Q&P Commission Honors County Volunteer Program

Chief Administrative Officer David E. Janssen proudly received the “Mega-Million Platinum Eagle” award for the County’s Volunteer Program during the 19th annual Quality and Productivity awards luncheon held recently in the Grand Hall of the Music Center. More than 500 County employees, including Department Heads, were present as Commission Chair Jaclyn Tilley Hill and Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Chair, joined by Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Public Health Director, for presentation of the “AIDS Walk Los Angeles Day” proclamation during a recent Board of Supervisors meeting. Craig Thompson, second from right, AIDS Project Los Angeles executive director, receives the scroll along with, from left, Austin Riggs, AIDS Walk team coordinator, and Ruel Nolledo, APLA government affairs.

Metro Orange Line Now Operating

It’s official! The Metro Orange Line, a 14-mile bus route from North Hollywood to Woodland Hills, is now operating.

“People who commute from the city or from the Valley in either direction will be able to get across the Valley in less than 40 minutes,” said Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. A trip from one end of the Valley to the other will take 38 minutes “whether it’s raining, whether there’s a semi overturned along the 405 interchange, whether there’s a brushfire in West Hills,” said the Supervisor.

“It’s not just a busway, it is a green belt across the Valley,” he added.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials expect between 5,000 and 7,000 passengers daily during its first year. The Metro Orange Line buses, which are 60-feet long and similar to light-rail cars on rubber tires, run every five minutes from 5 to 8 a.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. on weekdays, and nominally longer during off-peak periods.

For a list of stations, connecting lines and schedule information, please call 1-800-commute.
2006 Fuel-Efficient Car List Published

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy have published the 2006 list of most fuel-efficient vehicles and Ford Motor Company is the only U.S. automaker in the Top 10. (See Chart) Honda’s Insight, manual version, tops the list with 60 miles per gallon in the city and 66 mpg on the highway, followed by Toyota’s hybrid Prius, which gets 60 mpg in the city and 51 on the highway. Volkswagen AG, Honda and Toyota make eight of the Top 10 cars, which are mostly hybrid electric-gas or diesel-powered vehicles. The most fuel-efficient SUVs are the Ford Escape hybrids, two-wheel and four-wheel, with 36 mpg in the city and 31 on the highway. Ford’s Ranger tops the list for pickups with 24 mpg and 29 mpg in the city and on the highway, respectively. The manual Toyota Corolla is the lone gas-only vehicle to crack the Top 10. With 30 mpg in the city and 36 on the highway, the manual Pontiac Vibe and Toyota Corolla Matrix are tops among station wagons. Honda’s Odyssey minivan is the most fuel-efficient in its class with 20 mpg, city, and 28, highway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>mpg (city)</th>
<th>mpg (highway)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Honda Insight (manual, hybrid)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Toyota Prius (hybrid)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Volkswagen New Beetle and Golf (manual, diesel)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Volkswagen Jetta (manual, diesel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ford Escape Hybrid (PHEV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Dodge Ram 1500 (manual, automatic)</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dodge Ram 1500 (manual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Bentley Arnage and Arnage W12</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Ferrari 612 Scaglietti</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Aston Martin V12 Vanquish S</td>
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</table>

Source: The Associated Press

Correction

Loretta Worthington, Alcohol and Drug Program, Department of Health Services, is one of 10 substance abuse professionals to recently complete a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellowship. Titled “Developing Leadership in Reducing Substance Abuse,” the fellowship is administered by the Portland State University Graduate School of Social Work. Ms. Worthington’s last name was misspelled in the September-October issue of the Workplace Connection.

Mosley Musings

Top 7 Excuses “NOT” to Rideshare

During the course of my day, I talk to a lot of County employees about ridesharing and I hear a lot of excuses why a commuter cannot rideshare. The following are the top seven excuses and my response:

Excuse No. 1 - I can’t rideshare because I have to take my kids to school.
Response - If you are driving your children (or any other person) to school, to the babysitter, or any other place that is more than 50 percent of your commute, you are already ridesharing.

Excuse No. 3 - What is with this ridesharing business! Don’t you know that in California you need a car!
Response - With the improvements in mass transit, you can travel with ease throughout southern California. Go to www.commutesmart.info – to learn about mass transit and to map out a trip plan to suit your needs.

Excuse No. 5 - I can’t rideshare because I need my car for meetings and other errands.
Response - Do you really need your car on a daily basis? Ridesharing even one day per month helps clean up the air. On those days when you don’t need your car, try climbing aboard a bus or train.

Excuse No. 6 - I can’t rideshare because I have to go to school when I leave work.
Response - See Response to Excuse No. 5.

Excuse No. 7 - I don’t ride because I don’t like carpooling.
Response - Ridesharing is not just carpooling. It is also vanpooling, commuting by bus or train, biking or walking to work, and telecommuting. So long as you are not driving alone you are ridesharing.

A Perfect Gift for the Holiday Season!

As the holiday shopping lists for family and friends are being prepared, don’t forget shopping at work is an option and U.S. Savings Bonds make a great gift for someone on your list. You can buy, as a one-time gift purchase, the traditional fixed-rate Series EE Bonds for as little as $25 for a $50 bond or the new inflation-indexed Series I Bond for as little as $50 for a $50 bond. By choosing to purchase either the Series EE or Series I Bonds, you can give the gift that keeps on giving, with interest.

Besides making great holiday gifts, U.S. Savings Bonds have the advantage of making it easier and affordable to begin investing toward your family’s future educational needs and financial goals. “I have been purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds through payroll deduction for more than a decade as part of a plan to finance my sons’ college education expenses,” said Betty Gobst of the CAO’s financial and asset management branch. “Buying savings bonds through the County has been effortless, and over time the bonds have accumulated to a nice sum,” she said.

So, this year, wrap up your holiday shopping the easy way and enjoy the season by giving government-protected U.S. Savings Bonds. You also may opt to give yourself the monthly gift of a U.S. Savings Bond. To purchase savings bonds, contact your departmental savings bonds coordinator or call Ruben Rivero, Countywide Savings Bonds Program Coordinator, at (213) 974-2523, or via e-mail at rrivero@cao.co.ca.us.
Antonovitch presented the honor to CAO Janssen, Patricia Mannatt, program manager, Victoria P. Lane, productivity manager, and Craig Hirakawa, alternate productivity manager.

Currently, there are 42 volunteer programs in 25 County departments and Los Angeles Superior Court. Last year 56,000 volunteers donated 4.1 million hours to various County programs, saving the County $71 million dollars. Independent Sector, a national organization, calculates the value of each volunteer hour based on information from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A County Volunteer Program Manual, consisting of 13 sections on policy, basic program elements, definition of a volunteer and statistical reports, is available to departmental coordinators online at http://cao.co.la.ca.us/workplace/volunteer.htm.

Supervisor Don Knabe is joined by a couple of the more than 1,000 participants in the annual Knabe Katch Fishing Derby held recently at La Mirada Regional Park, 13701 S. Adelfa Ave. The City of La Mirada, local Kiwanis Club and the County Department of Parks and Recreation join the supervisor in sponsoring the popular event.

Adopt-A-Family Program Seeks Contributors

Saying that it “helps needy families to have a memorable holiday season,” the Department of Public Social Services is continuing its Adopt-A-Family program this year, announced Bryce Yokomizo, director.

County employees are encouraged to sponsor a family or individuals, who are clients of DPSS. Gift items such as toys, clothes and food may be donated. There also are “wish lists” completed by the families.

“This program enables employees to help on a personal level,” said Yokomizo, adding “group sponsorship is another way to contribute.”

Employees interested in participating should contact Shirley Yang, volunteer coordinator, at (213) 744-4348.

LACountyHelps Website Planned

LACountyHelps, an effort to assist individuals and families via the Internet, is underway and will formally launch the full project and website early next year.

The easily accessible site will provide information on health and human services and programs available to eligible families throughout the County.

The project is being developed by the CAO’s Service Integration Branch.

Simple and user-friendly in English and Spanish, LACountyHelps will allow complete anonymity when users conduct searches for services, programs, documentation and forms required, locations/addresses, driving directions and contact information.
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky greets vendors during the Second Annual Government Day exhibition held at Panorama City Mall, and chats with Michael Henry, director, and Sandra Blaydow of the Department of Human Resources.

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, third from left, is joined by Dr. David Sanders, left, Director, Department of Children and Family Services, and other participants at her annual Summer Beach Party at Mother’s Beach for County foster children. The annual party included various activities and refreshments.

CSAC Honors Two County Projects

“Library Self-Service Pilot” and “Volunteering—The Cornerstone of Democracy” received 2005 Challenge and Merit awards, respectively, from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC).

The projects were submitted by the County Public Library and the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

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Grand Total

*Full payment for consignment orders must be paid by December 14, 2005. All orders must be picked up at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, B-1, unless alternate arrangements are made. Please call (213) 974-2466 or (213) 974-2923 to arrange pick-up.

Date: ____________________
To: _______________________
Natalia Jimenez/Ruben Rivero
Chief Administrative Office
Workplace Programs
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, B-1
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-2466 or Fax (213) 633-4694

Changing Our Community
County of Los Angeles
2005 Charitable Giving Campaign
2006 Entertainment Book Order Form

Photo by Martin Zamora.
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich cuts the ribbon to open the new Department of Children and Family Services office in Palmdale. Assisting him during the gala ceremony are, from left, Larry Grooms, district director for Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, Rick L. Bryant, regional administrator, DCFS-Palmdale, Dr. David Sanders, DCFS director, Steve Hoffbauer, Palmdale City Council and Amber Henry, district representative for State Sen. George Runner.

2005 Charitable Giving Breakfast Held at Music Center

Chief Administrative Officer David E. Janssen and County Department Heads joined the five charitable giving campaign partners—United Way, Brotherhood Crusade, Asian Pacific Community Fund, Earth Share of California and the United Latino Fund—for the annual executive breakfast, held in September at the Music Center.

Named as campaign Co-Chairs with Janssen are Janice Fukai, Alternate Public Defender, Marcia Mayeda, Animal Care and Control, Bryce Yokomizo, Public Social Services, Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, Health Services, and Sheriff Lee Baca.

“Changing Our Community” is the theme of the year’s fundraising drive, approved by the Board of Supervisors at its September 6 meeting.

For more information, contact your department charitable giving coordinator or contact the CAO Workplace Programs Office at (213) 974-2619.

CAO Janssen and Victoria Lane receive check from Matt Huff of AEG Entertainment Group.

United Way’s David Menchaca presents award to Phillip Browning Child Support Services.

Ellen Misawa of the Asian Fund presents orchid plant to co-chair Marcia Mayeda, Animal Care and Control.
For the ninth season, Metrolink will transform 450-ton trains into holiday Metrolink sleighs. Families are invited to come to their local station, meet Santa and his friends, and enjoy a free holiday stage show performed right from the train. In partnership with Southern California firefighters for the Spark of Love toy drive, the Metrolink Holiday Toy Express Trains at each station will encourage audience members to get in the holiday spirit by donating unwrapped toys for needy children.

For the full schedule, call (800) 371-LINK (5654) or visit www.metrolinktrains.com. For more information about the California Firefighter’s “Spark of Love” toy drive, visit www.abctv.com.

County employees in the Civic Center area attended the annual Clean Air/Rideshare Fair held Oct. 6 in the Mall area.

On display were hybrid vehicles from the County’s pool fleet, Public Works, Flexcar, Enterprise and VPSI Vanpool and Segway.

Montebello Transit, Metrolink, Foothill Transit, and Metro also attended. About 100 employees participated in the opportunity drawings where they had to answer questions about ridesharing and commuting.
**Focus on Agencies**
*(Editor’s Note: Following are brief profiles on the five, Board-approved fund distribution agencies collecting charitable donations from County employees.)*

### United Way

“**Tomorrow’s Leadership Program,**” operated by the Boys and Girls Club, is one example of United Way providing funding at the grassroots level.

A local mother enrolled three sons in the after-school homework assistance program to improve their grades. “They were having trouble with understanding the assignments. My sons were not scoring well on tests,” she said. “Even tutorial assistance did not help my second son.”

Officials with the United Way funded program brought in a tutor from a local university to work directly with the child. The tutoring focused on reading, comprehension and completing homework assignments.

“By the second semester his grade’s increased a full letter grade,” said the mother.

### Brotherhood Crusade

Feeding the homeless in areas throughout the County is only one community-based, outreach program provided by the Brotherhood Crusade.

Targeting African Americans and people of color, the non-profit agency has a local history of service that goes beyond three decades.

More than 1,000 multi-cultural programs in various parts of the County have received financial and support services from the organization.

Brotherhood Crusade resources specifically aim to positively impact health, education, social welfare and economic development issues, said officials.

Programs for victims of domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, child care, after-school care, gang and violent crime prevention have been funded. Community job training and placement programs have been offered as well.

Brotherhood Crusade is working for solutions, said officials.

### Asian Pacific Community Fund

It was the summer of 2000, the month of July to be specific, when a chronic drug and alcohol abuser found that “the drugs that eased so many pains no longer worked. I found myself in a hotel trying to get high. The only thing that I could do was cry. But I did find myself praying for help.”

Help came two days later in the form of the Asian-American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP, Inc.), a local agency funded by the Asian Pacific Community Fund.

“My addiction cost me a number of jobs, a wife, a large group of friends and eventually landed me in jail,” he said.

His entry into treatment was by chance. While taking a lady friend back to the outpatient program where they met, some of the counselors wanted to know how he was doing.

They let him know that the woman was returning to the program for help. They asked him to “leave her alone or get help.” He asked for help and this time was sincere.

When he entered AADAP’s residential program it was with a firm commitment to “stay until graduation or the police dragged me out. It wasn’t an easy thing to do. But, I stayed. There were a lot of days when I wanted to leave, but I knew a change would occur and it did.”

A six-month job search led to an offer of work in an administrative assistant position. He eagerly accepted. “That was four years ago,” he said.

With a new wife, a son who is approaching his first birthday and his own small business, the AADAP graduate said, “I’m happy!”

### Earth Share of California

A coalition of more than 85 environmental and conservation non-profit organizations, Earth Share of California works to protect, support and improve California’s natural resources and environment.

The group assists efforts to safeguard the County’s air, waterways, drinking water, and diverse endangered wildlife.

Earth Share also is active within local classrooms teaching children about their role in protecting the environment, such as a recent clean-up at Gompers Junior High School in South Los Angeles.

During one year, the coalition spearheaded the planting of more than 1,500 trees in the County. It also is part of an ongoing effort to protect and preserve all of the 150,000 acres of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the world’s largest urban national park.

Earth Share of California is dedicated to its mission and motto: One Environment...One Simple Way to Care For It.
United Latino Fund

The United Latino Fund recognized the importance of Centro Latino de Educacion Popular when it began funding the program in 1991. Its mission is to offer educational opportunities to those without access to other education resources, improve self-esteem and open doors to new avenues for achieving personal and career goals.

Centers targeting children and adults teach basic reading and writing skills, improve vocational skills and empower students to take pro-active steps to realize their goals.

“We work with our clients to boost self-confidence and nurture a sense of accomplishment and joy of learning,” said officials of the center.

One student, who came to Los Angeles 26 years ago and has spent all of her time working and rearing her children, decided to enroll in the Hoover School Centro Latino Center program, where her children attend school.

“They speak English and sometimes I couldn’t figure out what they were supposed to do for homework,” she said. “If I received a letter in Spanish from the school, my daughters could not read it to me so I said I am going to school,” recalled the mother of two.

“Being illiterate is very sad,” she said. “Someone asks you what the sign says and all you can do is stare.”

Now, for two hours each day she studies with tutors at Centro Latino. “I really want to learn English even if it takes me until I’m 100 years old,” she said recently.

United Latino Fund