music, and other special programs. The season kicks off Friday, June 29, with the annual Opening Night Gala and Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame celebration, all in support of Music Matters.

Special programs range from the Los Angeles premiere of the international smash "Sing-A-Long Sound of Music," which will transform the Bowl into the world's largest movie theatre, to "Don't Touch that Dial - It's TV Night at the Bowl," an event produced in cooperation with the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation with support from the Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Entertainment. The latter event kicks off Emmy Week celebrations in Los Angeles and features John Mauceri and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, celebrity appearances, and music and video clips from over 50 years in television.

Whether seated in the 17,000-seat venue's coveted boxes, special "superseats" or legendary benches, concert-goers enjoy the Hollywood Bowl experience with top entertainment. More than one million people each year come to the



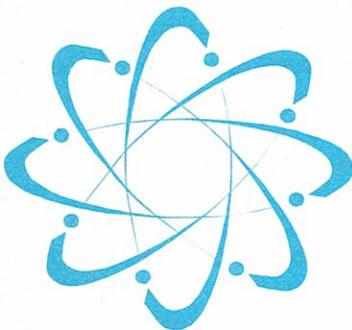
Hollywood Bowl

Photo courtesy by: "The Music Center Archives, Otto Rothschild Collection"

Bowl for music, picnicking, celebrity spotting and fireworks in a magical setting made possible by the world-famous landmark's configuration as one of the largest natural amphitheaters in the world. Considered the Los Angeles summer destination of choice, the Bowl has become as much a tradition in Southern California as beaches and barbe-

cues, the Dodgers and Disneyland. A highlight from its very first season, the Hollywood Bowl has remained popular and accessible to a wide cross-section of Southern California's diverse population. To this day, \$1 buys a seat at the top of the Bowl for many of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and jazz concerts.

Preliminary Energy Results



The preliminary estimated percentage of the Countywide electrical demand reduction achieved during the May 17 curtailment drill was 14.4 %.

Global Energy Partners, LLC has collected information from 116 of the larger buildings of the County of Los Angeles where the estimated demand reduction impacts according to a preliminary estimate of savings for a group using simulation models applying weather and a hypothesized plan for curtailment and weather adjusted estimate of savings of the same group. Out

of those 116 buildings, Global Energy Partners, LLC expects to provide a verified estimate of the demand reduction according to verified savings using monitored data for a sub-set of buildings that are equipped with interval meters or data recording devices combined with modified curtailment actions based on the extensive survey work that are in the process of conducting.

Over the next several weeks, Global Energy Partners, LLC will be refining the estimated savings when the monitored data and survey data become available.

Maclay Middle School Health Clinic Dedicated



Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky, from the left, are Fred Leaf, interim director of the Department of Health Services; Dr. Jonathan Fielding, director of Public Health Programs and Services for the County of Los Angeles; Kim Wyard, director, Northeast Valley Health Corporation; Julie Korenstein, member, Los Angeles School Board; Cecilia Costas, principal, Maclay Middle School; and aides to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, State Senator Richard Alarcon, Assemblymember Tony Cardenas and Councilmember Alex Padilla.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky recently joined health and school officials to dedicate the new Maclay Health Center for Children, the newest addition to the County's growing network of school-based clinics. The new Health Center, located on the campus of Charles Maclay Middle School in Pacoima, represents an innovative on-campus partnership between the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services, Los Angeles Unified School District, the federal government and community-based Northeast Valley Health Corporation to bring high quality health care to uninsured school kids and improve their chances to learn and develop successfully.

The clinic is open 28 hours a week, including some evenings and Saturdays, and offers a range of primary health care including exams, immunizations, acute care visits, TB screenings, and health education classes for families, among other services.

Maclay Middle School is located at 12430 Pierce Street in Pacoima.

Vehicle Donation Program

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, in collaboration with the National Charity Support Foundation (NCSF), began a vehicle donation program. NCSF's mission is to raise funds for fellow nonprofit organizations with worthy causes. By donating old or unused vehicles, as well as recreational vehicles, boats, motorcycles and other items of value such as real estate, citizens will be able to team up with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and give back to the communities it serves.

To participate in the vehicle donation program, simply call the NCSF at 1-800-203-2940 and name the County of the Los Angeles Fire Department as your charity of choice. NCSF will then handle all of the work such as making arrangements for the donated vehicle to be picked up, processing any required paperwork and handling any necessary vehicle repairs. The vehicle

will then be resold, with 100% of the proceeds (less administrative costs) going to the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Public Education Program (P.E.P.).

The purpose of P.E.P. is to help educate children as well as adults about fire safety, and other lifesaving issues. In addition, P.E.P. is now sponsoring a "book fair" program for children. Financial proceeds received from the vehicle donation program will be used to provide quality reading books to children at little or no cost and will be used for the County Fire Department's book program, lifesaving informational handouts, smoke detectors, and other educational promotional items.

P.E.P. is also in the process of outfitting a "bookmobile," a County Fire Department themed vehicle that will be used to bring book fairs directly to children at

schools, libraries and parks. This will hopefully be an efficient, as well as a fun way to encourage children to discover the joys of reading. It will also give the community an opportunity to interact with the County Fire Department and learn about fire safety and the importance of literacy.

Those who choose to participate in the donation program will benefit by receiving a tax deduction for the full market value of the vehicle, and by having unwanted vehicles removed from their property at no cost. However, most importantly the children of our communities will benefit from this program the most.

Your participation in the donation program would be greatly appreciated. Further information about the vehicle donation program can be obtained by calling Engineer Christopher Casillas at (626) 309-7661.



Sharing A Commitment

County of Los Angeles & Employee Adopt "A New Attitude"

by Mayor Michael D. Antonovich



Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

The year 2000 represented not only the end of a millennium, but also the end of "business as usual" for the County of Los Angeles. Following up on efforts started the previous year, the County family drafted and adopted a "County Vision" and "Strategic Plan." This effort was followed by a Strategic Plan Workshop, sponsored in November by the Board of Supervisors, at which we committed ourselves to changing the culture of the County of Los Angeles.

We took on "a new attitude" as County departments submitted their own outlines on how they would incorporate the Vision into day-to-day operations. These plans are evolutionary and subject to change as implementation activities proceed.

We have taken steps to ensure that the Vision Statement and Countywide Stra-

tegic Plan are a part of the daily thinking of every employee. The County of Los Angeles Training Academy is an integral part of our efforts to get the message out of our new attitude.

All Board letters are now required to specify as part of the recommendations any link to the Countywide Strategic Plan goal, strategy or objective.

In addition, the Board has requested that any correspondence prepared on County letterhead and any presentations on behalf of the County reflect the Strategic Plan. This uniform approach will help us to maintain consistency in all of our documents.

The Countywide Strategic Plan should increasingly be reflected in the way we think, the way we approach our duties and the way we prioritize our resources and energies.



The Board of Supervisors commits itself to incorporate the Vision Statement and Countywide Strategic Plan into their day-to-day operations. (from left to right) Supervisor Molina, Supervisor Yaroslavsky, Mayor Antonovich, Supervisor Knabe and Supervisor Burke.

County of Los Angeles Begins Implementation of Strategic Plan

by David E. Janssen

The County of Los Angeles has a purpose and a philosophy, articulated in its Vision Statement, which spells out its mission as the premiere local government organization working in the interest of the public. Our stated purpose is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services.

With a population of nearly 10 million residents, the County of Los Angeles is larger than 42 states, and its Board of Supervisors has the unique function of serving as the executive and legislative head of the largest and most diverse county government in the country. The County encompasses urban, suburban, rural, coastal and wilderness areas in its 4,081.58 square miles.

Many changes have taken place in the County since the people exercised their right to self-government, and on April 1, 1850 elected a three-man Court of Sessions as the first governing body of Los Angeles County. In 1852, the State Legislature changed the structure of County government to an elected, five-member Board of Supervisors.

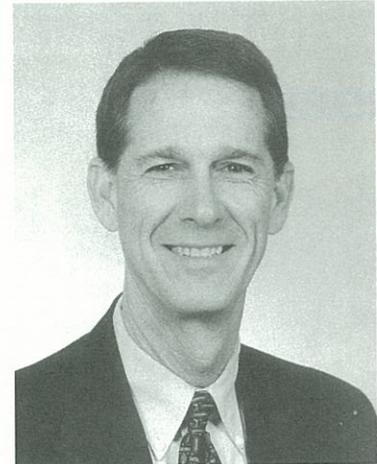
In the County of Los Angeles, we endeavor to create a local government climate, which leads to prosperity for individuals, families, businesses and communities. Through teamwork and collaboration we are displaying a "can-do" attitude, leading to improvements in our responsiveness, professionalism, accountability, compassion, integrity, commitment and overall respect for diversity.

How do we make our "Vision" a "reality?"

The County of Los Angeles Training Academy provides instruction to County employees, and also serves to reinforce the importance of the Vision. The Academy is part of our ongoing effort to change the culture of our workforce.

Each day County employees are encouraged to undertake programs that have public value, offer a model for civic innovation and enhance the life of the community.

To accomplish this mission, we have developed a Countywide Strategic Plan. The four elements of the plan are:



David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Service Excellence: Provide the public with easy access to quality information and services that are both beneficial and responsive;

see JANSSEN on page 8

Employees Integral to Success of Strategic Plan Goals

by Michael J. Henry

Success of the County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan is dependent upon its workforce of more than 90,000 employees. Through its Vision Statement, the County endeavors to foster an environment where each employee feels he or she is an integral part of the organization. The County of Los Angeles Training Academy is our primary vehicle to bring the message of the County Vision and Strategic Plan to employees.

The personal buy-in of each employee to this objective is necessary because the County is a large, governmental organization with multiple businesses that have different missions. It is the Vision Statement that enables us as a government entity to set standards for how we do business now and in the future.

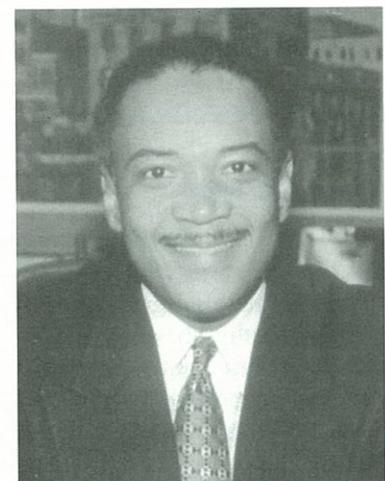
We want everyone, from the entry-level employee to the longtime manager and supervisor, to adopt a "can-do" attitude as they carry out their everyday respon-

sibilities. We want teamwork and collaboration to be a way of life for the workers.

The Department of Human Resources (DHR), in recognizing the importance of employee support for any campaign, has included the County Vision and the Strategic Plan Goals in all of its orientation sessions for prospective employees.

As the new "can do" attitude spreads throughout the County, we will see the entire culture impacted by this change. It will only make us more effective in serving the public.

DHR advises personnel in other County departments to look for ways in their day-to-day operations to reinforce the County Vision. While the various departments will remain autonomous in their overall missions, all County employees will operate under the same philosophy of Service Excellence, Workforce Excellence, Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility.



Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

see HENRY on page 8

Janssen

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Collectively, the CAO, DHR and Quality & Productivity Commission engage in a "can-do" attitude to create a local government climate, which leads to improvements responsiveness, professionalism, accountability, compassion, commitment and respect for diversity in the County of Los Angeles.

Workforce Excellence: Enhance the quality and productivity of the County workforce;

Organizational Effectiveness: Ensure that service delivery systems are efficient, effective and goal-oriented; and

Fiscal Responsibility: Strengthen the County's fiscal capacity.

The Board of Supervisors adopted the County's Vision Statement and Strategic Plan in 1999, and encouraged County staff to begin implementing these philosophies in their everyday routine tasks and interactions with departments and the broader community.

A Strategic Plan Implementation Workshop was held in November of last year during which various County departments spelled out their strategic goals. Afterwards, a standardized format was developed for use by the departments to outline their planned approach to implementation.

In subsequent issues of the County Digest, I will share different aspects of the County's Strategic Plan and how the objectives are being met.

Finally, I firmly believe that serving the needs of the people and promoting the advancement of the County of Los Angeles is an exciting, challenging and rewarding and never-ending experience.

Henry

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This is a very long, and ongoing process. The County of Los Angeles has developed several Strategic Plans over the past 15 years with some success. Our current effort is the first time that we as a County have defined our "Vision." We are taking the Vision Statement and making sure that it is distributed down the ladder to all employees.

Now, we are stressing the importance of using current resources to implement the Strategic Plan. We expect the cost-effective ideas generated by employees to result in a tremendous savings in productivity.

Finally, I am confident that the road we have embarked on will lead to a stronger County. Our success in creating a new employee culture in County government will serve as a role model for the nation.

County Strategic Plan: a collaborative series brought to you by Human Resources and the Quality and Productivity Commission with the Auditor-Controller, Chief Administrative Office, Chief Information Office, Children's Services, Executive Office, Internal Services, Public Works and Sheriff.



County of Los Angeles

Vision

Our **purpose** is to improve the quality of life in the County of Los Angeles by providing responsive, efficient, and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

responsiveness
professionalism
accountability
compassion
integrity
commitment
a can-do attitude
respect for diversity

Our **position** as the premiere organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

a capability to undertake programs that have public value,

an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation,

a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

DPSS

continued from front page

precedent setting partnership will heighten the public's awareness of the availability of the Medi-Cal (Health) and Food Stamp (Nutrition) Programs, and assist DPSS in reaching thousands of additional families who are eligible for these programs."

Beginning in June, DPSS staff will participate in several of the company's upcoming "Fiesta de Ahorras" (Festival of Savings) parking lot events to enroll customers into health and nutrition programs. DPSS information booths will be set up to answer questions and help fill out the applications.

The Food 4 Less "Fiesta de Ahorras" events are weekend parking lot festivals for the entire family, featuring free health screenings, games, giveaways, product samples, coupons, musical entertainment and booths providing information on community events and services. More than a dozen "Fiesta de Ahorras" events have already been held at Food 4 Less stores throughout Southern California.

"This is one more way Food 4 Less is supporting the communities we serve," said Food 4 Less Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing Bob McKee. "Partnering with DPSS illustrates the positive things that can result when the public and private sectors work together."

Food 4 Less is also helping DPSS reach out to families by featuring the County of Los Angeles Health & Nutrition Hotline (1-877-597-4777) in its newspaper advertisements and in-store circulars at no cost to the County. Callers may call the Hotline to apply or receive information about health and nutrition programs available in the County of Los Angeles.

Food 4 Less operates 106 warehouse-style supermarkets under the banners Food 4 Less in Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada and Foods Co. in Northern California from its headquarters in Los Angeles, California. Food 4 Less is a division of the Kroger Co., one of the nation's largest retail grocery chains, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Sheriff Baca Introduces the Use of E-Bikes on Community College Campuses



E-Bike founder Lee Iacocca, Sheriff Lee Baca and Mary Lee of the Los Angeles Community College District announced the implementation of electronic bicycles at the nine Los Angeles Community College District campuses.

Sheriff Lee Baca, E-Bike Founder Lee Iacocca, Los Angeles Community College District officials and executives from EV Global Motors gathered at Los Angeles City College to announce the implementation of electronic bicycles (E-Bikes) at the nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District. The E-Bikes are powered by a 24-volt battery and are capable of producing speeds up to 15 miles per hour with a range of 20 miles per charge. The Sheriff's Department took over the law enforcement duties on the college campuses on January 21, 2001. The E-Bikes will assist in patrolling the largest college district in the United States, with approximately 100,000 enrolled students.

The E-Bike is the world's most advanced new breed of vehicle, and will offer the deputies and security officers flexibility in accessing most areas of the college cam-

puses. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department originally established the bicycle patrol as part of its commitment to community-based policing. The addition of the E-Bike program has evolved into a popular and successful patrol innovation, continuing the Sheriff's Department's pursuit of new technologies.

The college community has responded positively to the bicycle patrol concept. Bicycle patrol provides a public safety presence for large college-sponsored events, where the ability to move quickly through crowds is needed. The E-Bike patrol has resulted in more personal contact between the officers and the college community. Sheriff Baca stated, "the E-Bike patrol provides an effective means to patrol campuses as a whole, especially pedestrian areas that are not accessible to emergency vehicles."

May 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 the County of Los Angeles:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Carmen Sosa

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:

Cande A. Mendoza, Lora J. Stewart,
Beth J. Warner

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Irwin N. Bloom,
Richard H. Elias

FIRE: Robert D. Bertram,

David A. Cowman, Don D. Doppenberg,
Dennis G. Hillier, Marvin K. Kolstad,

Bruce A. Mortimer, Edward Murrieta,
Richard E. Partida, Ronnie Patterson,

Clifford E. Ritter, John P. Schwab,

Kurtis D. Slocum, Michael D. Waugh

HEALTH SERVICES: Leticia C. Lazo,

Charlene Lee, Jeff Moore,

Thomas Sampson, Frances J. Williams,

Leon Wolfson, Grace Young

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF

PUBLIC SAFETY: Jaime Ramirez

INTERNAL SERVICES: Ronald McClain,

Henry E. Rivera

MENTAL HEALTH: Gloria A. Dick,

Maurice Govan, Carolyn A. West

PARKS & RECREATION:

Bud R. Sherman

PROBATION: James R. Beene,

Clark James, Fred B. Lewis, Diane Love,

Willie L. Puckett, Clevesta Y. Verdine

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:

Annette B. Collins, Florencio Contreras Jr.,

Joyce J. Green, Velma T. Harris,

Dolores Perea, Helen L. Perez,

Virginia Rodriguez, Arlene B. Sanford,

Edith R. Shepherd, Jerrie C. Shepherd,

Dorothy Watts

PUBLIC WORKS: Jesus A. Bautista,

Terry K. Mah, Rudolph N. Rico

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY

CLERK: Lesserine Brooks,

Dennis Mc Craven

SHERIFF: James Daniels,

Carter A. Fitzpatrick, Richard T. Heldreth,

Alfred H. Maldonado, Everett C. Moore,

Alan L. Pettit, Ozzie Porter,

Terrance K. Wiese

SUPERIOR COURT: Joseph F. Fabrizio,

David B. Fields, Carole J. Richardson

“Hot Summer Nights” Symphonic and Pop Concert Series



The Department of Beaches and Harbors will inaugurate two “Hot Summer Nights” series this summer – symphonic concerts on Thursdays and pop concerts on Saturdays. Both series will be held at sunset alongside the water in Chace Park and are presented free to the public by Supervisor Don Knabe. Other sponsors include Mars Music and the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission.

The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony conducted by its maestro Frank Fetta and presented by the Westchester Symphony Society, will be heard in four symphonic programs, June 21, July 12, July 26 and August 9. The orchestra scored a great success during its first appearance in Chace Park last August.

The Saturday night pop series will feature, on July 7, Grammy Award-winning

jazz singer/pianist Diane Schuur and duo; on July 21, singer Monica Mancini and her band, performing the music of her father, legendary composer Henry Mancini, as well as songs from her top-rated new album, “Dreams of Johnny Mercer”; on August 4, The Buddy Rich Big Band, featuring vocalist Cathy Rich, with drummer Dave Weckl; and on August 18, James Darren and orchestra, singing the legendary ballads from his new album, “This One’s from the Heart.”

Chace Park is located at the west end of Mindanao Way, off the 90 Freeway. Parking is available in County Lot 4 on Mindanao and County Lot 5 on Bali Way near the Park for \$2. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. The Park’s food concession will be open or you may want to bring your own. Chairs, blankets and cushions can be rented at a nominal charge. For further information, please call (310) 305-9545.



Guests enjoying “Hot Summer Nights” 2000.

see Retirees on last page

Verizon Donates \$100,000 to County of Los Angeles Literacy Program for At-Risk Youth

Hundreds of delinquent, abused or neglected youth in the care of the County of Los Angeles' juvenile justice system will soon reap the benefits of 22 newly established mobile libraries – thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications.

Verizon becomes the first company to partner with the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors for Operation Read, an after-school literacy program for juveniles who are either incarcerated, on probation, wards of the County court or recipients of CalWORKS support. County of Los Angeles Supervisor Don Knabe and Verizon Communications Pacific Region President Tim McCallion announced the launch of the new public-private partnership at the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in the city of Downey.

“Literacy is the first step for our young people in becoming productive, self-sufficient members of their communities,” Supervisor Knabe said. “I am passionate about our work to promote literacy and truly grateful that Verizon shares that same zeal. Verizon is the first company to step up to the plate in support of Operation Read, and we hope that other companies will follow their lead.”

At the recommendation of Supervisor Knabe, Operation Read was officially adopted by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in June 1999. Supervisor Knabe was also instrumental in forming the multi-agency task force that developed the program and authored a motion to increase classroom time for all incarcerated juveniles to 300 minutes a day, 60 more than the State required minimum.

Operation Read is supported through the combined resources of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Probation Department, Department of Children and Family Services, Juvenile Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court and the County Library. The program is designed to reach youth between the ages of 10 and 18 who read significantly below their appropriate grade level, with priority given to older individuals who read at or below a fourth-grade level.

Each Operation Read student receives at least five hours of one-on-one tutor-

ing each week from a team of 52 volunteers and 44 paid staff members. Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds, ranging from college and university students to juvenile court judges and aspiring probation officers.

“Volunteers are a vital part of the success of Operation Read,” Supervisor Knabe explained. “Yet, there are Operation Read sites throughout the County, from Palmdale to Long Beach, that need the help of additional volunteers.”

Information on volunteering for Operation Read can be found on the Fourth District web site at www.Knabe.com.

In the two years since the program began, more than 1,400 delinquent and County dependent youth, who are identified as at-risk for school failure, violence and exclusion from mainstream society, have participated in Operation Read. There are currently 360 youths in the program.

“This is an outstanding example of how private enterprise and public agencies can join in to make a difference in the lives of young people,” said Verizon Pacific Region President McCallion. “Operation Read is the perfect complement to Verizon’s commitment to being America’s literacy champion and is an important pre-

cursor to personal achievement and community well-being.”

Part of the \$100,000 grant will go toward the purchase of four computers, which will be primarily used to track student progress, an integral part of the program. Early tracking results show that 500 participants, who were tutored for eight weeks or more, improved their reading ability by a full grade level or higher.

Books purchased through the grant will be made available during each tutoring session and will be checked out for recreational reading during free time.

Verizon is committed to America’s literacy champion by campaigning to raise literacy levels. In 1999, the company launched Verizon Reads—originally known as GTE Reads—a comprehensive national campaign involving corporate philanthropy, community outreach, employee participation and collaboration with major literacy organizations.

Last month, Verizon Foundation announced it would provide \$3 million in grants to the nation’s top literacy organizations to help them create an innovative online “Verizon Literacy Network” web site to promote a more literate America. For more information, visit www.verizonreads.net or call 1-877-483-READ.



Supervisor Knabe and Verizon Communications Pacific Region President Tim McCallion announce the public-private partnership for Operation Read.

Retirees

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

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:

Shirley A. James

CORONER: Margaret J. White

DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

Juliana R. Dichoso

FIRE: Edwin Laselle, George V. Webber Jr.

HEALTH SERVICES: Patricia I. Aguilera,

Nilofar Amier, John Barba,

Foster Brown Jr., Mike G. Gallegos, Raquel

Guzman, Lucia M. Miller, Louistine

Phillips, Leonida D. Sabado, Denny R.

Smith, Delores Thomas, Susan R. Wagner

INTERNAL SERVICES:

Khairy S. Abdelmeseeh, June M. Cunez

MENTAL HEALTH: Barbara Brockett

PROBATION: Annie Norman

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:

Marcella Stedman

PUBLIC WORKS: Arthur J. Rebrovich

SHERIFF: Michael A. Bailey,

Mary E. Bice, John L. Broussard,

Sharon A. Jefferys, Roderick C. McCreary,

Susan Marlett, Richard A. Martin,

Raul Reyes, Andrew W. Tomenchuk

SUPERIOR COURT: Robert Bague,

Elizabeth Hart, Kathleene E. Lewis,

Grace L. Yen

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:

Maria T. Huerta

How Do We Say Thank You?



Ruth Rose Plunkett, a foster parent of 63 children.

Presently, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) manages a caseload of 61,000 children. Of these, 39,000 are in foster care. DCFS employees and foster parents, as stewards of the County's foster children, strive to attain, for all foster children, the outcomes adopted by the Board of Supervisors on August 5, 1997:

1. Safety and Survival
2. Good Health
3. Social and Emotional Well-Being
4. Economic Well-Being
5. School Achievement and Work Force Readiness

The County of Los Angeles foster care system has a long history of dedicated work to meet the varied needs of foster children. On April 22, 2001, foster parent Ruth Rose Plunkett, the widow of foster parent Eldridge Plunkett, passed away at the age of 97.

Ruth Kunz was born and reared in Chicago, IL, married Eldridge Plunkett in 1925, traveled to California for their honeymoon and stayed. The Plunketts operated a catering business, serving women's clubs, churches and lodges. In 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Plunkett were ordained as Pentecostal ministers.

Rose Kunz, Ruth Rose Plunkett's mother, first in Chicago, Illinois and later in Fontana, California, cared for foster children. Childless themselves, the Plunketts followed Rose Kunz's example, and they too cared for foster children. For nearly 30 years, Ruth Rose and Eldridge Plunkett sheltered, nurtured, and cared for foster children, 63 children in all.

From the depression into the 1960s the Plunketts had as many as nine foster children at a time in their home. These children grew strong, knowing they were cherished. As most foster children got work permits and jobs upon reaching age 16, only four of the 63 earned their high school diplomas. Despite the disadvantage of not having high school diplomas, it is believed that none of the children for whom Ruth Rose Plunkett cared for over those years ever again needed public assistance.

One of the two high school graduates, Ruth Aura Ross, later earned her Ph.D. at the University of Southern California and recently retired from a career as a professor at California State University, Long Beach.

In honor of their foster mother, Ruth Rose Plunkett's foster children are establishing the Ruth Plunkett Scholarship for former foster children at California State University, Long Beach Foundation, 6300 State University Drive, Long Beach, CA 90815. Further information regarding the Ruth Plunkett Scholarship can be obtained by calling Nan Roberts at (562) 985-4279.



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Mayor

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Gloria Molina

First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky

Third District

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Sandra A. Hoodye

Ombudsman/Community Liaison

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