



JULY 2014

Sun and Fun

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Treasure Trove

In Celebration of National Parks and Recreation Month

A chair once used by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A priceless Native American artifact. An autographed photograph of legendary Olympian Jesse Owens. These, along with hundreds of other such items, have been evaluated and catalogued as part of the Department of Parks and Recreation's mission to preserve historical resources.

Over the years, the department has accumulated a treasure trove of artifacts that tell compelling stories about the department's impact on communities in Los Angeles County. Recognizing the importance of preserving these priceless but aging holdings, the department took a proactive stance by adding the position of Associate Curator in 2008.

"When I saw original letters from Presidents of the United States to County Supervisors not being properly protected," said Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney, "and the chair that Martin Luther King Jr. sat in during one of his visits with Supervisor Kenneth Hahn standing in a room where anyone could sit in it, I knew it was the making of a crisis that needed to be curbed."

Placed with the Planning and Development Agency's Environmental and Regulatory Permitting section, the Associate Curator acts as a dedicated steward over cultural resource collections that include historic documents and photographs, memorabilia, civic art, historic properties, and Native American artifacts. This work has resulted in the creation of a web-based database that centralizes the details of thousands of historic artifacts, photographs, and other items of great interest and immeasurable value to the public. The database has become a key component in securing educational resources that should be protected for generations to come.



Photo by Shane Savanapridi

Once the position was filled, Associate Curator Ansley Davies (pictured above) began visiting all of the 174 department properties and inventorying historic and cultural resources. Her research included site visits, as well as collecting and reviewing historic records internally, at historical societies, libraries, online, and at other County departments. "Parks and Recreation is a cornucopia of historic and cultural resources," said Davies. "With this database, we not only keep track of these resources, but also the photographs and fascinating stories behind them. In a way, the database acts as a scrapbook that allows us to safely continue to collect and preserve information for the benefit of future generations," she added.

The information contained in the database is also a tremendous resource for other departments. Thanks to the comprehensive information contained in the database, Public Works can be notified of special conditions, such as archaeological sites, during management of construction projects at department parks and facilities.

Whether as a resource for researchers, ensuring compliance with historic preservation regulations or more efficiently tracking interpretive display and artifact loan agreements, the database ensures that everyone can benefit from the insight and knowledge contained in these irreplaceable pieces of County history.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

(323) 857-6010

www.lacma.org

Through July 27 – Calder and Abstraction: From Avant-Garde to Iconic

Through August 17 – Sam Doyle: The Mind's Eye

Through August 24 – Night in Day

Through November 16 – Edward Biberman, Abbot Kinney and the Story of Venice

Through December 7 – The Painted City: Art from Teotihuacan

Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Through August 24 – We Will Rock You

Kirk Douglas Theatre

Through August 10 – Princess and Pirates

Mark Taper Forum

Through August 17 – Buyer & Cellar

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

October 9 through 12 – Australian Ballet's Swan Lake with live orchestra

Walt Disney Concert Hall

August 16 – Philippine Chamber Singers Los Angeles

September 30 – Opening Night Concert & Gala: A John Williams Celebration

October 2 through October 5 – Dudamel & Mahler 5

Ford Theatres

(323) 461-3673

<http://fordtheatres.org>

August 1 – Alice in Wonderland

August 9 – Forever Flamenco

August 17 – Serenata Filipina

Grand Park

www.grandparkla.org

Every Wednesday and Thursday – Lunch A La Park

Every Wednesday – Grand Park's Boot Camp

July 26 – National Dance Day

Hollywood Bowl

(323) 850-2000

www.hollywoodbowl.com

July 29 – Americas & Americans

July 30 – Americas & Americans - Noche de Cine

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



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Check out the DIGEST at

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



health talk

by **Mark Richman, M.D., M.P.H.**
Physician Specialist, Emergency Medicine
Olive View-UCLA Medical Center
 and **Amy Skelton, Student Volunteer**



The Myth of Multi-tasking

Have you ever switched rapidly between tasks to “be more efficient?” Although you may feel productive, multi-tasking actually limits productivity and learning because the brain can only focus on one thing at a time.

Multi-tasking makes us:

- Less efficient: Imagine walking 10 feet forward, stopping to look at something to your side. When you re-start, you must walk a few feet backward to begin. Do this time and again. You will achieve your goal, but less efficiently than had you concentrated fully on the task (i.e., walked forward without distraction).
- Lose “train of thought:” When we switch attention from one activity or thought to another, we lose content.
- Think poorly: Switching rapidly between different information causes them to mingle in our brains. This prevents us from focusing on which task needs to get done and how to execute it.
- Forgetful: Multi-taskers are distracted by unimportant information in short-term memory. This impairs our ability to form important, long-term memories.
- Stressed out.

Multi-tasking does not improve with practice. Just the opposite. Frequent multi-taskers perform worse than non-multi-taskers when given multiple tasks. This is probably because of long-term deterioration of skills such as prioritization, concentration, and memory.

In sum, multi-tasking provides an illusion of efficiency and effectiveness, but is counter-productive. Use cautiously. And, of course, do not multi-task while doing important activities such as driving.

Big!World!Fun! at the Ford

The world is a big place. We don’t always get the chance to travel to far off destinations like Brazil, Africa and Cambodia to taste their culinary delights, soak in their sites, breath in their aromas. Lucky for us, the Ford Theatres’ **Big!World!Fun!** family series makes the world a little smaller. Perfect for the wee ones in our lives.

Starting July 5, Los Angeles County artists will be bringing the sights and sounds of the world to us each Saturday morning. Free for children and only \$5 for adults, these one hour virtual excursions take place on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and offer the opportunity to immerse yourself in another culture without all of the hassle and expense that travel can bring.

Big!World!Fun! highlights include **Shin Dance Company**, who bring ancient Chinese folklore to life through graceful movements and colorful costumes (August 12); a rousing tap dance performance that features the jazzy melodies and fancy footwork of **Sarah Reich’s Tap Music Project** (August 2); and the infectious reggae beats and soulful singing of **Aaron Nigel Smith** (August 30).

Arrive early for kid-friendly nature activities provided by the **Natural History Museum** and **County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation, Natural Areas Division**. Materials are provided and everyone is welcome. Gates open at 9 a.m.

The **County of Los Angeles Public Library** will once again provide customized book lists. The Library and **First 5 LA** will also be handing out children’s books at select **Big!World!Fun!** shows. Visit FordTheatres.org/family for more info.





COUNTYWIDE FITNESS CHALLENGE 2014



GET CULTURED!

Join us for a day of family fun featuring Dance Mania!

2-MILE HIKE THROUGH THE HILLS
BEGINNER FITNESS WALK

DANCE MASH-UP
MASTER CLASS

FREE GIVEAWAYS
DRAWING PRIZES

YOGA

CHAIR MASSAGE

NUTRITIONAL COUNSELING



EVENT
SPONSOR



Hollywood Bowl

2301 North Highland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90068
3rd Supervisorial District

Saturday, August 9, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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





Quality and Productivity Commissioners are joined by Sheriff John Scott and Commander Mike Parker for a "selfie."

2014 Leadership Conference

Social Media: Bridging the Gap

On the spot Twitter postings and "selfies," presentations on using Twitter and other forms of social media in the workplace, as well as the benefits of using predictive analytics and open data to inform decision making, highlighted the County's 12th Annual Leadership Conference. "Social Media: Bridging the Gap" was the theme.

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich welcomed more than 150 County Department Directors, Commissioners, senior executives and various managers to the gathering, which was held at the Music Center on May 28, 2014. The Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the Chief Executive Office and the Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC), sponsored the event.

"Your theme and focus on social media provides a forum for County decision makers and stakeholders to see the value of all forms of communication," said Supervisor Antonovich. "Our challenge to all of you is to reinforce to all managers that it is vital to think outside the box, bring forward new ideas and adopt an attitude that promotes productivity," he told the capacity audience.

Supervisor Antonovich also thanked the QPC for "ensuring that the County is part of the conversation."

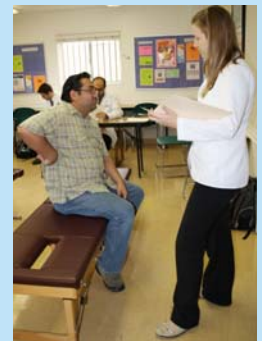
Bridging the Gap!

Gail Farber, Director of Public Works, and Dean Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, discussed how they are using social media, such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Tumblr, to connect, engage, and create communities.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
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Chiropractic Services for Recovery from Summertime Activities

Southern California weather and longer summer evenings provide great opportunities to set your body in motion. The summer is a great season for getting in shape and connecting with your body. This is the time to play a sport, participate in aerobic exercise, or take a brisk walk after work. However, with all these new summer activities comes the extra pressure and strain on the back and body. These activities may cause fatigue and stress to muscles, which can also lead to other problems and injuries. Chiropractic services can help you recover from these problems.



The Community Resource Center (CRC) in unincorporated South Whittier recently partnered with the Southern California University of Health Sciences' Chiropractic College program to provide chiropractic health services to the residents of the Southeast area of Los Angeles County. The CRC pursued the partnership for chiropractic services at their facility as an alternative method to educate residents on healthy ways to improve their quality of life.

Chiropractors working at the CRC see the effects on the bodies of patients. Dr. Amir Aghlara, assistant professor, provides oversight of the college's students who work with the local residents. He explains, "As you are exercising, take time to work on breathing and posture - improving these will greatly enhance your health."

Even during hot weather, the body needs to be stretched and warmed-up. "Chiropractic adjustments release muscle tension, reduce spinal nerve irritation, and improve circulation" states Dr. Aghlara.

Through the chiropractic care service, patients are also educated on relaxation techniques, posture and other therapies. A balance of proper exercise, rest and diet are also important to your exercise regime. The chiropractic treatments at the CRC will help local residents enjoy their summertime activities.

For more information on this and other Community Resource Center services, visit www.swcrc.org or call (562) 946-2425.

Summer Is Here!

This is the perfect time to have your
High School or College student
Volunteer at a DPSS Office!



Provide Valuable Services to the Community
Gain Highly Marketable Skills
Gain On-The-Job Experience

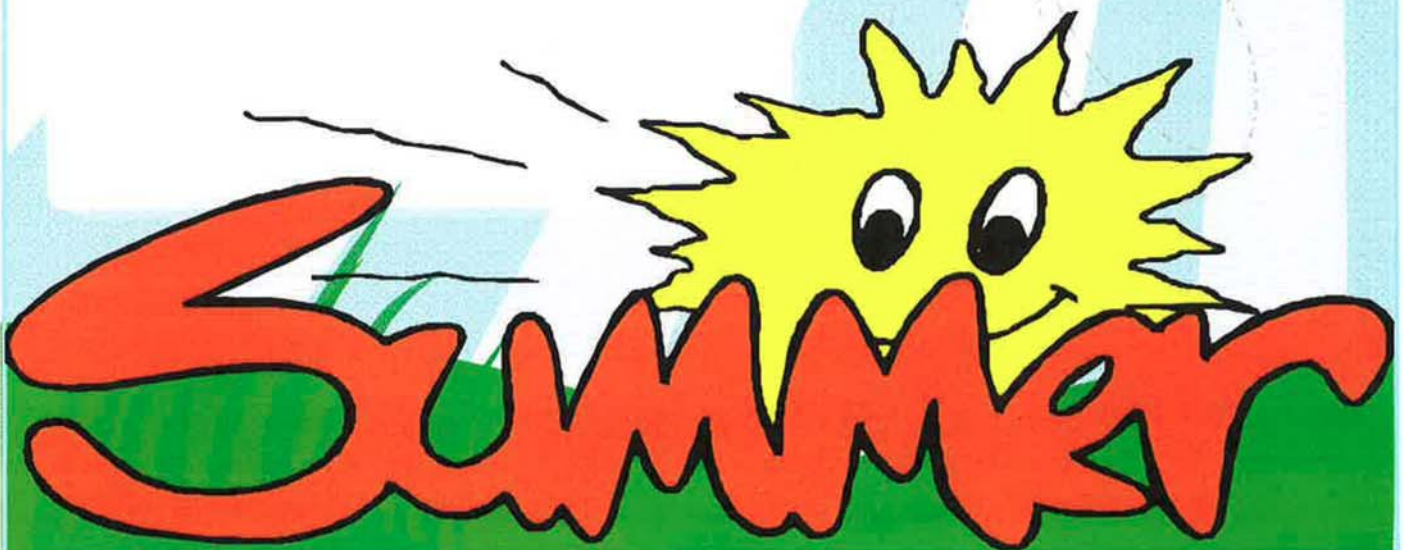
Volunteers gain experience that is highly marketable in the workforce today. Volunteers commit to serving in one or more ongoing assignments. The number of hours served is often 20-40 hours per week. Volunteers will be able to use their expertise, talents and wisdom to serve individuals, families and children. Make this a memorable and productive Summer!

All Volunteers:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Complete a DPSS volunteer application and confidentiality agreement
- Complete a personal background/fingerprint check

The DPSS Volunteer Services Section offers volunteer opportunities of true value for high school and college students.

For more information on volunteer placement, please contact
Erica Moya, DPSS Volunteer Coordinator, at (213) 744-4348
or email dpssvolunteers@dpss.lacounty.gov



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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Supervisor Michael Antonovich and Sheriff John Scott join Commissioners Pat Johnson and Jaclyn Tilley Hill, Chair Emeritus.

Dr. Steven J. Golightly, Director of the Child Support Services Department, made a compelling presentation in favor of using social media to compile program statistics and then apply the data to performance measures. These processes, commonly referred to as “Predictive Analytics,” are “an effective way to inform decision making,” according to Dr. Golightly.

Michael Parker, Sheriff’s Department Commander, wowed the audience with graphics, salient facts, and information on his extensive use of social media in daily operations, including allocating resources to ensure public safety.

Ron Galperin, Los Angeles City Controller, who has been on the cutting edge of government transparency and openness, enlightened attendees on the methods he has used to transform the way the City shares its data with the public.

Ryan Alsop, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, provided insight into how the County’s use of social media bridges the gap between government and the people it serves.

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, admitted to being a reluctant convert to the value and necessity of using social media in government. He encouraged County departments to use Twitter and other forms of social media to engage the public in a two-way dialogue and to improve services.

WeTip
WELFARE FRAUD
1 (800) 87-FRAUD

Share Your Heart Share Your Home



Photo by Daniele Rose

When people consider adoptions, they oftentimes think that only infants and very young children are “good” candidates for adoption. However, for some, changing diapers or not being able to sleep in a bit on the weekends can deter people from adopting. Many people do not know that adopting a teenager is a great option. Frequently overlooked because people assume they “wouldn’t want to be adopted at an older age,” these are the children who wait the longest for an adoptive family, sometimes even aging out of foster care as young adults with no family to call their own. Teens, who are adopted, can sometimes receive college tuition assistance in addition to monthly Adoption Assistance payments and Medi-cal insurance. Help us tackle this myth by letting friends and family know that teens do want to be adopted and are successfully adopted in Los Angeles County and across the nation every day.

Meet Jasmine, an outgoing 13-year-old, who is not afraid to advocate for herself in her search for a forever family. She very much wants to be a part of someone’s family. Jasmine has an extroverted personality that sparkles and shines along with her beautiful smile. She is not shy and is quick to make friends wherever she goes. Jasmine is a young lady who has a wide range of interests. Described as a girly girl, she loves to have her nails painted and get her hair done. Can you say Spa day? She also enjoys shopping and jokingly says “what teenager doesn’t?” She is always willing to try a new activity and is enjoying her new sport, tennis! She claims to be pretty good with any sport and because she is tall, says she is a natural at basketball. It doesn’t stop there as Jasmine’s next goal is to take up a musical instrument. She participates in choir and enjoys singing and thinks playing an instrument would be “perfect” for her. As a newly turned teen, she has many dreams for her future, but her biggest “goal” is to find herself an “awesome family who will stick by my side NO MATTER WHAT”. Be that family for Jasmine and consider adopting this amazing teen!

COMMUTER BENEFIT PLAN



County of Los Angeles

Introducing: The WageWorks Commuter Card

The County of Los Angeles Commuter Benefit Plan makes it easy to save on taxes and enjoy convenient automatic payment and delivery features for your transit expenses. Your WageWorks Commuter Card is your key to unlocking transit expense savings.

What is a WageWorks Commuter Card?

The Commuter Card is a reloadable transportation benefit card. The Card is ONLY accepted at transit agencies or designated transit retail centers where only transit passes, tickets, fare cards, and vanpool passes are sold. The Card can only be used for purchasing transit products under the County Commuter Benefit Plan.

How do I get my WageWorks Commuter Card?

Your WageWorks Commuter Card will arrive within 7-10 business days from the time you enroll in the plan and order the Card. The Card can be re-filled on a monthly basis, eliminating the need of a new card each month.

How do I use the Commuter Card?

The Commuter Card is best suited for those transit agencies that have vending machines available. It is also accepted at designated retail centers where only transit passes, tickets, fare cards, and vanpool passes are sold. Use the Card the same way you would use a credit card at your local transit agency; no PIN number is required. You can only use the Commuter Card for commuter products as defined by the tax code that governs this benefit program.

Should I choose "DEBIT" or "CREDIT" for a Commuter Card transaction if asked?

You should choose "CREDIT" for any Commuter Card transaction that requires the information. If a signature is required, then provide a signature as requested. "DEBIT" cannot be used because there is no PIN (Personal Identification Number) associated with the Card.

How do I activate my Commuter Card?

You can activate your Commuter Card by calling the toll-free number on the sticker attached to the front of the card.

Can I load my personal funds onto the Commuter Card?

No, Commuter Cards are only reloaded based on your monthly benefit order through payroll deduction.

How long are funds good for?

Funds placed on the Commuter Card do not expire. As long as you remain enrolled in the program, unused funds will roll over to the next year. However, you should avoid building up an excess balance as funds have to be used for eligible commuting expenses and cannot be refunded as cash. If you terminate employment at the County, the funds will be available 90 days after your termination date.

How can I check my card balance?

The quickest and easiest way to check your balance is by logging into your account online at www.wageworks.com. If you have a web-enabled device, you can check your balance at any time and any place at our mobile site.

Visit www.wageworks.com for online access to all your commuter account details, and watch for monthly reminder emails. Or call 1-877-WageWorks (1-877-924-3967) Monday through Friday, from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time.





DHR's Wellness Corner

Bringing you inspiration from around the County

This edition features Ron Moskowitz (fifth from left), Chief Information Officer at Treasurer and Tax Collector. Find him and his staff in Grand Park daily, leading the way to wellness!

TTC's Daily Walk with Ron

At the Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC), my staff and I spend most of our work day sitting at our desks. As most of you can imagine (or relate), this sedentary lifestyle—coupled with less than optimal eating habits—results in a few (or more) unwanted pounds. A group of us realized that enough was enough, and we had to do something about it so...we walk!

It started after we decided to join the Countywide Fitness Challenge Interagency Biggest Loser Contest. We originally thought that doing some type of exercise together would help us lose some weight, so we committed to a daily 20-minute group walk. At first, it was only about trying to reach a weight goal. After a few days, it became more about being healthy!

While we were slowly losing a few small things (weight, belt size, etc.), we quickly gained other important things (energy, motivation, camaraderie, and happiness). Soon, others who were not part of the initial group decided to join in.

Although the weight loss challenge is over, our group walk is now an organized and voluntary option for the entire Systems Branch. Not everyone can make it every day, but the 'Daily Walk with Ron' is a calendar item in everyone's Outlook should they wish and are able to join.

If you would like to organize a voluntary group walk in your area, here are a few suggestions:

- 1) Find a 'Lead Walker' (possibly a manager) who can make it regularly and can help organize time and days.
- 2) Keep a pair of walking shoes under your desk for a quick change and as a reminder!
- 3) Choose a regular route that aims for about a 20-minute (or less) mile.
- 4) Set a general pace that everyone can enjoy.
- 5) At the end of every walk, share a 'Good Job!' and a 'Thank you!' with your team and be proud that you all did it!

Green Leadership Awards Finalists 2014

Supervisor Knabe, CEO Sponsor Reception

The offices of Supervisor Don Knabe, Board Chairman, and William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, recently sponsored a reception to honor the 2014 finalists of the County's Green Leadership Awards (GLA).

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and former Supervisor Yvonne Burke introduced the motion to create the annual GLA program, which recognizes outstanding achievement in protecting the environment.

GLA categories and the finalists/projects were **Business**, Duvivier Architects, "Integrating Water/Architecture;" **Non-Profit**, Food Forward, "Distribution of Farmers Market Produce to the Hungry;" **Resident**, Larissa Nickel and Karyl Newman, "DEHSART: Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Eco-Art;" and **L.A. County Department**, Public Social Services, "Toy Loan Recycling Initiative."

Scrolls were presented by Joel Bellman, Press Deputy, Supervisor Yaroslavsky; Michelle Vega, Deputy, Supervisor Michael Antonovich; Dave Chittenden, Deputy Director, Internal Services Department (ISD); and Howard Choy, Manager, ISD Office of Sustainability.



Finalists receive Board scrolls. From left Board Deputy Michelle Vega; DPSS Director Sheryl Spiller; Marcia Blachman-Benitez, DPSS; Larissa Nickel, DEHSART; Board Deputy Joel Bellman; Karyl Newman, DEHSART; Howard Choy; Isabelle Duvivier, Duvivier Architects; Dave Chittenden; and Emily Parker, Food Forward.

Summer safety tips for your pets

•Never leave your pets in vehicles. Just running inside for a quick errand can be deadly to a pet. Did you know an outside temperature of 85 degrees can cause a temperature of 104 degrees inside a vehicle within 10 minutes, and 119 degrees within half an hour? (see chart below)

•Pets at home must be provided with plenty of drinking water and a shaded area they can retreat to.

•Be mindful that fireworks can startle and disorient your cat or dog, activating their flight instinct to run. We strongly recommend keeping your dogs and cats indoors during the 4th of July week celebrations as a safety precaution; remember that tags and microchips are important tools for reuniting lost pets with their families.

•As a friendly reminder, ensure that pets are allowed at any location you visit prior to departure.

•Remember if you plan to take your pets to pet-friendly beaches, cleaning up after them is mandatory.

DACC wishes you and your pets a safe summer!
For more safety tips, please visit: 1.usa.gov/1kpFYts



Temperature Reference

		Outside Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)					
		70*	75*	80*	85*	90*	95*
Temperature Inside a Vehicle	After 10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
	After 20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
	After 30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
	After 40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
	After 50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
	After 60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
	More than an hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

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

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Juanita Mason
HUMAN RESOURCES: Lorraine P. Fiore
SUPERIOR COURT: James A. Cook

40+ Years

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Irma Montoya
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Kathye A. Pouncey
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Muriel H. Lett
HEALTH SERVICES: Anna M. Carrera
MENTAL HEALTH: Annie L. Fortson
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Kimberly Talbert
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Patricia J. Brown

35+ Years

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL: Patsy Jenkins, Mary Lukins
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Antoinette D. Davis
HEALTH SERVICES: Cuthbert R. Charles, Joan I. Farris, Patricia L. Flynn, Arlene Jacob, Salvador Rosales
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Laura A. Green
PUBLIC HEALTH: Roberta B. Hollis
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: La Jan D. Stansell, Dolores Thompson Smi, Linda Winesberry

30+ Years

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Nina McNeil
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Kevin Ferguson
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Jo Ann Foster, Barbara Griffin
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Deborah Kass
FIRE: Patrick W. Kelly, Jeffrey A. Koeritz, Alan G. McConnell
HEALTH SERVICES: Michelle P. Ambrosio, Joyclen Armstrong-Lov E, Blanca E. Hussain, Han-Ying L. Ma, Mariana F. Pacheco, Kimberly A. Ruiz, Carolyn J. Tarrin
PUBLIC HEALTH: Natalie Oganessian
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Erlinda Cardona

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Harrison Y. Wakida
SHERIFF: Steven J. Bisaha, Dana M. Ellison, John B. Powell, James E. Wolfe, Reginald L. Wright
SUPERIOR COURT: Delores Odom-Stocks, Sylvia R. Santiago

25+ Years

ASSESSOR: Linda Chen
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Andrew Doswell
FIRE: Gabriel B. Etcheverry, Stuart A. Moore
HEALTH SERVICES: Leticia M. Banuelos, Armando R. Garcia, Emma N. Macaraeg, Florence Martinez, Catherine E. Rucker, Maria A. Sanchez, Tracy A. Prudolm
MENTAL HEALTH: Lawrence Hurst
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Carol A. Lowell
PUBLIC HEALTH: Teresa J. De La Puente, Jungae S. Lee, David Y. Takehara
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Diane M. Rizo
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Silvia R. Trochez
SHERIFF: Teresa O. Evers, Eunsook S. Hainline, Kent E. Kroeger, Marcelle E. Murr, Martin C. Mutuc, Rita E. Navarrette, Sung J. Pak, Teri Reinhardt, Alex G. Strouzer
SUPERIOR COURT: Vivienne T. Daniels, Margarita A. Katinas

Rideshare L.A. County!

*from the CEO/
Office of Workplace Programs*

What if you could get up in the morning, make your coffee, get ready for work, and then commute a total of...20 feet? You could if you Telework. You may know the saying, "Don't take your work home with you," but in this case, it's a good thing.

Telework means working from home. It helps to reduce air pollution and traffic, and helps save lives. By teleworking at least one day a week, you can make a big difference by reducing the amount of emissions your car generates when you drive alone. And reducing emissions will help lead to a reduction in health related problems from air pollution. By teleworking, you'll make a difference while enjoying the lack of a commute.

Take pride, share the ride.



Home-Buying Tips for First-Time Buyers

Summer is a popular time of the year for buying a home. Purchasing a home is very exciting. It is the largest purchase many of us will ever make. Here are some tips you should consider during your house hunt to be informed and avoid getting ripped off:

Get educated

Purchasing a home can be stressful. If you are not educated on the process, then you will be more vulnerable to getting ripped off. Take a first time buyers class from a HUD-approved counseling agency to learn about what to expect during the process and how to best prepare.

Hire a licensed Real Estate Agent

Only use a licensed real estate agent or realtor to assist you in purchasing a home. You can confirm their license status by visiting www.bre.ca.gov. The California Bureau of Real Estate licenses and regulates real estate agents and realtors. They have a helpful checklist for hiring a real estate agent that you may find useful.

Get pre-approved

Create a budget and stick to it. Before you begin looking for a home, it is best to meet with a loan officer or broker and get pre-approved for a mortgage so you know exactly what you can afford. Submitting your pre-approval letter with your offer may help to make your offer more attractive to a seller.

Research homeownership programs

There are many First Time Buyer programs available to make homeownership accessible to low and moderate income families. Many of these programs offer down payment assistance. The County of Los Angeles Community Development Commission offers such programs. Visit their site for more information.

Get an Inspection

Get a home inspection, even if you are purchasing new construction. A home inspector will identify repairs that need to be made, items that should be replaced, estimate the remaining life of the home's mechanical systems (i.e. plumbing, air conditioning, etc.), and evaluate the structure of the home.

Escrow

Purchasing a home usually takes at minimum 30 days. This period is known as escrow, during which homes are bought and sold. Money is exchanged and documents are signed. Your escrow will be assigned to an escrow officer who handles the funds and processes paperwork pertaining to your purchase. Make sure the company is licensed and in good standing. Use the State's Multiple Department License Lookup tool to ensure that your escrow company is licensed and in good standing.

Review the loan disclosures

You will receive several disclosures during escrow. It is critical that you review them for accuracy and to make sure you understand them.

Good Faith Estimate (GFE). This document provides you with information about the terms of the loan you applied for and describes the estimated costs you will have to pay to obtain the loan. Your broker or lender must provide you with a GFE within 3 business days of receiving your loan application.

HUD-1 Settlement Statement. This 3-page statement itemizes the buyers' and sellers' fees, taxes, and credits associated with the transaction. It is not an estimate like the GFE. You should receive and review this document at least one day prior to closing. Your final HUD 1 illustrates the charges you will actually pay.

Be aware of your new expenses

There are many expenses associated with homeownership. Be aware of Home Owner Association (HOA) dues, homeowners insurance and property taxes. You will receive a Supplemental Tax Bill shortly after your escrow closes. This is an out-of-pocket expense that you are responsible for (this bill is not paid during escrow).

Have questions? Call us at (800) 593-8222.

Free Marina Movie Nights

The Department of Beaches and Harbors presents the return of Free Marina Movie Nights in Marina del Rey.

Saturday, August 9, 2014—*Despicable Me*

Thursday, August 14, 2014—IMAX's *Born to Be Wild I*

Saturday, August 23, 2014—*The Never Ending Story*

All screenings start at 8 p.m. in Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way. Picnic on the grass, or try some of the gourmet food trucks on site.

Parking is available in Lot 4 located at 13500 Mindanao Way. Prices are as posted. For additional information, call the Marina del Visitor's Center at (310) 305-9545 or visit the department's website at <http://marinadelrey.lacounty.gov>.