

County DIGEST



DECEMBER 2001

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Antonovich Highlights Year as Mayor of America's Largest County

This has been a most memorable year—a year I will never forget.

Being in Washington, D.C. on September 11, I viewed the diabolical attack on the World Trade Center and witnessed firsthand the Pentagon burning. America changed that morning—the concept of what it means to be American changed along with it.

While the nation mourns the victims, we are now united as a nation and the world is united against terrorism.



Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and Alhambra Park Elementary School students celebrate the lighting of the Music Center's Christmas tree.

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- After these attacks, County of Los Angeles firefighters boarded planes to New York City to assist in the recovery effort.
- County employees gathered in the County Mall to participate in the nationwide observance of the "National Day of Prayer and Remembrance" declared by President Bush.
- On September 17, our Fire Department held an ecumenical prayer service.
- Employees from my office and in every County department raised money and donated blood for the victims and their families.

Some of the vital issues I initiated and/or supported include:

- A program with the courts for juvenile offenders of school violence threats to tour the County of Los Angeles morgue.
- Receiving a federal grant of \$2.3 million for law enforcement to identify, prosecute and deport criminal aliens – who cost County taxpayers \$150 million per year and occupy 25% of our jail cells.
- The Probation Department's

see ANTONOVICH page 4

Marina del Rey to Greet 2002 with a BANG!

For a third consecutive year, Marina del Rey will ring in the New Year with a fireworks spectacular off the Marina breakwater New Year's Eve, December 31.

The fireworks show will commence at the start of the 30-second countdown to midnight and continue into the opening minutes of 2002.

This year's fireworks are presented by Zambelli Fireworks Internationale, which originated more than 100 years ago in Italy and has presented fireworks extravaganzas at the United States Capital, the Esplanade in Boston, and Mt. Rushmore.



Unparalleled in their beauty these fireworks can be seen throughout the Marina.

see FIREWORKS page 3

EVENT CALENDAR

County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration

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

Mandy Patinkin in Concert

December 30-31, 2001
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
(213) 365-3500

A Night of Zarzuela and Operetta with Placido Domingo & Friends

January 8, 2002
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
(213) 365-3500

My Old Lady

December 22, 2001 through February 10, 2002
Doolittle Theatre
(213) 628-2772
www.TaperAhmanson.com

Aida

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

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

Supercroc

November 16, 2001 through January 27, 2002
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration

A holiday gift from the Board of Supervisors, the County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration, December 24, from 3-9 p.m., in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center, is FREE.



Parking in the garage underneath the Music Center is also free. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. 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. ■

Family Saturdays

Saturday morning performances for families

The Music Center Education Division is pleased to present two series of Saturday morning performances designed especially for families. Spellbinding storytellers, whimsical puppets, marvelous musicians, amazing acting troupes and dazzling dancers will present lively mornings that make learning fun for children, parents, grandparents and friends!

Give the gift of family for birthdays, holidays or to enjoy quality time with your children. Family Saturdays offers a wonderful setting for educational entertainment—and at an affordable price too!

A single ticket is just \$7. Choose either the *PILLOW THEATRE* or *YOUNG ARTS* series of four performances and save \$8!

PILLOW THEATRE: For families with children aged 3-6 performed in the Grand Hall of the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Sit on one of our colorful pillows or bring your own!

YOUNG ARTS: For families with children aged 5-9 presented in Zipper Hall at the Colburn School of Performing Arts and at the Music Center's Mark Taper Forum.

TO ORDER IN PERSON: Tickets can be purchased Mon. - Sat., 10 am - 6 pm from the Opera's box office at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at 135 N. Grand Avenue.

TO ORDER BY PHONE OR ONLINE: To order online through Ticketmaster, go to www.ticketmaster.com. Single tickets may be purchased by credit card by calling at (213) 365-3500. ■



In an effort to provide support for survivors of the September 11 attacks against America, the office of **Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky** sold flag lapel pins at \$2 a piece. To date, the campaign has raised nearly \$3,000 in gross proceeds.

Kudos on a job well done!

Molina Rededicates Graham Library, a True Neighborhood Work of Art

As part of an on-going effort to improve and beautify aging County facilities and build stronger communities throughout her district, Supervisor Gloria Molina recently unveiled a refurbished Graham Library, located in the unincorporated Southeast area of the County. The once lackluster library is now a bright spot of color on Firestone Boulevard.

County Public Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd, Friends of Graham Library President Maria Diaz, Graham Elementary School Principal Kathy Ruella and local residents joined Supervisor Molina to celebrate the neighborhood project—the County library system’s first facility with public art integrated into its design. Supervisor Molina also took the opportunity to meet and greet local families and presented a number of second-grade students and their parents with their very first library cards.

The project took just over a year to complete, with a final cost of \$623,000. The result is a facility that has been remodeled into a colorful and inviting neighborhood learning center. Pillars, lining the exterior wall of the library, now resemble a row of books in a variety of colors. Los Angeles-based artist, Mario Cespedes, was commissioned to provide a brightly painted mural. Additional improvements include a children’s area, a variety of weekly programs for families and children, and a homework center with Internet-enabled computers and Spanish-language programs.

The library’s new look is the creative design of architect Steve Finney of Charles Walton Associates. Interior improvements include a coordinated color scheme, new carpet and an energy-efficient lighting system.

see GRAHAM LIBRARY on page 8

Marina del Rey Fireworks Spectacular



FIREWORKS continued from page 1

The Department of Beaches and Harbors invites all County employees to come out to Marina del Rey for the fireworks, where parking is available in County lots throughout the Marina at \$2 for the evening. ■

“When the sun goes down, we shine.”

– George Zambelli Sr.
Zambelli Fireworks Internationale

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program to confiscate weapons and drugs from those on probation. Nearly 45% were in violation of probation. Almost 600 weapons and more than \$2 million in drugs and cash have been confiscated.

- We expanded programs for at-risk and delinquent youth by providing mentoring, literacy enhancement, after-school programs and mental health attention for minors housed in County facilities.
- We opened a unique new library and computer lab at Probation Camp Scott and we have begun the process to provide similar libraries in each of our 19 probation facilities throughout the County of Los Angeles.
- Interfacing with federal and state authorities, we successfully conducted a bio-terrorism exercise.
- We have upgraded the Office of Emergency Management to meet our County needs.
- Ground was broken and construction begun on the County's most congested and needed Antelope Valley Courthouse.
- We began the creation of childcare waiting rooms in six County courthouses for child witnesses and the children of witnesses, plaintiffs and defendants.
- We dedicated two new parks in the Santa Clarita Valley—Chesebrough Park and our newest County Park was dedicated in the memory of slain Sheriff's Deputy Jake Kuredjian at Stevenson Ranch.
- New gymnasiums were built at Jackie Robinson Park in Littlerock and Pamela Park in unincorporated Duarte.
- In October, the County acquired the land to build the much-anticipated Acton County Park.
- And the process to create Lake Los Angeles Park is underway.
- New Bowling Greens were dedicated at Arcadia Park.
- The San Dimas Nature Center had its grand opening in March.
- We dedicated the Charlotte Brodie Equestrian Trail and the Cliffe Stone Memorial Trail.
- We dedicated a 155-acre addition to Vasquez Rocks and acquired both East and Bee Canyons to provide open space and equestrian trails for County residents.

see **ANTONOVICH** page 5

DECEMBER 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: Noel I. Salisbury
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Raymond J. Jaramillo
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: L. A. Hendricks
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Machara Lemaile-Will
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Karen A. Hokkanen, Juventina L. Ortiz, Howard R. Scriven Jr., Josephine C. Warren
FIRE: Lynn A. Clark, Gary Crum, Richard D. Guerry, Richard Leitch, Clifton Norton, James R. Paradiso, Jon P. Stahl
HEALTH SERVICES: Earnestine Davis, Sandra L. Fore, Thomas C. Moore, Florence Mosley, Mary L. Murphy, David A. Pitt, Susan M. Rose, Felix Rucker, Kai Woon, Yuriko L. Yasuda, Irwin Ziment
HUMAN RESOURCES/PUBLIC SAFETY: William Duran
INTERNAL SERVICES: James E. Anderson, Donna M. Arthur, Dennis M. Geltner, Barbara M. Hinkson, John M. Rochester, Marie C. Sibrie, Robert M. Skaggs

LACERA: Richard Y. Kagawa
PROBATION: Rasheed Ameen, Daniel S. Bratt, Celso D. De La Paz, Stella V. French, Jerome B. Hanken
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Lila J. Held
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Thelma M. Brown, Lawrence H. Grace, Linda L. Minjarez, Brenda L. Perryman, George K. Takahashi, Ezerlene Tobin
PUBLIC WORKS: Michael Johnson, Robert J. Santana Jr.
SHERIFF: Anselmo Angulo, Michael T. Bumcrot, Ruben A. Diaz, Elizabeth A. Dickinson, William C. Fillpot, Randy Hayworth, Rafael N. Kenealy, Alan L. McRoberts, Bertha L. Mills, Barbara E. Persten, James A. Raymond, Richard I. Rice, Gordon D. Shackelford, Errol J. Van Horne
SUPERIOR COURT: Carolyn Edwards, Lois Hines, Gloria C. Villanueva

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

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Dionisia M. Alegro
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Georgia M. Craver, Angelita M. Manuel
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Derek A. Hill, Mack J. McCurthorn
HEALTH SERVICES: Rose M. Arnold, Aurora Bertulfo, Vichai Bhoopat, Betty Burton, Belinda M. Drabek, Greta J. Gillman, Valerie Hernandez, James Edward Johnson, John Palacios, Barbara Peacock, Mary L. Uranga, Alma L. Wong
INTERNAL SERVICES: Manuel Diaz
MENTAL HEALTH: Zenaida C. Solis
PARKS & RECREATION: Arthur Deleon, Robert L. Enos
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Dorothy E. Fields, Anise Hooper
PUBLIC WORKS: Lolita T. Amandy, Ronald L. South
SUPERIOR COURT: Carole N. Teranishi
SHERIFF: Earl W. Gillette, George Johnson, Noel A. Lanier, Ramon V. Rodriguez, Dennis Stephens

Holiday Safety Tips from Sheriff Lee Baca

The holidays are upon us, and 'tis a season for sharing joy and excitement with family and friends.

County of Los Angeles Sheriff Lee Baca would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season, while also encouraging residents to be vigilant during the holidays as well.

"Start with home security," Sheriff Baca suggests, "criminals know that most people have extra money and gifts in their homes during this season.

Among the tips offered by Sheriff Baca are:

- Leave a light, radio or television on when you go out. Use a timer if possible and ask a trusted neighbor to watch your home.
- Shop with a family member or friend during daylight hours. Keep children close to you while shopping and make sure they know their telephone number and home address.
- Dress modestly and avoid wearing flashy jewelry. Carry your purse or wallet in your front pocket.
- Park in well-lit, crowded areas. Store packages out of sight.
- Be cautious of strangers who come to the door, either selling items or soliciting for charity, especially at night. Donate only to organizations you know and trust. Ask for identification.
- Close window treatments so that gifts under trees are not visible from the front yard or street.

"Keeping these tips in mind will help to prevent criminals from taking advantage of the holiday season," Sheriff Baca emphasizes. "Citizens should be aware of their surroundings, keeping safety and security in mind while enjoying a happy holiday season." ■

Changed your mailing address?
Notify your personnel office immediately.



County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Sheriff Lee Baca greeted constituents at Yaroslavsky's Town Hall Meeting on bioterrorism preparedness and emergency response, held on November 6 at San Fernando High School Auditorium. An estimated 500 residents turned out to hear presentations from Yaroslavsky, Sheriff Baca, County health officials, and representatives from the LAPD and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. An additional forum was held on December 4 in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

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- In Sunland-Tujunga, we opened the equestrian trails at the Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Bank — one component of Public Works' five-year mitigation plan to reestablish a maintainable trail system.
- We used funds from both Propositions A and 12 for additional open space acquisition, trail and park improvements.
- The twice-a-year County trail rides I initiated have successfully raised funds to maintain our trail system and provide our equestrian community with recreational opportunities.
- The historic Economic Development Action Summit I chaired developed effective ways to keep the

County's economy on track, with a 90-day action plan that includes 30-day report cards. On November 20, the Board unanimously passed their first recommendation.

- To foster business expansion and growth, we added a new wing to the Business Technology Center (BTC) in Altadena and opened the Small Business Development Office in the BTC. This is a public/private partnership between Cal Tech, JPL and the County. The Small Business Development Center provides advice and guidance to small businesses.
- We worked with the Community Development Commission to help homeowners access grant funds for new roofs.

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“Sharing a Commitment”

Workforce Excellence: The Second Strategic Plan Goal

Sharing a Commitment is an initiative that clearly values the tremendous power of County employees in ensuring positive service outcomes for our communities. The most carefully crafted and well-intended programs cannot achieve success without our individual and collective energy, imagination, leadership and concern.

As Sharing a Commitment continues to highlight the five County Strategic Plan goals, perhaps no goal is more at the core of who we are and what we can accomplish than goal number two, **Workforce Excellence**. Two “action” Strategies support **Workforce Excellence**: 1) Recruit, develop, and retain dedicated and productive employees; and 2) Create a positive work environment. Excellent examples of current programs are:

Los Angeles County Training Academy

This year, at the annual Quality and Productivity Awards Luncheon that recognizes outstanding and innovative County projects and the employees who make them happen, Human Resources captured the first place Gold Eagle Award.

Through a partnership with the California State University System, the Academy developed training that prepares County employees for the changing work environment and promotes growth and leadership skills, thus affirming the County as a premier workforce employer in the region. Now in the second year, the Academy is poised to spread additional training programs countywide.

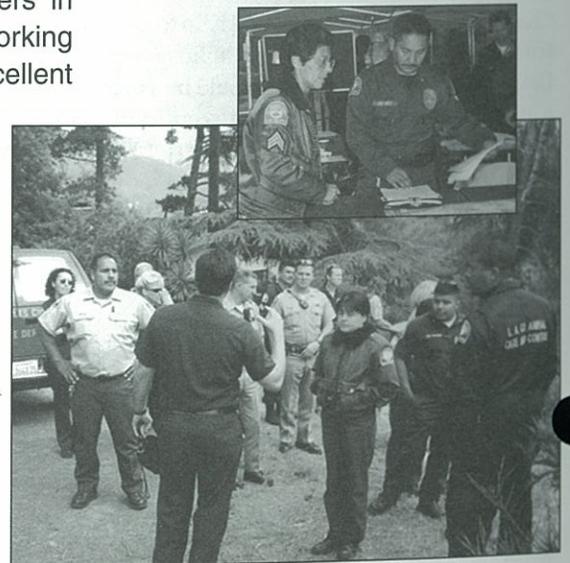


Multi-Agency Disaster Preparedness Training

Among the key elements of a positive work environment is communication, including with management, the project or program team of which you are a team member, and with others in departments or agencies working for the same outcome. An excellent example is the inauguration of Multi-Agency Disaster Preparedness Training.

Previously, each department or agency implemented its own training program for disaster response, and seldom worked with other response agencies until an emergency. Now, in a creative effort by Animal Care and Control, Chief

Administrative Office, Fire Department, Sheriff’s Department, and the California Highway Patrol, supported by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky’s office, the agencies schedule interactive training to clarify their various responsibilities, ensure communication, discuss





possible strategies and desired outcomes during events, and ensure the highest level of response success.

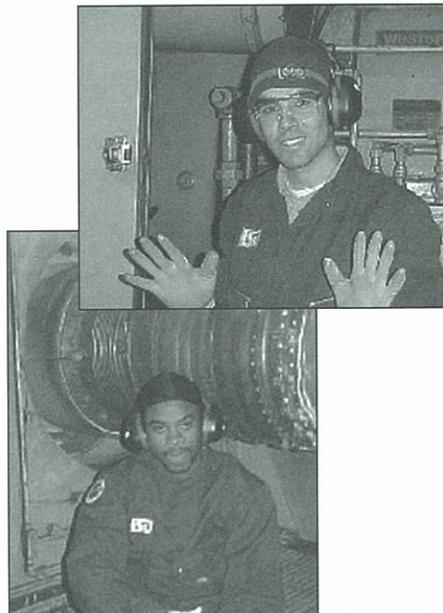
Youth Career Development Program

As a pilot project to recruit and develop entry-level employees and expose them to a positive work environment, Internal Services, with the Departments of Children and Family Services and Community and Senior Services, created a Youth Career Development Program. Targeted at foster youth who reach 18 years of age and are



“emancipated” into society, often in danger of becoming homeless because of a lack of supportive families and workforce skills, the program may provide insight into strategies that enhance the well-being, and quality and productivity, of our workforce.

Program participants are provided 12 months of work experience and direct exposure to career opportunities in Internal Services. They are paid hourly wages while receiving classroom training and mentoring by lead department employees. The hope is that participants successfully become regular County employees, and that this process of development provides program lessons that can be applied elsewhere in our system.



As illustrated here, **Workforce Excellence** is a commitment by the County to support its employees in recognition of our positive power to directly impact the lives of County residents. We invite you to support this effort by:

- ▶ **Learning from those around you, and from what you do that does and does not provide the level of service for which you would wish to be known.**
- ▶ **Share what you have observed, or what works for you, with others.**
- ▶ **Look for opportunities to communicate in a positive fashion with your team, management, and others who may be working toward the same goal.**
- ▶ **Seek training opportunities that support your career path or interests. They may be inside of or outside of the County. Explore.**
- ▶ **Consider the personal satisfaction you can enjoy, and the individual lives you may touch. Be a leader in your area of responsibility.**

Scheduled Plan highlights in “Sharing a Commitment”

September:	Goal No. 1: Service Excellence
December:	Goal No. 2: Workforce Excellence
January:	Goal No. 3: Organizational Effectiveness
February:	Goal No. 4: Fiscal Responsibility
March:	Goal No. 5: Children and Families’ Well-Being
April:	County Strategic Plan and the link with the new County Unincorporated Area Strategic Plan
May:	Overview and Status Report

“Sharing a Commitment” is a collaborative series brought to you by Human Resources and the Quality and Productivity Commission, Auditor-Controller, Chief Administrative Office, Chief Information Office, Executive Office, Internal Services, Public Works, and Sheriff.

GRAHAM LIBRARY continued from page 3

"This is a special day for our community because we have been part of the planning of our new library," said Friends of Graham Library President Maria Diaz. "Graham Library is now our place of pride connecting the library, schools, and families."

The expanded children's area provides space for "story time" and special programs to motivate young readers. Through a partnership with local elementary schools, the library has targeted a 100 percent library card registration of local second graders.

"Community facilities like the Graham Library offer learning resources that help empower residents and ensure that children have the

opportunity to achieve their full potential," Molina said. "These improvement projects and expanded resources are an investment in the future of our youth and enrich the well-being of our communities."

The improvements and artwork have transformed Graham Library from an aging building with barbed wiring and no landscaping into a shining new neighborhood landmark."

Graham Library is located at 1900 East Firestone Boulevard.

For more information on library services, call (323) 582-2903. ■



Holiday Pet-Care Cautions

- Never feed or let pets eat chocolate or other holiday season candies. If you suspect that your pet has eaten chocolate, get him or her to a veterinarian right away.
- Make sure your pets cannot reach the ornaments that decorate your tree.
- Keep holiday season plants and flowers away from your pets. Many plants, such as Poinsettias, Christmas Candles, English Holly, Christmas Berry, Christmas Rose and Mistletoe are poisonous to dogs and cats.
- Turkey is a particular favorite during the holiday season, but the bones easily splinter and should not be given to pets. Bone splinters can cause serious internal injuries.
- Keep pets away from alcoholic drinks.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control wishes you and your pets a safe and happy holiday season!

Holiday Safety and Fire Prevention

Each year, fires during the holiday season injure as many as 2,000 men, women and children and cause more than \$500 million in damage throughout the United States. To prevent the likelihood of a fire in your own home, the United States Fire Administration suggests the following measures to ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

Caring for Your Christmas Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. Heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame (candles, lighters or matches). Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. Consider using a potted tree.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pickup service.

For information on tree disposal sites, call (888) CLEAN-LA.

Maintain Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.

Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. If there is any question as to the integrity of your lights, replace them with a new set of lights. Do not leave holiday lights on while unattended.

Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level and in every room of your home. Test smoke detectors monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help.

Practice your home escape plan.

Burke Opens New DPSS Family Service Center

County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke joined California Assemblymember Rod Wright and Los Angeles City Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas recently to dedicate the new Department of Public Social Services Family Service Center in Exposition Park.

The new center, designed to serve a variety of needs at one central location, offers a wide array of family and social services. These include aid programs, a career center with computer workstations, and services that include assistance in resume writing, transportation information, and access to job banks and CalJOBS.

Families will also go to the new center for CalWORKs, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal and Welfare-to-Work programs.

"The County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Social Services touches the lives of 1.8 million people in the County every month,"

Supervisor Burke told an audience of hundreds during the dedication.

"Think of it: one in every five residents of this County receives some sort of public assistance."

She also noted that a full 65 percent of DPSS' monthly clients receive non-cash assistance, such as Medi-Cal and food stamps, while the remaining 35 percent receive cash benefits.

The new center is about two blocks from its former location on Vermont Avenue, and is easily accessible by freeway, local bus and other forms of public transit.

Located at 3833 South Vermont Avenue, across from U.S.C. and the Coliseum, the center can handle more than 5,000 client visits each month. It houses more than 450 employees, and serves some 24,000 families in the Los Angeles area.

see DPSS CENTER on page 10



Supervisor Burke (third from left) officially opened the new DPSS Family Service Center in Exposition Park with the assistance of (l-r) Public Services Commissioner Marcine Shaw; developer, Shelby Jordan; interim DPSS Director Steven Golightly; Los Angeles City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas; California Assemblyman Rod Wright; and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry.

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- Affordability terms were extended for affordable multi-family units in the fifth district.
- To reduce traffic congestion, 56 signal synchronization projects are underway on 42 routes bringing the total number of synchronized cities to 71.
- The Pasadena light rail line was named the Pasadena Gold line and is scheduled to begin operating in July 2003.
- My Antelope Valley Transportation Summit to complete Highway 14 and State Route 138 brought state and local officials together to address this issue.

- A unique public/private partnership to clean up our environment my office initiated, had more than 500 participants and volunteers launch the Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week to increase environmental awareness, discourage illegal dumping and keep our County clean. This program will be expanded in all our communities.
- We approved my ordinance requiring homes in new developments to have at least one tree in addition to required parkway trees.

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Fifth District County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, his wife, Christine, son, Michael Jr., and most recent family addition, daughter, Mary Christine.

MTA Blue Line

County Supervisor Don Knabe joined train passengers and Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials recently to inaugurate the new three-car MTA Blue Line trains, which will increase capacity on the busy route that extends between Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles.

County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, MTA Chairman John Fasana, and new MTA CEO Roger Snoble joined in the celebration of the extended trains' first run.

"Mass transit is the backbone of the County of Los Angeles for tens-of-thousands of riders who use the system to traverse the greater Los Angeles area," Supervisor Knabe said.

The addition of a third light-rail car increases the number of train seats by 75, greatly increasing the overall capacity for seated and standing passengers. The new cars will help to mitigate overcrowding on the popular light rail line, which recorded a precedent setting weekday boarding average of 69,400 in August.



County Supervisor Knabe has an extensive background in transportation, serving on the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and as chairman of the Southern California Regional Airport Authority.

To accommodate the longer trains, the MTA also extended passenger platforms at 19 stations along its 22-mile Blue Line route. The authority spent approximately \$11 million over 16 months to complete upgrades at stations servicing communities from Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles, including Watts, Compton and Willowbrook. ■

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- We have worked on incorporating alternative forms of energy, including solar and wind-generated power.
- We secured funding to help residents connect to new sewer systems in Pasadena's San Pasqual area.
- We led the effort to purchase more CNG buses for the MTA fleet.
- We addressed drinking water quality by successfully testing for Chromium 6, arsenic and other harmful carcinogens, testing water dispensing machines and bottled water.
- Our efforts have resulted in Federal and State legislation to develop new standards for water quality and protocols to clean our water supplies along with reforming the maintenance of water vending machines.
- Our annual "REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES DAY" event at Arcadia County Park continues to grow in size and scope. We honored those who have served our nation and provided veterans with vital information and support.
- Sadly, the vintage Buick Riviera that was to be raffled off to raise funds for the San Gabriel Valley/East L.A. Veterans Employment Committee was stolen. However, my office contributed \$5000 to recoup their losses.

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DPSS CENTER continued from page 9

"This new office represents the County's new approach to meeting the needs of our growing population," Supervisor Burke said.

"This is the new face of DPSS and welfare reform. We want to help better the lives of those who need help, with dignity, respect and professionalism."

The new facility is the third new Family Service Center that DPSS has opened in the last 12 months. Supervisor Burke noted,

"I'm happy that the Child Care Center in this new complex is truly cutting-edge, in terms of programs, equipment and design. We're looking forward to offering even more innovative programs in the near future."

Supervisor Burke thanked outgoing District Office Director, Jeannette McClinton, for her "fine work and dedication" in overseeing the move from the old building to the new facility. ■

County **DIGEST**

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(213) 974-1301
(213) 974-1765
(213) 613-4789 FAX

Available online at:
<http://hr.co.la.ca.us>

Q&P Commission's Merce Gillo, Employee of the Month

In what she calls a varied and exciting career, Merce Gillo has served the residents of the County of Los Angeles with both enthusiasm and dedication for 15 years. Presently, as Programs Manager for the Quality and Productivity Commission's Executive Office, she provides invaluable support to members of the Quality and Productivity Commission and its executive director. For

Merce Gillo

her tireless efforts on behalf of the Commission and its objectives, and her personal commitment to service excellence, she has been named "Employee of the Month" for November.

Working from the fifth floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Gillo assists Quality and Productivity Commissioners who recommend County policies and support the implementation of programs that enhance the delivery of County services.

She also supports the County's Quality and Productivity Managers' Network, and various other internal collaborative County organizations.

At the height of the State's energy crisis in May, Gillo's hard work and creativity contributed to the success of a publicity campaign designed to encourage County employees to reduce their energy consumption. She also helped to raise awareness of the County's Strategic Plan through creative posters and building banners, as well as articles in the commission newsletter and **County Digest**.

Most recently, as part of the commission's "Productivity and Quality Awards" production team, she helped to blend the County's Strategic Plan and "Sharing a Commitment" theme into a single overarching concept: employee leadership in serving our communities.

Gillo is an active board member and officer of the Los Angeles County Filipino Ameri-



can Employees Association, currently serving as the organization's Secretary. In that role, she coordinates the Association's monthly meetings and numerous projects and events including the annual Philippine Independence Day Celebration in the mall area of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

Merce's husband, Ben, also a County employee, works at the Museum of Natural History supporting the creation and maintenance of historic displays.

I BONDS

The Perfect Holiday Gift on Sale Now

As a one-time purchase, County employees can buy both the traditional market-based Series EE Bonds at half their face value (as little as \$25 for a \$50 bond) or the new inflation-indexed Series I Bonds at full face value for as little as \$50.

As an investment that guarantees returns over and above inflation for up to 30 years, Series I Bonds should be part of every investment portfolio.

I Bonds have a number of advantages: they are affordable, yield a high interest rate and can help you prepare for your future finan-

cial independence. In addition, you can invest as little as \$50 or as much as \$30,000.

As a new service to County employees, I Bonds can now be purchased through automated payroll deduction. This new investment option currently yields a competitive **5.9 percent interest rate**. *The "I Bond Solution" guarantees that time and inflation will not reduce the savings you have accumulated.*

So, this year, your holiday shopping can be as easy as contacting your departmental Savings Bond coordinator or Ruben Rivero,

Chief Administrative Office, Countywide Savings Bond Program manager, at (213) 974-2523.

As a reminder to investors, if you currently purchase Savings Bonds through payroll deduction and have a change in your mailing address, please contact your departmental Savings Bond Coordinator and complete a U.S. Savings Bonds Change Authorization form. ■

Fees Incease for Vital Records

As of October 1, 2001, fees for certified copies of birth, marriage and death certificates reflect a \$1 increase. The increase will provide additional revenue for the purpose of automating the vital records operation.

The new fee schedule is as follows:

birth certificate	\$16
death record	\$11
marriage record	\$13

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- A public/private partnership was initiated to provide South Antelope Valley with a Community Health Center.
- To counter the Governor's reckless slashing, we are aggressively working to secure a stable revenue source for our public and private trauma network.
- Our restaurant grading system has been expanded and improved.
- To get our homeless mentally ill off the curbs and doorsteps and out from under the freeway bridges, we continue to support reforming state mental health laws. Assemblymember Helen Thompson's legislation, when passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, will provide the necessary treatment for these people.
- I initiated the Department of Mental Health's Homeless Outreach Unit, which enables homeless and mentally ill individuals to find shelter.
- School-based mental health services were expanded to 33 schools in the Pasadena Unified School District providing intervention and treatment to children with serious emotional problems.
- The Quality and Productivity Commission, which I initiated in the 1980s, continues to

cut waste and develop innovative programs. They have saved County taxpayers nearly \$2 billion. One of these programs dealing with recidivism in the criminal justice and mental health system had a reduction with the County jail's Twin Tower inmates.

- We initiated the START program to provide evaluation and intervention for at-risk youth.
- While significant progress has been made recently at MacLaren Children's Center by removing employees with dangerous criminal records and appointing an acting director, public/private partnership still offers the best hope for the children.
- The Multicultural Adoption Festival I initiated placed dozens of foster children in permanent, loving homes.
- Our "Tuesday's Child" program continues to encourage families to open their homes to parentless children.
- As the Chairman of the County of Los Angeles Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission, we oversaw the distribution of a Parenting Kit for first-time mothers and fathers.
- Recently, we took 500 foster kids to Magic Mountain—an event I have sponsored for the last five years.
- We have to do a better job in seeing that the County's foster children are adopted and that our emancipated youth receive the proper support to become productive citizens.
- Finally, Altadena's Christmas Tree Lane, a state-designated historic site, and California's oldest holiday lighting spectacle will survive as a result of my office providing a new electrical system for the community. ■

Your First New Year's Resolution: Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

The Department of Public Works makes recycling Christmas trees easy by providing all necessary information on their environmental website.

Start out the New Year by doing something good for the environment. Find out how and where to recycle your Christmas tree by visiting www.888CleanLA.com.

Most areas in the County offer curbside recycling services, others have convenient drop-off sites where the trees can be recycled.

Public Works also has a toll-free Environmental Hotline at (888) CLEAN-LA.



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