



## Supervisor Burke Hosts County's Living Legends Awards



Supervisor Burke (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) was joined onstage after the Living Legends program by (l-r): Sofia Luke, wife of Derek Luke; Derek Luke, actor and Master of Ceremonies; Living Legends awardee Antwone Fisher; his wife, LaNette Fisher; County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd; Janoyne Adams, best-selling novelist and wife of Michael Datcher; and Living Legends awardee Michael Datcher.

Before a nearly full house at the A. C. Bilbrew Library, on the last Sunday in February, Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke presented Living Legends awards to screenwriter Antwone Fisher, subject of Denzel Washington's hit film *"The Antwone Fisher Story,"* and to best-selling author Michael Datcher. The Master of Ceremonies for the program was Derek Luke, the young actor who played Antwone Fisher in the film, which "made it something like a family affair," Supervisor Burke said.

The Living Legends series is an annual event that takes place every February in commemoration of Black History Month. The awards program began with an invocation by Bishop Noel Jones of Greater Bethany Community Church, followed by a posting of colors by the United States Marine Guard and the National Anthem led by Jesse Campbell. After a rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by Jessica Smith, County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd welcomed the audience to the event. She noted that the awards are sponsored every year by the Board of Supervisors and the County Public Library. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Living Legends series.

**LEGENDS**  
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## Employee of the Month: Fire Department's Kristina Hajjar

Kristina Hajjar has been working for the County of Los Angeles for 11 years. She began her career with the Department of Health Services, working in Public Affairs at LAC+USC Medical Center, and eventually became the Director of Communications for the Fire Department. Her responsibilities include the creation and implementation of a strategic communications plan for the Fire Department through the Public Affairs Section of the Executive Bureau. This involves all major public affair program areas, such as publications, media relations, special events, internal and external communications and content management of the Fire Department's Web site.

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# EVENT CALENDAR

## County of Los Angeles Wellness Fair

April 30 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Department of Public Works - Outdoor Patio

900 South Fremont Ave., Alhambra

## Los Angeles County Botanic Garden (Arboretum)

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

(626) 821-3222

[www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)

May 4 - 5 - Festival of Plants

## Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Dr. La Canada Flintridge

(818) 949-4200

[www.descanso.com](http://www.descanso.com)

May 10 - 11 - International Geranium Society Plant Show and Sale

May 17 - 18 - African Violet Show and Sale

## Dorothy Chandler Pavilion - Music Center

135 N. Grand Avenue

(323) 850-2000

[www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)

April 25 - 30 - Los Angeles Philharmonic  
*Prokofiev, Shostakovich*

April 26, 8:00pm - Los Angeles Master Chorale  
*Two American Revolutions*

May 2 - 4 - Los Angeles Philharmonic  
*Dvorák, Shostakovich*

May 8 - 11 - Los Angeles Philharmonic  
*Mahler's Third*

May 15 - Jr. Philharmonic Orchestra Presents 66th  
Anniversary Concert Spectacular

May 16 - 18 - Los Angeles Philharmonic  
*Berg, Bruckner*

## Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd.

(323) 857-6000

[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

April 13 - July 27 - The Legacy of Genghis Khan:  
Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia 1256-1353

## South Coast Botanic Gardens

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula, 90732

(310) 544-6815

April 27 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
South Bay Epiphyllum Society's  
Annual Epiphyllum Show & Sale

## Board-Sponsored Career & Community Fairs

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's

Second Annual Foster Youth Career Fair & Resource Expo

Saturday, May 3 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Salvation Army Center - 960 E. Walnut, Pasadena

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's

Sixth Annual "Remembering Our Veterans & Their Families

Saturday, May 24 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Arcadia County Park - 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia

## Community Career Fair 2003

Sponsored by Supervisor Don Knabe and Sheriff Lee Baca

Saturday, June 14, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sheriff's Star Center - 11515 S. Colima Road, Whittier

## General Member Elections to be held for the Board of Retirement and Board of Investments of LACERA

LACERA Elections will be held this year to elect the Third Members of the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments for terms of office commencing January 1, 2004. The elections will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2003.

General Members interested in running for these offices may obtain nomination packets beginning April 18, 2003 from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk at 12400 Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA 90650. Nominating petitions must be signed by at least fifty active county employees (as of March 1, 2003) who are General Members. Petitions must be filed with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, before 5:00 p.m. Monday, May 19, 2003.

For more information, contact your departmental election coordinator.



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

Department of Human Resources  
3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1000 (10th floor)  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

(213) 639-6386

(213) 365-2080 Fax

Available online at: [hr.co.la.ca.us](http://hr.co.la.ca.us)

**WeTip WELFARE FRAUD HOTLINE**  
**1-800-87-FRAUD**

## Supervisor Antonovich Starts Baseball Season with World Champs and Little League Sluggers

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 21, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich welcomed representatives from the Anaheim Angels (formerly the Los Angeles Angels) to congratulate the Major League Baseball team on winning the 2002 World Series Championship and the American League pennant—both firsts in the franchise’s 41-year history.



*From (l-r): Robert Alvarado, Angels’ Director of Marketing; Supervisor Antonovich and son Michael, Jr.; former Angel Clyde Wright; Matt Bennett, Angels’ Manager of Community Development; and former Angel Bobby Grich.*



On March 1, Supervisor Antonovich joined fellow Antelope Valley sports fans to commemorate the coming of spring and the opening of a new baseball season. After throwing the first pitch at the Quartz Hill Little League Opening Ceremony, the Supervisor and Michael Jr. stopped to visit with some little leaguers.

## Janssen Receives National Public Service Award



David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the County of Los Angeles, was honored in the nation’s capital in March as one of five recipients of the prestigious National Public Service Award for 2003.

The American Society for Public Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration created the awards to honor individuals who make outstanding contributions to public service. Recipients are selected for excellence, dedication, accomplishment over a sustained period of time, creativity and being a highly-skilled career manager.

JANSSEN  
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# APRIL 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:*

**ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL:** Elroy A. Morris  
**ASSESSOR:** Ernest M. Goldberg, Howard H. McGee, Richard N. Quaccharini  
**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Alice M. Harris  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Patricia A. Clemons, Georgia M. Gregory, Lola M. Hicks, Steven G. Michaelian, Bonnie K. Spamer, Ura B. Thomas, Barbara A. Winston  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Anita Castellanos, E. W. Grawlin, Fred Klink, Larry G. Oda, Tommy C. Simpson  
**FIRE:** Alan D. Barbee, Charles M. Cook, Richard Freymond, Bob L. Hancock, Herbert M. Heitmeyer, Walter Lewis, Frederick Morton, Robert W. Nichols, Steven M. Nunez, Robert J. Persichetti, Leonard M. Phelps, Herbert A. Spitzer Jr  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Albert J. Alexander, Lemmie Alsberry, Nancy R. Andringa, Zeneida D. Bowes, Patricia R. Burdette, Sherrie L. Chamberlain, Katherine Chen, Audrey B. Chung, Charlene A. Dye, T. J. Frederick, Lourdes L. Gonzalez, John D. Hsu, Roger W. Jelliffe, Sylvia A. Johnson, Edna Landry, Vera Marsh, Evelyn P. Masters, Carolyn McClellan, Yolanda J. Moreno, Vernon Niles, Mary L. Proctor-Pass, Betty A. Rayford, Bertha Robles, Christine E. Rogers, Jean P. Russell, Jane Sabbe, Norman A. Scott, Maritza Spencer, Lawrence J. Szpila, Lournetta Wimbley, Steven Yates  
**HUMAN RESOURCES/PUBLIC SAFETY:** Eva F. Brusa, Dennis E. Velia  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Donna M. Dean, Charles D. Fox, Ronald Harrington, Sandra M. Harvey, Robert Juniper, Eugene R. Zucker  
**MENTAL HEALTH:** James T. Foltz, Dieter J. Poiser  
**MUSEUM OF ART:** Bienvenido Martinez  
**PARKS & RECREATION:** Freddy Evans  
**PROBATION:** Thomas J. Barr, Lawson R. Chew, Stephen R. Clark, Gerald N. Cusanovich, Theodore Graham Jr, Dean Hammer, Lula M. Jenkins, Vincent S. Mattera, Barbara J. Peters, Jose Rodriguez, Frederick Roe, John A. Wells, Mariah Williams  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Quentin E. King, Thomas B. Reitano  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Anthony Barron, Mattie Carter-Douglas, Rosemarie Fernandez, Lawrence V. Hamby, Donna L. Harris, Frances M. Howard, Larita Jubinal, Leopoldo Larranaga, Juaria A. Moore, Eleanor F. Reed, Guillermo Reyes

RETIREES

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EOM

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“The most fulfilling part of my job is the ability to showcase the department’s firefighters as local heroes serving our many communities across the County. It is a public relations practitioner’s dream job... who wouldn’t enjoy that,” Hajjar stated.

When asked what unique characteristic or element she brings to her workplace, she responded by stating: “I bring a caring attitude to work with me everyday, knowing how the public depends on us for its safety and how our firefighters, lifeguards and other emergency response personnel place their lives on the line.”

Hajjar is very proud of her involvement with last year’s “Los Angeles Firefighters Honor FDNY” project that brought 57 families to Southern California for a weeklong getaway. The families were of New York’s fallen firefighters and police officers who perished on September 11, 2001. “It really brought the magnitude of September 11 home to those of us in Los Angeles who only experienced it through the media and stories of L.A. County firefighters who spent time at Ground Zero,” she stated. “I will never forget their smiles and gratitude... we did our part to help some of the families begin the healing process,” Hajjar concluded.

One of her fondest memories of serving County residents comes from her earlier years, when she worked at LAC+USC Medical Center. Her supervisor had asked her to stay late one night to facilitate media interviews regarding a little girl who had died in the emergency room. While crossing the street on her way home from school, the child was struck by a car in a hit-and-run accident. She sustained several injuries that eventually took her life. Hajjar recalled being in the waiting room when the doctors told the child’s parents the tragic news.

“I sat next to the child’s mother because my heart went out to her, then she collapsed in my arms in an explosion of tears and clung tightly to me. I held this stranger in my arms for over an hour. It was then that I realized what public service meant, although I obviously do not consider it a ‘fond memory,’ it is the strongest memory of public service that made me feel needed and appreciated,” she concluded.

Her husband, George, is a computer engineer who owns and operates a computer services and sales firm based in the San Gabriel Valley. They have one son, Jack, who is an eighth grader at Goddard Middle School in Glendora.

## Supervisor Yaroslavsky Welcomes British Ambassador



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (right) presents a gift of welcome to Sir Christopher Meyer, British Ambassador to the United States, during a recent stop in Los Angeles. Sir Christopher has been posted in Washington since 1997 and previously served as Britain's ambassador to Germany, and as government spokesman and press secretary to former British Prime Minister John Major. During his visit, Sir Christopher was the featured speaker at a luncheon program sponsored by USC's Pacific Council and the Council on Foreign Relations, offering his assessment of the United States/United Kingdom diplomatic approach on the Iraq and North Korea issues, and on the division among United States' other European allies over the questions.

### LEGENDS

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During the presentation, Supervisor Burke told Fisher, "You are recognized as a positive role model for African-Americans aspiring to succeed in the arts and to achieve personal success in communities throughout our nation." She told the audience that Fisher is also the best-selling author of *Finding Fish*, a book of his memoirs. On accepting his Living Legends Award, Fisher shared some memories of his life as a foster child in Cleveland, Ohio, and told the audience he hoped that those who saw the movie would be reminded that every child has value and potential.

Burke told Datcher, "Your standing as a poet, playwright and journalist highlights your position as a positive role model." Datcher has directed critically acclaimed writers workshops in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles and has taught at the UCLA Extension Writer's Program and at West Los Angeles College.

Datcher read a selection from his best-selling book, *Raising Fences*. The audience responded with warm enthusiasm

to both awardees. Supervisor Burke also presented a Special Services Award to the Friends of the A. C. Bilbrew Library.

Others who took part in the program were Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors; Shakinah Douglas, Little Miss African American; singer Edna Tatum; the L.A. Inner-City Mass Choir; and James Bolden, managing editor of the Los Angeles Sentinel. The program ended with a benediction from Reverend Alvin Tunstill of Trinity Baptist Church.

At a reception following the event, Datcher made a quick appearance with his wife, best-selling novelist Janoyne Adams, before leaving to sign books purchased by members of the audience. Fisher also came with his wife, LaNette, who told Supervisor Burke that the couple has two children.

Previous Living Legends honorees include mystery novelist Walter Mosley, singer Lou Rawls, musician Herbie Hancock, actress Cicely Tyson, singers Nancy Wilson and "Smokey" Robinson, Johnnie Cochran, Isaac Hayes and actor James Earl Jones.

# SHARING A COMMITMENT

Elderly and Disabled Immigrants Benefit from County of Los Angeles' Creativity



*See-Yong Lee, a Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants worker, helps the elderly and disabled to receive much-needed benefits.*

Special Pull-Out Section

**M**ost people would agree that the elderly and disabled have enough challenges without having to worry about where their next meals are coming from, or whether they will have roofs over their heads and beds to sleep in. If not for the extraordinary efforts of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) staff, more than 5,000 elderly and/or disabled County of Los Angeles legal immigrants in the Cash Assistance Program for

Immigrants (CAPI) might have to have faced these situations.

Proposed budget cuts for this State program would have reduced the monthly assistance checks from \$740 for a single person to General Relief's \$221 monthly benefit. The added cost to the County could have been as much as \$15.8 million.



## County of Los Angeles VISION

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
- ◆ professionalism
- ◆ accountability
- ◆ compassion
- ◆ integrity
- ◆ commitment
- ◆ a can-do attitude
- ◆ 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

CAPI is a State-funded program that provides cash assistance to certain aged, blind, and disabled legal non-citizens who are ineligible for Supplemental Social Security (SSI) due to their immigration status. It was implemented on November 1, 1998 in response to changes in the SSI eligibility rules that led to many elderly and disabled legal immigrants losing their SSI benefits. CAPI was hailed as a great humanitarian effort by the State to ease the hardships that would have been imposed on this vulnerable population who lost their SSI benefits.

In response to the possibility that the CAPI program would be reduced or eliminated due to the State's budget crisis, DPSS staff brainstormed to save the CAPI program. When they analyzed denials of SSI applications filed by CAPI participants, they found that many denials could be eliminated. It became evident to DPSS staff that if CAPI applicants were assisted with their applications, there would be a higher chance of receiving an SSI award. A CAPI SSI Advocacy Program (CAPI SSIAP) was being designed, but it would be 15 months before it could be fully implemented. In order to demonstrate that State costs could be reduced in the CAPI program, the CAPI SSIAP was moved to a fast track.

In a period of less than six months, with assistance from the Social Security Administration, CAPI SSIAP has assisted in filing more than 2,500 SSI applications by CAPI participants. Almost 900 SSI applications have been approved, which will save the State over \$5 million net, due to transfers from the State-funded CAPI to the Federally-funded SSI program.

DPSS Director Bryce Yokomizo attributes the success of this program to his "staff's dedication in providing SSI advocacy for our CAPI participants, the provision of services in the participant's primary language and the cooperation of the SSA."

Special Pull-Out Section

## Officials Launch Grand Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project



*Larry Field, County Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen, Eris Field, Music Center President Stephen Rountree, 1st District Supervisor Gloria Molina, 5th District Supervisor Michael Antonovich, 2nd District Supervisor and current Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, 3rd District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe, 9th District Councilmember Jan Perry, Music Center Board Chair Andrea van de Kamp and construction worker Mario Enriquez.*

City, County and Music Center officials officially launched the Grand Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project – a two-block beautification project that will create wider, unobstructed sidewalks, pocket parks, and the seasonal color of trees and plants along the parkway.

Supervisors Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Michael D. Antonovich, Don Knabe, Gloria Molina and Zev Yaroslavsky joined Los Angeles 9th District Councilmember Jan Perry at a 9 a.m. ceremony to mark the beginning of construction.

Also joining in the ceremony in front of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse was Chief Administrative Officer

David Janssen; Public Works Director James Noyes; Music Center officials Andrea Van de Kamp, chair, John Emerson, chair-elect; and Stephen Rountree, president; and Music Center donors Eris and Larry Field.

The County project will realign Grand Avenue from Temple Street to 2nd Street, with the roadbed moving an average of 20 feet east of its existing location in front of the Music Center. The Center's new Walt Disney Concert Hall will have sidewalk widths of up to 40 feet at its front, creating space for outdoor dining. New trees, native California palms, and plantings will create a street environment that will bring seasonal color



**RETIREES**

*continued from page 4*

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Donald W. Arman, Robert K. Bravender, Douglas J. Browne, Eddie H. Freeman, Donald F. Gwaltney, John A. Hanken, Ronald D. Ondrozeck, James Parra, Wayne A. Rice, Gerald A. Rogers, Joseph E. Strader, Jesse V. Thompson

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Rosa Garcia-Viteri, Takenori Yamamoto

**SHERIFF:** Edward L. Allen, Thomas C. Beattie, Maria G. Billings, Gary R. Burbach, Paul R. Bustrum, Gladys J. Clary, Dennis C. Dahlman, Courtney M. Falconer, Kendell S. Fowler, William G. Graves, William R. Hutton, Earl K. Landau, Raymond J. Leedy Jr, Terry E. Lewis, Dennys R. Lindner, Bruce D. Milroy, Sabino H. Muniz, Thomas E. Pigott, Henry L. Reed Jr, Rachel Sandoval, Ronald W. Shreves, Stephen S. Voors

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Lupe D. Beason, Lea E. Kern, Robert E. Knourek, Charles A. Lafferty, Marianne B. Mathews

**TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:** Barbara L. Lesko

***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:** Consolacion G. Ignacio, Rebecca L. Lacuesta

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Guy R. Crowder

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Evelyn J. Alexander, Antonina Mansour, Raul Perez

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Dolores Escandon, Eddie Florence Jr, Beatrice J. Gallegos, Sau Lim, Bette J. Vanderbrug, Bernhardt Wilson

**COUNTY COUNSEL:** John P. Joyce

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Haskell N. Scott Jr

**FIRE:** John H. Ferme, Larry A. Westby

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Leo F. Alonzo, Rose M. Arnold, Steven Kadomatsu, Rene P. Lopez, Ceniza Mondilla, Barbara L. Nunn, Sandra Ramos, Rosalba Reyes, Ruth H. Rich, Susumu Yokoyama

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Ethel M. Brown, F. A. Rogers

**PARKS & RECREATION:** David E. Engle

**PROBATION:** Laura E. Andruska, Luther Mitchell Jr, Claraise Terrell

**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Sherna L. Svensson

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Silvio F. Caceres, Cynthia C. Chang, Ruth C. Cho, Patricia A. Healy, Marcelina Ledesma, Ida J. Williams

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Joseph D. Chustz, Michael L. Hays

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Samia G. Mikhael, Kieunghia X. Vo

**SHERIFF:** Ronald L. Bosket, Stephen K. Collins, Anthony D. Hollins, Richard W. Humphreys, Terry King, Sharon D. Lounsberry, Richard Luna, Lamont E. Rager, David G. Rosser, Alexia L. Vital-Moore

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Theresa M. Chavana

## Supervisor Knabe Presents Melanie Washington for Woman of the Year



Supervisor Don Knabe announced Melanie Washington as his choice for Woman of the Year for her work on mentoring young men in the California Youth Authority.

“Melanie Washington is an inspiration to us all. She has been through so much and yet still continues to give,” Knabe said. “Hers is a truly remarkable story of how evil can be turned into good.”

Washington launched her program, *Mentoring, A Touch from Above* (MATFA), after a gang member killed her son the day after Christmas in 1995. She had previously lost her mother, sister, and husband to violent deaths, all of them killed by repeat offenders who had no support when released from prison for lesser crimes. Rather than succumb to feelings of bitterness and despair, Washington launched her program to provide incarcerated teens with the attention and support they need to rebuild their lives. Because of Washington’s tragic past, the children have found her to be someone they can look to for guidance.

Washington’s MATFA program provides young men, ages 13 to 18 who are serving time for criminal offenses in the California Youth Authority juvenile detention system, job training and placement, preparation for the working world, educational assistance, scholarships, family counseling and drug and alcohol rehabilitation within one year of their release.

Since 1998, over 400 young men have participated in the program. Of the 58 who have returned to society just three have returned to prison, leaving a recidivism rate less than one-tenth the State average. Washington recently expanded her program to include at-risk children enrolled in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Washington, who has worked for Boeing since 1989, received the President’s Community Volunteer Award in 2001 for her work with MATFA.

## JANSSEN

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“It is a pleasure to receive an award for doing a job that I enjoy,” said Janssen, who traveled to Washington, D.C. for a luncheon ceremony, held as part of the national ASPA conference. “I am honored to be recognized by my colleagues and peers in public administration.”

Janssen was hired by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in 1996 after serving 13 years with San Diego County as Chief Administrative Officer and Assistant Chief Administrative Officer. During his tenure in San Diego, he instituted innovations in local government by overhauling the County’s legal defense system, substantially reducing costs to the taxpayers, and establishing San Diego County’s first Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender offices.

Prior to serving in San Diego County, Janssen worked for the State of California as Director of the Department of General Services, assistant secretary of the Agriculture and Services Agency and program analyst for the Department of Finance.

“We are so proud that our CAO has been honored by the national organization of public administrators,” said Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair of the Board. “He certainly has earned this recognition with hard work and dedication to improving the quality of life for County residents. David’s expert leadership has made County government more efficient and responsive to the people it serves.”

The four other 2003 recipients of the public service award are: Sheila W. Beckett of the Employees Retirement System of Texas, Gene L. Dodaro of the U.S. General Accounting Office, Larry G. Massanari of the Social Security Administration in Philadelphia and Merrett R. Stierheim, superintendent of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

## GRAND AVENUE

*continued from page 8*

to the pedestrian corridor. New lighting and seating will be added, and a new outdoor dining space will be developed at Otto’s Restaurant, which is scheduled to be remodeled as a French Brasserie during the construction period.

Pocket parks will be added along the Civic Center side of Grand Avenue, which will feature generous seating in pleasant green spaces that complement the new tree-lined boulevard, while providing more amenable space for queuing jurors and waiting courthouse visitors.

The project, whose future was in limbo as a result of the State budget crisis, is back on track thanks to the release of \$9.5 million in State and Federal transportation funds. The remaining funding for the \$14.5 million program is comprised of Music Center funds and other revenue sources.

Music Center Chair Andrea Van de Kamp said a \$2.5 million gift to the Music Center from Eris and Larry Field of Beverly Hills enabled the Center to complete funding for its share of the project. She said in recognition of their generous gift, the Walt Disney Concert Hall plaza, the main entrance at the First and Grand street level, will be named the Eris M. Field Plaza.

Construction of the roadway and sidewalk areas on the two-block area between the Music Center and the Concert Hall will be completed before the opening of the Walt Disney Concert Hall next fall. Some minor landscaping work in the Civic Center and the installation of an elevator will be completed by the end of December.

Supervisor Burke, Chair of the Board, said the County is working to minimize the impact of construction on traffic, and the Music Center has taken steps to inform its patrons of the easiest way to access the Center and obtain parking in the area during construction.

*For information related to the beautification of Grand Avenue, or for the latest news about parking directions, visit [www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org) or the County Web site at [ladpw.org/pmd/grandave](http://ladpw.org/pmd/grandave).*

## Supervisor Molina’s River Project Becoming a Reality: Bike Trail Opens to Public

A year and a half after Supervisor Gloria Molina signed partnership agreements with numerous cities and nonprofit agencies, her vision of creating green space and recreational uses along the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers is becoming a reality. Last month, the gates were opened to the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds Bike Trail, a part of the Spreading Grounds Prop A project.

The bike trail will connect the LARIO bike path to Smith Park in Pico Rivera. In addition, the City of Pico Rivera is securing additional funding to extend the bike path through the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds. When the San Gabriel portion is completed, the San Gabriel River Bike Trail will be connected to the LARIO Trail with stopping points at Smith Park and the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds. An official opening will take place in late April or early May.



“As a young girl growing up nearby, I remember trying to ride my bike along the river all the way to the ocean, but my friends and I found a chain-link fence blocking the way not far down the path,” Molina said. “Because of the agencies and cities committed to open space, our vision of quality bike paths, trails, pocket parks, public access points, and restoration of natural habitats along the rivers is becoming a reality in Los Angeles County. The bike paths at the Rio Hondo Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera are just the beginning of many projects funded through my Greening Institute and will create what I wanted as a 10-year old.”

Molina signed \$1.7 million in Prop A project agreements at the Rio Hondo Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera (one of seven projects awarded that day) and announced an additional \$4.5 million to help make the vision for the Rivers a reality. She was joined by representatives from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, Department of Public Works, and project grantees: Friends of the San Gabriel River, Northeast Trees, Hollywood Beautification Team, San Gabriel River and Mountains

Conservancy, City of Azusa, City of Pico Rivera, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Community Residents Association for Parks.

All projects were derived from Molina’s Greening Institute, which was initiated in January 2001 to teach local agencies how to establish partnerships with the County to preserve green and open space and create recreational opportunities along the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers. The Institute is held on an as-needed basis during Proposition A funding cycles.

Greening Institute partners include the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River Conservancy, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Northeast Trees, People for Parks, Trust for Public Land, and the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Public Works. These agencies share their expertise in park development and planning, fostering networks between organizations and communities, encouraging public-private partnerships, and generating awareness of available Proposition A funds and the application process.

County of Los Angeles voters approved Prop A funds in 1992 and 1996 for regional and local park improvements countywide to be administered through the County’s Parks and Recreation Open



Space District. The special Prop A funds can only be granted to cities that have committed all current Open Space District allocations. Molina has designated First District Prop A special funds for recreation and open space priority projects, such as bike paths, trails, pocket parks, public access points, and restoration of natural habitats along the rivers.

*“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”*

# Share It

## County Ambassador Program to be Launched

Recent Board approval of the County's Strategic Plan featured Communication Strategies that focused on empowering County employees as "County Ambassadors" to mobilize as a promotional and informational team reaching out to co-workers and the public.

The County Strategic Plan's Communications Support Group, under the direction of Quality and Productivity Commission Chair Jaelyn Tilley Hill, includes representatives from the Chief Administrative Office, Department of Human Resources, the Chief Information Office, Internal Services Department and the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Committee has begun its work and is focused on enhancing employee outreach efforts targeting recruitment fairs, employee orientation and training services that provide employees with information regarding the County's Strategic Plan, their role as County Ambassadors and facts on how employees enrich the lives of County residents.

The County Ambassador Program, administered by the Chief Administrative Office, will design and produce County Ambassador Kits, which will include a County Ambassador lapel pin, mini-brochure and laminated card with brief information on County services. In support of this Program, the Internal Services Department and the Chief Information Office will design and maintain a County Ambassador Web site featuring current information, events and special projects.

The Quality and Productivity Managers Network, which is comprised of a manager from each department, will play a key role in launching the County Ambassador's Program. Providing employees with meaningful information on current County issues will involve each and every employee. Employees will be asked to e-mail or fax their suggestions, "Ambassador News" items, service information updates and community outreach updates to the CAO's Office of Workplace Programs at:

500 W. Temple St., Suite B-1, Los Angeles, CA 90012, e-mail [egutierr@cao.co.la.ca.us](mailto:egutierr@cao.co.la.ca.us) or fax (213) 633-4694.

Please take a moment and complete the following County Ambassador survey questionnaire and fax your responses to the CAO, at (213) 633-4694. Your responses will assist in the design of the County Ambassador mini-brochure. Our goal is to complete the design and production of your County Ambassador kit by June 30, 2003. More information on this new countywide program will be featured in next month's issue of the *County DIGEST*. If you have any suggestions you wish to share, please contact Evelyn Gutierrez, Director, Office of Workplace Programs, CAO at: (213) 974-2495 or [egutierr@cao.co.la.ca.us](mailto:egutierr@cao.co.la.ca.us).

### County of Los Angeles Ambassador Program - Survey 2003



As a County Employee Ambassador empowered to provide co-workers and the public with relevant and current information about County services, new programs or current issues of concern to the public, which of the following informational resources would be most helpful. These County service call numbers may be included in the County's Employee Ambassador Mini-brochure.

The mini-brochure will not accommodate all the information desired, therefore, with your input we can feature the most frequently requested telephone numbers.

#### Place A Priority Number For Each Service Telephone Call Number

(#1 = Highest Priority) (#2 = Second Priority) (#3 = Low Priority)

Health Care Services	<input type="text"/>	Consumer Affairs	<input type="text"/>
Welfare Services	<input type="text"/>	Volunteer Opportunities	<input type="text"/>
Animal Care Services	<input type="text"/>	Elder Abuse Hotline	<input type="text"/>
Public Health Information	<input type="text"/>	Property Taxes	<input type="text"/>
Child Adoption Services	<input type="text"/>	County Permits	<input type="text"/>
Registrar-Recorder Services	<input type="text"/>	Street Maintenance	<input type="text"/>
Parks & Recreation	<input type="text"/>	Senior Citizens Services	<input type="text"/>
Public Works and Recycling	<input type="text"/>	Other:	<input type="text"/>

Please fax your response to the Chief Administrative Office, Workplace Programs at (213) 633-4694. Thank you.



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*“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”*

***Plan  
Prepare  
Stay Informed!***

# **Homeland *Survival Awareness***



An Emergency Guide for County of Los Angeles Employees

## ***Plan, Prepare, Stay Informed!***

Many of us have been a bit frightened after the earthquakes, floods and wildfires that have hit Los Angeles County in recent years. Fear is a natural reaction – one that domestic and international terrorists use as a weapon to achieve their political and social goals.

Much of the fear caused by terrorism – or the threat of it – is based on the uncertainty of when it will occur, whether we, our loved ones or friends will be injured, or whether the business we own, or that employs us, will be targeted. We feel we have no control over our fate.

Images of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Virginia, the plane crash in Pennsylvania, the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and the Olympic Centennial Park in Atlanta are hard to forget.

To combat the threat of terrorism, emergency service officials representing all levels of government continue to work together to develop and implement effective strategies for preventing and responding to incidents. We can take control by becoming more aware of our surroundings and reporting suspicious activity to local authorities.

The public has a role in reducing the impact of terrorism on their lives. Taking these and the other steps described in this brochure may not enable us to prevent every terrorist attack, but we can eliminate some of their attempts. After all, strength, courage, and patriotism are part of being an American.

## ***Plan & Prepare Now***

- Develop a disaster plan for your family.
- Have a telephone number of a relative or friend outside the area for all family members to call should you be separated. Make sure each family member has the contact's work and home telephone numbers and e-mail address, in case phone calls can't get through. Establish a family meeting place in another area of the city in case you have to evacuate.
- Learn basic First Aid/CPR. Contact the American Heart Association or your local Red Cross chapter.
- Make sure you locate and check your emergency preparedness kit to ensure there are fresh batteries, water, food, and First Aid kit. If you need to create a kit, make sure it has at least a 72-hour supply of water, non-perishable food, a First Aid kit w/manual, fire extinguisher, flashlight, battery-operated radio, extra batteries, matches, whistle, can opener, blankets or sleeping bags, toilet paper, essential medicines, eyeglasses, plastic trash bags, cash and credit cards. It is also a good idea to include copies of important family documents (birth certificates, passports, licenses, and photos).
- Know where fire exits and fire extinguishers are, at home, at work, or when traveling, and practice emergency evacuation procedures with your family.
- Know the emergency procedures at your child's school. Be sure to give your caregiver appropriate authorization to pick up your children if you are unable to do so.
- More information can be obtained from [www.lacoa.org](http://www.lacoa.org)

## ***Be Alert***

- Always be aware of your surroundings, particularly in airports, large cities, large crowds or popular tourist areas. Report any suspicious activities to local authorities.
- When you travel, keep your belongings with you at all times, and DON'T accept packages from strangers.

## *When An Emergency Occurs*

- Think before you act. Be a calming influence on those around you.
- Follow your emergency plan. Check for and treat injuries. (First Aid tips are in the white pages of your telephone book.)
- Check for damage, fires, gas leaks, and other hazards using a flashlight. **Don't** light matches or candles. Don't turn on electrical switches—sparks could cause an explosion.
- Check on your neighbors. E-mail or call your family contact.
- Stay informed by listening to a battery-powered radio, and follow instructions issued by authorities.
- **Don't** call 911 unless you have a Life or Death emergency.

## *Evacuating or Shelter in Place*

- If you evacuate from work, use the stairs and stay to the right to leave a clear path for firefighters and other emergency personnel. If you evacuate from home, put on sturdy shoes to protect your feet from debris. Take your emergency kit with you.
- Take your pets with you to your prearranged meeting place. (Pets are not allowed in public shelters.)
- If you are instructed to “shelter in place,” meaning stay indoors, close all windows and all doors, and turn off air conditioning systems. Be sure to have duct tape on-hand for taping windows and doors in one room. Do not leave your sheltered location until instructed to do so.

## *Explosions and Fires*

- If you hear an explosion nearby, take cover under a desk or sturdy table, away from falling items. Stay away from windows. Then exit the building as quickly as possible.
- If there's a fire, stay low, cover your nose and mouth with a cloth, and seek a safe escape route, away from heat or flames.
- If you are trapped in debris, cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing to avoid breathing dust. Use

a flashlight or whistle to signal to rescuers, or tap on a pipe or wall. Avoid unnecessary movement so that you don't kick up dust. (If you shout, you may inhale dangerous amounts of dust.)

## *Chemical or Biological Threats*

Although a terrorist attack with a conventional weapon is considered more likely than a large-scale bio-terrorist attack, local, state, and federal authorities are working together in California to assess terrorist threats and coordinate a rapid response if necessary. Experts recommend that you **not** buy a gas mask. The mask can only be effective if worn prior to an attack and often there may not be advanced notice. Additionally, don't stockpile antibiotics. They can cause side effects and should be taken only with medical supervision.

If you think you've been exposed, contact your local physician, medical clinic, or local health department, and listen to the news for information.

## *Water Supplies*

It would be difficult to effectively contaminate our drinking water supplies due to the fact that any chemical or biological agent would be diluted and filtration methods would commonly kill the agent. However, emergency plans for California's water systems have been reviewed while surveillance and security throughout the water system infrastructure has been increased.

## *Mail*

The U.S. Postal Service, package delivery companies, and your own office mailroom are all taking extra security precautions to identify and isolate any suspicious letters or packages. There is little chance that you will receive such an item at home. If you **do** come across a piece of mail or other item(s) that looks suspicious, or if you believe your mail, car, desk or home was contaminated, call the non-emergency phone number for your local law enforcement or fire department. They have the expertise to determine the correct actions to be taken.

## *Safety Tips for Mail Handlers:*

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water before and after handling the mail.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke around the mail.
- If you have open cuts or lesions on your hands, disposable hypo-allergenic latex gloves may be appropriate.
- Surgical masks, eye protection or gowns are **not** necessary or recommended.



*If a letter contains powders or a written threat, take the following steps:*

- Do **not** shake or empty the envelope.
- Isolate the specific area of the workplace so that no one disturbs the item.
- Evacuation of the entire workplace is **not** necessary at this point.
- Call your local law enforcement agency. They will provide further instructions. Wash your hands with soap and water for one minute.
- More information can be obtained from [www.usps.com/postalinspectors](http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors)

### ***Government Readiness***

The County of Los Angeles' Emergency Managers are among the most experienced, innovative, and effective in the world. In the past 10 years, County Emergency Managers have helped coordinate response and recovery for eight declared disasters, including the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, which was the most costly disaster in U.S. history until September 11, 2001.

The County of Los Angeles' nearly 30,000 sworn peace officers, over 9,000 firefighters, and thousands of emergency management personnel, combined with the County's multi-disciplinary approach to emergency response, makes the County of Los Angeles more prepared than most large jurisdictions in the country for a terrorist attack. This gives the County of Los Angeles a robust and formidable capability to deal with any disaster or emergency.

### ***For More Information***

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
[www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov) (**click on "Terrorism"**) – This site contains a comprehensive collection of Web links from the State, Federal, and private sectors.

Centers for Disease Control Bio-terrorism Website  
[www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov)

Johns Hopkins University – Center for Bio-defense Studies  
[www.hopkins-biodefense.org](http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org)

American Red Cross  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

County of Los Angeles Public Health  
[www.labt.org](http://www.labt.org)

County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health  
<http://dmh.co.la.ca.us>

*Contact your local law enforcement, fire or emergency services department for more information.*

***INFO LINE of Los Angeles***  
INFO LINE provides **free** Information & Referrals to Community Services in Los Angeles County. Call **1-800-339-6993 (TDD 1-800-660-4026)** for recorded messages (24-hour service).

Trained technicians are available to answer questions directly during peak hours.

**Chief Administrative Office's  
Office of Emergency Management**  
Emergency Survival Program (ESP)  
<http://espfocus.org>

Los Angeles County Operational Area  
[www.lacoa.org](http://www.lacoa.org)



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**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke - Second District**  
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**Don Knabe - Fourth District**  
**Michael D. Antonovich - Fifth District**