



JANUARY 2011

Happy New Year

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich Convenes His First Meeting of the Board of Supervisors as Mayor and Outlines His Agenda for 2011

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich spoke on the challenges facing the Board, including the nearly \$14 trillion deficit at the federal level and \$26 billion deficit at the state level affecting every county, city and school district.

He attributed the state’s deficit to its practice of spending more than it receives and to term limits. “When I was in the legislature we literally walked a bill through both the Assembly and Senate and to the Governor in a couple of hours – we knew we had to work together to solve a problem.”



He praised the Board’s ability to work together in the past to solve common problems and called on that cooperation to continue in the future. In 2011, Mayor Antonovich will work with the Board of Supervisors to:

- Implement as a *Countywide Goal* “Youth Self-Sufficiency” for foster youth in the areas of permanency/housing, social and emotional health, education and workforce preparedness.
- Enhance partnerships between law enforcement agencies to enforce laws and protect our communities.
- Implement structural reforms to meet shrinking budgets.
- Eliminate duplication of services and consolidating and eliminating where appropriate.
- Recommend that the legislature enact a 2-year budget to allow local governments the ability to plan and provide vital services.
- Enhance workplace productivity.
- Stop the practice of placing unqualified individuals in high salary positions.
- Reform civil service.
- Address the pension crisis.
- Ensure our first responders and communities are earthquake prepared and ready to meet any challenges.
- Work with the federal government for full implementation of the County Fire Department’s recommendations following the Station Fire.
- Expedite the building and opening of Martin Luther King Hospital, the Antelope Valley Multi-Ambulatory Care Center, and the Olive View/UCLA Emergency Room.
- Support legislation for the mentally ill homeless to receive treatment that they need in order to transition to healthy and productive lives.
- Work with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation to promote jobs and bring businesses to the County.
- Streamline the County’s permitting process.
- Assure the full enforcement of the Convalescent Home Grading System, which Mayor Antonovich initiated and became State law in January 2011.

HIGHLIGHTS	
Volume 43 Issue 1	
Pet Adoption Sundays.....	3
New Additions.....	4
Fire Department's Longest Serving Employees.....	6
Command and Control Facility Has a New Name.....	7
Retirees.....	8
Enroll in the Commuter Benefit Program.....	9
Specific Needs Awareness Planning.....	10
Laws.....	11

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

<http://dhrdcap.co.la.ca.us/jic/digest/>

EVENT CALENDAR

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes, please visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-4623

Los Angeles County Museum of Art 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90036

(323) 857-6000

www.lacma.org

Art

Through February 20 - Steve Wolfe On Paper

Through February 27 - India's Fabled City: The Art of Courtly Lucknow

Through March 6 - Fashioning Fashion: European Dress in Detail, 1700-1915

Through April 3 - In the Service of The Buddha: Tibetan Furniture from the Hayward Family Collection

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

Los Angeles Philharmonic

www.laphil.com

(323) 850-2000

February

5 - Michael Feinstein

10 - Kodo

12-13 - Slatkin conducts Gershwin and Marsalis

15 - Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

18-20 - Schumann and Dvorák

19 - Toyota Symphonies for Youth: Jazz and the Orchestra

22 - Simon Trpceski in Recital

26 - Toyota Symphonies for Youth: Jazz and the Orchestra

Ahmanson Theatre

Through March 6 - 33 Variations

April 17 - May 29 - God of Carnage

Mark Taper Forum

Through February 13 - Stories by Heart

March 23 to May 1 - Burn This

Kirk Douglas Theatre

February 15-27 - The Author

April 5 - May 1 - The Cripple of Inishmaan

Questions on Your Child Support Case?

Juggling parenthood and work are no easy feat. Even the weekends don't seem to provide a respite. What's worse, offices that you conduct business with are closed on weekends. The exception is the Child Support Services Department (CSSD).

CSSD is pleased to announce that one Saturday per month throughout the year, you may visit any of its offices if you want to talk to a Child Support Services representative in person about your case. The hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm. No appointment is necessary!

To locate an office near you, please visit

<http://cssd.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/cssd>

or call (866) 901-3212.

2011 Saturday Schedule

February 12

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

September 10

October 15

November 19

December 10

County DIGEST

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

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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

Pet Adoption Sundays

At every Board of Supervisors meeting, a dog or cat and on a few occasions even a rabbit is put up for adoption. To those who cannot make it to the Board meetings and want face time with a prospective pet, here's a piece of great news.

County Animal Shelters Are Open on Sundays

The Department of Animal Care and Control is pleased to have enhanced its goal of finding homes for all adoptable animals. Since last year, the Department opened its animal shelters on Sundays so prospective parents have an additional day to find a new pet.

“Opening on Sundays gave us an additional opportunity to showcase the many wonderful animals in our shelters,” said **Marcia Mayeda**, director of the Department of Animal Care and Control. “Weekends are a popular time to find a new family member at the local animal shelter and we want to ensure we are using every opportunity to increase pet adoptions.” In addition to increasing adoption opportunities on Sundays, the Department hopes to reunite lost pets with their owners a day sooner.

The Department has been able to achieve this goal by realigning staff schedules without incurring any additional operating costs. “Local government budgets are particularly challenged during these difficult economic times and we are happy to have found creative solutions to enhance services without additional costs to taxpayers,” said Mayeda. The Department also hopes to see an increase in revenue generated by the additional business day, thereby providing more resources to help homeless animals.

The six Los Angeles County animal shelters—Downey, Baldwin Park, Carson, Castaic, Lancaster and Agoura Hills—have been open seven days a week. Operating hours are:

Monday thru Thursday - noon to 7 p.m.
Friday thru Sunday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Department's Pet Stop* adoption center in Lancaster has been opened on Sundays, as well. Operating hours are:

Tuesday thru Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday - noon to 4 p.m.

For more information about the new hours, please visit <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov> or stop by your local County animal shelter.

Online Bulletin Postings and Application Process

The County of Los Angeles continues to enjoy the benefits resulting from the 2008 implementation of the Kenexa BrassRing (KRB) system. Functionalities of this innovative recruitment technology such as the online bulletin and application present a broad range of benefits across the County by enhancing the effectiveness of recruitment processes and providing a positive candidate experience. Advantages range from readily available job opportunity information and a convenient electronic application process to lower operational costs and maximize operational effectiveness. For instance, to further assist the public in accessing job bulletins and other testing information electronically, kiosks have been installed at the Hall of Administration, Department of Human Resources' Wilshire recruitment office, and other County departments. This enhancement is consistent with the established countywide initiative of “going green” and the County's Strategic Goal on Operational Effectiveness.

Retirement of outdated legacy systems such as the Employment Application Systems Integration for Enterprise (EASIER) and Job Bulletin System (JBS) and their replacement by the KRB system will continue to result in significant benefits as additional functionalities are introduced. These benefits include, but are not limited to, increasing public accessibility to County employment opportunities along with increasing efficiency of County departments managing employment solicitations.

The progressive implementation of KRB system features will provide practical tools to maximize operational efforts and help realize the County's vision of a collaborative environment where we can achieve workforce excellence through advanced selection procedures.

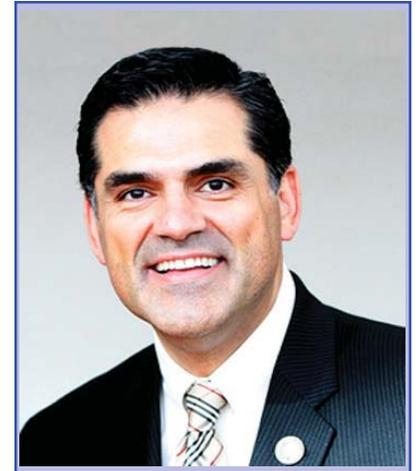
*Only houses dogs immediately available for adoption and does not accept animals from the public.

New Additions

Assessor John R. Noguez

John R. Noguez became the 26th Assessor of Los Angeles County, following his election in November 2010 with nearly 1,000,000 votes.

Noguez joined the Assessor's Department 25 years ago as a student worker and rose steadily through the ranks to hold the position of Appraiser Specialist, focusing on major business properties, including banks and shopping centers, as well as historic structures such as the Bradbury Building, and inner city condominium conversions. He later worked as Special Assistant to former Assessors Robert Quon and Rick Auerbach, including serving as their liaison with realtor, homeowner and community organizations.



The Assessor holds a California Board of Equalization Certificate in Advanced Appraising and attended Cal State University, Los Angeles, concentrating on real estate studies in the School of Finance.

While pursuing his career in the Assessor's Department, Noguez also was elected to office in the City of Huntington Park in 2000, where he served a decade as Mayor, Member of the City Council and City Clerk.

He has also been a government leader in several significant positions, having served as President of the League of California Cities, Los Angeles Division, and Secretary/Treasurer of the California Contract Cities Association.

A native Angeleno, Assessor Noguez, 46, was born at Kaiser Hospital in Hollywood and raised in Los Angeles City's diverse, multi-cultural suburb of Boyle Heights.

He is the first Assessor of Hispanic heritage elected to office in 124 years and represents all 10 million residents of Los Angeles County.



Deputy, Chief Executive Officer Rita L. Robinson

Rita L. Robinson was appointed to the position of Deputy, Chief Executive Officer and assumed the office on December 13, 2010. She reports directly to the Chief Deputy, Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for overseeing, managing, coordinating and evaluating processes, activities and services of the Community Services Cluster and Capital Programs. This includes implementation of Board directed policies and County programmatic goals of the Cluster which consists of the direct oversight and management of all financial, personnel, operational and programmatic functions; ensuring the integration of County services and the optimal use of resources; and the continuous improvement of the County's organization and operational processes.

Robinson has over 30 years of experience in City government at all levels of operations, analysis, financial management and project delivery, demonstrating a consistent record of professionalism and excellence. Most recently, as the General Manager for the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, she managed a staff of 1,200 fulltime and 500 part-time professional, engineering, field and support employees responsible for the region's myriad of transportation challenges. In that role, Robinson was instrumental in major transportation, traffic congestion relief and parking solution projects for the region. She also served as a Director on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board.

PEOPLE

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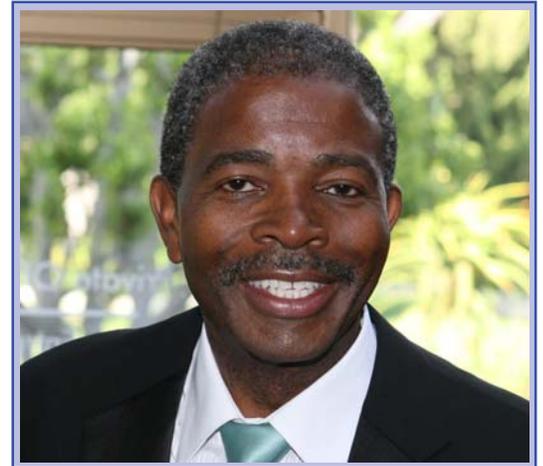
Prior to that, she served as the General Manager for the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, where she managed an operating budget of \$260 million and a staff of 3,000 full and parttime employees. In that capacity, Robinson assisted the Mayor and the City Council in adopting a refuse collection fee for the City and participated in the passage of Proposition “0” to provide \$500 million for improvements to the City’s stormwater program.

Robinson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Scripps College and has been invited by the UCLA School of Public Affairs to participate as a Senior Fellow for the 2010-11 academic year.

Public Defender Ronald L. Brown

Ronald L. Brown was sworn in as Public Defender of Los Angeles County on January 5, 2011. He is only the 10th person and the first African-American to head the Office of the Public Defender which opened its doors in 1914 as the nation’s first publicly-funded indigent criminal defense agency. Brown leads a staff of more than 700 licensed attorneys plus a staff of paralegals, investigators, social workers and secretaries—all of whom are dedicated to the representation of indigent clients.

Born in Ogden, Utah, but raised in Watts, Willowbrook and Compton, Brown graduated from Centennial High School. He was one of 10 children and refused to be burdened by poverty. Focusing on academics, he aimed high and obtained the first-class education he knew he would need to be successful. He received his undergraduate degree from USC in History in 1976 and his Juris Doctor from UCLA in 1979.



Brown was determined to give back to the community by dedicating his life to public service. He was particularly interested in the criminal justice system, believing that he could best serve by becoming an attorney for the indigent accused. He became a Los Angeles County Deputy Public Defender in 1981 and since that time has been entrusted with representing thousands accused of every imaginable type of crime. Brown has personally tried more than 180 misdemeanor and felony matters.

Not only did he work to defend his clients, he also sought to improve and diversify the Public Defender’s Office. A founder of the Black Public Defender’s Association, he served on its board for many years. He has been an attorney recruiter, interviewer and mentor and was responsible for recommending that the department hire more than 300 attorneys presently employed by the office.

Brown has long recognized that even though the criminal justice system is adversarial, there are many areas where the Office of the Public Defender and other criminal justice agencies can collaboratively interact and cooperate. That collaboration and cooperation was advanced by his participation in interagency groups such as the Juror Orientation Committee, the Information Systems Advisory Body, the Jail Overcrowding Committee, the Early Disposition Subcommittee, the Electronic Monitoring Subcommittee and the Video Arraignment Subcommittee. He also served as the Public Defender’s liaison with the Los Angeles County Sheriff, a position requiring skill and tact, as well as persistence.

His most recent assignment before his promotion to Public Defender was Assistant Public Defender for Branch and Area Operations. Brown was directly responsible for assuring that all the criminal courts in Los Angeles County were staffed with highly trained, capable Deputy Public Defenders who provided superior legal representation to their clients. He regularly attends management training programs and his abilities have been recognized through his receipt of a variety of awards and commendations.

Brown is a 25-year resident of Long Beach and currently resides in Bixby Knolls with his wife Kathleen Bursley.

Fire Department's Longest Serving Employees – We Salute You

Ocean Lifeguard Edward Craig



Every summer since 1960, instrumental music teacher Edward Craig would say goodbye to his high school students and hello to thousands of beachgoers as part of his second career as an Ocean Lifeguard with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. Craig has always enjoyed helping people and saving lives, as well as competitive swimming and water polo, a combination that made Ocean Lifeguard the perfect career for him. Over the years Craig has seen the Lifeguard Division become more professional and well-known throughout the nation, with better safeguards for both lifeguards and residents. “The beach was not as well guarded in those days; there were fewer towers so the distance between one lifeguard and another was much larger back then,” he recalls. “We have far more towers now, with better protection from the elements for the lifeguards.”

Craig retired from Anaheim Union High School five years ago, but has no plans to give up his lifeguard career anytime soon. At 70 years old, he still trains for thousands of hours in the pool and ocean to maintain the necessary level of physical fitness to get the job done. “I love what I do and the people I work with,” he says. “There are some seasonal lifeguards that are just excellent on the force, they are people who really care.”

Fire Fighter Gustavo Castillejo

“Patience is its own reward,” is an appropriate saying for Fire Fighter Gustavo Castillejo, who worked for the County of Los Angeles Fire Department for 14 years in other capacities before achieving his dream of becoming a firefighter. Castillejo always knew he wanted to be a firefighter, and initially was hired to perform fire suppression in the camps in 1972. A year later he was offered a position maintaining vehicles, followed by tenure as a Light Utility Driver. He enjoyed these positions, but persisted in his goal of becoming a firefighter, taking the exam whenever possible. His dream became a reality in 1986, when he graduated from the fire academy on his 35th birthday. The communities he has served as a firefighter include Carson, Whittier, La Puente and Diamond Bar.



Castillejo’s interest in becoming a firefighter was sparked by his brother, who was a firefighter with the Montebello and Pasadena Fire Departments. “I knew I wanted to be part of that line of work where you can directly help people,” he says. He considers the County’s diversity and size perks of the profession. “The County offers so many options to firefighters. There’s paramedic training, hazardous materials, urban search and rescue, a variety of challenging positions. I always looked forward to going to work,” he says. “Our jobs are so rewarding.” And we are so pleased that he followed his dreams.

U.S. Savings Bond News

Effective December 31, 2010, the U.S. Department of the Treasury will no longer issue U.S. Savings Bonds, Series EE and Series I, in paper form; therefore, the County of Los Angeles is discontinuing its payroll deduction savings bonds program. Employees’ last savings bond purchased was in December 2010. Employees, who have a remaining balance that was collected, but not used to purchase a U.S. Savings Bond, will be issued a refund by the Auditor-Controller. County employees who wish to purchase U.S. Savings Bonds may do so through Treasury Direct, an online service, at www.treasurydirect.gov or at a local bank.

For more information, please click on the link [U.S. Savings Bond Flyer](#) or contact the Chief Executive Office/Office of Workplace Programs at (213) 974-2619 or via email at WorkPlacePrograms@ceo.lacounty.gov.

Events

Command and Control Facility Has a New Name

The Los Angeles County Fire Department's Command and Control Facility has a new name. It was christened P. Michael Freeman Command and Control Facility, in honor of the second-longest serving Fire Chief in the Department's 87-year history who will be retiring soon. Joining Chief Freeman at the renaming were Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and Supervisor Don Knabe.



The Fire Chief is flanked by Supervisors Antonovich and Knabe at the unveiling of the plaque renaming the building after him.

“Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman has served the people of Los Angeles County for over 21 years. As the County's second-longest serving Fire Chief in its 87-year history, he has respectfully built upon our Fire Department's honored traditions of firefighting and lifesaving excellence. He has served with dedication, vision and distinction,” said Antonovich. “It is fitting and appropriate that we express our gratitude and recognize Chief Freeman's service in a lasting way by dedicating the Command and Control building in his honor, which is situated in the heart of County Fire's headquarters.”

“The County of Los Angeles has the best fire department in the nation thanks to the leadership and professionalism of Chief Freeman,” said Knabe. “It is appropriate that this particular building, the nerve center of the County Fire Department and where our contact with the public begins, is being renamed in his honor. It will remain as a symbol of Chief Freeman's lasting impact and the Department's uninterrupted public safety service to the people of Los Angeles County.”

Chief Freeman initiated several specialized emergency response programs including the Urban Search and Rescue, Swiftwater Rescue and Canine Search Programs; the merger of the County's Lifeguard and Health Hazardous Materials operations; and the use of expanded air attack for wildland firefighting operations.

County Welcomes the Newly-Formed COLIAPA

Officers and members of the newly formed County of Los Angeles Indian American Professional Association (COLIAPA) were sworn in by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky on December 16, 2010.

The Board of Directors led by its President Sanmay Mukhopadhyay promised to perform all the duties of the Association, as well as be good employees, bringing in diversity, efficiency and good ethics to make the County of Los Angeles a model County to work for.

Prior to the swearing in, the COLIAPA observed the “Celebration of Light” or *Diwali* on December 4, 2010 where representatives from State and County government, as well as local city mayors were present.

The Association is also working with other organizations including the Los Angeles County Asian American Employees Association.



Supervisor Yaroslavsky is joined by Deva Kamathan (ISD), Ramesh Rammani (ISD), Narinder Kumar (DPSS), Sanmay Mukhopadhyay (CIO), Ashok Madani (retired), Padmaja Chode (DPSS), Rajesh Prabhu (DMH) and Rickey Manbahal (CEO) at the swearing-in ceremony.

Retirees

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

45+ Years:

PUBLIC HEALTH: Patricia Mendoza, Sharon A. Waddell

PUBLIC WORKS: Leo C. Hamilton

40+ Years:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Wesley L. Neally

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Roy Newton

HEALTH SERVICES: Carmelita A. Cabaron, Ida M. Carbins, Joseph McQuirter, Carol R. Meyer, Willie Payton

INTERNAL SERVICES: Helen Rush

MENTAL HEALTH: Adele M. Katz

PROBATION: Betty J. Ashby, Ishmael S. Moran Jr.

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Kathleen P. Beckman, Patricia R. Ivory, Doris H. Patterson, Sylvia Rojas, Barbara H. Seeler, Ethel Solomon

30+ Years:

ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER: Yolanda McAllister
ASSESSOR: Robert Quon

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Ethel Ellington

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Delois Newman, Stanley L. Hams, Phyllis M. Hernandez, Tamara G. O'Sullivan, Sadie L. Roy

COUNTY COUNSEL: John M. Baskett III

FIRE: Michael J. Apodaca, Arthur Barrera, Gustavo A. Castillejo, David J. Chavez, Joel L. Douty, Territ S. Nickel, David C. Smith

HEALTH SERVICES: Penne Auttapibarn, Viapapn Choorut, Jolene A. Donaldson, Calla M. Joyce-Benson, Melba C. Peralta, Larry Steenhoek, Cheryl E. Williams

INTERNAL SERVICES: George G. Liu, Antonia G. Villagra

MENTAL HEALTH: Eugene Bauman, Marjorie Blair, Tuyet N. Chen, Joseph Salinas, Dennis L. Sorenson

PARKS AND RECREATION: Harry A. Essex, Wilson Y. Fong, James W. Greig Jr., Gerald A. Molinari

PROBATION: Peter Garnica, Robert D. Godfrey, Darryl A. Henry, Gail C. Joslin, Jan Kenny, Rodger A. Muhlback, Gloria S. Nichols

PUBLIC HEALTH: Dolores M. Braithwaite, Marialice Perez-Hawkin, John L. Urrico

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Raquel Barboza, Frank J. Bator, Pearl Chatwood, Maria S. Clink, Jun V. Garcia, Peggy Hart, Marsha Karp, Camila Lucero-Hassa, Rachel Martinez, Porferio R. Marzan, Mary J. Mosley-Ruiz, Anna M. Phelps, Wilhelmina Raphael, Waldo A. Salmon, Viola C. Sanders, Velma M. Thompson, Yen-Tuyet T. Tran, Rudy Vargas, Carmelita R. Velasquez

PUBLIC WORKS: Jeff W. Thierry

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Lizzie Castillo, Shirley A. Horton, Silvia Martinez, Rebecca Rodriguez, Fedora Shafeeq

SUPERIOR COURT: Patsy R. Emery, David Evans, Julia B. Howard, Janet L. Peterson, Ronald A. Ramos, Rita M. Silva, Helen A. Smith

25+ Years:

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Kenneth Lund

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Rochelle L. Williams

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Arthur J. Garcia, Roberta O. Jackson, Alex J. Miranda, Jerlene Moore, Joyce L. Ross, Elma D. Stewart

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Julie H. Bejarano, Sue G. Lasicka, Dorothy E. Simpson, Larry D. Walls

FIRE: Shawn P. Corbeil, William E. Crotty, Lee M. Gregory, Rosanna J. Patao

HEALTH SERVICES: Shu-Tseng H. Borigini, Martha L. Davis, Merri J. Scott

INTERNAL SERVICES: Glen K. Lee

PROBATION: Linda Lopez, Doris M. Parrish, Henry J. Portelles, Antonia R. Yasso

PUBLIC HEALTH: Esther Parker, Yosef M. Shiferaw

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Marie C. Brude

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Lewellyn R. Griffin, Carolyn C. Lawson, Glenda Moore, My T. Nguyen, Son M. Prasad, Demeris P. Robertson, Pearlie M. Sims, Karen M. Valencia, Ann M. Wong

PUBLIC WORKS: Pamela K. Miller

SUPERIOR COURT: Christine S. Roman

Programs

Enroll in the Commuter Benefit Plan

Get a Tax Break and Support the County's Green Initiative

Did you know you can reduce the amount of taxes you pay by participating in the County's Commuter Benefit Plan? It's true!

The Commuter Benefit Plan (CBP) allows employees to pay for eligible public transit expenses (for example, transit monthly passes, transit vouchers, Transit Access Pass cards (TAP), Metrolink passes), through convenient payroll deductions using pre-tax dollars (up to IRS limits; \$120 per month for 2011). Eligible expenses that exceed the IRS pre-tax limit are deducted from your paycheck on an after-tax basis. Simply stated, you do not have to pay federal or state taxes or H.I.T. (Hospital Insurance Tax) on the pre-tax money you use to pay for eligible public transit commuting expenses.

Assuming a combined federal, state and HIT tax rate of 36% and a \$120 per month pre-tax payroll deduction...YOU CAN SAVE \$465 PER YEAR!!!

With no long-term commitment, the CBP offers flexibility to fit your commuting needs. If you use public transportation on an infrequent basis (for example a few times a month), the CBP offers a convenient Debit Card option that is designed to meet your special commuting needs.

To learn more about the CBP or to enroll, visit www.myfbmc.com or call 1-800-342-8017. For more details about the CBP including FAQs, visit the Department of Human Resources Web site at <http://dhr.lacounty.info/>, click Employee Benefits then Commuter Benefit Plan.

County Employee Coin Exchange Program

Did you know that the County of Los Angeles has its own "Coinstar?" Unlike the popular "Coins to Cash" service, the County does *not* charge a processing fee for employees to avail of this service.

Bring your coins to Window 12 of the Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office located on the first floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration every Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm.

In exchange for the free service, you will receive cash for your coins. Check it out!

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

DPSS' Restaurant Meals Program

Restaurant Meals is a Food Stamp Program that allows participants to use their Golden State Advantage (EBT) card to purchase prepared meals from participating restaurants. This program is available to anyone who is in a Food Stamp household and meets one of the following conditions:

- **Homeless**
- **Elderly** – The participant household must have at least one aided member who is 60 of age or older.
- **Disabled** – The participant household must have at least one aided member who is receiving Social Security Disability Benefits, Railroad Retirement Benefit Annuities, or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI).

DPSS has developed outreach strategies to increase program awareness within the Department and the community in order to increase utilization among the target population.

In order to use the service:

- Look for participating restaurants displaying the Restaurant Meals sign or ask your Eligibility Worker for a list of participating restaurants. You may also access the list by visiting: http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/restaurant_meals/pdf/Restaurants_list.pdf.
- Purchase breakfast, lunch, and dinner from participating restaurants by using your Golden State Advantage (EBT) card.
- Receive a receipt for each meal purchased to show the cost of your meal and the balance on your Golden State Advantage (EBT) food stamp account.

The Restaurant Meals Program Web site provides background information, Frequently Asked Questions, a registration link for restaurant owners, links to resources, a listing of participating restaurants and other useful information. The Web site can be accessed at http://www.ladpss.org/dpss/restaurant_meals/.

For more information about the Restaurant Meals Program, please call (562) 908-6881 or 6868.

You may be self-sufficient, and have a strong support system, but in a disaster, that independence could be threatened.

Will YOU be prepared when disaster strikes?

Add to your support system by registering with SNAP, Los Angeles County's voluntary disaster registry.



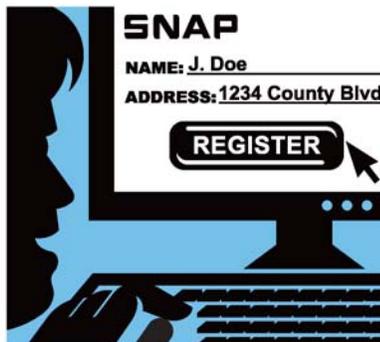
Plan. Prepare. Register.
<http://snap.lacounty.gov>

For millions of Los Angeles County residents who have access and functional needs including those relating to physical, medical, sensory, cognitive or age-related conditions; disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires or floods will present a real challenge.

Disasters can strike at any time and without warning. To better prepare County residents for these and other types of disasters, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) announced the launch of the Specific Needs Awareness Planning (S.N.A.P.) voluntary disaster registry.

The S.N.A.P. registry is an Internet-based system that allows residents to provide information, which will be kept confidential, to public safety officials about their access or functional needs. S.N.A.P. does not guarantee priority response to registrants, it assists emergency response officials in planning and responding to the requirements of people with access and functional needs during a disaster by integrating database and mapping technology together.

S.N.A.P. was developed by the University of California Los Angeles School of Public Affairs in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, Chief Executive Office, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, Community and Senior Services, Fire, Health Services, Internal Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Public Social Services, Public Works and Sheriff, cities of Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, and non-profit organizations such as American Red Cross and Emergency Network Los Angeles.



What is SNAP?

- SNAP stands for Specific Needs Awareness Planning.
- SNAP is a voluntary disaster registry.
- SNAP can help emergency personnel find people who may need additional assistance in a disaster.

Preparing for disasters in Los Angeles County can be a SNAP.

Registering with SNAP is a simple and key step you can take to prepare yourself for natural and man-made disasters. SNAP can also provide you with helpful information to assist you and your family in preparing for disasters in Los Angeles County.

Plan how you will be able to evacuate during a disaster. **Prepare** yourself and your family with disaster kits for your home and car. **Register with SNAP!**

Is SNAP for me?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I have a permanent or temporary disability?
- Do I need help to get out of my home safely during a disaster?
- Do I need assistance to travel to an emergency evacuation center?
- Do I need extra help taking care of myself in my home or an evacuation center?
- Do I need extra help because of my disability to care for myself alone for several days?
- Do I need assistive equipment that uses electricity?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions you should register with SNAP. If you answered "no" to these questions, find great preparedness information at www.ESPfocus.org.

SNAP registrations can be made on an individual basis or as a group.

If you don't have access to the Internet, or if you need assistance with registration, ask a family member, friend or caregiver to do the registration for you.

Don't delay. Register today at <http://snap.lacounty.gov>.

How do I register?

Go to <http://snap.lacounty.gov> and click on "Register Now." Choose "Individual" or "Group" and get started.

Step #1 Enter your home address.

Step #2 Enter your name and contact information.

Step #3 Enter "Your Emergency Contacts."

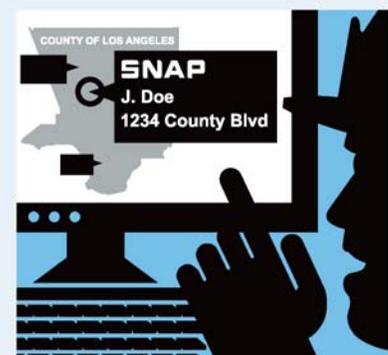
Step #4 Identify your immediate and long-term needs and concerns for evacuating, or for sheltering safely in place.

Step #5 Create a username and password and click "Register."

Be sure to update your registration information annually or when your information changes.

Your SNAP information is secure,

and will be used only if there is a disaster in Los Angeles County. Only authorized emergency personnel will have access to SNAP.



Laws

Department of Consumer Affairs Highlights the Top 10 Consumer Laws

2011 has arrived. Hundreds of new local, state and federal laws have gone into effect. Most of these laws won't affect our normal everyday lives. But as the motto of the Department of Consumer Affairs goes: "Because everyone is a consumer." Since we all spend money and buy goods or services, several of these new laws will affect our lives as consumers.

Here is a brief rundown of 10 of the top new consumer laws for 2011. For a full overview of the new consumer laws, go to the Consumer Affairs Web site at dca.lacounty.gov.

1. **New restrictions on plastic bags**
2. **Tougher penalties for fake ID cards**
3. **Impersonating someone online now a misdemeanor**
4. **Greater insurance protections if you use a car sharing company**
5. **Tougher limits on cadmium in kids' jewelry**
6. **Larger penalties for rental scams**
7. **New protections for renters who are victims of domestic abuse**
8. **New requirements for companies selling grant deeds**
9. **Plastic surgeons must document their expertise**
10. **The new health care laws**
 - **State to set up Health Benefit Exchange**
 - **Children can stay on health care plans until age 26**
 - **State to set up temporary pool for those uninsured because of pre-existing conditions**

Plastic bags

There are actually two new laws about plastic bags. The most newsworthy change came from our home office here at the County of Los Angeles. Stock up on those reusable bags; the County Board of Supervisors voted to ban plastic carry-out bags in the unincorporated area of the County. Paper bags will cost you 10 cents apiece. These changes go into effect in July 2011 for some of the larger chain stores.

The second law on plastic bags comes from the state. This law will help consumers know which plastic bags are safer for the environment. Starting in July, compostable and marine degradable bags must pass a standards test and will be marked so as to not be confused with regular, old plastic bags.

Fake ID Cards

Times will get tougher for those in the business of making or selling illegal, fake identification cards thanks to new state laws. Lawbreakers now face larger fines (\$1,000) and community service time which the court cannot waive. Also, courts can now sentence those criminals up to one year in jail.

Online Impersonation

Heard about anyone making a fake Facebook profile for another person? Well, a person who pretends to be someone else through email or a social networking site with the purpose of harming, threatening or defrauding another person now faces stronger penalties. New state laws make this a misdemeanor. Bad guys could face a \$1,000 fine, a year in jail and would be open to a civil lawsuit.

Car Sharing

Car sharing companies are becoming more popular, particularly in San Francisco and other crowded cities. Some companies offer a fleet of cars available for short-term rentals. Other companies allow customers to put their own vehicles up for others to use.

With this new state law, a car owner cannot lose their insurance simply because they allow their car to be used by a car sharing company. As long as the car owner meets the rules about how much money they make from the transaction, the car is still considered privately owned and not a commercial vehicle.

Cadmium in Children's Jewelry

Good news: Companies stopped using lead in children's jewelry because it's harmful. They started using cadmium instead.

Bad news: Cadmium is harmful to kids, too.

Good news again: A new state law prohibits anyone from making, shipping, offering or selling jewelry for young children (under 6) with more than a trace of cadmium.

Rental Scams

Know someone trying to get away with illegally renting out a place to live? Well, a new state law just made their gamble a double down.

The penalty for unlawful rental of a residential dwelling increased from six months in jail and a possible \$1,000 fine to one year in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

Rental protections for domestic violence victims

Under this new state law, a renter cannot be kicked out of their place to live just because they are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. This is true as long as the act is documented and the person restrained by court order or police report does not live in the same place.

However, if the landlord thinks the other person is a physical threat to other tenants, the new law does not apply.

Also, if there is a restraining order against someone else, the renter can ask, in writing, to have the landlord change their locks.

Grant Deed Companies

You get a letter in the mail. It says you need to buy a grant deed. It has a deadline to pay. It looks like an official government document. It's a scam, and it's been a popular one lately. The Department of Consumer Affairs and other agencies have been working to stop these scams and this new state law should help.

Now these companies must place on every page in 14-point, bold type a paragraph that states it's not a government agency. They can't use in their business name many common "official-sounding" words like "title", "grant deed", "public record", "city", "county", "state" and many others. They can't use a deadline or make false claims about the housing crisis.

This new law will help, but beware; scammers are always working on new ways to get your money.

Plastic Surgeons' Expertise

Under this new state law, physicians and surgeons must inform patients of their highest level of academic degree and their certifying board or association. The doctors must also make this information available online.

This law is meant mostly to inform the public about the expertise and qualifications of plastic surgeons.

New Health Care Laws

The new federal laws certainly earned headlines in 2010. Here are a few brief reminders of how it will affect California law.

- Starting in 2014, all states will create a Health Benefit Exchange under which people can buy plans such as HMOs, PPOs and fee-for-service plans. Also, small employers now can gain a tax credit for health insurance premium costs.
- Young people who are financially dependent on their parents can remain on their parents' health care plans until age 26. This law is already in effect.

- Starting in 2014, insurers can no longer reject or charge more to people with pre-existing conditions. Until then, states will set up a temporary high-risk pool to provide health insurance to people who can not receive insurance. They must be uninsured for at least six months before applying.

For more details on new consumer laws or any consumer questions, contact the Department of Consumer Affairs at (800) 593-8222 or dca.lacounty.gov.

New Laws for Motorists

During 2010, the California State Legislature approved a number of new laws. Unless otherwise noted, these measures took effect January 1, 2011.

Local Tickets. SB 949, supported by the Auto Club to clarify existing law, makes it unlawful for local governments to ticket drivers who commit moving violations under municipal codes or other local regulations. All moving violations must be cited under the appropriate state vehicle code section, which specifies penalties. This law ensures that drivers throughout the state will be treated uniformly for moving violations.

Smog Check. Under AB 2289, beginning sometime after January 1, 2013, model-year 2000 and newer vehicles will be tested for smog compliance using the vehicle's onboard diagnostic systems (OBD-II) instead of a tailpipe sensor. If the vehicle is not equipped with OBD-II or has emissions problems, it can be tested using the tailpipe sensor at a test-only station. Changing the testing procedure should reduce the cost of smog checks, according to the California Bureau of Automotive Repair.

Drunk Drivers. Beginning January 1, 2012, AB 1601 authorizes judges to revoke for up to 10 years the driver's license of any person convicted of three or more DUIs in a 10-year period. Current law allows for a license revocation of three years for someone with three or more DUIs in a 10-year period. (In 2008, there were 187,987 DUI convictions in California, 9,164 of which were third-time DUI offenders within 10 years. In addition, drunk drivers killed more than 1,000 people in California and injured 28,000 more.)

Higher Fines for Traffic Citations. AB 2173 raises the cost of moving violation tickets by \$4 to fund emergency air-transport services. The bill was adopted to resolve a revenue shortfall for air-transport services because of inadequate Medi-Cal funding. It's estimated that this new surcharge will generate approximately \$34 million per year. The law will remain in effect until January 1, 2016.

Share It

Keep That Resolution Now – Ask Us How!

Quit smoking! Stop drinking! Earn more! Owe less! Get that degree while shedding 10 pounds!

If these are among your New Year's resolutions, we'd suggest one more: buyer beware. For as surely as the ball drops in Times Square, scammers are gearing up to take advantage of your good intentions.

So how can you maintain your resolve in 2011 while steering clear of pitfalls? We asked Rigo Reyes, acting director of the County's Department of Consumer Affairs, whose experts looked at some popular resolutions and offered these tips.

Get healthy. “We see a lot of weight-loss programs,” says Reyes, whose team recently has been forwarding complaints and inquiries to the California Medical Board about lap band surgery. But that’s just one get-healthy-quick pitch among many. Faith healers in bogus farmacias prey on Spanish-speaking consumers who want to quit drinking or smoking or overeating. And every year, Reyes says, he hears from couch potatoes who bought sales pitches from some gyms without actually reading the high-priced contracts. “People need to read the fine print and not just believe promises,” says Reyes. Short cuts are imaginary and costly. A walk around the block, on the other hand, is free.

Get out of debt. “This is a top priority for a lot of people in this economy,” says Reyes. But beware of credit repair scams and offers of foreclosure assistance and debt consolidation. No one can legally remove accurate information from a credit report, and if the information is inaccurate, you can get it removed for nothing. If you’re having foreclosure troubles, deal directly with the bank or get help from a HUD-approved nonprofit—don’t waste money on for-profit intermediaries. As for debt consolidation offers, Reyes says many leave consumers with high fees, unpaid debts and worse credit. Scams such as these have become so predatory that new laws have been passed to address them. Up-front fees are now illegal for credit repair, loan modification and foreclosure assistance in California. A new federal telemarketing rule also prohibits them for debt consolidation services offered through phone sales. If you really need help, Reyes says, contact the Consumer Affairs Department at (800) 593-8222 or (213) 974-1452: “We’ll help you out for free.”

Get a job. If the jobless rate is any indication, millions of Californians share this resolution. But employment scams are already worsening life for the desperate. “A lot of them are phishing schemes and bogus mystery shopper programs—you get an email from people claiming to be ‘recruiters’ who can get you a job if you just give them your information, which then leaves you vulnerable to identity theft.” Some of these job scammers go further. They send bogus checks to people to purportedly finance their “start-up” costs. The victims are told to deposit the checks and wire back a portion to third parties. Because the law requires banks to make the funds from the deposited check available before the check completely clears, the scammers get away with the money, which the bank will try to collect from you.

Get a degree. Great resolution, but only if you can use the diploma, so look out for unaccredited and for-profit schools. “The private post-secondary bureau in the state Department of Consumer Affairs used to license these schools, but the legislation authorizing it was allowed to sunset three years ago,” says Reyes. “People are trying to re-establish it, but in the meantime, there has been a free-for-all.” If you want to take classes or get job training, he says, apply to an accredited university, enroll at a community college or check out adult education programs at your local high school. “The Evans Adult School, which is part of the Los Angeles Unified School District, has a very comprehensive program,” says Reyes, “and you don’t have to pay anything but \$5 for a student I.D.”



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