



Message from Chairman Don Knabe



As the Chair of First 5 LA, I am proud to be part of the coalition of nearly 50 local organizations who have announced that they are raising \$112 million to fund health coverage for children in Los Angeles County who are now without health insurance.

The Coalition, which calls its program the Children’s Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles, has already collected more than \$80 million in donations and pledges, which is being allocated to the recent expansion of the Healthy Kids program to include children through age 18. According to the Coalition’s leaders, the \$112 million fund will last approximately three years, but the Coalition’s larger goal is to create a permanent long-term solution to provide 100 percent health insurance coverage for all children in Los Angeles County within that time period.

The Children’s Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles is one of several health initiatives throughout the state working to provide health insurance coverage to uninsured children. The \$112 million fund will cover the cost of health insurance premiums for children who qualify, as well as ongoing efforts to increase enrollment into other existing publicly funded health insurance programs.

With the rising healthcare costs that Californians are facing, more and more children are left behind without any decent healthcare. That’s why the Children’s Healthcare initiative is so important to the people of Los Angeles. With the funds raised, children of low income families will have the opportunity to receive the health care that they need.

There are more than one million uninsured children and youth 18 and younger in California, and more than 350,000 in Los Angeles County alone, according to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Seventy-four percent are eligible for, but not enrolled, in Medi-Cal or Healthy Families and 90 percent reside in households with annual incomes less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level – which equates to approximately \$56,000 for a family of four. Nine percent are immigrant children of legally documented immigrant parents, and 21 percent are children of undocumented immigrants.

Employee of the Month: Department of Health Services’ Janet Flores

Janet Flores has been employed with the County of Los Angeles for three and one-half years and is currently an Intermediate Typist Clerk at the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center where she takes immense pride in her work and serves as an advocate for patients’ needs.

At the Jacqueline Perry Institute (JPI) 2 North, patients receive acute rehabilitation and medical/surgical services which require lengths of stay from one week to several months. The Neurology Service of JPI treats adults who have neurological disabilities as the result of illness such as stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, or brain injury. In her assignment as the Unit Clerk for the Neurology Service, Ms. Flores is involved in providing a special level of non-clinical service these patients require due to neurological and physical limitations.

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“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

EVENT CALENDAR

6th Annual 5K Run/Walk & Health Expo for Girls At-Risk

September 18 at the Rose Bowl
391 South Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena 91184
(213) 974-1792
www.laccw.com

County of Los Angeles Wellness Fair

August 25, Probation Department Cafeteria
9150 E. Imperial Highway, Downey 90242

September 29, Department of Health Services
5555 Ferguson Drive, Commerce 90022
Conference room

Ford Amphitheatre

2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood 90068

(323) GO-1 FORD (323) 461-4673

www.fordamphitheatre.org

BWF - Big! World! Fun! Family Shows

JULY

31 – BWF – International Academy of Middle Eastern Dance
“Belly Dance” 10 a.m.

31 – Latino Playreading Series 1 p.m.

31 – Pacifico Dance Company “Salon Mexico”

AUGUST

1 – Opera Nova & The Verdi Chorus

6 – Regina Klenjoski Dance Company

7 – Latino Tenors

7 – BWF – Kim, Eung Hwa “Korean Traditional Dance” 10 a.m.

7 – Latino Playreading Series 1 p.m.

8 – Instrumental Women “Lady Jazz”

9 – Blaha-Taylor-Leonard Piano Trio

14 – BWF – Nathan Stein “A Fisherman Out Of Water” 10 a.m.

14 – “They Shoot Mexicans, Don’t They?” 1 p.m.

14 – This is Belly Dance!

15 – Legacies: Baseball from Flatbush to the City of Angels

20 – Fiesta Peru - Inca and Cambalache Negro

21 – BWF – Breathing Fire Productions - 10 a.m.

21 – “They Shoot Mexicans, Don’t They?” 1 p.m.

21 – Jazz Pilgrimage 2004: Tribute to Alex Acuna

Hollywood Bowl

2301 North Highland Ave., Hollywood 90078

(323) 850-2000

www.hollywoodbowl.com

July 25 – World Electronica

Aug 1 – *Mame*

Aug 2 – Eric Clapton

Aug 7 – Reggae Night III

Aug 9 – The Who

Aug 15 – Puccini’s Turandot

Aug 22 – JVC Jazz - 2004

Tuesday Masterworks - Los Angeles Philharmonic

July 27 – Renee Fleming in Concert

Aug 3 – Cowboys & Concertos

Aug 10 – Dramatic Dvorak

Aug 17 – Bell Plays Brahms

Aug 24 – Spirit of Classicism

Jazz at the Bowl

July 28 – Count Basie Centennial Celebration

Aug 4 – Piano Masters

Aug 11 – Latin Jazz Night

Aug 18 – New Orleans Night

Aug 25 – Cool, Pure, 200-Proof

United’s Thursdays - Los Angeles Philharmonic

July 29 – German Romantics: Wagner, Mendelssohn, Brahms

Aug 5 – Cowboys & Concertos

Aug 12 – Star-Crossed Music

Aug 19 – Bernstein’s Mass

Aug 26 – Mozart Under the Stars

Weekend Spectaculars

July 23-24 – Harry Connick, Jr.: Only You

July 30-31 – An Evening with k.d. lang

Aug 6-7 – Swing! Swing! Swing! With Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

Aug 13-14 – The Tchaikovsky Spectacular with Fireworks

Aug 20-21 – The Great American Concert with Fireworks –

Walt Disney: 75 Years of Music

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes,
please visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-4623

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN 2004

Saturdays 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Aug 7 – Hollywood Blockbusters - Lights, Camera, Music

Aug 21 – Andrew Lloyd Webber Meets Puccini – The Phantom
Goes to the Opera

Sep 4 – European Tour – Your Musical Passport

Free Marina del Rey Summer Concert Series

Burton Chace Park

13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey 90292

Pop Concerts

July 31 - An evening with Judy Collins.

Aug 7 - The Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra: A Tribute to
Henry Mancini.

Classical - The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony

Frank Fetta, Music Director

Aug 5 - An Evening with the Los Angeles Opera

Aug 19 - Xin Xin, piano soloist. Music by Stravinsky,
Khachaturian, Rachmaninoff.

Aug 28 - Special guest star Diane Schuur

WeTip WELFARE FRAUD
1-800-87-FRAUD

Homeowners Brush Safety Awareness Tips from the Fire Department



“Current fire weather forecasts predict similar conditions that led to the historic and disastrous 2003 Fire Siege that destroyed more than 3,600 homes from Santa Barbara to the Mexican border. The current fuel moisture levels in the brush in all areas of Southern California is already at levels normally experienced in the month of August. Because of this, firefighters are facing more severe fire conditions than usual for this time of year,” said Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman.

Residents living in mountainous, foothill and brush areas should take the following action steps:



- Remove flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within 30 feet of any structures on your property. Thin out or remove an additional 70 feet – for a total of 100 feet.

- Learn about and landscape your yard with plants that are drought-tolerant and fire resistant. Maintain plants and avoid overgrowth!
- Immediately report any sightings of smoke by calling 911.
- Use extreme caution when operating spark or flame-producing machinery in hazardous grass and brush areas.
- Maintain street signs and make sure that address numbers are visible from the street.
- Have an evacuation plan in place. Make sure that each person in your household is aware of two exit routes from your neighborhood.
- When evacuating your home, close all windows and doors around your home to prevent embers from blowing inside. Unlock all gates and fences around the perimeter to provide firefighters quick access.
- During a fire in your area, monitor radio and television news reports on the status of the fire. If a fire approaches your home, do not wait for officials to evacuate you. Leave the fire area immediately and contact the American Red Cross for shelter locations if needed.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Announces Pacoima Anti-Gang Effort

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky unveiled a new neighborhood safety effort aimed at reclaiming Pacoima’s Humphrey Recreation Center as a safe and enjoyable place for youth and families to visit and play. The park and adjacent Broadus Elementary School have in recent years become a magnet for crime, gangs and drug-dealing activity. Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s initiative, developed in conjunction with the County’s Probation Department, draws together resources from various city and County law enforcement departments, and public



and private sector social service agencies to offer a variety of literacy, tutoring, parent support and gang-intervention programs. Heightened curfew and truancy enforcement, additional patrols and a full-time probation officer at the park will assist the effort. Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky for the announcement were Los Angeles Police Chief William J. Bratton (*pictured, right*), as well as Councilmember Dennis Zine, Chief Probation Officer Richard Shumsky and numerous families and local children eager to participate.



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) 639-0940 FAX

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

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:

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Carole Wood
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Karen H. Olen

COUNTY COUNSEL: Glenetta W. Hayward

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Rose Sullivan

HEALTH SERVICES: Thomas V. Berne, Annie L. Bogar, Wardine Bridges, Doshia M. Burton, Carol A. Carriere, Patricia A. Fullenweider, Lames Goff, Teresa Guzman, Roberta E. Howard, Mary Llamas, Edith H. Nealy, Barbara Sparks, Rosetta Weldon, Luther H. Ybarra

INTERNAL SERVICES: Laurence J. Mahrenholtz

MENTAL HEALTH: Lynda L. Romans-Brown, Pauline Cooper

PARKS & RECREATION: Curtis A. Robertson

PROBATION: David Johnson, Roberta J. Malter, Dale R. Thomas

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Cheryl A. Dahlstrom, Myra J. Hunter, Ronald M. Vidal, Aquilla White

PUBLIC WORKS: Raymond Hamby

SHERIFF: Janet I. Brawner, Etienne Jeanjacques, William E. Seers, Robert L. Torrance, James Uruburu, Fernando Zamacona

SUPERIOR COURT: Michael M. Duffey, Lawrence Richardson

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:

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Frankie B. Morton

HEALTH SERVICES: Phillip H. Cole, Linda Egan, Ana Y. Flores, Lydia Gerhard, Judith A. Glover, Caroline J. Hill, Mary A. Pitchford, Diosdado G. Reyes, Diana M. Umberger

MENTAL HEALTH: Beverly Howard, Nenita Karganilla

PROBATION: Sharon Pickett

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Elaine M. Markham, Edward C. Po

SHERIFF: Barbara A. Boehmer, Neal Gayhart, Willietta McMillor, Richard Moak, Albert Reddick Jr., Janet Loera

SUPERIOR COURT: Cecilia A. Gotingco

EOM

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The staff of JPI 2 North acknowledges Janet's value as the Unit Clerk, whom they praise for ensuring a smooth operational flow. She consistently demonstrates a caring and compassionate attitude and on a daily basis goes the extra mile to ensure the efficient operation of the unit, thereby enabling clinical staff to concentrate on the clinical needs of the patients. On occasion, you may find her escorting patients to their appointments when their attendants are unable to do so. She is a patients' advocate, directing their care to the appropriate care giver and ensuring that every detail is handled.



Janet has had many memorable moments while working for Rancho. Most notable is her communication with patients' family members. "Many call from back East. They ask how their loved ones are doing and comment, 'I know she'll never walk again, but other than that, is she okay?' When I can tell them that I saw her with the therapist and she was walking down the hall, or ask if they would like for me to transfer the call so they can speak with the patient, after they comment 'I know he can't talk,' the family members get so excited. It's very rewarding being a part of this hospital. There are a lot of caring people working here and I am fortunate to be a part of it," said Janet.

In her brief employment at Rancho, Janet has consistently demonstrated leadership and team spirit. She is regarded as one of Rancho's most dedicated and capable employees. In the words of a Physician Assistant at Rancho, "without Janet, the unit would be like an airport without a control tower." As testament to her dedication, she won the Nursing Support of the Year Award in 2001. On May 12, Ms. Flores was the recipient of the Rancho Employee of the Year Award at their Annual Employee Appreciation Day event.

Ms. Flores has been married to husband, Efren, for 18 years and has three children, namely, James, Rebecca and Paulina. All will be attending Santa Fe High School together in the fall. "Our children are terrific and we are very proud of them," says Flores. James plays varsity football, Rebecca plays tenor sax in the band, and Paulina has interests in tennis and soccer. As a supportive mother and concerned parent, she is very involved with the PTA at her children's school.

Janet Flores, we congratulate you and wish you well in all your future endeavors.

Most Los Angeles Area Beaches Are Now Smoke-Free

No smoking signs were posted in early July along Los Angeles area beaches signaling the beginning of a smoke-free summer and a more pristine coastline.

“Nearly 34 miles of Los Angeles area beaches, from the Ventura County line south to Marina del Rey are now smoke-free,” said Health Director Jonathan S. Fielding. “Surfers, sunbathers and other visitors, including families with small children, can now enjoy our community beaches without toxic secondhand smoke and litter from cigarette butts.”

Proponents of the smoking bans say the new laws were designed to decrease the litter and create family environments free from secondhand smoke. According to COAST (Communities Organized Against Smoking and its Trash), cigarettes are the number one source of beach litter and take at least 15 years to degrade.

“Cigarette butts pollute the ocean, pollute the air we breathe and endanger our small children and marine animals,” said Robert Berger, chairman of the Smoke-free Beach Task Force. “With our no smoking policies, the Los Angeles coastline will become a more safe and beautiful destination for visitors, both human and non-human.” Following is a list of County and city beaches that have passed no smoking ordinances:

County of Los Angeles

Mothers Beach in Marina del Rey

Topanga Beach

City of Malibu

Malibu Beach

City of Santa Monica

Santa Monica Beach

City of Los Angeles

Cabrillo Beach

Dockweiler Beach

Will Rogers Beach

Venice Beach

BEACHES

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Supervisor Antonovich Attends Grand Opening of New Antelope Valley Transit Authority Facility

On Friday, May 28, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich attended the grand opening of the new Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) facility.

Since its inception in 1992, the AVTA—a joint powers authority between the County of Los Angeles and the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale – has provided coordinated transit services for Antelope Valley unincorporated communities and the Cities of Palmdale and Lancaster. This new facility will allow the AVTA to expand transit operation to improve service to this growing community.

Pictured from left to right are Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford, Congressman Howard “Buck” McKeon, Supervisor Antonovich, and Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts.



The AVTA began in 1978, when the County of Los Angeles began administering local fixed route public transportation services in the Antelope Valley on behalf of the Cities of Palmdale and Lancaster. Para-transit services were added in 1980, and commuter service to Downtown Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley was included in 1990.



The new \$21 million facility is 14 acres, and currently houses 70 buses. At full capacity, to be reached in the next 20 years, it will house 170 buses.

Supervisor Antonovich is pictured with Bishop Henry Hearn, Vice-Mayor of the City of Lancaster.

ENRICHING LIVES...

2004 Caring Volunteers Honored at County Luncheon

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined nearly 500 guests, including County Department heads and elected officials, for the 22nd annual Volunteer of the Year awards luncheon and recognition ceremony held on April 19 in the Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center.

“Volunteers enable the County to carry out its mission: To enrich lives through effective and caring service,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “Approximately 3.7 million hours, valued at \$62 million, were donated to the County by 47,000 volunteers in 2003.”

Supervisor Antonovich concluded his remarks by narrating a video tribute to the late Sybil Brand, a longtime County commissioner who was honored in 2000 as the County of Los Angeles, “Humanitarian of the Century.”

Television news anchor-reporter Pat Harvey of KCAL-TV (Channel 9) served as mistress of ceremony. Her impeccable reading of the biographies of the 76 youth and adult volunteers made each individual feel special.

The Sheriff’s Department Honor Guard posted the colors and Diana, age 6, and Brian, age 9, the youngest volunteer honorees from Beaches and Harbors, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The dynamic a cappella group “Sweet Harmony,” which includes Patryce Horne from County Counsel, inspired the audience with a moving rendition of the “Star-Spangled Banner.”

Keynote speaker Huell Howser, producer of the very popular PBS series “California Gold,” delivered remarks which highlighted the strengths found in the cultural diversity of volunteers within the County of Los Angeles.

County Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen welcomed the honorees and guests and thanked them for donating their time to County projects.

The County of Los Angeles Volunteer Program fulfills several strategic goals of the County such as “Service Excellence” and “Fiscal Responsibility.” The goals are met because the program addresses the local needs of communities and volunteers saved the County \$62 million by donating their time.

Volunteer honorees serve in County museums, courts, hospitals, parks, beaches and community agencies. They provide education in literacy, public health, information technology, history and culture.

The volunteer program is administered by the Workplace Programs unit of the Chief Administrative Office, Intergovernmental Relations Division.

For more information, please contact Victoria Pipkin-Lane, interim director of workplace programs, at (213) 974-2495 or Patricia Mannatt, volunteer and program manager, at (213) 974-0187.



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*:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other with kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our *position* as the premier 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



From left to right, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Pat Harvey, Huell Howser and Victoria Pipkin-Lane.



From left to right, Brian Vallelunga, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Diana Vallelunga and Janet Spector, Beaches and Harbors 2004 Volunteer of the Year Youth and Adult honorees.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

County Receives \$3.7 Million Energy Grant, Receives State's *Flex Your Power* Award

The Internal Services Department (ISD), in conjunction with Southern California Edison and the Gas Company, has been awarded a \$3.7 million grant from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to continue implementing energy efficiency projects in County facilities.

In a program developed by the CPUC in 2002, utilities, utility customers and other third parties compete for a portion of statewide energy program funding that was previously allocated only to utilities. The CPUC received over 400 proposals in competition for more than \$500 million in statewide funds, including \$180 million available in Edison territory.

With this recent grant of \$3.7 million, ISD will continue lighting and equipment retrofit projects to focus on replacing older, inefficient lights in smaller County facilities, including many libraries and fire stations. ISD will also install controls regulating after-hours building lighting, which continues work begun in 2002 with a previous CPUC award of \$3.3 million.

In addition, ISD will initiate a building "tune-up" program wherein heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems in larger facilities will be inspected, tested, and upgraded. Using technical energy experts, simple and cost effective "tune-up" measures will be developed to improve building energy efficiency and work environment with such things as minor equipment repairs and modifications, changes in equipment operating schedules, and re-programming of system automated controls.

To date, ISD has completed energy retrofit projects in over 32 million square feet of County building space. These projects have resulted in utility savings to the County of nearly \$10 million per year.

In May of this year, the County received a 2003 *Flex Your Power* Energy Efficiency Award for ISD's ongoing energy management program that continues to develop and implement a variety of new energy efficiency projects. *Flex Your Power* is a statewide educational outreach effort created during the energy crisis to build awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency and to expand the state's market for energy-efficient products, programs and services. More information about



From left to right are Nora Hernandez, Interim Director Dave Lambertson, (holding the award from the State's "Flex Your Power" program), Bob Cornelius and Howard Choy. The staff, except for Mr. Lambertson, are from ISD's Energy Management Division.

the *Flex Your Power* program and the 2003 Energy Efficiency Award winners can be found online at www.fypower.org. As noted in the *Flex Your Power* news release, "The...awards were given to recognize businesses, government agencies, nonprofit organizations and individuals that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and extraordinary contributions to advance energy efficiency in California."

The Internal Services Department is proud of the energy efficiencies that has been achieved as a result of the efforts of all County employees to conserve precious resources, and is honored to receive statewide recognition for such work.

Supervisor Antonovich Hosts 7th Annual "Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families"

On May 29, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich hosted the 7th Annual "Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families" event at Arcadia County Park emceed by KNBC-4 weatherman Fritz Coleman. Sheriff Lee Baca *pictured with Supervisor Antonovich* also attended to show his support for our veterans. Nearly 3,000 participants attended the day-long presentation of free services to veterans and their families from over 150 agencies.



American flags and other mementos. "Antonovich's Children's Village" provided a specialized area for youth, complete with wrestling matches, face painting, arts and crafts, and games.

"This 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

A special tribute to our armed forces began with a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps." Skydivers descended from an altitude of 10,000 feet, and

flyovers by a UH1 Huey helicopter and World War II era planes concluded the program. A "Wall of Remembrance" for veterans was also created at the event. Participants brought copies of photos of loved ones to place on the wall, along with

from World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Iraq – 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 Molina Cracks Down on Graffiti

Supervisor Gloria Molina joined law enforcement officials, local residents, and elementary school students to plant vines along a sound wall lining the I-60 (Pomona) freeway in East Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 2.

“Not only does graffiti deteriorate and disrupt our neighborhoods, it also takes taxpayer money that could be used for vital public services,” Supervisor Molina said. “That’s why less than a year ago we said ‘no more’ in this local neighborhood—and specifically on this sound wall. We are not going to sit back and let graffiti vandals take over this neighborhood.”

The County of Los Angeles spends over \$250,000 annually to combat graffiti in this region. Millions more are spent Countywide and billions nationally.

Since her tenure began on the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Molina has prioritized graffiti abatement—a top concern among her 125,000 constituents residing on the eastside. In response to community anger over graffiti vandals defacing the newly constructed freeway sound wall in 2003, Supervisor Molina created the Graffiti Abatement Task Force which established a “zero tolerance” suppression strategy that led to several arrests and convictions.

Members of the task force include East L.A. Sheriff’s Station Captain Tom Lang and representatives from the Sheriff’s Department’s COPS Team, the California Highway Patrol, the District Attorney’s Office, the Probation Department, the Department of Public Works, Cal Trans, and members of the Fourth Street “More Advocates for Safe Homes” (MASH) organization.

The task force has used sting operations and other legal means to catch and incarcerate some of the more notorious local graffiti vandals. To Supervisor Molina, the task force’s success is indicative of the County’s commitment to treat graffiti vandals as criminals—and to hold both them and their parents accountable for the damage inflicted on the community. Currently, judges may order parents of minors convicted of graffiti vandalism to pay restitution up to \$20,000 and to be held liable through civil suits for property damage, court costs and attorneys’ fees.

Many task force members joined Molina to plant vines along the sound wall, as did students from Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School and residents from the surrounding neighborhood, who Molina has mobilized to report graffiti as it happens.

“I have lived in East Los Angeles my entire life,” resident Kimberly Ruiz said. “I am proud of my community and hate to see graffiti along the freeway. It brings down our neighborhood and portrays a negative image.”

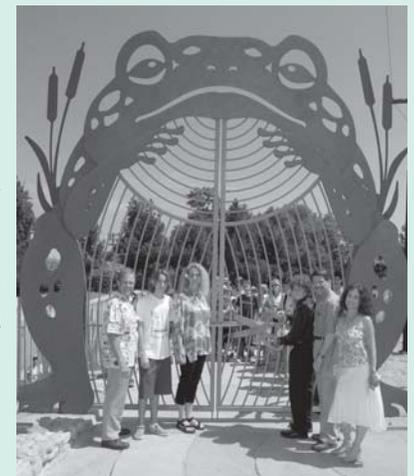
To report a graffiti crime in progress, area residents should call the East L.A. Sheriff’s Station at (323) 264-4151. Anyone may request graffiti removal by calling the County of Los Angeles Graffiti Removal Hotline at (800) 675-4357.



Local children from Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School join Supervisor Molina to plant vines along the sound wall which, until recently, served as a focal point for graffiti vandals.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Opens Valleyheart Greenway in Studio City

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, *second from right*, prepares to officially open the Valleyheart Greenway in Studio City, a unique project on a stretch of the Los Angeles River bank designed by local elementary schoolchildren and built with state and County funds. Featuring various animal designs like the whimsical frog motif pictured here on the gate, the park - located on Valleyheart Drive between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Radford Avenue - is intended as part of a larger greenway project encompassing other portions of the Los Angeles River. Appearing with Yaroslavsky, *from the left*, are Don Wolfe, Department of Public Works; Charlie Ellis, student designer; Melanie Winter, Executive Director, The River Project; Michael Harris, student designer; and Lahni Baruck, co-designer of the gate.



Supervisor Burke Hosts Quinceañera Event



Supervisor Burke makes remarks at the podium as Sam Perdomo, Master of Ceremonies, looks on.

with their escorts, all equally dashing in tuxedos. Thus began an event for which the young people had been practicing for the previous six weeks.

A quinceañera is a rite of social passage for young Latinas 15 to 16 years old, similar to a debutantes' ball or cotillion. Supervisor Burke wanted to make it possible for young women in foster or lower-income homes to have such an experience, and she wanted to make it multicultural. She directed her office to work with the Department of Children and Family Services to distribute applications to young women in the Second District. Each applicant had to write a personal essay stating why she should be chosen, and all were encouraged to ask social workers or caregivers to write letters of support. Due to an overwhelming response, the entry deadline had to be extended.

By the beginning of March, the lucky participants were selected. For escorts, the young women chose family members or friends, or social workers selected youths in foster care.

On June 25, at three o'clock in the afternoon, 15 young ladies – elegant in white ball gowns, glamorous make-up and professional coiffures – waited breathlessly at Nat's Airport Restaurant in the city of Hawthorne

A long list of sponsors was pulled together and preparations got underway in earnest. For six weeks the participants and their escorts attended weekly waltz practice. The practices also included tutoring in etiquette and social skills, and motivational addresses by high achievers and leaders such as former U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin.

Two weeks before the event, the young women were fitted for their gowns and their escorts were outfitted with tuxedos. On the morning of the quinceañera, the young women went to a salon to be coiffed. They then proceeded to Nat's Airport Restaurant to get into their gowns and be made up by professional make-up artists. Each young woman also received earrings and other accessories, including watches, all donated by generous sponsors. By three o'clock, all was ready.



Supervisor Burke crowns a participant.

Supervisor Burke arrived around half an hour later, and the festivities got underway. After an address by the Supervisor and inspirational remarks by Terry Olivas de la O, there was a candle lighting ceremony in which parents, escorts, and participants took part. The ceremony was led by Father Christopher Baryzrous. Supervisor Burke then crowned each young woman, photographs were taken, and the Main Waltz began.

After the waltz, there was a formal toast, and then dinner was served.

BURKE

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BEACHES

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Throughout Los Angeles, no smoking policies on beaches have received broad support from the general public, environmental groups, community organizations and public health officials. According to a survey conducted by the Department of Health Services, 88 percent of people support smoking restrictions on beaches.

Many organizations and public officials see a need for a statewide ban. Legislation to ban smoking at 64 state beaches was approved by the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday, June 29, and has been sent to the Appropriations Committee.

The beach smoking ordinance on the two Los Angeles County operated beaches reads "to ban smoking on public beaches exclusive of public parking areas, in the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles to be effective until September 16, 2004." This went into effect June 22nd and is being looked at as a "pilot" study to evaluate the ordinance before making it permanent.



Toy Loan



The Program With a Heart

Bringing smiles to children’s faces year ‘round, while teaching lessons in character and good citizenship, is a community effort. With the support of the **Department of Public Social Services**, the **Toy Loan Program** provides a free toy-lending service to the children of Los Angeles County. Through some 40-plus centers, Toy Loan provides a safe place to play and helps to develop a sense of self-worth through a merit system that rewards the responsible borrowing of toys.

Toy Loan targets lower-income communities, where children often lack access to basic skill-building toys, which are an essential part of a child’s development.

You can help support this worthwhile program by making a monetary contribution. Your donation will help purchase much needed *new* toys such as:

- Role-playing toys
- Interactive toys
- Science toys & equipment

- Math games & equipment
- Books
- Board games
- Adaptive learning toys (for children with learning/developmental disabilities)
- Sports equipment and more...

For more information, please call (213) 744-4344 or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.ladpss.org>. Your donations are strictly voluntary and greatly appreciated.

(Cut along dotted line)

Yes! I would like to support the Toy Loan Program. Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

\$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$15 _____
 \$20 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
Toy Loan Advisory Board
 2615 South Grand Ave., 2nd Fl.
 Los Angeles, CA 90007
Please do not send cash!

Name _____

District Office/Organization _____

Work Telephone _____

Email _____

Home Address _____

BURKE
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Supervisor Burke (center) with quinceañera participants. On the Supervisor’s left is Dr. David Sanders, DCFS and Bryce Yokomizo, DPSS to her right.

Dessert was a special quinceañera cake. After dinner, dancing was the order for the remainder of the evening. Among honored guests in attendance were Dr. David Sanders, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services; Bryce Yokomizo, Director of the Department of Public Social Services; and Sam Perdomo, Chairman of the Second District Business Advisory Council.

The festivities ended around ten o’clock, although many of the participants seemed to want it to never end. As everyone

departed, people heard remarks such as, “I feel like a princess,” “This is a dream come true.”

Supervisor Burke said she plans to keep in touch with the young women and their escorts by asking them to volunteer for different children’s functions she holds throughout the year. Also on the Supervisor’s schedule is a reunion picnic with all the quinceañera damas and their escorts at a County park sometime during the summer.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

Share It

Department of Consumer Affairs Information on Identity Theft



Your identity is stolen when someone uses your name, address, social security number, or other personal information to get credit or pretend to be you. Identity thieves can get credit cards, open bank accounts, get personal loans, get hired, and commit crimes using your name.

Warning Signs:

- You are denied credit for no reason.
- Collection agencies contact you about charges you did not make.
- You get bills from companies you don't know.
- You do not receive your bank or credit card statements.

If Your Identity is Stolen:

- File a police report, and get a copy with a report number.
- Send a written notice to the major credit reporting agencies, and tell them to put a fraud alert on your credit report.
 - Equifax: 800-525-6285
 - Experian: 888-397-3742
 - TransUnion: 800-680-7289
- Notify the creditors in writing you did not make the charges.
- Fill out and send any identity theft forms requested by the creditor. You can get a sample form called the "ID Theft Affidavit" from the Federal Trade Commission's website at www.ftc.gov.
- Keep a record of your calls and letters.

Protecting Yourself:

- Carry only the credit and identification cards you need.
- Make a list of what you carry in your wallet and keep it in a safe place.
- Shred any financial and confidential documents before you throw them away.
- Do not give personal and financial information to people you don't know.
- Get a copy of your credit report and review at least once a year.
- Review your bank and credit card statements every month.
- Ask your bank, credit card companies, people you do business with, and your employer to protect and not share your personal and financial information.

How We Can Help You:

- Counsel you and investigate your complaint.
- Help you dispute with creditors charges you did not make.
- Help you remove wrong information in your credit report.
- Tell you how to file a police report.
- Tell you how to prevent more charges.

The Department of Consumer Affairs Web site has more helpful information, sample letters, and practical advice to deal with identity theft.

Please visit <http://consumer-affairs.co.la.ca.us> or call (213) 974-1452.



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