

# County DIGEST



JULY 2006

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Mayor Antonovich Hosts 9<sup>th</sup> Annual “Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families”

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich recently hosted the 9th annual “Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families” event at Arcadia County Park, co-hosted by KNBC-4 Weatherman Fritz Coleman.

Nearly 3,500 participants attended the day-long presentation of free services to veterans and their families from 113 agencies, including County departments and governmental, independent and private agencies. Attendees received an abundance of information and resources regarding health, employment, child support, and legal services.

## Employee of the Month Health Services’ Steven Hamburger

Steven Hamburger has been working for the County of Los Angeles for 30 years and is currently employed as a Utilization Review Nurse Supervisor I (Risk Manager) with the Department of Health Services, where he is assigned to the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

During his tenure, Hamburger has taken initiative in determining the appropriate guidelines to apply in the implementation of new procedures, programs and systems. His eye for detail enhances his work product and makes him an outstanding resource to his department and Rancho.

“I obtain the most satisfaction from providing assistance, information, and resources to patients, employees, and

EOM

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*Mayor Antonovich presents a flag to Pete Ramirez, AMVETS #113, as Michael Antonovich, Jr., Sheriff Lee Baca, Colonel Joseph Smith (Director, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs), and Fritz Coleman look on.*

A special tribute to our armed forces began with a presentation of colors, 21-gun salute, and the playing of “Taps.” Vintage World War II era planes, a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter, and a Pasadena Police Department Helicopter flew over the park, and skydivers descended from an altitude of 10,000 feet.

ANTONOVICH

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

# EVENT CALENDAR

## Ford Amphitheatre

2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East Hollywood, 90068  
(323) GO-1 FORD (323)461-4673

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

BWF - Big! World! Fun! Family Shows

SPR - Summer Play Readings

## JULY

22 - KPFK Night - Cultures in Harmony Jam Fest  
25 - Bassiona Amorosa - International Laureates Festival  
28-29 - Sonidos Gitanos/Gypsy Flamenco - The Fountain Theatre

30 - Homenaje Agustin Lara II - Star Entertainment

## AUGUST

2 - Eva Ayllon - Afro Peruvian Music  
4 - Instrumental Women - Lady Jazz 2006 - Blues in the Summertime  
5,12,19,26 - Summer Play Reading - Inside The Ford  
5 - Pacifico Dance Company - Mexico: The New World  
6 - Musical Angelica - Vivaldi's Four Seasons  
9 - Quintet Guadalajara - Chamber Music Evening - International Music Festival  
12 - Fiesta Argentina 2006  
13 - Reprise! Best of Broadway at the Ford  
18 - Danza Floricanto - Still Here - Todavia Aqui  
19 - Bluegrass at the Ford - Bluegrass Etc & Lost Highway

## 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](http://www.arboretum.org) or call (626) 821-4623

## Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036

(323) 857-6000

Through August 20 - A Curator's Eye: The Visual Legacy of Robert A. Sobieszek

Through December 10 - Glass: Material Matters

## Music Center

135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

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

## Ahmanson Theatre

July 25-Sept 10 - Curtains

## Mark Taper Forum

July 27-Sept 17 - Water & Power

EVENTS

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• Contractor Improprieties  
 • Abuse of Work Hours  
 • Missing Equipment  
 • Computer Fraud  
 • Vendor Fraud  
 • Internet/E-mail Abuse  
 • Missing Cash  
 • Management Improprieties  
 • Other Improper Activities

**STOP FRAUD**

**REPORT IT!**

**Los Angeles County Fraud Hotline**  
[www.lacountyfraud.org](http://www.lacountyfraud.org)  
 E-mail: [hotline@oci.co.la.ca.us](mailto:hotline@oci.co.la.ca.us)  
**1-800-544-6861**  
 You may remain anonymous • 24 hours a day • 7 days a week  
 Write to: Los Angeles County Fraud Hotline  
 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 51  
 Alhambra, CA 91803-4737  
 Fax: 1-626-457-9797

Sponsored by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

## 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](http://dhr.lacounty.info)

Visit <http://dhr.lacounty.info> for information on employment opportunities with the County of Los Angeles

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

## Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Breaks Ground for Sun Valley Health Center

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*center*) breaks ground for the new Sun Valley Health Center to be located on the campus of Sun Valley Middle School. The 11,000 sq. ft. center will be built by the County on Los Angeles Unified School District property under a long-term gratis lease. It will join the growing network of school-based health clinics and will operate under County contract by non-profit healthcare provider Northeast Valley Health Corporation. UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine will offer its Asthma Screening and Early Intervention



Program on-site. LA Care - a non-profit, community accountable health maintenance organization serving more than 750,000 County residents enrolled in the state’s Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs – has committed first-year operating funding.

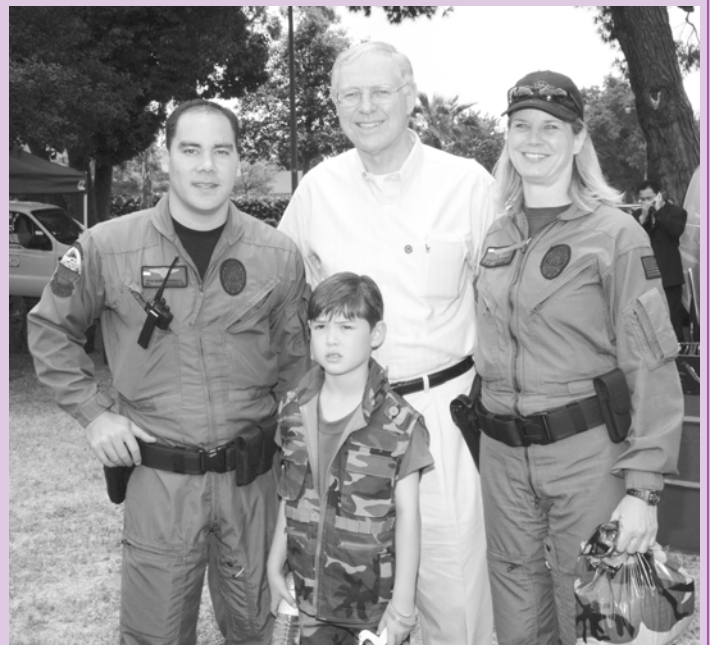
Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky, *from the left*, are LA City Councilmember Tony Cardenas; Howard Kahn, CEO of LA Care Health Plan; Dr. Gerald Levey, Vice Chancellor and Dean of the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine; LAUSD Board Member Julie Kornstein; LAUSD Superintendent Roy Romer; Kim Wayard, CEO of Northeast Valley Health Corporation; and unidentified Sun Valley students.

### ANTONOVICH

*continued from page 1*

Participants brought copies of photos of loved ones to place on the “Wall of Remembrance,” along with American flags and other mementos. “Antonovich’s Children’s Village” provided a specialized area for youth, complete with face painting, arts and crafts, games, entertainment, a display of wild animals, and free popcorn. Numerous participants set up booths at the park, offering a wide range of services and information, including displays of military vehicles and equipment, and free tetanus vaccinations, haircuts, and manicures.

“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,” Mayor Antonovich said. “Today we remember veterans from World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the worldwide war on terror – 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.”



*Pictured from left to right are Tactical Flight Officer Mark Mendenhall (Pasadena Police Department), Michael Antonovich Jr., Mayor Antonovich, and Pilot Carol Eldridge (Pasadena Police Department)*

**EOM**

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visitors related to risk prevention or response and patient safety. Having been at Rancho for 29 years, in a variety of positions, I have been privileged to have many experiences which have provided knowledge that I am able to utilize to assist others. I also obtain satisfaction from being able to assist in implementing initiatives that have resulted in providing a safer facility for patients, visitors and employees. The effectiveness of this process has been proven in part through a significant decrease in claims of injury during my tenure as Risk Manager at Rancho Los Amigos,” Hamburger said.



At the Board of Supervisors meeting honoring Hamburger, Dr. Bruce Chernof, Director and Chief Medical Officer said, “I am honored to be up here today to recognize your simply outstanding work on behalf of the department, our patients and all of the other employees. Your leadership, not just as a nurse, but in every level of the organization, improving our system, our performance, our focus on quality, has been amazing. I appreciate being able to draw on your leadership and we look forward to working with you in the future.”

In recognition of his outstanding performance, he was named Rancho’s Employee of the Month in November 1993 and again in November 2005. In 2002, Steven Hamburger received the Joseph F. Dowling Memorial Distinguished Service Award for his significant contributions to many programs within the medical center.

Steven Hamburger was actively involved in improving the signage at Rancho and participated in a production video depicting him as a lost patient before the signage was improved. He coordinated a process for timely review and investigation of all event notification reports received daily and initiated a Risk Management Telephone Hotline. “I believe that I have been able to establish an ongoing Risk Management process at Rancho which has improved staff awareness and participation, and has resulted in a significant decrease in claims. Most importantly, I believe it has resulted in a decrease in injuries or negative outcomes for our patient population and visitors,” Hamburger said.

Hamburger holds an Associate Degree in Nursing and consistently seeks out opportunities to increase his knowledge. When asked about his family, he said, “I have a wonderful, very patient, and supportive wife. She has been extremely tolerant of my extended work hours and commitment to my duties. She doesn’t always know this, but she causes me to count my

**EOM**

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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:*

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Judith M. Hardaker, Madeline C. Jackson

**COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:** Sandra L. Einbinder

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Alice M. MacArthur

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Maria M. Andrade, Michael Barba, Carlos Barrascout, Sandra J. Chatmon, Levi B. Golding, Beatrice Gonzalez, Audrey A. Gunter, Ortencia Hernandez, Mary A. Johnson, Lillie M. Landers, Margaret L. Latham, Michael A. Meade, Doris V. Myles, Herminia Padre, Norma J. Ross, Zelma R. Thompson, Julius Vaughn

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Helen L. Gill, Felix J. Irving

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Marva Connor, Ellen R. Stallworth

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Jacqueline D. Miller

**PROBATION:** Belinda Garcia Caro, Beatrice Owens

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Jeweleen Adams, Gloria M. Mallen

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Lourdes Arcos, Louis G. Farias

**SHERIFF:** Bradley F. Wright

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Vandolyn M. Evans, Janice G. Held, Kathleen P. Pettis

*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:*

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** David H. Castro, Mercedes Ewing

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Glenda Clayton

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Julita Casaway, Jean M. Daniels, Drusilla B. Daniels Gibb, Pearl Edwards, Portia Eugenio, Steve Gillett, Virginia A. Hutcherson, Theria M. James, Diane B. McNamara, John Navidad, Roberto M. Salazar, Phillip Tate

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Barbara A. Pickett, Irene L. Weber

**PROBATION:** Florence Rivera

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Patricia A. Charles

**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Gloria S. Seifert

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Gloria Ortiz

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Tony Hernandez

**SHERIFF:** Rudy W. Sikman

**SUPERIOR COURT:** April L. Adams

**EVENTS**

*continued from page 2*

**Hollywood Bowl**

**2301 North Highland Ave., Hollywood 90078**

**(323) 850-2000**

**www.hollywoodbowl.com**

**JULY**

**23** - KCRW's World Festival: Flaming Lips, Thievery Corporation, Os Mutantes

**25** - L.A. Philharmonic: Mozart, Bach and Dance

**27** - L.A. Philharmonic: The Planets

**28-30** - Hollywood Bowl Orchestra: John Mauceri, "The Sound of Music"

**31** - Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young

**AUGUST**

**1** - L.A. Philharmonic: Beethoven's Fifth

**2** - Jazz at the Bowl: Al Green, Lalah Hathaway, Lizz Wright

**3** - L.A. Philharmonic: Beethoven's Fifth

**4-5** - L.A. Philharmonic: A Celtic Celebration with Natalie MacMaster

**6** - Hollywood Bowl Orchestra: John Mauceri, "Sunset Boulevard"

**8** - L.A. Philharmonic: Hilary Hahn Plays Mendelssohn

**9** - Jazz at the Bowl: Herbie Hancock, Christian McBride Band, Joshua Redman

**10** - L.A. Philharmonic: Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody

**11-12** - L.A. Philharmonic: Tchaikovsky Spectacular with fireworks

**13** - KCRW's World Festival: Bob Marley - Roots, Rock, Reggae Festival 2006

**15** - L.A. Philharmonic: Thibaudet Plays Liszt

**16** - Jazz at the Bowl: New Orleans Night-Neville Brothers, The Original Meters

**17** - L.A. Philharmonic: Mahler's First

**18-19** - Hollywood Bowl Orchestra: John Mauceri, Walt Disney's "Fantasia" with fireworks

**Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**

**900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles**

**(213) 763-3466**

**www.nhm.org**

Through August 25 - Adventures in Nature

Through September 4 - Pit 91 at Page Museum

Through September 5 - Butterfly Pavilion

**EOM**

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blessings every day. I have three sons. Nathan is the Assistant to the City Manager of Agoura Hills. He is married to my wonderful daughter in-law Lydia, and I have a wonderful 2 ½ year old grandson, Nathan Junior, who is one of the current joys of our lives. I also have a second grandchild on the way, due in October, and I can't wait. My middle son, Ryan, is currently completing his bachelor of arts degree from the College of Arts in San Francisco. He is very artistically talented, which clearly comes from my wife. My youngest son, Brett, is currently attending college. I am very proud of each of my sons and consider myself very fortunate."

Congratulations, Steven Hamburger, for such exceptional achievements. You are truly a model of service excellence.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

**Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass Is Completed In La Habra Heights**

Supervisor Don Knabe participated recently in a dedication ceremony and press conference to commemorate the completion of the Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass in La Habra Heights.

Harbor Boulevard is a major thoroughfare that connects Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Because of the high volume of vehicle traffic, it was necessary to provide a crossing that could both protect the wildlife while not inhibiting the traffic flow.



Construction began in September 2005, and consists of an 18 foot high by 20 foot wide tunnel that is approximately 160 feet long built directly underneath Harbor Boulevard. The project was a collaboration of various entities including: Supervisor Don Knabe, the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority and the Department of Public Works.

"This underpass will make crossing Harbor Boulevard safer for not only our local wildlife, but for motorists as well," Supervisor Knabe said. "We are honored to have been a part of the team bringing a solution to this wildlife corridor, and we are looking forward to the long-term benefits for both local residents and for wildlife in the area."

# ENRICHING LIVES...

## Child Support Services Helps Families Through Award Winning Outreach to County of Los Angeles Employers

An award-winning outreach program to employers is playing a role in collecting record amounts of child support for families and children in the County of Los Angeles. The Child Support Services Department (CSSD) recently held its quarterly Employer Workshop at the South Coast Botanical Gardens in Palos Verdes. In March, CSSD held its first Workshop in Palmdale located within the north county.

The Employer Workshop helps increase child support collections by providing employers and payroll professionals with a free half-day workshop on requirements for withholding child support and health insurance payments from employees with child support orders. Wage withholding by employers accounted for 65% of the record \$505 million in child support collected by the County of Los Angeles in 2005.

“We are pleased that employers find this workshop very useful because they play a critical role in our collection of child support,” said Philip Browning, CSSD Director, who welcomed the Palos Verdes attendees. Browning has brought a more customer service focus to CSSD since it became a new department in 2001, separating from the District Attorney’s office.

Since 2003, the Employer Workshop has assisted 1,300 participants from 1000 companies representing a workforce exceeding 1.5 million employees. The event is staged by CSSD’s Communications and Marketing Division, with assistance from the Department’s Policy and Training Divisions.

Last year, CSSD was the recipient of the 2005 Program Awareness Award from the



*CSSD Director Philip Browning addresses the workshop in Palos Verdes*



*Staff from CSSD staged the Palmdale Workshop in March*

National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) for the Employer Workshop, the Department's largest outreach program. The award was accepted last August by Director Browning at NCSEA's 54<sup>th</sup> annual Conference and Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The recent Employer Workshop in Palos Verdes was attended by a full house of 150 people and was covered by reporter Denise Nix from the Daily Breeze, the largest daily newspaper in the South Bay. In addition to workshop basics, the attendees received an update on the State Disbursement Unit, the first phase of the statewide child support computer system.

For information on the next Employer Workshop, please visit the CSSD Web site at <http://childsupport.co.la.ca.us> or contact Al Reyes, Division Chief of Communications and Marketing, at [al\\_reyes@childsupport.co.la.ca.us](mailto:al_reyes@childsupport.co.la.ca.us) via e-mail or phone at (323) 832-7216.



*Kaye McKay, from CSSD's Palmdale office, shows off a customer service button that the staff wore in Palmdale.*

# County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan



*"Enriching Lives"*

## County 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 in a 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.

## County Mission

*To enrich lives through effective and caring service*

## Strategic Plan Goals

- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Service Excellence           | 5. Children and Families' Well-Being |
| 2. Workforce Excellence         | 6. Community Services                |
| 3. Organizational Effectiveness | 7. Health and Mental Health          |
| 4. Fiscal Responsibility        | 8. Public Safety                     |

<b>Gloria Molina</b> Supervisor First District	<b>Yvonne B. Burke</b> Supervisor Second District	<b>Zev Yaroslavsky</b> Supervisor Third District	<b>Don Knabe</b> Supervisor Fourth District	<b>Michael D. Antonovich</b> Supervisor Fifth District
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## Commissioners Leadership Conference 2006:

### “Empowering County Commissioners: Communicate, Educate and Advocate”

*Hosted by the Chief Administrative Office and the Quality and Productivity Commission*

The Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion accommodated more than 200 Commissioners, Department Heads and Productivity Managers for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Leadership Conference, “*Empowering County Commissioners: Communicate, Educate and Advocate.*” Federal, state, and local government subject matter experts shared vital information about homeland security.

Quality and Productivity Commission Chair, Jeanne Kennedy, opened the conference and applauded Chair Emeritus, Jaclyn Tilley Hill, on her leadership in selecting the theme and planning the conference. Board of Supervisors’ Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, and Supervisor Don Knabe provided welcoming remarks. Supervisor Knabe, *Senior Adviser to the President’s Homeland Security Advisory Council and Adviser to the Governor’s California Emergency Council*, led the first panel of professionals. Chief Administrative Officer, David E. Janssen, followed the panel with remarks about the County’s response to homeland security. A second panel addressed emergency preparedness in the Department of Health Services, the Coroner’s Department and the City of Los Angeles’ response to homeland security. The County Office of Emergency Management provided a static display of emergency preparedness items and information.

County Commissioners and Productivity Managers facilitated discussion at the networking luncheon, “What is the role of my Commission in homeland security?” Briefings by the Deputy Director, California Office of Homeland Security, and Sheriff Lee Baca completed the program.





## Safely Surrendered Girl Is Reunited With County of Los Angeles Firefighters

Mike, Bob, Kevin and Scott are odd names for a newborn girl's playmates, but on the afternoon of June 19, 2005, they became her first friends when a young woman knocked at the door of County of Los Angeles Fire Station 15 in Whittier and asked the four firefighters to accept her hours-old daughter as a Safely Surrendered Baby under the California law. Now adopted and about to turn one year old, Tessa Gabrielle Leavitt returned to Fire Station 15 with her adoptive family, Rob and Donna Leavitt of Thousand Oaks, to reunite with the crew.

County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman and Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe hosted this special event to showcase the positive way in which the Safely Surrendered Baby Law is working in the County of Los Angeles. Since the program began in 2001, 44 newborns have been safely surrendered in the County of Los Angeles.

"This is the happy ending that we all want to see," Supervisor Knabe said. "Little Tessa has been given the chance to have a great life with a loving adoptive family, and we will continue to work until no child is ever abandoned in the County of Los Angeles again."

California's Safely Surrendered Baby Law was first introduced as SB 1368 and went into effect on January 1, 2001. The law allows parents or others with lawful custody to safely surrender a newborn within 72 hours after birth at any hospital or fire station in the County of Los Angeles – with no questions asked or fear of prosecution.



## Robinsons-May Pavilion of Wings at the Natural History Museum

Back for its eighth summer, Robinsons-May Pavilion of Wings will run through Labor Day, Monday, September 4.

Enter a world of free flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the Museum's South Lawn. See a Giant Swallowtail, Monarch, American Painted Lady or even a California Dogface - California's state butterfly. Over the summer, thirty different butterfly and moth species will call the pavilion home. Discover how butterflies interact with the plants and gain a new understanding of various environmental issues.



Special ticketed admission applies: \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12. Tickets are sold in half-hour time slots throughout the day. Museum members and children under five receive free admission.

For more information, please visit [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org) or call (213) 763-DINO.

## Mayor Antonovich Hosts Conference With White House Official and Local Town Councils

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich welcomed Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, to discuss federal and local issues at a conference with members of the County's Town Councils, who represent unincorporated areas.

Barrales briefed the local leaders on federal issues including economic policies, the federal budget, immigration reform, the Palmdale Airport and regional transportation projects affecting the County of Los Angeles.



*Pictured from left to right are Don McAdam (Agua Dulce Town Council), Sussy Nemer (Deputy to Mayor Michael D. Antonovich), Ken Balder (Chairman, Altadena Town Council), Sharon Hales (Chair, Crescenta Town Council), James Brooks (Vice President, Sun Village Town Council), David Hall (President, Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte Town Council), Ruben Barrales, Mayor Antonovich, and Juventino Gomez (Senior Deputy to Mayor Antonovich).*

A former member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Barrales serves as President George W. Bush's liaison to state and local elected officials. He is responsible for maintaining a close working partnership between the White House and the nation's governors, legislators and local officials.

Attendees included representatives from the Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte Town Council, West Ranch Town Council, Juniper Hills Town Council, Altadena Town Council, Crescenta Town Council, Agua Dulce Town Council, Leona Valley Town Council, Antelope Valley Association of Rural Town Councils, Acton Town Council, Mountain Communities Town Council, Littlerock Town Council, Quartz Hill Town Council, and Sun Village Town Council.



**“County Night  
in the Garden of Eden”**

7080 Hollywood Boulevard @ La Brea Avenue  
Hollywood, California

...  
**Wednesday, July 26, 2006**

**Enjoy smooth jazz and a live performance.  
Chill out by the fireplace,  
relax on the elegant outdoor patio  
or dance to the music of DJ Jonathan Phillips  
in between music sets!**

...  
**Cost: \$20.00 per person**

Purchase tickets from:  
CAO Workplace Programs, 500 W. Temple St., B-1, LA 90012  
or call Ana Gaona at (213) 974-2466.

You also may pay at the door, but must show County ID  
for charitable donation receipt.

...  
 (a charitable giving campaign event in  
partnership with 94.7 The Wave and  
Southern California Cadillac Dealers) 

## Supervisor Burke Hosts 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Quinceañera

A Sunday afternoon crowd of more than 300 people attended Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Multicultural Quinceañera at the Carson Community Center. The Quinceañera for 18 girls of different ethnicities was the culmination event that they qualified for by writing an essay.

Quinceañera is a Latin tradition celebrating a rite of passage for girls transitioning from childhood to becoming young women. Supervisor Burke, working with the Second District Latino Business Advisory Council, held this event to provide foster youth with positive experiences.

Seventeen of the young women were selected by County social workers based on an essay contest explaining how much it would mean to them to have a Quinceañera and why they should be chosen. While the majority of participants were chosen by County social workers, Hot 92 Jamz Radio Station made it possible for one young woman and her guest to participate. Josefa Salinas, Hot 92 Jamz radio personality and best-selling author, provided numerous contributions.

The several weeks of preparation for the young women was not merely selecting gowns and jewelry and taking waltz lessons, but learning job preparedness and goal-setting skills. Sam Perdomo, Chair of the Latino Business Advisory Council, served as the M.C. and officiated over the candle-lighting ceremony. Father Francis Aguilar of St. Joseph's Church provided a spiritual message and blessing. Supervisor Burke crowned each young woman with a coronet. The audience was delighted by the Quinceañera girls and their escorts dancing a formal waltz.



*The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Multicultural Quinceañera Court at the Carson Community Center.*



*Supervisor Burke with the Quinceañera Court during the Candle Lighting Ceremony*

A few days later Supervisor Burke noted that the lives of numerous participants had been touched by their experience. One young escort expressed his deepest thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to participate, despite the hard times he had experienced. "My parents were proud of me, seeing me all dressed up and most importantly, seeing me doing something positive." Another escort commented, "This was the first time I ever wore a tuxedo or took a ride in a limo. I know the event was for the girls...but the guys also enjoyed being part of this event. I was so happy that night when I saw myself on TV." Another Quinceañera participant expressed her thanks for the event and the opportunity to meet new friends.

Gowns, accessories, jewelry and flowers, as well as professional hair styling and make-up, were donated by sponsors as were the tuxedos. Thirty-seven sponsors made the event possible including LaFeria Restaurant, E.J. & Jackson Limousine, Cal Hannigan Print Shop, Albertsons, Lennox Coordinating Council, South Bay Workforce Investment Board, County Departments of Children and Family Services and Public Social Services and numerous others.

# Share It

## New Health and Human Services Web Site



On June 1, Supervisor Yaroslavsky along with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Director, Bryce Yokomizo and Chief Information Officer Jon Fullinwider announced the successful launch of a new County Web site known as LACountyHelps.org. The Supervisor announced the Web site launch with these words: “LACountyHelps.org provides County residents important information that will help them navigate the sometimes confusing array of health and human services programs provided by the County and other agencies.” He followed his statements with a live demonstration of the Web site.



*From right to left, Chief Information Officer Jon Fullinwider, DPSS Director Bryce Yokomizo and Supervisor Yaroslavsky are joined by members of the LACountyHelps.org Workgroup*

This userfriendly site, which is the result of a service integration recommendation by the New Directions Task Force, allows County residents to anonymously enter information about their family composition and circumstances to see if they might qualify for 26 health and human services. LACountyHelps.org is the product of a collaborative effort of County health and human services departments, Social Security Administration, and other government agencies. The LACountyHelps workgroup took special care to design the site to be easily navigated by inexperienced users. The site incorporates a video tutorial demonstrating basic computer skills, such as printing a page, and how to use the site.

What sets this Web site apart from other information and referral sites is the pre-screener that accepts the individual’s information about family composition, income, disability status, etc. and analyzes potential eligibility for a wide variety of helpful services and benefits. Once the user has completed the prescreener, she/he receives a listing of services for which she/he is likely qualified. Along with this list, there is interactive contact information. As an example, for Food Stamps or CalWORKs, the user can click a button to view the DPSS office closest to his/her zip code and to access driving directions to the office.

Anonymous data entry provides a safe, secure, confidential way for County residents to research which government benefits might be available to them. Since LACountyHelps.org is a Web site, it can be accessed from a variety of locations, such as public libraries, community centers, homes, schools, or anywhere there is a computer with Internet access. As Supervisor Yaroslavsky pointed out, “because LACountyHelps.org is anonymous and can be accessed privately, it will assist those individuals who may otherwise be too intimidated to enter a government office to find out about available benefits and programs.”

Please take some time to access the Web site, [www.LACountyHelps.org](http://www.LACountyHelps.org), and please spread the word about the site to your coworkers, family, and friends. If you wish to provide feedback, there is a “contact us” tab you may use for that purpose. The site is available in both English and Spanish, with plans to expand to the other County threshold languages in the near future.



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