County Public Library Achieves Top Sustainability Award – First LEED Platinum County Building

The Los Angeles Architectural Awards, one of the largest celebrations of cutting-edge design and architecture in Southern California recognized the County of Los Angeles – East Rancho Dominguez Library in June 2013 for its excellence in sustainability design. The prestigious award ceremony was hosted by the Los Angeles Business Council at the Beverly Hilton.

The East Rancho Dominguez Library was also awarded a LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification for new construction and major renovations by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). It is the first County of Los Angeles facility to achieve LEED Platinum status. LEED is the USGBC’s rating system for designing and constructing the greenest, most energy-efficient and high-performing buildings. Platinum is the highest rating given.

The new 7,215 square-foot East Rancho Dominguez Library replaced the 5,000 square-foot leased facility that dates from 1966. The library includes a large, inviting children’s area, a separate teen area, state-of-the-art technology, self-check out stations, family area, 24 public access computers, free WiFi access for laptops and other mobile devices and additional parking.

The East Rancho Dominguez Library project was funded by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and designed by Carde Ten Architects, and constructed by MTM Construction, Inc. The library project was managed by the Department of Public Works and Public Library.

Winning Features

- Solar panels on the roof that are estimated to reduce the building’s annual power consumption by approximately 30 percent
- Low-emitting and fuel efficient vehicle accommodation
- Water use reduction
- On-site renewable energy for solar panels
- Use of daylight and views
- Use of “green” building methods and materials to minimize waste, maintain air quality, and maximize use of renewable and recycled resources

The library stands as a national model of innovation, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility that others can point to for inspiration.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Come celebrate County Day at the L.A. County Fair on Sunday, September 8, 2013. To get your discount coupon good for $5 admission tickets on that day, go to www.lacounty.gov.

Natural History Museum
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

Through September 2 – Butterfly Pavilion

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
(323) 857-6010
www.lacma.org

Through September 8 – Matisse: La Gerbe
Through September 15 – The Presence of the Past: Peter Zumthor Reconsiders LACMA

Center Theatre Group
(213) 628-2772
www.centertheatregroup.org

• Ahmanson Theatre
  September 24 through November 3 – The Sunshine Boys
• Mark Taper Forum
  September 17 through November 3 – Humor Abuse
• Kirk Douglas Theatre
  September 14 through October 6 – St. Jude

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
September 28 – Ukule-Along Workshop

Walt Disney Concert Hall
August 23 – Hope Concert with Nanse Gum
August 25 – California Philharmonic: Les Miz & Bernstein

Hollywood Bowl
(323) 850-2000
www.HollywoodBowl.com

August 22 – LA Phil: Magnificent Mendelssohn
September 5 – Fluid Infinities by Diavolo Dance Theatre

Ford Theatres
(323) 461-3673
www.FordTheatres.org

August 23 – Hecho en Mexico & Musical Friends
August 24 – The British Beat, Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre

Grand Park
www.grandparkla.org

August 24 – Movie in the Park: Sleepless in Seattle
August 25 – Electronic Music Performances: The Leverage Agency Showcase with Acid Pauli, NU, Eduardo Castillo

Members of the Board

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Chairman
Second District

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Visit http://hr.lacounty.gov for information on employment opportunities with the County of Los Angeles.
Pooled Wisdom

Thanks to movies such as “Jaws,” many people think sharks are the most dangerous part of swimming.

Drowning in pools is more dangerous. All ages are at risk. And unlike shark attacks, it happens in your backyard.

Common misconceptions and inexcusable reasons people ignore pool safety are:

- **The water is shallow:** In truth, people can drown in only inches of water if they are face down. Never dive in a shallow pool.

- **I (or my family member/friend) am an excellent swimmer, so I can swim alone:** The truth is, even experienced swimmers drown if they are not careful, are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or have a medical event such as a heart attack, stroke, or seizure while swimming. Buddy up! As much as possible, swim with a friend, family member, or lifeguard.

- **Pool fences are expensive:** In fact, many pool fences are affordable. Every below-ground pool should have one and the gate should be locked at all times.

- **It’s just a plastic or inflatable pool:** Remember, water is water. It doesn’t matter whether it’s contained in a cement pool or a shallow plastic or inflatable pool.

- **It’s just a hot tub:** Hot tubs are deceptive. Hot water redistribute blood from the central circulation/core (e.g., gut) to the peripheral circulation (e.g., arms, legs, face) to evaporate. It also causes dehydration from sweating through exposed above-water skin. Redistribution and dehydration make people feel lightheaded or dizzy. People who are elderly, pregnant, or have cardiovascular conditions are most at risk.

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**Brigadier General Ruth A. Wong**

**United States Air Force (Ret.)**

**Director, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

General Wong completed a distinguished career in the United States Air Force retiring as a Brigadier General in September 2001. She served as Assistant to the Air Force Surgeon General for Medical Readiness and Nursing Services, Aeromedical Evacuation Flight Commander in the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and was selected to become one of the first nurse practitioners in the Air Force.

She began her career with the County of Los Angeles in 2001 as the Quality Improvement Manager for the Department of Mental Health. She promoted to the Chief Executive Office in 2002 as the Executive Director of the Quality and Productivity Commission, and became the Director of Workplace Programs in 2011.

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles, General Wong became the Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on July 16, 2013.

She earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, a baccalaureate degree from Occidental College, and received her nursing education at St. Mary’s School of Nursing, Chicago and the University of Virginia. Major awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. She received the Lieutenant General Charles H. Roadman, U.S. Air Force Surgeon General, Mirror Force award upon retirement.

**Rideshare L.A. County!**

What if you were allowed to work from home? **Telework** is a management option, but if your administration allows it and your work is amenable to the assignment, you may be able to **Telework** from home. **Telework** is a mode of Ridesharing that allows an employee to work from home using existing technologies. For more information on **Telework**, please go to [www.rideshare.lacounty.gov/telework](http://www.rideshare.lacounty.gov/telework).
Supervisor Gloria Molina congratulated 48 foster youth on their high school graduation in June as part of the Foster Youth Education Program she spearheaded, bringing the program’s high school graduation rate to 78 percent since it started in 2008.

“Being part of the educational journey of these amazing kids truly motivates all of us to continue to advocate on their behalf,” Molina said. “And the positive results speak volumes.”

Molina’s program, which went Countywide in 2012, requires intensive collaboration particularly between school district staff and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) social workers, who check students’ grades weekly; secure tutoring sessions and transportation assistance; meet students’ summer school registration deadlines; schedule their SAT prep courses and exams well in advance; and plan college tours. They also ensure that any credits students earned at schools they previously attended are counted toward graduation. Social workers’ offices are located near the schools of the children they oversee which helps them work more effectively with each student to craft an individualized case plan (in partnership with each child’s caregivers, biological parents, and school personnel).

Begun in 2008, Molina’s Foster Youth Education Program has one main goal – to increase high school graduation rates for foster youth through intensive guidance primarily from County social workers. That year, 116 youth participated, 20 of whom were high school seniors. By June 2009, 18 graduated high school, 15 of them enrolled in community colleges. In September 2009, 132 youth participated, of whom 20 were seniors. By June 2010, 19 graduated high school. Twelve of them enrolled in community colleges and one went directly to a four-year university. In September 2010, 175 youth participated, of that number, 23 were seniors. By June 2011, 18 graduated high school—11 of them enrolled in community colleges; two went directly to a four-year university; and one enrolled in a vocational school. In September 2012, 423 youth, which included 48 seniors, participated in the program. Among the June 2013 senior class, six graduates will attend a four-year university, 27 will attend community colleges, three have enlisted in the armed forces, one will pursue employment out-of-state, and one will utilize the adult transition program for Regional Center clients. (The remaining ten students are on track to graduate later this calendar year.)

Molina’s original partners when she piloted the program included the Pomona and Montebello Unified School Districts, as well as DCFS and CEO, the Casey Family Programs, and the L.A. County Education Coordination Council. By the time it was expanded Countywide, it also included the Azusa Unified, El Rancho Unified, El Monte Union, Hacienda/La Puente Unified, and Los Angeles Unified School Districts. It also required placing DCFS social workers at 15 newly participating schools and Deputy Probation Officers at five of those schools.

Supervisor Molina honored the Class of 2013 first with a breakfast reception, where she presented them with official Certificates of Commendation, and later during the televised Board of Supervisors meeting with an official presentation.
Be Wise When Booking a Big Event

When you rent a banquet hall, take extra caution to keep from being ripped off

It’s the season for celebrations across Los Angeles County. Weddings, quinceañeras, anniversaries, and other parties are taking place all around.

This means banquet halls and event planners are in high demand. But when demand for service grows, so does the chance of you getting ripped off.

Summer is the biggest time of the year for complaints about banquet-hall operators at the Department of Consumer Affairs. It’s the time when would-be grand celebrations sometimes end up with anger and money down the drain.

Often you won’t even face these problems until it’s too late to prevent it. Like any rip-offs, you should take every possible step to avoid problems with your celebrations.

Here are some tips when renting a banquet hall or hiring an event planner:

• Use only reliable halls or planners that have been in business for a while. Check online sites like Yelp to see what other people think about them or if they have complaints.
• Hold your event at a public hall or building. (Of course, we suggest you try a County park.)
• Get your contract in writing. Make sure it lists the correct time, place, and services for your event.
• Pay with a credit card. You can dispute charges more easily with your credit card company if trouble arises.
• Pay a small deposit. Pay for the rest of the costs when you get close to the event.
• Keep in contact with the people in charge of the hall to make sure everything is correct.

If you have questions or complaints about banquet halls or any other consumer topics, contact the Department of Consumer Affairs at (800) 593-8222.
LACoFD Teaches Drowning Prevention at Third Annual Water Safety Expo

In June, over one thousand residents in the Santa Clarita Valley converged at Fire Station 126 to attend the L.A. County Fire Department’s (LACoFD) life-saving “Children Drown Without a Sound” Water Safety Expo.

Each year, the County’s firefighters respond all too frequently to drowning emergencies and sadly, many times, it’s too late. Statistics show that drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in children under the age of five. Now in its third year, the Water Safety Expo provides tips and resources on how to prevent drowning in fun and educational ways so that children understand the importance of being safe near the water. It also offers residents and parents an opportunity to sign up for CPR and swimming lessons which allows them to be better prepared in case of an emergency.

“Unfortunately, every year, we have many near drownings and actual drownings in the Santa Clarita Valley. We have a lot of pools and it just takes seconds for a child to get in trouble and unfortunately, drown in a pool or any kind of water,” said Battalion Chief Mark Savage. “It is just something we do every year and we hope that we can save a life or maybe even more. It is just a really avoidable tragedy and we will, unfortunately, be responding to more than one drowning before this summer is over.”

The action-packed day was filled with several exciting and informative presentations. Local firefighters and paramedics simulated a drowning rescue and shared a real 9-1-1 drowning call to bring home the devastating consequences of a preventable drowning. Emergency room physicians from Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital also told first hand stories of patients they helped treat to encourage parents to take steps to avoid a drowning tragedy. Peppered among the instructive demonstrations and lectures were more light-hearted activities such as dancing with Radio Disney performers, story time with Stewie the Duck, and a water balloon toss with firefighters.

Thanks to the following community partners for participating in the event, including Safer 3 Water Safety Foundation, Academy Swim Club, American Heart Association/Superior Life Support, Red Cross, Impressions In Thread: LACoFD Clothing, National Drowning Prevention Alliance, Santa Clarita Lifeguards, City of Santa Clarita Aquatics Center Lifeguards, Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, Castaic Lifeguards, and Aqua Net Inc.

“All of these measures can help save lives and we hope that we don’t have to respond to drownings like we have in the past,” Savage said.
Now is a great time to review some tips to keep your eyes safe all summer long:

- If you have any chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, Graves disease, or others, please remember to schedule an annual eye exam.

- California is very dry, especially in the summer! Use of preservative free artificial tears four times daily can help control dry eye symptoms.

- If you wear contact lenses, remember to take them out prior to sleeping, swimming, and dipping in the hot tub.

- Protect your skin from the sun with SPF and your eyes with UV protection sunglasses.

- Flashing lights should only be seen in your eye during fireworks. Any other time, they might be a sign of a retinal detachment! If you have flashing lights, black floaters, or a curtain passing over your vision, go to your nearest eye care specialist right away.

- Itchy, scratchy eyes can be a sign of blepharitis. Cleaning the eye lashes with baby shampoo daily and hot compresses can help keep your lids healthy.

- Glaucoma runs in families and is asymptomatic! If you have a history of glaucoma in your family, make an appointment for an eye check to find out if treatment is needed which can prevent vision loss.

- Whenever performing outdoor or industrial work, remember to use safety glasses, especially when working with metal as small pieces can fly into your eye and require surgery.

- If you have any injury to the eye or loss of vision, don’t wait! See your eye care professional or the emergency department right away.

Eyes are the window to the soul. Keep yours safe with these useful tips!

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**First Latino and First Public Defender Elected President of the California State Bar**

Attorney Luis Rodriguez was elected president of the State Bar of California. He is the first Latino and the first public defender to hold the office, as reported by the Sacramento Business Journal. Rodriguez, who currently serves as vice president and ran unopposed, will be sworn in as the 89th president at the State Bar’s annual meeting in San Jose in October.

The son of Mexican immigrants, Rodriguez was born in Los Angeles and moved with his family to Cuidad Juarez in the Mexican state of Chihuahua when he was three. About 10 years later, his family moved back to Los Angeles, where Rodriguez attended public schools.

Rodriguez graduated with honors from Santa Clara University and is the first in his family to attend college. He received a law degree from Santa Clara Law School and has been an attorney with the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office since 1994.

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**In Remembrance**

The County of Los Angeles mourns the passing of long-time Quality and Productivity Commissioner Al Leiga on August 2, 2013. Commissioner Leiga was a dynamic businessman and civic leader, a technology wizard, and a strong supporter of County government. He served on the Productivity Investment Board and chaired the Quality and Productivity Leadership Conference. He will be missed.
2012 LA COUNTY SUPERSTARS!*  

2012 SUPERSTARS  
Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness  
Vitals Mail Processing/Six Sigma Team  
Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk 

Brandy Corona ♦ Terry Galloway ♦ Ernie Gomez ♦ Deborah Johnson ♦ Maggie Lien 
Vontray Lynch ♦ Jorge A. Miranda ♦ Maricela Najera ♦ Portia Sanders ♦ Sandra Spencer 

Utilizing the methodologies of Lean Six Sigma, the Vitals Mail Team improved the quality of service to the residents of Los Angeles County by reducing the processing time for online birth certificates from 17 days to one day for birth records which are electronically stored from 1964 to present. Time was also reduced from three weeks to one week for birth records from 1866 to 1963 which requires a manual search.

*Annual award bestowed to the best and the brightest employees of the County. In addition to being recognized by the Board, winners receive a trophy and one regular day off from work with pay and benefits.
Thuy Banh, currently the Assistant Hospital Administrator II from the Coastal Health Centers, redesigned the medical coding for patient visits. This new process change resulted in the time needed to code patient charts from three months to seven days, enabled an electronic tracking of provider productivity on a weekly basis, and reduced operation costs by $69,000 a year.

She was joined on the dais by (left to right) Tyler Seto, Associate Medical Director, Coastal Health Centers; Donna Nagaoka, Chief Executive Officer, Coastal Health Centers; and Anish Mahajan, Director of System Planning, Improvement and Data Analytics.
In December 2009, the Registrar-Recorder released the Statewide Electronic Courier Universal Recording Environment or SECURE system to allow customers to record their property documents electronically. This convenient solution is accessible by customers remotely from their office or home.

Since implementation, over 500,000 property documents resulting in over two million pages have been electronically recorded in L.A. County using the SECURE system. The postage savings realized from use of SECURE is also impressive. Based on an average seven pages per returned document to the customer, at an average of $.66 per envelope, the Registrar-Recorder has saved well over $347,000 in postage.
Retirees

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

45+ Years

PARKS & RECREATION: Santos Rodriguez
PUBLIC HEALTH: Diane Antol
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Barbara Kane, Glendena V. Stephens

40+ Years

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Lynn E. Robinson
HEALTH SERVICES: Daniel Ferrer, Patricia Moats, Rita H. Musick, Thomas M. Tucker
HUMAN RESOURCES: Erlinda H. Esparza
INTERNAL SERVICES: Janet M. Henderson
MENTAL HEALTH: Mary A. Norman, Laura Span
PARKS & RECREATION: Don L. Lightsy
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Bobbie J. Bullock, Teresa Chavez, Lillian Gomez, Brenda Hawkins, Joan Woodson-Mena
SHERIFF: William B. Allison Jr.
SUPERIOR COURT: Stephen L. Spears
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Rachel M. Osborne, Dennis Valentine

30+ Years

ASSESSOR: Erilda Abejero, Noemi A. Sagucio
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Daniel V. Papilli
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Rick L. Bryant, Edward B. Preer III, Sheila A. Showers, Carolyn Titus
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Sandra L. Davis, Aurora Garza, Elenita T. Manalac, W. H. Schwartz
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Elsie Larriva
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Gloria Castro, Hyatt E. Seligman
FIRE: Samuel Bertolet, Thomas A. Gifford, Terrence P. Sparks
HUMAN RESOURCES: Gloria Gonzalez
INTERNAL SERVICES: William F. Blaylock Jr., Earl Burton III, Reginald R. Grant, Tung S. Louie, Elizabeth A. Reyes

MENTAL HEALTH: Barbara B. Dixon, Dilcia M. Francis
PUBLIC HEALTH: Linda M. Martinez, Daisy B. Ryals
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Michele M. Brown, Magnolia Daniels, Rosa M. Flores, Andrea M. Flowers, Eduardo H. Fujikie, Mary Murphy, Jeanette Orefice
PUBLIC WORKS: Randy Johnson, Robert J. Rodriguez, Tony Samano
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Barbara J. Bradberry
SHERIFF: Frances A. Anthony, Timothy D. Broad, Sandra L. Dickerson, Raymond Duffy, Michael Gaitan, Scott L. Groves, Joe L. Gutierrez, Scott G. Hill, Paul K. Tanaka
SUPERIOR COURT: Susan Larsen Cichy, Thomas E. Grodin, Maybelline Howard
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Jezebel R. Magallanes

25+ Years

ASSESSOR: Rosalinda O. Espejo, Lamuel P. Salazar
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Charles A. Wait
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Dafrosa O. Dacumos
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Gayle A. Grether, Brenda Hanssen, Elizabeth D. Ivany, Nilda T. Roos Unger, Ann F. Scheifley
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Jesus A. Gomez
HEALTH SERVICES: Elizabeth Avila, Myrna R. Salas, Daniel Sotelo, Alicia Torres
INTERNAL SERVICES: Chung S. Kim
LACERA: Teresita P. Gonzales
MENTAL HEALTH: Jacqueline C. Miller
PROBATION: Timothy J. Brown, Princess A. Burks, John H. Goodwin, Timothy R. Kendrick, Daisy K. Pau
PUBLIC HEALTH: Elsie Bernabe, David Dassay, Beatrice Romero, Donna Wolfe
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Gwendolyn D. Heckard-Lair, Judy A. O’Brien, John R. Peak III, Olga Prada, Anita L. Trinidad
PUBLIC WORKS: Ross A. Orcutt
SUPERIOR COURT: Carol G. Adams, Connie Amparan, Sarojini S. Balasingham, Meiyun Chu, Yolanda R. Cordero, Vicki L. Fraser, Karen Greek, Thomas G. Hicks, Philip O. Hughes, Frank Moreau, Lynn D. Murray, Marirose Talactac
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3rd Supervisorial District

Saturday, August 24, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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