



July 2016



## FRANKLY SPEAKING

A Message from  
**CEO  
Frank Kim**

Dear OC Employees,

If you've been hearing outbursts of applause around your offices lately, there's good reason—it's the season for government innovation award announcements and our County family has been celebrating winners across the spectrum!

This year, 10 County departments won awards in six categories from the National Association of Counties 2016 competition, for programs ranging from our landfill gas-to-energy project to promoting healthy eating at home. Awards are given a range of categories to reflect the vast reach of services that counties provide.

The award winners will be recognized at NACo's Annual Conference and Exposition, held from July 22 to 25, in Long Beach. Here's a list of the winners (read more information in the Media Release posted online [here](#) boasting about our accomplishments):

### Children and Youth:

Grow with STEM – OC Community Resources (OC Public Libraries)  
OC Gang Prevention and Intervention Partnership (OC GRIP) – District Attorney

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Calling the Shots on Work That's Right up His Alley

Work spaces are unique to County employees. Some have plants or photos of their families, but Stephen Rivers with the County Counsel's office has original cubism-style oil paintings hanging on his walls. Not Picassos, but rather originals painted by him, which have graced gallery walls and sold to art collectors--- even one to a gentleman in Poland.

Stephen has created at least 500 paintings using both oil and acrylic on canvas. He has sold or donated approximately 10 percent of his collection. His work was even featured in an art exhibit at a Costa Mesa gallery. "Art is my passion," Stephen said. Much like many artists, his admiration for other artists provides inspiration. Stephen's favorite painter is French artist Georges Braque, an early developer of cubism. It's apparent in the paintings on his office walls.

When Stephen isn't looking for inspiration for painting during his free time, he is busy at work as a Database Administrator II helping County Counsel manage information databases for its many departments. As attorneys and staff generate and wade through many documents in caseloads, Stephen helps streamline the process to help them find data quickly and efficiently. "County Counsel is a very busy department, especially on the day of Board of Supervisors meetings. Moreover, attorneys need information at their fingertips remotely---they are always on the go, working from various locations off-site, including home and even from overseas on holidays," said Stephen.

Over the years, digital information has replaced hard bound legal books in County Counsel's library. Now, attorneys turn to the internet for online searches of case law and other legal references. Equally, they also use a County Counsel network foundation to navigate through voluminous digital documents. When Stephen joined the County 26 years ago, he was one of the pioneers to create it in 1997. "Technology is changing how we deal with the law process, and now the courts are becoming more progressive with e-filing, so it's important to be one step ahead," he said. "I hope to see the whole process online one day. I think it will service the public faster and provide needs efficiently without paper shuffling involved."

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County Counsel Database Administrator  
Stephen Rivers

(Continued from page 1)

Environmental Protection and Energy:  
Bowerman Landfill Gas-to-Energy – OC Waste & Recycling

Criminal Justice and Public Safety:  
AB 109 program – Health Care Agency and Probation

Human Services:  
Linking Employment Activities Pre-Release – OC Community Resources and OC Sheriff's Department  
No Wrong Door Service Delivery Model – Social Services Agency  
OC Healthy Steps Program – Human Resource Services  
OC Links – Health Care Agency

Information Technology:  
OC Expediter application – OCIT

Libraries:  
Health & Flavor in Your Kitchen (Salud y Sabor en Su Cocina) – OC Community Resources

Additionally, the OC Expediter application won a "Golden Hub of Innovation" award in the Fifth Annual Association of California Cities – Orange County contest. (See more on Page 8.)

These awards honor county employees here and nationally for exhibiting the highest levels of creativity, innovation and customer service. I am so proud of every department for reaching higher, farther and in so many smarter ways to provide our critical services to the residents of Orange County!

Speaking of one of our award-winners, the OC Healthy Steps wellness program's participation period is open **through August 22, 2016**. If you choose to participate and receive your OC Healthy Steps Wellness Credit for 2017, the three steps are: Have your Biometric Health Screening Confirmation Form completed; complete your Health Risk Assessment and your Non-Smoking Attestation.

For additional information about *OC Healthy Steps*, please visit [ochealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ochealthysteps.staywell.com) or you can call the OC Healthy Steps/StayWell® HelpLine at: 1-800-492-9812.

Finally, we began our 2016-17 fiscal year on July 1 and I'd like to take a moment to thank the incredible folks in CEO Budget for another impressive effort in working with our departments and employees to produce a thoughtful, thorough and cost-effective blueprint for another year of providing essential County services.

Sincerely,

**Frank Kim**  
County Executive Officer

(Continued from page 1)

Another dimension to Stephen's role is helping orchestrate the flow of Public Records Act (PRA) inquiries that are reviewed by County Counsel. County Counsel attorneys review information before it is released to protect any sensitive data such as health records, confidential personnel information or security concerns. Stephen imparts of his role in the PRA process: "I consider myself the middle man when working with PRAs by moving data from OCIT and coordinating with various other County departments, as well as helping the attorneys to simplify data that is deriving from other agencies, and finally helping to devise a plan for them to review information and create a solid product all within a small window of time."



Stephen Rivers during his time in the military

Stephen brims with pride as he describes creating a system for attorneys to easily sign hundreds of documents digitally. "I love working with the attorneys

**"I love working with the attorneys and staff from County Counsel. I consider them to be an extension of my family."**

and staff from County Counsel. I consider them to be an extension of my family, and will provide them whatever they need to accomplish their work, because I know at the end of the day, it is helping our County residents."

Passions aren't limited to art and technology for Stephen. He also serves as a master sergeant in the U.S. Air National Guard where his job is radio frequency transmission and client system support. Once a month, Stephen allocates a weekend to the military. He's been doing this for 25 years. Twice, he was deployed overseas to the Middle East.

Among other callings and hobbies, Stephen enjoys science fiction, reading idioms and once a year, he attends the Comic-Con convention in San Diego where creators and fans of comic art and books come together. Stephen's favorite science fiction story is the film *Stargate*, a 1994 adventure science fiction film starring Kurt Russell. While reading many books and watching films, he finds humor in searching the meaning behind idioms, where the figurative meaning is different from the literal meaning. He explains that "whole nine yards," for example, and its meaning of "everything" can trace its origin to World War II aircraft machine-gun belts that were nine yards long.

Considering the many interesting facets of Stephen's life, he truly captures the spirit of the phrase.

#### 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 [anahid.burkhart@ocgov.com](mailto:anahid.burkhart@ocgov.com)



# OC History

Journeys Through Orange County's  
Origins, Obstacles and Opportunities



## Nuts to Orange County

*By Chris Jepsen*

Summer vacation is upon us, but did you know that local school children used to have a long autumn vacation too? Every year, when the walnuts began to fall, some Orange County communities let the kids out for a “walnut vacation,” so they could work with their families, harvesting nuts in the groves. In 1908, the Santa Ana Register reported that walnut vacation was an established tradition in San Juan Capistrano, where the children were out of school for six weeks. In the town of Olive – now the north end of Orange – students received a two- or three-week walnut vacation. Even as late as 1924, El Modena students took a month off for this purpose.



Migrant walnut pickers camp at Miraflores  
(near today's Anaheim Stadium).

This may sound strange today, but it seemed to make good sense when Orange County was among the world's leading producers of walnuts, and before the institution of strict child labor laws.

It's said the first walnut trees in Orange County were planted in the orchard at Mission San Juan Capistrano in the late 1770s. In 1858 a few more walnut trees were planted between the vineyards in Anaheim. Usually the English walnut was grafted onto the rootstock of the hearty local native black walnut species.

J. R. Congdon of Santa Ana planted the first English walnuts (18 acres) in Orange County for commercial purposes in 1870 at San Juan Capistrano. His friends and neighbors thought he was, ... well, ... nuts. But in 1877 he harvested his first crop, which yielded 6,000 pounds of walnuts. It was the beginning of a major local industry.

Throughout the 1870s more farmers across Orange County began to experiment with the growing of walnuts. And when Pierce's Disease wiped out the local grape industry in the late 1880s, many dead vineyards in Anaheim and elsewhere were replaced with walnut groves. Among those who moved to the area and jumped on the walnut-growing bandwagon were John and Margaret Rea, whose Katella Ranch was named for their daughters, Kate and Ella.

The English walnut, and variants thereof, remained the nut of choice in Orange County until the development of the Placentia Perfection (or simply the Placentia) walnut. This

new hybrid of four species was developed by George Hind of Placentia around 1890. Based on its success, Orange County became one of the biggest walnut producing regions in America.

Other varieties of walnuts were also developed here but generally did not prove as popular. For instance, Henry F. Gardner of Orange developed a variant he called the Klondike walnut which grew “as large as lemons.” But who wants lemon-sized walnuts? (No one, it turned out.)

In 1898, the first cooperative walnut marketing organization in Orange County was formed: The Santa Ana Valley Walnut Growers Association. Soon, more growers associations and walnut packing houses sprang up. To improve the reliability of price and product quality, fifteen Southern California walnut grower associations banded together in 1912 to form the California Walnut Growers Association.

So where do those school children come into the picture? Walnuts were harvested by shaking the nuts off the trees. Someone had to pick up the fallen nuts. Santa Ana rancher Harry W. Lewis wrote, “No machine has been developed that will shake the trees as well as a Mexican with a long pole having a hook on the end. Then grandmother, mother, big sisters and all the children, except the last baby, filled the cans with nuts picked from the nice smooth ground.”

Those gathering the nuts ended up with aching backs and with fingers stained black by the walnut husks.

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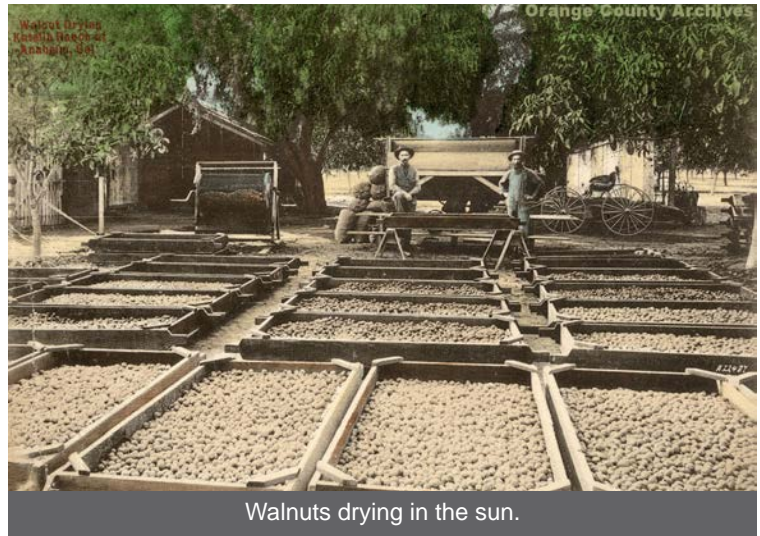
(Continued from page 5)

Once the nuts were gathered, they were spread out and dried in three-foot by six-foot trays, arranged on racks. In later years, the nuts were dried with heaters or dehydrators. Once cured, they were sent to the packing house for bleaching, polishing, sorting, grading and bagging for market.

Parts of this process could be turned into assembly line-type productions. But the job of actually stooping and picking up the nuts in the groves remained stubbornly labor-intensive until Santa Ana tinkerer Johan Franke invented and patented a simple but effective walnut picking tool in 1918. It immediately caught on, eliminating the need to stoop down for each nut. "Walnut vacations" eventually faded away.

Ultimately, the once-popular Placentia walnut proved susceptible to blight (which struck in the 1910s), and husk fly and navel orange worm, (which struck in the 1920s).

By the mid-1930s, the costs of maintaining a walnut grove in Orange County were about 10 times higher than in Northern California, where heartier varieties thrived. Our local farmers began moving toward more profitable citrus and truck crops. By the late 1950s, only about 800 acres of walnut groves remained in Orange County. The last of our commercial groves, like so much of post-war Southern California agriculture, was pushed out by suburban development in the 1960s.



Our local walnut industry is now long gone. It's probably just as well, since picking nuts off the ground doesn't meet Common Core requirements.

### About the Author

**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](mailto:Chris.Jepsen@rec.ocgov.com) or (714) 834-4771 if you have questions about the Archives.

## RECURRING RESOLUTIONS - JULY

Every year, the Board of Supervisors approves a list of recurring resolutions. These resolutions commemorate or celebrate causes and/or organizational efforts on a monthly basis. Click on any of the recurring resolutions to the right to learn more about them.

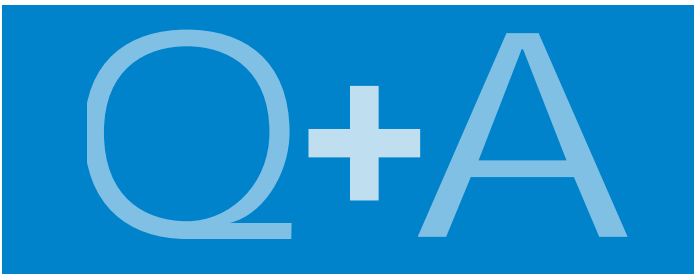
[Independence Day - July 4](#)

[Korean War Vets Armistice Day - July 27](#)

[Parents' Day - July 24](#)

[Probation Services Week - July 16-22](#)

[Zookeeper Appreciation Day - July 23rd](#)



## Neil Jessen: County Government with Small Businesses

**Q** Why does Procurement go to the SBA Conference?

**A** The County Procurement Office attended the 6th Annual SBA Conference in Garden Grove to extend vendor outreach. We use this opportunity to speak with business owners and explain to them how to do business with the County. Each government agency does their business a little differently and by us providing this outreach, our aim is to help make doing business with the County a little less confusing.

**Q** What are you looking to gain from going to SBA conferences?

**A** The goal of Procurement for attending the SBA Conference is to sign up vendors with the County. By doing this, it broadens Procurement's vendor database. A broader list of vendors allows the County to receive more bids and better pricing on the items and services it procures.

**Q** What kind of vendors do you like to meet?

**A** The County procures a wide variety of goods and services and therefore, we want to meet all kinds of vendors, ranging from small independent contractors to multi-million dollar corporations.

**Q** What are some qualifications to be a vendor to do business with the County of Orange?

**A** We don't pre-screen vendors before we ask them to sign up as a bidder. Each solicitation released by the County contains the minimum qualifications and specifications for the products or services we are looking to acquire. The screening process comes later, when the County procurement professional receives the bid submission from the vendor. That is when we determine if the vendor is qualified for that particular solicitation.

**Q** How competitive is the bidding process?

**A** The bidding process is very competitive. The two most common types of bid solicitations used by the County are the Invitation for Bid (IFB) and the Request for Proposal (RFP). Each of these bid solicitations contains a myriad of terms and conditions, minimum qualifications and specifications that must be met in order for the bid to be considered.



Invitations for Bids (IFB) are competitive bidding documents used for acquiring supplies, services, or equipment for which clear specifications can be written and contract award is made generally to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Each IFB received is vetted to make sure the qualifications and specifications are met and then it is awarded based on price.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is used when the County's requirements are not well-defined, or the County is interested in evaluating a range of offers so that it may take advantage of technical innovation and developments in the market place. Unlike the IFB, the RFP is not based solely on the best price. Factors such as availability, expertise, and quality override price as a criteria for award. To determine the successful proposer, each RFP received is thoroughly evaluated by a committee consisting of several County procurement professionals.

No matter which solicitation type is used, the process is very competitive.

**Q** What other conferences do you attend?

**A** The County Procurement Office attends many other conferences throughout the year. Some of the larger conferences include the Asian Business Association of Orange County, OCTA Small Business Conference and various Chamber of Commerce events. In addition to attending conferences, the County Procurement Office holds a Vendor Information Day on the 1st Thursday of every month. This event is open to anyone desiring to learn how to do business with the County. Interested parties can RSVP by visiting our website at <http://olb.ocgov.com/business/vid>



## *Around the County* News, Events and Happenings



### *HCA's Public Health Services Achieves National Accreditation*

The Health Care Agency's (HCA) Public Health Services division has been awarded five-year national accreditation status by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) following a rigorous peer-review assessment process.

HCA's Public Health Services (PHS) now joins a handful of health departments in the State of California to reach this milestone, which demonstrates its capacity to meet the highest standards in providing services to Orange County residents. In its report, PHAB noted the quality of Public Health Services staff and the strength of community partnerships by stating, "The overall impression is that Orange County Public Health Services is a well-functioning health department that has developed partnerships within the community to serve the county's population."



Public health accreditation is a national, voluntary process that was formally launched in September of 2011 and is administered by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Accreditation demonstrates a public health department's proficiency in providing core public health services that include preventing diseases and injuries; promoting healthy behaviors; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.



"We are very proud to receive this distinction and feel that it reflects the excellent work and dedication of our staff and community partners," said David Souleles, Deputy Agency Director, Public Health Services.

To receive national accreditation, a health department must undergo a robust, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of public health quality standards and measures. To receive its accreditation, PHS submitted over 680 documents and participated in a two-day site visit to demonstrate conformity with the PHAB standards. Accreditation was also a motivating factor in the development of Orange County's first community health assessment and community health improvement plan; the Orange County Health Improvement Plan was published in May 2014 and submitted as part of the application for accreditation. More information about the plan is available at [www.ochealthiertogether.org](http://www.ochealthiertogether.org).

*Around the County continued*

## County Workers Honored for Assisting San Bernardino County

### Employees Provided Mutual Aid after State's Worst Terrorist Attack



*Photo courtesy of Matt Stockton*

#### Orange County Health Care Agency

Abigail Mecham, Clinical Social Worker II  
 Andrew Parker, Marriage and Family Therapist I  
 Ashley Reynolds, Environmental Health Specialist II  
 Berenice Moran, Marriage and Family Therapist II  
 Brian DeOliveira, Marriage and Family Therapist I  
 Brian Wong, Environmental Health Specialist II  
 Britney Nguyen, Environmental Health Specialist I  
 Christina Shelby, Marriage and Family Therapist I  
 Christina Valdez, Environmental Health Specialist I  
 Daniel Alexander, Mental Health Specialist  
 Darolyn Underwood, Nurse Practitioner II  
 Donna Bray, Behavioral Health Nurse  
 Glenda Aguilar, Service Chief I  
 Janis McBride, Environmental Health Specialist II  
 Jessica Rycroft, Marriage and Family Therapist I  
 Kelly Sabet, Service Chief II (Team Lead)  
 Ken Alma, Clinical Social Worker II  
 Kiki Cason, Environmental Health Specialist I  
 Lacie York, Clinical Social Worker II  
 Laurie McCaslin, Mental Health Specialist  
 Lenora Burney, Clinical Psychologist II  
 Leslie Moffitt, Environmental Health Specialist I  
 Lionel Brunton, Environmental Health Specialist I  
 Lucero Arellano, Environmental Health Specialist I  
 Mark Davis, Service Chief I  
 Mark Shugarman, Marriage and Family Therapist I  
 Milena Andreani, Clinical Social Worker I

Miloni Devani, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist  
 Nicole Reyes, Chief I (Team Lead)  
 Noy Keovongsa, Environmental Health Specialist II  
 Rebekah Radomski, Service Chief I  
 Ron Bennett, Environmental Health Specialist I  
 Steve Sharp, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist  
 William Crittenden, Marriage and Family Therapist II  
 Wole Akinyemi, Environmental Health Specialist I

#### Orange County Sheriff's Department

Heather Williams, OCSD Regional Peer Support Coordinator  
 Shane Millhollon, OCSD SWAT/Team Leader

#### Orange County Probation

Catherine Stiver, Division Director  
 Connie Schonert, Deputy Probation Officer II  
 Jeff Burgett, Deputy Probation Officer II  
 Joseph Ortiz, Deputy Probation Officer II  
 Julie Cisneros, Deputy Probation Officer II  
 Kathryn Cardullo, Supervising Probation Officer  
 Katiria Soltero, Deputy Probation Officer II  
 Monabel Negron, Deputy Probation Officer II  
 Paula Fox, Deputy Probation Officer II  
 Rick Allen, Sr. Deputy Juvenile Collections Officer  
 Sue DeLacy, Division Director  
 Veronica Gaxiola, Deputy Probation Officer II  
 Vincent Cooper, Deputy Probation Officer II

The **Orange County Health Care Agency** provided crisis counseling services to the San Bernardino County staff for three days (December 15-17, 2015). Specifically, OC Behavioral Health Services provided Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) group and individual debriefings.

The **Orange County Environmental Health Specialists** (EHS's) provided approximately 1500 hours of assistance to San Bernardino County Environmental Health from February 16, 2016-June 30, 2016 (20 weeks). Services provided by OC EHS's included the following:

- Conducted restaurant, swimming pool, and camp routine inspections throughout the County from the Inland Empire to the high desert areas
- Investigated foodborne illness, sanitation, and other related environmental health complaints

The **Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD)** Homeland Security Division provided intelligence and investigation support services to San Bernardino County, but due to the nature of their work, they would like to remain anonymous. Additionally, OCSD provided nine in-person training sessions on Workplace Violence Response from December 17, 2015 through January 8, 2016 to County of Orange employees.



*Around the County continued*

## ***Mercedes-Benz Films Commercial in County Building 317***

The County of Orange owns approximately 3,000 parcels of land in and around Orange County. Owning this much real estate opens the door for revenue generating opportunities through both long-term land development projects as well as short-term, interim opportunities.

The CEO Real Estate Land Development team has to been creative when looking at these opportunities. Not everything fits into the typical development structure and sometimes vacant buildings can be an instant source of revenue. Yasie Malek on the Land Development team has recently developed connections with location scouts, whose role it is to find filming locations for commercials and movies.

Mercedes-Benz is a prime example of location scouts looking for a unique spot to enhance their message and find the perfect place to show their wares. Mercedes new "Beam" commercial dramatically showcases the redesigned C-Class Coupe. In the ad, the car jumps over a steel beam, then appears to turn around to break through the beam in an abandoned warehouse. That warehouse is Building 317, which is located on the County's 100 Acre property at the former El Toro Marine Base in Irvine.



Here is a link to the commercial:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=03siCoc0Y4o>

The site has a rich history. In 1943, the former Marine Corps air station was home to 8,000 Marines and was 4,682 acres in size. The base consisted of administration buildings, mess halls, barracks, training buildings, parachute lofts and hangars. In 1999, the Base was decommissioned and through an agreement with the City of Irvine, the County was granted 200 acres for redevelopment, as well as the extension of Alton Parkway. Several large warehouse structures exist on the County's properties, including Building 317, which is 120,000 s.f., and has great "barn" windows, large timbers and massive overhead cranes.

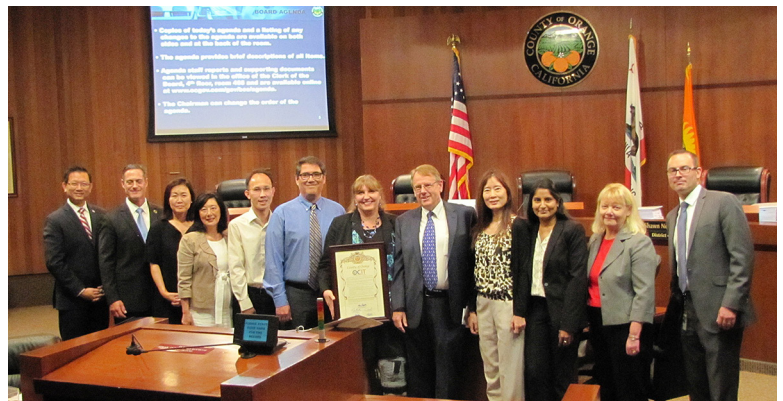
The building was initially selected to film a Jeep commercial, but the footage was never used. Jeep paid \$7,500 for its use and was the source of the referral for Mercedes. Mercedes paid \$16,000 to setup for a day and a half, film for another one and take a half-day to clean up. With the success of that commercial and a unique location set, stay tuned for more filming and revenue generating opportunities at Building 317 and other County properties in the near future.

## ***OC Expediter Awarded by the ACC-OC***

The ACC-OC congratulated winners from their recent Fifth Annual "Golden Hub of Innovation" awards. City and business leaders were in attendance for the award ceremony held June 9 at the Discovery Cube in Santa Ana.

All of the nominees displayed the highest levels of innovation and efficient use of taxpayer dollars last year. Applicants submitted a wide variety of projects, including water efficiency initiatives, public safety measures, and community outreach efforts.

The County of Orange was recognized for OC Expediter, an enterprise procurement application that has helped County Departments and Agencies use electronic workflows to increase efficiency, reduces staff processing time, and eliminate errors.



**The OC Expediter team**

*Photo courtesy of Matt Stockton*



*Around the County continued*

## Meet the Medical Doctors of the Health Care Agency

Over the next six months, the Health Care Agency (HCA) will introduce followers on social media to the department's highly qualified, richly diverse, and deeply passionate in-house team of physicians through video and story-telling.

"I'm thrilled that Orange County community members will now have the opportunity to hear their stories and find out what inspires them to serve," said Mark Refowitz, Director of HCA. "These folks are so much more than medical doctors."



- **They're detectives** investigating in the field to identify and combat the causes of infectious diseases and foodborne illnesses that pose a threat to public health and safety.
- **They're innovators** leading technological breakthroughs like OC-MEDS, a system that gives emergency medical technicians and paramedics the ability to electronically document and upload care information to the cloud, saving time and freeing hospital staff to focus on what matters – patients instead of paperwork.
- **They're counselors** applying evidence-based approaches to compassionately guide patients struggling with serious and persistent mental health issues toward balance and wellness. They meet that need wherever it exists: inside Orange County's jails, courtrooms, clinics, and on its streets.
- **They're advocates** coordinating, providing and championing the expert care of children with complex and potentially life-threatening medical conditions like cancer, cerebral palsy, hemophilia and heart disease.
- **They're humanitarians** who could easily make more money in private practice but instead choose to dedicate their professional (and often personal) lives to improving the physical, mental and emotional health of individuals, families and communities both here and around the world.

You're invited to #MeetTheMDs today on **Twitter** ([www.twitter.com/ochealth](http://www.twitter.com/ochealth)), **Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/ochealthinfo](http://www.facebook.com/ochealthinfo)), and **YouTube** ([www.youtube.com/user/ochealthinfo](http://www.youtube.com/user/ochealthinfo)).

## OC Waste & Recycling Announces Whale Fossil Discovery

Local media converged on the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 for the announcement of a significant fossil find: 10-12 million-year-old sperm whale fossils. The work was uncovered by a paleontologist who was at the landfill to monitor excavation of a new waste disposal area.

In addition to the local television coverage, the OC Register covered the story.

You can read about it and see the pictures here:

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/county-720064-whales-whale.html>

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/landfill-surprises-scientists-12-million-year-old-whale-fossils-180959566/?no-ist>



*Around the County continued*

## OC Public Libraries Celebrate 95th Anniversary with Limited Edition Cards

Beginning this summer, OC Public Libraries' patrons will be seeing stars, or at least one star. Rita the Zebra, lovingly known as Rita Book, was a 1980s library mascot whose popularity never waned in the 30 years since she was first introduced.

Helen Fried, County Librarian, recalls, "We held a naming contest and introduced a card featuring Rita in the early 1980s to promote a new 'state of the art' technology – barcodes. No more would checking out books be done manually; the patron information could be scanned in electronically."

The card was so popular that, even today, patrons possessing one of these early cards are loath to relinquish them. Staff still sees them in use, taped and lovingly cared for by library patrons.

"Now that we're celebrating our 95th anniversary, the Library's Marketing Committee thought what better way to celebrate than to re-introduce Rita to the public." The new Rita has already proved very popular among the staff, and she will be featured as part of this summer's reading program.

New or existing library patrons may obtain the 2016 limited edition version of the zebra card by visiting their local branch. Rita is Coming: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rad7FMgftlg>



*Photo courtesy of Matt Stockton*

## SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

### Introducing Deputy Trevor Taylor

Please join us in welcoming Deputy Trevor Taylor, who has joined the Orange County Sheriff's Department's Sheriff Special Officer (SSO) team stationed at the Hall of Administration (HOA). Deputy Taylor is taking over for Deputy Jimmy Pena who recently retired. Trevor's primary responsibility will be the HOA, however, as OCSD's designated Homeless Liaison Officer he will also be collaborating the Santa Ana Police Department and other County staff on those matters. We are thankful to have Deputy Taylor on board in his new role and hope that you will welcome him the next time you are at the HOA Lobby!

Also, if you have been in the Civic Center around 5 p.m. lately, you may have noticed some changes in SSO presence. To maximize area coverage, the SSOs are stationed at fixed post positions in the Civic Center from 4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. However, even with additional SSO presence, please remember that it is always a best practice to travel in groups of at least two or more when coming to and leaving your work location. If you see something, say something, and when in doubt, dial 9-1-1.





## An Orange County Guide to Home Buying

Buying a home is a challenging milestone in one's life.

Thanks to several entities such as non-profit organizations, local and federal governments and the Orange County Credit Union, great resources are available to help with down-payment assistance, mortgage credit certificates and low interest rates.

Breaking away from the more traditional avenues of retail banks and mortgage companies is an affordable option for County employees to make home buying a dream come true.



### The **County's Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP)**

provides down payment assistance loans to assist low-income first-time homebuyers (FTHB). Eligible FTHB's annual income must not exceed 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). The 3 percent simple interest, deferred payment loan has a 30-year term and a maximum loan amount of \$40,000. Homebuyers must occupy the property as their primary residence. There is a 1 percent minimum down payment requirement for this program and the total sales prices shall not exceed 85 percent of the Orange County median sales price for all homes, which as of April 2016 is \$548,250 (85 percent of \$645,000.) All applicants are required to attend a homebuyer education workshop.

<http://occommunityservices.org/hcd/housing>

If you are interested in the obtaining more information or an application for the MAP program, please contact the administrator for the program, Affordable Housing Clearinghouse at (949) 859-9255 or view their website at <http://www.affordable-housing.org/>.



The **Orange County Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC)** Program. The administrator for the program is the National Homebuyer Fund, a non-profit public benefit corporation established in 2002 to stimulate and expand homeownership opportunities nationwide. NHF models its homeownership programs around affordability and flexibility.

Learn more about their programs by visiting: <http://www.nhffloan.org/programs/index.shtml>



**Orange County Credit Union** membership in Orange County's Credit Union is available to anyone who lives or works in Orange or Riverside counties or the neighboring communities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Cerritos, or Signal Hill. Membership fee is \$5. All accounts are subject to normal approval standards. They have mortgage programs with down payments as low as 3%. The process is simple. They review your current financial situation, the length of time you plan to stay in your home, and explain the entire process to help you with options.

Thereafter, the next step is getting pre-approved. A pre-approval tells how much you qualify for and at which rate, as a result, home sellers will take your offers seriously. Their mortgage consultants can help you get started.

Call (888) 354-6228 ext. 7500 today for a no-obligation consultation.

All applications for credit are subject to approval. Not all applicants will qualify. All loan products and terms are subject to change without notice. NMLS#403462



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** <http://www.hudhomestore.com/Home/Index.aspx?sLanguage=ENGLISH>

Do you want to buy a home for \$1 dollar? HUD is a great resource to explore for both finding a home and finance programs. For the Dollar Home Program, visit <http://www.hudhomestore.com/Home/DollarHomes.aspx>

How to buy a HUD home?

Visit this webpage <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=publicfaq.pdf>

## Workplace Safety - Summer Time Means Fun In The Sun

### Summer Time Means Fun In The Sun – But Summer Heat Can Be Dangerous

Excessive Heat Exposure can result in loss of life. The Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) urge individuals to prepare for extreme heat in the summer because every year on average, 658 fatalities are the result of extreme heat in the United States – more than tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and lightning combined. Who is at risk from Extreme Heat? - Everyone, but especially the elderly, children, the poor or homeless, persons who work or exercise outdoors, and those with chronic medical conditions.



## Heat Illness in the Workplace

It is important to be aware of the risk for heat related illness when our bodies are exposed to extreme temperature and humidity. Other factors that also influence heat illness are intensity of work activity, protective clothing, and physical conditions.

For questions or information regarding resources or training to help serve your safety needs, please contact the CEO Safety Loss and Prevention Program at 714-285-5500 or by e-mailing us at [Safety@ocgov.com](mailto:Safety@ocgov.com).

### The “Dos and Don’ts” to prevent heat-related illnesses:

DO	DON'T
Drink Fluids, even if you are not thirsty	Don't drink ice cold drinks
Dress lightly and wear loose clothing	Don't give salt tablets (unless doctor prescribed)
Stay in air conditioning or a shady place	Don't skimp on water
Move slowly and avoid overexertion	Don't consume caffeine drinks, alcohol, or sugared sodas
Use sunscreen	Don't exceed 1.5 quarts of fluid in an hour
Use a cold wet paper towel on your face or other hot spots	Don't exceed 12 quarts of fluid in a day
Acclimatize - gradually expose your body to heat and work	
Remind others to drink water	
Limit strenuous tasks to morning or late afternoon hours	



# HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

## News You Can Use

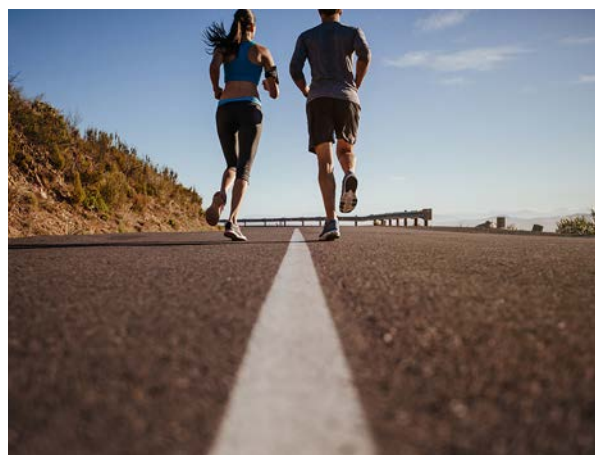
### Get Healthy With Fitness Discounts for County Employees

Now's the time to get healthy! It's important to take time out of your busy schedule and focus on your health needs. To help you succeed on this journey, we're providing you with ways to save money and achieve well-being — all at the same time.

#### Fitness Discounts for County Employees

Through the County's Employee Assistance Program you can get discounts on gym memberships and fitness products, such as:

- 24 Hour Fitness
- Curves®
- Anytime Fitness®
- Zumba® Fitness
- And much more!



[Click here](#) to be taken to the EAP website and look for "Quick Links" on the bottom right hand side of the page and click on "Fitness Discounts". It's simple and it saves you money! The County's EAP program and the discount offered through EAP are available to all County Employees. Get started today!

#### Fitness Discounts for Cigna Choice Health Plan Members

Save a minimum 10% off enrollment fees and/or monthly dues, or the best available public rate based on the membership type you chose. Participating clubs are part of American Specialty Health Networks and Choose Healthy. Find a fitness club at [www.choosehealthy.com](http://www.choosehealthy.com). As a Cigna member you can get discounts on gyms membership and fitness products, such as:

- Curves®
- Anytime Fitness®
- Work Out World
- Gold's Gym
- And much more!

Find a fitness club at [www.choosehealthy.com](http://www.choosehealthy.com) or call the ChooseHealthy customer service line at 1-877-335-2746 for assistance.

#### Fitness Discounts for Kaiser Choice Health Plan Members

Enjoy a 10% discount on membership rates at participating fitness facilities and stay active. As a Kaiser member you can get discounts on gyms membership and fitness products such as:

- Curves®
- Anytime Fitness®
- Work Out World
- Gold's Gym
- And much more!

To find and join a facility near you, go to [www.kp.org/choosehealthy](http://www.kp.org/choosehealthy), select your region, and follow the "ChooseHealthy"

*(Human Resources continued)*

link to the program page. Then click on the "Find a Provider" tab. Or call the ChooseHealthy customer service line at 1-877-335-2746 for assistance.

### **Fitness Discounts for Wellwise Choice and Sharewell Choice PPO Members**

For Wellness Choice and Sharewell Choice PPO members, Blue Shield offers a variety of discounts on a variety of health and wellness programs that can help you save money and get healthier. Below you will find the fitness discounts available to you:

#### **ClubSport and Renaissance Club Sport**

Increase your wellness with ClubSport® and Renaissance ClubSport®. Blue Shield members have two options for saving on membership dues and fees when selecting ClubSport or Renaissance Club Sport for gym memberships: 60% discount on enrollments when joining on a month-to-month agreement \$0 enrollment fee when joining with a 12-month agreement. A one-time \$25 processing fee applies at the time of enrollment.

ClubSport or Renaissance ClubSport Membership includes:

- Two complimentary personal training sessions for each new member (a \$150 value)
- MicroFit testing and goal setting
- Access nutritional support online
- Free wellness seminars
- Hundreds of free in-club programs included in monthly dues
- Three hours of complimentary childcare with a family membership

ClubSport locations:

- Pleasanton, CA
- Fremont, CA
- Green Valley (Las Vegas, NV)
- Walnut Creek, CA (ClubSport and Renaissance ClubSport)
- Tigard (Tigard, OR)
- Aliso Viejo, CA (Renaissance ClubSport)



Work or live near ClubSport locations in Walnut Creek or Aliso Viejo? These locations feature Renaissance ClubSport, a full-service sports club that includes a hotel and restaurant. Club members receive discounts on dining, hotel rooms (based on availability) and spa.

24 Hour Fitness Members enjoy a variety of waived and discounted fees, including:

- Waived enrollment fees
- Waived processing fees
- Waived initiation fees
- Discounted monthly dues as low as \$24.99 per month
- Not valid in NY, NJ, VA or MD

For more information about these discount programs and to find participating providers, go to [www.blueshieldca.com/hw](http://www.blueshieldca.com/hw)

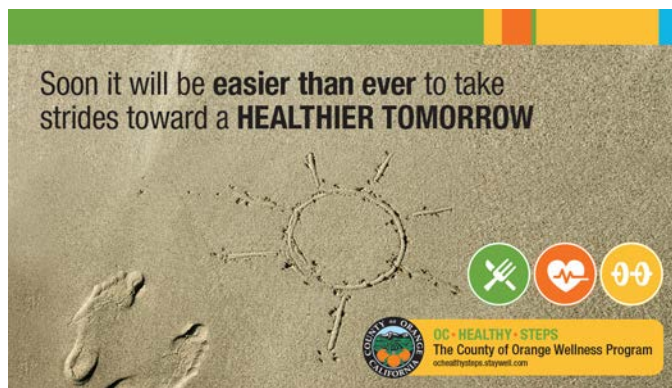
Disclaimer: [www.blueshieldca.com/bsca/health-wellness/professional-help/wellness-discounts/disclaimer.sp](http://www.blueshieldca.com/bsca/health-wellness/professional-help/wellness-discounts/disclaimer.sp)



## Completing Your OC Healthy Steps

You can complete each of the 3 steps at [ohealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ohealthysteps.staywell.com), and easily track your progress and completion. Once you create your account, you will be able to complete your three steps and access all the new features of OC Healthy Steps. If you previously created an account, you can log-in using that same log-in information. You have until August 22, 2016 to complete your steps.

With approval of your supervisor, you are permitted to use up to 30 minutes of County time to attend a biometric screening or lab appointment, and a reasonable amount of time (the average is 20 minutes) to complete the Health Risk Assessment (HRA) and Non-Smoking Attestation.



### STEP ONE: BIOMETRIC SCREENING

A biometric screening is a short health examination that determines your risk level for certain diseases and medical conditions. It includes a check of your blood pressure, height, weight, body mass index, and fasting or non-fasting blood sugar and cholesterol. Below are the options available to you to complete your biometric screening step; you only need to do one of the three biometric screening options listed.

- Visit your Health Care Provider
- Visit a Quest Diagnostic Lab (appointments are subject to availability)
- Attend an On-site Screening (appointments are subject to availability)

You can download your Biometric Health Screening Confirmation Form, locate a Quest Diagnostic lab or on-site screening and make your appointment for a lab or on-site screening at [ohealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ohealthysteps.staywell.com).

### STEP TWO: HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT (HRA)

A HRA is a confidential online health questionnaire that, once completed, calculates your results, provides you with a high level profile of your health status, and provides recommendations for health improvement and change where possible. To complete your HRA, log in to [ohealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ohealthysteps.staywell.com).

### STEP THREE: NON-SMOKING ATTESTATION

All you need to do is log in to [ohealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ohealthysteps.staywell.com) and attest to one of the non-smoking or stop smoking statements provided. You can also find resources to help you stop smoking. To complete your HRA, log in to [ohealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ohealthysteps.staywell.com).

### What's NEXT?

If you choose to participate and receive your OC Healthy Steps Wellness Credit for 2017, simply follow the steps outlined in this document. Remember if you want to receive lower health plan premiums on your County of Orange paycheck for 2017 (if eligible) you must complete all three OC Healthy Steps between June 1, 2016 and August 22, 2016. You can confirm the completion of all your steps by visiting your personalized OC Healthy Steps website at [ohealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ohealthysteps.staywell.com).

### Who is Eligible to Participate?

All employees in a County health plan may access the OC Healthy Steps Wellness Program activities and tools, however only certain employees are eligible for the OC Healthy Steps Wellness Credit:

1. Employees enrolled in Sharewell Choice do not receive a Wellness Credit.
2. New employees hired as of May 1, 2016 will receive the Wellness Credit automatically until the next Three Step Wellness Period.
3. If you are enrolled in the Employee Married to Employee (EME) program, only the subscriber receives the Wellness Credit if they choose to participate.

If you have any questions, you can contact the OC Healthy Steps/StayWell HelpLine at 1-800-492-9812.

## Events



**OC parks**  
**SUMMER**  
CONCERT SERIES 2016

**JUNE-SEPTEMBER**  
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING / ALL AGES WELCOME!

<b>CRAIG PARK</b> 3300 S. State College Blvd.   Fullerton	<b>TRI-CITY PARK</b> 2301 N. Kraemer Blvd.   Placentia
6/30 Big Bad Voodoo Daddy with Kris Bradley	7/07 Diamonds Are Forever with Vic Lazar
<b>MASON PARK</b> 18712 University Dr.   Irvine	<b>MILE SQUARE PARK</b> 16801 Euclid St.   Fountain Valley
7/14 Phil Shane with Hawkline Monster	7/28 Grizfolk with Robert John & The Wreck
7/21 Flashback Heart Attack with Well Hung Heart	8/04 The Fenians with Dano Forte's Juke Joint Show
<b>IRVINE PARK</b> 1 Irvine Park Rd.   Orange	<b>SALT CREEK BEACH</b> 33333 S. Pacific Coast Hwy.   Dana Point
8/11 Saved By The 90s with Gardeners Logic	8/25 Tijuana Dogs with Family Style
8/18 Matt Costa with David Rosales	9/01 JR JR with Big Monsta

Learn more at [ocparks.com](http://ocparks.com) and [Facebook.com/OrangeCountyParks](https://www.facebook.com/OrangeCountyParks)



**LUNCH**  
— at the —  
**LIBRARY**

**FREE SUMMER MEALS AT YOUR LIBRARY!**  
**June 27 - Aug. 4, 2016**

**Monday– Thursday 12:00pm - 1:00pm**  
**Garden Grove Chapman Library**  
9182 Chapman Ave, Garden Grove | (714) 539-2115

**Free meals for Ages 18 & Under**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider  
Lunch at the Library is a program of the California Library Association, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.



**ORANGE COUNTY TOY DRIVE**

**Operation Santa Claus Needs Your Help,**  
July 11 - 22, 2016  
Look for donation boxes around July 8

Over 35,000 toys, stuffed animals and books were distributed to foster children & families most in need through Operation Santa Claus last year.

**We are desperately in need of toddler & girl toys but appreciate all gifts! Here are a few suggestions:**

**Toddler:** Musical, alphabet & counting interactive toys  
**Girls:** Dolls, kitchen bake sets, educational, sporting goods  
**Boys:** Trains, Lego, educational, sporting goods  
**Teens:** Watches, cologne sets, make-up, flat irons, hair dryers

**NOTE: Gift cards are great for all ages**

**Are you too busy to shop? Donate online at:**  
[http://ssa.ocgov.com/volunteer/donations/osc\\_donation](http://ssa.ocgov.com/volunteer/donations/osc_donation)

For more information contact:  
Dee Azevedo (714) 679-2438 or email  
[operationsantaclaus@ssa.ocgov.com](mailto:operationsantaclaus@ssa.ocgov.com)



# Service Awards

for the month of June



## 40 Years

**Mary Malinick**  
Health Care Agency

## 35 Years

**Lany Nguyen**  
OC Community  
Resources

**Susan Eastman**  
OC Public Works

**Sandra Abrams**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**April Celis**  
Social Services Agency

## 30 Years

**Priscilla Alferos**  
Assessor

**Victoria Ross**  
County Executive Office

**Vicki Stewart**  
County Executive Office

**Jesus Avila**  
OC Community  
Resources

**Joanette Willert**  
OC Community  
Resources

**Richard Kinsella**  
OC Public Works

**Richard Tiffer**  
OC Public Works

**John Williams**  
OC Waste & Recycling

**Renato Lucero**  
Sheriff-Coroner

## 25 Years

**Gregory White**  
Auditor-Controller

**David Ruvalcaba**  
Child Support Services

**Diana Banzet**  
County Executive Office

**Natalie Smith**  
District Attorney

**Larry Brennler**  
Health Care Agency

**Alvin Dong**  
Health Care Agency

**Sandra Martin**  
Health Care Agency

**Vinh Nguyen**  
Health Care Agency

**Paula Fields**  
OC Community  
Resources

**Mike Westman**  
OC Public Works

**Lucia Caballero**  
Probation

**Bessy Ferrell**  
Probation

**Veronica Gaxiola**  
Probation

**Marjorie Taylor**  
Probation

**Connie Valdez**  
Probation

**Rodney Zamora**  
Probation

(Continued on page 18)



(Continued from page 17)

## 25 Years Continued

<b>Eric Larson</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Judy Woo</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Daniel Aguilar</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Doina Angel</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Maria Aparicio</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Jocelyn Bellinger</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Myrtle Campos</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Audrey Chen</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Ysabel Copete</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Jesus Cota</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Sandra Fox</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Martin Garcia</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Emelinda Gregorio</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Margarita Gutierrez</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Debbie Guzman</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Fariba Kia</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Diana La Russo</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Odilia Marich</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Marsha Medina</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Rene Morfin</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Ann Myers</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Maureen Naganuma</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Binh Nguyen</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Erika Paredes</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Diana Tapia</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Wendy Valenzuela</b> Social Services Agency		

## 20 Years

<b>Eric Takanishi</b> Auditor-Controller	<b>Diana Garza</b> Child Support Services	<b>Margaret Briggs</b> County Executive Office	<b>Mercedes Gonzales</b> District Attorney
<b>Maria Rienzo</b> Health Care Agency	<b>Silvia Vega</b> Health Care Agency	<b>Derrick Gachett</b> Probation	<b>Damon Riddle</b> Probation
<b>David Slemmer</b> Probation	<b>James Donovan</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Mauricio Herrera</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Lisa Jennings</b> Sheriff-Coroner
<b>Candice Ford</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Humberto Quintero</b> Social Services Agency		

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

***Service Awards are announced in each edition of County Connection in the month immediately following work anniversaries, not in the month of the anniversary.*** If you believe there has been an error or omission in reporting your years of service, please email [Navminder.Kaur@ocgov.com](mailto:Navminder.Kaur@ocgov.com).

# PARTING SHOT!

Welcome to Parting Shot, a feature designed to close County Connection with must-see visuals from Orange County, captured through the lenses of County employees. Click on the photos to enlarge.



1. [Priscilla Naranjo](#), Anaheim Regional Center eligibility technician, photographed the steps walking down towards Salt Creek Beach. One of the many beautiful beaches, Priscilla commented that “this is one of the gems in Orange County.”
2. [Stacy Schenkel](#), OC Public Works agricultural inspector, photographed the beautiful hills of Silverado Canyon. “I took it when we climbed up a hill [in Silverado Canyon] to cut a fire break behind some of the homes,” she stated.
3. [Pamela Niemi](#), Human Resources snapped a photo of the growing flower population at Santiago Oaks Regional Park in Orange. “I recently had the pleasure of visiting Santiago Oaks Regional Park for the first time, to attend an OC Leadership Lessons class. I was so struck by the beautiful location that I took these photos and posted them to my Facebook page so my friends and family could see one more reason why I enjoy working at the County.”

(Continued on page 20)

(Parting Shot continued)



4. **Michael Wilson**, OC Parks senior ranger, captured this spectacular image of an OCFA helicopter dropping tanks of water onto a fire below. Orange Fire, Anaheim Fire and OCFA responded to this one acre fire that burned on OC Parks, OCW&R and private property.

Have you taken a photograph of something cool and beautiful in Orange County? Would you like to submit it to Parting Shot for consideration? If so, send it via email to [travis.lariviere@ocgov.com](mailto:travis.lariviere@ocgov.com). Please provide your job title and department and the details of the photo (location, what's happening, etc.) Please know that not all submissions will be used; decisions are at the discretion of the CEO Communications staff.

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.

## Connect with Us on Social Media



On **Twitter** at [www.Twitter.com/OCGovCA](http://www.Twitter.com/OCGovCA)



On **Facebook** at [www.Facebook.com/OCGov](http://www.Facebook.com/OCGov)

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