



C O U N T Y C O N N E C T I O N

A digital magazine for and about County of Orange employees

MARCH / APRIL 2021



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March 2021 and April 2021

COVER PHOTO: Members of the Incident Management Team (IMT) are hard at work in the County Conference Center during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

a message from CEO Frank Kim



FRANK KIM

Spring feels a little brighter, a little sweeter and whole lot more open this year with beautiful blossoms, gorgeous weather and the incredible progress of the County's vaccination effort. I am hopeful that our continued work will help us to serve the residents of Orange County and overcome the hardships we experienced throughout the pandemic. With our lives moving forward and employees, families and friends finding a new stability, we can look back and appreciate the enormous amount of time and labor that you put into serving our community.

Over one year after we began our COVID-19 response, we highlight the intense work that our organization accomplished to help the County through the first days and weeks of the pandemic and get us to where we are today. It is a rare opportunity and a true privilege to be part of the organization that provided leadership, community services and vital information during a global emergency. From the moment we declared a state of emergency to the current work in support of Operation Independence, I'm proud to say that you have proven your dedication and resilience in the face of adversity. Read about the events that shaped 2020 and 2021 on [Page 6](#).

The major focus of this year has been the dispensation of vaccine and with Orange County proactively leading the response to COVID-19, the next critical phase was providing the vaccine to residents in a phased, tiered approach. See [Page 14](#) to read how the County of Orange, together with the Orange County Fire Authority, launched Operation Independence to help administer COVID-19 vaccinations by activating the Incident Management Team (IMT) to secure locations and stand up large, regional Super Point-of-Dispensing (POD) sites to vaccinate thousands of residents on a daily basis.

Check out [Page 4](#) to read about the subject of the March/April Employee Profile, Marco Rodriguez. As a manager with Orange County Community Services he applied his background and experience to adapt to the COVID-19 safety parameters over the past year and produce creative solutions to continue to help the public and support his staff.

There are several events and projects happening throughout our departments. Although the COVID-19 response has been the primary focus over the past year, the County has not let up on our other key responsibilities to provide services to our community. You may remember the intense fires that we experienced last year and the devastation to the surrounding areas. Thanks to the hard work of OC Parks staff, fire recovery is moving forward with more to look forward to, read the story on [Page 20](#). In March the County of Orange Social Services and OC Health Care agencies celebrated National Social Work Month, recognizing the essential service social workers provide to the community; read about the honorees on [Page 17](#).

Lastly, though I know I've said it before, I am continually grateful for the commitment you have shown in keeping our residents and your fellow employees safe. Even with the progress that we have made in Orange County with vaccinations, please continue to adhere to safety behaviors including social distancing, wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently and staying home when you are sick. Together, we will help the County fully reopen safely and smoothly!

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Frank Kim". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a dark blue background.



Orange County Office on Aging

MARCO RODRIGUEZ

JOB TITLE:

Administrative Manager I

**YEARS WITH
THE COUNTY:**

21

DEPARTMENT:

Office on Aging

BEST PART OF YOUR JOB:

Mentoring and motivating his staff and helping them grow

**PLEASE SEND PROFILE SUBJECTS
FOR COUNTY CONNECTION!**

Do you know someone who would make a good employee profile? We're looking for staff-level employees who love their job and carry the flag with enthusiasm both for their agency and the County as a whole.

Send submissions to jamie.cargo@ocgov.com.

As an Administrative Manager I with OC Community Resources (OCCR) Office on Aging program, Marco Rodriguez had to adjust to the challenge that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to his position, his department, and especially, the public they serve.

The Office on Aging connects older adults and those with disabilities to resources that they need such as food and nutrition, transportation, medical services, housing, and other services needed to live independently and age with dignity.

As the Information and Assistance manager, Marco oversees the Office on Aging's call center to ensure it is properly staffed and manages contracts with third parties that provide much needed services for older adults and those with disabilities.

When the pandemic hit, the Office of Aging was at the center of it all since the population they serve is also the one most at risk. The Office on Aging saw a sharp increase in calls and implemented drastic changes in daily operations to ensure that their goals could still be accomplished.

"Normal monthly call volume is probably anywhere from 1,100 to 1,400. But during the pandemic, in those first couple months, we were at 10,000 and [at] the highest levels you had close to 13,000," he said. "We pulled people from other OCCR units within the department to assist with incoming calls, we had managers fielding calls, everybody stepped up to the plate to help at that time."

During the spike, the Office on Aging also increased their call staff from just four full-time Senior Citizen Representatives to nearly 20 call agents, and in the busiest of times kept the office open on weekends as well.

The pandemic also gave managers like Marco a chance to see first-hand the effect that these resources can have on those that really need it.

"Being a manager, you're behind the scenes, so it's a lot of coordinating operational logistics, making sure things run smoothly for the community, but not seeing the end result of where your work is going," Marco said.

The pandemic has given him an opportunity to step out from behind the scenes and see the effect first-hand during the vaccine rollout and work done in various senior centers around Orange County.

Wearing so many hats during the pandemic has become his favorite part of the job. It has built up his skill level in order to motivate his staff to assist as many people as possible.

Over 20 years ago, Marco started with the County, working



Marco Rodriguez discovered his passion for travel just before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world. Here, he's standing in front of Bath Abbey in Bath, England.

in the call center for the Treasurer-Tax Collector after seeing his cousin benefit from the opportunities and stability that the County provides. He decided to take full advantage of what the County had to offer, quickly moving to the Social Services Agency, where he worked for Children and Family Services and Strategic Communications until three years ago, when he joined the Office of Aging.

According to Marco, when he first started, he was just trying to find a good job with the opportunity to grow and move up, and even admitted that it took him some time to gain the perspective of providing resources and helping those in need.

Marco's love of mentoring and teaching carried over to his personal life, where he said coaching his kids' sports teams was one of his favorite activities. He is also an avid fan of the University of Southern California, specifically their football team, having traveled around the country to show his support.

Travel turned into a passion that he and his wife began to explore in the months before COVID-19 hit. The couple made several trips to Europe, the first in October of 2019 and then a second in February of 2020, right before the pandemic went into full swing.

"It's been a really eye-opening experience. I was kind of scared to visit Europe because it would take me out of my comfort zone and my wife is the one that kind of pushed it," Marco said. He went on to say that he and his wife are already planning on another trip as soon as it's possible and safe to do so.



CLINIC 2

CLINIC 1

OC
health
CARE AGENCY

COVID-19
Vaccines



COVID-19: ONE YEAR LATER

LOOKING BACK ON THE COUNTY'S EFFORT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic brought forth once in a century challenges to Orange County and the world. From the first reported case to the arrival and now distribution of the various vaccines, the County and its agencies have risen to the challenge in their response to this unprecedented emergency.

The first documented case of COVID-19 in Orange County came in January 2020 after a traveler returning from China began showing symptoms of the virus upon his return to California. In February, as concern grew over the coronavirus outbreak (the name colloquially assigned to COVID-19 in the early days of the pandemic), County officials held a press conference to update residents.

When the County declared an emergency in late February, the Orange County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated, providing a central point for coordinating operational, administrative and support needs of the County and Operational Area Members. The EOC is used to gather and process information to and from the County, cities, school and special districts, business and industry, volunteer organizations, individuals, and state and federal government agencies.

In late March, as infection rates increased at an alarming rate, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a stay-at-home order. As restaurants, theaters and beaches closed to “flatten the curve,” the first death from COVID-19 in OC was recorded. With no historical road map to follow and a population stuck in their homes, County departments were sent to the drawing board. How could they best

serve the public through these trying times?

Plans were put into action across the County immediately. The OC Health Care Agency began posting the County’s COVID-19 statistics on its website daily. They also began coordinating with cities to create COVID-19 mass testing sites and launched the award winning “[Could it be COVID-19?](#)” public awareness campaign. The Treasurer-Tax Collector, understanding how financially difficult the times ahead would be, began issuing weekly financial tips.

While residents were inconvenienced by the stay-at-home order, businesses were hugely impacted. The Community Investment Division of Community Services launched the [Economic and Business Recovery Call Center](#). The call center offers information and resources to support businesses with challenges such as lay-off aversion, loans, utility reduction programs and community resources mapping.

Seniors, the population most at risk of infection from COVID-19, became increasingly isolated as friends and family were forced to keep their distance. The Office on Aging participated in the [Great Plates Delivered](#) program, safely delivering three healthy meals a day from local restaurants to seniors in need. The OC Housing Authority began making welfare calls to seniors as well, making over 6,000 calls.

As the stay-at-home order expired and social distancing became the norm when traveling outside, people came

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

TIMELINE

FEB
2020



FEBRUARY 2020 – Then-Vice Chairman Andrew Do, First District Supervisor, speaks at the County's first press conference regarding COVID-19 while then-Chairwoman Michelle Steel, Second District Supervisor, and CEO Frank Kim look on.



JUNE 2020 – Then-Chairwoman Michelle Steel, Second District Supervisor, reviews the weekly COVID-19 statistics with the press.

JUN
2020



JANUARY 2021 – Vaccines are administered at the Soka University Super POD.

JANUARY 2021 – Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District, introduces the Soka University Super POD.



JAN
2021

JANUARY 2021 - Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee, Fourth District Supervisor, comments at the Disneyland Super POD.

FEB
2021



FEBRUARY 2021 - Residents wait in line for a vaccine at the Anaheim Convention Center Super POD.

MAR
2021



MARCH 2021 - Supervisor Katrina Foley, Second District, unveils the OC Fair & Event Center Vaccination Super POD.

AUG
2020



AUGUST 2020 - Residents receive COVID-19 tests at the OC Fair & Event Center drive-thru site.

out of their homes and into the new normal. But this new normal presented new challenges and County departments were once again there to address them. The County of Orange Social Services Agency got together to create care packages of personal protective equipment for County staff returning to work, creating over 4,500 packages in total.

The impact of the economic shutdown was not limited to just people. Many residents worried not only about their own wellbeing, but the health and safety of their animal companions, too. OC Animal Care began the Family Fur-st Drive Thru Pet Pantry in response. The Pantry provides a variety of pet food to those in need, so pets stay in their homes with their families, where they belong.

With the slump in infection numbers during the summer, residents were ready to carefully venture back out into the world. Whether it was the close confines of the stay-at-home order or plans long overdue, many residents were also ready to get married, global pandemic or not! The Clerk-Recorder's office used some creative partnerships and resources to begin [performing wedding services from the Honda Center's ticket booths in Anaheim.](#)

Restaurants reopened to limited indoor dining and residents were eager to partake. The Board of Supervisors and the County CEO's Office launched [SafeDine OC.](#) The program aimed to assist local restaurants with a \$5,000 grant to buy cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment, thereby creating a safer, healthier environment for customers and employees alike at OC restaurants.

As the second wave arrived and residents once again adjusted to doing more from home, several departments turned to online programming to better connect with the public. OC Waste and Recycling, who would typically hold in-person tours of the Olinda Landfill in Brea, created a [virtual tour of the landfill.](#) OC Parks created virtual programming and guides for visitors



DECEMBER 2020 – Michael Lowman, a nurse at Providence St. Joseph Hospital, receives the first vaccine administered in Orange County.

DECEMBER 2020 – Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, Third District, speaking during a press conference.



DEC
2020



More than XX people are vaccinated at the OC Fair & Event Center POD site.



MAR 2020 – The county opened four mass-vaccination sites in 10 weeks, with the Super POD at the Fairgrounds being the last.

to use without a ranger present, and OC Public Libraries began contactless curbside pickup.

Residents went to the polls in November amid worsening COVID-19 infection rates. The presidential election **recorded the highest turnout for a presidential election in Orange County since 1964, with 83 percent voting by mail.** The Registrar of Voters, having already conducted several elections during the pandemic thus far, conducted OC’s portion and certified the results shortly after without contest.

Many residents found themselves in crisis as they returned to work while the schools their children attended remained closed. The OC Board of Supervisors **created \$5 million in relief grant funds** that childcare providers could apply for to keep their doors open and their essential services available to working families.

As families traveled for the holidays, COVID-19 infection rates sharply increased. Aware of the greater risk, staff at John Wayne Airport provided free smile masks to travelers and increased sanitation stations to help them travel safely. But as things seemed their worst,

hope arrived in the form of the first vaccine for COVID-19.

On December 17 the first dose of the vaccine in the county was administered, triggering a cascade of work from county departments to create a vaccination network from scratch.

Operation Independence, the County’s plan to have every willing resident vaccinated by July 4, 2021, was announced on January 7 in partnership between HCA and the OC Fire Authority. Only days later, the County opened its first Super POD (Point of Distribution) site at Disneyland to international fanfare. Since that time, the Board of Supervisors and HCA have worked tirelessly to continue opening vaccination sites, serving as many residents from as many populations as quickly as possible.

Today, Super POD sites exist at Disneyland, the Anaheim Convention Center, Soka University, and the OC Fairgrounds & Events Center, with countless smaller, more focused sites available with partners throughout Orange County. As of April 18, 896,221 OC residents have been fully inoculated against COVID-19.



2021 FaCT Annual Conference

Resilience • Renew • Reimagine



May 19 & May 20, 2021

9:00AM-1:00PM

Via Zoom



We are excited to host our Annual Conference, the first on a virtual platform. We are committed to sharing engaging and relevant virtual offerings. Let's continue to work together to identify more ways to strengthen families in Orange County.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- Transitioning and Supporting Your Staff, Organization and Mission As We Move Into Our New Normal
- Supporting the Development Resilience of Trans* Youth
- Reimagining Father Engagement
- Renewing Our Investment In Trust by Building Resilient Leaders
- Renewing Commitment To Gratitude, Family, and Mental Health
- Supporting and Advocating for BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) Youth
- Securing Resources Today and Beyond

Keynote Speakers :



Dr. Jaiya John
Freedom Worker | Author | Poet
Professional Speaker



Shari Dunn
Attorney | News Anchor | CEO | Professor
Thinker | Agent of Change

\$50

Registration Fee*

9:00AM-1:00PM

May 19 & May 20

Via Zoom

FaCTOC.org/FaCTConference

***Registration Fee Includes Both Days**

For questions regarding the 2021 FaCT Annual Conference, registration, or sponsorship please send an email to info@factoc.org.

Sponsored by:



VACCINE ELIGIBILITY OPENS TO ALL OC RESIDENTS

With all Californians becoming eligible April 15, employees who wish to receive a COVID-19 vaccine have many options to obtain one. To start, make sure to register on Othena. For more information, visit ocCOVID-1919.ochalthinfo.com/COVID-19-vaccine-resources.

WHERE YOU CAN GET VACCINATED

Vaccination appointments are dependent on vaccine supply, and as the County receives more vaccines, more appointments open through Othena. Once registered on Othena, you will receive a notification as soon as an appointment is available.

The County operates multiple COVID-19 vaccination PODs throughout Orange County to administer vaccines efficiently and reach our most vulnerable populations:

- Anaheim Convention Center Super POD
- Disneyland Resort Drive-Thru POD serving people with physical limitations (closing April 30)
- OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa
- Soka University in Aliso Viejo
- Santa Ana College Community POD serving the hardest-hit and underserved communities in targeted zip codes within Santa Ana, Garden Grove and Anaheim
- Ongoing mobile PODs throughout Orange County to serve the senior population and other vulnerable individuals at the highest risk

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

More than 70 healthcare providers throughout OC, including community clinics, are receiving vaccines. Here are other channels through which individuals can receive the vaccine:

COVID-19 Vaccine Providers	Appointment Registration Details		
California Department of Public Health (CDPH) / My Turn	<p>If you're eligible, you may also register for a vaccine appointment through the State's My Turn system by visiting myturn.ca.gov.</p> <p>The State of California's COVID-19 Hotline is accessible to people with disabilities and offers services in English and Spanish, with connection to interpretive services available in more than 250 languages. Call (833) 422-4255 or 833-4CA-4ALL from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for appointment information.</p>		
Hospitals	<p>MemorialCare Medical Group: Call (877) 696-3622 or schedule through your myChart account.</p> <p>UCI Health: For general accessibility information or to request a disability-related accommodation, please email COVID-1919@uci.edu or call (949) 824-9918.</p> <p>Hoag Hospital: Register at www.HoagConnect.org/MyChart/signup.</p> <p>Kaiser Permanente: Register through the State's My Turn at myturn.ca.gov or call (877) 813-7312.</p> <p>Providence: Register through the State's My Turn at myturn.ca.gov or call (877) 813-7312.</p>		
Pharmacies	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p>Albertsons, Safeway, Vons and Pavilions https://www.mhealthappointments.com/covidappt</p> <p>Costco Pharmacies https://www.costco.com/covid-vaccine.html</p> <p>CVS (800) 746-7287 https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine</p> <p>Health Mart Pharmacies http://www.healthmartcovidvaccine.com</p> </td> <td> <p>Kroger https://www.ralphs.com/rx/covid-eligibility</p> <p>Rite Aid https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier</p> <p>Walgreens https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp</p> <p>Walmart https://www.walmart.com/cp/1228302</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Albertsons, Safeway, Vons and Pavilions https://www.mhealthappointments.com/covidappt</p> <p>Costco Pharmacies https://www.costco.com/covid-vaccine.html</p> <p>CVS (800) 746-7287 https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine</p> <p>Health Mart Pharmacies http://www.healthmartcovidvaccine.com</p>	<p>Kroger https://www.ralphs.com/rx/covid-eligibility</p> <p>Rite Aid https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier</p> <p>Walgreens https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp</p> <p>Walmart https://www.walmart.com/cp/1228302</p>
<p>Albertsons, Safeway, Vons and Pavilions https://www.mhealthappointments.com/covidappt</p> <p>Costco Pharmacies https://www.costco.com/covid-vaccine.html</p> <p>CVS (800) 746-7287 https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine</p> <p>Health Mart Pharmacies http://www.healthmartcovidvaccine.com</p>	<p>Kroger https://www.ralphs.com/rx/covid-eligibility</p> <p>Rite Aid https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier</p> <p>Walgreens https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp</p> <p>Walmart https://www.walmart.com/cp/1228302</p>		

STAYING SAFE

We all must continue to do the things that have helped to slow community transmission of COVID-19. At this time, health experts urge you to continue using extra caution when planning to socialize with people outside of your household and follow these safety measures:

- Wash or sanitize hands frequently.
- Practice physical distancing — at least 6 feet apart.
- Wear masks or cloth face coverings that cover both nose and mouth in public settings and other times when you cannot physically distance yourself from others.

How do I get vaccinated with Othena?



STEP 1

Register on Othena.com

Create an account by visiting Othena.com answering a short questionnaire, and providing your registration details.

- Current phase eligibility questions
- Provide your personal details and create login information (email, contact and password)



STEP 2

Wait in a “Digital” Queue

Once registered, your details are placed in a queue/line. We will update you when vaccination appointments are available.

- CDPH & CDC guidelines for distribution are being followed.



STEP 3

Get Your Appointment

When it's time to schedule your appointment, Othena will notify you via email and application notifications. You will select from available appointment times.

- Make sure to download the Othena app from your device's app store.



STEP 4

Be Prepared

You can save time at your vaccination appointment by downloading the Othena app and completing the required forms.

- Fill out required vaccination forms and provide your consent to be vaccinated in the app.
- Check in with a Quick Response (QR) code you can download from the app.



STEP 6

Stay Engaged & Educated

After getting your vaccine shot(s), you can use Othena to keep up with the latest vaccine news, engage with the application, and track symptoms.

- Othena will provide the most up-to-date and factual information as it relates to COVID-19 and the vaccines.



STEP 5

Get Vaccinated & Schedule Follow-Up

Attend your vaccination appointment and get vaccinated. You will receive a notification with the date, time and location of your second dose appointment.

- Your second dose is scheduled at the appropriate time based on the type of vaccine you received.
- Second dose appointments are set 21 days after receiving the Pfizer vaccine, and 28 days after receiving the Moderna vaccine.

WHAT IS THE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM?



Brian Brannon, IMT Communications Specialist, with the IMT PIO team works on Othena messaging and communications.

On December 31, 2020, the Incident Management Team (IMT) was activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to coordinate a countywide operation to vaccinate all Orange County residents by July 4, 2021. This massive effort, known as Operation Independence, involves the collaboration of OC Fire Authority (OCFA), OC Health Care Agency (HCA), other County and city departments, local agencies, and community partners to reduce and eliminate barriers to vaccine access, especially for the most vulnerable residents.

The IMT comprises various sections and units that contribute to the team's overall mission following the Incident Command System (ICS) model. ICS is a standard infrastructure set up to respond to major incidents such as natural disasters or terrorism events. ICS is uniquely applied in this situation to facilitate the widespread distribution of COVID-19 vaccines throughout OC through Point of Dispensing (POD) sites.

The IMT's Incident Commanders guide the overall operation by overseeing the development of strategies and tactics, assessment and use of resources, and delegation of authority and assignments to the various section leads. In the spirit of teamwork and solidarity, the major IMT sections collectively

serve to accomplish the IMT's mission.

The Safety Section ensures all safety measures are in place for IMT staff, personnel and members of the public at the POD sites. Each POD site has a dedicated Safety Officer on duty during hours of operation to identify and address safety concerns and document POD site activities and unusual events.

"As we began to grow, staffing was a challenge," said Kevin Chao from HCA, who serves as the Safety Lead. "It was important to develop standardized processes for consistency at all locations, such as having a system in place to provide training and communication to Safety Officers in a group setting versus one-on-one."

The Plans Section provides the daily staffing support to the POD locations and organizes daily briefings, which communicate the Incident Commanders' objectives. They also maintain accountability of all personnel operating at the IMT and POD sites and provide situational updates such as significant upcoming weather events, IMT structure changes and pertinent COVID-19 information.

"The success of the Plans Section is due to the collaborative effort of all the agencies involved as well as implementing and maintaining a staffing model that has been able to support all of our POD locations," said OCFA Capt. Greg Tooley. "Many of us have never worked together before, but we have all come together to accomplish the objectives set forth by our Incident Commanders."

The Logistics Section supports the IMT and POD sites with all logistical needs, overseeing the following functions: food, supply, communications, ground support and facilities. They help equip team members with the tools and supplies they need to accomplish their roles and support the operation.

"The biggest challenge for us was setting up a POD site from scratch for the first time," said OCFA Battalion Chief Steve Dohman. "We utilized our knowledge base and experience setting up base camps to support large vegetation fires and adjusted that strategy to fulfill the needs of a POD."

The Personnel Section gathers information on personnel requirements and builds and maintains staffing capacity at all POD sites. They coordinate closely with Operations, Logistics and the Resource Unit to support the onboarding and scheduling of staff and volunteers and work closely with contractors, County employees, partner clinics and cities to address staffing needs.

"One of our biggest challenges has been to find a way to create a staffing model that would sustain itself for the long-term," former Personnel Lead Cymantha Atkinson, from OC Community Resources, and current Lead An Tran, from the County of Orange Social Services Agency, said in a joint statement. "Many staff and volunteers have graciously lent their time and expertise to support this incredible effort for short durations of time over the past several months, and we want to be able to keep them on board for as long as possible. The Personnel Unit has done a remarkable job of building capacity and maintaining strong partnerships to ensure the stability and



The IMT headquarters is organized by sections, with each section responsible for specific duties in Operation Independence.

sustainability of the PODs.”

The Public Information Office (PIO) Section works closely with the Operations Section on vaccine communication strategies, providing daily messaging resources for stakeholders and communicators countywide. The IMT’s PIO team provides daily updated scripts to the County Emergency Operations Center, Health Referral Line and COVID-19 call centers to assist with the public’s questions and provide support for the Othena user platform. They also keep the public informed on relevant topics such as vaccine availability, POD operations and eligibility to receive the vaccine and by sharing information through HCA’s COVID-19 website as well as HCA and County social media platforms.

“There is so much good news to share every day about the dedicated work that the County of Orange and everyone involved with the IMT are doing to vaccinate people who live and work here,” said Deanne Thompson, from John Wayne Airport, who served as former Lead PIO for the IMT. “We do our best to make sure that people know where and when they can receive the vaccine as soon as they are eligible”

The Liaison Officer serves as the point of contact for representatives of government agencies such as local, state and federal jurisdictions, nongovernmental organizations, private sector and other cooperating agencies. One Law Enforcement Liaison and one Fire Service Liaison represent the IMT to speak on behalf of the Incident Commanders.

According to Orange County Sheriff’s Department Lt. Jesus Arellano, who serves as the Law Enforcement Liaison, “Communication is a key element for the Liaison Officer. Law enforcement agencies are familiar with the Incident

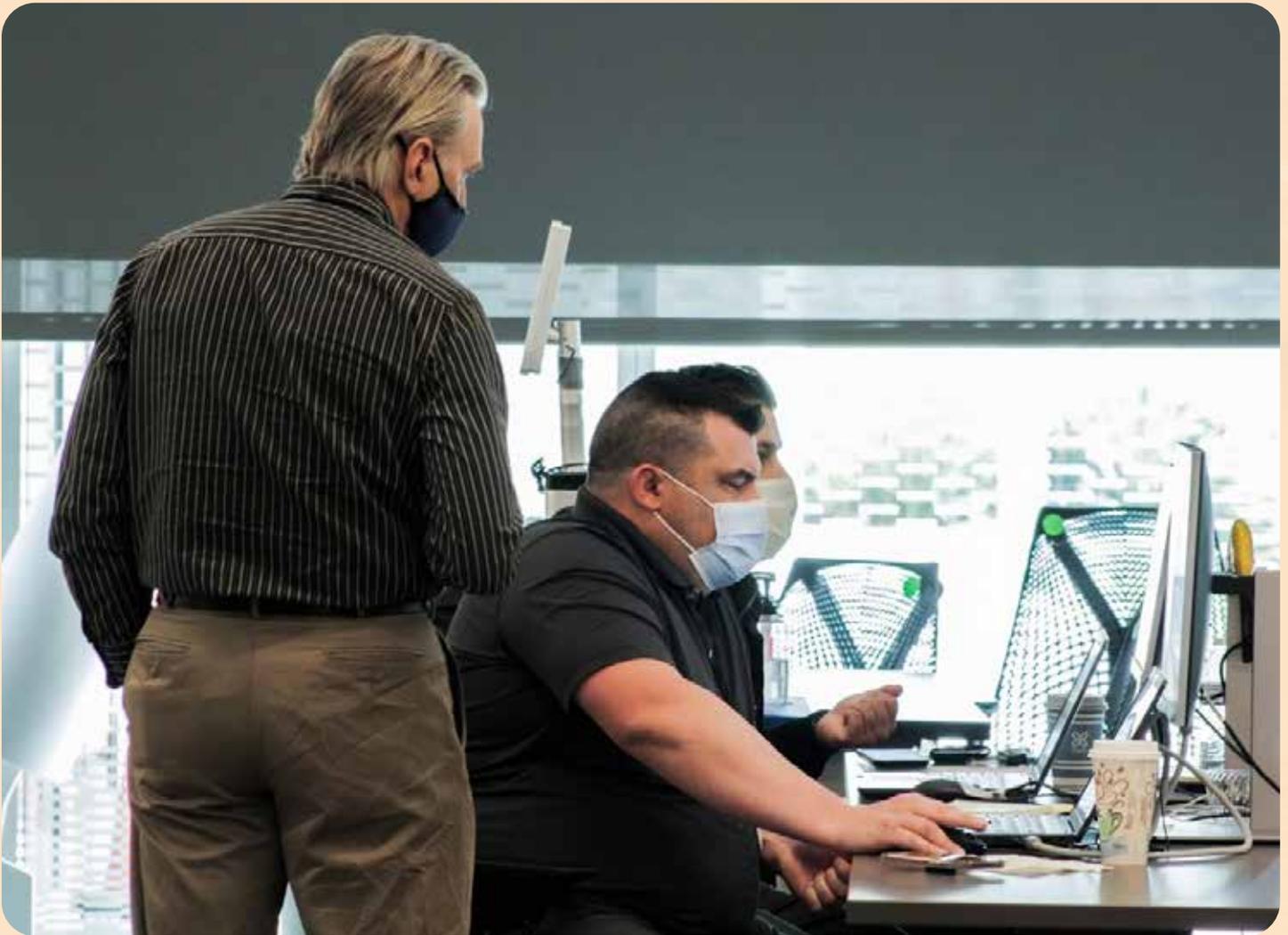
Management Team structure and are efficient at relaying information. I’m proud to be part of a team of County agencies who have the same goal — vaccinating the residents of Orange County.”

The Finance/Administration Section is responsible for all financial and cost requirements of the operation and is working with the supporting agencies of the IMT and Orange County Auditor-Controller to establish the process for claiming reimbursement funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“Mutual aid partners provide important leadership and supervision support at the IMT and POD sites, which helps the County provide an effective vaccination program,” said Anil Kukreja from the County Executive Office/Budget. “The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a Mutual Aid Agreement on March 9, which is intended to allow Mutual Aid Partners to claim 100 percent staffing cost reimbursement for vaccination resources including some of the budgeted salaries and employee benefits. The agreement is now under review and pending approval by the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.”

The County’s in-house Real Estate team, made up of more than 30 real estate professionals, also plays an important role with the IMT in securing leases, licenses and permits for the Super POD sites as well as mobile POD sites, as well as coordinating with the owners of the sites on additional support needed, such as tables, chairs or services. Real estate staff attend daily IMT briefings as well as site visits and other related meetings regarding real property necessary for IMT operations.

“I’m enormously proud of the speed and professionalism



As the Resource Unit Leader, David Hayes helps the unit in supporting data entry, personnel and information tracking for all PODs throughout the County.

of real estate staff in being able to prepare and negotiate real estate agreements for the POD sites,” said Thomas A. Miller, Chief Real Estate Officer. “The IMT efforts have all been completed on a very condensed timeline. This has required site visits and inspections, as well as preparation and negotiation of real estate agreements within a very short time to allow the IMT sufficient space on which to perform vaccination operations.”

The Operation Section’s primary responsibility is to ensure that all of the operational aspects of the incident are working correctly to meet the objectives identified by the Incident Commanders. In the case of Operation Independence, the section lead ensures that the POD sites are staffed with the appropriate personnel to vaccinate to their maximum capacities and have the necessary support. These staff include nurses, pharmacists, parking attendants, line monitors and leadership personnel.

“I think the greatest challenge during my time at the IMT was getting the OC Fair & Event Center POD built and running,” said OCFA Chief Matthew Levesque, who recently led the Operations Section. “There were dozens of people involved with the development, build and implementation of the POD. The

coordination and collaboration of everyone working towards this effort was great. There are a lot of moving parts when the team builds a POD, and it definitely takes a team approach to get it done.”

With Operation Independence now entering its fourth month, the IMT has already outlasted the general response time to a crisis and constantly adapted to fluctuations in vaccine supply as well as eligibility guidelines from the State.

“Most IMT responses to crisis are to stabilize the situation which usually lasts six to eight weeks; the COVID-19 response has been measured in years!” said Dr. Margaret Bredehoft, the HCA Public Health Services Director who is also Co-Incident Commander with OCFA Chief Mike Petro. “In addition, this is an entirely new pandemic which makes solutions and implementation also new. We don’t have all the answers and are literally building the plane as we fly it. But the most pride in this countywide effort is that we came together as ONE county with ONE mission. As a result, our communities have benefited with improved health outcomes, lower infection rates and, most importantly, a great experience for all involved in the vaccination process.”

RECOGNIZING SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2021: SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL



The month of March celebrated National Social Work Month, honoring the invaluable contributions County social workers make to clients and community. The National Association of Social Workers has themed this year's celebration "Social Workers are Essential." This theme underscores the critical efforts made by social workers, who — now more than ever — serve on the frontlines to help keep individuals and families safe and provide them with services and supports to address their needs as well as the additional pressures and challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March, the County of Orange Social Services Agency and OC Health Care Agency celebrated the many essential contributions made by County of Orange social workers by spotlighting the critical role they play in serving the community. As servant leaders and advocates for children, adults, families, seniors and the disabled, County social workers focus on meeting the physical and emotional well-being of clients facing crises. The amount of care, support and empathy social workers demonstrate to their clients, and to their fellow workers, is exceptional.

On March 23, 2021, the Orange County Board of Supervisors presented SSA and HCA with resolutions in honor of Social Work Month. While this year the departments were not able to participate in a formal in-person Board presentation due to current health orders, department leadership teams selected workers to be recognized on behalf of all social work staff across the County.

This year's honorees include:

FROM SSA:

- Senior Social Workers Stephanie Daleo and Gabriela Vidaurreta – *Children & Family Services Division*
- Social Worker Dawn Boersma, Senior Social Worker Andrea Simon and Social Worker Monica Liu – *Family Self-Sufficiency and Adult Services Division*
- Senior Social Services Supervisor Karla Roberts – *Administrative Services Division*



FROM HCA:

- Cristina Madory, Brittany Shaw and Norma Macias – *Correctional Health Services*
- Jody Spellmeyer, Thanh H. Nguyen and Ashley Hutton – *Behavioral Health Services*

Social workers are unsung heroes, making a tremendous impact on the lives of Orange County's most vulnerable children, adults and families. The essential role our social workers play in helping people from all walks of life and backgrounds to not just live, but thrive, along their path towards self-sufficiency is recognized and appreciated.

Thank you to this year's honorees and to all of County social work staff for their amazing service and dedication to the community

THE PANDEMIC PET PROTECTORS

Did you know that OC Animal Care launched a program to assist struggling pet owners? The Family Fur-st Drive-Thru Pet Food Pantry was launched in June of 2020 with the goal of providing access to vital resources like pet food, kitty litter and basic supplies to keep pets in their homes with their families during these uniquely difficult times. The pantry assists owners of dogs, cats, rabbits, mini mammals, and birds.

OC Animal Care has partnered with the Animal Assistance League of Orange County, the SoCal Animal Response Team and the Shamrock Rescue Foundation to host the pet pantry from 8 to 10 a.m. the second Saturday of every month. Families seeking assistance can find the pantry in the main parking lot of OC Animal Care Headquarters, 1630 Victory Road, Tustin.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, in-person donations are not accepted. There has, however, been a fantastic response from the community in terms of virtual donations through online platforms. Those who wish to donate can do so through the Animal Assistance league's Amazon Wishlist. The list is maintained with food and products needed to help fulfil the pantry's mission. Currently, there is an urgent need for dry cat food, canned dog food and wet puppy food. You can view and donate from the Amazon Wishlist at: <https://amzn.to/3dC3PHw>

After 10 months of operation, the pet food pantry has distributed 47,000 pounds of pet food to the community and assisted more than 4,300 pets with no signs of stopping. It is the goal of OC Animal Care to continue to operate the pantry for as long as there is food available and a remaining need in the community.

The shelter is open by appointment only for essential services, including pet adoption. For more information about the Family Fur-st Pet Food Pantry, other pet programs, or upcoming events, please visit OC Animal Care's website at: <http://ocpetinfo.com>



TOP LEFT: Food is sorted by animal and displayed on tables for patrons of the Pet Pantry. **TOP RIGHT:** Dog food of varying brands are stacked and waiting for distribution. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The Pet Pantry is seen in the background while a sign in the foreground directs traffic to it. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Pet Pantry staff help load donations into a vehicle in front of OC Animal Care Headquarters in Tustin.

HOW COVID-19 HAS IMPACTED COUNTY OF ORANGE WORKERS' COMMUTES

A little over year ago, on March 19, 2020, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a Stay-at-Home Order due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The order instructed Californians to stay home, except for essential work, local shopping or other permitted errands.

While some of the restrictions have since been lifted, the pandemic is not over, which means the Rideshare Office is still working to help employees manage their commutes in an ever-changing work and transportation environment.

Here is some of what's happened here in the past year and a glimpse at where the road goes from here.



A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES SWITCHED TEMPORARILY TO TELEWORK.

First off, thank you to all County workers who stayed on the front lines to keep services going during this time. For the employees who worked offsite, department managers worked in tandem with Human Resource Services and OC Information Technology to make the transition run as smoothly as possible.

According to data from the employee transportation survey conducted in September, working at home was up a whopping 1,543 percent over the same time last year. During that week, more than 6,400 employees telecommuted.

WE HAD CLEANER AIR (AT LEAST TEMPORARILY).

Fewer cars and trucks on the road as people stayed home meant fewer emissions being spewed into the air.

Shortly after the order got underway, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) reported slightly improved air quality (though that was due to favorable weather, as well as car traffic dropping by about one-third).

TRANSIT AGENCIES REDUCED AND/OR CHANGED SCHEDULES.

[OC Bus](#), [Metrolink](#) and other transit providers stepped up efforts to provide a safe environment for riders and transit workers — and continue to do so.

This includes a mix of increasing cleaning protocol, providing hand sanitizing stations, and providing masks to riders, among other efforts to reduce the spread of the airborne virus.

Metrolink has adjusted schedules due to low ridership and also to keep train capacity at 30 percent or below.

OC Buses are running with about half the ridership, but at 70 percent service levels to allow riders to social distance.

SOME ROAD CONSTRUCTION MOVED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

One small silver lining is that road construction zoomed ahead of schedule because of near-empty freeways. Carpool lanes on the I-5 opened months ahead of schedule, as did several sections of the I-405 and other key Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) improvement projects designed to make traveling easier in Orange County.

Progress is expected to continue in 2021, OCTA recently reported in its blog post, "[Busy Year Ahead in Orange County Transportation Construction.](#)"

WHETHER YOUR COMMUTE IS TO THE WORKSITE, OR TO YOUR HOME OFFICE, THE RIDESHARE OFFICE CAN HELP.

At the Rideshare Office, we're here to help you with your commuting needs — especially as they have changed and will continue to change over the coming months. For assistance, email rideshare@ocgov.com or call 714-834-7600.

FIRE RECOVERY CONTINUES, WHILE WHITING RANCH REOPENS



TOP: Prickly pear cactus is sprouting new pads in the Irvine Ranch Open Space. (Photo by IROS Operations Manager John Gump.) **BOTTOM:** Natural Resource Program Coordinators Alisa Flint and Matt Major survey the landscape at Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. (Photo by Natural Resources Manager Jennifer Naegele.)

Thanks to the hard work of many OC Parks staff, Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park reopened March 6, and areas of the Irvine Ranch Open Space are slowly recovering after two major fires in 2020.

Between October's Silverado Fire and December's Bond Fire, about 8,000 acres of the Irvine Ranch Open Space and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park burned. Both parks closed to all visitors to allow for recovery — with help from park staff and Mother Nature.

Whiting Ranch partially reopened in January, while areas

like Borrego and Red Rock canyons that suffered significant burn damage, remained closed. The park fully closed again February 7 following a mountain lion incident.

While Whiting Ranch remained closed for a full month as park staff continued to see mountain lion activity, it did provide the opportunity to wrap up some work that allowed all trails, even in burn areas, to reopen.

Some of the work included placing 6,500 feet of rope along trails to keep visitors out of sensitive burn recovery areas and smoothing out trails. A hike down Borrego Canyon Trail



TOP LEFT: OC Public Works Heavy Equipment crews removed about 300 truckloads of sediment from the basin along Hicks Haul Road. (Photo by IROS Operations Manager John Gump.) **TOP RIGHT:** Supervising Park Ranger II Nick Martinico, from left, Senior Maintenance Inspector Ev Mena and Park Ranger Kyle Frazer stand in the cleared basin. (Photo by IROS Operations Manager John Gump.) **BOTTOM LEFT:** A basin on Hicks Haul Road in the Irvine Ranch Open Space was filled with sediment. (Photo by IROS Operations Manager John Gump.) **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Supervising Park Ranger II Nick Martinico, from left, Senior Maintenance Inspector Ev Mena and Park Ranger Kyle Frazer stand in the cleared basin. (Photo by IROS Operations Manager John Gump.)

to Mustard reveals a very different-looking, wide-open park, with clear lines of sight where trees and shrubs previously obstructed views.

Temporary fencing was also installed along portions of Water Tank Road. Prickly pear cactus and native seed will also be planted to help recovery of selected areas damaged by fire-suppression work.

In the Irvine Ranch Open Space, California Conservation Corps crews helped deploy 8,000 feet of straw wattles and 4,400 gravel bags. That area had the additional challenge of an emergency project to clear out sediment basins along Hicks Haul Road in Limestone Canyon.

Open Space staff coordinated with Senior Maintenance Inspector Ev Mena, Regulatory Compliance Manager Robin Lamont and OC Public Works Heavy Equipment crews to remove about 300 truckloads of sediment to prevent major erosion damage to this critical access road.

As far as habitat recovery, new growth is popping up in

both parks. Irvine Ranch Open Space Operations Manager John Gump reports much of the immediate regrowth is in the form of invasive species; however, some native species are starting to re-sprout.

Natural Resources Manager Jennifer Naegele reports that shrub species, such as lemonadeberry and laurel sumac, are already crown sprouting and lupine and native bulb leaves have started to emerge. The heat of fire activates germination for many native seeds, including wildflowers such as poppies. With the lower than average rainfalls so far this winter, it remains to be seen how the habitat will recover and what level of fire-following wildflower displays will occur.

As plant communities regenerate to pre-fire levels of diversity, associated wildlife populations of species such as cactus wrens, mule deer and bobcats will rebound. Controlling invasive species and reducing further disturbance, such as repeat fire, to the lands in coming years will be vital to promoting habitat recovery.

AROUND THE COUNTY

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JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT

John Wayne Airport Celebrates Resumed Service to Mexico

Southwest Airlines resumed daily nonstop service to Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta on March 11, 2021, expanding John Wayne Airport's route map to include more than 30 nonstop destinations and bring additional travel options to guests.

JWA celebrated the occasion by providing passengers on the inaugural departures with

giveaway items, including cloth face masks, hand and cell phone sanitizers, and luggage tags.

Passengers traveling through JWA can expect to experience several measures designed to keep guests safe and are encouraged to review the airport's Healthy Travels practices and FAQs before arriving at the terminal. For more information, visit www.ocair.com/COVID-19.



Southwest Gate agents celebrate the resumption of nonstop service to Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta on March 11, 2021.



Beachbound ready passengers pose for a photo before takeoff in their Southwest sunnies.

New Orange County Parks Exhibit Debuts at John Wayne Airport



John Wayne Airport's roadway banners on the upper-level feature various images of OC Parks locations.



Irvine Ranch Historic Park is a 16.5 acre special use park that retains 24 original ranch structures that represent the proud agricultural history of Orange County and, specifically, the Irvine Ranch. It was once one of the world's greatest producers of Valencia oranges, and a leader in dry farming and livestock.

In partnership with OC Parks, John Wayne Airport is pleased to announce the debut of a new exhibit showcasing 60,000 acres of parkland and historical space now featured in the Orange County: Destination Art & Culture exhibit through December 2021.

The [OC Parks](http://www.ocparks.com) exhibit highlights various activities available at its locations like family recreation, docent-led tours and educational opportunities, as well as past and present artwork of its historical sites, including the Irvine Ranch Historic Park, Old Orange County Courthouse, Heritage Hill Historical Park, and Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens.

In celebration of the exhibit's debut, the airport's roadway banners on the upper-level feature various images of OC Parks' natural resources and historic sites. Guests can view the OC Parks display inside the Thomas F. Riley Terminal on the Departure Level pedestrian walkway between terminals B and C before security screening.

For more information about the John Wayne Airport Arts Program, visit www.ocair.com/terminal/artexhibits.

UICR - UIC COMMUNITY SERVICES

Seniors Hearts Warmed with Acts of Kindness

As concerns of the coronavirus pandemic surfaced within the community and many businesses suspended services due to mandated closures, the Office on Aging understood the severity of the situation as well as its impact on seniors and rose to the occasion. Service gaps were quickly identified, and operations were modified to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, while providing much needed services to the most vulnerable population: seniors.

Heartwarming stories resonated in the hearts of seniors who received services such as meals and telephone reassurance calls from case managers. The Office on Aging, in partnership with its Elderly Nutrition Contract Providers, worked diligently to pack food into “Grab-n-Go” meals and offered curbside pick-up to minimize face-to-face social interaction.

To limit exposure to COVID-19, many older adults found themselves in a difficult place, as they were no longer able to safely access groceries. Understanding this need, the County providers quickly converted thousands of meals into delivery packages and ensured that adults with food insecurities did not go hungry.

“Lorna, a legally blind client traveled with her service animal to the local grocery store, sometimes navigating the streets on foot and other times taking public transportation.



Ericka Danczak, Office on Aging, assists with a drive thru food distribution.

Lorna’s purchases were restricted to whatever she could carry home, which eliminated heavy items like milk. Her limited sight made the trip to the store and the task of shopping enormously challenging. Since Lorna’s groceries were minimal and she could not safely use the stove, her menu options were few.”

To her dismay, her only crockpot was no longer operable, leaving Lorna in a grave predicament on how she would sustain her nutritional needs. Lorna knew she had to reach for help, and she was amazed at the nutritionally balanced meals that were delivered to her doorstep, with a special gift with each meal – milk!

UIC SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

New Sheriff's Department Team To Take All-encompassing Approach To Behavioral Health



The Orange County Sheriff’s Department has established a new bureau tasked with assisting those experiencing homelessness and those with mental health disorders through a robust program that includes proactive engagement, case management

and resource distribution.

The Behavioral Health Bureau, supervised by Capt. Nate Wilson, includes six sergeants, eight Homeless Outreach Deputies and about 50 Homeless Liaison Deputies assigned to OCSD’s 13 contract cities.

The Sheriff identified the need to build upon the Homeless Outreach Team program, which launched in November 2016.

“Although many of the homeless individuals we come in contact with report struggling with mental health or substance abuse disorders, this is not an issue specific to the homeless population,” said Sheriff Don Barnes. “The Sheriff’s Department often gets called to respond to help individuals in the midst of a mental health crisis, and we recognized the need to widen our approach.”

The bureau will conduct weekly reviews of all calls in OCSD’s service area involving an individual experiencing a mental health crisis.

“You often hear of multiple calls to one home

with repeated issues with little to no follow-up,” Capt. Wilson said. “This case management practice will bring all those calls under one team to be triaged, reviewed and – if appropriate – assigned a recommended course of action.”

Critical to the bureau’s success is OCSD’s collaboration with the OC Health Care Agency (HCA), which provides representatives to work alongside deputies in the field and during the case review process.

“We are employing a pilot co-responder model that includes a mental health expert, which will help this team be more effective,” Wilson said. “Having the ability to rely on someone with extensive knowledge of mental health issues is an invaluable resource for us.”

The bureau’s next steps will be building a multi-disciplinary team with additional service providers and increasing monthly training, which will include a focus on how to handle the many critical incidents they may come across.

Ultimately, Wilson said, the goal of the bureau is to create a professional, collaborative and appropriate response to mental health calls with an aim of better connecting people with services and reducing recidivism.

“We want to approach these cases with compassion, and we want to provide solutions,” Wilson said. “Of course, we will rely on enforcement when criminal violations of law occur, but we hope to provide individuals with a path to get them the help they need.”

OC WASTE & RECYCLING

The Discovery Cube is Coming Out of COVID-19 Hibernation

A favorite family-fun-and-education destination, the Discovery Cube OC is preparing to open its doors early this summer to resume in-person activities after being closed due to the pandemic.

OC Waste & Recycling (OCWR) and The Cube have been long-time partners in waste and recycling education. The County-sponsored EcoChallenge exhibit has been the cornerstone of OCWR outreach, featuring a three-part exhibit highlighting recycling best practices through hands-on activities. The exhibit hosted thousands of students each year through in-person field trips, patrons and now virtual experiences. We broke ground in 2020 on a new outdoor exhibit to incorporate the importance of recycling organic materials and green waste as part of the recycling chain to help reduce methane gas emissions, as mandated by industry-transforming California legislation (SB 1383 and AB 1826).

The new exhibit complements the existing Race-to-Recycle game, Household Hazardous Waste Garage and Discovery Market exhibits. The new organic and green waste recycling exhibit features the World of Organic Waste compost game, where players compete to make the best compost to feed their flower. They watch their flower grow as they quickly pick the best components for their compost pile. This outdoor exhibit also features a hands-on worm station to view vermicomposting, teaching the science behind the decomposition process, a compost garden featuring live plants fed with composted material and a decomposition station demonstrating various items in the actual decomposition process.

Despite the pandemic impacts, construction moved forward, and the exhibit will open as part of The Cube’s stay-safe reopening plan. During the closure, The Cube and OCWR transitioned educational programming to virtual



The Discovery Cube Orange County is reopening early this summer.



Stop by the composting station to see how different items are broken down over time.

learning and teacher-friendly resources.

The Cube took advantage of the closure to make improvements and refresh exhibits. Visitors can look forward to a fresh, new experience with more exciting learning opportunities once reopened. Follow the Discovery Cube ([@Discovery Cube](#)) and OCWR ([@OCWaste](#)) on social media for more news about the Discovery Cube reopening early this summer.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Second District Election a Success

The Orange County Registrar of Voters successfully certified the March 9, 2021, Second Supervisorial District Vacancy Election ahead of the statutory deadline. Total turnout from the election was 28 percent with 110,766 ballots cast, in which 95 percent of voters cast an official ballot received through the mail and 5 percent cast ballot in-person at one of 13 Vote Centers throughout the Second Supervisorial District and the Orange County Registrar of Voters' office.

Governor Recall

The circulation deadline for petitions to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom was March 17, 2021, and the Orange County Registrar of Voters is in the process of verifying petition signatures. As of the most recent report posted on the Secretary of State's website, 240,377 signatures have been submitted in Orange County. All counties are required to complete petition signature verification and submit their final report to the Secretary of State by April 19, 2021. The Secretary of State will have until April 29, 2021, to certify results from county election officials, which will then determine whether the recall effort reached the minimum number of 1,495,709 valid signatures required to qualify the recall election.

Quality Assurance

The Orange County Registrar of Voters is the only elections office in the United States undertaking efforts to obtain ISO-9001 quality management system certification. This internationally recognized standard specifies requirements for quality assurance, which will strengthen internal procedures and enhance services for voters.





Snap a photo at our new selfie walls to share your #OCCOVID-1919 vaccination moment, whether it's at the convention center in Anaheim, the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa or Soka University in Aliso Viejo. Remember don't post pictures of your vaccination card. #SleevesUpOC #LetsGetVaccinated

[SUBMIT PHOTOS TO TRAVIS.LARIVIERE@OCGOV.COM](mailto:TRAVIS.LARIVIERE@OCGOV.COM)

OC HISTORY

THE IRVINE RANCH, 1930S-1950S

by Chris Jepsen



Camp Bonita, on the Irvine Ranch, seen here around 1937, is now part of the University of California, Irvine campus. (Courtesy Orange County Archives)



Scouts enjoy a show by Roy Rogers at the 1953 Boy Scout Jamboree in what's now Newport Beach. (Courtesy Orange County Archives)

The Great Depression did not spare the Irvine Ranch, which included almost a fifth of the land of Orange County. But James Irvine II (a.k.a. "J.I.") was lenient about lease payments and made food grown on his ranch available to his tenants for whatever price they could afford. The family-owned Irvine Company also continued to plan for better days ahead and the future needs of a growing Orange County. This included financing and building a number of major water projects, including the Santiago Dam (creating Irvine Lake) and a pipeline from the Santa Ana River watershed to previously water-starved Laguna Beach. The Irvine Co. also worked with the City of Newport Beach and other local property owners in an effort to expand and straighten the opening of Newport Bay and turn it into Newport Harbor.

In 1935, J.I.'s son, Jase Irvine – the heir apparent to the family empire – died of tuberculosis he'd contracted during World War I, leaving his wife, Athalie, and daughter, Joan. In the wake of his son's death, J.I. created the James Irvine Foundation to which he gave a controlling interest (51 percent ownership) in the

Irvine Ranch. (Even today, the foundation continues to support educational and charitable organizations across California.)

In another act of philanthropy, J.I. donated land in Laguna Canyon for the Irvine Bowl in 1941, giving the Pageant of the Masters and Festival of the Arts a permanent home. These Orange County traditions date back to the early 1930s and have continued each summer (with a couple short breaks for war and pandemic) ever since.

During World War II, the U.S. government requisitioned two large parcels of the Irvine Ranch for military air facilities. Some 2,318 acres of J.I.'s best farmland became Marine Corps Air Station El Toro. Another 1,600 acres became the Santa Ana Naval Air Station (later MCAS Tustin) – a "Lighter-Than-Air" base featuring two enormous blimp hangars that still stand today. Meanwhile, troops also trained in Irvine Park and Peters Canyon.

The Irvine Company then bought the 82,000-acre Flying D Ranch in Bozeman, Montana. They purchased it for the same amount the government had paid them for the two military bases, thereby avoiding capital gains tax. Over the years, they would continue to buy more acreage, adding to the size of the Flying D.

It was there, while fishing on Spanish Creek in 1947, that J.I. died suddenly. His fishing buddy and longtime Irvine Ranch manager William Bradford "Brad" Hellis found Irvine's body partly submerged in the creek. This shocking turn of events left the operation of the company in the hands of J.I.'s son Myford Irvine.

Although Myford had spent time on the ranch throughout his life, he was by then a Bay Area businessman with a degree from Stanford. He reluctantly moved to the ranch and eventually ushered in a new era for the Irvines by ramping up the sale of parcels for development.

Irvine Co. Vice President and local Scout Council board member William H. Spurgeon III asked Brad Hellis and Myford Irvine to host the 1953 National Boy Scout Jamboree on the

ranch. They agreed, and the week-long event brought 51,680 people to the previously sleepy 3,000 acres between Upper Newport Bay and MacArthur Boulevard. According to historian Phil Brigandi, a temporary city was constructed, including a bank, "commissaries, and trading posts, and hospitals, and post offices, and fire crews, and about 30,000 tents." Lavish evening programs included celebrities from Bob Hope to Debbie Reynolds. Vice President Richard Nixon attended and even camped overnight with his old Yorba Linda Scout troop. Myford Irvine declared the Jamboree the greatest moment of his life.

In 1957, the University of California identified Irvine as a good location for a new campus. Two years later, at the urging of new Irvine Company board member Joan Irvine Burt (Jase's daughter), the company donated 1,000 acres for a new university campus. They later also sold additional surrounding land to the university at a discounted price. Architect and planner William Pereira was hired to design the campus. Welcoming the university was among the first of Joan's many controversial stances while on the board, including challenging the Irvine Foundation's controlling interest.

In 1959, Myford Irvine was found dead from multiple gunshots in the basement of the Irvine Mansion (now the site of the Katie Wheeler Library). It was ruled a suicide, but many remain skeptical. Stories circulate that Myford was deeply involved in gambling and owed a large debt to the mob. Longtime Irvine family friend Arthur J. McFadden replaced Myford as the Irvine Company's interim president.

Like every other agricultural interest, the Irvine Ranch was impacted by the Orange County Assessor, which began taxing even open land as though it were being utilized for its "highest and best use" (a.k.a. commercial and residential development). The tax burden was daunting. Meanwhile, developers bombarded



Trucks load up at the Irvine bean warehouse in 1957. The land is now home to a La Quinta Inn on Sand Canyon Road. (Courtesy Orange County Archives)

the Irvine Co. with requests to buy or lease land. As suburbs grew up all around Southern California, it became increasingly clear that development of the Irvine Ranch was inevitable.

Under the leadership of Myford Irvine and Arthur McFadden, many parcels of the ranch in what's now Newport Beach were subdivided and developed, including Irvine Terrace, Westcliff, Baycrest, Cameo Shores, Cameo Highlands, Irvine Cove and the Irvine Coast Country Club. Major land leases were also signed for Collins Radio Co. and Ford's Aeronutronics Division. A less profitable tenant, the 115-acre Newport Harbor Buffalo Ranch tourist trap operated between today's Fashion Island and UCI from 1955 to 1959.

In the years that followed, the Irvine Company would begin to take a much more planned and organized approach to development on the ranch — an approach that would also leave the Irvine Company in the driver's seat, rather than ceding control to a wide array of outside developers. As the owner of one of the largest parcels of land in Orange County, they had the rare opportunity to plan an entire modern community from the ground up.

For more on the Irvine Ranch story, read the [February](#) and [March 2019](#) editions of County Connection.



Joan Irvine, second from right, married Charles Swinden in 1952. Also in the photo are, from left, Linda, Gloria and Myford Irvine. (Courtesy OC Public Library)

Chris Jepsen is the Assistant Archivist at the Orange County Archives, a function under the office of Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen.

Reach him at Chris.Jepsen@rec.ocgov.com or 714-834-4771 if you have questions about the Archives.

Password and Account Safety

While the standards for password creation have not changed (but are in progress) in recent history, hackers have continued to develop advanced methods and tactics for identifying your credentials, cracking passwords and gaining access to the systems and data passwords are trying to protect. Let's not make it easy for them.

PASSWORD COMPLEXITY

Hackers are always building and improving systems and programs to hack our passwords. They observe behavioral patterns and utilize password cracking software to systematically work through word and character variations (replacing symbols or numbers for common word spellings), perform brute force attacks (where combinations of characters strings are systematically combined and attempted, including patterns), dictionary attacks (an automated method of guessing passwords by using every word in a dictionary, including iterations and substitutions of symbols and numbers), and count on users to disregard one or more best practices. Adhering to length and complexity best practices is the first step to resilience from hackers gaining access. Currently, best practices dictate the following:

- Complex passwords (upper and lower case letters, special characters, and numbers)
- Password length 8-10 characters standard (more if system allows)
- Password phrases (not dictionary words or song lyrics)
- Password expiration (45-90 days)
- Unique passwords for each system/account
- 3 failed attempts locks out the user

The strength of a password is directly related to how long the password is. The shorter the password is, the faster the password can be cracked. An example of a weak password is a briefcase lock pin. It's typically a three- or four-digit passkey consisting of only numbers. A person could go through all possible combinations in a single day by turning the number wheels one at a time until the lock opens. The same password (but in an electronic format) could be cracked in a fraction of a second (even with a relatively slow computer). So, it's easy to understand why password length is so important. The longer the password, the longer it takes a computer to crack (computers are only getting faster).

A passphrase, unlike a password, uses a string of words instead of just one, increasing length, complexity and potential iterations required to crack it. The longer the password and the more words it contains will make it harder to crack as the dictionary does not include strings of words and brute forcing a string of 15 to 20 characters (or more) will take too much time (password reset requirements will come into play before the password is cracked). To make things more difficult for a hacker, use strings of words that are recognizable to you but are not found in a dictionary (add a few symbols and numbers or misspell them). This will reduce the probability that the passphrase will be easily guessed/cracked. Do not use song lyrics or commercial slogans, as hackers are already including these in their custom hacking dictionary databases.

HACKERS CAN QUICKLY CRACK WEAK PASSWORDS

Hackers depend on user disregard for complexity and have a much easier time accessing accounts when one or more of the best practices criteria is missing. For example, a password that follows recommendations, except for the "password phrase" criteria, can be easily cracked. For example, "Dis@pp01nt") may appear to be hard to crack as it is unique, complex and lengthy. However, an attacker can easily crack this password using a dictionary attack due to the word "disappoint" itself. It is a dictionary word and hackers have already included variations of common alternatives to standard spellings in their cracking databases (like 'a' to @, 'i' to 1, 'o' to 0, exclamation points at the beginning or end, etc.). The standard US-QWERTY keyboard can produce 96 unique characters and there are 10 characters in our example password, therefore there are 96^{10} possible combinations are possible. At first glance this may seem like a massive math problem to solve and impossible for anyone to guess, however hackers are well-equipped to deal with this using powerful computers, brute force, free cracking software, other surreptitious programs, and customized cracking dictionaries/databases.

Let's say an attacker is using three high-powered processors with a speed of 41.91 million calculations per second each. It would take only .0009 seconds to crack the "Dis@pp01nt" password using a simple brute-force attack ($96^{10} / 41.91 \text{ million}^3$). An attacker can accelerate success if the password is based on a dictionary word as opposed to brute-forcing it.



ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Account management is important to maintain a strong defense. Two important account management activities are password management and account auditing. Password management establishes the requirements for password security, age, complexity, timeouts, etc., and is essential as it forces administrators and users to follow established criteria. Administrator accounts may have stronger requirements given the inherent rights associated with them.

Account reviews should be performed on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, annually, etc.). This should be enforced to identify dormant accounts (those unused for a determined period of time) as well as ensuring all accounts are legitimate and the employees are still resident within the organization with appropriate access rights. It is important to quickly disable accounts for those who no longer work within the organization to restrict access and ensure only authorized personnel can access systems and data. As long as a dormant account exists in the directory, it poses a risk as it may be unmonitored and leaves a door open for unauthorized access attempts. Once a hacker has established a beachhead within the network/system, he/she will try to exploit common vulnerabilities or perform phishing efforts to elevate permissions.

During the account review process, administrator accounts should be particularly scrutinized to determine if these accounts are following password best practices and not employing predictable bad habits. These accounts are prized targets for attack due to the associated privileges that they entail. Because of the risk that weak passwords pose to administrator accounts, they should be reviewed more frequently and adhere to a more stringent set of security requirements (complexity, length, reset and blacklisting).

CONCLUSION

Remember that hackers are always developing new methods for stealing and cracking passwords, hacking accounts and other forms of trickery. However, we hope that you are better prepared for some of the more common threats by being armed with this information. Remember, to keep your accounts and passwords safe, awareness is essential, prevention is key and knowledge is the path to prevention. So, arm yourself with knowledge, implement what you learned, and strengthen your passwords. We will all be more secure as a result.

Employees are the first line of cybersecurity defense within the County, and we thank you for your continued vigilance. If you have any questions, please contact:

Enterprise Privacy & Cybersecurity team - securityadmin@ocit.ocgov.com

Enterprise Privacy & Cybersecurity Portal - <https://ocgov.sharepoint.com/Collab/SvcAreas/cyber>

Report Phishing E-mail - phishing@ocit.ocgov.com or Phishing Alert Button on your Outlook toolbar

Report Spam E-mail - spam@ocit.ocgov.com

Central IT Service Desk at 844-834-2449

— SAFETY SPOTLIGHT —

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads. While drivers texting behind the wheel tops what seems like an endless list of distractions, other risky actions include talking — whether it be on the phone or to others in the car — setting your navigation, adjusting what you're listening to, applying makeup, and more. In 2019, distracted driving killed 3,142 people — a 10 percent increase from 2018. By driving distracted, you're robbing yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash.

KEY PREVENTION TIPS

- **Text messages can wait**
Pull over and park your car in a safe location. Only then is it safe to send or read a text.
- **Designate a sober driver**
In 2015, 10,265 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third (29 percent) of all traffic-related deaths in the U.S.
- **Reduce your speed**
Speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway, extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle, and increases the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a dangerous situation.
- **Crying children can wait until you pull over safely**
Parents' instincts are to turn around and deal with the child, but you shouldn't take your eyes off the road because losing concentration, even for a couple of seconds, can be fatal.
- **Wear a seat belt**
Most drivers and passengers killed in crashes are unrestrained. In 2009, 53 percent of drivers and passengers killed in car crashes were not wearing restraints/seat belts.

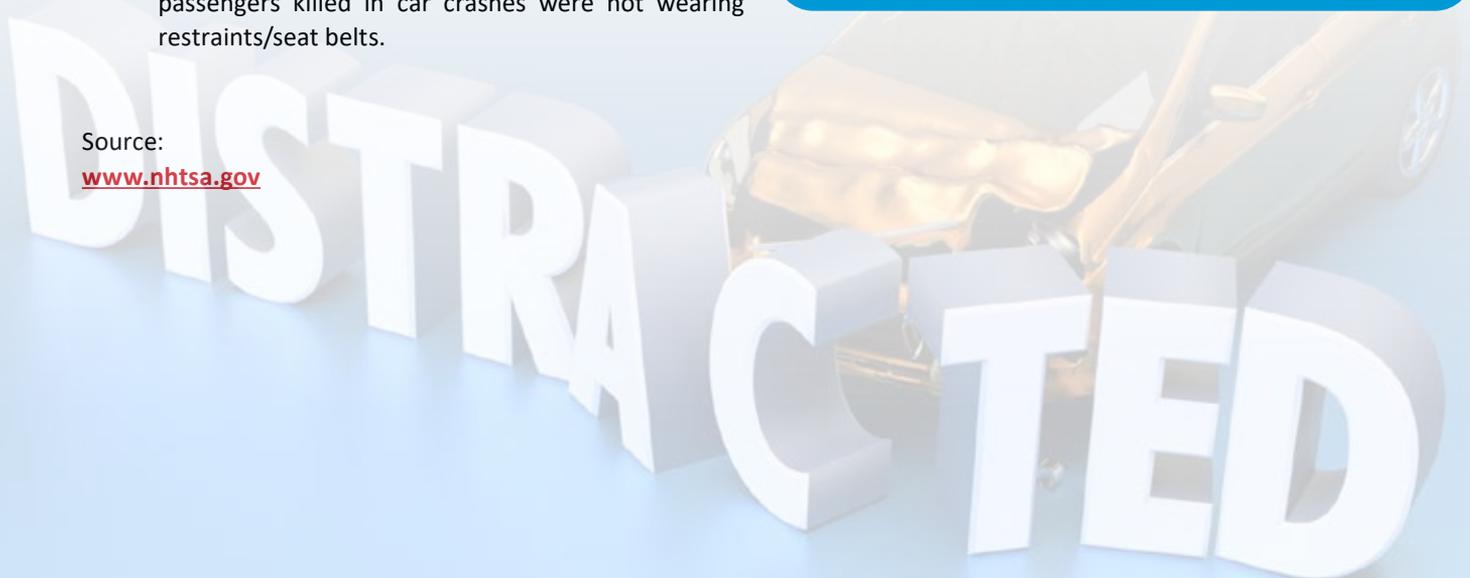
Source:

www.nhtsa.gov

REMINDER

CEO-Risk Management/Safety
Office provides an online
Defense Driving course for all
county employees.

You can sign up in Eureka.



CAREER PAGES

AVAILABLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES
AT THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

See below for this month's highlighted career opportunities with the County. Please check out the County's website at www.ocgov.com/jobs for details on all current opportunities or follow us on social media.



Dates included below refer to closing deadlines as of publication date. Please refer to the job announcement for specific details.

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Don't miss these career opportunities

OPEN NOW

Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector – ASAP	Medical Assistant - Correctional Health Services - ASAP
Landfill Maintenance Worker – 4/26/21	Community Development Compliance and Environmental Coordinator – ASAP
Staff Nurse - ASAP	Integrated Pest Management Technician I – ASAP
County Contract Insurance Manager- 4/26/21	Deputy Sheriff Trainee – ASAP
Parks Planning & Design Manager – 5/6/21	Information Technology Security Manager – ASAP
Civil/Environmental Engineering Intern (Unpaid Intern) - ASAP	Public Health Nutritionist I/ Public Health Nutritionist I (Supervisory) – ASAP
Armorer/Weapons Instructor - ASAP	Public Health Program Manager – ASAP
Privacy Analyst (Administrative Manager I) - ASAP	Telecommunications Engineer III - ASAP
Administrative Support Intern - Social Services Agency (Unpaid Internship) – ASAP	Hazardous Materials Specialist II – ASAP
Senior Information Technologist - Life Safety and Security Systems – ASAP	Air Conditioning Mechanic – ASAP
Housing Specialist I – ASAP	Plumber – ASAP
Senior Information Technologist - ASAP	Craft Supervisor I / Electrical, Mechanical – ASAP
Communications/Social Media/Media Relations Intern (Unpaid Intern) – ASAP	Deputy Public Guardian I – ASAP
Administrative Support Intern - OC Community Resources (Unpaid Intern) – ASAP	Senior Social Services Supervisor – ASAP
Accounting Intern - Auditor-Controller's Office (Unpaid Intern) – ASAP	Assistant Portfolio Manager (Administrative Manager I) - ASAP
Custodian of Records Program Supervisor – ASAP	

PROMOTIONAL

Agricultural/Standards Inspector – ASAP
Clerk Recorder Office Specialist – ASAP
Health Care Agency, Safety Coordinator – ASAP

Be sure to check the website often for any career opportunities that may be listed!

SERVICE AWARDS - March 2021

Recognizing our long-serving employees and their years of dedication to the County of Orange

35 YEARS

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

GARCIA, OFELINA
VAN, VIVIAN K

30 YEARS

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

RAMIREZ, JOSEPHINE M

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

RAWLINS, MARY M
ROBERGE, SHELIA K

OC PUBLIC WORKS

ARMENDARIZ, ROBERT E

SHERIFF-CORONER

BAKER, MICHAEL A

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

AGUILAR, ANGELICA M
AOUN, MICHAEL N
ARIAS, LUPE
BOERSMA, DAWN M
CHAVEZ, LUPE
DE AZAMBUJA, WALTER R
FRUICHANTIE, MARTHA L
GONZALEZ, ILIANA S
HERNANDEZ, CECILIA E
JACKSON, PAMELA K
JONES, JANET
KHAU, HUONG A
LUNA, MARBELLA
OGBUYI, EDISON I
OROZCO, ROSEMARY
SAMKHEM, NINA C
SHAFIEBIEG, DORENA S
TAMAN, MARIA E
VALENCIA, IRMA
WERNO, KAREN T

25 YEARS

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

ESCALANTE, JENNIE M
GONZALEZ, LORENA N
KIRKPATRICK, ANGELA R
MARTINEZ, ANGELA V
NEAL, SYLVIA
WILLIAMS, GERRIE C

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

LUTFI, MONICA I

OC PUBLIC WORKS

OROZCO, MARIA M

PROBATION

BOZANICH, EARLENE A
DELZEITH, MONICA C
GUERRA, MARIANNE A
MARTINEZ, REGINA H

PUBLIC DEFENDER

BOWLING, JUDY K

SHERIFF-CORONER

ANDREWS, JOCELYN P
JONES, MARVIN L

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

VANGYI, VA X

20 YEARS

ASSESSOR

ANTUNEZ, FREDDY
DESPOIU, VALENTIN
DIAMOND, ANNETTE

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

MENDOZA, ROSALBA

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

HOFFMAN-FITCH, LINDA
JEFFRIES, JENNIFER A
VALDEZ, LEE J

COUNTY COUNSEL

KNAPP, LAURA D

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MCMURRAY, JOSIE M
VERDAGUER-FINCH, ZOILA T

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KOSI, ROBERT
SNYDER, SUZY M

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

CHENG, KAR M
CLARK, CAROLYN J
DINH, JUSTINE T
FONSECA, ROSA E
HARTWELL, MARSELA C
HERMOGENO, LORENA S
HERNANDEZ, BERTHA S
IWASAKI, THERESA E
NGUYEN, CHRISTINE
PARSLEY, MELISSA D
RAJAGOPAL, SHYAMALA
WONG, TUNG Y

JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT

ROBERTSON, MICHAEL D

OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ANSON-HIGGINS, STEPHANIE L
CRANE, MARTA B
LEUNG, SHARON

PROBATION

BUI, FRANCIS P
BULLET, CHERI L
SERRANO, SUSANA I
THERIOT, LATOYA N

SHERIFF-CORONER

HUDSON, MERRY L
MOLINA, ANA C
NGUYEN, HUONG T
TAVAREZ, ROSA I

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

HILL, JILL V
LAPHOND, JULIETA
LOPEZ, SANDRA
MALDONADO, CARMELA
PETERSON, JOHN D
VEGA, LORENA
VU, DU T

If you would like to have your name not printed in the Service Awards section, email ceocom@ocgov.com. If you believe there has been an error or omission in reporting your years of service, please email HRDataPortal@ocgov.com.

To view the March list in its entirety, which also includes recipients of 5-, 10-, 15-year Service Awards, please click [here](#).

SERVICE AWARDS - April 2021

40 YEARS

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
PASZKIEWICZ, MARK B

30 YEARS

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
PANUNCIALMAN, MEL

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
GOVEA, NOELY
HOWERY, JILL K
RAMIREZ, STEPHANIE T

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
VANDEGRIFT, LORA

HEALTH CARE AGENCY
PINTO, DIANE
PONCE, KELLEY T
SANTILLAN, MAGDALENA M
TJIPTAHADI, RINA R

OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES
PROFFITT, KIMBERLY N

OC PUBLIC WORKS
TEBO, DENNIS P

PROBATION
MC NEIL, DAWN M

SHERIFF-CORONER
GREGORY, ERIC S

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY
CISNEROS, CARMELINA G
DE LA LUZ, SANDRA
GONZALEZ, DIANE M
GRAJEDA-ROMERO, AURORA
NEWMAN, ADRIANA I

25 YEARS

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
AHUJA, SUNITA M
TORRES-RODRIGUEZ, LINDA A

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
CHUN, ALAN

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
CHEUK, YUET F

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FITZPATRICK, BRIAN F
ROPER, MARGARET A

HEALTH CARE AGENCY
WINGER, ERIN R

PROBATION
DUFFY, JENNIFER L
MEDINA, TAWNIA R
RONALD, JEFFREY S

SHERIFF-CORONER
SILVA, MICHAEL A

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY
YOSHINAGA, MONISHA

20 YEARS

ASSESSOR
SANTAMARIA, JESUS

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
NGUYEN, QUYNH ANH K
OH, HOYOUNG

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MONTROYA, RACHEL

HEALTH CARE AGENCY
CORONA, ELIZABETH
FULLER, PAUL R
RICK, TRACY
SULAKHE, MANISHA D

OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES
CASTREJON DE LOPEZ, ROSA
MARUTA, TAYLOR-LILLIAN X
WRIGHT, DYLAN G

OC PUBLIC WORKS
RIVAS, JANET E

OC WASTE & RECYCLING
GERSCH, WADE C

PROBATION
BARAJAS, CECILIA
CHAVEZ, JUAN F
HERNANDEZ, PATRICIA G
MEANEY, MARIA NORVIE G
MOLINA, DAVID
PHAN, CECILIA L

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
LE, KIM

SHERIFF-CORONER
ASUNCION, VIRGIL D
EDGERTON, JAMES T
EPLEY, BARTON J
MARTINI, JOSEPH A
MENDOZA, MARIA G
PEREZ, PAMELA JEAN S
VILLALPANDO, JOSE J
WIELAND, DANIELLE G
WINSTON, ALONZO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY
BAUTISTA-RODRIGUEZ, RUTH
BERNAL, TAMMY A
DAGIO, NOEMI U
FRANCO, RUTH
GENTILE, JULIE A
LU, KAREN
PEREZ, RACHEL B
RESENDIZ, CARLOS L
TARIN, CLAUDIA
TORRES, LUCILA
VONNAHME, VICTORIA

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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.



THANK YOU FOR READING

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On **Instagram** at www.Instagram.com/OCGov

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