

County DIGEST



SEPTEMBER 2004

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Adventure Park Gymnasium Opening

In an effort to improve its recreational facility, Supervisor Knabe announced the opening of Adventure County Park. The \$4.2 million project, which commenced in June 2003, both expanded and renovated the current park to include new recreational facilities, additional parking, as well as a kitchen designed to accommodate a Meals on Wheels program.



“After a year of construction, the new gymnasium at Adventure County Park is a valuable community center for the people of Whittier,” Supervisor Knabe said. “With all of its new additions, the modern recreational facility will

be able to host organized competitions, educational classes, community meetings and social functions.”

Knabe Tennis Tournament

In addition, this month Supervisor Knabe hosted the Fifth Annual Knabe Charity Doubles Tennis Tournament at the Cerritos Regional Park on September 18 and 19. Tennis players of all skill levels competed for trophies and a chance to support two local charitable organizations.

“Every year, the Tennis Tournament is an event where tennis lovers of all different ages and skill levels can get together to raise funds for a good cause,” Supervisor Knabe said. “I am so glad that we can raise funds for youth and senior tennis programming throughout Los Angeles County.”

The two-day charity tournament featured pool format Men’s, Women’s and Mixed-Doubles division play, and prizes were awarded for first and second place winners in each division. The Cerritos Tennis Shop offered a free tennis clinic for players of all skill and ability levels on Sunday beginning at 10:00 a.m.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”



OCTOBER IS OPEN ENROLLMENT MONTH



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EVENT CALENDAR

“Celebrating a Community Treasure”

Dedication of the East L.A. Library with Supervisor Gloria Molina, County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd, and Friends of the East Los Angeles Library at the East Los Angeles Civic Center 4837 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles 90022
Saturday, October 23, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
For more information, contact (323) 881-4601

Ford Amphitheatre
2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood 90068
(323) GO-1 FORD (323)461-4673
www.fordamphitheatre.org

OCTOBER

8 – Kim, Eung Hwa Korean Dance Academy & Samulnori
16 – Day of the Dead Celebration
21-24 – Yuyachkani Company
28-31 – Malayerba Theatre Company

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

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org
Oct 17 – Jan 9, 2005 – Renoir to Matisse: The Eye of Duncan Phillips



Nov 7 – Jan 17, 2005 – Passion for Drawing: Poussin to Cezanne, Works from the Prat Collection
Through Jan 9, 2005 – Trajectories: The Photographic Work of Rebbert Flick
Through Jan 30, 2005 – Luxury Textiles East and West: Opulent Interiors

WeTip WELFARE FRAUD
1-800-87-FRAUD

Music Center
135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012
(213) 972-7211
www.musiccenter.org

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
Oct 22-Nov 7 – *Carmen* (Georges Bizet)
Mark Taper Forum
Sept 26-Nov 7 – “*Nothing But The Truth*”

Walt Disney Concert Hall
151 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

Oct 7-9 - Organ Inaugural II
Oct 10 – Fabio Biondi and Europa Galante
Oct 11 – Organ Recital: Wayne Marshall
Oct 12 – Reigakusha
Oct 14-16 – Shostakovich Eleventh
Oct 16 – Grand Avenue Festival (11 a.m.)
Oct 18 – Recital: Daniel Barenboim
Oct 19 – Silenced Voices: The Emperor of Atlantis*
Oct 21 – Silenced Voices: Panel Discussion*
*At the Wilshire Blvd Temple
Oct 22 – First Nights – Mahler First
Oct 23-24 – Silenced Voices I

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
(213) 763-3466
www.nhm.org

Oct 29-30 – Boo & Goo Overnight Adventure
Oct 30 – Music in the Mansion (William S. Hart Museum)
Through Jan 9, 2005 – L.A: light/motion/dreams
Through Jan 2005 – Charles R. Knight: Bringing Fossils to Life (Page Museum)

County DIGEST 

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

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Available online at: dhr.lacounty.info

Supervisor Molina Opens First Youth Skate Park in Southeast L.A.

Supervisor Gloria Molina made possible the opening of Southeast L.A.'s first youth skate park at Roosevelt Park on Saturday, August 7. That morning, professional skateboarders Jesse Martinez, Eric Dressen, Bennet, Eric Britton, Geoff Paige, and David Wyley joined local youngsters to celebrate the grand opening of the park, which Supervisor Molina ordered built in response to a 200+ signature petition submitted by local youth requesting it.

The pro skaters showed off their considerable skills for hours while demonstrating to the young amateurs how to practice "Safety While Having Fun," the event theme. Hundreds of youth attended the grand opening. Many brought their parents, who did not hesitate to express their gratitude to Supervisor Molina for making the skate park a reality, particularly since local youth make up more than half of the over 50,000 people per year who use Roosevelt Park.



Local youth wait their turn to use one of the many skate ramps at the park.

"I am so pleased that local kids in the Southeast area of the County finally have a safe place to skate that is close to their homes and away from vehicular traffic," Molina said. "The County must meet the recreational needs of youth and families — especially since many parks in our unincorporated areas serve as the only facility for recreational activity, local programs, and services."

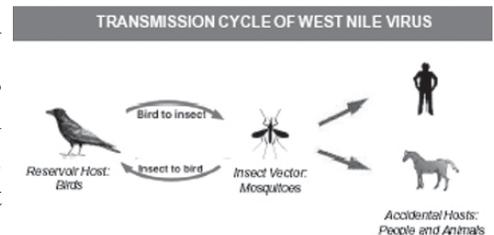
MOLINA

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Preventing Spread of the West Nile Virus in Los Angeles

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease that can be prevented by taking several precautions. The risk of infection can be reduced by eliminating sources of standing water, and taking personal protection measures. These include the use of insect repellent containing DEET, wearing long sleeves and long pants in areas with mosquitoes and avoiding mosquito infested areas, especially around dusk and dawn. The total number of confirmed cases of WNV infection in the County is 74; 69 cases have been symptomatic and 5 cases are asymptomatic blood donors.

Exposure to WNV is spread to humans from the bite of an infected mosquito; biting a bird that carries the virus



infects a mosquito. Most mosquitoes do not carry the virus and most people bitten by a mosquito have not been exposed to the virus. The virus is NOT spread by person-to-person contact or directly from birds to humans.

Fewer than one out of 150 people who are bitten by an infected mosquito get severely ill, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In most cases, people who are infected either never become sick or have symptoms that include fever, headache, nausea, body aches and a skin rash. These symptoms normally do not result in hospitalization nor are they life threatening. The virus can, in rare cases, cause encephalitis and death. The elderly are most at risk for severe cases of the disease. There is no specific treatment for the West Nile Virus. In a serious case, an individual may be hospitalized to ensure good supportive care.

To reduce exposure to the virus, the Health Department strongly advises residents follow the precautions recommended for all mosquito-borne diseases:

- Avoid mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Use insect repellent products containing DEET. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, DEET is not

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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: Richard R. Angelucci, Albert W. Stancil
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Eddie Coronado, Diana A. DeNoyelles, Yolanda Flores, Mary Padilla

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Gilbert A. Vargas

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: William J. Flores, Joseph R. Martinez

FIRE: Mark J. Doliva, Larry J. Hambleton, Louie R. Padilla, Roberta A. Ramos

HEALTH SERVICES: Darryll Albert, Clifford R. Burtoft, Gloria Cabison, Gussie M. Calhoun, Adolfo C. De Guzman, McGary L. Edwards II, Jocelyn A. Fermin, Teresa Guzman, Delores Henry, Kevin J. Kowey, Ellen M. McCann, Judith A. McGinley, Gary E. Mills, Nathaniel Narcisse, Evelyn E. Niquet Aslan, Robert J. Samarin, Matty G. Tirado

INTERNAL SERVICES: Glenn McCoy

MENTAL HEALTH: Dale K. Hata

PROBATION: Minerva Casanas, Patricia A. Costa, Joseph L. Harper Jr., Claude B. Victory Jr.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Annie Juarez

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Martha A. Ciganovich, Howard D. Smith

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Mardi Blandon, Wenonah E. Brock, Walter E. Fields, Donald L. Fisher, Joaquin Gonzalez, Luz M. Murillo, Harriet B. Shane, Judith A. Weddle

PUBLIC WORKS: Mark C. Cheung, Larry E. Parrish

SHERIFF: Gordon D. Ewing, Thomas M. Harwood, Patricia A. Hawkins, Richard W. Nancarrow, Donald L. Raworth II, Nancy Spears, Steven R. Uruburu

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

FIRE: Robert S. Kwiatkowski

HEALTH SERVICES: Paul D. Garcia, Carol Gildersleeve, Jamesetta C. Hammons, Ya-Jane Ma, Connie B. McGrail, Blanca Roldan, Erma Scott, Michael S. Tetzloff, Sih-Young Woo, Lucille Yarbrough

PROBATION: Leonard Johnson

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Virginia Leider

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Bayani F. Cruz, Ernesto Solda

SHERIFF: Maria Carrillo, Henry M. Drogemuller, Joseph C. Savaglio

Annual Boss-Secretary Luncheon

The Los Angeles County Secretarial Council is having its annual Boss-Secretary Luncheon on Wednesday, October 20, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the City of Commerce. For more information, please contact one of the following: Renee Dubyn, Chief Administrative Office, (213) 974-2405; Georgette Burgess, Sheriff's Department, (323) 526-5085; or Sheila Simpson, Public Works, (626) 458-7391. Hope to see you there.

Knabe Katch Kid's Fishing Derby

September was also the month of the 2004 Knabe Katch Kid's Fishing Derby held on Saturday, September 18 from 7 a.m. to noon at La Mirada Regional Park. Over 1,000 youth ages 5 to 15 were angling for a prize catch. In addition to Supervisor Knabe, this year's event was hosted by the La Mirada Kiwanis Club along with the City of La Mirada and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

"The fishing derbies are always fun events that children and families look forward to and many return to participate each year," Supervisor Knabe said. "Even if a child has never fished before, there are volunteers on-hand to show them the art of casting a line and the fun of putting a worm on a hook."



The event began with a free pancake breakfast and was followed by free fishing and angler safety lessons as well as other activities. Each child also received a free T-shirt and was eligible for prizes in several categories.

LACERA Election Results

At its meeting of August 17, the Board of Supervisors certified the July 27 Los Angeles County Retirement Association Safety Member election results. The Board declared Mr. William Reed Pryor elected as the Fourth Member, Board of Investments and the Seventh Member, Board of Retirement, and Mr. Armando Macias elected as the Alternate Member, Board of Retirement.

Department of Consumer Affairs Investigation Leads to Shutdown of Private School

A private school offering a “high school diploma” at the end of a 10-week, 30-hour course was shut down and its executives were sued for misleading consumers, according to Pastor Herrera, Jr., Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

On Monday, August 2, the California Attorney General’s Office filed a civil lawsuit against California Alternative High School (CAHS) and its “Principal,” Daniel Gossai, as a result of an extensive investigation conducted by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Herrera said. The lawsuit also names West Side Education Corporation (WSE), which bought the rights to operate CAHS sites; David Soto, President of WSE; Noel Brito, Director of WSE; Fabricio Sandoval, Director of Admissions at CAHS; and Janira Jacobs, a CAHS teacher and administrator. The lawsuit alleges that CAHS defrauded unsuspecting consumers, and it seeks full restitution for victims, civil penalties, and an order to permanently stop the defendants’ illegal acts. Gossai’s wife, Janet, is also named in the lawsuit for allegedly conspiring to hide CAHS property from potential legal judgments by transferring personal and real property to her name.

CAHS targeted mostly Hispanic immigrants, charging students between \$450 and \$1,450 for what they claimed is a “real high school diploma,” Herrera said. CAHS officials have said they have over 78 centers throughout the country, with at least 30 locations in California. Students say CAHS officials wrongly told them that federal and state governments recognized the school, and promised them

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Supervisor Burke Hosts 9th Annual “Fishing in the City”

More than 525 foster children, ages 7-14 years old, converged on the lake at Kenneth Hahn Park when Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke hosted her 9th annual “Fishing in the City” party. The event was one of Supervisor Burke’s ongoing series of events designed to expose inner city children to experiences they would otherwise not have. “It’s amazing how many children who are growing up in the inner city have never gone fishing, or have even gone to the beach,” the Supervisor said. “Being exposed to these kinds of things as a child is an important part of growing up in order to become the kind of adult who is a good parent and a good citizen.”

Nearly 200 volunteers were on hand to show the children how to fish, and how to clean their catch. They also acquainted the children with park etiquette and the need for conservation. The County Fish and Game Commission and the California State Fish and Game Department stocked the lake with catfish, and provided fishing poles. Volunteers from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Fire Department and the Sheriff’s Department helped the children bait hooks, cast their lines, clean and cook their fish.



Supervisor Burke posed with two proud young guests as they displayed their catch.

“I want to thank all the volunteers,” Supervisor Burke said. “I was especially pleased that there were volunteers from the Mary Lind Recovery Home and from Royal Palms, as a number of them are former foster children. It was touching to watch them share their knowledge as adults with children who are going through some of the same challenges they did.”

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ENRICHING LIVES...

Sheriff's Department Supports Its Military Reservists and Their Families

The Sheriff's Department (LASD), the largest sheriff's department in the world, has been in existence for over 150 years. More than 14,000 deputies and professional staff make up the Department. The LASD's motto, "A Tradition of Service" reflects our deep-seated caring for the communities we serve, as well as for the great country we call home.

Not only do the men and women of the Sheriff's Department serve our communities in a law enforcement capacity, but 335 of our members, both sworn and professional staff, also serve our nation as military reservists. Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, 165 of our military reservists have been activated, leaving their families and their Department family to answer the call of duty to our country.

Following the Desert Storm and Desert Shield campaigns, we learned that we needed to do a better job assisting our military reservists' transition into military service, and their return to the Department upon deactivation. In October 2001, at the direction of Sheriff Leroy D. Baca and Undersheriff William T. Stonich, the Department's Military Activation Committee (MAC) was formed. The MAC is chaired by Commander Lynda Castro, who spearheads the many supportive facets of the MAC. Comprised of Department members of all ranks, the MAC is dedicated to making our military reservists' "Commitment to Community and Country" as smooth as possible.

We recognize that when a military reservist receives orders to activate, many issues, both professional and personal, need to be addressed quickly. The MAC works in conjunction with the reservist's unit of assignment and the Department's Pay and Leave Management Unit to ensure Department-related issues, such as salary and benefits, are addressed so the reservist can concentrate on getting his or her personal life in order prior to departing. While activated, our reservists and their families continue to receive all of their benefits. The Department also subsidizes the difference between their military and Department salaries for a period of two years.

These support systems set the Sheriff's Department apart from the majority of other employers throughout the country.



Undersheriff Bill Stonich presents holiday gift basket to Emmy Madrid, wife of Deputy Florentino Madrid, at 2003 Sheriff's Holiday Open House.

While the reservists are away, we encourage our Department members to make a concerted effort to keep in touch with them through our e-mail/pen pal program. Department members obtain reservists' military addresses on the Department's Intranet. On holidays and other special occasions throughout the year, letters are sent to our military reservists by the Sheriff, the Undersheriff, as well as other command staff. We have entered into a partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department in a letter-writing campaign designed to encourage members of the general public to join us in corresponding with activated reservists from both agencies. Acknowledging that our military reservists and their families are experiencing a "life-altering" event is paramount in coordinating our efforts.

To assist our reservists in their transition back into Department service upon deactivation, the Department created a three-day phased re-entry program. This program, which was highlighted in a comprehensive news story by Fox 11 News Reporter Christina Gonzalez, allows a returning reservist time to address required Department issues, including access to the Department's psychological support services. The key

component of the re-entry program is the partnering of the reservist with a mentor, preferably one with whom the reservist is already familiar. The mentor is tasked with bringing the reservist back up to speed on Department policy and procedures, as well as changes in legislation and case law. The mentor also provides the reservist with someone in whom he or she can confide personal issues they may be facing in the wake of his/her deployment.

Although we take great personal pride in our achievements in supporting our reservists and their families, our efforts have not gone unnoticed by the public. The main mission on the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), is to “gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service.” This agency, awarded the Sheriff’s Department with the 2003 Seven Seals Award for its unwavering support of that mission. Additionally, Sheriff Baca and Temple Sheriff’s Station Deputy Russell Williams, a military reservist, were invited to ride on the ESGR float in the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade.



Temple Sheriff’s Station Deputy Russ Williams and Sheriff Lee Baca ride on the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) float at the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade.

On May 21, the ESGR announced that the Sheriff’s Department was one of fifteen employers chosen nationwide as a recipient of the Employer Support Freedom Award. This national award is presented to employers who have surpassed all other employers in the area of supporting their military reservists above and beyond what is required. The Department of Defense and the ESGR presented the award to Sheriff Baca and the other recipients at a ceremony at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. on September 21.

The Sheriff’s Department is dedicated to supporting our military reservists and their families. Sheriff Baca promises, “As long as we have military reservists employed by this Department, we will take whatever steps are necessary to see that they have the support systems in place that all reservists deserve.”

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”



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; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

Supervisor Antonovich Announces Enhancements to Sex Offender Locator Web Site

On Friday, July 30, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich held a press conference to announce exciting new developments on the County's Sex Offender Locator Web site. Initiated by Supervisor Antonovich in September 2002, the County's online Sex Offender Locator Map is accessible 24 hours a day at www.lacounty.info under the *Featured Links* area and features a color-coded pin map that offers a search by zip code, address, school or park to locate serious and high-risk sex offenders.

Now, on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, the Los Angeles County Sex Offender Locator system will display additional identifying information of high-risk sex offenders, including the offender's name, known aliases, gender, race, physical description, photograph, date of birth, and crime(s) resulting in registration. Previously, this information was only available on Megan's Law computers located at police or sheriff's stations.

"The additional identifying information on the Web site will enhance our citizens' ability to protect themselves and their families from dangerous sex predators," Supervisor Antonovich said. The Sex Offender Locator site has been a huge success since it became operational on September 6, 2002. Based on system monitoring reports, the Web site received 2.6 million hits in the first 12 hours of operation. As of Monday, September 9, 2002 at 8:00 a.m.,

the Web site had processed over 5.5 million requests. On average, the site receives approximately 40,000 requests per month.

According to the Department of Justice's July 1 statistics, 81% of the nearly 16,000 sex offenders in the County of Los Angeles are serious offenders who have been convicted of any sexual assault, including rape, sodomy, assault with the intent to commit rape, and child molestation. 94 offenders are considered high-risk, convicted of multiple violent crimes and at least one violent sex crime. More than 2,600 offenders fall into the "other" category, with convictions for porn, incest, indecent exposure, misdemeanor sexual battery, and spousal rape.



Supervisor Antonovich is joined by Jonathan Williams, Chief Deputy of the Chief Information Office (left), and Lieutenant Karyn Mannis of the Sheriff's Department (center).

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recommended for use on children under 2 months of age. Insect repellents containing DEET with a concentration of 10% appears to be as safe as products with a concentration of 30% when used according to the directions on the product labels.

- Ensure your window screens don't have holes.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in old tires, flowerpots, swimming pools, birdbaths, pet bowls, etc.

MOLINA

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Supervisor Molina and the County's Department of Parks and Recreation secured a total of \$229,900 for the skate park through \$63,000 in Proposition A funds; winning the statewide Murray Hayden grant competition for \$161,000; and \$5,900 in miscellaneous funds.

- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools; drain water from pool covers.

The Health Department has established a toll-free hotline that will provide callers with updated information (in eight languages) on the West Nile Virus. The hotline number is: (800) 975-4448.

For additional information, please visit the Health Department Web site at: <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/VectorWestNile.htm>.

"It's a sign of the times when local Latino youth place a skate park at the top of their wish list but I couldn't be more pleased to provide it for them," Supervisor Molina said. "The Southeast is one of the most densely populated areas in the County and these kids need a safe space to play."

Discover Marina del Rey 2004 to Present New and Exciting Family Events October 10

This year's "Discover Marina del Rey" event will be presenting a number of fun-filled activities and entertainment that will appeal to both adults and children. The annual event will take place in Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey, Sunday, October 10, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., presented by Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water and the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Beaches and Harbors is pleased this year to welcome the Department of Parks and Recreation as its collaborator for "Discover Marina del Rey" day, presenting events for the whole family, such as face painting, paper-making, seed planting, puzzle frames, jump rope sports, tree talks by an arborist, smoothie samplings and recipes, and games. Among other new attractions this year are the Bob Baker Marionettes. This world-famed entertainment, featuring



up to 40 figures, have regaled thousands of children and adults worldwide and have appeared in many feature films and television programs.

Returning this year will be the inflatable games, pumpkin patch, magicians, coloring contests and rides for boys and girls. Other events include live music; educational and safety displays from County and State agencies, as well as booths on health and the environment; free sailboat, hobie cat and kayak rides for the public; snack carts; water displays on the main channel; exciting boat races; and adorable animals for adoption from the Department of Animal Care and Control. Food can be purchased at the park's new Café Lorelei.

Visitors can park for \$5 all day in County Lot 4 on Mindanao Way, near Chace Park. Wristbands may be purchased for \$5, which will entitle wearers to enjoy the inflatable games, snack carts, and rides and take home a Halloween pumpkin from the pumpkin patch.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Announces the New Sun Valley Park Multi-Use Project

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*pictured*) announced the new Sun Valley Park Multi-Use Project, part of an ongoing public/private effort led by his office. Through an innovative combination of engineering and landscaping solutions, the



project addresses environmental and flooding problems in the Sun Valley portion of the San Fernando Valley. This effort involves staggered tree plantings and infiltration and

drainage systems to capture stormwater runoff for percolation into the ground and replenishment of the groundwater table.

Government Day

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*pictured below*) greets two volunteers from the Child Support Services Department working a table at the 24th annual "Government Day" event. Sponsored by Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office and hosted by the Panorama City Mall, the gathering offered an opportunity for adults and families to learn about government and community services available to them from more than 40 participating federal, state, County and city agencies. Participants included County departments such as Health Services, Human Resources, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Public Social Services and Community and Senior Services; the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; the Los Angeles Police Department; the California Department of Motor Vehicles, the State Employment Development Department; the Social Security Administration and many others.



CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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that the diploma would enable them to get into college, find higher-paying jobs, and get financial aid. But students complained to DCA that they couldn't get into accredited colleges and some were fired from their jobs, Herrera said.

"This Department will not tolerate this type of fraud, especially when consumers are trying to achieve a better life for them and their families through education," Herrera said. In promoting their program, the defendants have said they are responding to a call from God to help Latinos escape poverty through education. To further that deception, CAHS regularly holds classes in churches with the help of unsuspecting clergy who recruit trusting congregation members. "What's most disgraceful is CAHS and its officials using religion to dupe well-meaning clergy into signing their congregants into the program," said Rigoberto Reyes, DCA's Chief of Investigations.

DCA asked the California Attorney General's Office to sue CAHS after an extensive investigation showed that CAHS was making false promises to students, DCA lead investigator, Edith Garcia, said. Undercover investigators established that CAHS teachers were teaching wrong information to students, including statements that:

1. There are 53 states in the United States, but the "flag has not yet been updated to reflect the addition of the last three states" - Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico.
2. There are two houses of Congress - the Senate and the House, and "one is for Democrats and the other is for the Republicans, respectively."
3. There are four branches of government: the executive, legislative, judicial, and administrative, but one doesn't hear much about the administrative branch because "most of its work is done behind the scenes."

On Wednesday, August 4, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Daniel Solis Pratt issued a temporary restraining order freezing Gossai's assets, those in his wife's name, and those belonging to the school. A hearing for a permanent injunction was held on September 1. The Court also ordered the appointment of a receiver to manage CAHS's businesses pending the outcome of the case.

On Thursday, August 5, starting at 6:30 a.m., DCA investigators, federal agents, and state investigators executed search warrants on CAHS's locations and Gossai's multi-million dollar home. Investigators seized large volumes of evidence from all locations to be used in an on-going criminal investigation, Reyes said.

The Attorney General Office's lawsuit is the latest in a series of legal problems encountered by Gossai and CAHS. Nebraska Attorney General John Brunig has sued Gossai and CAHS for unfair business practices, and Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller sued them for failure to adequately respond to a subpoena. Last month, a court banned CAHS and Gossai from recruiting students in Nebraska and Iowa because of the school's claim that completing its program was equivalent to a high school diploma. Former students also have sued CAHS in Small Claims Court to have their tuition refunded.

Consumers who believe they have been victimized by CAHS, or a similar scam, are encouraged to contact DCA at (213) 974-1452. Consumers can also get a complaint form from DCA's Web site at <http://consumer-affairs.co.la.ca.us/Sub/Consumerpro.htm>, or by writing to 500 W. Temple St., B-96, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2706.

Supervisor Antonovich Endorses “Not Even for a Minute” Public Safety Campaign

On Thursday, August 12, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich kicked off a joint public awareness campaign with Sheriff Lee Baca and Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo highlighting “Kaitlyn’s Law,” which provides serious criminal penalties for leaving children alone in a motor vehicle.

“What most people don’t realize is that a vehicle left in the sun warms at a very alarming rate that is lethal to children and pets,” Supervisor Antonovich said, who has a 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter. “Leaving a child alone in a car – even for a minute – is a reckless crime that can have tragic – and often deadly – consequences.”

Even on a mild 70-degree day and with the windows slightly rolled down, the temperature inside a car can top 120 degrees in 20 minutes and 150 in 40 minutes. “Children left unattended in or around vehicles are at a risk of dehydration, abduction, injury and death,” Supervisor Antonovich said. The cause of death usually is hyperthermia, or heat stroke, which occurs when the core body temperature reaches 104 degrees. A core temperature of 107 degrees is lethal.

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, leaving children unattended in a car during hot weather is the leading cause of motor-vehicle related fatalities nationwide for children under the age of 14.



Pictured from left to right are Battalion Chief Stone, Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Sheriff Lee Baca, and Deanne Tilton, Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN).

The “Not Even for a Minute” campaign is sponsored by the Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club and the Los Angeles County Medical Association Alliance. For more information, including educational posters and brochures in English, Spanish, Korean, and Armenian, please visit www.notevenforaminute.org.

BURKE

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Supervisor Burke (center in white top) was joined by volunteers and County officials when she visited the area where the fish were being cleaned.

The young guests began arriving at the park in buses paid for by Supervisor Burke at 9:30 a.m. On their arrival they were given breakfast, then provided with caps and T-shirts, and were shown how to fish. By the time lunch was served shortly after noon, most had caught at least one fish and some had caught two or more. Supervisor Burke visited with volunteers who were grilling chicken and hot dogs, then she helped them serve lunch, which also included pizza. “I want to thank all our sponsors,” the Supervisor said. She noted that PXP provided lunch, and McDonald’s provided breakfast. PXP and SAESHE Advertising provided T-shirts. Other organizations contributing to the event included the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Nestle; 7-Eleven; Superior Super Warehouse; and Unified Western Bakery.

AMBASSADOR TEAM

SHARE IT!

EARN \$ & SERVE DEMOCRACY!

BE A POLLWORKER ON ELECTION DAY

For Information Call: 800-815-2666 option 7



Thank you for your dedication and personal commitment to serve millions of voters in Los Angeles County.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**

County Employee Pollworker Application
November 2, 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

EMPLOYEE	NAME:	PAYROLL TITLE (no abbreviations please)	
	HOME ADDRESS:	MAILING ADDRESS (if different):	
	CITY: ZIP CODE:	CITY: ZIP CODE:	
	HOME NUMBER:	DEPARTMENT NAME:	
	CAN YOU SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH? YES ___ NO ___	OFFICE PHONE:	FAX NUMBER:
	IF YES, WHAT LANGUAGE? _____	EMAIL ADDRESS:	
	BENEFITS Receive your daily rate of pay from your department plus a stipend of \$55-\$75 from the Registrar-Recorder. Additional \$25 bonus offered for attending a 90 minute training class.	WORK ADDRESS:	
	HOURS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrive to poll at 6 a.m. Polls open at 7 a.m. Polls close at 8 p.m. Closing the polls takes about an hour 	CITY: ZIP CODE:	
	I certify that I am a registered voter in California: Signature: _____	WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SERVE IN ANY OF THESE HARD TO RECRUIT AREAS? <input type="checkbox"/> West Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Palisades <input type="checkbox"/> Beverly Hills <input type="checkbox"/> South Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> San Fernando Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Redondo Beach <input type="checkbox"/> Long Beach <input type="checkbox"/> Rancho Palos Verdes	
	Indicate County of registration: <input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	If you are not able to serve in these cities - WE STILL NEED YOU!	

SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZATION	NAME:	TITLE:
	SIGNATURE	FAX NUMBER:
	OFFICE PHONE	EMAIL:

Complete and fax this application to (562) 651-1035
For more information or questions, please contact your Department Pollworker Coordinator or call 800-815-2666

RR/CC USE ONLY - 11-02-04 Pollworker Outreach (DB)

Voter I.D. #: _____ Assigned Precinct: _____ Home Precinct: _____

Position: Clerk Inspector Lives out of County: YES NO



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Chairman
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Gloria Molina
First District

Yvonne B. Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

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