



A newsletter for and about County of Orange employees

October 2015



What do you think of when you think of OC?

If you're from outside of Orange County, you probably think of our fabulous weather and those crazy TV shows. But there are so many ways the county is recognized, not for what people think they know about us but because of the great things we actually do.

Case in point: Some of our best work as a County has again been honored with Challenge Awards by the California State Association of Counties (see story on Page 3). Our record of winning Challenge Awards is especially gratifying because it means our peers have acknowledged our efforts toward creativity, innovation and excellent public service. The

*(Continued on page 2)*

## A Strange Summer at the Beach for Thomas Adams and Maintenance Crew

**Thomas Adams** received an unusual call when he arrived to work early one morning last June that set the tone for a series of surprises that would continue through the summer:

First, the combination of an offshore tropical storm and high tide had caused a huge swell overnight that wreaked serious havoc on [Capistrano Beach](#), one of 11 sites the South Coastal Operations maintenance division of OC Parks cares for. The series of massive waves had demolished portions of the sidewalk, completely sunk all of the fire pits into the sand and thrown giant rocks from the sea onto land.



Thomas Adams

When I arrived on the scene, there was a man sitting on a bench that had been tossed more than 30 feet from where it was normally located, just enjoying the view," Thomas recalled. "It was one of the many extraordinary sites my team has taken in these past few months.

You may have read about some of the [strange happenings](#) at our local beaches over the summer. Or you may have made yourself part of the story by taking a selfie with the thousands of red crabs that turned the coastline crimson. But Thomas and the 15 maintenance workers and groundskeepers he supervises were working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the high quality of these public facilities remained as unaffected as possible.

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hard work we see every day among our colleagues is a real unifier, and our award-winning track record is something of which we can all be proud.

I also want to thank so many employees for jumping in with gusto to the OC Healthy Steps program. So far, about 90 percent of you have fulfilled all of the steps, which means more vital health information for you and a real potential for reducing the trend in higher health-care rates for all of us.

Speaking of steps, you also will be hearing more about our Get Fit on Route 66 exercise program, which provides a fun and motivating way to “travel” the length of legendary Route 66. I’m inviting employees to take a road trip – I’m challenging each of you to cross the Route 66 finish line with me! You can read more about the Route 66 program on Page 4.

Finally, please take a few minutes to provide some feedback on the County Connection newsletter. Via email, the staff is conducting a quick readership survey so we can continue to shape the newsletter to provide more news you want, need and enjoy. Your input and comments are appreciated.

**Frank Kim**  
County Executive Officer

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His staff conducts thorough inspections of places like [Aliso Beach](#), [Dana Point Harbor](#), [Salt Creek Beach](#) and [Thousand Steps Beach](#) each morning to clean, improve, and/or repair the restrooms, drinking fountains, showers, shelters, drains, creeks and outlets. But increased ocean temperatures altered the normal migration patterns of some marine creatures, creating new and sometimes challenging jobs for the crews.



The paved parking lot, which provides enough spaces for 140 vehicles at Capistrano Beach, was covered in rocks and sand -- and temporarily housed a displaced bench or two.



Red tuna crabs washed ashore throughout Southern California beaches last June.

“It’s been sad at times,” Thomas said. “We’ve had to bury deceased baby seals and even a large whale in the sand after their food supply migrated off its regular course and the animals starved. But it’s also been amazing. From my work station, I’ve seen some beautiful whales splashing their tails around that usually don’t come this close to shore. And the crabs were fun, until they started to smell.”

Thomas joined the County nearly 23 years ago as an extra-help park attendant at [Featherly Regional Park](#) in Anaheim, and earned full-time status as a permanent groundskeeper at Carbon [Canyon Regional Park](#) in Brea. He credits the mentoring he received by two outstanding supervisors at [William R. Mason Regional Park](#) in Irvine, where he was promoted to maintenance worker, for helping him to master the computerized maintenance management program that he uses today at Dana Point Harbor to schedule and monitor the work of his crew.

And though the extraordinary summer has drawn to a close, scientists have predicted a peculiar winter to come with potential heavy rainstorms brought by a strong El Niño weather pattern. Thomas and team are already preparing with sandbags and straw wattles to prevent mudslides and erosions.

“It’s always exciting,” he said with a smile. ■



## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Four County Programs Receive 2015 CSAC Awards



Four County of Orange programs have been honored for innovation and cost-effectiveness by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) through its 2015 Challenge Awards program.

“Providing work training for veterans and helping foster youth are award-winning programs that show how the County of Orange is reaching out to help people and touching lives every day in multiple ways,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman **Todd Spitzer**, Third District. “Congratulations to all of this year’s worthy award winners.”

- [OC Community Services](#)’ Vets Helping Vets Work Study Program received a Challenge Award for providing training and work experience for veterans. The program assists full or part-time veteran students or eligible dependents enrolled in a college degree or vocational trade school to gain practical experience working at the Orange County Veterans Service Office while receiving GI Bill benefits. The program has been a win-win for veterans and the County by augmenting existing resources while helping post-9/11 veterans with employment opportunities.
- [OC Public Libraries](#) received a Merit Award for OC Stories: Keeping History Alive. The goal was to corral historical images scattered throughout the county’s 53 historical societies as well as websites belonging to various

libraries, archives and community groups. OC Stories created a centralized platform for images and video recordings, including reaching out to individuals and groups to share their personal photo albums at six public digital scanning events at libraries throughout the county.

- The [Health Care Agency](#) (HCA) and [Probation](#) won a Merit Award for their team effort to remove barriers to behavioral health services by stationing HCA staff at Probation locations to create a continuum of services. Services include detoxification, residential treatment, psychiatric treatment and medication, and behavioral health counseling. HCA staff works at three Probation sites, which allows offenders engaging in treatment to be better prepared for success upon their re-entry into the community.
- The [Social Services Agency](#) received a Merit Award for “Orange County Teen Collaborative Inspires Hope for Foster Youth.” The program brings together community partners with SSA to provide strength-based, innovative and collaborative programs and services that build a sense of purpose, community and inspiration among abused and neglected foster youth. Youth are mentored and exposed to positive experiences and opportunities such as visits to colleges, museums, sporting and cultural events.

To learn more about the 2015 CSAC Challenge Awards, please click [HERE](#). ■

## OC Healthy Steps – Get Ready to Hit the Road!



### OC • HEALTHY • STEPS

#### The County of Orange Wellness Program

[ochealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ochealthysteps.staywell.com)

Now that about 90 percent of County employees have completed the three steps, what's next? You know your numbers and your risks, so how about taking advantage of opportunities and challenges to enhance or maintain your personal health.

There is more available through OC Healthy Steps than just the three steps. For example, the Get Fit on Route 66 Fitness Challenge. Participants can track your physical activity each week and virtually work your way along the legendary Route 66 highway, from Chicago to Santa Monica, perhaps even increasing your activity level along the way. The challenge runs from October 9 through December 31.



Registration began October 2; you can register as an individual or in teams. Fitness related prizes will be awarded at the end for individuals and teams who complete Route 66 first, and everyone who participates will be entered into random prize drawings.

In addition, CEO **Frank Kim** is stepping up his own fitness level and challenging employees to beat his Route 66 pace. When you sign up for Get Fit on Route 66 you will get weekly emails showing the CEO's location along the virtual route. He also will be hosting two fitness activities per month – one weekday and one weekend. Watch for email announcements and details.

To Register for Get Fit on Route 66 go to: [ochealthysteps.staywell.com](http://ochealthysteps.staywell.com). After you log in, find the challenge under "programs." ■

## SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

### The Spotlight is on Lighting and Daylight

Even though Daylight Saving Time continues through the end of October, the days are getting shorter and shorter and daylight is disappearing faster and faster. As it begins to get dark earlier in the evening, it is even more critical that all outdoor lighting is in working order. If you notice outdoor lights that are out of operation at your work location, please submit a facilities work request here: <http://facilitiesrequest.ocpw.ocgov.com/>.

As always, please remember to be aware of your surroundings, especially as we have fewer daylight hours. And – **IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.**

## Q+A With County Safety Officer Rick Chan

Safety truly is Job-1 for County Safety Officer **Rick Chan**, who is responsible for the Safety and Loss Prevention Program within the CEO Office of Risk Management. He directs and manages a staff of safety specialists who serve and support County agency and employee safety programs, from ergonomics to earthquake preparedness.

Prior to joining the County in January 2015, Rick worked on and later managed environmental, safety and health efforts in the corporate and industrial sectors. He holds an MBA, a master's in public health and a bachelor's in microbiology, and he's a Certified Industrial Hygienist.



County Connection staff talked with Rick about his field of expertise and what's happening behind-the-scenes of the County safety office.

### Q What drew you to the safety field?

**A** Even though my first job out of college was a more environmentally related position, I reported to a safety professional who later became a mentor to me. Over the years, I worked in both the safety and health arenas to reduce worker injuries, and also in environmental programs and sustainability to reduce environmental liabilities. I began working more on the safety side because it allowed me to directly connect with helping people. Of course I liked contributing to the financial bottom-line of effective safety programs, but I was equally motivated by helping people not get hurt.

### Q What is the scope of the County's Safety and Loss Prevention Program?

**A** While the first priority is human safety, our programs are designed to help reduce the occurrences and severity of financial and productivity losses due to worker injuries, property damage and incidents involving the public using or seeking the services of the County. I also see it as providing a benefit to the County by improving productivity, worker retention and resource conservation.

### Q What would you most like County employees to know about workplace safety?

**A** I'd like all employees to feel a shared responsibility to keep each other safe. Getting hurt affects not only the individual who is hurt, but also their colleagues who may have to pick up the slack while the individual is unavailable. I'd also like employees to be aware that even though the County must always maintain safe equipment and structures, most injuries are caused by individuals not being vigilant, alert, and mindful of what they are doing. Being vigilant, alert and mindful can prevent a lot of injuries.

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**Q If an employee has a safety issue or concern, what should he or she do?**

**A** The first step is to go to your supervisor. If they are not available, go to your agency's or unit's department safety representative (DSR). All agencies should have one or more DSR. If you don't know who yours is, please check with your supervisor.

**Q What are your current or near-future initiatives?**

**A** We are currently working on several initiatives to make our existing systems more efficient and/or more effective, on a Countywide basis:

- An online safety data management system, which will allow all County employees to access required and important chemical hazard information related to chemicals that they may be working with. It will provide easy access for all employees, including mobile access.
- An enterprise-wide database system for employees to access data such as their safety training records, for supervisors to manage their staff and for our office to look at trends.
- We've integrated our Supervisor Safety Training into the new PDX Leadership training curriculum, incorporating stronger messaging for accountability and changing safety culture throughout the County.
- A focus on safety performance as a core competency for employees.
- We're running the Great ShakeOut exercise on October 15. (see page 14)

**Q Finally, what made you take the leap from the private sector to the County?**

**A** The job posting was brought to my attention, and I immediately thought about the variety of activities it held, some unique to public sector jobs. My perception was that there would be opportunities to improve efficiencies and effectiveness using my experience with operational management. These all presented challenges that I felt I could influence in positive ways. I also liked the idea of working with and for the community in which I live.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**There is an  
anonymous U-Tip  
Safety Hotline –  
(714) 285-5597**

**For questions about  
workplace safety, the  
general email address  
is [safety@ocgov.com](mailto:safety@ocgov.com)**

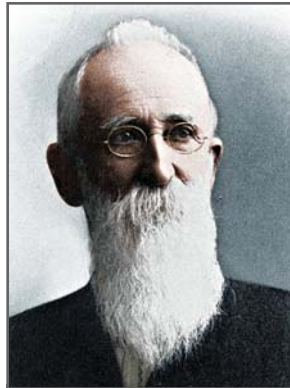


# { O.C. History 101 }

Journeys Through Orange County's Origins,  
Obstacles and Opportunities

## How Uncle Billy Invented Santa Ana *By Chris Jepsen*

Sometimes a city, like Anaheim, is planned and built by a group of people who work together from the very beginning. But some towns owe their existence largely to a single "city father." And the energetic, resourceful, and long-whiskered William Henry Spurgeon (1829-1915) was the undisputed father of Santa Ana. His nickname, "Uncle Billy," reflected the kinship local citizens felt toward their benevolent patriarch.



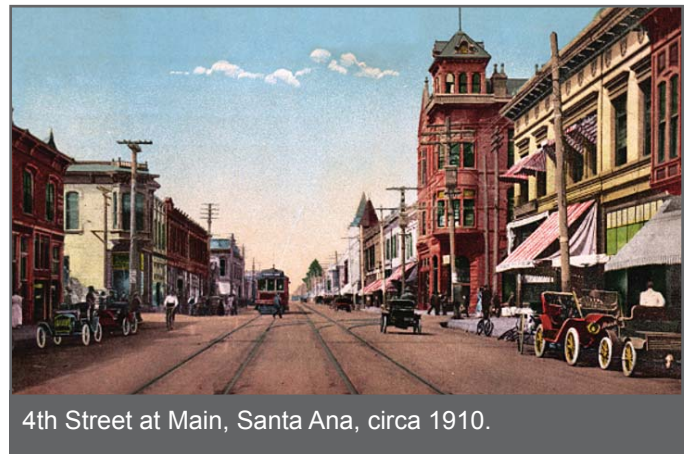
W.H. Spurgeon, known as "Uncle Billy," was the founding father of the city of Santa Ana.

In 1868 and 1869, farmer Jacob Ross, Sr. bought a few thousand acres of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana from the heirs of the rancho's original owners, the Yorba family. Around the same time, Kentucky native William H. Spurgeon and his associate, Major Ward Bradford, were in Southern California looking for a place to establish a new town. An engineer who'd worked on partitioning the Yorbas' rancho extolled the merits of that land to Spurgeon. So in October 1869, Spurgeon and Bradford purchased 74 acres from Ross for \$594. The mustard grew so high there that Spurgeon had to climb a sycamore tree to see the land on which he'd spent most of his life savings.

Bradford briefly owned the west half of the land before selling his interest and moving out of the area. Spurgeon owned the east half and made big plans. Spurgeon's wife, Jennie, remembered initially moving into a shack "which as yet had no roof, no doors and no windows."

Spurgeon mapped out a 24-block town site, which he named Santa Ana for the old rancho. This was a little confusing, as there was already a village called Santa Ana at the north end of what's now the City of Orange. That earlier community would later be called Santa Ana Viejo (Old Santa Ana), Burruel Point, and eventually Olive.

The original town boundaries were First St., Spurgeon St., Seventh St. and West St. (now Broadway). The street adjacent to the tree Spurgeon climbed was appropriately named Sycamore.



4th Street at Main, Santa Ana, circa 1910.

As the town grew, Uncle Billy remained its most ardent promoter. He built the first road into town, he sold lots at low prices to encourage newcomers, he asked various businessmen to relocate to Santa Ana, and he started the town's first general store, bank, gas company, post office and water company.

He built the Spurgeon Building at Fourth and Sycamore, and he finagled to get his town included on the stage coach line. He sat on the boards of the Santa Ana Land Improvement Co., the Santa Ana & Newport Railroad, and the Santa Ana Valley Irrigation (SAVI) Co. *(Continued on page 8)*

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Perhaps most critically, Spurgeon convinced the Southern Pacific Railroad to build its line through town, bypassing the rival communities of Orange and Tustin and ensuring Santa Ana's continued growth and prosperity.

When the city incorporated in 1886, Spurgeon was the obvious choice as the town's first mayor. He also served in the State Assembly. His efforts with James McFadden helped create the new County of Orange in 1889, which would have Santa Ana as its county seat and William H. Spurgeon as the first chairman of its Board of Supervisors. He also sold land to the county for a courthouse, and Orange County's government has been centered in that area ever since. On that sunny October day, way back in 1869, Santa Ana's population was one man, sitting in a tree. Today, the city has a population of more than 334,000. ■

### About the Author

**Chris Jepsen** is the assistant archivist at the Orange County Archives, a function under the office of Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. Reach him at [Chris.Jepsen@rec.ocgov.com](mailto:Chris.Jepsen@rec.ocgov.com) or (714) 834-4771 if you have questions about the Archives.

## Human Resource Services News You Can Use

### Open Enrollment for Annual Benefits is Coming

The Open Enrollment period for County of Orange health plans and County-provided benefits begins October 30, 2015 and ends November 16, 2015. To make informed decisions, please carefully read the communications that will be mailed your home by Human Resource Services (HRS) and the County of Orange Benefits Center.

Here's a preview of the valuable information that coming:

- Your Personal Identification Number (PIN), which allows you to access the Benefits Center [website](#) to review current selections and make changes during Open Enrollment. The site has been optimized for use on smart phones and

tablets, making it more convenient than ever before.

- A copy of the Open Enrollment Newsletter that will provide details on time-sensitive deadlines and describe what is new for 2016.
- Your Annual Open Enrollment package, which you will receive before October 30, 2015. Be sure to review the rates, instructions and Quick Start Brochure included in this package.

The HRS Benefits team thanks you and looks forward to a successful Open Enrollment period. If you have any questions, please call the County of Orange Benefits Center at (866) 325-2345. ■



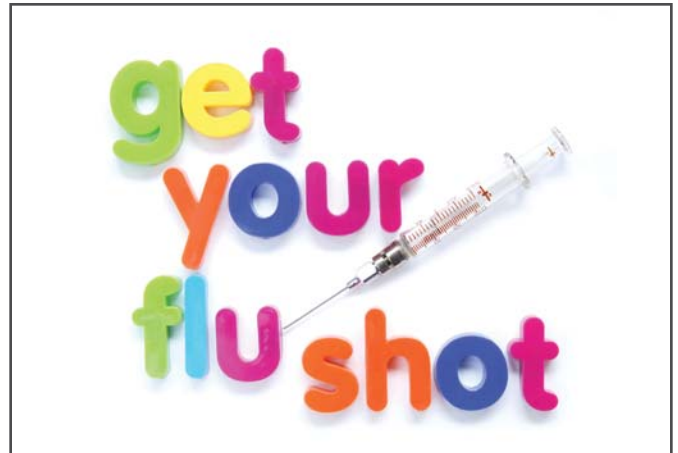
## County Provides Free Flu Vaccination – HCA Says Please Get One!

The annual influenza vaccination program for County employees is underway. Health Care Agency Employee Health Services Medical Director **Scott Hardy, MD**, and **John Senteno, RN**, administrative manager, strongly encourage all employees to get a seasonal influenza vaccination as soon as possible. Influenza can cause serious illness and even death, especially in young children, pregnant women, the elderly and persons with medical conditions that place them at risk.

Influenza vaccination (either the shot or nasal spray) is the most effective way to prevent “the flu” and, contrary to a common myth, the flu vaccine does not cause the flu. This year’s flu vaccine provides protection against the influenza A and B viruses that are most likely to circulate in the coming season.

Flu shots will be offered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at Employee Health Services (600 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Suite 405) from 1-3 p.m. See the [schedule](#) for dates, plus information on other sites and times. The influenza vaccine is offered at no cost to County employees with valid ID.

If you cannot take advantage of the County program, there are many locations in the community offering vaccinations. Many County health plans provide members free flu



**FREE FLU SHOTS!  
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.  
[CLICK FOR](#)  
LOCATIONS AND TIMES.**

vaccination – contact your health plan or health care provider. You can find locations of nearby pharmacies that provide flu vaccinations at <http://flushot.healthmap.org>.

Please consider getting your flu shot early this year to protect you, your family and your fellow employees.

Questions? Call Employee Health Services at (714) 565-3780 or email [ehs@ochca.com](mailto:ehs@ochca.com) or [klawson@ochca.com](mailto:klawson@ochca.com) ■

### ***Influenza Prevention Tips***

Take precautions to prevent the spread of influenza and many other infections:

- ✓ Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- ✓ Be sure to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

## *Around the County* News, Events and Happenings



### ***OC Animal Care Praised for Creative Promotion of Responsible Pet Ownership***

OC Animal Care's Katy Cares about Responsible Pet Ownership program won two SAVVY awards at this year's 3CMA City-County Communications & Marketing Association conference, earning it praise as a benchmark for all local government communication efforts.

Staff and volunteers collaborated to create the program, which centers around two books – "Katy Cares" and "Katy to the Rescue" – that are presented during local library and school programs. Each story follows a young girl named Katy through her journey of adopting, owning and caring for a dog and features positive images of the OC Animal Care Shelter. Children in the audience enjoy games related to the stories and are given copies to take home and share.

To request a free book (available in both English in Spanish) or a "Katy Cares" presentation for your club or group, contact Kristen Zemke at [kristen.zemke@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:kristen.zemke@occr.ocgov.com). For tips on responsible pet ownership, click [HERE](#).



OC Animal Care's **Katie Ingram**, public information officer (center), receives a SAVVY award from 3CMA leadership.



OC Animal Care's **Kristen Zemke**, public education officer, reads "Katy to the Rescue" to approximately 35 school children at the Garden Grove Boys & Girls Club. After story time, the kids met and interacted with Kane the Collie – a certified, pediatric therapy dog – and received a free copy of the book.

*Around the County continued*

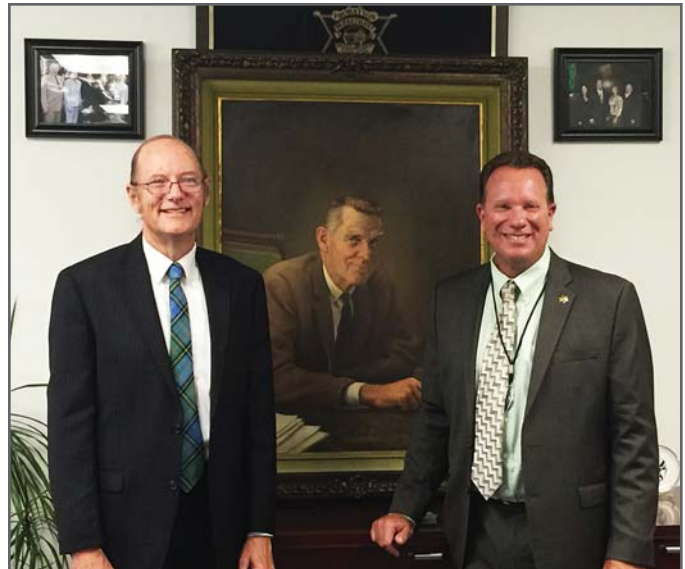
## ***Probation Department Solves Portrait Mystery***

For over three decades, a large framed painting has bounced around the many buildings occupied by the Probation Department. Many employees had seen it, but only a few knew the name of the mysterious man memorialized in the frame.

The subject of the painting, David McMillan, was chief of the Probation Department from 1939 to 1967. The current chief's secretary, **Lynda Weisman**, began a quest to find an heir of Chief McMillan and discovered that his grandson Michael lives in Victorville. She reports that Michael was very excited to make the trek down to Santa Ana and bring the painting back to share with the McMillan family.

"The painting is such a fantastic likeness," Michael said. "Besides the twinkle, I especially liked his bushy eyebrows, which show up great in the painting. He was the best ear wiggler I've ever seen."

David McMillan was the fifth chief of the department and the first president of the Chief Probation Officers of California, and he established the Joplin Boys Ranch in the Santa Ana Mountains.



Michael McMillan (left) and Chief Steven J. Sentman (right) with the portrait of David McMillan.

## ***OCW&R Poster Design Contest Winners Step Up to Bat at Angel Stadium***

Five young artists were celebrated in a pre-game ceremony at Angel Stadium last month after winning OC Waste & Recycling's annual Eco Challenge Poster Contest.

Approximately 300 entries illustrating this year's theme – "Batting Clean-Up for Team Planet!" – were received by the department and judged based on originality, visual clarity, relevance to theme, artwork and effectiveness of message. Posters came from all corners of the county, and some were completed at Eco Challenge-themed days at the Discovery Cube.

One winning poster was selected from each of the five Supervisorial districts. In addition to the on-field recognition, poster contest winners also served as Honorary Bat Kids and watched that night's game with their families. Learn more about the Eco Challenge [HERE](#).



(left to right) Dylan Wright, director of OC Waste & Recycling; Alex Hawley, Garden Grove; 1st District Supervisor Andrew Do; Andrew Han, Cypress; 2nd District Supervisor Michelle Steel; Elena Sherrill, Irvine; Chairman and 3rd District Supervisor Todd Spitzer; Kianna De La Torre, Anaheim; 4th District Deputy Chief of Staff Mark Lopez; Cara Adams, Ladera Ranch; 5th District Chief of Staff Paul Walters.



*Around the County continued*

## ***Sheriff's Academy Celebrates 50th Anniversary***

When the first class of recruits graduated from the Sheriff's Department's (OCSD) Basic Academy, the population of Orange County had just topped one million and a gallon of gas cost 31 cents and a gallon of milk cost 35 cents. That was 1965, and the training needs for Sheriff's deputies have changed as radically as the population has blossomed and as sharply as prices have increased. But the graduation celebrations for the members of this 50th anniversary class link the generations.



Of the inaugural group pictured here, six cadets made the cut after finishing a six-week course.

Friends, family and members of the OCSD celebrated the graduation of Basic Academy Class 216 on August 27, 2015 – exactly 50 years to the day after Basic Academy Class 1 graduated in 1965. OCSD's Regional Training Academy currently trains six classes of new recruits every year. Those who successfully graduate the program become sworn law enforcement officers. Please click [HERE](#) to read the OC Register's recent coverage explores the ways the Academy has changed over the past five decades.



The 33 graduates of Class 216 – completed a rigorous curriculum that lasted 26 weeks.

*Around the County continued*

## ***District Attorney's Wes Vandiver Named Investigator of the Year***

**Wes Vandiver** of the District Attorney's office (OCDA) was recognized for his exceptional on-the-job performance and commitment to upholding professional standards after being selected by a group of his peers to receive the Investigator of the Year award last month.

Members of the [California District Attorney Investigator's Association](#) (CDAIA) voted to commend Vandiver, who spent 17 years working with the California Highway Patrol before joining the OCDA in 2006 as an investigator with the Vehicular Homicide Unit. He has performed extensive work concerning event data recorders that are installed in many modern automobiles, and is regularly consulted as an expert in the field regarding the scientific research and testing of black box data – which is essential in analyzing the actions of drivers before, during and after a crash.



OCDA investigator Wes Vandiver (center) receives the "Joe McClure Investigator of the Year Award" at the CDAIA annual conference in Tahoe, CA. Pictured on the left is George Mueller, CDAIA president, and on the right is Craig Hunter, OCDA chief of the Bureau of Investigation.

"Being selected for this award while working alongside so many gifted investigators is, for me, the highest professional honor imaginable," said Vandiver.

To read the OC Register's recent profile of Wes, please click [HERE](#).

## ***No More Circling! John Wayne Airport Opens Cell Phone Waiting Lot***

Great news for those of us picking up travelers from John Wayne Airport (JWA): a new, free parking lot has opened near the corner of Campus Dr. and MacArthur Blvd., where drivers can conveniently wait on arriving friends or family for up to two hours.

JWA estimates that roughly half of all arriving passengers are picked up at the curb by a private party. Because the Cell Phone Waiting Lot is located so close to the Riley Terminal, meeters and greeters will be able to pick up their party within minutes of their arrival at one of the color-coded and numbered columns along the Arrival (lower) Level roadway.



The new waiting lot opened in September.

In addition to providing a convenient new parking option for customers, the Cell Phone Waiting Lot is expected to reduce traffic and vehicle emissions from drivers who would otherwise be circling the Airport roadways waiting for their party to arrive.

To learn more, please click [HERE](#).

*Around the County continued*

## SSA Receives Statewide Awards for CalFresh Program

For the second consecutive year, the Social Services Agency has earned recognition from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for its outstanding delivery of CalFresh benefits to Orange County residents. SSA received Recognition of Excellence Awards in three categories: Excellent Performance on the 3-Day Expedited Service Processing Timeliness Rate, Excellent Performance on the 30-Day Application Processing Rate, and Contribution to California's Low CalFresh Error Rate.

Formerly known as Food Stamps, CalFresh is California's largest nutrition assistance program. It provides monthly benefits to assist low-income households in purchasing the food they need to maintain adequate nutritional levels. It provides eligible households with an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that can be used at most grocery stores and farmers markets to ensure access to healthy foods. Individual adults and families may qualify for nutrition assistance based on a number of factors, including income and family size.

[Read more about the recognition.](#)

## The Great California Shakeout Asks, Are You Prepared?

The message highlighted through the Great California Shakeout effort is clear: **Know what to do during an earthquake.**

Again this year, the County will participate in Shakeout awareness activities and the [Drop, Cover and Hold](#) exercise, set for Thursday, Oct. 15 at 10:15 a.m. 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 practice is important.

Many agencies will be participating – watch for email announcements about the details.

Employees are encouraged to be prepared for earthquakes at home in addition to at the workplace:

- 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.
- Visit [www.ReadyOC.org](http://www.ReadyOC.org) for more emergency preparedness information.
- Stay informed! Register for emergency notifications at [www.AlertOC.com](http://www.AlertOC.com) ■





# Service Awards

for the month of September



## 35 Years

**Gloria Keating**  
Social Services  
Agency

## 30 Years

**Susan Johnson**  
Child Support  
Services

**Mary Jin**  
Health Care Agency

**Soledad Enamorado**  
OC Community  
Resources

**Scott Bice**  
OC Public Works

**Michael Fennessy**  
OC Public Works

**Darline Ramirez**  
OC Public Works

**Christopher Sepeda**  
OC Public Works

**Ernestine Torres**  
Registrar of Voters

**Edna Banos**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Benjamin Blank**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Zelmira Caceres**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Rita Calderon**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Irma Garcia**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Silvia Lopez**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Bernardino Lozano**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Amalia Netto**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Hoa Nguyen**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Maria Tazbaz**  
Social Services  
Agency

**Ricardo Toro**  
Social Services  
Agency

## 25 Years

**Dolores Byward**  
Auditor-Controller

**Carolina Castillo**  
Auditor-Controller

**Hoa Pham**  
County Executive  
Office

**Howard Gundy**  
District Attorney

**John Rose**  
District Attorney

**Isabel Benavidez**  
Health Care Agency

**Jose Gamboa**  
Health Care Agency

**Silvia Holguin**  
Health Care Agency

**Dawn Umemoto**  
Health Care Agency

**Windy Yu**  
Health Care Agency

**Nomani Fifita**  
OC Public Works

**Vincent Gonzales**  
OC Public Works

**Ted Pittman**  
OC Public Works

**Gary Smith**  
OC Public Works

**Selwyn Weinert**  
OC Waste &  
Recycling

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

## 25 Years Continued

<b>Tammy Bonvecchio</b> Probation	<b>Lanny DeRose</b> Probation	<b>Clare Schiller</b> Probation	<b>Nancy Lombardo</b> Registrar of Voters	<b>Louise Orosco</b> Registrar of Voters
<b>Salina Kennedy</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Thomas Spaulding</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Lewis Stein</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>David Van De Kreeke</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Lisa Abdelfatah</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Thelma Alvarez</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Marty Andrews</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Christina Dudoit</b> Social Services Agency	<b>David Escamillo</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Connie Guevara</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Matiny Hay</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Shekoufeh Markel</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Martha Mercer</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Enriqueta Mikkelsen</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Diep Nguyen</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Elsa Orozco</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Mike Pennington</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Maricelva Prendez</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Chela Ruvalcaba</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Chuong Tran</b> Social Services Agency
<b>Ann Williams</b> Social Services Agency				

## 20 Years

<b>Fidel Colin</b> Health Care Agency	<b>Rachelle Gardea</b> Health Care Agency	<b>Maria Tenorio</b> Health Care Agency	<b>Grace Kang</b> OC Community Resources	<b>Victoria Bambrook</b> Probation
<b>Michael Medina</b> Probation	<b>Valerie Preciado</b> Probation	<b>Orlando Chacon</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Aaron Oliver</b> Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Suzanne Tinkler</b> Sheriff-Coroner
<b>Stephanie Aspgren</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Dewayne Maycumber</b> Social Services Agency	<b>Catherine Vallejo</b> Social Services Agency		

To view the September list in its entirety, which also includes recipients of 5, 10 and 15-year Service Awards, please click [here](#).

**Service Awards are announced in each edition of County Connection in the month immediately following work anniversaries, not in the month of the anniversary.** If you believe there has been an error or omission in reporting your years of service, please email [Navminder.Kaur@ocgov.com](mailto:Navminder.Kaur@ocgov.com).

# Events



Shari Freidenrich, CPA, Orange County Treasurer and Jill Hardy, Huntington Beach Mayor  
Invite You to Attend

## Orange County Financial Planning Day

**FREE** One-On-One Personalized Financial Advice  
**FREE** Financial Workshops  
**FREE** Financial Planning Educational Materials

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM**  
Huntington Beach Central Library  
7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

For more information or to register, go to  
[www.OCFinancialPlanningDay.org](http://www.OCFinancialPlanningDay.org)  
or call 877-622-3729.

*Don't miss this annual opportunity for a free, private consultation with experts from the Financial Planning Association and highly-qualified CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professionals. It's all free; no selling occurs. Stay as little or as long as you'd like. Bring a friend!*



ORANGE COUNTY  
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CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER  
BOARD OF STANDARDS, INC.



FPA  
FINANCIAL PLANNING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDATION FOR  
FINANCIAL  
PLANNING

## AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2015**  
4PM-9PM

- GAMES
- PRINCESSES
- FACE PAINTING
- TRICK OR TREAT STATIONS
- COSTUME PARADE
- STORYTELLERS
- GOTHAM CITY LASER TAG
- FANTASTIC SHOWS
- LAKE FOREST ALL STARS GLOW PARTY




HERITAGE HILL HISTORIC PARK  
25151 SERRANO ROAD, LAKE FOREST  
949.273.6960  
[FACEBOOK.COM/LAKEFORESTEVENTS](https://www.facebook.com/LakeForestEvents)




## IRVINE PARK RAILROAD'S PUMPKIN PATCH



COME OUT TO ORANGE COUNTY'S FAVORITE PUMPKIN PATCH. THE PUMPKIN PATCH HAS TRAIN RIDES, THOUSANDS OF PUMPKINS, AND ACTIVITIES THE WHOLE FAMILY WILL ENJOY.



SOME OF THE FUN ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:  
MOON BOUNCES • CARNIVAL GAMES • FACE PAINTING • HAY RIDES • JOHN DEERE TRACTOR RACERS • PANNING FOR GOLD • AND MUCH MORE.

- VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILED INFORMATION -

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HCA/Employee Health Services 2015 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Schedule NO COST to ALL County of Orange Employees with County ID.		
Employee Health Services 800 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Ste. 405 Santa Ana, CA 92701 Front Office: 714-562-3780	October 9, 14, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 1PM - 3PM - NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED <a href="http://hrhca2015.org/health/">http://hrhca2015.org/health/</a>	
October 8th, Tuesday	Health Care Agency Public Health Clinic, Bldg. 88 1725 W. 17th St., Santa Ana Room 1110	10:30AM - 1:30PM
October 7th, Wednesday	The City Drive 361 The City Dr., Orange In front of Orangewood Children and Family Center Corner of Justice and Hospital Freeway	10:30AM - 12:00PM
October 8th, Thursday	Hall of Administration 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana Room 189	10:30AM - 12:00PM
October 13th, Tuesday	Health Care Agency Administration 405 W. 17th St., Bldg. 38, Santa Ana Room 202	10:30AM - 12:00PM
October 18th, Wednesday	Child Support Services 600 N. Main St., Santa Ana Sunset Room	10:30AM - 12:00PM
October 18th, Thursday	Hall of Administration 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana Room 189	10:30AM - 12:00PM
October 20th, Tuesday	Orange County Sheriff Department Southeast Operations 20202 Windsor Drive, Lake Forest	10:30AM - 1:00PM
October 21st, Wednesday	Social Services Agency Escholtz Complex 716 N. Lincoln Street, Orange	10:30AM - 12:00 PM
October 22nd, Thursday	SSA Aliso Viejo Regional Center 115 Columbia, Aliso Viejo Conference Room 208	10:30AM - 12:00PM
October 27th, Wednesday	Onshore Bldg, 380 Gates Bldg, 320 300 N. Flower St., Santa Ana Outdoor Gymnasium	10:30AM - 12:00 PM
October 28th, Wednesday	Davidson Attorney 401 One Center Ct., Santa Ana 1st Floor Library/Reading Room	10:30AM - 12:00 PM
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p><b>FREE Flu Vaccine Clinics - Open to the Public - Friday, October 16th from 11:00AM - 1:00PM</b></p> <p>The City of Orange Ortega Park 365 N. Prospect St.,</p> </div> <div> <p><b>Emergency Preparedness Exercise</b></p> <p>The City of Aliso Viejo SOCA University 1 University Drive</p> </div> </div>		



## •PARTING SHOT

Welcome to Parting Shot, a feature designed to close County Connection with must-see visuals from Orange County. Click on photos to enlarge.



**Teri Kroger**, real property technician, CEO Real Estate Services, shot the “Blood Moon” (left) September 27, from the El Modena area of Orange, up the street from El Modena High School, looking towards the East Orange/North Tustin area. And **George Reyes**, Social Services Agency office technician, captured the full moon from his home in Orange.



Title this one County Ink Mystery. While waiting in line at See’s Candies at MainPlace Mall, the **County Counsel** department employee who submitted this shot with a request to remain anonymous did a major double-take when they spotted this gentleman’s tattoo. County Connection staff can definitively confirm that the tattoo does NOT replace the 10 Years of Service lapel pin. So the questions are: Is this man a County employee? Whether he is or isn’t, why is he tattooed with the County seal? County Connection wants to know and will do a follow-up story next month if we receive any credible, verifiable information. If you know him, or if you are him, please send an email to [ruth.wardwell@ocgov.com](mailto:ruth.wardwell@ocgov.com).

(Continued on page 19)

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**Jacqueline Gonzalez**, SSA, social services supervisor 1, Family Self Sufficiency program, literally caught some rays on her way home from work. She had car-pooled that day and was a passenger, traveling on the 91 West through Anaheim. She reports the shot was taken after a few days of humid weather and some localized rain.

This shot of a telling sand castle was taken recently on Balboa Island and submitted by an employee requesting anonymity. Given the unusual weather patterns through Orange County in September, summer may or may not be over. Read about the sand castle artist, who was featured in a [Daily Pilot story](#).



Have you taken a photograph of something cool and beautiful in Orange County? Would you like to submit it to Parting Shot for consideration? If so, send it via email to [ruth.wardwell@ocgov.com](mailto:ruth.wardwell@ocgov.com). Please provide your job title and department and the details of the photo (location, what's happening, etc.) Please know that not all submissions will be used; decisions are at the discretion of the CEO Communications staff.

## County Connection READERSHIP SURVEY

**Coming soon;  
watch for it by email.**

### Connect with Us on Social Media

 On **Twitter** at [www.Twitter.com/OCGovCA](http://www.Twitter.com/OCGovCA)

 On **Facebook** at [www.Facebook.com/OCGov](http://www.Facebook.com/OCGov)

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