



Supervisor Molina Presents Employee of the Month to Probation Department's John Thompson

With only six years of County service, John Thompson has been making a tremendous contribution to the lives of our youth. He currently serves as a Deputy Probation Officer II with the Probation Department, working in the Placement Operation. As the Department's first special needs housing intake coordinator, he is responsible for screening and placing former foster youth with mental health issues, pregnancy, or difficult to place youth into special needs emancipation housing programs.

Having received numerous awards for innovation and achievement, Thompson was also instrumental in implementing the collaborative housing program, "Step Out Apartments," a program recently recognized as a Productivity and Quality Top Ten Award. As a collaborative effort between the Departments of Mental Health, Children and Family Services, the Community Development Commission, and a non-profit organization, A Community of Friends, the "Step Out Apartments" is a transitional housing program designed to house foster care youth with a history of mental illness, while teaching the youth self-sufficiency and independence.



Before Thompson came on board, the Probation Department had access to approximately 40 beds for this difficult population. Through his hard work and collaboration, the department has expanded their capacity to more than 150 beds. Thompson has also developed a data base and tracking system to track referrals to the Independent Living Program as to the location and status of participants. The system has enabled Thompson and program staff to maintain contact with the youth and offer them continuous services. Furthermore, he developed a comprehensive referral guide that lists all available housing resources for emancipated youth which has been a great resource for Probation staff and community partners.

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Outdoor Adventures Program Returns to Marina del Rey for Third Season

Beaches and Harbors' popular Outdoor Adventures program is returning for a third year to Marina del Rey. A new offering for 2005 is Advanced Kayaking for experienced kayakers.

The first outdoor adventure is a Bird Watching Experience, available February 24, March 24, and May 26 at 9 a.m. and April 28 and June 23 at 4 p.m. with a series of two-hour walks within the Ballona Wetlands/shoreline habitats exploring fresh and salt water marshes, and nesting sites of the Great Blue and Black Crowned Night Herons.

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HIGHLIGHTS

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"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

EVENT CALENDAR

County of Los Angeles Wellness Fair
Wednesday, March 30
Department of Public Works
335A East Avenue K-6 (South Entrance)
Lancaster, CA 93535

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
Through Apr 3 – The Arts & Crafts Movement in
Europe and America, 1880-1920:
Design for the Modern World

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

Ahmanson Theatre
Through March 27 – William Shakespeare’s
As You Like It

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
March 19 – Figaro’s American Adventure

Mark Taper Forum
Through March 20 – The Goat or Who is Sylvia?

Walt Disney Concert Hall
151 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012
Feb 22 – Chamber Music (Brahms)
Feb 24-25 – 3 x Salonen – Insomnia
Feb 25 – Philharmonic Baroque Orchestra (8 p.m.)
Feb 26 – Masters of Persian Music
Feb 27 – YMF Debut Orchestra
Feb 28 – Recital: Pierre-Laurent Aimard
Mar 4 – Peter Cincotti
Mar 11-13 – Beethoven Fourth
Mar 13 – USC Thornton Chamber Orchestra (7:30 p.m.)
Mar 16 – Sonny Rollins
Mar 18 – First Nights: Prokofiev
Mar 19 – Toyota Symphony for Youth (11 a.m.)
Mar 19-20 – Mork Plays Prokofiev
Mar 23 – Recital: Ax and Bronfman

SAVE THE DATE!!!
Cesar Chavez Community
Service Week
“Educating the Heart”

March 28-April 2, 2005
SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Rev. Cecil Murray to Receive
“Living Black History” Award on
February 24

The Board of Supervisors and the County of Los Angeles African American Heritage Committee will host the third annual celebration of Black History Month on Thursday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m., in the Board of Supervisors’ Hearing Room, 500 W. Temple St., in downtown Los Angeles.

There is no admission charge and all County employees are invited. The theme is “Black America Speaks.”

County DIGEST 

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

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

(213) 639-6386

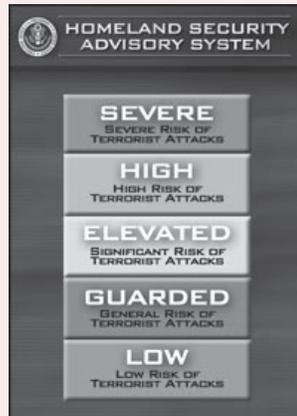
(213) 639-0940 FAX

Available online at: dhr.lacounty.info

WeTip WELFARE FRAUD
1-800-87-FRAUD

Tips to Survive in 2005: Actions for Threat Levels

Do you know what to do for different threat levels on the Homeland Security Advisory System? There are five levels: low (green); guarded (blue); elevated (yellow); high (orange); and severe (red). Each indicates the level of risk for a terrorist attack.



There are different steps to take for each threat level to reduce your chance of injury. For additional information, see the Homeland Security Advisory System information at www.oes.ca.gov. At all threat levels, we must remain

vigilant, prepared, and ready to respond to terrorist attacks. Report any suspicious activities to local authorities. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

Regardless of the threat level, make appropriate preparations such as having a family emergency plan and supplies to last for several days to a week.

Although government agencies continue to work together to develop and implement effective strategies for preventing and responding to incidents, they need our help to be their extra eyes and ears.

For more information on the Emergency Survival Program (ESP), go to www.espfocus.org or contact your local Office of Emergency Services.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Welcomes New Trauma Center to Regional Network

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*second from left*) joins doctors and patients to celebrate the grand opening of the California Hospital Medical Center's trauma center, the first new trauma unit to join the County's regional trauma network since 1996. The County's trauma system was originally established in 1983 with eight centers and quickly expanded to 23 facilities, including California Hospital from 1986-88, before health-care economics downsized the network to only 13 trauma units.



In 2002, Supervisor Yaroslavsky led the push for Measure B, a Countywide parcel tax that won overwhelming voter approval, generating some \$170 million in new emergency and trauma care funding annually, which made it possible for California Hospital's re-entry into the trauma-care field.

Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky, *from the left*, are Dr. Robert G. Splawn, Medical Director, J. Thomas McCarthy Center for Emergency Services; Tamara Ruiz, an accident victim whose life was saved at California Hospital; Dr. Gudata Hinika, Medical Director for Trauma Services; Manuel Peña, whose arm was saved at California Hospital; and Mark Meyers, President of California Hospital Medical Center. For more information on the hospital and its services, please visit www.chmcla.org.

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:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES:

Norman J. Willis

ASSESSOR: Mary L. Flannery, Althea Loeb, Stephen D. Pekar

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Ronald Hansen

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Marjorie Gallen-Hanover

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE: Howard Baker

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Irene V. Reyes, Susan Taft

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Toni H. Hertz, Gloria Johnson, Elizabeth Lawrence, Sandra M. Lewis, Patricia A. Lupkin, Martha Ortega

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Adalbert T. Botello, Priscilla M. Ruffner, Robert Schirm

FIRE: Steven R. Jongsma, Steven E. Kollmeyer, Lawrence D. Lincoln, James W. Mehl, William D. Moorhead II, John M. Sandoval, Nicolaas M. Steers, Timothy C. Stilson, James F. Westerman

HEALTH SERVICES: Koichi Aita, Niyom Boriboon, Ernest J. Britt Jr., Karen S. Cacheiro, Carolyn Clemons, Brenda Y. Cotton, Robert Davis, Elvira T. Flores, Librada Ganioco, Gaylord L. Hill, William H. Howell, Mary E. Hubbard, Maurice A. Issa, Kamphol Jirakuntacha, Allene E. Karim, Rodanthi C. Kitridou, John S. London, Ted A. Lopez, Ronald A. Maas, Ana B. Mack, Charlie Mack, Felicita C. Marquez, Annie M. Murray, Shyra Owens, Liberty D. Pascual, James A. Pasino, Manuel M. Rosales, Greta Rosenow, Bernd W. Schulze, Alma M. Smith, George Sneed, Stanley A. Triplett

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Thomas Rodriguez, Sylvia M. Rowe

INTERNAL SERVICES: Bahgat L. Alexan, Solveig M. Atwood, Howard J. Collins, Donald C. Dressel, Martha M. Furstenfeld, Marshall A. McKinley, Tom G. Rocha, Pascual S. Veneracion

LACERA: Roy D. Smith

MENTAL HEALTH: Joel Hanson, Ann P. Hofstetter

PROBATION: John H. Baltus, Thomas M. Carroll, Lafaye E. Doby, Druscilla P. Faber, Ozzie Lewis, Roger L. Lingren, Harry Nieves, Paul S. Perkins, Karen Y. Reed, Alfred R. Rivera, Rosemary A. Serna, Albert D. Williams, Christine Wong

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Diane Adams, Robert E. Hall, William D. Weiss

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Charles H. Billodeaux

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Shannah DeHart, La N. Edwards, Hector J. Garcia, Segundo A. Iparraguirre, Charlotte A. Jenkins, Sharon L. Lingford, Carol K. Matsui, Gary D. Tipling

PUBLIC WORKS: John E. Anderson, Glenn E. Casey, Marvin M. Chiong, Kenneth J. Fryer, Warren J. Hartman, Larry Killgore, Robert Martinez, Michael J. Pagano, Isom R. Parks, Alessandra Pena, David Prendiz, Richard V. Ramirez, Eddie Tapia

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Esther Vasquez

SHERIFF: Marvin E. Branscomb, Katherine Campbell, Scott D. Clark, Larry E. Cobb, Ava D. Conn, Jon K. Engebretsen, Benny L. Garnes, Thomas J. Harvey Jr., Bernard M. Holt, Michael M. Jung, James R. Kagy, Elizabeth A. Mackey, George E. Marquez, Bradley L. Martinelli,

RETIREES

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EOM

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Thompson has a multitude of fond memories involving probation youth. One such case involved helping a female emancipated youth find housing. She was incarcerated and had been diagnosed as chronically mentally ill and facing homelessness upon her release. Thompson visited the Twin Towers jail facility after business hours and arranged for the youth's release and transport to a mental health center transitional housing program. Without Thompson's intervention and dedication, this individual would likely have remained incarcerated and missed an opportunity to receive appropriate care.

Another case involved a young, single parent of two small children facing an immediate eviction and homelessness. Thompson quickly moved into action and successfully coordinated her placement into a transitional housing program. This youth is now currently employed and doing well in the program. Thompson's intervention helped prevent her and her family from becoming homeless. "With the support services offered by the staff of these programs, our youth can really be given the help that they need to navigate around the difficulties of becoming an adult. For this reason, I enjoy helping youth get into appropriate transitional housing programs," Thompson said.

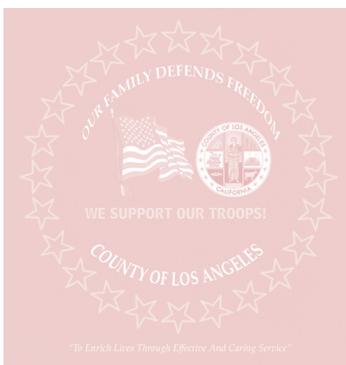
Thompson is very active within his neighborhood, attending and participating in all community-sponsored events. He is an active member of his community church and gets involved in many of the church events. "In my small way, I hope that my experiences can help to motivate some of the youth whom I work with not to give up and to maintain their life goals and dreams," Thompson said. And it seems the success of the youth can definitely be attributed to his efforts.

For such outstanding contributions to the County and his passion and desire to uplift our youth, we commend John Thompson and wish him well in all future endeavors.

Supervisor Knabe Leads Successful “We Support Our Troops” Campaign

In light of current military deployment, Supervisor Knabe launched the successful “We Support Our Troops” Campaign in 2004.

The operation, also known as “Treats for the Troops,” produced bumper stickers, postcards, posters and flyers calling on Los Angeles County employees and their families to support troops currently serving overseas through gifts as well as handwritten notes. The campaign eventually reached out to schools and churches in the area.



“The success of this campaign lies in the contributions of our County family who have come together for an important cause,” Supervisor Knabe said. “Thanks to their generosity, our troops abroad will know that Los Angeles County supports them in America’s quest for freedom worldwide.”

The initiative began on April 27, 2004 with an outdoor event at the Civic Center Mall. Among the attendees of the event were military representatives and members of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. In addition, the Office of Public Affairs, Quality and Productivity Commission, Department of Human Resources, and Operation Gratitude, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that sends care packages to our troops, attended the event.

During the holiday season, Supervisor Knabe reached out to the County family once again asking them to show their appreciation and generosity to the troops. By the end of 2004, 34 departments participated at approximately 67 locations to send 40 pallets worth of “treats” measuring 4 feet high by 4 feet wide.

The committee that launched the campaign consisted of the Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs, Human Resources, Internal Services, Sheriff’s, Chief Administrative Office (Office of Workplace Programs and Public Affairs,) Quality and Productivity Commission and Board of Supervisors.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

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The second outdoor adventure is Harbor Kayaking, launching from Marina Beach on March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, September 10 and October 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., offering recreational trips throughout the Marina’s basins.

The third outdoor adventure, offered for the first time, is Advanced Kayaking for experienced kayakers. Participants head out from Marina Beach toward the north jetty to surf the waves aboard sit-on-top kayaks. Instructors for these outings are Los Angeles County Ocean Lifeguards. Dates are the same as those for Harbor Kayaking, but the sessions are from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Bird Watching Experience will originate from Burton Chace Park, located at 13650 Mindanao Way in Marina del Rey. The kayaking trips (Harbor and Advanced) will launch from Marina (Mother’s) Beach at 4135 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey.

The Bird Watching Experience is available free of charge to the public. Fees for Harbor and Advanced Kayaking sessions are \$25 for youths 10-18 years of age, and \$30 for ages 19 and older with all equipment, including kayaks, provided.

Parking is available for the Bird Watching Experience in County Lot # 4 for a \$5 fee located at 13500 Mindanao Way and for both kayaking programs in Lot # 9 for \$5 at 14110 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey.

County employees are welcome to participate in the Outdoor Adventures programs. For program registration or further information, please call (310) 305-9595.

ENRICHING LIVES...

Countywide Return-To-Work Committee

As a result of the leadership provided by the Board of Supervisors, the County of Los Angeles was actively involved in the 2004 reforms of the State of California Workers' Compensation System. Reforms signed by Governor Schwarzenegger incorporated many of the recommendations sought by the County of Los Angeles to bring needed change to the existing system. The Chief Administrative Office (CAO) staff continues to work diligently with State legislators and regulators as they write the regulations necessary to support the reforms.

A significant component of workers' compensation reform is the enhanced ability to return injured employees

to an appropriate work assignment. The Board of Supervisors directed the CAO to take a proactive approach and ensure that all departments maintain an active Return-To-Work program with standardized guidelines and operating procedures.

To enhance the Countywide Return-To-Work standards, a committee comprised of 19 County departments was established to address the most critical issues impacting the current Return-To-Work process. The committee first met in January 2004, with David E. Janssen, County of Los Angeles Chief Administrative Officer, as guest speaker. During Mr. Janssen's presentation, he stressed the importance of the Countywide Return-To-Work



Top Row from left to right: Arlene Santos, Assessor; Araceli Aranda, Beaches & Harbors; Sylvia Encinas, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures; Rosalind White, LACERA; Cheryl Scott, Chief Administrative Office (CAO); Denise Fiore, CAO; Patricia Williams, Health Services; Patti Beckman, Public Social Services; and Soo Kim, Public Works.

Front Row from left to right: Martha Cervantes, Internal Services; Kathleen Wells, Fire; Alice Guice, Probation; Nora Cendejas, Health Services; Abram Tejada, CAO; Raquel Pena, Chair of Return-To-Work Committee, CAO; Mark Lazarus, Parks & Recreation; Edward Guerrero, Children & Family Services; Evangeline Falcon, Sheriff; LaVoice Brown, Treasurer & Tax Collector; Cathy Stein-Romo, CAO; Jessica Tend, Office of Public Safety; and Dulce Maycumber, Auditor-Controller.

Committee Member not pictured: Cheryl Turkal, CAO



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.

effort and the need to reduce workers' compensation costs. County Risk Manager, Rocky Armfield, also assured the committee members that CAO Risk Management would work closely with each department, and help implement standardized Return-To-Work procedures.

The Return-To-Work committee is currently revising the County of Los Angeles Return-To-Work Manual. The revised manual will be a valuable tool for all department Return-To-Work Coordinators, Risk Management Coordinators and Safety staff.

The Return-To-Work committee provides an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences among the Return-to Work Coordinators. The committee members provide a diverse background: personnel, employee relations, payroll and benefits administration, to the complex process of return-to-work at the departmental level. The committee's work supports best practices and County of Los Angeles strategic goals: Goal Three, Organizational Effectiveness; and, Goal Four, Fiscal Responsibility.

The committee's focused approach will result in more employees being returned to work throughout the County. Employees will also benefit from more individualized and proactive return-to-work placement. This effort will achieve return-to-work standardization while being sensitive to internal department operations.

The committee's goals are for departments to experience a reduction in lost productive hours, reduce turnover and achieve real dollar savings in workers' compensation costs. This collaborative effort will result in expedited reintegration of employees back into the workplace producing a win/win situation for both the employee and management.

The projected outcome of the committee's effort will be the Countywide standardization of procedures with a new return-to-work manual providing a road map for departments in addressing return-to-work issues.

Storm Safety Guidelines from the Fire Department

For Residents Living in Flood-Prone Areas

- Obtain sandbags ahead of time! Sandbags and instructional materials for their use are available at most County of Los Angeles Fire Stations.
- Fill sandbags one-half full with sand or soil, fold top of sandbag down and rest bag on its folded top. Place in areas where needed. NEVER UNDERRATE THE POWER OF WATER AND DEBRIS FLOWS!
 - Note: sandbags are basically for small flow protection (up to two feet only) and if improperly placed could cause needless damage to your neighbor's property. Therefore, a community effort must be employed!
- Monitor your radio and television news closely for information concerning weather conditions and flooding in your area.
- Have an emergency plan that all family members understand. Know how to contact loved ones if you are not able to get to your home because of flood-related incidents.
- Clear rain gutters and drains ahead of time to help avoid possible roof collapses and other property damage.
- Have enough water and food on hand to supply your family for at least a 72-hour period. Also, remember to include a radio and flashlight with fresh batteries in your emergency kit for use, if necessary.

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RETIREES

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Kenneth R. Masse, Bridget A. McGowan, Jeanette F. Mena, David A. Ronnow, Johnny L. Swanson, Susan J. Watson, Edward D. Welbourn, Norman S. Williams, Pamela Y. Wright, Barry J. Wulwick

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Teresa Guasch

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:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES:

William L. Klein

ASSESSOR: Lolita Cayosa

BEACHES & HARBORS: Lillian M. Adams

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Carlena Gardner, Millie A. Rillo

CORONER: Jhansi L. Koneru

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Kenneth L. Barshop

FIRE: Michael E. Downing

HEALTH SERVICES: Grace Blas, Ida M. Hernandez, Eunice Hightower, Martha Miramon, Geneva Peterson, Debra Pride, Dolores M. Pugh, Hilda Rodriguez, Dionisia S. Salvador, Erma Swan, Ellen K. Tan, Florina Torres, Daranee Tubtim, Evangeline C. Vargo, Bacilia Vasquez, Patricia Zweizig

INTERNAL SERVICES: Shelia V. Holmes, Seebon Wong

MENTAL HEALTH: Sylvia P. Braswell

PROBATION: Joseph G. Begler, Diana M. Velasquez

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Richard J. Beebe, Venus Dakay, Nooc-Dung T. Pham, Ana M. Roman

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Carole A. Patton

PUBLIC WORKS: Carolito C. Cristobal

SHERIFF: Donald Baker, John T. Carey, Heidi Clark, Jerry L. Cunningham, Karen W. Elvert, Herbert D. Fell, Alberto Franco, Harrison C. Hauge, Barbara L. Henderson, Heron Payne, Bernice Williams

Historic County Fire Station Finds New Life as Affordable Housing

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*second from left*) helps cut the ribbon to dedicate West Hollywood's newest affordable housing project – the County's historic Fire Station No. 7 in the City of West Hollywood. An operating fire station from 1926-2000 until it was replaced by a new state-of-the-art facility several blocks away, No. 7 has been reborn as Engine Seven Apartments, a charming mock Tudor complex of three affordable-housing units fronted by a garden. The project is an innovative collaboration in adaptive re-use of a historic site between the County of Los Angeles, the City of West Hollywood and the Los Angeles Housing Partnership (LAHP). Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky, *from the left*, are Councilmember John Heilman; Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman; Mayor Pro Tem Abbe Land; and LAHP Executive Director Louis Bernardy.



STORM

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- Be aware that debris basins can overflow. Be familiar with the area in which you live and have alternate escape routes if asked to evacuate your home.
- Be aware when down canyon of mountainous terrain. It can rain in the mountains but not where you are and you can be subjected to a sudden (within seconds) mudflow.

For People Who are Out During the Storm

- **STAY AWAY FROM FLOOD CONTROL CHANNELS**, catch basins, canyons and natural waterways which are susceptible to flooding during periods of heavy rain.
- **DO NOT ATTEMPT** to cross flooded areas and never enter moving water.
- If flooding traps you in your car, stay with it. If necessary, wait on top of your car for assistance.
- If you become isolated, seek the highest ground available and wait for help.

- Remember to use good common sense and avoid venturing into known problem areas.
- If you see someone who has been swept into moving water **DO NOT ENTER THE WATER AND ATTEMPT A RESCUE**. Immediately call 911 for trained emergency rescue personnel and if possible throw them some type of floatation device.
- Know how to shut off all utilities if necessary. Remember water and electricity do not mix.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department has taken special measures to effectively manage any potential situations which may arise as a result of coming storms. For additional information, the public can call the Fire Department’s Community Relations Office, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (323) 881-2411, or the Department of Public Works Storm Hotline at (800) 980-4990.

Supervisor Antonovich Honors Kim Labinger, 2005 California Teacher of the Year

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 4, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich presented a plaque to Kim Labinger, 2005 California Teacher of the Year.

“We are extremely pleased that our Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year has also been chosen for this honor,” the Supervisor said. “Kim exemplifies the commitment and dedication that translates into students who are well prepared for life’s future challenges.”

Kim is a fourth grade teacher at Thomas A. Edison Elementary School in the Glendale Unified School District. Kim firmly believes that education “must involve teaching and learning more than mere facts,” and “must include a celebration of humanity, rooted in the past, expressed in the language of the present, and with the ability to imagine the future.”

Kim was chosen for this year’s honor because of her passion and love for teaching. She emphasizes the arts, including poetry and dance, and also uses classroom-friendly insects such as centipedes, snails and beetles to make science lessons interesting and fun. Her teaching methods are based on the belief that all children can learn.

Kim earned her Master’s Degree and credential from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1986 and her Bachelor’s in Anthropology from Pomona College in 1980.

She has received nine awards, including Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year, since beginning her career in the California education system in 1986.



Pictured from left to right are Dr. Michael Escalante, Superintendent of the Glendale Unified School District; Linda Conover, Principal of Edison Elementary; Mark Labinger (Kim’s husband); Kim Labinger; Supervisor Antonovich; and, Dr. Darlene Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

Supervisor Burke Honors Congresswoman Maxine Waters at King Commemoration Ceremony

There was standing room only as hundreds packed the Claude Hudson Auditorium at Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital to celebrate the 23rd annual Los Angeles County Commemoration of the national King holiday. As Mistress of Ceremonies, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke opened the program after being introduced by Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman.

Supervisor Burke told the crowd she was deeply concerned that recent media coverage had focused so

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Supervisor Burke (right) presented the plaque to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2005 Honoree Congresswoman Maxine Waters to a standing ovation by the crowd.

Supervisor Antonovich Touts Regional Airport Plan at Re-Opening of Palmdale Airport

On December 29, 2004 Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich spoke at a news conference held at Palmdale Regional Airport to commemorate the inaugural flight of Scenic Airlines' service between Palmdale and Las Vegas.

"Scenic's service out of Palmdale Regional Airport is an important step in the development of a regional approach to meet Southern California's air travel into the future," Supervisor Antonovich said. "It will enhance the Antelope Valley economy, create jobs and provide convenient air travel for North Los Angeles County residents from the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valleys to the San Fernando Valley, as well as our neighbors in Ventura and Kern Counties. In fact, more than 3 million people live closer to Palmdale than LAX."

The full utilization of Palmdale Regional Airport is a key component in the realization of a regional airport system for the County of Los Angeles. Forty years ago, Los Angeles City fathers realized that the proper approach to dealing with the expected increase in air travel in Southern California would be to develop a multi-airport system rather than rely on one central location. In 1967, the Los Angeles City Airport Commission acquired Ontario Airport and the 17,000-acre Palmdale Airport site, and contracted with

the Air Force for Plant 42's runway and air terminal to ease the expected overcrowding of LAX.

"A regional approach is the only rational way to deal with the more than 78 million new air passengers expected in Southern California by 2020," Supervisor Antonovich said. "Use of the Palmdale Regional Airport will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, and contribute to a convenient, safer transit system for all County of Los Angeles residents."



Pictured from left to right are Supervisor Antonovich, Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners President Cheryl Petersen, City of Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford, and Scenic Airlines President Chad Dixon.

2005 County of Los Angeles Employees Chess Tournament

The Eighteenth Annual County Employees Chess Championship gets underway on Thursday, April 14, at 6 p.m. at the Department of Public Works' Alhambra



headquarters, located at 900 S. Fremont Avenue in Conference Room C.

Chess enthusiasts are invited to compete in both open and amateur divisions. Prizes will be offered to the top three winners in each division. For more information, contact Paul Jones at (213) 974-3240, Norman Cortez at (626) 300-3388, Antonio Martin at (909) 241-1389 or Lowell Harter at (213) 974-4298. The event is sponsored by the California Association of Professional Employees (CAPE).

BURKE

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heavily on the problems at King Hospital that the hospital was suffering. "We need a respite," she told the audience. She also warned that "everyone is not going to agree with every decision [the Board of Supervisors makes to save the hospital], because there will be some difficult decisions." She emphasized her determination to keep the hospital open. Her speech was punctuated with various cries of "amen" from the audience.

Supervisor Burke then introduced Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-35th District). She noted the congresswoman's numerous achievements and services to the community, and presented her with a plaque honoring her as the recipient of the 2005 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.

In a passionate address to the audience, Congresswoman Waters attacked a five-part series the *Los Angeles Times* ran on King Hospital last December. "They don't know [this community], and they don't get it," she said. "We do not like incompetence ... we are for good services ... we go forward to support this institution." After her speech, she received a standing ovation.

Also taking part in the ceremonies were Ali Woodson, former lead singer for the Temptations; recording artist

Ellis Hall, a blind pianist and performer who was a protégé of the late Ray Charles; saxophonist Jim Reid; Bishop L. D. Williams of the L.A. Baptist Ministers Conference; Father Richard Martini of Transfiguration Catholic Church; Elliot Cohen, Interim Administrator of King Hospital; Dr. Harry Douglas, Interim President of Charles Drew University of Medicine & Science; and Dr. Roger Peek, Medical Director of King Hospital. The Jordan High School Army Junior R.O.T.C. posted the colors. Other dignitaries present included the Honorable Herb Wesson, former Speaker of the California State Assembly and special deputy to Supervisor Burke responsible for King Hospital.



After the festivities, Supervisor Burke and Congresswoman Waters greeted enthusiastic guests before finally leaving a few minutes before noon.

Share It

Health Studios (Gyms)



Now that you've made that weighty decision to shed those extra pounds, these tips will help you find and join the best gym for you, and protect the financial investment you are about to make in your good health.

Finding the Right Gym

- Comparison shop to find out the services and prices offered by different places. Ask for free passes so you can try the facilities without obligation.
- Visit the gym you decide to join on the days and hours you would be using it to learn how crowded it is. Ask the gym personnel if they limit the number of their members. If they don't, the gym may become overcrowded in the future.
- Look to see if the place is clean and well maintained, and if it has the equipment, facilities, or classes you want.
- Find out how long the club has been in business. Check with your local consumer protection agency and Better Business Bureau to see if they have received complaints against the gym.

Signing the Contract

- When you decide to join a gym, you should get a copy of the contract, take it home, and read it carefully before you sign it.
- If you are offered a "special deal," make sure that everything you are promised is written in the contract. Don't sign a contract that has blank spaces, and always get a copy.
- The contract cannot be for more than three years or \$1000.
- Avoid letting the gym deduct automatic payments from your bank account or credit card. You may have trouble stopping the deductions after you cancel your membership, or if the gym goes out of business.
- Consider joining the gym on a month-to-month basis. The membership may be a bit higher, but you'll be able to find out if the gym meets your expectations, or if you will really use the facilities on a continuing basis.
- If you join a gym that has not yet opened, the gym must open within six months. Pay the smallest deposit possible, since you may lose it if the gym fails to open as promised.

When Can I Cancel My Contract?

- You may cancel the contract for any reason within three days from the date you sign it, not counting Sundays or holidays. The contract must have a cancellation notice telling you this. If you cancel, the gym must give you a refund within 10 business days, but they may deduct money for services you used.

- The contract must also say that you are not required to keep paying for services if you become disabled, die, or move more than 25 miles away from the gym, and the gym is unable to transfer you to a comparable facility. If you paid the full balance upfront, the gym has to give you a refund for any unused services.

For additional information or if you need help resolving a dispute with a gym, please contact the Consumer Affairs Office at (800) 593-8222.



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