



Health Services' Asthma Program Receives National Recognition for Excellence

The County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services' Clinical Resource Management (CRM) Program received official national recognition for excellence in disease management at a news conference in March. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) awarded its first certification for a specific disease management program to DHS' Clinical Resource Management of Asthma. The innovative Asthma Management Program has effectively reduced the need for emergency department and inpatient hospitalization among Los Angeles school children with asthma.

see DHS on page 4



Dr. Dennis O'Leary (on right), president of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, lauded the Department of Health Services' Asthma Management Program during a March press conference. Joining O'Leary were DHS Director Dr. Thomas Garthwaite (on left) and Dr. Jeffrey Guterman, the program's medical director. The DHS program is the first in the nation to garner JCAHO disease management certification.

Employee of the Month: Fire Department's John Price

"Always get involved and always strive to improve the lives of those around you, whether they be family, the citizens you serve, or your co-workers." These are not mere words for John Price but a way of life to which he steadfastly subscribes. His dedication to leading by example and commitment to improving the lives of the citizens of the County of Los Angeles have earned him the distinctive honor of being named County Employee of the Month for March 2002.

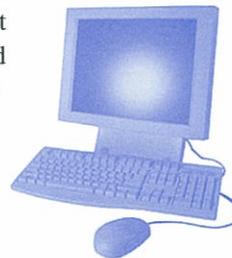
As a Captain in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Price is responsible for the supervision of crew

see EOM on page 10

Discounted Internet Service for County Employees

County of Los Angeles employees can now take advantage of an offer from the County of Los Angeles and Prodigy, an Internet service provider. In May 2000, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with SBC Pacific Bell Telephone Company and its affiliates for the County's telecommunications services. Included in the agreement was the provision to provide discounted Internet services for County employees for their personal home use.

see INTERNET SERVICE on page 11



HIGHLIGHTS

Event Calendar.....	2
LACERA Elections.....	2
Friendship Park Nature Center Dedication.....	3
April Retirees.....	4
Family Music Festival.....	5
SHARING A COMMITMENT.....	6
City Terrace Celebrates.....	8
Online Library Services.....	9
King/Drew Food Pantry...	11
Wellness Fairs.....	12

EVENT CALENDAR

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL CONFERENCE

April 24, 25
Wilshire Grand Hotel and Centre
(213) 893-0895

VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

May 8, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Music Center Plaza
(213) 250-ARTS
www.musiccenter.org/vsaf.html

THE FULL MONTY

April 16 through June 8
Ahmanson Theatre
(213) 628-2772
www.TaperAhmanson.com

SORROWS AND REJOICINGS

May 23 through June 30
Mark Taper Forum
(213) 628-2772
www.TaperAhmanson.com

BALDWIN BONANZA FESTIVAL OF PLANTS

May 3,4,5
The Arboretum of Los Angeles County
(626) 821-3222
www.arboretum.org

LACMA FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ (free concert series)

Fridays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., beginning April 5
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

TRANSFORMING LACMA: Museum at the Crossroads Exhibition

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

PAVILLION OF WINGS: A Live Butterfly Experience

Through September 2
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

Very Special Arts Festival

On Wednesday, May 8, the Very Special Arts Festival celebrates the artistic achievements of young people with mental and physical disabilities along with their mainstream peers.

In its 23rd year, the admission-free Festival offers the theme of The Living Ocean, featuring continuous performances, workshops, an art exhibit and a technology display. The event is held every spring on the Plaza of the Music Center in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. 

LACERA Elections in July

LACERA Elections will be held this summer to elect the Second Members of the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments for terms of office commencing January 1, 2003. This year the terms of office for the Second Members of the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments of LACERA will expire on December 31.

Elections for both offices will be held Tuesday, July 23, 2002.

General Members interested in running for these offices may obtain nomination packets beginning April 19 from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. Nominating petitions must be signed by at least 50 active county employees who were the same membership type as of March 1. Petitions must be filed with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, 12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, 90650, before 5:00 p.m. Monday, May 20.

For more information contact your departmental election coordinator. 



Knabe Dubs Former Supervisor 'Deane' of New Nature Center

On March 14, Supervisor Don Knabe dedicated the Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center.

"This is a wonderful addition to our County park system, with enjoyable programs and activities for all ages," said Supervisor Knabe. "This was always Supervisor Dana's dream, and I am pleased that the Nature Center has finally become a reality."

In a festive ceremony, the new facilities were dedicated to the people of the County of Los Angeles. Deane Dana is shown above (third from left) with his wife, Doris, Supervisor Knabe, Julie Knabe, and County Public Works Executive Director Jim Noyes.

"I want to thank everyone who has made today possible," said former Supervisor Deane Dana. "I'm honored and humbled by this great tribute. I hope that children from across Los Angeles County have the chance to come here and learn about nature and experience its precious beauty."

The new 4,000 square-foot nature center has an attached outdoor patio, and live and pictorial interpretive displays of flora and fauna inside, interspersed with mounted animals. There is also a classroom with a library section containing educational, age-appropriate books for the enjoyment of school groups and individual visitors. The scope of the project also included installation of new equipment in the children's play area, expansion of the existing parking lot and construction of a new lot, replacing and widening the existing service road to comply with current accessibility standards, and new exterior security lighting. Also, a new fully accessible trail to Vista Point was added, and existing trails were repaired with the help of a generous donation from the Sierra Club.

Ford Amphitheatre Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Biggest Season Ever

The 10th season of the Ford Amphitheatre extends over 22 weeks, from May 4 to October 5, and includes 45 different events embracing world theatre, classical music, dance, jazz, bluegrass, cabaret, film and family fare.

"Since my predecessor, Ed Edelman, launched the Ford revitalization effort, we've continually improved and expanded our program roster, attracting larger audiences with performances that reflect the unique and exciting cultural mix in our County," commented County Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, in whose district the Ford resides.

Complete 2002 season information is available by calling the Ford Box Office, (323) GO-FORD (461-3673) or by logging onto the Ford website: www.fordamphitheatre.org. The Ford Amphitheatre season is a program of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and is produced in collaboration with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations.

Event pricing ranges from \$20-\$36 with those purchasing tickets to three or more evening events receiving a 20 percent discount. The Ford Amphitheatre is located just off the 101 Hollywood freeway at 2580 Cahuenga Boulevard, east across the freeway from the Hollywood Bowl and south of the Universal Studios. ☞

Programming at the Nature Center began on March 16, at a fun-filled and informative open house. Youth learned about nature and the environment with hands-on activities. In addition, there were representatives of many agencies and organizations on hand to share their expertise with those in attendance. Represented were Tongva/Gabrielino Dancers performing traditional dances, L.A. County Vector Control with "Bee Alert" information, the Placerita Canyon Nature Center with live animal displays and outreach programs and much more.

Deane Dana Friendship Park is located at 1805 West Ninth Street in San Pedro. For additional information about the facility or programs call (310) 519-6115. ☞

APRIL 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.

Thirty years or more of County Service:

ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER: Bruce A. Hoffman
ASSESSOR: Robert D. Rincon, Uriel F. Solis
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Patricia A. Swancutt
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Jimmy V. Arenas
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Pamela A. Bell, Arthur I. Cohen, Susan M. Flax, Ellen Jimenez, Addie Love, Frances J. Nord, Maria E. Puertas, Annette W. Shackelford, Frank Silva, Mary Thayer, George Wong
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Roseann Kakuk
CORONER: John J. Park
COUNTY COUNSEL: Roger M. Whitby
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Dennis J. Duarte, Eleanor Barrett, Ray V. Saukkola, Sidney D. Trapp Jr.
FIRE: Albert J. Brown, Roy E. Burlison, Katherine E. Condon, Dennis K. Corbett, Charles L. Dickinson, Robert H. Dobratz, George G. Doke, Jorge Espino, William M. Everson, Glenn Groen, Charles Hahne, John A. Harm, Richard Harp, Joe A. Hernandez, Martin H. Hinds, Dennis Kendall, Lavern E. Larcom, Lawrence R. Myers, Kenneth E. Nixon, Robert Passage, Robert J. Persichetti, William J. Rader
HEALTH SERVICES: Safinaz F. Abdelmalek, Cecilia Ball, Cynthia A. Barnes, Lee A. Carter, Oscar Castro, Teresa Cortez, Margie Dunn, Barbara A. Freeny, Fumiko C. Fujita, Patricia Holody, Delia M. Intia, Philip A. Kalpakian, Nancy Kelly, Jenny Keshishian, Donald Krugman, Tree Lockie, Carolyn Lyons, Kathlyn C. Martinson, Elmo Patin, Melba Reyes, Catherine J. Schellhase, Irene Schorr, Samuel B. Stevenson, N. A. Taylor, Ora L. Toole, Rosina C. Varela, Vivian A. Wair, Albert E. Yellin
INTERNAL SERVICES: Earl L. Beavers, Bernard K. Richmond, Michael R. Stalker
MENTAL HEALTH: Frandel E. Heller
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS: Mary Jo Kolakoski
PARKS & RECREATION: Joseph L. Olivas
PROBATION: Margaret Billingsley, Barbara Caplan, Joseph J. Cella Jr., Franklin A. Grana, Lee G. Gruen, Henry R. Nandino, Joan M. Pannell, H. G. Rogers, Janice E. Taylor
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Ramiro H. Castillo, Stanley I. Efron, Carmen G. Payares
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Shirley S. Shen, Charles Van Norton
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Janet D. Creech, Shirley A. King, Cheri Ann Miller, Marlene F. Mills, Judith W. Mitchell, Catherine G. Peck, Phyllis Phelps, Alice Roldan, Ikhlas Shaheed-Mitc, Jaquelyn C. Taylor, Leona F. Thomas, Mary F. Turner-Myles, John T. Work

see RETIREES page 12

DHS
continued from page 1

"The program works to bring preventive healthcare to children at their schools and at County clinic sites," said Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky. "School nurses and County physicians identify children who have poorly controlled asthma; they work with the program staff to schedule patients to be seen when the Breathmobiles visit their school or clinic site."

The Asthma Disease Management Program combines a healthcare team of physicians, nurses and respiratory therapists in an outreach program. That program brings the healthcare team to the children with asthma without disrupting their school day; and a technology system links the mobile units (also known as Breathmobiles) with fixed clinic sites and the CRM Program Headquarters. This combination, along with patient and parental education and self-management of the disease, combine to result in the very positive patient outcomes that this program has demonstrated.

The Southern California Chapter of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) and Dr. Craig Jones of the LAC+USC Healthcare Network designed the program, which DHS runs in partnership with AAFA and the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The idea of the healthcare team going to the patient is one of the keys to the success of the program. It is an example of increased access to services which Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, the new DHS director, would like to expand.

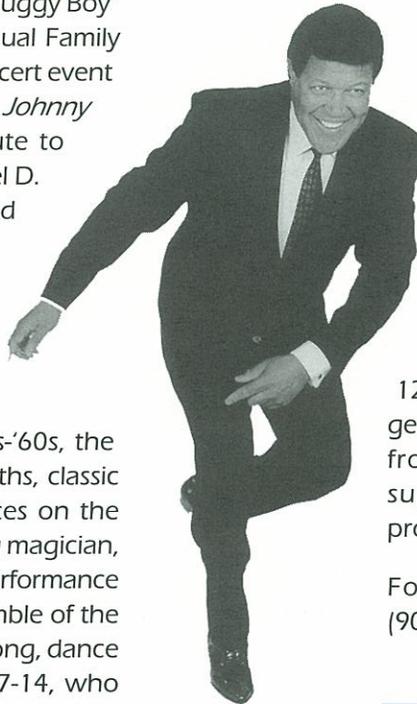
According to Dr. Jeffrey J. Guterman, Medical Director for the Los Angeles County CRM Program, effective asthma management lies in the prevention of acute attacks; this is achieved by controlling the child's asthma between attacks with preventive medications and environmental controls.

During the first year, children enrolled in the program had 15% fewer emergency department visits, 30% fewer hospitalizations and 28% fewer missed days from school due to illness. Most of the 4,000 children who have participated in the program have been able to gain control of their asthma, even those with severe forms of the disease. ✍

Family Music Festival Features Doo-Wop Legends, Vintage Cars

Celebrated Doo-Wop-era deejay Dick "Huggy Boy" Hugg will M.C. the County's 12th Annual Family Music Festival, a much anticipated concert event that features *The Beach Boys*, *Chubby Checker*, *Johnny Otis and his Band*, and *Chico Vega's* tribute to *The Drifters*. Sponsored by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the festival will be held on Sunday, June 23, from noon to 7 p.m., at Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, 120 Via Verde in San Dimas (next to Raging Waters, where the 10 and 210 freeways meet).

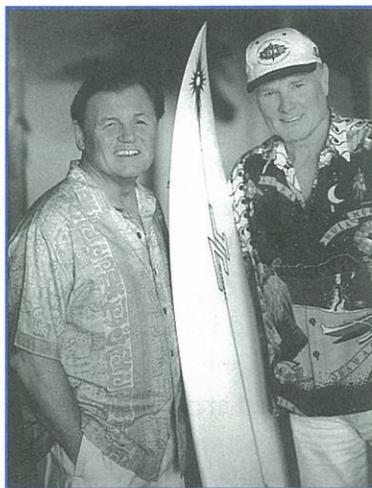
In addition to musical legends from the '50s-'60s, the festival will include food, vendors, crafts booths, classic cars and special youth-oriented performances on the children's stage. Also for the kids: a fascinating magician, children's play area, kiddy rides and a special performance by members of "Different Decades," an ensemble of the County Capers program. County Capers is a song, dance and musical revue for boys and girls, ages 7-14, who reside within the County of Los Angeles.



County employees can purchase a general admission ticket for \$7.50 or a reserved seat admission for \$20. Tickets purchased at the gate on the day of the event will be \$18 for general admission and \$30 for reserved seating. Children under 12 years old are free with paid adult general admission only. All proceeds from the event will go towards support of the County Capers program.

For additional information, call (909) 599-8411, ext. 2001 or 2011. 

As *The Beach Boys* mark their 40th Anniversary, the group continues to ride the crest of a wave that is practically unequalled in American musical history. Their classic songs are said to characterize the very spirit of the California lifestyle and they have sold more than 100 million records worldwide. Last year, *The Beach Boys* received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grammy Awards' Recording Academy.



Chubby Checker turned dancing cheek-to-cheek on its ear in the early '60s with his, then, revolutionary concept of "dancing apart to the beat." Checker's dance moves are said to have begotten the "Pony," "Fly," and "Shake," which became the era's most popular dances. Still in high school when his most famous single, "The Twist," hit music charts, Checker now entertains world audiences 300 days out of the year.

“Sharing a Commitment”

Children and Families’ Well-Being: The Fifth Strategic Plan Goal

A wise man once said that you could gauge the humanity of a civilization by the manner in which it deals with children and their needs. The County of Los Angeles’ Strategic Plan Goal 5 represents the County’s efforts to improve the lives of children and their families. Through the work of more than 22 departments that serve children and families, the County is seeking to achieve the following outcomes/results for children and families Countywide:

- ▶ Good Health
- ▶ Economic Well-Being
- ▶ Safety and Survival
- ▶ Emotional and Social Well-Being
- ▶ Education/Workforce Readiness

Key efforts being implemented by the Chief Administrative Office, County departments, and the Children’s Planning Council, include the following:

Integrating County Services for Children and Families

The County and its community partners created the Service Integration Action Plan (SIAP) to make substantial progress toward developing integrated County health and human services. By integrating, or linking, programs and services from different departments, the County is creating a system that has no wrong door, so wherever a family seeks County services, they will be able to easily access a broad range of services from different departments that are tailored to address their unique situation and needs.

Over the past year, the County has been implementing the SIAP by identifying ways to increase children and families’ access to County services; improve customer service and satisfaction; enhance multi-agency service delivery; facilitate the ability to share information among departments serving the same family, and identify opportunities for departments and their partners to expand and improve programs by leveraging and matching available funds. The work of the SIAP demonstrates what can be done system-wide when representatives of the County, community, and consum-



Goal 5 recognizes that a critical first step in working to better serve the needs of children and families is improving the County’s health and human services to make them more family-focused, accessible, and effective.



ers of service work together to develop practical ways to make County services more accessible, customer friendly, better integrated, and focused on the needs of children and families.

Understanding County Trends Related to Children and Families

Goal 5 was developed to answer the questions: "What should/can County government do to improve the lives of children and families?" and "What are the desired results of the County's efforts?" To answer these questions, the County has begun to track important statistics and trends about children and families in Los Angeles County. Below are the desired results that the County is working towards for children and families:

GOOD HEALTH- Fewer newborns with low birth weight, improved access to health insurance for children and families, more children immunized by age two, and more elderly adults vaccinated against the flu.

SAFETY AND SURVIVAL- Fewer occurrences of child abuse and neglect, a decrease in the number of youth arrested for felony offenses, fewer deaths due to accidents and homicide, and fewer incidents of domestic violence.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING- Decrease in the number of children living in poverty, a reduction in the number of families paying a disproportionate amount of earnings for housing, a decrease in adult unemployment, improved access for working poor families to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and increased access to subsidized child care in Los Angeles County.

EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING- Decrease in the number of children residing in non-permanent family settings, an increase in young adults registered to vote, more youth reading books, and fewer teen births.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE READINESS- Increase in the number of high school graduates, improved educational levels for parents, better reading scores for children, and more youth in school or employed.

While the combined efforts of the County and community are needed to improve the lives of children and families, County programs will be measured to see how they are contributing to the desired results. An important tool to track the County's contribution and progress toward achieving these results is the Los Angeles County Children and Families Budget.

Children and Families Budget

A Children and Families Budget has been presented for the first time as an addendum to the County's Proposed Budget. This Budget provides an assessment of the County's resources allocated to serve children and families by capturing the contribution of individual departments, as well as the efforts of many departments working together, to improve the lives of children and families. The Children and Families Budget addresses the following questions:

How well are services being provided?

What are the results of the service?

Is anyone better off?

This information will help the Board of Supervisors, County departments and the public determine how to provide the most effective services for children and families.



What Can You Do For Children and Families?

Children and families' well-being lies at the heart of the County of Los Angeles' commitment to providing its more than 10 million residents with quality services, designed to improve their quality of life. Every member of the County family plays an important role in ensuring that children and families are provided the services and support they need to lead full and productive lives.

You can play an integral part in improving the well-being of children and families by:

- ▶ Striving to overcome language/cultural barriers and eliminating time delays so that every family has full access to applicable County services.
- ▶ Treating clients with kindness and respect.
- ▶ Providing clients with information on programs and services administered by other County departments so that families can access a broader range of services without having to go to multiple agencies.
- ▶ Sharing information with your colleagues from other departments and non-County service providers about the programs and services your department provides for children and families.

City Terrace Celebrates New Pedestrian Safety Measures

As the County of Los Angeles continues to face pedestrian and traffic safety concerns, Supervisor Gloria Molina and the City Terrace community celebrated the completion of a first-of-its-kind pedestrian safety project within a County unincorporated area. To mark the occasion and to celebrate local revitalization efforts, Supervisor Molina and community members unveiled a new City Terrace marker at the corner of City Terrace Drive and Eastern Avenue.

“Pedestrian safety measures are key to the area’s revitalization efforts,” Supervisor Molina said. “For example, the corner of City Terrace Drive and Eastern Avenue was once an unsafe triangular island. It is now a new, safer ‘closed road’ intersection.”

Other pedestrian safety measures in the area include construction of a “Smart” pedestrian crosswalk at Hicks Avenue and City Terrace Drive. Motorists are now warned when pedestrians cross the street with flashing Lights Emitting Diode (LED) indicators, and crosswalks are lined with surface-mounted LED lights that flash when crosswalks are in use.

“Bulb-outs,” which shorten the distance between street corners for pedestrians by enlarging pedestrian crossing points, are now located at traffic lanes on Alma Avenue, Pomeroy Street, Ramboz Drive, and Marengo Street. In addition, traffic lanes have been reduced to one lane in each direction, allowing for the placement of a bicycle lane, and two crossing guards have been added to the intersection of City Terrace Drive and Eastern Avenue.

This is the first time the County has included all of these measures in road design to focus increased attention on pedestrian safety and slowing down traffic.

“Our number one concern is pedestrian safety,” said Public Works Director Jim Noyes.



“We have achieved our goal by making street improvements and, at the same time, beautifying the area.”

Additional improvements include curb ramps to provide access for the disabled, roadway re-surfacing, and a paved and landscaped center median along City Terrace Drive.

“City Terrace’s proximity to the freeway presents some obvious challenges,” said California Highway Patrol Captain Art Acevedo. “The new pedestrian safety measures are a unique way of slowing down traffic in this area and have made our job much easier.”

“I’m glad our school children and parents can now feel safer when walking to school,” added Harrison Elementary School Principal Marguerite Murphy.

Molina, in partnership with the local community, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and Community Development Commission initiated the renaissance of City Terrace several years ago with new housing, as well as a library and park improvements, which included a dynamic mural by local artist Paul Botello at the new City Terrace Park

gym. The “new” City Terrace also includes the addition of storefront facades with a 1940s motif, an improved County parking lot, and renovation of the area’s “Moon Goddess” monument.

“As local residents, educators, church leaders, artists, and activists, we are pleased to have been equal partners with Supervisor Molina and the County in making these improvements in our community a reality,” said Esther Rodriguez, a City Terrace resident and captain of the More Advocates for Safe Homes’ DeGarmo unit.

In addition to the colorful landscaping and soon-to-be-installed bus shelters, future plans for the area include in-fill housing.

Supervisor Molina asked for continued community involvement as revitalization plans move forward with additional urban design efforts. For more information about community input and participation, contact Molina’s East Los Angeles Community Office at (323) 881-4601.

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Offers Passport Services

County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk branch offices at Florence-Firestone and in Van Nuys have been designated as Passport Acceptance Service facilities by the United States Passport Office.

"A partnership has been formed between the RR/CC and the U.S. Passport Office as a means of providing convenient service for individuals seeking a passport," said the County's Conny McCormack. "Since a copy of a birth record is needed to obtain a U.S. passport, what better way to serve the public than by providing both of these services simultaneously?"

"I'm very pleased that we've been able to make quick and convenient passport services available to the people of San Fernando Valley through our Van Nuys Registrar-Recorder's office," County Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky said. "This will cut down greatly on the time and effort needed to obtain these important documents."

Both the Florence-Firestone and Van Nuys branch offices accept passport applications on Tuesdays through Thursdays by appointment, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.. In addition to the \$45 fee for the passport, a \$15 service charge is collected for each application. RR/CC staff review the applications for completeness and forward applications and fees to the United States Passport Office for final approval and issuance of the official United States Passport.

Those wishing to obtain further information regarding passport requirements and fees can call the Passport Office at (900) 225-5674. Information is also available on the agency's Web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. Inquiries can also be directed to the RR/CC Florence-Firestone branch office at (323) 586-6192 or the Van Nuys branch office at (818) 374-7176. A link to the Passport Office can also be found on the RR/CC website at http://regrec.co.la.ca.us/general_passport.htm.

Individuals requiring assistance in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, or Vietnamese regarding this information may call (800) 481-8683. ✍

County Library Offers New Online Services

Using the County Library website, the public now has the ability to post inquiries online and receive a quick response with the County Library's extended online reference service.

Reference librarians from various libraries throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties will now be available online to rapidly attend to inquiries. This service is available to the public seven-days-a-week and virtually 24-hours-a-day. The new extended online service is accessible from computers inside the library, as well as off-site personal computers at any time—even if local libraries are not open. Just go to the County Library website at www.colapublib.org and click on the "Live Reference" icon located on the home page. There will be an option to either correspond with the reference desk by phone (various libraries and phone numbers listed), e-mail or by "live" online service.

Library cardholders can also place their own requests for books and other materials listed in the County Library Web Catalog online via the Internet or by using the Information Gateway program on the catalog workstations in local County libraries.

In order to place requests:

- You must have a County of Los Angeles Public Library card and be in good standing
- You need to have a PIN (Personal Identification Number)

PINs have been assigned by the Public Library to all cardholders. Local library staff can assist cardholders in identifying their PIN numbers or change them to a new PIN number of choice. Borrowers that are minors (under 18 years of age) may place requests for any materials, but will need parental permission to check out videos and DVDs (library policy). Materials will be available for you to pick up at the library of your designation when entering your request. With a PIN number and your Library card number, cardholders can check their personal library account for items that they have checked out, fines owed, and requests for materials.

The County Library Web Catalog can be reached by clicking the icon on the County Library's website, or by going directly to <http://catalog.colapl.org>. ✍

EOM
continued from page 1

and equipment and all emergency and non-emergency activities out of Fire Station 3 in the unincorporated area of East Los Angeles. He also conducts public relations activities at elementary schools and senior citizens centers throughout the East L.A. area. When it comes to public outreach, he believes that it is always best to "pour out" fire safety information to all ages.

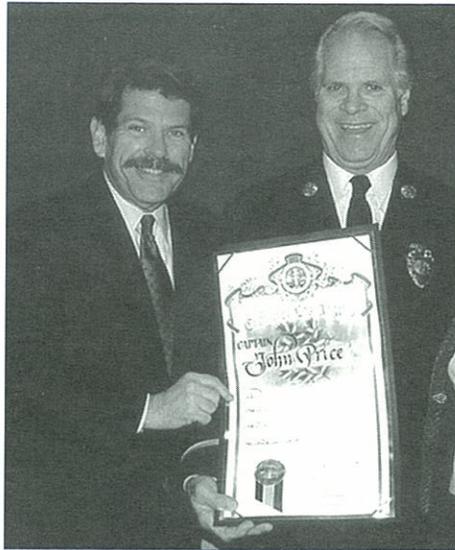
Price has always had a true passion for the youth of the County of Los Angeles and the communities in which he has lived.

While attending a Sheriff's Department function in 1971, Price noticed several youngsters dressed in uniforms similar in many ways to the uniforms of deputies. He inquired about the youth and discovered that the Sheriff's Department had a program targeted at introducing law enforcement careers to teenagers. Price took this idea and ran with it! Along with the Boy Scouts of America, he co-founded the Fire Explorer Scouting Program that same year.

The Fire Explorer Scouting Program began operating out of two posts and has since blossomed out across the western region of the country. Today, the County of Los Angeles operates Explorer programs out of all 20 of its battalions, touching the lives of countless youth. Approximately 300 current firefighters and dispatchers were inspired to seek a career with the Los Angeles County Fire Department as a result of their involvement in the program.

The Explorer Program, now called "Learning For Life," has become a major force in increasing productivity within the department.

"Participants contribute a tremendous amount of time and energy in support of all Fire Department events, including the Los Angeles County Fair, and countless other events," said Chief P. Michael Freeman, who



March Employee of the Month Captain John Price, shown with County Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, was a co-founder of the Fire Department's explorer program.

nominated Price for the honor of Employee of the Month. "They have become an irreplaceable and knowledgeable resource to the department."

To participate in the Explorer program, candidates must be at least 15 years of age. After spending a year in the program, they become eligible to participate in the Explorer Academy, where they learn more of the "meat and potatoes" of what it takes to be a firefighter. Once they graduate from the academy, they are eligible to ride along with firefighters on a regular basis and participate in non-emergency assistance calls.

Aside from his accomplishments with the Fire Explorer Scouting Program, Captain Price played a significant role in the implementation of the first Computer-Assisted Dispatch System, led efforts to computerize data on all the fire hydrants in the County, and served as a key technical advisor to the '70s hit television series, "Emergency!" which launched the paramedic profession around the globe.

Outside of work, Price enjoys participating in sports and coaching youth sports activities. He has competed in the California State Fireman's Olympics since 1972 and is a medal winner in softball and rowing at the World Fire and Police Games. He has coached various sports teams in the communities of Cerritos, Lakewood and Brea and is a member of the Board of Directors of Sports and Cultural Exchange International, an organization founded to create a youth sports exchange program between the United States, Mexico, Central America, the Dominican Republic and other countries.

Price has seven kids, three boys and four girls, and 13 grandchildren. He is the second of three generations of firefighters. His father is now a retired firefighter and one of his sons also serves currently as a firefighter with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

He has received numerous accolades for his workplace accomplishments and his ability to lead by example. We are truly pleased to bestow upon him one more award. Congratulations, Captain Price, for being selected as the County Employee of the Month for March 2002. 

County DIGEST

Department of Human Resources

500 W. Temple Street, Room 375
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 974-1301

(213) 613-4789 FAX

Available online at:

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

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

INTERNET SERVICE
continued from page 1

Prodigy, an affiliate of SBC Pacific Bell Telephone Company, is now offering this special program.

Sign up today and pay just \$14.95 per month* for Internet service! With Prodigy you can enjoy as many as 11 e-mail accounts accessible from any Web-connected computer, stay organized with an online address book and personal calendar, get in touch with an advanced instant messenger—and much more.

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Food Pantry for AIDS Patients Opens at King-Drew Medical Center

On March 8, Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke joined officials from the King-Drew Medical Center and AIDS Project L.A. (APLA) to open the new food pantry for HIV/AIDS patients at the Necessities of Life Program/Drew Cares Spirit of Life Center at the King-Drew Medical Center.

Supervisor Burke noted that while King-Drew had already been providing a cluster of services to HIV/AIDS patients in collaboration with APLA and the OASIS Clinic, the new center will provide even more comprehensive services to the men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS in South Los Angeles.

“No longer will they have to travel far outside this area in order to access programs for which they have a vital need,” said Supervisor Burke.

In the last few years, a growing number of minorities, especially women, have

become HIV-positive, and so the need for services in the King-Drew service area has been steadily increasing. Patients in this service area must often face their situation with little or no health insurance, low-paying jobs, and dependence on public transit instead of private automobiles. Because of these situations and the high cost of medications needed to slow the onset of AIDS, they are more likely to seek treatment only after developing full-blown AIDS. Because they are treated later in the onset of the disease, they are also far more likely to face a swifter progression to the terminal stages of AIDS.

Supervisor Burke noted that, despite the higher need for help in South Los Angeles, the most comprehensive services have been concentrated in areas where more affluent HIV/AIDS patients live.

see **FOOD PANTRY** on page 12

Employee Wellness Fair Schedule

Wellness Fairs are a great opportunity for County employees to ask their medical and dental carriers questions and to get immediate feedback from on-the-spot blood pressure, diabetes and fat level screenings. Sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Labor-Management Advisory Committee on Productivity Enhancement, Wellness fairs will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the following sites:

June 26

Department of Public Social Services
21615 Plummer Street, 2nd floor,
large conference room
Chatsworth, CA 91311

August 28

Department of Public Social Services
211 East Alondra Boulevard,
employee parking lot
Compton, CA 90220

September 25

Probation Department
9150 East Imperial Highway,
cafeteria
Downey, CA 90242

FOOD PANTRY

continued from page 11

"I see the opening of this new center as an important step in expanding services in areas where HIV/AIDS has become an epidemic," she told the audience at the event. "It's high time that we make medications and services available to all the people who need them."

This month APLA reported that 60 patients have been enrolled in the food pantry program which makes four bags of groceries a week available to each patient. 

RETIREES

continued from page 4

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