



County DIGEST



NOVEMBER 2001

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

County Mayor's Salute to Military Veterans a Success

Stormy skies above the County's Arcadia Park subsided just long enough on November 11 to allow close to 2,000 military veterans and their loved ones to enjoy the "Remembering our Veterans and their Families" veterans event, sponsored by County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich.

The fourth such event hosted by the Fifth District Supervisor, the outdoor event enabled veterans from across the Southland to both remember fallen comrades and unite with fellow service men and women. This year's

tribute—held exactly two months after the disastrous events of September 11—recognized the incredible sacrifice made by emergency response personnel in New York City and Washington D.C. A special skydiving exhibition by the L.A.S.D. Golden Stars held a special meaning for onlookers as the final diver sailed overhead with a large U.S. flag trailing behind him.

"I am proud of our men and women in the Armed Forces, past, present and future," Antonovich said in a written statement. "I call on all concerned citizens...to support those men and women who have stepped up to defend their country when called upon."

During the event, veterans obtained flu shots from the County's Department of Health Services, received free haircuts and manicures compliments of Montebello Beauty School and learned about benefits from representatives of the County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. More than one hundred other health and fiscal service providers were available as well to extend their essential services.

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Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor, Third District



Third District County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, his wife, Barbara, and their two children, Mina, 24, and David, 19, enjoy a moment together at "Gladstone's" restaurant.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky represents the Third Supervisorial District, comprising much of the City of Los Angeles, including the San Fernando Valley, Hollywood and Los Feliz, the Wilshire corridor, and West Los Angeles; the cities of Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Santa Monica, Malibu, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and San Fernando; and unincorporated areas including Topanga and the Santa Monica Mountains.

He formerly served on the Los Angeles City Council, first elected in 1975 at the age of 26 and subsequently re-elected in 1977, 1981, 1985, 1989 and 1993.

In June 1994, he was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, assuming office on December 5, 1994. He was re-elected outright in the June 1998 primary. Supervisor Yaroslavsky also serves on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and as a member of the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission.

In March 2000, Supervisor Yaroslavsky was appointed by Governor Davis to the state Board of Corrections.

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EVENT CALENDAR

AIDA

Through January 5, 2002
Ahmanson Theatre
www.TaperAhmanson.com

THE MERRY WIDOW

Call for exact dates and times
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
(213) 365-3500

MOSES UND ARON

December 9
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
(213) 365-3500

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

December 24, 3–9 p.m.
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
(213) 972-3099
www.lacountyarts.org

FLOWER DRUM SONG

Through January 13, 2002
Mark Taper Forum
(213) 628-2772
www.TaperAhmanson.com

OF MYTH AND MEMORY: Paiute and Shoshone Baskets of Owens Valley, California

Through April 14, 2002
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

VIKINGS: The North Atlantic Saga

November 17, 2001 through March 17, 2002
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

HOLIDAY TOPIARY FLOWER WORKSHOP

December 12
9 a.m. to noon
The Arboretum of Los Angeles County
(626) 821-3222
www.arboretum.org

Music Center Holiday Celebration Open to All



The FREE six-hour live performance at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and live broadcast on KCET is a musical and dance spectacular featuring performances by 35 groups.

This year's County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration offers a seasonal celebration across the cultural spectrum and a finale with the accent on the lyrical and classical.

A holiday gift from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to the community at large, the celebration, December 24, from 3–9 p.m., in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center, is FREE.

"The annual Holiday Celebration is especially important this year," said County of Los Angeles Mayor Michael D. Antonovich. "Through the arts, all communities and cultures can come together in the spirit of the season."

Detailed information is available through the Holiday Celebration Hotline, (213) 972-3099 or the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's web site, www.lacountyarts.org.

Parking in the garage underneath the Music Center is also free. Reservations for tickets to the show or parking are *not* necessary. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

The celebration opens with Hawaiian dance from the famed South Bay hula school, Halau Keali'i O Nalani, and includes performances by legendary Cuban drummer Francisco Aguabella, 16 choral groups, a contemporary interpretation of the timeless rituals of the Molavi Dervishes and much more.

The celebration is a production of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The Holiday Celebration will be broadcast live on KCET and rebroadcast on December 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

First Fruit of Molina "Greening Institute" Yields Seven River Projects

Supervisor Gloria Molina announced \$1.7 million in grant awards in August for the creation of seven green- and open-space improvement projects along the San Gabriel and Los Angeles rivers. The funding, announced at the Rio Hondo Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera, comes as the first yield of the "Greening Institute," established by Supervisor Molina in January.

The aim of the Supervisor's Greening Institute is to bring together cities, community-based organizations and environmental groups to identify ways to preserve green space and develop recreational opportunities in First District river areas. By bringing these agencies together under the auspices of Proposition A funding, she hopes to

"make our rivers green again" complete with public access points, trails, bike paths and pocket parks.

Prop. A funds, approved in 1992 and 1996, are voter approved dollars dedicated to park improvement countywide.

"These partnerships will help carry out the commitment to preserving open space and creating recreational opportunities and green spaces in the County of Los Angeles," Supervisor Molina said. "Our vision...is becoming a reality."

see River Projects on page 10



Supervisor Gloria Molina signs an agreement with L.A. River project partners during her August news conference. An East Los Angeles native herself, Molina hopes to bring park and green areas to future generations of Angelenos.

Los Angeles Opera

Special Invitation to Opera Lovers

County of Los Angeles and L.A. City employees are invited to join Los Angeles Opera's Public Employees Club and attend the free dress rehearsal of Bach's Mass in B minor on January 31, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Bach's Mass in B minor is considered to be one of the most profound and moving works ever composed. Los Angeles Opera is proud to present the North American premiere of a fully-staged version, directed and designed by the acclaimed German theatre artist, Achim Freyer. County employees who apply for membership will also receive a discount to Los Angeles Opera's production of Puccini's Turandot. In addition, all members will become eligible for discounts at various local restaurants and businesses. To join, call (213) 972-7498 and ask for the Los Angeles Opera Public Employees Club or mail in the Public Employees Club application by the January 11, 2002 deadline to attend the dress rehearsal of Bach's Mass in B minor and to receive the 20% discount coupon for Turandot. Tickets are limited. Please return your order early!

Yes, I would like to purchase ___ individual memberships at \$25.00 each (maximum of four memberships per order) for a total of \$_____. (Please make checks payable to: Los Angeles Opera and send by mail to: Los Angeles Opera Public Employees Club, 135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Credit card purchase: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard Card number: _____ Exp.: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature of cardholder: _____

If ordering by credit card, you may order by phone: (213) 972-7498 or by fax: (213) 972-3007.

Name	Employer	Department Name	
Home Address	City	State	Zip Code
Telephone (Day)	(Evening)	E-mail	

Yaroslavsky
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The BOC works in partnership with counties to develop and maintain standards for the construction and operation of local jails and juvenile detention facilities, and for the employment and training of local corrections and probation personnel. Among other responsibilities, the BOC also inspects local adult and juvenile detention facilities, and conducts special studies relative to the public safety of California's communities.

Many of the issues that Supervisor Yaroslavsky has championed at the County have been close to his heart since his earliest Council days, and comparing his Council and Board voting records and policy accomplishments offers some interesting and revealing parallels.

As Chair of the Council's Budget and Finance committee from 1983 to 1994, then-Councilmember Yaroslavsky balanced the City budget each year and was responsible for oversight of City finances, playing a major role in working with Mayors Tom Bradley and Richard Riordan to protect the City's top bond rating and minimize taxpayers' debt financing costs.

In December 1994, against the backdrop of the Orange County bankruptcy announced earlier that day, Supervisor Yaroslavsky was sworn in with a speech in which he vowed to help change County government, to tear down the "Berlin Wall" of isolation from the tax-paying public, and to work together with his colleagues to resolve the many serious issues facing County government.

Since joining the Board, Supervisor Yaroslavsky has firmly established his leadership in budget matters, repeatedly challenging an entrenched "business-as-usual" mentality that has severely compromised the County's ability to provide critically needed health, welfare and justice services in a fiscally prudent manner.

Then-Councilmember Yaroslavsky was an early leader on land-use issues, co-sponsoring Proposition U, a managed-growth initiative approved overwhelmingly by City voters in November 1986 that cut commercial density and helped protect neighborhoods from massive commercial developments.

see **YAROSLAVSKY** on page 10



County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky addresses media members during a meeting of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education.

November Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

ASSESSOR: Keyichi Takayasu
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Sandra M. Davis
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Estella Lucero, Mae M. Shelton, Joan H. Smith
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Dianne Scott
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Susan Hausken, Chizuko Suda
FIRE: Douglas B. Ashby, Hershel Clady, David L. Fullerton, William J. Henley, Lawrence M. Huerta, Jack L. Hunter II, Gregory R. Lee, Robert Lee, Marc D. McConnell, Jerry G. Patten, Donald C. Pratt, Lawrence R. Saumur, John R. Schmelzle, David C. Sias, Russell D. Van De Mark
HEALTH SERVICES: Lillian Alnas, Joanna Berke, Gwendolyn C. Boles, Robert Duran, Filemon C. Ila, Wahib Mattar, Annie T. Owens, Annie Solomon, John Tennell Jr, Marcia A. Young
INTERNAL SERVICES: Grant D. Busta, Shirley J. McWhorter

PROBATION: Arthur M. Ramirez, Henry Webb
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Ann Walden
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Martha F. Hunter
PUBLIC WORKS: Glenn W. Calkins, Bobby J. Davidson, Thomas R. Dennis, Randy R. Fogle, Margaret E. Parker
SHERIFF: Larry T. Anderson, John E. Barnes, John C. Galbraith, Wallace J. Lampe, Lula M. Lawrence, Joseph McMackin, James T. Seulke, Robert E. Shearer, Fredric A. Worman
SUPERIOR COURT: Elizabeth A. Despol, Candace Gillett

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

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Larry Chen, Jaime Flores
FIRE: James Cobleigh, Florine Y. Hill
HEALTH SERVICES: Edna V. Fuentes, Frank Gomez, Young S. Lee, Lizzie M. Moore, Frankie Neal, Trinidad R. Nitafan, Gloria Pina, Sabrina N. Quan
INTERNAL SERVICES: Joanna Morgan, Rudy Oliva
PROBATION: Waynard E. Liggins

see **RETIRES** on page 12

Holiday Boat Parade and Fireworks to Light Up Marina Del Rey Once Again

The annual Tournament of Lights Holiday Boat Parade sets sail in Marina del Rey's Main Channel Saturday, December 8.

Zambelli Fireworks will kick off the parade with a dazzling display off the Marina's breakwater at 5:55 p.m., with the parade beginning at Chace Park at 6 p.m.

Serving collectively as Grand Marshals of this year's parade are the firefighters, police officers and military personnel who assisted operations at ground zero during the September 11 tragedy in New York.

One of Southern California's most visually compelling events, the Holiday Boat Parade is best viewed from Chace Park (located at the western end of Mindanao Way in Marina del Rey, off the 90 freeway) and at Fisherman's Village on Fiji Way. In Chace Park, spectators will be able to see and hear the parade broadcast.

There is no charge for attending the Holiday Boat Parade. Parking is available at County of Los Angeles public parking lots throughout Marina del Rey for \$2. ■



The theme for this year's parade is "Holiday Lights Around the World," showcasing international cities and cultures. Brilliantly lit and decorated boats, some featuring music and dancing, will circle the Main Channel until the parade's conclusion at 8 p.m.



Library Offering Special Holiday Programs

County libraries are offering a variety of special programs for children and families during the holidays, including those listed below. Call your local library for information on additional special holiday programs. Or, visit the County Library Web site and check the Calendar and Events pages at: www.colapublib.org.

Holiday Craft Open House

December 15, 1:00 p.m.
Montebello Library (323) 722-6551
1550 Beverly Blvd.
Montebello

Holiday Concert (for the entire family)

December 12, 7 p.m.
LaCanada Flintridge Library (818) 790-3330
4545 No. Oakwood Ave
LaCanada Flintridge

Christmas Fantasy

(music and stories with performer Alina Mendez)
C.M. Brakensiek Library (562) 925-5543
9945 E. Flower St.
Bellflower

Gingerbread House Workshop

December 12, 3 p.m.
Diamond Bar Library (909) 861-4978
1061 So. Grand
Diamond Bar

Holiday Party

December 15
Wiseburn Library (310) 643-8880
5335 W. 135th St.
Hawthorne

The Magic of the Holidays

December 18, 6:30 p.m.
Lomita Library (310) 539-4515
24200 Narbonne Ave.
Lomita



SHARING A CO

Innovation Rewarded at County's C

The 15th annual Quality and Productivity Awards luncheon set sail on October 24, to honor a number of the County's award-winning programs.

Leading the celebration in the Grand Hall of the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion were members of the County's Quality and Productivity Commission headed by Commission Chair Jaclyn Tilley Hill, County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and Supervisors Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Zev Yaroslavsky and Don Knabe. In addition, County Assessor Rick Auerbach, Sheriff Leroy D. Baca and a score of other departmental executives joined the Board and the Commission in saluting the very best and brightest programs in County public service.

The event also paid tribute to individuals who supported and contributed to the success of the Quality and Productivity Commission.

Exemplifying this year's theme "2001: A Strategic Odyssey," each of the entries demonstrated an integration of the goals of the Countywide Strategic Plan: Service and Workforce Excellence, Organizational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Children and Families' Well-Being.

From 126 entries, the Commission and the Quality and Productivity Managers' Network selected the top programs, all of which have combined to make the County the premiere organization for those working in the public interest. For more detailed information on these and other programs, check out the Quality and Productivity Commission Web site at <http://qpc.co.la.ca.us>. ■



The Board of Supervisors lauded the many Quality and Productivity Commission award winners during its November 26 meeting, among them the Grand Prize winning Department of Human Resources for its "Los Angeles County Training Academy."



Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin provided remarks during the Commission's awards luncheon, October 24.

Quality & Productivity Commission SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

- Leadership Award - CAO David E. Janssen
- Mega Million Platinum Eagle Award - H-3/Air Rescue
- Arthur Gutenberg Technology Award - Internet Access
- Best Interagency Cooperation - Multi-Agency Disaster Third District BOS, CAO, LAFD, LASD and CHP)
- Best Quality Improvement - Appeals and State Hearing
- County Image Enhancement - Marketing the County of
- Personal Best - Contractor Reimbursement for Employee
- Commissioner's Memorial - Marbrisa Walk Single Family
- Best Application of Technology - Project Information
- Best Innovative Use of Technology - Sheriff's File Storage

COMMITMENT

Quality and Productivity Luncheon

Quality & Productivity Commission TOP 10 AWARD WINNERS

- GRAND PRIZE - County Training Academy (DHR)
- SILVER AWARD - Comprehensive Breast Care Quality Improvement (DHS)
- BRONZE AWARD - Court Overtime Reduction Project (LASD)
- Youth Career Development Program (ISD with DCFS and CSS)
- Twin Towers General Relief Project (DMH with Fifth District BOS, DPSS and LASD)
- Community Honors Drama Ensemble (Probation)
- School-based Probation Supervision Program (Probation with DPSS, LACOE and LAUSD)
- Paws to Read (Public Library)
- E-Bus: Bridging the Digital Divide (Public Library with LASD, City of Norwalk, Community College Foundation and Wells Fargo Bank)
- East LA Shuttle Service "El Sol" (DPW with First District BOS)



County CAO David Janssen (left) received the Commission's 2001 Leadership Award, presented here by Commission Chairperson Jaclyn Tilley Hill and County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich.



Members of the Department of Health Services received the Silver Award (above), while Sheriff Leroy Baca (below right) was on hand to receive the Bronze Award on behalf of the L.A.S.D..



5 Refurbishment and Upgrade Project (LASD)
to the Voter Registration Database (RR/CC with ISD)
Preparedness Training (Animal Care and Control with
gs Compliance Database (DPSS)
f Los Angeles' 150th Birthday (CAO)
e Overtime (DPW)
ily Homes (CDC/Housing Authority)
Web (DPW)
age Automation Program (LASD)

Mural Depicts 150 Year History of D.A.'s Office

For the past couple of years, D.A. File—an internal publication of the County of Los Angeles District Attorney's (D.A.) Office—has entertained D.A. staffers with profiles of early district attorneys, tales of notable cases from yesteryear and engaging excerpts from the District Attorney's Office history. Now, that history—captured in mural form—is fascinating the general public as well as County employees on the 17th and 18th floors of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in downtown Los Angeles.

The 2,300 square feet mural is based on the research of D.A. Special Assistant Tom McDonald, who brought history corner to the File. When he initially started the process of researching and collecting the history of the D.A.'s Office, McDonald had not planned on such an extensive project. Yet, over time, his personal interest in the project grew and eventually evolved into the overall concept of the mural and its accompanying history book, "For the People."

"Years ago, I ran into some old material from the D.A.'s Office," says McDonald. "I found out there was really no written history of our office, and I thought it would be a good idea to compile one."

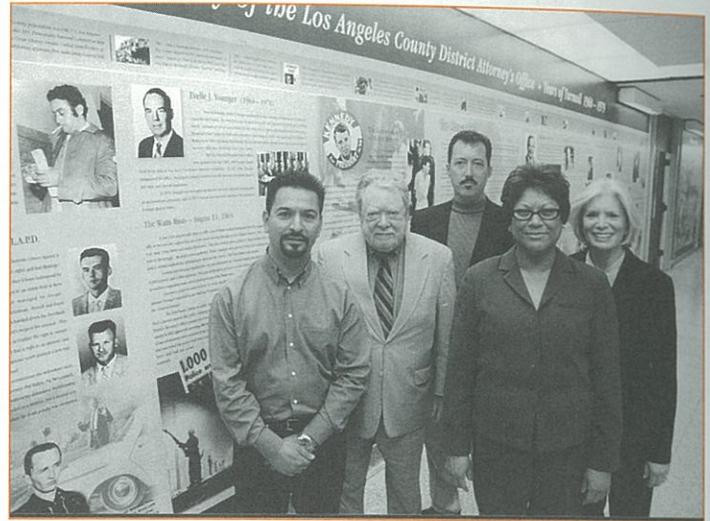
The mural, which covers criminal justice personalities and stories from the early days of Los Angeles County to the present, was a project years in the making. Historical images came in from across the country, and several members of the D.A.'s staff devotedly assisted with additional research and mural content, including Suzanne Childs,

Program Director of the Victim-Witness Assistance Program.

Then, of course, there was the business of designing the mural, orchestrating 150 years of written history and 625 images. Some of the most talented artists in the county drew that assignment, the artists of the D.A.'s Office Graphics Unit.

As deputy district attorneys throughout the County know, this unit has created high-quality courtroom visual aids and trial exhibits for more than 15 years.

see D.A. MURAL on page 10



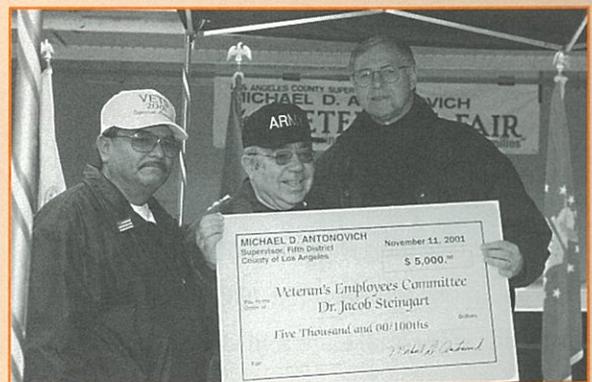
The 2,300 square feet mural of D.A. Office history is based on the research of D.A. Special Assistant Tom McDonald, shown here with fellow mural project members.

VETS continued from page 1

"It's really great that they do this for us," said one Vietnam vet while having his beard trimmed by Montebello Beauty School owner, Sal Hernandez.

"I came by myself this year, but I spend the entire time catching up with my fellow vets."

During a brief and solemn ceremony that included a veteran color guard, rifle team, and flyovers by the Sheriff's Aero Bureau and the Confederate Air Force Inland Empire Wing, Mayor Antonovich presented a \$5,000 check to the San Gabriel Valley/East L.A. Veterans Committee. The funds will be used to assist the agency and its affiliates in providing a variety of services to local veterans such as medical care, counseling, job training and rehabilitation services. ■



*"Let us remember that the freedom that we experience every day of our lives is owed to those servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice."
—County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich*

Burke Rededicates A.C. Bilbrew Library

With the help of \$345,000 in maintenance funds, Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke officially reopened the A.C. Bilbrew Library to Compton-area residents with improved lighting, new carpeting and freshly painted walls.

The library was first opened in 1974 and is named for community activist, Madame A.C. Bilbrew, the first African-American soloist ever featured on American radio.

"I'm committed to providing user-friendly environments at

County libraries for children and adults, so they will have pleasant surrounding in which to study and gather information," Supervisor Burke said.

Over the years, the A.C. Bilbrew Library has been the site of numerous events, including the County's "Living Legends Series" hosted by Supervisor Burke each February during Black History Month. Past awardees of this gala event include Nancy Wilson, Cicely Tyson, Johnnie Cochran, Isaac Hayes, Lou Rawls and Herbie Hancock. ■



County Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke with young people from the Compton community during the rededication of the A.C. Bilbrew Library, one of the County Public Library system's largest.

Knabe Unveils Call Boxes for a Safer L.A. River

City of Long Beach officials and community members joined Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe in August for the unveiling of three emergency call boxes, located at the southern end of the Los Angeles River Bike Path.

The call boxes were installed by the County Department of Public Works to provide recreational users of the bike path with immediate access to City of Long Beach public safety personnel.

Based on the success of this pilot project, placement of the solar battery operated telephones may be expanded, not only to other sites along the Los Angeles River bike path, but to other river locations as well.

"I think it's a good idea," said Otis Hogan, who commutes to and from work along the bike path daily on his way to



Supervisor Knabe is shown with City of Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill, and members of Bikes 90800, a youth oriented non-profit that instills responsibility in young people by teaching them how to care for their own bikes and safety equipment.

"Flowers by Vickie" in downtown Long Beach. Otis is a resident of north Long Beach.

"Lots of people have cell phones, but they don't always carry them when they're riding. These call boxes could come in handy in case of an emergency."

Using a hard-wire telephone connection, installed by Verizon Communications, calls will be routed directly to the Long Beach Police Department Communications Center.

"The City of Long Beach has been incredibly supportive of this project from the very start," Supervisor Knabe said. "The County has put a great deal of effort into making our bike path as safe and attractive as possible for its recreational users. This additional public safety resource is going to provide a very palpable sense of security." ■

D.A. MURAL
continued from page 8

They have also provided a variety of visual and printed material for public information purposes. The mural, however, was uncharted territory.

“That was one of the most enjoyable aspects of the project,” says Alex Luna, Supervisor of Graphics. “It was such a unique opportunity that not many artists ever have.”

Working with McDonald, Child, and others, the team sifted through old photographs, articles, and court records. They organized voluminous amounts of information into distinct eras and then integrated them into Luna’s visual sketch of the mural.

“As artists, you have a visual idea, but when you have to encapsulate such a vast history within that idea, it’s difficult,” Graphic Artist Maria De La Rosa said.

All the while, Graphics continued to provide County prosecutors with the same top-notch trial exhibits they had come to depend on.

“The mural was a huge project, but we continued with all our other obligations: trial exhibits, office brochures, newsletters,” Graphic Artist Dan LaVigne reflected. We had to remain flexible to respond to different projects simultaneously.”

“We’re very proud of it,” says Luna. “It really exceeded our expectations, and it’s something that will last for a long time.”

McDonald agrees. “I’m very happy with the mural. It’s just a work of art.” ■

County DIGEST

Department of Human Resources
500 W. Temple Street, Room 375
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1301
(213) 974-1765
(213) 613-4789 FAX

Available online at:

<http://hr.co.la.ca.us>

YAROSLAVSKY
continued from page 4

This year, Supervisor Yaroslavsky won Board approval to complete and implement a substantial overhaul and updating of the County’s Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan, a regional planning document which governs much of the Santa Monica Mountains and unincorporated area surrounding the West Valley incorporated cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village.

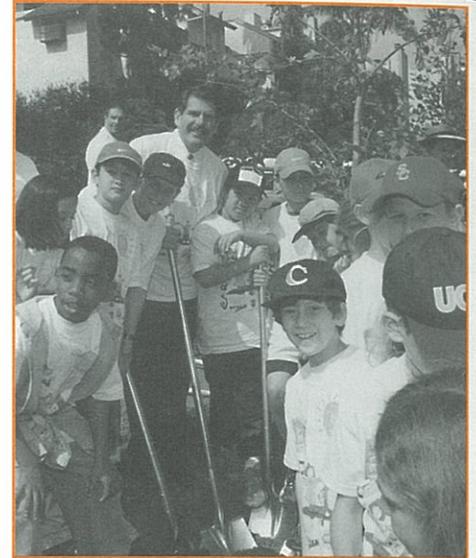
Long recognized as a staunch environmentalist, then-Councilmember Yaroslavsky co-sponsored with fellow Councilmember Marvin Braude a referendum, Proposition O, which in November 1988 successfully overturned City plans for on-shore oil drilling by the Occidental Petroleum Corporation along the Pacific Palisades coastline, and prohibited similar coastal drilling plans in the future.

As Supervisor, Yaroslavsky has championed numerous environmental causes and open-space acquisition and preservation efforts, ranging from protection of native plant species during soft-bottom channel maintenance operations throughout the County’s flood-control system, to crafting Proposition A, the \$319 million County measure to improve neighborhood parks and preserve undeveloped open space throughout the County.

As Councilman, Yaroslavsky authored the 1989 ban on sale and possession of semi-automatic assault weapons within City limits, making Los Angeles the largest city in the nation to prohibit such military-style assault rifles as AK-47s and Uzis.

As Supervisor, Yaroslavsky led the successful fight to curb production and sale in the County of Los Angeles of so-called “junk guns,” cheap handguns often too dangerous and unreliable for self-protection, but perfect for street crimes. The State of California eventually enacted a similar measure statewide.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky has long been a champion of good government reform to open up and air out the decision-making process for wider public participation. As a Councilmember, Yaroslavsky authored the



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky commemorates “Earth Day” by helping Third District youth plant a tree.

RIVER PROJECTS
continued from page 3

As part of the Greening Institute’s education of community partners, a series of five workshops were held between January and March. Presenting agencies included the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River Conservancy; Los Angeles Conservation Corps; Northeast Trees; People for Parks; Trust for Public Land; the County’s Regional Park and Open Space District; and Departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works. These agencies shared their expertise in park development and planning; as well as applying for Prop. A funds.

In announcing a second round of funding for additional green- and open-space river projects, Molina said that as much as \$4.5 million will be awarded in the near future. The deadline for proposals ended in October, and the Supervisor intends to make a similar announcement in the near future.

see YAROSLAVSKY on page 12

Burke Seeks Partnership to bring Cal State Courses to County Facilities

County employees may soon be able to complete university-level coursework leading to baccalaureate and advanced academic degrees, thanks to a motion authored by Second District Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

With an estimated 20 percent of the County's workforce eligible for retirement within the next three years, the Board of Supervisors is considering ambitious measures for filling its thinning ranks of County employees. These vacancies are expected to occur at all levels of County service, from key clerical, administrative, technical and management positions.

In light of these concerns, the Board has directed the County's Director of Personnel to build upon a pre-existing relationship with the California State University system.

In her motion on September 4, Supervisor Burke suggested the pursuit of a partnership with California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), which currently offers a program that specifically addresses the needs of today's working adult. She also asked the Chief Administrative Office to consider the possibility of using County facilities as classrooms for CSUDH satellite courses.

"I believe that the County can benefit greatly from establishing a partnership with CSUDH and its existing network of satellite campuses to provide extended learning and new advanced educational opportunities to our workforce," Supervisor Burke commented during the September 4 meeting.

An initial survey of downtown Civic Center employees will be circulated in mid-December with additional surveys to follow. ■



DPSS' Benny Liang Employee of the Month

Benny Liang is one of the Department of Public Social Services most treasured assets. And as Eligibility Supervisor in DPSS' Health and Nutrition Programs Marketing Outreach Division, he has earned the distinction of being chosen County "Employee of the Month" for October.

Benny Liang



Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, and Cantonese, as well as three other Chinese dialects, Liang has "paved the way and opened doors" for the Department's health and nutrition-oriented outreach into the County's Chinese-American community. While Liang's relationships with private sector companies have greatly enhanced the Department's visibility, it is the passion for his work that is most noted by colleagues and supervisors alike.

"Benny is the kind of person that everyone likes to be around. His energy, sincerity and love for what he does—on and off the job—is contagious," said Sheryl Spiller, chief of DPSS' Health And Nutrition Programs Division

When asked how he felt about the recognition of his hard work, Liang chose instead to shower praise upon his colleagues and division managers, saying that no one individual is responsible for the program's success.

"This honor should go to the entire Bureau, to the entire team," Liang said. "The people at DPSS have a very big heart, and when you work with the [department's] clients and participants, you feel obligated to the community, to the people you serve."

Liang is well known for his ability to turn collaborations into meaningful business partnerships for DPSS. Working with "99 Ranch Market," an Asian foods supermarket with at least 10 sites in Los Angeles County, Liang was able to obtain free airtime for the Department on two local radio stations. Coupled with free advertising secured in various Chinese newspapers, these public service announcements have been extremely effective in extending the Department's outreach into the close-knit Chinese-American community.

Liang has a bachelor's degree in economics from Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taiwan. He has received several commendations from the community for his work with seniors and faith-based organizations and was also recognized by the County's Bureau of Health, Adult & Specialized Services with the "Partnerships in Excellence, Award for Excellence."

A resident of the Fourth District city of Diamond Bar, Liang is a member of several cultural boards and volunteer organizations. His wife, Janet, is also a DPSS employee and they have two children, ages six and ten. ■



Yaroslavsky
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City's landmark Freedom of Information ordinance; he spearheaded a successful campaign to enact Proposition M, requiring that Los Angeles Unified School District School Board members be elected by district, rather than at-large, vastly improving local control of schools.

As a County Supervisor, Yaroslavsky won voter approval in November 1996 for Proposition B, the first Countywide campaign reform measure ever enacted, which limits contributions and the overall spending of candidates.

Other causes at the City that he successfully championed include efforts to end policy spying abuses and expand law enforcement career opportunities for women; to prohibit discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS; and to bar City contracting and pension investments with firms doing business with South Africa's apartheid regime before that system was permanently dismantled.

As a County Supervisor, Yaroslavsky has substantially broadened his field of interest to include aggressive support for improved health services, and he played a leading role in successfully managing the County's 1995 health-care funding crisis. A County anti-tobacco lawsuit filed at his urging produced a settlement that yields more than \$100 million annually to fund County health operations. He has coupled strong support for welfare reform with fierce protection of the County's poorest of the poor, and has championed the cause of reforming the County's child-welfare and dependency system.

As a member of the MTA Board, he has also broadened his interest in regional transportation issues. In November 1998, he successfully passed a ballot measure to curb local sales tax spending on the increasingly unaffordable subway system, and shift the resources instead toward light rail lines, rapid busways, and other modes to better serve the area.

Representing the Supervisorial District that includes the Hollywood Bowl, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the George C.



Page Museum of Fossil Discoveries, the Getty Center, and many others, Yaroslavsky is a leader in supporting and promoting arts and culture in Los Angeles.

When not cheering on the Lakers and the Bruins, Supervisor Yaroslavsky can often be found in attendance at classical music performances. Supervisor Yaroslavsky enjoys skiing, and is a voracious reader of history. He also delights in surprising young children with his uncommonly accurate Sesame Street imitations.

Born on December 21, 1948 in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, Supervisor Yaroslavsky later moved with his family to the Fairfax district. He attended Sheridan Street Elementary School, Bancroft Middle School and Fairfax High School, before going on to graduate from UCLA (Master's, History, 1972; Bachelor's, History and Economics, 1971). He and his wife Barbara have two children, Mina, 24, and David, 19. ■

RETIREES
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An avid runner, Yaroslavsky has completed three marathons and countless half marathons and 10K runs.

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