

Lisa Babilonia – From Childhood Affinity to Dream Job

Many County employees focus on job duties that contribute to managing the present or shaping the future of Orange County.

Lisa Babilonia is not one of them, as her work focuses on the past. In fact, it's the ancient past, and she's a brand of archivist that is unique unto itself.

She is the paleontologist and curator at Clark Park's Paleontology Museum, located in Buena Park, where she has worked since 1991. So what exactly is a paleontologist? Lisa offers a little lesson in semantics, as she finds many people confuse or interchange the terms associated with her general field of science: "Anthropology is the study of ancient humans," she explains. "Archaeology is the study of ancient human stuff. Paleontology is the study of fossils; a fossil is any evidence of ancient animals or plants. So that includes fossils of anything from shells to dinosaurs to mammoths, all of which have been found in Orange County!"

Her primary responsibilities include the curation and preparation of fossils at the museum; designing museum exhibits; giving tours and presentations on fossils to school kids, special groups and the public; and maintaining the museum in accordance with national standards. Orange County is a "fossil-rich" region, so she also is involved in research with high school and college students.

She says she loves all facets of her job, but the most special part to her is "when a visitor comes up to me and says, 'I remember coming here when I was on a school field trip. You really turned me on to learning science and made it fun.' That reinforces my belief that science is not boring," says Lisa, who holds a bachelor's degree in geology from Southern



Paleontologist and Clark Paleontology Museum curator Lisa Babilonia holds a camel jaw fossil, which was found in Orange County. It is one of many kinds of paleontological artifacts in the museum's Collections Room.

Methodist University and worked as a curatorial assistant at the L.A. Natural History Museum and at various field jobs in Orange County before joining the Clark staff.

The road to her position actually began when Lisa was about three years old. She says, "I knew from the time I was little what I wanted to do." A Los Angeles native, she grew up near the Natural History Museum and had a mom who "loved science and was an avid reader. She took me through the museum often and tried to find something to capture my attention and spark my interest in reading," Lisa says.

That something turned out to be dinosaurs. "I was hooked instantly. My mom started buying me books on dinosaurs, and by the time I was five I could name every dinosaur in the book and knew I wanted to be a paleontologist. I kept learning a lot and later

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started explaining things to my mom. By chance, we met a museum paleontologist, and he took us to his lab. I remember how that experience made me feel. Getting to meet a ‘real-live’ paleontologist crystallized that this was what I wanted to do.”

Ralph B. Clark Regional Park and its Museum were created because a significant fossil find had been discovered in the area. In order to preserve this fossil treasure trove and develop a regional park, the County obtained the land in the 1970s. In 1981, Los Coyotes Regional Park – later renamed for County Supervisor Ralph Clark – opened, and the Museum was built in 1987. More recently, the County has formed a partnership with California State University, Fullerton and the Cooper Center, which “used to be known as the archeology and paleontology warehouse center for Orange County,” Lisa says. This relationship aids in the task of proper curation (caretaking) of the thousands of fossils stored in the Museum’s Collection Room and at the Cooper Center; both facilities are maintained in accordance with national museum standards. The County’s current partnership with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy will contribute to an enhanced volunteer program at the Museum.

Working at the museum gives her a platform to forward a broader professional agenda: “Science education is very important to me, especially encouraging girls to embrace it. It also cracks me up to hear an eight-year-old say, ‘You’re the best paleontologist I’ve ever met!’ Well, I’m probably the only paleontologist that child has ever met!”

Lisa encourages all County employees to join the general public in putting a visit to the museum on their “things to do in Orange County” list. There are several free notable upcoming events:

- Prehistoric Orange County – Oct. 12. Please [click here](#) to learn more.
- Family Fossil Day – Saturday, Dec. 6. Please [click here](#) to learn more.

For more information on the Clark Park Paleontology Museum, please call (714) 973-3170. To learn more about Ralph B. Clark Regional Park, please visit <http://ocparks.com/parks/ralph>. ■



The fossil mammoth display inside the museum.

FOSSILS FUN FACTS

Orange County has a very rich and diverse fossil history. The oldest fossils are mostly invertebrates, such as ammonite shells, from the Late Cretaceous – “Dinosaur times” – 65–80 million years ago. Dinosaur fossils are rare in Orange County, since most of Southern California was underwater at the time. There are a few duck-billed dinosaur fossils found in local marine mudstones that were washed down river from the east into the ancient ocean covering the county.

A great variety of marine mammal fossils from the Miocene period (5 – 25 million years ago) have been found all over Orange County. Rare and scientifically-significant whale, dolphin, and sea cow fossils have been studied by paleontologists from Southern California and elsewhere. A nearly complete baleen whale fossil is on display at Clark Paleontology Museum.

At Clark Park, terrestrial “Ice Age” fossils have been found. There are fossils of mammoths, sabre-toothed cats, giant ground sloths and ancient bison on display at the Museum. From mice up to mammoths, this fossil fauna group is just as varied and older than the fossils found at the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles.

Dropping in on the Olinda Landfill, from the Sky

Perhaps the name of OC Waste & Recycling's Olinda Landfill should be changed to the Olinda Multipurpose Center.

It wasn't trash that landed there on Sept. 8, but rather a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza airplane experiencing engine failure. The plane touched down at the landfill, located in Brea, at 12:50 p.m., on a flight from Fullerton Municipal Airport to Chino.

The plane landed on an unused road in an area of the site that is terraced, leveled and covered with a top layer of good old California dirt. The plane's pilot, 70-year-old Fred Geller, told the Orange County Register, "I was lucky to be over the perfect site when I had engine trouble." Geller, a passenger and his plane all made the landing without injuries. The plane was partially dismantled and towed out the following day.

Geller wasn't the first pilot to find that the Olinda Landfill was a propitious alternative to a crash landing. In October 2005, a small Cessna aircraft made a safe emergency landing there after experiencing mechanical trouble.

Still, a couple of emergency landings do not a multipurpose center make, one might argue, and that's a good point, best rebutted by the fact that the Olinda Landfill also performed



A plane makes an unexpected landing at Olinda Landfill last month.

as an entirely different sort of runway: Three years ago, in 2011, Tyra Bank's reality TV show "America's Next Top Model" shot an episode at the landfill.

The idea was to film the show's aspiring fashion models wearing outfits made from recycled materials, against a backdrop highlighting where such items end up if they're not recycled. According to OC Waste & Recycling Public Information Officer **Julie Chay**, the section of the landfill where the show was shooting didn't look quite dumpy enough to the photographers, so the landfill staff obliged by moving some trash heaps for them.

Whether fashion, flight or trash, OC Waste & Recycling is on the job! ■

West Nile Virus is Still With Us: Doctors Eric Handler and Matt Zahn Weigh-In

As we enter the season of jack-o'-lanterns, cranberry sauce and mistletoe, it's only natural to think that the season of sunscreen and mosquito repellent is behind us.

Don't put the DEET away yet, though, say Orange County Health Officer **Dr. Eric Handler** and **Dr. Matt Zahn**, the medical director of the County's epidemiology department.

"In California, mosquito season runs year-round, because it never gets cold enough to kill them all," Dr. Zahn tells us. "On the other hand, it's so dry it's easy to think that we wouldn't really have a season this year. But the drought is so severe it's led mosquitoes and birds – which are

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usually the source of West Nile for mosquitoes – to the same scarce water sources. With more bird and insect contact, the virus amplifies, and more mosquitoes are infected. The short answer is that August and September have usually been our busiest West Nile months, and we’re likely to continue to see cases of West Nile Virus into October. It’s not over.”

Though there are fewer mosquitoes around this year, a much higher percentage of the mosquitoes are carrying West Nile than in past years. Dr. Handler and Dr. Zahn expect that is also due to the drought’s concentration of birds and mosquitoes in populated areas, though that isn’t yet known. Our changing climate poses other unknowns.

Dr. Handler reports that “2004, 2008 and 2012 were peak years for the virus, so the expectation at Vector Control was that it was cyclical, recurring every four years. This current outbreak occurred two years early, so it was a little startling. My concern is that if the drought continues, we don’t know what effect that will have on the West Nile Virus. The patterns we’ve had in the past were not based on a continued drought. The environment is changing, and I’m not sure what impact that will have on the mosquito population.”

Another unknown is the answer to the questions: Why us? Why is this year’s outbreak concentrated in Orange County? The number of reported cases in OC as of late September was over 150, which is nearly half of the total number being reported statewide.

“The peculiar thing this year is the amount of disease and the amount in a fairly small geographic area. When we’ve had bad West Nile seasons before, the ‘we’ has meant California; that Los Angeles and San Diego and up north will have it bad, too. This time, it’s a particularly bad year for Orange County. We don’t have an answer for that,” Dr. Zahn said.



Dr. Matt Zahn (left) and Dr. Eric Handler (right).

The greatest concentration of cases has been in Santa Ana. Since so many County facilities are in or near the city, the doctors advise that is it particularly important for County employees to take precautions.

Dr. Handler advises, “Wear long shirt sleeves, long pants and use DEET. Minimize your exposure at times when mosquitoes are most likely to be out there, which is at dusk and dawn. These are simple measures individuals should take to minimize the threat of getting West Nile Virus.”

Despite these precautions being widely shared in the media, it is still common to see people out running in the evening, or gathered at outdoor nightspots, wearing as charmingly little as ever. That makes it all the more important to also try to mitigate the mosquito population, the doctors say. Since many County employees are out and about in their jobs, they should keep an eye out for and report the biggest source of the mosquito population: standing water. That can be in untended properties with swimming pools or ponds, in pooled runoff, and in less obvious places. Old tires, for instance, have been found to be an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Not everyone bitten by a mosquito will get the virus, and the majority that do will never know it, since 80 percent of those infected never

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show symptoms. Most that develop symptoms only get a fever, with only a small percentage developing neurologic disease. But most cases with just fever are not reported to public health, because many who develop illness do not seek medical care, and those that do are frequently not tested for West Nile infection. About two-thirds of the cases reported in Orange County this year have had a neuro-invasive form of West Nile infection, which includes meningitis or encephalitis, two severe, sometimes deadly infections.

“It’s a disease people don’t want to get,” Dr. Zahn says. “The worst case scenarios include severe brain dysfunction because of infection, problems with cognitive ability, the thinking processes, talking, listening, and memory. All those sorts of brain injuries happen and can be severe. Even people who ‘recover’ from those events, will continue to suffer symptoms long-term. And occasionally those symptoms are severe enough and unremitting enough that people die from it.”

“We all have to keep perspective about this. A bad flu season, or even a regular season, will lead to more deaths and hospitalizations than we see from West Nile. But this is a distinct disease with a distinct method of passing through the community, and there is a distinct public health response that can mitigate the risk of disease. To say it’s inevitable, like the common cold, ignores the fact that there are things we can do as a community to make it less likely that people out there will get sick.”

To stay up to date on the West Nile Virus situation in OC, go to: http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/SafetyofPesticidesusedtocontrol06_08.pdf

For information from the State of California on mosquito pesticides, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/mosquitoControl.html> ■

First They’re Nabbed, Now They’re COLLARed

“That’s not ‘Wait!’ That’s more of a California rolling stop,” says **Janette Thomas**, gently chiding the fledgling trainer of an impatient Wheaten Terrier, which had just sauntered through an open gate without the okay of its jump-suited trainer.

It’s the sort of dog-training class you might see anywhere, but with some striking differences. All the canines are shelter dogs from OC Animal Care, and the trainers are individuals who otherwise might not have access to pets as they are inmates at the James A. Musick Facility.

This is the COLLAR program at work, a collaboration between the Sheriff’s Department and OC Animal Care orchestrated by the OC-based non-profit Pathways to Hope. Janette is



Through the COLLAR program, hard-to-place OC Animal Care shelter dogs with behavioral issues are trained by jail inmates to increase their chances of finding a forever home.

the organization’s executive director as well as its busiest teacher. For the past 12 years – eight of them in County of Orange facilities – she has fostered the concept of having hard-to-place

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shelter dogs with behavioral issues trained by jail inmates to become “good citizens.” It’s a program that appears to do the inmates as much good as it does the dogs.

The acronymic name, COLLAR, stands for Canines Offering Life Lessons and Rewards. “It was actually one of our inmates who came up with that, based upon what he was getting out of the program,” says Sergeant **Donna Mereness**, who helps oversee COLLAR in the facility, along with Correctional Programs Technicians **Sean Shea** and **John Danciulescu**.

Janette introduced a similar program, PAW (Pups and Wards), five years ago at the OC Probation Department’s Juvenile Hall. Since starting the COLLAR program at Musick in February 2013, 18 dogs have graduated, all of which have been adopted or gone on to become therapy dogs. (Janette and Pathways to Hope run yet another program at the California Institution for Women in Chino, where a few exceptional dogs receive training to become certified therapy dogs for autistic children.)

Recently, Janette led four female inmates and two dogs – Wheaten Terrier Buddy and a Lab-poodle mix named Frosty – through an intensive two-hour training course. Each dog lives full-time with its two trainers during the four-to-six-week course, sleeping in kennel crates in the same 74-person dorm. (There is also a program with male inmates, typically with three trainers per dog, living in a 90-man tent.)

The population at Musick has changed considerably since the 2011 passage of AB 109, which shifted much of the State’s prison population to local jails. Musick still houses only non-violent offenders, but most lessor offenders have been paroled or transferred to home confinement to make room for the relative hard cases from the prisons.

“We had some apprehensions about the program before the first two dogs moved in, because there were things that could go wrong,” Donna said. “But there have only been positives. Janette walked through the door with her training dog that first day, and here were these 90 hardened prison inmates. Their faces looked like they do when their kids come to visit them. There was an immediate change in their demeanor, an immediate calming effect. It’s just gone on like that from there. None of the problems we’d imagined have happened.”

In the dorm and tent where the dogs live, the mood is generally calmer since they’ve arrived. Inmates keep their living spaces neater and take care that the dogs aren’t poisoned by errant commissary chocolate. Dogs in the program have been so well cared for that none has even needed a vet visit.

Inmates interested in being trainers are vetted by staff and Janette, and those accepted into the program go through four weeks of classwork before the dogs are brought in. Once they’ve successfully completed the program, they’re given a certificate, which has helped some gain jobs as trainers or groomers once they’re released. Though COLLAR is too new for the statistics to mean much yet, the recidivism rate is lower for those who have been in the program.

“Some of them probably get into this thinking it’ll be cool to walk around here with some leash candy,” Janette said. “Then they find out how challenging it is to them. To teach a dog discipline, responsibility, patience and structure, you have to learn that yourself.”

The shelter dogs are as carefully chosen as the inmate participants. Overly aggressive or disruptive ones don’t work in the jail’s patterned environment; neither do huge dogs

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or ones so small they can slip through a fence. Generally, they are dogs that simply lack focus or training in heeding commands. In some cases their behavior is already pretty good, but they're homely or have been injured, and having a training certificate (dogs are tested by the American Kennel Society at the end of their Musick stay) increases their chances of adoption.

Donna wound up adopting one dog herself, a young Boxer mix named Bear that at four months of age had been hit by a car and thrown into a storm drain to die. The dog was rescued by OC Animal Care and nursed back to health, though he'd lost an eye.

"When I took Bear home, the tough male inmate who had been training him turned away because it was too emotional. They become attached to the dogs, though they're also proud they're helping them to find a good home," Donna said.

Janette has seen a lot of that.

"You see these inmates cry at graduation after they've become attached to an animal; guys

that have done some bad things, and it's the same with guys in other facilities who've done worse things. Some of them probably never had that kind of attachment before. There are kids in juvenile hall, these heavily-tattooed gang-bangers who tell their parents, 'I don't need you. I hate you.' Yet they give everything they have to this dog and tell him their deepest feelings. They sob at graduation because it's the first time there was something who didn't judge them and accepted them for who they were," she said.

Sometimes she fights tearing up herself. "I really have to put my game face on, quite honestly, because if I let myself become too attached to the dogs I couldn't even do this. They've been neglected or abandoned and are living in cement kennels. The inmates are in cells, which are pretty analogous. And they're both getting a second chance here.

"When you see a dog like the one Sgt. Mereness adopted, that someone hit with a car and threw away to die, and then see all the good medical attention he got at the shelter, and what the guys here did with him, that's one of the stories I'll carry around inside forever." ■

Lower Tuition for Higher Education through County Employee Program



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



Whether you want to take a take a course or two or earn a bachelor's or advanced degree, higher education tuition discounts are available to you as a County employee.

Universities such as Brandman, National and Vanguard are participating in the discounted tuition program, and each offer a range of available programs and degrees.

Creating opportunities with accredited colleges and universities to support employees in their continuing education pursuits is a focus for the County Human Resource Services department and the Board of

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Supervisors, which recently authorized the agreements with Brandman and National, in addition to Vanguard.

To learn more, please visit http://bos.ocgov.com/hr/hrportal/other/cont_edu_opp.htm. The webpage provides links to each university’s program details and contact information. ■

Get Ready to Shake Out!



At 10:16 a.m. on Oct. 16, 2014, millions of Californians will “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” in The Great California ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill ever. The Orange County Sheriff’s Department Emergency Management Division is encouraging you to participate in the drill at 10:16 a.m. on 10/16!

Why is having a “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drill important? Everyone, everywhere, should know how to protect themselves in an earthquake. Major earthquakes may happen anywhere you work, live, or travel in California. The ShakeOut is your chance to practice how to protect yourself, and for everyone to become prepared. The goal is to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake, so it is important to practice often.

Here are a few suggestions for what you can do to participate in the ShakeOut:

Plan Your Drill:

- Have a “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drill at 10:16 a.m. on Oct. 16.

- Invite your friends, family, and colleagues to participate.
- Discuss what you learned and make improvements.

Get Prepared for Earthquakes:

- Check your emergency supplies and equipment; make sure they are accessible and functional.
- Inspect your work areas for items that might fall and cause injury and secure them.
- Get prepared at home.
- Visit www.ReadyOC.org for more emergency preparedness information.
- Stay informed! Register for emergency notifications at www.AlertOC.com.

Share the ShakeOut:

- Register for the Shakeout at www.shakeout.org.
- Print and share posters, flyers, and other materials for promoting the ShakeOut: www.shakeout.org/resources.

Thank you for your participation in this important event and for your commitment to emergency preparedness! ■

Poll Workers Needed for the November Election

The Orange County Registrar of Voters is seeking more than 8,000 volunteers for the November 4, 2014 Statewide General Election to help as poll workers. Of those, about 2,000 bilingual volunteers are needed.

County of Orange employees have exceptional skills that are important for assisting voters during Election Day operations. The County Employee Poll Worker Program allows employees to participate in the Election Day process by serving as poll workers, and receive their regular day's pay along with a paid stipend for volunteering.

To sign up to be a County Employee Poll Worker, please visit the ROV website at www.ocvote.com/volunteer/volunteer-to-serve/. Select 'Poll Worker' and 'County of Orange' as the organization, and make sure to complete all of your information and your supervisor's name, email address and phone number. For additional information on the various Election Day volunteer opportunities, job descriptions, and stipends, please visit www.ocvote.com/volunteer.



County of Orange employees have the opportunity to make a difference in our community, contribute to our government's democratic process and provide quality public service to Orange County voters. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the County Employee Poll Worker Program, contact **Espie Martinez** at (714) 567-7575 or Espie.Martinez@rov.ocgov.com. ■

AlertOC 5th Annual Regional Test

Orange County conducted the 5th annual regional test of the AlertOC mass notification system, Sept. 23. The test included 26 cities and the County's unincorporated areas, representing a population of 2.2 million people. Residents were encouraged to self-register their email addresses, cell phone numbers and other alternate numbers to be a part of the regional test.



Here are the numbers:

- 744,315 phone calls were made
- 69,812 emails were sent
- 26,540 text messages were distributed
- 325 calls from community members were fielded by the Orange County Public Information Hotline, which was staffed by volunteers from the cities of Laguna Niguel and Laguna Beach

The key feature of AlertOC is the ability for residents to register more than one contact method at a specific address. Registrations of cell phone and alternate numbers increase the potential

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of reaching the greatest number of community members as rapidly as possible. This enables landlines, cell phones and email addresses to be incorporated into a single notification system.

Emergencies can happen at any time, so take the time now to get prepared. Remember to get a kit, make a plan, and be informed.

- Visit www.ReadyOC.org for more emergency preparedness information.
- Stay informed! Register for emergency notifications at www.AlertOC.com. ■

Clerk-Recorder Reaches Milestone: 7 Million E-Documents

On Sept. 4, 2014 at 10:08 a.m., the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department hit a milestone when it reviewed and recorded a full reconveyance document, marking the 7-millionth electronically submitted document processed by staff.

Orange County was a pioneer in the development and implementation of electronic recording. The office is recognized as the national leader in electronic recording and has recorded more documents electronically than any other County Recorder in the nation.

While the electronic recording of real property documents is a common occurrence today, in 1997 the idea was groundbreaking. At that time, Orange County Clerk-Recorder Gary Granville’s team implemented the first electronic delivery system in the nation. Current OC Clerk-Recorder **Hugh Nguyen** was actually a member of that innovative group.



“People thought that it wouldn’t work,” Nguyen recalls. “Many County recorders in California couldn’t envision how such a secure electronic process could be implemented to replace

paper documents submitted by title companies. We worked with title and mortgage industry leaders, overcame legal barriers and created a secure electronic delivery system. The new process required legislative approval and a lengthy two year process to work with the State on regulations. The Orange County system was the pilot program which proved the concept did work and formed the foundation for today’s system guidelines and procedures. The success of the OC Clerk-Recorder’s Office processing 7 million documents is a testimony to the vision and legacy Mr. Granville delivered.”

The electronic recording system achieves efficiencies by reducing delivery expense and staff time. The system allows documents to be processed in a matter of seconds, and currently 62 percent of all documents submitted for recording in Orange County are processed electronically. In 2008, Orange County joined with Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties to implement a multi-county electronic recording delivery system, known as SECURE, using Orange County’s pioneering system as a model. SECURE allows title, escrow and financial companies to record property documents electronically to multiple counties from a single computer screen. Currently, there are more than 466 authorized users of the system. ■

Celebrate Halloween at Irvine Regional Park

You are invited to join a family-friendly Halloween celebration now through Oct. 31 at Irvine Park Railroad’s annual Pumpkin Patch.

Located within Irvine Regional Park in the City of Orange, the Pumpkin Patch is open weekdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The festivities include: train and hay rides, pumpkin ring toss, John Deere tractor racers, Halloween bounce house jumper, cookie decorating, carnival games, face painting, panning for gold and pumpkins for sale.



The Pumpkin Patch, located in Locomotive Loop just behind the train station, is filled with thousands of pumpkins in all shapes and sizes and makes an ideal setting for taking pictures.

For more information, please visit <http://www.irvineparkrailroad.com/content/pumpkin-patch> or call (714) 997-3968. ■

Central County Health Expo & Senior Resource Fair

**Central County
Health Expo and Senior Resource Fair
Saturday, October 11, 2014**

**The Expo and Resource Fair will feature
FREE Vision, Dental and Medical Services! ***

*Vision, Dental and Medical Services are available in limited quantities and will be given on a first come, first serve basis.



WHEN: OCTOBER 11, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: CONCORDE COLLEGE
12951 EUCLID STREET
GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

***** Co-Hosted by:**
Supervisor Janet Nguyen
Central County Foundation
Coastline Community College
Concorde College
Illumination Foundation
Kids Vision for Life OC
Lestonnac Free Clinic
O.C. Office on Aging
O.C. Parks

Also featuring:

- Resource Fair for Seniors and their Caregivers
- Educational Workshops on Healthy Aging
- Health Screenings

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
centralcountyexpo@gmail.com or call: (714) 834-3110

This flyer may be handed out at public places, set up for pick-up at public or private places or delivered electronically. It may not be delivered to schools, homes, work places or post office boxes.

★ SAFETY SPOTLIGHT ★

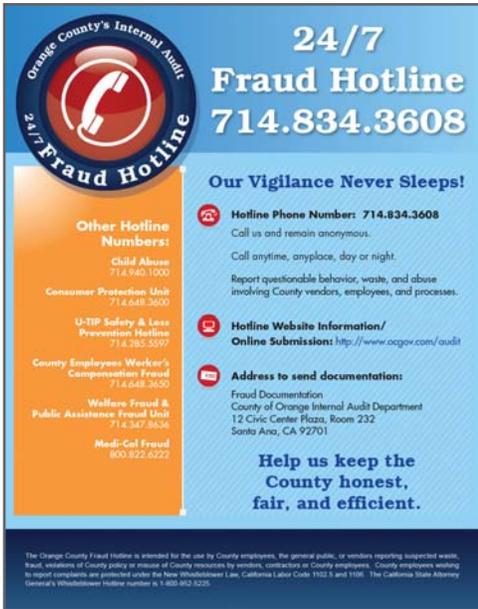
Fall Back from Daylight Saving Time; Step Up Your Safety Awareness

On November 2, 2014, at 2 a.m. remember to set your clocks back one hour to 1 a.m. With the time and seasonal change, it will be darker outside earlier. During these fall and winter months, remember to follow safety best practices: be observant of your surroundings, especially walking to and from your vehicle before and after work, and travel in groups of three or more when possible.



As always, remember to “See Something, Say Something” and report any suspicious, uncomfortable, or dangerous situations to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

For additional tips and best practices, please refer to the Employee Safety Awareness training presentation that can be found [here](#).



Orange County's Internal Audit
24/7 Fraud Hotline

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 Submissions: <http://www.ocgov.com/audit>

Address to send documentations:
Fraud Documentation
County of Orange Internal Audit Department
12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 232
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Other Hotline Numbers:
Child Abuse: 714.940.1000
Consumer Protection Unit: 714.649.3600
U-TIP Safety & Loss Prevention Hotline: 714.285.5597
County Employees Worker's Compensation Fraud: 714.648.3630
Welfare Fraud & Public Assistance Fraud Unit: 714.547.8836
Medi-Cal Fraud: 800.822.6222

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

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 1102.1 and 1108. The California State Attorney General's Whistleblower Hotline number is 1-866-933-5226.

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. ■

Have a Story Idea?

We're looking for everyday heroes among County employees who exemplify our values and vision statement, as well as interesting and newsworthy programs and events. If something comes to mind, please send an email to Ruth.Wardwell@ocgov.com or call (714) 834-2053. ■



Get the 411 on Child Support Services

- Child Support Services (CSS) serves 70,000 families by offering services to establish child support orders, modify orders when appropriate, establish legal paternity through genetic testing, locate parents and provide complete accounting of child support payments.
- The department assists parents with more than just child support matters. CSS partners with many community resource providers to connect customers with services they need. Each year, CSS connects more than 2,500 customers to various community-based resources.
- Child Support Services helped families by collecting and distributing \$179.5 million in 2013. That buys a lot of groceries and school supplies!
- CSS administers an extensive Customer Satisfaction Program to identify customer needs and improve customer service. CSS surveys about 8,000 customers each month about its Call Center, Customer Service Center and Court Hearing experiences.
- The department received two National Association of Counties (NACo) awards in 2014 for its Community Education Initiative and Collaboration with Superior Court, Family Law Facilitator & Self Help Center.

To learn more about Child Support Services, please visit: www.css.ocgov.com



Service Awards

For the Month of September

35 YEARS

Sylvia H. Reynoso
Health Care Agency

Brian H. Danker
OC Public Works

Elaine C. Varela
OC Public Works

Judy J. Wagner-Estrin
Probation

30 YEARS

Francis G. Davies
Auditor-Controller

Ijaz Mahmood
Auditor-Controller

Gloria A. Land
Child Support Services

Cynthia L. Pisarski
County Executive Office

Albert Pereira
OC Waste & Recycling

Christy J. Rasmussen
Probation

Frank Nin
Sheriff-Coroner

Virginia Bennett
Social Services Agency

Susan J. Holl
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

David E. Hinz
Assessor

Kim L. Visser
Assessor

Amanda T. Nguyen
Auditor-Controller

Alicia Rangel
Auditor-Controller

Lan D. Tran
Child Support Services

Darlene M. Schnoor
County Executive Office

Kathleen W. Reza
OC Community Resources

Michael T. Granada
OC Public Works

Steven G. Martindale
OC Public Works

Kellie R. Aumond
Probation

Remmy L. Chang
Probation

Darryl L. Underwood
Probation

Daniel J. Cook
Public Defender

Dennis M. Nolan
Public Defender

Patricia C. McClain
Sheriff-Coroner

Jeffrey L. Robinson
Sheriff-Coroner

Desiree A. Avila
Social Services Agency

Joseph Chavez
Social Services Agency

Ramon R. Cordova
Social Services Agency

Sandra E. Ergueta
Social Services Agency

Donna M. Garza
Social Services Agency

Yvonne M. Haddad
Social Services Agency

Huong C. Lam-Chan
Social Services Agency

Lan K. Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Cathy A. Santana
Social Services Agency

Graciela I. Verduzco
Social Services Agency

Janet V. Yount
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Cheng J. Fang
Assessor

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(Continued from page 13)

**20 YEARS
CONTINUED**

Linda A. Sollis
Assessor

Victoria V. Pham
Auditor-Controller

Jenny Tu
Auditor-Controller

Carlos J. Lazaro
Child Support Services

Maria A. Rivera
Child Support Services

Cassie S. Shih
Child Support Services

Irene Muro
Clerk of the Board

Juan M. Altamirano
Health Care Agency

Elsa F. Davis
Health Care Agency

Ramona Gomez
Health Care Agency

Dagmar M. Himmler
Health Care Agency

Mark Johnson
Health Care Agency

Quan N. Nguyen
Health Care Agency

Anton S. Perera
Health Care Agency

Maribel C. Garcia
Internal Audit

Graciela Garcia
OC Community Resources

Jack M. Yan
OC Community Resources

Carmencita C. Villanueva
OC Public Works

John T. White
OC Public Works

Samuel R. Pascual
OC Waste & Recycling

Frank J. Aguirre
Probation

Ramiro T. Gonzalez
Probation

Tammy-Phuong T. Nguyen
Probation

Martha S. Soriano
Probation

Erika V. Thompson
Public Defender

Antony C. Ufland
Public Defender

Jose E. Arce
Sheriff-Coroner

Elizabeth Bedolla
Sheriff-Coroner

Christopher A. Counts
Sheriff-Coroner

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(Continued from page 14)

**20 YEARS
CONTINUED**

Sheryl L. Dixon
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael S. Freeze
Sheriff-Coroner

Richard W. Koontz
Sheriff-Coroner

Martha E. Sasano
Sheriff-Coroner

Angie N. Bach
Social Services Agency

Rocio Barreiro
Social Services Agency

Jessica M. Chlebowski
Social Services Agency

Susette Cordova-Jerro
Social Services Agency

Maria C. Gonzalez
Social Services Agency

Susan Horn
Social Services Agency

Heather D. Luna
Social Services Agency

Gladys Medina
Social Services Agency

Irma H. Ochoa
Social Services Agency

Eduardo G. Olvera
Social Services Agency

George E. Pelham
Social Services Agency

Juan R. Plascencia
Social Services Agency

Julie Poulos
Social Services Agency

Adriana P. San Roman-Ball
Social Services Agency

Claudia Sanchez
Social Services Agency

Kimberly Schneider
Social Services Agency

Fernando D. Sepulveda
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 with any suggestions and comments.

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