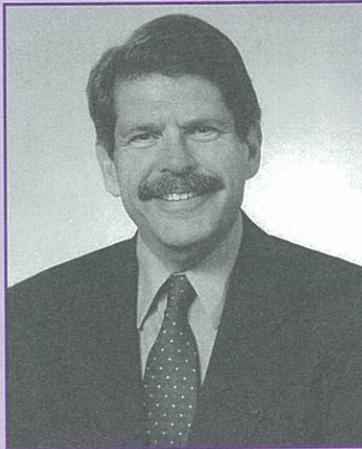


Message from Chairman Yaroslavsky

As we look ahead towards the next 12 months, it's clear that we face a very challenging year ahead. The downturn in the national economy, that experts tell us actually began last spring, has become increasingly and painfully evident in recent weeks. Here in the County, we have yet to feel its full effects. But as evidence of the slowdown ripples out into the larger economy, we are deeply concerned about the potential impact that cut-backs at the federal level, and particularly at the state level, would have on our continuing ability to provide services—especially after the property tax shift of the early '90s.



Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in June 1994.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have imposed their own demands on government at all levels. As a result, the County of Los Angeles has been deeply

involved in scrutinizing all aspects of County security, law enforcement and emergency response capability. We have conducted training exercises, convened town hall meetings throughout the County to discuss bio-terrorism preparedness, and the Board has appropriated additional funds for enhanced safety measures at County facilities.

Beyond the near-term threat of bio-terrorism, the County Department of Health Services faces critical long-term challenges.

see **YAROSLAVSKY**
on page 5

Employee of the Month: Health Services' Toni Martinez

When her only child, JoAnna, was just a little girl, Toni Martinez made a point to extol the virtues of a strong work ethic. "Honey," she would say, "whatever you do, whether it's washing dishes or anything else, always, always do your best."

A 27-year employee of the Department of Health Services, Martinez has based her own workplace performance on that same maxim, rising admirably up the ranks of the Public Health Investigation Unit where she is now an assistant to the director.

see **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**
on page 10

County Salutes the Life and Dream of American Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King

The County of Los Angeles, the Southland's largest employer, will observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 21 in a tribute to the internationally renowned civil rights leader.

Celebrations across the County include numerous recitations of Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech and the much anticipated Kingdom Day Parade, held annually in Los Angeles' Crenshaw District.

see **KING** on page 11



Photo: Howard Sochurek/LIFE

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EVENT CALENDAR

MY OLD LADY

Through February 10
Doolittle Theatre
(213) 628-2772
www.TaperAhmanson.com

INTO THE WOODS

February 1 through March 24
Ahmanson Theatre
(213) 628-2772
www.TaperAhmanson.com

THE FULL MONTY

April 24 through June 8
Ahmanson Theatre
(213) 628-2772
www.TaperAhmanson.com

Johann Sebastian Bach's MASS IN B-MINOR

February 2, 6, 9, 13, 15 and 16
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
(213) 365-3500
www.losangelesopera.com

SUPERCROC

Through January 27
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

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

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

TRANSFORMING LACMA: Museum at the Crossroads Exhibition

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

THE KINDNESS OF FRIENDS: A Selection of Gifts of Drawings and Prints

Through April 7
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

Agoura Hills Celebrates New Public Library



County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd joined dignitaries from the City of Agoura Hills in a ribbon cutting ceremony in October 2001, celebrating the opening of a new Agoura Hills Library. The new library replaces the Las Virgenes Library, which closed earlier that same month.

The Agoura Hills Library is designed and furnished in "Craftsman Style" and is part of a new civic center complex. Wood and stone are used on both exterior and interior surfaces. The library provides community members with a modern library facility that features more computer workstations than the previous site, a children's area with a hand-painted mural and cozy reading gazebo, study rooms, and a community meeting room.

The library was built by the City of Agoura Hills with Third District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky helping to move the project forward. Assemblywoman Fran Pavley (D-Santa Monica) secured \$10,000 in state funding for enhancing public computer services. ■

Music Center's Family Saturdays

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!

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.

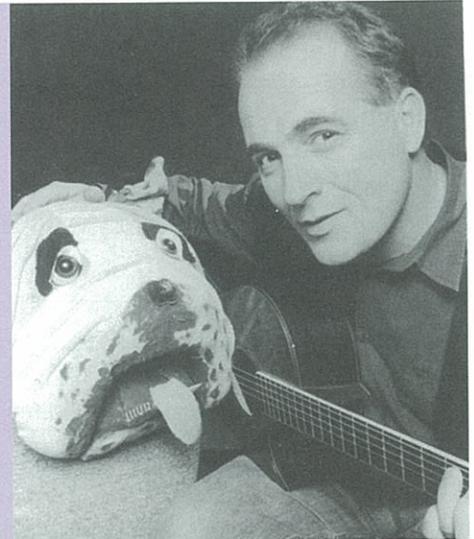
TO ORDER IN PERSON: Tickets can be purchased Mon. - Sat., 10 am - 6 pm from the Opera's box office at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at 135 N. Grand Avenue.

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 (213) 365-3500. ■

Norman Foote: "Step to It"
January 26, 11 a.m.



We Tell Stories: "Proud to be Me"
March 2, 11 a.m.



Agua Luna Dance Company
March 16, 11 a.m.

César Chávez Week, Another Opportunity to Serve County Communities

County Supervisor Gloria Molina invites all County of Los Angeles employees to be a part of "César Chávez Community Service Week" by volunteering to serve one full day in community libraries and nonprofit community organizations or by donating food to the needy through any of a number of County designated facilities and partner nonprofit organizations.

Based on a motion by Supervisor Molina and introduced in April 2001, the Board of Supervisors has proclaimed March 25-31 "César Chávez Community Service Week" throughout the County of Los Angeles. Chávez' birthday is officially celebrated as a state holiday March 31.

"I believe performing a needed service to the public, rather than simply taking the day off, is a more fitting way for County employees to remember the beneficial impact César Chávez has had on society. Especially since he so forthrightly advocated for the dignity of all working people," Molina said.

Employees are invited to participate by:

- Assisting families in need by volunteering in community libraries and nonprofit organizations that are part of the County's charitable giving campaign.
- Participating in a "food drive" by donating canned goods and non-perishable food items that will be distributed to local nonprofit agencies with food pantry services.
- Promoting education and awareness of César Chávez and the core values he represented—democracy, justice, education, service, community, respect, family, and work—by volunteering at public libraries throughout the County and teaching children about the important contributions of César Chávez.

see CHÁVEZ page 10

January 2002 Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after at least 25 years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles.

30 years

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Lamerchie Barreau, Carrol A. Blankenship, Robert J. De La Vega, Ira J. Fields, Joan H. Smith, Linda Witt
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Robert Crockett
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Peter S. Berman, Joseph D. Civitate, Elliott Fisher, Norman L. Hoskins, Roland W. Santee
FIRE: William C. Abbott, Adrian Asencio, Dennis W. Davies, Arthur E. Montgomery, Thomas H. Shea
HEALTH SERVICES: John P. Allen, James J. Hayden Jr., Chenault Hood, Robert K. Lindsay, Dennis B. Lounsberry, Judy Y. Minami, Kathleen L. Payne, Juanita Santana, Bernice Williams
INTERNAL SERVICES: Daniel J. Madden
MENTAL HEALTH: Barbara J. Young
PARKS & RECREATION: Thomas C. Roldan
PROBATION: John P. Del Mastro, George L. Lewis, William G. Richardson, J.M. Tobin
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Charles B. Kaufman, Amelia McNeal
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Frances Harvey, Ezerlene Tobin, Pamela M. Wichert
PUBLIC WORKS: James L. Moore, Snehlata M. Thakar, O.B. Thompson
REGIONAL PLANNING: Mary L. Rowe
SHERIFF: Marlene P. Bogdanovich, Gregory S. Braunger, Roy A. Fisher, John Heard, Leopoldo Jaramillo, Clifford A. Lewis Jr., Frank C. Moritz, John O'Brien, Leo P. White
SUPERIOR COURT: Manly D. Calof, M. S. Guevara, Michael G. Price
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Joanne K. Iwasaki

25 years

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Flordeliza Paguio
EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Donna L. Brockway
FIRE: Arvel A. Chappell Jr.
HEALTH SERVICES: Premchitt Kanjananirat, Marlene B. Naumann, Gloria E. Reid, Patricia Resnover, Bennie R. Ross, Nancy Siasoyco, Betty J. Willis, Dorothy L. Wilson
INTERNAL SERVICES: Manuel F. Diaz
MENTAL HEALTH: Joy A. Wikoff
PROBATION: Curtis A. Wyatt
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Gwendolyn Ingram, Nancy Siasoyco, Verna L. Spears, Betty J. Willis
PUBLIC WORKS: Porfirio Fuentes
SHERIFF: Douglas F. Blaydes, Richard M. Buhman, David J. Gill, Gordon W. Mangel, Harvey M. Raskin, Raul Reyes, Lawrence E. Schwartz

VAROSLAVSKY
continued from page 1

The Department's new Director will have his work cut out for him, as will the Board of Supervisors and the entire Department of Health Services. Change is in the air at DHS, and we should embrace it, not resist it. I believe that the County can provide health care more effectively, compassionately and efficiently than we've been doing; and I'm hopeful that this can be accomplished with a minimal dislocation of our employees.

My governing philosophy is simple and basic, and it certainly applies in this situation: When we know that we're going to be facing problems down the road, it is better to address them early, with maximum lead time to try and prepare for a soft landing, rather than deferring tough decisions until it's too late and a crash becomes unavoidable.

With some exceptions, I believe that we've positioned ourselves to absorb most of the anticipated fiscal bumps in the road. Where we still have some work to do, we need to extend our successful efforts to DHS, the Department of Public Social Services and other selected areas.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to send a clear and unmistakable message to the men and women who run this County from top to bottom—our employees. This organization comprises some of the finest public servants anywhere in the country. Without hesitation, I would put up our sheriff deputies, firefighters, case workers, librarians, health care workers, clerical and custodial staff, and legions of others against any of their counterparts across the nation.

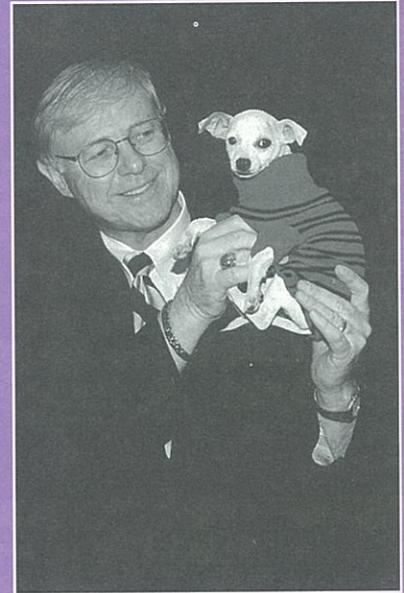
I am proud to be a member of the Board that oversees such dedicated employees. We have done our best, and will continue to do so, to value our workers—not only financially, but as human beings who deserve to be treated with respect as colleagues and partners. In that spirit, I salute our employees, and I look forward to a challenging but ultimately successful year in partnership serving the needs of the people of the County.

May the New Year bring each of you freedom and peace. ■

Changed your mailing address?
Notify your personnel office immediately.

Since the inception of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's pet adoption program in December 1995, every pet presented during a Board of Supervisors meeting has been successfully adopted.

According to officials at the Department of Animal Care and Control, that comes to 328 happily-placed pets, including cats and dogs, kittens and pups, guinea pigs and two rabbits.



Kudos on a job well done!

For information on adopting a pet from any of the County's six shelters, call the Department of Animal Care and Control at (562) 940-8909.

Jo Anne Darcy Library Opens to Canyon Country Residents

County Public Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd was joined by Mayor of Santa Clarita Laurene Weste and Santa Clarita Councilwoman Jo Anne Darcy in November to celebrate the grand opening of Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library.

The library is part of a newly constructed mall complex and is brighter and more spacious than the previous library, which was built in 1970.

Service enhancements include an increased number of public computer workstations, a meeting room, an enlarged children's section and storytelling area, and a homework center funded by Pacific Bell and the Friends of the Library. Construction was financed by the City of Santa Clarita and received the support of Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

The County of Los Angeles Public Library operates the library for the city, providing library services to its residents. ■

“Sharing a Commitment”

Organizational Effectiveness: The Third Strategic Plan Goal

Of the five Strategic Plan Goals, the third or “middle goal” of **Organizational Effectiveness** rightly shares “center stage.” It is through individual and collective effectiveness that our actions focus on the most beneficial organizational impacts. **Organizational Effectiveness**, therefore, envisions the Plan’s five goals as linking together into cohesive and powerful initiatives for the public good.

Three Strategies support this goal: 1) Implement strategic management processes; 2) Improve internal operations; and 3) Collaborate across functional and jurisdictional boundaries. For instance:

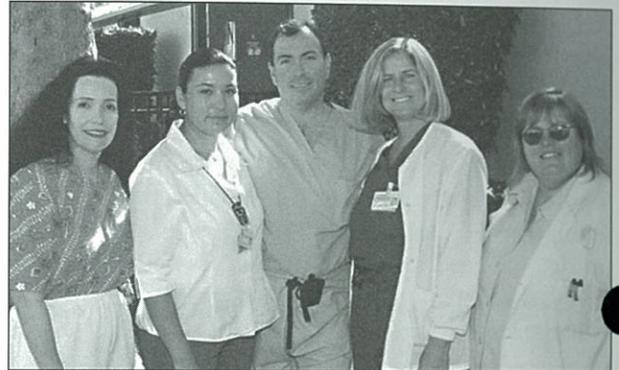
Comprehensive Breast Care Quality Improvement

Previously, at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, patients with breast health problems and varying stages of breast cancer waited an average of 50 days to be seen in the clinic, and experienced long waiting times often followed by unnecessary and duplicative follow-up visits and delayed diagnosis. Ultimately, over 50 percent of patients did not appear for their appointments.

Now the process has been streamlined so that records are reviewed before visits, testing and diagnosis are scheduled for the same day when possible, and more immediate care is provided. The Center also uses more effective scheduling and personal phone contact to ensure appointments are kept.



Within existing resources, the process has become more effective and accessible, and the quality of potentially life-saving service substantially enhanced.

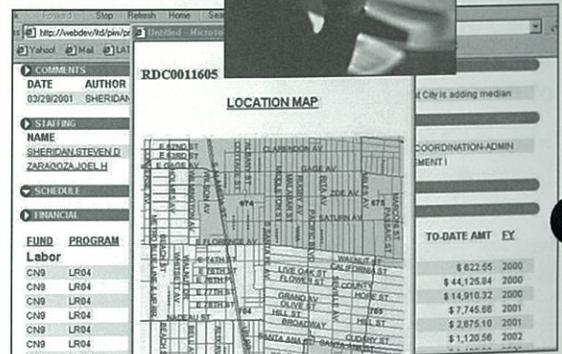


Project Information Website

Public Works developed the Project Information Website for planning, analyzing, and tracking construction projects. Previously, project information was stored in various databases throughout the Department. Project managers were required to contact staff in several divisions and access a number of unrelated databases and applications.

The new Intranet Web-based application provides quick access to data including contacts, schedules, costs, locations, construction drawings, and

supporting documents. It saves time and reduces costs by eliminating inefficiencies, avoiding duplicate or conflicting efforts, and minimizing rework. In addition, the needs of contractors, builders and homeowners are expedited.

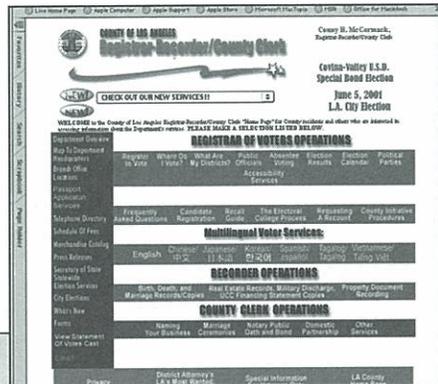


FUND	PROGRAM	TO-DATE AMT	EX
CN9	LR04	\$ 822.55	2000
CN9	LR04	\$ 44,125.84	2000
CN9	LR04	\$ 14,910.32	2000
CN9	LR04	\$ 7,745.86	2001
CN9	LR04	\$ 2,875.10	2001
CN9	LR04	\$ 1,120.56	2002

Internet Access to the Voter Registration Database

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is responsible for the verification of signatures on petitions and absentee ballots, and maintains digital signature images for over 4 million voters. The 88 cities in the County conducting their own elections were required to transport their absentee applications and petitions to the Department, where the expensive and time consuming process of signature verification was undertaken.

In response the Department designed an Internet protocol that will allow cities and other designated agencies to access voter information and digital signatures remotely and securely. The cross-jurisdictional process has made the organization and process more effective, and substantially reduced costs.



Organizational Effectiveness is an outcome of our effectiveness collectively and individually. We look forward to your participation in this team approach by:

- ▶ Performing as an important link in the department's service delivery "chain."
- ▶ Supporting other internal and external "links" in the delivery process.
- ▶ Bringing the attention of other members of the "chain" and management to possible gaps in service, duplications, or inefficiencies that could be eliminated.
- ▶ Being creative in your thinking and recommendations. Fresh concepts often provide the framework for positive change and leadership.

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, with the Auditor-Controller, Chief Administrative Office, Chief Information Office, Executive Office, Internal Services, Public Works, and Sheriff.

Child Advocates Office Seeks Caring Volunteers

There are currently 36,000 children under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Dependency Court who have been removed from their parent's custody due to severe abuse, neglect and/or abandonment. A Dependency Court judge must make key decisions about each child's life, e.g., where the child will live, whom the child may see, and what medical and educational services should be provided for the child.

The Child Advocates Office was established in 1978 to serve the needs of these dependent children by providing advocacy services through the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. The Child Advocates Office recruits, screens, trains and supervises CASA volunteers to gather information about a particular child and report their findings to the court. CASA volunteers advocate in the court and in the community for the best interests of the child.

Among the responsibilities of the CASA volunteer are the following:

- Investigate and report the circumstances of the child to the court.
- Facilitate the delivery of services ordered by the court for the child.
- Monitor compliance with orders of the court.

The CASA Program now serves only 2% of the children in the dependency system and we are in great need of more volunteers to serve as advocates on behalf of these children.

There is an enormous need for bilingual volunteers due to the large number of Latino children currently under court jurisdiction.

In order to meet the great need for volunteers, we have made some changes to our program to make it easier for people to volunteer. Those changes include the following:

- The minimum age requirement has been lowered to 21 years of age.
- A one-year commitment to the program.
- Training is now also being held on Saturdays to accommodate prospective volunteers who work full time or have less flexible work schedules.

Some of the children served by the CASA Program include Christina (not her real name), age eight, who was placed with her maternal aunt after being removed from the custody of her parents. Christina's father had been physically and emotionally abusive toward her throughout her childhood and her mother had a severe substance abuse problem. Christina wanted desperately to stay with her aunt, but because her father had complied with court orders, it appeared as if she would ultimately be reunified with him. Christina was terrified of this possibility and appealed (in person) to the Child Advocates Office to help her. A CASA listened to Christina's story and spoke up for her in court. The CASA was able to provide the court with enough evidence to convince the judge that reunification with the father would be detrimental to Christina's well being. The outcome was exactly what Christina had wished for, thanks to the work of the CASA. The judge cleared the path for Christina to be adopted by her aunt, and shortly thereafter, the adoption was finalized.

Alex (not his real name), age 6, and his 11-year-old sister Kim (not her real name), had never lived apart until they were placed in foster care. With adoptive parents waiting in the wings for Alex, and long-term foster care on the horizon for Kim, it appeared as if the siblings would be permanently separated. When the CASA volunteer interviewed the children, she discovered that there was a very strong bond between them.

They did not want to be separated and could not even imagine having their familial ties severed through adoption. Following a thorough investigation, with the best interests of both children in mind, the CASA recommended to the court that every effort be made to reunify them with their biological mother.

Today the children are living successfully with their mother and the case has been terminated. The children stay in touch with their former CASA and delight in keeping her updated on their achievements in school.

The Child Advocates Office holds training on a quarterly basis: winter, spring, summer and fall.

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the application process for becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Christine O'Rourke at (323) 526-6666.

The Child Advocates Office looks forward to hearing from you and wishes you a very Happy New Year! ■

Antonovich Sponsors Holiday in the Park for County's Foster Youth



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich says thanks to Tracie Weathers, manager for local government at the Xerox Corporation, and her son and daughter, who were volunteers during the Six Flags Magic Mountain holiday event for foster youth.

At least 500 foster children were the special guests of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich in December for a day of enormous roller coasters and enormous smiles at Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park in Valencia.

Sponsored in part by Xerox, Inc., Newhall Farming, Emergency Ambulance and Unisys Corporation, the full day of rides and attractions was a special holiday gift from the Supervisor to County wards.

"The holiday season can be difficult for these children and the party really brightened their spirits," Supervisor Antonovich said, "but, we really need families to adopt and provide loving homes for these wonderful children."

Holiday gifts given to youngsters during the outing were provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, which collected the toys during its "Spark of Love" toy drive. ■

Burke Holds Ninth Annual Winter Festival for Second District Youth

St. Andrews Recreational Area in south-central Los Angeles was transformed into a "winter wonderland" on December 13, with 36 tons of snow trucked in especially for nearly 4,500 inner-city youth.

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke joined festival sponsors and co-hosts from Shell Oil Company during the event, where children visited with Santa Claus, enjoyed carnival games, played in the snow, and received toys and goodie bags.

Buses, provided by Supervisor Burke, began arriving at 9 a.m., as little ones from kindergarten through the 3rd grade were bussed in from Ujima Village, Nickerson

Gardens, South Scattered Sites Housing Projects, and LaSalle Elementary, Manhattan Place Elementary, 74th Elementary and Los Angeles Christian Faith Center Schools.

Upon arrival, the children were greeted with a carnival-like atmosphere that included a children's band, mariachis, carolers, a Ferris Wheel, pony rides, a petting zoo, clowns, a train ride, and a moon bounce.

Additional entertainment included comedian and actor Lewis Dix



Mr. and Mrs. Claus paid a visit to Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (left) and Bob Russ of Shell Oil (right) during Supervisor Burke's Winter Festival for County foster youth.

see **WINTER FESTIVAL**
page 12

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
continued from page 1

Known by her colleagues as the unit's "go to person," Martinez is responsible for ensuring its smooth operation. In recognition of her unflagging professionalism, she has earned the title of "Employee of the Month" for December.

"I've always looked in the County Digest at the Employee of the Month, but never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be chosen," Martinez said during a phone interview. "I feel very honored to receive this award."

Joking that she "has a manual for almost everything," members of her unit say that Martinez' meticulous attention to detail and careful scrutiny of accounts payable have saved the County tens-of-thousands of dollars.

In a recent case involving a \$3,200 estimate for the repair of a County vehicle's transmission, she negotiated with a vendor to obtain the repairs for just under \$400.



Employee of the Month Toni Martinez, Department of Health Services, receives a scroll from Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky.

As a member of the department's charitable giving committee, she proposed the sale of snacks within the Ferguson Building to raise funds for the County's Charitable Giving Campaign. That suggestion ultimately raised \$1,500 for the March of Dimes.

She also developed a more efficient computerized method of accounting for County vehicles, including information on DHS vehicle assignments, utilization and repair.

Outside the office, Martinez is as conscientious about her own spare time as she is about her service to the County. Family has always been important to her, and she regularly "looks in" on her parents while acing coursework at a local college and volunteering within her First District community. JoAnna, the daughter Martinez raised as a single parent, is now a third-year college student at the University of Southern California.

In addition to affiliations with a number of neighborhood organizations, Martinez is a member of the City of South Gate Chamber of Commerce and regularly attends city council meetings. She is a parishioner of Saint Raymond's Catholic Church and has participated in a number of community programs in concert with the South Gate Police Department. ■

CHÁVEZ
continued from page 4

- Supporting cultural awareness through performing arts activities in partnership with the César Chávez Foundation and a Los Angeles County Natural History Museum exhibit.

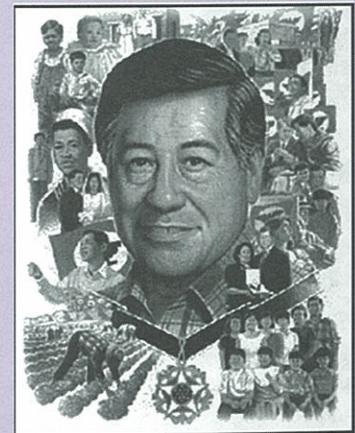
"By actively working with the general public during César Chávez Week, we can educate others—especially younger generations—about the impact Chávez had on the importance of public service, civil rights, and labor movements," Molina said.

"We hope to help bring a better understanding of this American hero—a leader who represented the values of hard work, justice, education, service, and community."

To participate in the César Chávez Week volunteer activities, formal approval is needed by department supervisors.

Applications will be available in February. For more information, contact the County Office of Workplace Programs at (213) 974-0187. ■

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community...our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."
—César Chávez



Happy Hats for Kids a Foundation with “Lofty Ambitions”

For more than a decade, Happy Hats for Kids has been an inspiration for young cancer patients, providing them with whimsical hats hand-sewn by an unlikely group of artisans: prison inmates. Its unique and creative approach to candy striping has not only lifted the spirits of children across America, but also served as a rehabilitative influence on inmates who have an opportunity to improve their self-esteem while learning a vocation.

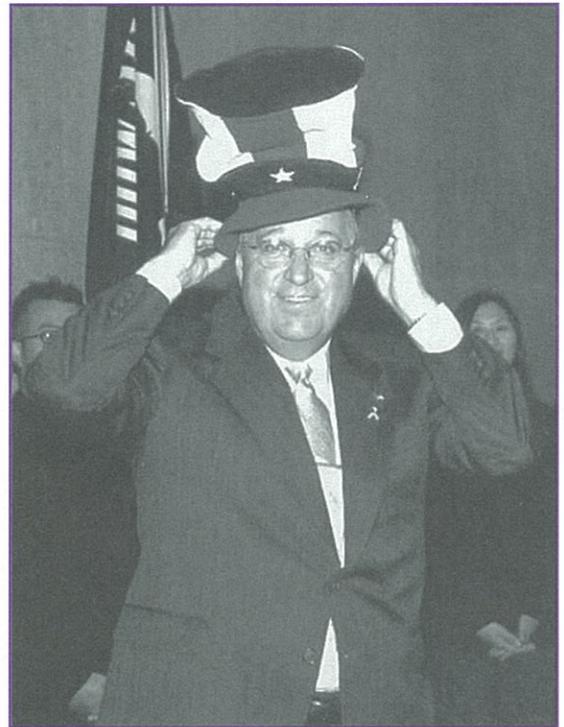
“Happy Hats has made a real difference in the lives of children suffering from the effects of cancer therapy,” said Supervisor Don Knabe, who lauded the foundation’s founder, Sheri Schrier, for her efforts during a November 2001 Board of Supervisors meeting. “I am both pleased and deeply honored to have such a noteworthy organization based within the South Bay.”

Established by Schrier in 1991, Happy Hats endeavors to bring giggles and laughter to hospitalized children during their healing and recovery process, uplift the morale of the hospital staff and care-givers and help with the rehabilitation of hat-making volunteers in prison. These lofty goals have earned the organization international acclaim and formed the genesis of a nationwide campaign, “National Annual Hat in the Happy Hats Day.”

Marking the birth of renowned children’s author, Dr. Seuss, Happy Hats for Kids will give out red-and-white striped stovepipe Happy Hats on March 1 at 50 children’s hospitals across America, one in each state, including Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Happy Hats also plans to embark upon an ambitious national “Hero Hat” program that will reach out to child patients in 1,500 hospitals, numbering two million hats per year.

Schrier founded Happy Hats for Kids after losing several close family members to cancer and witnessing, first hand, the pain and sadness that cancer inflicts upon the lives of hospitalized young people. ■



KING continued from page 1

On January 15, Second District Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke presented Kingdom Day Parade Queen Aundrea Harden—an 18-year-old City of Carson resident—and her court with official County scrolls, commenting that the three young women truly emulated the very dream of which Dr. King spoke.

“This year’s selection of the King Day Parade queen and her court was based on a 500-word essay, the contestants’ educational backgrounds, and their participation in community activities,” Supervisor Burke said. “This is a court of fine young women of diverse ethnic backgrounds, and I’m very pleased to honor them today before the Board of Supervisors.” ■

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>

Articles and all other submissions to the *County Digest* may be edited or otherwise altered for syntax and clarity. We welcome your feedback.

Household Hazardous Waste Round-ups

Old paint, automotive fluids and dead batteries are just some of the potentially harmful household hazardous waste items that you can take to any of the County's FREE collection events for recycling. For more information, addresses and maps, call (888) CLEAN-LA, or visit www.888.CleanLA.com.

JANUARY

12 South El Monte
25-26 Canoga Park
26 Hermosa Beach

FEBRUARY

2-3 Pacific Palisades
9 Diamond Bar
23 Bell

MARCH

9-10 Van Nuys
16 Claremont
23 Long Beach

APRIL

18-20 Northridge
27 Lancaster

WINTER FESTIVAL continued from page 9

and two beauty queens: Ms. Black California Jenelle Lyn Randell and Miss Black California Charla Danelle Baker.

Child Watch, an organization devoted to locating missing youth, was also on hand to provide child fingerprinting and photographic services.

"Shell Oil and its Southern California Community Relations Manager, Bob Russ, deserve special thanks for their dedication and generosity in sponsoring this festival every year for the last nine years," Supervisor Burke said. "With an event of this magnitude, there are numerous other sponsors who should be thanked, including City of Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn and City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas.

I also want to thank the Stentorians-L.A. County Black Firefighters, the City of Los Angeles Fire Department, City of Los Angeles Police Department, Don Miguel Mexican Foods Inc., and Equilon Enterprises."

Additional event sponsors included UPS, Sara Lee, Gatorade, Krispy Kreme Donuts and Wayne Perry Construction.

"This wonderful event is one of several that I've sponsored for foster children and at-risk children during the holiday season," Supervisor Burke said. "They include an annual holiday party for teenage foster children at Magic Mountain, our annual Children's Holiday Party at Disneyland, and the "Spark Of Love" party with KABC-TV Channel 7 at the Magic Johnson Theatre in the Crenshaw Baldwin Hills Plaza.

I can't think of a better way to spend our resources than to make sure that these children have the opportunity to really enjoy the holiday season. This is something many of us may take for granted, but for these children, if we don't do it, who will?"■



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*Next Issue: County Salutes Muhammad Ali's 60th Birthday
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