



FRANKLY SPEAKING A Message from CEO Frank Kim

Dear OC Employees,

Welcome to 2017! I hope everyone had a fun and satisfying holiday season and, like me, is ready for the challenges and achievements of the New Year. There will be many.

A list of the major milestones we're tackling for this year include some long-simmering projects as well as more recently planned facilities to improve how we conduct business and deliver services to the public:

- Opening a coordinated entry homeless shelter in Anaheim:

The Board of Supervisors last month authorized a phased approach to constructing what will become a comprehensive center at 1000 N. Kraemer in Anaheim to connect those without permanent housing to a variety of services, including long-term housing, and mental and physical health services. The center will open this summer with plans to increase services in the second phase.

- Opening the new Orange County Animal **Shelter in Tustin:**

Construction is underway on the new state-ofthe-art animal shelter on 10 acres of property at the former Tustin Marine base. The new facility will include a large reception area, outdoor exercise areas, kennels and a training center. The facility will provide for an improved living environment for the animals, with expanded adoption and education programs to enhance opportunities for adoptions and successful outcomes.

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Making a Difference for Animals in Need: Jessica Novillo

Jessica Novillo knew that she wanted to work with animals from a young age, since the day in elementary school when she adopted her first dog.

"I remember going to a shelter down the street and adopting my first dog, Sam. He was my best friend growing up," Jessica said. "He shaped a lot of what I believed in and what I thought was important."

Born and raised in Arlington, Va., Jessica studied Animal Science at Virginia Tech and went on to pursue roles in various animal industries, from clinics to pet stores to animal daycares. For a long time, though, she has wanted to work in sheltering.



"My last job was working as a general manager for a pet care company, and we would do things like pet-sitting and dog-walking," Jessica said. "I wanted to work more with homeless animals and make a difference. I've always had a soft spot in my heart for them."

Jessica started looking across the country for jobs working with homeless animals, and when she came across the listing for her current job with OC Animal Care, it was a perfect match.

"When I read the description for this job, I knew that this was exactly what I wanted to do," she said.

Now Jessica works as the Community Outreach Team (COT) Supervisor for OC Animal Care, where she oversees programs such as adoption partnerships, volunteers and fosters, community outreach, and public education.

In the approximately eight months Jessica has served as COT Supervisor, she has had the opportunity to lead numerous programs and launch several new initiatives.

"I'm proud of all the new programs that we're starting, like a new program called the TLC program. The program is for dogs that come in and may be a little bit scared and may be snapping and growling. We now have hand-picked volunteers to work with them for a week or two, and eventually they're friendly as can be, and then we can put them up for adoption," Jessica said. "I think of a lot of those dogs, because

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- Launch of the Civic Center Facilities Master Plan:

The Civic Center Master Plan addresses the County's long-term occupancy in the Orange County Civic Center for the improved delivery of public services, more efficient use of space, grouping County offices by affiliated services, updating aging buildings and better managing occupancy and maintenance costs. The master plan work begins this month with the demolition of Building 16, which was built in 1955 for \$785,000.

- Selection of a developer-partner for Dana Point Harbor:

This revitalization project nearly 20 years in the making takes shape this year when the Board will approve a master ground lease between the County and the selected developer, where the developer will develop, construct and operate long-awaited improvements at the harbor. The developer also will administer leases, collect rents and be responsible for all costs associated with running its operations, while paying the County rent based on gross receipts pursuant to the leases.

- Conclusion of upgrades to the Central Utility Facility in Santa Ana:

The CUF has been undergoing a significant upgrade to replace antiquated equipment and underground piping to ensure reliable, uninterrupted utility service to the Orange County Civic Center, including the jails and Superior Court, as well as to continue to provide reduced costs for utilities. Areas have been fenced for the past seven months to protect employees and the public from construction areas and activities.

As we look forward this year, the County is well-positioned to strengthen our infrastructure and to continue delivering high-quality public services in new, innovative and improved ways.

I've said it before: This is why County government exists. Even as we celebrate the achievement of these milestones, I'm also so thankful for the daily effort shown throughout our County family in the myriad ways we provide services to the public.

Here's to a great New Year!

Sincerely,
Frank Kim
County Executive Officer

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I'm rooting for them – every single one."

In addition to supporting the many programs directly supporting the animals, Jessica's team also does their own social media marketing on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

"It's always fun – to make videos, to put up posts. The faster we can get information out, the faster animals can

Jessica posing with a chihuahua being socialized through the TLC program.

get fostered or adopted," Jessica said. "I'm lucky to work with such a great team. I could never do it all by myself."

The COT team, which includes Tammy Osborn, Adoption Partner Coordinator; Kristen Zemke, Public Outreach Coordinator; Erica McBride, Volunteer Coordinator; and Brittany Hayes, COT Assistant, will soon be moving – along with other OC Animal Care employees – to a new shelter being built in Tustin. The County broke ground on the new animal shelter in July 2016, and it is scheduled to open by the end of 2017.

"Everyone is so excited about the new animal shelter," Jessica said. "To have a new shelter where people can really see that everyone who works here really cares about these animals is going to be huge for us. It's going to be nice for the public to really see past old walls and old buildings. I think it's really hard for people to do that now."

As she looks forward to 2017, Jessica is excited about the many opportunities for County employees and members of the public to get involved in OC Animal Care efforts.

"We're always seeking volunteers. It's thanks to our volunteers that we're able to say 'yes' to a lot of events," she said. "On our website, we also have three ways to give: people can make a donation, use our general wish list or check out our Amazon wish list."

Information on volunteering, adopting, fostering, or donating is available on the OC Animal Care website, along with educational materials on pets and wildlife.

For Jessica, her job satisfaction ultimately comes from working to make life better for animals at the shelter and working with others at OC Animal who share her passion for homeless animals

"It's not the easiest job. A lot of people say things like, 'I could never work there; I love animals too much.' I think, 'I love animals, and that's why I'm here. I want to make sure I'm doing my part in making them happy and making them comfortable," Jessica said. "Everybody here really cares and is making an effort to do everything that they can to make these animals comfortable and happy."

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 jennifer.nentwig@ocgov.com

OC History Journeys Through Orange County's Origins, Obstacles and Opportunities

Red Hill

By Chris Jepsen

In 1909, Ray McTaggert flew in young Dana Keech's hand-built glider from the top of Red Hill, north of Tustin. It was the first time man took to the wing in Orange County, but it was certainly not the first or last historic moment for Red Hill.

At 347 feet in elevation, and with its distinctive red volcanic rock, Red Hill has been an important local landmark for thousands of years. The local Indians believed their ancestors escaped the Great Flood by taking refuge atop the hill they called "Katuktu." According to legend, their many campfires colored the hill red.

While Indian artifacts and burials have certainly been found there, the hill's color actually comes from its unique mineral make-up, which includes cinnabar, baryta, aluminum, barite, black sulphide of mercury and tiemannite.

Historian Jim Sleeper, in a 1975 letter to Orange County Historical Commission Chairman Wayne Gibson, wrote that Red Hill was "skirted by the Portola party (1769), the mission fathers on El Camino Real, the Stockton-Kearny expedition (1847), the Coastline Stage (1866) and the Seeley & Wright Stage Line (1869), which passed either in front or behind the hill depending on the swampy road conditions at the time."

From the days of the missions until statehood, this landmark was sometimes called Cerro Colorado (Red Colored Hill), but was usually called Cerro de las Ranas (Hill of the Frogs) – a name borrowed from the adjacent Cienega de las Ranas (Swamp of the Frogs).

Since the days of the ranchos, Red Hill has been a key survey point. The boundaries of three ranchos – Santiago de Santa Ana, Lomas de Santiago and San Joaquin – met at its peak. Even today, the marker at the top of Red Hill continues to be an important base point for surveyors.

After California became part of the United States, the newcomers to Orange County began to call this landmark "Red Hill" or "Rattlesnake Hill." By the late 1860s – with quicksilver scarce in California – people began to eye the hill as a site to mine cinnabar (mercury ore). The Irvine Ranch finally started the "Rattlesnake Hill Mercury Mine" in 1884, and continued to run the operation until 1893, in which time they dug more than 400 feet of tunnels.

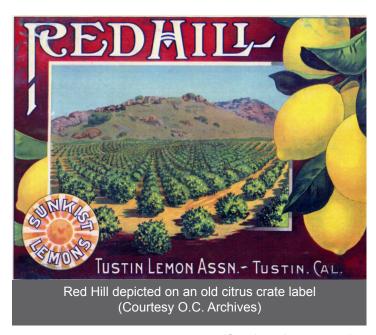
From 1896 to 1898, Thomas "Shorty" Harris of Silverado's Santa Clara Coal Mining Co. leased the hill and dug several more shafts.

He was followed in 1899 by R. J. Kimball and J.A. Turner of Santa Ana, who were the first to sell stock in a Red Hill mine. They dug two more tunnels and took out about 50 tons of ore, but had little financial success.

"During the 1890s," Sleeper wrote, "Red Hill was the scene of frequent turkey shoots, and was the first rifle range of Co. L, the local militia, which also staged mock skirmishes here. In 1899 the first heliograph experiment in the county was conducted by Co. L between the top of Red Hill and Huttenlocher's Opera House in Santa Ana."

In 1907 the Irvine Co. sold the Red Hill area to Felton P. "Frank" Browning, who grew citrus groves and built a bungalow for his family. A. W. Sheets leased land from Browning during World War I and mined both cinnabar and chalk.

In a 2001 L.A. Times article, Lilian Martin Bruns, remembered visits to Red Hill in the early years of the 20th Century. It was hot and dusty in the summer and fall and wet and muddy in the winter, she told reporter Steve Emmons, "But in the early spring, the fields were green with patches of Mariposa lilies, daisies and blue hyacinths. . . . When we reached the top of the hill we could smell the woodsy damp earth and ferns and the violets which grew in the shade



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between the rocks. . . . We sat in a bed of clover in the warm sun and had 'jelly bread,' apples and cheese. It was a little piece of heaven."

With more business than pleasure on his mind, miner Charles McWaters sought out the old Red Hill mine in 1927 and distilled the existing piles of tailings in a retort (industrial furnace used to distill chemicals) which he built on the property. He made about \$12,000 and was soon followed by a prospector named Secrest who briefly continued McWaters' methods with a larger retort. Reports of a temporary reactivation of quicksilver mining at the hill during World War II have not been confirmed.

In the 1950s and 1960s, homes began to surround and then creep up the sides of Red Hill. The surrounding street names echoed the hill's geology and history: Browning Ave., Loma Roja, Ranchview Dr., Cinnabar Rd. and Calle Roja. But despite all the residential development, the crown of the hill and some of the old mining areas remain bare.

Designated as State Historical Landmark #203 in the 1930s, Red Hill today lends its name to a major street, two schools, a Lutheran church, a beer, and countless businesses. Both the name and the hill itself are reminders of authentic, classic Orange County – the unique place that still lies, somewhat obscured, amid all the tract housing, pavement, and shopping centers.

"...I consider [Red Hill] to be the most significant natural landmark, with the singular exception of Santiago Peak, left in the county," wrote Sleeper. "As for community identification, Red Hill is to



Tustin what the Spurgeon 'clock' is to Santa Ana, or the 'plaza' is to Orange. ...Red Hill is an important site – geologically, geographically and historically – not only to its immediate community, but to the county as a whole."

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 or 714-834-4771 if you have questions about the Archives.



County Executive Office (CEO)/Government and Community Relations (G&CR) is working on the details for the 2017 Fitness with Frank events. Please stay tuned for details as we explore more of the County's wonderful open spaces!

To view photos from past events, and for details about future CEO fitness opportunities once they are announced, please visit the **Fitness with Frank webpage**. If you have any questions, please contact Kari Schumaker at 714-834-2051 or **kari.schumaker@ocgov.com**.



January is a busy time for Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Two returning Board members will be sworn in to new four-year terms, while the Board will select a new chair and vice chair for the year. We caught up with Robin to hear more about her job and what's in store for 2017:

Q: How do you describe your job to those who are unfamiliar with County government?

A: The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors serves as the primary record-keeper for the Orange County Board of Supervisors. In addition to providing administrative support to the Board, my office also processes property assessment appeals and serves the governing boards of special districts, boards and commissions within the County. The authority for the clerk's role is described in Government Code Section 25101.

Q: What other things does the Clerk of the Board do?

A: The Government Code is pretty specific about duties. For example, it says that the Clerk "shall attend" each session of the Board and "keep and enter" a full and complete record of all regular and special meetings. The vote of each Board member on agenda items also must be recorded and the books, records and accounts of the Board must be available for public inspection during normal business hours. There are some lesser-known duties mentioned, such as a requirement to communicate all demands for payment to the Auditor.

Q: What goes into deciding what to record in the Minutes?

A: Orange County, like many other counties, prepares Summary Action Minutes which record the actions taken by the Board at each meeting but does not require the Clerk to produce a narrative summary of the discussion on each item. This is an efficient system that removes the subjective element involved in writing summaries of the discussions. Entities that still choose to prepare narrative minutes often do not have them approved until weeks after the meeting. Because the Summary Action Minutes provide factual information that can be authenticated and verified from the meeting audio or video, having the Board approve the minutes is not necessary. The last time the Board approved meeting Minutes was on March 17, 1964.

Q: What is the timing on a new Agenda Management System for the County?

A: The County's new Agenda Management System, which recently was selected after a Request for Proposal process, is off-

Robin Stieler Clerk of the Board



the-shelf software called NovusAGENDA that will be customized for the County. NovusAGENDA will replace the current CAMS (County Agenda Management System), which is nearly 20 years old. It allows documents to be easily distributed online with links to previous meeting materials and is compatible with all types of devices, including smart phones, tablets and laptops. The plan is for the new system to be used starting in July after installation is complete and training sessions are held for the County's agenda managers.

Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A: I've worked for Clerk of the Board since January 1997, when I was hired by then-Clerk Darlene Bloom and assigned to the Assessment Appeals division. In 2001, I moved to the Board Services Division and had the good fortune to progress through a series of promotions. In December 2013, I was named Chief Deputy. I was appointed to fill the position as Clerk of the Board in November 2015. I'm a member of the California Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Association, the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials and the Orange County Clerks Association. I live with my husband in Yorba Linda.

Q: Sometimes the Board chair makes a joke about asking you to read a really long agenda title over again. Do you remember the longest title you've had to read?

A: I sure do—it was 305 words. The title was required to be read for a public hearing on November 8, 2016, and to consider the first reading of an ordinance repealing older versions of international and California building codes. The second reading and adoption was two weeks later—and that title was 300 words.

Around the County News, Events and Happenings

















Clerk-Recorder Unveils Ceremony Room at Old County Courthouse

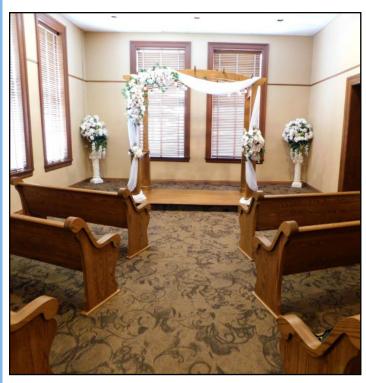
Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen unveiled a new marriage ceremony room inside the historic Old Orange County Courthouse, commemorating the opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 22. The new ceremony room is being used to better address the consistently high demand for civil wedding ceremonies.

On average, during the department's once-a-month special Saturday hours, 150 couples apply for a marriage license and approximately 100 civil ceremonies are performed. During regular business house, more than 90 ceremonies are performed per week at the Santa Ana location alone.

Since opening the new ceremony room the Marriage Services Unit at the Old County Courthouse has averaged about 75 marriage ceremonies during its special Saturday hours, compared to a previous average of about 50 marriage ceremonies at that location during its special Saturday hours. During the department's December special Saturday hours, 76 marriage ceremonies were conducted at the Old County Courthouse up from 54 marriage ceremonies during its October special Saturday hours.

Marriage services are offered Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana. Civil ceremonies are also available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the department's satellite locations in Laguna Hills and Fullerton. Special Saturday hours are offered one Saturday per month at all three locations.

To learn more about marriage services, special Saturday hours and all other department services offered by the Clerk-Recorder, please visit: www.ocrecorder.com.





Behaviorial Health Services Hosts Holiday 'Shoe Tree' Drive

Behavioral Health Services hosted a holiday 'Shoe Tree' drive to collect shoes and socks for donation to The Courtyard to help some of the most vulnerable individuals who struggle with a variety of issues at the same time. If having a pair of clean shoes and socks would make a difference in the life of another human being, it's a great time to get involved and participate in someone's recovery and transition to permanent housing.

As of Dec. 21, OC Health Care Agency had a total of 92 pairs of new shoes and 587 pairs of new socks that they planned to donate.



Waste Not OC Coalition Forms Partnership to Address Food Insecurity

The Waste Not OC Coalition recently formed a partnership with St. Joseph Hospital to assist Orange County residents experiencing food insecurity – the condition of not having consistent access to an adequate amount of food.

The Waste Not OC Coalition and St. Joseph Hospital are partnering to collect unused wholesome food and direct it to local food pantries for donation that same day. Read the OC Register article here.

St. Joseph joins Waste Not OC's growing list of hospital partners that include Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), St. Jude Hospital and the Kaiser System. These unique hospital partnerships allow doctors to identify patients who may be at risk of hunger and link them directly to several of Waste Not OC's participating food pantries.



Feed the Need

"The partnership with St. Joseph Hospital was established early on with the support of CEO Steven Moreau and they've continued to be an active participant in our campaign to ensure that Orange County residents don't go hungry," said Dr. Eric Handler, Orange County Public Health Officer and Waste Not OC Coalition co-founder. "St. Joseph Hospital joins our growing list of partners like CHOC who has screened over 50,000 families who may be in need of food."

RECURRING RESOLUTIONS - JANUARY

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.

New Years Day
Human Trafficking Awareness Day
Korean American Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
School Choice Week

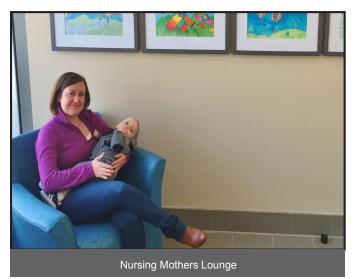
Around the County continued

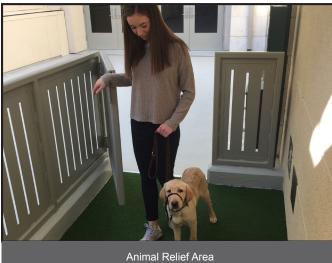
John Wayne Airport Introduces New Guest Amenities

New Guest Amenities Available for Passengers

Mothers traveling through John Wayne Airport now have access to a Nursing Mother's Lounge. Located post-security near Gate 12, the private space features comfortable seating, a sink with running water, electrical outlets, adjustable lighting and artwork made up of Orange County student art entries from JWA's annual aviation-themed student art contest.

The Airport also recently installed a new animal relief area located in the secure area of the Riley Terminal across from Gate 12. The area is equipped with synthetic grass, waste disposal bags, a wash down hose and drainage.





High School Music Groups Perform Holiday Music at John Wayne Airport

Musical groups from six Orange County high schools welcomed guests at John Wayne Airport with the festive sounds of the season, filling the air with holiday cheer. Corona del Mar High School Jazz Ensemble, Estancia High School Jazz Band, Irvine High School Singers and Canta Bella Singers, Saddleback High School Chamber Singers, Segerstrom High School Chamber Singers and Valley High School Marching Band performed holiday music on the Arrival (lower) Level of the Thomas F. Riley Terminal Between Dec. 16 and 20.







OCCR Hosts Ornament Contest

To kick off the 2016 holiday season, OC Community Resources introduced an ornament contest with winners announced for the most creative, best team effort and the best overall ornaments. Submissions were to represent our work and everyone was invited to participate.

Despite a spirited lobbying campaign initiated by the various competitors, Nervana Helmy from OC Public Libraries was named the winner for best overall ornament. Nervana managed to capture the essence of the Laguna Hills Technology Library inside a glass capsule smaller than your last cup of coffee. Armed with nothing more than paper, scissors and a can-do attitude, Nervana was able to create a miniature laptop, mobile devices and volumes of books with technology-related titles.

Nervana is the newest member of the Laguna Hills Technology Library, one of the two technology branches within OC Public Libraries. The technology libraries provide access to a variety of technology and offer technological assistance for walk-in or scheduled one-on-one sessions with patrons. Assistance is customized to patrons' level of digital literacy in order to help them become more efficient with computers, mobile devices and the internet.

If after the holidays, you have been struggling to find the ANY key on your new device, consider visiting the technology library where staff can help you make good use of your new device. To cardholders, OC Public Libraries also offer free downloadable magazines, eBooks, eAudiobooks, music and movies through the Overdrive, Zinio and Hoopla apps.





SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Downtown Santa Ana Code Blue Emergency Call Boxes

If you have traveled through downtown Santa Ana lately you may have noticed code blue emergency call boxes. The Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) installed seven call boxes earlier this fall. When the button is pushed on one of these boxes, SAPD Dispatch is called. At the same time, the unit's blue light begins to flash and it loudly announces that police have been called. The boxes also have eye-level video cameras with 360-degree views. These cameras help law enforcement ground truth the calls/callers. Though there has been a relatively low level of call box utilization to date, they have a wide range of capabilities and should prove beneficial. The Civic Center Authority may consider installing more code blue emergency call boxes in the Walk of Honor.

OC Community Services Conducts Outreach, Promotes Donation-Giving/Volunteering

The Office on Aging (OoA) and Veterans Service Office (VSO) have had a busy fall season with multiple outreaches and projects. Since the opening of The Courtyard in Santa Ana, the VSO has conducted outreach on Friday afternoons at the facility to assist veterans and their dependents with inquiries and preparing, presenting and pursuing any benefits they may be entitled to receive from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The VSO staff has seen more than 20 veterans and continues to connect and build rapport with veterans at The Courtyard. They shared their stories, and we were touched by their individual experiences. When asked how we can assist, most requested items were caps/hats to shield from the California weather, clean clothes to wear after showers and basic necessities like toiletries.

After multiple interactions with the residents of The Courtyard and listening to their concerns and experiences, OoA/VSO Interim Director Renee Ramirez envisioned having a closet filled with basic necessities for those in need. OoA and VSO staff reorganized the workspace to create a room for this purpose. Staff brought in donated clothing and toiletries from homes, churches and other organizations to fill the closet including a large donation from OC4Vets. The closet has been formally named "We Got Your Six," which is a military term for "We've got your back." OoA/VSO Outreach/Volunteer Manager Rosemary Dey informed the Older Adult Food Security Task Force group about the new project. Within two weeks, they received a call from Sonora Ortiz of Food Access Coalition (FAC) that Grandma's House of Hope donated more than 100 full-sized bottles



of toiletries to the closet through the Food Access Coalition. These items are currently available for veterans and their families in need. The VSO continues to receive calls and donations from various entities and organizations. The OoA and VSO thank everyone for their involvement and effort in supporting this project. The closet has been successful with providing basic necessities to homeless veterans, older adults and their families.

In December, The Knights of Columbus of Council 9487 donated eight new wheelchairs to The Courtyard through the Veterans Service Office. The chairs were gratefully received.

To donate to the closet, contact Rosemary Dey at 714-480-6486. To volunteer at The Courtyard, contact City Net at volunteer@citynet.org or 714-494-9418.



(left to right) Rosemary Dey (OaA), Christina Hall (FAC), Sonora Ortiz (FAC), Joseph Ford (VSO)



Erin Ulibarri (OaA) and Joe Ford (VSO) delivering new wheelchairs to The Courtyard

Sheriff's Department Captain Jeff Hallock Wins PR News Award



Capt. Jeff Hallock of the Orange County Sheriff's Department was awarded winner of the 2016 PR News Spokesperson of the Year Award at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. on Tuesday night.

Keeping up with the daily public service of law enforcement actions is challenging; especially, when the media is demanding for answers on new or developing public safety issues in Orange County.

Capt. Hallock was in competition with two other candidates for the award --- both from outside of California which makes the award a prestigious one nationally. "I am honored to be awarded the PR News 2016 Spokesperson of the Year at the Winter Luncheon Awards," said Capt. Hallock.

Every year, PR News, the industry publication showcases top public relations professionals by practice area through the annual PR People Awards at its a Winter Awards Luncheon at the National Press Club in D.C. Leading agencies, organizations and nonprofits gather to celebrate notable leaders in various public information categories, such as crisis communications, social media and others. For more information on the awards ceremony, click here

No One Fights Alone

On Nov. 6, 2016, Orange County Sheriff's Department Deputy (OCSD) Courtney Ward, 36, died after a valiant battle with a rare and aggressive type of cervical cancer called neuroendocrine carcinoma, but not before a months-long fight in which the nine-year deputy was determined to bring awareness to the cancer, of which little is known. David Ward, Courtney's husband and a building inspector for OC Public Works, served as a pallbearer at her funeral on Nov. 22, along with other family members and friends.

Courtney's journey began in early 2015 after doctors discovered a golf ball-size tumor in her cervix, diagnosed as small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma. The survival rate is no higher than 20 percent; doctors don't know how people get it or how to stop it, and there is no funding to research it. Courtney was determined to change that. She and David started a Facebook page titled "No One Fights Alone – Courtney Ward," where the couple's journey was chronicled.



"Courtney wanted her legacy to be a battle," OCSD Capt. Jason Park said during his eulogy at her funeral. "She spoke the words to many of us on many occasions: 'I don't want to be known for the war. I want it to be known that I chose to battle against that war."

Looking back now, David is grateful for the help and encouragement he and Courtney received from their fellow County employees.

"I'd like to thank everyone for all the support over the last two years," David said. "We would not have been able to get through it without all the donated time, meals, donations and calls just checking in on us. I have never before worked with such amazing and generous people and for that I am extremely grateful. Courtney's motto through all this was 'no one fights alone' and that could not be more true thanks to our County family. I wish I could thank each and every one of you personally. Please know what a difference you all made in our lives."

Orangewood Children and Family Center Celebrates 31 Years at Annual Holiday Tea

The Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) is a valuable and critical component of the continuum of care for foster youth serving as an emergency shelter and multiservice center with 21 distinct programs. On Dec. 8, OCFC celebrated its 31st anniversary during their Annual Orangewood Holiday Tea. Children and staff decorated their cottages in creative, festive themes and provided refreshments and tasty treats. Some of the cottage themes included Pokémon, superheroes, Christmas in Candyland and holiday Minions. The children were dressed in their holiday best, greeted visitors and offered tours of the cottages.

As you may have heard, the Social Services Agency (SSA) has been making strides at reducing the length of time foster youth are placed at OCFC. For the past year, SSA has begun to implement legislative requirements of California's Child Welfare Continuum of Care Reform, which aims to further increase the utilization of home-



based care for foster youth. Operating under this new framework, SSA will be working closely with the California Department of Social Services beginning in 2017 to eventually transition OCFC to a 10-day shelter, while ensuring that OCFC continues to serve as a critical placement resource for Orange County youth. For more than 31 years, OCFC has evolved and implemented numerous initiatives, while successfully reducing the daily census and serving as a safe refuge for Orange County's abused and neglected children. We congratulate and thank SSA and its team at OCFC for playing such a vital role in the success of our continuum of care in Orange County and look forward to OCFC continuing to serve as a critical resource.

Resolve to Close the Recycling Loop in 2017

Have you ever wondered why some plastics are recyclable and others not? Do you want to buy products made from recycled materials, but you don't know where or how? In order to recycle more materials, there must be a market for products made from the recycled materials. In order to create markets for recycled materials, we need to buy recycled products. This is how consumers can close the recycling loop.

CalRecycle provides a search tool for recycled-content product manufacturers in California, some of which offer retail products. For example, there are ceramic and glass tile products that use recycled materials and several paper product options. Click here to visit the search tool.

Want to learn more about closing the recycling loop? Call 714-834-4000.



Christmas Tree Recycling

As quickly as the holidays arrive, you blink and they're over. Once again, it's time to pack up and clean up until next year. Proper handling of live Christmas trees is part of the clean-up, and making sure they are recycled is important.

Most trees can be chipped and turned into mulch if the right steps are taken during the first weeks after the holidays. Christmas tree recycling requirements are different for each city and hauler—including when the pick up begins and how long it's available. Check with your hauler to get details. You can find your waste hauler's contact information here.



In addition, here are some general tips to ensure your tree is repurposed the best way possible:

- 1. Check ahead with your hauler to find out how long they will be collecting trees for recycling. This can help save time and money by having your tree picked up as part of your regular service.
- 2. Clarify with the hauler if they have a height limit to leaving your tree curbside in one piece, or if they require the tree to be cut and placed in the green waste bin.
- 3. Remove all decorations, including tinsel, lights, tree stands and ornaments.
- 4. Flocked trees cannot be recycled. They may be cut down and placed in your regular trash bin.
- 5. If you miss the tree recycling dates of your hauler, check for other regional collections with your city or other fundraising events.

Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless: Sign Up to Help for January 28!

Every two years, in the last week of January, a county-wide Point in Time Count (PIT) takes place to count and survey the homeless population in Orange County. The PIT Count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally to meet a Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements for the Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless programs. Locally the CoC supports the coordinated efforts of 15 nonprofit agencies that provide rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness within our communities. The Count process is a critical factor in determining the amount of federal funding the County receives to serve the homeless population. It also provides information on how to improve the available resources and approaches to meet the needs of the different populations.

The 2017 Count provides opportunity for communities to come together to learn about the resources available, gain insights into the plight of people that are currently experiencing homelessness and make a contribution to the broader solutions to end homelessness in our county. Because having an accurate and comprehensive Count relies on the participation of hundreds of volunteers, I am inviting you to volunteer in the 2017 Point in Time Count on Saturday, January 28th from 4:30 am to 9:00 am. The 2017 Count will be deployed from five deployment centers located in each of the Supervisorial Districts to survey in the surrounding neighborhoods.

An estimated 1,500 volunteers are needed to work in the field and at deployment centers on the morning of the count. To register as a volunteer, please visit the project website at www.pointintimeoc.org or email pointintimeoc.org.
Additional information on ways to get involved or make a charitable donation is available at www.pointintimeoc.org.

Thank you for your time and effort in assuring that homeless and at-risk individuals and families in our county receive the care and services they need.

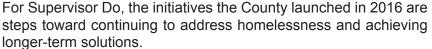
Five County Leaders Named Among OC's 100 Most Influential People of 2016



The listing of Orange County's 100 most influential people in 2016, published by the Orange County Register, includes five County government leaders - Supervisor Andrew Do, 1st

District; Dr. Eric Handler, public health officer and Waste Not OC Coalition co-founder: Susan Price, director of care coordination: Neal Kelley, registrar of voters; and Scott 2016'S GAME CHANGERS IN ORANGE COUNTY Sanders, assistant public defender.

Supervisor Do received the recognition for his leadership and involvement in many of the County's recent efforts to help the homeless, according to the article written on him by reporter Jordan Graham. "In 2016, he (Supervisor Do) hired a director to coordinate the County's homeless services, helped obtain a grant toward opening the County's first emergency psychiatric centers and persuaded County officials to work quickly to open a homeless shelter in a former bus terminal, which now accommodates 430 people," Graham wrote.







"In the new year, we're going to focus on 'How do we help transition people permanently out of homelessness?' Let's not just put a Band-Aid on the problem," Supervisor Do said. "I also believe that the bulk of the problem we see down here in the Civic Center is related to mental health. So we can't begin to tackle homelessness until we have a system in place to deal with mental health."

Dr. Handler made the list of the "100 Most Influential People" of Orange County 2016" for his efforts to address hunger in the County through his leadership of both the Health Care Agency and the Waste Not OC Coalition, a public-private partnership. As written in reporter Courtney Perkes' article on Dr. Handler, "Many counties are interested in replicating the Waste Not OC program, which uses County health inspectors who already visit food establishments to inform owners that federal law protects them from liability when donating excess food. The effort also helps businesses comply with state efforts to drastically reduce the amount of

organic material going to landfills. In 2016, the National Association of County and City Health Officials gave the program its model practice award."

The Waste Not OC Coalition was envisioned several years ago by Dr. Handler and OC Food Bank Manager Mark Lowery. Since its inception in 2012, Waste Not OC has recovered 350.5 tons of extra food from local businesses that would have otherwise been thrown away and transformed the surplus into 577,143 meals for residents in need.

Susan Price gained recognition as an influencer in the County based on her work with the area's homeless population. Since she assumed the newly created position with the County in May, she presented an assessment of homeless resources and services in the County and outlined 24 recommendations. In October, the County opened The Courtyard, a shelter in an old bus terminal in Santa Ana, and a new County homeless shelter is expected to open in Anaheim in 2017.

What really matters to Price, according to the **article** written by Theresa Walker, is helping people achieve long-term solutions and transition into housing.

"What's most important to me is having people shift their mindset into 'I can do this' and then 'I can do more," Price said.





In a year filled with election-related news, Neal Kelley made the list of "100 Most Influential People of Orange County 2016" for his efforts building the County's elections office into a model for others throughout the state. According to the **article** written by Martin Wisckol, Kelley's office is known for its innovation and for typically being among the first in the state to file final election tallies.

While Kelley has made a significant impact in his role so far, he remains focused on the future and additional improvements that can be made.

"Our biggest goal – and one that we have been planning for now for four years – is the transition to a new voting system. Technology has advanced far beyond the capabilities of (the current) voting system," Kelley said.

Scott Sanders gained recognition in 2016 by raising awareness of issues related to how Orange County

prosecutors and law enforcement agencies have used jailhouse informants. In response to such allegations, the U.S. Department of Justice launched an investigation into the District Attorney's Office and the Orange County Sheriff's Department in December.

The federal investigation is a welcome development to Sanders, who hopes it will have a positive impact on the County, according to the **article** written by Tony Saavedra.

"It is hoped that the Justice Department's probe will help reform the system so that all Orange County residents will receive the constitutional protections to which they are entitled," Sanders said.

Congratulations to Supervisor Do, Dr. Handler, Susan Price, Neal Kelley and Scott Sanders for being named in the list of the "100 Most Influential People of Orange County 2016," and thanks for all you do!



OC Public Defender Receives Patriot Award



Sharon Petrosino, Orange County public defender, received a Patriot Award from the Department of Defense on Tuesday, Dec. 6, in recognition for her support of employee participation in the U.S. National Guard and Reserve Force.

Frank Bittar, a senior attorney IV with the Public Defender's Office and a judge advocate general in the California National Guard, nominated Sharon for the award.

"Ms. Petrosino has been exceedingly supportive of my military service," Frank wrote in the award nomination letter. "Moreover, she has welcomed and hired multiple applicants with prior military service ranging from attorneys to support staff. Ms. Petrosino understands that defending the constitution is not restricted to courtroom representation of the indigent populations, but it also means to defend and to support those who have sacrifice for all of us."

The Patriot Award reflects efforts of individual supervisors to support Guardsmen and Reservists, whether in the form of "flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed," according to According to the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) website. For more information, visit the ESGR website.



HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES News You Can Use

2017: New Benefits Plan Year - New Benefits Center!

January 1, 2017 starts the new benefits plan year and we have a new County of Orange Benefits Center and extended call center hours!

If you made a health plan change during Open Enrollment and have not yet received your ID card, you can contact your health plan member services department directly if you need to schedule medical services before your card arrives. Many provider offices routinely verify eligibility online without a card and in many cases your health plan's member services representatives can show you where to print a temporary ID card from home using their website.



Cigna Choice HMO

www.cigna.com/CountyofOrange 1-800-244-6224

Kaiser Choice HMO

www.my.kp.org/ca/oc 1-800-464-4000

Wellwise and Sharewell PPO (Administered by Blue Shield of California)

www.blueshieldca.com/oc

1-888-235-1767

To report new life events, if you have questions, or need assistance with a benefits issue you have two ways to get information. You can call and speak with a Benefits Specialist from Monday – Friday (except holidays) from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. or you can visit the Benefits Center Website at: https://countyoforange.ielect.com

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD

For general information on 2017 benefits, the transition to the new Benefits Center and a wealth of other benefits information and resources including the wellness program and EAP please visit the County Employee Benefits website:

http://ocgov.com/gov/hr/eb/

OC Healthy Steps Update –Did you know that the County wellness program OC Healthy Steps won a 2016 National Association of Counties achievement award? Watch your mailbox and email in the coming weeks for information on 2016 OC Healthy Steps results and some exciting new wellness opportunities and challenges for 2017. You can also get information, tools and resources at any time by visiting the OC Healthy Steps website at http://ochealthysteps.staywell.com

2016 Calendar Year-End and 2017 Tax Changes

To keep you up-to-date and to provide you with some general reminders, please take note of the following:

W-2s:

The County of Orange is in the process of finalizing the Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statements. They will be mailed/distributed no later than Jan. 31, 2017.

Please do not misplace your 2016 Form W-2. If you need a replacement copy of your Form W-2, you can print a copy from Paystub Portal.



Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate:

Now is the time to check your Federal and State tax withholding allowances. Did you marry or divorce, gain or lose a dependent, or have major changes in your family income? If you answered "yes," you may need to file a new 2017 Form W-4 Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate.

If you are currently claiming "exempt" from tax withholding, you must submit a new Form W-4 by Feb. 15, 2017, if you wish to retain your exempt status. If a new form is not filed and submitted to Central Payroll, withholding for Federal and State taxes will automatically default to "Single" with zero withholding allowances. Form can be found on the Payroll Website.

457 Deferred Compensation Plan:

This is an opportunity for employees who are enrolled in the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan to save funds for retirement, through pre-tax, post-tax (Roth) or a hybrid of both. The maximum amount remains the same for 2017.

As of Jan. 1, 2017, you will be allowed to defer up to \$18,000 annually from your salary. A special provision in the law also allows an additional \$6,000 if age 50 or older.

If you are eligible for retirement within three years, you are eligible for the pre-retirement "catch-up" provision in the 457 Plan. Your total deferral may increase up to \$36,000 effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Note: Contributions are deducted each pay period (26 per year). Set up your deduction to meet the maximum by dividing the total deduction amount of \$18,000 by 26 pay periods to determine the maximum amount of \$692.31 to reach the full amount by the end of the year to maximize savings for retirement.

Please contact Empower to determine if you qualify for the additional \$6,000 or the "catch-up" provision at 800-701-8255. Set up your deductions online through the Empower website at https://www.countyoforangedcplan.com.

Workplace Safety - Are You A Safe Driver?

Did you know that according to national statistics, motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death and injury in the workplace, and the cost of a single accident can exceed \$1.4 million? A few driving dangers are the "Drowsy Driver," the "Agressive Driver" and the newest trend – "Live Streaming by the Distracted Driver."

ARE YOU A DROWSY DRIVER?

Sleep-deprived drivers who miss one or two hours of the recommended seven hours of sleep per night have the same crash risk as drunk drivers according to a 2016 report published by the American Automobile Association. If you are having trouble keeping your eyes open, drifting from lanes or not remembering the last few miles driven, you are probably a Drowsy Driver. Don't rely on your



body to display warning signs of fatigue; get the recommended seven hours of sleep.



ARE YOU AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVER?

If you experience tendencies of anger, impatience, competition and punishment while driving, you may need to take measures to reduce these agressions. So, live in the moment – you are driving a car! You are not "making a statement" or winning a race.

Focus on speed limits, positions of other vehicles on the road, weather and road conditions, and always





You are 30 times more likely to be ejected from the vehicle if you don't wear your seatbelt, and 75 percent of drivers/passengers ejected from vehicles die from their injuries. Your seatbelt is a primary restraint system and the most effective way to prevent injury in a crash.

ARE YOU A DISTRACTED DRIVER?

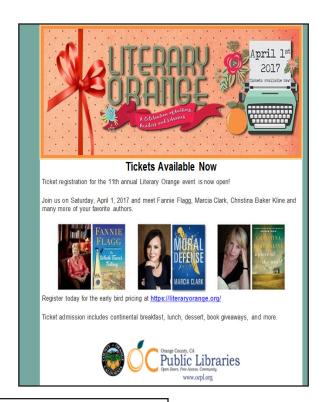
Distractions while driving are talking, texting, emailing, eating, drinking, putting on make-up, shaving, looking in the backseat and fiddling with the radio or GPS. Did you know that the new trend for distracted driving is Live – Streaming? Smartphones and popular apps such as Periscope, Snapchat and Facebook Live (live video watched by others in real time or after the fact) have become an essential part of day-to-day life. Drivers using these apps have significantly increased. To avoid distractions, drivers should save the call, text, email or selfie, and hold off on their live-streaming. It is more important to keep calm, relax and get to your designation safely.

Always be ready for the unexpected, but at the same time do what is expected!

For additional Workforce Safety Tips And Defensive Driving Training, contact CEO Safety and Prevention Program at 714-285-5500 or by emailing Safety@ocgov.com

Events







Service Awards

for the month of December

40 Years

Lisa PowersSocial Services Agency

35 Years

Vicki Black
District Attorney

Cathy Nowak
OC Community
Resources

Richard Rodriguez Sheriff-Coroner Yolanda Guerrero Social Services Agency

30 Years

Deanna QuinnProbation

Lynn GroverPublic Defender

Constance Istratescu
Probation

Jeffrey Brown Sheriff-Coroner

Bruce Houlihan Sheriff-Coroner

Katherine Mcleod Social Services Agency

25 Years

Pradeep ParikhAuditor-Controller

Julie Butler
District Attorney

James Laird District Attorney Susan Laird District Attorney

Anne SelinDistrict Attorney

Tammy SpurgeonDistrict Attorney

Gerard Aguirre
Health Care Agency

Janice Coniglio
Health Care Agency

Chiu Vu Health Care Agency Renee Aguilar-Ramirez
OC Community
Resources

Donald Zeigler OC Community Resources

Ariel Corpuz
OC Public Works

Jeffrey Croy
OC Public Works

David Fernandez OC Public Works

Christopher Cullen Probation

Scott Mitchell Sheriff-Coroner

Walter Carmona Sheriff-Coroner **Dennis Segismundo** Sheriff-Coroner Maria Alarcon Social Services Agency **Alexander Alluin** Social Services Agency

(Continued on page 21)

25 Years Continued

Isabel Alvarez

Social Services Agency

Arcelia Arroyo

Social Services Agency

Yolanda Brito

Social Services Agency

Frances Contreras

Social Services Agency

Maricela Cortez

Social Services Agency

Evelyn Cruz Social Services Agency

Social Services Agency

Teresa D'Alessandro Social Services Agency Angelica Garcia Social Services Agency

David Guevara

Social Services Agency

Martin Guzman Victor Guzman Rosa Macedo

Social Services Agency

Carlos Martinez

Lilian Mejia Social Services Agency Social Services Agency Nina Nguyen

Social Services Agency

Social Services Agency

Tram Nguyen

Social Services Agency

Van Nguyen

Social Services Agency

Hilda Nunez

Social Services Agency

David Quan

Social Services Agency

Laura Truiillo

Social Services Agency

Tina Vargas

Social Services Agency

20 Years

Pauline Bui

Health Care Agency

Health Care Agency

OC Community

Resources

Jenny Hudson Health Care Agency Maria Olvera Health Care Agency

Kelly Soemantoro

Frank Hernandez

Joseph Chen

Health Care Agency

Rommel Ocampo OC Waste & Recycling Mark De La Riva Probation

Jonathan Garcia

Probation

Jacob Kauble

Probation

Robert Moreno

Probation

Carlos Pina Probation

Cynthia Pais Sheriff-Coroner

Erica Aguilera Sheriff-Coroner **Dominic Dinh** Sheriff-Coroner

Gilbert Gonzalez Sheriff-Coroner

Donna Meyers Sheriff-Coroner

Patricia Neiman Sheriff-Coroner

Timmothy Tusztai Sheriff-Coroner

Luke South Sheriff-Coroner

Chad Taylor Sheriff-Coroner **David Harper**

Service Awards, please click **here**.

Maria Jimenez Social Services Agency Social Services Agency

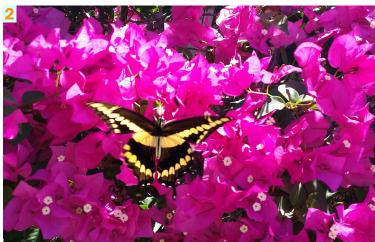
To view the December list in its entirety, which also includes recipients of 5, 10 and 15-year

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.

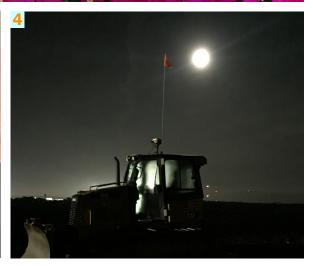
PARTING SHOT!

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.



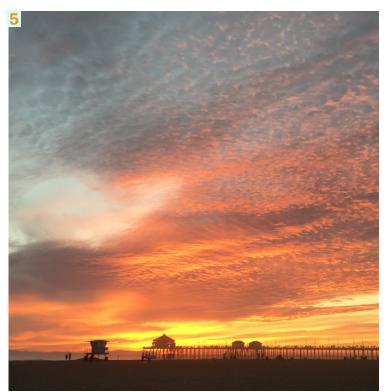






- **1. Lauren Singletary,** Social Services Agency, "took this picture down at Dana Point harbor. It was the morning after the heavy rain and the run off makes a double waterfall off the cliff above. So pretty. People thought I was in Hawaii!
- 2. Audrey Marshall, Health Care Agency prevention support, snapped a photo of a beautiful monarch butterfly in her own backyard. The yellow of the wings is really contrasted against the pink of the flowers.
- 3. James Strozier, Health Care Agency hazardous materials specialist, captured this "Sunrise at Olinda Alpha Landfill in the City of Brea Beauty can be found in all places if you look close enough."
- **4. Jose Gamboa,** OC Waste & Recycling superintendent, photographed the last supermoon back on Dec. 14. The view was from the Olinda Alpha Landfill in Brea.

(Parting Shot continued)





- 4. Kevin Do, Health Care Agency environmental health specialist captured this amazing sunset. "The Huntington Beach Pier on our way back home from a family bike tour. Take a moment to enjoy life's simple pleasures with your friends and family."
- **5. Maria Berumen,** Child Support Services specialist, stated, "Every morning on my my way to work I see the cozy birdies getting warm on the traffic light of the 22 Freeway East Exit at Glassell St. It is a pretty site to see every morning on my way to work."

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. 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.



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