

COUNTY Connection



Vol. II, June 2005



Ask the CEO



If you have questions about the future of the County, a suggestion about providing service more efficiently or an idea that improves customer service, send it along to this feature in your online County employee newsletter.

All questions and suggestions will be reviewed by CEO staff and shared with the appropriate department. CEO Tom Mauk will respond in this newsletter to the most representative ones.

All questions must be signed, but names will not be printed in the newsletter. You may submit items by email to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com. You may also fax to 714.796.8426 or pony to County Connection, third floor, Hall of Administration

Job Opportunities



Employment Opportunity Just A Click Away

The Orange County Human Resources Department offers an enhanced, online recruiting system that is tailored to facilitate employee job applications in a fast and user-friendly manner.

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Beginning To See The Light

With the State budget nearing approval and a more positive financial outlook in sight, County budget staff is working diligently toward the finish line when the Board of Supervisors will be asked later this month to consider the proposed \$4.9 billion 2005-06 budget and set the County's financial course for the coming fiscal year. This year, the course looks smoother.

"Although, we are not completely out of the woods, we are beginning to see some daylight through the financial clouds," said Thomas G. Mauk, CEO. "Our Board of Supervisors has exhibited incredible discipline in staying the course with self-imposed reductions established through the Strategic Financial Plan. With sound policy decisions from the Supervisors and adherence to a second year of level budgeting, we are able to present a balanced budget and continue to build reserves as a safety net for potential rainy days yet to come."

Budget preparation begins long before June, however. "The budget process starts in December with budget policy and instructions coming from the Board of Supervisors," said Steve Dunivent, Manager of CEO Budget. "Our main goal this time of year is to provide the public and the Board with thorough, accurate and easy-to-understand budget documents. We hope to facilitate the Board's discussion of the appropriate uses of public funds to create a balanced budget consistent with the County's

long-range financial plan."

Last month, the County held its 10th annual budget workshop to inform the public about the budget process and anticipated issues for the upcoming fiscal year. Budget hearings are taking place this week at the Hall of Administration. The hearings provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the budget and for the Board to discuss and/or request more information from staff about budget



If AB 3632 is funded in the 2005-06 State budget, it will enable Counties to continue providing mental health services for the education of seriously emotionally disturbed special education students. AB 3632 was enacted by the Legislature in the 1980s. The program costs the County \$22 million per year and is partially funded by Federal dollars. The State is responsible for the rest of the program's support, yet it has delayed or reduced its payments since 1999. At this time, the State owes Orange County more than \$53 million.

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Here's what you need to do:

Create an account the quick and easy way by visiting the new recruitment site at

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oc/>

Why Apply?

- Obtain valuable interviewing experience.
- Gain greater knowledge of how the County makes a difference.
- Be considered for various positions throughout the County.
- Take advantage of promotions in all County departments as opportunities become available.



Governor Schwarzenegger's revised 2005-06 budget proposal includes \$1.3 billion in restored transportation funds for Proposition 42 to re-invest in roads, bridges and infrastructure.

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components. As the Board works its way through discussion of the proposed budget recommendations, non-binding votes are taken which guide staff on changes to be made before budget adoption on June 28.

When the process begins, all County departments participate. Each prepares the year's business plan that outlines annual goals, establishes outcome indicators to measure performance and delineates the department's value to the community. A business plan discusses operational and budgetary challenges to meeting its goals and identifies strategies for overcoming the challenges.

The FY 2005-06 proposed budget reflects the impacts of the local, state and national economies, limited revenue growth and the rising cost of doing business. As of January, the FY 2005-06 State budget faced an \$8.6 billion funding gap. The County's budget proposal reflects the impacts of the Governor's January budget and the May revision of that budget.

If the current Governor's budget is passed by the Assembly and Senate, there will be more good news

for Orange County including:

- The Vehicle License Fee will be paid back to local government a year earlier than expected (\$13 million).
- The juvenile justice crime program funding, which was facing a 75 percent reduction, is being restored.
- The County is negotiating with school districts to contract mental health services for special needs children in schools (State will provide additional funding for this program, AB 3632.).
- Proposition 42 money will be restored to repair local streets and roads.

"In 2003, a two-step reduction set in motion a four-year plan to reduce non-core, non-mandated activities within County agencies and departments," said Ed Corser, Chief Financial Officer. "Last year, we imposed on ourselves a two-year commitment to level budgets. The County's Strategic Financial Plan provides long-range projections of general-purpose revenues, and we will continue to maintain the alignment between budget proposals and anticipated income."



Celebrate 3rd Thursdays Underneath Starlit Skies

Come spend a warm summer night under the stars with RDMD/Harbors, Beaches and Parks as they offer a Summer Blues Music Series. The concerts will take place on the third Thursday night of the summer months from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Parking is \$3 a vehicle and the schedule is as follows:

- June 16 – Bubba & The Big Bad Blues
- July 21 – Aunt Kizzy's Boyz
- August 18 – Lady Star & The Bustin Loose Blues Band
- September 15 – Mama's Boys

For more information, visit www.ocparks.com or call 714.973.6835.

Baby Boomers Increase Older Adult Population In Orange County

It looks like Orange County will soon be going gray. The older adult population is expected to double by the year 2020. This poses many questions for the “sandwich generation” (40-60 years old). How will they get to medical appointments? Who will take care of them? Will they be able to afford housing on a fixed income?

Many older adults don't know that numerous resources are available to them to help educate and transition them into older adulthood. The County's Office on Aging (OoA) is a division of the Housing and Community Services Department and is committed to helping older adults experience the highest possible quality of life. The 20 staff members are led by Executive Director Karen Roper.



Orange County seniors visit a County Office on Aging booth at a recent Health Fair to gather brochures describing senior services throughout the county. The Office strives to maintain a comprehensive listing of local agencies, programs, services and resources for older adults and persons with disabilities.

“The OoA is working on a plan to address the growth surge in Orange County's older adult population,” said Roper. “The older adult population is growing while tax dollars are shrinking. We must collaborate with public and private stakeholders and with those in the community who touch the lives of older adults - and that's almost everyone.”

To maximize its role as a resource, the OoA recently created an online guide to link older adults with a comprehensive listing of local agencies, programs, services and resources for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The database is updated regularly to ensure the highest level of accuracy.

Together with its partners, the OoA provides a full range of older adult services including in-home meals, legal aid, case management, in-home assistance, adult day health centers, assistance for caregivers, non-emergency medical transportation, group meals at senior and community centers and many other services. In addition, the OoA operates a high tech call center that assesses the needs of callers and links them to desperately needed services.

The OoA also coordinates a variety of educational programs relating to topics such as Medicare, prescription drugs, social security, health, managing chronic illness and safety. “Scams and swindles have created serious problems for older adults in Orange County” said Roper. “Many of the older adults today come from a trusting generation and will turn over their life savings to a stranger without a thought. We strive to raise awareness about these scams and the precautions that older adults can take to protect themselves.”

The OoA is one of several Area Agencies on Aging. Every county or community in the United States has a similar office, each serving a distinct population. Rural areas, for instance, tend to be more community oriented because they are less populated. Neighbors generally know each other and tend to help older adults when they need a ride, a meal or in-home care. Because of Orange County's not entirely accurate reputation for affluence, the needs of older adults frequently goes unrecognized. Unfortunately, many older adults in Orange County suffer from isolation and depression due to the limits placed on their lives by their fixed, meager incomes. Many older adults don't realize they are qualified for many of the services offered by the OoA.

For more information on the OoA and the services it offers, visit <http://www.officeonaging.ocgov.com>. The call center can be reached at 800.510.2020 or 714.567.7500. The OoA is located at 1300 S. Grand, Bldg. B in Santa Ana.



Christopher Le (right), Vietnamese-speaking Information Specialist at the Office on Aging, took the Office's Info Van to Westminster's TET Festival. Le also has a weekly radio show on a local Vietnamese radio station as additional community outreach. With Le are (from left) Dorothy Brickan, Medi-Cal Worker, Social Services Agency (SSA); Myra Nguyen, Food Stamps Worker, SSA; and Mr. Nguyen, 97-year-old OC resident.



Touch A Life, Lift A Spirit... The United Way!

The 2005 United Way (UW) Campaign has officially begun with this year's campaign theme of "Touch a Life, Lift a Spirit...The United Way!" This year's campaign is chaired by Jan Goss, Director, Integrated Waste Management Department (IWMD). Together with Co-Chair, Bryan Speegle, Director of Resources Development and Management Department, these departments plan to have another successful campaign by continuing to build on last year's campaign that exceeded its million-dollar goal.



Jan Goss
IWMD Director

The newest innovation for the UW campaign is encouraging retirees to continue contributing to the campaign post-retirement. "Giving to UW can continue following retirement," said Goss. "One of our goals is to offer this option to our retirees, many of whom are long-time UW contributors."

Details of this process are currently in development by United Way and the County, and more information will soon be available. If you want to continue UW donations following your retirement and want to be added to an information interest list, contact Susana Cruz, IWMD, at 714.834.4000 or at susana.cruz@iwmd.ocgov.com. You will be contacted when the information becomes available.

Be Part Of The Solution, Prevent Ocean Pollution

Get out the sun block and swimwear because beach season is here. During the summer months, thousands flock to nearby beaches to catch some waves and rays. Most of us jump in the water without giving quality a thought, yet some of our beaches and harbors are at risk. Who is to blame? In part, WE are.

Although most Orange County residents live miles away from the Pacific Ocean, we may be inadvertently polluting it. Our daily routines could be poisoning the sea and endangering marine biology. Ultimately, our actions today will decide the fate of our beaches tomorrow.

Over the past 200 years, Orange County's land has undergone a profound makeover. Wilderness and open spaces have been replaced with shopping centers, gated communities, parking lots and various residential areas. Orange County's rapid urbanization has put a lot of stress on the quality of its recreational water resources. "It is time for everyone to do their part to prevent further damaging the ocean, bays and harbors before it is too late," said Zoila Finch, Stormwater Program, Education and Outreach Coordinator.



This RDMD ad is called "Get Your Butts Out of the Water." The goal is to visualize the connection between improperly disposing of cigarette butts and pollution of local waterways and beaches.

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The County's stormwater program is led by Resources and Development Management Department's (RDMD) Watershed and Coastal Resources Division. The team that's in charge of stormwater consists of 41 people including 26 environmental resources specialists. They have a variety of responsibilities including reaching out to city and County employees, developing informational materials and advertisements, conducting educational classes for school children, and the wide scale promotion of water quality topics. In 2004, they placed 105 advertisements in area newspapers. They have also developed movie theater public service announcements, bus panels, and thousands of pamphlets, brochures and posters.

Urban runoff is a major cause of water pollution. Runoff is the water that flows off driveways, yards, streets and parking lots during dry weather. This water mixes with anything used or placed outside our homes and businesses including trash, oil, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and fertilizers. When this polluted water enters the storm drains, it empties into waterways and eventually the beach and ocean, posing a threat to animals, humans and the environment.

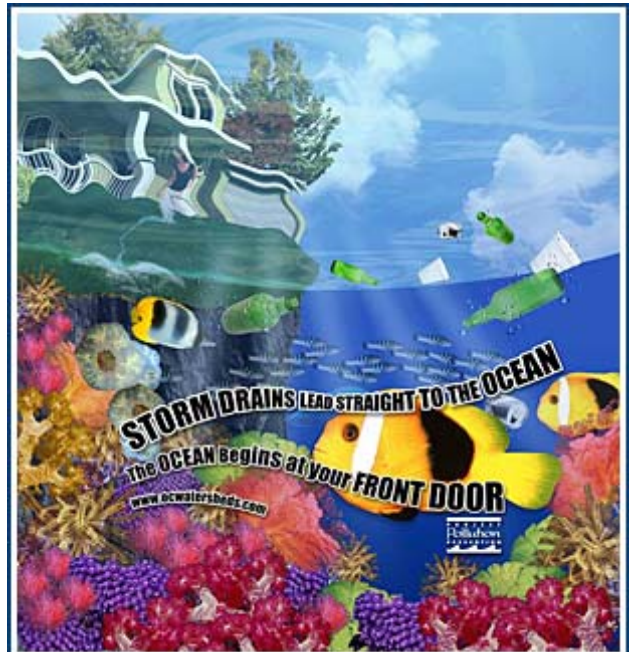
In Orange County, urban-influenced runoff from multiple watersheds flows into three recreational bays/harbors (Huntington Harbour, Newport Bay and Dana Point Harbor) and to the Pacific Ocean with its 42 miles of beaches.

In 1990, local governments became responsible for the quality of the urban runoff from their jurisdictions as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System's (NPDES) permit process of the Clean Water Act. Since that time, the County of Orange, the cities of Orange County and the Orange County Flood Control District (collectively the Orange County Stormwater Program) have cooperatively developed and implemented a comprehensive Drainage Area Management Plan for educating businesses and the public.

"Education is the foundation of the Orange County Stormwater Program," said Larry McKenney, Manager, Watershed & Coastal Resources. "Changing perspectives and behaviors is not easy, especially in an area as diverse as Orange County. As County employees, we should take the lead in making a difference. We have to set the example for others to preserve Orange County's quality of life for years to come.

"Unlike water in the sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in the storm drain is not treated before entering our waterways," continued McKenney. "Unfortunately, people do not recognize the difference between the two systems. Some people assume that when they dump something down the storm drain it goes to a treatment plant before being dumped into the ocean. Not true."

So, the next time you're riding a big wave, remember that our actions today will determine water quality for generations to come.



RDMD's Watershed & Coastal Resources Division places advertisements such as this on buses, billboards, brochures and various newspapers to inform the public about water pollution prevention.

County Connection is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Media Relations. All suggestions and comments may be emailed to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com or faxed to 714.796.8426.



35 Years

Elaine Gourdin
Social Services Agency

D. M. Hamdorf
Public Library

Herbert Nakasone
Resources & Development
Management Department

Eileen Sowersby
Social Services Agency

30 Years

Peter Allen
Resources & Development
Management Department

Francine Sobol
Social Services Agency

Michael Taylor
Social Services Agency

25 Years

Franklin Carroll
District Attorney

Athena Cumberland
Probation

Mary Dang
Auditor-Controller

Thomas Dove
Sheriff-Coroner

Hue Dove
Social Services Agency

David Dunlap
Sheriff-Coroner

Charlene Finicle
Sheriff-Coroner

Steven Garrison
Sheriff-Coroner

Judith Hall
Social Services Agency

James Hannon
Sheriff-Coroner

Teuthu Khoa
Social Services Agency

John Mung Le
Social Services Agency

David Ledesma
Resources & Development
Management Department

Sylvia Mencias
Housing & Community
Services Department

Marianne Moreno
Probation

Kenneth Morgan
Social Services Agency

Diana Hong Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Bich-Loan Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Mai Oja
Social Services Agency

Robert Richmond
Integrated Waste
Management Department

David Riley
Health Care Agency

Raul Romero
Resources & Development
Management Department

Diana Rouwenhorst
Sheriff-Coroner

James Sewell
Sheriff-Coroner

David Thiessen
Health Care Agency

Valerie Thomson
Social Services Agency

Le Tran
Social Services Agency

Patricia Vega
Sheriff-Coroner

Hoai-My Vu
Social Services Agency

