County DIGEST

SHARING A COMMITMENT OVERVIEW
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JUNE 2002 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

"H.A.L.T." Receives Public Service Award

The Los Angeles County Health Authority Law Enforcement Task Force (H.A.L.T.) received national recognition last month as the recipient of the Public Employees Roundtable 2002 "Public Service Excellence Award" in the Interagency/Intergovernmental category.

H.A.L.T. is a multi-agency task force, implemented by the Board of Supervisors in February 1999, that deters illegal activities that pose a serious threat to the public's health and well-being. H.A.L.T. consists of representatives from the Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department and the California State Department of Health Services. In addition, H.A.L.T. has established effective working relationships with a variety of State and Federal agencies, including the State's Dental Board, Department of Justice

see HALT on page 16

Employee of the Month: Military & Veterans Affairs' Chuck Jester

Keeping all 10 stories of Patriotic Hall functioning smoothly is a tall order—especially on weekends when the nearly 80-year-old landmark is a favorite venue for weddings, *quinceñeras*, church services and special events. Patriotic Hall keeps general maintenance worker and June Employee of the Month Chuck Jester so busy, in fact, that most days, there is just one way to track him down.

"Harvey Austin, the elevator guy," Jester says plainly.

see EOM on page 4

County Firefighters Bring FDNY to Southland

ROLLING TRIBUTE: County of Los Angeles Fire Dispatcher Jon Welman (left), creator of the fire engine that is a "rolling tribute" to the fallen New York City firefighters, celebrates its unveiling with Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman.

Among the 800 members of the Los Angeles County Fire Department to return from the devastation of Ground Zero last September were Fire Captains Gary Walsh and Ted Garcia. While there, LACoFD firefighters worked side by side on the debris pile with FDNY firefighters in search of their fellow firefighters and other victims.

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JUNE 2002 RETIREES

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

ASSESSOR: Janet Nelson
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Erik Felker, Frances Roberts, Florence Sueyoshi
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Lucy Lopez
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Sherry Ouderkirk, Michael Pargament
FIRE: Douglas Ashby, James Beard, Albert Brown, Thomas Fowler, Ronald Hayton, Phillip Holmes, Artemio Lavin, James Paradiso, James Perry, Thomas Shea
HEALTH SERVICES: Manuel Calderon, Gloria Ferguson, Carolyn Fryer, Gloria Gray, John Moore, Linda Savage, Evangelina Salamat, Earl Wilson,
INTERNAL SERVICES: Kay Carter, Henry Rivera
MENTAL HEALTH: Richard Russell
PROBATION: William Askin, Lori Colvin, Eileen Harney, Jerry Mann
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Eleanor Zamora
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Phyllis Boudreaux, Noreen Cheng, Selestine Hillard-Pugh, Daniel Jewell, Betty Nixon
SHERIFF: Jerry Baker, John Bauer, Ronald Boudreaux, Walter Wiley, Sylvia Kernell, Davis Lear Jr., Wesley McBride, Mary Parker, James Seulke, Cora Shaw, Larry Tomes
SUPERIOR COURT: Shellie Gilmore

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

FIRE: Rosalio Gorospe
HEALTH SERVICES: Arlene Cunningham, James McDowell, Suporn Poolsawat, Dorothy Thomas
MENTAL HEALTH: Mary Martin, Ruth White
HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Randolph Tyler, Linda Wulfestieg
PROBATION: Ernest Moore
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Patricia Fong
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Rosario Martinez, Helen Weatherby,
PUBLIC WORKS: Donna Lund
SHERIFF: Thomas Anderson, Mary Bice, William Silva
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR: Dorothy Calvin, Hedwig Portoghesi

Employee of the Month Chuck Jester, shown with County Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, followed his father, Charles, into County service.

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"I go from floor to floor so often that calling him first is really the best way to get a hold of me."

A 21-year employee of the County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Jester began his County career as a food service worker following in the footsteps of his father, Charles. A Sheriff's Department cook for more than 40 years, Charles steered his son towards County service early on. And Jester has never looked back.

"I really like the contact with all the people," Jester said during a phone interview. "In addition to people coming just to see the Hall, we have a home schooling program, continuation school, and at least one church group that meets here regularly."

According to Building Manager Jim Meyer, Jester has an extensive knowledge of the Hall and its operations. He performs a wide variety of maintenance services from electrical and plumbing repair to carpentry masonry, painting and other tasks.

see EOM on page 16

Spotlight on the Office of Small Business

In 1996, two County Health contract officers asked Carlos Jackson, Executive Director of the Community Development Commission (CDC), if CDC could find grant funds to create an Office of Small Business (OSB), which, in their judgment, was badly needed. In their opinion, too many County contracts seemed to be going to the same firms—most of them large companies. Jackson said he would try, and one year later, a Department of Commerce grant was in hand and the Board of Supervisors created the Office of Small Business. Small businesses are the source of most new jobs in the County. If people are working there is a smaller need for County services such as health, welfare, childcare, and the justice system.

The County's procurement process is decentralized, with 38 departments and 80,000 employees, within a 4,000 square-mile area. The OSB, started with two objectives: to offer one Internet-based list of contracts for all County departments and to serve as a clearinghouse of information on issues affecting small businesses.

Since 1997, there have been 10 other Board motions affecting OSB and procurement, the most notable being the "Bold Steps Forward" report containing 62 recommendations to improve and streamline the County's procurement procedures. Others direct the OSB to provide training on how to contract with the County, State, and Federal governments, how to obtain financing and how to export among other things.

Just five years old now, the OSB has already proven itself to be a catalyst for positive change. The OSB Web site is highly successful. In January alone there were 280,387 "hits."

Almost all of the "Bold Steps Forward" recommendations have been implemented. Major accomplishments include a small business preference program, a low-cost insurance program, reactivating the County contracting managers network, creating a training program for contracting staff, completing a new master contracting/purchasing manual, and coordinating the "Contracting Connections" and "Capacity Building" workshops which have an average attendance of 350 businesses. In addition, a "small business economic summit" was held and the OSB has coordinated four trade missions, all targeted towards small business.

There are four permanent staff members, a part-time analyst, and an intern. The OSB has received a total of seven grants, two from the Department of Defense (for outreach to small businesses), four from the DoC Economic Development Administration, and one from the Department of Public Social Services. For the past two years, the OSB has received some County General Funds to supplement the grants.

The County, through the OSB, has received higher positive visibility with participation in many more trade fairs and forums. The CDC has received two County Quality and Productivity awards for OSB's programs, including an interdepartmental award for the "Contracting Connections" workshops.

Small Business Commission

The original OSB Advisory Board, by a Board of Supervisors' motion, is now the Small Business Commission. Each Supervisor appoints four Commissioners and an alternate, representative of the business community. Nonvoting members are Board deputies, officials from the California Department of General Services (DGS), the U.S. Small Business Administration, and key County departments involved in the procurement process. These include the CAO, Auditor-Controller, County Counsel, Health Services, ISD, Public Works, Affirmative Action Compliance, Sheriff, and the CDC.

Small Business Commissioners are dedicated to their mission: To provide ongoing advice and support to the Board to help small business grow; and do business with Los Angeles County.

Commissioners:

Victoria Fullerton, Chairperson, MRA Managed Care Solutions, Inc.; Lynne Joy Rogers, Vice Chairperson, Ron Brown Business Center; Ana Barbosa, Southern California Edison; Javier Del Valle, Del Valle & Assoc., Inc.; Oscar Lopez, All State Air Conditioning Corp.; Kenia Davalos-Romero, Latin Business Association & Hope-Pac.; Marlon Thompson, Ronin Consulting Group; Bill Raphiel, South Los Angeles Economic Alliance; Dolores Ratcliffe, Intec, Inc., Corita Communications; George F. Hill, City National Bank; Ray Bishop, Ray Bishop & Associates; Vivian Rescalvo, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP; Irshad ul-Haque; Helen Anderson, Rayvern Lighting Supply Co., Inc; Anna Johnson, The Boeing Company; Dennis Young, DJY Consulting; Margaret Pashko, Southern California Gas Company; Fred Beaton, B&B Financial, Ltd.; Cecilia Wu, Wasserman, Comden, Casselman, LLP; Norman Hickling, High Desert Medical Group; Leon Worden, The Santa Clarita Signal. Alberto Alvarado represents the U.S. Small Business Administration and Michelle Ogata represents the State DGS.

Community Resource Center Serving the Unincorporated Whittier Area

The Community Development Commission (CDC) of the County of Los Angeles in partnership with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the City of Santa Fe Springs and area residents opened the doors of the Community Resource Center (CRC) in 1998 in an effort to meet both the social needs and community interests of the unincorporated Whittier area residents.

In line with the CDC's mission of building "New Neighborhoods For A New Century," the CRC was designed to be the focal point in the Commission's strategy to improve the quality of life for area residents. The resource center is one of five developments by the CDC to revitalize a two-mile radius of the unincorporated Whittier area. The CDC's $30 million investment includes the Sunshine Terrace Apartments (affordable rental housing), Sundance Vistas (public rental housing), TELACU Villa Hermosa (housing center for low-income seniors), and Carmenita Walk, an affordable housing development.

As a focal point in the community, the CRC collaborates with various County departments to serve the unincorporated Whittier area, which has a resident population of more than 80,000. The CRC teamed up with the Department of Children and Family Services to provide parenting classes in English and Spanish, as well as Adoption and Family Decision-Making classes; the Department of Public Social Services to provide Medi-Cal and Food Stamp enrollment applications; and the Sheriff's Department for its Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives (VIDA) program. Furthermore, the CRC joined forces with various local community-based organ

see RESOURCE CENTER on page 10

Burke Breaks Ground on New Pool at Jesse Owens Park

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke presided over a ground breaking ceremony earlier this month for a new Olympic-size swimming pool and pool building at Jesse Owens County Park. The new pool will replace the old pool facility that was demolished in April 2001 because of advanced age and structural problems. The new pool will be open to the public for general recreational activities, as well as for training in competitive events. Diving board configuration will include a platform for competitive diving.

"The unique design of the pool building, which includes a curved roof, will be visually appealing," Supervisor Burke said. "It will also take advantage of prevailing winds for improved air circulation inside the building, leading to lower construction and maintenance costs."

Supervisor Burke allocated $1.21 million from Second District 1998-99 Discretionary Extraordinary Maintenance funds for the project, which will total $5.9 million.

The new pool and building are scheduled for completion in the summer of 2003. Jesse Owens Park is located at 9561 South Western Avenue in Los Angeles.

Supervisor Burke also celebrated the recent grand opening of Lennox Park, which underwent $2.9 million in renovations. Among the park's many improvements was the expansion of its community building, upgrades to its senior center courtyard, construction of a new shade structure, parking lot renovation and new bleachers for the ball field. Lennox County Park is located at 10828 South Condon Avenue in Lennox.

www.888CleanLA.com

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

Antonovich Presents County Emergency Preparedness Fair

On Thursday, April 18, the Los Angeles County Emergency Preparedness Fair was held in the mall between the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration and the County Courthouse. KCAL-9 News personality Mia Lee (above) joined supervisors Don Knabe and Michael D. Antonovich for the event, which included appearances by the Los Angeles Laker Girls; performance group Triple Threat; Canine Search Dogs; and Pluggie, the Fire Hydrant Robot.

The Yogi Bear Shakey Quakey Schoolhouse Earthquake Simulator was also featured at the event. Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich initiated the Shakey Quakey Yogi Bear Schoolhouse in 1988 as a tool to teach children about earthquakes and earthquake safety. The simulator replicates a 6.7 magnitude earthquake, patterned after the 1971 Sylmar quake that occurred in the San Fernando fault zone. A short video featuring Hanna-Barbera cartoon character Yogi Bear provides tips on what to do before, during, and after a quake. Shakey Quakey is operated by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and used all over the County at schools and community events to promote emergency preparedness. To date, more than one million children have benefited from Shakey Quakey.

"This is how we prepare the next generation in case of an earthquake," said Supervisor Antonovich. "A child who is prepared will pass the information on to their own children."

SHARING A COMMITMENT

County Strategic Plan Overview

Over the past several months, the County Digest has featured the County of Los Angeles' Countywide Strategic Plan, its goals, strategies and objectives. The purpose of this outreach effort is to introduce the Plan to County employees and to impress upon them the essential role that they play in making the County's Vision achievable. On November 16, 2001, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the joint recommendation of all department heads to endorse and adopt the County Vision Statement, the four Countywide Strategic Plan Organizational Goals and their supporting strategies. On the recommendation of affected departments and the Chief Administrative Officer, with the support of the County Children's Planning Council, the Board of Supervisors subsequently added a fifth goal: Children and Families' Well-Being.

The County is sharing a commitment with its employees and citizens to provide:

1. **Service Excellence**
2. **Workforce Excellence**
3. **Organizational Effectiveness**
4. **Fiscal Responsibility**
5. **Children and Families' Well-Being**

SERVICE EXCELLENCE

For the first Strategic Plan goal of Service Excellence to be obtained, departments are required to develop standards for user-friendly service, to design seamless processes for a "One County" service delivery, and to evaluate services based on their results. County employees contribute to that effort by supporting departmental programs that provide a positive outcome, being customer oriented, using their expertise to assist their colleagues and members of the public, providing their professional skills and effort to ensure that the job is done well, and looking for strategies that make service delivery more effective, accessible and economic.

WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE

Workforce Excellence, the second Strategic Plan goal, exemplifies the County's commitment to its employees, who in turn will pass on their positive power to our residents. As a County employee, you can join in this effort by learning from those around you, sharing what works best, looking for opportunities to positively communicate with those around you, exploring training opportunities that support your career path and being a leader in your area of responsibility.

"Sharing a Commitment"
is a collaborative series brought to you by the County of Los Angeles Department of 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:
Departmental Achievements in County Strategic Plan Implementation

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Collective and individual efficiency leads to the third Strategic Plan goal of Organizational Effectiveness. This team approach can be achieved by performing as an important link in your department's delivery "chain," supporting other internal and external "links" in the delivery process, bringing together other members of the "chain" to eliminate inefficiencies and bringing forth new concepts.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Fiscal Responsibility, the fourth Strategic Plan goal, reminds us of the value of hard-earned income. Professional judgment in an environment where others depend on our expertise can be exhibited by asking if work can be done in less time and fewer resources, then developing and making a recommendation; if duplications exist in a process, then eliminate them; and if delivery of the same quality customer service can be accomplished in a more cost-effective way, then invest in the appropriate time or materials.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WELL-BEING

Children play a key role in a society's existence. Recognizing their importance, the fifth goal of Children and Families' Well-Being was conceptualized.

With departments already working together to serve the needs of children and families, the County continues to strive to achieve the following results for their benefit: good health, economic well-being, safety and survival, emotional and social well-being and education/workforce readiness.

We look forward to your participation in the goals of the Strategic Plan and our partnership in Sharing a Commitment.

Knabe Opens First Mental Health Urgent Care Center in Los Angeles

Mentally ill persons in need of urgent care services now have a dedicated center in Long Beach to meet their needs with the opening of the Telecare Mental Health Care Center @ Long Beach.

"Urgent care is an innovative concept in the mental health continuum of care," Supervisor Knabe said. "Unfortunately, before now, people with urgent mental health needs had no options available and had to wait until routine care became available—or until their situation had escalated into an emergency. This is also an important step in the County's efforts to fully integrate and coordinate services."

Officially inaugurated by Supervisor Knabe in May, the Telecare Mental Health Urgent Care Center @ Long Beach is a first-of-its-kind program within Los Angeles County that bridges a critical service gap between routine and emergency psychiatric care by providing support and services to individuals with urgent mental health needs. The center provides culturally sensitive mental health assessments, interventions, follow-up and referrals to adults over 18 years old with urgent mental health needs. Services are voluntary and available to Long Beach residents 24-hours-a-day.

"Innovative service delivery models that focus on timely interventions and avoidance of unnecessary cost are key to a successful and responsible public mental health system," said Dr. Marvin Southard, director of Mental Health for the County of Los Angeles.

Based in Alameda, California, Telecare is one of the largest woman- and employee-owned mental health service providers in California and Texas.

RUN/WALK
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Many success stories have resulted from the scholarship program. One young woman, who was recommended for a scholarship by an agency called "A Place Called Home," currently attends California State University, Northridge and is studying to become either a homicide detective or a probation officer. She emphasizes that the scholarship "has taken a lot of stress off trying to fund my education. It also helps me to focus on school more than work."

The Commission for Women is currently seeking sponsors for the upcoming race and welcomes the participation and support of county departments, private corporations and individuals. The Northrop Grumman Corporation will be the title sponsor for the event and additional sponsors include Jafra Cosmetics, Dole Foods, and the Laugh Factory. In addition, the Sheriff's Department, the Mental Health Department and the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors will be supporting the event. For further race and sponsorship information, please call (213) 974-1455 or the race hotline at (213) 974-0792.

RESOURCE CENTER
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izations and a local community college and hospital to better meet the needs of an underserved community. In doing so, the following services are also available at the CRC: a medical clinic, computer-training lab, family learning center, job and career center, nutrition education, and health insurance enrollment programs.

As a fairly new facility, the vision for the CRC is to be a community asset that provides multiple levels of comprehensive, integrated and accessible services that support youth and families of the unincorporated Whittier area.

The Community Resource Center is located at 10750 Laurel Avenue, Whittier.

County DIGEST

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Available online at:
hr.co.la.ca.us

Articles and other submissions to the County Digest may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Standing approximately 20 feet tall, "Tree of Life" (shown below) stands outside the Chatsworth Courthouse and can be enjoyed by jurors in the jury assembly room as well as by those outside the courthouse. The sculpture was fashioned from stainless steel plates by artist Michael Amescua, working from his studio in East Los Angeles.

A sculptural installation representing the foundation of democracy and justice and a sculpture celebrating the California landscape were unveiled last month at the dedication of the new Chatsworth Courthouse of the Los Angeles Superior Court. The artworks, "We The People" by Michael Davis and "Tree of Life" by Michael Amescua, were made possible by a $400,000 civic art demonstration project administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

"Artists have helped shape the great civic projects of every nation and every era," said County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, in whose district the new courthouse resides. "The Chatsworth Courthouse features works of civic art by two well-known Los Angeles artists. These works are a significant new cultural resource for the San Fernando Valley." A second civic-art demonstration project is underway for the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in downtown Los Angeles.

County Arts Commission Enhances New Chatsworth Courthouse

Through its grants programs, the Arts Commission, headed by Laura Zucker, has awarded $2.3 million to regional nonprofit arts organizations. The $96 million Chatsworth Courthouse was proclaimed best in the state during a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 3rd, when it was officially opened to the public. Superior Court officials predict that the polished granite-and-glass courthouse will house as many as 100,000 civil and misdemeanor cases a year.

ROLLING TRIBUTE
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They visited firehouses throughout the city, consoled firefighters during an endless stream of funerals and even prepared meals and cleaned up firehouses—anything to help.

Upon their return to Los Angeles, they decided to do something to help the families of fallen New York City firefighters and other emergency responders killed in the World Trade Center. Three thousand miles away, they envisioned an ambitious plan: convince the world-renown Southern California hospitality industry, and a few private donors, to get behind a multimillion dollar project to help families heal from their personal losses. This time, it was their turn to dial 9-1-1.

Dubbed **"Los Angeles County Firefighters Honor FDNY,"** the project's goal is to obtain enough donated airfares, hotel rooms, ground transportation, meals, theme parks, and sports teams to entertain surviving family members of 343 fallen FDNY firefighters, 23 families of fallen New York Police Department officers, and 37 families of fallen New York Port Authority Police officers. Coordinated by 37 volunteer members of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the project aims to show the nation that Southern California's claim as the entertainment capital of the world is more than just an advertising slogan.

"When the attacks occurred, so many Californians felt helpless and scared, but really did not know what else they could do except to send donations. Our project has a totally different purpose. For the families, it will feel like a hug from all of us," says Project Chairman Gary Walsh. "Many organizations have given money to the families through special funds and foundations; our project is completely different."

Once organized as a tax-deductible charity under the Los Angeles County Firefighters Memorial Committee, sponsorship solicitations quickly got underway. Within a few weeks, major sponsors jumped at the chance to help, including the Marriott Corporation; Pepsi Corporation; Miller Brewing Company; Supercuts; and Southern California entertainment landmarks, Universal Studios Hollywood; Knott's Berry Farm; Sea World; Six Flags Magic Mountain; The Queen Mary; Movieland Wax Museum; The Gene Autry Museum; and other major parks.

Donations of frequent flyer miles, hotel stays, rental cars, restaurant meals and cash are still needed to launch the project. County firefighters hope to keep the hosting program running from June through September 11, 2002. To help raise funds, a commemorative pin has been designed by PinUSA in Burbank, California, and is available for a $5 donation.

"Every 250 pins sold will fly one family from JFK to LAX, so that they can enjoy this trip," says Walsh. "Los Angeles County Firefighters Honor FDNY" is an independent project of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and retains nonprofit status through its affiliation with the Los Angeles County Firefighters Memorial Committee.

To find out how you can help, please call the toll-free project line at (866) 305-2911, or call Captain Gary Walsh at (949) 291-1805. Donations should be made out to "Los Angeles County Firefighters Honor FDNY," and mailed to 1508 Alexander Court, Brea, California 92821.

SUMMER CONCERTS
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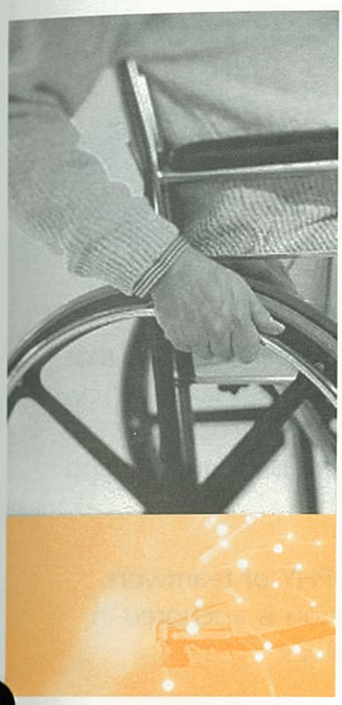
Other sponsors include the Department of Beaches and Harbors and marsmusic.com. Media sponsor for the classical concerts is 105.1 FM KMZT. And returning for its second season as media sponsor of the pop series is KLON FM 88.1. Chace Park is located at 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. Parking, at $2 for the evening, is available near the Park in County Lots 4 on Mindanao Way and 5 on Bali Way.

County employees are encouraged to attend the free concert series. Reasonably priced picnic suppers can be ordered from the Park food concession at (213) 739-9913. Chairs, cushions, and blankets are available for rent at the concert site.

For further information and a listing of music to be played at each symphonic concert, call the Department's information line at (310) 305-9545 or visit the Department Web site at beaches.co.la.ca.us.

Living Independently in Los Angeles



The County of Los Angeles has collaborated with UCLA's Advanced Policy Institute and the Westside Center for Independent Living to create a new community-building Web site project for disabled residents.

The County Chief Information Office has joined forces with the UCLA Advanced Policy Institute and the Westside Center for Independent Living to build a groundbreaking online resource for individuals with disabilities.

Combining interactive mapping technology, grassroots knowledge and government databases, the Living Independently in Los Angeles information system, known as LILA, provides access to information on a variety of services and resources for the disabled.

Resources found on LILA include information on adaptive technology, medical services, equipment needs, recreational programs, ADA accessible trails and beaches, social clubs, support networks and other social services. Ultimately, users will be able to find the access features of public buildings, such as libraries and courthouses, or map the accessible bus stops, blue parking curbs and curb cuts to pinpoint accessible paths of travel all by logging on to http://LILA.ucla.edu.

"These services and information are very much in demand, but it's an overwhelming task for those who need them to wade through all the agencies and programs involved," County Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky said. "Quick and easy online access will empower people with disabilities to take full advantage of the assistance available to them."

LILA provides a one-stop resource center—a virtual neighborhood—for people with disabilities to gather and share information online.

Launched last year, LILA provides links to more than 750 disability and senior citizen community resources throughout the County. LILA also features an online forum, a community bulletin board and a news section. Users can access LILA in English and Spanish and the site is friendly to blind and vision-impaired users. The site also enables users to share relevant information with other users. In fact, many of the resources that exist on LILA were added by members of the community or by agencies that serve them.

LILA was developed by the Westside Center for Independent Living and the Advanced Policy Institute of the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research, in partnership with the City and County of Los Angeles. The California Endowment, Microsoft Corporation, Hewlett Packard Corporation and the Community Technology Foundation of California have all provided major funding to develop LILA.

"LILA provides a one-stop resource center—a virtual neighborhood—for people with disabilities to gather and share information online. It is a tool to take people out of their homes and into their communities by giving them information to eliminate or lower the barriers that stand in the way," said Alan Toy, UCLA project director who is overseeing the development of LILA.

Access to LILA will soon be provided from the County's Internet Web site via a "Disability Services" link.

For more information about LILA, contact Alan Toy at the UCLA Advanced Policy Institute, (310) 267-4944 or by e-mail at atoy@ucla.edu or Earl Bradley at the County Chief Information Office, (213) 974-1712 or by e-mail at ebradley@cio.co.la.ca.us.

After-School Enrichment Program Supports CalWORKs Efforts

As difficult as it may be for most working parents to find high-quality, reliable and affordable childcare, it's even more challenging for low-income parents. And the issue of after-school care for children who are too old for traditional "babysitting" but too young to be left on their own merely compounds the worry for parents of grade-school children.

With the unanimous support of the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Social Services was pleased to work with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in developing the After-School Enrichment Program for a targeted population of first-through-sixth-graders. The program provides a richly integrated mix of supervised educational, recreational, cultural, health, and social after-school activities.

The program is focused on specific elementary schools in neighborhoods with high concentrations of CalWORKs participants because it serves a dual purpose: to enrich the child's every-day environment and to remove the obstacle of providing childcare, which prevents many CalWORKs parents from working.

The approximately 8,000 children who currently participate at 164 sites countywide get help with their homework, receive nourishing snacks and enjoy supervised recreational activities that promote physical health and social skills. They also take part in cultural awareness activities and extracurricular classes in drama, computers and a wide range of other interests—all within a safe environment, staffed by professionals, in which to grow. The program taps into local community resources and makes full use of educational resources, including teachers, at each site.

One of the cornerstones of the CalWORKs program is the belief that strong families both need and create strong communities. This program, which is targeted to eventually serve 16,000 low-income children, makes it possible for parents entering the workforce to focus their energies on efforts towards gaining self-sufficiency, while benefiting their children in myriad ways.

Los Angeles County Vision Statement

Our PURPOSE is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient, and high-quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our PHILOSOPHY of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- responsiveness
- integrity
- professionalism
- commitment
- accountability
- a can-do attitude
- compassion
- respect for diversity

Our POSITION as the premiere organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- a capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation;
- a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

County Supervisor Gloria Molina, LAUSD Superintendent Roy Romer (center), and Dr. Robert K. Ross, president and CEO of the California Endowment, celebrate the launch of the Los Angeles Access to Health Coverage Initiative.

New Initiative Aims to Boost Health Insurance for Low-Income Residents

The California Endowment recently announced the launch of its Los Angeles Access to Health Coverage Initiative (the Initiative), a five-year, $20 million program to increase access to health coverage for low-income individuals in targeted regions of Los Angeles County. Los Angeles County has the highest rate of uninsured children in the nation.

Through outreach and enrollment, coalition building, policy and advocacy, and public awareness activities, The Endowment will work in collaboration with local organizations to increase enrollment in available health coverage programs including Medi-Cal and Healthy Families in Central and South Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, El Monte and the East San Fernando Valley.

Statewide, an estimated $1.7 million uninsured children and adults who are eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families are not enrolled. Taking a targeted geographic approach, the Initiative will use a combination of strategies to increase access to health coverage and care of low-income uninsured populations. The strategies include:

- $9 million in funding to support community-based organizations for enhanced outreach and enrollment activities, with a special focus on retaining enrollees in health coverage programs.
- $2 million in funding for a local coalition comprised of future outreach and enrollment grantees to coordinate outreach efforts and provide training and capacity building resources.
- $3 million in funding to support local policy and advocacy activities aimed at increasing access to health coverage options for low-income, uninsured individuals in Los Angeles County.

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THE INITIATIVE
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- $1 million in funding to support the development of employer-based approaches to increase health coverage options for low-income, working, uninsured individuals.
- $1.5 million in funding to support the development of a targeted public awareness campaign, using ethnic media outlets, to reduce the stigma and fear associated with utilizing public insurance programs and to educate the uninsured on the importance and availability of health coverage programs.
- $1.5 million in funding to be set-aside for future special projects that fit the objectives of the Initiative.
- $2 million in funding to measure the impact of the overall Initiative.

County of Los Angeles supervisors Gloria Molina and Zev Yaroslavsky were on hand during a press conference to support the Initiative.

"Children and adults in working class neighborhoods should not be excluded from receiving health care," said Supervisor Molina. "This initiative will go a long way in helping the uninsured in Los Angeles, and I look forward to working in partnership with The California Endowment to make this effort a success."

HALT
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and Medical Board, and Federal Food and Drug Administration. Since its inception, H.A.L.T. has received ongoing local and national recognition for deterring the sale of illicit pharmaceuticals, unlicensed dentistry, unlicensed medical clinics and Medi-Cal fraud through the use of investigative and educational efforts. It is a sterling example of the effectiveness of government agencies when working together towards a common goal. H.A.L.T. has conducted more than 500 investigations, arrested more than 300 individuals involved in unsafe medical practices, saved the State of California more than $28 million in Medi-Cal fraud and closed more than 70 illegal medical businesses.

The Public Employees Roundtable is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational coalition of organizations representing nearly a million government employees and retirees.

EOM
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He also functions as the Hall's film coordinator, staying on site when the location is used as a backdrop for film production. "When they break down [the production]," says Jester, "I'm there to make sure that the Hall looks exactly the way it did before they came."

Keeping the luster on one of the County's vintage assets takes a high level of commitment. But Jester takes to that challenge with zeal.

"After being here for so long, I really feel like I'm the glue to this building. People rely on me."

Jester is the proprietor of his own catering business, C&C Catering. He also serves on the board of directors of "Giving Back," a program that raises scholarship money for inner-city youth; "Rise and Shine," which provides high school students with computer classes and entrepreneurial workshops; and his local YMCA. He is an avid basketball player and holds a black belt in Karate.

Members of the Board

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