



Supervisor Knabe States Goals on Taking Over as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

I'd like to begin by thanking Supervisor Burke and her staff for the outstanding job you've done as Chair of the Board over this last year. Your leadership and grace guided the County through very challenging times and all of us appreciate the work you and your staff have done on behalf of the 10 million people that call our County home.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Board for this opportunity to once again serve as Chairman. We have been through a lot as a Board over the last two years—the ongoing health care crisis, the State budget crunch and labor negotiations. And I know we have many more challenging days ahead of us, but I believe that if we continue to work together as a strong cohesive group, we will get the job done.

I appreciate the efforts of the Executive Office staff and that of the CAO. I look forward to working with your departments, and all County departments, as we chart a new course for the County of Los Angeles over the next year.

TOUGH TIMES

Times are tough and I believe the heat is going to be turned up in the coming months as our local dollars must be defended and programs protected from State and Federal cuts. I hope that this Board can foster a better and more meaningful relationship with the new administration in Sacramento. Governor Schwarzenegger has an enormous task ahead of him and I hope that those of us at the local level, providing front line services to the people of California, will be of assistance and offer our help to the new Governor in shaping policies that protect local revenues and enhance our ability to provide services to our residents.



Through all of these challenges and changing times, I believe we have a unique opportunity to make things better. It is when times are tough that we must rise to the occasion and work harder, smarter and with even greater zeal. I am confident that working together, this Board will rise to the occasion.

ACCOUNTABILITY

My focus for my term as Chairman can be summed up in one word: "accountability." Accountability to the tax payers for their dollars we are entrusted with and an accountability to continue to better streamline County government to make it easier to use and more efficient to manage. This means taking better advantage of new and existing technologies to more efficiently run the County.

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Employee of the Month: Health Services' Thelma Egnozzi

"Mentoring staff and watching them grow personally and professionally is a wonderful experience," Thelma Egnozzi said. The presence of her colleagues at the ceremony honoring her as the Employee of the Month was evident of this.

Egnozzi, an 18-year employee of the Department of Health Services, is currently an Assistant Nursing Director, Education with the responsibility of planning, organizing and implementing a complete range and wide variety of training and educational programs for public health nursing personnel.

Among the many programs she considers with pride is the nurse orientation which was enthusiastically received by employees and serves as a nursing recruitment tool and retention factor.

"Nurses often enter the public health setting with little knowledge of or experience in

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HIGHLIGHTS

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EVENT CALENDAR

County of Los Angeles 6th Annual Multicultural Conference

March 31 and April 1

Wilshire Grand Hotel & Centre

930 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90017

For more information, please contact Flora Rostamian at frostami@co.la.ca.us or Mary Norman at (213) 738-9417 or mnorman@dmh.co.la.ca.us

Music Center

135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

www.musiccenter.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Jan 9 – March 7 - Giacomo Puccini's *La Boheme*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Feb 12 – March 14 - Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*

Feb 22 – March 13 – Richard Strauss' *Die Frau ohne Schatten*
(*The Woman Without a Shadow*)

Mark Taper Forum

Feb 12 - March 28 – Topdog/Underdog

Walt Disney Concert Hall

151 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

Jan 29 - Feb 1 – Los Angeles Philharmonic: Berlioz Bicentennial

Feb 5-8 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Mozart, Strauss, Schumann

Feb 8 – Venice Baroque Orchestra: Baroque Variations –
All Vivaldi program

Feb 10 – Colburn Celebrity Series: Hillary Hahn, Violin –
Mozart, Bach, Bloch

Feb 14-15 – Los Angeles Philharmonic: Rimsky-Korsakov, Prokofiev,
Mussorgsky

Feb 15 – Colburn Chamber Orchestra: Sounds About Town – Locatelli,
Giannini, Flagello, Suk, Britten

Feb 17 – Chamber Music Society with Members of the Los Angeles
Philharmonic at the Gindi Auditorium, University of Judaism
Arensky, Shostakovich

Feb 18 – Inside/Outside: *El alma de Los Angeles*
(*The Soul of Los Angeles*)

Feb 19-22 – Los Angeles Philharmonic: Berg, Schubert, Mozart, Johann
Strauss, Jr.

Feb 21 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Toyota Symphonies for Youth –
Creation Festival – The Recording Revolution

Feb 22 – Sounds About Town: American Youth Symphony – Auerbach,
Mahler

Feb 27-29 – Los Angeles Philharmonic: Piazzolla, Golijov, Ginastera

Feb 29 – Green Umbrella: Los Angeles Philharmonic – Golijov

EVENTS

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Black History Month Celebration

February 26 at 10 a.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Mall Area
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles 90012

Renowned jazz-classical flutist Hubert Laws will join Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman of the Board, and Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (*pictured*) to promote the County's official celebration of Black History Month on Thursday, February 26, at 10 a.m.



Supervisor Knabe is the Honorary Chair of the celebration. Supervisor Burke is Honorary Co-Chair along with Michael J. Henry, Director of Personnel. The program theme is "The Black Church: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." It will also feature the Kabasa West African Drum and Dance Ensemble, the Civic Center Choir, Sweet Harmony and the Reverend Dr. Paul L. Brown, Sr. of Washington, D.C.

County DIGEST 

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

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Los Angeles, CA 90010

(213) 639-6386

(213) 639-0940 FAX

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

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1-800-87-FRAUD

Supervisor Molina Dedicates Superior Court’s Renovated Huntington Park Branch

Supervisor Gloria Molina dedicated the improved Huntington Park Branch of the Superior Court during a ceremony held in the renovated facility. Members of the judicial community, law enforcement agencies, and various legal organizations also attended.

“As many of you know, this Courthouse facility was overburdened by severe caseloads and a particularly inadequate courtroom that previously served as a judge’s chamber,” Supervisor Molina explained during the dedication ceremony. “Court staff and clients were forced to conduct their business in this awkward space which had multiple problems including security concerns, an inadequate jury deliberation room and no access for people with disabilities.”

After being made aware of this predicament by Judge Ruffo Espinoza, Supervisor Molina worked in conjunction with State Senator Martha Escutia and State Assemblymember Marco Firebaugh to renovate the building. Supervisor Molina secured \$1.7 million in County funds for the project, which included \$200,000 for architectural amenities to make the facility comparable to Huntington Park’s Civic Center.



Supervisor Gloria Molina dedicates the Superior Court’s Huntington Park branch. Joining her are (from left to right) Judge Gilbert M. Lopez of both the Huntington Park and South Gate Courthouses; Presiding Judge Robert A. Dukes of the Los Angeles Superior Court; and Southeast District Assistant Supervising Judge Peter Espinoza of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

During the ceremony, Supervisor Molina extended her appreciation to Judge Robert Dukes, Judge Peter Espinoza, Huntington Park Mayor Ed Escareno, and Huntington Park City Councilmembers Juan Noguez, Mario Gomez, Ofelia Hernandez, and Ric Loya for their help with the project, as well as to the Department of Public Works for completing construction within budget.

“We should all be proud of this new addition which will improve Court operations, management, and safety for the Superior Court here in Huntington Park,” Supervisor Molina concluded.

Third Annual Black History Month Exhibition

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will begin its third annual observance of Black History Month on February 4 with an exhibition of African American Military History at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1816 South Figueroa Street in downtown Los Angeles. The exhibition will feature photographs, posters, and narrative summaries of African American men and women who served our nation from the colonial period to the present. Although faced with acts of violence, humiliating conditions, and a military policy of racial segregation, which remained in effect until the late part of the 1940s, African Americans maintained their loyalty to the

government and willingness to serve in the armed forces of the United States.

Major General James T. Whitehead Jr., USAF (Retired), will be the speaker for the opening ceremony at 11 a.m. A reception hosted by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will follow the opening ceremony.

Among the individuals and military units featured in the exhibition are General Colin L. Powell, Eugene Bullard, Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper, Dorie Miller, Major Charity Adams, “Buffalo Soldiers,” Harlem Hell Fighters, 92nd Infantry Division, Tuskegee Airmen, Navy Golden 13, 761st Tank Battalion, Montford Point

Marines, 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, “Red Ball Express,” Women Army Corps (WAC), and Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). Small models of military vehicles and aircraft used during World War II will complement other memorabilia from a unit’s historic achievements. There is no admissions charge to the exhibition, which will open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., February 4 through 29.

If you have further questions, please contact Jim Meyer at (213)744-4828 or you may e-mail him at meyerj@co.la.ca.us.

JANUARY 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: Eddie B. Williams

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Francis V. Frazier

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Mildred A. Bodwell

FIRE: Darryl E. Bennett, Robert A. Falb, Philip K. Hoxsey, Robert T. Jenkins, Joseph W. Taylor

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Zenaida Ramirez

INTERNAL SERVICES: Jo A. Hunter

MENTAL HEALTH: Peter W. Chen, Joann Metoyer, Jessie A. Tait

PARKS & RECREATION: Louella Falls

PROBATION: Johnny A. Bell, Sandra Moss Manson, Anthony P. Schneider, Robert G. Stephens

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Dennis G. Cohen, Sally M. Elliott

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Edmund Bleavins, Eva H. Buie, Yvonne Davis, Jacqueline E. Everett, Craig Miller, Clarence L. Williams, Carol M. Young

PUBLIC WORKS: Gerald Campbell, Jess R. Munoz, Virginia M. Vadurro, Thomas Vasquez Jr.

SHERIFF: Yolanda Bonsall, Mark E. Cleaves, Ronald C. Clements, Robert G. Ford, James C. Fosdyck, Robert E. Hoffman Jr., Joseph E. Holmes II, Joel L. Johnsonbaugh, Roger D. Mayberry, Robert T. McLin, Steven M. Moreno, Steven C. Peterson, Armando M. Rongavilla, Edward Rubalcaba, Steven S. Selby, William Thompson, Robert A. Welker, E. M. Williams, Brent A. Witt, Frank A. Yanez

SUPERIOR COURT: James C. Owen

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: Natalio J. Ramirez

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Maria Y. Kim

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Mary L. Carlstedt

FIRE: Thomas P. Peacock

INTERNAL SERVICES: Gary A. Wolff

MENTAL HEALTH: Lynne L. Rouff

PROBATION: Nabila Beshai, Michael Garrigan, Shirley Means, Charles J. Ochoa

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Dolores M. Spence

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Socorro O. Alfonso, Reba C. Hardy, Gloria J. Powers, Grace N. Yeh

PUBLIC WORKS: Amy H. Kim

SHERIFF: Ina J. Bassett, Sharon A. Madison, Mary E. Olson, Ronald G. Tanikawa, Cheryl D. Walker, Ronald E. Waltman

SUPERIOR COURT: John B. McLroy

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public issues," she said. "A comprehensive and uniform public health orientation program was developed to provide staff with the increased knowledge and skills needed to assure a leadership role in promoting healthy behaviors of individuals, families and communities."

She has also been involved in a university affiliations committee, working toward a standardized orientation for all affiliating students with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and this has been hailed as one of her accomplishments.

Egnozzi is passionate about improving the quality of the nursing profession. She acts as a mentor to many in Public Health. The recipient of the Employee of the Month for December 2002, Noel Bazini-Barakat, is one of many she has mentored.

"As mentors, we profit from the relationship in human terms as a result of the fulfillment from actualizing potential in a promising employee," she said proudly in relation to Bazini-Barakat.

For the past 30 years, Egnozzi has been a local chapter member of an international philanthropic, cultural and social sorority which has raised funds for Cystic Fibrosis, the Kidney Foundation and cancer survivors. Over the last five years, the sorority has focused its attention in raising funds for shelters that provide a multitude of services for abused women and children.

On her regular day off, she serves as a Clinical Instructor at California State University, Los Angeles and continues to mentor students, providing them with experiences needed to develop into competent public health nurses. Furthermore, together with her husband, Vince (*see picture*) she still finds time to provide children of all ages with opportunities to learn about an environment other than the one that they live in. "This experience opens up the world for some of the children and helps them to gain a perspective on how ecology affects our lives regardless of where we live," Egnozzi said.

For this and many other accomplishments, a heartfelt congratulations Thelma Egnozzi!

KNABE

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By summer 2004, we will release the County’s first Progress Report Card which will provide ratings of efficiency and service for all County departments. This effort began three years ago under my motion which has now developed into the County’s Guiding Coalition. The Progress Report Card will not only highlight the County’s success in achieving its strategic planning goals, but will also indicate areas in the County which need improvement. The Report Card will help keep the County accountable to people we serve.

In helping those we serve, I also support the concept of opening “one stop” centers for County services so our residents can go to one place - close to home - and pay their property taxes, get their building plans approved, or handle other County related matters.

SAFE SURRENDER

When we talk about “accountability” and good models of government, I’d like to point out the tremendous success of the Safe Surrender Program. This Board created a task force, the task force met, made recommendations and implemented them within a realistic time frame. Today, the program efforts have been 100% accomplished and 16 babies lives in the County of Los Angeles have been saved because of our Safe Surrender Program. It was all done using existing County resources and community partnerships including First 5 LA. Thank you to all who have made this program the true success it is. The Safe Surrender Program is very near and dear to my heart and shows how “accountability” can be measured through our own humanity.

PUBLIC SAFETY

I wish that all County initiatives could be solved with existing money, but there will be areas where new funds are needed. One area in particular is public safety. As a White House appointee to a Senior Advisory Committee on Homeland Security, I know that we must protect our hometowns if we are to protect the homeland; that means supporting our public safety officers and giving them the tools they need to protect our families and neighborhoods. The County of Los Angeles is unique. We are home to the third busiest seawater port in the world and the third busiest airport in the nation. We must protect the people of our County and the people who come here to visit.

I’m proud that the Board unanimously acted last November in funding \$3.4 million for the Sheriff’s Gang Suppression Program. We must continue to support our men and women in uniform and it has been and will continue to be a priority for me.

I would like to take a moment now to thank our firefighters and sheriff deputies and all the emergency responders who fought so bravely against the wildfires last November. Your courage and dedication are a shining example to each of us that in the face of great challenges, we can succeed and overcome insurmountable obstacles; again, “accountability” that our residents can count on.

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Supervisor Burke Has a Busy Holiday Season

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke opened a busy holiday season with a ribbon-cutting ceremony upgrading the south lake in Magic Johnson Park in the Willowbrook area. The project increased the safety of the lake by adding a concrete curb wall to emphasize that the lake is not for swimming and added a new shoreline sidewalk with fishing platforms. The lake liner, bank, perimeter irrigation system and turf areas were repaired. A new aeration system was installed to make the water clearer and to improve the general health of the lake ecosystem.



Scores of County officials and park visitors joined Supervisor Burke (center) as she cut the ribbon opening the newly improved south lake in Magic Johnson Park. The Department of Parks and Recreation and the California Department of Fish and Game supplied fish for the lake. The California Department of Fish and Game stocked the lake with an extra 2,000 lbs. of fish in celebration of the re-opening of the lake.

“This project was so important to the community that I designated \$1.74 million for it from Second District Capital Project Funds,” Supervisor Burke said. “I also used \$90,000 in funds from the Prop A Safe Neighborhood Park Act of 1992 and made sure that youth workers were used in the project’s construction.”

The Supervisor noted that visitors to the park would now be able to fish again in the south lake.

BURKE

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ENRICHING LIVES...

Department of Parks and Recreation Celebrates 60 Years of Service

Los Angeles County

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Department of Parks and Recreation – as it exists today. It was the unanimous opinion of the 1918 Grand Jury that “The County of Los Angeles has all the parks and museums she has needed for many years to come at Exposition Park.” This was stated as a criticism of the Board of Supervisors who had accepted a gift from the Honorable G. Allen Hancock of a 24 acre park on Wilshire Boulevard, six miles from the Civic Center. The Board, using great foresight, ignored this recommendation and park operations became a permanent function of County government. Today, Hancock Park is the home of the famed La Brea Tar Pits and the Museum of Art.

For the next 26 years, administrative responsibility of the park and recreation function changed periodically between the Department of Forestry and Fire Warden to the Department of Recreation Camps and Playgrounds, among others. Finally, in 1944, the Department of Parks and Recreation was created.

In celebration of this milestone, the department is planning a yearlong series of special activities and is producing a calendar with historical and comparative current photographs of park facilities.

The kickoff event took place in January at the second annual Parks Summit held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

Park agency directors and other representatives from the County’s 88 cities, as well as other park and recreation providers, were in attendance. Director of Parks and Recreation, Tim Gallagher, developed the Summit concept of bringing together the many agencies in order to accomplish a more effective provision of public recreational resources. The theme of this year’s Parks Summit is “Pulling Together” as it is expected that by bringing together the efforts of over 100 agencies, there would be less duplication and the best utilization of available recreation funds.

The department is also developing a timeline of interesting historical high points. This will include the dates of the creation of a great number of parks no longer under County jurisdiction. Many of the park facilities now operated by cities within the County of Los Angeles were developed and operated by the County, but then conveyed to the new cities upon their incorporation. Some of the more recent cities to incorporate include West Hollywood, which gained West Hollywood and Plummer Parks, Diamond Bar which received 10 parks and most recently, the City of Santa Clarita.

County employees will be made aware of planned special events in future issues of the *County DIGEST* as the year progresses. It is hoped that many people will join with staff to help celebrate the 60 years of park and recreation development that has brought about today’s Department of Parks and Recreation.



An early shot of the Davies Building at Charles S. Farnsworth Park near the northern part of Lake Avenue in Altadena. The rocks for the extensive stone work on the building were hauled all the way up the extremely steep street by burros, from the Arroyo Seco, many miles away.



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

Supervisor Antonovich Presents Presidential Proclamation at Forest Lawn Veterans Day Ceremony

On Tuesday, November 11, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich delivered a proclamation from President George W. Bush at the Veterans Day ceremony held at Forest Lawn in Hollywood Hills.

“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude,” Supervisor Antonovich read. “On this, our nation’s 50th annual Veterans Day observance, we celebrate and honor the patriots who have fought to protect the democratic ideals that are the foundation of our country.”

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery – the focal point of reverence for America’s veterans. Memorial events took place all over the world on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated end of World War I fighting

at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

The day became known as “Armistice Day” and officially received its name in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day in America, making this day a holiday honoring those who have served our republic in all wars.

“Veterans Day gives us the opportunity to remember those who sacrificed all for freedom and to share our respect for the veterans still living in our community,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “Today we remember veterans from World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm – thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who dedicated themselves to the defense of our country willingly placing themselves in harm’s way. We will never forget.”



Supervisor Antonovich is joined by his son Michael Jr. and legendary KTLA newsman Stan Chambers at Forest Lawn’s Veterans Day ceremony.

Two Hundred Low-Income Whittier Area Families Receive Holiday Baskets and Toys

The Community Development Commission (CDC) held its 8th Annual Holiday Basket and Toy Giveaway for 200 low-income Whittier area families on December 19. A jolly Santa Claus greeted families, handed out gifts, and took photographs with all the children at CDC’s Community Resource Center.

The event was co-sponsored by Supervisors Gloria Molina (First District) and Don Knabe (Fourth District), both of whom contributed financially to the event and whose constituencies utilize the Community Resource Center; the CDC, which

serves as the community development and affordable housing agency for the County; the City of Santa Fe Springs; the California Highway Patrol; and the departments of Fire, Probation and Children and Family Services in addition to various community groups.

The co-sponsors provided holiday baskets (with turkeys and other food items), toys and holiday cheer. In addition, monetary and in-kind contributions were provided by a number of local businesses and private donors. Toys were donated by the Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, and the U.S.

Marine Corps (Pico Rivera) “Toys for Tots.”

Owned and operated by the CDC, the Community Resource Center opened on February 11, 1998, as part of Supervisors Molina and Knabe’s initiative to increase local access to County services. It was developed as a one-stop community center for meetings and events such as this holiday event. The center offers a number of valuable resources and programs, such as youth and family services, educational workshops, employment services, a computer

CDC

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learning center and health care services. Prior to the opening of the Community Resource Center, the holiday event was held at temporary facilities.

This year, the event crossed the 1,500th recipient family milestone. The 1,500th beneficiary was Delmy Uribe, who is married with four daughters. Uribe said, "So many of us struggle just to get by, these are hard times, the basket and toys will make this a happier holiday. My family is so grateful. Thank you so much."



Pictured with Delmy Uribe (third from left) and husband Hector Lopez are Santa Claus and Jo Ann Eros-Delgado, director of the center.

CDC Executive Director Carlos Jackson said, "When we started this event eight years ago, we had no idea it would become such a strong tradition in this community. Now, we have distributed 5,000 toys and 1,500 holiday baskets. I thank all of our partners for making this possible. Together, we help so many people."

Supervisors Molina and Knabe have worked in partnership with the community over the last 10 years to develop a revitalization plan, which consisted of a community center and four affordable housing developments. The five developments, which constitute a total investment of over \$40 million within a two-mile radius, are the Community Resource Center, Sunshine Terrace Apartments, Sundance Vistas, TELACU Villa Hermosa and Camenita Walk.

The Community Resource Center is located at 10750 Laurel Avenue in Whittier. For more information about community services, please call (562) 946-2425.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Greets the New Year with Style



Supervisor and MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, *second from left*, joined MTA officials to mark the completion of a major bridge over the Los Angeles River in the Sepulveda Basin, a major construction milestone in the planned 14-mile San Fernando Valley Metro Rapidway Project, a dedicated busway connecting the North Hollywood Metro Red Line Station with Warner Center in Woodland Hills.

Scheduled to open in 2005, the project is a first-of-its-kind exclusive bus guide-way in the County of Los Angeles. The new bridge will be capable of handling high-capacity 60-foot articulated compressed natural gas Metro Rapid buses traveling across the Los Angeles River, shaving cross-valley street traffic commuting times by one-third. Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky, *from left to right*, are MTA Chief Executive Officer Roger Snoble; Scott McConnell, resident engineer for the bridge construction project; and Roger Dames, Project Manager for the Valley busway.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*second from right*) joined Santa and his "helpers" for the annual Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) Toy Drive, collecting and distributing toys for needy children in the Valley. Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky, *from left to right*, are DeDe Kuper, Resource Coordinator for the Department of Children and Family Services; Los Angeles City Councilmember Jack Weiss, Fifth District; Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Second District, holding son Thomas; and this year's obliging "Santa," SOHA member Marshall Long.



Supervisor Yaroslavsky presents Kaiser Permanente's Cody Ruedeflores with a County proclamation of thanks for Kaiser's generous support of the new school-based clinic at San Fernando High School in the City of San Fernando. Operated by the community-based non-profit Northeast Valley Health Corporation, the clinic employs a staff of eight on duty five days and one evening a week, offering primary care, immunizations,

family planning, STD testing and prevention, and mental health services.

BURKE

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Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaways

Three days before Thanksgiving, Supervisor Burke distributed 550 turkeys to senior citizens at four centers in the Second District: Florence-Firestone, Willowbrook, Lennox Sheriff's Station, and East Rancho Dominguez. Corporate sponsors of the event were Southern California Water Company, Dominguez Water Company, Ralph's Supermarkets and Superior Warehouse.



Supervisor Burke hands a frozen turkey in a white plastic carrying bag to a senior citizen at her annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway at the Lennox Sheriff's Station.

Supervisor Burke said, "These turkey giveaways are some of my favorite projects. Senior citizens often have to make do with very limited incomes, and receiving a turkey free of charge is often the difference between enjoying a festive holiday with friends and neighbors or having to pass a quiet and lonely Thanksgiving. This is what the spirit of giving is all about."

EVENTS

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Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

Feb 1 - April 18 – Jasper Johns: Numbers

Through April 4 – Erte/Opera & Ballets Russes/Dance: Theatre Costume in LACMA's Collection

Through July 5 - Luxury Textiles East and West - Part II: Dress and Identity

Through Sept 6 – *nano*: A Media Arts and Science Exhibition

KNABE

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HEALTH CARE

When disaster does strike, whether it is a natural disaster, terrorist attack or a traffic accident on the 405 freeway, we need to ensure that our trauma centers and hospitals are ready and open for business. The people of Los Angeles County overwhelmingly spoke last fall and said this was a priority. As a Board, we have a duty to work with the Department of Health Services to solve their predicted budget deficit in the coming years, and we must work to solve it today. I have said it before and I will say it again, we need to re-prioritize and find creative solutions to health care to make the system work and work efficiently. Health care is a major issue for every man, woman and child and we must work to ensure every child in Los Angeles County is insured and that our County employees' health care continues to be affordable.

I'd like to say to our friends in labor that my door is open and I want to work with you to ensure we save money, improve health care premiums and work together for the betterment of the County. We have 39 different bargaining units and we need to come together and leverage our strength as a County family of 90,000 employees in how we negotiate with health care providers.

WORKERS' COMP

While there are other issues such as saving the Los Angeles Air Force Base in the upcoming federal base closure process, to finding the right plan for the future of LAX and developing a regional solution for all Southern California air traffic; this Board, this year must tackle the growing Workers' Comp costs that the County incurs. If nothing is done, it is predicted that workers' comp will cost the County \$1.1 billion by 2011.

This year, I will call a special Workers' Compensation Summit in Los Angeles County to pull together businesses of all sizes and experts in this field to put together a comprehensive, legislative solution to the workers' compensation crisis facing both the public and private sectors. We are losing businesses and it is costing the County of Los Angeles and other government agencies tens of millions of dollars that should be going towards law enforcement, health care and other important County programs, failing to solve this crisis is not acceptable. I will work with the CAO and our risk management team to lead this summit and focus our legislative advocates in Sacramento and Washington on sponsoring and supporting legislation to solve this crisis.

Before I close and we resume the regular Board meeting, I would like to thank Curt Pedersen, my new chief of staff, for taking on this challenging job only a few weeks before my becoming Chairman. I'd also like to thank my entire staff for the outstanding work they do and for all that they will do over the next year. I couldn't do it without you.

My friends, we have a lot of work to do, let's begin now. Thank you.

Remarks delivered by Supervisor Knabe on December 2 when he assumed Chairmanship of the Board.

Supervisor Antonovich Hosts Holiday Party for Los Angeles County Foster Children

For the seventh year in a row, Supervisor Antonovich sponsored and hosted a holiday party for children currently under County care. Caregivers, foster parents and 500 children were greeted with food, presents, holiday cheer and a free day inside Six Flags Magic Mountain Amusement Park.

“The holiday season can be difficult for these children and this party really brightens their spirits,” Supervisor Antonovich said.

“The best opportunity for a child to become a successful and productive adult is to have a stable, permanent and loving family”

The Department of Children and Family Services will report to the Board of Supervisors on the progress of training prospective caregivers, utilizing an adoption photo Web site and expanding Faith-based and community partners. The Department will also work with private adoption agencies and encourage parents

who have previously adopted to participate in recruitment and outreach activities.



Supervisor Antonovich joins Los Angeles County firefighters and party participants at the Magic Mountain Holiday celebration.

To assist more than 800 Los Angeles County foster children waiting for loving adoptive homes, Supervisor Antonovich’s motion co-authored by Supervisor Molina to enhance efforts to locate and develop adoptive homes and expand adoption recruitment strategies was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors last October.

“The best opportunity for a child to become a successful and productive adult is to have a stable, permanent and loving family,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “Otherwise, they will find their way into the County morgue or penal system.”

“There is an insufficient number of approved, prospective adoptive parents willing and able to provide a permanent home for children in long-term foster care especially older children, sibling groups and children with special medical, developmental, or emotional needs,” Supervisor Antonovich said.



Supervisor Antonovich chats with children at his annual foster care holiday party.

Other holiday party sponsors included Newhall Land, Emergency Ambulance, Unisys Corporation, SBC, Xerox Corporation and the Fire Department, who collected the toys through their 11th annual “Spark of Love” toy drive.

For more information about adoption or becoming a foster parent, please contact the Department of Children and Family Services at (888) 811-1121.

Share It

Frequently Asked Numbers: Employee Benefits Contact Information

Effective January 1, 2004, Mellon Financial Corporation is the County's new benefits administrator. Mellon's new technology will make it easier to file a spending account and request benefit changes, such as adding or deleting coverage for family members. When you need to make a change in your benefit elections, you can now get help 24-hours-a-day at the following new Web address, www.buckhrsolutions.com/county or call the telephone enrollment system at (888) 822-0487. If you have questions about your Flexible Spending Account, please call Ceridian at (866) 300-2303. For general questions, access the Department of Human Resources Web site at <http://hr.co.la.ca.us> or call the County's Benefits Hotline at (213) 388-9982.

If you have any questions about a specific plan, contact the plan provider, the numbers are as follows:

Medical

ALADS/Blue Cross	(213) 749-2316	
Blue Cross Catastrophic	(800) 288-2539	www.bluecrossca.com
Blue Cross PLUS	(800) 288-6921	www.bluecrossca.com
Blue Cross Prudent Buyer	(800) 288-2539	www.bluecrossca.com
CaliforniaCare HMO	(800) 759-3030	www.bluecrossca.com
CAPE/Blue Shield	(800) 487-3092	www.mylifepath.com
CIGNA	(800) 842-6635	www.cigna.com
FireFighters Local 1014	(800) 660-1014	
Kaiser Permanente	(800) 464-4000	www.kp.org/california
PacifiCare	(800) 367-2660	www.pacificare.com

Dental

ALADS/Blue Cross	(213) 749-2236	
DeltaCare	(800) 422-4234	www.deltadentalca.org
Delta Dental	(800) 335-8227	www.deltadentalca.org
Safeguard	(800) 880-1800	www.safeguard.net

Life

CIGNA Life	(800) 842-6635	www.cigna.com
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Healthcare and Dependent Care Spending Accounts

For questions about a claim (866) 300-2303

Benefits Hotline

For questions about Choices, Options, Flex and MegaFlex
(213) 388-9982 <http://hr.co.la.ca.us>

Deferred Income Plans

Deferred Earnings (Great-West Retirement Services)	(800) 947-0845
Horizons (Great-West Retirement Services)	(800) 947-0845
Pension Savings (County of Los Angeles)	(213) 738-2252
Savings Plan (Great-West Retirement Services)	(800) 947-0845



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