



## County Salutes Professional Social Workers

**S**ocial workers provide an invaluable service to the County of Los Angeles and its nearly 10 million residents. In recognition of their tireless efforts, Second District Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke introduced a motion proclaiming March “Professional Social Workers Appreciation Month” throughout Los Angeles County. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of the Board.

While the Board of Supervisors made an official scroll presentation to some of the County’s longest serving social workers during its March 19 regular meeting, the countywide “Salute to Professional Social Workers” was further commemorated with a second event on April 2.

see **SOCIAL WORKERS**  
on page 10



*Children and Family Services children’s social workers Ken Cappell (middle) and David Fickworth (second from right) receive a scroll from Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke to mark Professional Social Workers Appreciation Month in March. DCFS Director Anita Bock (second from left) and Brad Pye, DCFS head of public affairs, joined in the salute to County social workers. Cappell and Fickworth share more than 60 years of service to County communities between them.*

## Employee of the Month: Public Library’s Carol Ross

Managing hundreds of enthusiastic library volunteers and coordinating their efforts across 84 public libraries seems a natural fit for Employee of the Month Carol Ross. As the volunteer programs director for the County Public Library, she engages a simple formula for the success of her team: lead by example. Invariably, when she is not meeting with one of the County’s 73 Friends of the Library groups or directing her five regional volunteer coordinators, Ross can be found donating her own time and resources to a number of community and faith-based organizations.

see **EOM** on page 4

## Alameda Corridor Open for Business

California Governor Gray Davis, United States Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta, County supervisors Don Knabe and Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and a host of other elected officials came together in April to dedicate the \$2.4 billion Alameda Corridor Project—a 20-mile corridor that stands to substantially improve the transportation of cargo from the nation’s busiest port complex to destinations across the nation.

“The Alameda Corridor is the modern-day equivalent of the Panama Canal, said Supervisor Knabe, a board member of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA).

see **CORRIDOR** on page 11

## HIGHLIGHTS

Event Calendar.....	2
WalkAmerica.....	2
Healthy Connections.....	3
May Retirees.....	4
César Chávez Week.....	5
<b>SHARING A COMMITMENT</b> .....	6
Departments Cross-Train....	8
Buyer Beware Program.....	9
New Traffic Lights.....	10
<b>WATER</b> Program.....	12
<b>LACERA</b> Elections.....	12

## EVENT CALENDAR

### **FAMILY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

June 23, noon to 7 p.m.  
Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park  
120 Via Verde, San Dimas  
(909) 599-8411, ext. 2001 or 2011

### **EMPLOYEE WELLNESS FAIR**

June 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Department of Public Social Services  
21615 Plummer Street, Chatsworth  
second floor, large conference room

### **TURANDOT**

May 25 through June 16  
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
(213) 972-8001  
[www.losangelesopera.com](http://www.losangelesopera.com)

### **THE FULL MONTY**

April 16 through June 8  
Ahmanson Theatre  
(213) 628-2772  
[www.taperahmanson.com](http://www.taperahmanson.com)

### **SORROWS AND REJOICINGS**

May 23 through June 30  
Mark Taper Forum  
(213) 628-2772  
[www.taperahmanson.com](http://www.taperahmanson.com)

### **PAVILION OF WINGS**

**A Live Butterfly Experience**  
Through September 2  
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County  
(213) 763-DINO  
[www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.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](http://www.lacma.org)

### **TRANSFORMING LACMA: Museum at the Crossroads Exhibition**

Showing Daily  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
(323) 857-6000  
[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)



## Employees Walk for Healthy Babies

Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky recently led the County's WalkAmerica Team at Griffith Park where 20,000 walkers helped fight birth defects and fund prenatal research. Joining the Supervisor were a cadre of department heads, including David E. Janssen, Rick Auerbach, Michael J. Henry, Anita Bock, Lloyd W. Pellman, Stan Wisniewski, Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Bryce Yokomizo, Dennis A. Tafoya, Robert Ryans, Jon Fullinwider, Violet Varona-Lukens, Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, Pastor Herrera, Joan Ouder Kirk, Philip Browning and James Hartl.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky presented Jim Stutz, campaign chairman of the March of Dimes, a \$150,000 check from County employees as their first pledge amount.

Following the walk's opening ceremony, March of Dimes t-shirt judges proclaimed the County's "United We Stand, United We Walk" as the winner of the "Best Theme" t-shirt award! A big thanks to all the walkers and volunteers who helped make the Griffith Park walk a great event.

For those unable to attend the walk, March of Dimes donations may still be turned in to your departmental WalkAmerica coordinator or the CAO Office of Workplace Programs through June 28. For additional information on WalkAmerica beanies and Health Services Med-Walks near you, call (213) 974-1347. ☎

## Healthy Connections

Close to 45 employees from various County departments were on hand April 17 for "Chair Exercise," the first offering of the "Healthy Connections" series of lectures sponsored by the Department of Human Resources. Held once a month in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration's newly refurbished exercise room (B-62), the noontime series is open to all County employees.

"Weight Management," the next lecture in the Healthy Connections series, will be held Thursday, May 30, at noon. Lectures are given by representatives of County health plans, as well as members of County departments. Each program begins at noon and lasts approximately 50 minutes. Participants are encouraged to bring a bag lunch.

Healthy Connections is a product of the County's Pilot Exercise Program, which resulted from a May 2001 motion by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

Following the remodel of Room B-62, funded by a grant from the County's Quality and Productivity Commission, a number of workplace health related programs were introduced, including yoga and Pilates classes both during lunch and after work hours. Information on these sessions and others can be found on bulletin boards throughout the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. 



## Toy Loan Fundraising Month

Bringing smiles to children's faces year round, while teaching lessons in character and good citizenship, is a community effort. With the support of the Department of Public Social Services, the Toy Loan Program provides a free toy-lending service to the children of Los Angeles County. Throughout its 41 centers, Toy Loan provides children with a safe environment in which to play and helps them to develop a sense of self-worth through a merit system that rewards the responsible borrowing of toys. Toy Loan targets lower-income communities, where children often lack access to basic skill-building toys, which are an essential part of a child's development

You can help support this worthwhile program by making a monetary contribution. Your donation will help purchase much needed new toys, such as role-playing toys, interactive toys, science toys, math games, board games, sports equipment and more.

For more information, call (213) 744-4344 or visit us on the Internet at <http://dpss.co.la.ca.us>. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to:

**Toy Loan Advisory Board**  
**2615 South Grand Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90007**

**Please do not send cash!**



# MAY 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:

**ASSESSOR:** Marian Hunter  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Walter Kelly  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Anna Morales, Rion Porter  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Jesse Cortez, Howard Kelner, John Kildebeck  
**FIRE:** Thomas Barrett, William Botts, Roscoe Doke, Peter Douty, Jerry Greenelsh, Robert Hecht, Stephen Reed  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Lenora Bahar, Lupe Beason, Emma Castro, Frank Dixon, Santos Fernandez, Carole Fujishiro, Gertie Hollie, Conchita Soriano  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Arlene Burns, Joe Chavez, Brenda Gamble, Anthony Sotelo, Grant Busta  
**PROBATION:** George Duff, Garret McNulty, Daniel Vega, Albert Vogler  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** W.G. Bucknam, Odessa Irving, Lynn Kelly, Irma McClure, Bergilio Menor  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Charles Chen, Surjit Dhillon, Lorretta Ramirez, Armando Rodriguez, Calvin Wang  
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Diane Finks, Milas Smith  
**SHERIFF:** Kim Aboudara, Thomas Campbell II, Richard Carrier, David Davidson, Robin Hannan, Janie Harrison, Gary Holland, Reynold Itow, Diane Lee, Joseph Leyva, Clark Nichols, Gordon Shackelford, Robert Spierer, William Edwards  
**SUPERIOR COURT:** Lupe Beason, Marie Clarke, Teresita Pineda, Yolanda Potter, Maggie Smith, B. Charline Howell

## Twenty-five years or more of County service:

**ASSESSOR:** Antonio Atienza  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Karyl Burt  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Diane Crawford, Don Elmore, Maybelline Griffin, Arleen Lindsay  
**FIRE:** George Woods  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Alberta Frye, Ophelia Jones, Frances Mitchell, Maria Rodriguez, Louise Williams  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Arlene Burns, Charles King, Wanda St. Julien, June Cunez  
**LACERA:** Joseph Valenzuela  
**MENTAL HEALTH:** Alberta Frye  
**PROBATION:** Anne-Marie Botel Powers, Donald Ely, Victor McGraw, Alfred Monroy, Donald Ely  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Adelaida Chavez, Shannon Denton, Bobbie Harris, Mary Lewis, Rita Lopez-Moquis  
**SHERIFF:** Linda Birch, Arthur Fleischmann, Allan Mertz, Vivian Smith  
**SUPERIOR COURT:** Jeffery Castner, Edward Lopez, Timmy Aguilar



*Employee of the Month Carol Ross, shown with County Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, is volunteer program director for the County Public Library.*

## EOM continued from page 1

As her own colleagues are quick to point out, her spirit and energy are unflagging. "The County Library is so lucky to have Carol on our staff," County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd said. "Library volunteers and Friends of the Library groups have responded to Carol's dedication to service and enthusiasm for volunteering. County libraries and library service are greatly enhanced by the support in both time and money that we receive from volunteers and Friends. Carol's work is essential to the County Library."

Before coming to the Public Library Ross worked within several County departments, including the Department of Public Social Services. A single-mother when she began her County career more than 22 years ago, she remembers the day she was hired with an uncommon clarity. It was her son's first birthday.

"I was hired by the County in November 1979, at one of those job fairs where hundreds come to look for jobs," Ross recalls.

see EOM on page 10

## County Honors César Chávez with Community Service

The County of Los Angeles celebrated César Chávez Community Service Week, March 25-29, by encouraging employees to dedicate their time serving County communities in honor of the late civil rights and labor leader. By week's end, at least 800 County employees had volunteered in community libraries, schools, hospitals and nonprofit organizations with activities ranging from working in battered women's shelters, food banks and HIV prevention centers to participating in beach cleanup projects.

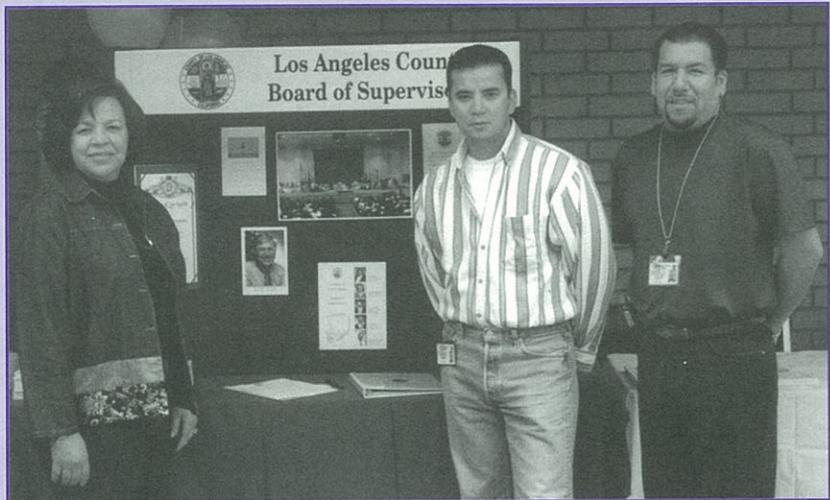
"I believe that performing a needed service to the public is a fitting way for County employees to pay homage to Chávez, especially since he so forthrightly advocated for dignity for all working people," said Supervisor Gloria Molina, who initiated the original motion for César Chávez Community Service Week.

Molina's motion received the unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors in April 2001, allowing the week prior to Chávez' birthday to be dedicated to his memory.

César Chávez Week festivities began at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County with a photo exhibit titled "The Life and Values of an American Hero." More than 5,300 people viewed the exhibit, which spanned several decades of Chávez' life—including his youth in Central California, his beginnings as a union organizer, his famous boycott against grapes in 1968 and his 1970 victory in obtaining official recognition of the United Farm Workers union.

Throughout the week, County employees volunteered their time at 19 nonprofit organizations and donated thousands of pounds

see CÉSAR CHÁVEZ  
on page 8



## Antonovich Foster Youth Career Fair and Resource Expo

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's first Foster Youth Career Fair and Resource Expo on April 6 was a resounding success with as many as 600 emancipated foster youth and 70 employers in attendance. Among the County departments on hand to offer career guidance was the County's Executive Office, represented by Executive Officer Violet Varona-Lukens (photo left) and two members of her staff. Additional resources available included on-site clerical testing for vacant positions within the County, seminars on résumé writing and dressing for success, and instruction in online job search techniques.

Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Supervisor Antonovich's motion exempting emancipated youth from the County's department-wide hiring freeze. "It is imperative that we communicate to our emancipated foster youth that the entire County family is behind them and wishes for them to succeed in life," Supervisor Antonovich said. ✍

[www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com)

For information on Household Hazardous Waste Events, Computer Recycling and Alternative Household Products (eco-friendly), log on to [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com) or call (888) CLEAN-LA.

# “Sharing a Commitment”

## County Strategic Plan and the Link with the New County Unincorporated Area Strategic Plan

Nearly one million residents live outside of the 88 incorporated cities that make up Los Angeles County. In most cases, these individuals reside in one of more than 130 unincorporated communities located throughout the County. Unincorporated Los Angeles County accounts for over 2,600 square miles of territory and includes several major communities including East Los Angeles, Hacienda Heights and Altadena. Smaller unincorporated communities, including Lennox, Topanga, and Castaic are geographically distributed throughout the County in urban, suburban, and rural settings. In addition, several well-known attractions, including Universal Studios, Marina del Rey and Six Flags Magic Mountain, are located in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

### Unincorporated Areas Strategic Plan

On July 3, 2001 the Board of Supervisors approved the Strategic Plan for Municipal Services to Unincorporated Areas (UA Strategic Plan). The objective of the UA Strategic Plan is to improve the delivery of, and accountability for, services provided to the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

Implementation of the UA Strategic Plan is a collaborative effort of Board offices and County departments that includes significant contributions and support from both staff and management. Participating departments include Animal Care and Control, Beaches and Harbors, Chief Information Office, Community Development Commission, Community and Senior Services, Consumer Affairs, County Counsel, Fire, Health Services, Office of Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, Public Library, Public Works, Regional Planning, Sheriff, and Treasurer and Tax Collector. The CAO's Office of Unincorporated Area Services serves as the lead agency for the overall administration of the UA Strategic Plan.

The implementation of the UA Strategic Plan involves numerous individual tasks in a series of action plans contained in the adopted strategic planning models. The strategic plan models are designed to address specific service delivery and accountability approaches and opportunities.



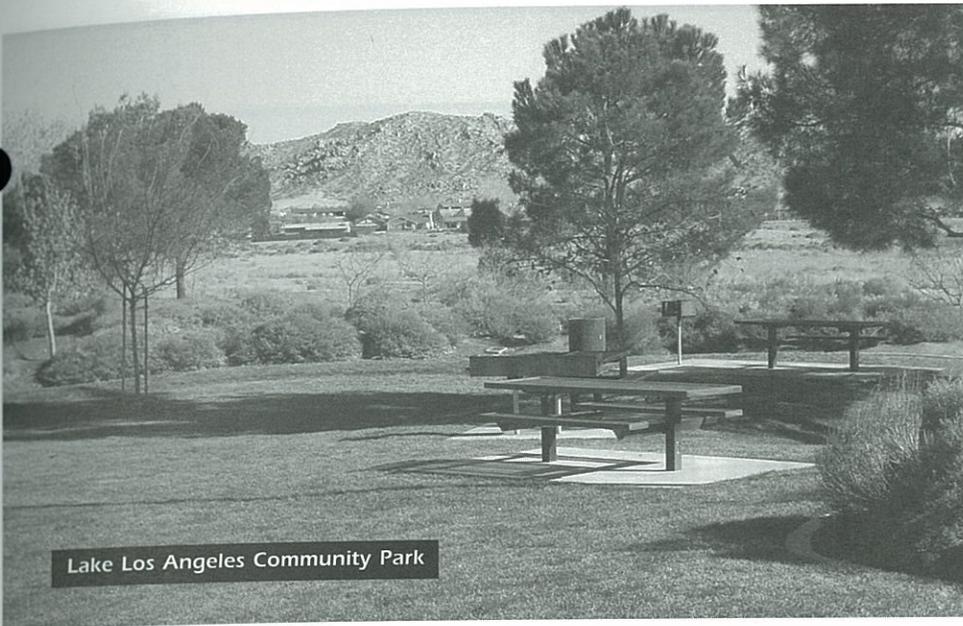
Community Resource Center, Whittier

Working groups, consisting of representatives from Board offices and County departments, have been established to address action plans for several of the collaborative UA Strategic Plan models.

The Civic Center Facility Model provides an opportunity for County municipal service providers and other agencies to assemble into a single facility or campus setting. County departments housed in the Civic Center work collaboratively as a joint venture to increase the convenience and availability of services. The Civic Center Model is being piloted in

East Los Angeles. Additional communities have been identified as candidates for future implementation of a similar approach to service delivery.

Unincorporated communities throughout the County have benefited from efforts consistent with the Access Model. County departments are working collaboratively to establish a variety of communication mechanisms to increase access to County services provided to unincorporated communities. Examples of ongoing projects associated with the Access Model include the establishment of a Toll-free Help Line for



Lake Los Angeles Community Park

unincorporated area residents and business owners to obtain information and referral to County services and report neighborhood problems and code violations. In addition, a community activity guide for the 28,000 homes in unincorporated Whittier is published three times per year to provide residents with timely information on County programs and facilities. The County is also working to initiate community Web sites that will provide local content and access to services for individual communities.

The Strategic Service Area and Lead Department Model identifies service needs by customer segments and customizes service packages to meet them. County departments enter into a joint venture to provide services, combining functions to make the best use of staff assigned to the area. If justified, small local facilities might be established to provide convenient community service centers. In some instances, a lead department may be appointed for an unincorporated community. This model builds upon County efforts already in place such as the Sheriff's

"Town Sheriff" program and multi-agency Nuisance Abatement Teams. Other strategic planning models include the Economic Development and Revitalization Model, Emergency Management Planning Model, and Unincorporated Island Model that provides for an analysis of services provided to the numerous unincorporated areas that consist of small areas of land generally surrounded by one or more incorporated cities.

The various elements of the UA Strategic Plan are supportive of the goals contained in the County Strategic Plan. Service Excellence is achieved through design of seamless "one County" service delivery systems. Investment in public infrastructure and management of resources promotes Fiscal Responsibility. Organizational Effectiveness results from collaboration across functional and jurisdictional boundaries. Workforce Excellence is being achieved through multi-departmental work groups that team up to resolve community issues. Customer satisfaction surveys are planned that will also serve to enhance service and workforce excellence.



**"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, Executive Office, Internal Services, Public Works and Sheriff.

**Next issue:  
Overview and Status  
Report**

**T**he County of Los Angeles is committed to improving the quality of life for its unincorporated residents. The UA Strategic Plan represents an outstanding opportunity for the County to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of municipal service delivery to the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County.

The Board of Supervisors serves as the mayor and city council for all unincorporated residents. The leadership provided by each Board office, combined with the efforts of management and staff from involved County departments, is a critical element in the early success of the unincorporated community strategic planning efforts.

Through a shared commitment to implement the UA Strategic Plan, the County has made significant progress in improving the quality of life for the residents and business owners of unincorporated Los Angeles County. ✎



*Supervisor Gloria Molina is shown participating in a food drive at a County community service center. As many as 800 County employees participated in César Chávez Community Service Week, providing 16,524 pounds of food items and 11,016 meals to needy families. The County Public Library's César Chávez Web site, featured on the Library's homepage, logged in 207,650 hits.*

**CÉSAR CHÁVEZ**  
continued from page 5

of food at 109 sites countywide. In addition, 22 County libraries held Chávez biographical readings and pictorial presentations to acquaint schoolchildren with his accomplishments. The County Public Library also distributed 80,000 bookmarks and a César Chávez curriculum to 82 local libraries and 1,600 schools in partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Similar educational activities, as well as tree-planting and theatrical performances, took place at 10 of the County's probation camps.

"By actively working with the general public during César Chávez Week, we were able to educate others—especially younger generations—about the impact Chávez made in the civil rights and labor movements," Supervisor Molina said. "Hopefully, they will come to understand him as an American hero—a leader who represented the values of hard work, justice, education, service and community." ✍

## County Agencies Partner Against Abuse

The service request appeared routine: investigate the report of abandoned dogs within a vacant apartment. When the animal control officer arrived, however, and began removing the underfed canines, he heard what sounded like a muffled whimpering emanating from a closet. He opened the door and uncovered a disturbing yet increasingly familiar sight. Inside lay a disoriented and apparently malnourished elderly man, who had been shut in the closet and temporarily abandoned, along with the dogs, by his caretaker.

"This incident of elder abuse may sound like something out of a low-budget horror movie, but it is becoming more common, and we need to put a stop to it," says Marcia Mayeda, director of the Department of Animal Care and Control.

Unfortunately, this sort of neglect and abuse is not restricted to pets or the elderly. Studies have shown that in homes where animals are mistreated, between 80-90 percent of children are also at risk.

Because of the strong correlation between animal, child and elder abuse, animal control officers throughout California are mandated to report incidents of child abuse. Consequently, the County's Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) has partnered with the departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Community and Senior Services (CSS) to provide cross-training for animal control officers and other DACC employees who have direct contact with the public while out in the field.

"Our officers are often the first responders to incidents involving animal abuse and neglect," Mayeda says. "By getting our officers trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of child and elder abuse, we hope to be able to alert DCFS and CSS to the need for early intervention before the problems we discover become acute."

As many as 175 County Animal Care and Control field officers will receive specialized training from DCFS and CSS staff instructors. In some cases, the cross-training will be easier because of what animal control officers already know.

"Our officers already know what to look for in suspected cases of animal abuse or neglect," Mayeda says.

see **PARTNERSHIP**  
on page 11



## Board Acts to Save Consumers from Register Overcharging

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in March to begin a program that will hold merchants responsible for overcharging consumers at the cash register.

Set to commence next year, the Board approved "Buyer Beware" program will emulate the County's restaurant rating law, which requires restaurants to post letter grades they receive from health and safety inspections. Under the new program, stores countywide found guilty of advertising one price but charging another will have to post a conviction notice near their entrances. Merchants will also be asked to display signs at the checkout stand informing shoppers of their right to the lowest advertised price, whether published in a newspaper, posted on a sign near merchandise or at the register.

"The Buyer Beware program stands to become a significant model for the County," says County Director of Consumer Affairs Pastor Herrera, "not only in curbing merchant overcharging, but in protecting L.A. County consumers at the cash register."

The Board action followed a report by the County's Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department, which found that County residents were overcharged an average of 11 percent of the time.

"Investigations by weights and measures officials throughout California have resulted in numerous settlements with retail chain stores," said County Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures Cato Fiksdal in a press release that reported the department's findings.

"In addition, our own three week survey of sale item pricing, conducted during the holiday period, found extensive discrepancies between the prices posted and the prices charged. Overcharges outnumbered undercharges by three to one on these sale items."

The following are steps consumers can take to ensure that they are not getting overcharged:

**CHECK YOUR SALES RECEIPT:** As you place items into your shopping cart, write down the price posted on the shelf or display, especially for sale items. Compare your list to the prices on the sales receipt.

**CHECK WHEN SALES START AND END:** Many problems occur because the shelf price is not changed to reflect the price changed in the computer. Check the effective dates on printed advertising. Separate sale items and hold them to be scanned last. This will allow you to ensure that the price is scanned correctly. Bring any discrepancies to the clerk's attention.

**IF OVERCHARGED, TELL THE STORE MANAGER:** It is the manager's responsibility to see that store scanners are accurate. Some stores offer price guarantees, including discounts and not charging the consumer for the overcharged item. If pricing errors are not corrected after being brought to the attention of the management, notify the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department by calling (800) 665-2900, or through its Web site: <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>.

"Consumers are entitled to accurate pricing when shopping," Fiksdal emphasized.

The Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department routinely conducts price verification inspections at retail locations to confirm that prices are the same as those posted or advertised. To better ensure accurate pricing throughout the County of Los Angeles, the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance on February 12, placing additional staff within the Weights and Measures Bureau and commissioned informational brochures to assist the bureau in educating consumers. *✍*

**SOCIAL WORKERS**  
continued from page 1

This special tribute, sponsored by Supervisor Burke and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Director Anita Bock, was held on the mall area of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Numerous County officials came to praise and show their support for the dedication and hard work of front-line children's social workers. Speakers included: Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca; John Hill, chief deputy to Supervisor Burke; Los Angeles Police Department Captain Sharyn Buck; ICAN Executive Director Deanne Tilton; Los Angeles County Coroner Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran; Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Director Dr. Marvin Southard; and Los Angeles County Department of Child Support Services Director Philip Browning.

Hill, a former foster child, stated his sentiments eloquently. "In the Second District, we are intimately aware of the role social workers play in saving lives every single day. Were it not for my own social worker, who rescued me when I was a young child, I might be still working at a farm labor camp today, instead of being Chief Deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. How do you say thank you to a group of people whose life's work entails helping God's children to find safe harbor in a storm? Words can never reflect the love and appreciation we feel for such caring professionals."

Each of the speakers spoke of DCFS social workers as being a special and unique group of people. "Children's social workers and senior children's social workers perform a vital and significant function in the lives of children and families," said Sheriff Baca. "They contribute more to children and families than can be quantified. The work of CSWs and SCSWs may not always be appreciated, but their work is very important and they touch the lives of our most vulnerable citizens in very significant ways."

Patrick Meikeljohn, a senior children's social worker in DCFS' Torrance office, wrote the following words of thanks for the event: "On behalf of the children's services workers and their supervisors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Supervisor Burke, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and our director for recognizing the work that we do. We acknowledge that this has always been a partnership between our agency, our foster parents, the many resource providers that serve our clients, and our community. For many of us, children's services started out as a job, but it has become a sacred calling, a mission dedicated to the protection of the precious children of Los Angeles County. I pray that God will always smile upon the work that we do, and that with the leadership of the Board of Supervisors, child abuse will become something we read about in history papers, not in newspapers." ✍

## L.E.D.s Save DPW \$227,492

County commuters may have noticed that some traffic signals around town have a new look. More than likely, it's due to the installation of new Light Emitting Diode (LED) indicators at 490 of the County's wholly-owned traffic signals. LEDs are now made for all three colors of the traffic signal and use only about 10 percent of the electrical energy of standard incandescent bulbs.

Based on the criteria of a Southern California Edison (SCE) energy conservation program, the Department received a \$227,492 rebate check from SCE. In addition, the County anticipates nearly \$600,000 in annual energy savings.

This and other activities in the Department support the County Strategic Plan of Fiscal Responsibility and the Board of Supervisors policy directing Departments to purchase energy-efficient products. ✍

**EOM**  
continued from page 4

"I took the written test and scored over 90. And then I passed the typing test. I was hired on the spot. I went home to the birthday party, which was already in progress, with the wonderful news of employment, and I've been with the County ever since."

As part of her regular duties, Ross supervises and trains a staff of volunteer coordinators who recruit and oversee library volunteers across the County. Altogether, these volunteers log more than 45,000 hours a year throughout the County's 84 library system.

Among her own altruistic pursuits, Ross volunteers with Pasadena's Birthing Project, coordinates the Sisterfriend

Exchange and is trained as a Motherread/Fatherread Storyteller. She is the author of the County Library's "Friends of the Library Handbook" premier edition and has served in numerous capacities as an executive board member of the Los Angeles-area's Directors of Volunteers in Agencies and FRIENDS & FOUNDATIONS of California Libraries.

An alumna of California State University, Los Angeles, Ross was born and raised in Pasadena. She has an adult son, James, and a beautiful one-year-old granddaughter, Naiya Michelle. She is currently a member of Jubilee Christian Faith Center. ✍

**PARTNERSHIP**  
continued from page 8

“It’s now only a matter of broadening their training to include spotting the signs of child or elder abuse.”

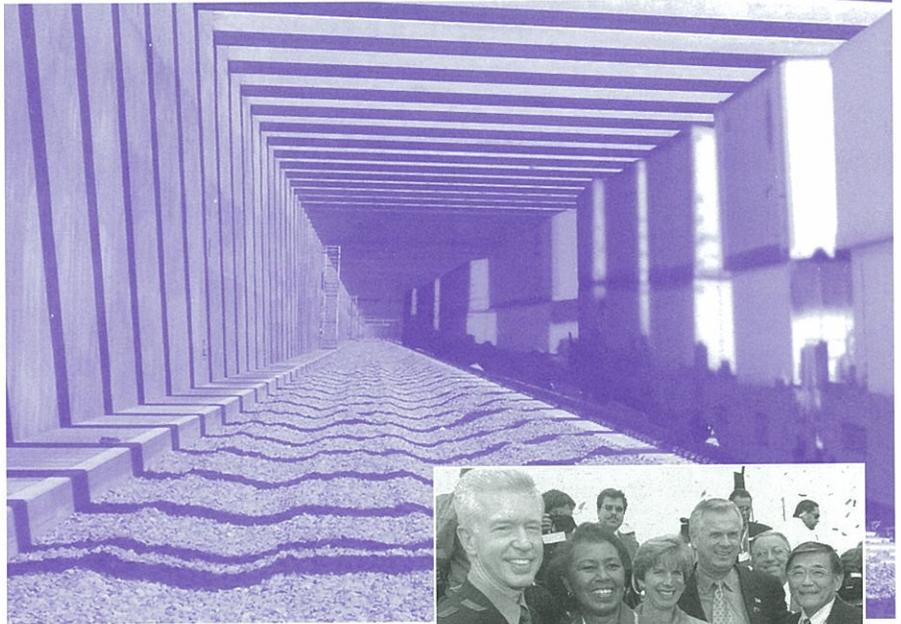
“From time to time, we investigate cases where persons, often elderly women living alone, have far more cats and dogs than they can care for,” Mayeda explains. “More than once, our officers have had to put on protective masks to go into houses where the floors are covered with animal feces and the human caretaker has simply become overwhelmed and has lost control of the situation.”

Mental health experts consider some animal hoarders to suffer from an obsessive-compulsive disorder that hampers their ability to determine how many dogs and cats they can reasonably care for. These individuals take in stray animals and allow the situation to eventually spiral out of control, endangering not only their own health but also the well-being of their animals.

In cases of child abuse, young victims may face the emotional abuse of a violent offender who threatens the safety of the child’s pet. Child molesters, for example, are known to threaten grave injury to the child’s pet if he/she reveals instances of abuse.

Animal Care and Control will also reciprocate with training for DCFS and CSS field workers regarding the recognition and reporting of animal abuse.

“If we can help protect children and the elderly and raise awareness of animal abuse and neglect,” Mayeda says, “we can help break the cycle of abuse and contribute to safer environments for all living beings.”



**CORRIDOR**  
continued from page 1

One of the nation’s single largest public works projects, the Alameda Corridor was completed on time and under budget. It effectively links the nation’s two busiest ports, the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach, to the transcontinental rail yards near downtown Los Angeles.

By consolidating four branch rail lines into a two-track expressway, the project significantly reduces traffic congestion and noise- and air-pollution by eliminating 200 at-grade crossings, where rail and street traffic conflict. The project was built by ACTA, a joint powers authority formed by the cities of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Governor Gray Davis (above) is joined in celebration by (l-r) County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Los Angeles City Mayor James Hahn, County Supervisor Don Knabe and United States Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta.



County DIGEST

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

## Beaches and Harbors' Summer WATER Youth Programs

Beaches and Harbors begins its summer 2002 Water Awareness Training and Recreation (WATER) program in June, with several sessions of Dolphin Camp, Ocean-Sports Camp, Surf Camp, and Beginning & Advanced Sailing.

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

\*All instructors are experienced County of Los Angeles Ocean Lifeguards.

\*New participants must pass a Beaches and Harbors pool swim test prior to registering, see dates and times at right. Returning participants are exempt from taking the swim test if applying for the same program or for one with comparable swim time standard.

\*Program registration is on a first-come, first-served basis; waiting lists will be formed when classes are full.

\*FINANCIAL AID assistance, based on family income, is available for all programs. Please call (310) 305-9587 for a financial aid application.

\*Vanpool TRANSPORTATION is available from non-beach locations (San Fernando Valley, South Los Angeles, and East Los Angeles) for certain sessions; call (310) 305-9587 for details.

### DOLPHIN CAMP (7-10 yrs. old)

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
June 24-28, July 22-26,  
July 29-Aug 2, Aug 5-9  
Aug 12-16, Aug 19-23  
Aug 26-30

### OCEAN-SPORTS CAMP (9-14 yrs. old)

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
June 17-21  
Aug 26-30

### SURF CAMP (11-17 yrs. old)

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
June 17-21, July 29-Aug 2  
Aug 5-9, Aug 12-16  
Aug 19-23, Aug 26-30

### BEG. & ADV. SAILING (11-17 yrs. old)

11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\*ADVANCED SAILING  
(must have instructors approval  
from beginning sailing)

June 24-28  
July 15-19  
Aug 5-9  
Aug 19-23

## WATER Program Swim Test Dates and Times

May 18, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Mira Costa High School Pool  
701 S. Peck Ave.  
Manhattan Beach

June 1, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Culver City Municipal Plunge  
4175 Overland Ave  
Culver City

June 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Malibu High School  
30215 Morning View Dr.  
Malibu

Dates are subject to change.  
For applications or  
additional information, call  
Laurie at (310) 305-9587.



### Members of the Board

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Chairman  
Third District

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
Second District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

**Michael J. Henry**  
Director of Personnel

**Sandra A. Hoodye**  
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

Editorial Staff  
**Kerjon Lee**

## LACERA Elections, July 25

General Members are encouraged to vote in the upcoming LACERA elections for the Second Members of the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments. The election will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 2002. Ballots will be mailed via U.S. mail on Tuesday, June 25, 2002. If you do not receive an original ballot, you may request a duplicate ballot through your Departmental Election Coordinator no later than Thursday, July 11, 2002. The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk must receive marked ballots before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2002. The Board of Supervisors will certify the election results at its meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2002. For more information, contact your Departmental Election Coordinator. ✍