

County DIGEST



2001 SPECIAL EDITION

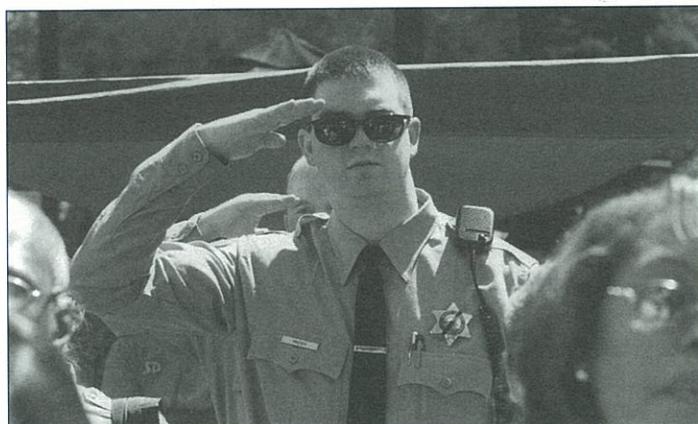
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Inside This Issue

02	Sept/Oct Retirees
03	Fundraising Lunch
03	In Their Honor
04	Firefighters in NY
05	Reach Out & Read
05	Paws to Read
06	SHARING A COMMITMENT
08	First Nature Park
08	Farmers' Market
09	Beach Party
09	Marina del Rey 2001
11	Month's Employees
12	DHS Career Fairs

County Family Remembers September 11 Tragedy

More than 2,500 people throughout the Civic Center area joined County of Los Angeles Supervisors Gloria Molina, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Don Knabe, Sheriff Leroy D. Baca and other County officials for a show of solidarity with the victims and families impacted by the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.



"We must be strong and we must establish an example for the rest of the world."

The noontime ceremony, held Friday, September 14, in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration mall, was part of the nationwide observance of President George W. Bush's declaration of a "National Day of Prayer and Remembrance."



"Heroism was everywhere as the U.S. dealt with the bloodiest day on its soil since the Civil War"—Time Magazine. County employees joined millions of Americans in saluting the fallen in a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance.

"We must be strong and we must establish an example for the rest of the world," said Supervisor Burke. "We will not be happy until every person in the world enjoys the freedom which we cherish so much," she added.

Sheriff Baca, on the other hand, let the audience know that the terrorists responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon would be held accountable.

A prayer for public safety workers was led by Sheriff's Captain Ken Masse. At the time of the ceremony, more than 300 New York firefighters and police officers still had not been located. They rushed to the World Trade Center scene without a concern for their own lives.

"They went forward into the face of death knowing that, regardless of the risks they were taking, they were doing the right thing," Masse said.

Tips for Handling County Mail

County offices and facilities receive thousands of pieces of mail each day that are essential to the work we do.

The following Q&A series, prepared by the Chief Administrative Office and the Department of Health Services, has been developed to provide you with guidelines for dealing with mail and packages, both at work and at home, safely and confidently.

see MAIL on page 10

September/October Retirees

September

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:

ASSESSOR: Lela D. Handy

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Clara Meels, Karen Miller

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Edward G. Feldman, John W. Neff III

FIRE: Joe A. Harkema Jr., John P. Harris, Vernon H. King, Chester M. McCarthy, Bradley J. McIntyre, Robert L. Passage, Raymond J. Ribar, Richard J. Wise, Joseph Chavez, Stanton L. Cleveringa

HEALTH SERVICES: John Baca, Marion Gonzales, Faye E. Hobson, Sumiko M. Kazahaya, Alan Knauss, Sheldon Payne, Marian L. Posey, Neva G. Romo, Larry B. Sharp, Diana K. Shigaki, Alice Singh, Norman Weiss

INTERNAL SERVICES: De W. Hawkins, Robert M. Inouye, Shigeru Nakahara

LACERA: David J. Dover

PARKS & RECREATION: William L. Harvey

PROBATION: Linton G. Morgan

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Raymond Vega

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Camelia J. Charles, Beatrice S. Guerrero, Gracie M. Hughey, Lynell Kuhl, Nathan Thompson, Helen E. Williams

PUBLIC WORKS: Lee Anderson, John E. Engeman, Hadi Norouzi, Robert Singleton, Charlie J. Sherman

SHERIFF: Salvador M. Saiz, Michael D. Sparks, Cruz Macias, David C. Luther, James A. Hays, Robert L. Porter, Mary A. Parker

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Shirley Salaam

SUPERIOR COURT: Irma L. Brown, Cheryl L. Lenahan, Joseph T. Fallin

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: Debora K. Deveraux-Wil, Mae F. Peters

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Wafaa M. Selim

HEALTH SERVICES: Stella Avila, Phyllis C. Coates, Ricarte De Guzman, James E. Johnson, Barbara M. Peacock, Rudy F. Ramirez, Bertha L. Pride, Abel Martinez

PROBATION: Bonnie K. Mack

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Catherine M. Bowen

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Connie L. Sweetland, Linda M. Lieberman

PUBLIC WORKS: George D. Horner, Choya C. Mason

REGIONAL PLANNING: Jose Z. Caldit

SHERIFF: Lula M. Lawrence, Donald F. Mathis, George J. Bachmeier, Ronald D. Mills, Paul D. Benson

October

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:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Robert G. Donley

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Alice M. Harris

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Lois C. Meiser, Eileen J. Ritchie

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Georgia Bowlin, James W. Grodin, Linda Sowders

FIRE: Douglas J. Boulware, Richard A. Gustafson, Michael W. Hewitt, Philip R. Holmes, Richard L. Leitch, Walter G. Lewis, James B. Perry Jr, Stephen H. Reed, Ruben T. Finn, William R. Glendenning, Robert J. New

HEALTH SERVICES: Gary Alexander, Alberta B. Bleavins, Augusta R. Bohannon, Lidia M. Duron, Henry J. Levin, Judy Matson, Yolanda Mendoza, Christina M. Moore, Willean Nicholson, Clarence Patton, Todd D. Sample, Linda Wassmuth, Gladys E. Wilkerson, Joann Nickerson, Joseph A. Ramirez, Innet M. Weasel

see RETIREES on page 4

Luncheon Benefits Victims of Terrorist Attack

A luncheon sponsored by County of Los Angeles Mayor Michael D. Antonovich recently raised over \$1,500 for the County's September 11 Fund.

The special noontime event, held on the seventh floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, was made possible through the generous donations of local businesses and \$5 lunch tickets purchased by County employees.

Zankou Chicken and the Carousel Restaurant, both of Glendale, donated food for the event, while the Costco in Burbank and Tony Haralambos, of Haralambos Beverage, donated cases of

Snapple and soft drinks. Smart & Final also chipped in by donating gift certificates that were later used to obtain serving supplies.

Members of Mayor Antonovich's staff pulled the event together, gathering donations and selling tickets for the pick-up luncheon in less than a week's time.

The entire amount collected will in turn be given to the New York United Way to provide relief for victims and families of the September 11 New York and Washington, D.C. terrorist attacks.



Bumpersticker Raises Funds "In Their Honor"

In an effort to lend a helping hand to the families of fallen New York City emergency response personnel, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Fire Departments are rewarding donations to relief efforts with the "In Their Honor" bumper sticker.

The "In Their Honor" bumper sticker, which is identical to those found now on all County Sheriff's and Fire vehicles, features the American Flag and the badge of either department against a field of blue skies and white clouds. Shortly following the events of September 11 and the tragic loss of more than 300 New York City

emergency response personnel, Sheriff Lee Baca and Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman had the bumper stickers placed on every vehicle within their fleet.

"As Americans, we need to unify and organize our grief and anger into constructive means of supporting the recovery efforts in New York and Washington, D.C. This includes donations of time, money resources, blood, prayer or any other needs of our great nation," Sheriff Baca said. "By displaying these bumper stickers, we hope to pay tribute to the

victims of this tragedy and to the many heroes who perished in an effort to save them."

Donations to the Sheriff's Relief Foundation Fund #400 can be made at any Sheriff's Department facility or to Local 1014 FDNY Disaster Relief Fund, F&A Federal Credit Union, 2625 Corporate Place, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

For additional information regarding the "In Their Honor" recovery effort, please contact the Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau at (323) 526-5541.



RETIREES

continued from page 2

HUMAN RELATIONS: Carole Chan

HUMAN RESOURCES/PUBLIC SAFETY:
Nathaniel B. Ferguson, Andrew Watson Jr

INTERNAL SERVICES: Anthony G.
Anton

PARKS & RECREATION: John A.
Castaneda

PROBATION: Robert L. Casey, Roger L.
Corbin, Richard E. Devey, Stella V. French,
Nathaniel Jackson, Lionel Jones

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Payton Hamilton,
Beverly T. Harada

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Jewel G.
Butler, Elizabeth Flemons, David W. Fong,
Charlie M. Hammock, Elsa Kasberg,
Cornelia L. Matthews, Cheri A. Miller

PUBLIC WORKS: Nabil Elsaygh, Juan F.
Munoz, Bennie J. Murphy, Melchior
Senteno Jr

SHERIFF: John F. Dewyer Jr, Michael B.
Forst, Jay A. Sowards, Algirdas V.
Stropus, Edward M. Chenal III, Stephen V.
Haas, Henry A. Hoppe, Mark L. McKenzie,
Gregory P. Collins, James M. Espinoza

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:
Samuel J. Riggio

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:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:
Eva P. Leger

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:
Sandra Crozier



County Firefighters Assist Families of Ground Zero Heroes

Nearly one hundred firefighters swarmed the Delta terminal at LAX with bags in hand and definitive determination on their faces. As the line inched forward, talk of the families they would temporarily be leaving behind quickly changed to that of families they would soon be helping ¾ those families belonging to some of the more than 300 New York firefighters who lost their lives in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

On Monday, October 22, a small army of County of Los Angeles firefighters boarded a plane bound for New York City, each and every firefighter using his or her own benefit time and paying their own way. Their mission was to join their fellow emergency response personnel in the massive rescue effort, but to assist the families of those New York firefighters with anything from making repairs around the home, to mowing lawns.

Less than 48 hours after stepping off the plane, they were greeted by their New York colleagues and taken to "Ground Zero" where they received an overwhelming storm of applause by other firefighters and the public as they marched by. Slated to be in town for only a week, some of the County of Los Angeles firefighters would stay behind for a bit longer, doing all they could to help at a very difficult time in this nation's history.

see RETIREEES on page 12

Please Join
Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor, Fifth District

In honoring our American Service Men and Women and their Families at the 4th Annual Veterans Fair

Remembering our Veterans and their Families

Sunday, November 11, 2001
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Arcadia Park
405 S. Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006

FREE

- Immunizations
- Haircuts/manicures
- Health screenings
- Live music

OBTAIN

- Employment information
- Veterans benefits information
- Bereavement counseling

Map is not to scale.

***A special salute to our Armed Forces will be held at noon and will include a sky diving exhibition & flyover by World War II fighter planes.**

For more information, call (626) 967-1441 or (909) 394-2264.

Los Angeles County is an equal opportunity employer and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities.

Bellflower Community Celebrates Reach Out and Read's First Year

More than a dozen children were treated to a reading of "Farmer Duck" by Supervisor Don Knabe recently, during the first anniversary celebration of the Reach Out and Read Program at the Bellflower Health Center.

Reach Out and Read is a nationwide pediatric program that promotes literacy by providing books for children, as well as a volunteer who reads to them during their visits to community health centers. The books, given to each child, are theirs to keep and are both age and culturally suited for each individual reader.

After only one year in operation at the Bellflower site, the entire local community has dubbed the program a success, including one little girl whose story was recounted by the Supervisor.

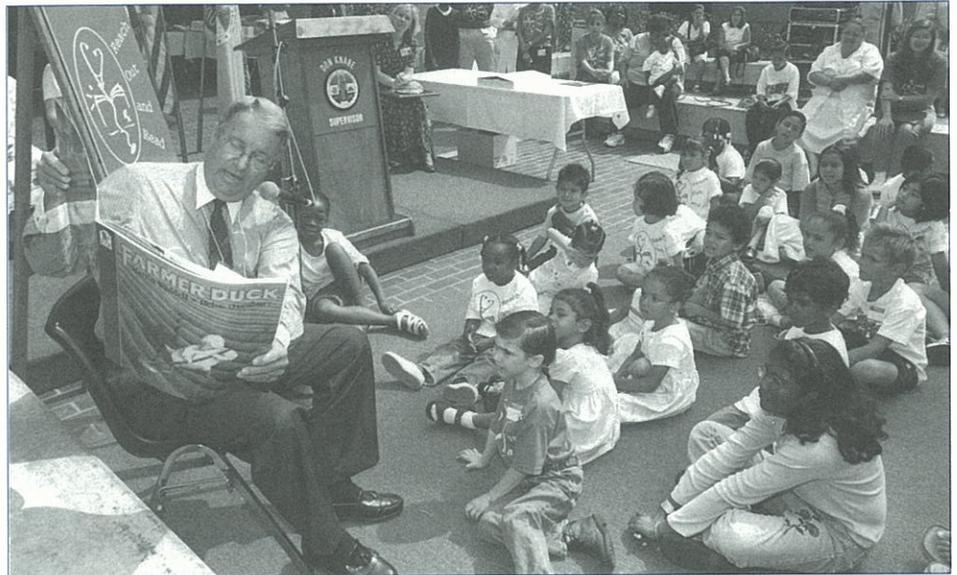
"During the two-year-old's first visit to the Bellflower Health Clinic," Supervisor Knabe recounted, "she started all the way in the back of the room, sitting on her mother's lap."

"The second time she visited, the little girl stood behind the rest of the children and watched from a distance. By her third visit, she was all the way in the front, asking questions about the book and becoming actively involved in the reading."

"That is the real power of Reach Out and Read," added the Supervisor. "While addressing the health issues of our community's children, we also get to nurture a child's developing mind and encourage a love of reading."

While the program has received generous financial support at both its Bellflower and Norwalk locations, volunteer readers are in great demand.

To volunteer as a reader at either health center, call Dr. Barbara Adler, volunteer coordinator, at (562) 804-8101.



Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe was the featured volunteer reader during the Reach Out and Read anniversary celebration at Bellflower Health Center.

Young Readers Embrace Library's Paws to Read Program

"I like to read to dogs because they don't laugh at me," said a young reader. That statement sums up the sheer magic of the County of Los Angeles Public Library's "Paws to Read" program. By reading to their non-judgmental and attentive canine companions, children who are insecure readers or hesitant in using English are able to gain the confidence needed to improve their reading skills and build self-esteem.

"Paws to Read is a program that really works."

The County of Los Angeles Public Library Literary Program was responsible for the creation of "Paws to Read," which uses dogs that are specially trained as reading partners for children. The trainers are from a community-based animal therapy organization called Create a Smile.

In addition to the one-on-one reading experience, children and their parents attend workshops with pet themes such as the "Stuffed Animal Pet Show" and "My Pet Photo Show and Display." Families share stories about their pets, enjoy pet-themed crafts, learn about pet care, and are introduced to a variety of books about animals.

In this program, everyone wins. Children improve their reading skills, and at the same time, receive reading incentives and free animal books to build their home libraries. Parents, on the other hand, learn parenting skills and techniques for reading to their children and have the opportunity to join them in fun family activities. Furthermore, the therapy dogs, many of which came to the program from animal shelters, enjoy attention and love from the young readers.

see PAWS on page 10

National Day of Prayer

A pictorial and written commentary on the traumatic events of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, by County Supervisors and County employees

County of Los Angeles Mayor Michael D. Antonovich

In the morning of September 11, I was meeting with Congressional leaders and their staff when the first attack on New York City occurred. Subsequently, all meetings for the day were cancelled and the Capitol building was evacuated.

I, then, proceeded to meet with former Reagan aide, Lynn Nofziger, who took me to his office's rooftop. From there, I saw first hand a portion of the Pentagon in flames. I will never forget standing on a rooftop in Washington, surrounded by the symbols and monuments of our nation's history and our freedom, and watching the Pentagon burn.

I kept in contact with my office in Los Angeles to make sure that the Emergency Operation Center was operational.



Third District County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

The terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11 shocked and saddened all Americans.

My sense of anger and betrayal was even more acute because I happened to be in Washington, D.C. as one of the planes struck the Pentagon.

From the very first moments, I knew that our nation was being tested—but I also knew with certainty that we would be up to the challenge.

What our adversaries cannot understand about our nation is that what binds us together is not religion, ethnicity, race or place of origin. What binds us, instead, are the ideals of democracy to which all Americans subscribe, no matter who they may be. That ideal is more powerful than any bomb or act of terror.

I feel proud and blessed to be a part of this great land, and to have the privilege of upholding and advancing those American democratic ideals, which we all share and cherish.

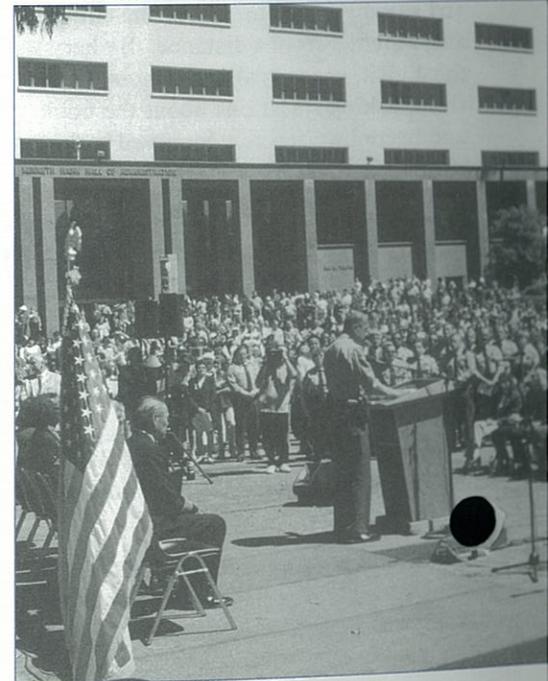


Gerri Eatmon Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector

I was on my way to work when I heard on the radio that several commercial planes were missing. What was going on. It could have been us. This is a public building.

Maria Trujillo Department of the Auditor-Controller

I was worried because we were in a building. Like the rest of the nation, I was scared and confused. I continued to work that day to keep my mind off the tragic events.



er and Remembrance



**First District County Supervisor
Gloria Molina**

I, like all of you, have been deeply struck by the horrible tragedy our nation faced on September 11. Like all of you, I have been locked in a state of sorrow, in a trance, watching the images on television, needing to understand why and struggling with how to explain these events to my teenage daughter. And I, like all of you, feel great pride in being an American for the tragic events on September 11 have brought each of us a profound sense of unity. A realization that no matter our differences in race, ethnicity, language, history or ideology, we are indeed one people. One people linked by our freedom to aspire to achieve our dreams. One people standing together to defend democracy.

I am so honored and humbled to be a part of a democracy built on this freedom and I join my colleagues in sending heartfelt condolences to the victims' family members and friends.

Most of all, my colleagues and I urge that all of us hold on to what is good about our nation and not engage in random acts of prejudice against anyone.

Let us be reminded that the victims come from every corner of the world and that it is our diversity that makes our nation strong. Strong enough to endure even these most despicable acts of violence.

**Thao Do
Chief Administrative Office**

I was at home when the first tower was struck. I thought I was watching a movie. It was unreal. As I made my way to work, I thought of those who lost their lives and how they weren't able to say goodbye to their loved ones.

**Fourth District County Supervisor
Don Knabe**

We are all deeply saddened by the horrific events of September 11.

Victims of this national tragedy represent a cross section of our American society – Americans from every faith, ethnic background and national origin. Today, we as Americans, stand united like never before. All of us now go on undeterred and with a new sense of purpose to secure our nation and the world from terrorism.

I was the Mayor of Cerritos during the Cerritos Air Disaster, and while, at least in numbers, the loss of life then does not nearly compare to our recent losses, the same pain and grief can be felt across our nation.

While the terrorists may have destroyed buildings, they have not destroyed the American spirit of freedom and democracy. I encourage everyone this Thanksgiving and holiday season to reflect on how truly unique our nation and our freedoms are.



**Ellie Wolfe
Community and Senior Services**

I was scared and nervous and wanted to be with my family.



Molina Dedicates First Nature Park in Southeast L.A.

Dedicating the first nature park in the heavily industrialized community of Southeast Los Angeles, Supervisor Gloria Molina (First District) and students from Walnut Park Elementary School planted a Walnut tree to mark the official opening of Walnut Nature Park.

The tree planting took place during an Environmental Exposition at the new five-acre park, which is located on Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) property, adjacent to Walnut Park Elementary School. The project was developed in a partnership between Supervisor Molina, the Santa Monica Conservancy, the LAUSD, and the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Environmental Exposition featured exhibits and speakers from the Whittier Narrows Nature Center, Santa Monica Conservancy, United States Department of Forestry, LAUSD Garden and Science program, Northeast Trees, Friends of the Los Angeles River, the Arboretum, and the County departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation, among others.

Students learned about nature and various kinds of plant life during lessons in the park's outdoor classroom amphitheatre.

Walnut Nature Park will serve as a school educational site and offer after-school programs. It is designed to provide an environment in which students and the community can appreciate and learn about ecology, plant identification, nature, and the environment. With an actual nursery located on the school's site, students will cultivate plant specimens as part of their curriculum.

Supervisor Molina provided \$550,000 to help fund the park, while the LAUSD contributed \$100,000. The Santa Monica Conservancy and County Department of Parks and Recreation worked in concert to complete park design and construction.

The park is located at 2624 East Olive Street in Walnut Park and is open to the public after school hours. For more information, call (626) 369-8693.



"This unique project is part of my ongoing commitment to addressing the need for after-school programs, in addition to creating and maintaining open space for families to enjoy nature in their very own communities," Molina said.

County Salutes Farmers' Markets

In August, the Civic Center Mall experienced a Certified Farmers' Market in action, giving the public an opportunity to buy fresh produce.

In conjunction with National Farmers' Week, the Agricultural Commissioner/Department of Weights and Measures hosted the event, which took place on the mall between the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration and the County of Los Angeles Courthouse. Local farmers were on hand to provide a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables and other commodities.

"This is an opportunity for the public to see the wide variety of agricultural products offered by certified farmers in the County of Los Angeles," said Agricultural Commissioner Cato R. Fiksdal. "By our sponsorship of this event, we hope to highlight the value that these markets bring to our neighborhoods and the importance of eating a diet rich in produce," Fiksdal added.

The Direct Marketing Act of 1978 established Certified Farmers' Markets, thereby opening opportunities for farmers and consumers to interact face-to-face. Events such as this give the consumers the chance to meet and talk to farmers about their produce. Because it is sold directly, buyers receive fresh, high-quality produce at prices competitive with supermarkets. Farmers' markets also provide a pleasant shopping experience and help to build a sense of community identity.

In 1979, the first Certified Farmers' Market in Los Angeles County opened on Saturday mornings in the City of Gardena. Today, over 300 markets operate throughout the State. The County of Los Angeles prides itself as having the largest number, 67.

The role of the Agricultural Commissioner/Department of Weights and Measures is to certify farmers for participation, enforce compliance with the Direct Marketing Act and ensure that farmers only sell products they produce themselves.

Foster Youth Enjoy 7th Annual Burke Beach Party

Nearly 400 Second District foster youth recently disembarked from buses, provided by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, to attend her Seventh Annual Children's Beach Party at Mother's Beach, in Marina del Rey. For most of the children, ages 5-12, it was their first visit to the beach.

County firefighters and lifeguards were on hand to help with water activities and beach games. And while some children splashed about in the water under the watchful eye of lifeguards, others boarded canoes to paddle just off shore.

A special fireboat was a delight to children and adults alike, as it cruised back and forth spraying them with water.

Staff members from the County departments of Beaches and Harbors and Children and Family Services turned out to help children with arts and crafts and face painting. In addition to a goodie-bag containing sunglasses, sun block and beach shoes for each child, those who came without swimsuits were provided with proper swim attire once they arrived.



A full day of fun in the sun was sponsored by Supervisor Burke, with lunch provided by the Marina Marriott Hotel.

see BEACH on page 10

Marina del Rey 2001 a Splash with Community

Children, parents and hundreds of County residents were treated to an event-filled day October 7, when the Department of Beaches and Harbors held its fifth annual "Discover Marina del Rey 2001" festival in the Marina's beautiful Chace Park. As in all previous years, the festival was also the site of the Department of Beaches and Harbors' annual picnic.

"This event brings together local community residents and my department's staff to share in the many recreational activities available in this unique environment," said Beaches and Harbors Director Stan Wisniewski.

Selected as a winner of one of this year's National Association of Counties Achievement Awards, Discover Marina del

Rey 2001 was a community event for the entire family. Children enjoyed eating cotton candy and popcorn, selecting a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, arts, crafts, face painting, a ride on the colorful miniature train that traveled throughout the park and playing among the many popular inflatable games. In addition, the Department's W.A.T.E.R. Youth Program, in conjunction with the Lloyd Taber Marina del Rey Library and Beach Arts, presented their own fun-filled rendition of story time.

This year's featured live-music performance artist was the Johnny Polanco Conjunto Amistad Salsa Band. The Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Professional Musicians Union, Local 47, sponsored

the concert appearance of these world-renowned performers. The Venice High School Choir also treated festival-goers to a concert.

Other activities this year included crew and outrigger races between UCLA, USC, Pepperdine University and other South Bay-area yacht and outrigger clubs.

Meanwhile, events throughout the day consisted of environmental demonstrations, health information booths, a California Department of Fish and Game exhibit, displays of safety/rescue equipment and watercraft, and demonstrations by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and Lifeguard Service and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.



PAWS

continued from page 5

"Paws to Read is a program that really works," County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd said of the fledgling program.

"The dogs listen to the children's voices as they read and are never critical. They make a great audience! I'm pleased that the Library has a creative literacy staff that looks for new ways to encourage reading and improve reading skills."

A recent addition to the County family, Todd assumed the position of County Librarian in May. She is presently the State Legislative Chair for the California Library Association and holds master's degrees in both library science and business administration. "Paws to Read" is currently implemented as a service of the Family Literacy program of the Baldwin Park Library Literacy Center. Since the program's introduction, the number of families participating in the center's Family Literacy programs have increased by 400 percent. The County Library plans to expand the program to other library locations.

For more information, please contact the County Library Literacy Program Center at (562) 940-8511.

MAIL

continued from page 1

Q. What should I know about carrying and transporting mail?

A. You should deliver or pick-up mail from the mail station as usual.

General guidelines for handling mail include:

Wash your hands with soap and warm water after handling any suspicious item of mail.

Do not eat, drink or smoke around mail.

If you see a suspicious package, set it aside and follow the instructions below. Otherwise, deliver the mail as you regularly would.

Mail continued...

Q. What is suspicious mail?

A. Suspicious mail:

Does not come from a regular source from which you normally receive mail.

Is unexpected or from an agency or person unfamiliar to you.

Is addressed to someone no longer with your organization.

Weights more or less than it should given its size and/or is lopsided or oddly shaped.

Is marked with restrictive endorsement "hand deliver only to," "confidential" or "personal."

Has no return address.

Shows a city or state in the postmark that does not match the return address.

Has protruding wires, strange stains, strong odor or leaks powdery substances.

**If there is a protrusion of wires or if you suspect a bomb, evacuate the entire area and call the Bomb Squad.*

Q. What should I know about opening mail?

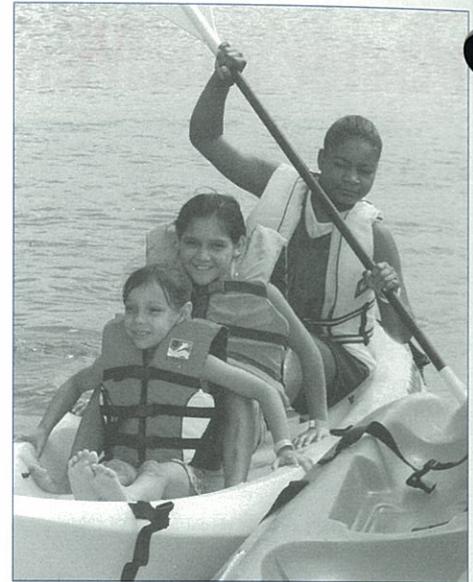
A. You should take care in opening mail at all times. Follow these steps:

Do not eat, drink or smoke around mail. Inspect all mail prior to opening, setting aside any mail that may be considered suspicious.

Open the mail in a different area of your workstation to keep it from contacting your routine papers and work.

If you come across mail that you think is suspicious, isolate it in a designated space away from your workstation and contact your supervisor.

see MAIL on page 12



BEACH

continued from page 9

A lunch of barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers was served promptly at noon, with Supervisor Burke on hand to help in serving the children. Lunch, which included a dessert of fresh baked cookies, was provided compliments of the Marina Marriott Hotel.

When the buses arrived at 3:00 p.m., many of the youth did not want to leave. It had been a day filled with laughter, good food, and new experiences, all the makings of happy memories.

Mailing Address Change

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

County Employees of the Month



From testing our drinking water for toxins to analyzing everyday household materials for dangerous levels of lead content, the "Employee of the Month" for August heads a laboratory of at least 30 laboratory professionals in the Agricultural Commissioner/Department of Weights and Measures' Environmental Toxicology Bureau.

Wai Leung

Wai Leung, the Bureau's acting supervising toxicologist, has been a member of the County family for 28 years. His first assignment, in 1973, entailed setting up lab protocols for testing clients of the County's Probation Department. Later, when the County established its Hazardous Waste Control Program, Leung was responsible for creating the chemistry laboratory for testing waste samples.

He later initialized lab testing of lead content in paint chips, cookware, food products and

cosmetics under the State's first Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, also established by the Board of Supervisors.

"I couldn't ask for a better employee," says Wasfy Shindy, deputy director of the Environmental Toxicology Bureau.

"[Wai] is very smart and extremely motivated," Shindy said. "He was recently responsible for three important studies on drinking water that included the analysis of County facilities, water wells and bottled water."

Wai's analysis on the existence of chromium, chromium-6, lead and arsenic in County drinking water was an important part of the proposal sent to the State of California to step up statewide water testing and filtration measures.

Outside the lab, Leung is a self-proclaimed "green-thumb" who enjoys planting fruit trees and vegetables in his garden. He also has an interest in computers and looks to television drama to unfold the mystery of the human psyche.

Leung attends church regularly in the Fourth District city of Cerritos and regularly opens his home to host fellowship meetings. He is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo and received his M.A. in chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara.



The smiling face and warm welcome behind the reception desk each morning at H. Claude Hudson Comprehensive Health Center (Hudson CHC) belongs to none other than September "Employee of the Month," Dorothy Stephenson.

Dorothy Stephenson

Stephenson is a 22-year veteran of the County's Department of Health Services, who lives in the Second District. In the four years that she has been the official greeter for the health center, she has never reported late to work and has rarely taken a day off.

According to her fellow employees who bring her fresh-cut flowers each morning, she is a woman of few words and a kind-hearted disposition.

"I like what I do," said Stephenson, when asked what keeps her in such great spirits each day. "Often, we

get clients who walk in with a problem. But I never get upset. I just talk to them calmly and smile.

And pretty soon, they're smiling too."

Stephenson first joined the County family in 1979 as an intermediate clerk, processing health insurance for new hires and taking photographs for employee I.D. badges. A few years later, she was reassigned to Ruth Temple Health Center and finally transferred to Hudson CHC, where she has worked since 1997.

"As a front-line employee, she is often able to diffuse a problem on the spot, before it gets any bigger," said Ted Benson, the Center's assistant administrator. "She is extremely dedicated and very good with people."

Altogether, the First District health center employs some 325 people.

In the '70s, Stephenson and her late husband owned two record stores, selling pop music, gospel, and albums by her favorite artist, Smokey Robinson, among others. Nowadays, she dutifully attends West Los Angeles Church in the Crenshaw District and visits with friends and neighbors of other churches as well.

When not engaged in some church function, the Kansas City native packs local youth into her car and carts them off to the movies, the park, or Girl Scout meetings. She has one daughter, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

RETIREES

continued from page 4

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:

Joanne Schoetzow

DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

Glenn R. Britton

FIRE:

Artemio Lavin, Patrick E. Garvey,
Martin D. Gubrud, Russell E. Reynolds

HEALTH SERVICES:

Ralph Cruz, Maria E. Flores, Oswaldal Leyson, Bella Mateus, Donald McDonald, Olivia M. Perry, Manuel M. Reguerra, John H. Ricks, John B. Williams, Waymond Talley

HUMAN RESOURCES/PUBLIC SAFETY:

George O. Austin

INTERNAL SERVICES:

John R. Fleming,
Jose R. Garcia

PROBATION:

Elzenia D. Hesse

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:

Irene G. Gutierrez

PUBLIC WORKS:

Pedro R. Castillo

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY

CLERK: Lit K. Wu

SHERIFF:

William C. Eggebrecht, Eugene C. Eggers

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:

Ricardo D. Manuel



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

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

"Operation Outreach": DHS Career Fairs

The County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services (DHS), in collaboration with the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, is pleased to announce that it is hosting a series of career fairs entitled "Operation Outreach" at three of its major hospitals within the next few months.

Harbor/UCLA and King/Drew Medical Centers will be collaborating to host one major event at the Harbor/UCLA facility. LAC+USC Healthcare Network and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will each host one major event.

The objective of these efforts is to attract qualified allied and healthcare professionals with employment opportunities. In addition, the Department seeks to enhance its efforts to build a viable multicultural workforce to better serve its ethnically diverse patient population. Some of these events will also include community and family-oriented components and other activities.

The Department encourages referring individuals to these exciting events. Everyone is invited to attend. The following is specific information about these events:

Harbor/UCLA and King/Drew Medical Centers

Wednesday, November 7, 2001
Harbor/UCLA Medical Center
1000 W. Carson Street, Torrance
9:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

LAC+USC Healthcare Network

Wednesday, November 14, 2001
1200 N. State Street
9:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Wednesday, November 28, 2001
7601 E. Imperial Hwy.
9:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

For general inquiries about these events, please contact Phillip A. Rocha, director, DHS Office of EEO Compliance, at (213) 240-7764.

MAIL

continued from page 10

If you come into contact with any substance contained in an envelope or package, do not panic; remember, almost all of these substances are likely to be harmless.

Do not shake or empty the envelope.

Put suspicious mail down and leave the immediate area. Evacuation of the entire workplace is NOT necessary at this point.

Do not smell or taste any suspicious substance.

Contact your supervisor.

Wash your hands in soap and water.

Q. Should I wear gloves to handle or open mail?

A. If you have open cuts or skin lesions on your hands, disposable gloves may be appropriate.



Members of the Board

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Mayor
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First District

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Second District

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