



HONORING OUR VETERANS



Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is one of the smaller departments in the County and is directed by retired USMC Colonel Joseph N. Smith. The Department serves more than 411,000 veterans living in the County and their dependents. Colonel Smith directs a staff that includes 16 veteran counselors. These counselors interview and counsel veterans, their dependents and survivors regarding benefits and services earned by virtue of military service. In addition to filing claims, the California Accredited Counselors develop, file and monitor appeal claims filed with the Federal Department of Veteran Affairs on behalf of clients. In addition, they operate an Indigent Burial Program, the California College Fee Waiver Program for service connected veterans, Homeless Veterans Section 8 Housing Program, California Welcome Home Navigator Program, Long Term/Assisted Care Program, and veterans outreach events.

The Indigent Veterans Burial Program ensures any known indigent veteran that passes away in Los Angeles County will be buried with honors at Riverside National Cemetery. The Department operates the California Fee Waiver Program for dependents of service connected veterans. This program allows dependents of service connected veterans to have their tuition waived at any University of California, California State University or California community college. Approximately 1,500 veterans dependents benefitted from this program for the academic year 2009-2010.

Throughout the year, the Department participates in veterans events, homeless stand downs, employment fairs and other outreach activities. The Department's largest outreach is the Los Angeles County Fair. They just completed their fourth consecutive year at the fair which is a five-week run. This year, they met with thousands of veterans and their families. The fair is a way for the Department to outreach to veterans who aren't aware of their entitlements. Many veterans think that they had to be in a combat mission to be considered a veteran. This is not true. That same principle holds true for veterans who suffered a non-combat service connected disability. They have a right to file a claim for compensation. This year, many of the veterans we previously helped to obtain benefits stopped by and said "thanks." Numerous visitors said, "it's nice seeing the government reaching out to our veterans, they deserve it."

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs wants you to know that if you are a veteran, have a client or know of a veteran, please contact their toll free number at (877) 4LA VETS or 452-8387. Counselors are available to answer any questions you may have.

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EVENT CALENDAR

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

Art

Through January 9, 2011 - Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico

Through January 9, 2011 - Eye for the Sensual: Selections from the Resnick Collection

Through January 16, 2011 - William Eggleston: Democratic Camera - Photographs and Video, 1961-2008

Through January 16, 2011 - Blinky Palermo: Retrospective 1964-1977

Music

Jazz Fridays - <http://www.lacma.org/programs/JazzatLACMA.aspx>

Sundays Live - <http://www.lacma.org/programs/SundaysLive.aspx>

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

Los Angeles Philharmonic

www.laphil.com

(323) 850-2000

Center Theatre Group

www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Through January 2, 2011 - Next to Normal

January 30 - March 6, 2011 - 33 Variations

Mark Taper Forum

Through December 22 - Harps and Angels

January 4 - February 13, 2011 - Stories by Heart

Kirk Douglas Theatre

January 15, 16, 22 and 23, 2011 - Jamie Adkins "Circus INcognitus"

February 15 through 27, 2011 - The Author

Los Angeles Opera

(performances in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion)

www.losangelesopera.com

Through December 12 - Lohengrin (Richard Wagner)

Through December 18 - Rigoletto (Giuseppe Verdi)

Los Angeles Master Choral

www.lamc.org

Natural History Museum

900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007

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

51st Annual LA County Holiday Celebration

FREE holiday-themed music and dance for the whole family

A gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Friday, December 24, 2010

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Live performance at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center

135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012

Televised live on KCET

Simulcast live on KPFK 90.7 FM

Streamed live on www.kcet.org

Information: www.holidaycelebration.org, 213.972.3099



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

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

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Veteran Services Provided

- Interview and counsel veterans, their dependents and survivor benefits and services earned by virtue of military service.
- Develop, file, monitor and appeal claims filed with the Federal Department of Veteran Affairs on behalf of clients.
- Verification of veterans’ benefits and eligibility for federal, state, and local agencies.
- Process and adjudicate applications for California Dependents Educational Fee Waivers for dependents of service disabled/deceased veterans.
- Participate in community events pertaining to veterans, i.e. care days, stand downs, job fairs, patriotic events, etc.

What We Offer

We can provide information and assistance with the following veterans’ benefits:

- Compensation for service-connected disabled veterans
- Pension for non-service connected disabled veterans
- Life insurance
- Cemeteries and burials (including indigent burials)
- Benefits for surviving spouse and children
- Medical care
- Educational and vocational rehabilitation benefits
- VA/Cal Vet home loan guaranty programs
- State of California dependents College Fee Waiver Program (\$10,787 income limit)

Other related benefits

- Los Angeles County Veterans’ Internship Program
- Los Angeles County free parking at some County facilities for veterans with Honorific license plates

“Veterans Day is our annual tribute to recognize those who have given so much and ask so little in preserving America’s freedom.”

*Colonel Joseph N. Smith, Director
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*

VETERANS' INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Veterans’ Internship Program Gateway to Opportunity

The Department of Human Resources (DHR) administers the Board-mandated Veterans’ Internship Program (VIP) which was launched on May 16, 2007. The program is the result of a Board motion championed by Supervisors Don Knabe and Michael D. Antonovich proposed in November 2006 and unanimously approved by the Board. The VIP provides paid internships for qualified veterans of the armed forces of the United States. The internships are designed to afford veterans with on-the-job-training and work experience with the County of Los Angeles that will enable them to effectively compete for permanent County jobs.

During the internship, Veteran Interns will be provided with competitive entry-level salaries along with medical & dental benefits as “M” item (Monthly Temporary Training) employees. Six different job classifications have been specifically developed as follows:

- Veteran Intern, Administrative Support
- Veteran Intern, Crafts Support
- Veteran Intern, Heavy Maintenance and Operational Support
- Veteran Intern, Information Technology Support
- Veteran Intern, Office and Clerical Support
- Veteran Intern, Technical Support

This no-experience-required opportunity has been made available only to veterans who have been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions.

For more information, please check out the VIP page on the DHR Web site at <http://dhr.lacounty.info/> or call the Ombudsman/Community Liaison Division office at (213) 893-7810.

VIP
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Former VIPs Making a Difference

Sam Wilson IV

“My experience with this program has been a pleasant one,” said Sam Wilson IV.

Those were the words of a grateful veteran who was given the opportunity to be gainfully employed by the County of Los Angeles through the Veterans’ Internship Program (VIP).

Forging partnerships with veterans’ organizations and agencies such as the State of California Employment Development Department (EDD), the VIP has made inroads in reaching out to veterans who are in need of employment.

“I learned of the VIP through the EDD,” said Wilson who was hired as a VIP on April 1, 2009 in the Treasurer and Tax Collector’s Office.

Wilson joined the U.S. Navy threefold—to have a bearing on his life, to acquire discipline and to become a member of a productive citizenry. While in this branch of the U.S. armed forces, he was assigned to the Attack Aircraft Squadron VA-22 with the responsibility of inspecting the aircraft and ensuring the safe launch and recovery of the A7-E Corsair Aircraft.

On September 2, 2010, Wilson was permanently appointed to the position of Warehouse Worker I in the same department where he started as a VIP. He brings to the workforce from his military experience “the ability to be here on time everyday; to be ready, willing and able to perform any task; and to finish the task in a timely manner with little or no supervision.”

He considers both his personal and professional life important saying that one cannot survive without the other.

“I don’t think most people realize that we have two families—one we go home to at the end of the day and the other we go to in the morning,” Wilson said.

In his spare time, Wilson enjoys reading, writing and wood carving.

The Veterans’ Internship Program has provided Wilson with on-the-job training, as well as the opportunity to work with some of the most knowledgeable people. It has enriched his life by giving him an opportunity not only to provide for himself but also for his family.

Tina Radstone

Another U.S. Navy personnel who benefited from the VIP is Tina Radstone.

“The VIP has enriched my life by giving me an opportunity to utilize the skills that I have acquired from the military to work in a civilian workforce,” said Radstone.

She joined the Navy at a young age because of her desire to do something important and the traveling opportunity it brings. She served from 1989 to 1991 at the Naval Air Station in Alameda working as an administrative clerk in the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department.

“I bring to the workforce the values of teamwork and dedication,” she added. “My naval experience has prepared me with the skills and knowledge to work successfully in carrying out the mission of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). I am looking forward to the future and a healthy career in the County of Los Angeles.”

“My experience was a great one,” Radstone said. “I have not only learned and acquired skills for DCFS but also for my personal growth.”

On July 29, 2010, Radstone was permanently employed by DCFS as an intermediate clerk.

A health enthusiast, she enjoys working out at the gym and taking circuit training classes. Because she loves to cook, she finds ways to prepare food using healthy alternatives.

She credits the Employment Development Department, an integral partner of the VIP, for introducing her to the program.

Tina Radstone is grateful for the opportunity afforded to her by the Veterans’ Internship Program and thanks her family for the strength and love they have provided her, always offering support be it in good times or bad.



Our Military Protects Us; Department of Consumer Affairs Protects Them

DCA helps a soldier in Afghanistan; Thanks to the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act

Ashley Smith* is a resident of Los Angeles County and a soldier in the United States Army. She's on active duty, serving our country on deployment in Afghanistan. Earlier this year, she was simply a consumer in need of help. Like thousands of other consumers from Los Angeles County and beyond, she reached out to the County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

As we honor the men and women in uniform for their brave service to America this month, DCA wants to remind our active military members and their families of their special consumer rights according to the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act (SCRA).

When Smith was called to active duty, she made the proper arrangements as a consumer. She had a car payment due every month so she reached out to her lender and arranged for lower payments. She also set up an automatic plan with her bank to make sure her car payments were made. Smith was prepared, but that all changed a few months ago when a mix-up with her automatic payment led to her lender repossessing her car.

Instead of focusing solely on her duties as a soldier, Ashley was forced to worry about her financial and legal obligations back home.

The SCRA was enacted for this very reason. The basics of this law date back to the Civil War. It was first formally put into law as the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act during World War I. It was rewritten in 1940 as World War II began and amended several times over the decades. Its latest major revision came in 2003 as America's soldiers went into battle in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SCRA offers legal protections for active members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. This includes Reserve, National Guard and Air National Guard personnel on active duty.

SCRA is a complicated law with many different provisions. DCA encourages active members of the military and their families to contact their military branch for complex legal cases.

For Smith, the case was more straightforward, but it definitely helped to have an investigator from DCA at her side.

Smith contacted her sister, Gina,* back home in Los Angeles County. She reached out to the District Attorney's Office, which connected her with Consumer Affairs. DCA investigator Rose Basmadzhyan spoke to Gina, researched the appropriate laws, and contacted Ashley's lender, who had improperly repossessed her car while she was on active military duty.

Here are some of the added consumer rights as part of the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act:

Civil lawsuits:

If a servicemember on active duty is involved in a lawsuit, they can receive a stay from the judge for at least 90 days. Also, a court cannot enter a judgment against a military member on active duty unless a lawyer is representing them.

Rents and leases:

A landlord cannot evict a servicemember while they are on active duty without a court order in most cases. Even with a court order, the servicemember will get at least 90 days to make proper arrangements.

A servicemember on active duty can break a lease on their main residence. Also, if a servicemember is sent on active duty for six months or more, they can break an automobile lease and return their car if they make a request in writing.

Mortgages and liens:

A servicemember on active duty cannot have their home sold, seized or foreclosed upon without a court order.

* — *The names of the active servicemember and her sister mentioned in this article were changed to maintain their privacy.*

Los Angeles County Launches Veterans Court



Military veterans who risk their lives and make it back home usually do not return unscathed. Some are fortunate to return with no physical scars, but many come back with emotional and mental health problems. When left untreated, the problems can affect the veteran, the veteran's family members and society as a whole.

In recognition of these facts, Los Angeles County launched Veterans Court in September 2010 at Department 42 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. The Veterans Court allows veterans who suffer from mental health problems stemming from U.S. military service to receive treatment as an alternative to incarceration for nonviolent felonies.

It is a joint venture among the Los Angeles Superior Court, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Alternate Public Defender's Office and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Superior Court Judge Michael Tynan supervises the program which is modeled after the Orange County Veterans Court program and other similar programs around the country, and is the first of its kind in Los Angeles County. Veterans Court only handles cases in the downtown Los Angeles area.

Participation in this voluntary pilot program will be offered to veterans who have served in the U.S. military and suffer from mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, and/or substance abuse. Veterans Court provides eligible defendants the opportunity to participate in mental health and substance abuse treatment programs specifically designed for veterans.

To be admitted into Veterans Court, the defendant must meet program guidelines, and all parties must agree to refer the veteran for further evaluation. The VA will perform an assessment and make a recommendation to a specific treatment program that best fits the needs of the veteran and gives the veteran the best chance to successfully address the issues contributing to involvement in the criminal justice system.

There must be a conviction in the case before Judge Tynan makes the final sentencing decision. The participating veteran will then be ordered to complete the recommended treatment plan and comply with any other terms and conditions of probation imposed by the court.

Judge Tynan will supervise and monitor the veteran's progress in the program and compliance with all court orders.

For more information, please contact Deputy District Attorney Kimberly Hassett at (213) 974-9987 or khassett@da.lacounty.gov.

CONSUMER RIGHTS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

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Interest rates:

While a servicemember is on active duty and for six months after that duty is complete, the interest rate on debts, except for student loans, can be no more than 6 percent. A servicemember must request this in writing with their creditors.

Contracts:

If a servicemember has a purchase contract and made at least one payment before going on active duty, that contract cannot be terminated and the property cannot be repossessed without a court order. This rule applies to car purchases.

Ashley and her family knew about their added consumer rights. They reached out to Consumer Affairs for some help and DCA delivered. Her lender agreed to return the car to her family and her payments are back on track.

The Department of Consumer Affairs thanks all our veterans for their service. We encourage them to know their consumer rights, particularly the SCRA for those on active duty. There are many other protections as part of SCRA. For detailed information, we encourage servicemembers to contact their military branch.

For general consumer information, contact the Department of Consumer Affairs at (800) 593-8222.

New Additions to the County Family...

Children and Families' Well-Being Deputy, Chief Executive Officer Named



Antonia Jiménez was appointed to the position of Deputy, Chief Executive Officer for the Children and Families' Well-Being on September 3, 2010. She reports to the Chief Deputy, Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for overseeing, managing, coordinating and evaluating processes, activities and services of the proposed expanded Children and Families' Well-Being Cluster. This appointment will enhance the Chief Executive Office's Governance Structure by further improving communication, customer service, operational effectiveness, and optimal alignment of County functions, including services directed at the protection of children.

Jiménez has over 20 years of experience as a senior executive within government and the private sector, including ten years working with the state legislature for the commonwealth of Massachusetts. As the Chief Administrative Officer for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for Massachusetts, she designed and directed a \$2.4 billion effort to reform purchase of services, through which Massachusetts fundamentally restructured its contracting and procurement of human services with a focus on increased efficiency, improved provider relations and improved quality and integrity. Prior to that, she served as a Special Assistant to the Governor of Massachusetts

and the Chief Financial Officer for Massachusetts' Executive Office of Education. In her most recent role leading Dartmouth's Strategic Budget Reduction Initiative, Jiménez identified \$100 million in expense reductions and development of new revenue initiatives. She has also worked as a Senior Consulting Manager for Deloitte Consulting, tackling several major initiatives in New York City, Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare and Solano County's Health and Human Services Department. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated leadership, results and strong fiscal management.

Jiménez earned a Bachelor of Science from Emmanuel College and has attended both the Program for Senior Managers and the Senior Executive Program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Director of Health Services Named

Dr. Mitchell H. Katz, who has an extensive background in the field of public healthcare and executive-level healthcare management, will become Los Angeles County's director of health services on Jan. 3, 2011. He replaces Bruce Chernoff, who resigned in May 2008. John Schunhoff, chief deputy of the Department of Health Services, has been interim director since Chernoff's departure.

Katz has more than 19 years of experience with the City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health, and has been serving as the director of public health/health officer since 1997. In this capacity, he is responsible for an operating budget of \$1.5 billion and a large healthcare system that includes two hospitals, nine primary care health centers, the County's managed care mental health system, and 8,600 employees.



Executive Officer of the Board Sachi Hamai administers the Oath of Office to Dr. Mitchell H. Katz as Chief Executive Officer William T Fujioka looks on.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE COUNTY FAMILY
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Katz's accomplishments include designing and implementing "Healthy San Francisco," a comprehensive health care coverage program serving more than 53,000 uninsured San Franciscans through a public-private partnership. The program won the National Association of Public Hospital Chair's Award (highest award given, 2010) and American Hospital Association NOVA Award (2010). He grew up in Brooklyn, graduated from Yale and Harvard Medical Schools and did his residency at the University of California, San Francisco.

"The major challenge facing the department is the creation of a robust ambulatory care system. The health system here already has several great hospitals, where there needs to be more work done in creating primary care homes...connections so that patients have places to go other than hospital emergency rooms. The federal health reform will drive the requirement that people have primary care homes that they don't just go to emergency rooms, that doesn't provide the best care and it's very expensive. I really want to work on creating a system that works for people," Katz said.

Planning for L.A. County with Richard J. Bruckner, Director Department of Regional Planning

"I know of no other planning position that offers the opportunity to work in the variety of planning contexts as this position offers," said Richard J. Bruckner after talking to a County recruiter about an opportunity in the Department of Regional Planning. Bruckner, the former Director, Planning and Development Department for the City of Pasadena, had not been looking for another position until the phone call came. His curiosity piqued and he applied nonetheless. On February 1, 2010, Bruckner was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to become the next Director of the Department of Regional Planning.

With only a few months in office, the Board directed Bruckner to take a hard look at how the Department conducted business with the objective of enhancing efficiency and fostering more user-friendly services.

"I am very encouraged that in the coming months, this effort will generate a consensus on a series of recommendations to improve how we do business and how we can best enhance our client services," Bruckner said.



With new management comes new priorities. In the summer, a reorganization of the Department staff commenced and will continue through the winter with the desired result of achieving efficiencies, better customer service and preparing better plans. Other aspects of the reorganization are intended to provide the public with a single point of contact within the Department.

"The most significant changes will result in planning divisions (Advance Planning, Current Planning and Land Use Regulation) each having a geographic orientation. This will allow staff to become more familiar with the communities we serve and facilitate dialogue between divisions as plans are prepared and recommendations formulated," Bruckner said.

Bruckner holds a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Hartwick College in New York. His professional affiliations include the American Planning Association, the Urban Land Institute and the California Redevelopment Association where he was past president. He has lived in Arcadia for 25 years, where he and his wife Betsy raised their two children—Sarah, a graduate of the University of Colorado and now works for a major sports/entertainment company in Connecticut and Andrew, a graduate of New York University, and after years in investment banking has returned to school to obtain his MBA from the University of North Carolina.

“Most public servants choose their profession because they are committed to improving neighborhoods and those who live there,” Bruckner said. “The most rewarding experiences have been working in affordable housing projects and seeing plans become reality. Seeing families who are given the opportunity to live in safe and affordable housing is always heartening,” he added.

Meet Donald H. Blevins, L.A. County’s Chief Probation Officer

Question: What do the Counties of San Diego, Alameda and Los Angeles have in common?

Answer: Donald H. Blevins

With more than 34 years of combined multi-level experience with the Alameda and San Diego County Probation Departments including 14 years of administrative and executive level experience, six and a half years as Chief Probation Officer for the County of Alameda, Donald H. Blevins was poised to be Los Angeles County’s next Chief Probation Officer.

After a statewide search, the Board of Supervisors appointed Blevins as the County’s Chief Probation Officer on April 19, 2010, the 18th director in the County’s history to lead the Probation Department.

Blevins credits his 27-year tenure with the San Diego County Probation Department as his training ground that led him to his current position. During that time, he gained progressively responsible experience in both the adult and juvenile probation services while promoting through the ranks. He achieved the position of Probation Director where he served as a division administrator. Among his accomplishments in the San Diego County Probation Department include the development and training of specialty investigation officers in the use of the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA); the development of an up-to-date policy and procedures manual and the establishment of a Training Officer; and the establishment of a computer system for checking school records through a collaborative effort with the San Diego County Office of Education. These achievements and the experience he gained did not go unnoticed. After more than a quarter of a century, Blevins left the San Diego County Probation Department to become the Chief Probation Officer for Alameda County.



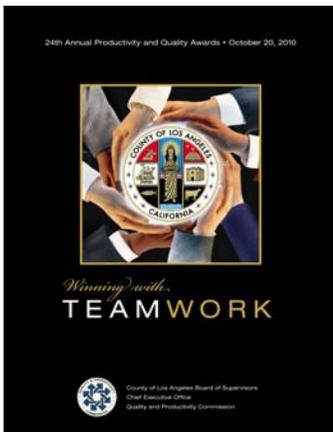
Appointed in 2003 by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Blevins was responsible for both the administrative and operational divisions of the Department, overseeing the delivery of Probation services to a diverse County of 1.5 million people. He counts among his accomplishments the creation of an Employee Mentoring Program; mandated customer service training for all staff; the creation of a new Web site; the implementation of budget oversight resulting in a balanced budget for five consecutive years; the facilitation of the hiring of detained youth as employees in a County snack bar to allow them to pay victim restitution while in custody; the development of the Alameda County Mission/Vision/Values Statement and County Strategic Vision in collaboration with agency heads; and the implementation of a values-based budget.

Blevins has a degree in psychology and sociology from the United States International University/Cal Western campus and attended San Diego State University for graduate courses in sociology. He is affiliated with the Chief Probation Officers of California, the National Association of Probation Executives and the American Probation and Parole Association to name a few which allow him to be in the forefront of current trends in Probation. It is evident that with his myriad of accomplishments from both the San Diego and Alameda Counties coupled with his professional affiliations, Chief Probation Officer Blevins brings a wealth of knowledge and a keen sense of leadership to Los Angeles County.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

ENRICHING LIVES...

Quality and Productivity Commission 24th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program “Winning with Teamwork”



The County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission’s 24th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program, “Winning with Teamwork,” was held on October 20th at the Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office (CEO) and Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC) joined together to honor award winners. Over 550 County employees attended the event. Much to the delight of the audience, Patrick Healy, award-winning reporter for NBC4’s “Channel 4 News,” emceed the event.

The 126 exceptional projects demonstrate new and better ways of serving the public in Los Angeles County. This year, the departments reported an estimated total of \$239,883,365 in cost benefits. Service excellence and cost efficiencies continue to grow through the dedication and hard work of our County managers and employees. Their efforts help ensure the delivery of needed services.

The Top Ten winning programs include:

Countywide Address Management System (CAMS)

Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk with Internal Services Department, Chief Information Office, Department of Public Works, Department of Regional Planning and Assessor

Alert LA County Emergency Mass Notification System

Chief Information Office with Sheriff’s Department

“The Speed Team” - Materials Processing Group

County Public Library

Felony Training Program

Office of Public Defender

Coroner’s Organ and Tissue Donation Program

Department of Coroner

General Relief to Social Security Income Project

Department of Public Social Services with Chief Executive Office, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services and Department of Public Health

When One is One Too Many - CABSIs in the NICU

Department of Health Services, Harbor-UCLA





Countywide Response to H1N1 Influenza

Department of Public Health with the Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office, Department of Health Services and Sheriff’s Department

A novel strain of influenza appeared in April 2009 and threatened the health of all people across the globe. The Department activated its Operations Center on April 27, 2009 and provided leadership for the County in responding to the two waves of the H1N1 influenza pandemic. In Fall 2009, the Department distributed more than four million doses of H1N1 vaccine, and directly administered more than 230,000 doses of vaccine. Targeted outreach to communities of greatest need included translating information into multiple languages and reaching out

through ethnic media and leadership. Much illness was avoided, many hospitalizations were averted, and lives were saved as a result of these extraordinary efforts.



E-SCARS

Office of District Attorney with Department of Children and Family Services and Sheriff’s Department

The Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (E-SCARS) is a secure, web based application. It links Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Sheriff’s Department, forty-six other municipal law enforcement agencies in the County, and the District Attorney’s Office (DA), to facilitate information sharing of child abuse allegations. Child abuse allegations are required by statute to be cross reported. Previously, the manual system was labor intensive, costly and prone to errors. DCFS, the Sheriff, and the DA received a Productivity Investment Fund

grant to develop an electronic cross reporting system. E-SCARS significantly enhances the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and child endangerment offenses. It enables the DA to perform its oversight responsibility to ensure that the agencies cross report allegations of child abuse.



Efficiency Now! Initiative

Department of Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation launched its Efficiency Initiative to encourage staff to take a fresh look at how they do their work. Using an email campaign inviting all employees to a series of Efficiency Idea Forums, the Department generated more than 400 different ideas. 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. The teams hosted an Efficiency Conference to present recommendations to the County’s CEO for saving an estimated \$3 million within two fiscal years. The result of this ongoing project

has been to promote group and intergovernmental cooperation in addressing shared problems. A central committee reviews new efficiency ideas and actively manages a portfolio of efficiency, keeping everyone informed of the status.

Chair Leadership Award

The Chair Leadership award went to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Russ Guiney. Director Guiney leads by example, embracing new technologies, advancing collaborative efforts and achieving excellence. He has contributed personal and organizational leadership to a department that prides itself on increasing revenues, reducing costs, training staff, and trying out new ideas. All of this is done through teamwork and leadership.

The awardee is flanked by Al Leiga, QPC Chair, and CEO William T Fujioka.



For Your Well-Being

Eating Right...Your Holiday Guide to Wellness

Brought to you by the Employee Benefits Division of the Department of Human Resources

Just when the Countywide Fitness Challenge has ended and we have finally gotten into healthier eating and physical fitness habits and it's the holidays! It seems as if the Thanksgiving-to-New Year's holiday season is one long, tempting food fest designed to make you gain weight.

"You've got the stress of the holidays, along with a lack of sleep, and, for many, a cauldron of bubbling emotions coming to the surface — *and* you've got all this food beckoning you at every turn," says Warren Huberman, PhD, a clinical psychologist specializing in weight control at New York University Medical Center. "It can be a dangerous combination for those who have problems controlling what they eat."

Don't despair! There are ways to keep from packing on the holiday pounds. How? By planning to squeeze in that extra workout.

Recognizing why you overeat is also very important. In research published in the journal *Obesity*, Heather Niemeier, PhD, and colleagues found that for many people, the seed of overeating is actually planted within their emotions. Further, they found that people whose overeating is triggered by emotions tend to have a harder time losing weight and maintaining weight loss.

"When it comes to successful weight loss, our research showed that our emotions and our thoughts seem to actually play a bigger role than environmental cues — we eat in response to feelings — and for many people, the holidays can drum up a whole treasure chest of feelings, both good

and bad," says Niemeier, a researcher with Miriam Hospital's Weight Control & Diabetes Research Center and the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in Rhode Island.

Physical activity can help, too. How often have you said, "I don't have time to work out. I'm too busy this holiday season. I'll wait for the New Year and start again?" Maybe you don't have time for your normal workout, but any workout is better than no workout; this includes going for a walk! Organize your day the evening before. Prioritizing your tasks beforehand will help you find time to exercise. Each week, make it a priority to fit in three exercise sessions.

"Walking is an exercise that can go anywhere, from the woods to the mall", says health and lifestyle coach Jackie Keller, author of *Body After Baby: The Simple 30-Day Plan to Lose Your Baby Weight*. "Always have a pair of running or walking shoes with you, along with a set of light, hand-held weights, and a clean pair of socks," Keller suggests. If you have holiday shopping to do, arrive early and walk the mall perimeter or make a concerted effort to park as far from the store or your work place as possible and power walk in. A simple 20 minute walk can change how you feel, add energy to your day, elevate your mood, and help burn some of those extra calories.

Remember, the holidays are supposed to be fun! Planning your holiday eating events and setting realistic workout goals can help you enjoy life more and stay healthy, even with all the temptations.

Wellness Extravaganza at Crenshaw Plaza

December 4, 2010

Mall Walks at 8:15 and 9:15 a.m.

Setting Realistic Wellness Goals for 2011 Workshop at 9, 10 and 11 a.m.

Free gospel choir concert hosted by the Plaza at noon

*Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza
3650 West Martin Luther King Boulevard, Los Angeles 90008*

BOS Executive Office Green Team Organizes Successful Beach Cleanup

We are but a few volunteers in a big effort!!!



Weeks of promoting *Heal the Bay's* "Coastal Cleanup Day 2010" paid off as twenty-six Executive Office staff and their families, led by Executive Officer Sachi Hamai, turned out on September 25th at Cabrillo Beach to participate in this annual event. The team from the Executive Office sifted through sand and combed the rocky shoreline picking up aluminum cans, bottles, paper packaging and plastic as well as styrofoam and other debris tossed by beach patrons or from urban runoff washed ashore. When the work was done, the Executive Office collected 17 pounds of trash, four pounds of recyclable materials and 140 grams of styrofoam (a good catch considering styrofoam's light weight!).

Back at the picnic area, the group enjoyed a barbeque – a well deserved finish to a worthwhile effort! Go Green Team!

The Green Team leads the Executive Office's environmental initiative to minimize its carbon footprint and raise staff awareness through continuing educational events and important community projects like this. The Green Team is working to reduce the Executive Office's dependence on disposable products in favor of recyclable materials and by migrating from paper-based to electronic data storage and information sharing.

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization working to make Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica and San Pedro bays, safe, healthy and clean. *Heal the Bay* organizes Coastal Cleanup Day in Los Angeles County in partnership with the California Coastal Commission.

Holiday Toy Express™ 2010 Schedule:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4	
Burbank (opening night) 201 N. Front Street, Burbank, CA 91502	5:00 pm - 5:45 pm
Glendale 400 W. Cerritos Avenue, Glendale, CA 91204	6:00 pm - 6:45 pm
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5	
Palmdale 39000 Clock Tower Plaza Drive, Palmdale, CA 93550	5:00 pm - 5:45 pm
Santa Clarita (Newhall Station) 24300 Railroad Ave., Santa Clarita, CA 91321	7:30 pm - 8:15 pm
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11	
Corona (North Main Corona Station) 250 E. Blaine Street, Corona, CA 92879	5:00 pm - 5:45 pm
Fullerton 120 E. Santa Fe Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832	6:45 pm - 7:30 pm
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12	
San Bernardino 1204 W. 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410	5:00 pm - 5:45 pm
Rancho Cucamonga 11208 Azusa Court, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730	7:15 pm - 8:00 pm
Montclair 5091 Richton Street, Montclair, CA 91763	8:15 pm - 9:00 pm
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18	
Irvine 15215 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618	5:00 pm - 5:45 pm
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19	
Moorpark 300 High Street, Moorpark, CA 93021	5:00 pm - 5:45 pm
Camarillo 30 Lewis Road, Camarillo, CA 93012	6:15 pm - 7:00 pm

Hosted by Station Cities and

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HAPPY PAW-LIDAYS

AN ANIMAL ADOPTION EVENT

Saturday, December 18, 2010
From 10 am ~ 5 pm

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
www.laanimalservices.com

NORTH CENTRAL
3201 Lacy St., Los Angeles CA 90031

SOUTH LOS ANGELES
3621 11th Ave., Los Angeles CA 90018

WEST LOS ANGELES
11361 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90064

EAST VALLEY
14409 Vanowen St., Van Nuys CA 91405

WEST VALLEY
20655 Plummer St., Chatsworth CA 91311

HARBOR
957 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro CA 90731

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
www.animalcare.lacounty.gov

AGOURA
29525 Agoura Rd, Agoura CA 91301

BALDWIN PARK
4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706

CARSON
216 W. Victoria St., Gardena, CA 90248

CASTAIC
31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd., Castaic CA 91384

DOWNEY
11258 S. Garfield Ave., Downey, CA 90242

LANCASTER
5210 W. Ave. I, Lancaster, CA 93536

ANTELOPE VALLEY PET STOP
42116 4th St. E., Lancaster, CA 93535

SOUTHEAST AREA ANIMAL CONTROL AUTHORITY
www.seaaca.org

SEAACA
9777 Seaaca St., Downey, CA 90241



For more information contact:
www.foundanimals.org
events@foundanimals.org | (877) 580-PETS



RETIREEES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after their service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

40+ YEARS:

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Diane M. Barnes, Pauline Craig, Raymond L. Garrett
INTERNAL SERVICES: Jacquelyne D. Owens
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Robbie D. Butler, Abigail A. Esfahaniha, Penny L. Hauge, Candace W. Lee
PUBLIC WORKS: Fred Rubin
SUPERIOR COURT: Judith A. Pieper

30+ YEARS:

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Gloria J. Fluker, Leola T. Rosser
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: German S. Alonso, Robert A. La Farge, Linda Mammen
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Margaret Quinn
FIRE: Timothy J. Bernstein, Anthony Hill, John D. Kiger, John P. Martinez, Eric R. Minlschmidt, Michael F. Morgan
HEALTH SERVICES: Antonio Cartagena, Pauline Center, Charles Ellis, Clarence Hampton, Donna D. Hyde, Stanley A. Sharp, Teddy Y. Wong
LACERA: Rita K. Brown
PARKS AND RECREATION: Keith A. Henley
PUBLIC HEALTH: Luanne P. Aulenback, Jerome Auzout, Gail Dishman, Iva J. Morehead, Nancy C. Munoz, Esther Parker, Marialice Perez-Hawkins, Rose M. Savant, Bonita J. Tolliver
PUBLIC SAFETY: Andrew J. Hernandez, Judi Tredy
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Opal L. Roberts, Sylvia M. Romero, Marsha Vasquez, Myung S. Yoon
PUBLIC WORKS: Jeffrey T. Chase, Stanley G. Lamb, Woody Whittaker
SHERIFF: Rosa M. Collins, Nettie R. Goodner, Marycora L. Luna, Richard W. Shaw, Lisa E. Williams
SUPERIOR COURT: Janet A. Grider, Eva A. Pitre

25+ YEARS:

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BEACHES & HARBORS: Toni Y. Minor
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Debra A. Sartori
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Tillie Alvarado, Larry M. Gathright, Robert L. Grant, Thuy K. Huynh, Nancy Merrick, Evelyn A. Spaber
HEALTH SERVICES: Judtih Defoe, Ronette Jordan
MENTAL HEALTH: Tuyet N. Chen, Peter A. Galager Jr.
PUBLIC HEALTH: Barry L. Morgan
PUBLIC SAFETY: Brian Decker
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Charles MacMillan
PUBLIC WORKS: Bradley B. Hughes
SHERIFF: Edward J. Elliott, Larry M. McCabe, James W. Merrifield
SUPERIOR COURT: Ronald L. Larsen, Kwing Y. Wat



Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade

Saturday, December 11, from 6-8 p.m.

Festively decorated boats will illuminate the Marina's main channel in one of Marina del Rey's most visually exciting events. Come and see this year's boats beautifully decorated for the holiday season.

The parade route brings boats through the main channel of Marina del Rey as they compete for spectacular prize packages. Best places to view the parade include Burton Chace Park located at 13650 Mindanao Way or Fisherman's Village at 13755 Fiji Way.

Admission to the event is FREE.

Share It

Top 10 Holiday Shopping Tips from the Department of Consumer Affairs

- 1. Stick to a budget.**
Prepare a holiday budget before you shop. Pay with cash to keep from spending too much.
- 2. Use credit cards wisely.**
If you pay with a credit card, use just one. If you pay by credit card, you get legal protections if you don't receive what you ordered or if products are defective. Read the terms of your credit card agreement. The new CARD Act laws give you added rights as a credit card user.
- 3. Get your R&R – refunds and receipts.**
Ask about refund policies before you buy. Some stores offer a full refund, while others offer only a store credit or no refund at all. Save your receipts and ask for gift receipts. You or the person getting your gifts will need them for returns and exchanges.
- 4. Check for sale prices.**
When you buy sale items, check your receipt before you leave the cash register. Make sure they did not charge you the regular price. If something you buy goes on sale later, ask about sales adjustments and you might get a refund or credit.
- 5. Get full value from gift cards.**
If you receive gift cards, spend them promptly. U.S. consumers waste about \$10 billion a year by not using up the value of gift cards. Also, you have the right to redeem any retailer gift card for cash if it has a cash value of less than \$10. Donated gift cards are exempt. The law forbids nearly all service fees on retailer gift cards. In California, most gift cards don't expire no matter what the fine print says. (These rules do not apply to bank gift cards, which are issued by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa and can be used at most stores.)
- 6. Read the fine print.**
Read a contract and understand it before you sign. Check the interest rate and the total cost of the item including interest. Ask yourself if the interest rate is reasonable and whether you can afford the item.
- 7. Know the way to layaway.**
Layaway is again popular in stores. If you buy an item by layaway, get a full receipt with a description of the item, total price, amount of the down payment, amount and due dates of payments, length of the hold and the store's refund policy.
- 8. Be secure online.**
When buying online, make sure the Web site is secure before entering your personal or financial information. Secure Web sites begin with "https://" rather than just "http://." They also display a locked padlock on the screen.
- 9. Protect your personal information.**
Don't be a victim of identity theft. Do not give personal information over the telephone or on the internet unless you contacted that person or business. Do not write your address, phone number, social security or driver's license numbers on credit-card receipts. Before giving personal or financial information to a business, ask how they will use it and if it will remain confidential.
- 10. When you give, know where it's going.**
Watch out for phony charities who use names that sound like the real charities. Don't be fooled. Investigate before you give.



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For more consumer information, go to the Department of Consumer Affairs Web site at dca.lacounty.gov or call 800-593-8222.