

Mental Health Campus Welcomed by Sunshine and Song

Clear blue skies and uplifting voices provided the setting for the April 19 opening of the Orange County Health Care Agency's new Mental Health Campus, located at 401 S. Tustin Street, Orange.

The project, which took seven years from the development of the concept to completion of construction, is a unique two acre facility specially designed for the needs of those receiving mental health services in Orange County. Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell, who represents the Third District, participated in the opening ceremony and ribbon cutting and was credited for his role in championing the facility and overcoming obstacles to its completion. The facilities, which cost over \$13 million, were made possible by funding from the Mental Health Services Act and were shaped with input from mental health consumers who will utilize the campus. Members of the Wellness Center choir sang to open and close the ceremony, adding their voices to the celebration.

The campus consists of a 7,600 square foot consumer-run Wellness Center providing opportunities to develop self-reliance and socialization skills; a 7,500 square foot Education and Training Center with classrooms and other facilities for consumers working toward a career in mental health services; and a 9,500 square foot, 15 bed Crisis Residential Program housing a voluntary crisis intervention program for adult clients who are in psychiatric crisis and cannot be safely and effectively managed on an

MENTAL HEALTH CAMPUS SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



Third District Supervisor Bill Campbell cuts the ribbon at the opening of the Health Care Agency's New Mental Health Campus in the City of Orange.

outpatient basis. The Wellness Center program, which has been operating at a temporary site, will be relocated to the new campus and the finishing touches are being placed on the Crisis Residential Program facility.

Interim Health Care Agency Director Mark Refowitz welcomed a large crowd of consumers, mental health professionals, community representatives and County staff who had long dreamed of the completion of the campus. Officials from the City of Orange were recognized for their cooperation during the design and construction phases and their support for locating the facility in their community. The Mental Health Campus is located on a site owned by the County since the late '90s that once housed a Social Services Agency facility. It was demolished to make room for the campus believed to be the first of its kind in the State of California. ■

District Attorney's Ebrahim Baytieh Named "Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year"

Senior Deputy District Attorney Ebrahim Baytieh of the Orange County District Attorney's (OCDA) Homicide Unit has been named "Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year" by the California District Attorneys Association (CDAА) for the extraordinary prosecution and conviction of more than 43 defendants charged with murder throughout his career.

Each year, the CDAА recognizes individuals whose remarkable professional abilities, personal sacrifice, and dedication to advancing the ideals of criminal justice merit the respect and admiration of prosecutors statewide. "Not a single day has passed over the last 15 years that I haven't felt like I have the absolute best job in the world as a Deputy District Attorney," Baytieh said. "While I know that there is nothing that I can do to bring a murdered victim's family their loved one back, it is very rewarding and satisfying to play a role in ensuring that they see the perpetrator held accountable in a court of law."

Mr. Baytieh began his career with OCDA as a volunteer law clerk in 1996 while awaiting the results of his bar examination. He spent his first two years as a Deputy District Attorney in the Misdemeanor Units in Central and South Court. Next, he transferred to the Special Assignments Unit where he focused his efforts on public corruption and officer-involved shooting cases while simultaneously serving as Grand Jury coordinator. "I have never worked as an attorney anywhere else and have no interest in

doing so," Baytieh said. "I am very lucky to be able to work in the best District Attorney's office in the nation; and this is no exaggeration. This office is full of great prosecutors who inspire me every day."



Subsequent responsibilities included 18 months with the Felony Panel Unit and three years exclusively prosecuting gang cases with the Gangs/TARGET Unit. He has worked on murder and capital cases since 2006 as a member of the Homicide Unit, and feels privileged to have also had the opportunity to train new Deputy District Attorneys in Orange County and throughout California.

"This well-deserved award is a tremendous acknowledgment of the hard work that Ebrahim puts into every case," said District Attorney Tony Rackauckas. "He is passionate about protecting the rights of victims and tireless in his fight for justice."

Mr. Baytieh will be presented with the award at the CDAА Summer Conference on June 28th in Napa, California. ■

Hundreds Attend District Attorney's Victims' Rights March and Rally

The Orange County District Attorney (OCDA) hosted the 4th Annual Victims' Rights March & Rally on April 27th in remembrance of murdered victims, in celebration of surviving victims, and in honor of victims' rights.

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



Led by District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, more than 400 people march to the Old Orange County Courthouse on April 27, 2012. Please click here to view a slideshow of photos from the event.

More than 400 victims, family members, friends, law enforcement officers, and community leaders marched from the District Attorney's Office to the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana and laid flowers at the foot of a memorial wreath.

Keynote speakers included Donna Bjoin, sister of murder victim Katherine O'Connell, and Alisa, a survivor of sexual assault. Donna's sister was murdered by her estranged husband in 1983 and finally convicted in 2011. Today, Donna volunteers as a Victims Advocate Assistant

for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. Alisa was sexually assaulted by three men who videotaped their crime. In 2005, all of the assailants were found guilty and sent to prison for six years. She now serves as a State-certified sexual assault victim advocate and crisis intervention counselor, and volunteers with a non-profit assisting sexual assault victims.

"As a community of survivors, we are going to take our grief, turn it into anger, and turn that anger into action," said OCDA Tony Rackauckas. "There will always be more of us than criminals, and we are never going to stop working to protect others from suffering as we did, and prevent them from hurting more innocent victims."

Since last year's event, the OCDA has worked at the State level with Senator Lou Correa to pass Senate Bill 285, which helps to fight human trafficking. Governor Jerry Brown signed the bill into law last August and it went into effect this January. At the County level, the OCDA and Supervisor Shawn Nelson have been active supporters of an ordinance to keep convicted sex offenders out of County parks by creating child safety zones. Twelve cities have adopted similar ordinances to date. ■

Highlights from the 2012 OC Community Indicators Report

The 2012 Orange County Community Indicators report, published by the County along with its partners the Children and Families Commission of Orange County and the Orange County Business Council, was released in February.

Produced annually since 2000, the report tracks countywide trends related to the economy, environment, and populace while providing comparisons to other areas in the state and nation. The data in the report allows stakeholders to ask whether a certain practice or trend is sustainable, and is used by many public and private organizations as they develop their own internal strategic plans and policies.

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Special features in this year’s report include a look at Orange County’s population, which is aging at a faster rate than the state and the nation, as well as our improving investment climate. Here are some additional highlights from the report:

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The number of charitable organizations in Orange County as well as their annual revenues has increased. Still, the county has fewer non-profits per capita than most regions compared. Registered voter turnout in 2010 was low compared to peer regions; it remains to be seen whether more residents will vote in the 2012 elections.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PROSPERITY

Early prenatal care rates improved, leading causes of death for young children declined, and four leading killers of adults – cancer, heart disease, stroke and diabetes – also declined. However, more families need public assistance, more children have insecure housing and qualify for subsidized school meals, and more seniors live in poverty.

EDUCATION

Orange County K-12 students outperformed students statewide, with 63 percent proficient in math. More students are staying in high school, yet 14 percent drop out over the course of four years.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS CLIMATE

Most measures of economic health demonstrate lingering impacts of the Great Recession. Orange County’s business climate suffered and residents continue to feel the pinch of unemployment and the high cost of living. However, some of the latest data presented show Orange County is experiencing a solid rebound. Housing prices are slowly stabilizing and per capita income is gaining ground.



ENVIRONMENT

Both waste generation and water use continue to decline. At the same time, air quality improved with only one day in the unhealthy range. Renewable energy and solar installations are also on the rise, gaining a larger portion of the energy portfolio. Although the number of sewage spills dropped, several of the spills were large enough to reach ocean waters, leading to a significant jump in beach closures.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Orange County’s crime rate has dropped nearly 20 percent in the past 10 years and juvenile arrests are also declining. However, gangs continue to be a concern with gang membership rising and more victims of gang-related homicides. In addition, the number of children entering foster care and domestic violence-related calls for assistance rose again.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Orange County has the second most diverse high-tech sector in the nation. Venture capital investment in the county has increased and shows continuing strength. At the same time, patents granted for inventions rose for the third year. Roughly 17 percent of all undergraduate degrees and 22 percent of graduate degrees granted by Orange County universities were tech-related.

Please visit <http://ocgov.com/ceocommunity.asp> to view the full 2012 OC Community Indicators report online. ■

2012 Public Health Week Recognition a Success!

Hundreds of Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA) employees participated in this year's recognition of National Public Health Week, which was observed April 2-6. The theme for 2012 was **"A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement!"** Activities began Monday, April 2 with the second annual Public Health Week kick-off event which attracted about 75 HCA staff to the patio at the 17th Street Clinic. Staff enjoyed healthy refreshments and searched display tables from 14 HCA programs for answers to questions on a scavenger hunt. Gabrielle Teal from the Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT) was announced as the scavenger hunt winner and received a \$25 gift certificate.

On the morning of Tuesday, April 3, Environmental Health hosted a Healthy Breakfast Cooking Contest at their main office. Veronica Ramirez won the contest with her tasty recipe for an old favorite –oatmeal. Other contestants included Pauline Stauder, Lina Vazquez, and Susana Ganey. The winning contestant received a \$25 gift card. To view all the recipes submitted for the cooking contest, visit the HCA Public Health Week webpage at www.ohealthinfo.com/phweek.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors also presented a resolution recognizing National Public Health Week 2012 at the April 3 Board meeting. This year, the Board recognized the contributions of Orange County partners who are collaborating to support the statewide "Champions for Change" public health campaign by providing nutrition, physical activity and training to help 41 local Champion Moms and additional parent leaders become peer educators and role models that inspire healthy changes in their communities. One of HCA's Champion Moms, Clara Sanchez, was on hand to accept the Public Health Week Resolution from Board Chairman John Moorlach.

On Wednesday, April 4, the second annual *Walking Wednesday* contest was held. More than 35 contestants walked a combined total of 839 minutes. That calculates out to approximately 42 miles walked during the day. The program that walked the most was the Epidemiology department located at the HCA 17th Street Clinic Complex. Other



Participants in Public Health Week events viewed educational displays at the Health Care Agency's 17th Street Clinic facility.

teams participating included the Women, Infant and Children's Ponderosa Clinic; the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention program; Center of Excellence; California Children's Services; and Environmental Health's Food Protection program, Specialized Program Services Vehicle and Wholesale, and Billing and Auditor Controller units. The Epidemiology unit won the contest and will receive a program snack break.

On Thursday, April 5, the second annual *Healthy Lunch Thursday Cooking Contest* was held. Six contestants participated in the competition. The winning entry was Pauline Stauder's Tuna Salad on Olive Bread with Arugula. The other Healthy Lunch contestants were Carmen Stanish, Kelly Broberg, Michele Cheung, and Eryka Vergara. The winning contestant received a \$25 gift card. The recipes for this contest are also featured on the Public Health Week webpage.

On Friday, dozens of HCA employees participated in the Flexible Friday exercise program. Staff were encouraged to flex their way to health and participate in a Lift Off exercise break in their work area.

The participation of HCA staff in recognition of Public Health Week 2012 demonstrated our collective commitment to this year's theme **"A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement!"** You can find out more about Public Health Week 2012 including viewing pictures and downloading the recipes from the Healthy Cooking Contests at www.ohealthinfo.com/phweek. ■

Literary Orange 2012 Draws Crowd

More than 400 people attended the 6th annual Literary Orange last month at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). The day-long event was sponsored by OC Public Libraries and UCI Libraries and celebrated the written word while connecting readers with their favorite authors.

Paula McLain began the day by sharing her inspirational story. After being abandoned by both parents, she and her two sisters became wards of the California court system, moving in and out of foster homes for the next 14 years. Eventually, she discovered a passion and skill for writing. After publishing several well-received works of poetry and two novels, she hit the bestseller list with *The Paris Wife*.



Afternoon speaker Lisa See discussed her most recent novel, *Dreams of Joy*, which debuted at number one on the New York Times bestseller list. She spoke movingly of family and a mother's love and conveyed to a captivated audience her deep knowledge of Chinese history.

Over 40 additional authors of note were in attendance at the event, which included lively discussions, meet-and-greets, and book signings. Learn more at www.literaryorange.org.

Save the Date for the 2012 OC Green Fair



Community members are invited to attend the 2012 OC Green Fair, a free event that will showcase eco-friendly products and services, to be held Thursday, May 17th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Santa Ana Civic Center, 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701.

This OC Green Fair raises awareness regarding environmental concerns and shows visitors how to reduce their impact on the earth by selecting sustainable, eco-friendly products and services, decreasing energy consumption, conserving water, and limiting dependence on fossil fuels. The event will feature vendor and educational exhibits, an art walk, food, giveaways, door prizes and networking opportunities.

The Wyland Foundation will serve as Grand Marshal of the free event's Art Walk, and will be on-site with the Wyland Clean Water Mobile Learning Center. This 1,000 square foot, bio-diesel powered mobile exhibit was designed by a unique team of educators, scientists and conservationists representing top public, private and non-profit organizations around the country. It is designed to inform and enlighten people of all ages about the conservation of wildlife and marine habitats.

Also taking part is Southern California Edison, who will be on site with their "BuildSMART" Sustainable Materials and Resources Trailer, a mobile learning exhibit which travels to local schools and events to educate about Green Building concepts and strategies.

To learn more about the 2012 OC Green Fair, please visit www.ocgreenfair.com.

County Continues Search for Savings

Following the old adage “every little bit helps,” the County of Orange has taken advantage of near record low interest rates to save about \$1 million a year in debt service.

The Board of Supervisors gave their approval in March to refinance bonds originally issued in 2002 related to the Juvenile Justice Center. The 2012 Refunding Bonds were rated A+ by Standard & Poor’s and A1 by Moody’s, making it possible for the County to sell the bonds at interest rates between 0.50% and 2.45% depending on when they mature. Close coordination between CEO/Budget, Public Finance Accounting and County Counsel resulted in the closing of the bond sale in late April and the County will benefit each year from the interest savings until the bonds are fully repaid in 2019. ■



OC Public Works Holds Open House

Interested in learning more about OC Public Works and the services they provide to the community? Attend OC Public Works’ Annual Open House scheduled for Saturday, May 19 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Operations and Maintenance Facility located at 2301 N. Glassell Street in the City of Orange. The Open House will feature display booths and interactive games as well as a Collectors’ Car Show. Complimentary hot dogs, nachos, popcorn, snow cones and drinks will be available and visitors can participate in opportunity drawings. The Open House is being held as part of the department’s observance of National Public Works Week, which runs from May 20-26. ■

Animals for Armed Forces

Animals for Armed Forces™
Saturday, May 26th
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
OC Animal Care • 561 The City Dr. • Orange

OC Animal Care and the Animals for Armed Forces Foundation would like to honor and say thank you to our dedicated service men and women by providing free adoptions* during this special event!

*Please note that the free adoption does not include the cost of the dog license or microchip. Limit two animals per household.

The adoption discount applies to current, former/retired and/or immediate family members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and National Guard. Please bring your photo ID and one of the following to receive the adoption discount:

- A copy of your Military ID
- A copy of your DD-214 and Driver's License
- A copy of your NGB Form 22

For questions regarding identification, please call (714) 796-6428

For more information or to DONATE, please visit www.animalsforarmedforces.org or call (714) 912-8400

Get the 411 on the Registrar of Voters

- Orange County has one of the largest and most complex election operations in the nation - we have more registered voters than 21 individual states.
- New for 2012 – we will be addressing sample ballots. This process is new (in-house) and will involve preparing and addressing 1.6 million sample ballots; improving efficiency, quality control and reducing costs in the long term.
- The Registrar of Voters will operate 1,152 polling places for the June 5, 2012 Primary Election.
- ROV will use 5,500 poll workers for June and nearly 8,000 for November (second only to Los Angeles County).
- Our new website launched two weeks ago received the highest amount of traffic in the 30 days preceding any major election.

To learn more about the Registrar of Voters, please visit: www.ocvote.com



Service Awards

For the Month of April

35 YEARS

Amelita De Los Reyes
District Attorney

30 YEARS

Elena Santa Cruz
District Attorney

Janet Clinkscales
OC Community Resources

Rina Evans
OC Community Resources

Ruby Maldonado
OC Public Works

Russell Endsley
Sheriff-Coroner

Hellen Howe
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Robin Fiddler
County Counsel

Terry Carrier
Health Care Agency

Janell Wheeler Smith
Health Care Agency

Linda Smith
OC Public Works

Huong Tran
Probation

Kayla Robinson
Sheriff-Coroner

Susan Mata
Sheriff-Coroner

Stacy Vallercamp
Sheriff-Coroner

Patricia Johnson
Sheriff-Coroner

Elise Duran
Social Services Agency

Rani Pir
Social Services Agency

Bruce Chell
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Elvira Hernandez-Gomez
Child Support Services

Karen Jackson
Health Care Agency

Michael O'Connor
John Wayne Airport

Martin Ness
John Wayne Airport

Duc Nguyen
OC Public Works

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**20 YEARS
CONTINUED**

Mark Benton
Probation

Zenette Brown
Probation

Sharon Kelly
Probation

Arturo Lopez
Probation

Shannon Mathieson
Probation

Christell Mulock
Probation

Robert Arrasmith
Probation

Christina Sakamoto
Probation

Teresa Placentia
Public Defender

Henry Guerrero
Sheriff-Coroner

Steve Kim
Sheriff-Coroner

Deborah Demaio
Sheriff-Coroner

Arlene Guzman
Social Services Agency

Diep Phan
Social Services Agency

Diane Attia
Social Services Agency

Patricia Gamino
Social Services Agency

Marsela Gastelum
Social Services Agency

Analilia Gonzalez
Social Services Agency

Laura Gonzalez
Social Services Agency

Blanca Guerrero
Social Services Agency

Rossana Marraccini
Social Services Agency

Mary Medina
Social Services Agency

Rene Mendez
Social Services Agency

Isaac Neyra
Social Services Agency

Hai Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Lien Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Monte Noble
Social Services Agency

Donna Oraby
Social Services Agency

Joshua Pai
Social Services Agency

Sandra Tollison
Social Services Agency

Renee Payne
Social Services Agency

Myra Frausto
Social Services Agency

Luis Linares
Social Services Agency

Martha I. Perez
Social Services Agency

COUNTY OF ORANGE
MISSION STATEMENT

“Making Orange County a safe, healthy, and fulfilling place to live, work, and play, today and for generations to come, by providing outstanding, cost-effective regional public services.”

Click [here](#) to read the full mission and values statement.

CONTACT US

COUNTY CONNECTION is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Community/Media Relations. Call 714.834.6203 or e-mail ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com with any suggestions and comments.

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