

## Acting County Executive Officer Selected

On July 26, County Chief Financial Officer Bob Franz was selected by the Board of Supervisors to serve as Acting County Executive Officer effective with the close of business on August 3, 2012.

Mr. Franz was appointed by the Board to serve in this capacity until September 11, 2012. On that date, the Supervisors are expected to name an Interim County Executive Officer who will serve until a permanent County Executive Officer is selected. The Board also announced its intentions to hire an outside firm to assist with a nationwide recruitment for a new County Executive Officer.

Mr. Franz has served as Deputy CEO/Chief Financial Officer since January 2007. Prior to joining the County of Orange, Mr. Franz served as Director of Administrative Services for the City of Glendale. During his 40 year career in public service, he has also held management positions with the cities of Huntington Beach and Montebello. ■

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## Supervisor Nguyen Hosts Haster Retarding Basin Groundbreaking

Supervisor Janet Nguyen was joined by staff from OC Public Works (OCPW) and OC Parks when she hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Haster Retarding Basin, Pump Station, and Recreational Field Project on June 29th at the Twin Lakes Freedom Park in Garden Grove.

A retarding basin is a flood control facility used for the temporary storage of storm water. The pump station pulls the water from the retarding basin and sends it downstream during the early portion of a storm event to make room for more water throughout its peak.

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Pictured from left to right at the groundbreaking ceremony is County of Orange Planning Commissioner Anthony Nguyen, Garden Grove City Council Member Kris Beard, Director of OC Community Resources Steve Franks, Director of OC Parks Mark Denny, First District Deputy Chief of Staff Nick LeCong, First District Supervisor Janet Nguyen, Garden Grove City Council Member Steve Jones, Mayor of Garden Grove William J. Dalton, OC Public Works/OCFlood manager Kevin Onuma, and Director of Public Works for the City of Chino Hills Nadeem Majaj.

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OCPW's OC Inspection division and contractor Shimmick Construction have already begun work on the project, which will include the re-construction of the existing retarding basin to increase capacity, the building of a storm water pump station, and the filling in of a basin portion to create an additional two-acre recreational field. A new and expanded parking lot, jogging trail, park shelters, exercise stations and many other improvements will complement the project upon completion.

This \$25 million capital improvement project is anticipated to be completed within the next 18 months, and will provide regional flood protection and recreational opportunities for the surrounding communities. A grant from the Department of Water Resources will fund \$15.7 million of the total project cost. ■

## Solar Project Goes On-Line

Under typically sunny Orange County skies, officials from the County of Orange gathered on June 28 to celebrate the ceremonial "flipping of the switch" for solar panels that will generate electricity at five County facilities.

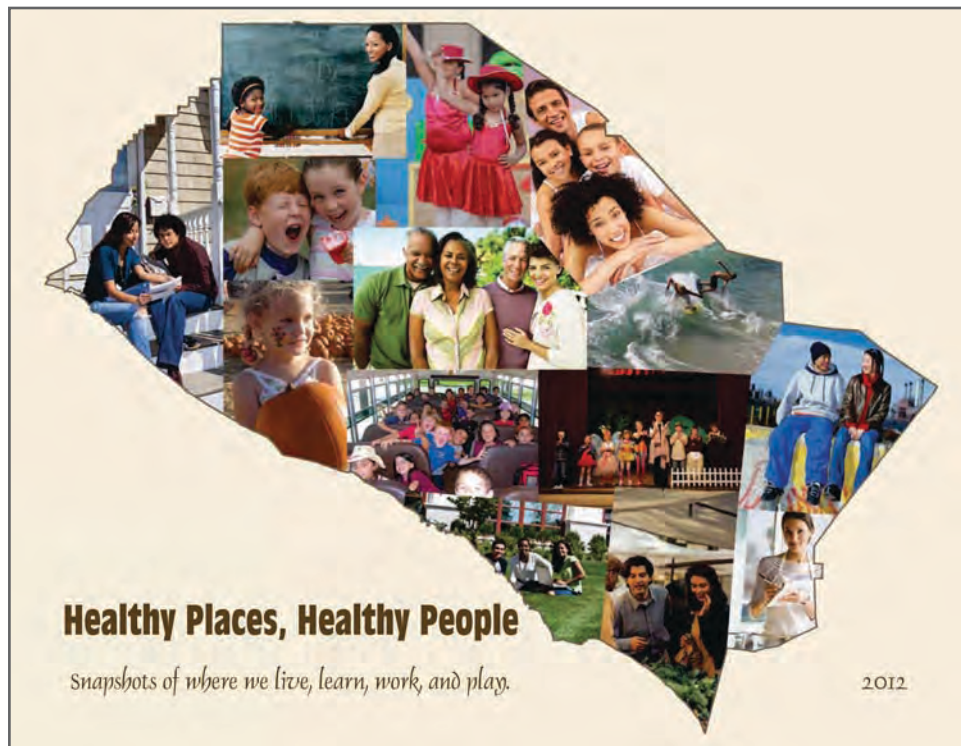
The event, held at the Sheriff Department's Peace Officer Training Facility in the City of Orange, provided an opportunity to view the solar energy system in action and recognize those involved in this public-private partnership. The County's agreement with PsomasFMG will lock in energy costs for a 20 year period and is expected to result in savings for the County of \$4 million to \$6 million over the term of the agreement. The solar installations will provide 60%-80% of the electricity needs at each site and will provide shade for the vehicles of County employees.

Third District Supervisor Bill Campbell supported the project as part of the County's green initiatives and joined staff from OC Public Works, the County Executive Office and several other County departments at the event. Additional County sites at which the solar power systems are being installed include the James A. Musick Facility, the County Operations Center on Grand Avenue in the City of Santa Ana, the Social Services Agency and Sheriff's Communications Facility on Eckhoff and the Collins Public Works Yard in the City of Orange. ■



Third District Supervisor Bill Campbell helped to throw the ceremonial switch in celebration of the County's efforts to use solar power to meet the electricity needs of County facilities.

## Where We Live Affects How We Live



The “Healthy Places, Healthy People” report released last month by the Health Care Agency (HCA) and its partners provides data on economic, educational, and community factors that influence our physical health and wellbeing.

Indicators in this report fall within the categories of financial health, educational health, community health, and physical health. Each indicator includes a description of what is being measured, an explanation of its importance to health, and a map that visually illustrates how various Orange County cities fare and compare to the county, state, and country as a whole.

For example, one such indicator is “Average Commute Time.” The report cites the U.S. Census Bureau’s statistic that Orange County residents spent approximately 34.3 million minutes getting to work in 2010. A

lengthy commute can lead to increased stress, decreased social activity, and less time for exercise. Yorba Linda residents have the longest average commute time at 31 minutes, while Costa Mesa residents claim the shortest at 22 minutes.

“The Health Care Agency and our partners are committed to improving the health of all Orange County residents,” said Director Mark Refowitz. “This report highlights where things are going well and helps identify communities of greatest need.”

The “Healthy People, Healthy Places” report was produced through collaboration between the HCA and the Social Services Agency, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, the Orange County Department of Education and faculty from University of California, Irvine.

Please visit [www.ochealthinfo.com/pubs](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/pubs) to view the report in its entirety. ■



## Over 100 Animals Find Forever Homes at California Dreamin' Pet Fair

An adoptable animal parade, doggy dancing showcase, agility trail and doggy detective seminar were just a few of the highlights at OC Animal Care's 2012 California Dreamin'-themed Pet Fair June 30th in the City of Orange.

A variety of 60 pet-friendly vendors, animal rescue organizations, and County agencies/ departments were on hand to greet visitors, who enjoyed hot dogs, chips and refreshments for sale by members of OC Animal Care's volunteer [Explorer Post](#) to help raise money for their youth program.

A shaved ice truck provided the perfect treat on the warm summer day. The prize wheel remained the most popular stop for adopters and pet parents. "It doesn't get any better than this," said Ryan Drabek, OC Animal Care Director. "With lots of animals finding their perfect home and the community coming down to the shelter to take in the event's festivities, there was truly something for everyone!"

PET FAIR SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



(from left to right) Adoption Partner Coordinator Tammy Osborn and Community Outreach Team Supervisor Katie Ingram hand out free pet tags to visitors. Please click here to view a slideshow of photos from the event.

One of OC Animal Care's goals during Pet Fair is to find forever homes for shelter pets; and this year, 103 animals were adopted into new families.

For more information on OC Animal Care, please visit [www.ocpetinfo.com](http://www.ocpetinfo.com). ■

OC FAIR SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



Adele Tagaloa and Gabrielle Saloky from the Registrar of Voters begin their shifts at the Orange County Connection Tent. Please click here to view photos from the 2012 OC Fair.

## OC Fair Welcomes Visitors "Home Sweet Home"

The 2012 OC Fair, themed "Home Sweet Home," is underway now through August 12th in Costa Mesa.

Wednesday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m., visitors can enjoy carnival games, rides, delicious food and a new exhibit – Let Freedom Ring – featuring steel beam sections from the World Trade Center, created to serve as a tangible reminder of the events of September 11, 2001.

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County of Orange representatives from the Registrar of Voters have been on hand throughout the duration of the event to greet community members at the Orange County Connection Tent near the Green Gate entrance to provide information about the many services available to our residents. ■

## Second Annual Wilderness Celebration Connects Community with Nature

*Participants explored new trails and met wildlife up-close*

The Second Annual OC Parks Wilderness Celebration brought visitors closer to nature – with live birds, snakes and even a tarantula on hand for up-close inspection.

Hikers, bikers and equestrians explored new trails in rarely seen areas of Baker and Black Star canyons during the July 28 event, with more than 400 people commemorating the gift of 20,000 acres of open space to the residents of Orange County, now known as the Irvine Ranch Open Space. OC Parks hosted the event with support from Irvine Ranch Conservancy, and OC Parks officials announced that this would be the first of many open access days in Black Star Canyon.

Participants of all ages and abilities were able to choose from easy, moderate and strenuous trails, including the new SilMod Loop and new Silverado Creek trail. Trail-goers could choose their own adventure with self-guided hiking and riding, or experience docent-led hikes that gave hikers insight into this historic and permanently-preserved natural area. OC Parks staff and nearly 60 volunteers helped make the day possible, from patrolling trails to answering questions about local wildlife.

Families in the Baker Staging Area enjoyed nature walks, scavenger hunts and games provided by OC Parks. Activities and displays taught visitors about wildlife such as toads, coyotes, raccoons and owls, and families

OC PARKS SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians all enjoyed the open trails in Black Star Canyon.

were able to meet a tarantula and Rosy boa. At the main event site in the Black Star Staging Area, community organizations provided souvenirs along with information about wilderness opportunities within Orange County. One of the most popular participants of the Community Partner Fair was the OC Bird of Prey Center, featuring a Red-tailed Hawk, Western Screech Owl and American Kestrel for visitors to see up close.

Wilderness Access Days have been hosted monthly in Limestone Canyon, and starting October 20, will also be held in Black Star Canyon. Regular docent-led programs will also increase in the area, with the new trails now complete. Learn more about activities in Black Star Canyon and the rest of the 20,000-acre Irvine Ranch Open Space at [www.irlandmarks.org/activities](http://www.irlandmarks.org/activities). ■

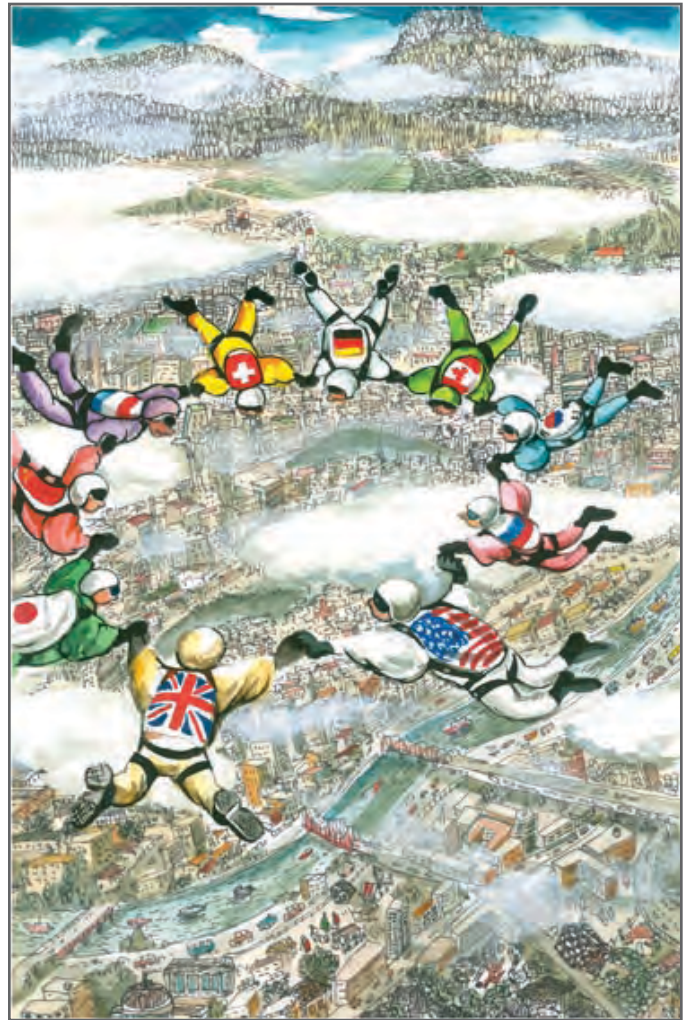


## John Wayne Airport Student Art Contest Winner Receives International Honors

An Orange County student has been recognized in the 2012 [International Aviation Student Art Contest](#), themed “*Silent Flight*.”

Karen Ahn, a 13-year-old Irvine resident and student at St. Margaret’s Episcopal School in San Juan Capistrano won second place for ages 10-13 with her interpretation of the contest theme. She also received first place at both the state and national level for her artwork.

“We’re privileged to honor young artists who use their talent and creativity to depict the world of aviation,” said John Wayne Airport (JWA) Director Alan L. Murphy. “Their artwork continues to be impressive and we’re pleased and proud to give these students the opportunity for recognition through JWA’s involvement in this annual competition.”

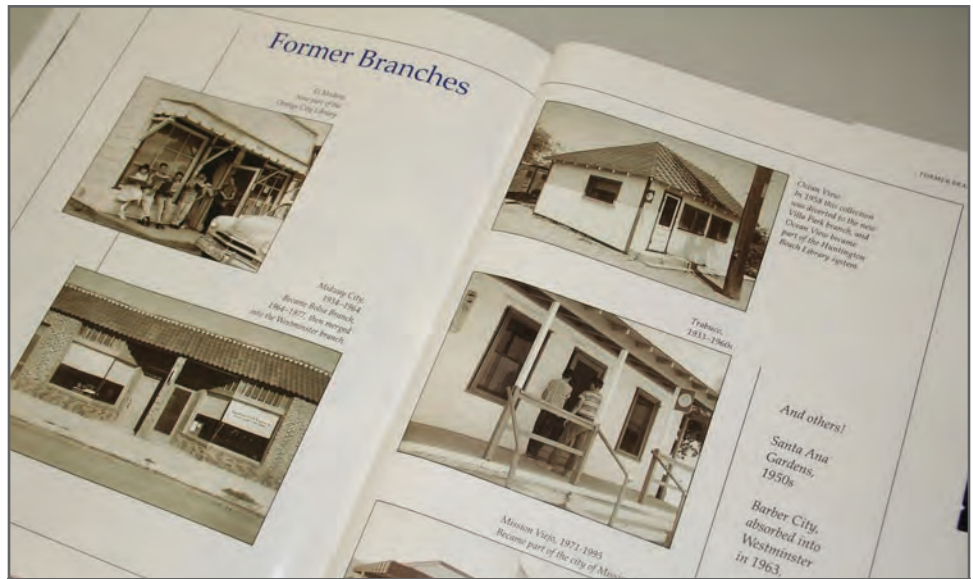


JWA implemented its Annual Student Art Contest in 1990 as part of the opening of the [Thomas F. Riley Terminal](#). The contest is open to all Orange County public and private school students in Kindergarten through grade twelve. In 1996, the Airport began coordinating its art contest with the International Aviation Art Contest sponsored by the [National Aeronautic Association](#), [National Association of State Aviation Officials](#), National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the [Federal Aviation Administration](#), in cooperation with the [Fédération Aéronautique Internationale](#). ■

## Anniversary Publication Receives Honors

OC Public Libraries recently received word that its anniversary publication “Celebrating 90 Years: 1921-2011” received the Grand Award in the Commercial Printing-Books category of the Print Excellence and Knowledge (PEAK) Awards competition.

The PEAK Awards highlight unique and successful print applications and are presented in partnership with the Print Education and Research Foundation. The



The 90th anniversary book created for OC Public Libraries features photos and stories about the colorful history of each branch location.

hardcover 112 page book was produced by DocuMedia Group in Irvine for OC Public Libraries utilizing text and photographs contributed by OC Public Libraries staff. The book traces the origins of OC Public Libraries back to its roots in the opening of the Orange County Free Library in 1921. From its early days when there were eight branches to the current system with 34 locations, the library collection has evolved from books and periodicals to a variety of electronic materials and items in languages that reflect the needs of Orange County’s increasingly diverse population. Each branch has its own section in the book with photographs documenting how the facility has changed over the years.

An anniversary book is compiled every ten years and is part of the OC Public Libraries collection. You can find it by checking the OC Public Libraries online catalog at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org). ■

## Driving Safely is Part of the Job

Did you know that motor vehicle-related incidents are consistently the leading cause of work-related fatalities in the United States? They are, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Many County employees operate a motor vehicle in the course of their job responsibilities, making driving safety a must. Whether you are operating a County vehicle or your own vehicle on County business, driving safely can help prevent injuries to yourself and others, protect County property and the property of others and protect you from any potential personal liability related to a motor vehicle accident. The following “Tips for Getting There Safely” are adapted from information provided by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS).

- **Buckle Up** – Properly secure all cargo you may be transporting and buckle yourself in on every trip.

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- **Have a Plan** – Don't wait until you start driving to plan and become familiar with your route.
- **Be in Control** – Set climate controls and other levels before you start driving. If you are driving an unfamiliar vehicle, take the time to identify the location of signals, wipers and lights.
- **Keep Your Mind on the Drive** – Take a moment before you drive to get your mind focused on the task at hand – getting to your destination safely.
- **Watch Your Speed** – Obey the speed limit and drive slower if road or weather conditions warrant.
- **Increase Your Following Distance** – Driver training experts suggest a following distance of four seconds under normal driving conditions. The four second rule gives you more time to react to what's happening in front of you.
- **Stow Your Phone** – Put your phone away before you drive so you won't be tempted by incoming calls or messages. Follow all laws and applicable policies on the use of mobile devices. Making or receiving a phone call while driving makes you four times more likely to be involved in a traffic crash. ■

## Get the 411 on the Assessor

- The Assessor Department determines the taxable value of over 1 million units of property in Orange County every year. The total assessed value for 2011 is about \$420.3 billion.
- The Assessor responded to real estate market downturns by implementing more than 675,000 assessed value reductions on single-family, multi-family, commercial/industrial and timeshare properties since 2008.
- The Assessor's appraisers and auditor-appraisers are certified by the State Board of Equalization and are trained to value many types of property including tract homes, luxury estates, apartment buildings, condominiums, manufactured homes, hotels, timeshares, retail centers, office towers, entertainment venues, golf courses, historic properties, vacant land, business personal property, boats and aircraft.
- The Assessor Department moved to a new Assessment Tax System (ATS II) that went into production in August of 2011. This system replaced a legacy mainframe system that had been in use since the mid-1980s. The first secured and unsecured local assessment rolls were produced using ATS II last month.

To learn more about the Assessor, please visit:  
<http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Assessor - Webster Guillory>





## 35 YEARS

**Beatrice Payan**  
Health Care Agency

**Judith Fejdasz Lenn**  
Probation

**Marco Fernandez**  
Social Services Agency

## 30 YEARS

**Kim Frohling**  
Assessor

**David Love**  
Assessor

**James Bau**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Joseph McGraw**  
Sheriff-Coroner

## 25 YEARS

**Carmen Latuska**  
Assessor

**Roberta Jaimes**  
Child Support Services

**Georgina Cruz Brewer**  
District Attorney

**Nicholas Bebek**  
OC Public Works

**Vanessa Chavez**  
OC Public Works

**Sean Barry**  
Probation

**Elizabeth Villa**  
Probation

**Irma Rico**  
Public Defender

**Bixby Heflin**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Mary Alice Lopes**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Susan Amirhosseini**  
Social Services Agency

**Rick Bazant**  
Social Services Agency

**Diane Smyth**  
Social Services Agency

**Leticia Gomez**  
Social Services Agency

**Merly Joves**  
Social Services Agency

## 20 YEARS

**Joel Georgevich**  
Assessor

**Edgar Bradley**  
Child Support Services

**Jackie Mendoza**  
Child Support Services

**Daniel Stanford**  
Clerk-Recorder

**Naty Flores**  
County Counsel

**Alicia Lopez**  
District Attorney

**Arlene Hoffman**  
Health Care Agency

**Liza Rodriguez**  
Health Care Agency

**Diane Valdez**  
Probation

**Christina Avila**  
Registrar of Voters

**Mark Cianfrani**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Benjamin Luna**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Douglas Munsey**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Monica Alvarez**  
Social Services Agency

**Viorica Alice Bocancea**  
Social Services Agency

**Linda Bourne**  
Social Services Agency

**Paul Canales**  
Social Services Agency

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## 20 YEARS CONTINUED

**Petra Carbajal**  
Social Services Agency

**Susan Chipman**  
Social Services Agency

**Deborah Condolff**  
Social Services Agency

**Mychan Crawford**  
Social Services Agency

**Ty Doung**  
Social Services Agency

**Harold Edmundson**  
Social Services Agency

**Maureen Erickson**  
Social Services Agency

**Herbert Gonzales**  
Social Services Agency

**Janie Gonzales**  
Social Services Agency

**Cameon Greeley-Jepson**  
Social Services Agency

**Kelly Le**  
Social Services Agency

**Dayna Mayfield**  
Social Services Agency

**Haile Neguse**  
Social Services Agency

**Tuyen Ngo**  
Social Services Agency

**Ande Nguyen**  
Social Services Agency

**Cham Nguyen**  
Social Services Agency

**Hoang Nguyen**  
Social Services Agency

**Chymolra Nong**  
Social Services Agency

**Lisa Olvera**  
Social Services Agency

**Corina Ortega**  
Social Services Agency

**Pamela Pearson**  
Social Services Agency

**Monique Perez**  
Social Services Agency

**Theresa Pham**  
Social Services Agency

**Sophia Ramos**  
Social Services Agency

**Annalynn Rebkowitz**  
Social Services Agency

**Maria Santana**  
Social Services Agency

**Elizabeth Solis**  
Social Services Agency

**Deborah Thomas**  
Social Services Agency

**Trang Dang**  
Social Services Agency



COUNTY OF ORANGE  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

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



**CONTACT US**

**COUNTY CONNECTION** is distributed monthly by the County Executive Office and is published by CEO Community/Media Relations. Call 714.834.6203 or e-mail [ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com](mailto:ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com) with any suggestions and comments.

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