

Holiday Traditions

In a County as large and diverse as the County of Orange, there are more holiday traditions than I can count. Even within our own County workforce, the ways we observe the holidays with our family and friends are many and varied.

As this is my first year as
County Executive Officer, we
started a new tradition in the
CEO's office by joining together for a pre-Thanksgiving
luncheon. This event brought
together employees who work
in our various units, many
located outside the Hall of Administration, for a brief time of

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Crime Prevention Centers on Education

It may have been destiny that led Brittney Oldham to the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Brittney admits that she "grew up in law enforcement," with her mother and aunt working for the Sheriff's Department and her uncle working for the Santa Ana Police Department. However, Brittney had something else in mind for a career. "In college, I



Crime Prevention Specialist Brittney Oldham hoped to become a teacher but is now using her teaching skills to help protect Laguna Hills residents and their property.

studied child and adolescent development and wanted to go into teaching," Brittney stated. Her position as a Crime Prevention Specialist with the Laguna Hills Police Services has allowed her to fulfill both of her passions, in that she is now teaching various audiences about law enforcement.

Since joining the Sheriff's Department in 2006, Brittney has served in a number of capacities and locations, from her first position as a Sheriff's Cadet in Dana Point to the job she now holds. In between she worked for the Sheriff's Department in Rancho Santa Margarita and in Mission Viejo, finding each community has its own personality and unique needs. Perhaps the thing she likes best about her job is the tremendous variety of assignments and responsibilities that come along with the position. "There is no typical day, every day is differ-

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fellowship and, of course, the sharing of many tasty home-cooked dishes. It was great to get so many people together in one place and I was reminded how important each individual is to the achievement of our goals and to our strength as a team. I was also reminded how much we have to be thankful for.

While I am not able to share this moment of holiday spirit with each of you, I do want to share with you my best wishes for the holiday season and my thanks for all that you do on behalf of the County of Orange and the people we serve. I hope that you and your family have a happy holiday season and a healthy New Year.

Mike Giancola County Executive Officer



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ent," according to Brittney. Among her duties are public presentations for groups ranging from preschoolers to senior citizens, offering an eight week Community Emergency Preparedness Academy that culminates with a mock disaster drill and providing car seat inspections to ensure infants and toddlers are safe motor vehicle passengers.

Some of Brittney's duties are straight from today's headlines, such as educating 8th grade girls about internet and cell phone safety. These types of programs require Brittney to stay current on the latest trends in social media. "The girls are not using Facebook because it is something their parents and grandparents are using." While social media may change, her reminder to safeguard your personal information while online remains the same and provides Brittney a great opportunity to interact with youth in the community while providing a different perspective on law enforcement.

Brittney finds satisfaction in the difference she can make in the community as a Crime Prevention Specialist. "People remember me and people who have been involved in our Neighborhood Watch groups are often complimentary of our work as a liaison between law enforcement and the community." While it can be frustrating that people don't always put into practice the things they learn through crime prevention programs, Brittney says overall they are pretty receptive to the department's emphasis on preventing crime whenever possible.

In the future, Brittney hopes to broaden her involvement in community relations activities and would like to help implement more programs for children, such as a child safety academy. No matter where the assignment, Brittney knows that the duties of a Crime Prevention Specialist and the opportunity she has with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to work with people of all ages will continue to provide her with the daily variety and many challenges that she has come to enjoy about her career.

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Two Decades of Nuclear Exercises to Change in Frequency

For the past twenty years, OC Public Works Deputy Director Rick LeFeuvre has donned a canary yellow vest with the title "Agricultural Commissioner" stretching across his back during the County's biennial San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) exercises.

LeFeuvre plays a key role in the drills that are composed of several City, County, State and Federal agencies working together as a seamless unit. The multi-disciplined response demonstrates protection of the public during a simulated incident at the nuclear power plant.

Since the exercises were graded every two years by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), LeFeuvre has seen his share of Federal evaluators – and their reactions – to Orange County's emergency response plan. "It's evident how comfortable that the Federal regulators are with the performance of the entire Orange County team and its leaders," he said. "This is directly attributable to a strong 20year pattern of continual training, practice, and continuous improvement of our response to the simulated incidents at San Onofre. In addition, Orange County has always worked very hard to train its newer employees. Our hats should be off to the entire County of Orange Response Team "

In 2011, the one-day plume phase exercise was held in conjunction with a two-day ingestion pathway exercise focused on recovery efforts. It is an exercise that occurs once every 12 years. Of Orange County's players, only Rick LeFeuvre had previously participated. His experience was vital to the success of the drill, in which five counties came together to create a consensus on how best to protect the public from contaminated agricultural crops. Neighboring counties look to Orange County's experience with a significant level of trust based upon how regularly the nuclear scenario is practiced.



Rick LeFeuvre, Deputy Director of OC Public Works, provides agricultural input in the 2011 San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Ingestion Pathway Exercise. Please click here to view additional photos.

Some of the earliest exercises LeFeuvre played in were held in the Ziggurat, or pyramid structure, officially known as the Chet Holifield Federal Building in Laguna Niguel. These drills predated today's extensive use of computers and parts of the drill were performed with paper message slips. As technology has become more advanced, so have the drills. The biennial exercises are now held at the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Loma Ridge, including a dress rehearsal in September and evaluated exercise in October of this year. The new technology recently showcased included newly-installed smart boards and an upgraded software system called WebEOC.

More than 200 participants from 20 different agencies throughout the County played in the exercise, lending assistance in their area of expertise or filling in a supportive role. All of the players contributed to a successful exercise in which FEMA commended Orange County by noting that the coordinated drill continues to be the gold-standard for nuclear exercises across the country.

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Earlier this year, Southern California Edison announced its plans to decommission the plant. As a result, the frequency of the SONGS exercises will change, as they will not be mandated by FEMA and funding streams may be altered. The plant, however, continues to store spent-fuel rods on site, pointing to the need for continued planning and exercises.

"Orange County must remain vigilant and committed to practicing public protection for all types of scenarios, including an incident at SONGS," said Donna Boston, Director of the Sheriff's Department Emergency Management Division. "Conducting the SONGS exercises regularly made us better – better planners and better responders. Exercises will continue, although they will include scenarios for other disasters, as well as an incident at SONGS."

Holiday Giving Programs Offer Hope



Volunteer Jerry Jhan, a former Social Services Agency employee, assembles a bike at the Operation Santa Claus warehouse.

From the outside, it's just a warehouse. On the inside, this building tucked into an industrial area of Santa Ana is the place that many holiday wishes are fulfilled every year.

While it is a long way from the North Pole, the warehouse serves as a central location for Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa & Friends, two holiday programs of the Orange County Social Services Agency that are designed to meet the needs of those served by many County agencies. The County's holiday gift drive started in 1962 and has grown tremendously over its more than 50 year history. Last

year, Operations Santa Claus provided 42,800 gifts to children and families in just 17 days of shopping, while Senior Santa and Friends helped to meet some of the needs of over 2,500 low income seniors and adults with disabilities.

Social Services Agency employee Mona Gustafson coordinates Operation Santa Claus and sees the need up-close and personal each year. "In just 17 days, this warehouse goes from full to empty and then fills up again from the community toy drives." Foster children and their families are among the first served, selecting gifts from the carefully stocked shelves that hold toys, books, games and sports equipment. More toys are always needed and gifts for toddlers are often among those in shortest supply. The message that is heard over and over again is that "nothing goes to waste" with volunteers making up gift bags of clothing items, rattles and diapers for infants, backpacks filled with school supplies and smaller items such as lotions and perfumes.

Volunteers are the backbone of Operation Santa Claus. They prepare year round for the holiday season and for foster children birthday gift giving. They assemble bicycles, sort donated toys and clothing and help children and families make their selections from the available items.

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On the other side of the warehouse, Senior Santa & Friends has a quieter atmosphere and much a different inventory. Brightly colored toys and games are replaced by shelves lined with towels and bedding, electric heaters, and cases of nutritional supplements. Senior Santa organizer Eric Pittman says these items are just as important to making sure that the 2,500 seniors and adults served by the program have a little joy during the holiday season. Social workers pick out items for their clients and the program tries to meet needs that arise throughout the year.

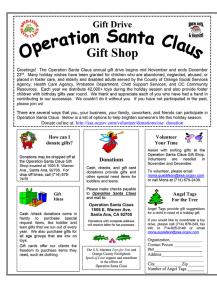
There are several other ways that donations can be made to support Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa & Friends. Donations by check or credit card can be made through the Social Services Agency website at http://ssa. ocgov.com/volunteer/santa#volunteer. Donations of gift cards allow both programs to purchase items during the holidays and throughout the year, taking advantage of sales and clearance items to get the most for the money. Angel Tags are also distributed to County work locations and provide gift suggestions that make your shopping a little easier. Some County employees even forgo the giving of gifts to others in their work locations, instead organizing gift drives to benefit Operation Santa Claus or Senior Santa & Friends.

Re-gifting plays an important role in filling the shelves for Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa & Friends. Everyone receives something that might not be right for them but is perfectly suitable for someone else, and Holiday Gift Drive collection boxes will still be available until January 15, 2014 to make re-gifting even easier.

A third holiday giving program that benefits clients of the County of Orange is Holiday Hope, now in its 29th year, which offers holiday food assistance to clients referred through Health Care Agency clinics. Many of these clients live at nutritional risk due to their low income levels and Holiday Hope is able to provide them with food during the holidays because of the generous donations received from the community and County employees. Cash donations to Holiday Hope are used to purchase grocery store gift cards and certificates which in turn are presented to needy clients.

The generosity of County employees and the support of the community each year lift the spirits of less fortunate children, adults and senior citizens and help us all to experience the joys that are an essential part of the holiday season.







Benefit Costs a Component of Employee Compensation

The recent completion of our annual employee benefit enrollment period serves as a reminder that benefit costs are a significant component of employee compensation for each and every County employee.

Your employee pay stub shows what you have contributed to the cost of your benefits; determining the County's share takes a little additional work. To see the County's cost, look in the upper right hand corner of your *on-line* pay stub for a blue bar that reads "Fringe Benefits." By clicking on this blue bar, a new screen appears that shows the County's cost to support your fringe benefits this pay period and for the year to date. Items including insurance, Medicare, retiree medical and the employer portion of your pension contribution are shown individually, giving employees a detailed look at the County's contribution to benefits.



By clicking on the "Fringe Benefits" button on your pay stub, you can access information about both the employee and County contributions to the cost of your employee benefits.

County Earns Two Red Carpet Awards



The County of Orange turned in a strong showing at the Third Annual "Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet" Awards competition staged by the Orange County Business Council (OCBC).

The County was presented the Award for Public-Private Partnership for OC Waste & Recycling's Olinda Alpha Landfill Renewable Energy Development Project. In addition, the Award for Public Sector Leadership was presented to Alan Murphy, Director of John Wayne Airport.

The Award for Public Private Partnership recognized OC Waste and Recycling's innovative project that uses landfill gas to generate the electricity needed to power more than 22,000 homes and business throughout Anaheim. The

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project was also responsible for creating 155 jobs during construction and 25 permanent jobs for day-to-day operations at no cost to Orange County taxpayers. The Olinda Alpha Landfill is currently the third largest landfill gas fueled power plant in America and is an industry leader in both high efficiency and low emissions.

The Award for Public Sector Leadership recognizes Alan Murphy's contributions to John Wayne Airport (JWA), the 33rd busiest airport in the nation. As director, he is responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day management, including Business Development, Facilities, Finance and Administration, Operations and Public Affairs. Recently, Murphy oversaw the on-schedule, on-budget completion of the "Airport Improvement Program," a multi-year effort that included the construction of a new terminal with six new commercial passenger gates, new security checkpoints, and major improvements to parking and the Central Utility Plant. Under his leadership, JWA has successfully expanded international destinations through the JWA Air Service Development Program.

Our congratulations to OC Waste & Recycling and Alan Murphy of John Wayne Airport on their achievement of these prestigious honors!

High Honors for Two County Leaders

The accomplishments of two County of Orange officials have been recognized by professional organizations in recent weeks.

STATE HISTORY BUSINESS OF THE VEX.

BRAD GROSS

SHADE HISTORY BUSINESS OF THE

Dana Point Harbor Director Brad Gross is the first threetime recipient of the State Harbor Master of the Year Award.

OC Dana Point Harbor Director Brad Gross was named State Harbor Master of the Year by the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, becoming the first person

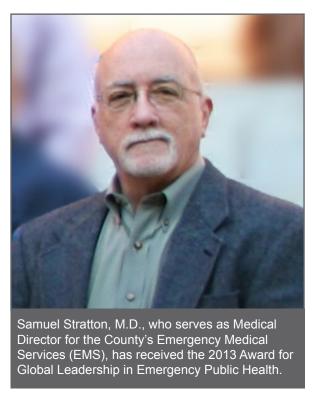
in the group's 65-year history to win the title three times. Gross became director of OC Dana Point Harbor in September 2007 and the award recognizes his contributions to both the County and the state association. Gross also earned the award in 2003 and 2005 from the association, which promotes the development and operation of harbors and marinas along California's coast.

"I have to thank my staff and strongly believe it's through their hard work, along with the continued support from the County of Orange, that I'm able to be successful," Gross said. Gross is a Certified Marina Manager and serves on the Board of Directors for the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, where he is a past president. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Marina Industries.

Dr. Samuel Stratton, Medical Director for the Health Care Agency's Emergency Medical Services division, was honored with the 2013 Award for Global Leadership in Emergency (Continued on page 8) (Continued from page 7)

Public Health from the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM). Dr. Stratton received the award for distinguished global leadership in advancing the science of emergency public health and improving humanitarian relief efforts.

Health Care Agency Director Mark Refowitz praised Dr. Stratton for his leadership in Orange County and beyond. "Congratulations are definitely deserved in recognition of his great work and passion to save lives." Refowitz said. Dr. Stratton has been with the Health Care Agency since November 2006 and is also a Professor in the UCLA School of Public Health and a faculty member of the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. He practices Emergency Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where he is Clinical Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine. In addition, he serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the publication *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*.



Leadership Development Program Graduates Receive Recognition

On October 30th, the County celebrated the graduation of 23 talented leaders who completed Track III of the Passport to Your Future (Leadership Development) Program, which focuses on succession development.



County Executive Officer Mike Giancola addressed graduates of Track III of the Passport to Your Future Leadership Development program.

Over the past 15 months, program participants from the Health Care Agency, OC Public Works, OC Waste and Recycling and Treasurer-Tax Collector embarked on a journey aimed at increasing organizational effectiveness and developing leadership competencies through self-discovery and skill building. During the program, the graduates completed leadership coursework, worked on an individual development plan, designed and presented a Capstone project and participated in a formal mentorship.

The graduation was attended by County officials, Agency and Department leadership and representatives from the Offices of the Board of Supervisors, as well as each program participant's supervisor and mentor. The graduation ceremony included remarks from Human Resource Services Learning and Organizational Development staff; representatives of Cal State Fullerton, the educational partner for this program; and from Agency directors. The event

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was highlighted by a presentation from each graduating team on their Capstone project, all of which are expected to further the County's goals. ■



Participants in Track III of the Passport to Your Future program gathered for a photo.

Bottom row (I-r): Christine Caudill and Jamie Crews (Program Facilitators/HRS), Karen Newe, Al Jabbar, Bob Berg, Karalyn Meeh, Tamarra Jones, Stacey Northcutt, Penny Lew and Azahar López (Program Facilitator/HRS).

Back row (I-r): Dee Dee Franks, Peggy Migaud, Linda Molina, John Beck, Larry Stansifer, Debbie Lent, BeaBea Jimenez, Diane Martinez, and Robin Russell.

Top row (I-r): Edward Frondoso, Oscar Garza, Eric Hull, Keith Olenslager, Curt Condon and Isaac Alonso-Rice.

Public Guardian Staff Conduct Outreach



Staff members from the Office of the Public Guardian have been active recently in conducting outreach programs for both the public and professionals.

In August, the Office of the Public Guardian (PG) hosted its first Mental Health Reappointment Workshop to help family conservators with the reappointment process. The workshop, conducted at the PG offices, was designed and developed by Nathaniel Houston, JD, Deputy Public Guardian, with Sandra W. Skahen JD, an associate clinical Professor at The Alona Cortese Elder Law Center at Chapman University School of Law, serving as workshop instructor. (Continued on page 10)

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A sudden mental health breakdown for individuals is devastating. Family members must cope with the illness and treatment while navigating issues such as the right doctor, medicine, living arrangements, insurance coverage and what type of services are available. Some families have loved ones who refuse voluntary mental health treatment and face the prospect of having a conservator appointed to provide individualized mental health services.

Several family members attended the workshop and were given instructions on how to complete the reappointment forms and had an opportunity to ask general questions on the court process. Public Guardian staff members Nancy Fernandez and Desiree Davis provided support to the family members attending the training. At a second workshop held on October 3, Isabel Del Pozo, Senior Deputy Public Guardian and Tam Le, Accounting Technician, provided Spanish and Vietnamese translation. The Department plans to offer these workshops every other month.

Also in October, Supervising Deputy Public Guardian Desiree Davis and Deputy Public Guardian Matt George served as presenters on a panel at a Conference on Aging held in Anaheim and sponsored by the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC).

This conference provided the Public Guardian's Office an opportunity to offer information/education in the area of Elder Abuse and what the Public Guardian can do to stop further financial abuse under the Probate Code. During a breakout session, PG staff guided the audience through a case presentation that depicted the process from the receipt of a referral through the investigation and appointment of the Public Guardian by the Court. The presentation acknowledged the working relationships that exist with our county partners and the role of each agency in preventing further abuse.

Get the 411 on the Orange County District Attorney

- The Orange County District Attorney's office (OCDA) prosecutes more than 70,000 cases every year with a 90% felony conviction rate.
- Last month, the OCDA's Gang Reduction and Intervention Partnership (OC GRIP) delivered over 800 turkey dinners to at-risk students who succeeded in improving their attendance, behavior, and grades. OC GRIP provides gang suppression, intervention, and educational assistance to more than 40 local schools.
- The Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit was established this year to target perpetrators who sexually exploit and traffic women and underage girls for financial gain. Since November of 2012, there have been 18 felony convictions related to human trafficking and there are currently 45 felony human trafficking cases active.
- More than 400 people participated in the department's 5th Annual Victims' Rights March & Rally in Santa Ana last April to honor victims' rights and recognize Orange County crime victims as well as survivors.

To learn more about the Orange County District Attorney, please visit http://www.orangecountyda.com. COUNTY CONNECTION Page 11



35 YEARS

Lisa Schulz
Child Support Services

Patricia Welch Child Support Services

Rebecca Fischer
District Attorney

Douglas Wilson OC Public Works

30 YEARS

Francisca Robles
Child Support Services

Laurie Sachar County Executive Office

Susan Attinger Health Care Agency

Katherine Harvey Health Care Agency

Diana Mendoza Health Care Agency

John Acevez
OC Community Resources

Hazel BarnesOC Public Works

Felipe Villalobos
Sheriff-Coroner

Marquita Humphrey Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Shelly BarberDistrict Attorney

Sunita Prabhu Health Care Agency

James Hahn
OC Community Resources

Larry Adams
OC Waste & Recycling

Javier Garcia
OC Waste & Recycling

David DworakowskiPublic Defender

Daniel Chavez Sheriff-Coroner

Bill Daher Sheriff-Coroner

Bradley DewSheriff-Coroner

Kimberly Milewski Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Wallace Sheriff-Coroner

Juanita Alvarado Social Services Agency

Andrew Dolan Social Services Agency

Karen NgoSocial Services Agency

Greg OhannesianSocial Services Agency

Doreen PartidaSocial Services Agency

Susan Rhein Social Services Agency

Sylvia Velasquez
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Cynthia LonaChild Support Services

Hilda Rubalcava Child Support Services

Irene GurdonClerk-Recorder

Ted BeckerHealth Care Agency

James Harte Health Care Agency

Donna Lundgren Health Care Agency

Linda Makovic Health Care Agency

Eduardo Medina Health Care Agency

Stacy Mitchell Health Care Agency

Ruben Hurtado Probation

Ithamar Lopez
Public Administrator/Public
Guardian

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20 YEARS CONTINUED

Carla Calix

Public Defender

Lance Christensen

Sheriff-Coroner

Vern Clouser

Sheriff-Coroner

Guy Coffee

Sheriff-Coroner

Joseph Cope

Sheriff-Coroner

Jonathan Daruvala

Sheriff-Coroner

Susan Doesburg

Sheriff-Coroner

Sean Falconer

Sheriff-Coroner

Alex Fernandez

Sheriff-Coroner

Owen Hall

Sheriff-Coroner

Elizabeth Kinney

Sheriff-Coroner

Joseph McDonnell

Sheriff-Coroner

Mladen Radojicic

Sheriff-Coroner

Lynn Ridenour

Sheriff-Coroner

Trevor Taylor

Sheriff-Coroner

Kenneth Thompson

Sheriff-Coroner

Alberto Alvarez

Social Services Agency

Judith Campbell

Social Services Agency

Marian Chastain

Social Services Agency

Janet Ciszek

Social Services Agency

Miguel Jurado

Social Services Agency

Diana Le

Social Services Agency

Concepcion Navarro-Lopez

Social Services Agency

Kathleen Pinder

Social Services Agency

Marlene Telegadas

Social Services Agency

Carolyn Truong

Social Services Agency

Margaret Vanek

Social Services Agency

Donna York

Social Services Agency



