



A Message from Supervisor Yaroslavsky on the Malibu Canyon Fire

Santa Ana winds are suspected of sparking the first of a series of wildfires throughout several Southern California counties that began shortly before dawn in Malibu Canyon on Sunday, October 21. The fire moved erratically toward Malibu Crest, Carbon and Las Flores Canyons, above Serra Retreat and into the Malibu Road area south of Pacific Coast Highway before firefighters managed to fully contain the blaze by Wednesday night, October 24. When it was all over, the final damage tally included the Malibu Presbyterian Church, which was burned to the ground along with six homes and one business. Also, more than a dozen homes and other structures, including two local school classrooms, were damaged. Some 4,565 acres were scorched, and the cost of fighting the fire was put at \$5.2 million. Thankfully, no lives were lost.



Santa Ana winds were among the strongest in memory, making fire fighting especially treacherous. Winds at the top of Whittaker Peak in the western part of the Santa Monica Mountains above Malibu were clocked at 105 m.p.h. on Saturday night. Officials put the Topanga Emergency Plan into effect immediately as the growing fire threatened lower Topanga Canyon on Sunday and Monday. Residents of Malibu Crest, Monte Nido and the various canyons in the vicinity were evacuated, and citizens readily cooperated with public safety personnel. The Equine Response Team moved quickly and helped evacuate hundreds of horses without incident to Pierce College for safekeeping.

All in all, the fire could have been much worse. The hot, dry and windy conditions made for a perfect firestorm. Only the heroic efforts of firefighters, both in the air and on the ground, limited the damage. Fire officials credited citizen cooperation with the authorities, as well as compliance with brush clearance regulations for substantially reducing the potential loss.

Other parts of our County and Southern California were not so lucky. Our hearts go out to those in northern Los Angeles County, Orange, San Bernardino and San Diego counties who lost lives and a large number of homes.

I want to personally thank Governor Schwarzenegger, the State Office of Emergency Services and all other agencies that came to our assistance through a unified command and mutual aid agreement that characterizes emergency response in California.

Above all, I want to thank our firefighters, law enforcement personnel and other emergency responders on whom we have grown to depend in disasters like these. Los Angeles County and its neighbors have the best trained and most experienced first responders in the world, and we should never take them for granted. If you see one of them in the neighborhood, let them know how much you appreciate the risks they take and the sacrifices they make on our behalf.

HIGHLIGHTS

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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

Through December 30 – Highlights of Spanish Colonial Art from the Coleccion Patricia Phelps de Cisneros

Through Jan 6, 2008 – Dali: Painting & Film

Through Feb 19, 2008 – Japanese Prints: Word/Poem/Picture

Through Feb 19, 2008 – 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

December

1 - The Spirit of Bach

1 - 2 - Galway Plays Mozart

4 - Green Umbrella: Steven Stucky 20th Anniversary

8 - 9 - Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4

12 - Holiday Organ Spectacular

13 - 16 - Zubin Mehta conducts Strauss

17 - Go Tell It on the Mountain: The Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show

18 - A Chanticleer Christmas

20 - The Count Basie Orchestra: A Swingin' Christmas

22 - Holiday Sing-Along

31 - Paris a Go-Go: New Year's Eve in Paris

Music Center

135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

www.musiccenter.org

Center Theatre Group

Through Dec 9 – The History Boys

Dec 13 – Mar 9, 2008 – The Color Purple

Los Angeles Opera

Through Dec 15 – Don Giovanni

Through Dec 16 – La Boheme

Jan 19 – Feb 10, 2008 – Tristan und Isolde

Los Angeles Master Chorale

Dec 8 & 15 – Holiday Wonders

Dec 9 – Britten & Susa

Dec 10 & 16 – Messiah Sing-Along

48th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Music Center

WHAT:

Bring the whole family to L.A.'s biggest holiday show, the 48th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. More than 45 performing groups representing the many cultures of Los Angeles celebrate the season during this free, six hour extravaganza. L.A. Holiday Celebration is a gift to the community from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Even the parking underneath the Music Center is free. The entire six hours is broadcast live on KCET.

WHEN: Monday, December 24, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

WHO: Produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission

WHERE:

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center

135 N. Grand Ave.

Los Angeles 90012

HOW: www.holidaycelebration.org or (213) 972-3099

ADMISSION/PARKING: Free admission/Free parking in the Music Center parking garage

OTHER:

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may come and go throughout the six-hour performance. Reservations for tickets to the show or parking are not necessary. Those who can't make it to the Music Center can watch the live broadcast of Holiday Celebration on KCET.



Governor Approves Supervisor Knabe's Plan to Slow Jail Early Release Program

A policy idea first proposed by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe last year that would increase the electronic monitoring of convicted felons, has now been signed into statewide law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The Bill, signed by the Governor recently, could allow thousands of inmates sentenced for minor, non-violent crimes to be shifted out of County jail beds and into electronic monitoring instead. This would allow the additional jail beds to be used to ensure violent criminals serve longer portions of their sentences, a problem that now exists under the Early Release Program of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The idea for increased use of electronic monitoring was presented by Supervisor Knabe to the Board of Supervisors in July 2006. After the Board approved making Supervisor Knabe's plan a legislative priority, an author for the Bill was successfully sought in State Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles).

Under the old State law, many convicted criminals were allowed to choose between a jail sentence and electronic monitoring. Many criminals chose jail time instead of the electronic monitoring option because they knew that under the current statistics of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Early Release Program, if they enter the County jail system, they will likely only serve 10-percent of the time they were actually sentenced with, as opposed to serving 100-percent of their sentence on electronic monitoring.

Supervisor Knabe's proposal asked the Governor and legislators to revise the state law to ensure that the decision between electronic monitoring and a jail term is left to the law enforcement community and not in the hands of lawbreakers. Under the new law, electronic monitoring will become mandatory for certain non-violent offenders. As a result, it will free up much-needed beds in County jails for the very worst offenders who need to remain behind bars for more than just a fraction of their sentences.

"If a criminal receives a 30-day sentence, then why would they agree to be electronically monitored that entire time if they know the loopholes of early release mean a 30-day sentence translates into only a few days behind bars," said Supervisor Knabe. "The choice between the two should not be an option in the hands of convicted criminals. Criminals should not get to choose their punishment simply because one takes less time to complete. Length of punishment belongs in the hands of our judges and when a judge imposes a sentence, that sentence needs to stick."

"Ultimately, we need additional jail beds to ensure that every criminal serves every day he is sentenced to, but until that day comes, this new Bill will ensure that the very worst offenders will remain behind bars and that the electronic monitoring option will be used only for non-violent criminals. I applaud Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Romero, and all the legislators who supported this important Bill," added Supervisor Knabe.

Up to 2,000 inmates in the Los Angeles County jail system will be placed into electronic monitoring through the use of ankle bracelets. As of this week, there are only 413 offenders on electronic monitoring.



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

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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:

ASSESSOR: Kathryn Groschwitz, Stephen J. Kane, Kenneth F. Randman, Thearo W. Thomas Jr.

BEACHES AND HARBORS: Jack Childs

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Bryce Yokomizo

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Mary A. Moore

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Laura F. Brunner, Anthony S. Lawson, Delia M. Levy

CORONER: Frances V. Hicks

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Gregson A. Somes

FIRE: Robert J. Burd, Gary A. Sonkur

HEALTH SERVICES: Mary E. Blair, Leo Bryan, Adela Campbell, Carmen M. De La O, Delores A. Durant, Dolores M. Garcia, George Gums Jr., Bruce R. Hicks, Walter Johnson, Mary J. Lopez, Marva J. Newsom, Thomas T. Payne, Diana Ray-Manley, Linda A. Ruiz, Calvin White

INTERNAL SERVICES: Vernelle D. Anderson, Marina Camacho, Valerie A. Glass, Robert L. Williams

MENTAL HEALTH: Marsha Turner

PARKS AND RECREATION: Louis Payne Sr.

PROBATION: Amos Bedgood, Mary A. Charles, Ronald Shlesman

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Brenda J. Bradford, Kathryn L. Bradley, Barbara J. Holoman, James R. Hulin, Natividad Magdirila, Dannette Thomas

PUBLIC WORKS: Elisa D. Nepomuceno, Mark L. Sanchez

SHERIFF: Michael Aranda, Jerry M. Dyer, Marc L. Giardina, Robert K. Hudson, Ronald H. Griffin, Susan L. Johnson

SUPERIOR COURT: Frances C. Jefferson, Stella Ligutom, Mary Thompson

TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR: Douglas Kennedy

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:

ASSESSOR: Antionette Castaneda, Olga E. Marquez

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Mary A. Breault

CORONER: William F. Bell

FIRE: Lowell D. Sword

HEALTH SERVICES: Ram K. Chillar, Ernest Murillo, Heather P. Sherry, Lavern Stewart, Daungjai Suntorn, Jean Urushima

PROBATION: Doris J. Bradford

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Seda M. Avakyan, Sharyn Groslyn, Laura Soto

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Yong K. Son

SHERIFF: Linda A. Benson

SUPERIOR COURT: Carolyn S. Anderson

Holiday Boat Parade to Light Up Marina del Rey

The 45th annual Holiday Boat Parade, sponsored by the Marina del Rey Community Boat Parade Committee and the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, sets sail in the Main Channel of Marina del Rey on Saturday, December 8 from 6-8 p.m. It is estimated that dozens of beautifully lighted and decorated boats will participate in the event that is free to the public.

Theme of this year's parade is *Holiday Magic*, with prize packages awarded to category winners. Fireworks kicking off the boat parade will be shot off the south jetty at 5:55 p.m.

The *Best Overall* winner will receive two round trip tickets to Tokyo, Japan, to judge the *Illuminated Boat Parade & Contest of Tokyo Bay*. An exchange of winners has been established between Marina del Rey and Tokyo Bay to respectively judge each parade.

County employees are invited to come to Marina del Rey for this festive holiday event. Best locations for viewing are Fisherman's Village on Fiji Way and Burton Chace Park, located at 13650 Mindanao Way.

For additional information, contact the *Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade* at (310) 670-7130 or visit the organization's Web site at www.mdrboatparade.org.



Supervisor Antonovich Attends Groundbreaking Ceremony for Acton/Agua Dulce Library

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined representatives from the County of Los Angeles Public Library and the Acton/Agua Dulce Town Council to break ground on the new Acton/Agua Dulce Library.

The library will be conveniently located in a commercial area of Acton and will function as a community information and learning center. Plans include a meeting room for gatherings and educational and cultural programs, a children's area and storytelling space, study space, and public computers.

The new library will include a Community Learning Center for homework support and computer training, as well as a group study room, teen area, and targeted materials to support school assignments.



Fireworks Spectacular Greet the New Year in Marina del Rey

A brilliant display of fireworks will light up the skies over Marina del Rey on Monday, December 31, to greet the Year 2008. Beginning at the 30-second countdown to midnight, the fireworks will continue into the opening minutes of the New Year.

Zambelli Fireworks Internationale, which started business in Italy more than 100 years ago, will create the Marina del Rey Fireworks Spectacular. The famous fireworks can be viewed throughout the Marina, however, the best locations for viewing are Fisherman's Village located at 13755 Fiji Way and Burton Chace Park at 13650 Mindanao Way. Parking is available in Los Angeles County lots throughout the Marina at \$5 for the evening.

The Zambelli Fireworks Spectacular is presented by Supervisor Don Knabe and the Department of Beaches and Harbors. All County employees are invited to include the Marina del Rey Fireworks as part of their New Year's Eve celebrations.



Supervisor Knabe Provides \$2.5 Million for the Renovation and Expansion of the San Pedro Service Center

To ensure that the San Pedro Service Center remains a great community resource, Supervisor Knabe recently allocated \$2.5 million to be used for the renovation and expansion of the facility.

The facility, which opened its doors in 1972, has continued to expand its services over the years, while receiving few upgrades. In an effort to improve the condition of the 35-year old facility, Supervisor Knabe worked closely with many of the groups that use the Center. The studies revealed that the Service Center has simply outgrown its current configuration and will require substantial modifications due to the shortage of space and the overall condition of the building.

With the Supervisor's funding commitment for the project now in place, the County will begin to study how to best expand the heavily-used facility. The top priorities for the remodel and expansion include: additional rooms for senior programs, more childcare classrooms and meeting space for local community groups. The funding for the project came from Supervisor Knabe's Fourth District capital project account.

"The San Pedro Service Center is a vital community resource," said Supervisor Knabe. "I want to ensure that the Service Center, which has served the San Pedro community so well, remains a great resource for the community for another 35 years and beyond."

The San Pedro Service Center is located at 769 West Third Street in San Pedro. The Center currently provides a wide array of services to the community, ranging from a senior meals program, child care services, computer and citizenship classes, food pantry, toy loan center and more.

A Perfect Holiday Gift: Savings Bonds!

As holiday shopping lists for family and friends are being prepared, don't forget shopping at work is an option and U.S. Savings Bonds make a great gift for someone on your list. You can buy, as a one-time gift purchase, the traditional fixed-rate Series EE Bonds for as little as \$25 for a \$50 bond or the new inflation-indexed Series I Bond for as little as \$50 for a \$50 bond. Either gift will keep on giving, with interest!

So, this year, wrap up your holiday shopping the easy way and enjoy the season by giving government-protected U.S. Savings Bonds. You also may opt to give yourself the monthly gift of a U.S. Savings Bond through convenient payroll deductions. To purchase savings bonds, contact your Departmental Savings Bonds Coordinator or call Ruben Rivero, Chief Executive Office, Office of Workplace Programs at (213) 974-2523 or via e-mail at rrivero@ceo.lacounty.gov.



Supervisor Molina Opens Park View Terrace Senior Apartments

Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina joined the Southeast Los Angeles community to celebrate the opening of the Park View Terrace senior apartment complex in Bell Gardens. The gorgeous new facility provides 72 affordable one-bedroom and two-bedroom units – and for the next 55 years, only low-income seniors will be eligible to apply for one. Park View Terrace also comes equipped with a 5,150 square-foot senior center. It features a gym with new exercise machines; a spacious recreational room with a new pool table; and a pretty, spacious outdoor area adjacent to the main residence building.

“Building high-quality housing for seniors remains a top priority,” Supervisor Molina said. “But with the Southeast Los Angeles region growing more densely-populated—and with homes remaining very pricey despite the recent market downturn—achieving this goal becomes more challenging each year.”

This senior apartment complex was made possible thanks to collaboration between the City of Bell Gardens and the County of Los Angeles, which supplied over \$4.2 million in housing funds.

“Members of the Bell Gardens City Council deserve to be commended for supporting this affordable housing complex,” Supervisor Molina continued. “Many municipalities are tempted to greenlight only market-rate projects but by seeing Park View Terrace to fruition, Bell Gardens leaders have demonstrated a true commitment to supplying affordable housing. And many thanks also to National CORE – the developer of this project. Their mix of tenacity and flexibility make them excellent partners on housing projects across Los Angeles County.



Supervisor Molina talks politics with Bell Gardens Mayor Jennifer Rodriguez, Councilman Daniel Crespo, and a local senior at the opening of the Park View Terrace senior apartment complex.



Sunlight bathes the newly opened Park View Terrace senior apartment complex in Bell Gardens.

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



ENRICHING LIVES...

“Leading the Quest for Excellence”

21st Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program

The Board of Supervisors, the Chief Executive Office, and the Quality and Productivity Commission recognized the 21st Productivity and Quality Award winners at the Music Center on Wednesday, October 24.

“*Leading the Quest for Excellence!*” underscores the Commission’s commitment to promoting creativity, innovation, and collaboration. It also highlights the County’s commitment to department programs that support performance measurement and the strategic plan. Recognition of these high quality projects demonstrates that our dedicated workforce continues to thrive in our ever-changing environment.



2007 Commission Chair Leadership Award

Janice Y. Fukai
Alternate Public Defender

Alternate Public Defender Janice Y. Fukai is a department head who leads by example, carries out the mission and vision of our organization, and embeds the principles of quality and productivity within her department. She has increasingly contributed personal and organizational leadership and recognition at the State and National levels. She has an impressive record of accomplishments including building a department from the bottom up revolving around teamwork and an “open door” policy. The department was recognized two years ago as a Productivity and Quality Top Ten Eagle winner and received the performance measurement award. Since then, the department has pursued technological innovations to increase efficiency and staff productivity. She received “The Defense Attorney of the Year award” by the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Congratulations to Janice Y. Fukai as the 2007 Commission Chair Leadership Award recipient.

The Grand Eagle Award Winners:

Gold Eagle Award Winner

*Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
ERA Property Document Recording System*

The number of real estate purchases, refinancings and property transfers throughout the County has increased 75% since 1995, from 1.9 million to 3.3 million documents in 2005. The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk records all such transactions. The department receives documents from counter customers, from title companies and by mail. The department is legally mandated to record a document within two days of receipt. The Enterprise Recording Archive (ERA), a new digital imaging system, can scan more than 80,000 pages daily. This system provides greater automation of many steps in the property document recording process and cuts out duplication of effort. ERA scans, captures, and extracts data from document images and stores documents dating back to 1992.



Silver Eagle Award Winners

Department of Children and Family Services with Probation Department and Sheriff's Department MultiAgency Response Team (MART)

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of children placed in out-of-home care because of parental or caregiver drug abuse, gang activity and related crimes. MART is a specialized child abuse emergency response program which partners with law enforcement. This unique program allows immediate identification and assessment of a child when a law enforcement official makes an arrest in the home. MART has taken part in operations with local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies including the Sheriff, Probation, District Attorney, FBI, Homeland Security, U.S. Marshals and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. MART has successfully assessed and treated more than 4,000 children and the number of rescued children has continually increased.

Bronze Eagle Award Winners

Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) Department of Mental Health with the Los Angeles Police Department

The Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) targets populations of special concern to the Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles Police Department. The population includes high utilizers of all emergency services, 911 abusers, and clients identified as being at high risk of being killed by officers in "suicide-by-cop" scenarios. CAMP teams, consisting of a clinician, an officer, and a detective, worked proactively with this population. The challenge was to effectively connect this group of treatment-resistant and sometimes violent clients to continuing, comprehensive mental health services. The teams met with these clients before another critical incident took place and established rapport with them and their families. They also collaborated with the staff of mental health courts; advocated to criminal justice professionals for treatment over imprisonment; and finally linked these clients to intensive, outpatient, mental health treatment. CAMP has been able to reduce violent police encounters, arrests and jail time, emergency service calls, and psychiatric hospitalizations.

AWARDS

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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 <i>Supervisor First District</i>	Yvonne B. Burke <i>Supervisor Second District</i>	Zev Yaroslavsky <i>Supervisor Third District</i>	Don Knabe <i>Supervisor Fourth District</i>	Michael D. Antonovich <i>Supervisor Fifth District</i>
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Supervisor Antonovich Honors Tommy Lasorda on His 80th Birthday

Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich honored Baseball Hall of Famer, Tommy Lasorda, with a plaque and birthday cake on his 80th birthday and for his numerous contributions to Los Angeles County.

One of only 14 managers to be inducted to the Baseball Hall of Fame, Lasorda led the Los Angeles Dodgers to two World Series Championships, four National League Pennants, and six Divisional Crowns.



AWARDS

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Silver Eagle Award Winners: Department of Children and Family Services with Probation Department and Sheriff's Department MultiAgency Response Team (MART)



Bronze Eagle Award Winners: Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) Department of Mental Health with the Los Angeles Police Department

Other Top Ten Award Winners:

Abolish Chronic Truancy Program (ACT)
District Attorney

Affirmative Action Risk Management
Office of Affirmative Action Compliance

Educational Partnership Program
Community Development Commission

Service Locator
Department of Public Works

Group Diabetes Primary Care Clinic
Olive View-UCLA Medical Center

Zoning Map Conversion and Integration Project
Department of Regional Planning and Public Works

Heart Gallery Los Angeles
Department of Children and Family Services

Supervisor Burke Hosts Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa



On Friday, September 28, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke welcomed Sri Lankan President, Mahinda Rajapaksa, prior to a meet and greet reception hosted by the Board of Supervisors to greet His Excellency and the Sri Lankan delegation. Among the topics discussed was how Sri Lankan nurses could help stem the Southland’s nursing shortage by working in County health facilities. President Rajapaksa shared some of his ideas with Supervisor Burke and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Director, Dr. Bruce Chernof.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa (left) and Supervisor Burke (center) share a laugh with Department of Health Services Director, Dr. Bruce Chernof.

New Water Treatment Plant Opens at Malibu’s Marie Canyon

On Thursday, October 11, Board of Supervisors Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky was joined by City of Malibu elected officials, representatives from the environmental organization Heal the Bay and County Department of Public Works officials to dedicate a new \$1.3 million water quality improvement project at Marie Canyon in Malibu. The County-owned and operated facility can treat as much as 100 gallons per minute – roughly triple the average amount of flow – of dry weather runoff flowing from Marie Canyon, effectively removing bacteria and other pollutants before they reach the public beach at the canyon’s outlet to the ocean.

In recent years, water quality at the beach outlet of Marie Canyon has ranked among the three worst in the state, according to Heal the Bay’s Annual Beach Report. Designed by Clear Creek Systems, a Bakersfield-based water treatment solutions firm, the plant employs a filtration system using multimedia and organo-clay beds to remove common pollutants like litter, leaves, oils, and pesticides, then passes the water through a series of two UV-light filters to eliminate bacteria and viruses.

The County of Los Angeles operates 18 other devices in the Santa Monica Bay intended to divert low-flow urban runoff away from the ocean to nearby sewage treatment facilities, which have been credited with substantially reducing Santa Monica Bay beach closures during the summer of 2007.



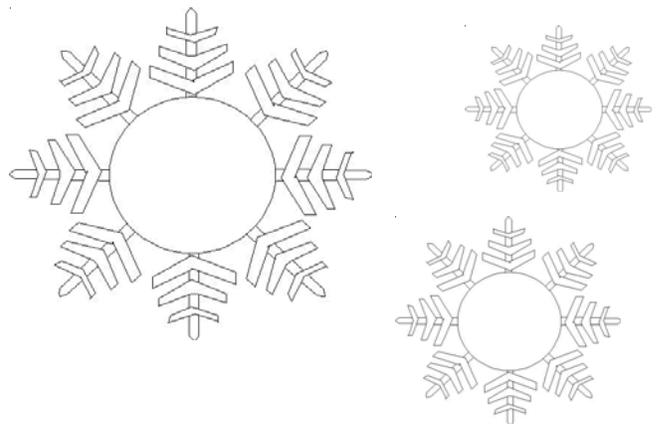
Holiday Shopping Tips from the Department of Consumer Affairs

These tips will help you avoid holiday shopping problems and New Year's budget blues.

- Prepare a holiday budget and stick to it. Paying with cash can help avoid overspending.
- If you choose to make purchases with a credit card, use just one. Paying by credit card gives you legal protections if products are defective or you don't receive what you ordered. Be sure to read the terms of the credit card agreement.
- Ask about refund policies before you buy. Some stores offer a full refund, while others offer only a store credit or no refund at all.
- Save receipts. You'll need them for returns and exchanges.
- When buying sale items, check your receipt before leaving the cash register to be sure you were not charged the regular price.
- When buying on the Internet, check that the website is secure before entering your personal or financial information. Secure websites begin with "https://" rather than just "http://." They also display a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen.
- Gift Cards and Certificates. When buying a gift card, ask if it can be redeemed for cash. The store's policy will determine if cash is given for the amount not spent or if the balance remains on the card to be spent later. Nearly all service fees on retailer gift cards and gift certificates are forbidden. In California, most gift certificates don't expire no matter what the fine print says.
- Donating to charity. Many fraudulent charities use names that sound like the real charities. Don't be fooled. Give to charities you know.
- Read a contract and understand it before you sign. Check the interest rate and the total cost of the item when interest is included. Ask yourself if the interest rate is reasonable and whether you can afford the purchase.
- Don't be a victim of identity theft. Do not give personal information over the telephone or on the Internet unless you initiate the contact. Do not write your address, phone number, Social Security, or Driver License numbers on credit card receipts. Before giving personal or financial information to a business, ask how it will be used and if it will remain confidential.

For more information, visit the Department's Web site at <http://dca.lacounty.gov>. If you wish to speak to one of our counselors, call us at (800) 593-8222 or (213) 974-1452 if you are calling from outside the County of Los Angeles.

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



A Thank You Message to County Agencies from Supervisor Antonovich on the Santa Clarita Valley Fires

For those Santa Clarita Valley residents impacted by recent fires, recovery can be a difficult task. To assist in this effort, Los Angeles County is working closely with state and federal authorities, our local town councils and the City of Santa Clarita to help rebuild our neighborhoods and provide the victims the assistance needed to reestablish their lives.

To assist the recovery process, two local assistance centers have opened at the George A. Carvalho Sports Complex in Santa Clarita and the Castaic Sports Complex providing one-stop sources for County, state and federal services including grants, temporary housing, loans for businesses and other resources vital to the recovery effort.



On my tour of the fire lines and the evacuation center at Saugus High School, amid the destruction, I witnessed our community's greatest resource – the spirit of cooperation and service on the part of selfless volunteers who gave of their time and energy in a variety of ways to prevent this tragic fire from becoming an even greater catastrophe.

I join with you in saluting the men and women of the Los Angeles County Fire Department whose professionalism and determination, combined with superb training and leadership, again prevented loss of life and property in the face of a tremendous fire in very difficult circumstances.

In addition to the County Fire Department and Sheriff, the County's Departments of Parks and Recreation, Animal Care and Control, Public Works, Mental Health, Public Health, Children and Family Services, Public Social Services and County Police, all deserve recognition for their efforts.

Together, we will rebuild our neighborhoods and be even better prepared for future challenges.

A Tree Grows at the Hollywood Bowl

Board of Supervisors Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky oversaw the planting of a new 25-foot sycamore tree in the Hollywood Bowl's Box Office Plaza as part of the County's ongoing Urban Reforestation Project. Replacing a diseased and potentially dangerous older tree that was previously removed, this sycamore tree – a beautiful California native variety tolerant of heat and wind, offering generous shade – is the largest of the more than 9,000 trees planted throughout the County of Los Angeles as part of the effort.

Under the project, by year's end some 59 Los Angeles County parks will have received 9,168 trees and planted 7,000 small shrubs. The Los Angeles County Urban Reforestation Project is funded by \$3.7 million from State Bond Proposition 12. All trees and shrubs are planted on irrigated Los Angeles County Park property by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps using at-risk youth workers, and will be nurtured and maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Tips for Keeping Pets Safe This Holiday Season

The holiday season, a joy-filled time for many people, poses some risks for pets. Here are a few tips from the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control to keep you and your pets safe during the holidays:

- Never feed or let pets eat chocolate or other candies. Chocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats and can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and even death. If you suspect your pet has eaten chocolate, get him or her to a veterinarian right away for treatment.
- Shiny ornaments on Christmas trees can be attractive to curious pets. Dogs and cats can suffer serious and even fatal injuries by chewing and swallowing pieces of tree ornaments. Make sure your pets cannot reach any ornaments in your home.
- Many people add special liquid preservatives to the water in Christmas tree stands. Some of these products are harmful to pets that might take a drink from the water. Be sure to ask if a Christmas tree preservative is “pet safe” before you buy it.
- Keep holiday seasonal plants and flowers away from your pets. Many plants, such as Poinsettias, Christmas Candles, English Holly, Christmas Berry, Christmas Rose and Mistletoe are poisonous to dogs and cats.
- Gift-wrappings can also pose risks to dogs and cats. Your pets may chew on wrapping paper or ribbon, and these can be harmful if swallowed. Also, do not let your pets play in or around trash bags used to discard holiday wrappings.
- Electrical wiring can prove tempting for cats to play with and dogs to chew on. Your pet can suffer a severe shock or become electrocuted by touching the electrical current in the line. Make sure your pets cannot reach or climb onto areas that put wiring in their reach.
- Turkey is a particular favorite during the holiday season, but the bones easily splinter and should not be given to pets. Bone splinters can puncture an animal’s gastrointestinal tract, causing serious internal injury, which could result in death.
- Keep your pets away from alcoholic drinks. The holiday season traditionally features a wide variety of specialty drinks such as eggnog. These are not good for family pets. Do not let anyone offer a “sample” of their favorite libation to your pet.
- Remember your pet during the holiday season. Be sure to pick out a new tag or other present for your pet. It makes them feel like part of the family, includes them in the festivities and gives them something to do while family members are opening presents. Pet stores feature a wide variety of specially designed toys for your dog and cat.

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control wishes you and your pets a safe and happy holiday season!

Three W.A.T.E.R. Camps Offered To Youths During Winter Break

The Water Awareness, Training, Education and Recreation (W.A.T.E.R.) Program of the Department of Beaches and Harbors is offering its popular aquatic sports camp that young people can take part in during their winter break.

Three camps are available for the winter program - surf camp, ocean-sports camp and beginning sailing.

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October 7-13 Proclaimed as “Mental Health Awareness Week”

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, and the Board of Supervisors proclaimed Oct. 7-13 as “Mental Health Awareness Week” in a focused effort to raise awareness and understanding of mental health and mental illness.



“Mental Health Awareness Week” is an annual observance created by Presidential Proclamation in 1986 to recognize the urgent need to educate the American public about mental illnesses and their treatments; and in recognition of the National Alliance on Mental Illness’ (NAMI) efforts to raise mental illness awareness. During the week, millions of Americans including those who reside in the County of Los Angeles honored the challenges of mental illness, as well as celebrate the recoveries they or their loved ones have embraced. Mental illness affects one in five Americans, and co-occurrence of mental illness and substance abuse is a significant concern that requires integrated mental health treatment.

The County of Los Angeles has made a commitment to community-based systems of mental health care for all residents. Mental health is a fundamental component of general health and indispensable to personal well-being, family and interpersonal relationships and societal interactions.

Throughout the observance and entire month of October, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) provided information on the Mental Health Services Act and other DMH programs, community providers and Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration/Ad Council national campaign “What a Difference a Friend Makes” in both English and Spanish.

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Boys and girls age 11 to 17 are eligible to join the surf camp, held at the Venice Pier at Washington Boulevard December 17-21 and January 2-4, and at the Dockweiler Bluffs in El Segundo December 26-28.

Boys and girls age 7 to 14 will have fun with the ocean-sports camp, held at the Venice Pier at Washington Boulevard December 17-21 and January 2-4, and at the Dockweiler Bluffs in El Segundo, December 26-28. Both camps begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m.

Youngsters age 11 to 17 can attend beginning sailing camps, held 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Marina del Rey Boathouse, 13640 Mindanao Way, Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey, December 17-21, December 26-28 and January 2-4.

The W.A.T.E.R. program, designed to raise awareness of ocean and beach safety through aquatic-related sports activities, is conducted by County Ocean Lifeguards who have received special training in working with young people.

Youngsters must pass a swim test in order to qualify for the camps. All equipment is provided and fees range between \$100 and \$135 for the week-long sessions. Financial aid is available based on family income. Free transportation is also provided from inner city areas for young people whose parents are unable to drive them to the camp locations.

For program registration, swim tests, or to request an application, call the W.A.T.E.R. Youth Program at (310) 305-9587.



Share It



Lend a ‘Helping Hand’...Participate in DPSS’ Adopt-A-Family Program

Bring joy to someone’s life this holiday season and become a sponsor in the Department of Public and Social Services’ (DPSS) *Adopt-A-Family* program. Each year, this heartfelt and longstanding tradition continues to bring smiles to hundreds of needy families served by DPSS.

Los Angeles County staff, individuals, groups, community members, and local businesses can all participate in this joyous and gratifying event by sponsoring families. Sponsors are provided with the “adoptee’s” contact information, along with their “wish list” of requested items. These items range from grocery items, clothing, gift certificates, or toy requests. The ‘Spirit of Giving’ is contagious and numerous volunteers who in past years have participated in this program have voiced this heartfelt sentiment. Volunteers so enjoy participating in the program that some gather together family, friends, and co-workers and hold “gift basket parties” where each person contributes items and their personal touch to the specially prepared holiday baskets. This activity is fun for the volunteers and a delight for the beneficiaries to receive!

The *Adopt-A-Family* program’s continued success can be attributed to the hundreds of volunteers that see the program as a worthwhile endeavor and generously donate their time and gifts. Los Angeles is fortunate to have caring people sharing and bringing joy to those in need.

The *Adopt-A-Family* program is the gift that can be enjoyed and cherished year-round by the Adoptee and the Sponsor alike. If you, a group of co-workers, family members, or friends are looking to make a difference this holiday season, the *Adopt-A-Family* is the program for you. Choose to make a difference in someone’s life this holiday season and keep the spirit of effective and caring service alive. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE! SPONSOR A NEEDY FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS. PARTICIPATE IN DPSS’ ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM.** For information call (213) 744-4348 or e-mail dpsvolunteers@ladpss.lacounty.gov no later than Thursday, November 29.

*“We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.”*
-Sir Winston Churchill



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