

County DIGEST



AUGUST 2009

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



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- Assistance with Medi-Cal and Food Stamps
- Help with Care for Aging Parents
- Parenting Resources
- Health and Legal Services
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

CALL 2-1-1 for FREE
Information on Health and Social Services

FUNDED BY:



www.211LACounty.org

Tax Relief Available to New Car Buyers

The following is an excerpt from the Internal Revenue Services Web site regarding new car purchases.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides a deduction for state and local sales and excise taxes paid on the purchase of new cars, light trucks, motor homes and motorcycles through 2009. It also provides for the deduction of other taxes or fees paid in states with no sales tax. The deduction is available regardless of whether a taxpayer itemizes deductions on Schedule A. Purchase of the vehicle must be after February 16, 2009, and before January 1, 2010.

The deduction is limited to the tax on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price of an eligible motor vehicle. The deduction is phased out for joint filers with modified adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$250,000 and \$260,000 and other taxpayers with modified AGI between \$125,000 and \$135,000. Taxpayers who make a qualifying new vehicle purchase this year can estimate their deduction with the help of IRS Publication 919 at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p919.pdf>

CARS

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The County DIGEST is available online at:

<http://hr.lacounty.gov/county.pdf>

Stay tuned for the new and improved Web site featuring archived copies of the County DIGEST

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

EVENT CALENDAR

Ford Amphitheatre

2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Los Angeles, CA 90068

(323) 461-3673

www.fordamphitheatre.com

August

- 15 - Big!World!Fun! Celtic Spring
- 15 - Concierto Tequila con Limon: Homenaje a Manuel Esperón
- 16 - Gregorio Luke at the Ford: Life-size Murals of Miguel Covarrubias
- 22 - Big!World!Fun! Helios Dance Theater
- 22 - Kollaboration: Acoustic 3
- 23 - Upright Cabaret's Wicked Summer Nights: Stephen Schwartz: Making Good
- 24 - J.A.M. Sessions: ¡A Bailar Son Jarocho!
- 29 - Big!World!Fun! Hula Halau Ka Lehua Uluwehi I Ka Lani
- 29 - Ke Po'okela Cultural Foundation: Na Ali'i: Hawaiian Monarchs

September

- 4 - Culture Shock Los Angeles Dance Troupe iConnect: Communication in a Hip Hop Generation
- 5 - Encuentro Jaranero de California: 2nd Annual Noche Veracruzana (Night in Veracruz)
- 6-7 - Angel City Jazz Festival
- 19 - AlohaFest! Music & Magic from Paradise
- 20 - Celtic Arts Center: The 6th Annual Celtic Concert Series
- 26 - Fiesta Mexicana VII Sones, Bailes y Cantares

Hollywood Bowl

2301 North Highland Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90068

(323) 850-2000

www.hollywoodbowl.org

Los Angeles Philharmonic

www.laphil.com

(323) 850-2000

August

- 16-17 - Depeche Mode
- 18 - Tovey Conducts Bernstein with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 19 - Patti LaBelle
- 20 - Thomas Hampson Sings Mahler with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 21-22 - Diana Krall with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 23 - Smooth Summer Jazz (formerly JVC)
- 25 - Plácido Domingo and Yo-Yo Ma with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 26 - Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band
- 27 - Thibaudet Plays Liszt with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 28-29 - An Evening with Liza Minnelli
- 30 - Ask Your Mama with Jeesye Norman, The Roots, Nnenna Freelon, and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra

September

- 1 - Harth-Bedoya Conducts Bolero with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 2 - Corea, Clarke & White
- 3 - Russian Romantics with the L.A. Philharmonic

- 4-5 - John Williams and the Music of the Movies with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 6 - The Big Picture: Rodgers and Hammerstein at the Movies
- 8 - Tovey and the Brits with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 9 - Natalie Cole and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra
- 10 - Berlioz Requiem with the L.A. Philharmonic
- 11-13 - Fireworks Finale with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra: Blame It On Rio
- 16 - The Killers

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

Art

Through September 20 - Your Bright Future: 12 Contemporary Artists from Korea

CALENDAR

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

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(213) 639-0940 FAX

Available online at: dhr.lacounty.info

WeTip WELFARE FRAUD

1-800-87-FRAUD

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

CARS
continued from page 1

Car Sales and Excise Tax Deduction: Questions and Answers

GO GREEN

The County of Los Angeles is making a conscious effort to lessen its carbon footprint on the environment. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOO!

Take advantage of the County's
VEHICLE PURCHASING SERVICES PROGRAM

- **Special purchasing options on Hybrid Vehicles from Toyota, Honda, Ford, GMC/Chevrolet, and Nissan**
- **Purchase at a pre-negotiated rate from participating LA County dealerships**
- **Available to County employees, retirees, family members, and County Contractors/subcontractors.**

For more information, please visit the following website:
Intranet – <http://web.co.la.ca.us/lacounty/vpsp.htm>
Internet – <http://www.lacounty.gov> → LA County Employees → Employee Benefits → Discounts

Q. What is this new car sales tax deduction?

A. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides a deduction for state and local sales and excise taxes paid on the purchase of qualified new vehicles through 2009.

Q. What are considered to be “qualified motor vehicles” for the purpose of this deduction?

A. A qualified motor vehicle is a passenger automobile, light truck or motorcycle which has a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less. A motor home is also considered a qualified motor vehicle.

Q. If I purchase a really expensive car, can I deduct the entire amount of state and local sales taxes paid on the vehicle?

A. No, only state and local sales taxes paid on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price of a qualifying vehicle are deductible.

Q. Does the purchase of a used car qualify for this deduction?

A. No. In order to take the deduction, you must be the first owner of the vehicle.

Q. When can the vehicle be purchased to qualify for this deduction?

A. This deduction applies to vehicles purchased after February 16, 2009 and before January 1, 2010.

Q. Do I have to itemize in order to take this deduction?

A. No. Anyone who qualifies can take this deduction. You will claim this deduction when filing your 2009 federal income tax return in 2010. There will be a line on the 2009 tax forms, just follow the instructions.

Q. What about those 2008 models still sitting on the lot — can I claim the deduction if I purchase one of last year's models?

A. Yes, you can take the deduction as long as you are the vehicle's first owner.

Q. Are there any restrictions on who can take the deduction?

A. Yes. This deduction is phased out for higher income taxpayers. Single taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross

income is less than \$125,000 and married taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is less than \$250,000 will receive the full deduction.

Q. At what income does the deduction fully phase out?

A. The amount of the deduction is phased out for taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is between \$125,000 and \$135,000 for individual filers and between \$250,000 and \$260,000 for joint filers.

Q. If I purchased a qualified vehicle, may I amend my 2008 tax return to claim the deduction now?

A. No. You can only claim this deduction on your 2009 tax return.

Q. What if my state doesn't have a sales tax?

A. Purchases made in states without a sales tax — such as Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon — can also qualify for the deduction. Taxpayers in states without a sales tax are entitled to deduct other qualifying fees or taxes imposed by the state or local government. The fees or taxes that qualify must be assessed on the purchase of the vehicle and must be based on the vehicle's sales price or as a per unit fee.

Q. Can I take the deduction for a second or third vehicle I purchase?

A. Yes. There is no limit on the number of cars for which you can claim the deduction, provided each car is a qualified vehicle under the law.

Q. Can I take this deduction for any qualified vehicle — even those made by foreign car companies?

A. Yes. As long as it is a new car and otherwise qualifies, you may take the deduction.

Q. What about this “cash for clunkers” I'm hearing about? How can I take advantage of that program?

A. The Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS) at www.cars.gov is handled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. You can find out more information about CARS by visiting www.cars.gov.

RETIREES

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after **40** or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE: Virginia A. Kirby
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Jacqueline Marshall
HEALTH SERVICES: Edna L. Branch, De G. Briscoe, Wilma J. Finley, Mary E. Randall
PARKS AND RECREATION: Lucylle O. Clark-Smith
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Rose M. Olivas
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Rose R. Barrera, Linda F. Miller
PUBLIC WORKS: Richard A. Brundage
SHERIFF: Dennis K. Cornell

*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:*

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Martha E. Mendoza Campos
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: John S. Edmisten
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Beverley Y. Peace
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Catherine Garcia, Frankie Maryland-Alston
CORONER: Lavette Egans
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Carol Baird, James A. Baker, David G. Evans, Gary W. Schram
FIRE: Ernest R. Aguirre, Richard L. Faulk, Kenneth W. Ortiz
HEALTH SERVICES: Fely T. Buan, Lorne L. Copeland, Gwendolyn M. Gibson, Karen Hardin, Charles Lozano, Denis C. Murray, Elva E. Rosas, Teodora Sabado, Om P. Sharma, Kenneth E. Style, Antoinette Valtier, Bonnie M. Villasenor
INTERNAL SERVICES: Gerald M. Kennedy
MENTAL HEALTH: Gwendolyn Medina, Joseph C. Shepherd Sr.
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Guadalupe M. Castillo
PROBATION: Thaddeus Duvall
PUBLIC HEALTH: Naomi Ducree, Sonia Magana, Guadalupe Ramirez, Mary J. Robles
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Bertha Gonzalez-Gar, Karen J. Green, Fahmy T. Mikhael, Carolyn R. Ross, Annie D. Rushing, Brenda L. Silas, Betty J. Tidwell
PUBLIC WORKS: Lawrence Baca, Jack R. Fitzgerald, Francisco Ruiz, Madeline Simpson
SHERIFF: Michael E. Clynes, Michael R. Payne, Joseph E. Purcell, Seiko Tokuda Jr.
SUPERIOR COURT: James Manczarek
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR: Wanda Robinson-Blow, Carol A. Taylor, Ning Wong

*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:*

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Kathleen G. Dominguez, Annie N. Taylor
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Thelma L. Alexander
FIRE: Robert A. Janis, John C. Renaud
HEALTH SERVICES: Agnes Augustine, Mary Cherian, Sanda Fronescu, Ben C. Glover, Gayle Gordon, Marjorie Laine, Rebecca Rivera, Carolyn A. Walton
INTERNAL SERVICES: John A. Hartman
PUBLIC HEALTH: Jose C. Salazar
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Silva Agopian, Jacquelyn Moody
SHERIFF: Venita J. Arceneaux, Steven J. Gurlitz, Michael S. Harvin, Jason G. Lum, Larry P. Pickett
SUPERIOR COURT: Gerald T. Richardson

CALENDAR

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September 27 - January 3 - Luis Meléndez:
Master of the Spanish Still Life
Through October 4 - Pompeii and the
Roman Villa: Art and Culture around the
Bay of Naples
Through October 4 - Classical Frieze:
Eleanor Antin
Through November 8 - Heavy Light:
Recent Photography and Video from Japan
Music
Sundays Live – Every Sunday at 6 p.m.
For more information on LACMA's Music
Programs, please call (323) 857-6115

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

Walt Disney Concert Hall
www.musiccenter.org

Center Theatre Group
www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre
Through September 6 – Spamalot
September 8-October 18 - August: Osage
County
November 13- January 10 – Mary Poppins

Mark Taper Forum
Through September 6 - The Lieutenant of
Inishmore
September 24 to November 15 - Parade

Kirk Douglas Theatre
September 13 to October 18 - Eclipsed

**Los Angeles Opera (performances in the
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion)**
www.losangelesopera.com

September 12-30 - L'Elisir d'Amore
September 26-Oct 17 – Siegfried

Los Angeles Master Chorale
www.lamc.org

Natural History Museum
900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles
90007
For a list of events, please visit www.nhm.org
or call (213) 763-DINO

Florence Avenue Streetscape Improvements on Track

Supervisor Gloria Molina announced that major improvements to Florence Avenue in unincorporated Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park are underway and on schedule.

“These streetscape amenities will bolster a sense of community identity, cohesion, and spirit in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park neighborhoods,” Supervisor Molina said. “We intend to make Florence Avenue a point of civic pride for local residents, merchants, and visitors alike.”



The streetscape enhancement project extends from Central Avenue on the west all the way to Mountain View Avenue on the east. Work from Central Avenue to Graham Avenue is on track—and the remainder should be completed by the end of this year. It includes street resurfacing, new sidewalks, tree-lined streets, and attractive street medians. Future streetscape improvements will include community archways, monuments, and wrought-iron banners proudly announcing the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park neighborhoods to

commuters and passers-by. The entire project—which includes portions of the First and Second Supervisorial Districts—totals \$16.7 million, with \$3.9 million of that cost paid for by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).

A photo illustration depicts the future look of Florence Avenue with an archway proclaiming the unincorporated Florence-Firestone neighborhood to commuters and passers-by.

Natural History Museum Celebrates the “Lost” Eagle Restoration Project

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas helped unveil the replacement terracotta eagle that was once perched atop the Beaux-Arts East Portico entrance of the Natural History Museum 89 years ago. Damaged in an earthquake in June 1920, the historic six-foot adornment has been re-created using Museum archival records and a little artistic imagination. The new eagle is modernly reinforced to keep it perched above the historic structure for many years to come.



The installation of the new eagle was completed just in time for the 4th of July weekend, culminating more than two years of construction work and architectural preservation of the historic core of the Museum—the magnificent 1913 building which is the centerpiece of a landmark \$91 million institution-wide transformation. The unveiling provides a symbolic finale for such a wonderful restoration project. You can say The eagle has landed!

The Natural History Museum was the first dedicated museum building in Los Angeles to open its doors to the public in 1913, and has amassed one of the world’s most extensive

and valuable collections of natural and cultural history – more than 35 million objects, some as old as 4.5 billion years. The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, please call (213) 763-DINO or visit www.nhm.org.

Orange Line Extension To Chatsworth Breaks Ground

A four-mile extension connecting the popular Orange Line busway to the Chatsworth Metrolink/Amtrak station has become the first official project to begin construction under the new voter-approved Measure R transportation sales tax. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky was joined by City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Valley Councilmembers Dennis Zine and Greig Smith for the groundbreaking.

When completed in 2012 – thanks to Measure R, three years ahead of its previous construction schedule - the extension will increase north-south mobility in the West San Fernando Valley and connect Metro Orange Line bus service to the broader Metrolink inter-urban rail system spanning all counties of Southern California and beyond. “We’ve already proven that you can create a premium rapid bus service that is both affordable and flexible enough to serve the growing needs of today’s transit riders,” Supervisor Yaroslavsky said. “The extension to Chatsworth will build on the success that has made the Metro Orange Line one of the most renowned busway projects in the nation,” he added, “and now even more commuters stand to benefit from connections with the Valley’s best short-cut.”



From left to right: Metro Board member Richard Katz; Councilmember Greig Smith; Supervisor Yaroslavsky; Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Councilmember Dennis Zine; and Metro CEO Arthur T. Leahy.

In November 2008, Measure R was approved by a two-thirds majority of voters, committing a projected \$40 billion to traffic relief and transportation upgrades throughout the County over the next 30 years. The tax took effect July 1, 2009, and will help fund dozens of critical transit and highway projects, create more than 210,000 new annual full-time equivalent construction jobs and infuse an estimated \$32 billion back into the local economy, according to estimates by the nonprofit Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC).

The Metro Orange line has exceeded ridership estimates since its first day of operation in October 2005. It carries an average of 22,000 boardings per day. By the year 2030, the extension is expected to generate 9,000 new average weekday boardings. For additional information, visit www.metro.net/canoga.

Present this discount card Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 and receive one FREE Fair admission when you buy one Fair adult admission at regular price. Limit two free admissions per card.



Limit of two (2) FREE Fair admissions when you buy two adult Fair admissions at the regular price per L.A. County Day discount card. L.A. County Day discount card may be used one time only and must be presented and surrendered at time of ticket purchase to receive discount. Not valid with any other offers. Offer valid Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 only. Benefits and nighttime entertainment subject to change by the Los Angeles County Fair Association



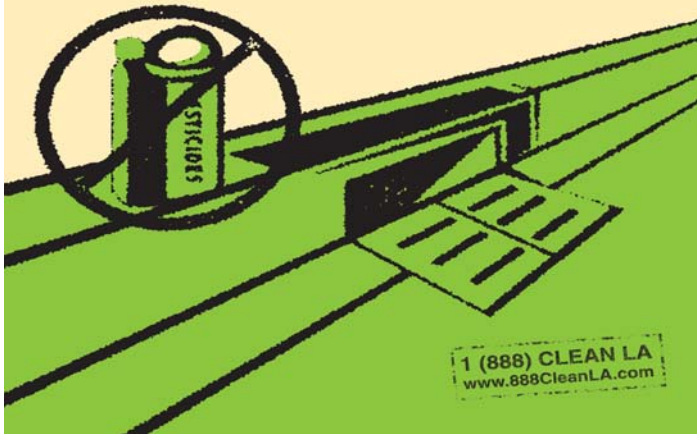
A Yard is a Terrible Thing to Waste!

Storm drains are for rain... **not yard waste.**

Residential yard waste represents about **13 percent** of the total waste generated in L.A. County.

Pesticides, fertilizer and yard waste such as leaves and mowed grass wash from the ground and streets into storm drains and flow straight to the ocean — **untreated.**

Remember to use pesticides and fertilizer wisely and pick-up yard waste.



Tips For Yard Care:

L.A. County residents can help solve the stormwater pollution problem by taking these easy steps...

- Do not over-fertilize and do not use fertilizer or pesticides near ditches, gutters or storm drains.
- Do not use fertilizer or pesticides before a rain.
- Follow the directions on the label carefully.
- Use pesticides sparingly — more is not better. "Spot" apply, rather than "blanket" apply.
- When watering your lawn, use the least amount of water possible so it doesn't run into the street carrying pesticides and other chemicals with it.
- Use non-toxic products for your garden and lawn whenever possible.
- If you must store pesticides or fertilizer, make sure they are in a sealed, water-proof container in a covered area to prevent runoff.
- Do not blow, sweep, hose or rake leaves or other yard trimmings into the street, gutter or storm drain.

PROJECT
Pollution
PREVENTION

A message from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.
Printed on recycled paper.

Kimberly Anyadike Honored at Board of Supervisors Meeting *Youngest African-American Female to Fly Across the U.S. Solo*

In recognition of piloting a single-engine Cessna Plane across the country, from Compton Woodley Airport to Newport News, Virginia, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas honored 15-year old, Kimberly Anyadike, at the July 14 Board of Supervisors meeting.

In tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen, Kimberly made aviation history by piloting a single engine red-tail airplane from Compton Woodley Airport to Newport News, Virginia, and back to Compton.

She departed on June 29, earning worldwide news coverage. She flew with an adult safety pilot, Ronell Norman (*pictured*), and Levi Thornhill, who served with the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. She stopped in 23 cities, with a particularly noteworthy stop in Washington, D.C., where Congresswoman Laura Richardson personally came out to congratulate Kimberly; and Alabama Mayor Omar Neal proclaimed July 2 as "Kimberly Anyadike Day." Kimberly's 10-day trip was sponsored by Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum (TAM), Founded by Robin Petgrave. On July 11, she returned to Compton Woodley Airport in her Cessna, autographed by at least 50 Tuskegee Airmen throughout her trip, to a crowd of supporters and onlookers, all proud of her historical feat.



She stopped in 23 cities, with a particularly noteworthy stop in Washington, D.C., where Congresswoman Laura Richardson personally came out to congratulate Kimberly; and Alabama Mayor Omar Neal proclaimed July 2 as "Kimberly Anyadike Day." Kimberly's 10-day trip was sponsored by Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum (TAM), Founded by Robin Petgrave. On July 11, she returned to Compton Woodley Airport in her Cessna, autographed by at least 50 Tuskegee Airmen throughout her trip, to a crowd of supporters and onlookers, all proud of her historical feat.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

ENRICHING LIVES...

A Look Inside the Public Health Lab

Mycobacterium tuberculosis, novel influenza (flu) AH1N1, *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* O157, hepatitis, and West Nile viruses—although these may sound alarming, they are part of the everyday lexicon used in the County’s Public Health Laboratory.

Inside the modern, one-story facility, which is set in the pastoral Rancho Los Amigos area in Downey, there is important work taking place. As natural light streams through the building’s many windows, brightening its long corridors and sealed rooms, staff members—wearing gloves and white,



long-sleeved lab coats or blue disposable ones—are engrossed. Some are peering through microscopes at parasitology slides, one is dissecting the head of a potentially rabid bat, another is reviewing results for HIV viral resistance

testing on a computer monitor, and others are performing colorful salmonella serotyping in clear test tubes.

The specimens come from a variety of sources. Of those received in 2008, the majority (54%) arrived from programs in the Department of Public Health (STD Control, TB Control, Acute Communicable Disease Control, HIV/AIDS, Environmental Health, and Veterinary); 22% from the Department of Health Services, 21% from community-based organizations, 2% from correctional facilities, and 1% from local hospitals and independent labs.

On any given day, specimens of human and animal tissue, blood, sputum, and feces, as well as beach and drinking water, and potentially contaminated foods are labeled and logged into the lab’s computers, then sent to the proper section for testing. Whether it’s a communicable disease, foodborne illness, or vector-borne disease, the Public Health Lab will soon make that discovery—enabling County residents to be treated promptly and properly.

Lab Mandate

The Public Health Laboratory, which was established in 1922, is a state-mandated service per California Health and Safety Code Article 5, Section 101150. It is dedicated to its mission of protecting the health of the community and public through “provision of state-of-the-art, high-quality, cost-effective surveillance, diagnostic, reference and consultative laboratory services.”

Organization of the Lab

Since 2005, Director Sue Sabet, Ph.D., Dipl. ABMM (pictured left with Dr. Peijia Chen), has overseen the lab, which is a division of Public Health’s Communicable Disease Control and Prevention program.



Previously, Dr. Sabet served as Assistant Chief of the San Diego Public Health Laboratory, then as Director for the San Bernardino Public Health Laboratory. Prior to her more than 18 years of government service, she was a professor of microbiology and immunology for over a decade, teaching at medical schools in Virginia.

The lab, which is currently staffed by about 130 personnel, is organized into four sections:

- Bacteriology/Parasitology
- Mycobacteriology/Mycology
- Immunology/Virology
- HIV-1 Testing.

Through the use of sophisticated instruments and competent staff, the lab processes high volumes of specimens. For instance, it runs more than 300,000 chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (GC) tests per year. Dr. Sabet says, “With only

three microbiologists and three lab assistants, we are able to run this large quantity of CT and GC tests because the process is highly automated.”

As a government facility, the Public Health Lab works collaboratively with the state public health lab and the federal lab at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These relationships have assisted the lab to remain on the cutting edge of technology and training.

Influenza A H1N1 Specimens

With prescient timing and before the World Health Organization issued its pandemic alert for novel flu A H1N1 (“swine flu”), select personnel flew across the country for CDC training on the equipment and methods used to identify this novel flu strain.

As a result, when flu A H1N1 cases were detected in the County, the lab was able to quickly process the specimens. “During the height of the alert, we received about 150 specimens per day,” says Dr. Sabet. “Because



David Johnson assesses the growth patterns of tuberculosis in test tubes.

of our training and the new equipment, we were able to process the specimens rapidly so that doctors could begin properly treating affected residents.” Since then, a new piece of equipment has arrived: the Luminex Assay System, which can detect thirteen respiratory reagents at once. This will eliminate the time needed to culture these viruses, as they can be verified using this instrument.

Reflecting on Lab Work

Although staff members in the lab work behind the scenes on the public health stage, they play a crucial part in maintaining and protecting the health of County residents. Dr. Sabet says, “We are like detectives, looking to uncover the cause of illness. It is so gratifying for us to be able to pinpoint the cause of symptoms, and then know the information we provide will be used to help someone and mobilize the public health system to prevent the spread of disease and protect the community. That’s what keeps us motivated.”

County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan



Enriching Lives
lacounty.gov

County Mission

- To enrich lives through effective and caring service

County Values

Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- **Accountability** – We accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Can-Do Attitude** – We approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Compassion** – We treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Customer Orientation** – We place the highest priority on meeting our customers’ needs with accessible, responsive quality services, and treating them with respect and dignity.
- **Integrity** – We act consistent with our values and the highest ethical standards.
- **Leadership** – We engage, motivate and inspire others to collaboratively achieve common goals through example, vision and commitment.
- **Professionalism** – We perform to a high standard of excellence. We take pride in our employees and invest in their job satisfaction and development.
- **Respect for Diversity** – We value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** – We take the action needed in a timely manner.

Strategic Plan Goals

1. **Operational Effectiveness:** Maximize the effectiveness of the County’s processes, structure, and operations to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services.
2. **Children, Family and Adult Well-Being:** Enrich lives through integrated, cost-effective and client-centered supportive services.
3. **Community and Municipal Services:** Enrich the lives of Los Angeles County’s residents and visitors by providing access to cultural, recreational and lifelong learning facilities programs; ensure quality regional open space, recreational and public works infrastructure services for County residents; and deliver customer oriented municipal services to the County’s diverse unincorporated communities.
4. **Health and Mental Health:** Improve health and mental health outcomes and efficient use of scarce resources, by promoting proven service models and prevention principles that are population-based, client-centered and family-focused.
5. **Public Safety:** Ensure that the committed efforts of the public safety partners continue to maintain and improve the safety and security of the people of Los Angeles County.

Gloria Molina Mark Ridley-Thomas Zev Yaroslavsky Don Knabe Michael D. Antonovich
 Supervisor, First District Supervisor, Second District Supervisor, Third District Supervisor, Fourth District Supervisor, Fifth District

Local Child Support Evaders Sentenced to Jail Time

Sixteen parents have recently been sentenced to serve time in Los Angeles County jail after failing to meet their child support obligations, Supervisor Don Knabe announced. The sentences are the result of a stepped up criminal prosecution effort by the Board of Supervisors, the County's Child Support Services Department (CSSD) and the Office of the District Attorney (DA).

The recent arrests and subsequent jail sentences stem from the County's Arrest Warrant Project and "Most Wanted" child support evaders list, unveiled in March 2008 by Supervisor Don Knabe, CSSD Director Steven Golightly and District Attorney Steve Cooley. The project is aimed at executing outstanding warrants for parents who have been charged with or convicted of not paying their child support obligations for their children.

Over the past two months, 16 parents have received jail sentences ranging from 30-180 days for failing to pay court-ordered child support. Collectively, the 16 defendants owe \$752,349.20 in unpaid child support.

On June 25, Scott Saulsberry of Perris was sentenced to 90 days in jail for failing to make payments on \$103,000 in unpaid child support. On June 2, Bartolome Salazar of Reseda was sentenced to 180 days in jail, owing more than \$82,000 in child support. Salazar failed to surrender to serve his sentence. A warrant, with bail set at \$100,000, has been issued for his arrest. On June 19, Mark Sandoval of Pasadena, who owes over \$28,000 in child support arrears, was sentenced to 90 days in jail. On June 22, Gardena resident Marco Smith was sentenced to 90 days in jail, owing over \$90,000 in child support arrears.

On a motion by Supervisor Knabe, the Board of Supervisors approved an annual appropriation of \$500,000, to be combined with \$1 million in federal matching funds, to underwrite the costs of a team of District Attorney Investigators to aid a stepped up prosecution effort.



"The County works with thousands of parents who are doing the right thing by paying their child support obligations. Unfortunately, there are a few people out there, like these 16 individuals, who have left their children without financial support, going to great lengths to evade paying what they owe," said Supervisor Knabe. "The message here is clear. If you evade your child support payments, the County will use every legal recourse we have available, including jail time."

"Over the past six years in California, the child support system has entered a new era of working cooperatively with parents to address their child support obligations," said CSSD Director Steven Golightly. "Our goal is to always secure regular payment of support in keeping with a parent's ability to pay. However, some parents willfully ignore their obligations despite having the means to provide. They must be held accountable. I applaud the work of the DA, our Criminal Prosecution Division and the Courts for bringing these parents to justice."

To support the criminal prosecution effort, the County posts a "Most Wanted" list at www.cssd.lacounty.gov. It provides pictures and case information on individuals who face warrants because of non-payment of their child support obligations. The public can call CSSD's Criminal Prosecution Division at (213) 351-8696 if they have information on Most Wanted individuals.

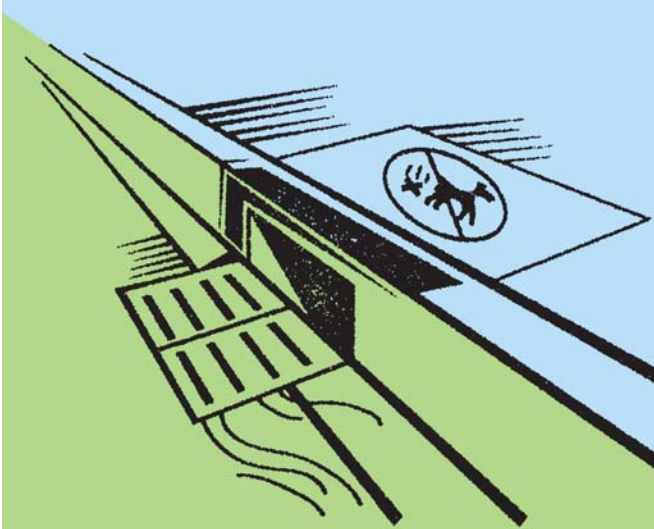
Community Rallies to Save HIV/AIDS Programs

Against the backdrop of headstones at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Hollywood, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky told a crowd of concerned community members gathered at a protest rally that he would support their effort to stave off threatened cuts in HIV/AIDS programs as state and local officials grapple with California's unprecedented budget crisis.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky traveled to Sacramento to meet with various legislators and state finance officials to press local governments' case against transferring billions of dollars in local revenues from cities and counties to help the state balance its books. "We can't absorb cuts of that magnitude, and we shouldn't be forced to," Supervisor Yaroslavsky said. "We've been living within our means, and Sacramento needs to do the same."



Pick Up After Your Pooch!



Storm drains are for rain...
they're not pooper scoopers.

L.A. County residents walk a dog without picking up the droppings more than **62,000** times per month.

Disease-causing dog waste washes from the ground and streets into storm drains and flows straight to the ocean — untreated.

Remember to bring a bag and clean up after your dog.

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

Tips for Dog Owners:

Dog owners can help solve the stormwater pollution problem by taking these easy steps...

- Clean up after your dog every single time.
- Take advantage of the complimentary waste bags offered in dispensers at local parks.
- Ensure you always have extra bags in your car so you are prepared when you travel with your dog.
- Carry extra bags when walking your dog and make them available to other pet owners who are without.
- Teach children how to properly clean up after a pet. Encourage them to throw the used bags in the nearest trash receptacle if they are away from home.
- Put a friendly message on the bulletin board at the local dog park to remind pet owners to clean up after their dogs.
- Tell friends and neighbors about the ill effects of animal waste on the environment. Encourage them to clean up after their pets as well.

PROJECT
 Pollution
 PREVENTION

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Live Homework Help

Live Homework Help targets students in grades K - Adult and provides them with homework assistance in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The program is internet-based and connects students with qualified tutors in real time. The service is free and is available in English and Spanish, on the County of Los Angeles Public Library website at:

www.librarytutor.org

To access the program, students need a County of Los Angeles Public Library library card which is available free at any County Library location.

To preview Live Homework Help, go to www.librarytutor.org, click on the Live Homework Help icon and follow the instructions.

Live Homework Help is available in English every day from 1:00 p.m. - Midnight

Live Homework Help is available in Spanish every day from 1:00 p.m. - Midnight

Questions? Call (562) 940-8523

www.librarytutor.org

The ‘Greening’ of the Los Angeles River with New Cudahy River Park

Supervisor Gloria Molina joined Southeast Los Angeles students, parents, environmental activists, and park planners recently at the grand opening of Cudahy River Park, the latest Los Angeles River revitalization project to be unveiled to the public.

“Few public projects generate as much excitement as the prospect of ‘greening’ the L.A. River,” Supervisor Molina said. “It’s an especially important project for us since the river winds through some of the County’s most densely populated communities, many of which suffer from a severe lack of parks and open space. Cudahy is a perfect example. At just 1.1 square miles, it is the second smallest city in the nation in acreage. With close to 25,000 residents, Cudahy has one of the highest population densities of any incorporated city in America and a median family income of \$28,833. So we are proud of our \$150,000 investment in Cudahy River Park.”



Supervisor Molina proudly poses with local children, parents, environmentalists, and civic activists at the entryway to Cudahy River Park

Located at the corner of Elizabeth Street and River Road, Cudahy River Park gives locals a place to enjoy some quiet repose. With its new lighting, bike lanes, and jogging path, the park also provides top notch recreational amenities to Cudahy’s more active residents. Many thanks to the City of Cudahy, North East Trees, the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy, the Prop A Open Space District, and the Department of Parks and Recreation for partnering with the First District on this wonderful venture.

Legendary R&B Group “The Whispers” Honored

To the beat of “Rock Steady,” the 1987 Top 10 single by the legendary Rhythm and Blues (R&B) group *The Whispers*, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the Board of Supervisors observed Black Music Month and honored the group for more than four decades of memorable entertainment. The Board of Supervisors recognized the group as part of the County’s observance of Black Music Month, created in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter. A quarter century later, the White House continues to issue an annual Black Music Month proclamation paying tribute to artists of the past and present.

The Supervisor took pride in noting how *The Whispers*, whose careers began in the Watts area, climbed the music charts in the 70’s and 80’s with hits like “And the Beat Goes On,” the ballad “Lady,” and “A Song for Donny,” a tribute to Donny Hathaway. In 1987, “Rock Steady” held the Top 40 spot becoming their first Top 10 success on the Hot 100, capturing the #1 spot on the R&B Chart. For over four decades, *The Whispers* have brought the musical genre



From left to right, Nicholas Caldwell, Walter “Scotty” Scott, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, Wallace Scott and Leaveil Degree.

of Rhythm and Blues worldwide and they continue to preserve and promote the legacy and contribution of Black music that communicates across racial boundaries. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas was honored to celebrate the extraordinary talents and creativity of African-American musicians and composers who have enriched our cultures.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

County DIGEST Questionnaire

The *County DIGEST* continues to serve our readers with useful information. As we continue to make improvements to this publication, we would like to hear from you. Please take the time to share your thoughts and feelings with us through our questionnaire.

1. Do you find the contents of the *County DIGEST* informative?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Not really

2. Why do you read the *County DIGEST*?

- Learn of Supervisor's accomplishments in their District
- Learn of Supervisor's efforts to improve the community
- View calendar of events
- View names of retirees
- Learn about current County policies or issues that could impact employees
- Learn about County departments and the roles they play
- Learn how the County is implementing the Strategic Plan (center spread)
- Learn about County jobs
- To familiarize yourself with current events/general interest stories
- Other _____

3. What type of stories would you like to see in the *County DIGEST*?

- Supervisor's accomplishments in their District
- Supervisor's efforts to improve the community
- "Who's Who" in the County of Los Angeles
- Major accomplishments/milestones of County employees
- Highlights of departmental operations
- Issues impacting the County at the federal, state and local levels
- New County-wide programs
- Budget
- Wellness
- Other _____

4. How often do you visit the *County DIGEST* Web site?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Not really

5. What suggestions can you offer to help us improve the *County DIGEST*?

Completed questionnaire may be sent via

Fax:

(213) 639-0940

E-mail:

CountyDIGEST@hr.lacounty.gov

Mail:

County DIGEST

3333 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1000

Los Angeles, CA 90010

County Day at the County Fair is September 13

Mark your calendars for the Fifth Annual Los Angeles County Day at the County Fair in Pomona to be held on Sunday, September 13, in Pomona.

Elected officials and department heads will join employees in celebrating this special day, which allows the County to showcase its services and the great team of employees who deliver those services. Last year, former Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke and District Attorney Steve Cooley participated in the festivities, as did thousands of employees. Activities will include a noon parade featuring County vehicles and employees, an all-day Expo with informational booths staffed by departments and a 1:30 p.m. horse race in honor of the County.

Employees will receive discount coupons for use on September 13 for one free admission with each paid admission. Coupons will be provided with employees' August 28 paychecks and are also available at the County Public Information Office in Room 358 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, (213) 974-1311. Electronic coupons have also been provided to departments to distribute to employees. Employees may have as many coupons as they want to invite family members and friends.

The theme of the event this year is "lacounty.gov" to publicize the County's new Web site, which was designed to make it easier for the public to access information about the County and its services. Shirts with the County seal and words "lacounty.gov" inscribed underneath the seal will be sold in the Public Information Office. The event theme each year is tied to the County's exhibit at the fair. This year's exhibit will highlight departmental online services.



ALADS Honors Supervisor Yaroslavsky

The Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS) represented by Steve Remige, President, (left) and Floyd Hayhurst, Vice President, (right) presented a plaque to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky thanking him for his staunch support of local law enforcement and longstanding strong relationship with the Sheriff's Department.



"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

Share It

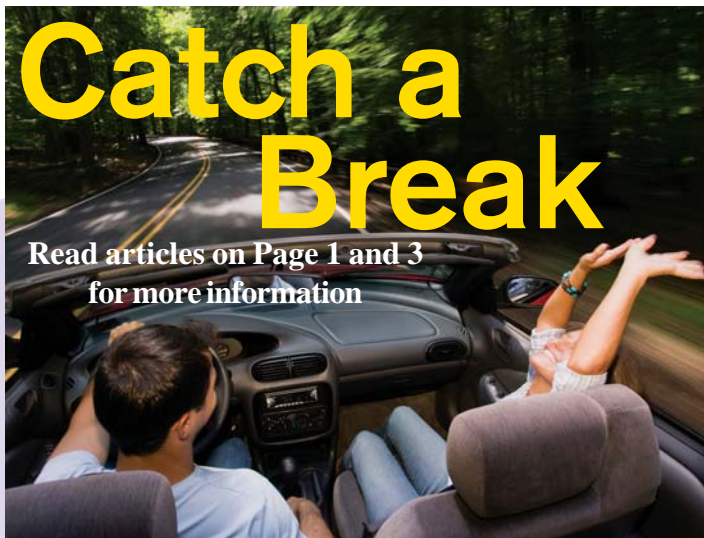
Surviving the Heat...Tips from the Department of Health Services

If you plan to be outdoors, please take precautions to protect yourself from the sun and heat.

- Put on plenty of sun block and wear a wide brimmed hat or carry an umbrella.
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing.
- Drink water often. Don't wait until you are thirsty.
- Avoid unnecessary exertion.
- If you experience dizziness, fatigue, faintness, headaches, muscle cramps and increased thirst, you need to relax in a cooler, shaded place and drink water or a sports drink.
- More severe symptoms (such as disorientation, pale and clammy skin, a rapid and weak pulse, and/or fast and shallow breathing) may indicate heat exhaustion or impending heat stroke. Seek immediate medical attention.
- If you are traveling on vacation or running errands around town, NEVER leave a senior, child or pet in a closed car or any vehicle since temperatures can quickly rise to life-threatening levels.
- If you know seniors who live alone or people whose immune and/or respiratory systems are not working properly, check on them regularly to make sure they are staying cool.
- Offer assistance to "shut-ins" in your neighborhood. Check on them frequently during hot weather.

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A list of County Cooling Centers is available by calling 2-1-1 or by visiting <http://www.211losangeles.org/Community/CoolingStations2009.pdf>. If you are planning to visit one of the Cooling Centers, it is advisable that you call in advance to make sure there is still seating available. Keep your local library in mind when looking for a place to cool down. They have great resources and plenty to read while you escape the heat.



Who says you can't get a break when you buy a new car? The **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** may give you the break you're looking for – a deduction for state and local sales and excise taxes or other fees you pay when you buy a new car, light truck, motor home or motorcycle through 2009.

The deduction is limited to the first \$49,500 of the vehicle purchase price. The amount of the deduction starts phasing out if you make more than \$125,000, or \$250,000 if you're filing a joint return.

So you can buy now and get cash back on your tax return next year. Now doesn't that give you the drive to buy a new vehicle today?

Visit irs.gov/recovery.



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First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
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