



Saving Lives



Dear Friends,

With Memorial Day just around the corner, there is no more pressing issue to discuss than the well-being of our service members. At Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting, my colleagues [approved my motion](#) to implement a [Veteran Suicide Review Team](#) to collect data, analyze veteran suicides, identify gaps in supportive services, and understand opportunities to enhance support for those who've served.

we have to do more to prevent this tragic loss of life among the men and women who have courageously answered the call of duty. A [recent report](#) by the [Department of Mental Health](#) and the County's Chief Information Office found a 16% increase in L.A. County veteran suicides from 2017 to 2018, which is double the suicide rate increase for the same period across California.

Our initiative will bridge the gap between local, state, and federal governments in order to share valuable data that will get to the root cause of crises for veterans to ultimately save their lives. The review team will help us spot trends, challenges, and opportunities so we can better support the needs of those who come back home to our county after they've served our country. When veterans return from service, it's our honor and duty to provide them with the holistic support they need to not only survive, but thrive.

If you or someone you love is in crisis, please don't hesitate to ask for help. Call the Department of Mental Health's 24/7 Help Line at (800) 854-7771 or text "LA" to 741741.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'K' being particularly large and stylized.

Kathryn Barger

Supervisor, Fifth District

Mark Your Calendar

Tribute to Veterans & Military Families

Saturday, May 28, 2022

Arcadia County Park

★★★ 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ★★★



Kathryn
BARGER
5th District Supervisor • County of Los Angeles

My Tribute to Veterans and Military Families is back in person at Arcadia County Park on May 28! The event is a longstanding Fifth District tradition and provides our community with the opportunity to thank our veterans, service members, and their loved ones for their commitment to a lifetime of service. We are eager to equip attendees with access to programs, services, and benefits. The event is free and open to the public, but I encourage you to RSVP to let us know you're coming.

[Explore the event.](#)

A New Chapter



I'm immensely grateful that my colleagues approved my motion to dedicate \$6 million to transform Challenger Memorial Youth Center in Lancaster, formerly a juvenile detention center. In partnership with Antelope Valley College and the Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services, this facility will become an amazing job training campus, with housing onsite, for young people who are former foster youth, juvenile justice involved, or experiencing homelessness.

[Learn more about our partnership.](#)

Pets of the Week



Maribel



Fiona

Looking for the purrrfect pet? Meet Maribel, a six-week-old kitten, and Fiona, a three-year-old Husky. They're both calm, loving animals hoping to find a furever family. If you have room in your heart and your home, please consider adopting one of them from the Carson Animal Care Center. Make sure to click on the photo above to see videos of these sweet pets on my Facebook! Additionally, Animal Care and Control just announced community members can come see pets without an appointment! Visit between 2 and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and between 2 and 5 p.m. every other day of the week. You can still make an appointment in the morning beginning at 10 a.m.

[Pick your perfect pet.](#)

A Place for Youth



Now more than ever, we need places for kids to go where they will be safe, supported, and strengthened. The Boys & Girls Club of Burbank and Greater East Valley has a vital role to help the next generation flourish in school and in our neighborhoods. I'm honored that I could play just a small part in this community-wide commitment by supporting the renovation of their beautiful new headquarters. Last weekend, I was so humbled to be recognized by this amazing organization at their gala.

[Connect with the Club.](#)

Bridging the Gap



Today, I joined the Santa Clarita City Council to make a big announcement regarding the permanent Bridge to Home shelter. I'm grateful to share that my office is allocating an additional \$2 million to the project (with a match by the city), bringing the County's total contributions to Bridge to Home up to \$5.18 million. Once completed, the shelter will have the space to house up to 60 people and will be the first family shelter in the Santa Clarita Valley with eight apartment-style units, accompanied by health, mental health, and job training resources. This important step gets us closer to ensuring people experiencing homelessness have the tools they need to get housed for good.

[See the shelter project.](#)

Homeless Funding Recommendations

At our Tuesday meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved \$532,613,000 in homelessness funding for the next fiscal year. We've dedicated a lot of time, attention, and

streets.

[Look at the funding details.](#)

Swimming Safely



There may be nothing cuter than little ones learning to swim, but there is also nothing more important than water safety in the process. As temperatures rise and we head to our local pools to cool off, it's important to remember that swimming should be both safe and fun! Thank you to Rose Bowl Aquatics Center and Pasadena Unified School District for ensuring your Water Safety Program sets up families for success this summer.

[Access water safety resources.](#)

A Noise Within



A Noise Within Theatre is truly classic theatre with modern magic. I was grateful to support their 30th anniversary gala to raise funds for their education and community programs and to get a peek at their incredible *Metamorphoses* play, set in a pool onstage! They're one of the exceptional grantees for the [Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture](#) and I was excited to see their good work in action. I encourage you to learn more about their programs and get tickets to a show.

[Get tickets.](#)

Breaking Barriers



Dr. Laurie Leshin has officially assumed her role as the first woman to be director of NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and will also serve as Vice President of Caltech! She is a distinguished geochemist and space scientist, as well as an academic and government leader, and I know Dr. Leshin will take these incredible institutions to new heights. I'm pictured above with Dr. Leshin at her welcome reception alongside JPL's Deputy Director and COO Larry D. James.

[Read about Dr. Leshin's new role.](#)

Electric Accessibility



We must do all we can to ensure Los Angeles County is a regional leader in convenient, reliable, affordable, and equitable access to electric vehicles. I'm grateful our Board approved my motion at Tuesday's meeting to expand access to zero emission vehicle charging infrastructure in unincorporated communities. L.A. County is poised to draw down funds from the federal government's \$7.5 billion dedicated to this effort.

[Read about this initiative.](#)

Opera in the Park

FREE
LIVE BROADCAST
TO NEWHALL PARK

VERDI'S EPIC LOVE STORY
AIDA
CONDUCTED BY JAMES CONLON

Experience Verdi's *Aida* in a lavish production broadcast live to Newhall Park in Santa Clarita.

One of the world's most beloved operas tells the story of an Ethiopian princess torn between her people and her love for the enemy general. Don't miss a free evening outdoors under the stars filled with all the music and drama you've been craving.

WHA TRAILER

The poster features a woman in a purple and green opera costume, looking to the left. The background is blue with yellow abstract patterns. A QR code and a 'WHA TRAILER' logo with an arrow are in the bottom right corner.

The opera is coming to the Fifth District with an evening of music and drama in Newhall Park. Join us for a live simulcast of *Aida*, brought to you by my office in partnership with the L.A. Opera. The epic love story of *Aida* is one of the world's most beloved operas, telling the tale of an Ethiopian princess who is torn between her people and her love for the enemy general. I invite you to enjoy an evening under the stars alongside family and friends on June 4! Gates will open at 5:30 p.m. and the opera will begin at 7:30 p.m. at 24923 Newhall Ave. in Santa Clarita.

[Attend the opera.](#)



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Santa Clarita Valley:

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