



## Outgoing Message as Chairman of the Board

On December 3, outgoing Board of Supervisors Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky turned over the gavel to Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, who becomes the new Chair for 2002-3. The following is adapted from his remarks:

Madam Chair, Board colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I want to thank the Executive Office staff, the Chief Administrative Office, and the County Counsel – really, the three key offices that any chair has to depend on – I want to thank them for their cooperation in making the job for me and my staff as easy as it has been over the last year.

I also want to thank my own staff, they worked very hard in helping me negotiate the administrative responsibility, which the chairmanship is, more than anything else. It's not all the fun that it's cracked up to be sometimes.

I also want to thank my colleagues for the collaborative spirit in which we worked during the last year. We did a lot, accomplished a lot this year, a tremendous amount, and I want to thank my colleagues' staff also, without whom things won't get done around here.

I want to be brief, but I do want to note just a few things. Number one, despite the fact that the state and local governments statewide – including our

own - are facing serious fiscal difficulties, the Board of Supervisors' continued adherence to fiscal discipline that we've shown in recent years, has positioned us as well as we can be positioned to deal with the problems that we obviously are going to face with a recessionary economy and a very, very difficult financial situation in Sacramento.

Clearly, I think the highlight of the year was the coming together of the Board and the people of this County in the passage of Measure B just a month ago today. I also want to make special mention of the critical, singular role that SEIU Local 660 and their members played in the passage of this initiative.

Nobody gave it much of a chance. But we took our shot, and we were able to level with the people of this County, and they heard the message. And they made a very wise and important decision that will stand the



**OUTGOING MESSAGE**  
continued on page 4

## Employee of the Month: CAO's Gwen Andrizzi

Gwen Andrizzi has been a County employee for 30 years and is currently the executive assistant to Chief Administrative Officer David E. Janssen. Her duties include coordinating the CAO's daily calendar and working on special projects, such as department-wide meetings and special activities involving the CAO. She also promotes and organizes fundraising activities for the department and for professional associations like the Los Angeles Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.

She has expanded the role of executive assistant to help promote the County Strategic Plan and the

**EOM**  
continued on page 8

## HIGHLIGHTS

Christmas Tree Recycling....	2
Children's Waiting Room.....	3
December Retirees.....	4
Compton Apts Open.....	5
<b>SHARING A COMMITMENT.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Fireworks Spectacular.....	8
Homeland Security.....	9
Top Five Things.....	10
Metrolink Passenger.....	11

## EVENT CALENDAR

### **DOGS: WOLF, MYTH, HERO AND FRIEND**

October 13 through January 5, 2003  
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles  
County  
(213) 763-DINO  
[www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)

### **BIG RIVER – THE ADVENTURES OF HUCK- LEBERRY FINN**

November 5 through December 29, 2002  
Mark Taper Forum  
(213) 628-2772  
[www.TaperAhmanson.com](http://www.TaperAhmanson.com)

### **GEORGE WASHINGTON: A NATIONAL TREASURE**

November 8 through March 9, 2003  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
(323) 857-6000  
[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

### **MIRACLES AND MISCHIEF: NOH AND KYOGEN THEATER IN JAPAN**

November 10 through February 2, 2003  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
(323) 857-6000  
[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

### **MORNING'S AT SEVEN**

December 3 through January 26, 2003  
Ahmanson Theatre  
(213) 628-2772  
[www.TaperAhmanson.com](http://www.TaperAhmanson.com)

### **MUNAKATA SHIKO: JAPANESE MASTER OF THE MODERN PRINT**

December 5 through March 2, 2003  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
(323) 857-6000  
[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

### **BRING IN 'DA NOISE, BRING IN 'DA FUNK**

January 28 through February 9, 2003  
Ahmanson Theater  
(213) 628-2772  
[www.TaperAhmanson.com](http://www.TaperAhmanson.com)

## EAP: Your Key to a New Start

Although the professional staff of the County's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) serves employees and their dependents throughout the year, the holiday season warrants a special reminder of EAP's availability.

For some, the joy and festivity of the holidays is in sharp contrast with their personal struggles, serving only to magnify their distress or despair. Others may see the New Year as an opportunity to work more actively and constructively to manage their stress or anger, or to improve a troubled relationship.

The EAP addresses a wide range of problems that create distress and hinder personal functioning, including emotional difficulties, drug or alcohol abuse, and marital or family discord. Emphasis is on assessing the problem, helping to resolve the problem if feasible through brief counseling, or directing the employee to the appropriate resource for specialized or more extensive treatment.

EAP services are confidential and cost-free. Appointments may be arranged weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling (213) 738-4200. At least the initial visit may be on County time with the employee's supervisor's permission. The EAP's central location is at 3333 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, with a satellite office in Sylmar.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

*It's as easy as one, two, tree.* This year when the festivities end, have your Christmas tree recycled into compost, mulch, or ground cover to preserve our natural resources and reduce landfill waste.



1. Simply remove all items like ornaments, stand, water container, nails, and tinsel.
2. Visit [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or call (888) CLEAN-LA during working hours to determine whether your community will have designated drop-off sites or curbside collection of trees (most common throughout the County of Los Angeles).
3. Recycle your Christmas tree during the designated time.

Happy Holidays from the Department of Public Works!

## HOLIDAY PET SAFETY TIPS

The holiday season, a joy-filled time for many, poses some risks for pets. Here are a few tips from the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control to keep you and your pets safe during the holidays:

- Never feed or let pets eat chocolate or other holiday season candies. Chocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats and can cause vomiting, diarrhea and even death. If you see or suspect that your pet has eaten chocolate, get him or her to a veterinarian right away for treatment.

- Shiny ornaments on Christmas trees can be particularly attractive to curious pets. Dogs and cats can suffer serious and even fatal injuries from chewing and swallowing pieces of tree ornamentation. Make sure your pets cannot reach any ornaments in your home.

- Many people add special liquid preservatives to the water in Christmas tree stands. Some of these products are harmful to pets that might take a drink from the water. Be sure to ask if a Christmas tree preservative is "pet safe" before you buy it.

- Keep holiday season plants and flowers away from your pets. Many plants, such as Poinsettias, Christmas candles, English Holly, Christmas Berry, Christmas Rose and Mistletoe are poisonous to dogs and cats.

- Gift-wrapping can also pose risks to dogs and cats. Your pets may be tempted to chew on wrapping paper or ribbon, and these can be very harmful if ingested. Also, don't let your pets play in or around trash bags used to discard holiday wrapping.

- Electrical wiring can prove tempting for cats to play with and dogs to chew on. Your pet can suffer a severe shock or even be electrocuted by coming into contact with the electrical current in the line. Make sure your pets cannot reach or climb on to areas that put wiring in their reach.

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



*Supervisor Gloria Molina is joined by East District Supervising Judge George Genesta at the Children's Waiting Room inauguration.*

## Children's Waiting Room Opens

"Finding childcare will no longer be a burden for families who conduct business in Court," said Supervisor Gloria Molina, who along with court clients, their children and a host of judicial dignitaries, opened the Pomona South Courthouse's Children's Waiting Room.

The facility, which is funded by civil case fees, is the first of several children's waiting rooms being opened in courthouses across the County of Los Angeles.

"Finding childcare is often a major burden for families who have to conduct business in court," said Molina. "We have removed this obstacle by providing a safe and comfortable space to accommodate children, so that they do not have to suffer the distress of waiting in court hallways. I want to thank the Los Angeles County Children's Rights Committee for planting the seed in 1998 and to everyone throughout the County who helped make the Children's Waiting Room a reality."

Molina was joined by Judicial Procedures Commission Chair Carol Rose, as well as representatives from the Los Angeles Superior Court, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, family service agencies, and court clients with their children.

**CHILDREN'S WAITING ROOM**  
continued on page 4

# DECEMBER RETIREES

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

**ASSESSOR:** Francisco R. Pamaran

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Sandra S. Dvigoubsky

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Eleanor C. Hayles

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Kenneth F. Godinez, Ray V. Saukkola

**FIRE:** Lynn A. Clark, Peter D. Douty, Frederick Garcia, Mark Hefley, Marc McConnell, Bradley McIntyre, Jonathan A. Miller, Jimmie Purefoy

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Elbert J. Claridy, Yvonne R. Harold, Elizabeth J. Hornback, Karim M. Ismail, Rosa Johnson, James Low, Luce Palazzolo, Arlester Payton Jr., Lillian Picou, Janet A. Saito, Olga V. Sarabia, Alfronia Wade

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Anthony G. Anton, Martin Franco, Rocky F. Saishyo, Barry E. Saks, Charley M. Salone, Donald M. Waterbury

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Shirley D. Brown, Edward Gutierrez, Frederick E. Nelson

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Norman Wiens

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Janis S. Carroll, Etheline Ealy, Mary Guzman, Jaclyn Jones, Dorothy F. Kemp, Cora S. Reed, Delores Sledge, Stacey J. Wade

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Charles Hamilton

**PUBLIC WORKS:** James W. Armstrong, Max R. Georgi, William Hansen

**SCAQMD:** Verdelyia J. Dix

**SHERIFF:** Gary R. Alley, John J. Best, David H. Holtgrave, Barry King, Lola A. Lowe, Stephen Soderstrom, James Vandepas

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Arlene C. Fernandez, Shirley Flowers, James S. Givens, Alice J. Keshishian, Gilbert M. Wong

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:

**ASSESSOR:** Bruce S. Brown, Richard F. Smith

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Judith Fox

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Mamie B. Edwards, Mario Grajed, Elaine A. Newman

RETIREES

continued on page 10

## CHILDREN'S WAITING ROOM

continued from page 3

The Children's Waiting Room accommodates a maximum of eight children, ages two-and-a-half to 13 years of age, whose caregivers are conducting Court business. It is staffed by employees of the Knowledge Learning Corporation.

Admittance to the Children's Waiting Room requires the caregiver to read and complete an Information and Agreement form. Each caregiver and child will receive matching bracelets upon admittance. Each child is released only to the adult wearing the corresponding or matching bracelet.

Although the waiting room officially became usable on August 19, direly needed refurbishments have taken place over the past several months. Funds for these refurbishments were provided by the Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers Children's Rights Committee, the Mattel Toy Company, the Eastern (Los Angeles County Bar) Association, and the Pomona Host Lions Club.

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

continued from page 1

County and the people of this County in good stead for many years to come in passing the property tax and saving the trauma and emergency room system.

That this County – the County that gave birth to the Howard Jarvis tax-limitation movement – would have been unthinkable just a few months ago. But people are smart, and if you level with them – and this is a lesson that I think our Legislature and our Governor could learn in the weeks ahead, “level with the people” – they can deal with bad news and challenges, if you just level with them.

We did that, and as a result, we're talking about saving hospitals instead of closing them here a month after that election.

Turning to other areas, this has also been a big year for the Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission, now known as First 5 LA. There we made two major decisions: The first was to set aside \$100 million from that 50 cents per pack tobacco tax to provide health care for uninsured children from birth to age five in households earning up to three times the poverty income level, massively increasing the number of kids who will be able to see a doctor when they need to. As a result of the Prop. 10 Commission's decision to set aside this money, there is no reason why any child aged five or younger won't be able to

OUTGOING MESSAGE  
continued on page 5



*Supervisor Burke (2nd from left) cuts the ribbon to officially open the complex. Joining her are (from left to right) a representative from the U.S. Bank, Curtis Monson of the Neighborhood Economic & Educational Development Corporation, Community Development Commission's Tim Elliott, Jack Narikawa of the Compton Gardens, a representative from State Senator Ed Vincent and Marcine Shaw representing Congresswoman Maxine Waters.*

## Compton Garden Apartments Open

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke joined the Community Development Commission (CDC) for the grand opening of the Compton Garden Apartments project in Compton. The new homes, especially built for large families, have 18 units.

Twelve of the units have three bedrooms and are reserved for households earning less than 40% of median income; four of the units contain three bedrooms and are for households earning less than 60% of median income; and two are four-bedroom units for households earning less than 40% of median income. CDC sources said the units are already fully occupied, with residents paying reduced rent made possible by project funding resources.

Supervisor Burke noted that funding came from several sources. The County provided more than \$950,000 through HOME Money from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and another \$750,000 came from County Housing Authority Tax Exempt Bonds. Another \$488,000 came from the City of Industry.

**COMPTON GARDEN**  
continued on page 10

### OUTGOING MESSAGE

continued from page 4

find health care once this program is fully implemented in the weeks ahead.

The second thing the Prop.10 Commission did this year was to set aside another \$100 million to begin a universal preschool program, which is something that the father of the Prop. 10 concept, Rob Reiner, has been pushing for and a number of other advocates have been pushing for: to prepare kids, before they reach school age, so that they have a level playing field to compete on, and be prepared for quality education to be able to succeed in life.

Here at the County, I think it's a good thing that we've made changes in the Department of Children and Family Services. This Board is committed to making a threshold change with new professional leadership across the board, to try to bring that Department into the 21st century and to whip this whole program into shape. Under Interim Director Marge Kelly's leadership, and under permanent leadership, it will be a new day for children in this County.

The Los Angeles County Task Force on Children and Youth Physical Fitness that this Board created earlier in the year released its report in August, which has continued to have positive ramifications throughout the County in districts, and here inside the county family itself. Proper nutrition and physical fitness is critical to stemming the epidemic of diabetes and other complications that stem from that among our teens. Dr. Francine Kaufman, who led that commission (and is president of the American Diabetes Association), along with all of the members of that commission that the Board of Supervisors appointed, did a great job, and I want to thank them for that work.

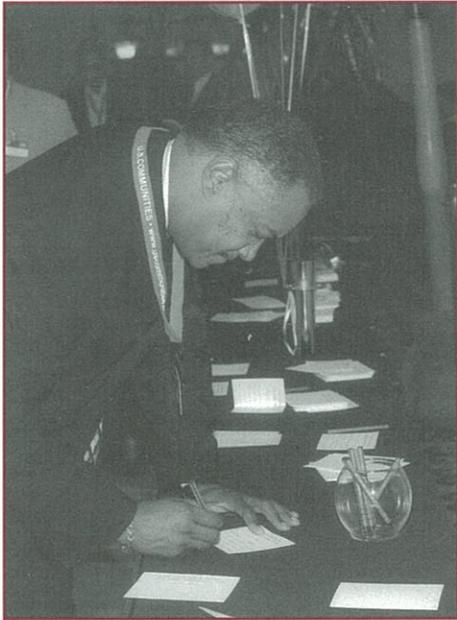
This year, too, our Board made some major strides in opening up County government and making it more accessible so that the public can better see and understand what we do, and participate more closely in that process. More information is available on-line than ever before, and we've significantly tightened up our accountability and internal record keeping, which was long overdue. And that's a very good thing, for us as elected officials and for the people we serve.

**OUTGOING MESSAGE**  
continued on page 8



# SHARING A COMMITMENT

## County of Los Angeles and CSAC Host Gala Party



*Director of Personnel Michael J. Henry*

The County of Los Angeles was the host recently for County Night of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), which held its annual conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasadena.

"Hollywood" was the theme for the evening as approximately 500 convention delegates entered via a runway similar to the red carpet at the Academy Awards ceremony. Brass stanchions looped with red rope graced both sides of the runway. A spotlight and movie props made the attendees truly feel like "a star."

Music was provided throughout the evening by a live band and a large movie screen featured movie trailers, "I Love L.A." video and live shots of the guests.

Cher and Frank Sinatra look-alikes highlighted the program, performing and taking souvenir pictures with the County guests.

Supervisor Don Knabe, the County's representative to CSAC, served as master of ceremony.

"It was a great event and representatives from the other 57 Counties really enjoyed themselves," said David E. Janssen, chief administrative officer. He was pulled from the crowd by "Cher" and given a wig and mustache to impersonate the late Sonny Bono for a duet of "I've Got You Babe." The crowd was thrilled.

"Cher" also put poodle skirts on two male supervisors from other counties and they danced while she sang.

In short, the County of Los Angeles and CSAC did an excellent job in presenting: "L.A. Where Everyone Is A Star."



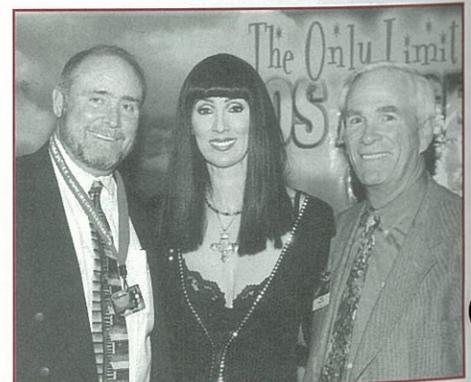
*Frank Sinatra serenades Jeannie Janssen*



*Regional Planning Director James Hartl*



*BOS Executive Officer Violet Varona-Lukens*



*CIO Jon Fullinwider & IBM Liaison to the County Sam Wells*



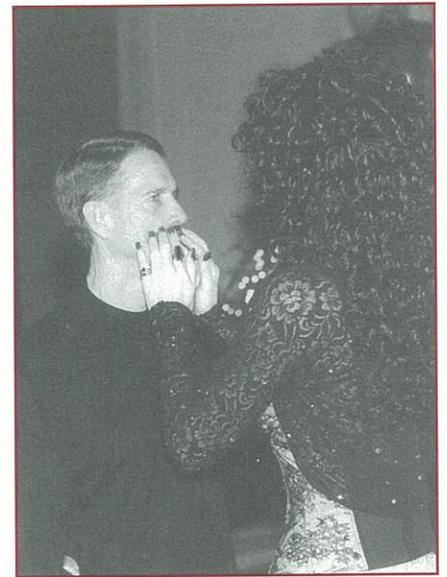
Supervisor Don Knabe and CSAC Past President Sacramento Supervisor Muriel Johnson



Supervisor Knabe and wife Julie dance the night away.



District Attorney Steve Cooley and Sacramento Supervisor Johnson



CAO David Janssen & Cher



David Janssen as "Sonny"

## Hollywood Style Entertainment

Sonny & Cher Wows Capacity Crowd

**EOM**

continued from page 1

Chief Administrative Office in the goals of service and workforce excellence. She has also worked to develop a strong sense of teamwork in the department and has spearheaded CAO fund raisers for a variety of charitable campaigns. Her tireless efforts have resulted in an increase

in employee participation during each of these campaigns.

Andrizzi is responsible for organizing the annual Board-approved Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Days for the CAO, and she ensures that each event offers a fun, stimulating, and educational experience for all who participate.

She spends countless hours of her own time in each of these activities to ensure that they are successful, while continuing to manage a heavy workload. Andrizzi's co-workers say that she "embodies the philosophy of teamwork and collaboration and demonstrates a can-do attitude at all times."

For more than 12 years, she has been a Sunday school teacher at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Hacienda Heights. Additionally, she has served as a member and chair of St. Mark's Lutheran Day School Committee and on various fundraising committees for events associated with her church and community and for her daughter's elementary, junior high and high school.



*A beaming Gwen Andrizzi with members of the Board and the CAO.*

Gwen Andrizzi has been married for 26 years, and she and her husband, Jim, have an 18-year-old daughter named Melissa Christine.

**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

continued from page 5

On the fiscal and budget front, I'm happy that the County board was able to stand up for the principle that only this Board makes budgetary decisions. We successfully went to court against proposed initiatives on two separate occasions to retain our right to make our own budgetary decisions. We can't have budgetary and salary and benefits decisions made by initiative; it could just send this County into bankruptcy in two seconds flat.

At the same time, I'm also pleased that the Board did for our homecare workers what we had been prepared to do for some time - to get them back on a progressive scale to improve wages and benefits. We still have some work to do on that, but we're moving in the right direction.

**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

continued on page 9

## **Marina del Rey Fireworks Spectacular**

On New Year's Eve, December 31, a brilliant display of fireworks will light up the skies over Marina del Rey. Beginning at the 30-second countdown to midnight, the fireworks will continue into the opening minutes of 2003.

Fireworks this year are again presented by Zambelli Fireworks Internationale, which originated more than 100 years ago in Italy. The famous fireworks can be viewed throughout the Marina.

Though the fireworks can be viewed throughout Marina del Rey, the best locations for viewing them are Fisherman's Village, on Fiji Way, and Burton Chace Park, at the West end of Mindanao Way. Parking is available in County lots throughout the Marina at \$2 for the evening.

The Zambelli Fireworks Spectacular is presented by the Department of Beaches and Harbors. The Department invites all County employees to include the Marina del Rey Fireworks Spectacular as part of their New Year's Eve celebrations.





## Supervisor Knabe Meets with Governor Ridge on Homeland Security

Governor Tom Ridge, Homeland Security Advisor to President Bush, met with County of Los Angeles Supervisor Don Knabe and was briefed on the County's preparedness in the war on terrorism.

The meeting was held in Knabe's office at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration amid tight security. Also attending the meeting were Chief P. Michael Freeman of L.A. County Fire, Undersheriff Bill Stonich, County Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen, Department of Health Services Director Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite and others.

"We had an excellent meeting with Governor Ridge," Knabe said. "The safety and security of our County residents and its key assets are of utmost importance. The County of Los Angeles stands prepared."

Knabe was appointed by the White House last month to serve as a member of the State and Local Officials Senior Advisory

Committee to the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council. The committee provides the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council with advice on increasing America's security from experts representing state and local government.

Knabe represents a uniquely important district in the County of Los Angeles, home to a number of facilities of significance to our national security and economy, including the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the third largest in the world; Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), the third busiest in the nation; the L.A. Air Force Base; and more than 30 miles of coastline, including the largest manmade small craft harbor in the world, Marina del Rey. In addition, Knabe represents nearly two million people in the County's Fourth District, a district larger in population than some states.

### OUTGOING MESSAGE continued from page 9

In conclusion, I want to say a word on the state budget and how it's going to affect us. I will end where I started off, and that is that it's been my experience that if you level with people, you can get the people behind you on some of the most difficult and controversial decisions.

The State of California now faces somewhere between - pick your number - a \$25 billion to \$30 billion deficit.

There's no way you can close that deficit on cuts alone. You just can't do it. And I'll just say, without reservation, they are going to have to raise revenues at the state level as well as making cuts. Then-Gov. Pete Wilson did it in 1991. It cost him, but he did it because that's the only way he could close his \$14 billion deficit. Seven billion was done with cuts, and seven billion was done with tax increases. You can't close a \$30 billion hole without having a combination of efficiencies, consolidations, cuts, and revenues.

People asked me: "What revenue would you suggest?" and I said, "Start with a tax on liquor." Is there anybody in this state, other than the liquor industry, who believes that we shouldn't be taxing liquor?

Just about every issue that we face here in this county is tied to liquor: trauma, health care, heart disease, and criminal justice. All the substance-abuse complications that we get and all of our human services - many of them, a majority of them, are related to substance abuse and the biggest single substance that we abuse as a society is liquor.

So if the governor and the Legislature would have the guts to just say to the liquor industry, you know, "You've had a good ride for 200 years. But a nickel a drink or more on hard liquor is not something you can't afford, and not having it is something we cannot afford," I think the Legislature and the Governor have to lead, as this Board has led in the County in the last year.

### OUTGOING MESSAGE continued on page 12

## RETIREES

continued from page 4

**FIRE:** Martin Hinds Jr., Kenneth L. Morrow, William T. Peters

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Callie M. Butler, Lawrence Chwa, Ernest J. Collins, Fred Dang, Lois Franklin, Valerie Hernandez, Juliet Jara, Yolanda D. Kovacs, Beatrice M. Lennon, Amelia A. Mueco, Wilhemena D. Nesbitt, Shirley A. Raymond, Nilda Santiago, Edward W. Savage Jr., Ofelia Tolentino

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Elizabeth Mitchell

**PROBATION:** Maria Banuelos, Raymond Vickovic

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** John E. Robertson

**PUBLIC WORKS:** David C. Wang

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Zenaida B. Camo, George Rivera, Paula Taylor

**SHERIFF:** Adoracion Antazo, Arnold S. Decena, Martha M. Henderson, Wayne E. Inskeep, Purita J. Lacangan, Rosa Olmos

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Joanne R. Barber McMil

**TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:** Hedwig L. Portoghesi

## COMPTON GARDEN

continued from page 5

"I'm delighted that the County has played a leading role in making this development happen, and I encourage the families who are now living here to enjoy their new homes, and to take full advantage of this opportunity for a good quality of life," said Supervisor Burke.

Also taking part in the opening ceremonies were Curtis Monson of the Neighborhood Economic and Educational Development Corporation, one of the owners of the units; Taufiq K. "Syed" Rushdy of CDC; and representatives of United California Builders, Inc., the project contractor. David Mi & Partners were the project architects. The project is also owned by Compton Garden, L.P.; Compton Development Co. II, Inc.; and WNC & Associates, Inc. Construction lender is East West Bank, and permanent lenders include U.S. Bank, Community Lending, as well as CDC and the County Housing Authority. WNC Management, Inc., managed the project.

## Top Five Things You Can Do to Change the Life of a Foster Child

- 1. Adopt a Child** – Provide a permanent loving home to a foster child through adoption. You do not have to be wealthy or married. There are very few costs associated with adopting a child through the foster care system and single people and un-married couples and partners can adopt. Financial and medical assistance is available to adoptive families. For more information, please contact the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services Adoption Hotline at (888) 811-1121 or <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us>.
- 2. Become a Foster Parent** – Foster parents are needed to provide children who cannot live with their families with a warm and safe home environment. Specialized training, support and financial assistance are available for foster parents. For more information on becoming a foster parent, call the DCFS Foster Parent Recruitment Hotline at (888) 811-1121 or <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us>.
- 3. Become a CASA** – Court Appointed Special Advocate for an abused child. A CASA is a volunteer from the community that is recruited, trained and supervised by the Child Advocates Office. CASA volunteers visit the foster child they are appointed to once a month and advocate for the best interest of the child both inside and outside the courtroom. Call the Child Advocates Office for information on how to become a CASA volunteer (323) 526-6666 or visit our website at [www.home.earthlink.net/~casala1](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~casala1).
- 4. Become a Mentor** – the Bridges to the Future mentoring program is a unique partnership of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Department of Children & Family Services and Probation which recruits and trains volunteers to mentor youth who are about to turn 18 and emancipated from foster care or probation.. It is a national model that seeks to pair successful professionals with youth who have no permanent family and who are facing life on their own for the first time. For more information contact Connie Rex at (626) 858-1572.
- 5. Become a Tutor/Donor** – Children often enter the foster care system lacking the tools, personal items or ability to lead their lives as normally as possible. While the foster care system does its best to provide children with the most basic necessities of life, foster children often lack the things that many children take for granted such as computers, bicycles, school supplies or even help with homework. With a donation of something as simple as your time you could help a child learn to read. Business owners and private individuals can donate the type of personal items, large or small, that so many of these children lack. If you would like to help in any of these ways, please contact Dependency Court Legal Services, Inc. at (323) 980-1700.

Prepared by: Public Counsel Law Center, Dependency Court Legal Services, CASA, Department of Children and Family Services, The Alliance for Children's Rights.



Just in time for the holiday. A brand new family. Clockwise from left bottom: Gary, Richard, Channel 11 News Anchor Christine Devine, Austin, Sandra and Bianca Diaz.

## DPSS' Adopt-A-Family Program

Each year, the spirit of giving is very much alive at the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) during the holiday season. This year is no exception. Businesses, community volunteers, including DPSS staff and others in the County family, are part of the Department's *Adopt-A-Family Program*. This longstanding tradition matches families, the elderly and disabled and other individuals served by DPSS with community members wanting to share with those in need.

Sponsors receive a "wish list" of their adoptee's favorite grocery items, clothing sizes, gift wishes, or toy requests, along with contact information. This is a fun activity, as sponsors get creative with the multitude of nice things that can be done for the recipients. Many make it a special activity by inviting family and friends to take part, and instead of exchanging gifts, they bring a gift that can be added to the adopted family's or individual's gift basket. Then, volunteers, moonlighting as "holiday helpers", deliver donations of food, clothing and gifts, and sometimes even a fully-prepared meal to those anxiously awaiting the telephone call announcing the donation.

Each holiday season, some 500 volunteers donate gifts totaling over \$10,000 to over 300 persons. It is a heartfelt program for both the volunteers and those receiving the donations. DPSS is very lucky to have such caring people who truly give of themselves to make the County of Los Angeles a better place.

While the *Adopt-A-Family Program* is especially busy during the holidays, the program is available year round. If you and a group of friends or co-workers are looking to make a difference, it is easy to get started. Simply call Patricia Bautista at the DPSS Volunteer and Special Programs Section at (213) 744-4348.

## METROLINK'S 60-MILLIONTH PASSENGER

In the wee hours of the morning on Wednesday, October 16, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich arrived at the Burbank Metrolink Station to greet Metrolink's 60-millionth passenger, Lancaster resident, Monique Reaux. Supervisor Antonovich surprised the stunned woman with a variety of Metrolink gifts and souvenirs, including a free monthly pass.

The selection of the 60-millionth passenger was based on ridership statistics and forecasts by Metrolink analysts who estimated that the railroad's 60-millionth rider would board an Antelope Valley Line train on the morning of October 16.

"This is a great way to celebrate Metrolink's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary," said Antonovich, a Metrolink board member. "Here we are with our 60-millionth passenger – it shows how much this system has grown since the first train left the station in October of 1992, and how Metrolink helps people from all over Southern California."

When Metrolink first opened, the system had three rail routes and 112 miles of track, which have grown in the past ten years to seven rail routes covering 507 route miles and carrying more than 34,000 passengers each weekday. According to statistics from the American Public Transportation Association, Metrolink's average weekday ridership is the sixth highest of the nation's 19 commuter railroads.





# Share It

OUTGOING MESSAGE  
continued from page 9

The fourth edition of The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word *seal* as “something, such as a commercial hallmark, that authenticates, confirms, or attests.” It could have been the same line of thought that made late Supervisor Kenneth Hahn come up with a symbol to bring to life the enormity of the County of Los Angeles and the richness it brings to its residents.

On March 1, 1957, the Board of Supervisors adopted the seal designed by Supervisor Hahn and drawn by Millard Sheets.

Here are facts on the official seal of the County of Los Angeles:

The Goddess Pomona – the goddess of gardens and fruit trees – is holding in her arms a sheaf of grain, an orange, a lemon, an avocado and a few grapes to represent Los Angeles County’s agriculture. She stands on the shore of the Pacific Ocean, with the San Gabriel Mountains in the background.

Engineering instruments – the triangle and the caliper – relate to the industrial construction complex of the County of Los Angeles’ vital contribution to the conquest of space.

The Spanish galleon is the San Salvador, which Cabrillo sailed into San Pedro Harbor on October 8, 1542.

The tuna represents the fishing industry of the County of Los Angeles, and the championship cow, Pearlette, represents the dairy industry.

The Hollywood Bowl indicates the cultural activities, while the two stars represent the County’s motion picture and television industries.

The cross represents the influence of the church and the missions of California.

Oil derricks are symbolic of the oil fields that were discovered on Signal Hill.

The words “*County of Los Angeles, California*” surround the seal.

And I hope that we’ve set an example that there is life after proposing a revenue increase. You can even get the people behind you, even in the County of Los Angeles - almost a 3-to-1 to vote for a revenue increase - and without that, Madam Chair, this County, other counties and cities across the state, are going to be in a world of hurt. And more than that, the people we represent are going to be in a world of hurt, and we can’t afford that.

I want to thank you and congratulate you upon your assuming the Chair, and to congratulate in advance our new Chair Pro Tem, Supervisor Don Knabe, and my other colleagues for the great job we’ve done collectively and collaboratively over the last year. I look forward to the next year under your leadership.



## Members of the Board

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
Chair  
Second District

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

**Michael J. Henry**  
Director of Personnel

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

**John S. Mina**  
Editor



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

Department of  
Human Resources  
500 W. Temple Street, Room 375  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1765  
(213) 613-4789 FAX  
Available online at:  
[hr.co.la.ca.us](http://hr.co.la.ca.us)



*The County of  
Los Angeles  
would like to wish  
everyone  
a safe & happy  
Holiday Season!*