



Local Children Lose Out On \$162 Million In Child-Care Funding

Thousands of local children are losing out on access to millions of dollars in free child-care funds because of non-flexible rules in how this funding can be spent. Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, unveiled a plan that includes changing these funding rules in order to ensure that local children fully benefit from all the child-care support they are entitled to.



Child-care providers in the County of Los Angeles, both in-home and private providers, have access to

millions of dollars in child-care funding from the State of California every year to provide subsidies that allow children from low-income families access to child-care. The problem is that child-care providers face antiquated contracting processes which impair their ability to serve as many children as possible at the highest level of quality.

The result is that between 2005 and 2008, over \$162 million in unused child-care funds were sent back to the state from providers in the County of Los Angeles. The need for those dollars is well documented. In 2008, only 11,000 infants who qualify for subsidized care were served, out of an eligible population of 116,000. Only 28,000 qualifying school-aged children were served, out of an eligible population of 260,000. Only 32,000 of pre-school aged children are served out of an eligible population of 110,000. There are also over 51,000 children on waiting lists for subsidized care in this County, 60 percent of who are in need of full time care.

“The fact that we are sending even a single dollar back to the state is unacceptable, and this situation is but one example of the inefficient, “silo” approach we have in place on this issue,” said Supervisor Knabe. “Clearly the rules for how this child-care funding can be spent are not aligned with the needs of our children locally.”

“With this motion, we are going to be looking closely at why this is happening and how we can fix it so that our children have access to all the child-care they are entitled to have.”

HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 41 Issue 2

Event Calendar.....	2
Ridley-Thomas' Public Safety Initiatives Great Start for 2009.....	3
RETIREES.....	4
Board Honors True "Action Heroes" in Ocean Rescue.....	4
County to Offer New Series of Property Tax Seminars.....	5
2008 Children's ScoreCard.....	5
ENRICHING LIVES: Statewide Case Management System.....	6-7
County of Los Angeles Celebrates 25 Years of Trauma Services.....	8
Antonovich Unveils Online Nursing Home Grading System.....	9
Misleading Mailers Offer Lower Property Taxes.....	10
Antonovich Tours eSolar Energy Plant in Lancaster.....	10
Molina Kicks Off East L.A. Time Capsule Burial Ceremony.....	11
Share It: Responsible Pet Owner's Month.....	12

EVENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the County of Los Angeles Present: The 12th Annual “Remembering Our Veterans: Past, Present and Future”

Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Arcadia County Park
405 S. Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006
(626) 967-1441

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes, please visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-4623

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90036

(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

Arts

Through March 15 - Five Centuries of Indonesian Textiles: Selections from the Mary Hunt Kahlenberg Collection

Through March 29 - Francis Alÿs: Fabiola

Through April 19 - Shell-Shocked: Expressionism after the Great War: Selections from the Robert Gore Rifkind Center for German Expressionist Studies

Through April 19 - Art of Two Germanys/Cold War Cultures

Music

Sundays Live – Every Sunday at 6 p.m.

For more information on LACMA’s Music Programs, please call (323) 857-6115

Music Center
135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211
www.musiccenter.org

Walt Disney Concert Hall

www.musiccenter.org

March 18-22 - Alvin Ailey Dance Theater

Los Angeles Philharmonic

www.laphil.com
(323) 850-2000

Center Theatre Group

www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre

March 11-29 - Frost/Nixon

April 18-May 31 - Ain’t Misbehavin’

Mark Taper Forum

Through March 15 – Pippin

April 2 to May 17 - Lydia

Kirk Douglas Theatre

March 14-18 – DouglasPlus

March 14 - Darwin

March 18-21 - How Theatre Failed America

March 22 - The Last Cargo Cult

March 26-28 - The Projectionist

Los Angeles Opera

(performances in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion)

www.losangelesopera.com

Through March 15 – Wagner’s Das Rheingold

April 4-25 - Die Walküre

Los Angeles Master Chorale

www.lamc.org

Mar 29 - Fold Songs: Brahms and Copland

May 5 - Haydn and Messiaen

Natural History Museum

900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007

For a list of events, please visit www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO



Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST* may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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for information on employment
opportunities with the
County of Los Angeles

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' Public Safety Initiatives a Great Start for 2009

'Gift for Guns' and 'Love Them, Don't Shoot Them! Please Don't Fire Your Gun into the Air This New Year's Eve' programs are aimed at making communities safer for residents of the Second District

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, joined by Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton, and Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, reached out to County residents at a press conference at the Century Sheriff's Station for their participation in keeping our communities safer by not shooting guns into the air this past New Year's Eve.

"The community response to getting guns off the streets of our communities has been phenomenal and has exceeded expectations," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "I have taken a personal stand for the removal of guns from our communities and encourage residents to be responsible and not fire guns into the air at anytime, especially on New Year's Eve."

One of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' first public safety initiatives aimed at making communities safer for residents of the Second District, was the safe surrendering of firearms in both Lennox and Compton at the holiday 'Gift for Guns' program.

The program encouraged the voluntary surrender of any firearms – no questions asked, in exchange for gift certificates ranging from \$50 to \$200 redeemable at Ralphs, Food 4 Less and Target. These initiatives are the first of two similar holiday gun surrenders to promote gun violence reduction in the Second District during the holiday season.

Over 1,800 guns were collected in Compton and Lennox within a six-week time period. Of these 1,800 weapons, 303 weapons and over 1,700 rounds of ammunition were collected on Saturday, December 27, 2008 at the 'Gifts for Guns' program held in the City of Compton at Ralph's Supermarket located at 280 E. Compton Boulevard.

"I will actively sponsor and support more gun surrender programs throughout the County of Los Angeles," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "I intend to continue the fight, alongside the Sheriff's Department, to keep our communities safe; our streets free of crime; and our schools a place where safety is not questioned and learning can take place."



RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 40 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Ann M. Rain
HEALTH SERVICES: Patricia Adams, Shirley M. Moore
MENTAL HEALTH: Elfredia F. Charlot
PUBLIC HEALTH: Anthony Bacon, Carolyn A. Dong, Yolanda Galvan, Ronald Smith
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Heather L. Bone, Robert E. Martin, Janet E. Metters, Herminia Provencio, Carol A. Riedel, Rodger D. Rieth, Ruth L. Ross, Geraldine West
PUBLIC WORKS: Lloyd E. Moore
SUPERIOR COURT: Bonnie J. Covey, Walter C. McKenzie

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Del L. Huff
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Sandra E. Bush, Gail M. Juliano
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Toshiko Ishihara, Brian L. Wooldridge
FIRE: Nancy Ashmore, Norman L. Branch, Rex A. Fisk, Kevin T. Montoya, Gerald P. Munoz
HEALTH SERVICES: Thelma B. Armstrong, Stephen Baker, Mary B. Cannon, Judith E. Clarke, Olga Contreras, Arliss Dawson, Sheree Ellis, Daniel Essin, Martha I. Johnson, Linda D. Lopez, Kenneth L. Mar, Mary A. Mosley, Veal M. Neal, Peggy A. Olivias, Evelyn Roux, Lucille Starr
INTERNAL SERVICES: Frank R. Bollinger, Joe L. Callum, Stephen P. Henry, Ronnie J. Hildred, Herbert C. Yen
MENTAL HEALTH: Linda E. Latham, Teresa Quijano
PROBATION: Michelle Ashby, Bonie R. Daugherty, Steve I. Hernandez, Virginia L. Snapp
PUBLIC HEALTH: John C. Bacon, Hollis Butler, Patricia A. Hooper
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Barbara C. Alaniz, Edgar L. Henry, Thanh N. Le, Ruben Mejia, Don Taylor, Mauvolyene Taylor, Ricardo T. Wilson

PUBLIC WORKS: Jerry E. Bailey, Jack R. Fitzgerald
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Pablo C. Castro
SHERIFF: Anthony Adragna Jr., Peter G. Amico, Ernest R. Booker Jr., Lynda R. Castro, Timothy F. Cornell, Robert J. Costa, John J. Demooy, Robert F. Galarneau, Allan R. Garcia, Paul E. Greve, David J. Hernandez, John C. Humes, Jose G. Jimenez Jr., William P. Looney, Ismael Lua, Ralph W. Martin Jr., Richard E. Martinez, Bruce D. Prewett, Luana R. Reynolds, Jon D. Rhodes, Nancy G. Sakai, Ronald W. Schram, Thaddeus S. Siara, Rickey Stamps, David J. Stunson, Gregory D. Tyler, Jack E. Zuanich
SUPERIOR COURT: Wanda Bellamy, Michael A. Ewing, Susan C. Jernigan, Olivette G. Jones, Maria Moreno-Brito, Harry M. Webster III
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR: Henry Roman

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Michael S. Bohlke
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Mary E. Akins
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Barbara E. Harris
FIRE: James C. Cook, Joseph W. Lindaman, Ronald Magsaysay, Gary A. McAdam, David S. McKnight, Carl J. Solley, Nicholas J. Tosches
HEALTH SERVICES: Patana Boonmee, Lorraine Hall, Bruce W. Harris, Gloria Jordan-Llera, Navarath Phatanchai, Lyle S. Pope, Wallapha Punksarikul, Donna M. Safian, Wantana Shatts, James R. Webb, Erlinda Yanez
PROBATION: Wiley Pugh
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Laura M. Swartz, Javier G. Yanez
PUBLIC WORKS: Kathleen Delegal
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Nenita M. Adalin, Patricia A. Spallino
SHERIFF: Calvin Allen, Constancio A. Delgado, Holli M. Kramer Claus, Robert L. Schmidt, Randy A. Seymour, Raymond C. Sloan, Dale P. Thompson
SUPERIOR COURT: Harold S. Vites

Board Honors True “Action Heroes” in Ocean Rescue

Left to right, Jason Sandoval and Mike Dwyer, employees of JAKKS Pacific Toy Company in Malibu, were honored by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and the Board of Supervisors for their courageous rescue of two pilots whose small private plane crashed into the ocean some 50 yards offshore near their office. The two men, whose company designs and markets action-hero figures, dashed across Pacific Coast Highway and jumped into the water in full business attire with only a surfboard and lifejacket between them to reach and rescue the injured fliers.



County to Offer New Series of Property Tax Assessment Seminars

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has announced that the County of Los Angeles will be sponsoring a series of free seminars during the spring to assist property owners who feel their taxes should be lowered due to a decline in the value of their property.

We hope that these meetings will help taxpayers better understand the often-confusing assessment appeals process. The seminars will benefit homeowners interested in learning about the assessment appeals process, as well as those who have already filed an appeal. They will cover such topics as taxpayer appeal rights, when to apply for an assessment reduction, how to prepare for a hearing, what qualifies as admissible evidence, what will happen at the hearing and what to expect after the hearing.

The County Assessor's Office will offer these 90-minute seminars only once, at locations in each of the five supervisorial districts. The location for Supervisor Yaroslavsky's Third District will be at the Bernardi Senior Center located at 6514 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys on Wednesday, April 22, at 2 p.m. Parking is free and the entrance is on Hamlin Street.

Disabled people who need reasonable accommodation or help in order to attend a seminar may call (213) 974-1431. Hearing-impaired persons with TDD equipment may leave a typewritten message by calling (213) 974-1707 (TDD). Schedules for meetings may be obtained by calling (213) 974-4240 or by visiting the Web site at <http://bos.co.la.ca.us/Categories/Appeals/SeminarSchedule.htm>.

2008 Children's ScoreCard: Faltering Economy Impacting Children and Families

Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair of the Children's Council of Los Angeles County, announced the findings of the 2008 Children's ScoreCard at a press conference recently on the 8th floor of the Hall of Administration.

The data in the 2008 ScoreCard - which reviews information from 2006 as a baseline for assessing more current data - highlights the condition of children and families in a number of areas. While it shares institutional data on children involved in foster care, welfare and juvenile justice, it also attempts to shed light on overall health and educational trends. Generally, the findings indicate positive outcomes in the areas of early care and education, particularly for children ages newborn to five. There are positive indicators relating to prenatal care, birth weight and immunization, and less children born to teen mothers. An increased number of children across the County attended story time at public libraries and have health insurance.

Outcomes for children in middle school and high school are less encouraging. While the number of youth homicide victims continues to diminish, there are still an increasing number of misdemeanor and felony offenses. High school graduation rates have dropped

slightly, and child obesity for children in middle school has gone up slightly.

"Our investments in children aged newborn to five appear to be paying off," said Supervisor Knabe. "I am confident that we will see those trends continue. However, it is clear that we have work to do with our older children. The trends the ScoreCard points out truly underscore our need to focus on children in those critical years, particularly those at highest risk. I am also concerned about the trends pointing to increasing amounts of homeless families and decreased access to child care."

The Children's Council brings together the leaders of County government, cities, schools and the various communities of the County of Los Angeles to improve outcomes for children and families. The biannual ScoreCard is one of the most important tools in this effort. It captures data that assesses the overall condition of the County's 2.8 million children and youth for use in guiding, planning and tracking the impact of services.

To view the full 2008 Children's ScoreCard, visit the Children's Council Web site at <http://thechildrenscouncil.net>.

ENRICHING LIVES...

Child Support Services Makes Successful Transition to Statewide Case Management System

On November 12, the Child Support Services Department (CSSD) successfully transitioned to California's new statewide child support computer system which improves services to families and children by improving case management, collections and payments and by linking all child support agencies in California.

On December 9, the Board of Supervisors and David Maxwell-Jolly, Director of the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS), saluted Steven J. Golightly, CSSD Director, and staff for the years of planning, preparation and training that prepared the Department's 1,800 employees for the big change.



(Left to Right) Supervisor Gloria Molina and DCSS Director David Maxwell-Jolly recognize CSSD Director Steven Golightly, Chief Deputy Director Lisa Garrett and CSSD executive staff.



CSSD executives and staff join DCSS Director David Maxwell-Jolly after the recognition ceremony at the Board.

“I am particularly proud that we consistently improved performance while balancing the demands of training and conversion activities this last year,” said Golightly. “This tremendous feat was accomplished by each and every member of the Department, diligently and steadfastly performing their individual assignments during the last year.”

CSSD’s addition to the statewide child support system completed the network that now links all child support agencies in the state. In the past year, child support agencies in California had been gradually joining the system in “waves,” or small groups.

CSSD is the largest locally-administered child support agency in the country, collecting \$500 million for families and children each year and handling 26% of all the child support cases in the state. The Department signed off the old computer system ARS on October 31 and it took 12 full days to convert the Department’s huge caseload of 438,000 cases to the new system.



Teofilo Guadiz briefs staff at the CSSD Call Center on conversion day, November 12.

CSSD’s conversion to the statewide system also has assisted the State of California in avoiding stiff penalties from the federal government which were paid because of the lack of a statewide child support computer system. In 2000, DCSS began planning the new system with cooperation from local child support agencies and the Franchise Tax Board.

The conversion in the County took years of planning and was mapped out by a planning committee made up of CSSD executives, representatives from the California Department of Child Support Services, CSSD’s Bureau of Information Technology, and IBM and other state business partners.

County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan



“Enriching Lives”

County Vision

Our **purpose** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our **shared values**:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our **position** as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- A capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- An aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

County Mission

To enrich lives through effective and caring service

Strategic Plan Goals

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Service Excellence | 5. Children and Families’ Well-Being |
| 2. Workforce Excellence | 6. Community Services |
| 3. Organizational Effectiveness | 7. Health and Mental Health |
| 4. Fiscal Responsibility | 8. Public Safety |

Gloria Molina Supervisor First District	Mark Ridley-Thomas Supervisor Second District	Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Third District	Don Knabe Supervisor Fourth District	Michael D. Antonovich Supervisor Fifth District
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County of Los Angeles Celebrates 25 Years of Trauma Services

Supervisor Don Knabe was joined by his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors during a presentation to honor the County's 13 trauma centers in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the County's trauma system. Nearly 400,000 critically injured trauma patients have been treated in local trauma centers since the first trauma centers were designated in 1983. Traumatic injuries continue to be the leading cause of death for people between the ages of one and 44.

Critically injured trauma patients include those who require immediate life-saving surgical intervention because of major blood loss or shock as a result of motor vehicle crashes, gunshot or knife wounds, falls, or other violent incidents. These patients are brought by ambulance directly to a trauma center for specialized care rather than being transported to the nearest emergency room.



Unlike regular community hospitals, trauma centers maintain an entire team of specialized medical personnel, including a trauma surgeon, who are available 24-hours a day to ensure that life-threatening injuries are treated at a moment's notice. There are currently 13 trauma centers in the County of Los Angeles, making it the largest organized trauma system in the country. "As we saw during the recent train collision in Chatsworth, trauma centers are crucial to disaster response," said Cathy Chidester, Director of the Emergency Medical Services Agency. "There are four to five multi-casualty incidents every month in the County, where critically injured victims are taken to a trauma center."

Over the past 25 years, the number of trauma patients treated annually has grown from 15,138 in 1984, to 19,481 in 2007. The most recent data shows that males have more traumatic injuries than females (14,584 males vs. 4,897 females) and that the top five mechanisms of injury are: motor vehicle crashes (5,039), falls (4,045), auto vs. pedestrian/bicycle (2,947), gunshot wounds (2,366), and motorcycle crashes (1,339). Out of 19,481 trauma patients, nearly 1,800 were pediatric.

Trauma System History

The Board of Supervisors officially designated the first eight trauma centers on December 15, 1983. The system grew to a peak in 1985 with a total of 22 designated trauma centers. The County currently has 13 trauma centers. During the initial period of growth, there were many perceived advantages in seeking trauma center designation, such as marketing advantages, prestige, and favorable impact on post-graduate training programs. However, it quickly became evident that the perceived benefits were not enough to offset the high levels of uncompensated care for trauma patients.

The decline of trauma centers was finally halted with the implementation of secure trauma catchment areas, which helped keep patient numbers high enough for trauma centers to maintain high-quality training programs, and the Board of Supervisors' decision to allocate newly available Proposition 99 tobacco tax monies to offset the trauma centers' financial losses.

Additionally, the recent stability of the trauma system network is largely due to the voter-approved special parcel tax (called Measure B: Trauma, Emergency and Bioterrorism Response Assessment) that was approved in 2002. Part of the money that is collected allows the County to maintain and enhance the trauma network.

"The trauma system has proven to be cost effective because it lowers mortality and morbidity rates, decreases permanent disabilities, and decreases the number of productive years lost to society," said Chidester. "More importantly, the system saves lives every day by providing highly specialized care for the most life-threatening injuries."

Supervisor Antonovich Unveils the County’s Online Nursing Home Grading System

To ensure the health and well-being of the County’s senior population, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich’s motion to provide the federal government’s grading reports of area nursing homes on the County of Los Angeles Web site. The Web site provides detailed information about every Medicare and Medicaid-certified nursing home in the County and the entire nation, to allow the consumer to make an informed decision about care. To access the Nursing Home Compare Tool, please visit www.lacounty.gov.



“This vital information will equip families to make informed decisions about the care for their loved ones. It also provides incentives for facilities to establish higher quality standards and compliance,” said Supervisor Antonovich. The County of Los Angeles has the highest concentration of seniors in California. According to the State’s Department of Aging, the elderly population of California is projected to increase substantially over the next 20 years.

**To access the
Nursing Home
Compare Tool,
please visit
www.lacounty.gov**

In the County, the senior population will grow from the current 1.4 million seniors to roughly three million. As this population continues to age, seniors, 85 and older, will have the greatest health care service needs. Currently, there are 391 skilled and intermediate nursing homes in the County and on average, each of these nursing homes has 100 beds.



Over the past five years, the County’s Department of Public Health has recorded 11,042 complaints regarding skilled nursing facilities, which has led to 10 closures due to deficiencies. “It is our responsibility to help protect our seniors who are among the most vulnerable in our society and help families make informed decisions about where to place their loved ones when they need residential care, before they make this vital decision,” added Supervisor Antonovich.

Supervisor Antonovich is the father of the County’s successful Restaurant Grading System established in 1997.

Misleading Mailers Offer Lower Property Taxes for Homeowners

County Assessor Rick Auerbach and Consumer Affairs Director Pastor Herrera, Jr. are warning homeowners to be wary of solicitations from private companies offering to file property assessment reduction forms for a hefty fee to pay for a review by the Assessor's Office. "We are again receiving calls from homeowners who have been sent these deceptive mailers, many of which could be mistaken for government notices and mislead property owners into thinking they must pay at least \$100 to apply for a review of their assessed value," Auerbach said. "Because of the real estate market downturn, however, my office will begin reviewing nearly 500,000 residential properties for their 2009 assessed values."

"We don't charge a fee for this," he said, "and anyone whose homes are reviewed will receive a letter in June notifying them of the results." One firm, he noted, is charging \$179 to file a decline-in-value application, as well as a so-called "late fee" of \$30. This company is already the subject of investigation in several counties, he added.

"What is particularly disturbing about the latest solicitation from this firm is that it misleads the homeowner by mixing up years. The mailer states that the firm will represent the homeowner in an assessment appeal, when, in fact, the last date to appeal was November 30. If the solicitation is for 2009, assessments have not yet been made. Therefore, this firm won't know what the 2009 assessed value is until after our review of the 500,000 homes is completed in June and the homeowners are notified."

"At best," Auerbach added, "these are legal but sophisticated scams taking advantage of homeowners who don't understand that my office will do a reassessment on its own. Anyone can file a simple application form available on our Web site at www.assessor.lacounty.gov. This can be completed in a few minutes. The form suggests including comparable sales if known, but that section can be left blank and we will still do the review. A property owner can also call toll-free (888) 807-2111 for assistance. At worst, these private solicitations may even violate laws which require very specific language and disclaimers that they are not being sent by a government agency." Auerbach said.

"Anyone," Herrera stressed, "who wants a complaint history of these solicitation companies or wants to file a complaint may contact our department at (800) 973-3370. A complaint form is also available on our Web site at www.dca.lacounty.gov. If someone has already paid for this unnecessary service, they may be eligible for a refund, particularly those homeowners who thought they were dealing with a government agency."

Auerbach added that for 2009, his staff will now look at all homes sold in 2003 or later and may even go back to 2002 in some areas of the County based on a review of market conditions. While anyone has the right to file a decline-in-value application requesting a review of their property's value, Auerbach urged those who bought their home or condo in 2002 or later to wait until June when the results of the review will be mailed.

Supervisor Antonovich Tours eSolar Energy Plant in Lancaster

To help promote green technology and job creation in the Antelope Valley, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich toured the eSolar Energy Plant in Lancaster. "New energy technologies that include solar will improve air quality, create economic growth and reduce dependence on foreign oil," said Supervisor Antonovich.

In 2007, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Supervisor Antonovich's motion supporting incentives that promote the use of sustainable building practices that reduce resource consumption, energy consumption, and release of pollutants and wastes, such as through the use of solar energy and water reclamation. In June 2008, Southern California Edison signed a contract to procure an additional 245 megawatts of solar power for its customers from eSolar, in the nation's first commercial effort using power tower solar thermal technology. The project is expected to begin delivering energy in 2011, with a total of 105 megawatts of renewable solar power by 2012, ramping up to 245 megawatts by 2013.



Supervisor Molina Kicks Off East Los Angeles Time Capsule Burial Ceremony

Supervisor Gloria Molina joined nearly 200 local youth and community activists to participate in an East Los Angeles Time Capsule Burial Ceremony. The 4x6 capsule contained mementos memorializing the history of the East Los Angeles community from events such as the Chicano Moratorium to infrastructure milestones like the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension and the East Los Angeles Civic Center. A marker was erected at the site which was just outside the East Los Angeles County Hall within the East Los Angeles Civic Center. Youth and staff participating in the event were all active members of the East Los Angeles Community Youth Center. The ceremony was sponsored by AT&T, Eastern Group Publications, and *La Opinión*.



Supervisor Gloria Molina and youth from the East Los Angeles Community Youth Center smile for the camera at the conclusion of the East Los Angeles Time Capsule Burial Ceremony.



The East Los Angeles Time Capsule is filled with mementos prior to the official burial ceremony.

Supervisor Molina expressed that when the time capsule is opened in the winter of 2059, the children present at the ceremony “will probably not remember all that happened. But hopefully, the things they see around them are the same things we see today: a group of civic-minded people who continue to think not only of the environment and the community but, if it’s going to be changing, that it continues changing in a positive way. I think that is what this dedication is about—so many people around us everyday working together to create positive change. The time capsule will be a snapshot in time. Hopefully, as it is opened up, it will be a reminder of what a positive time this was, how everyone came together and wanted the best future for our children.”

Share It



Department of Animal Care & Control Supports “Responsible Pet Owner’s Month”

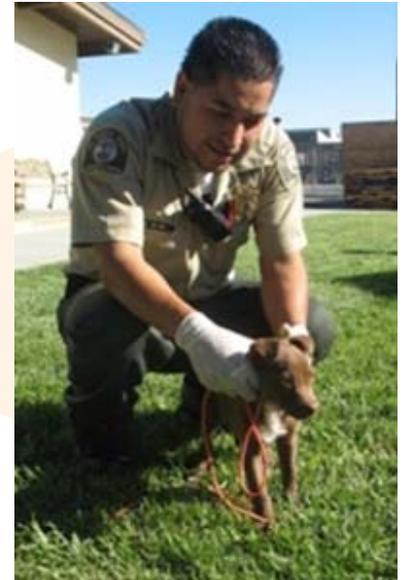
The month of February is “Responsible Pet Owner’s Month.” The Department of Animal Care & Control (DACC) would like to remind pet owners that animals, like humans, need necessities such as love, care, shelter and food. However, DACC also recognizes that additional responsibilities are crucial in order to maximize the quality of life for a pet. Pet owners must understand what it means to be a “responsible pet owner.” DACC has included a list of tips that can help make everyone a responsible pet owner.

Spaying or neutering your pet: The benefit of spaying and neutering is not only the best solution to controlling pet over-population, but it can also help prevent certain cancers and diseases in your pet. Spaying or neutering saves you money for pet license fees and it is the law in most of the County of Los Angeles.

Licensing your pets: California law requires that every dog four months of age or older must have a current license fastened to its collar, and be vaccinated against rabies. Making sure your pet has its current license is also one of the best ways to have your pet returned to you in case he or she becomes lost. For more information about licensing your pet, please visit <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>.

Getting your animal micro-chipped: Besides having your pet licensed, a micro-chip provides an added layer of protection. In the event that your animal gets lost, the micro-chip can help reunite you with your animal by a simple scan of the animal. Micro-chips are an important additional identification tool, as tags can be lost or damaged. All six of our shelters offer free micro-chip clinics. Please contact your local County shelter for scheduled clinic days and times.

To help promote responsible pet ownership, DACC spays/neuters, vaccinates, and micro-chips all animals prior to adoption. Adoption fees are less than \$40. DACC believes that the *best* pet owner is a *responsible* pet owner.



Members of the Board

Don Knabe
Chairman
Fourth District

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra Wallace Blaydow
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

John S. Mina
Managing Editor

Martina Abgaryan
Editor-in-Chief