



Firefighting Helitanker Arrives in Los Angeles County

Board of Supervisors Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, third from left, is joined by County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman (center), Chief of Air Operations Anthony Marrone (second from right) and five helicopter pilots to welcome the arrival of Erickson Air-Crane's S-64E Helitanker aircraft to Van Nuys Airport. On July 10, the Board of Supervisors approved a 120-day lease agreement with Oregon-based Erickson for exclusive use of the Helitanker.

Since the 1993 Old Topanga-Malibu wildfire, the Fire Department has augmented its standing fleet of dual-purpose helicopters with specialized initial attack aircraft dedicated solely to wild land firefighting operations during the high-fire danger months. The Helitanker's 2,600-gallon capacity is nearly double that of the County's Firehawks, and its self-filling snorkel pump can draw from freshwater bodies as shallow as 18 inches deep.



William T Fujioka is New CEO

With five eyes, the County of Los Angeles has a new CEO! A familiar face has returned to the County and is ready to lead us to greater heights.

William T Fujioka, former City Administrative Officer (CAO) for the City of Los Angeles, became the Chief Executive Officer of the County of Los Angeles on July 20.

Fujioka, 54, was selected unanimously by the County Board of Supervisors on July 10 to replace David E. Janssen, who retired in January but continued to serve in the role while the Board searched for his successor.

Fujioka was highly praised by all five Supervisors following his appointment.

CEO

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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 Boulevard, Los Angeles 90036** **(323) 857-6000** **www.lacma.org**

Music

Every Friday, through Thanksgiving – Friday Night Jazz “L.A.’s Treasures” (free admission)
Every Sunday, at 6 p.m. (free)

Arts

Through Oct 28 - The Arts in Latin America, 1492-1820
Through December 30 – Highlights of Spanish Colonial Art from the Coleccion Patricia Phelps de Cisneros
Oct 14 – Jan 6, 2008 – Dali: Painting & Film
Through Feb 19 – Japanese Prints: Word/Poem/Picture
Through Feb 19 – Japanese Painting: Calligraphy and Image
Through Mar 30, 2008 – SoCal: Southern California Art of the 1960s and 70s from LACMA’s Collection

Disney Concert Hall **111 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012** **(323) 850-2000** **wdch.laphil.com**

October

- 3 - Opening Night Gala
- 5 - 7 - Upshaw Sings Saariaho
- 6 - The Music of Sibelius
- 9 - Green Umbrella: Saariaho
- 10 - Andras Schiff Plays Beethoven - I
- 12 - 14 - Sibelius & Salonen
- 16 - Chamber Music: Sibelius Unbound
- 17 - Andras Schiff Plays Beethoven - II
- 18 - 19 - Sibelius & Stucky
- 20 - 21 - Sibelius’ First and Third
- 23 - Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra
- 25 - 26 - Sibelius’ Fifth and Sixth
- 27 - Barbara Cook Celebrates Her 80th! – “No One Is Alone”
- 28 - Mariza
- 31 - The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari

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

Center Theatre Group Through Oct 14 – Avenue Q

Nov 7 – Dec 9 – The History Boys
Dec 13 – Mar 9, 2008 – The Color Purple

Los Angeles Opera Through Oct 6 - Fidelio Through Oct 13 – Jenufa Nov 24 – Dec 15 – Don Giovanni

Los Angeles Master Chorale Oct 14 - Beethoven and Brahms Nov 18 – Haydn, Andriessen and Tormis

Board of Supervisors and Commission on Disabilities **16th Annual Access Awards Luncheon** http://laccod.org/cms1_065037.pdf (213) 974-1053 (Voice), (213) 974-1707 (TTY) Date/Time: Monday, October 15, 11:30 a.m. Location: New Otani Hotel & Garden Mistress of Ceremonies: Ellen Leyva, Anchor, ABC7

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

14th Annual Hart of the West Native American Pow Wow
William S. Hart Museum
Saturday and Sunday, September 22 and 23, 2007; 10 am - 6 pm
Experience the Native American culture through enchanting music, beautiful dance, and appetizing food at the 14th annual Hart of the West Native American Pow Wow! Whether you are watching the dances or shopping among the vendors, there is fun for all. New vendors are welcome. *For more information, call (661) 255-9295.*

Spider Pavilion
September 23 – November 4
After the butterflies have gone, spiders take over our South Lawn habitat. Curb your spider fears and join us as we welcome our newest exhibit. Watch amazing Orb Weaver spiders create webs, and stick around to see what happens at feeding time! Adults \$3; students and seniors \$2; children (5-12) \$1. Tickets are sold in half-hour time slots throughout the day. Members receive FREE admission and the first available tickets.

Los Angeles County Employee Energy & Environmental Fair Date/Time: Thursday, September 27, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Location: County Mall, Hall of Administration

Exhibitors will encompass energy efficient and/or environmentally friendly products and services that employees can incorporate in their own lives.

EVENTS
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Supervisor Molina Celebrates Splash Pad Summer at San Gabriel Valley Parks

For many Los Angeles County families, public parks substitute for private backyards. Especially for many First District residents, public pools and water play areas – known as “splash pads” – often provide the only local refuge from the withering summer heat.

Therefore, Supervisor Gloria Molina has prioritized the construction of new splash pads – especially in unincorporated pockets of the San Gabriel Valley. These splash pads have opened at Bassett Park in unincorporated Valinda, Dalton Park in unincorporated Azusa, Allen Martin Park in unincorporated Valinda, and Amelia Mayberry Park in unincorporated South Whittier. Los Angeles County recently opened a new splash pad at Ringgrove Park in unincorporated Valinda – and the kids love it!

To avoid direct sunlight while having fun at local splash pads, the County of Los Angeles spent an additional \$210,000 to install colored concrete and shading structures, which provide a vital respite from the draining sunlight and protect splash pad users from painful sunburns.



Local children enjoy a splash pad at Dalton Park in unincorporated Azusa.

EVENTS

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Utility companies, non-profit environmental education groups, green retailer, water agencies, Public Works Environmental Affairs, CEO Workplace Programs, ISD Purchasing, and others are slated to participate.

Employees will learn about energy efficient and “green” residential rebates, products, services, and practices.

The Los Angeles County Secretarial Council Presents Annual Boss-Secretary Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, October 17

Location: Luminarias Restaurant (323) 268-4177

Fee: Members/Associate Members: \$32; Non-Members: \$40 (Lunch Buffet Provided)

To register, please contact your coordinator or Ileana Lopez-Martinez at ilopez@auditor.lacounty.gov or (213) 974-8592.

Supervisor Antonovich’s Fall Trail Ride

Date/Time: Sunday, October 14

Location: Marshall Canyon Regional Park, Fred M. Palmer Equestrian Camping and Training Facility, 6550 North Stephens Ranch Rd., La Verne 91750.

Check-In & Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.

Trail Ride: 9:00 a.m. (followed by a barbecue lunch and live, western entertainment)

There will also be an overnight camp out on Saturday, October 13, which will include family activities, supper, evening hay rides and live entertainment and dancing.

For information or registration, please call Vince Pedraza, Department of Parks and Recreation, at (909) 599-8411. The cost for the trail ride and lunch is \$25. The cost for the overnight camp out is \$25. For both days the cost is \$45. For horse rentals, please contact Lee Graham at Graham Bros., at (760) 245-7695.

RETIREEES

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 AND FAMILY SERVICES: Joyce E. Hickman

FIRE: Edward McCormick, Gary A. Tepper

HEALTH SERVICES: Audrie M. Adams, Jesus R. Gonzalez, Virginia Gutierrez, Robert J. Habell, Graciela M. Lombardo, Laverne Vaughn, Jonaas Walton

INTERNAL SERVICES: William H. Freeman

PROBATION: Johnny L. Nettles

PUBLIC HEALTH: Irvette C. Black, Joyce E. Hickman, Rogelio Stone

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Ruby L. Berry, Cordelia Murray, Carol Maldonado, Irma J. Marshall, Leslie D. Richter

PUBLIC WORKS: Theodore A. Gustin, Hubert Seto, Howard York Jr.

SHERIFF: Gwendolyn G. Brown, Teresa Dickson, Anita T. Lio, Antonio Manfree, John M. McQuay, Dannita R. Robinson, Stephen H. Sharp

SUPERIOR COURT: Pauline Issa, Betty L. King

TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:

Charles P. Dowling Jr.

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 AND FAMILY SERVICES: Wyvonne L. Harris

FIRE: Marty W. Birdsong

HEALTH SERVICES: Laura Lewis, Charlyse B. Taylor, Gayle A. Taylor

INTERNAL SERVICES: James H. Allen

MENTAL HEALTH: Suzanne M. Bjork

PROBATION: Dennis O. Callwood

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Marta J. Reents

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Sabrina Beltran, Eugenia Fryer, Ty Huynh, Cuong T. Nguyen

PUBLIC WORKS: William Johnson

SHERIFF: Wallace C. Fullerton, John A. Lake, Genita E. Randolph, Jerome L. Wong

To join the *Retired Employees of Los Angeles County* (RELAC), please call (626) 308-0532 or e-mail admin@relac.org. Information on RELAC is at <http://relac.org/>.

Public Works Removes West Nile Virus Threat from Pacoima Wash

According to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD), the County of Los Angeles is now entering the height of the season for West Nile Virus (WNV), which is spread by infected mosquitoes that breed in pools of standing water. The GLACVCD has already reported that WNV had been found in mosquito samples collected from a one-mile stretch of Pacoima Wash near Parthenia Street in Panorama City.

The Pacoima Wash in this area has a soft bottom and is covered with vegetation that may support nesting birds and other wildlife, but can also lead to the creation of stagnant pools. Upon receiving notice from the GLACVCD, the Department of Public Works, which operates the Pacoima Wash, requested and received State Department of Fish & Game permission to remove the vegetation and began work.

“We cannot prevent WNV from entering the County of Los Angeles; however, reducing the mosquito population reduces the chance of WNV transmission and infection,” said Supervisor Yaroslavsky. Residents are reminded that mosquitoes can breed in extremely small amounts of standing water, can complete the cycle from egg to adult in just five days, and that a swimming pool that is not well maintained can breed thousands of mosquitoes each week.

The Los Angeles County Vector Control District routinely surveys for mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile. Our technicians survey the District regularly for sites where mosquitoes may breed and eliminate or control these as necessary. Please contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District Sylmar Branch below to report any standing water that you might detect in your area:

GLACVCD - Sylmar Branch
16320 Foothill Boulevard
Sylmar, CA 91342
(818) 364- 9589
Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. - 4:00p.m.



Or visit the Vector Control Districts Online at: Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District www.glacvcd.org.

WeTip WELFARE
1-800-87-FRAUD

Supervisor Burke Hosts 12th Annual “Fishing In The City”

Children from the County of Los Angeles Foster Care System participate in an annual “Fishing in the City” event

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, partnering with the California Department of Fish and Game, hosted the 12th annual “Fishing in the City” on August 3, 2007 at Kenneth Hahn State Park. This educational and enjoyable event teaches foster children how to fish and allows them to have a casual and relaxed day outdoors.

There were over 400 children who came prepared to fish and participate in the festivities. The County stocked over 3,000 pounds of catfish into the lake and donated over \$20,000 towards fundraising to ensure a very eventful day. The school buses arrived with enthusiastic children, who were anxious and ready to fish. The children received their shirts by the Junior League Volunteer Group and made their way to a pancake breakfast prepared by the Boy Scouts of America. Before fishing, each child went through a process of learning stations organized by the Women’s and Junior Teen Chapters of the Pacific Asian Volunteer Group. Each station had volunteers teaching the children how to bait their rods, as well as how to cast and reel. Upon completion of the learning stations, each child received a junior fishing license and headed to the lake for a day of fishing.

The children were guided to the lake and provided with fishing rods and reels by the California State Department of Fish and Game. Halliburton volunteers graciously gave their time grilling hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken for lunch on a 25-foot barbeque.

As the children caught their fish throughout the day, volunteers helped to clean and filet the fish. As they started to load the buses for the return home with their catch of the day, the children were given backpacks provided by Everest filled with school supplies.

Supervisor Burke thanked all of the volunteers who donated their time to this special event, and the generous contributions of all the event sponsors: County of Los Angeles, PXP, California Department of Fish & Game, PAVA, Superior Warehouse, Warehouse Shoe Sale, California American Water, Ralph’s, Smart & Final, Wal-Mart, Nabors, Boy Scouts of America, Everest, Halliburton, Phillips Construction and Coastal Print Works.



Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke joined by youth participating in the 12th annual “Fishing in the City” Event at Kenneth Hahn State Park on August 3, 2007.

Olympian Joan Benoit Samuelson Wins Women’s 10K in 14th Annual “Keep L.A. Running” Charity Race

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky congratulates his fellow runner, 1984 Olympic marathon champion Joan Benoit Samuelson, on winning the women’s 10K race at the 14th annual Keep LA Running Charity 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run and Bike Ride. As Joan Benoit, she triumphed almost exactly 23 years earlier at the Summer Olympic Games held in Los Angeles to capture a gold medal in the Games’ first Women’s Marathon. She also served as the official spokesperson for this year’s “Keep L.A. Running” event, which raised more than \$175,000 for various medical charities and the L.A. County/SEIU Local 721 Special Districts Employees Disaster Relief Fund.



County Library’s “Live Homework Help” Offers Free On-Line Tutoring

The County of Los Angeles Public Library offers Live Homework Help, a free on-line service that assists students in grades four through 12 with their homework. It is available through the County Library’s Web site on any windows-based computer that is connected to the Internet – from home, schools, parks, libraries, boys and girls clubs, and public computers in the schools. A valid County Library card is needed to use the service.

Live Homework Help connects students with expert tutors in math, science, social studies and English. After logging on, a student selects a grade level and subject area, and is immediately connected to a tutor for a one-on-one session. Sessions are 20 minutes, but students may log on as often as they need help. Students can get help in both English and Spanish, and it is PC and Mac user friendly.

For more information, visit the County Library Web site at www.colapublib.org. To use Live Homework Help, log on at www.librarytutor.org.

CEO

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“Bill Fujioka is a man of experience and integrity, who has a strong work ethic and a very independent mind. He is the right man for the job at a time when Los Angeles County faces some very difficult and critical decisions,” said Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky.

Fujioka is not new to the County. He first came to work for the County in 1978 as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and was a Human Resources Manager when he left in 1997 to become General Manager of the Personnel Department for the City of Los Angeles. In August 1999, he was named Los Angeles’ City Administrative Officer. During his 19 years with the County, he was an examinations analyst, civil service appeals analyst, personnel officer, and administrator in the Department of Health Services, including Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of High Desert Hospital/Antelope Valley Cluster.

“I’m very excited about this job,” said Fujioka. “It’s coming full circle. I appreciate the opportunity. It is an absolute honor.”

Fujioka retired as CAO of the City of Los Angeles in February 2007. He initially was not interested in applying for the County position, but changed his mind when the Board of Supervisors approved a structural change that gave the position more power. Most departments will now report to the Chief Executive Office instead of directly to the Board of Supervisors. Previously, the Board supervised the departments and made the decisions to hire and fire the department heads.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky said all the Board members have worked with Fujioka either at the City or County and “all of us have been impressed.”

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke said Fujioka has tremendous experience in government, with extensive knowledge of the County. “I am just very, very proud that we were able to get someone of this caliber.”

Supervisor Gloria Molina said Fujioka’s background with the County is an asset because he knows the County and its issues. “I think it is a big plus for all of us,” she said, adding that she was happy that all of the Supervisors supported his appointment.

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich said Fujioka “understands and appreciates the diversity” of the County and will work to serve those diverse needs. He praised Fujioka’s “excellent interpersonal skills.”

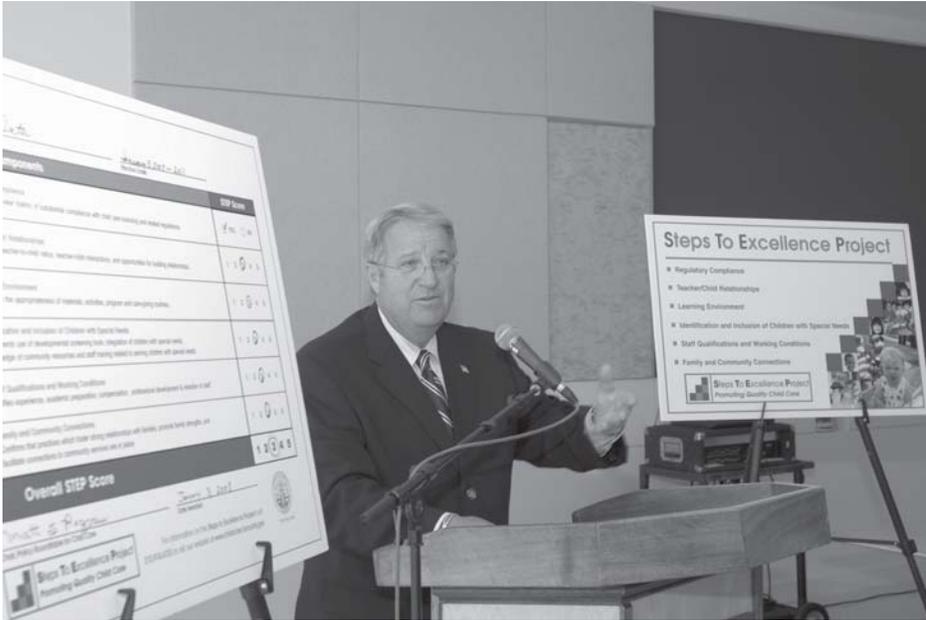
Supervisor Don Knabe called Fujioka’s appointment “great news.” “He has a proven track record of excellence, leadership and results,” Supervisor Knabe said.

Fujioka said his mother, Linda, was very pleased when the Board offered him the position. “The first person I had to call was my mother because after leaving city service, she asked me every week, ‘When are you going to get a job?’ and I got this wonderful job.”

Fujioka and his wife, Darlene Kuba, live in Bradbury. He has a 16-year-old son, Jason. His brother, Fred, is a Superior Court Judge.

Welcome back, old friend!

Supervisor Knabe Announces Child Rating System



The County of Los Angeles has launched the Steps to Excellence Program (STEP), an innovative new child care rating system to help parents make informed child care choices for their children, Supervisor Don Knabe announced at a press conference recently.

STEP will be the first program of its kind in California. As the County’s successful restaurant grading system has empowered consumers with information, the goal of rating child care centers is to educate parents and improve the quality and services of the centers.

STEP will begin by assessing more than 200 child care centers and more than 400 family child care homes in nine

communities across the County, including Inglewood, Long Beach, Palmdale, Pasadena, Pomona, Santa Monica, Wilmington, Florence/Firestone, and Pacoima/Arleta. The program is supported with funds from the County of Los Angeles, the California Department of Education and the First 5 LA Commission.

“This is a great opportunity to give parents access to clear, concise information about child care centers that they may not have time or the ability to research on their own,” said Supervisor Knabe, who carried the concept of the program through to the Board of Supervisors. “The STEP program will assess six key areas that all parents would want to know about a child care setting, including safety, program quality, teacher qualifications, and whether or not they can accommodate kids with special needs.”

“Child care is big business in the County of Los Angeles and across California. In the County of Los Angeles alone, it is estimated that more than \$1.4 billion is spent on child care services annually and the demand for services and facilities continues to grow every year. But, with this increasing demand for services comes an increasing need for oversight and access to information for parents about the quality of care their children are receiving in these facilities,” Supervisor Knabe said.

Participation in STEP will be voluntary. Child care providers will first conduct a self-review of their services, and based on the results of that review, providers can either proceed directly to the rating process, or engage in training and support prior to submitting an application. On-site observations will be conducted by a trained field researcher in all STEP programs. Data from the classroom observations, as well as administrative records, will be considered in determining the STEP rating. A program at Step 1 will be meeting basic licensing standards, whereas a program at Step 5 will have better trained teachers, higher-teacher-to-child ratios, enriched learning environments, and stronger ties to community resources.

“Child care licensing standards in the State of California are based solely on health and safety concerns, and do not address program quality,” said Supervisor Knabe. “The goal of this program is to rate the quality of care being offered, establish a mechanism to distinguish programs that are meeting higher standards, and provide parents a benchmark to go by when selecting a facility for their children.”

2007 Employee Computer Purchase Program

Significant Discounts on Selected Computers Available to County Employees!!!

Until October 15, 2007, the County and leading computer manufacturers have teamed up to offer County employees and their families' discounts on selected new desktop, laptop, and tablet personal computers (PC).

These discounts were negotiated with manufacturers through a consolidated County purchase involving multiple departments. Only seven PC business models as used by the County are available through this offer.

No County financing or payroll deductions will be available under the program. Employees will be solely responsible for the purchasing and financing of the PCs.

A web page has been established on the County's intranet page at <http://web.co.la.ca.us/lacounty/ecpp.htm> for more information on the program. If you are unable to access this web page, you can contact the computer manufacturers directly using the information below:



<http://dell.com/epp/lacounty>
(800) 695-8133
Member ID: SS41670731



<http://select.gateway.com/lacountyep>
State and Local Government
(888) 888-6827

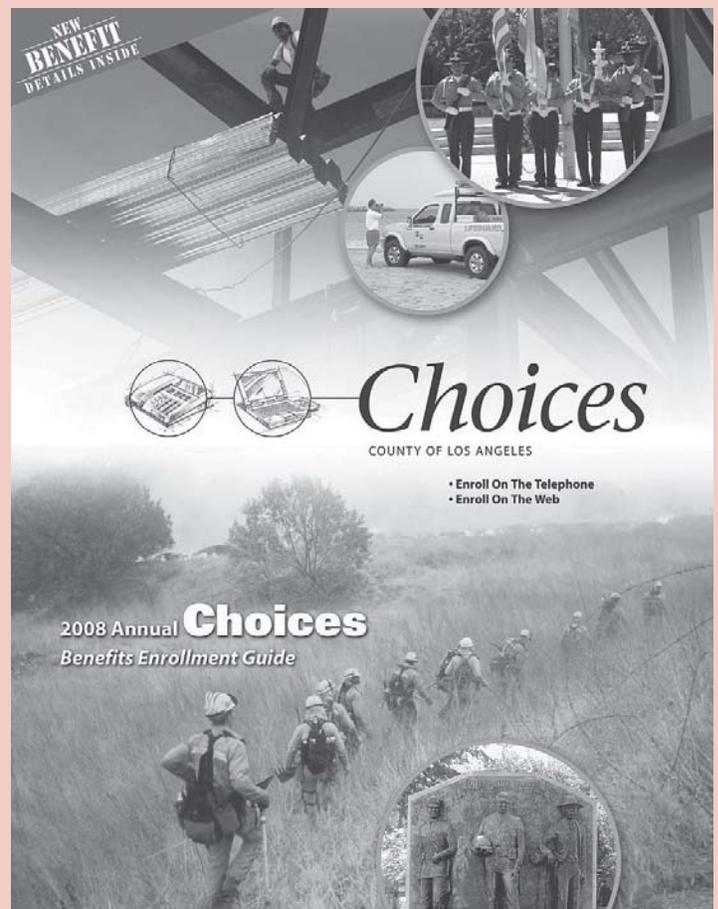


<http://www.hp.com/buy/lacountyep>
David Carrera
Phone: (562) 536-0377
Fax: (562) 536-0502
davidc@imprestechnology.com

Annual Enrollment for 2008 Benefits!

October 1 through October 31

New County contribution toward your Dependent Care Spending Account! Effective January 1, 2008, if you are in *Choices*, *Options*, *MegaFlex*, or *Flex*, you may be eligible to receive a County contribution that is based on your salary to help you pay for child and elder day care costs. How do you get this benefit? By signing up for the Dependent Care Spending Account during annual enrollment in October 2007. Be sure to check out this great new benefit when your 2008 enrollment packet arrives.



Supervisor Antonovich Hosts Event Benefiting Los Angeles County Foster Youth

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined KNBC 4's Jennifer Bjorkund and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) at the annual "All for the Love of Kids" fundraising event benefiting Los Angeles County Foster Youth.

Supervisor Antonovich initiated the "All for the Love of Kids" in 1995, to support the DCFS Trust Fund that provides services and goods for foster children that cannot be paid for with government funding. Services include orthodontia, school clothing, educational trips, special medical needs, music lessons and team sports.

There are approximately 20,000 young individuals in Foster Care in Los Angeles County. Each of them has suffered from various forms of abuse and neglect. "We need to ensure that each child grows up safe, healthy, educated and in permanent, loving homes," said Supervisor Antonovich.

Last year, "All for the Love of Kids" raised almost \$50,000, and the Trust Fund awarded over \$115,000 to enrich the lives of County foster youth.



2008
Annual Benefits
Enrollment
Guide

Options
County of
Los Angeles

Live Better...

...Take the next step toward
a healthier lifestyle

megaFlex

A flexible benefits program for employees
of the County of Los Angeles

Professionalism
Compassion
Accountability
Integrity
Commitment
Responsiveness

Respect for diversity
A can-do attitude

2008 Annual Benefits Enrollment Guide

ENRICHING LIVES...

Childhood Lead Awareness Art Contest Winners Announced *Theme: Ways to Reduce Lead Hazards*

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Lead Awareness Art Contest. The theme, “Lead-free Children for a Healthy Today and Tomorrow” focuses on ways to reduce lead hazards in the home and environment. The contest’s message is timely, after recent reports of toys being recalled due to lead. Public Health cannot comment on the recall however, it can give health-related advice to those concerned about lead poisoning and about lead in toys.

“Lead poisoning is the number one environmental disease among our nation’s children. Last year, more than 500 children in Los Angeles County were lead poisoned,” said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “Lead poisoning is preventable and we are working in communities across the County of Los Angeles to educate and provide resources to families to solve this preventable health problem.”

Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick, and the only way to know if a child has been lead poisoned is through a blood test. Children under the age of six are at greatest risk of negative health effects, such as permanent learning and behavior problems, associated with lead poisoning. Parents are encouraged to take their children to a doctor if they suspect their child has been lead poisoned, and to specifically ask for a blood lead test.

The most common way children in the County of Los Angeles are poisoned by lead is by exposure to lead-based paint, especially if it is deteriorating. Lead-based paint is commonly found in houses, apartments, and buildings built before 1979. Dust from the paint could settle on toys, windowsills, and floors, causing children to swallow the dust or paint chips. Certain occupations and hobbies of parents, some traditional or folk health remedies (e.g., azarcón and greta), some imported dishes and ceramics, and some imported candies can bring lead into the home.

“We promote the Lead Awareness Art Contest every year as one way to educate students, their parents, teachers, and the community about lead poisoning prevention,” said Angie Toyota, CLPPP director. “In addition to the Art Contest, many schools invite Public Health to provide educational information at their parent meetings.”

Contestants’ entries were judged according to grade level, originality in art, and design quality. Judges also looked for good demonstrations of knowledge of lead sources, and different ways lead poisoning can be prevented. The panel of judges included community stakeholders, staff from Public Health, and community service organizations.

The winners of this year’s contest are (all winners first-place, unless otherwise noted):

- Pablo Rivas, 5th Grade
24th Street Elementary School, Los Angeles
- Morgan Gonzalez, Kindergarten
Broad Avenue Elementary, Wilmington
- Nancy Beltran, Kindergarten - 2nd Place Winner
Broad Avenue Elementary, Wilmington
- John Mubara, 2nd Grade
Castlebay Lane Elementary, Northridge
- Audrey Kim, 2nd Grade - 2nd Place Winner
Castlebay Lane Elementary, Northridge



- Hannah Choe, 3rd Grade
Castlebay Lane Elementary, Northridge
- Heather Friedman, 3rd Grade - 2nd Place Winner
Castlebay Lane Elementary, Northridge
- Tessa Weinberg, 4th Grade
Castlebay Lane Elementary, Northridge
- Sally Rubio, 9th Grade
Santana High School, Rowland Heights
- Deisy Aviles, 10th Grade
Santana High School, Rowland Heights
- Laura Hernandez, 10th Grade - 2nd Place Winner
Santana High School, Rowland Heights
- Kimberly Rodriguez, 11th Grade
Santana High School, Rowland Heights
- Sandra Ayala, 12th Grade
Santana High School, Rowland Heights
- Kory Basquez, 1st Grade
St. Stephen Martyr School, Monterey Park
- Riana Chen, 6th Grade
St. Stephen Martyr School, Monterey Park

Students and their teacher sponsors received a cash award. Students also received a trophy, which was presented at their school assembly.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the over 10 million residents of the County of Los Angeles. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises more than 4,000 employees and an annual budget exceeding \$700 million. For more information on Public Health, please visit www.lapublichealth.org.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 21-27. County employees and the public can call our hotline at 800-LA-4-LEAD to get answers to their questions on lead poisoning prevention, as well as information on schools participating in the art contest for 2008.

County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan



County Vision

“Enriching Lives”

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



Quality and Productivity Commission Brings Federal Plain Language Expert to the County!

The Quality and Productivity Commission brought an internationally recognized Plain Language expert to the County to help kick-off Phase II of the *Countywide Plain Language Initiative*. Dr. Annetta L. Cheek facilitated two workshops for over 50 County managers, representing 30 departments. The managers gave the workshops an “outstanding” evaluation, citing her “humor” and “honest and to-the-point” style.

Dr. Cheek is chair of the nonprofit Center for Plain Language. She has 14 years experience in communications as a leading expert in Plain Language, including 12 years as chair of the federal interagency group promoting government use of plain language-PLAIN.

The two workshops kicked off Phase II of the Commission’s *Countywide Plain Language Initiative*. The Commission has actively promoted Plain Language throughout the County since 2004. Last year, the Commission sponsored a pilot program using the plain language software “StyleWriter.” StyleWriter is a software program that helps managers by prompting them to trim excess words, simplify and clarify style, and check for good English use.

In February 2007, the Quality and Productivity Commission obtained a grant from the Chief Information Office Information Technology Fund to buy 2,000 StyleWriter and Electronic Writing Course licenses. The Commission is now distributing these licenses to County departments.



Plain Language in government has many benefits, e.g. it saves time and money and results in better compliance with instructions. And, says Dr. Cheek, “People think you’re smarter when you write in plain language.”

For more information about the Countywide Plain Language Initiative, please visit <http://qpc.co.la.ca.us/pl.asp>.

“Plain language is an approach to communication that begins with the needs of the reader. It matches their needs with the writer’s, resulting in effective and efficient communication. It is effective because the reader can understand the message. It is efficient because the reader can understand the message the first time.” – *Dr. Annetta Cheek*

County DIGEST is
also available online at
<http://dhr.lacounty.info/county.pdf>

Supervisor Burke Joined By Lawndale City Officials and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for Groundbreaking of New Public Library in the City of Lawndale

On August 6, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke joined Lawndale city officials and the County Public Library and Public Works Departments to break ground on a new library in the city of Lawndale. The ceremony marked the construction of a new 17,360 square-foot library in Lawndale’s civic center, which will be five times larger than the former 3,203 square-foot facility.

The new library will include a large adult reading area, homework and career centers, community meeting rooms, a technology training room, conference and group study rooms, a Friends of the Library Room, a teen area with multimedia listening/viewing stations, a children’s area with dedicated storytelling, a Family Place Program for parents and young children, self-checkout stations, and 37 public access computers. The books and materials collection will transfer to the new library and will be augmented by new materials, as well. The Lawndale Library is expected to open in November 2008.

Exercise Classes at the Hall of Administration

Exercise Classes

Weekly exercise classes are held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Room B-62. Employees may take the classes upon signing an agreement of release, assumption of risk, and waiver of liability. For your reference, below is the most current schedule.

CLASS	INSTRUCTOR/COST	DAY OF WEEK/TIME
Salsa (Beginning)	FREE	Monday from noon to 12:50 p.m.
Yoga (All Levels)	Robert Taylor/\$10 per class, \$60 for 7 Classes	Monday from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Yoga (All Levels)	Sam Graham/\$10 per class, \$45 for 5 classes	Tuesday from noon to 12:50 p.m.
Mat Pilates (Beginning)	Abby Roya/\$10 per class, \$48 for 6 classes	Wednesday from noon to 12:50 p.m.
Cardio Salsa	FREE	Wednesday from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Cardio Salsa	FREE	Thursday from noon to 12:50 p.m..
Yoga (All Levels)	Robert Taylor/\$10 per class, \$60 for 7 Classes	Friday from noon to 12:50 p.m.

Healthy Connections Seminars

Healthy Connections seminars are free, hour-long seminars held once a month at Noon at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Room B-62. The seminars are held on a walk-in basis. There is no need to RSVP. The seminars are informal and employees are encouraged to bring a “brown bag” lunch. They provide employees with information on various health topics. The upcoming 2007 seminar dates and topics are:

September 27	Sleeping Disorders – Getting Better ZZZZs
October 18	Cancer Awareness
November 8	Healthy Cooking for the Holidays
December 6	Beating the Holiday Blues

For more information, call your departmental Wellness Coordinator or Diana Fonseca of the Department of Human Resources at (213) 738-2236.



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

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New County Public Health Laboratory Dedicated

Supervisor Don Knabe and leaders from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health recently participated in the ribbon-cutting and dedication of a new laboratory. The public health lab is the County's focal point for testing, observation, and rapid response on hundreds of thousands of human specimens and environmental samples.

"Through the testing services at this multi-million dollar, technologically advanced lab, we can quickly test water and food for contamination, identify the sources of disease outbreaks and limit their spread, and test and treat patients with serious, communicable diseases as quickly as possible," said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer.

"The lab is a key component in our fight against terrorism through testing for chemical and biological agents in environmental samples and human specimens."

The facility, located in the City of Downey, opened its doors in March. The previous laboratory had been housed in downtown Los Angeles. The new, more spacious location allows for the implementation of advanced technology and equipment that increases the lab's capabilities. The bigger facility gives approximately 165 staff room to safely and effectively do their jobs in over 34,000 square feet of laboratory space.

"The dedication of this facility is about something very critical in the life of this County and the services we provide to our over 10 million residents," said Supervisor Knabe. "This laboratory and its dedicated staff are committed to the singular goal of keeping you and your family safe from disease and biological threats. The work that will be completed in this facility will touch the life of every person in this County in a positive way."

Los Angeles County's public health lab is unique among other local public health laboratories in California due to the volume of testing it performs. The laboratory conducts more than 700,000 tests on more than 400,000 specimens per year. It serves the needs of more than 10 million residents and tens of thousands of visitors in the County.

The work the laboratory does to support the health and well-being of the public includes the following:

- Specialized monitoring and reference testing for the detection of biological and chemical terrorism agents in environmental samples and human specimens.
- Testing drinking water and recreational water for harmful bacteria.



- Supporting the tuberculosis control program through testing patient specimens to detect and identify active TB cases. The lab also tests for TB strains that may be multi-drug or extremely-drug resistant, in order to guide effective patient treatment and to determine if there is an outbreak.
- Testing foods for the possibility of contamination, which means a faster response on recalls of tainted items.
- Testing specimens during disease outbreaks, such as Hepatitis A, E. Coli O157, botulism, and salmonellosis, to prevent further spread and quickly treat those affected.
- Testing for the presence of West Nile Virus and other viruses transmitted by mosquitoes.
- Blood lead testing to detect elevated levels of lead in children.
- Performing rabies testing on potentially infected animals as part of an on-going rabies control program.
- Supporting HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease programs through patient specimen testing, outreach programs, and demonstration projects to enhance disease control and prevention efforts.
- Training, education, and consultation for laboratory personnel within and outside of Los Angeles County.
- Providing reference and specialized testing to help hospital laboratories and doctors in diagnosing unusual and rare diseases.
- Identifying emerging diseases and new strains of germs that cause disease.

This state-of-the-art facility is necessary for the protection and health of those in the County of Los Angeles. Through testing and monitoring, Public Health officials are better able to prevent widespread illness in the community.

Supervisor Antonovich Dedicates St. Joseph's Manor



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined Sister Maria and Jenny Garibay, representatives from the Sun Village and Littlerock Town Councils, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the community to dedicate St. Joseph's Manor in Littlerock.

St. Joseph's Manor provides transitional housing, and long-term services for young emancipated women and their children in conjunction with DCFS. Services include life skills and job training, assistance towards the completion of their high school education and self-sufficiency training. Since St. Joseph's opened its doors on August 1, it has already welcomed two families into its facility.

"This shelter is the result of a successful public/private partnership, and will help address issues concerning emancipated youth in the Antelope Valley," said Supervisor Antonovich. "Just as youth who

leave their families as young adults depend upon the continued support of their birth parents to meet their individualized needs and become productive citizens, so do youth emancipating from foster care." In July, Supervisor Antonovich donated \$750,000 towards the purchasing of St. Joseph's Manor's building and operational fees.

Each year, more than 4,000 youth emancipate from California's Foster Care System, with more than 1,400 emancipating from Los Angeles County alone. Research shows that most youth who emancipate without permanency or a connection to a committed adult, do so without adequate resources to succeed, placing them at greater risk of unemployment, long term dependence on public assistance, homelessness, substance abuse/mental health issues and incarceration.

In January, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Antonovich's motion to send a five-signature letter to California State Assemblyman Bill Maze, urging him to author legislation to continue services and provide financial support for emancipated youth between the ages of 18 and 21. As a result of the letter, Assemblyman Maze authored AB713 which will continue services for emancipated youth including housing and education, job training and retention skills, and other specialized services as they transition to adulthood.

Visit <http://dhr.lacounty.info>
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employment opportunities
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County of Los Angeles

All About Us



Employees of the County of Los Angeles



LA COUNTY STARS! Summer 2007 Recipients



Service Excellence Award
Assessor's
Chrystal Taylor



Service Excellence Award
Chief Administrative Office's
Lesley Blacher



Organizational Effectiveness Award
Public Health's
Patricia Alexander



Service Excellence Award
Mental Health's
Rio Hondo Healthy Living Group



Debra Cifuentes-Hernandez, Dwayne Clements, Mimi Gervacio, Jeff Johnson, Luis Orozco, Dr. Sandhya Panguluri, Young Pearl, Leticia Guzman Soydan, Doni Yoo



Workforce Excellence Award
Health Services'
Marigene Lim



Service Excellence Award
Parks and Recreation's
Sandy Dininger



Organizational Effectiveness Award
Public Social Services and Internal Services'
El Monte Annex Emergency Redeployment/Response Team



Public Social Services: John Armour, Joel Flores, Frank Reyes, Waldo Salazar

Internal Services: Gary Akopyan, Glenn Alapag, Richard Banks, Joseph Brambila, James Chapman, Lorene Cleveland, Michael Cornelius, John Guending, Jose Hernandez, Mike Homan, Narinder Kumar, Robert Mengel, Edwin Morales, Rudy Ramos, Ralph Rodriguez, Penny King Younger



Fiscal Responsibility Award
Fire, Human Resources and Internal Services'
2007 Firefighter Trainee Exam Team



Fire: Carla D. Williams, Inas Awad, Anderson Mackey, Arsen Mkrtychyan, Debra Thomas, Susan Denise Cambron

Human Resources: Nick Apeles, Jeff Kane, Marc Shartzter

Internal Services: Danny Chu, Samuel Komolafe, Dana Luu

Organizational Effectiveness Award
Mental Health's
Monju Shome



Fiscal Responsibility Award
Sheriff's
Pamela Gardner

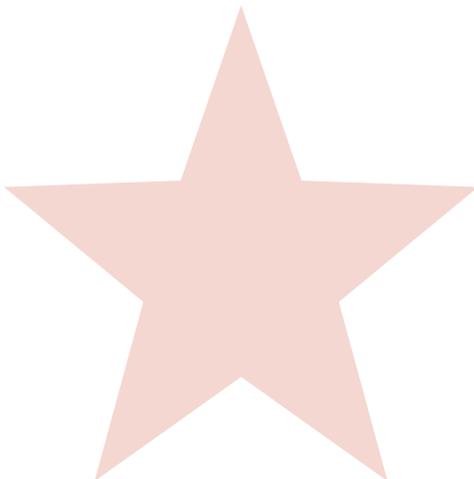


Organizational Effectiveness Award
Mental Health's
Amy Kress



LA COUNTY STARS! is an exciting new Countywide employee recognition program which replaces the Employee of the Month Program in order to expand the opportunity to recognize and celebrate exceptional achievements of County employees and to promote and reward performance consistent with the organizational goal categories of the Countywide Strategic Plan, Shared Values and Collaboration.

For more information, please contact the Department of Human Resources at (213) 738-2352 or go to the Web site at <http://stars.lacounty.gov/>.



Share It



Discover Marina del Rey Day Set for October 7

“Discover Marina del Rey Day,” an annual day of family fun and activities, is planned in the Marina. The Department of Beaches and Harbors and the Department of Parks and Recreation will present Discover Marina del Rey Day 2007 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, October 7, in Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. Parking is available for \$5 in Los Angeles County Lot 4, at 13500 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey.

A favorite activity among kids this year at Discover Marina del Rey includes the large inflatable games set up to climb in, on and around. The event is a free community event, but those who want to use the inflatable games pay \$5 for a wristband. In addition to the inflatable games, the wristband entitles people to snack carts and a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. Food and beverages are also available for sale at Burton Chace Park.

County employees are invited to come to Marina del Rey for the day’s events that include information booths, games, and performances by the Bob Baker Marionettes, and an air-sea rescue demonstration by the United States Coast Guard and the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The Department of Animal Care and Control will bring its Adopt-a-Pet Program to the event where people can adopt animals at the site and take them home the same day. From 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., the Venice High School choral group the Allegros, under the direction of Wendy Kornbeck, will provide live music. The Susie Hansen Latin Band will also perform from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



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