



News Briefs

NEW HIRES

Bill Hodge Returns to the County to Lead CEO Legislative Affairs

Some things are better the second time around. Just ask William (Bill) Hodge who has returned to the County as Manager of Legislative Affairs. In the 1980s, he worked for



Bill Hodge

Former Supervisor Harriett Wieder, for John Wayne Airport and in the County Administrative Office's Policy and Planning Department.

Hodge returns with an even more extensive public policy background at the local, State and Federal levels of government.

"The County has evolved so much since I worked here last," said Hodge. "This organization is offering more countywide services and there is a feeling of enthusiasm. The opportunity to be a part of it is exciting."

Hodge worked at the Orange County Transportation Authority for more than seven years as Director of External Affairs. He also worked for the Orange County League of Cities as Executive Director for five years. He was a reporter for more than two years at the

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Volunteers Save County More Than \$22 Million

Most people know that the County of Orange is the second largest employer in the county. That's true. Surprisingly, it's the County's good fortune to have even more volunteers than full-time employees. Last year, 19,223 volunteers donated their time to County programs. The volunteers contributed 984,423 hours of service which represents more than \$22 million in avoided costs for County government. In honor of these valuable volunteers, 36 individuals, four groups and one corporate partner will be honored at the ninth annual volunteer recognition event on April 20.

Rick Cryder

Meet Rick Cryder, one of this



Rick Cryder volunteers with inmates at the James A. Musick facility to provide the touch of an angel to families in need.

month's honorees, who founded the Angels of Love program. The angel project began with a small group of volunteers who cre-

ated beautiful, handcrafted, stained-glass angels that were distributed to families of terminally ill children. The angels symbolize hope and comfort for the families.

In 2001, Cryder approached the Sheriff's Correctional Programs Unit and volunteered to instruct inmates on how to make the angels. Over the years, he has involved 964 inmates in the Angels of Love program. Through his leadership and encouragement, the inmates learned the craft and artistry of stained glass design. More than 7,000 angels have been created at the Musick Facility. In addition, he has involved teens at Probation's Joplin Youth Center in the angel project.

Last Memorial Day, 1,057 angels were dedicated to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who lost their lives while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Cryder's dedication has brought smiles to the faces of many who truly needed to be touched by an angel.

Carlos Ortiz

Carlos Ortiz has volunteered with the Sheriff's Explorer Post 449 for more than three years

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Daily Pilot and City News Service. His experiences with researching and writing stories are what sparked his interest in County government.

“Our role in Legislative Affairs is to aggressively pursue the Board of Supervisors’ legislative agenda in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.,” said Hodge. “Our unit works with County departments and agencies to ensure that the Board is plugged in to the State and Federal needs of the County. It’s an exhilarating challenge.”

County Names New Chief of Employee Relations

Dianna Garcia joined the County on April 1 as Chief of Employee Relations. She comes to the County with



Dianna Garcia

a diverse background and more than 25 years in human resources. She worked with the San Juan Unified School District for five years as Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources. She also worked for Oakland Unified School District and US Foodservice/Rykoff-Sexton.

Garcia received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah’s College of Law, her master’s from Westminster College in Utah and her bachelor’s in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

“We are pleased to have Dianna join the County team,” said Tom Mauk, CEO. “She has the background and the right combination of experience and personal traits needed to be successful in this position. She will be a great fit for this job and a tremendous asset to this organization.”

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and has dedicated more than 1,086 hours of service. Last



Carlos Ortiz, Explorer Lieutenant Explorer Post 449

April, while volunteering at his church, Ortiz received a phone call from a man threatening to commit suicide. Ortiz remained calm and contacted the Garden Grove Police Department. While keeping the distraught individual on the telephone, he was able to relay information to the police officers. Ortiz’ poise under pressure assisted the police department in tracing the phone number and halting the potential suicide without injuries to the caller or the officers.

Ortiz has also provided translation assistance to deputies and assisted in a foot pursuit. His dedication and leadership skills are an asset to the community.

Linda & Evan “E.J.” Richardson

If Evan “E.J.” Richardson had his driver’s license, he would probably spend part of each day volunteering at the Orange County Natural History Museum. For the time being, however, this 12-year-old settles for two Sundays a month when his mother, Linda Richardson, willingly chauffeurs him to the museum

where she also volunteers.

E.J. fell in love with the museum on his first visit more than five years ago. When someone suggested that he volunteer at the museum, he jumped at the opportunity, but realized he would have to convince his mom to make the commitment as well. Nearly five years ago, they signed up to volunteer.

Both E.J. and his mom provide a warm welcome for museum visitors, and E.J. leads tours of the facility and speaks with guests about a variety of exhibits. He eagerly shares information about the museum with visitors. He’ll even research questions for answers he doesn’t have so he’s prepared the next time.

In February 2004, E.J. was recognized at a national level for his contributions as a volunteer when he was selected for the Daily Point of Light Award. As part of the award, he received congratulatory letters from President George W. Bush and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.



Linda Richardson (standing) and E.J. Richardson, her son, give a Boy Scout troop a hands-on look at one of the museum’s snakes.

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George A. Carvalho to Oversee Dana Point Harbor Revitalization

His office is nestled in the heart of Dana Point Harbor. He walks around the marina during lunch time. He is discovering all there is to know about the Harbor. George Carvalho was



George Carvalho

named the Director of Dana Point Harbor by CEO Tom Mauk on March 2.

Carvalho will manage two initiatives that

total nearly \$100 million to replace the marina docks and to improve and expand retail shops, parking and trails, and generally revitalize the Harbor.

He has 34 years of experience in City management and has been City Manager for San Clemente, Bakersfield, Santa Clarita and Riverside.

“My number one priority is to implement the two initiatives, and my second is to run the day-to-day harbor operations in an efficient and effective way,” said Carvalho. “The skill set for this project is similar to that of a City Manager. I will be working with security, circulation, parking, park maintenance, finances, project management, planning and inter-governmental issues. It’s a great opportunity.”

Although the Harbor is operated by Resources and Development Management Department, Carvalho was brought on to focus specifically on the Harbor. The plans and reports for Harbor improvements are already complete. Carvalho’s job is to implement the plans and to make sure the projects are completed.

“Dana Point is certainly a beautiful place,” said Carvalho. “It’s exciting and fun to be involved in this project.

“I’ve been away from Orange County for 20 years,” said Carvalho. “It’s good to be back.”

Orange County's Brave Hearts Receive Honors



Last month, the Sheriff’s Department honored 17 employees for their exceptional performance. They are (top row, from left) Sergeant Michael McHenry, Deputy Joseph Sandoval, Community Services Officer Marie A. Chasco, Deputy James E. Christian, Deputy Darren E. Sandberg, Deputy Santos N. Garcia, Deputy Marcus J. Perez, Deputy John R. Heppert Jr., (bottom row, from left) Radio Dispatcher Wendy S. Grove, Radio Dispatcher Jeffrey S. Williams, Deputy Victor A. Pablo, Deputy Douglas P. Earl, Deputy Stuart L. Thomsen, Deputy Christian W. Hays, Deputy Jerome J. Larson, Deputy David Tilstra, and (standing) Sheriff Michael Carona.

From his aerial view, helicopter pilot Deputy David Tilstra could see the suspect walking along a creek bed, carrying a rifle and a green, military ammunition box. While the helicopter hovered closely above to give the Deputy’s co-pilot a better shot, the culprit began to shoot at the helicopter. Moments later Deputy Tilstra realized that he had been shot in the ankle. Despite his injury, the Deputy continued to pilot his helicopter for 90 minutes. He soared over trees, flew under power lines and ducked behind a 60-foot tree in pursuit of the gunman until the sharpshooters’ aim successfully stopped the suspect.

For his courage and actions that day, Deputy Tilstra received the Sheriff Department’s highest honor, a Medal of Valor along with a Purple Heart. In addition to Deputy Tilstra, 16 others were honored at the 17th annual Sheriff’s Medal of Valor luncheon on March 18 for their outstanding

achievement and exceptional performance.

The Medal of Valor is awarded for conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of law enforcement in response to criminal situations involving extreme danger to the officer.

Among the other recipients last month were Deputies Santos Garcia, Marcus Perez and John Heppert. These three deputies came face-to-face with a vicious mountain lion at Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park. The lion had mauled a female bicyclist and killed a male bicyclist.

While deputies in a helicopter searched for the lion from above, Deputy Garcia provided armed ground protection for fire rescue staff. Deputies Heppert and Perez led the way for rescue personnel

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as they hiked down into the park to remove the injured, female victim from the ravine. Once the sun set, the danger level intensified and the wilderness park became an eerie hiding ground for all kinds of predators. Deputies Heppert and Perez watched over the vicinity with only their flashlights guiding the way as they scanned the bushes for the lion. Moments later, they spotted the lion in the underbrush and were close enough to fatally wounding it. All three deputies received the Medal of Courage for their bravery at the wilderness park.

The other outstanding honorees at the Medal of Valor luncheon included the following.

- **Medal of Courage** -- Awarded for the display of bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of law enforcement service in response to non-criminal situations.

Deputy Darren E. Sandberg, Deputy James E. Christian and Community Services Officer Marie A. Chasco

Awarded for their actions during a traffic accident involving a trapped driver in a burning car.

Deputy Victor A. Pablo, Deputy Stuart L. Thomsen, Deputy Jeff T. Crowley, Deputy Douglas P. Earl, Deputy Christian W. Hays

Honored for their actions in tracking and subduing an armed suspect.

- **Purple Heart Medal and Medal of Courage**

Deputy Jerome Larson

Awarded for actions while tracking an armed suspect who had already shot at people at a recycling plant and for receiving two gun shot wounds to the upper body.

- **Medal for Lifesaving** -- Awarded for conspicuous actions while effecting, or attempting to effect, a lifesaving rescue.

Deputy Joseph J. Sandoval

Recognized for saving the life of a man who had possibly suffered a heart attack at a drug store.

Sergeant Michael P. McHenry

Honored for saving the life of a man not breathing and in full cardiac arrest.

In addition, to the deputies who were honored, Dispatchers Wendy S. Grove and Jeffrey S. Williams were awarded the Medal of Merit for their overall assistance with ground units and helicopters during one of the longest stand-offs in Sheriff's Department history.



Chairman Bill Campbell recognized READ / Orange County literacy volunteers last month for their many years of altruistic service in teaching reading.



Timothy Hertel
Resources & Development
Management Department

Robert Hogbin
Sheriff-Coroner

Diane Wortman
Health Care Agency

Benny Martinez
Resources & Development
Management Department

Phung Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Jose Ortega
Public Defender

Kim-Hong Phi
Social Services Agency

Rachel Ramirez
Child Support Services

Melvin Stafford
Sheriff-Coroner

Becky Stone
Health Care Agency

Mike Takesuye
Probation

Ana Torres
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Young
Sheriff-Coroner

Phil Zellmer
Resources & Development
Management Department

35 Years

Richard Delgado
Resources & Development
Management Department

Blanca Hernandez
Health Care Agency

Stephanie Lewis
Probation

25 Years

Leandro Acosta
Sheriff-Coroner

Paul Black
Sheriff-Coroner

Orlando Calleros
Housing & Community
Services

Umberto Cano
Integrated Waste
Management

Cynthia Cunningham
Health Care Agency

Marie Le
Social Services Agency

Shane Lindzy
Resources & Development
Management Department

30 Years

Virginia Crabb
Orange County
Public Library

John Depko
Public Defender

**Addarosa Franco-
Gutierrez**
Auditor-Controller

Van Alan Fusato
Sheriff-Coroner



April 24-30 Administrative Professionals Week

Mark your calendars for a very special week honoring Administrative Professionals. Remember to thank your Administrative Professional during the week of April 24-30 and on Administrative Professional's Day, April 27.

Over the years, Administrative Professionals Week has become one of the largest workplace observances. The event is celebrated worldwide, bringing together millions of people for community events, educational seminars and office celebrations.

Prepare for Promotional Opportunities...

Orange County Human Resources has kicked off its new online recruiting system.

Open an account now and be prepared to apply.

Why Apply?

- You will obtain valuable interviewing experience.
- You will gain greater knowledge of how the County makes a difference.
- And you will be considered for promotions in all County departments.



Apply today at this new address:

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oc/>



Board Chairman Bill Campbell (holding resolution) is assisted by Health Care Agency Director Julie Poulson (to the left) and Social Services Agency Director Angelo Doti (to the right) in proclaiming March as Social Workers' Month. Representatives from SSA and HCA were present to receive the resolution.

County Connection is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Media Relations. All suggestions and comments may be emailed to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com or faxed to 714.796.8426.