

COUNTY Connection



Vol. II, October 2005



Ask the CEO



EMPLOYEE MILITARY PHOTOS SOUGHT

Q. I'd like to see pictures of County Employees who are now or who have been recently served in the military. Could we display those pictures for Veterans' Day on November 11?

A. Great idea! County Connection would will have a special Veterans' Day section featuring the photos of County employees now serving in the military or who have served since 9/11. Send photos in .jpeg format to Connection along with the individual's name, rank, branch of service, and County department where employed. Photos should be emailed to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com. Thank you for the excellent newsletter suggestion.

If you have questions about the County, a suggestion or an idea, send it along to this regular feature in your employee newsletter.

All questions must be signed, but names will not be printed in the newsletter. You may submit items by email to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com. You may also fax to 714.796.8426 or pony to County Connection, third floor, Hall of Administration

Get Real! @ your library during Teen Read Week

It's easy to think that teenagers in "The OC" only spend their time hanging with their friends at the mall, surfing the Internet, surfing the waves and playing video games. Well, reading is alive and well in OC as we celebrate the eighth annual Teen Read Week, October 16-22.

This year's theme, "Get Real! @ your library®," encourages teens to explore the world of nonfiction books, such as biographies, self-help books, strange-but-true stories, and more. Area teens will be reading for the fun of it while enjoying book displays, programs and contests at various Orange County Public Libraries.

Some examples of interesting teen activities include a "Food Fear Factor" celebration of **Shrek** with dining on the cuisine of ogres at the La Habra Library on October 16 from 1-4 pm. An Interactive Mystery Night at Tustin branch will take place on October 21, and teens will enjoy Manga Night with publisher TokyoPop discussing industry trends in this

Japanese comic/art form at the Foothill Ranch Library, October 18 at 7 p.m. Libraries aren't the stuffy places they used to be. A complete list of teen activities at local libraries is available online at <http://www.ocpl.org/events-teens.asp>.



La Habra Library teen volunteer Dulce (right) assists kindergartner Michele with her studies as part of the Homework Help Program during Teen Read Week.

County Librarian John Adams offers these ideas for parents of teens to encourage reading:

- Visit the local public or school library with your teen to attend a program or to check out books.
- Set aside time each night

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for the family to read.

- Give books or magazine subscriptions to your teen as a gift or reward.
- Share your favorite book with your teen.
- Surf the Internet with your teen to learn about new books or authors. A good place to start is www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists.
- Join a book discussion group at the school or public library.

Notably, Orange County's Public Library System has one of the most successful teen summer reading programs in the state. Last summer, more than 2,800 Orange County teens joined a summer reading program at their local libraries with 1,544 teen volunteers contributing more than 25,250 hours.



Children celebrate the "Sounds and Tastes of India" with teens from Diamond Bar High School (rear) at the La Habra Library.

Make Plans Now For the First 72

There is much to know about disaster preparedness, yet remembering one number can make the critical difference for your family's welfare. The number is 72 and, according to Sheriff Michael Carona in a presentation to the Board of Supervisors on September 27, it's the number of hours the general population should expect to take care of itself after a major emergency.

"We saw the chaos after Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc along the Gulf Coast. Our 'Katrina' could be a major Southern California earthquake. The first duty for first-responders after a crisis will be to immediately direct their attention to those situations and people in the most need," said Sheriff Carona. "Because of this, Orange County residents should be prepared with enough food and water to take care of themselves until we can get to them. We're asking the public to plan on being self-sufficient for the first 72 hours after a major incident."

The following is a guide from the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services to help you prepare for the first 72.



Policy makers rehearse at the Emergency Operations Center so that systems and procedures will be flawless when the crisis is the real thing.

1. Identify Your Risk.

List the hazards where you live and work. Find out what natural or human-caused disasters pose a risk for you.

2. Create a Family Disaster Plan.

Your family needs a plan that includes where to meet if you have to evacuate. Make plans for when everyone is home and when people are at work, school, etc. Include someone you have identified as an out-of-state contact. Include sources for emergency information in your community and how to take care of your pets.

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3. **Build a Disaster Supply Kit for Your Home and Car.**
You need a disaster kit that will provide basic needs for at least three days for each member of your family. Kits should be kept at home and in the family vehicles.
4. **Prepare Your Children.**
Talk to your children about what the risks are and what your family will do if disaster strikes. Include them in the planning and kit preparation process.
5. **Practice Your Disaster Plan.**
Start by having family members meet at a designated spot outside your home, just as you would after a fire or after the shaking of an earthquake stops. Know how to respond in the event of the disaster, whether to stay put indoors or evacuate.
6. **Don't Forget Those with Special Needs.**
Infants, seniors and those with special needs have to be considered in the planning and preparation stages.
7. **Learn CPR, First Aid and How to Operate a Fire Extinguisher.**
Contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross and get trained on basic first aid and CPR.
8. **Eliminate Hazards in Your Home and The Workplace.**
You must secure the contents of your home and office to reduce hazards. Also learn where and how to turn off the utilities.
9. **Understand Post 9/11 Risks.**
Disaster preparedness must now account for man-made disasters as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.
10. **Get Involved. Volunteer. Bear Responsibility.**
Donate blood. Join a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Volunteer with your local American Red Cross or, as a County employee, get trained as an Emergency Operations Center responder.

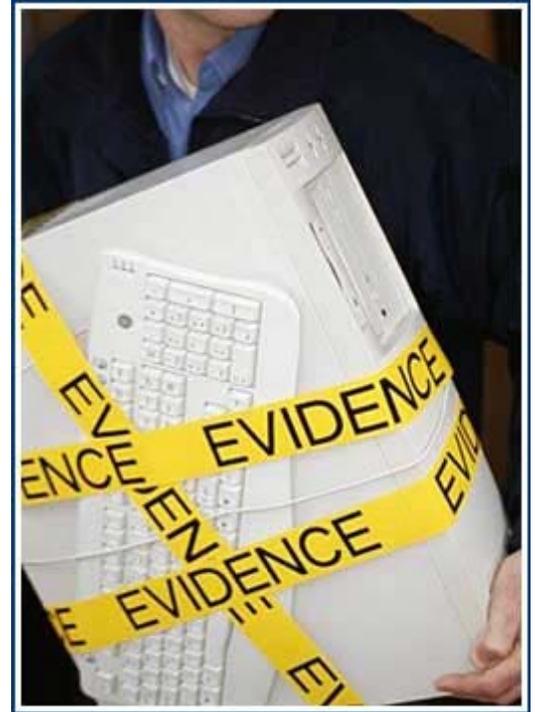
Links to Resources

- Orange County Sheriff's Department – www.ocsd.org
- Orange County Fire Authority – www.ocfa.org
- Orange County Health Care Agency – www.ochealthinfo.com
- Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross – www.oc-redcross.org
- Governor's Office of Emergency Services – www.oes.ca.gov
- Federal Emergency Management Agency – www.fema.gov
- Department of Homeland Security – www.dhs.gov
- Orange County Sheriff Emergency Management Bureau 714.628.7054

Stopping Crime Before It Happens

During October's Crime Prevention Month, the Orange County Sheriff's Department recommends the following tips to protect you – and your financial well-being – from the growing phenomenon of identity theft and Internet fraud.

- When on the computer, be aware that there are people online who would like to gain access to your personal information. Do not share this information unless you have initiated the exchange or are absolutely sure of who is receiving it.
- Install security and scanning software on your computer to protect it from online hacking.
- Do not use your name, date of birth, address or any other personal information for passwords. These passwords are easily cracked by hackers. In fact, it is suggested that you never use a password that includes a word that is contained in the dictionary because some hacking programs will attempt every word in the dictionary to locate one that works.
- Never disclose personal information in response to an email. Legitimate businesses would never ask you to do so. If an email or pop-up ad requests you to confirm personal information, even if it looks genuine, it is an example of "phishing" and should be reported to the following: reportphishing@antiphishing.org, the attorneys at the Securities and Exchange Commission at enforcement@sec.gov, and to the Federal Trade Commission at uce@ftc.gov.
- If you are concerned about an email you receive from a company, contact that company by phone to verify the information. If a web link is provided in the email, type it directly into your browser instead of using the link or copying and pasting it. Some links can be redirected to other sites.
- When giving personal information over a website, check to make sure that the site is secure. Look at the first part of the web address in your browser. It should read **https://** and **NOT** **http://**.
- Regularly check your credit card and bank statements and keep track of your transactions. Also, log into your online accounts frequently to make sure that you initiated all the listed activity.



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Christine Cissna
Auditor-Controller

Gloria Keating
Social Services Agency

Wallace Wade
Child Support Services
(August)

James Mugica
Resources & Development
Management Department

35 Years

Patricia Holte
Social Services Agency

Barbara Stocker
County Counsel
(August)

Robert Rhyne
Resources & Development
Management Department

Melanie Lesser
Social Services Agency

Karl Coover
Resources & Development
Management Department

Tim Severin
Public Defender

Patricia Stuteville
Social Services Agency

30 Years

Peter Honea
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Costello
Resources & Development
Management Department

Cindy Vu
Social Services Agency

Joe Elisalda
Resources & Development
Management Department

25 Years

Terri Aguirre
Resources & Development
Management Department

Thomas Gallivan
Sheriff-Coroner

Janice Goss
Integrated Waste
Management Department

La Vonne Campbell
District Attorney

Julie Herrera
Probation

