



C O U N T Y C O N N E C T I O N

A digital magazine for and about County of Orange employees

DECEMBER 2019



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COVER PHOTO - A passenger airliner lands at John Wayne Airport.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

a message from CEO Frank Kim



FRANK KIM

It's hard to believe 2019 is almost over, harder still to realize we are entering a new decade.

2020 will see us continue to improve the Civic Center as crews work to demolish the buildings along Civic Center Drive in preparation for building County Administration North. The Board of Supervisors also voted to move forward with plans for the Yale Transitional Center, which will eventually replace the Courtyard Transitional Center.

In South County, the Laguna Niguel Town Center Partners LLC will begin to shape property at the Alicia and Crown Valley parkways into a mix of retail, office and residential space, as well as restaurants, a specialty market, food hall and a community event space.

Other improvements across the County include increased flexibility for voters thanks to Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley rolling out vote centers in the March primary elections. Turn to [Page 6](#) for more information on how this is the biggest change to voting in Orange County since the late 1800s.

Roger Yee, Manager of Maintenance Operations at John Wayne Airport, details changes he has seen since joining the County more than 25 years ago after an internship gave him direction for his career on [Page 4](#).

As we close this year, I am proud of all we have accomplished in 2019 and look forward to all we will do in 2020. Enjoy the holiday season with your friends and loved ones.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Frank Kim'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



ROGER YEE

**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 jamie.cargo@ocgov.com.

JOB TITLE:

Manager of Maintenance Operations

**YEARS WITH
THE COUNTY:**

25+

DEPARTMENT:

John Wayne Airport

BEST PART OF YOUR JOB:

Proud to be part of a team that delivers

In 1992, Roger Yee secured an internship at John Wayne Airport. Having earned a bachelor's degree in genetics, he was pursuing an MBA. To help Roger explore potential career options, his professor connected him with a former MBA program student, Jan Mittermeier, at JWA. Through Jan, Roger took on an internship opportunity at the airport, where he has served for over two and a half decades.

Roger interned and then worked for several years under former Airport Director Alan Murphy. With Murphy's guidance, Roger had the opportunity to see how the airport is kept up and running and how every maintenance task fits into the bigger picture of airport maintenance and guest experience.

Now, as the Manager of Maintenance Operations, Roger leads an in-house team of 34 specialists, including electricians, plumbers, mechanics and technicians. He is always on his feet, making sure that his team has the resources they need to complete their tasks. Though Roger and his team have their regular work hours, they're always ready for emergency situations such as power outages or natural disasters.

A typical day on the job for Roger includes managing the execution of maintenance requests. "We take care of everything that doesn't fly," he says, and that includes providing maintenance and assistance with building electrical, plumbing and mechanical equipment and systems throughout the airfield, terminal complex and parking structures. Roger's team executes all planned maintenance work and corrective maintenance requests on the equipment and systems sent their way.

In addition to fulfilling preventative and corrective maintenance requests, Roger and his team also manage set up for special events at the airport.

In mid-November, Vice President Mike Pence made a stop in Orange County as part of a fundraising campaign; this was where Roger and his team came in. Before Pence landed at JWA, the maintenance team provided support setting up security perimeter barricades, assisting with and securing locations for the overnight staging of motorcade vehicles, and providing additional manpower and vehicles to the team overseeing the VIP visit.

"Besides the more obvious electrical and mechanical plumbing equipment and systems at the airport, the Maintenance Division also provides the upkeep of our Access Control (security) system, the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system, the fire alarm system, and the Public Address system. We maintain all of the hardware elements of those systems spread through the entire terminal and parking structure complex," he says.

With so much on his plate, being the Manager of Maintenance



Operations is no easy job. As one of the three branch managers in the division under Maintenance Deputy Airport Director, Kevin Flynn, Roger is responsible for overseeing the execution of tasks and maintenance procedures for the entire in-house team. The team provides 24/7 maintenance, so Roger has to juggle and prioritize projects to keep his team on track and perform as efficiently as possible.

Despite all the challenges that the team faces, Roger is incredibly proud to be a part of a team that delivers whenever duty calls. One of the best things about his job, he says, is the feeling that the work he and his team perform directly impacts the flying experience for the traveling public. Roger and his team strive to create the most positive travel experience for the airport guests, knowing that even the smallest things that they do can have a ripple effect throughout the national air transportation system.

Having been with JWA for over 25 years, Roger has also seen quite a bit of change over the years. "9-11 turned things upside down," he recalls. After the tragic event, airport safety and security were the No. 1 priority. Non-ticketed individuals could no longer wait inside at the gates, and thorough checked baggage screening was implemented as an effort to tighten security. "Those that had badges," says Roger, "were considered the eyes and ears of the area," and everyone was working together to keep JWA safe.

Roger's favorite memories include the many film shoots that happened before 9-11, including "Up Close and Personal" (1996) with Michelle Pfeiffer and "Jerry Maguire" (1996) with Tom Cruise. When he's not working, Roger spends time with his family watching his daughter play high school basketball. "I'm also an avid tennis player," he says.

CENTERS TO REVOLUTIONIZE VOTING IN ORANGE COUNTY

The Registrar of Voters (RoV) is looking to hire more than 1,000 extra-help workers to staff new vote centers coming online in March.

The positions' top priority? Customer service.

"Vote center representatives will have almost a week of paid training," says Registrar Neal Kelley. "Half of that training focuses on customer service." Other training topics include laws, and policies and procedures.

With the new centers, voters will no longer be restricted to voting on one day at a specific polling place. Instead, they can stop by any of the nearly 200 vote centers across Orange County up to 10 days before Election Day. This gives voters flexibility and staff time to hone their skills.

The change starts with the March election. Voters can choose to visit a center, drop off their mail-in ballot to one of more than 100 ballot drop boxes up to 30 days before Election Day, or simply mail their mail-in ballot.

Voting at the centers starts with an electronic check-in, which should speed up the process. A vote center representative can search for the voter by name, address and other options. This is what allows voters to visit any vote center, providing more flexibility. Eligible residents can also register to vote at the centers, including on Election Day.

"The beauty of the real time electronic check-in is we will know if someone has already voted," says AnnaSophia Servin, Training and Special Projects Manager.

Once the voter is checked in, her ballot is printed out for her to mark her choices. When she's finished, she feeds the ballot into a scanner, which places a photo of the ballot onto a USB drive. The system uses paper with a digital record as a back-up.



Voters will check-in with a vote center representative who will then print out the appropriate ballot.



Once a voter has made her selections, she feeds her ballot into a scanner, which then puts the paper copy into a locked container. Digital copies serve as back-up to the paper ballots.

For voters needing accommodations, a vote center representative will set up a machine where voters can select whether they want audio only, a screen and audio, or a screen only. The screen is adjustable for both color, contrast and text size. The voter can change those elements at any time.

RoV staff are finalizing the locations for the voter centers, centering them around places voters are familiar with, are near transportation hubs or areas with high population. If a voter can't make it to a center, he still has the option to use his mail-in ballot, which all Orange County voters will now receive.

Pilot vote centers in 2012, 2016 and 2018 have provided positive feedback so far. RoV staff will use lessons learned in the March election for vote centers in the November 2020 election, including which locations were popular.

"We have a robust program to survey voters," Neal says of making improvements in the future.

He has spoken with several colleagues about the changes, knowing many are watching Orange and Los Angeles counties. He studied how Colorado made the transition, having started using vote centers more than a decade ago. All counties in Colorado made the switch by 2014. In California, for the 2020 elections, 15 counties will be using vote centers. In 2022, it's anticipated 25 of the state's 58 counties will be using the same system.

"I'm looking forward to this change in voting," Neal says. "I'm excited because it's becoming tangible. Voters will engage with the fruits of our labor come March."

For more information on the extra-help positions, visit ocgov.com/jobs. For more information about the vote centers, including locations, how to provide feedback and a calendar, visit ocgov.com/votecenter.

Traveling for the Winter Holidays?



Don't get weighed down by too many books!

Your OC Public Libraries card lets you travel light with free access to thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks with Overdrive. 

visit ocpl.overdrive.com

THE HOLIDAY SEASON HAS ARRIVED AT JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT

HOLIDAY TRAVEL TIPS

Airports across the country are anticipating another year of record passenger volume now that the busy holiday travel season is in full swing. John Wayne Airport (JWA) passengers are encouraged to plan accordingly to avoid delays and enjoy stress-free holiday travel. Here are some tips to go from curbside through security checkpoints to arrive at your gate efficiently.

ARRIVAL:

- All passengers are encouraged to arrive 90 minutes to two hours before scheduled departure times for domestic flights and three hours for international flights to find **parking**, check luggage and go through security screening.

RIDE APPS UBER, LYFT AND WINGZ:

- Arriving guests should be aware of ride app pick-up locations on the Departure (upper) Level in Parking Structures A2 and B2 directly across from the Riley Terminal and in Parking Structure C on Level 3 next to the Southwest ticketing area. Ride app drop-off locations are curbside on the Departure Level. More information is available **here**.

PARKING:

- Airport parking structures are likely to reach capacity during peak travel periods. Travelers should plan to check real-time parking availability online **here** or by calling 949-252-5200. Curbside Valet Parking is available for \$30/day and is located on the Departure (upper) Level curbside between Terminals A and B or Terminals B and C. Additional information about Valet, off-site or electric vehicle parking is available **here**.

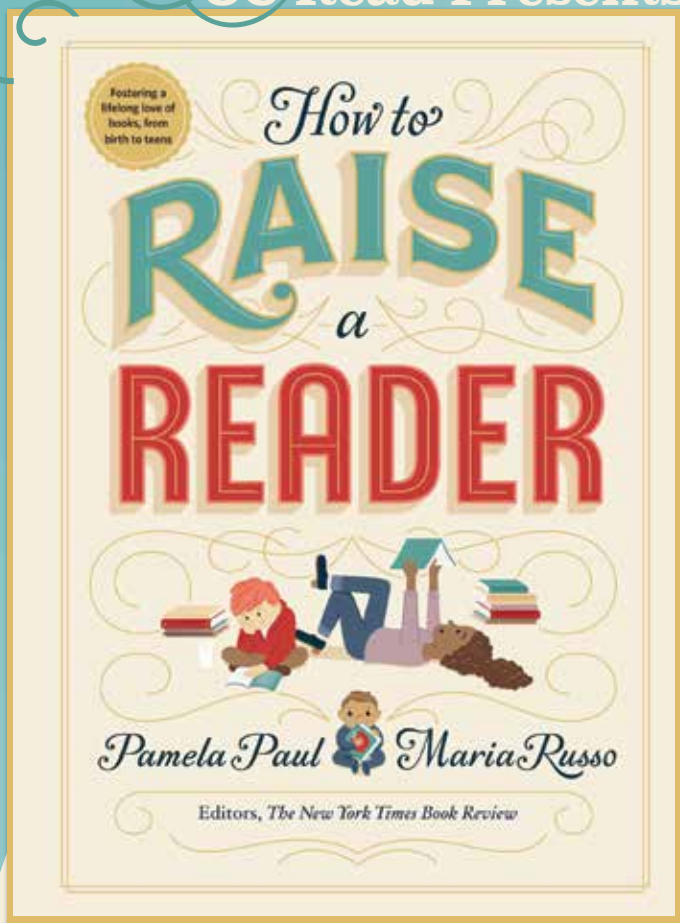
SECURITY CHECKPOINTS:

- Know the Transportation Security Administration's **3-1-1 Liquids Rule** for carry-on bags. Traveling with food tip: If you can spill it, spread it, pump it or pour it, the TSA considers this item a liquid. While wrapped holiday gifts are permitted, they are not encouraged as the item may need to be unwrapped for inspection. View a list of frequently asked TSA questions **here**.
- Members of **TSA PreCheck®** can expedite the screening process in Terminals A, B and C.
- There are specific rules and exceptions for passengers traveling with infant care items. Visit **TSA Tips for Traveling with Children** for more information.



For more travel tips and additional information about John Wayne Airport, visit www.ocair.com.

OC Read Presents



Meet the Authors
**PAMELA
PAUL**

and

**MARIA
RUSSO**

**Saturday
January 11
2:00pm**



**Tustin Library
345 E. Main Street
Tustin, CA 92780
714-544-7725
for more information**

**Books will be
available for
purchase through
Creating Conversations,
a Mysterious Galaxy
partner**

Million Steps Challenge

We are winding down another year of the Million Steps Challenge program. All participants have done an amazing job. From February 1, 2019, to November 1, 2019, 848 employees have actively participated in the challenge and have walked a combined total 1.4 million steps, which is equal to 686 thousand collective miles. In addition, 563 employees have reached or surpassed 1 million steps, 301 employees have surpassed 2 million steps (211 employees in 2018), 97 employees have surpassed 3 million steps (43 employees in 2018) and 31 have surpassed 4 million steps (14 employees in 2018)! Congratulations to all of our 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-million step employees.

Opportunity Drawing Winners

THE OPPORTUNITY DRAWING WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER ARE:

- Taylor Adray - Social Services Agency
- Kristen Bright - Superior Court
- Lisa Tran - Health Care Agency
- Marika Patterson - Sheriff Court Operations
- Elida Gonzalez - Assessor
- Shirley Nong - Treasurer Tax Collector
- Christa Tipton - Social Services Agency
- Vivian Geske - Superior Court
- Noemi Villalba - Public Defender
- Allison Koga - Social Services Agency

Each of our winners received a wellness-related prize courtesy of our County health plans.

In addition, each month we drew 10 names from those participating in the Million Steps Challenge.

THE OPPORTUNITY DRAWING WINNERS FOR OCTOBER ARE:

- David Delacruz - Sheriff-Coroner
- Maricela Villa - Social Services Agency
- Florena Moore - Sheriff-Coroner
- Michele Martinez - Health Care Agency
- Hugh Boggs - Social Services Agency
- Gillian Martinez - Clerk-Recorder
- Erin Batchelor - Health Care Agency
- Maria Melchor - Assessor
- Kristine De Leon - OC Housing Authority
- Stephanie Garcia - Social Services Agency

THE OPPORTUNITY DRAWING WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER ARE:

- Sara Ochoa - OC Superior Courts
- Edward Burrue - Sheriff-Coroner
- David McRae - Social Services Agency
- Blanca Valdovinos - Social Services Agency
- Ruben Marchan - Social Services Agency
- Rebecca Perez - Probation
- Cristina Hamilton - OC Public Works
- Cesar Ramirez - Superior Court
- Linda Moz - Superior Court
- Olivia Sorensen - OCCR - Library

Goal Getters

The following employees have recently reached either 1, 2, 3 or 4 million steps and have agreed to have their names published in County Connection:

OUR LATEST 1 MILLION GOAL GETTERS

- Daniel Bae - Social Services Agency
- Jamie Cargo - CEO Communications
- Jim Carter - Social Services Agency
- Michael Farole - Social Services Agency
- Rebecca Galindo - Superior Court
- Katherine Hayes - OC Public Works
- Elaine Hernandez - Sheriff-Coroner
- David Holtman - OC Public Works
- Tanya Longoria - CEO/HRS - Employee Benefits
- Gregory Manning - Social Services Agency
- Ana Paola Molina - Social Services Agency
- Jasmine Ochoa - Child Support Services
- Carol Taylor - Social Services Agency
- Laura Turtzer - Social Services Agency

OUR LATEST 2 MILLION GOAL GETTERS

- Candace Alas - CEO - Human Resources
- Kevin Hatanaka - Reprographics ISF
- Jennifer Kuo - Social Services Agency
- Joyce Kwak - Social Services Agency
- Tricia Landquist - John Wayne Airport
- Carolyn Miller - Social Services Agency
- Marika Patterson - Sheriff Court Operations
- Jennie Phuong - Auditor Controller
- Roque Rios - District Attorney
- Andrea Singleton - Social Services Agency
- Apryl Stafford - Sheriff-Coroner

OUR LATEST 3 MILLION GOAL GETTERS

- Zullihey Ayala - Community Services Program
- Jessica Good - Health Care Agency
- Michelle Manchester - Health Care Agency
- Marivic Nazario - Sheriff Department
- Mary Ann Priore - District Attorney
- Josie Ramirez - Child Support Services
- Carlota Serna - Child Support Services

OUR LATEST 4 MILLION GOAL GETTERS

- Sharon Boles - Health Care Agency
- Janice Murguia - Social Services Agency
- Martha Schlegel - Health Care Agency

Congratulations to our 1-million-plus step achievers! If you have met the Million Steps Challenge and want to have your name published in County Connection, send an email to HR_EmployeeBenefits@ocgov.com.

CHRISTINE TRAN

OC Auditor-Controller

"I took this photo of the rainbow around the sun while walking at Mile Square Park on December 1, 2019 that lasted only one-hour."

SUBMIT PHOTOS TO TRAVIS.LARIVIERE@OCGOV.COM



AROUND THE COUNTY

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HEALTH CARE AGENCY

Help Make Orange County Stigma Free

The Orange County Board of Supervisors issued a resolution recognizing the official launch of StigmaFreeOC.com in partnership with the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) and the OC Mental Health Board.

The debut of StigmaFreeOC.com has created an opportunity to focus on community outreach and public education regarding mental illness. The website features ongoing stigma-reduction efforts happening in Orange County and a robust toolkit that visitors can use to take action in building momentum around this important movement.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly 1 in 5 U.S. adults lives with a mental illness in a given year, yet more than half will not seek treatment due to stigma. We can all help normalize these real and treatable conditions by starting conversations around mental health using the toolkit's easy-to-share ideas for spreading the word and pre-written #StigmaFreeOC social media posts.



StigmaFreeOC.com additionally includes local resources available to support individuals and families struggling with mental illness and substance use disorders. The site's calendar enables visitors to view a list of upcoming activities that promote wellness and recovery, or submit their own for posting. As the movement progresses, residents can come back to the site often to check the current pledge tally, view the website's interactive pledge map and learn about new ways to become involved.

Help turn Orange County lime green, the national color for mental health awareness, by visiting StigmaFreeOC.com today and pledging your support.

JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT

Holiday Music Program



Irvine High School Advanced Choir students during their December 2018 performance in the Thomas F. Riley Terminal.

John Wayne Airport travelers and guests are invited to enjoy the sounds of the season as Orange County high school musical groups bring 23 live holiday music performances to the Thomas F. Riley Terminal from December 13 to 20, 2019. All

performances take place in Baggage Claim on the Arrival (lower) Level of Terminals A, B and C.

To learn more about the Holiday Music Program and view videos of 2018 performances, visit www.oair.com/terminal/jwalive/holiday-music.

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DECEMBER 13

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	San Clemente High School Orchestra	Terminal C
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Saddleback High School Chamber Singers	Terminal C
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Costa Mesa High School Jazz Band	Terminal A
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Troy High School Vocal Ensemble	Terminal A

DECEMBER 16

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Fountain Valley High School Jazz Band	Terminal C
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Valley High School Golden Blues Jazz Ensemble	Terminal A
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Villa Park High School Holiday Ensemble	Terminal C
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Portola High School Orchestras	Terminal A

DECEMBER 17

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Fountain Valley High School String Orchestra	Terminal C
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	El Modena High School Chamber Singers	Terminal A/Statue
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Fullerton High School Jazz Ensemble & Woodwind Choir	Terminal C
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Edison High School Varsity Choir	Terminal A

DECEMBER 18

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Fountain Valley High School Chamber Strings	Terminal C
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Marina High School String Orchestra	Terminal A
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Segerstom High School Chamber Singers	Terminal C
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Estancia High School Varsity Choir	Terminal A

DECEMBER 19

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Foothill Hill High School Dickens Carolers	Terminal C
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Magnolia High School Chamber Singers	Terminal A/Statue
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Santa Ana High School Jazz Band	Terminal A

DECEMBER 20

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Sunny Hills High School Chamber Singers	Terminal A
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Westminster High School Abbey Singers	Terminal C
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Irvine High School Advanced Choirs	Terminal C
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Esperanza High School String Quartet	Terminal A

OCWR - OC VETERANS SERVICES

Vice Chair Surprises Veteran Employees

On November 12, a surprise Veteran Appreciation Breakfast Potluck was held for veteran employees of OC Community Services (OCCS) in honor of Veterans Day. During this time, Vice Chair Michelle Steel, Second District Supervisor, recognized the Orange County Veterans Service Office's (VSO) seven veteran team members. Vice Chair Steel presented the veterans with Certificates of Recognition to highlight their continued dedication and all the great work they do for Orange County's veteran and military connected population. "Being treated to a Veterans Breakfast at OCCS/VSO was widely unexpected. What totally blew my mind was seeing and meeting Vice Chair Steel. It felt great knowing that she came out to show her gratitude and appreciation for my fellow veterans and myself here at OCVSO. She shared her personal experience with family abroad in the military. Pretty awesome day if you ask me," said Hector Valdivia, an office specialist for the VSO and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.



Vice Chair Michelle Steel, Second District Supervisor, middle, presents Certificates of Recognition to veteran employees at the Orange County Veterans Service Office. The following veterans were recognized, from left to right: Richard Smith (U.S. Navy), Eric Ensley (U.S. Navy), Hector Valdivia (U.S. Marine Corps), Eddie Falcon (U.S. Navy), Victor Lopez (U.S. Marine Corps) and Joe Ford (U.S. Marine Corps). Not pictured: Jerry Seiden (U.S. Navy)

OC WASTE & RECYCLING

Ambassador Program Expands Opportunities for Employees

When OC Waste & Recycling hosted its annual recycling and eco-friendly collection event in November, the success of the activity hinged on a crew of department employees whose jobs have nothing to do with public outreach.

They're called the OCWR Ambassadors. They assist the Strategic Communications team in educating the public about the department's essential public services and how to recycle right as key players in today's waste stream. In exchange, the Ambassadors gain valuable experience working outside their normal jobs, working with others in completely different fields of work.

"Our ambassador program includes staff from across the agency to give us more reach and expertise when engaging the public," says Irene Alonso, Community Programs Manager. "We have participants ranging from laborers and equipment operators from the landfill sites to accounting staff, engineers, safety managers, office services staff as well as our executive team." Collectively, about 25-30 ambassadors are available to help the department reach its outreach and education goals annually through numerous events and public engagement.

At the November 2 Eco Challenge Day collection event, ambassadors performed such duties as traffic control, logistics, running the recycling game at the OCWR booth,



The OC Waste & Recycling Collection Event Ambassador team (left to right): Alex Brown, Steven Halligan, Danielle Williams, Tia Jorgensen, Brian Booth, Jordan Young, Peter Sanchez, Kevin Gaxiola, Irene Alonso, Aimee Halligan, Ruth Wardwell and Michael Bittner

talking to residents about the landfills composting, and helping Wild Wing, the mascot of the Anaheim Ducks, distribute prizes and educational materials.

Their efforts contributed to nearly 13,000 pounds of goods collected in two hours that might otherwise have wound up in the landfill. More than 400 attendees learned about options available for disposal of organic waste and how to prevent contamination of green waste and other recyclables.

"Some of our ambassadors have been with us for years and are familiar faces with the public. It's great to see them return and help recruit new staff for the experience. Overall, it's a win-win on all sides," Irene says.

Board of Supervisors Recognize Adoption Awareness Month



Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, Third District, resource parent Vanessa Acosta, Supervisor Doug Chafee, Fourth District, Social Services Agency Children and Family Services Division Director Anne Bloxom, Chairwoman Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District Supervisor, and Supervisor Andrew Do, First District, pose for a photo during the November 19 Board meeting.

On November 19, the Orange County Board of Supervisors proclaimed November 2019 as Adoption Awareness Month, presenting a resolution to the OC Social Services Agency and recognizing resource and adoptive parent Vanessa Acosta for her significant contributions to support and mentor adoptive families.

From July 2018 to June 2019, 282 adoptions were finalized in Orange County.

SSA Children and Family Services Division Director Anne Bloxom and Vanessa attended the meeting and received the proclamation on behalf of adoptive families in Orange County.

Vanessa, a teacher in Los Angeles, and her husband, Jesus, began the process of becoming a resource family in 2011 after a speaker at their church explained the specific needs of foster youth in an effort to recruit new resource families. Dreaming of a large family of their own, Vanessa and Jesus completed the licensing process and fostered more than 20 children in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The Acostas adopted four children and are

in the process of adopting two more of their foster children; the children range in age from 8-13.

Sadly, Jesus passed away unexpectedly in May. While this devastating loss has shaken the entire family, Vanessa remains resolute in finalizing the adoption of the two foster youth she currently cares for. She and her children continue to persevere, growing even closer and honoring Jesus' legacy of love. Under Vanessa's watch, all six children are being raised to treat others with respect, to work hard in school and to focus on remaining grateful that they are connected as family. Vanessa said her children have shown remarkable resiliency.

"Although it has been a sad and difficult time for my family, I'm very appreciative of the support we have received from the Social Services Agency, my social workers, the Foster Care Auxiliary and my church," she said at the Board meeting.

For more information on becoming a Resource Family, please call (888) 871-KIDS or visit www.oc4kids.com.

VINEETA CHOPRA

Accounting Specialist - OC Probation

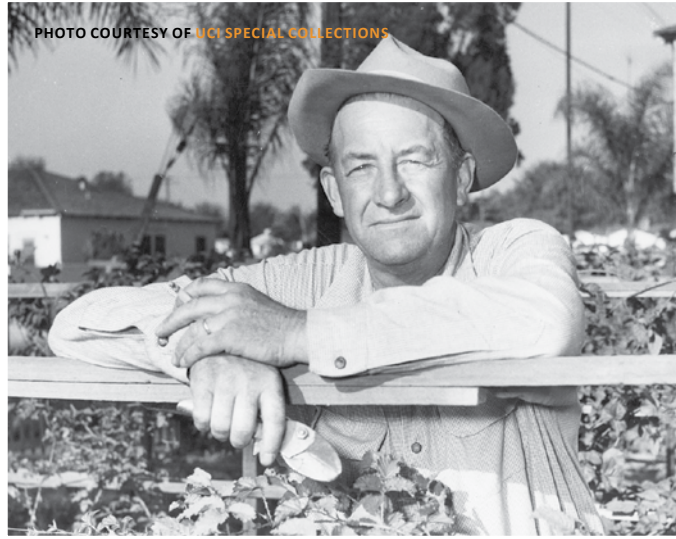
"I was walking at the Aliso & Wood Canyon Wilderness Park, I stopped to view the beautiful sunset at the Top of the World in Laguna Beach."

SUBMIT PHOTOS TO TRAVIS.LARIVIERE@OCGOV.COM

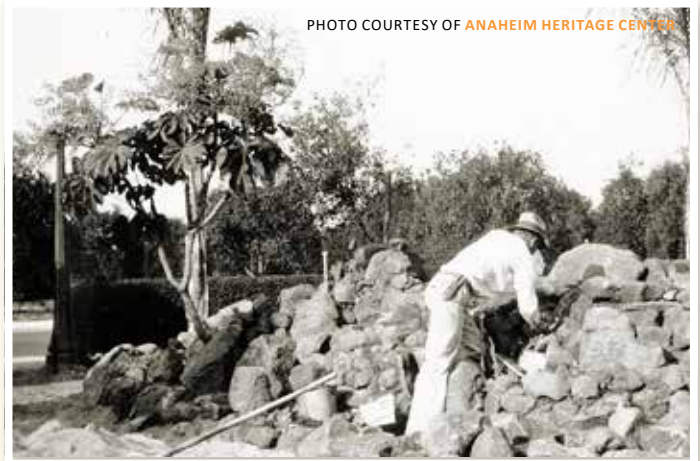
OC HISTORY

RUDY BOYSEN'S BOYSENBERRY

by Chris Jepsen



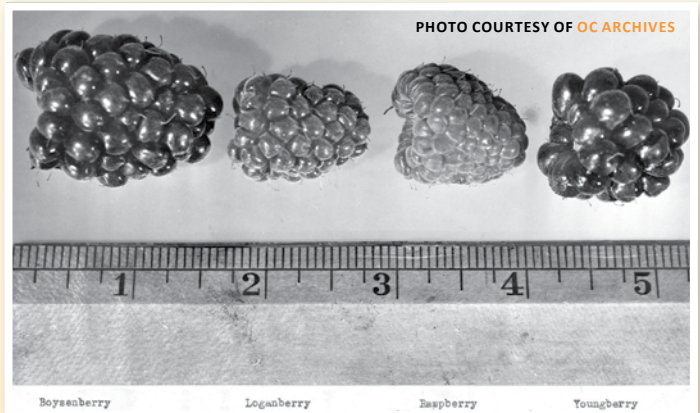
Rudy Boysen poses at Anaheim's City Park, about 1948. He went on to develop La Palma Park and the beginnings of Anaheim's city park system.



In 1927, the City of Anaheim hired Rudy Boysen within a year he was promoted to superintendent of the City Park. The park is now named Pearson Park, and Boysen's rock and cactus garden, which he is seen here building circa the 1930s, is still a key feature.



A Knott's Berry Farm menu from circa 1951 depicts a boysenberry and berry fields.



The new boysenberry is compared with other varieties in the Orange County Agricultural Extension's 1934 annual report.

Although Walter Knott famously popularized the boysenberry, few know the story of the berry itself or the man who created it.

Around 1922, young farmer Rudy Boysen was working on the Lubben ranch in Napa Valley. Something of a self-schooled botanist, he spent some of his free time experimenting with the hybridization of berries — just for fun. He blended pollen from various berry varieties and used the mixture to hand-pollinate blackberry plants. He planted the resulting seeds by a nearby creek.

Eventually, these plants were mostly forgotten. But in 1925, someone came to Boysen's door and asked about the

"great big berries" down by the creek. Boysen went to look and found one of the plants producing flavorful berries that were nearly 2-inches long. Later that year, Boysen took cuttings from the plant with him when he moved to the Fullerton ranch of his mother-in-law, Alice Brunton. He planted the cuttings near a ditch at the back of the Brunton orange grove (now the Fullerton Hotel's parking lot).

Boysen brought his berry to the attention of nurseryman Douglas Coolidge of Altadena. Coolidge's attempts to market the berry failed, but he wrote an enthusiastic letter about the berry to George Darrow at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The letter languished in a Washington, D.C.



Workers harvest berries in Buena Park around 1934, the same year, May 22 to be exact, that the first commercial picking of boysenberries occurred at Knott's berry farm.

file drawer for several years.

In 1927, the City of Anaheim hired Boysen and within a year he was promoted to superintendent of the City Park. The park is now named Pearson Park, and Boysen's rock and cactus garden is still a key feature.

Meanwhile, Boysen had largely forgotten about the hybrid berry. In 1930 his mother-in-law's land was sold and the neglected plants were left behind.

In 1932, George Darrow — now the only person with an interest in the berry — was on vacation in California and went to see Coolidge. But Darrow learned that Coolidge had died, as had his sample berry plants. Darrow continued his search by driving to the Buena Park home of Walter Knott, the area's leading berry grower.

Knott had heard of neither the berry nor Boysen, but quickly found him in the Anaheim phone directory and called him. Boysen said the berries were already nearly dead when he sold the property, but Knott asked if they could go have a look anyway.

The new residents had no objection to a few men poking around the ditch behind their grove, so Boysen took Darrow and Knott out to see what was left of the long-untended plants. Knott looked at the scraggly, fruitless, weed-choked mess of berry plants and was prepared to drop the subject.

But Boysen spun an impressive story as they stood in the grove: "They grow big. The berries were as big as my thumb."

With Boysen's blessing, Darrow convinced Knott to "layer a few canes and report the resultant plants and fruit" to him at the USDA. This probably didn't require too much arm-twisting, as Knott already had a fondness for experimenting with new plant varieties on his farm.

Knott began reviving the six berry plants by cleaning, weeding, fertilizing and spraying the vines. He returned to the grove in the proper season and took cuttings which he then planted on his own farm.

Soon after, Knott wrote to Darrow, asking to have the

berry registered. Darrow suggested the name "Knottberry," but Knott said that the berry should be named for Boysen.

The first commercial picking of boysenberries occurred at Knott's berry farm on May 22, 1934 and Knott immediately began a vigorous marketing campaign. The rest, as they say, is history. Almost every boysenberry plant in the world today can trace its roots to that neglected handful of vines in a Fullerton orange grove.

Boysen went on to develop La Palma Park and the beginnings of the Anaheim city park system. He was also helped run the city's annual Halloween festival and managed the event's community breakfasts for more than two decades. During World War II, he coordinated and oversaw the community Liberty Garden and helped Anaheim residents create and maintain additional Liberty Gardens in their own yards. Any excess produce was generally given to the needy, including families in Anaheim's La Fabrica neighborhood. He was known and liked by the whole community — especially the children who came to play in his parks.

Rudy Boysen left a formative impact on the character and identity of the sleepy agricultural town of Anaheim, which would soon grow into a large modern city. But it's the boysenberry that will secure Boysen's name in the public mind forever.

(A much longer and annotated version of this article appeared in the 2016 issue of the Orange County Historical Society's journal, Orange Countiana.)

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.

— CYBERSECURITY CORNER —

The Dangers of Using Public USB Charging Stations

During the holiday season, almost everyone is out shopping, travelling or meeting with friends and families. While enjoying the festivities, many depend on mobile devices to pay, get directions, or call each other. But what happens when your mobile device battery is low or dying? You can probably find a public USB charging station nearby. Shopping areas, airports, hotels, coffee shops and even some restaurants. Marketers had made it convenient for you to be able to charge your mobile device almost anywhere.

IF IT'S CONVENIENT, IS IT SECURE?

These public USB charging stations, especially at airports and hotels, have been reported from different sources as a high security risk. Cyber criminals can modify the USB connections to install malware on your device or download data without your knowledge. The malware may lock your device, intercept calls and export the data to the cyber criminals. This attack is known as “juice-jacking.” Local law enforcement agencies have been warning travelers to avoid using public USB charging stations whenever possible.

THE FOLLOWING ARE TIPS AND MITIGATIONS YOU CAN DO:

- Use a wall charger plugged into an AC power outlet instead of a USB charging station.
- When traveling, bring your own wall and car chargers for your devices.
- Consider buying a portable charger for emergencies.
- Keep your devices up to date with the latest security patches and updates.
- When possible, configure your device to always require a password when enabling the data transfer features.
- Carry an extra fully charged battery.
- Install and implement mobile device management (MDM) for your organization.
- Lock the bootloader if possible.

If you have any questions, please email securityadmin@ocit.ocgov.com.





Holiday Safety Tips

Winter holidays are times to devote with families and friends. Stay safe on the roads and at home by taking basic precautions below to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

The holidays should be a festive and happy time spent with loved ones, but drinking and driving can put a damper on the merriment. As more people gather at parties and celebrate festivities, more drinking and driving occur over the holidays. More highway deaths related to alcohol occur during the holidays than at other times of the year.

DRUGGED DRIVING

Use of illicit drugs or misuse of prescription drugs can make driving a car unsafe – just like driving after drinking alcohol. It is difficult to determine how specific drugs affect driving because people tend to mix various substances, including alcohol. Even a small amount of some drugs can have a measurable effect on drivers. As a result, some states have a zero-tolerance laws for drugged driving.

TO ARRIVE ALIVE, ALWAYS:

- Drive sober; never drive impaired.
- Buckle up, every time.
- If you do drink, plan ahead. Designate a sober driver or use a ride service.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, call 9-1-1. Be prepared to provide the dispatcher with the location, make, model and license plate number of vehicle.

Thank you for your continued commitment to safety awareness.

For more information, go to:

www.nhtsa.gov

www.nfpa.org

SERVICE AWARDS - December 2019

Recognizing our long-serving employees and their years of dedication to the County of Orange

35 YEARS

OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ONTIVEROS, EDDIE M

SHERIFF-CORONER

ESCOBAR, ROSALINDA O

30 YEARS

ASSESSOR

MAXWELL, STACEY L

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

SALDIVAR, ALEJANDRA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DEBAUN, SUSAN M

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ROCKER, THELMA R

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

GONZALEZ, ANGIE N
LIZOTTE, MICHEL K

OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

EDDY, DEBRA F
KIRK, FREDERICK W
VELICK, JOHN C

OC PUBLIC WORKS

ONUMA, KEVIN M
WOOD, MARK A

PUBLIC DEFENDER

PUGLIA, DANIEL M

SHERIFF-CORONER

GAGE, EDITH L
ZAMAITAT, SYLVIA G

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

BROWN COOKSEY, CYNTHIA D
OCHOA, SONIA

25 YEARS

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

BUI, ZERDELL A
ESQUIVEL, LAURA
GARCIA, RUBEN
MCKEE, MARY E
NGUYEN, KIMBERLY
NGUYEN, NHU N

PROBATION

BOLTON, MATTHEW R

SHERIFF-CORONER

BARON, ALISON M
CHISHOLM, GEORGE H
NIEBLA, GARY A

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

KORSON, MICHELE M

20 YEARS

AUDITOR CONTROLLER

LUA, AYDA

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

BANKOVICH, BRANDON J
UNTALAN, PHILIP C

CLERK OF THE BOARD

GALVAN, OLIVIA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

BEREA, BRYAN

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

BLANCO, LILIA
CHOPRA, JAGDISH R
FULTON, LISA L
LIM, BELINDA
LIZARDO, GRACE-AILEEN
LOPEZ ESCAMILLA, AZAHAR
LUNA, YESENIA V
MALDO, ALBERT L
UBINA, ELEONOR R
VALDIVIAS, ROSIE
WEBER, DIANA L

OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

HARRIS, DENAIR D
NGUYEN, TYLER L
TAPIA, CONNIE

OC PUBLIC WORKS

IMANI, HAMID

OCERS

GUEVARA, SANDRA

PROBATION

BYRD, THOMAS L
CASTILLO, MA DOLORES T
DIAZ, SUSANA
LARIOS, JUANA
SCHULTZ, DANA
WILLIAMS, YURI O

PUBLIC DEFENDER

PADILLA, MELISSA A
SALDIVAR, CHRISTINE M

SHERIFF CORONER

FLAHERTY, MICHAEL A
JACQUOT, MATTHEW B
JAMILI, DAPHNE L
KETRING, KURTIS M
KLEE, ERIK S
LOSOYA, MELISSA A
MANN, JASON E
MARKSUWAN, JOHNNY P
NGUYEN, PAUL HUNG N
PADILLA, MICHAEL J
SANCHEZ, OLIVIA
STOUT, MICHAEL W

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

BANFIELD, KIMBERLY
BARCELOS, ROXANNE M
DELAFOSSÉ, BRYANT
HANANIA, LINDA
HERNANDEZ, CAESAR
HERNANDEZ, MADELINE O
MAGCASI, MARTHA
MARTINEZ, MELINDA C
MORALES, GERARDO A
MORALES, IADIRA
MURILLO, JUAN
NINH, DEWEY D
OCHOA, MARYHELEN
QUAN, LANNIE U
RAMIREZ, ROSA
TARIN, IMELDA C
TOPETE, CLAUDIA

TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

LEACH, ALEJANDRA

If you would like to have your name not printed in the Service Awards section, email ceocom@ocgov.com. If you believe there has been an error or omission in reporting your years of service, please email HRDataPortal@ocgov.com.

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

CAREER PAGES

**AVAILABLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES
AT THE COUNTY OF ORANGE**

See below for this month's highlighted career opportunities with the County. Please check out the County's website at www.ocgov.com/jobs for details on all current opportunities or follow us on social media.



Dates included below refer to closing deadlines as of publication date. Please refer to the job announcement for specific details.

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Don't miss these career opportunities

OPEN NOW

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/CAD Specialist – 12/17/19

Training Facilitator/Staff Assistant (Extra Help) - ASAP

Sr. Materials Testing Technician – 12/13/19

Accounting Specialist - ASAP

Safety Specialist – 12/10/19

Jr. Civil Engineer - ASAP

Administrative Manager I – IT IRIS Manager – ASAP

Forensic Specialist Intern (Unpaid Intern) – 01/15/19

Forensic Specialist - ASAP

CUF Combined Heat and Power Plant Manager - ASAP

Government Relations Manager - ASAP

Sheriff's Correctional Services Assistant Trainee - ASAP

Civil Engineering Assistant - ASAP

Deputy Sheriff Trainee - ASAP

Coroner's Division Intern (Unpaid Internship) – 02/01/19

Civil Engineer - ASAP

Forensic Science Intern (Unpaid Intern) – 1/15/19

Senior Epidemiologist - ASAP

PROMOTIONAL

Office Specialist – ASAP

Sr. Sheriff's Records Technician – ASAP

Agricultural/Standards Inspector – ASAP

Be sure to check the website often for any career opportunities that may be listed!

EVENTS CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2019

Check out these County events scheduled for December and for details on these and other events, visit the [OC Events](#) Calendar online!

						Photo with Santa <i>OC Animal Care</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Student Art Contest <i>Health Care Agency</i>						Photo with Santa <i>OC Animal Care</i>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Pawlday <i>OC Animal Care</i> Photo with Santa <i>OC Animal Care</i>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



ALEX REDD

ASR Coordinator - OC Community Resources

A rainbow over the 401 building.

SUBMIT PHOTOS TO TRAVIS.LARIVIERE@OCGOV.COM

COUNTY OF ORANGE MISSION STATEMENT

MAKING ORANGE COUNTY A
safe, healthy, and fulfilling place to
LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY,
TODAY AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME,
by providing outstanding, cost-effective
REGIONAL PUBLIC SERVICES.



THANK YOU FOR READING

COUNTY CONNECTION

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On **Instagram** at www.Instagram.com/OCGov

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