



CEO's Message



A Year to Remember

For many reasons, 2009 will be a year to remember for the County of Orange. The financial challenges faced this year have been a real test of our ability to cope with adversity and respond to changing circumstances. For many of you, 2009 has been a year that has included personal sacrifice. I hope you know how thankful I am to each of you for helping us get through these hard times and how much it means that many of you have "leaned forward" to help each other through these challenges.

I hope 2009 will also be remembered as a year of accomplishments for the County. This year, we reached new agreements with many of the County's major labor unions and we continued to address the issue of unfunded pension liabilities

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Health for the Holidays

Holiday gatherings and traditions will pose additional challenges this year for those trying to protect themselves from H1N1 influenza, as well as the other seasonal illnesses common during the fall and winter.

There is some encouraging news in the fight against H1N1. The H1N1 influenza vaccine appears to be well matched to the virus circulating in the community. Even though some areas of the country have reported a slight decrease in H1N1 activity, the virus is likely to be circulating in our community for several months and the regular seasonal influenza viruses are expected at any time, so continued vigilance is called for in the weeks ahead.

More H1N1 vaccine is being distributed each week to health care providers in Orange County, so those in the groups target for vaccination should continue their efforts to get the influenza vaccine. These individuals include pregnant women, people who live with or provide care for infants aged less than 6 months, health-care and emergency medical services personnel, persons aged 6 months through 24 years, and adults from 25 through 64 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications. For more information about the availability of H1N1 influenza vaccine, visit the Health Care Agency website at www.ochealthinfo.com or contact your health care provider.

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through the approval of a new tier of pension benefits that we will start implementing in 2010. Your work was recognized by a number of prestigious organizations, such as the California State Association of Counties, through the presentation of awards honoring innovation and outstanding public service. Just as meaningful are the things that you do every day that may go without formal recognition but help to make the County a strong and vibrant organization.

It will require much hard work and dedication to keep this forward momentum going in 2010. The national, state and local economies continue to struggle in their recovery from what is being called the "Great Recession." While increased caseload based funding has allowed us to restore some of the previous reductions, the County's sales tax, Prop 172 and realignment revenues are below what we had forecasted for the current fiscal year. This will have implications for the rest of this year and the 2010-11 budget. While we may have as many questions as answers about what the future holds, I know how far we have come and I am confident that we will continue to work together through these tough economic times.

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer

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The Health Care Agency estimates there are 1.6 million Orange County residents in these high-risk groups and the total supply of influenza vaccine available has only been about one-third of that number. There are also about 1.5 million people in Orange County who do not fall into these risk groups and do not qualify for the initial H1N1 vaccine distribution. That means taking basic precautions to protect your health will be as important as ever.

Holiday parties and gatherings that bring people together are settings in which influenza may spread. Covering your cough and sneeze, not touching your eyes, nose and mouth and frequent hand washing can help protect you from influenza viruses. Perhaps one of the most important prevention steps you can take is staying home if you are sick. While you may miss a great holiday party or event, you may help to protect the health of family, friends and others, giving them a tremendous and thoughtful gift! ■

Give The Gift of Hope with Holiday Donation & Volunteer Opportunities

*"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."*

~Winston Churchill



Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa & Friends

The 2009 Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa & Friends annual gift drive began Nov. 12th and will continue through Dec. 23rd.

The program has grown tremendously since its inception in 1962. Last year, over 43,000 gifts were distributed to needy children and teens, and more than 2,272 elderly and disabled adults received gifts through Senior Santa and Friends.

Look for the Angel Tags and collection boxes in your office building and at OC Public Libraries countywide. Donations can also be dropped off at the Operation Santa Claus Store located at 1505 E. Warner Ave., Santa Ana, 92705.

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★ YOU CAN DONATE!

New unwrapped toys, gifts, gift certificates and monetary donations help Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa and Friends fulfill holiday wishes for less fortunate members of our community.

★ YOU CAN VOLUNTEER!

Help at our Santa Ana location by unpacking, sorting and preparing donated gifts and toys for distribution.

To learn more about how you can help brighten someone's life this holiday season, including opportunities to volunteer your time, view the [Operation Santa Claus/Senior Santa and Friends flyer](#) online or call (714) 679-2438.

Giving From the Heart 2009

Adopting a family for the holidays through the Probation Community Action Association's (PCAA) "Giving From the Heart" campaign has been a successful program within the Orange County community for several years. Last year, 57 local families were adopted and more than

1,000 individuals received holiday toys or gifts thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers.

[Click here to learn more](#) or contact Lois McKoon at (714) 669-2153 or Lois.McKoon@prob.ocgov.com.

Holiday Hope 2009: Food for Families

Holiday Hope is a Health Care Agency (HCA) holiday assistance program that began in 1985 to provide food for the agency's neediest clients during the holiday season. HCA staff work with a variety of clients, many of whom have serious medical and nutritional problems. The program is designed to provide these families with a holiday meal.

★ YOU CAN HELP!

- Volunteer to feed-a-family by donating a grocery store gift certificate.
- Make a cash donation to the Holiday Hope program for the purchase of grocery gift certificates.

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★ SUGGESTIONS!

- Feed a family as a group with your co-workers instead of having your usual office gift exchange.
- Make it a family affair. Teach your children about helping.

Click here for more details about the Holiday Hope “Feed a Family” program or call (714) 834-4144. ■

HOLIDAY HOPE
2009
Food for Families

With your help, Health Care Agency Volunteer Services will offer holiday food assistance to needy clients in our clinics for the 25th year.

How Does It Work?
Employers in Health Care Agency clinics refer their most impoverished clients. Many live at nutritional risk because of their low-income level. The program is designed to provide them with food during the holidays, made possible by generous donations from the community and county employees.

You Can Help!

- Volunteer to feed a family by donating a grocery gift certificate.
- Make a cash donation to the *Holiday Hope* program for the purchase of grocery gift certificates.

Suggestions!

- Feed a family as a group with your co-workers instead of having your usual office gift exchange.
- Make it a family affair. Teach your children about helping.

Please bring goodwill and happiness to a needy family by completing the reverse side of this form and returning it to:

HCA/Volunteer Services
4015 W. 5th Street, Suite 300
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Phone: (714) 834-4144 • Building HCA 38-C
**Please return by December 22, 2009*

OC Parks Wins Discovery Science Center Gingerbread Competition

OC Parks newest park – one made of gingerbread – won the Best Creation by a Corporation award in the Discovery Science Center’s Science of Gingerbread contest on Dec. 2nd.

A group of OC Parks staff toiled more than 100 hours at home, after work and on their

lunch breaks building their confection creation from donated materials. The gingerbread park included Park Rangers, children, a Park Ranger station, duck pond and a beach. It even included a gingerbread dog – on a candy leash, of course.

Recent graduates of OC Parks’ Project Management program and the gingerbread team put their skills to work, even drafting a work breakdown structure and Gantt chart (a form used as a project management schedule).

The gingerbread park features green-dyed coconut grass, a crushed-saltine beach-rock swale, and pretzel-rod Ranger Station. A four-sided kiosk was painted with frosting to represent OC Parks’ different types of facilities: regional, wilderness, coastal and historical parks. Other building materials included brown sugar, pinto beans, a mixture of gummy and hard candies, as well as mounds of frosting. This was the first year OC Parks participated in the competition. The gingerbread creations will be on view at the Discovery Science Center through Jan. 3rd. ■

OC PARKS SLIDESHOW: CLICK HERE



OC Parks’ gingerbread park took the top prize in the Discovery Science Center’s Science of Gingerbread contest. [Click here to see slideshow.](#) (If a security window appears, select “allow.”)

New Program Bolsters County's Fire Defenses

With memories of the 2008 Freeway Complex Fire fresh in many people's minds, a new OC Fire Watch program was launched in November to alert the public of fire dangers while protecting Orange County's beautiful wilderness parks.

The new Fire Watch program was jointly announced by Board of Supervisors Chair Patricia C. Bates, OC Parks Director Mark Denny

FIRE WATCH SLIDESHOW: CLICK HERE



Representatives of many Southern California media outlets were on hand when Board of Supervisors Chair Patricia C. Bates announced the County's new OC Fire Watch Program. [Click here to see slideshow.](#) (If a security window appears, select "allow.")

and Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Chief Keith Richter. During times of elevated fire danger, such as during Santa Ana wind conditions accompanied by high temperatures and low humidity levels, fire alert flags will be raised at OC Park facilities, OCFA Fire Stations and in other public locations. In addition, OC Parks is recruiting Fire Watch volunteers who will fan out in teams to patrol wilderness park areas and report fires or suspicious activities. "OC Parks manages nearly 40,000 acres of beautiful parkland and wilderness that is still largely in its natural, undisturbed state," OC Parks Director Mark Denny said. Several County parks have been damaged by previous wildfires, such as the Santiago Fire two years ago.

Fire Watch volunteers will attend an orientation session and receive training from OCFA staff on safety, communications and reporting procedures. The OC Fire Watch program will join a growing number of programs in Orange County designed to prevent fires or spot and report them in their earliest stages. For more information about volunteering for the OC Fire Watch program, contact Angeline Santiago, OC Parks Volunteer Services Coordinator, at (714) 480-2827 or by e-mail at Angeline.Santiago@HCS.ocgov.com. ■

OC Parks Expands Recycling Program

OC Parks teamed with OC Waste & Recycling to significantly expand the recycling program that began back in 1999, more than doubling the number of recycling cans at County parks.

Earlier this year, OC Waste & Recycling was able to utilize grant funds awarded by the California Department of Conservation. This grant money was awarded to Orange County out of

the funds generated by the California Recycling Value (CRV) fee that residents pay each time they purchase a recyclable beverage container.

OC Parks District Supervisor Steve Bonhall worked with Christine Knapp, Manager of Recycling Programs with OC Waste & Recycling, to select the color and style of the new cans and identify potential placement locations. "We

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PARK SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



designed the logo and text and they made the purchase and coordinated delivery – it was a great opportunity to exemplify our core values of inter-departmental cooperation and partnership,” said Bonhall.

The recycling program, which launched a decade ago with 79 cans at seven facilities, has grown to include 164 cans at 22 facilities (92% of the entire OC Parks system). Plans for continued expansion are already in place for 2010. ■

A new recycling can at Mile Square Regional Park, one of 22 OC Parks facilities featuring the program. Please [click here](#) to view a slideshow of the park, located in Fountain Valley.

Olinda Alpha Landfill Hosts Demonstration of Electric Caterpillar Tractor

Yellow is the new green for Caterpillar’s latest earth-moving machine, the D7E tractor. Supervisor Bill Campbell and Mike Giancola, Director of OC Waste & Recycling, along with Air Quality Management District officials participated in a demonstration of the electric, diesel tractor last month at the Olinda Alpha Landfill in Brea.

Supervisor Campbell took the wheel and demonstrated the machine’s relative versatility to easily maneuver while moving piles of dirt.

The D7E tractor uses an electric drive system that yields 10 to 30 percent greater fuel economy. The diesel and electric technology allows the machine to burn considerably less fuel and consume fewer fluids – which ultimately leads to reduced operating costs and fewer air emissions. By delivering better engine power to the ground, the D7E uses a smaller engine than comparable machines, yet still outperforms them.

OC Waste & Recycling is considering purchasing one of the new tractors, the cost of which may be offset by

grant funding. “This is the right direction for us. The D7E is an environmentally superior way of doing business, and it also saves us money. It just makes sense. It is a perfect example of sustainability,” said Mike Giancola. The department recently received a \$1.05 million grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District and anticipates receiving another \$500,000. The grant money will be used to repower some of OCWR’s heavy equipment fleet to cut harmful emissions. ■

TRACTOR SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



The D7E tractor yields 10 to 30 percent greater fuel economy using an electric drive system. [Click here](#) to see slideshow. (If a security window appears, select “allow.”)

2009 United Way Campaign a Success

The Holidays have always been a time of reflection and of giving. The Orange County Employees United Way Campaign is a perfect example of giving and creating hope and joy for others. I would like to extend to all of you my best wishes for a special time this holiday season with your family, friends and those you hold dear. For their extra special effort during the 2009 United Way Campaign. I would also like to thank Board Chair Patricia Bates and all of the members of Board of Supervisors, CEO Information Technology, and all of our 2009 United Way Campaign representatives and agency coordinators. A special thank you to District Attorney Tony Rackauckas for kindly Co-Chairing this year's Campaign with me, and to Co-Chair Steve Franks, Director of OC Community Resources, who has stepped up to accept the position of Chair for the 2010 United Way Campaign. If you have not been part of the County United Way Campaign before please consider participating now and in 2010. As we begin planning for next year, your time and commitment are greatly appreciated!

In reflecting on this year's campaign, we had great success in employee participation. Although we had a challenging year economically, our county employees showed their continued support and came out to the United Way Leadership Breakfast, the Kick-Off at Civic Center Plaza and participated in over 30 agency fundraising events. Many employees this year learned for the first time about United Way and how it is helping families, children, seniors, veterans and many others in our community. Thank you for deciding to make United Way your choice for regular giving.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your 2009 Orange County Employees United Way Campaign Chair. Happy Holidays! ■

Colleene Preciado, Chief Probation Officer

Get the 411 on OC County Volunteer & Intern Resources Program

- In the past fiscal year, 39,720 individuals (volunteers, interns & reserves) contributed 839,125 hours of service within 20 County Agencies and Departments and several Board offices.
- The value of volunteers' collective service is estimated at \$23.5 million for FY 2008/09.
- 43 County volunteers and volunteer programs were honored in six national, four state and 10 local award and recognition ceremonies last year, including the President's Volunteer Service Award.
- Volunteers generously donate time across the County in dozens of disciplines, a few of which include outreach to at-risk youth, homeless and the elderly; providing health care; tutoring; leading tours and supplementing law enforcement programs.
- In addition to saving the County millions, volunteerism promotes citizen involvement and participatory democracy, enhances quality of life, fosters positive community relationships and prepares students for higher education and careers.

To learn more about the Volunteer & Intern Program or to read the annual utilization report, visit www.ocgov.com/volunteer.asp.



Service Awards

For the Month of November

35 YEARS

Janice Dunford
Health Care Agency

John Pavlik
OC Public Works

George Valenzuela
OC Waste & Recycling

30 YEARS

Jorge Lopez
Assessor

Crispina Beleber
Auditor-Controller

Velma Trevino
Child Support Services

Lorena Rios
District Attorney

William Hunt
Health Care Agency

Jan Shoda
Health Care Agency

James Morris
John Wayne Airport

Jeanette Brone
OC Public Works

John Honsberger
OC Public Works

Randall Ressel
OC Public Works

Carlos Rosales
OC Public Works

Christopher Dunn
Sheriff-Coroner

Dorothy Gamino
Sheriff-Coroner

Rosa Manzo
Sheriff-Coroner

Timothy Morris
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Russell
Sheriff-Coroner

Benjamin Stripe
Sheriff-Coroner

**Darlene Denham
Martinez**
Social Services Agency

Ha Ngan Nguyen
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Linda Casas
Auditor-Controller

Evangelina Camarena
District Attorney

Sina Pousima
District Attorney

Marta McCanne
Health Care Agency

Anita Covey
OC Community Resources

William Kratsch
OC Public Works

Steve Danley
Office of the Performance Audit
Director

Yolanda Monteon-Martinez
Probation Department

Maria Harrell
Sheriff-Coroner

Joseph Saddler
Sheriff-Coroner

Kenny Wong
Sheriff-Coroner

Renee Beltran
Social Services Agency

Wendy Mather
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Patria Torres
Child Support Services

Rob Richardson
County Executive Office

Ramona Macias
District Attorney

Maria Aguilar
Health Care Agency

Elizabeth Bausman
Health Care Agency

Bri Dewey
Health Care Agency

Grace Eskander
Health Care Agency

Virginia Fernandez
Health Care Agency

Valerie Kenekeo
Health Care Agency

George Masaryk
Health Care Agency

Stela Olariu
Health Care Agency

Patricia Palacios
Health Care Agency

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**20 YEARS
CONTINUED**

Brenda Puepke
Health Care Agency

Yvonne Flynn
John Wayne Airport

Kathleen Dumas
OC Community Resources

Michael Escarcida
OC Community Resources

Dennis McGuire
OC Community Resources

Kathleen Pilz
OC Community Resources

Mary Collins
OC Public Works

Alan Engelmann
OC Public Works

Ralph Lanternier
OC Public Works

Richard Licerio
OC Public Works

Carlos Lopez
OC Public Works

Louie Lopez
OC Public Works

William Stiles
OC Public Works

Robert Valle
OC Public Works

John Chen
OC Waste & Recycling

Sandra Bloch
Probation Department

Velma Owens
Probation Department

Ana Rosas
Probation Department

Catherine Stiver
Probation Department

Eric Brown
Sheriff-Coroner

Annette Corrao
Sheriff-Coroner

Noel Dela Llana
Sheriff-Coroner

Tammy Descoteaux
Sheriff-Coroner

Lorence Esslinger
Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Garcia
Sheriff-Coroner

Marcelo Jimenez
Sheriff-Coroner

Darren Johns
Sheriff-Coroner

Kenneth Kropidlowski
Sheriff-Coroner

Renee Lobato
Sheriff-Coroner

Scott Montoya
Sheriff-Coroner

John O'Leary
Sheriff-Coroner

Nancy Rangel
Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Rivas
Sheriff-Coroner

Aaron Schulte
Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Scott
Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Stoffel
Sheriff-Coroner

Debora Vantor
Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Velderrain
Sheriff-Coroner

Juan Villegas
Sheriff-Coroner

Laurence Werner
Sheriff-Coroner

Kathleen Bridges
Social Services Agency

Lenai Carraway
Social Services Agency

Lawanda Crawley
Social Services Agency

Sherry De Hoog
Social Services Agency

Jane Dong
Social Services Agency

David Glidden
Social Services Agency

Frederick Grindle
Social Services Agency

Grace Mulvey
Social Services Agency

Minh Ngo
Social Services Agency

Michelle Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Phuong-Lan Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Tieng Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Margaret Prima-Verbeck
Social Services Agency

Kelly Rice
Social Services Agency

Rebecca Servin
Social Services Agency

CONTACT US

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

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