

DUI Summit Fosters Discussion and Provides Prevention Resources

Local policy makers, elected officials, and law enforcement representatives filled Concordia University's DeNault Auditorium on February 27th to attend the Orange County 2013 DUI Summit.

Hosted by Supervisor Todd Spitzer, the Health Care Agency, Automobile Club of Southern California, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Concordia University Center for Public Policy, the day-long event facilitated discussion and formulation of best practices to prevent DUIs (incidents of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs) here in Orange County.

"I feel strongly that the DUI rate is an indicator of the health of a community" said Supervisor Spitzer, who announced that this important statistic will be added to next year's Community Indicators Report. "This will help us form a unified approach countywide so that we can develop our own data and track our successes moving forward."

The audience was deeply moved by a presentation given by Marilyn Ellis, mother of Kimberly Ellis, who was killed at age 22 by a drunken driver. Kimberly had just graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara and was attending law school at Pepperdine. She was on her way to take a study break at McDonalds with friends when her vehicle was struck head-on by an individual with a documented history of driving while intoxicated. "When I was 22, I was picking out my wedding dress with my mom," said Mrs. Ellis. "When my daughter was 22, I was planning her funeral."

Summit topics included the social host ordinance, local DUI data, DUI solutions (what works and what doesn't), responsible beverage service, checkpoints and saturation patrols, DUI media campaigns, and law enforcement strategies to reduce drinking and driving. Attendees left with a suggested action plan to keep the positive momentum sparked by the event moving forward.

To learn more about the Orange County DUI Task Force, please visit www.ocduitaskforce.org. ■



Supervisor Todd Spitzer describes the Orange County DUI Task Force, an organization formed in 2009 to support agencies in reducing alcohol and/or drug impaired driving by increasing awareness of the perceived risk of arrest and other consequences.

Supervisor Pat Bates Hosts 6th Annual South County Senior Summit

Over 800 older adults attended the 6th annual South County Senior Summit, hosted last month by Supervisor Patricia C. Bates in Laguna Woods. The theme of the event was “Dignity, Safety, and Independence: Educating Older Adults and Honoring Veterans.”

The program began with a tribute to veterans, during which Supervisor Bates presented members of the Orange Veterans Advisory Council with the newly-created County of Orange Veterans Resource Directory. “We owe the brave men and women of our military a great deal of thanks,” said Supervisor Bates. “In response to the expressed need by the Veterans Advisory Council, I directed County staff to produce the first Veterans Resource Directory, which I was pleased to present to the Council today.”

Community members can view or print the new Veterans Resource Directory [online](#) or request a copy by calling the Veterans Service Office at (714) 480-6555. The directory provides descriptions of OC Community Services programs that provide assistance to veterans and their families in areas like benefits claims, health services, property tax exemptions, and much more.

The focus of the second half of the Senior Summit was elder fraud and abuse prevention. Among the keynote speakers on this topic was District Attorney Tony Rackauckas. “Criminals prey on the elderly, knowing they are vulnerable targets who cannot afford to lose their hard earned assets,” he said.

Others leading experts who spoke on this important issue included Dr. Bonnie Olsen, Clinical Psychologist at UCI Senior Health Center, Julie Schoen, Legal Counsel with the Council on Aging – OC, Dr. Michael Riley, Director of the Social Services Agency, Alicia Zach, Adult Services Librarian with OC Public Libraries, Karen Roper, Director of OC Community Services, and Dr. Marilyn Ditty, Chief Executive Officer of Age Well Senior Services. ■



The 6th Annual South County Senior Summit was held Friday, February 22nd in Laguna Woods. To view a slideshow of photographs from the Senior Summit, please click [here](#).

U.S Environmental Protection Agency Names OC Waste & Recycling’s Gas to Energy Plant Project of the Year



With a production capacity of 37.5 megawatts, the Brea Power II plant is the second largest landfill gas energy project in the United States, and the largest facility of its type in California.

OC Waste & Recycling is the proud recipient of the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Landfill Methane Outreach Project of the Year award. The 2012 award was given to the partners that collaborated on the new landfill gas energy plant at the Olinda Alpha Landfill located in Brea.

The Brea Power II plant is fueled with landfill gas from Orange County residents’ solid waste. The power generated at the facility is sold to Anaheim Public Utilities, where it enters the grid to be used by the very residents whose waste generated it—enough power to serve over 22,000 Anaheim homes.

“The efficiency of the combined-cycle turbine technology, the use of domestic equipment components, and the \$2.75 million in annual revenue are among the features that sets this project apart,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Shawn Nelson.

The Brea Power II plant began operation in October of 2012. Its 37.5 megawatts of capacity almost most doubles the County’s renewable energy portfolio—from 32.5 megawatts to a total production capacity of 51.8 megawatts.

The Brea Power II plant is owned and operated by Broadrock Renewables, LLC. It was built by DCO Energy using state-of-the-art turbines fabricated in San Diego by Solar Turbines. The plant cost approximately \$130 million to build (at no cost to Orange County taxpayers) and created approximately 150 OC construction jobs and 25 new, permanent jobs. The project was also a recipient of a \$10 million job-related stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

In 1981, the original 5-megawatt landfill gas energy plant began operating at the Olinda Alpha Landfill. The project was so successful that the facility was expanded in 2012 by 32.5 megawatts. The combined cycle plant is one of the most efficient types of power plant in existence today, and provides beneficial use of our landfills’ valuable renewable resource.

A new power plant currently under construction at the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill is expected to add 23 more megawatts of power, increasing OC Waste & Recycling’s renewable energy portfolio to a total of 74 megawatts of power, enough to serve more than 43,500 homes or almost all of Fullerton.

The US EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program sponsors the annual Project of the Year

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Award. “It’s a proud moment for the County to be recognized on a national level, and even a prouder moment for us to recognize that we use our resources strategically to benefit our residents and the environment here in Orange County,” said Chairman Nelson. ■

Public Defender Named Attorney of the Year

Orange County’s Public Defender, Frank Ospino, was honored as Attorney of the Year by the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County at an event on Saturday, March 2.

Ospino, who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to the Public Defender’s post in February 2012, received the prestigious honor presented annually by the Hispanic Bar Association to an outstanding attorney who has made a significant contribution to the legal community or to one who has enhanced quality of life for the Latino community. The award was presented during the group’s 35th annual Scholarship Fundraiser and Installation Dinner held at the Disney Grand Californian Hotel in Anaheim.

The Attorney of the Year honor recognizes Ospino’s efforts during his almost 25 year career with the Office of the Public Defender to provide effective legal representation to many low income residents of Orange County and his commitment to providing access to justice for those most in need. Ospino is also the first Hispanic to serve as Public Defender for the County of Orange. He is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1984. ■

County Brings “Clean Up Day” to El Modena Community



Pictured are the following volunteers who participated in the El Modena Community “Clean Up Day” event: (top row from left to right) Amir Ilkhanipour, Rick LeFeuvre, Mahrooz Ilkhanipour, Polin Modanlou, Aldo Luna, Linda LeFeuvre, Elise LeFeuvre, Monique LeFeuvre, and Brianna Johnson, as well as (bottom row from left to right) Erica Carlos, Judy Kim, Xenia Regalia, Eric Hull, Supervisor Todd Spitzer, Cora Villegas, Angela Crespi, Nicholas Johnson, Darren Johnson, and Tanner Johnson.

Third District Supervisor Todd Spitzer was joined by twenty volunteers from OC Public Works (OCPW) and OC Waste & Recycling (OCWR) to hold a successful Community Clean-Up Day on February 23rd in the unincorporated El Modena Community.

To help get the word out to residents beforehand, Rick LeFeuvre, OCPW Deputy Director of OC Planning, volunteered for many hours with his family distributing more than 1,500 door hanger flyers throughout the area.

Supervisor Spitzer kicked off the event at 7:30 a.m. while coffee and donuts were provided for volunteers. “This is a great opportunity to show pride in our communities – and to get rid of that

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

extra junk in your garage,” he said. “A special thank you to the organizers, especially OC Planning’s Neighborhood Preservation team and OC Waste & Recycling.”

OCWR sponsored eight 40 yard roll-off containers and strategically placed them for El Modena residents to dispose of or recycle large household items. Two to three volunteers were at every drop location to assist residents with answering questions and helping place items into containers. The first roll-off container was filled by 8:20 a.m. Each dumpster collected weighed anywhere from 2.15 – 3.17 tons, totaling 23.14 tons of waste. All dumpsters were filled by 10:30 a.m. Many of the residents expressed their appreciation for the event.

This event, and others like it throughout the County, gives residents the opportunity to remove large household items such as: sofas, desks, chairs, stoves, shelving units, mattresses, refrigerators, washers and dryers. The Community Clean Up Day clears debris while working alongside residents with the shared goal of an improved community. ■

Near-Record Number of Couples Married on Valentine’s Day

A near-record number of couples – 170 – were married on Valentine’s Day in civil ceremonies performed by the Clerk-Recorder Department, just three couples shy of the previous record of 173 couples who wed on the holiday in 1997. Last year, 157 couples tied the knot on Valentine’s Day.

Happy couples exchanged vows throughout the day at the department’s three wedding offices in Orange County. The greatest number of ceremonies – 101 -- was performed at the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana. Ceremonies performed at the two branch offices included 39 at the North County branch office in historic downtown Fullerton and 30 at the South County branch office at the Laguna Hills Civic Center.

The offices also issued a total of 224 marriage licenses on the most romantic day of the year. For decades, the Clerk-Recorder Department has made special accommodations for Valentine’s Day, even opening ceremony rooms when the day falls on a weekend. “Our goal is to assure that every couple who visits our offices has a truly special experience,” said Assistant Clerk-Recorder Renee Ramirez.



Melina Piliero and Richard Valdez, residents of Anaheim, take their wedding vows at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana on Valentine’s Day.

Valentine’s Day typically sees four times the volume of marriage ceremonies compared to an average day. In 2011, 135 couples were married when the holiday fell on a Monday. In 2008, when Valentine’s Day was on a Friday, 139 couples wed in civil ceremonies. ■

Freeway Construction May Impact Civic Center Traffic



The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is in the planning process for improvements to Interstate 5 that may impact Civic Center area traffic in the coming years.

Once completed, this \$45 million Central County Improvement Project is expected to decrease congestion and travel delays on the I-5 between the 55 and 57 Freeways while improving the efficiency of carpool lanes. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2016 and changes are planned for the southbound I-5 First Street on-ramp. Alternatives under consideration for

this location include removing the southbound I-5 First Street on-ramp and constructing a new southbound I-5 on-ramp at Fourth Street, or removing the southbound I-5 First Street on-ramp and constructing a southbound I-5 loop on-ramp at First Street. Several alternatives are also under consideration for carpool lanes in the area.

OCTA is meeting with key community stakeholders, homeowner associations, and community groups in the area. In addition to these community meetings, OCTA will host a public hearing on the project in summer 2013. For more information about the project, visit www.octa.net/I5Central. ■

Pet Adoptions Increase in 2012

OC Animal Care Services reported a slight increase in pet adoptions during 2012 at a time when fewer animals are being brought into the County's shelter.

In 2012, 10,133 cats, dogs and other animals were adopted from OC Animal Care, an increase of slightly more than 1.1% from 2011 figures. OC Animal Care offers monthly special events at the shelter and works closely with organizations like the Angels Baseball Foundation to promote adoption of shelter animals. Another significant achievement in 2012 was an increase in the number of stray animals coming into the shelter that had some form of identification. This greatly increases the chance of reuniting stray pets with their owners and demonstrates the value of pet licensing and microchipping.

Animals available for adoption can be viewed on the OC Animal Care website at www.ocpetinfo.com or by visiting the shelter at 561 The City Drive South in Orange. ■

OC ANIMAL CARE SLIDESHOW: CLICK HERE



Volunteer Kristen Alexander gets this inquisitive dog to pose for the camera during the February 23 Spay Day adoption event.

OC Animal Care - Animal Shelter Night Event

Join OC Animal Care and the Anaheim Ducks for:

Animal Shelter Night at the Honda Center!

Sunday, March 24th
3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the Hockey Spot!

Join the Anaheim Ducks and OC Animal Care on Sunday, March 24th, for a fun-filled afternoon at the Honda Center!

- Meet shelter animals
- Learn about OC Animal Care
- Donate new or gently used towels, blankets, pet toys or pet food

We hope to see you there!






For more information, please visit anaheimducks.com or ocpetinfo.com

OC Community Services

Get the 411 on the Orange County Sheriff's Department

1. The Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) is a multi-faceted law enforcement agency with a proud tradition of service to the residents of Orange County since 1889.
2. Under the direction of Sheriff Sandra Hutchens and her executive command staff, nearly 3,800 sworn and professional staff members along with more than 700 volunteers and reserve personnel provide law enforcement services free from prejudice or favor, with leadership, integrity, and respect to all people.
3. OCSD serves more than 600,000 Orange County residents in 13 contract cities and the unincorporated County areas through 24-hour police patrols, investigative units, parking control and vehicle abatement services.
4. OCSD provides the following services to the more than three million residents of the County of Orange: coroner, forensic science, correctional facilities, hazardous device squad, communications, court security, John Wayne Airport security, harbor patrol and many other services.

To learn more about the Orange County Sheriff's Department, visit www.OCSD.org.



Service Awards

For the Month of February

30 YEARS

Jeffrey Ferguson
District Attorney

Joyce Krall
Health Care Agency

25 YEARS

Mark Finley
Auditor-Controller

Susan Nunes
Auditor-Controller

Helena Chang
Child Support Services

Michele Villanueva
County Executive Office

Edwin Burnett
District Attorney

Abe Sanchez
Health Care Agency

Maher Al-Masri
OC Public Works

Vaneva Stone
Probation

Bradford Blakely
Sheriff-Coroner

Hal Brotheim
Sheriff-Coroner

Christina Brown
Sheriff-Coroner

Thomas Chevallier
Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Downey
Sheriff-Coroner

Kristine Garcia
Sheriff-Coroner

Peggy Gonzalez
Sheriff-Coroner

Ken Hoffman
Sheriff-Coroner

Jean Joyce-Slater
Sheriff-Coroner

Eric Kaesman
Sheriff-Coroner

Maria Manriquez
Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Naranjo
Sheriff-Coroner

Mary Ngayan
Sheriff-Coroner

Eliza Ramirez
Sheriff-Coroner

David Rios Sr.
Sheriff-Coroner

Lourdes Chavez
Social Services Agency

Beatriz De La Riva
Social Services Agency

Robin Dougherty
Social Services Agency

Maria Larres
Social Services Agency

Pamela Miller
Social Services Agency

Roberta Pehrson
Social Services Agency

Nelda Sanchez
Social Services Agency

Jeannette Torres
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

John Le
Auditor-Controller

Thanh-Huong Nguyen
Auditor-Controller

Rosa Chavez
Clerk-Recorder

Yvonne Ortiz
Child Support Services

Vilma Scaff
Child Support Services

Carol Henson
District Attorney

Lisa Jordan-Jimenez
District Attorney

Rosa Rios
District Attorney

Patricia Shute
District Attorney

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

**20 YEARS
CONTINUED**

Lorraine Marquez
Health Care Agency

Colleen Naumann
Health Care Agency

Vincent Sholl
Health Care Agency

Tony McCombs
OC Waste & Recycling

Brett William
Public Administrator

Maribel Coronel
Probation

Carlos Meza
Probation

Ericson Raines
Probation

Christopher Anderson
Sheriff-Coroner

Ray Boettcher
Sheriff-Coroner

Garold Brill
Sheriff-Coroner

Jared Dahl
Sheriff-Coroner

Curtis Dawson
Sheriff-Coroner

Douglas Earl
Sheriff-Coroner

Charles Johnson
Sheriff-Coroner

Glen Lockerby
Sheriff-Coroner

Ronald Lucker
Sheriff-Coroner

Gerald Marvray
Sheriff-Coroner

Jason Middlekauff
Sheriff-Coroner

Guy Olschewske
Sheriff-Coroner

Chet Parker
Sheriff-Coroner

James Peak
Sheriff-Coroner

Matthew Prince
Sheriff-Coroner

Paula Saunders
Sheriff-Coroner

Jeffrey Smith
Sheriff-Coroner

Bradley Valentine
Sheriff-Coroner

Pamela Walker
Sheriff-Coroner

Julie Webb
Sheriff-Coroner

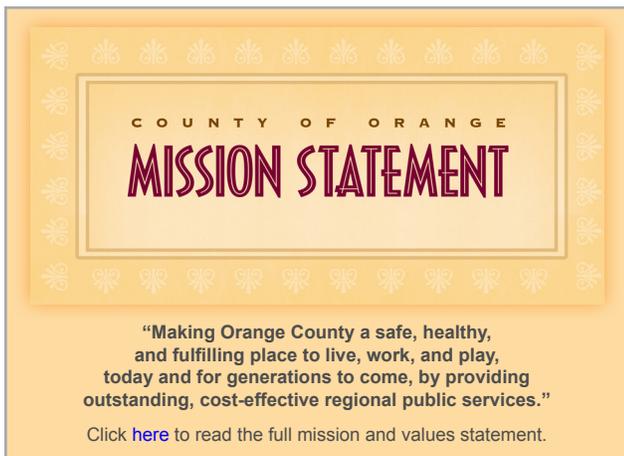
Traci Young
Sheriff-Coroner

Jyothi Atluri
Social Services Agency

Phuong Duong
Social Services Agency

Adriana Gardea
Social Services Agency

Marina Nunez
Social Services Agency



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.”

Click [here](#) to read the full mission and values statement.



CONTACT US

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

Editors..... Howard Sutter
Jessica Good
Kelly Newell

Julie Nguyen
Grace Chou