

County DIGEST



OCTOBER 2006

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Mayor Antonovich Hosts “All For The Love Of Kids” Fundraiser

To benefit the more than 21,000 young people currently under the care of Los Angeles County’s Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS), Mayor Michael D. Antonovich hosted the “All For the Love of Kids” silent auction and awards dinner at the Edwards Renaissance 14 Theatre in Alhambra.

The purpose of “All For the Love of Kids” is to fulfill the special needs of children in the care of the Department of Children & Family Services that cannot be met with usual funding sources. The money raised at the event will go toward the Family and Children’s Services Trust Fund, which provides financial assistance to children and families for goods and services that cannot be paid for with government funding, including orthodontia services, music lessons, tutors, eye exams, cribs, beds, uniforms, and emergency school clothing.

“If we placed all of our County’s 21,000 foster children in one city, it would be the 66th largest city among Los Angeles County’s 88 cities,” said Mayor Antonovich. “We need to ensure that each child in our care grows up safe, healthy, educated and in a permanent, loving home by continuing our efforts to promote adoption for these young people. To help them grow and excel at life, they need a support system to keep them on a productive path.”

KTLA Morning News co-anchor Michaela Pereira served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the second time. Event honorees included Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Michael Nash, former foster care youth Venus Manuel, and Onnik Mehrabian, owner of Glendale KIA, who generously donated a car to the evening’s cause.



Picture from left to right are Michaela Pereira, then DCFS Acting Director Joan Smith, Judge Nash, and Mayor Antonovich.

Employee of the Month Health Services’

Diana Crispi

Diana Crispi has been working for the County of Los Angeles for 38 years and is currently employed as a Clinical Social Work Supervisor II with the Department of Health Services, where she is assigned to LAC+USC Medical Center. In that capacity, she is responsible for a staff of 15 people, as well as special programs including the planning and presentation of orientations. She and her staff provide social work services to patients and their families and work closely with the multidisciplinary team which handles 50% of the inpatients and outpatients of LAC+USC Healthcare Network General Hospital. In addition, she is involved in a variety of services, such as orientation and training of social work staff, as well as putting together educational brochures for the public. She also assesses existing programs, plans new ones and makes routine presentations at monthly Social Work Grand Rounds.

EOM

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“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

EVENT CALENDAR

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 December 10 - Glass: Material Matters

Through January 2007 - Breaking the Mode: LACMA's Contemporary Fashion Collection

Through January 2007 - Consider This...

Through January 2007 - Masquerade: Role-Playing in Self-Portraiture—Photographs from the Audrey and Sydney Irmas Collection

Through January 2007 - Long Exposures: Contemporary Photo Essays from the Permanent Collection

Nov 19 - Mar 4 - Magritte and Contemporary Art: The Treachery of Images

Music Center

135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

www.musiccenter.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Through Oct 29 - Cherry Jones in "Doubt"

Nov 1-Dec 10 - The Light in The Piazza

Dec 12 - Dec 31 - Edward Scissorhands

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Nov 19 - Dec 17 - Hansel and Gretel

Nov 25 - Dec 16 - L'incoronazione di Poppea

Mark Taper Forum

Through Nov 19 - "Nightingale"

Kirk Douglas Theatre

Through Dec 10 - In The Continuum

Walt Disney Concert Hall

135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

(323) 850-2000

wdch.laphil.com

OCTOBER

21 - Strauss and Mozart (11 am)

21-22 - Joshua Bell plays Mendelssohn

24 - Orpheus Chamber Orchestra All Mozart

27 - Ax plays Mozart (11 am)

27 - Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma (8 pm)

28 - TSYF: Strauss and Mozart (11 am)

28 - Colburn Orchestra, Joshua Bell (2 pm)

28-29 - Ax plays Mozart

29 - András Schiff in Recital

30 - Wynton Marsalis

31 - Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

NOVEMBER

1 - Joshua Bell plays Chamber Music

2-3 - Joshua Bell plays Brahms

4 - Keb' Mo'

5 - Joshua Bell plays Brahms

7 - Musica Antiqua Köln Farewell Tour

10-12 - Ax plays Mozart and Strauss

14 - Chamber Music: Ax; Mozart and Strauss

16-19 - Scheherazade

19 - Randy Newman (7:30 pm)

21 - Chamber Music with Adès

24-26 - Dvorák's Seventh

26 - Organ Recital: Jane Parker-Smith (7:30 pm)

28 - Green Umbrella with Thomas Adès

Los Angeles Master Corale

Oct 22 - Embark: Haydn and Glass

Nov 12 - Resonate: Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*

Dec 9 - Holiday Wonders: Carols, sing-alongs and fun for the whole family (1 pm)

Dec 10 - Rejoice: Cantata No. 6 from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*

Dec 11 & 18 - Messiah Sing-Along: Your chance to sing at Disney Concert Hall

Hollywood Bowl

2301 North Highland Ave., Hollywood 90078

(323) 850-2000

www.hollywoodbowl.com

Nov 4-5 - The Who

Nov 7 - Aerosmith/Mötley Crüe

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles

(213) 763-3466

www.nhm.org

Through Nov 5 - Spider Pavilion



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

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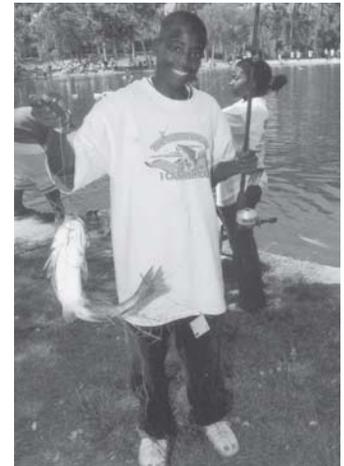
(213) 639-0940 FAX

Available online at: dhr.lacounty.info

Supervisor Burke's 11th Annual Fishing in the City

Every year Supervisor Burke teams with the State Department of Fish and Game to organize "Fishing in the City." It is an event which teaches foster children how to fish and allows them to have a care-free day outdoors. On August 18, 2006, Kenneth Hahn Park was host to the 11th annual "Fishing in the City" event. Over 400 foster children from the second district arrived to participate in the revelry. The County put 3,000 pounds of catfish into the lake and donated \$20,000 into fundraising to ensure an eventful day.

By 9:30 a.m., school buses poured into Kenneth Hahn Park, filling it with eager children. The children were first served breakfast provided by McDonalds. Everyone was then chaperoned to various stations where they learned how to safely place bait on fishing hooks and cast and reel with a fishing pole, before receiving their junior fishing licenses.



After receiving their licenses, the children were guided to the lake where they collected their event t-shirts and were provided fishing rods and reels by the California State Department of Fish and Game. While the young anglers reeled in some catfish, they also enjoyed Hip Hop and R&B music provided by Warehouse Shoe Sale.

Burgers, hot dogs, and tri tip were grilled by Halliburton volunteers on a 25-foot barbecue rig and served for lunch. Volunteers from PXP Inc. also generously helped with food service chores. After lunch, the youths participated in a dance competition which added to their enthusiasm.

All of the catfish caught were cleaned and sliced by local angler volunteers and given to the children. There was no shortage of enjoyment as the kids bragged to each other about how many fish they had caught. The event came to an end by 5:00 p.m., and following an exciting day, the children returned home happy and well stocked with catfish.

Supervisor Burke thanks all of the volunteers who donated their time to this special event.

Group Banking Project Begins October 12

On a motion by Supervisor Don Knabe, the Board of Supervisors instructed Mark Saladino, Treasurer and Tax Collector, to authorize banks with which the County does business to participate in offering priority personal banking services to County employees. These enhanced services may include special CD rates, discounted loans and fees, free checking, and other select banking services.

To promote the program, a bank fair will be held on Thursday, October 26, in the Mall of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles. The event will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will feature Bank of America, Bank of the West, Citibank, N.A., Union Bank of California, U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo Bank. County employees will have an opportunity to review each bank's products and services on a one-on-one basis. Similar fairs are being planned for other County locations.

Information on the banks' enhanced services and products is available to employees on the County's Intranet at <http://dhr.mylacounty.info> or at their departments' personnel offices.

In addition, employees may contact each bank directly and mention that he/she is a Los Angeles County employee by calling the telephone numbers listed below:

Bank of America (800) 782-2265	Union Bank of California (619) 278-5256 (ask for Michelle Kuebitz)
Bank of the West (213) 972-0555	U.S. Bank (714) 228-8004 (ask for Jill McCullough)
Citibank, N.A. (800) ALL-CITI	Wells Fargo Bank (800) WFB-OPEN

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:

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL: Rosendo Perez

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Katrina L. Rogers

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Ardis J. Shubin

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Charles E. Butler, Emogene D. Lee, Susan R. Mc Gillis, Michael C. Walker

HEALTH SERVICES: Judith A. Artherton, Gloria Clayton, Gwendolyn Conedy, William Cupples, Adolfo C. De Guzman, Theresa M. Esparza, Rose M. Evans, Juanita D. Gonzalez, Raymond V. Gonzalez, Arthur P. Kelly, Syn H. Kung, Joanne Latham, Yolanda R. Morgan, Jeanette F. Peter, Donna L. Valencia

INTERNAL SERVICES: Richard E. Abulon, Willie E. Dukes, Nicholas Kosciuk, Crystelle S. Nosaka

LACERA: R.T. Quintero

MENTAL HEALTH: Janet R. McLeod

PARKS AND RECREATION: Howard W. Oswald

PROBATION: John S. Cronin, Susan D. Quint, Larry C. Schryver

PUBLIC HEALTH: Kristine Henderson, Myrtis J. Tracy

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Cheryl L. Billings, Madeline S. Holguin, Irene V. Jordan, Alberta Long, Sara J. Meyer, Deirdre A. Williams, Thomas T. Yano

PUBLIC WORKS: John S. Thomas

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Barbara A. Murray

SHERIFF: Thomas R. Lapisto, Michael H. Williams

SUPERIOR COURT: Larry D. Frasher, Mary D. Garcia, Alan B. Hardey, Reba L. Murrell, Eva Rouhana, William A. Weir

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:

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Richard J. Young

RETIREES

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EOM

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“Her entire career is characterized by a search for more knowledge and the opportunity to pass that knowledge on to her colleagues and subordinates,” said her nominator James E. Piazzola of Diana Crispi. Ms. Crispi has demonstrated the willingness to go the extra mile in serving the public. One example of this quality is when she organized a multidisciplinary treatment team that included a clinical psychologist to use behavior modification techniques to treat patients that were bed-bound, disabled and obese. As a result, the patients were successfully treated, became ambulatory and were able to leave the hospital in improved health.



In another instance, she created a weekly Yoga Class for Oncology patients in conjunction with Team Survivor Los Angeles under a grant from the Lance Armstrong Foundation. “It is very satisfying to feel that I make a difference. It is very fulfilling when our patients and their families are helped to understand and cope with the medical and psychosocial issues that confront them. It is very satisfying to see the yoga program running at full speed for all three oncology clinics, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Documented research showed the improvement of breast cancer patients who participated in a yoga program following the inception of our yoga program,” said Ms. Crispi.

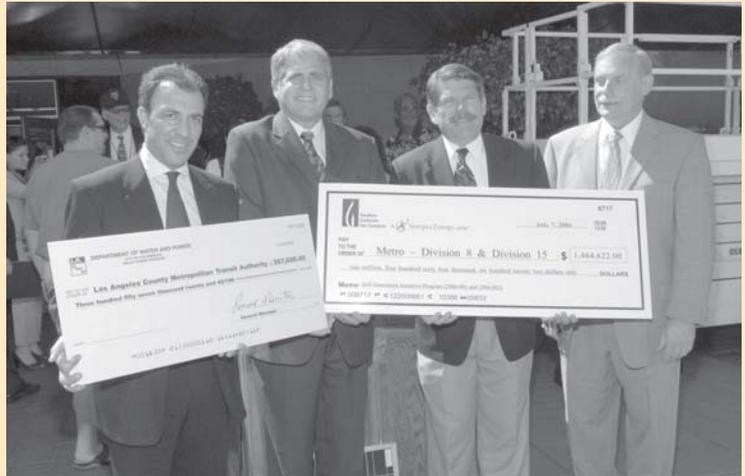
Not only is she willing to work with extra effort to help the patients, she also constantly anticipates the needs of her staff and creates opportunities for them. She voluntarily created a program of group supervision/education to help newly graduated social workers prepare for licensing exams. This program was open not only to her staff but to all members of the department. “It is very fulfilling when an Associate Clinical Social Worker gains the clinical skills to truly impact our patients,” she added.

Ms. Crispi is very active outside the workplace. She was a member of the Oncology Social Workers’ Association of Southern California and was involved in organizing the Oncology Social Workers annual conference for 17 years. She was twice honored with the Oncology Social Worker of the Year award by the Oncology Social Workers Association of Southern California and the National Association of Oncology Social Work. She served on the program committee of the Big Sisters’ Organization for seven years, and occasionally serves as the on-air therapist for The Group Room, a weekly cancer radio support and educational show.

Ms. Crispi received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Texas in 1966, earned her Master of Social Work degree with emphasis in Mental Health from the University of Southern California in 1989, and obtained her Clinical Social Worker License in 1992. She is married and has two daughters and a grandson.

Los Angeles County Saves \$1.46 Million

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (second from right), a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors, holds a mock check for \$1.46 million from the Southern California Gas Company. This check represents the MTA's rebate under the state's Self-Generation Incentive Program, which rewards utility customers by subsidizing installation of energy-saving devices and equipment. MTA qualified for the rebate by installing huge rooftop solar panel arrays at two of its San Fernando Valley bus divisions in Sun Valley and Chatsworth. The agency saved \$185,000 in electricity costs during the first year of operation for the solar array, which produces up to 20 percent of the two facilities' energy needs. The panels can produce enough electricity to power more than 100 homes annually for 25 years. Joining Yaroslavsky for the presentation, from the left: H. David Nahai, Vice President of the LA Department of Water and Power Commissioners, holding a mock check from DWP for its \$357,000 rebate contribution to the project; Rick Morrow, Vice President of Customer Services for the Gas Company; and on the right, MTA Executive Director Roger Snoble.



“You MATTER” Recognition Program



The day was aglow with an aura of anticipation, excitement, and gratitude. The stars were out that day, elegantly dressed and adorned with beaming smiles. Everyone was awaiting their face on screen, their name called across the room, and the award that would place them in the company with other “stars!”

Was this a gala night in Hollywood? Perhaps a showcase of entertainment's best talent? Or was it a tribute to the stars that sparkle the movie industry?

Not quite, but there were stars, and they laid claim to the day!

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Bureau of Workforce Services, hosted its Second Annual “You MATTER” Employee Recognition Ceremony on May 16, 2006 at Swiss Park Banquet Center in Whittier, California. The “You MATTER” program recognizes employees in the areas of Customer Service, Quality Control and Productivity, Public Service, Teamwork, and Innovation. The program also served to remind staff that their contribution and performance makes a difference in the communities we serve.

RETIREES

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Esperanza V. Valles

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Bobbie D. Burns

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Lea P. D'Agostino, Vicky L. Hadley

HEALTH SERVICES: Jaime P. Aguila, Clara Fuggins, Richard D. Gedminas, Vichitra Kanchanattup, Angeline F. Lagman, Vera Madrid, Geneva D. Mc Gee, Kerstin B. Pochmara, Ruthie L. Simmons, Phyllis Thornton

PROBATION: Taylor S. Fujii, Lisa A. Laird, Susan S. Santos

PUBLIC HEALTH: Thelma Richard

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Gloria J. Kamberian

PUBLIC WORKS: Paul E. Sazzmann

SHERIFF: Charles E. Greenwood, Bridget P. O'Sullivan, Ana M. Peraza

SUPERIOR COURT: Tamara A. Acuna

You MATTER
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ENRICHING LIVES...

Celebrating a Great Team

It was a terrific display of teamwork as professional sports teams and representatives of 23 countries joined County officials and employees to celebrate the Second Annual Los Angeles County Day at the Los Angeles County Fair on Sunday, September 10.

County Supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Don Knabe and District Attorney Steve Cooley were among those participating in the event at the Fairplex in Pomona, which included a parade, an Expo, a luncheon for department heads, and a horse race in honor of the County.

The highlight of the day was the parade – themed “Los Angeles County: A Great Team” — which featured an array of employees marching and in County vehicles, as well as sports guests and 150 residents dressed in their native costumes.

Thirty County departments and eight professional sports team booths lined the Expo area.

It was a fun day, enjoyed by both the participants and the fairgoers, and allowed departments to showcase services provided to the public and the great team of employees who deliver those services.



“Sweet Lou” Johnson of Dodgers; Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; Darrell Miller, former Angel who is now head of the Major League Urban Youth Academy in Compton; Supervisor Don Knabe.



Department of Health Services employees with Ice Dogs mascot.

Abel Serrano and Brisa Munoz of Public Affairs Office blow up balloons.



Internal Services Department Director David Lambertson with Fair friend.



District Attorney Steve Cooley and soccer great Alexi Lalas.



More than 100 residents participated wearing their native costumes.

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 |

Gloria Molina
Supervisor
First District

Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor
Third District

Don Knabe
Supervisor
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor
Fifth District

Halloween Events At County Libraries

Visit your local County library for Halloween fun! In October, County libraries will offer special Halloween stories at storytimes. Many libraries will hold special Halloween programs with guest performers or Halloween crafts. The list below is a sample of some special Halloween programs. Call your local County library for more information on Halloween events. You can find the location and telephone number of your local library at www.colapublib.org – click on Community Libraries.

October 25 & October 28	10:30 a.m. 2 p.m.	Preschool Storytime – <i>“Halloween Storytime and Trick-or-Treat in the Library” (children are encouraged to come in their costumes)</i>	San Gabriel Library, 500 S. Del Mar Ave., San Gabriel
October 27	4 p.m.	Halloween Howl	George Nye Jr. Library, 6600 Del Amo Blvd., Lakewood
October 28	3 p.m.	Halloween Spooktacular: The Magic of Tony Daniels	Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey
October 30		Halloween Spooktacular <i>10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – drop in for a Halloween craft</i> <i>2 p.m. to 3 p.m. – costume Parade</i> <i>3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. – animal magic show</i>	Malibu Library, 23519 W. Civic Center Way, Malibu
October 30	2 p.m.	“Halloween Spooktacular” <i>Local Gabrielino High School Drama Club students will present a “Halloween Spooktacular” play in their fantastic costumes at the library</i>	San Gabriel Library, 500 S. Del Mar Ave., San Gabriel
October 31	3:30 p.m.	Monster Mayhem <i>Storyteller Scooter Hayes</i>	Bell Library, 4411 E. Gage Ave., Bell
October 31	5 p.m.-8 p.m.	Halloween Party & Costume Contest	Hollydale Library, 12000 Garfield Ave., South Gate

You MATTER

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This year’s theme was “Focus on the Stars” and each district office and GAIN Region were represented. Thirty-six employees were honored for their accomplishments with a plaque, a Los Angeles County watch, and a trophy in the form of a shooting star to keep with this year’s theme. Additionally, sixteen district offices and four GAIN Regions were recognized with plaques for achieving departmental goals in the areas of CalWORKS, General Relief, Refugee, and Medi-Cal application processing, low food stamp error rates, Medi-Cal annual reassessments, customer service, and Welfare-to-Work.

The recognition ceremony also paid tribute to the Department’s Hurricane Katrina relief efforts of the past year. The Department processed 2,641 applications for Katrina victims and raised a total of \$45,299 to contribute towards the overall relief effort. Of this total, \$26,519 or 59% was raised by employees from the DPSS’ district offices/GAIN Regions. Our thanks to all employees who gave of themselves to help those most in need during this trying time.

DPSS salutes its “stars.”

Supervisor Knabe Joins Officials for Tour of Joint Regional Intelligence Center

Supervisor Don Knabe joins Los Angeles County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and Los Angeles City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa for a tour of the new Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC). The Center is located in Supervisor Knabe's District, near Norwalk City Hall. It is the first facility of its kind anywhere in the nation and includes staff representatives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement from several other neighboring counties. The JRIC is designed to provide a common information and intelligence-sharing network for law enforcement agencies in the seven-county region who investigate terrorist activities and other potential threats. Also attending the tour were Congresswoman Jane Harman and Secretary Michael Chertoff of the Department of Homeland Security.



Contests Offer a Rare Chance to Shine

Two recent events showcase the ongoing efforts of Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Educational Programs to provide opportunities for students with special needs to develop self-esteem and teamwork.

Students with hearing impairments hit the court in May for the Southern California High Schools Deaf Basketball Tournament, hosted by the LACOE Special Education Division's Larson East Principal's Administrative Unit at Downey High School. The eight competing high school teams included Larson East's own Selaco Seahawks, who took fourth place in the contest.

"Young people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing often have limited opportunities to participate in mainstream athletic contests," said Larson East Principal Roz Stein. "It's not as much about the competition as it is about the chance to participate."

In a contest of a different kind, students in LACOE's Juvenile Court and Community Schools and junior community colleges matched wits at the annual Academic Bowl finals, held June 23 at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. This rigorous scholastic competition benefits young people at risk who are typically left out of mainstream academic contests.

Teams from Camps Challenger, Holton and Rockey and from the Dorothy Kirby Center emerged with the highest scores from local contests and competed in the final competition. The fast-paced event involved debate, SuperQuiz and a multimedia presentation.

"Participating in the Academic Bowl is an extraordinary experience for our students," said Mercedes Cerros of JCCS, who coordinates the program. "For many, it is the first positive experience they've had in a school setting."



From Left to Right: Mercedes Cerros, Assistant Principal, Los Padrinos, Darline Robles, Superintendent, DeShawn Pearson, Student, and Sophia Waugh, Board President



Dorothy Kirby Center School students deliver a PowerPoint presentation on economic imperialism at the JCCS Academic Bowl.

Halloween Safety Tips from the Los Angeles County Fire Department

BEFORE HALLOWEEN:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories, purchase only those with a label indicating they are flame resistant.
- Think twice before using simulated knives, guns or swords. If such props must be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts. This is also a great time to buy fresh batteries for your home Smoke Alarms.
- Teach children their home phone number and to how call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free from any phone.
- Openly discuss appropriate and inappropriate behavior at Halloween time.
- Consider purchasing individually packaged healthy food alternatives (or safe non-food treats) for those who visit your home.
- Take extra effort to eliminate tripping hazards on your porch and walkway. Check around your property for flower pots, low tree limbs, support wires or garden hoses that may prove hazardous to young children rushing from house to house.
- Learn or review CPR skills to aid someone who is choking or having a heart attack.

FUN ALTERNATIVES:

- Find a special event or start one in your own neighborhood.
- Community Centers, Shopping Malls and Houses of Worship may have organized festivities.
- Share the fun by arranging a visit to a Retirement Home or Senior Center.
- Create an alliance with College Fraternities, Sororities or Service Clubs for children's face painting or a carnival.

BEFORE NIGHTFALL ON HALLOWEEN:

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- While children can help with the fun of designing a Jack O' Lantern, leave the carving to adults. Always keep Jack O' Lanterns and hot electric lamps far away from drapes, decorations, flammable materials or areas where children and pets will be standing or walking.

- Plan and review with your children the route and behavior which is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when revelers must return home.
- Confine, segregate or otherwise prepare household pets for an evening of frightful sights and sounds. Be sure that all dogs and cats are wearing collars and proper identification tags. Consult your veterinarian for further advice.
- Remind all household drivers to remain cautious and drive slowly throughout the community.
- Adult partygoers should establish and reward a designated driver.

WHEN TRICK-OR-TREATING:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Remind Trick-or-Treaters:
 - By using a flashlight, they can see and be seen by others.
 - Only trick-or-treat in well known neighborhoods at homes that have a porch light on.
 - Stay in a group, walk slowly and communicate where you are going. Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic. Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom). Never cut across yards or use alleys. Always walk. Never run across a street.
 - Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
 - Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations. Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops doesn't mean others will.
 - No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home. Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages that may be offered.
 - Law Enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

AFTER TRICK-OR-TREATING:

- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
- Try to apportion treats for the days following Halloween.
- Although sharing is encouraged, make sure items that can cause choking (such as hard candies), are given only to those of an appropriate age.

We wish you a safe and happy Halloween!

Libraries are vital to our communities. Los Angeles County Public Libraries provide resources and activities to stretch our children's minds, from the tots in a reading group, to the teens tackling their homework. And adults access libraries for information, for relaxation, and even to learn new skills, such as surfing the web! It is important to me that our Public Libraries are clean, safe and inviting community gathering places.

Upgrading our County facilities such as libraries has been one of my highest priorities since I began representing the County's First District—to provide libraries in the First District with exciting exterior façade refurbishments and a top-to-bottom new look for our community libraries!

This summer, I was pleased to secure more than \$500,000 to continue with this on-going effort. The Sunkist Library in La Puente (pictured here) and the La Puente Library received many upgrades. At Sunkist, we painted the exterior, installed new tile flooring, posted new signs and plaques, and installed a new book drop. I am really proud of the shiny new look.



La Puente Library also received upgrades. The City of La Puente partnered with my office and the Community Development Commission to select appropriate colors, signage and landscaping improvements.

This funding helped us provide face lifts for a total of 12 First District County Libraries. We spent about \$50,000 on each library. Rivera Library in Pico Rivera; Weaver in Bell Gardens and Bell Gardens Public Library; Montebello Public Library; El Camino Real and City Terrace in East Los Angeles; Norwood in El Monte and El Monte Public Library; and Walnut and Rosemead all received new paint jobs, signage, book drops and overall sprucing up.

Community libraries are more than book lending services. Our community libraries provide free service for all citizens and circumstances. Libraries provide a safe and welcoming place to read, study, learn and borrow a variety of educational resources. It is a vital part of the community, offering everyone the opportunity for free access to numerous items.

Each community library reflects the history of the surrounding community:

- Walnut Library - founded in March 1916, was replaced by a bookmobile service until 1970 when the present library became part of the City's Civic Center complex.

- El Monte Library - founded in 1890, offers magazines and

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

newspapers in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. It also houses the Cesar Chavez Self-Improvement Collection for Job Training and Career Development.

- Norwood Library, El Monte - began in a storefront in 1950 and now houses the Cesar Chavez Language Learning and Literacy collection. The active Friends of the Library group supports the library's programs and services.

- Pico Rivera Library - boasts a unique circular construction providing reference, children's programs, and a Literacy Center in English and Spanish.

- Rosemead Library, established in June 1916 in a room at Savannah School, has the distinction of having burned down twice—in 1921 and 1927. As a result, it relocated several times with its final destination located next to City Hall since 1967.

Also, plans for expanding Sorensen Library (West Whittier), the smallest library in the County system, to 10,000 square feet, begins in July 2007. The \$7 million project will create a multi-functioning facility with a teen and a study area, seating capacity from the current 12 seats to 84 seats, 20 computers and workstations, a dedicated meeting room for library programs and added parking to fully accommodate the larger facility as well as absorb some of the unmet parking demands created by the adjacent park.

These little vignettes illustrate why we call our libraries "community" libraries. Libraries adapt to the needs and flavor of the surrounding neighborhoods, schools and civic institutions.

Each library is flexible enough to serve community needs, whether it be reference services for older children and adults, literacy programs for those newly arrived in our communities, or reading programs for children.

Taking care of our libraries will always be one of my highest priorities in the First District.



Share It

DCA Wins Consumer Agency of the Year Award



In June 2006, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA) named the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) “Agency of the Year.”

The award recognized DCA for “30 Years of Responsive, Caring Service to Los Angeles County Consumers and Businesses.”

DCA Director Pastor Herrera, Jr. said, “Our whole staff is grateful for this prestigious award. The NACAA is a leading force in consumer protection issues. It represents over 160 agencies in the U.S. and other countries. Like us, they all work directly with consumers to solve problems, advance legislation, and support consumer outreach and education.”

When DCA opened in 1976, it provided only consumer protection and mediation services to roughly 60,000 customers. In 2005, it served over 700,000 customers with eight programs. They include consumer protection and real-estate fraud, small claims advice, elder abuse prevention, formal dispute resolution, and self-help legal services.

“Last year was very important to us,” Herrera says. “Our investigators recovered more than \$42.5 million in restitution for consumers.”

“Working with the Superior Court, we formed the JusticeCorps, a new volunteer legal-assistance program. And we headed up an award-winning Plain-Language initiative to improve communications.”

“Los Angeles County has a population of nearly 10 million living in 88 cities and 130 unincorporated areas. This award is recognition of our determination to meet the needs of this diverse population.”

Consumers needing assistance can contact the Department at (800) 593-8222 or online at lacountydca.info.

What DCA can do for you:

- Consumer Protection Division: provides counseling and complaint investigation on identity theft, landlord/tenant problems, credit, purchases, and automobiles issues.
- Small Claims Advisor Program: helps litigants prepare and present their cases in Small Claims Court.
- Real Estate Fraud and Homeowner Assistance Unit: is the central reporting agency for real estate fraud. We can also help you with problems concerning your loan documents, a home purchase or sale, foreclosure, and hiring a contractor.
- Dispute Settlement Service: provides mediation services to businesses, neighbors, and others to resolve disputes.

All of DCA’s services are free to Los Angeles County residents.



From left to right, Rigoberto Reyes, DCA Chief Investigator; Elizabeth Owen, Director of NACAA; and Pastor Herrera, Jr., Director of DCA.



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