

COUNTY Connection



Vol. II, August 2005

Food Drive Extended



Employee Food Drive Has Been Extended

Have you done your part to feed the hungry in Orange County? There's still time. The deadline for the 2005 County of Orange Employees' Independence From Hunger Food Drive has been extended to **August 19**. There has already been a tremendous response to the drive, yet your help is still needed.

Look for a barrel in your building where you can drop off contributions.

You can bring any of the following items:

- Any canned food items
- Pasta
- Hygiene products
- Baby food & other baby supplies

For more information, contact Mary Bishop, Manager of Homeless Prevention & Related Programs, at 714.567.5162 or mary.bishop@ocgov.com.

County Of Orange Celebrates 116 Years

Although the day passed without party hats and confetti, August 1 marked the 115th year that the County of Orange has provided service to the residents of this county. On that day in 1889, Judge J. W. Towner, the one and only Superior Court Judge at that time, pounded the gavel in his law office and proclaimed that court was now in session. The first trial, a probate case, marked the start of business for the County of Orange.

The journey to form the County of Orange, which began in 1870, was a long one

that took nearly 20 years to complete. Max Strobel, the first mayor of Anaheim, helped push a bill through the State Assembly in 1870 to form Anaheim County, however, the bill failed in the Senate.

The name "Orange County" was introduced with a second bill in 1872, yet that bill didn't even make it to a vote. The name was selected to conjure up an image with semi-tropical flare that would attract people to the

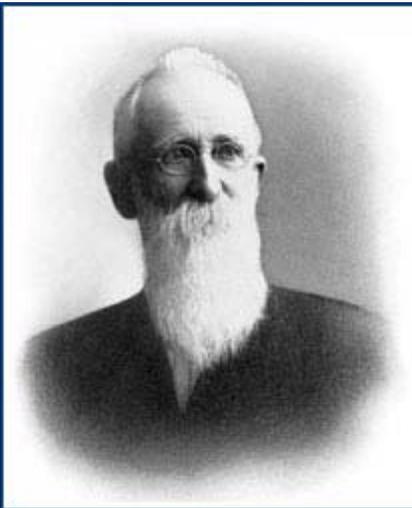
(Continued on page 2)



This graphic was published in the *Santa Ana Blade* in 1889 to celebrate the creation of Orange County.

(Continued from page 1)

“paradise” of Southern California. Although many people think the name was chosen because of the orange groves, the groves didn’t appear until much later. At the time, grapes were the largest crop produced in the area.



W.H. Spurgeon was the First District Supervisor and the first Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

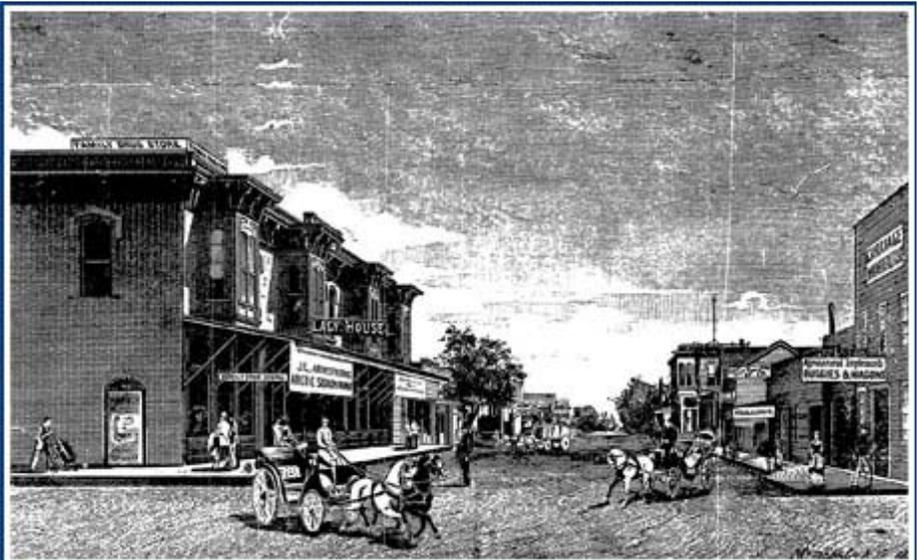
The attempts to form a new county continued all through the 1870s and 1880s. Not all the proposals were for the name Orange County. They bounced from Anaheim County, Santa Ana County and back to Orange County.

In 1889, Santa Ana Assemblyman Colonel E.E. Edwards introduced his own bill to create Orange County. Former Assemblyman William H. Spurgeon, Santa Ana’s founder, and Republican leader James McFadden joined Edwards in his quest to form the new county. The bill was passed by both houses on March 11, 1889 and was signed by Governor Robert Waterman.

The journey wasn’t over yet. The bill did not create Orange County. Instead, it allowed for a local election and required a two-thirds majority agreement to the new county’s creation. There was conflict over a boundary shift and the selection of the county seat, but because support was so strong in the area, the measure passed easily -- 2,500 to 500 on June 4, 1889.

A second election was held on July 17, 1889 to determine the county seat and to elect county officers. Obviously, Santa Ana got the nod as county seat. The newly elected Board of Supervisors met for the first time on August 5, 1889. Spurgeon represented the First District and served as Chairman. The other members were Jacob Ross, Second District; Sheldon Littlefield, Third District; Sam Armor, Fourth District; and A. Guy Smith, Fifth District.

The original departments were Assessor, Coroner, County Clerk, District Attorney, Recorder-Auditor, Sheriff-Tax Collector, Superintendent of Schools, Surveyor, Treasurer and Superior Court.



SANTA ANA—VIEW ON FIFTH AND MAIN STREETS, LOOKING SOUTH

As today’s Orange County residents take pictures with mobile telephones and watch the space shuttle’s lift-off, it’s clear that life has changed since the county’s birth. It’s also clear that the work begun by the county’s forefathers in the late 1800s has made Orange County a great place to live, work and play for residents today.

Making A Career Out Of Helping People



Ingrid Harita (right), newly appointed SSA Director, reviews documents with her former secretary, Kathy Clark.

Ingrid Harita's office is sun-drenched and filled with an array of colorful flowers sent by co-workers wishing her luck in her new position. She also proudly displays photos of her 14-month-old granddaughter. As she prepares to move out of this office to the Director's chair, she welcomes her upcoming adventure with a smile.

Effective July 22, Harita officially began her new career as Director of the Social Services Agency (SSA). She replaced Angelo Doti who retired in July. Harita will now lead the department that she has worked in for more than 20 years.

With her soft, British accent she talked about many things including her love of reading, baby-sitting her granddaughter, sewing and her English birth place and growing-up years in Zambia.

Prior to this promotion, she was the Executive Division Director for Adult Services and Assistance Programs. Harita started her career in the social services arena more than 35 years ago. Her passion for helping people has kept her in the business all this time.

"I really enjoy working with people. I'm a 'people-person' and knowing that I make a difference in someone's life is very rewarding," she said.

"I'm excited about my new position and fortunate because Angelo Doti left the agency in top condition. I know we'll continue to be as effective as we have been in the past."

SSA, one of the County's largest agencies, has nearly 4,000 employees and a budget of approximately \$662 million.

Harita has a bachelor of arts from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a master of social work degree from the University of Houston.

"The County and the residents of Orange County will be well served by the depth of knowledge that Ingrid brings to this position," said CEO, Thomas G. Mauk. "In a time when we face multiple challenges, it will be an enormous asset that she can hit the ground running. I look forward to the contributions she'll make to our organization."

Probation Dogs Sniff Out Criminals

Jet and Christa recently found \$17,000. What did they get as a reward? A chew toy. Jet and Christa are narcotic-detecting dogs for the Probation Department's canine unit. Jet and his handler, Deputy Probation Officer Jerry Maxwell, along with Christa and her handler, Deputy Probation Officer Matt Bolton, conduct

random searches of probationers and also team up with local law enforcement to search for narcotics.

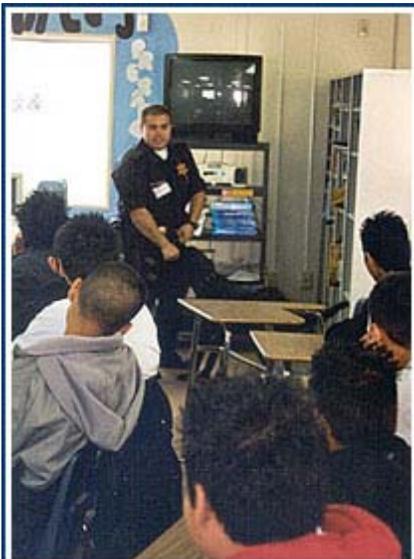
The two-dog, two-officer unit is essential for conducting random searches of individuals on probation. Recently, the two teams were asked by Anaheim Police Department

to sniff for narcotics at a residence that was under suspicion. During the search, Jet and Christa located 700 pounds of marijuana and \$17,000 in drug money.

In 2004, Jet, a German Shepherd who's been with the department for five

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)



Matt Bolton and Christa give a talk at a local high school.

years, conducted 201 searches which led to 45 arrests and the seizure of 2,347 grams of narcotics. Newcomer Christa, a Dutch Shepherd who came to the department 18 months ago, has done 250 searches, resulting in 47 arrests and 250 grams of confiscated narcotics. Both dogs helped find \$733,000 tainted with narcotics that was used in drug trafficking.

"It can take four to six deputies four hours to search a whole house," said Ed Harrison, Supervising Probation Officer. "We can take a canine team through a whole house and be done in half an hour."

Drug dealers are finding creative hiding spots for narcotics such as behind car radios or inside dirty diapers. Uncovering narcotics can be very difficult because a typical dose of methamphetamine is smaller than a pack of sugar. The dogs' success is credited to their ability to compartmentalize odors. "Instead of smelling soup, dogs smell the peas, carrots and potatoes," said Harrison.

"That ability allows them to detect narcotics that, to humans, are masked, for instance, by a dirty diaper."

The dogs each live with and are trained by their handlers. The officers start training the dogs by playing fetch with a pipe and later stuffing narcotics into the pipe for the dog to get accustomed to the drug's odor. The pipe is then thrown into weeds, forcing the dog to use its nose to locate the object. When the dogs pick up a scent, they bark and scratch so the officer can locate the narcotic.

While other counties are cutting their canine units, Orange County added Christa to the team in 2003. "The County had an increase in the number of drug offenders on probation," said Chief Probation Officer Stephanie Lewis. "The dogs have been so highly effective that it has been one of our priorities to maintain this operation. They prove their worth over and over again."



Jerry Maxwell and Jet search a home for illegal substances. Jet will scratch when he detects narcotics.

"Orange County Gets Linked..."

The Health Care Agency (HCA) has recently upgraded its immunization record keeping with an immunization registry that should eventually benefit families and health care providers across the state.

The new system will make tracking immunizations much easier and will ensure speedy access to the records, in particular for families that move and must provide the documents to a

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

new school system. The registry will eventually replace the current paper cards, which are easily lost or damaged.

“The computerized registry links Orange County with L.A., Pasadena and Long Beach,” said Troy A. Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director, Health Care Agency. “The ultimate goal is to be linked with the entire state.”

This registry will also help health care providers keep better records of vaccinations so that none are repeated unnecessarily. The registry will also be used as an inventory tool to keep track of immunizations in stock and facilitate the ordering process.

Vaccinations can prevent the spread of disease, and schools require all students to present an up-to-date immunization record before starting class. A schedule of recommended immunizations begins with newborns and continues into the senior years with flu shots as a prime example.

Just in time for the school year, August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). According to the National Immunization Program (NIP), which is a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the goal of NIAM is to increase awareness about immunizations across the lifespan from infants to the elderly.

HCA provides the community and health care providers with educational sessions about the importance of proper and timely immunizations. The department has four clinics that provide immunizations year-round.

“Getting immunized is a lifelong, life-protecting community effort regardless of age, sex, race, ethnic background or country of origin,” said Jacobs. “Recommended shots begin soon after birth and continue throughout life. Being aware of the vaccines that are recommended and making sure that we receive them are critical to protecting ourselves and our communities from disease.”

NIP recognizes immunization as one of the most significant public health achievements of the 20th century. Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, eliminated poliovirus in the U.S. and significantly reduced the number of cases of measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis and other serious diseases.

For more information about immunizations visit <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/mcah/index.htm>.

For a recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedule, visit <http://www.immunize.org/cdc/child-schedule.pdf>.



Lois Little (right), an HCA Registered Nurse, carefully gives a flu shot to her young patient



25 Years

Edward Anderson
Sheriff-Coroner

Maria Bailey
Social Services Agency

Steven Booth
Sheriff-Coroner

Gary Byerley
Sheriff-Coroner

Terry Collins
Resources & Development
Management Department

**Donna Garbarino
Henderson**
Social Services Agency

Christina Gonzalez
Sheriff-Coroner

Elena Jemmott
Housing & Community
Services Department

Lisa Jones
Social Services Agency

Charles Mader
Sheriff-Coroner

Leticia Monsivais
Orange County
Public Library

Wayne Moorehead
Sheriff-Coroner

Alan Obester
Resources & Development
Management Department

Gloria Phillips
Human Resources Depart-
ment

Wallace Wade
Child Support Services

Faye Watanabe
County Executive Office

Richard White
Sheriff-Coroner

Ronald White
Sheriff-Coroner

James Wynn
Resources & Development
Management Department

35 Years

Janice Burke
Probation

Sharon Groody
Social Services Agency

30 Years

Ronald Brown
Health Care Agency

Ronnie Harrell
Sheriff-Coroner

John Heppert
Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Martini
Sheriff-Coroner

Joyce Richardson
Social Services Agency



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.