



Supervisor Burke Hosts Ninth Annual Children's Beach Party

More than 500 foster children from the Second District attended Supervisor Burke's ninth annual Children's Beach Party on September 20 at Mother's Beach in Marina del Rey. Most of the children, ages 6-14 years old, had never been to the beach before. They were welcomed by volunteers from County departments and private organizations, and were taught to swim and kayak. Other activities included face painting, tee shirt painting and other handicrafts.

"The purpose of this event has always been to bring children to the beach who have never been before, to expose them to this County resource, and to guide them so they know what's appropriate behavior at the beach," Supervisor Burke said.

The children were provided with swimming outfits, sunglasses, sun block, beach balls, and goodie bags. They were hosted by Supervisor

Burke in conjunction with the Department of Beaches and Harbors, and the Marina Lessees Association. Lunch was provided for the young guests and the volunteers, with Marriott Hotels coordinating the food. The County Fire Department brought its fireboat, and volunteers from the Fire Department, County Lifeguards and the Sheriff's Department were on hand to teach swimming and kayaking.

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Just before lunch, Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (third from left) took a photo with volunteers and sponsors, including (from left to right) Dr. David Sanders, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services; Russ Walker, Assistant Chief Lifeguard; Susan Reardon, General Manager of the Marriott Hotel; Stacey Smith and Dusty Crane, with the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Employee of the Month Public Social Services' Frank Bator

Frank Bator has been employed by the County of Los Angeles for 23 years. Currently, he works as a Welfare Fiscal Analyst whose duties are more typical of an administrative deputy. His responsibilities include conducting training sessions, hiring and developing staff, implementing personnel actions involving allocation and encumbrance reconciliation and overseeing timekeeping and office support.

Bator began his County career as an eligibility worker. "The time I spent working with participants made a deep impact on me. Interviewing them and discussing their situation to see what the department could do to improve their lives, humanized the services we provided them," he said.

The most fulfilling aspect of his job is being part of a team working toward a common goal. "I enjoy the training aspect of my job. When the training helps employees improve their performance and qualify them for

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EVENT CALENDAR

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

Through Jan 4, 2004 - The Circle of Bliss: Buddhist
Meditational Art

Through July 5, 2004 - Luxury Textiles East and West
Part II: Dress and Identity

Music Center
135 N. Grand Avenue
(213) 628-2772
www.musiccenter.org

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Nov 22 - Dec 20 - Los Angeles Opera Presents Lucia
di Lammermoor

Mark Taper Forum - Music Center

Dec 4 - Jan 25, 2004 - "Like Jazz"

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles
(213) 763-3466
www.nhm.org

Through Jan 4, 2004 - *Grandes Maestros: Great
Masters of Mexican Folk Art*

Dec 6 - Bill Hart's 139th Birthday Celebration at 7:00

Dec 13-14 - Southern California Gem & Mineral Show

Walt Disney Concert Hall
151 S. Grand Ave, Los Angeles
(213) 972-7300
<http://wdch.laphil.com>

Nov 20-23 - Los Angeles Philharmonic -
Francesconi, Saint-Saens, Ravel

Nov 28-30 - Los Angeles Philharmonic - Mahler,
Wagner

Dec 5-7 - Los Angeles Philharmonic - Takemitsu,
Tchaikovsky

Dec 11-14 - Los Angeles Philharmonic - Mahler

Dec 19 - Los Angeles Philharmonic - Beethoven

Dec 20-21 - Los Angeles Philharmonic - Verdi, Busoni,
Beethoven

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The party began at 10:00 a.m., as children started arriving on buses provided by Supervisor Burke. Lunch was served at noon. News media and foster parents arrived to take photographs of the children playing in the water and on the beach. At 3:00 p.m., the party wound down, as the children, many of them sporting painted faces and T-shirts, carrying their new swimming gear, beach toys and sunglasses, began boarding the buses to return home.



Supervisor Burke (left) helped serve lunch at her ninth annual Children's Beach Party at Mother's Beach in Marina del Rey. Food was coordinated by Marriott Hotels, and served by volunteers and sponsors.

County DIGEST

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

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Supervisor Knabe Brings Together Leaders and Experts to Discuss Port Security

Supervisor Don Knabe and the Riordan Institute for Urban Homeland Security recently brought officials from the City and County of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach and Coast Guard together to discuss better coordination of security at the nation's largest seawater port complex. Supervisor Knabe represents both ports and is a White House appointee to the State and Local Officials Senior Advisory Committee for Homeland Security.



Supervisor Knabe along with City of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, and Port officials meet to discuss port security with representatives of the Riordan Institute of Urban Homeland Security.

“We have not had all these people sitting together at the table to discuss security needs at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach,” Supervisor Knabe said. “This meeting is the first step in working together to secure both ports together. There may be two economic interests between the two ports, but there is one common concern about security and we should address it together.”

Meeting participants included Los Angeles City Mayor James Hahn, Los Angeles City Councilmember Janice Hahn, a representative from Long Beach Mayor Beverly O’Neill’s office and Long Beach City Councilmember Dan Baker among officials from both the ports.

Among the issues discussed was the need for more extensive Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. CERT is a national effort to increase emergency preparedness by creating a well-trained civilian emergency work force. First developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985, CERT teams will act as an adjunct to local emergency services during major disasters where the number and scope of incidents have overwhelmed conventional emergency services.

The ability of a community to quickly and effectively recover from the devastating effects of a major disaster requires the active participation, planning, and cooperation of all levels of the population. CERT training will encourage preparedness efforts and hazard mitigation throughout the County, minimizing the effects of a disaster considerably, as well as facilitating a faster recovery.

CERT teams will be a major factor in how well the port complex responds and recovers from any major disaster. Recent recommendations by the Riordan Institute for Urban Homeland Security include providing CERT training for 30% of port employees over the next two years.

The County recently received \$200,000 in Homeland Security funding for CERT training and \$1.4 million for Emergency Operations Planning updates. This funding is a strong beginning toward securing the county’s largest target against a terrorist attack.

Reaching a high level of preparedness at the port complex, and throughout the County, requires cooperative action from every level of government and the community. CERT training is an important step in reaching that readiness, and we will continue to work, not only to train more citizens throughout the County, but to acquire more funding to ensure the safety and security of our community.

NOVEMBER RETIREES

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

ASSESSOR: Robert W. Olson

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Evelyn M. Gutierrez

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Janice L. Blackwell, Anita H. Davis, Louise Williamson

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Alfred Mendoza Jr., Syble R. Patrick

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Guy De Long, Thomas C. McDonald

HEALTH SERVICES: Bobbie J. Burns, Adrian F. Faison, Shirley Fannin, Jo E. Floyd, Lucille J. Frear, Angela Freire, Margaret L. Hall, Betty J. Hamlin, William P. Liu, Nancy Mattox, Evelyn Moran, Mildred E. Pope, Diana Sharp, Olga Stockli, Vonnie R. Watson, Holly J. Whitlow, Suyenori Yamada

HUMAN RESOURCES/PUBLIC SAFETY: George E. Frank, Daniel H. Traudt Jr.

INTERNAL SERVICES: Juergen F. Hafner

PROBATION: Deloris J. Murphy-Clayt, Laurence D. Naples

PUBLIC LIBRARY: John J. Price

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Juanita S. Diaz, Adeline M. Ford, Shirley D. Keegan, Linda Nager, Verlean Rachal, Winifred A. Rice, Vicki Richmond, Linda M. Ursell

PUBLIC WORKS: Parimal M. Patel, Maria E. Rawald

REGISTRAR RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Louis A. Garcia

SHERIFF: Julia K. Haas

SUPERIOR COURT: James S. Switzer

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

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Georgeann B. Johnson

FIRE: Esther De Avila, Patrick A. Bradford, William L. Mayfield, Leslie K. Norried

HEALTH SERVICES: Crispin M. Abad, Sharon M. Burchette, Flora C. Diaz, Giobaldo N. Diaz, Corazon Q. Guillermo, Wesley F. Jefferson

MENTAL HEALTH: Francisco Arellano, Margaret Leung, Orlando C. Villamil

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: She-Jung Auyang, Wanda L. Frick, Lillian G. Salas

PUBLIC WORKS: James B. Grant, Steve Plebanek, Dario R. Salazar

REGISTRAR RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Raylette B. Jones, Angelita A. Pancho

SUPERIOR COURT: Ruby Pena

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promotion, it makes me feel great that I was able to help," Bator said.

When asked what unique quality he brings to the workplace, he said, "My greatest strength has always been in organization and attention to detail. Streamlining a function to make its operation more effective gives me a great sense of accomplishment."

One of his most significant contributions to the department is the creation of the Repayments Unit Fiscal Procedures Manual, which provides specific procedures to uniformly handle the monitoring, calculating and reporting of CalWORKs overpayments and collections.

Bator is a volunteer for the YMCA, he began his involvement with the Hollywood Wilshire branch in 1976. He has held a leadership position in the YMCA's Annual Support Campaign since 1976, including General Chairman, which he will serve again for the 2004 campaign. He has been on the Hollywood Wilshire Board of Managers since 1982 and is Chairman of the Endowment Committee. In addition, Bator has taught various exercise classes, CPR and first aid.

"One of the most interesting programs that I am involved in is called City Walk. I started this series of weekend walks for YMCA members who want to get some good exercise and see some of the diverse neighborhoods of Los Angeles. It gives me a chance to talk about the more interesting aspects of our city's architecture, history and current issues," Bator said.

Bator, his wife, Catherine and their two dogs live in Silver Lake, where he has been active in the Silver Lake Residents Association and the Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs. The committee is currently working with the Department of Water and Power to develop a master plan to beautify the streets around the reservoirs while making them safer for the walkers and joggers.

We applaud your accomplishments and wish you success in your future County and personal endeavors.

Supervisor Antonovich Presents Funding for New Brain Cancer Research

On October 1, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Board member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and Chairman of the Brain Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation (BTAP), hosted a press conference to introduce a new study that will explore a possible link between air pollution and brain cancer.



Pictured from left to right are Robert Davidson (BTAP Foundation Board member), Dr. Bill Burke (Chairman, AQMD Governing Board), Dr. Keith Black, Supervisor Antonovich, and Dr. Barry Wallerstein (Executive Officer, AQMD).

At the conference, the Foundation presented its first research grant in the amount of \$559,250 to Dr. Keith Black, world-renowned neurosurgeon and researcher of the Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center who will perform the study.

The Brain Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation chartered by the AQMD.

Holiday Season: Changing Cheerless to Cheerful

While the holiday season is a pleasurable time for many, for others it is a time of challenge. Stress and fatigue are common symptoms of this time that is traditionally reputed to be joyful. Overspending, dysfunctional family interactions, and too many time demands are among the common complaints.

Here are some suggestions for those who face the holidays with misgivings:

- Keep expectations manageable. You can have a positive outlook without setting expectations so high as to invite disappointment.
- Let go of the past. Direct more positive energy toward the situations and interactions you encounter that have potential to bring you gratification.
- Make someone else happy. Eliciting a smile or a “thank you” from someone gives a boost to one’s self-esteem.
- Create a new way to celebrate. Let go of the past. Don’t set yourself up for sadness by thinking of the “good old days.” Life brings changes. Each holiday can be enjoyed in its own way.
- Avoid unsupportive people. Without avoiding obligations, seek opportunities to be around those more likely to be pleasant, non-judgmental, and accepting.
- Find time for yourself. You need to budget some time for your personal needs and priorities in order to feel a sufficient sense of control, adequacy and worthiness.
- Pay attention to the good things in your life. You will tolerate and manage problems better if you derive motivation and encouragement from the positives around you.

If you are having a difficult time and would like to talk confidentially to a counselor, the Employee Assistance Program is available to you. Call (213) 738-4200 for an appointment or further information.

ENRICHING LIVES...

of Unincorporated Community Residents Strategic Plan for Municipal Services to Unincorporated Areas

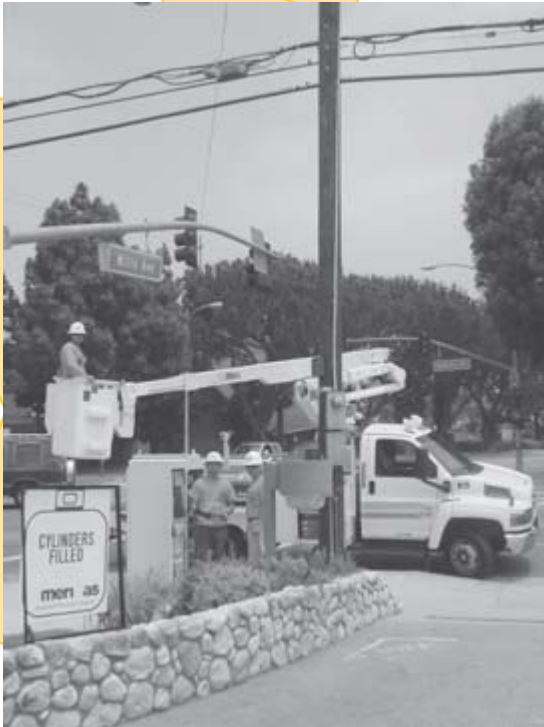
On July 3, 2001, the Board of Supervisors approved the Strategic Plan for Municipal Services to Unincorporated Areas (UA Strategic Plan). The objective of the UA Strategic Plan is to improve the delivery of, and accountability for, municipal services provided to the nearly one million residents of unincorporated Los Angeles County. Unincorporated communities in the County of Los Angeles are those communities which are outside the boundaries of a city. The residents of unincorporated communities depend on the County for the delivery of municipal services. Municipal services provided by the County are similar to those that a city would typically provide to its residents, including fire protection, local law enforcement, planning and zoning, roads, parks and recreation, libraries, housing programs, and code enforcement.

Implementation of the UA Strategic Plan is a collaborative effort of the Board of Supervisors and County departments. The Chief Administrative Office – Office of Unincorporated Area Services (UAS) provides facilitative and collaborative support to the interdepartmental teams that have been organized to develop and implement service enhancement models on a pilot basis in select unincorporated communities. The teams include representatives of the Board of Supervisors and staff from all levels of the County organization, including field staff and executive management.

Implementation of the UA Strategic Plan

The following summarizes implementation status of the UA Strategic Plan models:

- The **Civic Center Facility Model** is being implemented in the unincorporated community of East Los Angeles. The civic center project involves a joint venture by County departments to assemble County municipal services into a single “County Hall” facility to increase the convenience and speed of services to East Los Angeles residents. The existing East Los Angeles library will be converted to the County Hall after the new library is completed in 2004. County offices and agencies to be co-located at the County Hall include Supervisor Molina’s East Los Angeles Field Office, Public Works/Building & Safety, Regional Planning, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Consumer Affairs and the Community Development Commission. A preliminary space utilization plan has been drafted by the project architect.
- The **Access Model** provides a variety of communication and technology mechanisms to increase the access of residents to County municipal services. Existing projects include publication of a customized resource and activity guide, known as **Community Connection**, for the residents of unincorporated Whittier, Florence-Firestone, Altadena, and Rowland Heights. The magazine-style guides are a collaborative effort of County departments that provide services to the various communities.
- A prototypical **Web site** has been designed for the communities of unincorporated Whittier and East Los Angeles. The Chief Information Office assisted in providing developmental funding for the project. ISD developed the prototype site based on the design of the County’s Internet portal www.lacounty.info. The “community” Web sites will provide local facility and program information, links, forms, and other County services.
- **Telephone access** to County services for unincorporated residents has been improved through a toll-free Help Line that was initiated by the Board of Supervisors over three years ago. By calling 1-888-924-HELP, unincorporated residents can receive information about County services and/or be referred to the appropriate County department.
- The **Strategic Service Area and Lead Department Model** customizes a service package to meet the needs of specific communities. Pilot programs have been initiated in the unincorporated communities of Florence-Firestone and Lennox. County departments work closely with field deputies from involved Board offices to identify community issues and develop interdepartmental action plans to address the issues. In the community of Florence-Firestone, the Department of Public Works has assumed the lead role for the Florence-Firestone Community Enhancement Team. The Team has undertaken several initiatives including concentrated code enforcement and improving resident access to County services. The Lennox Community Enhancement Team has focused on code enforcement issues related to street vending.
- The **Economic Development and Revitalization Model** will apply economic development concepts and strategies to revitalize target unincorporated communities. The Board of Supervisors approved the Economic Development Business Incentive Program Board Policy on December 4, 2001. The Business Incentive Program outlined in the Board Policy provides the Community Development Commission with the flexibility to pursue, with Board approval, appropriate economic development programs that may involve individual projects, targeted commercial/ industrial areas, or community investment projects.
- The **Emergency Management Planning and Response Model** is being implemented in the community of Topanga. The implementation process brings community civic leaders and organizations together with County, State and Federal emergency preparedness agencies to collaboratively develop an emergency management plan. The plan also includes the involvement and cooperation of the local school district and the American Red Cross.



County of Los Angeles VISION

Our ***purpose*** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

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

- ◆ responsiveness
- ◆ professionalism
- ◆ accountability
- ◆ compassion
- ◆ integrity
- ◆ commitment
- ◆ a can-do attitude
- ◆ respect for diversity

Our ***position*** as the premiere organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- ◆ a capability to undertake programs that have public value
- ◆ an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation
- ◆ a pledge to always work to earn the public trust

Community Services Task Force

The Community Services Task Force was established in March 2003 to implement Goal No. 6 of the **Los Angeles County Strategic Plan: Community Services: Improve the quality of life for the residents of Los Angeles County's unincorporated communities by offering a wide range of department coordinated services responsive to a community's specific needs.**

The Community Services Task Force, which is comprised of department heads, or their representatives, also provides policy leadership for implementing the UA Strategic Plan. The Task Force includes the following departments: Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Animal Care and Control, Chief Administrative Office, Chief Information Office, Community Development Commission, Community and Senior Services, Consumer Affairs, County Counsel, District Attorney, Fire, Health Services, Office of Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, Public Library, Public Works, Regional Planning, Sheriff, and Treasurer and Tax Collector. The Task Force is currently working on several initiatives including multi-department code enforcement cross-training programs and coordinated service delivery in selected pilot communities.

In 2004, the Community Services Task Force, in consultation with Board offices, will undertake the first update of the UA Strategic Plan. The update will evaluate the effectiveness of implementation efforts associated with the existing UA Strategic Plan and determine the feasibility of adding, modifying, or deleting service delivery models. The Plan update will include program results and indicators to measure the success of UA Strategic Plan implementation, customer service standards, and a customer service satisfaction survey. The updated UA Strategic Plan will provide the framework for Board offices and County departments "To enrich lives through effective and caring service" for the residents of Los Angeles County's unincorporated communities.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

The Human Relations Commission Honors Awardees for Promoting Harmonious Inter-Group Relations

The 31st Anniversary Celebration of the John Anson Ford Human Relations Award was celebrated on October 16th, in the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The annual luncheon ceremony, an event supported by both the Commission on Human Relations and the Board of Supervisors, honors individuals, organizations and companies that have, in a significant way, improved human relations in our community.



Pictured from left to right are: Tommy Schlamme, one of the creators of *The West Wing*; Reverend Zedar Broadous, President of the Human Relations Commission; Aaron Sorkin, another creator of *The West Wing*; and Robin S. Toma, Executive Director of the Commission on Human Relations.

Receiving the Commission's prestigious John Allen Buggs Leadership Award was Gordon Davidson, the soon-to-be retired artistic director/producer of Center Theatre Group. One of the largest and most active theatre companies in the country, Davidson was honored for producing award-winning theatre year-round in the Mark Taper Forum.

The Commission's Courage Awards were awarded to the co-creator of the NBC drama *The West Wing* and veteran broadcast journalist Tony Valdez, general assignment reporter for KTTV Fox 11 News.

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"Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park" Dedicated in Chatsworth

Dedicated on September 22, the "Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park" at Joughin Ranch is a spectacular open space preserve located in the Santa Susana Mountains between Chatsworth and Simi Valley.

At 2,326 acres, the property is one of the region's largest open space parks and part of the Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area and the California Department of Fish and Game's Significant Natural Area.

Providing a crucial link in the wildlife corridor between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Los Padres National Forest, it contains extensive oak and walnut woodlands and riparian corridors with year-round surface water and a diverse array of wildlife. It is part of the watershed area for the Los Angeles River, and includes the headwaters of Devil, Ybarra, and Browns Canyons.

The acquisition of 1,733-acre Joughin Ranch in August by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy created the core of the new "Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park."



Supervisor Antonovich is pictured with his wife Christine and their children Michael Jr. and Mary Christine.

Supervisor Molina Helps Union Pacific Residents Create Neighborhood Identity

Supervisor Gloria Molina helped residents of the unincorporated Union Pacific area of the First District formulate a unique neighborhood identity by initiating several neighborhood improvements this fall. Though officially part of East Los Angeles, the Union Pacific region is a working-class enclave situated to the north of the City of Commerce and to the east of the City of Los Angeles (just off Indiana Street).

To begin with, Supervisor Molina authorized the creation of a truly distinctive park called “El Parque de los Sueños” (which is Spanish for “The Park of Dreams”) and construction began on Monday, October 13. Located at the intersection of Bonnie Beach Place and Union Pacific Avenue, a children’s playground will serve as the park’s focal point and images of outer space will decorate the encircling walls. Designed by artist Michael Amezcua and constructed by developer “Shane’s Inspiration,” the park’s special feature—a universally accessible play area termed a “boundless playground”—will give children with disabilities the opportunity to play side-by-side with their able-bodied peers. Supervisor Molina secured a \$1.4 million grant to make “El Parque de los Sueños” a reality. It is scheduled to open in April 2004.



Supervisor Molina joins several local youngsters to celebrate the opening of the Union Pacific Children’s Center.

The following Friday, October 17, Molina opened the Union Pacific Children’s Center—the first such facility in the area—along with scores of neighborhood activists, local residents, and their children. To get the project off the ground, Molina entered a unique partnership with the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles. She provided \$542,000 for property acquisition, relocation, and demolition from the Community Development Commission and the YWCA brought to the table a \$450,000

grant from the State of California’s Department of Education for operations and playground improvements. Currently filled to capacity, the center’s growing wait list reflects the high demand for childcare services.

Local artist Tony Dominguez, who recently established his art shop in the Union Pacific neighborhood, decorated the center’s surrounding mural with images of children removing litter as sea turtles swim behind them to remind the area’s children about the importance of community pride and their relationship with the environment.

“Our vision was to create a healthy environment in which the children of this neighborhood could experience their preschool years,” Supervisor Molina said. “Now they can enjoy high-quality indoor facilities, as well as a safe place to play outside. And their parents get to take advantage of one of the few affordable childcare facilities in the County of Los Angeles.”

In addition, Supervisor Molina augmented environmental awareness in the rail yard-turned-neighborhood by working in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and environmentalists from Heal the Bay to mobilize Union Pacific residents to participate in Los Angeles County’s “Can It!” clean-up campaign. On Saturday, October 11, over 400 residents received a crash course in storm-water pollution prevention and then joined forces from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to comb the neighborhood for litter and unsightly trash. Afterward, everyone received free T-shirts, refreshments, goodie bags and Certificates of Appreciation for their work.

“I was so pleased that hundreds of concerned residents sacrificed part of their weekend to help beautify the County of Los Angeles,” Supervisor Molina said. “This is a stellar example of neighborhood activism and a great way to remind people that litter on the streets eventually enters storm drains and pollutes our beautiful beaches.”

These improvements follow significant zoning changes initiated by Supervisor Molina and area residents. In an effort to create a buffer between local industry and residents in the Union Pacific region, Supervisor Molina helped relocate a large chemical warehouse located in the middle of Union Pacific away from the neighborhood and into a more appropriately zoned district in the City of Commerce on underutilized surplus County property. This arrangement helped keep jobs in the area while simultaneously improving the quality of life for Union Pacific residents. Supervisor Molina also has invested in beautifying Union Pacific by authorizing the planting of trees along the street and redirecting traffic flow to keep non-residential traffic away from the neighborhood.

44th Annual County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration at the Music Center

Choirs, music ensembles, and dance companies representing the many cultures of Los Angeles celebrate the season in the 44th Annual County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration, from 3:00-9:00 p.m., on Wednesday, December 24, in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. The show is a gift from the Board of Supervisors to the community at large. Admission is **FREE**, as is the parking under the Music Center.



County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration features 35 County-based groups chosen by a competitive application process. Those scheduled to perform include the Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy offering their spectacular fan dance; a

collaboration of the jarocho music group Conjunto Jardiin and the Sierra Park Elementary School Folklorico dancers; the Valley Beth Shalom Congregational Choir; Trip Dance Theatre in the Holiday Celebration-commissioned work, "When It Snows," the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles; National Endowment honored artist Manoochehr Sadeghi, master of the Persian *santur* (hammer dulcimer); the Irish ensemble Celtic Spring; and the Greater Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church Choir. Complete program information will be available after December 1 at, www.holidaycelebration.org and **213-972-3099**.

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may come and go throughout the six-hour performance. Reservations for tickets to the show or parking are not necessary. Those who can't make it to the Music Center can watch the live broadcast of Holiday Celebration on KCET.

The 44th Annual County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration is produced by the Arts Commission in cooperation with CDK Productions.

The Arts Commission, headed by Executive Director Laura Zucker, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. The Arts Commission, in addition to its grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust and coordinates the programs for the John Anson Ford Theatres. The Commission, with 30 partners, is implementing a 10-year regional blueprint to bring comprehensive arts education to all public school children. The Commission produces free community programs, including the County of Los Angeles Holiday Celebration, and funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2003-2004 President of the Arts Commission is Laurel Karabian.



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The Corporate Award went to Sempra Energy. Sempra Group President Ed Guiles explained that using diversity is a Sempra corporate mission, reflected not only in the company's employees, but in all facets of the corporation.

Outstanding Human Relations district awards were presented to individuals or agencies in the county's five supervisorial districts. These included:

- The First District awardee was DreamYard Los Angeles, a non-profit arts education organization dedicated to using the creative process as a force for personal transformation among at-risk and incarcerated youth.
- The Second District awardee was the Watts Labor Community Action Committee, a non-profit community based organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for South Central area residents.
- The Third District awardee was Commander Lynda Castro of the Sheriff's Department for her outstanding work in dealing with issues of hate such as gay bashing.
- The Fourth District awardee was the International Cultural Exchange Association, led by Dr. Howard Chen, whose mission is to bring people together to learn about each other's cultures. Its most high profile event is the annual Long Beach World Cup Dragon Boat Tournament.
- The Fifth District awardees were Drs. David L. and Jacqueline Jacobs, who were recognized for an extensive lifetime history of working together for the benefit of the community of Pasadena.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Secures Funds for the MTA and Ahmanson Ranch

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, (*center right*) is joined by, (*from the left*) director/producer Rob Reiner, Governor Gray Davis, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Executive Director Joe Edmiston, and state Attorney General Bill Lockyer to announce the state’s plan to buy the Ahmanson Ranch property north of Calabasas – previously slated for a massive housing development by owner Washington Mutual Bank – and instead preserve it as open space for the California park system. The \$150 million purchase was made possible by voter-approved Proposition 50 a statewide bond measure. Yaroslavsky noted that the site is home to several endangered species, a wide variety of flora and fauna, and offers a myriad of hiking and biking opportunities. Davis called the purchase a “once in a lifetime opportunity” that would provide badly needed open space in the heart of a metropolitan area.



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*center*), Chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, thanks federal Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta (*lower left*) as fellow MTA Board member Supervisor Gloria Molina beams. Mineta visited the MTA’s Gateway Center headquarters to announce a federal transportation funding grant of some \$45 million which had been promised for Southern California transit projects, including reimbursement for the Metro Red Line subway extension to North Hollywood and underwriting at least eight new Metro Rapid and local buses.



New Web site for Current and Former Foster Youth

If you know any current or former foster youth, especially those between the ages of 14 and 21, please inform them about the youth Web site www.ilponline.org. The Web site is updated regularly and informs the youth about services and resources available to them for which they may be eligible. It is fully translated into Spanish and there are short versions of five other languages. The Web site is managed by the Department of Children and Family Services. For additional information, please contact Terence Rice at (213) 351-0107.



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Board of Supervisors, Workforce Investment Board, Community and Senior Services, Human Resources Kiosk-Based Recruitment Project

In 1999, Community and Senior Services, in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors, Workforce Investment Board, put in place two successful employment kiosk sites—one at the Sheriff Youth Center, 11911 South Vermont Avenue, and the other at the East Los Angeles Public Library, 4801 East 3rd Street—with an impressive 29,000 visits to these sites in a three-month period. This program began with a one-year pilot project using two kiosks from September 1999 through August 2000. The pilot was so well received that 12 more kiosks were installed throughout the County between September and November 2000 and 10 additional were added to the network between March and June 2002.

In order to provide County of Los Angeles residents with instant access to employment services and information, Community and Senior Services and the Workforce Investment Board developed and implemented an Employment Kiosk Information network, a multimedia, and interactive network of 24 kiosks strategically and conveniently placed throughout the County. The Department of Human Resources (DHR) is a collaborator with Community and Senior Services. The network of kiosks has a link to DHR so that visitors now can access the County's job information Web site.



Each kiosk is a stand-alone, touch-screen information booth, providing job seekers and the underemployed with immediate information on job opportunities, career counseling, job bank linkages, job search assistance, childcare, transportation, WorkSource California Center locations, community resources, and other services and programs funded by the County of Los Angeles.

The kiosks are located in Sheriff's youth centers, public libraries, service centers, parks and recreation centers, senior service centers, County administration buildings and other high-traffic locations that have extended business hours and easy public access.

Current Activity Update

The Board of Supervisors, Community and Senior Services, Workforce Investment Board and the

Department of Human Resources are pleased to announce that the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enhancements has been completed. The implementation of enhancements is one initiative in Community and Senior Services, and the Countywide Human Resources Strategic Plan.

For further information, please contact Maria Elena Mata either by phone at (213) 738-2630 or e-mail at mmata@co.la.ca.us.



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