



## County's Foster Children Enjoy Special Holiday Party

For Los Angeles County's foster children, the holidays can be an especially difficult time of year. We helped make the holidays a little brighter by hosting a special holiday celebration exclusively for them at the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage near Elysian Park. Staff from the County's Department of Children and Family Services teamed up with Board of Supervisors Chair Gloria Molina's office to organize the party. The children enjoyed a tasty dinner as well as lots of cake, candy, and Christmas cookies. There were plenty of presents underneath the Christmas tree for all kids in attendance—and the Autry Museum's distinct grandeur gave the soirée a special ambience.

"We want to express our appreciation to everyone who worked with us to make this party possible," Supervisor Molina said. "Antonia Hernandez of the California Community Foundation and Judge Michael Stern covered the catering costs. John L. Gray, Executive Director of the Autry Museum, secured the venue at no cost. Federico and Ellen Jimenez took care of logistics. Our "Santa's Helpers" for the evening came from Girl Scout Troop 7221, who volunteered on all sorts of tasks—from face painting and cookie making to Christmas frame assembling and picture taking. Twelve-year-old mariachi singer Alex de la Torre provided the evening's free entertainment!"



*Twelve-year-old mariachi Alex de la Torre sings for everyone in attendance at a special holiday party for Los Angeles County's foster children.*



*Foster children line up for delicious holiday treats at a special party held for them at the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage.*

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# EVENT CALENDAR

## Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes, please visit [www.arboretum.org](http://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](http://www.lacma.org)

### Art

February 14-May 9 - Renoir, after Impressionism (1890-1919)

February 28 -May 23 - American Stories: Paintings of Everyday Life 1765-1915

Through March 1 - Vanity Fair Portraits: Photographs 1913-2008

### 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](http://www.musiccenter.org)

### Walt Disney Concert Hall

[www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)

### Los Angeles Philharmonic

[www.laphil.com](http://www.laphil.com)

(323) 850-2000

### February

12-14 - Frühbeck de Burgos conducts Schumann and Ravel

16 - Chamber Music

17 - Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra

19-21 - Dutoit Conducts Ravel and Stravinsky

26 - Joshua Bell and Jeremy Denk in Recital

27 - TSFY: Beethoven's in the House

27 - Dirty Projectors • Los Angeles Philharmonic

28 - Angeliqe Kidjo

### Center Theatre Group

[www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org)

### Ahmanson Theatre

Feb 22-April 4 - Dreamgirls

### Mark Taper Forum

February 10 - March 21 - Speed-the-Plow

### Los Angeles Opera

(performances in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion)

[www.losangelesopera.com](http://www.losangelesopera.com)

Regular performances will start in late March

### Los Angeles Master Chorale

[www.lamc.org](http://www.lamc.org)

### Natural History Museum

900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007

For a list of events, please visit [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org) or call (213) 763-DINO



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and  
the County of Los Angeles Present:  
The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual

“Remembering Our Veterans: Past, Present and Future”

Saturday, May 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arcadia County Park

405 S. Santa Anita Avenue

Arcadia, CA 91006

(909) 394-2264



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

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for information on employment  
opportunities with the  
County of Los Angeles

# SAVE THE DATE

On **March 8, 2010**, the Los Angeles County Commission for Women and the Board of Supervisors will host its prestigious 25<sup>th</sup> annual “Women of the Year Awards Luncheon” at the Crystal Ballroom, Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles. For more

information, please call: (213) 974-1455, or visit the Commission’s Web site at [www.LACCW.info](http://www.LACCW.info).



In 1975, the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was established to represent special interests and concerns for women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, social circumstances, and sexual orientation. One of the Commission’s priorities has been to recommend programs or legislation to promote and ensure equal rights and opportunities for women. The Commission also recognizes outstanding women that have made a difference in the lives of women throughout Los Angeles County.

*Commission for Women*



*Celebrating Our 35th Anniversary*

We salute these dynamic women for their work to bring about social and economic change, promote women’s equality, serve as outstanding role models, work on behalf of women’s issues and demonstrate outstanding performance within their professions to further advocate women’s rights.

\*\*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*\*\*

*2010 Cesar Chavez  
Community Service Week  
March 29 - April 2, 2010*

County employees plan now to join the effort to ensure an accurate count for Census 2010.

\*\*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*\*\*

**READ**  
Listen  
Explore  
Create

County Library

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Stand Up Comic - Mother-Writer  
...and a cardmember

OUR CARD MEMBERS CARRY UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

- Easy Access to Information
- State-of-the-art enhanced services
- Free WiFi internet access with your library card

Visit Your County of Los Angeles Public Library TODAY!!  
For more information call (562) 940-8415 or visit the County Library website [www.colapublib.org](http://www.colapublib.org)

# 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:*

**ASSESSOR:** Barbara Grays  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** Louise Perry  
**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES:** Brenda J. Cotton, Bobbie J. Nix  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Leo Anderson, Adelaida De La Cerda, Ruby J. Green, Jon R. Jorgensen, May Y. Lemon, Sandra L. Valdivia, Janie Warren  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Rebecca A. Gutkowski  
**LACERA:** Deborah Terrell-Timble  
**MENTAL HEALTH:** Terie S. Zavack  
**PROBATION:** Fred Diamond, Frederick J. Holmes, Eleanor Rodriguez  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mary J. Garza, Ivory Harris, Virginia A. Seafus, Lynda D. Shealy, Delano V. Tidwell, Virginia A. White  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Richard Garcia Jr, Daunice E. Madkin  
**SHERIFF:** Jure M. Blakely, Florence C. Richardson  
**TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:** Anthony Yakimowich

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**ASSESSOR:** Khin M. Lee  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE:** George Parker  
**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Phyllis D. Jones, Patricia L. Young  
**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES:** Barbara A. Boyd, Susan K. Harper  
**COUNTY COUNSEL:** Roberta M. Fesler  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Richard Burns III, Juanita Cortinas, Norman P. Ejan, John G. Tellez  
**FIRE:** Gary M. Aalberts, John C. Bailey, Dennis F. Baker, Jesus Burciaga, Steven Genovese, Richard A. Guerrero, Karen M. Jones, Michael J. Singer  
**HUMAN RESOURCES:** David F. Leong, Dorothy Nash  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Debra D. Adams, Everdina B. Alisangco, Pedro L. Alvarado, Dale H. Araki, Catherine A. Bailon, Viola Balolong, Patricia T. Bantolo, Robert Carr, Jane Y. Chou, Ruth M. Cooks, Leronious Fisher, Dianne Fuqua, Lorraine I. Gaudi, Allyn L. Gazzarine, Adelwisa Gelle, Beatrice Goodwin, Linda Y. Guerra, Charlotte R. Hamilton, Christine M. Huffman, Marie E. Johnston, Elpidio V. Lardizabal, Vivian Lowd, Elinore Lyon, Silvia M. Martinez, Hugh B. McIntyre, Marion Moore, Doris G. Perkins, Beverly K. Rogers, Bertha Rojo, Maureen E. Sims, Mary C. Thompson, Ruth Urbano, Georgia Vardanian, Hazel L. Walton, Linda White  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Linda J. Curtis, Raymond C. Lee, Denise M. McClenney, Payton L. Price  
**MENTAL HEALTH:** Rachel Cadena, Wanda Hammons, Vernon Smith

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY:** Wardell Cruse  
**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Fred Kasprinski, Thomas Sheppard  
**PROBATION:** Shannon M. King, James E. Lewis, Carol I. Sanchez  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Myrna Aguila, Elda E. Borjas, Barbara Lee, Arlene P. Murrell, Delores Perez, Maria C. Rodriguez-Ma, Eloise Talton, Patrecia M. Wimberly-Pro  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** William M. Thomas  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Sabrina Beltran, Dennis Blackshear, Teresita Dayao, Carlton Fuller, Sally A. Ho, Clifford Hutson, Linda L. Lopez, Mildred McKeever, Janet Murillo, Carol Naqvi, Salvador Nevarez Jr., Jacqueline A. Sheppard  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Andrew V. Lopez, John T. Maykulsky, Michael R. Orcutt, Brent Tackett  
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Nelia T. Briones, Beulah Jemison  
**SHERIFF:** Jose I. Bartilad, Robert D. Bingham, John M. Brady, Thomas E. Byers, Gilbert Carrillo, Sharon A. Dent, Edward N. Gonzales, Frank G. Gonzales, Richard M. Graves, Joseph A. Martinez, Douglas G. Miller, Cynthia V. Reyes, Roger D. Ross, Charles B. Smith, Helen P. Woolford, Alan S. Young  
**SUPERIOR COURT:** Marie L. Baltierra, Michael H. Braverman, Elaine C. Cassidy, Charlesell H. Johnson, Pamela Juergens, Sherrie L. Turner, Kathryn A. Visco  
**TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:** Renita R. Gregorio, Alfonso C. Salazar

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES:** Marie R. Brown, Lydia L. Ramirez  
**FIRE:** Donald P. Beckman, John B. Doyle, Joseph Hernandez, Joseph W. Lindaman  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Victoria Baluyot, Rudolph S. Boykin, Edralin, Georgia Frye, Carlton Herring, Larry Longmire, Chung S. Ro, Eva E. Rojas, Ayako R. Saunders, Milagros G. Wong, Arnold Zigman  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Amanda M. Gutierrez  
**PROBATION:** Suzanne Assis De Mor, Mohammad M. Azam, Gene D. Dalsky, Petty McClain Jr, Tyrone L. Perry  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Fayga Greiner, Shirley J. Hawkins, Oanh N. Mai, Elizabeth P. Todd  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Aroon K. Kirpalani, Jose Lopez, Antoinette F. Uthoff  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Misael Becerra, Cheryl Dailey  
**SHERIFF:** Dennis A. Campbell, David S. Pasion Jr., John R. Stites II  
**SUPERIOR COURT:** Karen L. Olds, J.D. White Jr.  
**TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:** Dennis C. Moore

## A New Roof for Homeless Kids and Their Parents

A rundown budget motel in Culver City is being transformed into an oasis for homeless families, a place where they can find emergency housing and comprehensive services designed to stabilize and restore their lives. The Family Shelter, operated by the Santa Monica-based Upward Bound House, will become the first emergency family shelter on the Westside in at least a decade.



“We are filling a real need,” says Upward Bound House Executive Director David Snow.

The \$4 million transformation of the former Sunbay Motel on Washington Boulevard will allow it to house as many as 72 homeless adults and kids – an estimated 210 children and their parents each year. Families may come from anywhere in Los Angeles County and remain for up to three months, until they’ve secured permanent housing or moved into a transitional apartment while awaiting a permanent residence.

Keeping families together during the 90-day transition is the shelter’s goal. “Our entire model is keeping families intact, so each family will have its own unit, housing up to four people,” Snow says. He anticipates that most clients will be single-parent families with one, two or three children. The new facility will also feature an on-site playground and a computer lab for kids.

Beyond safe living spaces, the Upward Bound House will provide comprehensive homeless services, including what Snow calls “wraparound case management” intended to teach adult skills, such as household budgeting, that will help residents succeed on their own.

Families will get two daily meals in a new multi-purpose room, thanks to pledged donations of leftover food from Second Helpings and Google. Youngsters will be enrolled in Culver City or Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) schools to ensure continuity.

The Sunbay Motel cost \$3 million to acquire, with another \$1 million for renovations that will give the facility a contemporary, energy-efficient look, says Jay Vanos, principal at Jay Vanos Architects, the designer of the new facility. Vanos’s team is using sustainable materials, which saves cooling costs by blocking excessive sunlight with “eyebrows” over windows and is replacing the old pink and white color scheme with “a warm grey to maintain a quiet, low profile” in the neighborhood.

Funding flowed from a variety of sources, a reflection that several cities will benefit from the new facility. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky provided \$750,000 in Third District funds as seed money. That amount was matched by then-Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke of the Second District, which includes Culver City. The cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Beverly Hills also made contributions.

## Crimestoppers Tip Line Program Comes to Los Angeles County

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined Sheriff Lee Baca, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Charlie Beck and police chiefs from over 20 cities to launch a new public-private partnership that will offer rewards to anonymous tipsters who provide information leading to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals.

Anyone with information on an unsolved crime is encouraged to contact Crimestoppers by:

- Calling 800-222-TIPS (8477)
- Texting the letters TIPLA plus the tip (information) to 274637 or CRIMES
- Visiting the Web site online at [www.lacrimestoppers.org](http://www.lacrimestoppers.org)

The Crimestoppers program was started in 1976 by a young detective in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who was frustrated by the number of unsolved cases in his jurisdiction. The detective reached out to the community, media and law enforcement agencies for help. This new partnership helped the young detective solve a murder he was investigating



within 72 hours. Since its inception, this program has led to:

- Over 500,000 arrests
- One million crimes solved
- \$4 billion in drugs and drug money seized

There are currently over 300 Crimestoppers programs worldwide.

### Legislative Report SB 23 and HR 3548

**Senate Bill (SB) 23** (Padilla) passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor is an important bill dealing with safety and emergency readiness in mobile home parks and manufactured housing communities. SB 23 requires that beginning on September 1, 2010, every owner or operator of a mobile home park or a recreational vehicle park adopt and post an emergency readiness plan. The intent of the legislation is for mobile home park owners and operators to communicate to residents essential information about evacuation routes and emergency readiness.

According to data compiled by the California Senate Select Committee on Mobile and Manufactured Homes, as of July 2008, there were 4,707 mobile home parks and manufactured housing communities in California. Los Angeles County ranks first among all counties in the state with 644 of these communities. Mobile homes and manufactured housing often provide affordable housing for families, retired persons and the elderly.

In March 2009, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion (Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich) to support SB 23. The bill had wide

support including the City of Los Angeles, the Congress of California Seniors, the California Professional Firefighters and the manufactured housing industry.

**House Resolution (HR) 3548** - Late last year, President Obama signed into law HR 3548, the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009. This legislation extended unemployment benefits and the federal tax credit for first time homebuyers. It also created a new tax credit for repeat buyers who bought a new primary residence. This is a \$24 billion effort to help the jobless and support the housing market.

Extending the unemployment benefits is timely as the unemployment rate in California was 12.2% in September 2009. The U.S. Department of Labor ranks California 48th among the fifty states (including the District of Columbia) in unemployment. Three other states have higher unemployment rates: Rhode Island (13%), Nevada (13.3%) and Michigan (15.34%).

The law will extend unemployment benefits another 13 weeks to all those who have exhausted their benefits or will do so by the end of the year. Unemployment benefits will be extended another six weeks in states where the unemployment rate is 8.5% or more. Unemployed workers in California will benefit from this legislation.

## Sheriff Lee Baca and Santa Claus Visit Children's Center



Sheriff Lee Baca, Captain Bondell Golden from the Pitchess Detention Center-South Facility, Acting Captain Bruce Fogarty from the Century Regional Detention Facility, and Captain Henry Romero from the East Los Angeles Station joined Santa Claus for their traditional visit to the Belvedere Early Education Center in East Los Angeles. The Sheriff and retired Deputy Sheriff Charles "Bobby" Beals, who volunteered to play "Santa" for his 46<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, handed out toys to more than 100 delighted children. The children opened the Christmas program by singing "Jingle Bells," followed by other holiday songs.

"Each year we look forward to visiting the

Belvedere Early Education Center to interact with these children," said Sheriff Baca. "It is indeed a joy to see the smiles on their faces as Santa Claus presents them with handcrafted gifts provided through the effort of the staff and inmates at our jail facilities. I was thrilled to have the pleasure of reliving the excitement of Christmas through a child's eyes and experiencing their enthusiasm as they sang and danced for us."



Given to the girls were some of the 3,500 dolls handcrafted by female inmates at the Century Regional Detention Facility. The doll program began over 50 years ago as a work project for women in the Los Angeles County jail and remains a tradition today, thanks to the generous donations of materials by community members and Department personnel. The young boys at the center received handmade wooden toys. These cars, trucks, and helicopters were part of approximately 200 toys handcrafted by male inmates incarcerated at the Pitchess Detention Center. The remaining dolls and toys crafted by the inmates are distributed to underprivileged or physically-challenged children throughout Los Angeles County.

## Supervisor Antonovich Dedicates New Antelope Valley Bookmobile

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd, Mrs. Kathy Clark's second grade class from Monte Vista Elementary School, Gwen Woody of the Friends of the Lancaster Library and the community in dedicating the newest Antelope Valley Bookmobile. The new state-of-the-art bookmobile is larger than the current fleet vehicles and offers the following services and amenities:



The new bookmobile brings the Antelope Valley Bookmobile fleet to four. Other upcoming or completed library projects in the Fifth District include:

- 5,500 new books
- Audio and video recordings (CD and DVD)
- Wireless internet access
- 2 customer doors
- 3 laptops
- 20-inch LCD TV
- Customer service desk in front and rear
- Children's programs
- The Castaic Library which opened in October 2008
- The grand opening of the La Crescenta Library in late January 2010
- The Acton/Agua Dulce Library, which is under construction and expected to open in the summer of 2010
- The Canyon Country Library renovation and expansion project expected to start in early 2010.

# ENRICHING LIVES...

## Spirit of Giving County Employees Give Back

Countywide, employees are “enriching lives” of those in need through the annual Charitable Giving campaign. Contributions through payroll deduction and one-time donations are expected to exceed \$1 million this year with the majority of those funds being used to provide health and human services to children and families in need. The County’s campaign partners are United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Brotherhood Crusade, Asian Pacific Community Fund, EarthShare California and the United Latino Fund. These organizations work with community-based organizations to deliver affordable health care to low and moderate income families, improve literacy rates among urban school children, feed the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless and protect the environment. In addition, departments Countywide made a difference in the lives of many by contributing their time, energy and resources to help those in need. The following provides a snapshot of what some of our colleagues were doing during the holiday season.

### **Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures**

The Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures “adopted a family”; a mother, a newborn baby girl, and two brothers aged 5 and 3 years. Through cash contributions and item donations by employees, the Department was able to deliver hundreds of dollars in gift cards for supermarkets and other stores, groceries, clothing, toys, diapers, and other baby items.



*From left to right:* Christine Belden, Inspector III; Erineo Ada, Inspector II; Kurt Floren, Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures; Anne Pichler, Executive Secretary II and Richard Iizuka, Chief Deputy.

### **Animal Care and Control**

The Department of Animal Care and Control participated in the SAVE A STRAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS event. A total of 163 animals found new homes during this event, held on December 19, 2009.



### **Chief Executive Office**

The Chief Executive Office, in the spirit of Charitable Giving, brought Christmas joy to a needy family in Compton, headed by a single mother of two daughters. Ms. M. received a

fresh Christmas tree, toys and a Ralph's supermarket gift certificate to purchase items for a Christmas dinner.



## Community and Senior Services

As a part of the Community and Senior Services' (CSS) spirit of sharing and caring, the Department organized the second annual "Coats for Comfort" donation drive to provide coats, sweaters and jackets to families in shelters and children in foster care. CSS strives to make every winter season a "Season of Hope" by helping keep others warm and healthy.



From left to right: Von Hurt, Coordinator, and Cynthia D. Banks, Director of CSS.

## Children and Family Services

The Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) San Fernando Valley Office workers and U.S. Postal Service workers collected and delivered thousands of toys by a convoy of U.S. Postal trucks

ENRICHING LIVES  
continued on page 10

# County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan



Enriching Lives  
locounty.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

- Operational Effectiveness:** Maximize the effectiveness of the County's processes, structure, and operations to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services.
- Children, Family and Adult Well-Being:** Enrich lives through integrated, cost-effective and client-centered supportive services.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Supervisor, First District    Mark Ridley-Thomas Supervisor, Second District    Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor, Third District    Don Knabe Supervisor, Fourth District    Michael D. Antonovich Supervisor, Fifth District



# Spirit of Giving

## Internal Services Department

The Internal Services Department (ISD) conducted an annual toy drive to benefit the Toy Loan Program with over 300 toys donated.



Tom Tindall, Director of ISD (left) with Alex Ruiz, Toy Loan Program staff person.

### ENRICHING LIVES

*continued from page 9*

from the area. This annual holiday tradition provides holiday toys for children served by the DCFS San Fernando Valley office.



## Health Services

### (Olive View-UCLA Medical Center)

From November 30 through December 15, 2009, Morrison Management Specialists at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center sponsored a toy drive for the Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles gathering over 150 toys to help underprivileged children on skid row.



## Probation

Los Angeles County Probation Officers helped Santa Claus determine who's naughty or nice during the Probation Department's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Holiday Festival at Central Juvenile Hall. The Probation Department provided a fun holiday festival for about 1,000 families with children, complete with holiday dinner, child I.D. cards, games, arts and crafts, prizes and live music. The highlight of the day was when Santa Claus rode in on a motorcycle to give presents to all children in attendance.



## Holiday Adopt-A-Family Project Helps Homeboy Industries

Every holiday season, the members, staff and friends of the County’s Commission for Public Social Services personally help a worthy family in need; usually a single mother with several children. In such families, there is no money to provide children with gifts of toys, clothing, or even a holiday meal.

In 2009, the annual Adopt-A-Family project of the Commission, coordinated by Judy Martell, Executive Director, chose to support Homeboy Industries with a \$1000 check because of the financial difficulties facing this well known Los Angeles community service organization.



Shown making the presentation to Father Gregory Boyle (*center*), Homeboy Industries Director, are some of the donors, *from left to right*: Commission staff members Maria Magallanes and Carmen Martinez along with Chairman Dr. Frank de Balogh (Supervisor Antonovich appointee), Frank de Balogh III and Commissioner James Adler, Esq. (Supervisor Yaroslavsky appointee).

This welcome gesture during the holiday season exemplifies the on-going civic commitment of this County Commission. Since 2006, all 15 members of the Commission have foregone their monthly meeting stipends, that is, they are all volunteers working without pay for the benefit of the citizens of our great County.

## Department of Public Social Services

Staff from the Department of Public Social Services provided holiday cheer to a family who recently lost their mother and wife.



## Regional Planning

Planners from the Department of Regional Planning volunteered at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.



## Public Works

The Department of Public Works’ Holiday Care Fund program provides Department employees in need with food baskets and/or cashier’s checks. During the holiday season over \$10,000 was collected. This program truly makes a difference in the lives of their coworkers experiencing hardship during the holiday season.



Public Works’ employees put finishing touches on the care baskets. Care basket volunteers: **Back row** (*from left*): Jammie Hill, Crystal Hugues, Rita Florez, Adriana Castillo, Steve Steinhoff, Lily Otanez, and Art Raygosa. **Front row** (*from left*): Vanessa Lopez, Francisca Rodriguez, Katie Mac, Diandra Vasquez-Tula, Laura Martinez, and Debbie Hugues.

## Child Support Services Department Shows Compassion and Community Spirit with “Children’s Closet”

Employees at the Child Support Services Department (CSSD) go above and beyond their mission of collecting child support and providing good services to families and children. The staff has established “Children’s Closet,” a wonderful resource which provides free clothing to needy families who use the Department’s services.

The idea began in CSSD’s Torrance Division in the South Bay area of the County. Carol Freeman-Elliott, a division Child Support Officer, was moved by watching a family leave the CSSD office during the late winter of 2009.

“It was a cold Wednesday and I was letting my car warm up,” recalled Ms. Freeman-Elliott. “I noticed two little girls walking out of the building with their mother. Following were more children and none of them had on coats. The oldest brother had on a coat that didn’t fit and the mother was holding an infant with only a receiving blanket. The mother had on flip flops, shorts and a tank top. There were seven children total.”

Ms. Freeman-Elliott talked with co-workers and found out the family needed some help. She received permission to send an email to staff requesting donations of clothes. The response filled four boxes which were delivered to the very grateful custodial parent.

Ms. Freeman-Elliott held a follow-up meeting with Division Area Administrator Claudia Myles and Staff Attorney Gleda Anderson. They agreed there was an on-going need to help families with clothes and the “Children’s Closet” was born in March 2009. It was created for families with open cases with the Department.

A small unused office was commandeered and outfitted with hanging racks and small plastic carts with drawers. A committee was quickly formed with staff volunteering much of their own time before and after work and during their lunch hours. They organized and inventoried all of the items that flowed in from the Division’s generous staff.

“It was heartwarming to see the response with the donations of gently worn clothing, as well as the cash donations. This



*Team members at CSSD’s Torrance Division proudly show off the “Children’s Closet.”*

enabled the purchases of new underwear, socks, shoes, clothes and jackets in all children’s sizes” commented Gleda Anderson. “Not only is the ‘Children’s Closet’ bursting with clothing in every size, but each committee member also has at least one large bin under her desk filled with back up clothing to keep their particular area filled!”

CSSD Director Steven Golightly says “Children’s Closet” is an exceptional effort. “Over the past year our staff has faced a lot of changes from our conversion to California’s statewide child support computer system and is always working hard to continue to improve performance to help families,” said Mr. Golightly. “The fact that staff still found time to establish ‘Children’s Closet’ and involve their co-workers shows tremendous compassion and commitment to our customers.”

### DIGEST Puzzle #2 Hint

For #13 across, do not include the full name of the Director of Military and Veterans Affairs, instead find out what his military title is. E-mail your answers to:  
[CountyDIGEST@hr.lacounty.gov](mailto:CountyDIGEST@hr.lacounty.gov)

**Did you know that the County DIGEST’s archived issues are available online now?**

Please visit <http://dhrdcap.co.la.ca.us/jic/digest/> to access all archived copies or you may access it by visiting the Human Resources Web site at <http://dhr.lacounty.info/>

## Gift Cards – Your \$5 Billion Gift to Retailers and Banks?

Lawmakers have made it easier for gift card recipients to keep more of their money. The Federal Reserve proposed new guidelines for the industry while legislators had already included similar rules in the sweeping credit card legislation passed earlier in 2009, prohibiting fees for cards that have been inactive for less than a year, outlawing expiration dates within five years, and calling for clear disclosures.

Last year's nearly \$5 billion spent on gift cards will go unspent. This money goes back to the retailers that sold the cards. Best Buy, Inc. kept \$38 million in its most recent fiscal year, while Home Depot cleared \$37 million. Why does this money go unspent? People lose or abandon their cards, and many consumers may use \$46 of a \$50 card and then throw it away. Whatever the reason, there isn't much for retailers not to like about this \$5 billion gift.

There are some things you should consider before heading out to the store to load up on gift cards. For starters, gift cards come in two categories: Bank Gift Cards and Retailer Gift Cards. Each type of card has its pros and cons, including:

**BANK GIFT CARDS** – Issued by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa.

- **Flexibility** – Can be used at most stores that accept these credit cards. Some cards can be used at ATM's to receive cash.
- **Fees** – Although some retailers have eliminated some fees, many bank gift cards come with high fees, including:
  - **Purchase fees:** A fee in addition to the amount of money you put on the card.
  - **Monthly fees:** The bank may charge a monthly maintenance fee. This fee is deducted from the value remaining on the bank card.
  - **Inactivity fees:** Applied when the card is not used for a certain time period, like six months. Check with the bank as time periods may vary.
  - **Transaction fees:** Some banks charge fees if the card is used to withdraw cash from an ATM. Other banks charge fees if a high number of transactions are made.
  - **Other fees:** May include balance inquiries or replacement of lost or stolen cards.
- **Expiration dates:** Most bank gift cards have an expiration date. Some expired cards can be renewed

for a fee. If the card has an expiration date, it has to be printed on the front of the card. The card must also have a customer service number or Web address printed on it.

**RETAILER GIFT CARDS** – Issued by retailers for use at their stores.

- **No expiration** – The law prohibits these cards from having an expiration date. The only exceptions are gift cards for a specific food product, or for a business or charity promotion. If a gift card is permitted to have an expiration date, it must be printed on the front of the card.
- **No fees** - California law says that unless you have less than \$5 left on the card and you have not used it for 24 months in a row, you can not be charged fees.
- **Give cash back** - California law says you have the right to get cash back if you have less than \$10 left on the card.
- May be used only at the issuing retailer's stores.

**ALL GIFT CARDS:**

- **Keep them in a safe place** - Think of them as cash or credit cards. Keep them in your wallet or stash them in an envelope designated for gift cards only.
- **Use them right away** - The longer you hang on to them, the less likely you are to use them.
- **Trade them** with your friends for other cards, cash, goods or services. You can also sell or swap them on Web sites like [Plastic Jungle](#), [GiftCardRescue](#), [CardHub.com](#), and [Swapagift](#), though you will lose some of the card's value in the process.
- **Re-gift them** or use them to buy presents for your loved ones, people will not know.
- **Just hand out cash** - It is good everywhere, does not have an expiration date, and nobody neglects to spend it. You are kidding yourself if you think that loading money onto a plastic card is more polite than slipping money into an envelope.

For more information on gift cards and other consumer issues, call our friendly staff at the Department of Consumer Affairs at 800-593-8222, or check out our Web site at <http://dca.lacounty.gov>. Our services are free. Really.



# NEW PAYROLL SYSTEM (APRIL 30, 2010) SEMI-MONTHLY PAYROLL

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## In this Issue:

### Semi-Monthly Pay

- Monthly to Semi-Monthly Pay Periods
- Taxes and Deductions Each Semi-Monthly Pay Period
- Extra Pay Period Reported in 2010 W-2 Forms

## Frequently Asked Questions

For more details on these issues and other information visit the Employee Portal: <http://payroll.lacounty.gov/faq> or ask your payroll manager.

## What is Changing?

The County will be replacing its payroll system (CWPAY) with the April 30, 2010 payday. With the implementation of the new eHR Payroll System, the County is changing from a monthly payroll with a pay advance to a semi-monthly payroll.

### eHR Payroll Highlights!

- Replacing a 30-year old payroll system (CWPAY)
- First Payday: April 30, 2010
- Semi-Monthly Pay
- Work Day Pay
- Earnings and Deductions on each pay statement

## What Do I Need to Know?

### MONTHLY TO SEMI-MONTHLY PAY

Currently, most County employees are paid regular earnings on a monthly basis, on the 15th of every month, and are provided a pay advance on the 30th of every month. With the change to semi-monthly payroll, an employee will no longer receive a pay advance. Instead, earnings will be paid on a semi-monthly basis on the 15th and 30th.

### TAXES AND DEDUCTIONS

Change to semi-monthly payroll also means that all taxes and most deductions will be split and deducted twice a month.

### ONE TIME INCREASE IN W-2 EARNINGS.

An extra pay period will be reported to the IRS and the State for the 2010 tax year. The one-time conversion from monthly to semi-monthly pay periods will result in 12 1/2 months of taxable earnings reported on an employee's W-2 Form for the 2010 tax year (issued in January 2011). This is caused by inclusion of first and second half December 2009 earnings in the January 15, 2010 pay check. While your reported taxable earnings will increase for 2010, this does not change the amount of earnings an employee is paid. After 2010, a January 15th pay day will include only earnings for the second half of the preceding December, for a total of 12 months taxable earnings per year. .

For more information see **Frequently Asked Questions, Semi-Monthly Payroll (P1)**, at the LA County Employee Portal page at <http://payroll.lacounty.gov>.

## Does This Impact My Pay?

### MONTHLY TO SEMI-MONTHLY PAY

An employee's regular earnings will be split between the two pay periods of the month. If an employee's monthly salary is \$5,000.00 the employee will be paid \$2,500.00 each semi-monthly pay period.

### GARNISHMENT AND CHILD SUPPORT

Garnishments will be processed each pay day, thus a fee will be assessed twice a month.

### SMOOTHING OF NET PAY

Your monthly earnings will not change, but your 15th paycheck may decrease and your 30th paycheck may increase, due to even distribution of earnings and deductions.

For more information about on the new eHR Payroll System, please visit the LA County Employee Portal at: <http://payroll.lacounty.gov>



# Semi-Monthly Payroll

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Current Monthly Payroll			
Pay Day	April 30 [Advance]	May 15	Total
REGULAR EARNINGS		\$4,940.00	\$4,940.00
CAFETERIA PLAN TAXABLE CASH	0	\$115.76	\$115.76
ADVANCE PAYMENT	\$1,601.00		\$1,601.00
RECOVERY OF AD- VANCE	0	-\$1,601.00	-\$1,601.00
<b>TOTAL EARNINGS</b>	\$1,601.00	\$3,454.76	<b>\$5,055.76</b>
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	0	-\$1,736.48	-\$1,736.48
<b>NET PAY</b>	\$1,601.00	\$1,718.28	\$3,319.28

Earnings are not divided evenly for each pay period

MONTHLY PAY

Taxes and deductions are withheld once a month

## No Change in your Earnings!

New Semi-Monthly Payroll				
	Pay Day	April 30	May 15	Total
SEMI-MONTHLY PAY	REGULAR EARNINGS	\$2,470.00	\$2,470.00	\$4,940.00
	CAFETERIA PLAN TAXABLE CASH	\$57.88	\$57.88	\$115.76
	<b>TOTAL EARNINGS</b>	\$2,527.88	\$2,527.88	<b>\$5,055.76</b>
	<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	\$868.24	\$868.24	\$1,736.48
	<b>NET PAY</b>	\$1,659.64	\$1,659.64	\$3,319.28

Earnings are divided evenly for each pay period\*

Most taxes and deductions are withheld twice a month\*\*

- \* When splitting a monthly salary in half results in a fraction of a cent, the fraction will be rounded up.
- \*\* Differences in tax calculation methodologies and rounding differences may affect tax withholdings and deductions by a few cents.

For more information on the new eHR Payroll System, please visit the LA County Employee Portal at:  
<http://payroll.lacounty.gov>

# Share It

## 2010 Laws for Consumers and Honest Businesses

### Help Available for Car Buyers When Auto Dealerships Fail to Pay-off Their Trade-ins

The economic recession has created a wave of auto dealership closures that has left many car buyers on the hook for loans on their trade-in cars that dealers were supposed to have paid off.

When a car buyer trades in a car that he still owes money on, the dealer promises to pay off the outstanding loan, and then resells the car. Additionally, dealers collect from the buyer the license and registration fees for the new car. The dealer is then supposed to send the fees to the Department of Motor Vehicles so they can issue the buyer the license and registration for his new car. In yet other situations, some dealers sell cars on consignment, promising to pay consumers for their consigned cars after they are sold.

But as more dealers go out of business, some are failing to pay for the trade-ins, DMV fees, and consigned cars. When this happens, lenders can go after the consumer who thought the dealer paid-off his trade-in, DMV will not issue the license and registration for the new car, and consumers do not get paid for their consigned cars.

*Consider the following scenario:* Mr. Car Buyer bought a new car from We-Sell-Cars dealer. Mr. Buyer traded in his old car. He owed \$2,500 on his trade-in, which We-Sell-Cars agreed to pay-off. We-Sell-Cars also collected from Mr. Buyer the registration and license fees for the new car. Mr. Buyer drove home in his new car. He was happy.

**Problem.** We-Sell-Cars went out of business and did not pay for Mr. Buyer's trade-in and license and registration fees. Mr. Buyer's old finance company is not happy. They want him to pay the loan now, or they will sue him. The police are not happy either. They told Mr. Buyer to take care of his car's license and registration, or they will impound the car. Mr. Buyer has no money to pay for these expenses again. He is not happy.

*Is There Help for Mr. Buyer? Yes.*

To protect consumers facing this major financial harm through no fault of their own, the California legislature created the Consumer Recovery Fund (CRF) to pay California consumers like Mr. Buyer for their losses when dealers fail to pay off their trade-ins, license and registration fees, or consigned cars.

Funded by charging dealers \$1 for each car they sell or lease, the CRF is now accepting claims, and the process is easy and simple. Mr. Buyer can file a free claim to get paid for his trade-in, plus the license and registration fees. He can visit the CRF Web site at [www.vehiclerecoveryfund.org](http://www.vehiclerecoveryfund.org) for information about the program, instructions on how to file a claim, and a Claim Form. For now, the CRF is accepting claims by mail only. Mr. Buyer needs to download, complete, and mail the form to:

**Consumer Motor Vehicle Recovery Corporation**  
c/o Administrator  
P.O. Box 8060  
San Rafael, CA 94912

Upon receipt of his claim, the CRF will review Mr. Buyer's claim and will pay him for his losses if he qualifies. Generally, Mr. Buyer will qualify for payment if:

- He bought his car after July 1, 2008.
- The dealership failed to pay-off his trade-in and license and registration fee within 21 days from the date the car was traded in.
- The dealer is out of business.
- The dealer had a license to sell cars at the time they sold Mr. Buyer his car.

The CRF also reimburses consumers for unpaid consigned cars if they meet the above conditions. The [Department of Consumer Affairs](#) encourages you to share this information with anyone who may find it useful. Nothing will happen to you if you do not. Look for another *ConsumerMatters*© story in next month's *County Digest*.

Can't wait?

Check out the most important 2010 Consumer Laws on our Web site:

[www.dca.lacounty.gov/ConsumerLaws2010.htm](http://www.dca.lacounty.gov/ConsumerLaws2010.htm)



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