



THE GREEN SCENE

Bringing Home the Gold



Front row (left to right): Stephanie Orosco, Ivy Ramirez, Angel Lira, Mya Jackson, and Brandon Martin
Middle row (left to right): Anna Natoes, Aurora Saines, Sandy Cisneros, Valeria Orosco, Gisselle Rodriguez, Deseree Martin, Jerry Ratliffe, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Denevra Ortega, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney, Dr. Roslyn Blake, Aquatics Manager Tony Martinez, AFMLA Advisory Board Member Hal Dash, and AFMLA Board Member Pilar Hoyos
Back row (left to right): Regional Operations Manager Steve Duron, Coach Fernando Medina, Coach Louis Pecot, Coach Tommy Saines, AFMLA Executive Director Stan Lee, and Robert Moore

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors honored 15 youth representatives of the Los Angeles County Swim Team on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 for their recent gold medal win at the 2009 California State Games in San Diego. The youth were joined by their coaches Fernando Medina, Louis Pecot, and Tommy Saines; Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney; Aquatics Manager Tony Martinez; South Community Services Agency Regional Operations Manager Steve Duron; Aquatics Foundation of Metropolitan Los Angeles (AFMLA) Executive Director Stan Lee; President Dr. Roslyn Blake; Board Member Pilar Hoyos; and Advisory Board Member Hal Dash. The team was recognized for their teamwork and dedication to swimming. It was the team's first time competing in the statewide competition.

(Continued on page 2)

CONTENTS	
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	2
LIFEGUARDS HONORED	3
AUTO THEFTS AT BONELLI PARK SOLVED	4
WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES	5
HIGH FIVES!	6

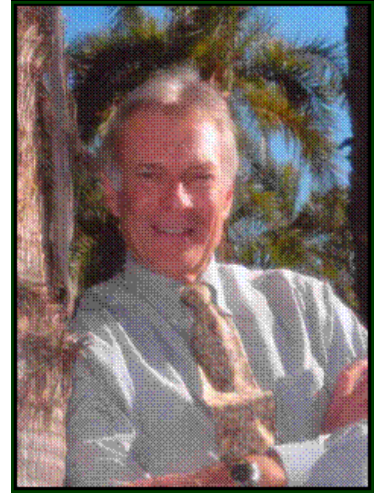
Greetings from the Director

This issue of the Green Scene showcases some of the best things about our Department.

As you will read on the front page, our L.A. County Swim Team won the State Championships recently during their very first try at the competition. This is a great accomplishment for these youth, but also for our Department. It shows that the determination of the coaches and our commitment to providing quality programs – in this case swimming – can and does result in wonderful success stories. Congratulations to our very own swim team and their coaches for their hard work!

Our lifeguards were also honored by the Los Angeles County Board for their assistance in bringing closure to a tragedy last summer. Our very skilled underwater recovery dive team last year assisted in searching for and finding the body of a father who drowned while saving his child's life. The Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department underwater recovery teams also joined our lifeguards in accepting this honor. The perseverance and tireless effort of the dive team could not have been easy on many levels under the circumstances, but their success helped one family reach a little bit of closure in their time of grief.

Not everything we do in this department is easy. But as these two stories with very different endings show, there is a silver lining to just about anything—made tangible by the purposefulness in which we approach our Department's mission. Thank you again for your dedication. Let this be a small reminder to us that we can, and do, make differences everyday.



Russ Guiney, Director

Bringing Home the Gold



(Continued from page 1)

During the state competitions, 97 youth from Jesse Owens, Victoria and Ted Watkins Park's swim teams merged into one unified County of Los Angeles team and won the 2009 California State Games Swim Team Championship, surprising all of their competition. "We walked in and people didn't take us seriously," said Coach Fernando Medina. "They didn't know who we were." However, the speculation settled quickly as one by one the Los Angeles County Swim Team out swam their competition. The youth ages five to 18 years old, took home a total of 100 gold, silver and bronze medals. The one-day meet took place at La Jolla High School where the swimmers participated in 12 competitive events including the 200 Free Medley Relay, 50 Breast and the 100 Fly.

During the California State Games, the Los Angeles County swim team was victorious over 20 swim teams and more than 800 swimmers throughout California under the direction of South Aquatics Manager Tony Martinez and coaches Fernando Medina (Victoria Pool), Nick Orozco (Ted Watkins) and Christina Melendez (Jesse Owens).

Congratulations to the entire team, coaches and family members!

Lifeguards Honored



Front Row - Left to right: Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Senior Lake Lifeguard Sarkis Chatalyan, Chief Lake Lifeguard Hugo Maldonado, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, and Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney
Back Row: Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief William "Mickey" Gallagher, Chief Laurence "Scott" Poster, Chief Phil Topar, and Chief Daryl Osby.

Chief Lake Lifeguard Hugo Maldonado and Senior Lake Lifeguard Sarkis Chatalyan accepted a scroll of appreciation on behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation Underwater Recovery Unit from Los Angeles County Supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Michael D. Antonovich for their efforts in assisting in the search and recovery of the body of Anatoly Smolyansky from Lake Piru. Mr. Smolyansky risked and lost his own life saving his daughter.

Members of our Underwater Recovery Unit who assisted Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Dive Team and the Fire Department Search and rescue unit with this search are Dion Hatch, Supervising Lake Lifeguard at Castaic Lake; Ralph Searcy, Supervising Lake Lifeguard at Castaic Lake; Steve Evans, Supervising Lake Lifeguard at Santa Fe Dam; Oscar Villagomez, Senior Lake Lifeguard at Castaic Lake; Manny Barrios, Senior Lake Lifeguard at Castaic Lake and Jose Jimenez, Senior Lake Lifeguard at Santa Fe Dam.

The Los Angeles County Lake Lifeguards safeguard 40 shoreline miles of California's most enjoyed inland waters: Castaic Lake, Puddingstone Lake and Santa Fe Dam. The Lake Lifeguards are specially trained and equipped to provide emergency medical assistance, boating law enforcement, underwater rescue and recovery, accident investigation and marine fire fighting.

The Lake Lifeguard Service of the Department of Parks and Recreation has been the primary law enforcement and emergency response agency for Los Angeles County's inland lakes for over 75 years.

The Lake Lifeguard Underwater Recovery Unit was established in 1976 to provide underwater emergency search and recovery work. The Lake Lifeguard Underwater Recovery Unit conducts regular exercises to master various search and rescue techniques and to become familiar with the underwater topography of our County Lakes. All dive team members are emergency medical technicians and must pass a comprehensive examination reviewing diving medicine, diving physics and underwater problem solving. This Unit specializes in conducting searches in murky freshwater lakes with limited visibility and is on-call ready to respond to any underwater emergency countywide.

Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety
Successfully shuts down series of Auto Thefts at
Frank G. Bonelli Park



Officer Segundo Siguenas

After receiving complaints about auto thefts at Frank G. Bonelli Park, the Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety initiated a stakeout in the park's lower parking lot on August 8, 2009. At approximately 4:30 p.m., Officer Segundo Siguenas observed a suspicious vehicle engaging in behavior that suggested that its driver was probably "casing" vehicles in order to select one (or more) as an auto burglary target.

The officer approached the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop for a Vehicle Code violation. As he approached the vehicle, he noticed that the 17 year-old unlicensed driver's car was overflowing with stereo equipment, cell phones, women's purses, and other electronic equipment, later estimated to be worth around \$10,000 in value at the time of his arrest. The suspect had committed a string of nine auto burglaries that same day.

As Officer Siguenas continued to investigate, the first of 18 victims approached and saw her property in the subject's vehicle. More victims approached the officer when they found that their vehicles had been broken into.

Sheriff's Detectives subsequently served a warrant on the subject's home and recovered property from crimes in Calabasas, San Bernardino, Fontana, Diamond Bar, and San Jacinto. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Detectives contacted Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety and commended the officer for his thoroughness and attention to detail regarding his arrest report and overall investigation. The officer's effort was vital in clearing a number of open cases throughout Southern California.

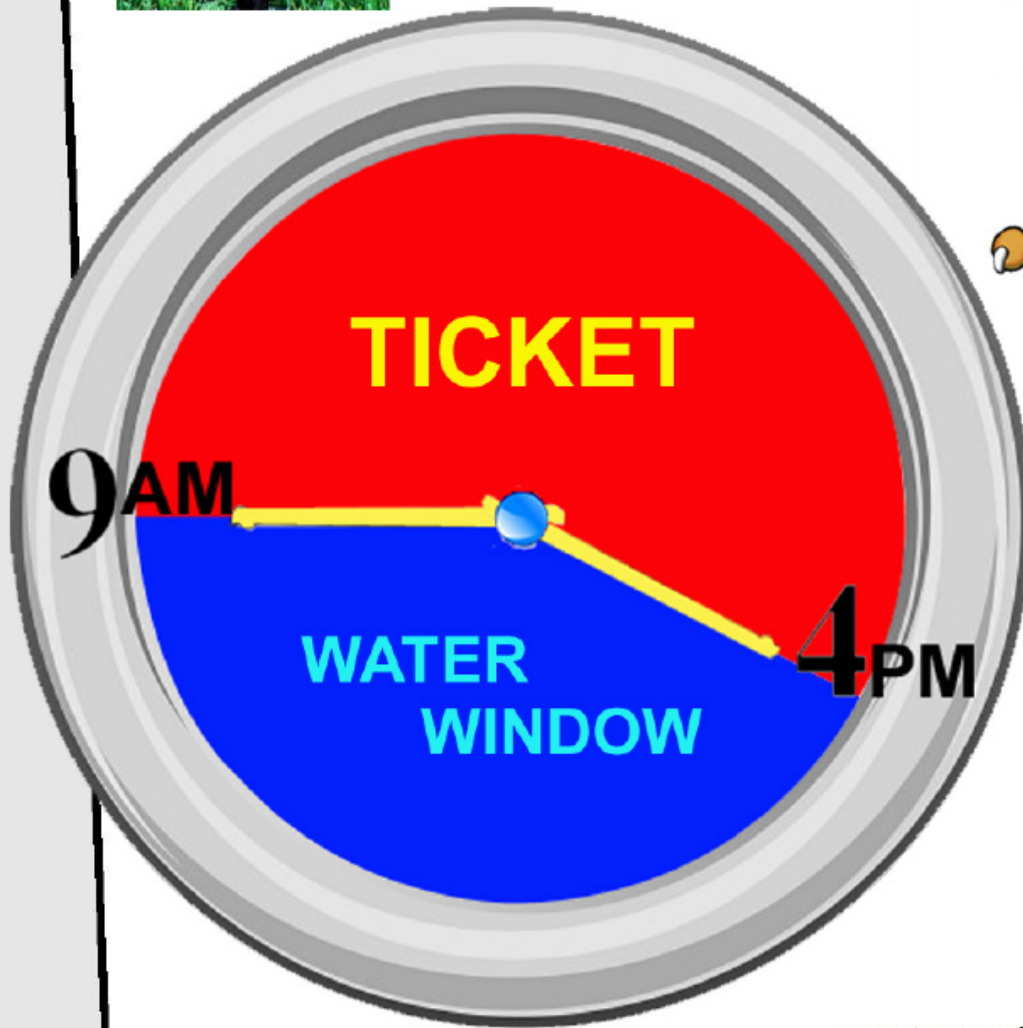
Our Department Director Russ Guiney, Deputy Hayden Sohm, Park Superintendent Dave Campbell and the Regional Facilities Agency would like to commend the Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety, Officer Segundo Siguenas, his division and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department for a job well done and for keeping all of our parks safe for everyone.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



Irrigate between 4pm and 9am!



L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation is actively taking measures to conserve water. For questions on water conservation information, please contact Mozaffar Bahrami of the Water and Conservation Planning Section at mbahrami@parks.lacounty.gov or by phone at (213) 738-4709. Also, for additional water saving tips visit www.LADWP.com or go to www.bewaterwise.com.



HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

I spoke to Arlene Martinez today, she returned my call in just about an hour. I must say (I've been in the event business for 25 years) you guys are really on top of things. Your expedience in returning calls is majorly impressive and appreciated. Thank you and thank your department.

*Alexis Kaiser
QE Productions
Los Angeles, CA*

Thank you for your support of the Junior Golf Program. I am a mother of three boys and the Junior Golf Program was such a fulfilling experience for them. With this economy it is too expensive to enroll them in golf lessons, so your support of this program is very much appreciated. I hope it continues for years to come.

*Mariza Verdugo
Chino Hills, CA*

Both my sons had their first experience with golf this year through the Junior Golf Program. When I heard about this program I signed them up right away. My children had a wonderful time and we may have a future golfer in our hands. Hopefully they will be able to join the program again next year!

*Sheila S. Foster
Northbridge, CA*

Often times we hear about unsung heroes that have touched the life of individuals due to spontaneous events or over the course of a popular campaign, but Oris "Dino" Smiley has managed over decades to remain selfless and has worked tirelessly to build a better and safer community, hoping to afford our youth a brighter and more productive future. Dino personifies dedicated community served and an unwavering commitment to community development and gang prevention.

*Inspired Parent
Los Angeles, CA*

GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our Department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to iperius@parks.lacounty.gov and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of The Green Scene.



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Don Knabe
Chairman
Fourth District

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Department of Parks and Recreation

Russ Guiney
Director

John Wicker
Chief Deputy Director

Kaye Michelson
Special Assistant

*The Green Scene is published
by the Public Information
Office*

Imee Gacad Perius
Editor

Brenda Sanchez
Assistant Editor

Contributors
Joyce Fitzpatrick
Catarah Hampshire

433 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 738-2961

iperius@parks.lacounty.gov

<http://lacounty.info/>
<http://parks.lacounty.gov>