



OCTOBER 2013

Health Care Transformation

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DPSS Defines its Role to Implement Health Care Reform

With its full implementation expected in 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Health Care Reform (HCR), will significantly increase the eligible Medi-Cal population in Los Angeles County.



County employees listen to representatives at the Health Care Reform training held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

Employees from the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) will play a critical role in ensuring that thousands of residents are enrolled into the health care system as part of HCR. Applicants can apply in person at any DPSS District Office by calling the Customer Service Center at (866) 613-3777 or utilizing the Your Benefits Now (YBN) on-line application system at [www.dpssbenefits.lacounty.gov/ybn/Index.html](http://www.dpssbenefits.lacounty.gov/ybn/Index.html).

In addition, the Healthy Way Los Angeles (HWLA) Program,

currently administered in the County by the Department of Health Services (DHS), will transition to Medi-Cal. DPSS is working with DHS on the January 2014 transition and has hired additional Eligibility Workers and Supervisors to process Healthy Families and HWLA applications. The extra staff will also provide much-needed relief to existing operations and allow sufficient training in advance of full HCR implementation in 2014.

In July, DPSS participated on a panel of medical service experts, convened by the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, to train County departments and community-based organizations that will play a key role in implementing the reforms. Moderated by Lucien Wulsin, Executive Director and Founder of Insure the Uninsured Project, the presenters included representatives from Covered California, Managed Care for Los Angeles, Neighborhood Legal Services, DHS, and DPSS.

“Providing excellent customer service is a vital part of increasing access, and improving health care coverage to the residents of L.A. County,” said Sheryl L. Spiller, DPSS Director. She added that DPSS’ responsibility is no longer limited to just determining a person’s eligibility for Medi-Cal; it now will decide the health care plan or coverage for which the person is eligible.

To answer important questions related to HCR, DPSS has posted various informational videos on its website, including links to additional information and resources. The DPSS informational video is available on the Department’s HCR webpage at <http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/health/reform/default.cfm>.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Natural History Museum

(213) 763-DINO

[www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)

Ongoing – Becoming Los Angeles

November 5 through August 3 – Just Add Water

December 22 through April 13 – Traveling the Silk Road

## Los Angeles County Museum of Art

(323) 857-6010

[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

Through February 2 – Under the Mexican Sky: Gabriel Figuroa-Art and Film

Through December 1 – Kitasono Katue: Surrealist Poet

Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

[www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org)

- Ahmanson Theatre

Through November 3 – The Sunshine Boys

- Mark Taper Forum

Through November 3 – Humor Abuse

## Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

November 9 – Falstaff

November 13 – Falstaff

November 16 – Falstaff

November 21 – Falstaff

November 23 – The Magic Flute

November 24 – Falstaff

## Walt Disney Concert Hall

October 23 – 10th Anniversary Celebration: Green Umbrella: Zappa's *200 Motels*

October 25 through 27 – 10th Anniversary Celebration: Salonen & Sibelius

October 31 – Halloween Organ and Film: *The Phantom of the Opera*

## Hollywood Bowl

(323) 850-2000

[www.HollywoodBowl.com](http://www.HollywoodBowl.com)

October 25 – Zac Brown Band

October 26 – Zac Brown Band

## Grand Park

[www.grandparkla.org](http://www.grandparkla.org)

October 26 through November 2 – Downtown Dia De Los Muertos

November 5 – Downtown Farmers' Market

November 6 and 8 – Lunchtime Yoga Retreat

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



### Members of the Board

#### Mark Ridley-Thomas

Chairman

Second District

#### Gloria Molina

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#### Zev Yaroslavsky

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#### Don Knabe

Fourth District

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Submissions to the DIGEST may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Check out the DIGEST at

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



## health talk



by Mark Richman, M.D.

Physician Specialist, Emergency Medicine  
Olive View-UCLA Medical Center  
and Amy Skelton, student volunteer

## Staying Healthy in the Game with Father Time

*“Old age isn’t so bad when you consider the alternative.”*

Pearl Buck

In the game of life, you can’t beat Father Time. The game plan below will help you extend and enjoy the game:

- Do everything in moderation; exercise, eat, work etc.
- Eat healthy; mostly fresh fruits and vegetables, with small portions of bread/rice, meats, and sweets.
- Enjoy food while fueling your body with the many nutrients you lose as you grow older.
- Get enough high-quality sleep (most people need eight hours per night).
- Stay physically active. This builds cardiovascular health, bone strength, and prevents and treats depression.
- Be positive and hopeful. Emphasize good things more than bad.
- Find meaning in your work, family time, recreation, friends, community service, religious activities, etc.
- Plan for the future. Have a long time horizon in health, finances, and relationships; act accordingly. Enjoy today. Be mindful of tomorrow and beyond.
- Maintain good relationships with friends and family.
- Avoid smoking and illicit drugs; for most people, don’t drink more than the equivalent of two 8-ounce glasses of wine daily for men and one for women.
- Visit your health provider regularly for check-ups, vaccines, and cancer screening (colon, breast, cervical).
- Take medications as prescribed.
- Use sunscreen several times per day.
- Avoid injuries; use seat belts, bike helmets, athletic gear, etc. Don’t get taken out of the game by a preventable injury.

Following this game plan routinely will increase the odds of staying healthy late in the game.

## J. Tyler McCauley

### In Remembrance



J. Tyler McCauley served as Auditor-Controller from 2000 through 2008. Tyler started with the County of Los Angeles

Department of Auditor-Controller on December 17, 1970 as an Accountant-Auditor, and promoted progressively over his 38-year career within the same department.

He passed away on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, after health complications. Tyler will forever be remembered for his gentle but firm character, strong work ethic, and for being a strong leader and a mentor. He touched many lives and inspired us all to be fair, supportive, and most importantly, to be honest. He was a simple man who never looked down on anyone; he was a great listener, and used his wisdom and integrity when providing advice to many County policy makers, managers, and colleagues. Tyler was often referred to as a principled public servant who always did the right thing, and whose actions best served the public interest. He was a testament to the ability to fulfill the sacred public trust bestowed on public officials.

L.A. County mourns the loss of a great friend, a role model, and inspirational human being. Tyler is survived by his father and stepmother James and Bertha McCauley; five sisters; two brothers; wife Patricia McCauley; daughters Tracy Grissom, Erin McLeod, and Kelly Mokracek; and six grandchildren.

Tyler lived a fulfilling spiritually-guided life and had always offered his very best to his family, friends, and colleagues.





17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**VETERANS & ARMED FORCES  
APPRECIATION DAY**



# UCLA

VS. WASHINGTON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>  
THE ROSE BOWL

### ACTIVE MILITARY

All active members of the US Armed Forces receive one (1) FREE reserved ticket to the game.

Members can purchase up to eight (8) additional tickets in the reserved seating area at a 50% discount.

### VETERANS

All Veterans receive a 50% discount on up to eight (8) tickets in the reserved seating area.

### TO OBTAIN YOUR VETERANS & ARMED FORCES APPRECIATION DAY TICKETS YOU MAY:

1. Purchase online at [uclabruins.com/armedforces](http://uclabruins.com/armedforces). Use promo code "uclatroops".
2. Visit the UCLA Central Ticket Office before Nov. 15 and show your military or veteran ID for advance tickets.
3. Show your military or veteran ID to the Rose Bowl box office on game day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[UCLABRUINS.COM/ARMEDFORCES](http://UCLABRUINS.COM/ARMEDFORCES)  
OR CALL (310)206-5992



UCLAFOOTBALL

[uclaBruins.com](http://uclaBruins.com)

UCLA... CHAMPIONS MADE HERE



## Charitable Giving Campaign 2013 Kick-Off

On September 10, 2013, the CEO Office of Workplace Programs and Marketing hosted the Annual Charitable Giving Campaign (CGC) Executive Kick-off Breakfast. The theme of the 2013 Campaign is “It Starts With You.” The event highlighted the previous year’s fundraising and featured the new video that shows how the employees’ dollars are spent. The CGC is a Board-approved fundraising effort that raises money for charities serving County of Los Angeles residents. All funds raised through the CGC are spent in L.A. County.

Chairman of the Board Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas said at the event, “It Starts With You” is an appropriate theme for the 2013 Campaign because you make it happen. Employee donations through payroll deduction allow the non-profit agencies to plan and sustain critical programs throughout the year which provide needed services to low income families and individuals.”

CEO Bill Fujioka highlighted how the campaign raises over \$1 million each year for the various charities. “It makes me extremely proud of our County employees who generously donated during the years,” Fujioka said. He also officially welcomed Community Health Charities and Variety, the Children’s Charity of Southern California, into the County Charitable Giving Family. With the addition of the two new charities, the total number of Fund Distribution Agencies (FDAs) is now seven, giving employees a vast array of charitable giving options.

Payroll deduction is the heart and soul of the CGC as it allows the non-profit organizations to continue providing critical services to those most in need. This year, campaign partners, the FDAs, are sponsoring a payroll deduction challenge that will offer employees who already participate in or sign-up for payroll deduction to win fabulous prizes through opportunity drawings. Some of the prizes include roundtrip airplane tickets, autographed celebrity posters, movie studio tours, premium gift baskets, gift cards, and more. There will also be a grand prize at the end of the 2013 campaign.

To view the new Charitable Giving Campaign video or for more information about the payroll deduction challenge and how to participate, visit the Workplace Programs website at <http://ceo.lacounty.gov/wpp/charitablegivingcampaign.html>. And remember, “It Starts With You.”

### Why We Give

“Growing up, my grandma would always say that if you can help someone, help them. It doesn’t always have to be money. All it takes is a little bit of time. I’m involved in various organizations such as Toys for Tots, Charitable Giving, and March of Dimes to help raise money, toys, or anything else that is needed.”

Workplace giving begins with each and every one of you, and we want to know how and why you give.

Joey Bustamante  
Department of Public Works

**WeTip**  
**WELFARE FRAUD**  
**1 (800) 87-FRAUD**

### 17th Annual Veterans and Armed Forces Appreciation Day

This year’s football game will match the UCLA Bruins against the Washington Huskies on November 15, 2013 in the Rose Bowl.

Pre-game festivities will include an Outreach Exhibit Fair in Lot H. Halftime will feature a “Veteran of the Year” ceremony. The honoree is a representative veteran whose lifetime accomplishments are in the highest tradition of those who served. Once again, Lt. General Ellen Pawlikowski, Commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California will present the award.

Free reserved seat tickets are generously provided by UCLA to all active members of the United States Armed Forces. Also available to those on active duty is a Buy-One-Get-One-Free offer on Reserved Seat tickets up to a maximum of eight tickets. For more information, visit [uclaBruins.com/military](http://uclaBruins.com/military).





The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
and  
Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities



announces the

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Access Awards Luncheon

*"Disabled ... Does Not Mean Unable"*

Honoring individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions  
and/or have promoted equality and accessibility for people with disabilities.

**Monday, October 21, 2013  
11:30 a.m.**

**OMNI LOS ANGELES HOTEL**  
251 South Olive Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Ticket \$68.00**

*The Commission will also be celebrating the following:*

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act
- 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities
- October 2013 Disability Awareness Month

*The following sponsorship opportunities are also available:*

- Scholarship Sponsorship
- Souvenir Program Sponsorship
- Captioning Sponsorship
- Table Sponsorship

To purchase tickets online visit: <http://bosevents.lacounty.gov>  
For more information, contact Commission Services at  
(213) 974-1053 TTY (213) 974-1707 or  
e-mail: [laccod@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:laccod@bos.lacounty.gov)

# Watch Out for Health Care Scams

## Thieves targeting people in need

Open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act (commonly known as ACA or “Obamacare”) has begun. Millions of uninsured Californians will have a new opportunity to get affordable and comprehensive health insurance. Covered California is the marketplace where California residents will be able to shop for and compare coverage.

It’s also a time for consumers to be extra cautious about people reaching out to them claiming to help. Scammers will attempt to take advantage of consumers who are not familiar with the new law.

The Department of Consumer Affairs has received reports about health care reform scams, even before enrollment began this month. Here are some of the things you, your family members, and friends might hear from a scammer:

**You need to get a new Obamacare or Medicare card.** – Consumers are getting calls in which they are told they need a new insurance or Medicare card as part of the new law. The callers will ask for the consumer’s Social Security number and other personal information. Remember to never give a person on the telephone your personal information, unless you made the call to a number you trust.

**Pay us a small fee and we’ll give you all the information you need.** – Scammers are trying to charge money to consumers for information about ACA. Do not pay for something you can get for free. Take advantage of all the government and non-profit help available. You might be reached by a government employee, but they will never ask you to pay for any information.

**Don’t pay the government. Just buy our discount plan and you’re covered.** – Some consumers are being sold memberships into a medical discount plan, which might offer some deals on doctors or medications. But before you give any money, keep in mind that most of these plans are not medical insurance and do not fulfill your requirement to be insured.

**Trust us. We’re the government. We just need to verify your Social Security number and banking information.**

– The real government will never ask for your personal information in an unsolicited phone call, a text message, or email.

For more details, contact Covered California, the State’s home for ACA and the insurance exchange, by going to [CoveredCA.com](http://CoveredCA.com) or calling (800) 300-1506. If you have questions about insurance coverage or need help with enrollment, this is the agency you should call. Representatives are available Monday through Saturday, from 8 am - 6 pm.

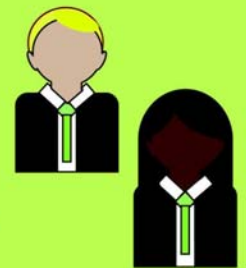
For more information on consumer topics, call Consumer Affairs at (800) 593-8222. Visit our website at [dca.lacounty.gov](http://dca.lacounty.gov). Follow us on Twitter: @LACountyDCA and @LACoConsumidor (Spanish).



## 2013 CGC Payroll Deduction Challenge: It Starts With You!

### Attention Employees:

- Any employee that **signs up** for payroll deduction during September or October will be eligible to receive one of the great opportunity prize drawings below for the monthly Payroll Deduction Challenge!
- The monthly Payroll Deduction Challenge will continue through December 31<sup>st</sup> and there will be one grand prize at the end of the Charitable Giving Campaign. To sign up for payroll deduction, contact your CGC Coordinator or the Office of Workplace Programs.
- All employees that already support the Charitable Giving Campaign through payroll deduction are automatically entered in the drawing and will be eligible for one of the opportunity drawing prizes below.



### Payroll Deduction Prizes:



- Premium Movie Studio Gift Basket (Paramount Pictures)
- VIP Warner Bros. Studio Tour for Four (Warner Bros. Studio)
- \$200 Gift Card for Movie Passes (Fandango)
- 1 Roundtrip plane ticket anywhere Southwest flies (Southwest)
- Framed “Flight” Movie Poster Autographed by Denzel Washington

More prizes will be offered for the November and December challenge. Monthly winners will be included in the eCounty DIGEST and posted on the CGC website. For more info visit: [ceo.lacounty.gov/wpp](http://ceo.lacounty.gov/wpp). It Starts With You! All prizes provided by the Fund Distribution Agencies.





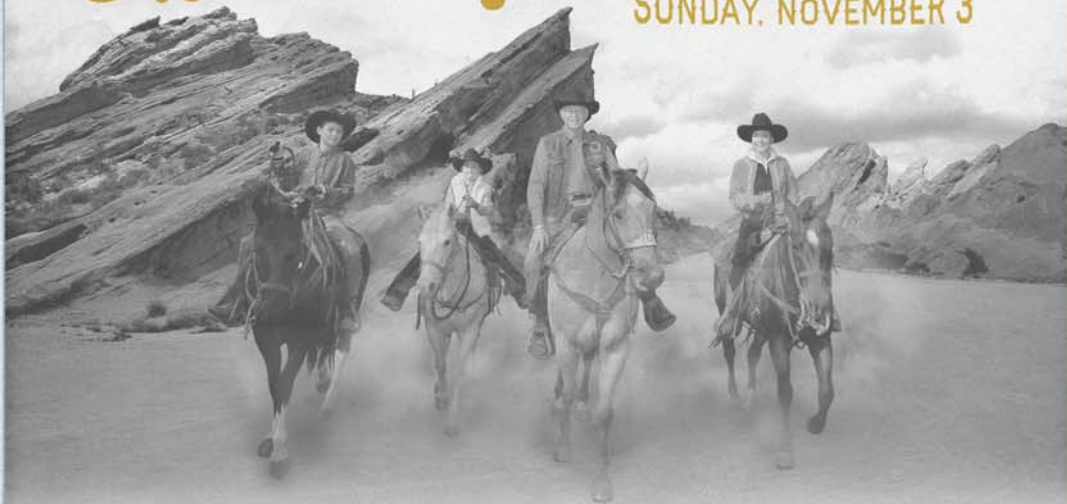
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

INVITE YOU TO THE

ANTONOVICH

TRAIL DUSTERS RIDE

VASQUEZ ROCKS  
NATURAL AREA  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3



**Activities:** Check in and pancake breakfast at 7:00am. The event will kick off at 9:00am and continue through the scenic trails of Vasquez Rocks Natural Area. The day will conclude with the traditional barbecue and live country western music.

**For horse rental reservations:** Graham Bros. Call Lee Graham (760) 245-7695 email: [info@grahambroslivestock.com](mailto:info@grahambroslivestock.com)

**For information and to register call:** (909) 599-8411 or online at <http://reservations.lacounty.gov/reservations/product.asp>

**\$30 per person (Horse rental not included)**

**Special Recognition:** ETI Corral 22, ETI Corral 138, North County Mounted Assistance Unit, Los Angeles County Sheriff Mounted Unit

**ADA NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation has designated an ADA Coordinator to carry out this Department's compliance with the non-discriminatory provisions of the ADA. For more information you may contact the ADA Coordinator's Office. Tel. (213) 738-2970 TDD (213) 427-6118 Fax (213) 487-0380 Upon 3-day request notice, sign language interpreters and related materials in alternative formats (Braille-transcript, large print, audio-record, video-captioning, live description) or any other reasonable accommodations are available to the public for County-sponsored activities and events.

**STAGING AREA: 10700 WEST ESCONDIDO CANYON ROAD, AGUA DULCE, CA 91350.**

**RIDING CONDITIONS:** COMBINATION OF ROLLING HILLS, SOME SEMI-STEEP HILLS AND LEVEL AREAS. THE RIDE IS TO BE 3 1/2 HOURS WITH 2 REST STOPS.

**NON-RIDERS ARE WELCOME. RIDERS UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. NO STALLIONS OR DOGS, PLEASE.**

**RESERVATION FORM**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation  
FOR INFO CALL: Vincent Pedroza (909) 599-8411

MAIL RESERVATION FORM & PAYMENT TO:  
Supervisor's Trail Ride, Department of Parks & Recreation,  
120 E. Via Verde Road, San Dimas, CA 91773

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS A MUST. RESERVATION DEADLINE BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2013**

Name: .....		Phone: .....	
Address: .....		City: .....	
No. of Tickets: .....	No. of Riders: .....	No. of Non Riders: .....	Total Enclosed: .....

Register online at <http://reservations.lacounty.gov/reservations/product.asp>

## LACERA Election Results

At its meeting of September 17, 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved the results of the July 30, 2013 elections for the L.A. County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA). The Board declared Shawn R. Kehoe elected to the office of the Fourth Member, Board of Investments. Mr. Kehoe was also elected to the office of the Seventh Member, Board of Retirement and William R. Pryor was elected to the office of Alternate Member, Board of Retirement.



## Rideshare L.A. County!

Looking for a convenient way to get from the Antelope Valley, Ventura, Riverside, or San Bernardino Counties? Metrolink is one way to go.

With several lines that extend through the SoCal region, Metrolink is a convenient way to get to work in the Greater L.A. area. For more information, check out [www.Metrolinktrains.com](http://www.Metrolinktrains.com) or [www.rideshare.lacounty.gov](http://www.rideshare.lacounty.gov).





## County Employee Conquers Food Network's Cupcake Wars



Photo by Leroy Hamilton

Founded in 2007, Southern Girl Desserts is co-owned by County employee Catarah Hampshire (see photo on left) and her business partner Shoneji Robison, who combined their family recipes to create a Southern cupcake and dessert arsenal. Their focus and background sets them apart from other bakeries because they are a shop with Southern ideals and Southern recipes.

The self-proclaimed “Dessert Divas” bake from scratch based upon traditional flavors and home-style techniques, offering cupcakes made from the heart. They also create one-of-a-kind cakes, puddings, cookies, pies, and candy at their bakery in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza in Los Angeles.

Both Hampshire and Robison were raised in Florida and attended Florida A&M University, but did not meet until they relocated to the West Coast. Hampshire has been a Public Information Assistant in the South Community Services Agency for the Department of Parks and Recreation since 2006.

*“I love my job here in the County of Los Angeles. I have great co-workers and there’s something new everyday, but baking is more of my passion. I am blessed to be able to do both,” said Hampshire.*

Hampshire received national recognition when she competed on and won Food Network’s “Cupcake Wars” in June 2013. She was bestowed with a \$10,000 prize and the opportunity to cater the Chicago Toy and Game Fair, a black tie gala. She competed against three other bakers from across the country and fought her way through three eliminations for the win!

On the show, she created four deliciously unique cupcakes that included a Chicken and Waffle flavor as well as, Neapolitan, Peanut Butter and Jelly, and Strawberry Daiquiri. All flavors can be purchased in her South L.A. bakery. The women are also featured for their celebrity dessert catering on E! Network’s “L.A. Sugar.”

Considered L.A.’s premier Southern-inspired bakery, Southern Girl Desserts lives up to its reputation with offerings directly rooted in Southern home cooking. The daily bakery menu includes Red Velvet Cupcakes, Lemon Pound Cake, Pecan Chocolate Chip Cookies, Banana Pudding, and Peach Cobbler. Their favorite Southern ingredient, sweet potato, makes multiple appearances as Sweet Potato Cupcakes, pies, and

cookies. Additionally, each day of the week brings special offerings in every menu segment. Highlights include Southern classics reimaged in cupcake form such as Caramel Apple Pie Cupcake on Sunday, Pecan Pie Cupcake on Tuesday, and Hennessy and Coke Cupcake on Friday.

They are not only committed to their love for baking but to the community. The ladies have provided more than 30 jobs and have given over \$10,000 of in-kind services and product since opening their bakery in 2007.

## Housing America Month

**October 1 - 31, 2013**



More than 70 years ago, this nation committed itself to providing a decent home and suitable living environment for all Americans. Over the years, the public and private sectors have learned much about the cost-effective provision of affordable housing. Together, we know what works, what does not work, and why. Yet, unmet housing needs in our communities persist. The Community Development Commission and Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (CDC/HACoLA) recognizes the month of October as **Housing America Month**, and recommits itself to a national goal of meeting the housing needs of all Americans.

This year, the following three (3) projects and programs are spotlighted as examples of the work the CDC/HACoLA continue to do to address the housing needs of Los Angeles County residents, while continuing its mission to *Build Better Lives and Better Neighborhoods!*

***The Nueva Maravilla Public Housing Development:  
A Green Community East Los Angeles***

***The Stephen Sorensen Park Community Building  
Project Lake Los Angeles***

***The Southern California Home Financing Authority  
(SCHFA) Program Countywide***

For more information on **Housing America Month** projects and programs, visit [www.lacdc.org](http://www.lacdc.org).



The County of Los Angeles Department of  
Public Works Women's Leadership Council  
is proud to present



# Women's Leadership Legacy Conference

## The You Revolution

Thursday, November 14, 2013  
7:30am-4:30pm

Pasadena Convention Center  
300 E Green St Pasadena, CA 91101



**GLORIA MOLINA**  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles



**DR. LINDA A. LIVINGSTONE**  
Dean, Pepperdine University  
School of Business & Management



**JEANETTE A. BROWN**  
Senior Scientist Materials  
Science & Engineering  
University of Connecticut



**MARTHA ADAMS**  
Senior Producer  
Girl Rising



**TONY WATSON**  
Tax Consultant  
Robert Hall & Associates



**KRISTIN MORICO**  
Global Leader GE Water  
Programs, GE Corporate  
Environmental Programs



**DR. LUCILE M. JONES**  
Seismologist  
US Geological Survey



**MARGARITA PEREZ**  
Assistant Chief Probation  
Officer, LA County Probation  
Department



**GRACE ROBINSON CHAN**  
Chief Engineer and General  
Manager, Sanitation Districts of  
Los Angeles County



**GAIL FARBER**  
Director of Public Works  
County of Los Angeles



**RUTH A. WONG**  
Director of Military  
and Veterans Affairs  
County of Los Angeles



**WENDY WERT**  
Environmental Engineer  
Sanitation Districts of  
Los Angeles County



**HOLLYE DEXTER**  
Author and Creative Writing Teacher



**SAMANTHA DUNN**  
Author and Feature Writer for  
The Orange County Register



**AMY FRIEDMAN**  
Author and Creative Writing Teacher





## Covered California Exchange Opens for Business

Obamacare kicked off in California this month with the start of enrollment in the Covered California health insurance exchange on October 1. Citizens and legal permanent residents can enroll now through March 31, 2014. Individuals with lower incomes may be eligible for federal assistance to help purchase insurance on Covered California.

Starting next year, most Americans will be required to have some form of health insurance, whether that insurance is employer-based, private insurance (whether purchased through Covered California or not), or a government-administered program like Medicaid or Medicare. Those who do not get health insurance will face tax penalties.

Under the sweeping health reform legislation known as the Affordable Care Act, most uninsured individuals will either qualify for Medicaid (called Medi-Cal in California) through an expansion of the current Medicaid program, while higher-income individuals can shop among health plans and benefit levels through either State or Federal health care exchanges (called Covered California in this state).

Those with incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (about \$15,856 a year for one person) will qualify for expanded Medi-Cal managed care coverage, while those with incomes at or above 138% of federal poverty level will qualify for coverage on Covered California. However, anyone who is at or below 138% of the federal poverty level should not wait until January 1, 2014 to get coverage! They can apply for the Los Angeles County Healthy Way LA program now by visiting [www.ladhs.org/hwla](http://www.ladhs.org/hwla) or calling (877) 333-HWLA (4952).

For the past two years, Los Angeles County has been preparing for health reform by enrolling over 275,000 low-income, uninsured patients into Healthy Way L.A. The program covers citizens and legal residents of 5 years aged 19 to 64 with comprehensive medical services. Healthy Way L.A. members will automatically transition to Medi-Cal on January 1 and gain enhanced benefits such as substance abuse and some dental services.

Need help figuring out what you or your family members qualify for? The best place to start is to contact Covered California where enrollment staff can direct you to eligible programs based on income. Visit [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com) or call (800) 300-1506. Information about health care reform coverage options is also available in multiple languages on the Department of Health Services website, [www.dhs.lacounty.gov](http://www.dhs.lacounty.gov).

## DBH Unveils New Logo

The Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) unveiled a new logo, designed to vividly represent the Department's mission of caring for and maintaining Los Angeles County beaches, as well as Marina del Rey, the largest recreational harbor in the United States.

After working with a graphic artist for several months, Acting Director Gary Jones and Chief Deputy Kerry Silverstrom reviewed four different options before selecting the design that best captured the Department's focus on the beach and boating, in a bold yet playful style. While the logo's overall design has been revamped, it was also designed to have a classic feel that connects to the history of the County seal by using a circular silhouette, and by using similar motifs from the seal, such as diamonds in the border and the water waves below the maiden. The Department will continue to implement the new logo into all stationery, templates, signage, and its website and social media pages as soon as possible.



## Annual Benefits Enrollment Is Here!

October is the month to review your benefits and decide if you want to enroll or make changes for 2014. Make sure to enroll by the deadline at midnight on October 31, 2013. You should have already received your Annual Benefits Enrollment packet. It includes all you need to enroll. If you can't find your packet, you can view the materials at [mylacountybenefits.com](http://mylacountybenefits.com).

Remember that you must enroll during October 2013 to:

- Waive medical coverage for 2014, if you qualify
- Enroll or re-enroll in the Health Care and/or Dependent Care Spending Accounts for 2014
- Buy Elective Annual Leave Days for 2014 (MegaFlex participants only)

It's fast and easy to enroll or make changes at [mylacountybenefits.com](http://mylacountybenefits.com) until October 31, 2013. When you use this website, you can immediately print out a confirmation sheet. Log in using your employee number and PIN found on your Personalized Enrollment Worksheet. If you prefer to enroll by phone, call (888) 822-0487 and follow the recorded instructions.

# All About Us

Employees of the County of Los Angeles

LA COUNTY STARS!\*



SEPTEMBER 2013  
**Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness**  
**ISD Radio Team**  
**Internal Services Department**

Dennis Hanley ♦ Karl Kreb ♦ John Geiger ♦ Ian Teller  
with Dave Chittenden, IT General Mgr; Jim Jones, Acting Director; and Robert King, Telecommunications Branch Mgr

Used by numerous departments and serving as the County's primary communications system for disaster recovery, the Countywide Integrated Radio System was trapped in obsolete radio technology. However, faced with difficult fiscal times, a County-paid upgrade was not feasible. The ISD Radio Team designed and negotiated an opt-out/cash-out accord to not only comply with the program requirements for rebanding, but also to procure a \$20 million state-of-the-art technological upgrade at zero cost to the County. As a result, they were the first in the western U.S. with an FCC-approved upgrade. This prepares the County for interoperability with future state-of-the-art public safety systems.



**\*LA COUNTY STARS!** recognizes and celebrates exceptional achievements of County employees to promote and reward performance consistent with the Values, Mission, and Goals of the County Strategic Plan.



SEPTEMBER 2013

**Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness  
Server Consolidation and Virtualization Project Team  
Department of Public Social Services**

Jaime Saldana ♦ Aaron Bice ♦ Robert Mueller ♦ Nicole Alcaraz ♦ Lawrence Oghenekohwo ♦ Rajinder Gahir  
Rigo Jimenez ♦ Frank Reyes ♦ Abdul Qadir ♦ Narinder Kumar ♦ Rachid Ameer ♦ Brian Runquist  
with Sheryl Spiller, Director

The Information Technology infrastructure of DPSS consisted of 300 standalone physical servers, supporting various computer applications used by over 13,000 employees who administer aid to 2.4 million customers. These servers were distributed across 63 different locations, consuming enormous amounts of power, demanding expansive cooling systems, and occupying valuable County office space. The Project Team enabled the Department to reduce its servers by 66.7% thereby improving maintenance, support, and stability and up-time for the remaining servers. This consolidation is estimated to save DPSS about \$3 million over the next five years. Additionally, through the efforts of the Project Team, DPSS received an energy savings rebate incentive from Southern California Edison in the amount of \$11,344. The rebate was for decommissioning numerous servers and saving the associated energy costs at DPSS Headquarters.



MISSION:

# RETIREMENT PLAN JUMP START

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is code name **NSFRW:10/20-10/26**.

Using your spy decoder ring, you'll instantly know that it stands for:  
**National Save for Retirement Week**  
October 20-26, 2013.

AN  
**AGENT MAX**  
CONTRIBUTION  
ADVENTURE

**MISSION 1:**  
Enroll in your plan

**MISSION 2:**  
Maximize your contributions

**MISSION 3:**  
Allocate your assets properly

Your Retirement Simplified

## Horizons

Your Retirement Simplified

## 401(k) SAVINGS



For more information, visit [www.countyla.com](http://www.countyla.com) or call (800) 947-0845.<sup>1</sup>

Of course, no individual spy is an island, but if that's where you hope to be after you hang up your fedora and overcoat, let your network of retirement associates help you get to the point where you can say, **"mission accomplished!"**

<sup>1</sup> Access to KeyTalk® [the voice response system] and the website may be limited or unavailable during periods of peak demand, market volatility, systems upgrades/maintenance or other reasons.

Core securities, when offered, are offered through GWFS Equities, Inc. and/or other broker dealers. GWFS Equities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company.

Great-West Financial<sup>SM</sup> refers to products and services provided by Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company (GWL&A), Corporate Headquarters: Greenwood Village, CO; Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York, Home Office: White Plains, NY; its subsidiaries and affiliates[, including Great-West Funds, Inc., Great-West Trust Company, LLC, EMJAY Corporation]. The trademarks, logos, service marks, and design elements used are owned by GWL&A. Representatives of GWFS Equities, Inc. are not registered investment advisors and cannot offer financial, legal or tax advice. Please consult with your financial planner, attorney and/or tax advisor as needed. ©2013 Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company. All rights reserved. Form# NSFRW-1 PT178543 (08/13)

Not a Deposit | Not FDIC Insured | Not Bank Guaranteed | Funds May Lose Value | Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency





# 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

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Lillian L. Beck

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Maria E. Sigala

## 40+ Years

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Christina Saucedo

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Douglas Arzoumanian, Linda F. Chambers, Lynne Lattanzi, Rose Shabazz

**PARKS & RECREATION:** George N. Harrell

**PROBATION:** Cleophus Jones

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Linda Mason, Joyce A. Moore, Sandra Smalls

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Charita K. Matthews

## 35+ Years

**ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Tamara H. Schirmer

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Maria Morton

**FIRE:** Gerald R. Madrid

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Marvin H. de la Selva, Cynthia Edwards, In S. Lee, Carmen J. Mota, Mercedes C. Zapata

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Ernest Jones III

**PROBATION:** William Horton

## 30+ Years

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Sherri M. Florence Gray

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Ester M. Price

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Vivian Davidson, Dale A. Davidson

**FIRE:** George L. Verkamp Jr.

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Vanpen Chaisua, Carol B. Mabee, Mary L. Martinez, Henrietta E. Villessenda

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Saro Abcarians, Cheryl C. Huckaby

**REGIONAL PLANNING:** John R. Gutwein

**SHERIFF:** Martha Wandsberg, Timothy I. Williams

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Steven H. Busby, John C. Peddle

**TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:** Barbara Foster

## 25+ Years

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES:** Mokhtar T. Ibrahim

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Sophia B. Jones, Mitra Khorvash, Sharon M. Koga, Laura Telles

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Kimel L. Conway

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Beverly E. Crosby, Ismael Garcia, Tork San

**SHERIFF:** Robert J. Benoit, Marcia D. Hodrick, Steven A. Kenny

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Deborah Kiger

## CDF Awards Public Housing & Section 8 Students Scholarships



On August 28, 2013, the Community Development Foundation (CDF) awarded over \$25,000 in scholarship funds to public housing and Section 8 residents participating in the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles' programs. In total, 28 scholarship awards were made to students attending a 4-year university, community college, or vocational program. Past scholarship recipients have not only become architects, doctors, counselors, and lawyers, but have also become positive role models for youth growing up in subsidized housing.

One of the awardees, Juan Gutierrez, strives to move out of public housing and be a role model for others. He was once a lost student failing to thrive in both traditional and alternative schools. It's not that Gutierrez wasn't smart enough to keep up, but rather, he lacked motivation.

In 2011, seven years after dropping out of high school, Gutierrez enrolled in the LA CAUSA's YouthBuild Charter School, which helped develop him into a motivated student. This past June, he graduated from high school and is enrolled at East Los Angeles College and Antioch University Los Angeles' Bridge Program, all while helping expand the first community garden in East Los Angeles with a grant from the Lead Now Fellowship. Gutierrez aspires to be an academic counselor to help motivate students like him who slip through the cracks of overcrowded schools.



# COUNTYWIDE FITNESS CHALLENGE 2013



## PLAY FOR LIFE!

Join us for a day of family fun featuring a “triathlon”—fitness walk, bicycle fun ride and pedalboat rally.

- BIOMETRIC SCREENINGS
- FITNESS POWER WALK
- BICYCLE FUN RIDE
- PEDALBOAT AND KAYAK RALLY
- PICNIC AREA
- FREE GIVEAWAYS
- DRAWING PRIZES

RSVP to secure your giveaway at  
<http://dhr.lacounty.info>

### Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area

15501 Arrow Highway  
Irwindale, CA 91706  
1st Supervisorial District

**Saturday, October 19, 2013**

**8:00 a.m. – Noon**

- 8:00 a.m. Registration starts
- 8:30 a.m. Fitness Walk
- 10 a.m. – Noon Bicycle/Buggy Rides  
Pedalboat and Kayak Rally

\*Kayaks, pedal boats, bicycles/buggies will be provided

