

Women’s Role in Establishing Memorial Day



Duty. Honor. Pride. These words reflect the spirit of generations of American women who have sought to defend the rights and freedom of others. The history of women in the armed forces began more than 220 years ago with women who served during the American

Revolution and continues through the present day. The County of Los Angeles is honored to pay tribute to these women who have contributed so much to our Nation.

According to the Veterans Administration (VA), women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. Of the 22.7 million living Veterans, more than 1.8 million are women. They comprise nearly eight percent of the total Veteran population and six percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. The VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10 percent of the Veteran population by 2020 and 9.5 percent of VA patients.

The National Women’s History Museum will celebrate this year’s Memorial Day by recognizing the significant roles women played in the holiday’s origin through a mini-documentary. In the aftermath of the Civil War, women worked to transcend the horrors of war by bringing civility and peace to a wounded nation. Women were instrumental in creating this annual holiday – from the establishment of the first Memorial Associations following the Civil War to collecting flowers for what is sometimes still called “Decoration Day.” One of the earliest leaders in the movement to create Memorial Day was Ellen Call Long. Just weeks after the Civil War ended in 1865, she organized a women’s memorial society to reconcile embittered enemies. On June 22 of that same year the memorial society created a resolution that led to the creation of Memorial Day. View the [video](#) that explores the origins of Memorial Day and women’s contributions to its creation. The

Interesting Facts about Memorial Day

Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868.

Memorial Day was originally called “Decoration Day.”

Memorial Day was originally created to honor Union soldiers who died while fighting in the Civil War. Because of this, southern states did not observe Memorial Day until after World War I, when the holiday was expanded to include soldiers from all wars.

On the Thursday before Memorial Day, soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They patrol the cemetery 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing. This tradition, called “Flags In,” has been in place since 1948.

The red poppy is a traditional symbol of Memorial Day (many veterans wear them to commemorate the day).

National Women’s History Museum <http://www.nwhm.org/> is a virtual museum until a building can be built in Washington, D.C. Until then, the museum continues to share exhibitions on location and online.

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John Anson Ford Theatres

www.fordtheatres.org

June

4 - Which-a-way?

Presented by: Culture Shock Los Angeles Dance Troupe

5 - Concierto Charanga

Presented by: Star Entertainment & Education Group

10- A Summer Night in Korea: Film, Music, Food and More

Presented by: Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles

17 - Acoustic 5

Presented by: Kollaboration

18 - Jazzmopolitan: Filipina Ladies of Jazz

Presented by: PAE Live!

19 - 18th Annual Brazilian Summer Festival 2011

Presented by: Brazilian Nites Productions

20 - J.A.M. Sessions Bollywood into the Night

22-25 - Los Angeles Film Festival

Presented by: Film Independent

27 - J.A.M. Sessions West Coast Swing

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

June 5 – September 5 - Gifts of the Sultan: The Arts of Giving at the Islamic Courts

Through July 24 - David Smith: Cubes and Anarchy

Through July 31 - The Mourners: Tomb Sculptures from the Court of Burgundy

Through October 31 - Tim Burton

Music

Sundays Live – Every Sunday at 6 p.m.

For more information on LACMA's Music Programs, please call (323) 857-6115

Music Center

135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

www.musiccenter.org

Walt Disney Concert Hall

www.musiccenter.org

Los Angeles Philharmonic

www.laphil.com

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



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*Discounts vary
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County of Los Angeles
2011 March of Dimes Campaign

march of dimes
march for babies



Discount Ticket Offer for Los Angeles County Employees, Family and Friends!

Disneyland is offering discount "Twilight" tickets
Friday, July 8, 2011 or Saturday, July 9, 2011

*Ticket discount is valid to Disneyland Park ONLY on your choice of date.
Not valid for entry to California Adventure*

**\$48.00* per person (Adults, Children and Seniors)
Children age 2 and under are free!**

**Price of ticket includes a \$5.00 donation to the 2011 March of Dimes Campaign.
"Twilight" Hours are 4:00 p.m. to Midnight*

Entrance to the park begins at 4:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets, contact:

**Peter Papadakis, 2011 March of Dimes Countywide Team Leader
CEO-Office of Workplace Programs (213) 974-2523
or ppapadakis@ceo.lacounty.gov**

**DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011
NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M.**

How to Help Tornado Disaster Victims in Alabama

The deadly tornadoes that swept across Alabama and several other states has left demolished buildings, snapped trees, broken power lines and homeless people in its wake. More than 300 people died in Alabama as a result of the estimated 200 tornadoes that ravaged the nation from Oklahoma to Virginia. There are several ways for people to donate to disaster victims in Alabama.

Salvation Army:

Call 1-800-SAL-ARMY and designate "April 2011 Tornado Outbreak." Text "GIVE" to 80888. Send checks to The Salvation Army Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 100339, Atlanta, GA 30384-0339. Please designate "April 2011 Tornado Outbreak."

American Red Cross:

Online: go to www.alredcross.org and click on the "donate now" link on the homepage.

Call: 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) and you will be prompted to a menu that includes financial donations.

Text: "Red Cross" to 90999. A response will include two options for donations, either to Japan or for Disasters: domestic and spring storms. You can get in touch with the various chapters of the American Red Cross in Alabama by following the links below:

Northern Alabama <http://www.redcrossrelief.org/>

Mid-Alabama (Birmingham) <http://www.alredcross.org/general.asp?SN=8618&OP=8619&IDCapitulo=DRGYJ0Q5XZ>

Central Alabama (Montgomery) <http://www.montgomeryarc.org/>

Southern Alabama <http://www.redcrossalcoast.org/>

Feeding America:

Feeding America helps food banks provide food to communities affected by the recent tornadoes. To make a donation to Feeding America, visit <http://feedingamerica.org/>.

2011 Countywide Fitness Challenge

Get ready! It's almost here!

The 2011 Countywide Fitness Challenge is coming your way with even more ways than last year to get out and get active with your family. From June through October, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) will be providing weekend events that will take place at County Parks and Recreation facilities, local farmers' markets, and Beaches and Harbors venues. Every event will feature fitness activities such as hiking, power walking, cycling and exercise bootcamp. DHR designed the events to be fun and to encompass all fitness levels so everyone can join in. Along with chances to get in a work out, the events will include giveaways, drawings for prizes, a softball scrimmage, bicycle fun ride, healthy cooking demonstrations, scavenger hunts, and more! There will even be another "Biggest Loser" contest.



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Adding Physical Activity to Your Life

The Centers for Disease Control says that "staying active during leisure time can reduce your risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes and related diseases. Physical activity can help control weight, reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers, strengthen bones and muscles, and improve mental health." There are a lot of ways to get the physical activity you need! If you're thinking "how can I meet the guidelines each week?," don't worry! You can break it down into as little as 10 minute increments, three times a day. If you come out to the 2011 Countywide Fitness Challenge events, you will discover many ways to get fit and active while keeping the fun factor out front.

Mark the following dates and activities on your calendar, then grab your family for some free, healthy fun, courtesy of DHR!

OFFICIAL KICK-OFF

Music Center - Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County

135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tuesday, June 7 - 11a.m. to 2 p.m.

Biometric screenings, exercise class demos, massage therapy, giveaways and drawings for prizes!

Countywide Fitness Challenge Receives Agency Award for Excellence from IPMA-HR

On April 28, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the County of Los Angeles were awarded the Western Region International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA - HR) "Agency Award for Excellence" for creating and deploying the 2010 Countywide Fitness Challenge. In an effort to improve the health of its employees, DHR designed a wellness campaign to bring employees out on weekends with their families for various physical fitness events at local County Parks and Recreation facilities. In addition, a Countywide "Biggest Loser" contest was conducted and resulted in County employees dropping a collective 11.4 tons of excess weight.

Lisa M. Garrett (far right), Director of Personnel, presents the WRIPMA-HR Agency Award for Excellence she received at the WRIPMA-HR conference to members of the DHR Team: (from left to right) Merce M. Gillo, HRA IV; Marian L. Hall, Assistant Director; Eliza Carrillo, Senior Human Resources Manager; Diana Z. Fonseca, HRA III and Mary E. Gilmore, Principal Analyst.



Activity Kick-Off - "WALK IT OFF"

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area
823 Lexington-Gallatin Road, South El Monte, CA 91733
Saturday, June 11 - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
5K fitness walk, biometric screenings, exercise class demos, giveaways and drawings for prizes, and an appearance by Snoopy!

"STOP AND SMELL THE FLOWERS!"

Farmer's Market at Mission College
13356 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342
Saturday, July 9 - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Fitness power walks, vendor scavenger hunt, nutritional guidance, healthy cooking demonstrations, giveaways and drawings!

Farmer's Market at Wilson Park

2200 Crenshaw, Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90501
Saturday, July 23 - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Fitness power walks, vendor scavenger hunt, nutritional guidance, softball scrimmage, giveaways and drawings for prizes!

"CHILL OUT!"

Burton Chase Park
13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Saturday, August 20 - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Marina fitness walks, healthy cooking demonstrations, giveaways and drawings for prizes!

"TAKE A HIKE!"

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
4100 South La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90056
Saturday, September 10 - 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Nature and wilderness hikes, demonstrations of new Parcours fitness equipment, giveaways and drawings for prizes!

"MAKE A SPLASH!"

Dockweiler Youth Center
12505 Vista del Mar, El Segundo, CA 90245
Saturday, October 1 - 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Bicycle fun ride for all levels, healthy cooking demonstrations, fitness walks, giveaways and drawings for prizes!

"BE ONE WITH NATURE!"

Placerita Canyon Natural Area
19152 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall, CA 91321
Saturday, October 8 - 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
5K fitness hike, bird walks & nature hikes, animal and reptile encounters, giveaways and drawings for prizes, and an appearance by Smokey the Bear!

For more details, please visit <http://dhr.lacounty.info/>.

Antonovich Salutes Armed Forces and Affirms County Preparedness

At a news conference with Sheriff Leroy Baca, local and federal law enforcement officials at the County Emergency Operations Center, Mayor Michael D. Antonovich issued the following statement regarding the death of Osama Bin Laden and the County's terrorism prevention effort: "I would like to extend gratitude to the brave men and women of our nation's armed forces who killed Bin Laden, the mastermind behind 9/11 and leader of al-Qaeda. This was a great accomplishment for America and the World."



"Nearly a decade ago, I was in Washington D.C. when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked causing a devastating loss of life and prompting our nation's declaration of war on global terrorism."... "In those tragic events and during the nation's darkest moments, we saw true heroes emerge. We must never forget that more than 3,000 civilians, law enforcement, and fire personnel lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Last night, justice was served but the war is not over."

"While we will continue to work with our Sheriff's department and other law enforcement agencies to ensure that our County is prepared to prevent and respond to any threats, we encourage the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious or unusual activity to local law enforcement or visit www.lacrimestoppers.com or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). If you see or hear something, say something."

Honoring our Women Veterans: Their Story of Success



Ruth Wong: Air Force Flight Nurse

Editor's Note: *Ruth Wong serves as the Executive Director of the Quality and Productivity Commission. Their mission is to promote the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of public services and County activities by providing advice, assistance and support to the County's elected officials, managers and employees.*

The seeds of Ruth Wong's Air Force career actually sprouted when she was eight years old. She decided that she wanted to be a nurse and fly around the world. She told her family about her dreams and they were encouraging. She read all of the "nurse" books on the shelves of her local library, took chemistry and Latin courses in high school, and studied everything she could about nursing.

In her senior year of nurses training, an Air Force nurse recruiter visited her school. She was fascinated with the recruiting pitch and shortly after that took her oath of office and received a commission as an officer. From the beginning, Wong dreamed about flight nursing and wearing wings.

Her Air Force assignments whisked her off to the southern and western part of the United States, Japan, Germany, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Washington, D. C. Learning about other cultures and loving what she did, the entire experience was a perfect fit. Wong made many friends both civilian and military who remain a part of her extended family.

As she advanced in rank, Wong was given more responsibility and eventually the choice to attend the flight nurse program. She became qualified in two aircraft, advanced to instructor status and was selected as a flight commander during Desert Storm. As combat nurses, Wong and her nursing colleagues took care of patients, wore flak jackets, carried arms and donned chemical gear if needed.

Wong believes that women serving in the military have always done what was needed to get the job done even when it meant sitting behind a desk. Her final assignment was at the Air Force Surgeon General's office in Washington, D. C. Working side-by-side with military leaders was the highlight of her career. She feels fortunate to have had mentors who prepared her well for all of her assignments – a family who supported her throughout her career and leadership training to prepare her to accept whatever came her way.

One of her favorite quotes is found on the glass tablets at the Air Force Women's Memorial:

RUTH WONG

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Clear Your Brush for Fire Season!

The many urban-wildland area communities of Los Angeles County provide some of the most unique and beautiful and tranquil locations in Southern California. But with that natural beauty also comes a higher level of threat from wildland fires. Living in an area like this places more personal responsibility on homeowners to do what they can to protect themselves and their property.

All properties located near and in the wildland areas have the potential of being a fire hazard, as unmaintained landscapes and ornamental vegetation significantly contribute to disastrous fires throughout the region. Fire hazards are not limited to native vegetation; unmaintained ornamental vegetation is an equally significant threat to your home and your family. Los Angeles County firefighters are spending the months of May and June conducting their annual Brush Clearance Inspection Program in these high risk communities. Inspections began May 1 in the inland areas and will begin June 1 in the coastal areas.

Residents living in the County's wildland areas are urged to prepare their landscaping, homes and themselves for the fire season, using the Department's Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Action Plan, available on its website at <http://fire.lacounty.gov/SafetyPreparedness/ReadySetgo/home.asp>



Mary Carter: Army Officer

Editor's Note: *Following active military service, Mary Carter began her County career in 1969 as a Typist Clerk at LAC+USC Women's Hospital. She became one of the first five Payroll Managers with the Department of Health Services and rose to the rank of Administrative Service Manager III. In this capacity, she continues to serve as the On-Site Human Resources Administrator for over 8,000 employees working each day at LAC+USC Medical Center. Carter earned a Master of Public Administration degree along the way, and helps carry out the County's mission statement: "To Enrich Lives through Effective and Caring Service."*

As the eldest of seven children, Mary Carter wanted to continue her education after high school. When a military recruiter came to her high school in Pennsylvania to recruit for the many branches of the military, she selected the U.S. Army. Carter served on active duty in the Women's Army Corp from November 1965 until May 1967. She then relocated to California and joined the Los Angeles County family. In May 1973, Carter returned to Reserve status and served until February 2009.

During her 37-year military career, Carter's most notable experience was the mobilization and deployment of her division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She served as the Strength Management Officer and Assistant Mobilization Officer. During these experiences, Carter was able to develop her skills in leadership vision and strategic planning.

She has been very fortunate to have had many individuals in her life who have served as positive influences, beginning with her grandmother, mother, teachers and military commanders. Her Army Chief Warrant Officer, who trained her in the area of Military Personnel, had the greatest influence in modeling her military career. It was this particular

experience that ignited her passion for the field of human resources management.

As a woman in the military, Carter experienced many challenges. When she became a Warrant Officer, she was challenged by male supervisors regarding her decisions and at times not given the same training opportunities. But through it all, Carter's family was always very supportive of her military career. Looking back, Carter now believes that serving one's country and protecting the freedom of its citizens closely equates to the County's Mission. By working for the County, she continues to serve the people of the United States of America, even if not in a uniform.

Carter's military service has helped her to see the "bigger picture" about everything, especially as a County employee. As a member of the Army, you are trained to live your values, which are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. When faced with big challenges as a County employee, Carter thinks back to this training, which always helps her overcome any obstacles. She reminds herself that it is truly not about *her*, but about her service to Los Angeles County residents.



Recognizing Employees for Public Service

Editor's Note: Celebrated the first full week in May for the past 26 years, Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is a time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees. Throughout the nation and the world, public servants use this occasion to educate others about the work they do and why they have chosen public service careers, as well as the many ways government services make life better for all of us. From the steps of the Capitol to the smallest towns, public servants will participate in ceremonies, information fairs, parades and other events in their honor. At the same time, they will work to open new avenues of communication with the public about the essential value of government service in sustaining the quality of American life. We asked some departments what activities they participated in to recognize their employees.

Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures
The Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures holds an annual event at Whittier Narrows that brings together our employees, who work in locations throughout the County, to relax and chat in the park for a few hours. During this event, department management provide and serve lunch to staff to recognize the general contribution of the staff. To recognize specific employees who have gone above and beyond, awards



PSRW

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Mothers Urged to “Speak Up When You’re Down”

May is Perinatal Depression Awareness Month

In recognition of *Perinatal Depression Awareness Month*, the Department of Public Health and the LA County Perinatal Mental Health Task Force have launched the “Speak Up When You’re Down” campaign for women who are suffering from maternal depression. The campaign is designed to encourage women to seek help, to educate others about depression associated with pregnancy and birth, and to reduce the stigma associated with maternal depression.

“Having a child should be and is a joyful experience for women and their families. But often women who are pregnant or who have recently given birth are overwhelmed and experience depression,” said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. “In Los Angeles County, one in three mothers report feeling depressed during their pregnancy. Left untreated, maternal depression can lead to long-term depression in the mother, a lack of emotional availability for the baby and detrimental outcomes in the development of the fetus, newborn and growing child. It is important that we educate women and their families about maternal depression and ways to cope.”

“Approximately 15 percent of all women who give birth in the County suffer from clinical perinatal depression and anxiety,” said Caron Post, PhD, Director of the LA County

Perinatal Mental Health Task Force. “The numbers are significantly higher for those living in poverty. Left untreated, this can have devastating consequences for women, infants, children and families. Yet maternal depression is highly treatable. It is crucial for individuals, as well as health and human service providers, to recognize the signs of maternal depression and to encourage women who are suffering to get the help they need.”

The first *Perinatal Depression Awareness Month* in Los Angeles County was declared in 2010 by the Board of Supervisors. It coincides with Mother’s Day and is to be recognized every May. Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas introduced a proclamation signed by the entire Board of Supervisors proclaiming May 2011 Perinatal Depression Awareness month throughout Los Angeles County, which also acknowledges the work of the Task Force and its continued partnership with LA County.

As part of the observance, the Task Force will be providing the following events and materials:

**SPEAK UP WHEN
YOU'RE DOWN**

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PSRW

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are presented based on the determination of a committee, which evaluates nominations made by staff. Management details the accomplishments and outstanding qualities of the award recipients, who receive such awards in categories such as *Special Achievement, Unsung Hero, Customer Service* and *Employee of the Year*.

Executive Office – Board of Supervisors

Each year the Executive Office – Board of Supervisors celebrates PSRW with its staff. This year the department acknowledged May 2-6, 2011 as a week that is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the excellent service and commitment of public employees and the outstanding contributions they make daily to enrich and enhance the quality of life for our constituents and the community at large. Key managers served a late afternoon snack of nachos, chili and soft drinks for our employees in the Executive Office. In prior years, in honor of PSRW, we conducted similar gatherings for our employees serving root beer floats in 2009 and breakfast burritos in 2010.

Probation Department

Probation is an essential part of the criminal justice system and provides many offenders with a pathway to successful, lawful living. The professionals employed in this field work faithfully to uphold the law and recognize the public’s supreme right to be safe-guarded from criminal activity. While the Probation Department did not have any formal events during PSRW, the department is preparing for their annual “Probation Services Week” that takes place in July. The department utilizes that week to acknowledge the work and service to clients and the entire community.

SPEAK UP WHEN YOU'RE DOWN

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“Done in a Day” (May 1st – 31st): In partnership with Los Angeles-area Junior Leagues, all women that give birth in the County at any hospital during the month of May will receive information on perinatal depression and related mood disorders.

The Community Providers Perinatal Mental Health Tool Kit: An easy-to-use resource with important information on signs, symptoms, risk factors, effects, screening, assessment, prevention, and intervention for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. This toolkit was created by experts for a wide array of providers, including pediatricians, OB/GYNs, primary health care providers, mental health professionals as well as community based providers such as *promotoras* and case managers. For more information about the Tool Kit, contact the LA County Perinatal Mental Health Task Force through its website.

Trainings for call centers such as the 2-1-1 LA County Information Line, Spanish-speaking *promotoras* via Esperanza House, and many community health and mental health care providers.

A public awareness anti-stigma messaging campaign featuring the bilingual informational brochure “6 Things Every New Mom and Mom to Be Should Know About Maternal Depression” and the “Speak Up When You’re Down” bilingual poster. To order these materials, contact the Task Force at its website.

The LA County Perinatal Mental Health Task Force is a volunteer network and project of Community Partners. Its mission is to remove the barriers through prevention, screening and treatment of prenatal and postpartum depression in Los Angeles County. For more information, please visit <http://laperinatalmentalhealth.com/>.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises more than 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding \$750 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do, please visit <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov>, visit our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth>, or follow us on Twitter: LAPublicHealth.

Federal Government Recognizes County Project

Community Development Commission Selected to Receive HOME Program 20th Anniversary Door Knocker Award

The Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (CDC) has been selected as a recipient of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) HOME Program 20th Anniversary Door Knocker Award for its Casa Dominguez project. HUD presented these awards to States and local governments for 14 exceptional projects or programs funded through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. The County's project received recognition under the "Producing Sustainable Housing" category. HUD received over 100 applications from jurisdictions across the country.

Opened in January 2010, Casa Dominguez, located in unincorporated East Rancho Dominguez, with a small portion of the property located in the adjacent City of Compton, includes 70 affordable apartments, as well as a Family Development Center with a 66-space child care facility, Federally Qualified Health Center and parent resource center. It also offers the first permanent supportive housing for Transition Age Youth, young adults transitioning out of the foster care system, which is the first program of its kind in unincorporated Los Angeles County. Ten percent of the community's homes are set aside for this vulnerable population and supported through these services.

The property also received a LEED® for Homes Platinum certification in July 2010, the highest national standard for green design and a first for Los Angeles County. The property was developed, and is currently managed by Abode Communities,

CASA DOMINGUEZ
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Third Annual Victims' Rights Symposium

On April 14, the District Attorney's Third Annual Victims' Rights Symposium and Recognition Ceremony honored pioneers and organizations esteemed in the field of victims' rights.

The event was held at Almansor Court in Alhambra during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year's theme was "*Reshaping the Future: Honoring the Past*" recalling the fortitude of victims who are forced to "reshape" their lives because of criminal acts. The symposium also paid homage to the many people that stood with victims in their healing process and in their quest for justice. The journey for victims' voices to be heard in the criminal justice process culminated in the enactment of history-making statutory and constitutional rights. The people that investigate and prosecute crime, and administer justice are today expected to honor and protect victims' rights in a manner no less vigorous than the protections afforded to criminal defendants. (Penal Code Section 679)

Victim-Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) Director Donna Wills welcomed the scores in attendance at the symposium which featured Judge Lois Haight of Contra Costa County, a veteran in shaping victims' rights. Other expert speakers presented panel discussions on multiple homicide victims, school violence, media crimes reporting and civil remedies. Collene Campbell, the sister of murdered auto speed racer Mickey Thompson, also spoke at the luncheon where honorees were commended for contributions to victims' rights.

At the Recognition Ceremony, Board of Supervisors commendations were presented by Assistant District Attorney Sharon Matsumoto to Diana Martinez, Deputy District Attorney; Suzanne Childs, Program Coordinator of the restitution Enhancement Program; Valley CARES Family Justice Center and Harbor UCLA-Child Crisis Unit.

District Attorney Commendations were presented by Assistant District Attorney Jacquelyn Lacey to Collene Campbell, Valley Oasis Shelter; Bet Tzedek; Foothill Family Services; Sojourn Services for Battered Women and their Children; and Life After Uncivil Ruthless Acts (L.A.U.R.A.).

Wills gave the Director's Spirit Awards to VWAP staff members Saeko Tew, Jose Rojas, Ada Sherow and Patricia Tucker for their excellence in handling issues confronting victims of crime.

The Mia Baker Victim Advocacy Award, named in honor of the late Los Angeles District Attorney victims' rights pioneer, went to Alberto Herrera for his exceptional work ethic and unwavering dedication to victims of gang violence.

CASA DOMINGUEZ

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a non-profit organization with a 41-year track record, whose specific strength is building sustainable, multifamily affordable housing to address the needs of Southern California’s large workforce, low-income families, seniors, and individuals with special needs.

Sean Rogan, Executive Director of the CDC stated, “I am proud to receive this award and distinction. Casa Dominguez extends affordability beyond rent through energy savings, while reducing the community’s carbon footprint. It demonstrates that high-quality affordable housing plays a critical role in not just providing homes for people, but also revitalizing neighborhoods, creating jobs, building social safety nets, and helping to stabilize the lives of low-income families and individuals.”

For more information on the development, please contact Abode Communities at (213) 629-2702, or visit the website at www.abodecommunities.org. For information on the CDC, please call (323) 890-7001 or visit the website at www.lacdc.org. Casa Dominguez is located at 15729 South Atlantic Avenue, East Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221.



Casa Dominguez receives LEED® for Homes Platinum certification.

The LEED® green building certification program is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings.



Public Awareness Effort Helps Assist Families Most Vulnerable to Hunger

Board proclaims May “CalFresh Awareness Month” in L.A. County

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) recently observed “CalFresh Awareness Month,” the most comprehensive and coordinated public outreach effort to increase access and participation in food assistance and reduce food insecurity in the County. On April 26, Mayor Michael D. Antonovich led the Board in announcing a series of community events and activities coordinated by DPSS to bring awareness to CalFresh, the supplemental nutrition food benefit formerly known as Food Stamps.

“Hunger is an issue that affects us all,” DPSS Director Philip L. Browning stated regarding DPSS’ partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), California Department of Social Services and over 25 local community partners. “This collaboration represents an intense effort to address this public health issue in the County and to reach those most vulnerable to hunger,” Browning added.

Among the outreach efforts of CalFresh Awareness are the following:

- The activation of the “Your Benefits Now” On-line Application system to provide an alternative method to applying for much-needed benefits.
- The strategic deployment of the DPSS Health and Nutrition Mobile Office to farmers markets, food banks, local schools, and non-traditional locations throughout the County.
- A four-month, federally-funded radio campaign to re-brand the former Food Stamp program to CalFresh.
- A public forum to clarify issues preventing legal immigrants from applying for CalFresh food assistance benefits due to fears that it may hurt their permanent U.S. resident status.
- The distribution of PSAs featuring national civil rights activist and advocate for the poor, Delores Huerta; Tina Thompson of the Los Angeles Sparks; and the Chivas USA soccer organization.

According to the USDA, the number of homes lacking adequate food has more than tripled in the last four years. It has been estimated that only half of those eligible are reportedly receiving the benefits. “It is our goal to increase the number of eligible L.A. County residents,” Browning said.

For information on CalFresh benefits, log onto www.dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/calfresh or call the Health and Nutrition Hotline at 1 (877) 597-4777.

Retirees

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

46 Years:

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Victoria R. Figueroa
PUBLIC WORKS: Collins M. Ransfer

40+ Years:

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Linda Booker
BEACHES & HARBORS: Marsha J. Flores
HEALTH SERVICES: Jacqueline Courseault, Dorothy Johnson, Pierre Lenoir, James J. Martinez, Yvonne Rodriguez, Sharon Ryzak, Harry L. Slajer Jr., Joann H. Sturgis, Receva C. Torres, Cheryl E. Williams,
INTERNAL SERVICES: Nicholas A. Fykes, Gregory E. McLemore
MUSEUM OF ART: Christine E. Vigiletti
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: Lawrence G. Barnes
PUBLIC HEALTH: Joanne T. Hobbs
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Kathy A. Ikeda, Amanda V. Rodriguez, Jeanetta Taylor
SUPERIOR COURT: Ruben Solano

30+ Years:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/ WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Robert G. Atkins
ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER: Roy L. Wallen
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Isela Eskender
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Cynthia G. Duarte
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Dolores Flores, Cheryl M. Turkal
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Cassandra Bogar, Dianne Dabney, Gilda G. Hemstreet, Sophia S. Lee Ng
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Gloria G. Lopez
COUNTY COUNSEL: Frank J. Davanzo
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Margarita Ramirez, Darlene Trapp
FIRE: Larry Allomong, Michael E. Brownlie, Irene Castillo, Terry L. Dillman, Robert Fullove, Daniel L. Horton, Thomas D. Jones, Mark B. Nelson, Kenneth M. Sotro, John E. Stall, Robert T. Watanabe
HEALTH SERVICES: Linda J. Allen, Lina Alvarez, Dora G. Barba, Carrie Carr, Aaron Chavira, Diana Ching, Sallie L. Chui, Montatip Chumnarob, Norma A. Degamo, Consolacion Galima, Gregory J. Gallagher, Deborah G. Jackson, Lillie D. Jensen, Hanhye Kim, Sue Kim, Margaret Kwan, Carolyn J. Lewis, V Gail Manuel, Russell Martinez, Esperanza Perez, Felicitas T. Ranada, Margaret Riley, Kittirath Ruksook, Sharon A. Ryan, Delia S. Sandoval, Donna Smith, Vivian Thames, Almendel C. Timbol, Dorothy West, Robert Williams, Lathester Wilson, Saad F. Youssef, Ronald C. Yuan

INTERNAL SERVICES: Steven S. Anderson, Dennis M. Donnelly, Alberto E. Francisco, Charles A. Meinhardt, Danny D. Tallmadge, Francisco Verdugo
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: Anthony R. Kampf
PARKS & RECREATION: Terry Gibson
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Rommel Agee, Peggy A. Foster
PUBLIC HEALTH: Virginia Contreras, Sotera Fabros
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Linda H. Thomas
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Rosemary Bojorquez, Elizabeth Dean, Nadine L. Hawkes, Susan A. Landar, Robert S. Miletich, Ilene Morris, Marceliano Paloma, Alice Steele, Deborah D. Weakley
PUBLIC WORKS: Larry A. Dunlop, Rita L. Hart, Richard J. Proffitt
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/ COUNTY CLERK: Magdalena B. Claudio, Vivian L. Hayes
SHERIFF: Robert J. Browning, Bondell L. Golden, Stella Guzman, Janet D. Homan, Victor T. Moore, William R. Tauson
SUPERIOR COURT: Linda K. Lees, Timothy M. Murphy, Ida Thedford, Therisa A. Willis

25+ Years:

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Tunde Shodiya
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Adame R. Cartoneros
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Virginia A. Nations-Petr, Pamela Risinger
FIRE: Ralph O. Arriola Jr., Steven A. Borg, Terry J. Dejournett, Donald M. Herrera, Gary T. MacCleverty, Jeffrey E. Moore, Mark W. Moser, Anita L. Padgett
HEALTH SERVICES: Moheb F. Abdel-Malak, Farokh Afshar, Robert Boykin, Viesta R. Brown, Rickie Garcia, Marcella Gomez, Napah Hanun, Jerry A. Hooker, Linda K. Jones, Alice A. Masih, Diane Thomas, Cesar I. Uy, Clarence R. Vaughns, Jerry Hooker, Zita Rodriguez
MENTAL HEALTH: Maria T. Acosta, Leslie J. Jones, Albertina Kurniawan, Donna B. Warren-Kruer
PUBLIC HEALTH: Cheng Chu, Rita A. Jones-Ray, Cameron Mathouchan, Honor R. Patterson
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Edith L. Bolden, Kam-Ying K. Ho, Henrietta Hooks, Eunice M. Iraheta
PUBLIC WORKS: Klaus W. Koch, Emilio Mondok, Ellen M. Morales
SHERIFF: Dorothy V. Cordova, Faustino Esquivel, George Housos, Joan I. Roberts, Mary S. Young
SUPERIOR COURT: Gladys N. Lockwood

County Budget: Preserves Critical Services, Avoids Furloughs and Layoffs

In the face of a continued sluggish economy, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer William T Fujioka unveiled a 2011-12 balanced budget proposal totaling \$23.303 billion, which preserves critical services and avoids furloughs and layoffs.

The County’s budget proposal addressed a current shortfall of \$220.9 million, which was closed through a number of solutions, including using \$185.2 million in one-time funding, \$35.7 million in ongoing operational spending reductions, help from our labor partners, and the elimination of 257 vacant, budgeted positions. The budget shortfall was also closed without the need to draw down from the County’s Rainy Day Fund or Economic Reserve Fund.

Fujioka said the economic situation “continues to force us to make difficult and extraordinary decisions concerning our budget, but the County is in much better financial shape than many other municipalities because of the fiscal practices and long-term budgeting discipline by the Board of Supervisors, which includes maintaining a conservative retirement benefits program for County employees.”

Over the past four years, the County has implemented a number of budget structural changes, which have led to \$406 million in spending reductions, including identifying and implementing over \$200 million in efficiency savings, and the elimination of over 2,700 vacant, budgeted positions; these actions have resulted, on average, in a 17 percent reduction from department budgets, Countywide.

Los Angeles County, like other governmental agencies, is still coping with the lingering effects of the recession. However, for the first time since 2006-07, the County is

starting to see a year-over-year increase in sales tax revenues and property taxes are projected to grow by 0.7 percent in 2011-12. While revenues have rebounded slightly, the demand for services continues to dramatically increase, most notably General Relief assistance welfare payments. The County’s monthly average General Relief caseload has grown from 58,599 in 2006-07 to an estimated 106,894 this year – an increase of almost 100 percent.

“The County of Los Angeles remains better positioned than most other state and local governments to manage these extraordinary events. Continuing to maintain service levels, avoid significant layoffs and produce a balanced budget will only be possible to the extent recent economic indicators showing signs of improvement are sustained,” Fujioka said.

Threatened cuts in funding by the state – currently estimated at as much as \$366.4 million – are of concern, but the proposed budget does not reflect potential impacts since the situation remains fluid. The Governor’s proposed restructuring of government operations through the realignment of programs is not reflected in this budget proposal.

“Beyond the rapidly changing situation in Sacramento, we are also closely monitoring budget developments at the Federal level in key programs like Medicaid. We remain concerned about the potential negative impact on County services that could come during the ongoing budget debate in Washington, D.C.,” Fujioka said.

Complete details of the budget outlook are also available on the County’s homepage at <http://www.lacounty.gov>, or by following the County on Twitter @lacountyceo.

RUTH WONG

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“Let the generations know that women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom. That our resolve was just as great as the brave men who stood among us. And with victory our hearts were just as full and beat just as fast - that the tears fell just as hard - For those we left behind.”

-Army Nurse WWII

Wong was proud to serve her Country. She retired from the Air Force in 2001 with the rank of Brigadier General. The leadership skills gained, the flexibility and adaptability embodied, the discipline fostered, and the command experience earned were all solid values that prepared her well for her work with the County of Los Angeles. Wong now uses these skills and talents to cultivate her work in the Quality and Productivity Commission.

Share It

County Residents Encouraged to Sign Up for “Alert LA County” Emergency Notification System

Los Angeles County has an emergency mass notification system to contact County residents and businesses via recorded phone message, text message, or e-mail in the event of critical situations. The system, called *Alert LA County*, allows the County’s Emergency Operations Center to notify residents and businesses during emergencies by providing necessary information, such as evacuation orders.

The system compiles 9-1-1 databases, contacting land-line telephone numbers that are listed or unlisted. If the call is picked up by an answering machine, the system will leave a recorded message. If the number dialed is busy or does not answer, the system will redial the number in an attempt to deliver the message.

The *Alert LA County* system uses geo-mapping where each telephone number or e-mail address can only be associated with one street address in the system. Each telephone number and e-mail address will be contacted when the street address it is associated with is impacted by a disaster or emergency.

To receive notifications for cellular, voice-over IP numbers and e-mail addresses, residents and businesses can register at <http://portal.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/alertla>.



General Member Election to Be Held for the Board of Retirement and Board of Investments of LACERA

A LACERA Election will be held this year to elect the Second Member of the Board of Investments and the Second Member of the Board of Retirement for terms of office commencing January 1, 2012. The election will be held on **Tuesday, August 2, 2011**.

For more information, contact your departmental election coordinator.