



## Remarks by Outgoing Board Chair Gloria Molina

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors this past year.

There are many things that we've accomplished this year. But a real highlight for me was getting on track to "going green." Some of you may have noticed that the Hall of Administration's cafeteria no longer serves food in Styrofoam carry-out containers—a very positive move. And, of course, we're eliminating plastic bags, which wreak havoc on the environment. We also built the first "green" library in Los Angeles County: Sorensen Library in unincorporated Whittier. It sets the standard for the kind of work I hope Los Angeles County continues to do.



*Supervisor Molina speaks at the grand re-opening of the new Sorensen Library in unincorporated Whittier.*

I'm also very proud of the effort that Los Angeles County has put into operating our public healthcare system. Every single day, we deal with a hospital that is too small at the LAC+USC Medical Center. Yet our health department manages the overcrowding there and accomplishes unbelievable work. We are also very proud of getting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center back on track. The Board of Supervisors promised the community to re-open this hospital—and we will. I'm also excited to be bringing new leadership into our Department of Health Services just as we begin transitioning to national health care reform—which, when implemented, will dramatically change how we receive healthcare resources and deliver healthcare services.

I also feel very proud of what we've done this past year in risk management, whether through cost litigation or strengthening the way we manage and reduce risk. Every time we reduce our liability, we're saving taxpayer dollars that can now pay for more County services. All of us as Los Angeles County employees must understand that we are all risk managers and can save taxpayer dollars—which we're going to need desperately not so far down the line.

Indeed, I think in this next year we must brace ourselves for a very rough time. The State of California is struggling to close a deficit gap of over \$28 billion, and it will have a big impact on Los Angeles County's legislative agenda. Fortunately, we have managed our

County budget with fiscal restraint in mind—and that approach has allowed us to keep afloat during these past three

**OUTGOING MESSAGE AS CHAIR**  
*continued on page 3*

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**Volume 42 Issue 9**

- Fireworks at the Marina.....3
- Spark of Love Toy Drive.....4
- Holiday Toy Express 2010.....5
- Retirees.....7
- ENRICHING LIVES: Fire Chief Freeman...8-9
- Fire Prevention and Safety Tips.....10
- Keeping Pets Safe.....12
- Civic Park Project Update.....13

# 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

Through January 9 - Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico

Through January 9 - Eye for the Sensual: Selections from the Resnick Collection

Through January 16 - William Eggleston: Democratic Camera—Photographs and Video, 1961-2008

Through January 16 - Blinky Palermo: Retrospective 1964–1977

### Music

Jazz Fridays - <http://www.lacma.org/programs/JazzatLACMA.aspx>

Sundays Live - <http://www.lacma.org/programs/SundaysLive.aspx>

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)

### December

17 - Holiday Sing-Along

Music Center Plaza

6:30 pm to 8 pm

Free\* [musiccenter.org](http://musiccenter.org)

(\*tickets distributed at 6 pm while supplies last)

### January

5 - LAArts Month Kickoff

Music Center Plaza

Noon

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

## Los Angeles Philharmonic

[www.laphil.com](http://www.laphil.com)  
(323) 850-2000

### December

19 - Los Angeles Master Chorale: Messiah Sing-Along

20 - Go Tell It on the Mountain: The Blind Boys of Alabama

21 - The Manhattan Transfer Christmas

23 - Eileen Ivers: An Nollaig – An Irish Christmas

31 - New Year's Eve with Kristin Chenoweth

### Ahmanson Theatre

Through January 2 - Next to Normal

January 30 - March 6 - 33 Variations

### Mark Taper Forum

Through December 22 - Harps and Angels

January 4 - February 13 - Stories by Heart

### Kirk Douglas Theatre

January 15, 16, 22 and 23 - Jamie Adkins "Circus INcognitus"

February 15-27 - The Author



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

County DIGEST Editorial Offices  
Department of Human Resources  
500 West Temple Street, Suite 555  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 893-7810

[CountyDIGEST@hr.lacounty.gov](mailto:CountyDIGEST@hr.lacounty.gov)

**WeTip WELFARE FRAUD**

**1-800-87-FRAUD**

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

**OUTGOING MESSAGE AS CHAIR**

*continued from page 1*

painful fiscal years. But despite our hard work, we need to help the state solve their budget crisis—or else we will be part of the problem. Although we’ve had budgetary reserves in the past to help us cushion whatever financial blows that came our way, we can’t possibly absorb all that is expected of us this time around. Most likely, mandates will continue forcing us to provide services without the money to follow. This means that certain things will be on the chopping block. How will we carry out the work that needs to be done for our most vulnerable populations during this era of severe fiscal restraint? This will be our biggest challenge in the coming year. I am particularly troubled about the future of our county public libraries, which are so important to the well-being of every community; our parks, which usually suffer a disproportionate burden when budget cuts are made; and, of course, the arts. Though they are not viewed as core services, they are still important. They are what feed our souls.



*Supervisor Molina announces installation of solar panels at the Obregon Park Gymnasium.*

Despite my criticisms from time to time, I am still so proud of the work we do in all areas of Los Angeles County. I look forward to more of this kind of work in the coming New Year.

### Fireworks Spectacular

A brilliant display of fireworks will light up the skies over Marina del Rey on Friday, December 31, to greet the Year 2011.

Beginning at the 30-second countdown to midnight, the fireworks will continue into the opening minutes of the New Year.

Zambelli Fireworks Internationale, which started business in Italy more than 100 years ago, will create the Marina del Rey fireworks spectacular.

The famous fireworks can be viewed throughout the Marina; however, the best locations for viewing are Fisherman’s Village located at 3755 Fiji Way and Burton Chace Park at 13650 Mindanao Way.

The Zambelli fireworks spectacular is presented by Supervisor Don Knabe and the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

All County employees are invited to include the Marina del Rey fireworks as part of their New Year’s Eve celebrations.





## Spark of Love Toy Drive

“Spark of Love” is a toy drive and distribution initiative that includes a number of related holiday events benefiting foster youth and caregivers. The 18-year initiative is managed by a Planning Committee comprised of ABC’s Channel 7, Children’s Trust Fund, representatives from the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) and Metrolink.

Within Los Angeles County, these efforts are also supported by volunteers, representatives from the Board of Supervisors and various employees from the Department of Children and Family Services. Approximately 35,000 toys are collected and then distributed to the community each year through the work of ABC7, the Children’s Trust Fund and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. This year’s goal is 40,000 toys.

**Please Donate Early:** Please remember that it takes a little time for your toy to go from your loving hands into the hands of a needy child. Therefore, PLEASE DONATE EARLY to ensure that your toy is received. Donation boxes are placed around LA County starting Thanksgiving weekend. IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO DONATE.

**What We Need:** What kinds of toys do our youth and families need?  
New, unused, unwrapped toys for every age are appreciated. Every year, however, we have an urgent need for “Toys for Teens” and “Infant Toys.”

**Take Action Menu:** Want to submit a toy request application (open only to nonprofit status and faith-based organizations serving youth and families within Los Angeles County)?

Visit <http://www.lacdcfs.org/trustfund/documents/2010SparkofLoveToyApplication.pdf>.

Want to become a volunteer?

Visit <http://www.lacdcfs.org/careers/VolunteerOpp.html>.

Want to donate a toy?

Call LACoFD Toy Central Hotline at (213) 847-0008.

Drop off your new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment at your local Fire Station, Sav-on drug store or Krispy Kreme.

METROLINK



You are invited to the  
**Holiday Toy Express<sup>®</sup> 2010**

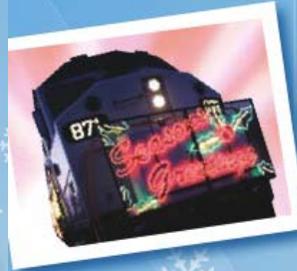


Join us this December at select Metrolink stations to decorate the Holidays with a splash of giving.

Bring a toy for the "Spark of Love" Toy Drive and enjoy over 50,000 lights, music, a visit from Santa and more...

Every selected station will host a unique event, so visit one or visit all!

METROLINK



**Holiday Toy Express<sup>®</sup> 2010**

**Holiday Toy Express<sup>™</sup> 2010 Schedule:**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4**

- Burbank (opening night)** 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm  
201 N. Front Street, Burbank, CA 91502
- Glendale** 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm  
400 W. Cerritos Avenue, Glendale, CA 91204

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5**

- Palmdale** 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm  
39000 Clock Tower Plaza Drive, Palmdale, CA 93550
- Santa Clarita** 7:30 pm - 8:15 pm  
(Newhall Station) 24300 Railroad Ave., Santa Clarita, CA 91321

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11**

- Corona** 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm  
(North Main Corona Station) 250 E. Blaine Street, Corona, CA 92879
- Fullerton** 6:45 pm - 7:30 pm  
120 E. Santa Fe Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- San Bernardino** 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm  
1204 W. 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410
- Rancho Cucamonga** 7:15 pm - 8:00 pm  
11208 Azusa Court, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
- Montclair** 8:15 pm - 9:00 pm  
5091 Richton Street, Montclair, CA 91763

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18**

- Irvine** 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm  
15215 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19**

- Moorpark** 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm  
300 High Street, Moorpark, CA 93021
- Camarillo** 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm  
30 Lewis Road, Camarillo, CA 93012



Hosted by Station Cities and



Metro



RCTC  
Riverside County Transportation Committee



Governments  
SANBAG  
Working Together



Call: 800-371-5465(LINK) • Discover: [MetrolinkTrains.com](http://MetrolinkTrains.com)



---

## Holiday Shopping Deals and Savings for Government and Nonprofit Employees

[www.Govmarket.org](http://www.Govmarket.org) is your gateway to discounts, promotions, and holiday specials on brand name goods and services



**DISCOUNTS**  
on thousands of products and services

**IT'S FREE TO JOIN!**



The holiday season is upon us once again and many of us look forward to all that it has to offer—perhaps a few days off work, yummy eats and treats, parties, gifts, quality time with our friends and family. Oh...and holiday shopping. Wait a minute—that last one may not be quite as fun and heartwarming as the other stuff.

In fact, given the recent recession, job losses, reduced family budgets, and busy schedules, holiday shopping may be an overwhelming experience for many Americans this year. An October 2010 Gallup survey (to a random sample of citizens residing in the U.S.) found that Americans plan to spend an average of \$715 on Christmas gifts/shopping this year. That's down from an average of \$907 reported in a similar survey conducted by Gallup in October 2006. (See: [www.gallup.com](http://www.gallup.com): "Consumers Issue a Cautious Christmas Spending Forecast.")

If you're looking for ways to save and stretch your dollar this season, the Government Employees Marketplace – [www.Govmarket.org](http://www.Govmarket.org) – offers some exciting solutions for your holiday shopping woes.

[www.Govmarket.org](http://www.Govmarket.org) offers government and nonprofit employees access to exclusive volume discounts, as well as thousands of markdowns and promotions on brand name products and services including those by Dell, Hertz, FTD.com, FedEx, T-Mobile, Shoes.com and more.

**Local Deals and Savings** - Additionally, [www.Govmarket.org](http://www.Govmarket.org) users can take advantage of seasonal specials and year-round savings on groceries, beauty supplies, toys and games, dining out, and other local company deals. Be sure to check the "Local Coupons" tab on the site for more news on exciting deals happening right now in your community!

**Free to Join and Simple to Use** - Who has time for long lines at the cashier or strategizing ways to get that last-available thing on the shelf before somebody else gets to it first? Shop swiftly and easily online and in the convenience of your home. Free shipping is also available through this service. [www.Govmarket.org](http://www.Govmarket.org) is your one-stop online portal for thousands of brand name merchants. The site is user-friendly, equipped with easy navigation, search, and categorization tools—like My Favorites, Hot Deals, Seasonal Deals, Top Rated, Most Viewed, or Expiring—and it's free to join. There are no activation or access fees.

**Your Friends and Family Can Get in on the Action Too!** - The exclusive discounts available at [www.Govmarket.org](http://www.Govmarket.org) have been negotiated on behalf of millions of government and nonprofit employees. Access to the online marketplace is also extended to friends and family members of government/nonprofit employees. It's the gift that keeps on giving!

Article reprinted courtesy of [www.ipma-hr.org/publications/hr-bulletin/111910](http://www.ipma-hr.org/publications/hr-bulletin/111910)

# RETIREES

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after their service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

## 45+ YEARS:

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Gilbert Ramirez

## 40+ YEARS:

**ASSESSOR:** Velma L. Horn

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE:** Ruben G. Rivero

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Floretta Taylor

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Annie S. Clayton, Dorothy L. Scott

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Darrell R. Rodgers, Peggy L. Taylor, John D. Vann

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Kathleen P. Beckman, Patricia Bowers, Alice Garcia

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Lary G. Spenser

## 30+ YEARS:

**COUNTY COUNSEL:** Shirley R. Mouton

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Gloria Banales

**FIRE:** Gary D. Burden, Richard S. Timboe

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Jeanne R. Fujii, Richard Giangrande, Michael R. Ito, John A. Kelly Jr., Anna Y. Liggins, Hortensia Pena, Mary Silva

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Peter Hof, John W. McGruder

**LACERA:** Vilma M. Thomas

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Joan S. Calton, Monagayle Sparks, Janice K. Williams, Carol Vernon

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Carl E. Bowden, Michael C. Long, Bob Merriman

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Patricia L. Dumalski, Attricia Stroupe

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Justo C. Avila, Joe Delgado Jr., Virginia R. Escobar, Stephanie A. Kelly, Rejene McCray, Bernice S. Ozaki, Doris H. Patterson, Pete Salsido, Dollie L. Yarbrough

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Daniel E. Jones, Michael Lee, Ronald L. Lee

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER:** Beverly Gaylord

**SHERIFF:** Norma P. Arceneaux, Michelle M. Debus, Daniel Finkelstein, Richard R. Gallaway, Paul W. Hardy, Vernon R. Juarez, Robert J. Olmsted, John E. Scales Jr., Angel Vasquez

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Henry J. Hall, Phyllis Stip, Diana Wilson

## 25+ YEARS:

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Robert H. Gordon, Irene R. Morgan, Willie Norwood, Virginia F. Stevenson

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Bradley S. Cochrane, Michael A. Fishman

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** William A. Taylor Sr.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Josefina H. Herrera

**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Josefina B. Reyes

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Gilbert M. Miranda

**SHERIFF:** Michael L. Elliott, Luciano A. Esquivias, Donald E. Marchand Jr., Reinhardt J. Schuerger Jr.

**TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:** Marisella German

# HAPPY PAW-LIDAYS

AN ANIMAL ADOPTION EVENT

Saturday, December 18, 2010  
From 9am ~ 2pm

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
[www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)

**NORTH CENTRAL**  
3801 Lacy St., Los Angeles CA 90031

**SOUTH LOS ANGELES**  
3621 11th Ave., Los Angeles CA 90018

**WEST LOS ANGELES**  
11381 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90064

**EAST VALLEY**  
14409 Vanowen St., Van Nuys CA 91405

**WEST VALLEY**  
30655 Plummer St., Chatsworth CA 91311

**HARBOR**  
957 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro CA 90731

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
[www.animalcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.animalcare.lacounty.gov)

**AGOURA**  
95545 Agoura Rd., Agoura CA 91301

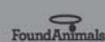
**BALDWIN PARK**  
4875 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706

**CARBON**  
216 W. Victoria St., Gardena, CA 90248

**CASTAIC**  
31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd., Castaic CA 91384

**SOUTHEAST AREA ANIMAL CONTROL AUTHORITY**  
[www.seaaca.org](http://www.seaaca.org)

**SEACA**  
9777 Seaca St., Downey, CA 90241



For more information contact:  
[www.foundanimals.org](http://www.foundanimals.org)  
events@foundanimals.org | (877) 580-PETS



# ENRICHING LIVES...

## Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman

*a strong leader for challenging times*



*P. Michael Freeman  
Fire Chief  
LA County Fire Department*

On November 3, the Board of Supervisors honored the extraordinary public service of retiring Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman by presenting him with a five-signature scroll for his 21 years of service at the helm of the County Fire Department. Freeman was the first Fire Chief to be hired from outside the organization's ranks, and he served as a strong leader during many challenging fires and other disasters – including financial — faced by his department. His last day on the job will be December 23, just in time for a restful Christmas weekend as a County retiree.

In 1989, he left a successful career with the Dallas Fire Department to assume his duties on February 13 as the eighth Fire Chief in County Fire's 66-year history. His new, much larger mission included the provision of fire protection and life safety services to millions of residents living in 50 cities and all unincorporated areas of the County, and also those of Forester and Fire Warden of all wildland areas located within its boundaries as the largest county in America. It was also a homecoming of sorts, as Freeman was born in Santa Monica but moved with his family at the age of eight to Dallas and became a firefighter; he also served as an army reservist.

Today, County Fire's service area has grown to include eight new cities and 24 new fire stations, for a total of 58 of the County's 88 cities, plus the City of La Habra in neighboring Orange County. His vision resulted in many new specialized response programs to meet public safety needs, including its now internationally-renowned, FEMA-certified Urban Search and Rescue, Swiftwater Rescue, and Canine Search programs. He served as commander in chief during many major disasters, including fires, floods, earthquakes, and others, and has continually sought to incorporate important lessons learned for future preparedness and operations. Early on, he championed the creation and current development of the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), a modern, integrated wireless voice and data communications system to link more than 34,000 emergency responders across the region.

Freeman's many achievements also include expansion of the Department's already legendary use of air attack for wildland firefighting operations. In 1994, he introduced the Department's Contract Aircraft Program by leasing Super Scooper aircraft to bring greater water-dropping capability during the height of the County's annual brush fire season, and later added a leased helitanker to the mix. In 2005, he led the Department's own Air Operations into a new era with the development and first use by a local government agency of the 1,000-gallon capacity Sikorsky Firehawk helicopter, a firefighting version of the U.S. Army Blackhawk.

Freeman's prudent use of taxpayer dollars helped preserve emergency services across the County in 1997, when he prepared the Proposition E Special Tax measure to prevent the closure of fire stations, which voters overwhelmingly approved by 77 percent. He once again led an effort prior to his retirement to position the Department on solid financial ground using innovative cost-cutting measures, following the nation's worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

All along the way, he respectfully built upon the Department's long-held traditions of firefighting and lifesaving excellence including being named "Fire Chief of the Year" in 2005 by the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association. As he prepares to embark upon retirement, these innovations will be long appreciated by the public he served so well. Congratulations, Chief, on your well-deserved retirement!



*“Proud Protectors  
of Life, Property,  
and the  
Environment”*



---

# Holiday Fire Prevention and Safety Tips

Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,000 individuals and cause over \$500 million in damages in the United States. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

## HOLIDAY TREE FIRE HAZARDS

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

## SELECTING A TREE FOR THE HOLIDAY

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground; if many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

## CARING FOR YOUR TREE

- Re-cut the trunk at least one inch above the old cut as soon as you get it home, allowing it to continue to pull moisture into its foliage.
- Keep the trunk in water immediately after it is re-cut. Moisture is the key to keeping the tree fresh and thereby enhancing its fire resistance. If the tree will be kept outside for a few days, stand it in a bucket of water until you are ready to bring it indoors. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Use a clean and sturdy stand, appropriate for the size of tree. Rinse the stand with a capful of bleach mixed in water to reduce the growth of organisms.
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. Heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.
- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Consider using a potted tree.

## DISPOSING OF YOUR TREE

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pickup service. For information on tree disposal sites, please call 888-CLEAN-LA.

## MAINTAIN YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. If there is any question as to the integrity of your lights, replace them with a new set of lights.

## DO NOT OVERLOAD ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Follow the directions on the light sets when connecting your lights. Connect lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. Do not leave holiday lights on while unattended.



**FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

*continued from page 10*

**USE ONLY NONFLAMMABLE DECORATIONS**

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame retardant and placed away from heat vents.

**NEVER PUT WRAPPING PAPER IN A FIREPLACE**

Wrapping paper can produce dangerous sparks and a chemical buildup in the home that could cause an explosion.

**ARTIFICIAL HOLIDAY TREES**

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

**AVOID USING LIT CANDLES**

Candles are beautiful, popular, and dangerous. Do not leave burning candles unattended, or place them near flammable materials; make sure they are in a secure place where children and pets will not knock them over. Put candles in a non-tip candleholder before you light them. Make sure all candles are extinguished before you leave the home or office, and before going to bed. The most common area of origin for candle fires is the bedroom, then living room, bathroom and the kitchen.



**NEVER PUT LIT CANDLES ON A TREE**

Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches. Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level and in every room of your home. Test smoke detectors monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. Practice your home escape plan.

**KITCHEN**

During the holidays, much time is spent cooking; therefore, it is critical to take precautions in the kitchen. Be sure to keep pot handles and electrical appliance cords out of the reach of children. Put a lid on a pot or pan to extinguish a food or grease fire, and in the event of an oven fire, turn off the heat and close the oven door.

**FIREPLACES**

Before using your fireplace, have your chimney inspected by a professional for proper installation, cracks, blockages (bird nests), leaks, or creosote buildup. Creosote is a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, accumulates in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not removed. Be sure to open the flue for adequate ventilation when using the fireplace. Always use a fire screen, and burn only material appropriate for fireplaces. Never burn trash or paper in a fireplace. Burning paper can float up your chimney and onto your roof or onto your neighbors' roof and can cause a fire. **Remove ashes from the fireplace in a metal container** and store them somewhere outside your home.

**BE PREPARED!**

Test all smoke detectors in the house to make sure that they are in proper working order, and be sure to install fresh batteries every six months. Be sure that all family members know how to call the fire department, and make an escape plan so that everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency.

For additional information, please call (323) 881-2411 or visit [www.lacofd.org](http://www.lacofd.org).



---

## Tips for Keeping Pets Safe This Holiday Season

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

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

The Department of Animal Care and Control wishes you and your pets a safe and happy holiday season! For additional information, please call (562) 728-4882 or visit <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>.

## Christmas Tree Recycling Program from Public Works

Recycle your Christmas tree this year after the festivities end. This will help preserve our natural resources and reduce waste. Follow these quick and easy steps to have your Christmas tree recycled into compost, mulch, or ground cover. Remove all items from your tree (e.g., water containers, tree stands, ornaments, tinsel, and nails).

1. Place your tree at curbside on your regular collection day from December 26 through January 19.
2. Watch as your tree is collected for recycling by your neighborhood waste hauler.

Here are other ideas that can make a huge difference in the amount of trash that gets generated during the holiday season. Remember, many of these ideas work well the whole year through!

## Civic Park Project Update

*Los Angeles Grand Avenue Authority, a County and City Joint Venture*

The new Civic Park, with its majestic views extending from the Music Center to City Hall, will provide Angelenos of all walks of life a place where they can come together to celebrate, reflect, and shape the future, in one central gathering place. The Civic Park Project is part of the overall Grand Avenue Project which has been delayed due to the economic downturn. Below are highlights of the Civic Park Project with regards to the first five months of construction. To view details of the Civic Park Project, visit [www.civicpark.lacounty.gov](http://www.civicpark.lacounty.gov).



### Completed:

- July 15, 2010 Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Demolition of the Grand Avenue ramps
- Demolition of the Fountain exterior finishes
- New Starbucks\* foundation enhancement

### Ongoing:

- Demolition of planters, walls, and pathways
- Grading and excavation
- Waterproofing installation
- New concrete support walls for the ramps and new terrace area will be constructed
- Fountain
  - Construction of the pump room
  - Electrical and plumbing installation
- Reconstruction of the Grand Avenue Ramps
  - Support walls and formwork for ramp structure starting
  - Erecting slab shoring and pouring cap slabs
- South of Foltz Courthouse
  - Caisson work for the new ramp and foundation system
  - Demolition of previous pedestrian tunnel from Hall of Justice to Old Hall of Records building demolished and reconfigured into the surface parking lot

### Upcoming:

- New Starbucks structural steel building to be erected - January 2011
- Duct work in Upper Lot 18 for generator – January 2011
- Construction of the Community Terrace at the Court of Flags begins - Spring 2011
- Civic Park Completion – Summer 2012

\*The existing Starbucks remains open during construction. Access to Starbucks remains through the Courthouse or up the South escalator from Upper Lot 18.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

*continued from page 12*

- Use old newspapers to wrap your presents. Or, place your presents in gift bags, which can be reused.
- Recycle household items you no longer need and use them to create personalized, homemade gifts for your loved ones.
- Save postage and trees by e-mailing holiday greetings to family and friends instead of sending them a card in the mail. Or, use holiday cards and gift tags printed on recycled paper.
- Reuse Styrofoam® packing “peanuts” or donate them to your local packaging or shipping company, which you can find by visiting [www.Earth911.org](http://www.Earth911.org).
- Set your table with linens and china instead of disposable plates and plastic cups, and utensils.
- Purchase rechargeable batteries rather than disposable ones.
- Replace larger, old-fashioned lights with energy-efficient mini lights. Save energy by putting your lights on a timer or turning them on only when someone is around to enjoy them.
- Save gift boxes, ribbon, and bows for the next holiday season.

Visit [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or call 1(888)CLEAN-LA for more information on the Christmas tree recycling guidelines for your area of residence.



# Share It

## 51ST ANNUAL L.A. HOLIDAY COUNTY CELEBRATION

The Holiday Celebration has a five decade history. The Board of Supervisors has sponsored an admission-free holiday-themed show as a gift to the people of the County every December 24 since 1960. Attendance has become a seasonal tradition for many Angelenos.

The annual Holiday Celebration averages 1,500 performers who participate in the show each year. They represent the many cultures and holiday traditions found in Los Angeles County. The performers include community, youth, and professional choirs, orchestras, and dance companies from throughout the County. The annual Holiday Celebration, produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, is the largest holiday show in the County.

This year, the 51st annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration will be held Friday, December 24, 2010, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion located at 135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**The program will be televised live on KCET.** Both the event and parking are free to the public.

Highlights from the three-hour Holiday Celebration program are selected for a one-hour presentation which is broadcast nationally on PBS. Artists selected for the 2010 live production will be considered for the 2011 national broadcast.

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may come and go throughout the three-hour performance. Reservations for tickets to the show or parking are not necessary. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis. For additional information, please visit [www.holidaycelebration.org](http://www.holidaycelebration.org) or call (213) 972-3099.



### Members of the Board

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Mayor  
Fifth District

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Lisa M. Garrett**  
Director of Personnel

**Epifanio Peinado**  
Interim Ombudsman/  
Community Liaison

**John S. Mina**  
Managing Editor

**Martina Abgaryan**  
Editor-in-Chief

