



November/December 2010

THE GREEN SCENE

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS WITH L.A. COUNTY PARKS!

Director Russ Guiney Takes Home Top Honor at 2010 Productivity and Quality Awards Banquet *Department Efficiency Now! Initiative Receives Top Ten Award*

The Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC) recently held the 24th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program (PQA), *Winning with TEAMWORK* at the beautiful Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

This year, the QPC received an incredible 126 entries from 30 departments. The entries reported \$239,883,366 in estimated annual benefits, including \$126,722,322 in cost avoidance, \$50,036,915 in cost savings, and \$63,124,129 in revenue. Service delivery, productivity and cost benefits will continue to grow as these projects are shared with others.

The Quality & Productivity Commission recognized Director Russ Guiney with the Chair Leadership Eagle Award. This prestigious honor, awarded to only one Department Head each year, recognized Director Guiney for his exemplary ways of leading by example, embracing new technologies, advancing collaborative efforts and achieving excellence. Congratulations Russ!

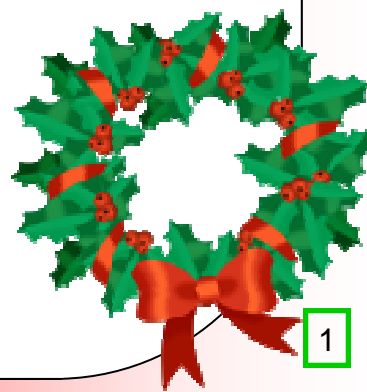


QPC Chairman Algird Leiga and CEO William T Fujioka present the QPC Chair Leadership Eagle Award to Director Russ Guiney

The Department's Efficiency Now! Initiative was one of the Top Ten Award Winners and was honored with the Bronze Eagle Award. As you will remember, the Efficiency Now! Initiative started with an email campaign inviting all department employees to take a fresh look at how they do their work. More than 400 ideas were received, Efficiency Idea Forums were held, six teams of employees studied these ideas, obtained input from County and private subject matter experts and prioritized ideas for increasing revenues and reducing costs. **(Continued on Page 9)**

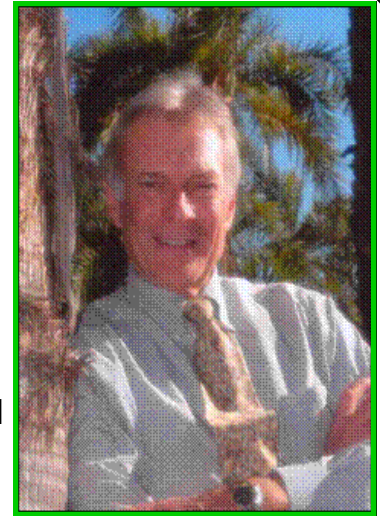
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Greetings from the Director

The change of seasons is always an eventful occurrence for us at the Department of Parks and Recreation. In addition to the foliage and scenery changing in our parks, our programming changes as well. Our swim beaches and most of our pools have closed for the season until next summer. Outdoor sports continue, but there is also a focus on seasonal events and activities for the entire family. Particularly at the end of the year, many of our parks offer free or low cost Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's activities. We served a remarkable 8,655 meals during Thanksgiving! We continue to have a presence and play a role in increasing people's quality of lives, especially during this season where family and togetherness is so important. I would like to thank each of you for your hard work, professionalism and generosity during the holiday seasons and throughout the entire year.



Russ Guiney, Director

"A Brighter Shade of Green" Celebrates the First "Green" Park in Los Angeles County—Eugene A. Obregon Park

Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and the Department of Parks and Recreation recently unveiled the completion of the Solar Roofing Project at Los Angeles County's First "Green" Park, Eugene A. Obregon Park located at 4021 E. First Street, L.A. 90063. Phase I of the Obregon "Green" park project included the completion and installation of a solar photovoltaic array on the roofs of the swimming pool building that houses the men's and women's locker rooms and the Obregon Gymnasium. Solar panels generate electricity from sun light energy and this park project will lower carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and will save the facility \$17,000.00 a year in energy bills. Future sustainable features at



Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina speaks about sustainable elements and energy savings in the community.



Director Russ Guiney recognizes the sponsors and organizations who developed and installed the solar panels at Eugene A. Obregon Park.

Obregon Park will include solar water heating, stormwater infiltration basin, permeable paving, bioretention areas, increased planted areas, vegetated swales and buffers, new efficient irrigation system, green roof parking shade structure and bicycle racks.

Hands on activities and educational opportunities were provided by PermaCity Solar; Los Angeles Conservation Corps; Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; the Metropolitan Water District; Los Angeles County Office of Sustainability and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Special thanks to the great teamwork of the Development

Division staff: Chief Jim Smith, Section Head Bertha Ruiz-Hoffman and their staff; Deputy Director Frank Gonzales and East Agency Staff; Asst. Regional Recreation Directors Anthony Montanez and Susie Hsi; Recreation Services Manager Ricardo Ceja; Obregon Park Superintendent Macedonio Rodriguez and Recreation Services Leader Erica Rascon and the rest of his great staff! Special thanks to partners Los Angeles Conservation Corps and PermaCity Solar. Thank you to Tom Loria and the Tree Farm crew who helped set up all of the booths.

NACPRO Award Winners Honored at the Board of Supervisors Meeting for their NACPRO Awards



L-R: Department of Parks and Recreation Director, Russ Guiney; Park Commissioner Stan Lee, Chief Deputy Director John Wicker, Los Angeles County Park Foundation (LACPF) President, James Webber.

Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Commissioner Stan Lee; Volunteer Kim Rhoads and Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates (ECNCA) were recently recognized by Los Angeles County Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Michael D. Antonovich for their awards from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO).

Stan Lee received the Outstanding Public Official Award, Kim Rhoads received the Outstanding Volunteer Award and Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates received Outstanding Support Organization Award for their exemplary efforts.

Stan Lee has been the Second District appointee to the Parks and Recreation Commission since 2003, where he diligently works to promote County parks and programs. He is the Executive Director for the Aquatics Foundation of Metropolitan Los Angeles, which generated more than \$150,000 of funding for programs and maintenance of pool facilities and received a grant from Edison International that funded a new Aquatics

Training Center at Ted Watkins Park.

He also leads the Los Angeles County Parks Foundation, which is a non-profit organization supporting special programs and fundraising for the Department.

Kim Rhoads is recognized for her tremendous volunteer efforts and creativity that enhances the educational atmosphere of the day camps. She creates new educational subjects or projects that are fun and interesting for children and helps organize and attend day camp trips, while also assisting during special events.

On "Picture Days" she organizes, and entertains over 500 children from the Youth Sports Leagues while they wait to have their pictures taken. She also created "Salute to Seniors Day," an event that honors senior citizens in the community, where she provides all of the food and decorations for more than 80 senior citizens in the community.

The Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates (ECNCA) is a chapter of the Nature Center Associates (NCA), a non-profit support group founded to develop in children and adults an appreciation of the natural world and to preserve Eaton Canyon as a natural area for future generations.

ECNCA has supported Eaton Canyon Natural Area Park and Nature Center by helping to provide quality programs for people of all ages and backgrounds for more than 40 years.



Back: L-R: Maeve McConnell, John Wicker; Mike Wyant (Kim's father), Kimel Conway, Russ Guiney, James Webber; Front: L-R: Stan Lee, Kathleen Ritner, Roy Williams, Kim Rhoads, Karen Mateer, Helen Wong



April 2010 Service Anniversaries



**Steve Duron for
Janis Johnson
35 Years of Service
Assistant Regional
Recreation Director
South Agency**



**Loretta Sutton
35 Years of Service
Senior Typist Clerk
South Agency**



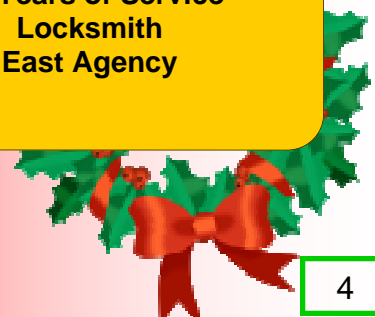
**Ruth Roess
25 Years of Service
Administrative Services
Manager II
Regional Park and
Open Space District**



**Cheri Jimenez
20 Years of Service
Recreation Services Leader
South Agency**



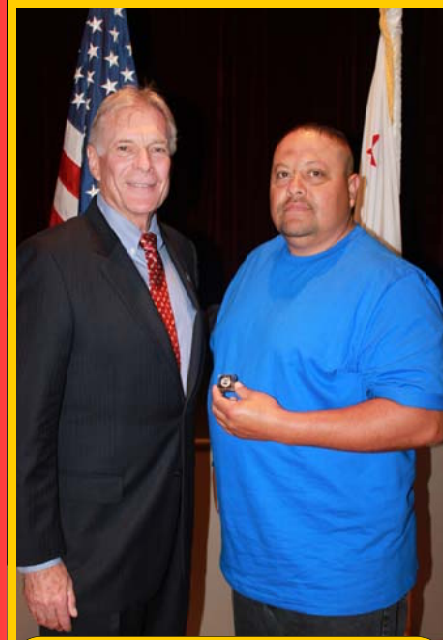
**Darrin Jeffer
20 Years of Service
Locksmith
East Agency**



April 2010 Service Anniversaries



Anthony Montanez
20 Years of Service
Assistant Regional
Recreation Director
East Agency



Luis Castillo
20 Years of Service
Concrete and Cement
Finisher
Regional Facilities Agency

May 2010 Service Anniversaries



Steven Evans
25 Years of Service
Supervising Lake Lifeguard
Regional Facilities Agency



David Campbell, Jr.
20 Years of Service
Regional Park Superintendent III
Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park



Hugo Maldonado
20 Years of Service
Chief Lake Lifeguard
Regional Facilities Agency

June 2010 Service Anniversaries



James Beaudry
30 Years of Service
Senior Lake Lifeguard
Regional Facilities Agency



Eric Armas
25 Years of Service
Power Equipment Operator
Regional Facilities Agency



Marcos Vielmas
25 Years of Service
Senior Grounds
Maintenance Worker
East Agency



Matthew Green
25 Years of Service
Contract Development
Analyst
Administrative Services
Agency



Carmen Garrido
20 Years of Service
Senior Management
Secretary III
Executive Office



Willie Byone
20 Years of Service
Painter Supervisor
South Agency

July 2010 Service Anniversaries



David Acosta
35 Years of Service
Grounds Maintenance Worker
Regional Facilities Agency



James McCarthy
25 Years of Service
Departmental Facilities
Planner I
North Agency



Tracy Latson
25 Years of Service
Recreation Services Supervisor
South Agency



Fernando Cayanan
20 Years of Service
Electrician
Regional Facilities Agency



Antonio Martinez
20 Years of Service
Recreation Services Manager
South Agency



August 2010 Service Anniversaries



Henry Hawkins
35 Years of Service
Arboretum Gardener
Regional Facilities Agency



Timothy Lindsay
20 Years of Service
Regional Parks
Superintendent II
Regional Facilities Agency



Steven Laszlo
20 Years of Service
Electrician
East Agency

September 2010 Service Anniversaries



Steve Duron
35 Years of Service
Regional Operations
Manager
South Agency



Yolanda Galvan
35 Years of Service
Senior Typist Clerk
North Agency



Gloria Belmontes
30 Years of Service
Administrative Services
Manager II
Administrative Services
Agency

September 2010 Service Anniversaries



Irma Diaz
25 Years of Service
Senior Typist Clerk
East Agency



L-R Back row: Dwight LaCroix, Elva Espinoza, Joe Mendoza, Jim Smith, QPC Chair Algird Leiga, CEO William T Fujioka, Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, Mika Yamamoto, Manuel Escobar, Kaye Michelson, Josh Mejia, Hayden Sohm.

Front row: Michelle Whitaker, Peg Lee, Bertha Ruiz-Hoffman, Liz Mendez, Cathy Carrillo-Cox, Ron Cox, Russ Guiney, John Wicker, Norma E. Garcia, Ilona Volkmann, Irl Stalcup

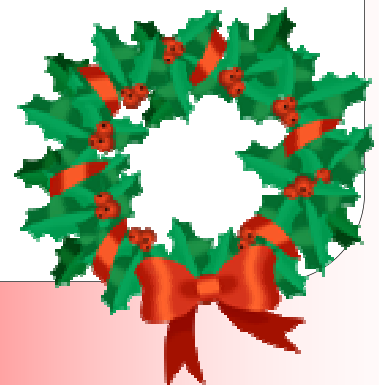
Productivity and Quality Awards Banquet

(continued from Page 1)

The teams hosted an Efficiency Conference where ideas were presented to Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer William T Fujioka and thanks to the creativeness and innovation of staffs several ideas were funded by the CEO. The Efficiency Now! Initiative has resulted in a complete program with an ongoing infrastructure including a committee led by Ilona Volkmann to review new and existing efficiency ideas and keep employees informed of the status of their ideas.

This program can also easily be replicated for use within other County departments and organizations. This award is a tremendous honor and belongs to everyone in the Department who contributed efficiency ideas, participated in the evaluation, the forums, the Efficiency Conference, etc.

Please keep your efficiency ideas coming!



Department Fun at the

L.A. COUNTY FAIR



Director Russ Guiney has fun competing to win a game at the fair.

Los Angeles County Day at the Fair! took place on Sunday, September 12, 2010. This year's celebration offered many interesting booths, animal expos, concerts, games, delicious food and much more for the entire family.

The day was a huge success, with numerous departments coming out to participate in the day's activities. Director Russ Guiney enjoyed an exciting Carnival Game Challenge between the County's Department Heads. County Librarian, Margaret Donnellan Todd took the first prize.

Fairgoers had the opportunity to stop by the Expo, where our Department along with many other County Departments, offered fairgoers an exciting opportunity to interact with and provide valuable information about our Department to

thousands of fair guests.

Russ Guiney, along with his son Chris Guiney, participated with other County employees and Department Heads in the L.A. County Fair Community Parade. Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park lifeguards also participated, creating a visual experience for guests with a life-guard boat towing one of our patrol boats. Fairgoers also enjoyed a horse race in honor of the County.



Los Angeles County Lake Lifeguards from Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park participate in the L.A. County Fair Community Parade. L-R: Supervising Lake Lifeguard, Rob Welch; Lifeguards: Sean Brown, Andrew and Elizabeth Reynoso, Sarah Valvidia.



Special Assistant Kaye Michelson staffs the Department's booth at the Expo.



Placerita Canyon Nature Center Receives Silver LEED-EB Certification

Placerita Canyon Nature Center recently received the coveted U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – Existing Building (LEED-EB) Silver level designation. The LEED-EB System helps building owners and operators measure operations, improvements and maintenance on a consistent scale, with the goal of maximizing operational efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts.

Placerita Canyon Nature Center improvements include five new energy efficient HVAC units with some new ducting; replacement of all windows with energy efficient windows; replacement of all building exterior wall siding with fire-resistant fiber cement panes and provide blown insulation in all exterior walls; reroofing of the entire building including insulation and cool roof at restroom building and other flat roofed areas; enclosing



The newly renovated Placerita Canyon Nature Center

ing of exterior overhead structure to create additional space for a new gift shop; complete ADA upgrade of the building including ADA stalls at both parking lots, ADA compliant path-of-travel from parking lot to and throughout the building and accessible restrooms; new septic and leach field system; new LEED compliant flooring in all interior spaces including linoleum and recycled content carpeting; use of paint material with Low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds); complete restroom renovations and upgrade including water conserving restroom fixtures; replacement of inefficient clerestories in roof with new skylights; new water-efficient plumbing fixtures throughout and courtyard renovations including drainage improvements, replacing court yard fencing, removal of fish-bowl structure, new steps, and park ID signs. The Placerita Canyon Nature Center renovation was a collaboration among Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the 5th District Board office, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Pugh + Scarpa Architectural Firm, the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to ensure a successful renovation at Placerita Canyon and Silver level designation from the USGBC!



National Public Lands Day

The Department of Parks and Recreation National Public Lands Day was a fun-filled day for everyone! Volunteers of all ages worked hard, planting numerous trees and cleaning up debris around park grounds. Food, water and giveaways were provided by local vendors rewarding everyone for participating in such a rewarding event! Participating parks included: Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park; Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Whittier Narrows Nature Center; Schabarum Regional Park; Castaic Lake State Recreation Area and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. For more information about participating in next year's National Public Lands Day event, visit their website at: <http://www.publiclandsday.org>.



Nogales High School Service Club at Schabarum Regional Park



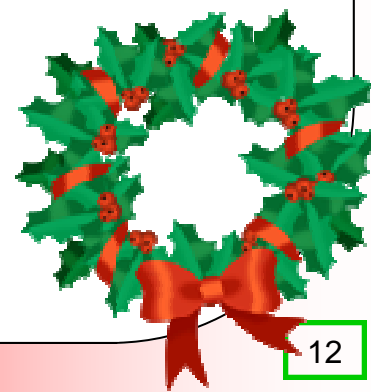
Volunteers digging one of 15 holes to plant trees at Schabarum Regional Park



Volunteers work together planting a tree on Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area grounds



Volunteers of all ages are up for the challenge at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area



HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for allowing **Steve Duron** to serve on the recent County Review Panel initiated by the Department of Public Works. Mr. Duron served as Chairperson for the panel. We acknowledged the additional responsibilities that Mr. Duron had to assume in this role, the extra hours he spent becoming familiar with the materials, and the professionalism he exhibited in handling this assignment.

William T Fujioka
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer

Our Special Districts Division of Parks and Recreation held the Bidder's Conference at the Castaic Sports Complex in September. Dana Spautz and the Grounds Maintenance Staff, Antonio (Tony) Ayala and Blanca Montes, didn't miss a beat in setting up the gym, including chairs, tables, etc. They offered us to assist if there was anything we needed during the conference. Their willingness to help and their compassion shined through. We thank them very much for accommodating us and helping to make our conference run smoothly. They were great and we definitely feel they go above and beyond. High Five! To the North Agency Castaic Sports Complex Staff!

Susan Moreland Sherman
Special Districts, Valencia

My son Tyler Johnson, has had the great privilege of participating once again in the L.A. County Junior Golf Program. Tyler's drive to focus on golf has allowed him to take that learning experience and apply it to other aspects of his life, such as swimming and reading. His social skills and desire to participate in an activity prove that golf can teach a child more than "how to put a ball in a hole". Thank you again for this wonderful "free" opportunity.

Mrs. Kelly Katayama-Johnson
La Habra, CA

GIVE Someone a HIGHFIVE!

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**

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District
Mayor

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

**Department of
Parks and Recreation**

Russ Guiney
Director

John Wicker
Chief Deputy Director

Kaye Michelson
Special Assistant

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