



# September is National Preparedness Month

*Meet Kevin McGowan: New Director of the Office of Emergency Management*



The destruction and aftermath of the July 2019 Ridgecrest earthquakes that were felt throughout the Southern California region were striking reminders that we live in earthquake country. All Los Angeles County residents should take steps to prepare themselves and their loved ones, ahead of time – before the next disaster strikes.

For the past 10 years, the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (CEO OEM) has partnered with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and [Ready.gov](#) to educate, train and empower residents, businesses, houses of worship, and whole communities to prepare for emergencies and disasters through the award-winning *September is National Preparedness Month* and *LA County Prepareathon* program events and activities. In July 2019, Kevin McGowan was appointed by the Chief Executive Officer Sachi A. Hamai as the new CEO OEM Director, replacing Jeff L. Reeb.

McGowan is responsible for Countywide emergency management preparedness, planning, coordination, training, response, and recovery efforts.

“We want to empower our Los Angeles County employees and residents to take ownership of their families’ disaster preparedness,” said McGowan. “I experienced this firsthand during the recent Woolsey Fire; all County employees are Disaster Service Workers and we all need to be ready to respond and assist our residents when emergencies and disasters strike. Getting your own family ready for a disaster is an important first step. To assist our County employees and their families, the Office of Emergency Management offers valuable resources available at [www.lacounty.gov/emergency](#).”

Prior to joining the County of Los Angeles, McGowan most recently served as the Director of the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services from 2013-2019. During his tenure in Ventura County, McGowan led emergency management preparedness, response and recovery efforts for multiple Presidential Major Disaster Declarations and for numerous natural, technological, and man-made disasters such as the following high-profile incidents: 2018 Woolsey Fire, 2018 Borderline Bar and Grill Shooting in Thousand Oaks, 2017 Thomas Fire, 2015 Refugio Oil Spill, 2014 Santa Clara Waste Treatment Center Hazardous Materials Explosion, 2014 Camarillo Springs Debris Flow, and 2013 Springs Fire. McGowan managed and oversaw the following emergency management projects: Ventura County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) renovation, Hazard Mitigation and EOC plan updates, and the revamp of Ventura County’s Tsunami Program working in concert with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and California Geological Survey.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**  
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# Calendar of Events

## Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

[www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org)

### Ahmanson Theatre

Through October 20 – Latin History for Morons

### Kirk Douglas Theatre

Through October 27 – On Beckett

### Mark Taper Forum

Through October 13 – A Play is a Poem

### Ford Theatres

(323) 461-3673

[www.fordtheatres.org](http://www.fordtheatres.org)

September 21 – Olga Pericet Company - *La Espina*

September 24 – Hollywood Shorts

September 28 – Jail Guitar Doors: *Rock Out 5!*

October 1 – Goldenvoice and Emporium present John Prine

October 5 – GAME THEORY: *The Indie Game Symphony*

October 11 – Hassan Hajjaj: *My Rocks Stars Experimental-Live*

October 12 – We Are KING

### Grand Park

(213) 972-8080

[www.grandparkla.org](http://www.grandparkla.org)

Every Tuesday through Thursday – Lunch a la Park Food Trucks

Every Wednesday and Friday – Lunch a la Park Yoga reTreat

September 22 – Sunday Sessions featuring Dublab

### Hollywood Bowl

(323) 850-2000

[www.hollywoodbowl.com](http://www.hollywoodbowl.com)

September 21 – Sing-A-Long *Sound of Music*

September 25 – Black Movie Soundtrack III

September 29 – Gary Clark, Jr. and Michael Kiwanuka



## September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

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



### Members of the Board

#### Janice Hahn

Chair

Fourth District

#### Hilda L. Solis

First District

#### Mark Ridley-Thomas

Second District

#### Sheila Kuehl

Third District

#### Kathryn Barger

Fifth District

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Submissions to the DIGEST may be  
edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Check out the DIGEST at:

<http://hr.lacounty.gov/about-the-county/>

# Get Ready! Be Prepared!

## Annual Enrollment Starts October 1, 2019

Annual enrollment is the time of year to review your current benefits and decide what changes you need to make for the next Plan Year. All eligible employees should receive their annual enrollment packet in the mail by October 11, 2019. Take time to review all the materials in your packet for important changes, family members currently enrolled in your health plans, and monthly premium costs for your benefits in 2020.

For *Options* and *Choices* employees, the following **important** changes are taking effect in 2020:

### Taxable Cash Cap of \$325 (*Choices* and *Options* participants only)

You are given a monthly allowance to “spend” on benefits. When you do not spend all of your monthly allowance, the unused amount – taxable cash – is added to your monthly pay as income. The County and your union regularly review your benefits plan to make sure it follows the U.S. Department of Labor guidelines. To meet these guidelines, starting in the 2020 Plan Year, there will be a monthly taxable cash cap of \$325. You won’t receive any unused benefits allowance above the cap.

### CAPE Blue Shield Medical Plan New Eligibility Rules (*Choices* participants only)

You must be a dues-paying member of your union to enroll or continue your enrollment in a CAPE medical plan. If you are not a dues-paying member of your union as of August 1, 2019, or if your union is not a member of the Coalition of County Unions, you cannot continue your CAPE medical plan enrollment in 2020. You must select another medical plan during your enrollment or you will be automatically enrolled in either Kaiser or Cigna Southern California Select Network HMO based on your service area.

### New UnitedHealthcare (UHC) Harmony HMO Medical Plan (*Options* participants only)

The new UHC Harmony HMO has a smaller network of doctors, specialists, and facilities. You will pay lower premiums, have no deductibles, and pay the same copay amounts as the UHC HMO plan. When you enroll, you will choose a provider based on where you reside in Los Angeles County, Orange County, Riverside County, or San Bernardino County.

### New Kaiser Vision and Hearing Aid Benefits (*Options* participants only)

Kaiser enrollees will now have \$150 allowance to spend on eyeglass frames with prescription lenses or contact lenses in lieu of eyeglasses. In addition, enrollees will have a \$5,000 benefit allowance to spend on a hearing device from Kaiser or another vendor.

### Reminders

Enrollment must be completed before midnight October 31, 2019 in order to:

- Waive or decline medical or dental coverage, if you qualify.
- Enroll or re-enroll in the Health Care and/or Dependent Care Spending Accounts.
- Buy Elective Annual Leave Days (*MegaFlex* participants only).

Go to [mylacountybenefits.com](http://mylacountybenefits.com) to complete your enrollment. If you have questions, call the Benefits Hotline at (213) 388-9982 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. During Annual Benefits Enrollment, hotline hours are extended to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## September is Voting Solutions for All People Month



### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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McGowan earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master’s degree in public policy from Pepperdine University. He also attended a variety of emergency management educational programs including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security FEMA National Emergency Management Executive Academy, the Naval Post-Graduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security Executive Leaders Program, and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government Leadership in Crises. He is a United States military veteran who served as a U.S. Army Infantry Officer based in Egypt and other military base locations.

To learn more about McGowan, please view the LA County Channel’s LA County: CLOSE-UP show at <https://vimeo.com/349514420>.

# Why Phishing Works

A successful phishing attack accomplishes two basic goals: *it gains the trust of victims and exploits their emotions.*

Imagine a friend of yours is looking for a job. She posts her resume on various sites and sends out applications. Then, she finally receives an email, that appears to come from LinkedIn, with a great job offer. *All your friend has to do is click the link and upload her personal details. But is it a scam?* More importantly, would your friend, who has been on the job hunt for several months, even question its authenticity?

Now let's flip roles. Let's say you handle the hiring of new employees and you get lots of emails from applicants with attachments. *How difficult would it be for a social engineer to push a malicious attachment, disguised as a resume, to your inbox?*

What about emails that appear to come from someone you know?

*Trust, desperation, and fear are the most effective weapons of scammers.*

As always:

- If you do not recognize the sender or are not expecting an email, *delete it.*
- It is important to verify the details in the message before responding.
- Always *hover over the web link before clicking* to see if the link takes you to the correct site.
- On mobile devices, tap and hold on the link to preview the web address
- If you are unsure, follow the County's policies and report it by clicking on the **Report Phishing CRISI** button in the Outlook Home tab.



## Phishing Identification Checklist

- Does the email contain poor spelling and/or bad grammar?
- Is the email awkwardly worded?
- Is the "from" address unrecognizable or just plain weird?
- Does the email promise large sums of money or other unbelievable offers?
- Does the email use threatening language?
- Does the email contain a sense of urgency?
- Does the email have a call-to-action such as clicking a link?
- Does the email contain an unexpected attachment or request for money?

If you had to check any of these boxes, beware! It could be a phishing email.

Protect the County and yourself  
Do not click on links or open attachments from emails you are not expecting, or from companies you do not do business with.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Email addresses can be spoofed, or forged, to make messages appear to come from legitimate sources. Victims are much more likely to cooperate when they believe they are communicating with someone they know, which is even more reason to fully scrutinize all requests for sensitive info or money!



Supervisors Kuehl and Solis beat the drum with Music Center CEO Moore to turn on the fountain during the official grand re-opening of the Music Center Plaza. Photo: The Music Center

## Music Center Plaza Re-opens

“After nearly 20 years of imagining what the Music Center Plaza could be, our dream has finally become a reality,” said Lisa Specht, chair, the Music Center Board of Directors.

The Music Center joined civic and community leaders to dedicate the Music Center Plaza, opening the newly renovated, accessible outdoor urban space and recognizing it as “The Plaza for All.” The event culminated a 20-month, \$41 million renovation. A roster of distinguished speakers, including Supervisor Hilda L. Solis (First District) and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (Third District), Music Center Board Chair Lisa Specht, the Music Center President and CEO Rachel Moore, Rios Clementi Hale Studios (RCH) Principal Bob Hale, Border Grill Chef/Co-Owner Susan Feniger and Chief Anthony Morales and Andrew Morales of the Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, marked the occasion with a land acknowledgement and special ceremony. The event unveiled the Plaza as a major public square for the County.

The event drew more than 120 L.A.-based percussionists, representing the many faces, corners, and cultures of the County, who joined together in a robust performance that accompanied the official restart of the Music Center’s historic fountain. The event also featured the launch of two new 12’ x 20’ LED screens, which will be a distinctive platform for living video art.

“The Music Center Plaza is a key component of the renovation plan for Downtown Los Angeles, securing Grand Avenue as a multicultural corridor and destination where L.A. County residents and visitors are welcome,” said L.A. County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis.

The L.A.-based multidisciplinary architecture and design firm, RCH Studios, helmed the Plaza redesign.

## Pets and Emergency Preparedness

### Department of Animal Care and Control

September is National Preparedness Month and we would like to remind all pet owners to include your pets in your emergency plans. Southern California is subject to many types of natural disasters such as wildfires, earthquakes, and floods. Local emergencies such as power outages, chemical spills, or other events can also disrupt normal activities. Being prepared for these situations will help you protect your pet before disaster strikes.

Pet owners are much more likely to evacuate early when they are prepared, have a plan, and have a kit (stay at home kit and on the go kit). We strongly encourage pet owners to keep a kit at home and a kit at work.

Your kit should include:

- Pet first-aid kit
- Supply of food/water/medications/treats
- Copies of pets’ licenses and vaccinations
- Photographs of your pets
- Microchip information
- Toys
- Portable radio with extra batteries
- Buckets or bowls for feed/water
- Emergency contact list
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Cell phone with chargers
- Blankets or sheets
- Carriers
- Leashes
- Disposable bags for clean-up
- Shovel
- Duct tape
- Wire cutters

What else can I do to prepare for an emergency?

- Plan and familiarize yourself with multiple escape routes.
- Get to know your neighbors in case you are not home and need their help.
- Have easy access to vet records in case you need to board your pet(s).
- Make sure your pets are licensed and microchipped, and your contact information is current with the registries.

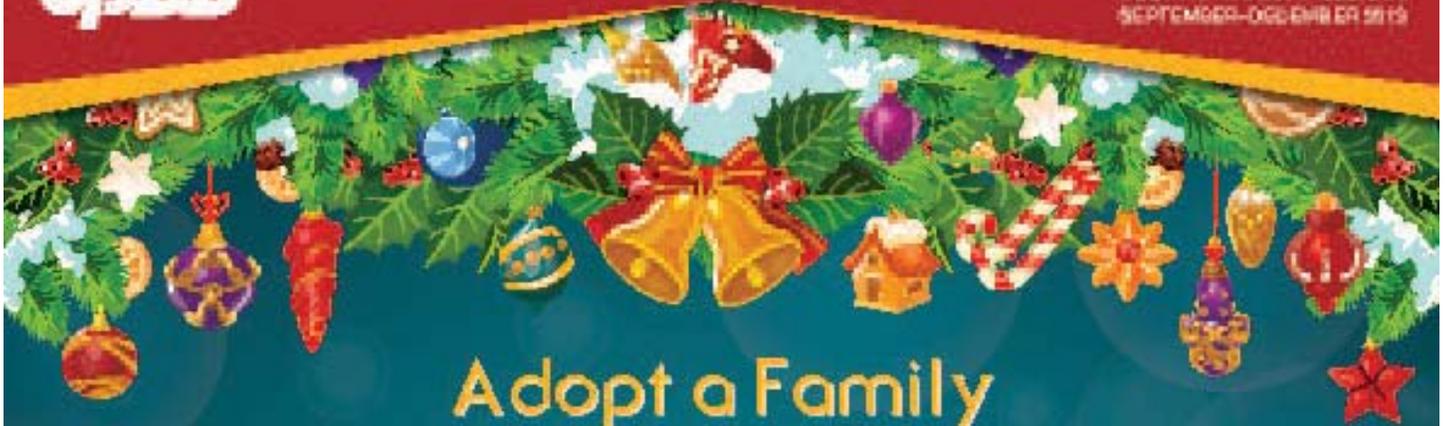
Remember our pets are our family members and it is a good practice to prepare for their needs when we are preparing for emergencies.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES



ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM  
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2015



## Adopt a Family for the Holiday Season!

*The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)  
is gearing up for its annual Adopt-A-Family Program!*

**Adopt-A-Family is a unique program that allows individuals or groups the opportunity to sponsor a family in need. Each year, an increasing number of donors have taken part in this worthy DPSS tradition and have helped create a memorable holiday season for families in Los Angeles County.**

New items such as toys, clothing, and household items are but a few of the thoughtful gifts given. The families are grateful for the help and it brings the true meaning of the holidays to the community.

### **Sponsors can choose:**

- Size of the family
- General location of the family
- Number of families they would like to sponsor

**NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL!  
APPLY TO BE A SPONSOR ONLINE TODAY!**

**[dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/vs/adopt.cfm](http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/vs/adopt.cfm)**



For questions contact **Eryn Aquino**, DPSS Volunteer Coordinator,  
at [AdoptAFamily@dpss.lacounty.gov](mailto:AdoptAFamily@dpss.lacounty.gov).

# Retirees

*Congratulations for your many years of service to the County of Los Angeles!*

## 45+ Years

**ASSESSOR:** Martha B. Ochoa  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Luis Gomez  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Joe Duran, Elsa C. Villegas  
**MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER:** Ida Moriel  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Kay Parks  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Linda Shimane  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Nadine Coleman, Renee D. Saulney

## 40+ Years

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Martha E. Madrigal, Elaine Perez, Maria Torres  
**MENTAL HEALTH:** Robert Rauck  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Carolyn J. Essex  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Esther Sawyer  
**SHERIFF:** Dorothy A. Castaneda

## 35+ Years

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Carolyn L. Pyles,  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** William A. Brown, Cathy L. King  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Jatondalyn Black, Terry Finegan, Jeffrey Kageno, Brenda Lee-Richards, Nicanor Torres Jr, Elvira E. Zamora-Gosim  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Samson W. Yu  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Grace La Mountain  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Francisco Sanchez, Luu B. Truong  
**SHERIFF:** Larry A. Mead, Rhonda E. King

## 30+ Years

**ASSESSOR:** M. Lupe Garcia  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Hope Barrasa, Zachery I. Jenkins, Godwin F. Nwufu, Marshall E. West  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Mark A. Batsford, Sam Gomez  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Corazon Andal, Rosemary Ashcraft, Adonis Baldwin, Linda L. Kimbell, Tamara J. Moreland, Martin M. Scharef  
**PROBATION:** Ethel M. Weatherspoon  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Michael R. Enger  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Maria L. Tafalla  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Rosalia B. Muniz, Tina T. Pham  
**SHERIFF:** Steve P. Di Fonzo, Scott A. Graham, Peter Lavin

## 25+ Years

**ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Nancy L. Wood  
**ASSESSOR:** Carlos R. Sanchez

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Josephine C. Nicolas  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Stuart S. Riskin, Xavier Rosales  
**FIRE:** Henry T. Waller III  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Merlita A. Cabeb, Eleanor Q. Dacio, Irenen C. Dolan, Yolanda Fernandez, Nestor M. Fulgencio, Ralph Garcia, Olivia A. Pizana, Paul C. Fu Jr, Winnie K. Saw  
**PROBATION:** Lawrence Johnson, Carol J. Stephens  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** George A. Peccerelli  
**REGISTRAR RECORDER:** Debra Ross-Scott  
**SHERIFF:** Bradley A. Brody, Alberto Carrillo, Robert Gutierrez Jr, Steven R. Pulley, Lorraine M. Aguirre, John R. Dorado

## Olga Pericet in *La Espina* at the Ford Theatres

L.A. County-owned and operated **Ford Theatres** presents a one-night only flamenco performance of **Olga Pericet Company: *La Espina***. *The New Yorker* describes **Olga Pericet** as "...an exceptional dancer: sleek, mercurial, seductive" and "a fearless experimenter" when it comes to choreography. Pericet's polished technique and serene but serious presence captivates the audience from the very first moment she appears on the stage. Her work blends a respect for tradition with a contemporary vision.

A versatile artist and award-winning dancer (National Dance Prize 2018, Spain), Pericet is one of the top names in the world of flamenco and Spanish dance. With an absolute technical prowess, she has developed a harmonious and exquisite style.

Olga Pericet Company: *La Espina* takes place at the Ford Theatres on Saturday, September 21, 2019, at 8 p.m. County of Los Angeles employees receive a 20% discount with code **LACE**. For tickets and information, go to [FordTheatres.org](http://FordTheatres.org).

L.A. County is improving how you vote!

# VOTING REVOLUTIONIZED

*Explore the new voting experience.*

September 28 & 29, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Learn more: [LAVote.net/Mock-Election](http://LAVote.net/Mock-Election)

