

Behind the Scenes with Environmental Health Services

Ask Gabriela Mata, a Senior Environmental Health Specialist with the Health Care Agency, what's the greatest thing about her job and she'll tell you that it's working with the public every day. "Every day there's a new and challenging aspect to my job and I like that because every day is always different."

Gabriela began her career with the County in 2005 as an Assistant Environmental Health Specialist after graduating from San Diego State University with a Master's in Public Health and a Bachelor's in Biology. "Before becoming an inspector, I had no idea that such a wide variety of food existed in Orange County. I've encountered so many new foods during restaurant inspections that I've never tried before like Persian food in Irvine and Vietnamese food in Garden Grove."

So what does a day to day routine look like for an inspector? Some days they're making unexpected visits to restaurants, checking in on Farmers Markets on the weekends or checking out a local community swimming pool. Every inspection has a list of things that must be checked off which includes: checking food temperature, water quality, restroom sanitation, storage units, equipment cleanliness and making sure that employees are handling food properly. Most inspections are unannounced and happen twice a year. Gabriela feels that her bilingual skills have really helped her over the years when conducting restaurant inspections because sometimes owners make mistakes in food handling, preparation and storage simply because of a language miscommunication.

Before coming to the County, Gabriela had the opportunity to travel to Mexico with the Naval



Gabriela Mata

Health Research Center where she trained staff to collect nasal swab specimens for a bi-national research project. That experience sparked an interest in public health and while in her Master's program she had the opportunity to work on several research projects through the San Diego State University Foundation.

After graduating, Gabriela had to pass the test for the California State required license for Environmental Health Services. Luckily for Gabriela, the Health Care Agency provided on-the-job training for one year, and by the time the big exam came around she felt that the training was so hands-on and comprehensive that she was very prepared.

In the next few years Gabriela would like to continue to take on more responsibility within the Health Care Agency, and hopes to be in a supervisory role within the food protection program someday.

To learn about a restaurant's inspection results, members of the public can visit <http://ocgov.com/gov/health/eh/> and then click on restaurant inspections under the food safety column to find out more information before visiting. ■

Civic Center Plaza Hosts Kickoff

County of Orange employees had the chance to get in the spirit of this year's United Way campaign during the annual kickoff event held on the Civic Center Plaza. In addition to the wide variety of traditional food booths, gourmet food trucks added to the dining choices and atmosphere. Employees could also take in a good-natured putting competition between County executives or just relax and visit with friends and co-workers. The event even offered an incentive to return your United Way pledge form and show your support for the many community programs that receive United Way funding. ■

UNITED WAY SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



The Orange County Employee's United Way Kick-Off took place on a beautiful fall day on October 2nd in Santa Ana. Please click here to view more photographs from the annual event.

Landfill Hosts United Way Event

Just the name of the event lets you know you are in for a unique experience. "Dine at the Dump" has become an Orange County United Way tradition and those who attend will attest that dining at the dump is a great way to raise funds and enjoy a tasty meal.

The event is held annually at the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill near Irvine and draws participation from many County agencies and departments. Chefs from The Ritz Restaurant in Newport Beach prepared barbecue chicken and ribs along with a selection of side dishes and fresh fruit. A highlight of the event was the door prize drawing emceed by Second District Supervisor John M.W. Moorlach, with ticket sales also benefitting the United Way campaign.

Those in attendance also had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the landfill and get up close with the falcons used to deter seagulls and other birds from foraging at the solid waste landfill. Many thanks to the staff of OC Waste & Recycling for their efforts to benefit the United Way campaign and for giving County staff a glimpse of their facilities and responsibilities. ■

DINE AT THE DUMP SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



Dine at the Dump attendees file through the food line and fill their plates from a tasty selection.

Electric Vehicles Help OC Parks Go Green

Several of the OC Parks facilities are a little greener these days thanks to the adoption of electric vehicles for use by Parks staff.

There are now more than 30 electric vehicles in use at 14 OC Parks facilities, which were carefully selected after an analysis of their needs and existing vehicles. OC Parks Division Manager John Gannaway says feedback was solicited from staff on the type of vehicle that would best suit their needs, recognizing that each park facility is unique. For example, full size, four wheel drive vehicles are often needed at wilderness parks, while other facilities may be able to utilize compact trucks and SUV's for routine tasks.

Electric vehicles offer several advantages, including lower acquisition costs, reduced maintenance and reduced emissions. Electric vehicles can be customized with utility beds or designed for use by park rangers and can be easier to maneuver on the narrow pathways found in some parks. Many vehicles are only used within the park boundaries and are not operated on public streets, making electric vehicles suitable for a wide variety of uses.

Based on the study conducted by OC Parks staff, funds were budgeted for 28 electric vehicles, including about one-third for use by park rangers and two-thirds for maintenance purposes. The vehicles have been in use for about four months and Gannaway says most employees really enjoy them. "The overall consensus is that staff sees a need for using electric vehicles like these." An added benefit has been the reaction of the public. "They like it, they like that we are going green," Gannaway added.

As with anything new, there has been a learning curve, and staff quickly identified the need for higher voltage chargers that allow the vehicles to be recharged in a shorter period of time. The electric vehicles have allowed OC Parks to surpass their goal of reducing the number of gasoline powered vehicles used by the department by 30% and fit with a growing industry trend to use "greener" vehicles that reduce our impact on the environment. ■

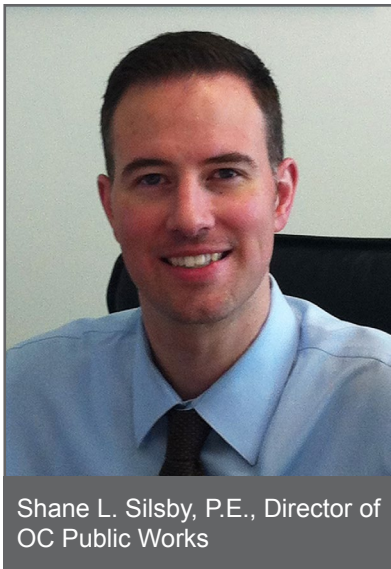


Quiet, efficient and highly maneuverable are some of the words used to describe this electric vehicle used by OC Parks rangers.



Electric vehicles can be configured to handle a variety of common tasks performed by OC Parks staff.

New OC Public Works Director Reports for Duty



Shane L. Silsby, P.E., Director of OC Public Works

November 4 was the first day on the job for Shane L. Silsby, P.E., in his new role as Director of OC Public Works.

Silsby's appointment was announced September 26 by County Chief Operating Officer Mark Denny, who cited his strong educational and professional background. "Shane brings with him a broad perspective and strong knowledge of best practices in public works and land use

planning," Denny said. "In 2012, he was recognized by the Engineer News-Record Southwest Region as one of the 'Top 20 Under 40' in the engineering and construction industry."

Prior to joining the County of Orange, Silsby was the Deputy Director and Deputy City Engineer of Street Transportation for the City of Phoenix, Arizona. In his nine years with the city, he also led a multi-disciplinary technical group in the Planning and Development Department. He previously worked for the City of Lansing, Michigan as a Division Head and Transportation Engineer in their Transportation and Parking Department.

A graduate of Michigan State University with both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Civil Engineering, Silsby holds two Professional Engineering registrations. He recently accepted the 2013 Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association on behalf of the City of Phoenix and has served on the Board of the American Public Works Association, Arizona Chapter. ■

Disaster Preparedness Expo Draws a Crowd

Many observers noted that the crowd at this year's South County Disaster Preparedness Expo may have been the biggest yet for the annual event held October 19 in Mission Viejo, and the sea of red-shirted participants was proof of the Expo's popularity.

One reason this year's crowd may have increased over previous years is the association with the community's 25th Annual Walk Against Drugs, during which thousands of school students march from the high school to the Norman Murray Senior and Community Center to participate in games, take in live entertainment and enjoy food and refreshments. The Expo again drew a strong line-up of organizations involved

(Continued on page 5)

EXPO SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



The Sheriff's Department bloodhound was a big attraction for children at the South County Disaster Preparedness Expo.

(Continued from page 4)

in disaster preparedness and response, including many County agencies and departments. From numerous displays by the Sheriff's Department to cherry-picker rides offered by OC Public Works, adults and children had an opportunity to see the many ways the County is involved in assisting the public.

Fifth District Supervisor Patricia C. Bates was in attendance and her booth provided Expo visitors with information about County services. Also on hand was Third District Supervisor Todd Spitzer, who joined Supervisor Bates in presenting organizers from RADD, the Entertainment Industry's Voice for Road Safety, with a Board Resolution marking the start of Red Ribbon Week. RADD sponsored a "Battle of the Bands" competition aimed at taking the anti-drug message to older students. ■

Probation Shows Off at Rare Open House

The Santa Ana winds blew away the signs, but they couldn't blow away the enthusiasm of the hundreds of people who were able to get a first-hand look inside a juvenile institution. The OC Probation Department rarely gets the opportunity to open its doors to the public, but on Saturday, October 5th, the staff did just that.

Chief Probation Officer Steve Sentman said, "Having this Open House is a terrific opportunity for our friends and families to meet our OC Probation staff, volunteers and partners and to see firsthand how together we make a safer Orange County through positive change."

Each of the fourteen divisions of the department and many collaborative partners presented displays of their operations at the Youth Leadership Academy in Orange. Children were able to try on body armor, sample food from Juvenile Hall, and even step into one of the sleeping rooms used by a youth detained by the Juvenile Court. Special vehicles used by the department were also displayed.

"The Probation Department is paving the way for a safer Orange County through an offender focused, balanced approach of prevention, intervention and support," said Chief Sentman. "This event lets us share our success with those we serve and is a great way for our staff and volunteers to share their work with friends and family."



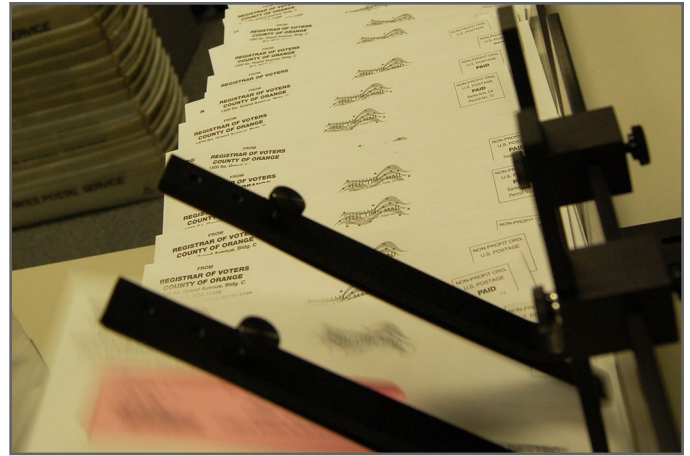
Deputy Probation Officers Frank Lowrey and Michelle Smith were happy to share the workings of Juvenile Supervision with several hundred visitors at the Probation Department's October 5 Open House.

The Probation Department plays an important role in protecting the public's safety in Orange County. Probation Officers supervise thousands of adult and juvenile offenders on court-ordered probation or in diversion programs. They also serve an investigative role for the court system by producing sentencing reports and recommendations, among many other reports. Orange County Probation Officers in specialized units work with local police agencies, the Sheriff's Department, and the District Attorney's office to reduce gang-related crime and to supervise convicted narcotics dealers. The Probation Department also operates facilities for juveniles including Orange County Juvenile Hall and the Joplin Youth Center. For more information about the Probation Department, visit <http://ocgov.com/gov/probation/>. ■

Registrar of Voters Wants Your Opinion

The Orange County Registrar of Voters office (ROV) is currently in the middle of an analysis of the County's voting system and has been reaching out to various groups to obtain their input. In planning for the modernization of the County's voting system, ROV is now seeking input from County employees about the current and future needs of voters. Although it may be some time before a change is made, the feedback County employees provide through this survey will ultimately assist ROV in shaping the future of voting in Orange County.

The survey contains just seven questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Responses received after November 15, 2013 may not be included in the survey report, so please take the survey at your earliest convenience.



Over 1,000 people have already participated in the survey and you can add your voice to the process by visiting <http://www.ocvote.com/survey/new-voting-system/>. Your participation is appreciated! ■



24/7 Fraud Hotline 714.834.3608

Our Vigilance Never Sleeps!

-  **Hotline Phone Number: 714.834.3608**
Call us and remain anonymous.
Call anytime, anyplace, day or night.
Report questionable behavior, waste, and abuse involving County vendors, employees, and processes.
-  **Hotline Website Information/
Online Submission:** <http://www.ocgov.com/audit>
-  **Address to send documentation:**
Fraud Documentation
County of Orange Internal Audit Department
12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 232
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Help us keep the
County honest,
fair, and efficient.**

Other Hotline Numbers:

- Child Abuse
714.940.1000
- Consumer Protection Unit
714.648.3600
- U-TIP Safety & Loss
Prevention Hotline
714.285.5597
- County Employees Worker's
Compensation Fraud
714.648.3650
- Welfare Fraud &
Public Assistance Fraud Unit
714.347.8636
- Medi-Cal Fraud
800.822.6222

The Orange County Fraud Hotline is intended for the use by County employees, the general public, or vendors reporting suspected waste, fraud, violations of County policy or misuse of County resources by vendors, contractors or County employees. County employees wishing to report complaints are protected under the New Whistleblower Law, California Labor Code 1102.5 and 1106. The California State Attorney General's Whistleblower Hotline number is 1-800-952-5225.

Internal Audit Fraud Hotline

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of County resources, contact the OC Internal Audit Department Fraud Hotline at (714) 834-3608 or visit www.ocgov.com/audit. Messages are accepted any day or time and can be made anonymously. In addition, employees are provided protection under the California Whistleblower Law. ■

OC Animal Care Animals for Armed Forces Event



Get the 411 on Countywide Volunteer & Intern Engagement

- Volunteer contributions enhance the quality of life for all of us who live and work in Orange County. During fiscal year 2012/13, 36,168 individuals donated their time and expertise to volunteer programs coordinated by 11 County agencies/departments and contributed 579,090 hours of service valued at \$16.5 million in avoided costs for County government.
- In addition to volunteer involvement over the past year, 1,211 interns accepted assignments with 16 County agencies/departments and several Board offices. Their contributions totaled 212,455 hours of service valued at \$4.5 million in avoided costs for County government.
- Interns bring a fresh perspective, new talent, increased diversity and a helping hand to the County's workforce, and volunteers work in partnership with County employees to expand and enhance the range of services offered to Orange County residents.
- Over the past year, 220 County volunteers, interns and programs were recognized with two national, three state and 10 local awards, including the President's Volunteer Service Award, CSUF's Most Committed Partner Award, OneOC's Spirit of Volunteerism Award and the Learning for Life Spurgeon Award.

To learn more about the County's Volunteer and Intern Resources or to read the Annual Volunteer/Intern Utilization Report, please visit <http://www.ocgov.com/gov/volunteer/>.



Service Awards

For the Month of October

45 YEARS

Robert Acker
OC Public Works

35 YEARS

Caryn Gallegos
District Attorney

Sara Perez
Health Care Agency

Marvin Martin
OC Community Resources

30 YEARS

Deborah Bennett
Health Care Agency

Daniel Eckel
OC Public Works

Christopher Kubasek
OC Public Works

George Zaun
OC Public Works

David Ferris
Social Services Agency

Maria Ortiz
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Pamela Mc Lellan
Child Support Services

Rose Solorio
Clerk-Recorder

Selina Chan-Wychgel
County Executive Office

Michelle Zink
County Executive Office

Oyewole Akinyemi
Health Care Agency

Donna Hanson
Health Care Agency

Diana Martinez
Health Care Agency

Terri Middlesworth
Health Care Agency

Cecile Truong
Health Care Agency

Scott Thomas
OC Community Resources

Carol Zeissner
OC Public Works

Paul Davis
OC Waste & Recycling

La Tanya Carter
Probation

Sterling Hawkins
Probation

Sharon Hoffman
Probation

Bonnie Katz
Probation

Erik Wadsworth
Probation

Derek Yopp
Probation

Ray Claxton
Sheriff-Coroner

Jeffrey Seper
Sheriff-Coroner

Thomas Venaglia
Sheriff-Coroner

Heather Doan
Social Services Agency

Melissa Ramirez
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Casey Aguilar
Child Support Services

Ramona Avila
Child Support Services

Nancy Burgos-Johnson
Child Support Services

Rafaela Damian
Child Support Services

Michelle Do
Child Support Services

Miriam Avila
Health Care Agency

Jennifer Bosch
Health Care Agency

Valerie Brooks
Health Care Agency

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

20 YEARS CONTINUED

Shellie Hunt Health Care Agency	James Foust Sheriff-Coroner	Jacqueline Garcia Social Services Agency	Victor Pulido Social Services Agency
Kathryn Krusel Health Care Agency	Steven Hoffman Sheriff-Coroner	Rosalinda Guzman Social Services Agency	Diana Quintero Social Services Agency
James Marquez Health Care Agency	Ruth Ikeda Sheriff-Coroner	Lynda Hein Social Services Agency	Manuel Roa Social Services Agency
Aleta Bryant District Attorney	Joseph Jaing Sheriff-Coroner	Sharon Jones Social Services Agency	Linh Ta Social Services Agency
LeLand McCartney OC Community Resources	Michael Laros Sheriff-Coroner	Diane Le Social Services Agency	Thanh Timmins Social Services Agency
Sandy Smith OC Community Resources	Marcus Perez Sheriff-Coroner	Nicole Mastin Social Services Agency	Diana Wittkamm Social Services Agency
Jose Suarez OC Community Resources	Pax Perez Sheriff-Coroner	Carol Jane Melvin Social Services Agency	
Erik Baum Sheriff-Coroner	Caroline Rodriguez Sheriff-Coroner	Vinh Ngo Social Services Agency	
Kenneth Binning Sheriff-Coroner	Andrew Stephens Sheriff-Coroner	Terry Noble Social Services Agency	
Robert Bunney Sheriff-Coroner	Norma Baron Social Services Agency	Mary Odle Social Services Agency	
	Janet Carrete Social Services Agency	Angela R. Perez 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/Communications. 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
--------------	---	----------------------------