



CEO's Message



I thought this edition's column might be appropriately related to personnel and labor relations issues since they seem to be high profile these days. First, please continue to keep in mind that the Board of Supervisors values its 18,000+ employees of the County and demonstrates that daily and weekly by their positive considerations of our agenda items and their continuing comments and show of support (United Way participation, for example).

At the same time, with more than 18,000 employees, there are always issues. The most evident these days is the negotiations with the Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs (AOCDS). I am extremely pleased to report that agreement was reached with AOCDS on the evening of October 17th and the Board of Supervisors voted and approved it at their October 23rd meeting. This agreement represents a landmark accomplishment for the County in the key area of retiree medical reform and reduction of our unfunded liability. The 1,600± deputies are County employees and we value them and their front line efforts in support of public safety. The agreement contains provi-

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Community Service Center Opens

The first multi-service center outside of Santa Ana Civic Center opened its doors to hundreds of people waiting in a long line on October 1st. Located on Magnolia Street just north of McFadden Avenue in Westminster, the Community Service Center is a 12-month pilot program approved by the Board of Supervisors in July.

"This is a way for the County government to come to the

people who need our help," said Supervisor Janet Nguyen, who represents the district.

Staff from Housing and Community Services, Health Care Agency and Social Services Agency, among others, provides services in the 2,000 square-foot office.



At the opening of the new County Community Service Center, Supervisor Janet Nguyen is joined by fellow dignitaries in cutting the ribbon.

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sions for a comprehensive audit of the AOCDS “health insurance trust fund” to which the County contributes over \$12 million per year. Since I have become personally involved at the bargaining table itself, I have been impressed with the quality and thoughtfulness of the AOCDS bargaining team and its leadership.

I am also pleased to report we have reached agreement with the Orange County Attorneys Association (OCAA) and that was approved by the Board on October 16th. This three year agreement includes 3.75% salary increases for the next two years together with some recommended benefit changes such as an increase of the Optional Benefit Plan (OBP). A re-opener is included for year three of this agreement. The Service Employees International Unit (SEIU) has been successfully challenged in a representation vote by Alliance of Orange County Workers (AOCW) and we are now working with both groups to try to facilitate an orderly transition. We also have begun to get back to the bargaining table with these employees.

Finally, let me comment on the most recent reports on the October 12th death in the jail. When we had an earlier event a few months ago, it was suggested that Health Care Agency Nurses, Nurse Supervisors and equipment failure were at fault. This earlier incident was reviewed by the Board and this office and to date, most (if not all) of that has proven to be untrue. Therefore, I was surprised to read of the comments of OCEA leadership in the paper on October 14th regarding last week’s ‘taser’ incident. In a

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United Way Photo Gallery



Chairman Norby (right) introduces District Attorney Tony Rackauckas after welcoming the crowd to the Pirates of the Pacific United Way Civic Center Kick Off.



Marlene Gomez (left) and Michelle Lewis excitedly sell corn on the cob from the Auditor-Controller’s booth at the United Way Civic Center Kick Off.



John Wayne Airport workers whip up refreshing root beer floats for County employees at the Civic Center Kick Off. Pictured from left: Delores Galloway, Liza Santos, Richard Finley, Airport Director Alan Murphy, Janet Waters.

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matter this serious, no one should accuse anyone of being a contributing factor until all the facts are known --- not "new" nurses, not nurse supervisors, not equipment failure and not training failure. From new nurses to experienced and supervising staff, I have always been impressed with the quality of our Health Care Agency employees and our entire nursing staff and my confidence in that regard continues. So, let's wait for an investigation and the facts on this and all similar matters before we hurt the reputations of quality employees, both new and experienced and before we inadvertently increase the financial expose of the County of Orange. In the meantime, OCEA continues to do an excellent job of representing its members and we need to recognize that as well.

So, that's it – some progress, some frustration – yet always confidence in you – the first class employees of this County. We are all proud to be part of a quality team.

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer



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Reyna Villanueva (left) and Irene Herrera from Child Support Services pitch gourmet candied apples to the crowd at the Civic Center Kick Off.



The first place winner and runner up of the second United Way OC Idol singing contest are Ryan Drabek (right) from the Health Care Agency and Venessa Salim from the Auditor-Controller's Office. The winning melody Ryan sang to win the crowd over was "Amazed" by Lonestar.



County workers putt to warm up for the United Way Golf Tournament held at the Green River Golf Course.

New Director Steers Dana Point Harbor Department

As young as age 16, Orange County native Brad Gross began what turned into a long career journey surrounding boats. While his first job cleaning and repairing boats in the Newport Harbor was humble, it paved the way to later becoming a deckhand and eventually captain of a private yacht.

In due course, Gross found himself in San Francisco as the city's harbormaster. When the director position for the County's Dana Point Harbor Department (DPHD) became open, Gross had a talk with his family about the possibility of returning to Orange County.

"I had always hoped to one day return," said Gross. "We discussed it as a family and decided to go for it. It's been an easy transition so far with the help of my parents and friends who are still here."

Under the solid leadership of Supervisor Pat Bates, Gross is managing the \$150 million Dana Point Harbor Revitalization Plan. The main aim of the plan is to revitalize the entire harbor, which was originally built in piecemeal sections that have long since reached capacity. Some aspects of the plan include upgrading buildings, commercial areas and the floating facility.

"I like knowing that this is a public project for an incredibly diverse community," said Gross. "I'm looking forward to seeing the harbor flow as a single project that everyone can take part in – the boaters, walkers, shoppers, rollerbladers and everyone else who comes down to simply enjoy the harbor."

Recognizing that challenges can arise in most public projects, Gross indicates that his goal is to equally protect the interests of all stakeholders.

"Our department is available to talk to anyone from the community or the County who is interested in the project or has questions," said Gross.

The task of the harbor revitalization is run by a small operation, but everyone has the same goal in mind – to see the project completed. The DPHD has less than ten employees, in addition to the eight workers who run the Youth & Group facility, which rents out facility rooms, conducts boating lessons and an assortment of community programs.

Gross is already looking forward to this summer, when his wife and children will join him from Northern California, and in his spare time, he may begin restorations to his small, wooden El Toro sailboat.



Newly appointed Dana Point Harbor Director, Brad Gross, settles into his first days of managing the revitalization project of the harbor.

Celebrate Halloween at Irvine Regional Park



You are invited to join a family-friendly Halloween celebration now through Oct. 31st at Irvine Park Railroad's 2nd Annual Pumpkin Patch.

Located within Irvine Regional Park in the City of Orange, the pumpkin patch is open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and weekends from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The festivities include: a haunted house, maze, moon bounce, costume contest, face painting, picture stands and pumpkins for sale. The spooky celebration wouldn't be complete without train, hay and pony rides.

For more information, please visit http://www.irvineparkrr.com/pages/event_pumpkinPatch.html or call (714) 997-3968.



HR Wins NEOGOV Award

The Human Resources Department (HRD) received acclaim at the 6th annual NEOGOV user conference held in Las Vegas earlier this month. A well-earned award was given to the department for Leadership in Strategic Human Resources.

Qualities that NEOGOV recognized in HRD as a cut above the rest are its consistent ability to identify, analyze, formulate, and successfully implement projects Countywide. The clear and concise goals of the department have resulted in successful project rollouts.

“This recognition demonstrates that all County departments’ consistently focus on process improvement, establishment of key metrics and that we continuously drive strategic solutions that produce a high performing and effective workforce,” said HR Director Carl Crown.



Get The 411 On OC Orange County Public Library

- The mission of Orange County Public Library (OCPL) is to enhance the quality of life for County residents by offering access to information and other resources for leisure opportunities, learning, business and community interaction. Its 33 branch locations are staffed by professional librarians - including 600 employees - and more than 1,000 community volunteers.
- OCPL has an estimated patron base of 1.5 million residents. Library patrons can surf the Internet, browse periodicals, peruse online databases and government documents or settle down with one of the more than 2.6 million books in the department’s collection. The Library system also loans out CDs, DVDs and downloadable e-audio material.
- OCPL’s circulation count of items loaned has increased 41 percent in the past ten years.
- The Library Fund is a distinct and separate fund under the Board of Supervisors, which means that the department operates at zero net County cost. Property taxes currently account for 85 percent of OCPL’s revenue. The remaining 15 percent consists of money collected from fines and fees and gained from grants and donations.
- Library branch facilities will receive attention in the coming year. Building improvements and energy efficiency upgrades will be carried out to increase both cost effectiveness and conservation. Construction will be completed on the Wheeler library in Irvine during FY 2007, with the branch opening for service in early 2008.

To get more of the 411, visit: <http://www.ocpl.org>



30 Years

Carolyn Keating
County Executive Office

Michael Tynes
Sheriff-Coroner

Crash Glenn
Sheriff-Coroner

Raoul Ramos
Sheriff-Coroner

Yolanda Valverde
Social Services Agency

Richard Adler
Resources & Development
Management Department

Lonny Bubert
Resources & Development
Management Department

25 Years

Rebecca Delgado
Assessor

Clyde Von Der Ahe
District Attorney

Priscilla Cloud
District Attorney

Claudia J. Burton
Child Support Services

Howard Snitowsky
Health Care Agency

Mathew Garner
Sheriff-Coroner

Karen McDaniel
Sheriff-Coroner

Brenda Boggs
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Dunham
Sheriff-Coroner

Ti Hong
Social Services Agency

LoAn Adams
Resources & Development
Management Department

Henry Sanchez
Public Administrator/
Public Guardian

20 Years

Alice Sworder
Auditor-Controller

Mark Robinson
Health Care Agency

Pat Gaston
Health Care Agency

Deborah Kwang
Health Care Agency

Rafael H. Serret
Probation

Rhonda Bennett
Probation

Valerie Amezcua
Probation

Ping Shing Ho
Clerk-Recorder

David Haldeman
Sheriff-Coroner

Nancy Schram
Social Services Agency

Sussan Armstrong
Social Services Agency

Eric Pittman
Social Services Agency

Anh Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Kamal Singh
Treasurer-Tax Collector

Deborah Lafleur
Resources & Development
Management Department

Kyle Soldan
Resources & Development
Management Department

Mercedes McCarthy
Public Library

Andrea Dietze
Public Library

Eric Freed
John Wayne Airport

Rochelle Carpenter
Integrated Waste
Management Department

Mario Castillo
Integrated Waste
Management Department

County Connection

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