



Supervisor Burke Assumes Role as Chair of the Board

The year 2008 will be an exceptionally busy one for Los Angeles County Board Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, as she officially assumes the rotating role of Chair of the Board. She plans to be actively involved in all issues that come before the Board.

At the December 4, 2007 Board meeting, Supervisor Burke delivered the incoming Chair's traditional "State of the County" address, outlining her 2008 goals for the Board and issuing a clear message that she will not be a "lame duck" in her final year of Board leadership. She will be entering into the final year of her fourth term on the Board, serving residents of the County's Second District, before her retirement in December 2008.

With fiscal conservancy in the wake of the housing crisis and the reopening of Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital still among the County's top goals in the coming year, Supervisor Burke says, "I believe that we have to be prepared in the event that we see a challenge to the revenues that are coming in."

"We've been told that the State of California is in financial difficulty and you know what that means usually, they take our money," she said. "So we have to be prepared to take the kind of measures to assure that we have the resources to carry on the necessary services."

The failing housing market could have a major impact on the County's tax revenues. "We are facing a real crisis in terms of the real estate market in Los Angeles and we are going to have to be very aware of how we can address some of those issues," she said. Re-opening the Martin Luther King, Jr.-Harbor Hospital, which Board members have said they want done in 2008, will continue to be a top priority as well.

This January, the Board is expected to make a decision on a new health-care provider to run the hospital, which lost \$200 million in federal funding after failing an inspection by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in August.

"We can't delay. We can't take forever to negotiate with all the different people who have different ideas. We're going to have to move forward and take the best possible solution so that it can get open," she said. "As Chair, I clearly see my role as moving the Board forward in a way that will best serve the people of the County of Los Angeles."



Supervisor Burke and William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, stand before the County of Los Angeles seal.

HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 40 Issue 1

Assessor Helps the Malibu Disaster Relief Center.....	2
Molina Announces 1,065 Sheriff's Deputies Hired.....	3
Number of Missing Foster Children Declines.....	4
A Day Without a Bag Press Conference.....	5
Dedication of a New County Administration Building.....	5
Knabe Attends 11th Annual "Art of Rancho" Art Show....	7
Project 50 Completes Phase One of Skid Row Effort....	7
ENRICHING LIVES: Back to Basics.....	8-9
Antonovich Honors Angels' Scioscia and Reagins.....	11
LA County Strategic Survey Project.....	12-13
Hazardous & Electronic Waste Collection.....	14-15
<i>Share It: Youth Protected from Secondhand Smoke....</i>	<i>16</i>

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

Arts

Through Feb 19 – Japanese Prints: Word/Poem/Picture
Through Feb 19 – Japanese Painting: Calligraphy and Image
Through Mar 3 – 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

January

24 - 27 - Britten’s War Requiem
29 - Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam - I
30 - Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam - II

February

1 - 3 - Perlman conducts Brahms’s Fourth
1 - Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
3 - Organ Recital: Olivier Lattry
6 - Tafelmusik
9 - 10 - Mahler’s Sixth
12 - Chamber Music
13 - Christopher Columbus: Lost Paradises
14 - 16 – Tchaikovsky’s Suite No. 3
15 - George Benson - “A Tribute to Nat King Cole”
17 - Bernadette Peters - “Just a Broadway Baby”
21 - The Chieftains
22 - 24 - Conlon conducts Shostakovich

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

Center Theatre Group

Through Feb 17 - Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson
Through Mar 9 - The Color Purple
Mar 7 - Apr 13 - No Child...
Mar 12 - Apr 6 - Sweeney Todd
May 11 - Jun 8 - Keep Your Pantheon
May 11 - Jun 8 - Duck Variations

Los Angeles Opera

Through Feb 10 – Tristan und Isolde

Los Angeles Master Chorale

Feb 10 – David O, De Victoria and De Zumaya

Natural History Museum 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007

For a list of events please visit www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO.

County DIGEST

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

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Los Angeles County Assessor Helps the Malibu Disaster Relief Center

The roaring fires in the Malibu Hills caused pain, heartache, and loss to the many families who live there. Last November, various departments from the County of Los Angeles came together to show their support by setting up a temporary “hub” to offer assistance to those affected by the fires. This became the Malibu Disaster Relief Center, created and operated by the County Office of Emergency Management.



Supervisor Molina Announces 1,065 Sheriff’s Deputies Hired in 2007

On December 2007, 90 trainees from Sheriff’s Academy Class 366 graduated and became full-fledged Sheriff’s Deputies. Supervisor Gloria Molina proudly provided the keynote speech at the swearing-in ceremony, which was held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

“Other jurisdictions are bragging about their hiring efforts,” Supervisor Molina said during her speech. “But only the County of Los Angeles can say that they hired and trained 1,065 in one calendar year – a phenomenal accomplishment. And I am so proud of the fact that one of my own former employees, Connie Cheng, is part of Academy Class 366.”

At one point, the County of Los Angeles had over 1,200 Sheriff’s Deputy vacancies. This made it tough for the Sheriff’s Department to effectively patrol our communities and properly staff our jails. But Sheriff Lee Baca and his team – with support from the Board of Supervisors – quickly worked on a major Sheriff’s Deputies recruitment and retention campaign. The remarkable results speak for themselves.

“I realize that there will be challenges over the course of your career,” Supervisor Molina continued. “Because while assigned to the jails and patrolling the streets, you will come across the worst in our society – child molesters, rapists, murderers, gang members, drug dealers – people who do not respect the law. At times, it may seem to you as if this difficult, even violent population really reflects society as a whole. However, it is my hope that you do not allow the worst of us to taint your perception of the entire community. Because the role of a Sheriff’s Deputy or any law enforcement officer has evolved, it is no longer strictly about enforcement. It is about developing connections with the law-abiding citizens who want to help you do your job – even in communities that have lost faith in law enforcement – which means that every interaction you have with individual residents adds up to one big impression by the community – and it is important to me that their impression is positive and trusting.”



Supervisor Gloria Molina gives the keynote speech at a graduation ceremony for Sheriff’s Deputy Academy Class 366.



Connie Cheng, formerly an employee with Supervisor Gloria Molina’s office, and her fellow colleagues in Sheriff’s Deputy Academy Class 366 are officially sworn in as full-fledged Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputies.

“I am not asking you to be naïve or to gloss over the fact that the nature of your job requires you to come into contact with ‘the worst of the worst,’” Supervisor Molina concluded. “I know your job is dangerous, and I expect you to keep your guard up, because I want you to arrest the gang members who bully our innocent children and recruit them to a wasted life. But know that you are not entering your career here alone. Know that I am behind you, and the communities that elected me are in your corner. From Pomona to East Los Angeles, from Compton to Lancaster, the number one priority is ridding our communities of gang violence. So, ‘let’s be careful out there.’”

WeTip WELFARE FRAUD
1-800-87-FRAUD

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:

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Dorothy Rish
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Denise M. Dube, Michael A. Wilson
FIRE: Mark R. Kyllingstand, Richard C. Shipley
HEALTH SERVICES: Virginia L. Arnold, Shirley A. Davis, Michael Hernandez, Hanna Kanawati, Donald K. Mitchell, Gloria Myles, Alberta Williams
INTERNAL SERVICES: Ignacio A. Bautista Jr, George M. Mena
MENTAL HEALTH: Cynthia T. Harada
PROBATION: Santos Renteria
PUBLIC HEALTH: Leonor Umina
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Elizabeth Harrison, Audry L. Jimison
PUBLIC WORKS: Darlene G. Brown, Kenneth B. Powell
REGIONAL PLANNING: Clarice W. Jamison-Johnson
SHERIFF: Gordon E. Carn, Michael J. Connolly, Curtis T. Holtmeier, Dreaama L. Jimenez, Donald R. Jones, Charles R. Jurcak, Paul K. Kaser, Wesley J. Kutz II, Patricia A. Marin, Vicky J. McKown, Sherman Moten, Ellender C. Spicer, Bruce M. Stephenson
SUPERIOR COURT: Barbara A. Smith

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:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Alma R. Medina
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Allice Ballard
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Connie Flores
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: T.H. Lamb
FIRE: David J. Barros, Timothy M. Stromer
HEALTH SERVICES: Abel Iniguez, Ethel Larios
MENTAL HEALTH: Mark S. Foster, Barbara Pavey
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Darlene Murdock
PUBLIC HEALTH: Barbara Pavey
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Khoi D. Tran, Nancy C. Hackney
SHERIFF: Marshall W. Baird, Peter M. Farino, Gaylord J. Imura, William F. Ridgley, Stephen R. Van Herpe, William S. Wehner, Lloyd G. Wright
SUPERIOR COURT: Helen F. Watson

Number of Missing Foster Children Declines

Supervisor Antonovich Seeks Public Assistance to Return 285 Children Still Unaccounted For

As the result of an investigation ordered by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich to identify and locate over missing 900 foster youth in 2005, the Department of Children and Family Services now reports that improved data and records verification has reduced that number to just over 500. The Department was subsequently able to locate and stabilize nearly 215 children as a result of youth permanency initiatives moved by Supervisor Antonovich. However, 285 are still unaccounted for.

Initiated by Supervisor Antonovich and passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors as part of a comprehensive plan to locate missing foster children, a Web site listing names and photos of missing foster children is available at <http://www.missingkidsla.org>.

“This Web site is an important tool that allows the public to aid in the effort to find these children and return them to County care,” said Supervisor Antonovich. “Foster youth missing from their placements face further neglect and abuse. Finding the children and returning them to safety is a paramount concern.”

The Missing Foster Children Web site integrates the District Attorney’s Abducted Children site and also adds missing and abducted children from the Probation system.

Proper Disposal of Home-Generated Sharps Waste

It is estimated that approximately nine million people nationwide administer self-injections outside traditional health care facilities each year. Many of these self-injectors are people with diabetes and patients receiving home health care who throw their sharps into their trash containers or flush them down the toilet. However, with an estimated three billion sharps being generated each year, these sharps pose a significant health risk to everyone, especially to sanitation and landfill workers who often encounter sharps that have been thrown into the trash.

To ensure appropriate disposal of sharps waste necessary to protect the public from potential exposure to contagious diseases and health and safety risks, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill (SB) 1305, which makes it illegal for residents to place home-generated sharps waste in trash, recycling, and green waste containers after September 1, 2008. SB 1305 would also require sharps waste to be collected and transported in approved sharps containers.

DISPOSAL

continued on page 10

A Day Without a Bag Press Conference



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky showed off a reusable canvas shopping bag to kick off “A Day Without a Bag” at the Grove at Farmers Market. The event was conceived as an education and holiday giveaway program mounted by a coalition of major retailers, local governments and regional environmental groups in the County of Los Angeles. Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s holiday message urged Southland shoppers to give a present to the environment this holiday season by foregoing plastic or paper grocery bags in favor of reusable totes like the one pictured. The bags were distributed free to patrons at high-profile shopping centers throughout the region during the special day of in-store promotions and giveaways. Supervisor Yaroslavsky noted that County residents use more than 6 billion disposable plastic shopping bags each year. According to environmental group Heal the Bay, California municipalities spend nearly \$50 million each year just to collect and dispose of plastic bag waste. Fewer than 5% of plastic grocery bags are recycled annually in Los Angeles, so the remainder consumes precious landfill space, litters public spaces and can harm animal life when the bags blow into waterways. While paper bags are biodegradable under some circumstances, they still require vast amounts of fossil fuels and water to produce, distribute and collect for disposal. Millions around the world have embraced heavy-duty reusable bags as a convenient, environmentally friendly alternative. For more information on safe and environmentally friendly solid-waste reduction and clean-up ideas, visit <http://ladpw.org/epd/NoBagDay/>.

Supervisor Burke Joins Community Elected Officials and Los Angeles County Department Heads to Dedicate a New County Administration Building in South Los Angeles

On December 14, 2007, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, community elected officials and Los Angeles County department heads proudly helped dedicate the new Los Angeles County Administration Building, a four-story, 220,000-square foot modernist design developed by Los Angeles-based ICO Development LLC in conjunction with the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles.



The new community landmark occupies a full block on the east side of Vermont Avenue between 83rd and 84th Streets in South Los Angeles. The dedication was attended by Congressmembers Maxine Waters and Laura Richards, Councilmember Bernard C. Parks, and representatives of the community, City, County, Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA) as well as the project design, construction and development team.

The new Los Angeles County Administration Building represents a major transformation of multiple parcels of land that were formerly the sites of boarded-up retail buildings partially burned down during the 1992 civil disturbances, over-crowded slum apartments and unused Community Redevelopment Agency parking lots. The sleek new “Class A” building signals a positive new direction for the surrounding community. Housing four County departments under a single roof, with the majority of departmental focus on services for children, the new building stands as the County’s first one-stop center – and a family-centric one at that.

BURKE

continued on page 11

ATTENTION L.A. COUNTY EMPLOYEES!!!



EARN YOUR SALARY PLUS EXTRA CASH! BE A POLLWORKER ON FEBRUARY 5, 2008!

COUNTY POLLWORKERS (CPW's) ARE CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 2008 ELECTIONS!

The L.A. County Employee Pollworker Program was approved, by the Board of Supervisors as a response to a nationwide Pollworker shortage. The program enables County employees to serve on Election Day as a Pollworker while still earning their regular daily salary.

CPW's are IMPORTANT!

- ☆ CPW 's are often willing to serve in areas where Community Pollworkers are hard to recruit.
- ☆ CPW's are willing to travel to a polling location close to their work site or to a community near their home.
- ☆ CPW's, who speak a language in addition to English, help fill the language requirements at the Polling Places.

Program Benefits...

- ☆ Receive your daily departmental salary PLUS the Pollworker stipend of up to \$175.
- ☆ Meet MAPP goals through County Pollworker Service.
- ☆ Help your community in a time of need.
- ☆ Attending a Pollworker training session is important and it accounts for \$25 of your total stipend.

Requirements

- ☆ County Pollworker must be:
 - ☆ A U.S. Citizen.
 - ☆ 18 years or older.
 - ☆ A registered voter in California.
 - ☆ Have supervisor approval on their application.

How to Apply...

- ☆ Apply on-line at: www.lavote.net
- ☆ Call the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk at 800-815-2666 option 7
- ☆ Contact your department's County Pollworker Program Coordinator
- ☆ Fill out an application and fax it to the Registrar recorder/County Clerk (fax) 562-868-3457. (Be on the lookout for an application sent out with your pay stub.)

Supervisor Knabe Attends the 11th Annual “Art Of Rancho” Art Show

Supervisor Knabe, The Rancho Los Amigos Foundation and The Amigos Fund recently hosted the art show’s 11th anniversary at the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

Dozens of Rancho artists participated along with family, friends and art lovers from throughout the County of Los Angeles. At Rancho, the County’s professional and support staff are world-renowned for offering hope to people whose lives have been shattered by a disabling illness or injury.

“The Art of Rancho is a constant reminder that regardless of our challenges, we can truly realize the power of our dreams,” said Supervisor Knabe.



Project 50 Completes Phase One of Skid Row Homeless Effort

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky opened a special briefing for County and City staff on Project 50, an ambitious demonstration project to house the 50 most vulnerable residents of the streets of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. Supervisor Yaroslavsky has championed the plan, modeled after a highly successful program to reduce homelessness in New York City, particularly in Times Square. That effort was coordinated by Common Ground, a New York social services agency, which was hired to shepherd the Los Angeles project through to completion.

In early December 2007, Common Ground led a team of County, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other homelessness professionals to survey and identify every homeless person living on the streets of Skid Row. Each homeless individual was interviewed and ranked according to a “vulnerability index” that weighed their length of homelessness, health, mental health and other needs. The number one person on the list has lived on the streets for over 37 years and suffers from liver and kidney disease. The top 50 on the list averaged more than nine years of homelessness, and each has several chronic diseases. They were all deemed to be in danger of dying if they remained on the streets.

In mid-January, outreach teams returned to Skid Row to offer these 50 homeless persons permanent supportive housing. The County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will provide the supportive social services, including substance abuse treatment, health and mental health services. The City of Los Angeles has earmarked 50 federally provided housing vouchers which will be administered by the Skid Row Housing Trust. If successful, it is the County’s hope that the program can be expanded in Skid Row and other parts of the County where there are particularly heavy concentrations of highly vulnerable homeless persons.



ENRICHING LIVES...

Back to Basics – Plain Language Works Best

In General

1. Think about your audience. As the starting point and at every point, design and write the document in a way that best serves the reader. Your main goal is to convey your ideas with the greatest possible clarity.
2. Resist the urge to sound formal. Write as if you were speaking to the reader in person. Omit unnecessary detail. Reduce the information to what your reader needs to know.
3. Use examples as needed to help explain your text.

Organizing Your Document

1. Present the big pictures before the details. Present your steps chronologically in the order your reader will follow them.
2. Break your material into short, understandable sections.
3. Use descriptive headers and subheaders.

Words in Documents

1. Use active voice. Active voice makes it clear who is supposed to do what. It eliminates ambiguity about the reader's responsibilities. *You must do it*; not *It must be done*.
2. Use the simplest form of a verb. The simplest – and strongest – form of a verb is present tense. A document written in the present tense is more immediate and less complicated. Using the present tense makes your document more direct and forceful.
3. Don't turn verbs into nouns. Instead of *Please make an application for a personal loan*; write, *Please apply for a personal loan*.
4. Avoid noun strings – groups of nouns sandwiched together.
5. Use pronouns to speak directly to your reader. Using *you* pulls readers into your document and makes it relevant to them. When you use *you* to address readers, they are more likely to understand what their responsibility is.
6. Minimize abbreviations.
7. Omit unnecessary words.
8. Avoid doublets and triplets (*due and payable*; *cease and desist*).
9. Use definitions rarely and with caution. If needed, use common words familiar to your readers.
10. Use the same term consistently for specific thought or object.
11. Avoid legal and technical jargon (*hereby*, *therein*, *whereas*); unnecessary Latin (*i.e.*, *e.g.*); slashes (*and/or*).
12. Give *shall* the boot; use *must* instead.

Sentences in Documents

1. Write short sentences. As a guideline, keep the average length to about 20 words.
2. Express only one idea in each sentence.
3. Try to put the main subject and verb toward the beginning; make it the agent of the action in the verb; and don't pile up conditions or qualifiers before the main clause.
4. Keep the subject near the verb and the verb near the object. Avoid intrusive phrases, modifiers, and clauses.
5. Put conditionals such as *only* or *always* and other modifiers next to the words they modify. Write *You are required to provide only the following*; not *You are only required to provide the following*.
6. Use parallel structure for parallel ideas. Use a vertical list if your sentence contains multiple conditions or exceptions.

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
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Paragraphs in Documents

1. Use a topic sentence to help readers follow your train of thought.
2. Cover only one topic in each paragraph.
3. Use transition words to bridge between paragraphs.
4. Write short paragraphs. Long paragraphs discourage readers from even trying to understand your material; short paragraphs are easier to read and understand. As a guideline, keep the average length to about 150 words in three to eight sentences.

Other Aids to Clarity

1. Use tables and illustrations to make complex material easier to understand.
2. Use *bold and italics* to make important concepts stand out. But limit emphasis to important information, otherwise you'll dilute its impact. Be consistent throughout the document.
3. Avoid using all-capital letters.
4. Minimize cross-references.
5. Design for ease of reading. Use ample white space in margins, between sections, and around headings and other special items.



County of Los Angeles
Quality and Productivity Commission
565 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1361

Congress Bars Future Sale and Commercial Development at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration – Supervisor Yaroslavsky Hails Historic Vote

On Wednesday, December 19, 2007, Congress passed HR 2764, the omnibus budget bill that included long-sought legislative provisions protecting the 380-acre West Los Angeles Veterans' Administration (VA) property against sale, exchange, long-term lease and commercial development. That night, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky addressed a rally outside the VA (see picture) to celebrate the historic vote. President Bush signed the bill into law on December 26, 2007.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky worked closely with Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Henry Waxman to win passage of this legislation. "Today's action caps a years-long struggle to protect the VA site in West Los Angeles from the kind of development schemes that would have transformed these hallowed grounds into a real estate speculator's dream," Supervisor Yaroslavsky said. "This legislation will permanently protect the site from such plans. It ensures that it will be preserved for the benefit of veterans in perpetuity."

The West Los Angeles VA site was donated by private land owners in the late 19th century for an Old Soldiers Home to serve veterans of the Civil War. The VA facilities have served the needs of veterans of every war since then.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky singled out for praise Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Henry Waxman. "Our Washington representatives used their skill and political clout to protect this vital institution," Supervisor Yaroslavsky said. "In doing so, they answered the call of our veterans who deserved no less."



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

DISPOSAL

continued from page 4

Currently, the County of Los Angeles accepts sharps waste at its weekly Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events, the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center (AVECC), and they are also accepted at the City of Los Angeles' permanent collection centers. However, Public Works plans to enhance its existing HHW Management Program by implementing a Sharps Collection Program (Sharps Program) for the collection and disposal of home-generated sharps.

As part of the Sharps Collection Program, Public Works will purchase State-approved sharps disposal containers. These containers will also be made available to all County residents free of charge. The County's HHW collection events, AVECC, and the City's permanent centers, will continue to serve as collection outlets for the containers. Public Works will also launch a public education and outreach campaign to promote the Sharps Program and educate and inform residents of proper sharps disposal.

For more information on the Sharps Program, visit www.888CleanLA.com or call 1(888) CLEAN LA.

Supervisor Antonovich Honors Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim’s Mike Scioscia and Tony Reagins



Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich honored one of baseball’s great managers, Mike Scioscia, on guiding the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim to the 2007 American League West Division Championship, and welcomed new Angels’ General Manager Tony Reagins, with an official presentation before the Board of Supervisors.

Under Scioscia’s leadership, the Angels have captured a record breaking three American League Western Division Championships (2004, 2005, 2007), as well as leading the Angels to their first World Series Championship in 2002.

Tony Reagins, the Angels’ new general manager, has been with the organization for over 16 years where he started off his career as an intern. Under his direction, as Director of Player Development (2002-2007), the Angels posted winning records in four of six seasons and were named “Minor League Organization of the Year” in 2003 by *Sporting News*. In his first season as director, six rookies played on the 2002 World Series Championship team, including Chone Figgins, Francisco Rodriguez, John Lackey, Scot Shields and Jose Molina.

Reagins is also a member of the Buck O’Neil Scout Association and an active supporter of the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy at Compton Community College. He has arranged for hundreds of at-risk mental health, probation, and foster care youth to attend Angels’ games.

Supervisor Antonovich presented plaques to both Scioscia and Reagins for being strong role models for youth in the County to emulate.

BURKE

continued from page 5

With 125,000 square feet committed for the Child Support Services Department and the Department of Children and Family Services, and an additional 13,500 square feet dedicated to daycare and play areas, the new County building stands as both a symbolic and practicable asset for South Los Angeles’ families. Allotments for the County’s Department of Public Social Services and Department of Mental Health will round out the remainder of office space.

Beyond the positive aesthetic impact of the new structure on the surrounding area, the Los Angeles County Administration Building presents a substantial economic opportunity for the region. Supervisor Burke explains, “We are just so pleased that local residents and business owners now have hope that the new county building will also attract more retail shops, commercial operations and loyal customers to the long-suffering business district.”

With more than 40,000 program participants living within three miles of the new building, the Los Angeles County Administration Building stands as a centerpiece for economic growth in South Los Angeles.

The project has earmarked 4,000 square feet on the building’s ground floor for retail and restaurant development, and the substantial increase in daytime population associated with the building is expected to help lower the crime rate in the surrounding area.

Strategic Survey Project

The Los Angeles County Strategic Survey Project Continues!

The Strategic Survey Project is part of a process of continuous improvement of the work environment, employee well-being, and employee performance called for in the Los Angeles County Strategic Plan. The Strategic Survey Project involves employees in Strategic Plan implementation by giving them the opportunity to share their perceptions of the work environment and the extent to which the organization supports them, their performance, and the desired County culture.

Several organizational strengths as well as opportunities for improvement were identified.

Survey Results

Early in 2006, permanent County employees received Strategic Values Surveys and over 23,000 completed surveys were returned. The data has been analyzed and is being reviewed by department management. Here are some highlights.

Organizational Strengths

Employee Perception of Own Competence – 95.7 percent of employees believe that they have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to do a good job.

Meaningful and Challenging Work – 72.3 percent of employees indicate that they can use the full range of their skills and abilities and that their work is meaningful and challenging.

Autonomy – 70.4 percent of employees indicate that they have latitude in decision making and responsibility for work outcomes.

Overall Job Satisfaction – 69.3 percent of employees expressed satisfaction with their jobs as a whole.

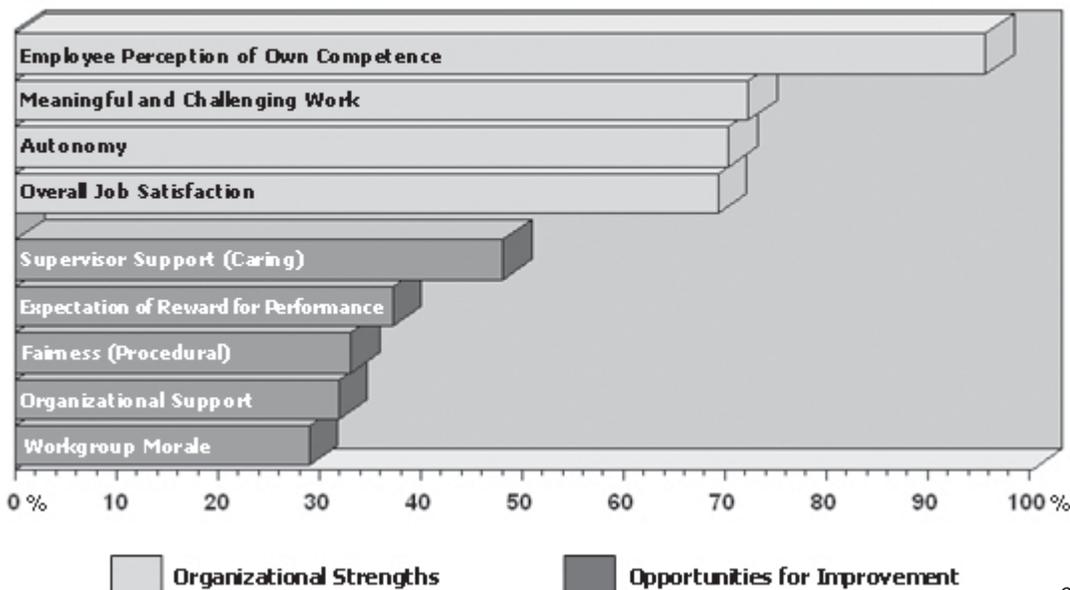
Results indicate that employees’ job related well-being, acceptance of department goals and objectives, commitment to their departments, and performance can be enhanced by programs designed to:

- increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of employees
- better align employees’ work with organizational goals
- improve the work environment
- demonstrate care for employees and appreciation for their contributions.

Opportunities for Improvement

Supervisor Support (Caring) – 48.1 percent of employees think that their immediate supervisors value their contributions and care about their well-being.

Percent of Employees with Favorable Views



SURVEY

continued from page 12

Expectation of Reward for Performance – 37.2 percent of employees expect that top performance will lead to tangible rewards.

Fairness (Procedural) – 33.1 percent of employees believe that decision processes that affect them allow for employee input, rely on accurate information, and are consistent.

Organizational Support – 31.9 percent of employees think that the organization values their contributions and cares about their well-being.

Workgroup Morale – 29.0 percent of employees indicate that members of their work group are satisfied with, engaged in, and coping well in their jobs.

Note that the areas identified as organizational strengths are relative strengths. There is still room for improvement in these areas. Nevertheless, for those areas identified as opportunities for improvement, fewer than fifty percent of the employees had favorable views. A more detailed description of these summary findings is available on the County’s intranet at <http://mylacounty-surveys.org>.

Acting on Survey Results

Because the Strategic Survey Project is part of a continuous improvement process, results will continue to be used by departments to improve the work environment and create a

climate that supports excellent customer service. The results are also being used to recommend new Strategic Plan objectives and create countywide programs that will also enhance the work environment. Departments will have to prioritize actions and work within available resources, but departmental efforts will be ongoing and the survey process will help guide decisions for many years to come.

Survey results have also been presented to Department Heads and to Chief Deputies. Department of Human Resources survey team members have met with several departments to review and discuss survey results and possible projects. In addition, participants in each cohort of the Los Angeles County Learning Academy’s Bureau Chief Program have reviewed summary survey results and they are developing plans to build on organizational strengths and pursue opportunities for improvement. These program participants continue to assist their departments with implementation of the initiatives.

In the coming months, the Department of Human Resources will work with departments to study their best practices and share departmental insights and successes with other departments and employees across the County. It is expected that departments will continue to review and use the survey results in the context of their own strategic plans to develop and implement programs to improve the work environment; enhance managerial support for employees; and increase employee well-being, commitment, and performance.

ASSESSOR

continued from page 2

Real Estate Appraisers were needed to staff the Center to educate, inform, and assist homeowners with potential property tax relief offered by the Assessor’s Office through their Misfortune and Calamity (M&C) Program. West District Appraisers were also on site to hand out M&C applications and answer questions from the homeowners.

Not surprisingly, the majority of the people who came to the Disaster Relief Center did not know what the Assessor’s Office did, or how it could help them. It was a chance for the appraisers to become ambassadors for the whole County and not only walk them through each step of the M&C process, but to explain to the homeowners how the entire property tax system works.

Because of the lack of apartments in the Malibu Hills, everyone who came in for help was a homeowner. They were fascinated with the knowledge and helpfulness of the appraisers. Since the actual appraisers who work that specific area were on site, homeowners were able to arrange appointments and coordinate the transfer of documents on the spot, without having to make any telephone calls or travel to the main office in Culver City.

Los Angeles County employees remained ready to help the devastated homeowners until early evening. When 7 pm came around, everyone said “thank you” to the generous and helpful people and headed home.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS AND ELECTRONIC WASTE
COLLECTION PROGRAM**



1 (888) CLEAN LA www.888CleanLA.com

The County of Los Angeles is pleased to offer its residents free, convenient and environmentally safe means to dispose of household hazardous and electronic waste (HHW/E-Waste). The residents may utilize the following weekly mobile events or the permanent collection centers to dispose of their HHW/E-Waste.

Please note that it is illegal to transport more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of household hazardous waste per trip. HHW/E-Waste from businesses are not accepted. For further information in English or Spanish, please visit www.888CleanLA.com or call 1(888)CLEAN LA.

Sign up with our eNotify system to receive e-mails on upcoming HHW/E-Waste collection events within your area.
To find out how, visit www.888CLEANLA.com.

- 02/02/08 Santa Fe Springs**
Rio Hondo College Fire Training Academy
11400 Greenstone Ave.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90607

- 02/09/08 Claremont – Claremont Corporate Yard**
1616 Monte Vista Avenue
Claremont, CA 91717

- 02/16/08 Cudahy – Lugo Park**
7810 Otis Street
Cudahy, CA 90201

- 02/16/08 Baldwin Park – Washington Mutual Property**
5000 Commerce Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

- 02/23/08 Diamond Bar – City Streets Gateway Corporate Center**
1300 block of Bridge Gate Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91756

- 03/01/08 Marina Del Rey – Dock 52 Parking Lot**
Fiji Way
Marina Del Rey, CA 93535

- 03/08/08 Manhattan Beach – Northrup-Grumman**
Aviation Boulevard and Marine Avenue (Northwest Corner)
Manhattan Beach, CA 90230

- 03/15/08 Pico Rivera – Southern California Gas Company**
8101 Rosemead Boulevard
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

- 03/29/08 Long Beach – Long Beach Veteran's Stadium**
Clark Avenue and Contant Street
Long Beach, CA 90706

Los Angeles/ Glendale Location
Saturday - Sunday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
4600 Colorado Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Hyperion Treatment Plant Location
Saturday - Sunday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
7660 West Imperial Highway, Gate B
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Gaffey Street Location
Friday - Sunday, 9:00 am to 3:00pm
1400 N. Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90021

Washington Boulevard Location
Friday - Sunday, 9:00 am to 3:00pm
2649 E. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90023



UCLA Location (E-Waste accepted on Saturdays only)
Thursday - Saturday, 9:00 am to 2:00pm
550 Charles E. Young Drive
West Los Angeles, CA 90095

Randall Street Location
Saturday - Monday, 9:00 am to 3:00pm
11025 Randall Street
Sun Valley, CA 91352

For more information on the preceding centers, call 1(800) 98-TOXIC

Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center
1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Antelope Valley Public Landfill
1200 West City Ranch Road
Palmdale, CA 93551
For more information, call 1(888)CLEAN LA

City Specific HHW Programs for City Residents only
Residents of **Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Glendale, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Norwalk, and Santa Monica** can use their city's permanent facilities, curb-side pickup, or temporary events for HHW disposal. Contact your city for details.

TOO TOXIC TO TRASH

Examples of What You Can Bring

For additional items or questions, call 1 (888) CLEAN LA.

<p>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE</p>	<p>HHW (con't.)</p>	<p>HHW (con't.)</p>
<p>Abrasive cleaners Air fresheners Antifreeze Asbestos Automotive products Bug spray Car batteries Chlorine bleach Disinfectants Drain cleaners Fertilizers Floor, furniture and shoe polish Fluorescent light bulbs Fungicides, herbicides, weed killers Furniture and paint strippers Gasoline and diesel fuel</p>	<p>Glass/window cleaners Hair spray Hair relaxers, dyes, permanents Herbicides Household batteries, NiCad batteries Insecticide Medicine, unused or expired drugs Mercury thermostats Nail polish and nail polish remover Oven cleaners Paints, oil or water based Pet products (flea collars and sprays) Pool chemicals Propane tanks (small) Rat, mouse, snail, and slug poisons Rug and upholstery cleaners</p>	<p>Sharps, medical needles Solvents Stains and varnishes Transmission and brake fluid Thinners and turpentines Tub, tile, and toilet bowl cleaners Used motor oil and oil filters Weed killers</p> <p>E-WASTE Cell phones Computers, Electronic games Fax machines, Light switches, Printers Televisions, Stereos VCR's and DVD players Microwaves</p>

Used Motor Oil/Used Oil Filters
You can always take used motor oil and used oil filters to a certified collection center near you. Residents of **Baldwin Park, Glendale, Lawndale, Long Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Santa Clarita, and Santa Monica** can also use their city's used motor oil curbside pickup service. Call your City for more information. Residents may also utilize County's permanent used oil/oil filter collection centers in Altadena, Baldwin Park, Canyon Country, Malibu, Marina Del Rey, Los Angeles, Palmdale, Santa Fe Springs and Sun Valley. Call 1(888) CLEAN LA for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective September 1, 2008, **home-generated sharps** (syringes, lancets, hypodermic needles, pen needles and other devices used to penetrate the skin by injection) **waste can no longer be placed in your regular trash can.** Instead, please collect your medical sharps in a sturdy container. Seal the container tight to avoid spills and label the container "Sharps" and bring it to any of our HHW collection events or permanent collection centers. Check back with the County in Spring 2008 for the upcoming Sharps Collection Program.

How to reduce Household Hazardous Waste

Know Your HHW.
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is any product labeled; toxic, poisonous, corrosive, flammable, combustible or irritant that is disposed of.

Buy Smart.
Purchase non-toxic/less hazardous products and only what you need.

Store Properly.
Keep products out of reach of children and pets. Toxic products are poisonous ---don't put your family's health and safety at risk!

Use It Up.
Finish all unused products and recycle the containers or donate leftover.

Protect Our Communities.
NEVER throw HHW into your household garbage, toilets or sinks; never dump on the ground or pour down the storm drains- it is illegal – and HHW can seep into the groundwater waterways and oceans, causing contamination of our drinking water, causing beach closures and posing health hazards to swimmers.

Dispose Properly.
Dispose of HHW/E-Waste properly at a FREE Los Angeles County Roundup or a permanent center near you!

For alternative non-hazardous recipes visit:
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/alternative.cfm>

Upon 72 hours notice, the Department can provide program information and publications in alternate formats or make other accommodations for people with disabilities. In addition, program documents are available at our main office in Alhambra (900 S. Fremont Ave.), which is accessible to individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations ONLY, or for more ADA information, please contact our departmental ADA Coordinator at (626) 458-4081 or TDD (626) 282-7829, Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Share It



Los Angeles County Youth Now Protected from Secondhand Smoke in Cars

New State Law Prohibits Smoking in Vehicles with Youth Under 18

On January 1, 2008, California's new "Smoke-free Cars with Minors" law took effect prohibiting smoking of cigarettes, cigars or pipes in vehicles with youth under 18 years of age. The law is intended to protect children in response to growing scientific evidence that smoking in cars exposes passengers to dangerously high levels of secondhand smoke.

"For the past two decades, Los Angeles County residents and visitors have benefited from public health laws that protect our communities from tobacco and secondhand smoke," said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. "This new law limiting our youth's exposure to secondhand smoke, specifically in vehicles, is an important and logical extension of that protection."

According to the 2006 Surgeon General's Report, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. A recent study published by a team of environmental scientists from Stanford University showed that the level of toxic air caused by smoking in a vehicle can be up to 10 times greater than the level which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers hazardous.

"I urge everyone to support this important and necessary public health law. Do not smoke with minors in your vehicle. Do your part to protect our youth from unnecessary health conditions, such as asthma, and the risk for more serious and life-threatening illnesses," said Fielding. Evidence shows that children are especially vulnerable to the health effects caused by breathing secondhand smoke in confined spaces, such as in a vehicle. Secondhand smoke is a known cause for bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia and ear infections in children. The harmful chemicals in secondhand smoke can remain in the air in a vehicle for many hours and even days after a cigarette, cigar or pipe has been smoked. These chemicals also stick to surfaces, such as a child's car seat, making it a potential source of danger to children. Senate Bill (SB) 7 went into effect on the first day of 2008, prohibiting smoking of cigarettes, pipes or cigars in any motor vehicle, regardless of whether the vehicle is stationary or moving, in which a minor is present. A violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$100 and categorized as a secondary offense.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.lapublichealth.org/tob, or visit the California Clean Air Project at www.ccap.etr.org.

For information on quitting smoking, please visit www.lapublichealth.org/tob, or call the California Smoker's Helpline at (800) NO-BUTTS (English) or (800) 45-NO-FUME (Spanish). The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the over 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. 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 \$750 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do, please visit <http://www.lapublichealth.org>.



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