



Three Supervisors, New Treasurer Take Oath of Office

The Hall of Administration Board Hearing Room was filled to capacity January 11th as three members of the Board of Supervisors were sworn in to begin new four year terms of office.

Many family members, friends, supporters and public officials turned out to share in this important occasion for Second District Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach, Fourth District Supervisor Shawn Nelson and Fifth District Supervisor Patricia C. Bates. Supervisors Moorlach and Bates received their oath of office from Orange County Superior Court Judge James Rogan while District Attorney Tony Rackaukas administered the oath of office to Supervisor Nelson.

[SWEARING IN CEREMONIES SLIDESHOW: CLICK HERE](#)



Second District Supervisor John M.W. Moorlach (far left) is sworn into his second term of office by Superior Court Judge James E. Rogan (far right) with sons Daniel and Caleb along with his wife Trina at his side.



Treasurer-Tax Collector Shari Freidenrich receives the oath of office from former Huntington Beach City Administrator Ray Silver (left) while her husband, Clive, holds the Bible used in the ceremony.

The event marked the beginning of a second term in office for Supervisors Moorlach and Bates, while Supervisor Nelson is beginning his first full term after receiving the most votes for the Board seat in both the primary and general elections last year.

On January 12th, new Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector Shari Freidenrich took the oath of office in a ceremony held at the old Orange County Courthouse. The new Treasurer began her duties on January 1st after serving as the Treasurer for the City of Huntington Beach since 1996. Among the many duties of the office, the Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the receipt, custody, depository and investment of funds for the County, school districts, and special districts.

Supervisor Campbell to Serve as 2011 Chairman

Third District Supervisor Bill Campbell was elected by his colleagues to serve as Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors for 2011. The Board also elected Second District Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach to serve as the Board's Vice Chair.

Supervisor Campbell previously served as the Board's Chairman in both 2005 and 2006. Following his election, Chairman Campbell presented a commemorative gavel to First District Supervisor Janet Nguyen in appreciation for her year of service to the Board as the Chair and joined with the other Supervisors in commending and congratulating Supervisor Nguyen on her accomplishments in the year past.

The new Chairman predicted that 2011 will be "interesting times for all of us" as the Board tackles difficult issues including on-going budget challenges and rising pension costs as well as the changes in government structure proposed in the Governor's budget. Chairman Campbell also said he is looking forward to serving as Chairman, recognizing the additional demands placed on the Chairman to represent the County at various events and functions throughout Orange County.

The duties of the Chairman include presiding over the Board meetings and executing various agreements that are approved by the Board. The Vice Chair is available to step into the Chairman's role in his absence. ■

Supervisor Makes History Again



Supervisor Nguyen is the first Supervisor to give birth while in office. Thomas Bonikowski III was born on Dec. 15th.

First District Supervisor Janet Nguyen made history again in December 2010 when she became the first member of the Board to have a child while in office.

Supervisor Nguyen and her husband Tom Bonikowski welcomed their son, Thomas Bonikowski III, on December 15th, the day after Supervisor Nguyen presided over the Board's last regularly scheduled meeting of the year. Young Thomas weighed in at seven pounds 13 ounces and as you can see by the picture, he and Supervisor Nguyen are doing quite well. Thomas has already visited the Hall of Administration where he was the center of attention.

Noted Board historian Stan Otelie says this is the first "Supervisorial baby" in recent times and it may be the first time since at least the 1930's that a baby has been born to the family of a sitting member of the Board of Supervisors.

Our congratulations to Supervisor Nguyen and her husband on the birth of their first child! ■

1 + 1 + 11 = LOVE!

The Clerk-Recorder Department has helped make it easier for 73 couples to remember their wedding anniversaries by opening for special hours on January 1st – or 1/1/11.

Eleven employees volunteered to work on New Year's Day and take compensatory time off during the regular work week to make civil wedding ceremonies available at the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana from 10 a.m. to 1:11 p.m.

As all other marriage offices throughout the State of California were closed, couples traveled from San Bernardino, San Diego, Riverside, and Los Angeles counties to be married here. There were even a few from Arizona and Texas.

“My staff’s willingness to work on a major holiday weekend, for the sake of romance, is much appreciated,” said Clerk-Recorder Tom Daly. “They are very devoted to serving the public.”

Special Saturday hours were last offered on Valentine’s Day 2009, when 50 couples tied the knot.



Clerk-Recorder Department employees (front row left to right) Renee Ramirez, Chantha Muth, Mary Jack, Veronica Moreno, Lan Vu, Alicia Rodriguez, Rosa Chavez, (and back row left to right) Richard Mendez, Vanessa Garcia, Ashley Allen, and Aja Tucker.

An average of 28 couples are married on a typical weekday at the office’s three marriage locations at the Old County Courthouse, the South County branch office at the Laguna Hills Civic Center and at the North County branch office in historic downtown Fullerton. ■

Be Prepared for Safe, Smooth Traveling at John Wayne Airport

Although John Wayne Airport is owned and operated by the County of Orange, it’s important to remember that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has jurisdiction over the screening of both passengers and baggage. While TSA’s rules and regulations can sometimes make a trip through the airport a challenge, being prepared and knowing what to expect can help make air travel both safe and smooth.

What to know before you go:

1. Check your [airline’s](#) Web site for up-to-date information about luggage limitations, including allowable number of carry-on items, weight restrictions, and fees.

2. Review [TSA’s web site](#) to learn what items are prohibited in carry-on luggage, checked luggage and how to navigate the security screening checkpoint.
 - Liquids are limited to one, clear, quart-sized bag containing no more than 3.4 oz. of liquid per item. More detail can be found [here](#).
 - Review the [1, 2, 3 “simple steps”](#) information about passenger screening, including the option to be screened privately.
 - Shoes must be removed (slip-ons make this easier).

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- A new “pat-down” procedure was implemented at airports across the country late last year to resolve alarms at the checkpoint, including those triggered by metal detectors. A very small percentage of US travelers – about 3% – undergo this procedure.
- About 450 Advanced Imaging Technology (full-body scanners) machines have been installed at airports in the US. While they are not in use at JWA now, they are slated for installation later this year.



JWA staff, along with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and the Transportation Security Administration, work hard to keep travelers safe as they travel through the Riley Terminal. The better informed and prepared travelers are – the more smooth that airport experience will be. ■

10 Questions for SSA Operation Santa Claus Manager Mona Gustafson

1. How long have you been the program manager for Operation Santa Claus (OSC) and what did you do prior?

I have been the Operation Santa Claus Manager since 2005, when I was promoted to Administrative Manager. I started with the Social Services Agency 21 years ago as a secretary. Prior to my current job, I was a staff specialist for the Social Services Agency Strategic Planning & Public Relations unit and one of my assignments was coordinating the Toys for Tots warehouse, which is now part of the Orange County Toy Collaborative. So, I’ve been in the toy business since 1998.

2. How many gifts/toys were collected or distributed by OSC and Senior Santa this past holiday season?

More than 40,000 toys and gifts went directly out the door to underprivileged children this past holiday season. This includes more than 250 bicycles! We accept toys all year long since children in the foster care system also receive birthday gifts from the OSC Gift Shop.

3. What is the process like each year to collect all these gifts?

There are two equally important components to managing OSC each year. The first is informing the potential shoppers about the program and encouraging them to show up at our warehouse to receive their gifts. We accomplish this through the toy voucher system given directly to the foster parents, and through agency coordinators to distribute to their various points of contact in the County to provide to their clients. The second is promoting the toy drive to County employees and community organizations, businesses, schools, churches and individuals that participate in the toy drive. We also have a mailing list of 1,800+ that receive a solicitation letter to participate in a toy drive, send a check/gift card or volunteer at the store.

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4. How many County staff and volunteers work at OSC each year?

Two County employees work the OSC program on a part time basis as needed. We absolutely could not accomplish all that we do without the tremendous support from our volunteers each year. This past season we had 45 County employees, almost 290 community volunteers and 210 youths in the Probation department. The volunteers worked as check-in and check-out associates, worked behind the electronics and jewelry counter, stocked shelves, unloaded trucks and even acted as shopping assistants to help clients find that perfect gift.

We are fortunate to have so much support from County departments and all the employees who donate gifts each year. We could not run this program without the generosity from our County family.

5. What motivates you each day?

There are so many instances throughout the year that motivate me. One example is that many of our volunteer workers are teens in Probation. After working side by side with them and chatting while we work, we sit down for a snack and get to talk further. Many share that they've had a great time and that they're grateful for the chance to help. I think it's a win-win situation for the teens and OSC.

Another instance is when a father showed up to the warehouse with his son on a rainy day. We took the boy to a table with coloring books and crayons while the father looked through the store. The father was clearly not excited to be at the warehouse, because the stress of the holidays on needy families can be very burdensome. I learned from the father that the boy didn't have a bike. So we found one in the warehouse, had volunteers build it and wrapped it in a 55 gallon black bag to hide it from his son. As they were getting ready to leave the boy mentioned that he didn't have a Christmas



Operation Santa Claus Program Manager Mona Gustafson has been in the toy business since 1998. She notes that without the generosity of County employees, her program would not be possible.

tree. Luckily, we had one of those in stock as well. By the time they left, the dad was just as excited as the son. I definitely have a feel-good job.

6. What are the challenges of your job?

It's always trying and yet very important to stay current. I am always interested in hearing feedback, learning new things and finding the next thing to make our program more modern. Otherwise, it's just too easy to fall behind the times.

7. What do you think separates OSC from other gift drive programs?

What makes OSC special is that we exclusively give gifts via the voucher system to children in the Orange County system. These are children who are part of the Social Services foster care system, children and family services, relative caregivers, and other SSA programs as well as clients from the Health Care Agency, OC

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Community Resources, Child Support Services and Probation. We are helping kids who, often through no fault of their own, are in a difficult position. Most of all, we want to give them the gift of hope and the feeling that they are special.

8. What is the most important thing about OSC you would like people to know?

OSC gives to the families in the Orange County system and they are the neediest people in our population. Something has happened to these families and they need our help to restore some happiness and sense of normalcy in their holidays. When circumstances improve for these families, they remember us. It's easy to get hardened by the people who take, but the people who are in true need – the people who don't have anything – are the ones who keep us going.

9. What do you do after Operation Santa Claus ends each year?

I manage the United Way campaign, our agency's Business Plan, Legislative Affairs and other special projects. I am also the Volunteer Coordinator for the Social Services Agency as well as numerous other functions.

10. What professional accomplishment are you most proud of achieving?

I am proud of my promotion to Administrative Manager and enjoy the opportunities given to learn about different programs and to take on new projects. I have a really fun job! ■

ReadyOC's 'Promise to Prepare' Drive Exceeds Goal with More Than 32,000 Pledges

ReadyOC surpassed its 2010 Promise to Prepare goal to help Orange County achieve at least 32,000 promises to take the vital first steps to prepare for an emergency or disaster situation. Representing about one percent of the county's total population, the goal was established to jump-start preparedness action among the vast majority of people who are aware of the importance of emergency preparedness, but admit having done little if anything to prepare for disasters.



“Making a promise to prepare is the first step in protecting yourself, your loved ones, and our communities during an emergency,” said Santa Ana Police Department Commander Ken Gominsky, who heads up the ReadyOC Steering Committee.

During a large-scale emergency or disaster situation, first responders and public safety teams will have the ability to address the most urgent life-threatening scenarios or needs first, thanks to the promises that thousands of people have now made to prepare.

The ReadyOC team and its volunteers were able to gain promises to prepare by reaching out at various community and sporting events throughout Orange County and promoting ReadyOC.org. City officials, private business leaders, and emergency managers that serve on the Steering Committee or Corporate Advisory Council have provided guidance, leadership and resources for the ReadyOC campaign.

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“The involvement of public and private businesses and organizations, as well as individuals and their families are imperative for our communities to survive the next big emergency,” said Gominsky. “We must all take the initiative and responsibility to prepare, and gaining one percent of the population is a step in the right direction.”

The ReadyOC campaign will continue to increase promises next year and strive to make Orange County a more prepared community. Learn more by visiting www.readyoc.org. ■

Volunteers Needed for Point In Time Count

Three hundred volunteers are needed to count the homeless on **Saturday, January 22nd** from 6 - 10 a.m. on the streets throughout the entire county. This census will significantly impact the future of many homeless families and individuals residing in our county.

Every two years, the OC Community Services Homeless Prevention Division and its partners conduct a single day count of Orange County’s homeless population. The project is required to preserve more than \$13 million in annual Federal funding for homeless assistance programs and services. This effort also assesses the need to use additional homeless assistance funding from other public and private sources.

A training session must be completed prior to the morning of the count. Compensation is not available to County employees for the training or volunteer event. However, employees may request their supervisor’s approval to attend the short training/ volunteer effort that may occur during their regular working hours.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please read the job descriptions flier [here](#). You may also read more about the Point-In-Time Count and sign-up to volunteer on the project web site at www.pointintimeoc.org. If you have additional questions, please email info@pointintimeoc.org or call OC Partnership at (714) 288-4007. ■

Get the 411 On OC Orange County Sheriff’s Department

1. Sheriff’s Reserves, Professional Services Responders and Explorers gave a total of 127,343 volunteer hours to the Department in 2010, achieving an estimated cost savings to the County of \$5,517,631.
2. The Sheriff’s Harbor Patrol provides police, fire and rescue services to the 15,000 vessels moored in the County’s three harbors and to the 70,000 boats registered throughout Orange County.
3. In 2009, the Sheriff’s Court Operations Division conducted 4,717,232 weapons screenings on persons entering court facilities in the county.
4. The Orange County Crime Lab (OCLL) recorded over 550 DNA hits this year on the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), an increase from less than 100 in 2005. CODIS is maintained by the FBI and includes DNA information from federal law enforcement and the 50 states.

To get more of the 411, visit <http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Sheriff-Coroner>.



Service Awards

For the Month of December

30 YEARS

Josephine Dirden
Auditor-Controller

Nancy Nguyen
Auditor-Controller

Thuy Le
District Attorney

Thanh-Minh Luyen
Health Care Agency

Tony Chacon
OC Public Works

Elizabeth Jewell
OC Public Works

John Vulpo
Probation

Norma Cortez
Sheriff-Coroner

William Sorenson
Sheriff-Coroner

Brian Wilkerson
Sheriff-Coroner

Rosalynn Lai
Social Services Agency

Phu Le
Social Services Agency

Thu-Ha Tran-Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Lisa Vo
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Maricela Siqueiros
Child Support Services

Merrilyn Litsey
Clerk-Recorder

Mary Aguilar
Health Care Agency

Ken Higbee
OC Public Works

Timothy Schindler
OC Public Works

Mehrdad Soltani
OC Public Works

Chanh Truong
Public Defender

Angelo Torres
Sheriff-Coroner

Joy Folstad
Social Services Agency

Joann Nolen
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Anne Barneson
Assessor

Katherine York
Auditor-Controller

Magda Gomez
Child Support Services

Carlene Goodwin
Child Support Services

Patricia Rosas
Child Support Services

Maria Ruiz
Child Support Services

Craig Cazares
District Attorney

Joe Moreno
District Attorney

Pablo Tesser
District Attorney

Adell Woolf
District Attorney

William Zidbeck
District Attorney

Petra Zverina
District Attorney

Kathleen Murray
Health Care Agency

Jeffrey Nagel
Health Care Agency

Donald Noll
OC Community Resources

Huong Tran
OC Community Resources

Denise Weems
OC Community Resources

Robert Jackson
OC Public Works

Ronald Lemas
OC Public Works

Rosemarie Higley
Probation

Yolanda Avila
Public Defender

Leticia Romero
Public Defender

Chris Tran
Public Defender

Russell Baldwin
Sheriff-Coroner

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**20 YEARS
CONTINUED**

Andre Boulais
Sheriff-Coroner

Zane Hathaway
Sheriff-Coroner

Randall Iles
Sheriff-Coroner

Charles Patton
Sheriff-Coroner

Sheila Ponce
Sheriff-Coroner

Larry Adakai
Social Services Agency

Soledad Alejandre
Social Services Agency

Cheryl Bowman-Argudin
Social Services Agency

Joyce Castillo
Social Services Agency

Rashid Dehnavi
Social Services Agency

Maria Fierro
Social Services Agency

Gabriela George
Social Services Agency

Maria Goncalves
Social Services Agency

Lori Goudie
Social Services Agency

Georgina Huizar
Social Services Agency

Gifty Jones
Social Services Agency

Yanghee Kim
Social Services Agency

Carrie Lawson
Social Services Agency

Thanh Le
Social Services Agency

Debbie Lockett
Social Services Agency

Brenda Merryman
Social Services Agency

Martha Munoz
Social Services Agency

Binh Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Lena Nizhegorodseva
Social Services Agency

Maria Padron
Social Services Agency

Juliana Papana
Social Services Agency

Francisco Perez
Social Services Agency

Danielle Prentice-Holbert
Social Services Agency

John Rogers
Social Services Agency

Maria Segovia
Social Services Agency

Thu-Anh Sexton-Hogan
Social Services Agency

Christine Smith
Social Services Agency

Kristie Tran
Social Services Agency

Thanh-Xuan Tran
Social Services Agency



**Our Community
Our Commitment**
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

CONTACT US

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

Editors..... Brooke De Baca
Jessica Good
Howard Sutter

Julie Nguyen
Stephen Salcido
Grace Chou