

County DIGEST



JUNE 2001

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Public Safety Blackout Preparedness Task Force

On May 25, 2001, at the County of Los Angeles' Emergency Operations Center, Sheriff Lee Baca announced the Public Safety Blackout Preparedness Task Force involving various law enforcement departments.

Joined by Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, County of Los Angeles Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Sherrill, California Highway Patrol Chief Mike Brown, Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Michael Bostic and Southern California Edison Company Sr. Vice President Richard Rosenblum, Sheriff Baca proclaimed that he supports Governor Gray Davis' initiative to keep Californians out of the dark, regard-

see Task Force on page 10

Profile of County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich



Mayor Antonovich, wife Christine, son Michael Jr. and daughter Mary Christine participate in the La Canada Fiesta Day Parade on May 28, 2001.

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County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich has served the residents of this area for over 30 years, first in the California State Assembly—where he worked closely with then-Governor Ronald Reagan—and then, for the past two decades, as County of Los Angeles Supervisor for the Fifth District.

Mayor Antonovich's district is the largest geographically, covering over two thousand miles, and stretching from Lancaster to the north to West Covina in the south, and bordering Ventura and San Bernardino Counties.

Such a vast geographical area makes for a widely diverse constituency, and Mayor Antonovich spearheaded the drive to establish field offices in the Antelope Valley, Chatsworth, Pasadena, San Dimas and

the Santa Clarita Valley to ensure that constituents have a voice in County matters, and that their concerns are promptly met.

Mayor Antonovich has been a leader in strengthening local law enforcement, in campaigning for children's rights, in establishing the Domestic Violence Court, and in overseeing school construction in the Fifth District's rapidly growing areas.

This year, Mayor Antonovich has added to his list of top priorities such items as establishing regional airports to relieve the burden at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and increasing the placement of the County's foster and adoptive children in suitable homes.

see Profile on page 9

Calendar of Events

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



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

***The Road to Aztlan:
Art from a Mystic Homeland***
Through August 26, 2001

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

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

Contact
Through August 26, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

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

The Body of Bourne
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



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

John Anson Ford Amphitheatre
(323) 461-3673

Sister Celebration
July 13, 2001
8:00 p.m.

***Santa Cecilia Orchestra
Sonia Marie De Leon de Vega,
Music Director and Conductor***
July 28, 2001
8:00 p.m.

Petersen Automotive Museum
(323) 930-CARS



Cars & Guitars of Rock "n" Roll
June 15, 2001 to December 31, 2001

The Arboretum of Los Angeles
(626) 821-3222
www.arboretum.org

Tai Chi in the Garden
Every Tuesday & Friday
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Call (626) 821-4623 for information



Fern and Exotic Plant Show and Sale
September 1 & 2, 2001
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
For more information, call (626) 335-4600

Wellness Fair 2001

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

***The 3rd Annual
County of Los Angeles
Health Fair and Senior Festival***

October 11, 2001
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
El Dorado Regional Park
7550 East Spring Street, Long Beach

For information, call
Patricia Senette-Holt at (213) 738-2947

Career Fairs

First District

Career/Job Fair 2001
California State University, Los Angeles
October 11, 2001
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
For more information, call (323) 343-3287

Career Fair Productions
Los Angeles Convention Center
October 23, 2001
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
For more information, call (310) 566-7464

Second District

J.O.B.S. Career Faire 2001
Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall
September 27 & 28, 2001
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
For more information, call (323) 296-7576

Fall Career Fair
University of Southern California
October 4, 2001
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
For more information, call (213) 740-9112

Third District

Annual Halloween Career Fair
Santa Monica College
October 31, 2001
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
For more information, call (310) 434-4606

Fourth District

Career Fair Productions
Long Beach Convention Center
August 28, 2001
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
For more information, call (310) 566-7464

Fifth District

***4th Annual Veterans Fair "Remembering
Our Veterans and their Families"***

Arcadia Park
November 11, 2001
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
For more information, call (909) 394-2264

Supervisor Molina Brings First Preschool to Underserved Area in Partnership With the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation



Supervisor Molina cuts the ribbon to officially dedicate the Florence-Holmes Preschool with MAOF President Martin Castro (left), MAOF Founder Dionicio Morales and newly enrolled children in the program.

Through a unique partnership, Supervisor Molina and the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) have brought the first-of-its-kind preschool to the Southeast Florence District, a long underserved preschool area of the County of Los Angeles. With the capacity to accommodate 240 children, the Florence-Holmes Preschool officially opened its doors to the community on May 16, 2001.

The County of Los Angeles ranks 54 among California's 58 counties in the availability of licensed childcare spaces with more than 100,000 eligible children on waiting lists for subsidized child care.

In response to the need for affordable childcare in the Southeast and as part of her commitment to addressing the lack of childcare in the County, Supervisor Molina secured \$270,000 for land acquisition and landscaping. MAOF was responsible for construction and maintenance, and it will operate the facility leased from the County at \$1 per year.

The Florence-Holmes Preschool sits on one acre of land with 5,200 square feet of classroom space. It provides highly trained staff to uniquely identify the needs of the area's children, teaches cognitive and language skills, addresses health and physical development needs, and provides a cur-

riculum through cultural identification in addition to language and creative skills development.

"This innovative partnership is helping address the lack of child care in this community," said Supervisor Molina. "It is an investment in the future of our children."

With three decades of child care experience, MAOF applied for a State grant two years ago to construct the preschool. In partnership with the County, MAOF was successful in securing the grant last year.

"Working parents, welfare-to-work trainees, and women completing their education are in dire need of quality preschool programs for their children," said MAOF President Martin Castro. "The Florence-Holmes Preschool Center has the latest classroom and play yard equipment with a staff of highly trained teachers who understand the cultural and linguistic background of the children. This preschool will be the pride of the community," he added.

In addition to this new preschool, MAOF is also opening and expanding several other childcare programs throughout California.

The Florence-Holmes Preschool is located at 6112 Holmes Avenue in Southeast Los Angeles.

Mayor Antonovich Honors Sybil Brand

On May 15, 2001, Mayor Antonovich welcomed Mrs. Sybil Brand to the Board meeting to honor her outstanding record of public service and her dedication to humanitarian service.

Mrs. Brand was chairperson of the Public Welfare Commission and served on the Jails Committee. She was instrumental in the passage of a bond issue in the County of Los Angeles, which resulted in the construction and completion, in 1960, of one of the most modern correctional detention facilities for women in the United States, the Sybil Brand Institute.

Mayor Antonovich proclaimed May 15, 2001 as "Sybil Brand Day" throughout the County of Los Angeles in recognition of her dedication, compassion and hard work, and in celebration of her 101st birthday.



Mayor Antonovich honors Sybil Brand for her service to the people in the County of Los Angeles and in celebration of her 101st birthday.

Rudy De Leon Ombudsman

County of L A History in the Making

Since its historic opening to the public in March 14, 1994, the Department of Ombudsman has evolved from a politically motivated concept into a vital-cost-effective agency of the County of Los Angeles. While the primary function of the Department is to review the public's complaints involving Sheriff's Department and Office of Public Safety personnel, a mission commonly referred to as civilian oversight, the Department's functions have expanded into an agency that provides direct assistance not only to the public but community organizations, as well.

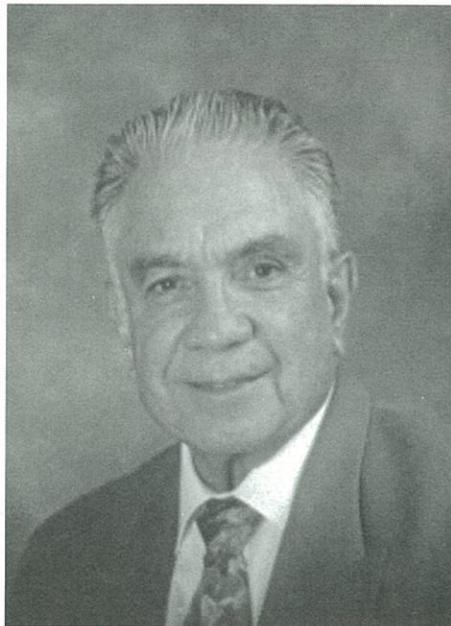
Our History of Customer Service and Its Local and Statewide Impact

The Department of Ombudsman's size is no reflection of its accomplishments or the public service it performs. Its neutrality and objectivity have drawn over 8,000 people to seek the Ombudsman's assistance. Individuals have voluntarily brought attention to the Ombudsman of theft, fraud, sexual harassment and other serious matters. Many of these allegations have resulted in media publicized investigations, criminal prosecution and/or disciplinary action. County employees fearing retaliation have also brought issues involving other departments to the attention of the Ombudsman. In every case, the staff has worked with the department head or the Auditor-Controller with an assurance that the issue would be promptly addressed.

The Office of Public Defender; Alternate Public Defender; defense attorneys and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Police Watch, a police oversight agency with offices in Northern and Southern California, have also sought the assistance of the Ombudsman to resolve issues involving County of Los Angeles personnel, inmates, and/or policies and procedures. In all cases, the Ombudsman's staff has worked cooperatively, behind the scenes, to resolve the issues. Police Watch Director Vina Camper has complimented the County and the Office of Ombudsman on several occasions for their cooperation and responsiveness to the issues it presents.

An Uncommon Partnership Proves Effective

In seven years, the Ombudsman staff has maintained its neutrality while



Rudy De Leon

working cooperatively with the Sheriff's Department and Office of Public Safety personnel. Depending on the seriousness of the charges, the Ombudsman has not hesitated in communicating directly with the command staff of both agencies. The Sheriff's Department and the Office of Public Safety command staff have responded with efficiency in addressing problems conveyed by the Ombudsman.

The Office of Ombudsman has established a valuable communication link between the Sheriff's Department Jail command staff and family and friends of inmates. The Ombudsman staff notifies Medical Services of critical issues involving inmates, such as history of heart attacks, mental illness, complications of diabetes, amputations, cancer treatments etc. (Note: In many cases, these conditions are unknown to Sheriff's personnel.) After the Ombudsman staff receives a disposition, concerned family and friends are notified. Inquiries concerning other inmate issues such as accurate release dates, treatment and other issues are addressed in the same manner.

An unforeseen result of this assistance is that only two Ombudsman's clients have filed lawsuits against the County. The Ombudsman has never attempted to dissuade or discourage any client from filing a lawsuit and, in fact, does not hesitate

to provide clients with claim forms upon request to compensate for losses incurred.

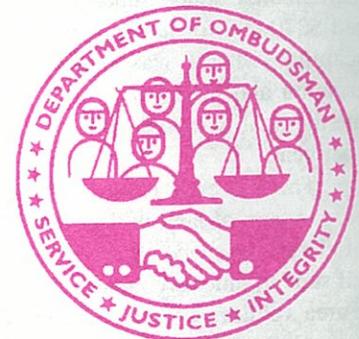
Frederick Bennett, former Assistant County Counsel who served for six years as counsel for the Office of Ombudsman, voiced his opinion that the Ombudsman has been cost effective in preventing lawsuits that may have totaled millions. Similarly, retired Ombudsman Panel Judge Peter Smith wrote and stated that the Department had likely saved the County millions of dollars.

County Ombudsman Service For An Evolving County of LA Public Environment

It is important for the County of Los Angeles to have an Ombudsman to provide direct, objective, and neutral service to the public. Not a day goes by where the Ombudsman does not receive complaints and inquiries. Two Grand Juries have recognized the importance of the Ombudsman role in today's environment.

The Ombudsman's Office provides valuable customer service to the public throughout the County of Los Angeles. "What makes the Office of Ombudsman a success is having full cooperation from all the County departments, especially the Sheriff's Department and the Office of Public Safety," said Ombudsman Rudy De Leon.

After serving the County of Los Angeles as the Ombudsman since the Department's inception, Rudy De Leon will retire on July 5, 2001. He plans to stay active by writing books about life experiences and to volunteer his time. In addition, he plans to continue to act on the Los Angeles Police Department Historical Society Board and the Advisory Board for the YMCA and the Hollenbeck Youth Center.



Supervisor Burke Hosts 6th Annual Fishing in the City Park Party

On May 19, 2001, more than 300 foster children, ages seven to 14 years old, converged on the lake at Kenneth Hahn Park when Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke hosted her 6th Annual Fishing in the City Park Party. The event is designed to expose inner city children to the experience of fishing.

Nearly 200 volunteers were on hand to show the children how to fish, and how to clean their catch. They also acquainted the children with park etiquette and the need for conservation.

The County of Los Angeles Fish and Game Commission and the California State Fish and Game Department stocked the lake with catfish, and provided fishing poles. Volunteers from Parks and Recreation, the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department helped the children bait hooks, cast their lines and cook their fish. Volunteers from the South Bay Lady Anglers helped the children clean their fish.

Morrison Foods provided lunch for the children and volunteers, and the children received goody bags to take home.



Over 300 foster children turned out for Supervisor Burke's 6th Annual Fishing in the City Park Party for Foster Children at the lake in Kenneth Hahn Park.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Opens the New Las Virgenes View Park



Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky, from the left, are Calabasas City Councilmembers Michael Harrison, Lesley Devine and Dennis Washburn; Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board Member Vernon M. Padgett; and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Executive Director Joe Edmiston.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky helped cut the ribbon to officially open the new Las Virgenes View Park in Calabasas, situated on 696 acres owned by the City of Calabasas, the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and the Conservancy.

Visitors braving the scenic 2.4-mile climb to the trailhead site's 1,100 feet elevation will be rewarded with a spectacular 360-degree view encompassing such sights as Malibu Creek State Park, Stokes Canyon, Saddle Peak, Goat Buttes and Ladyface Mountain. Located at the intersection of Las Virgenes Road and Mulholland Highway, the trail will offer hiking, biking, horseback riding, educational kiosks, rest areas and native plants. The project was funded through a State grant and matching monies provided by the City of Calabasas and the Countywide voter-approved Proposition A, the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996.



Sharing A Commitment Strategic Goals and Strategies

Last month, in Sharing a Commitment, Mayor Antonovich, Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen and Director of Personnel Michael J. Henry underscored the powerful Vision and dynamic Strategic Plan being communicated throughout the County. The Vision and Plan represent values and aspirations that, by their nature, empower us and support our communities. In upcoming Digests, the Vision and each of the five Strategic Plan goals, noted below, will be discussed individually - and how you can participate. Your leadership participation in the way we "do business" is critical to success.

Strategic Plan: Organizational Goals		Implementation Strategies
<p>1. SERVICE EXCELLENCE:</p> <p>Provide the public with easy access to quality information and services that are both beneficial and responsive.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop standards for user-friendly service. • Design seamless ("One County") service delivery systems. • Evaluate services based on results.
<p>2. WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE:</p> <p>Enhance the quality and productivity of the County workforce.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit, develop and retain dedicated and productive employees. • Create a positive work environment.
<p>3. ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS:</p> <p>Ensure that service delivery systems are efficient, effective, and goal-oriented.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement strategic management processes. • Improve internal operations. • Collaborate across functional and jurisdictional boundaries.
<p>4. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:</p> <p>Strengthen the County's fiscal capacity.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage effectively the resources we have. • Invest in public infrastructure. • Increase public private partnerships.
Strategic Plan: Program Goal		Implementation Strategies
<p>5. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WELL-BEING</p> <p>Improve the well-being of children and families in the County of Los Angeles as measured by achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health; economic well-being; safety and survival; emotional and social well-being; and education/workforce readiness.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate, collaborate and integrate services for children and families across functional and jurisdictional boundaries. • Measure progress towards improving the five outcomes for children and families. • Engage individual departments in their planning efforts towards achieving the five outcomes for children and families.

Los Angeles County Vision



Our **purpose** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County 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.

Gloria Molina
Supervisor, First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor, Second District

Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor, Fifth District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor, Third District

Don Knabe
Supervisor, Fourth District

January 2000

Sharing a Commitment: 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, Executive Office, Internal Services, Public Works and Sheriff.



Supervisor Knabe Observes Older Americans Day



Supervisor Knabe shares a light moment with actress Doris Roberts.

Nearly 100 County of Los Angeles senior citizens, including actress Doris Roberts, were honored by the Board of

Supervisors on May 9, during the 36th annual observance of "Older Americans Day."

A luncheon featuring classical music performances on piano and harp took place in the Grand Hall of the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles. The Supervisors and the County Commission on Aging jointly sponsor the annual celebration, which is coordinated by the County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services.

Officials in local cities, mayors and senior citizen centers nominated ninety-three Older Americans Day honorees. They were recognized at the luncheon for their commitment and dedication to fighting ageism.

Doris Roberts, who co-stars on the popular CBS-TV show "Everybody Loves Raymond," was the luncheon's "special honoree." Her diverse career has spanned Broadway, movies and television over the past 45 years.

An advocate for senior citizens, Doris Roberts joined forces with the American Association of Retired People (AARP), Women in Film and the Governor's Office to produce public service announcements that warned senior citizens about various fraudulent schemes aimed at the elderly.

Supervisor Molina Rededicates the Anthony Quinn Library

Nearly half a million dollars and six months of renovations later, the Anthony Quinn Library, once the site of his East Los Angeles childhood home, was rededicated with a fresh new look and modern technology during National Library Week on April 4, 2001.

Until recently, the Anthony Quinn Library was in need of an overhaul.

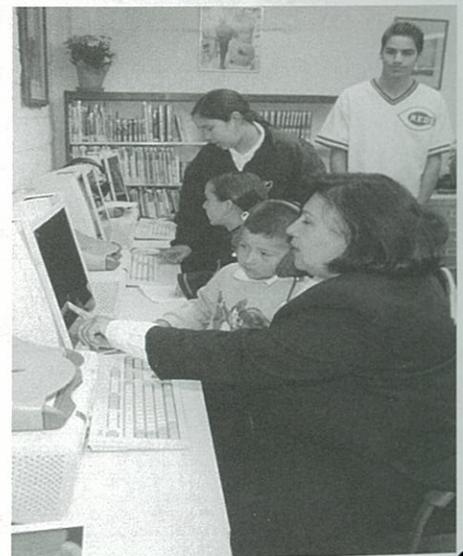
As part of the rededication, Supervisor Molina and students from Hammel Elementary School added a new book collection to shelves of the newly renovated Anthony Quinn Library in celebration of National Library Week.

"When I joined the Board of Supervisors, our nation was facing a recession and a cut in library funding. Although we won the fight to keep our library doors open, funds for repairs and renovations were not available. Since then, my priority was to develop a funding plan to upgrade

County libraries such as the Anthony Quinn Library," said Supervisor Molina.

The newly renovated library offers an extensive reference system, computer labs with Internet access, homework center, children's reading area, and video and magazine rentals. Its book collection includes bilingual children's books and magazines and access to the County Library system's extensive collection. The library's Homework Center is one of the busiest centers in the County library system, and it was nominated for a County of Los Angeles Public Support Services Award.

The Anthony Quinn book collection and memorabilia exhibit are housed in the Library in honor of actor Anthony Quinn. Anthony Quinn died of respiratory failure at the age of 86 on June 3, 2001.



Supervisor Molina assists a child at the computer lab in the newly renovated Anthony Quinn Library.

Profile

continued from front page

On March 20, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to send a letter of recommendation to the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Council, requesting that the Council adopt the findings of its Transportation and Communications Committee, to scale back the LAX master plan expansion proposal, and utilize regional airports as an alternative to LAX.

On April 3, the Board voted unanimously to request that the Southern California Regional Airport Authority consider operating one or more regional airports in the County of Los Angeles.

"Regional airports are an idea whose time has come," Mayor Antonovich said. "The overcrowding at LAX—the smallest airport in any major city—presents a constant danger in both ground and air traffic, along with consistent problems of noise and air pollution. LAX is land-locked on 3,500 acres, and can't grow anymore. It's not panty hose—it will not stretch. Spending \$12 billion to add 38 million more passengers, and air and road traffic to LAX, is like squeezing a size 12 foot into a size two shoe—it will not work."

"We must utilize regional airports, and make better use of our ground transportation between such facilities as Burbank Airport and LAX, and the Palmdale airport in the Antelope Valley and the Ontario air-



Mayor Antonovich's Annual Holiday Festival

port in the Pomona Valley. For instance, Palmdale and Ontario airports are located in the heart of the fastest-growing areas in California. These airports 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," Mayor Antonovich told the Board of Supervisors.

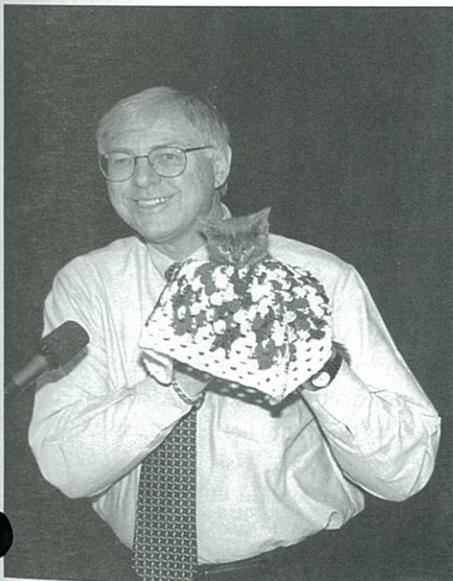
Mayor Antonovich has also led the fight to have the County's property taxes returned to the rightful owners—the County of Los Angeles residents.

"The State's continued hijacking of over \$4 billion from our counties and cities is an outrage," Mayor Antonovich said, "robbing local resources of funds needed to serve and protect County residents. The State began this fiscal charade of taking local property taxes as a temporary measure in 1993, when a recession crippled their ability to pay bills. Now, with a multi-billion dollar surplus, the State is stonewalling our city and County taxpayers. The State needs to replace rhetoric with action and take steps to return property tax dollars to local government."

But the item, which has remained at the top of Mayor Antonovich's priority list for 20 years is County of Los Angeles' youth, particularly children who are the direct responsibility of County government.

"Currently, we have in our County over 60,000 children in the Department of Children and Family Services, children who—for one reason or another—have no parents, no homes," Mayor Antonovich said. "Children who need homes range in ages from one year to 18 years old. To stop the proliferation of gangs, our children need to grow up in stable, loving homes. They need to know there is a right and a wrong. This will enable them to have the ability to say no to the destructive challenges of life, and to understand the right time to say yes. These children are waiting for families to adopt them and give them love and support."

"Emancipated foster children, those reaching age 18, face special challenges," Mayor Antonovich added. "Without loving and supportive families, they face a bleak future of homelessness and want with no support system to keep on a productive path in life. By mobilizing our religious community to become more involved in the adoption process, by informing their members on how they can become foster parents and adoptive parents, we can provide homes for these children. It is vital for our churches and synagogues to maximize their efforts through their church bulletins, and by hosting after-service receptions. We need to spread that message. These children are future leaders—or they are future criminals. We can make a difference."



Mayor Antonovich entices the crowd at the Board meeting to adopt pets.

Task Force

continued from front page

ing rolling blackouts. Sheriff Baca applauds his implementation of:

- “Rolling Blackout Alerts” – 48 hours notice by independent system operators if blackouts are likely to occur.
- “Location Notifications” – 24 hours notice regarding neighborhoods scheduled for blackouts.
- “Blackout Warnings” – One hour warnings regarding the exact location and time of impending blackout.

Public safety providers from the County of Los Angeles and the independent cities throughout the County, have a longstanding history of working together. Many cities already have plans in place to deal with rolling blackouts and other emergencies. Consistent with those plans, the Sheriff’s Department is here to assist cities upon request. The County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department has existing and proven emergency operation plans. The Sheriff’s Department has the capability of deploying sufficient Deputy Sheriffs into areas of the County to address problems that arise. Joining together to work out a plan to address public safety issues during rolling blackouts is imperative. “It is a work in progress which will evolve as the situation changes,” said Sheriff Baca.

As public safety providers of the County of Los Angeles, the Task Force recognizes that our effectiveness during times of uncertainty will be measured by our ability to lead the communities we serve through this very sensitive period in our history, the California energy crisis. “This County has a history of dealing with unpredictable events, working together is our plan,” said Sheriff Baca.

In accomplishing our public safety preparedness mission, we are guided by the following principles:

- To be fully prepared to provide for the safety of the communities we serve.
- To provide front-line leadership on all public safety issues stemming from the energy crisis.
- To foster a collaborative relationship with the public, and public safety organizations in developing the best course for maintaining community order.
- To educate and inform the public as to our preparedness to address public safety issues during rolling blackouts.

Flavia Andrade-Calusdian

April Employee of the Month



Flavia Andrade-Calusdian accepts a scroll from Mayor Antonovich as her family and Director of Parks & Recreation Rodney E. Cooper look on.

Flavia Andrade-Calusdian, the April 2001 Employee of the Month, has worked for the County for 12 years and is currently a Data Systems Analyst II for the Department of Parks and Recreation. She provides personal computer (PC) support and local area network (LAN) support for the Personnel and Payroll Division, the Open Space District, the Planning Division and the Executive Office of the Parks and Recreation headquarters building. In addition, Andrade-Calusdian is responsible for the East Agency Headquarters and all of the parks located in the East County area. At times, when workloads are heavy, she is called upon to assist with the two remaining areas of the department, which are the North and South areas of the County.

“It is an honor to be recognized as the employee of the month for the entire County of Los Angeles. It is unimaginable. I just shake my head in amazement to have been nominated by my fellow employees for such a special recognition. I was assisting one of our users when they told me and my face turned red and my hands began to tremble.”

Andrade-Calusdian served as part of a team that set up computer-learning centers at many County parks. These centers were initiated in East Los Angeles in response to Supervisor Molina’s request to make computer technology accessible at First District County parks. It began as an after-school program in City Terrace Park.

“The Data Systems Section, of which I am a member, would gather parts from computers donated to our department, repair them and set them up for the computer-learning center,” she said.

The center assists children with homework and provides educational computer games to help them learn. Since then, Supervisor Molina funded new computer systems for the 18 County parks located in the First District, the computer-learning centers spread to 42 sites and became popular at senior centers.

In addition, she put in many extra hours in setting up the Internet Club. The computer-learning center concept was so successful that companies such as Dell donated computers to create the Internet Club. Internet access at the after-school centers provides the children with a valuable learning tool. “Senior citizens use it to access web-based services and for research,” she continued.

Andrade-Calusdian was away on her honeymoon when the April 2001 Employee of the Month was announced. “It was wonderful, beautiful and unforgettable. The time spent with my husband has made me thankful and grateful to have met and married such a wonderful man. It also made me aware of how important it is to make time to share with each other.”

In her spare time, Andrade-Calusdian takes pleasure in dancing, playing tennis, hiking, cooking, gardening, traveling, meeting and making new friends, and putting together puzzles. Also, she enjoys spending time with her family especially her 4-year-old niece Alissa.

“We should not be afraid to reach out and help each other. It feels good. Enjoy life! It is too short and we should try to live it to the fullest,” said Andrade-Calusdian.

Maria Panduro-Morales

May Employee of the Month

Maria Panduro-Morales is the May 2001 Employee of the Month. Since 1981, Panduro-Morales has worked at the San Fernando Mental Health Center (SFMHC) and is presently a supervisor of the Day Rehabilitation Program. As the supervisor, she participates in the program development which gives her opportunity to introduce new ideas.

"I was very surprised to hear that I was chosen because I work with a lot of people who are also dedicated to the field of mental health and deserve such an honor," said Panduro-Morales. "I am honored to be recognized for my work. This means that there have been positive results to the work I do with clients."

Panduro-Morales has been involved in the Recreation Therapy component of the Day Rehabilitation Program since it began. This Program is designed to take into consideration the whole person during treatment. It affects the physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs of clients by engaging them in activities which improve and target those areas of functioning, and in a balanced program addressing community, leisure and employment issues.

"The Recreational Therapy Program has changed significantly since we first began and I think it will continue to evolve as our clients' needs become more specific. I hope that I am able to be part of that process because I enjoy what I do as a recreation therapist," remarked Panduro-Morales.

She developed the Spanish speaking Women's Depression Group, the longest running group at the center. This is a very cohesive unit comprised of a core group of women who are able to pass on their coping skills and experiences to the new members.

Panduro-Morales and Melinda Hoffman developed the Education Program, a partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District, where Graduate Equivalency Diplomas (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are taught. As a result of client requests for help to assist them in studying for the U.S. citizenship exam, both women began teaching a weekly one-hour class for the exam. With support from her administration and showing the need for a certified teacher, both women were able to establish an educational program that



Maria Panduro-Morales accepts a scroll from Mayor Antonovich.

meets daily at the clinic. Each client's educational curriculum is individualized to meet his or her specific needs.

In addition, she has been involved in the Las Estrellas Social Group and Employment Program. Las Estrellas began about 15 years ago with the sole purpose of giving clients autonomy. Over the years, it has become a self-governing social group made up of clients who attend SFMHC. Las Estrellas helps establish the Day Rehabilitation Program activities, provides Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at the clinic and spearheads fund-raisers to pay for field trips or special equipment for use in the clinic.

For nearly seven years, Panduro-Morales has been participating in the development of the Employment Program. Currently, she is the Cooperative Agreement Liaison of the Employment Program where she is involved in all aspects of the program.

Aside from working, she enjoys gardening and sports. She also teaches Sunday school to first and second grade children at Living Stone Christian Fellowship Church.

"My experience as a County employee has been good. As in all jobs, it has its ups and downs, but you learn to work through them. I hope I can continue to provide quality service to my clients because I think that is the most important role that I have at the center," said Panduro-Morales.

June

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:

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:

William R. Yaney

FIRE: James A. Beard,

Douglas A. Ludolph, Tommy G. Williams

HEALTH SERVICES: Richard Hanson, Robert M. Sasamoto, Herman W. Sweatt, Betty R. Williams

MENTAL HEALTH: Linda G. McLaurin

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:

Carolyn Sapp

PUBLIC WORKS: Gary C. Loomer,

Jerome R. Weiss

SHERIFF: Brenda J. Capers,

Ronald J. Malneck, Keith Mitchell,

Sandra L. Spence

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:

ASSESSOR: Rose M. Adams

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:

Richard L. Margetts, Carolyn F. Wilhite

HEALTH SERVICES: Naomi R. Green,

Antje K. Hunt, Patricia Margaret,

Gretchen I. Russell, Romel Walker

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:

Brenda Wellington

SHERIFF: William C. Eggebrecht,

Clarece Kelso

SUPERIOR COURT: Ulysses Burns

Mailing Address Change



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

County Health Officials Encourage Pool and Water Safety with Summer's Arrival

Each year approximately 100 people drown in the County of Los Angeles, the majority of whom drown in their backyard pool or that of a friend or relative. As warm weather approaches, the Department of Health Services (DHS) encourages residents to follow safety guidelines to prevent drowning deaths this summer.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of five in the County of Los Angeles. From 1995 to 2000, a total of 568 County residents died as a result of drowning. Of these, 117 (21%) were children under five. Last year, 54 persons died from drowning in the County including 14 children under the age of five.

"Most toddler drownings occur in backyard swimming pools and spas, although they also occur in bathtubs and buckets of water," said Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Public Health and County Health Officer. "The most typical scenario involves a male toddler who was thought to be in the house, but gains access to the pool through an unlocked door or window."

These deaths only represent a fraction of the toll that drowning can have.

"For every drowning fatality, four to 10 children suffer a near drowning incident, which may result in severe permanent brain damage," said Dr. Fielding.

Among households with children under the age of six and a swimming pool, approximately 31,000 (20%) do not have a barrier between the house and the pool, according to the 1999 County of Los Angeles Health Survey.

In collaboration with the County Fire Department, DHS is participating in a Countywide childhood drowning prevention campaign called W.A.T.C.H. (Water Awareness Training for Children in the Home). The campaign educates families about potential water hazards in their own homes and how they can stay safe.



Senior citizens are also at high risk of drowning, again usually in backyard pools. The second most common drowning site for toddlers and seniors is the bathtub. Teenagers and young adults who drown in swimming or boating incidents often are found to have been under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

DHS monitors drownings and near drownings and works with other organizations to provide speakers and educational materials on drowning prevention.

For more information about the W.A.T.C.H. campaign and drowning prevention, contact the County's Injury and Violence Prevention Program at (213) 351-5224. Drowning Prevention Tips

"Drowning is almost always preventable," said Billie Weiss, M.P.H., Director of the County's Injury and Violence Prevention Program.

Weiss urges residents to take the following precautions both outside and inside the home.

- Maintain a barrier between the house and the pool. Fences should have self-latching, self-closing gates. A three-sided fence that uses the wall of the home as the fourth side does nothing to prevent drowning by those who live there.

- Use a pool cover that meets the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards.

- Keep a telephone in the pool area.

- Learn CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation).

- Never leave a child unattended around water and always maintain "eye" contact with children.

- Don't leave toys in the pool area.

- Keep a long-handled hook nearby that can be extended to someone in trouble in the water.

- Always keep bathroom doors, kitchen cabinet doors and washer and dryer lids closed.

- Always keep toilet seats down.
- Never leave water or other liquids in the sink, tub, buckets or containers.

- If someone is in trouble in the water, yell for help, get the person out of the water, and call 9-1-1 immediately.

The Department of Health Services is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of the County of Los Angeles. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, the Department of Health Services oversees environmental health, disease control and community and family health and comprises more than 3,800 employees with an annual budget exceeding \$465 million.

County DIGEST

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