



A newsletter for and about County of Orange employees

December 2015



As 2015 draws to a close and I join many of you in sharing the joy of the holiday season with family, friends and colleagues, I also find myself reflecting on a year that began with a County-wide survey that asked for your candid feedback about improving our workplace.

The results were telling, and I want to talk with you about one of the major lessons learned: our employees need and deserve more recognition. I read it in the more than 13,000 comments you submitted, and I've heard it in the field during my weekly visits with agencies and departments to connect with you in person.

I want you to be proud to work for the County, and I'm committed to creating a more positive environment that inspires a sense of pride in each of you. One of the ways I'm going to make that happen in 2016 is by celebrating

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Ramiro Estrada: Groundskeeper and Unofficial County Ambassador

Groundskeeper **Ramiro Estrada** loves being part of the team that keeps Dana Point Harbor clean, safe and well-maintained for the hundreds of thousands of locals and visitors who spend time there, strolling or visiting the beach, with its calm waters.

It's safe to say that if it looks good, and if everything is working as it should – from restrooms and lighting to sidewalks clear of sand and debris and available trash cans – it's likely Ramiro had a hand in it.

As might be expected, Ramiro says his favorite things about his job is that he gets to “work at the beach and enjoy the gorgeous weather.”

He also loves what he calls the “public relations part of the job.” In the course of his groundskeeper duties, which recently included installing holiday lights around the Sailing Center, on any given day he may talk with dozens of visitors and locals he meets and who ask him questions about the harbor. A native of Orange County, he relies on his knowledge of the area to help out-of-towners and “guide them in the right direction. The regulars know me by name,” he says proudly.



Ramiro Estrada

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your accomplishments. You've done more with less – innovated and created – and I will recognize those successes by personally giving a CEO Token of Appreciation to folks I see doing exceptional work.



This coin, which features the County seal, will serve not only as a keepsake, but also an invitation to join me for lunch in my office here at the Hall of Administration where I can thank you face-to-face for a job well done.

We're also engaged in a thoughtful review of what your agencies and departments are currently doing – and what we can implement Countywide – to consistently shine the spotlight on our people. I'd like to share a photo ([Click Here](#)) from our CEO All Staff recognition ceremony back in November, where I was inspired by the collective dedication of employees on my team. Some of these folks have given more than a quarter of a century of their lives to public service and I was honored to shake their hands.

Please know you are appreciated. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

**Frank Kim**  
County Executive Officer

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Ramiro's maintenance duties include snaking drains to make sure they are clear.

While he has no intentions of making fellow County employees jealous, Ramiro says, "The view from my office is better than most CEOs'! I see the bluff facing the Ocean Institute, the sky, the pier and the water." There is one part of his job, however, that makes Ramiro sad – when sick or injured animals end up on the beach.

Ramiro started working for the County in 2006, briefly with Parks, then was moved to Dana Point Harbor for his expertise in general maintenance and groundskeeping. In addition to the benefits of his work location, he values being a County

employee for several reasons he considers very important. He has a few family members who also are County employees, and he sees it as a "stable, great opportunity. Plus I get to help people every day," Ramiro says.

**" The view from my office is better than most CEOs'! "**

When he's off the clock, one of Ramiro's favorite things to do is cook. He calls himself a foodie, and two of his specialties are garlic shrimp and shrimp cakes with a mango-jalapeño relish.

Earlier this year, Ramiro says that his pride in being both a County employee and an OC native inspired him to choose the County of Orange seal as his next tattoo.

"It represents all that is beautiful in the OC; the orchards, the mountains and the blue skies," he says. I thought about getting the seal tattoo because I was born here and grew up here, but my County job sealed the deal."

#### SEND PROFILE SUBJECTS FOR COUNTY CONNECTION

Clearly the first Parting Shot item on the County of Orange seal tattoo sparked interest. However, Employee Profile subjects do NOT have to have a tattoo!!

Please send submissions. We're looking for staff-level employees who love their job and carry the flag with enthusiasm both for their agency and the County as a whole. Send submissions to [ruith.wardwell@ocgov.com](mailto:ruith.wardwell@ocgov.com) ■





# Caught Serving

Welcome to Caught Serving, a new feature that will use candid photos to spotlight County employees at work providing outstanding customer service. The challenge? Each picture must include a County seal – reminding us that we are one County united in our shared mission.

The November 17 meeting of the Board of Supervisors was a two-fer – the regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. followed by special meeting to vote on the acquisition of the property at 1000 Kraemer Pl. in Anaheim, for future use as a homeless shelter and multi-service center. Many County Executive Office staff were called into duty to support the Clerk of the Board, given the larger-than-normal turnout for the special meeting by advocates for the homeless who favored the location and citizens and business persons who didn't.

Caught Serving were CEO Government and Community Relations staff members (l-r) **Stephanie Ramirez** and **Kari Schumaker** who, among a variety of support and execution tasks, helped many of the 85 individuals who registered to deliver public comments at the meeting.

The Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of the plan.



"Today's vote represents an historic achievement for Orange County," said Chairman **Todd Spitzer**, who championed an inclusive process for community and city engagement for the project, which will be housed within his Third District. "We have a duty to help those who need our help. We can do this right and we can solve the problem of homelessness in our community."

The process of identifying a year-round homeless shelter began five years ago under the stewardship of Supervisor **Shawn Nelson**, who represents the Fourth District and much of Anaheim. "This is a long overdue initiative that will benefit those most in need of support and provide them a center to retrieve essential services necessary to improve their lives," Nelson said.

Have you caught a colleague serving with a County seal in the picture? Would you like to submit it 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.)

## Q+A With AJ Jaime - Managing for the Impacts of El Niño

As the Infrastructure Management Programs manager within OC Public Works Operations & Maintenance, **AJ Jaime** works to hold it all together. It's his responsibility to oversee six OCPW units: Inspection, Claims Investigation, Code Enforcement, Systems & Resource Management, Annual Contracts and Confined Space. Currently one of his pressing "systems and resource management" duties is to help the County hold things together during the anticipated Winter El Niño storms.



AJ has been with the County for 27 years, following stints as a brick layer and tile mason with Santa Ana Union Local 22. He says he joined the County both to satisfy his interest in serving the public and for a long-term career opportunity.

County Connection staff asked AJ to shed a little light on what we can expect during El Niño season.

### **Q What are the most critical concerns about El Niño?**

**A** First is the ability of our flood channels and levees to withstand high water flows from large rainfall amounts. Also the impact in our canyon areas, especially the recent burn areas in Silverado and the possibility of major debris flows, where we've seen several feet of mud on roadways during recent rain storms. Mother Nature is a powerful and unpredictable force that should always be respected.

### **Q What's the biggest challenge El Niño poses for OCPW?**

**A** Probably the single-biggest concern is receiving intense storms with large rainfall in a short period of time, but also several storms in a row with minimal time for water soaking into the soil. This type of scenario could challenge our infrastructure, and we could have major flooding throughout the County.

### **Q Based on your knowledge of El Niño conditions, how accurate do you think forecasters can be about how much rain will happen and where it will happen?**

**A** That's the million-dollar question. All we can do is prepare to the best of our abilities and hope for the best. I believe we're going to have a long and wet rainy season. However, we've been in a drought for a long time and can definitely use the rain.

## Q+A With AJ Jaime - Continued

### Q What do you want employees to know about what OCPW is doing?

**A** OCPW is taking El Niño very seriously and being proactive by repairing and cleaning all catch-basin and storm-drain systems. Everything we do is to protect life and property. We're taking steps to keep communities safe and connecting residents with helpful resources to prepare for upcoming rain storms. We are removing debris, vegetation and sediment from our channels and installing preventative debris barriers, such as k-rail, silt boards, rice bales and sandbags. We're also installing innovative flood barriers such as Tiger Dams (see story, Page 12) and Muscle Walls along channel hot spots with historical flooding issues.

### Q What do you want County employees to know about personal and family safety to prepare for El Niño?

**A** Safety should be their top priority, including educating loved ones to use extra caution while driving in rain and around flooded areas. It's critical to have family plans in place in case your home and neighborhood or even in case your children's school is flooded. OCPW employees are some of the most trained and prepared individuals when it comes to fighting storms and floods; we are a resource. We have started a website at [http://ocpublicworks.com/about/el\\_nino](http://ocpublicworks.com/about/el_nino), and we are working with the CEO's office to create a Countywide website that will be found at [www.ocelnino.com](http://www.ocelnino.com).

## TOP TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR HEAVY RAINFALL

### FLOOD INSURANCE

Consider purchasing flood insurance. Most flood policies have a 30-day waiting period, and most homeowner policies do not cover flood damage.

### ROOF REPAIR

Get your roof checked for leaks and damages, and have repairs made before the rain comes.

### GUTTERS

Make sure gutters are clear of leaves and debris.

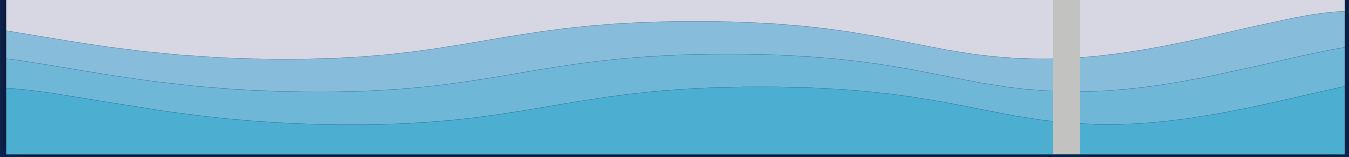
### TREES

Have weakened trees inspected by an arborist. Downed trees and branches can significantly damage homes, vehicles and power lines.

### KIT AND PLAN

Prepare an emergency supply kit and have a plan for your family that includes where you will meet if you can't get into your house.

**FLOODING  
AHEAD!**





## Walk Around Town or Hike a Trail with CEO Frank Kim

CEO Frank Kim has hosted some fun walks and hikes as part of his Fitness with Frank campaign and to record minutes on the Get Fit on Route 66 challenge.

In October, he led a 1.5-mile walk through downtown Santa Ana, and 200 employees and their families joined him for a vigorous hike of the Weir Canyon Loop at Irvine Regional Park. In November, more than 100 employees and their family members – and dogs! – walked a 3.75-mile route at Upper Newport Bay with Frank on a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning.



Photos courtesy of **Jon Hornecker**, OCPW deputy County surveyor



Based on the momentum that grows stronger each month, Fitness with Frank will continue in 2016. Stay tuned to County Connection and emails for announcements.

| WHEN                                    | ACTIVITY DETAILS   |
|---|--|
| Saturday,<br>December 5<br>8:30-10 a.m. | <b>What: Ranger Led Hike to Redwood Grove</b> (2.2 miles round trip)<br><b>Where:</b> Meet in the parking lot by the Native Garden and Amphitheater at Carbon Canyon Regional Park. Click to view <a href="#">park map</a> .<br><b>What to Bring:</b> Hiking shoes, bottled water, hat/sunscreen and appropriate attire. |
| Wednesday,<br>December 9<br>12-1 p.m.   | <b>What: Walk with Frank Wednesday</b> (2 mile walk)<br><b>Where:</b> Meet in the SSA Headquarters 1st Floor Lobby 500 N. State College Blvd., Orange. Click to view the <a href="#">route map</a> .<br><b>What to Bring:</b> Walking shoes, bottled water, hat/sunscreen and appropriate attire.                        |

For more information on employee fitness programs, including a full schedule of Fitness with Frank activities and photo galleries, visit and bookmark the [Employee Wellness page](#). ■

# { O.C. History 101 }

## Journeys Through Orange County's Origins, Obstacles and Opportunities

### Journeys Through Orange County's Origins, Obstacles and Opportunities *By Chris Jepsen*

#### How the Railroads Made Orange County

To borrow a line from the comedy film *Blazing Saddles*, Orange County's early success "had to do with where the choo choo go."

Until the 1870s, getting people or goods in or out of what's now Orange County was difficult.

Barges at Anaheim Landing (Seal Beach) could carry goods out to waiting ships at sea or one could take a horse-drawn vehicle along the dusty, muddy, rutted El Camino Real. Inefficient transportation limited our economy.

The Southern Pacific Railroad opened the first rail line in and out of Orange County in 1874. This new line stretched from Los Angeles to Anaheim. It was extended to Santa Ana in 1877, after the railroad was given land and subsidies. But the S.P. was a monopoly and they acted and charged accordingly. It was a luxury, not a game-changer.

Everything changed when the competing Santa Fe Railway reached Santa Ana in 1887. A rate war between the two railroads dropped passenger and shipping prices enormously. A passenger could now cross the entire continent for \$25!

Shipping rates plummeted as well. Our small economy was almost entirely agriculture-related,

but until the railroad rates dropped our farmers were mainly stuck selling locally. Now, suddenly, they could sell to anyone in America. Better still, our perfect climate and soil allowed us to step up production to meet the new demand. And the continued addition of new track made shipping even easier. (Refrigerated box cars

would revolutionize shipping even further). Local real estate values soared in what became known as "The Boom of the Eighties" (1886-1888).

Low passenger rates and the promise of agricultural success also brought droves of newcomers. National publicity campaigns throughout the 1870s and 1880s promoted

California as a paradise on earth, and many folks from "Back East" jumped at the opportunity. Some visited, and many stayed. Real estate values continued to skyrocket, large tourist hotels were built, and investment money flowed like water.

Most real estate wheeler-dealers simply added new tracts or subdivisions to existing municipalities, which grew by leaps and bounds. Still, more than a dozen new towns also were formed as a result of the boom. Most, like St. James (now part of Orange) and San Juan by the Sea (Capistrano Beach) – both created by

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Santa Fe train in Santa Ana, circa 1890.  
(Photo courtesy First American Corp)

(Continued from page 7)

the Santa Fe's real estate division –never got off the ground. Only Fullerton, El Toro (Lake Forest), and Buena Park thrived for long enough to become cities.

The boom eventually went bust, but not before the leading to the birth of Orange County itself. In 1889, after nearly two decades of struggling for independence, the rapidly developing southern portion of Los Angeles County finally broke away and became Orange County. But that's another story...



The old Southern Pacific depot, Santa Ana, circa 1887. (Photo courtesy Orange County Archives)

### 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.

## SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

### Happy Holidays, But Stay Vigilant

With the holiday season upon us, it is easy to forget to be vigilant about personal safety. From arriving at or leaving work to shopping malls and even your own home and neighborhood, heightening your awareness about your surroundings and vulnerabilities is essential. The OC Sheriff's Department reminds us that "Crime can happen anywhere at any time. Please be proactive and safe." Also, OCSD has created a very useful and important list of [Holiday Safety Tips](#).

**Consider entering these phone numbers into your mobile phone:**

**Sheriff's Kiosk – 714-834-2250**

For active incidents in the Civic Center Walk of Honor area.

**Santa Ana Police Dispatch – 714-834-4211**

For non-emergency officer response request.

**Civic Center Patrol General Line – 714-245-8288**

For general concerns.

**Civic Center Awareness Hotline – 714-834-2051**

For general concerns.

**IF YOU  
SEE  
SOMETHING  
SAY  
SOMETHING**



## Countdown is On To a Huge Retirement - The "Intranet Blue Screen"



Blue Screen Retirement ■ December 31, 2015 ■ COUNTDOWN

**29 Days 8 Hours 28 Minutes 53 Seconds**

*as of publishing time!*

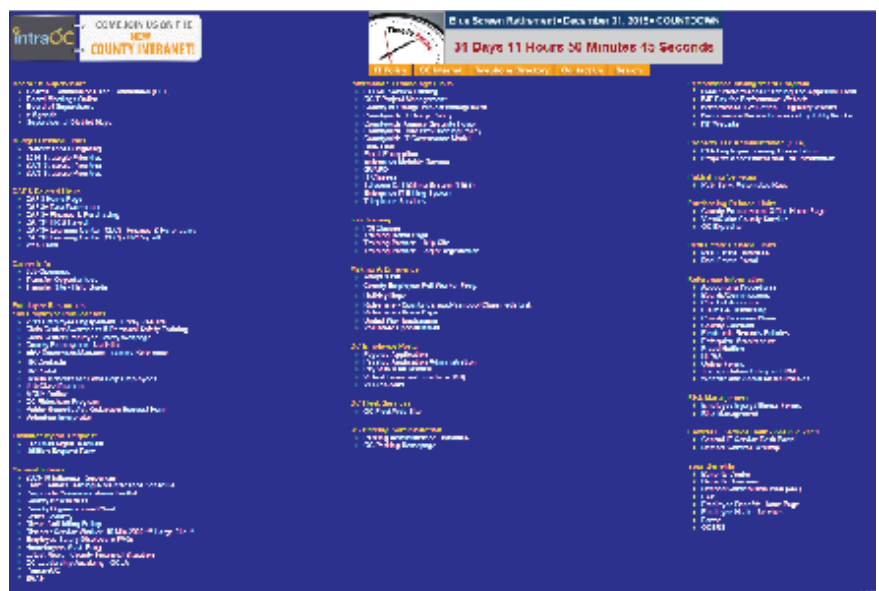
By Lynne Halverson, Program Manager, OC Information Technology

The County's "old" Intranet – or as many employees call it, the "Blue Screen" – is retiring on December 31, 2015. Some of you are sad to see it go. But the Blue Screen is almost 20 years old. It's built on technology that no longer meets the County's needs. It deserves its retirement. And, while change is hard, it can also be exciting.

Here are some facts and tips to help you with the transition to the County's new Intranet, IntraOC:

- If you try to access the Blue Screen on or after January 1, 2016, you will be automatically redirected to the Office 365 login screen. Enter your County email address and hit enter to access the IntraOC Home page.
- Every link, app, and document that is accessible from the Blue Screen is also available from IntraOC.
- **Can't find something on IntraOC?** Just enter the keywords for what you're looking for in the Search box and hit enter.
- Don't try to access CAPS+ FS or CAPS+ HR/Payroll from IntraOC. CAPS+ applications require an older browser – Internet Explorer 8 or 9 – and IntraOC requires a current browser (IE 10 or higher; Google Chrome; Mozilla Firefox). CAPS+ users should have two different browsers on their desktops and can bookmark the CAPS+ application links in the older browser.
- An entire section of IntraOC is available to help you learn more about the site and SharePoint Online, the platform on which it is built.
- If you are at an agency/department that is not licensed to use Office 365, you won't be able to access IntraOC. You will need to set up bookmarks or desktop icons for the links you need. These links may also be available on your agency/department Intranet. Contact your IT Help Desk for assistance.

Join in the countdown to the retirement of the Blue Screen and usher in the New Year with IntraOC!



## Ways to Help Others For the Holidays

Employees are invited to participate in the County-organized holiday assistance programs, which are underway:

**Holiday Gift Drive** – Through Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa and Friends, the goal is to provide gifts and necessities to more than 41,000 children, teens, and families, and 2,500 low-income seniors and adults with disabilities. The drive runs through December 23. New, unwrapped toys, gifts, necessities, gift cards, checks and cash are all needed to ensure Orange County's most vulnerable children, teens, families, and low-income seniors and adults with disabilities are not forgotten this holiday season. Gift collection boxes have been placed in many County buildings. You also can donate online to either program: [Operation Santa Claus](#) or [Senior Santa and Friends](#).



Supervisors Andrew Do, Lisa Bartlett and Todd Spitzer encourage employees to donate toys to Operation Santa Claus or gifts and necessities to Senior Santa and Friends.

**Operation Santa Claus** is a collaborative effort between the County of Orange Social Services Agency, OC Public Libraries, Health Care Agency, Probation, Child Support Services, OC Community Resources, OC Sheriff's Department and Orange County Foster Care Auxiliary.



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



### ***El Niño Innovation - OC Public Works Provides Added Flood Protection***

You can hardly hear a news broadcast these days without a report on El Niño – and that's a good thing, given the critical importance of residents being prepared for what's coming. But the media is also reporting on what public agencies are doing, including OC Public Works. Recently FOX 11 spotlighted OCPW's innovative use of a flood control system called Tiger Dam.

According to **Shannon Widor**, OCPW public information officer, the product is a reusable water bladder that can be extended for long distances. Click to see the news segment video.

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/50313111-story> ■



OCPW crews install an innovative flood control system along a channel in Anaheim.

### ***Animal Care Shelter Dogs Get Doggie Makeovers***



One of the 63 shelter dogs that recently received a makeover.

More than 60 residents of the OC Animal Care shelter were treated to "doggie makeovers" last month, courtesy of Hollywood Mobile Grooming. Five mobile grooming vans with 12 volunteer groomers worked tirelessly to give haircuts, trim nails and freshen up their four-legged customers. Hollywood Mobile Grooming partners with a local shelter each month to offer this volunteer service to homeless pets in need. The owners and staff are committed to assisting local shelter with providing bathing and grooming to needy pets to help them find their forever homes.

"We're all so thankful for this service and support," says **Dr. Jennifer Hawkins**, director of OC Animal Care. "Not only was it great for so many shelter dogs to get cleaned up and ready for adoption, it was a morale booster for staff and volunteers, who had a great time helping throughout the day."

The great news: Since the event, more than 30 of the groomed dogs have been adopted into their forever homes.



*Around the County continued*

## ***More Places to Fly Away from JWA Non-Stop***



Travel from John Wayne Airport keeps getting better and better, with the addition of several new nonstop routes. Last month Southwest Airlines began new nonstop service from JWA to Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri. Looking ahead to next spring, Alaska Airlines will begin nonstop service between JWA and Santa Rosa and Reno/Tahoe in March, and Delta Air Lines is scheduled to add four daily flights to/from Seattle in May.

## ***OC District Attorney Honored By MADD***

The Southern California region of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has honored the Orange County District Attorney's office for its exceptional prosecution of vehicular homicide. The award presentation took place at MADD's inaugural "Tie One on for Safety" luncheon, which celebrated the 35th anniversary of MADD and honored four elected district attorneys in Southern California with the Pursuit of Justice Award, including DA Tony Rackauckas. He was recognized for his efforts pursuing justice for victims of DUI fatalities by creating the first vehicular homicide unit in 2008.

MADD is a nationwide, non-profit organization that works to stop drunken driving, support victims, survivors, and families affected by drunken driving, and prevent underage drinking. The Orange County Chapter of MADD was formed in 1981.



## ***Fish for FREE at Laguna Niguel Courtesy of OC Parks***

As of last month, fishing operations at Laguna Niguel Regional Park have changed, and the biggest change is that fishing is free. Here's what else you should know:

- State fishing licenses will be required to fish and all state fishing laws apply (FGC 7145)
- Fishing permits will no longer be required.
- Fishing hours are from 7 a.m. to sunset.
- Shoreline fishing only. Private watercraft not permitted on the lake (OCCO 2-5-79).
- Fish stocking, including trout, will continue.
- Fishing tournaments, including a float tube tournament, are being scheduled for 2016.

Questions? Contact the park office at (949) 923-2240.



# Human Resource Services News You Can Use

## Post-Open Enrollment Updates

If you changed health plans during Open Enrollment, a new health plan ID Card will be mailed to your home address before January 1, 2016.

If you added a new dependent during Open Enrollment, you must complete and submit a signed Dependent Verification Form and the required documentation to the Benefits Center no later than December 31, 2015. If you do not submit the required

form and documentation on or before December 31, 2015, coverage for your dependent will not go into effect on January 1, even if you have already received your ID card from the health plan. There will be no refund of the dependent rates you pay during the period of ineligibility. If you have questions about the required documentation, please contact the Benefits Resource Line at 866-325-2345, and a representative will be happy to assist you.

## New myOCERS Portal to Access Member Account

The Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS) will launch an updated web portal for members to manage their online account, beginning Monday, December 14, 2015.

MyOCERS will replace the Member Information Center (MIC) and will enable you to:

- Use the Benefit Estimator to calculate your future retirement benefits.
- Complete your retirement application.
- Confirm your beneficiary information.
- View and print your Member Statement.



To register, visit [ocers.org](http://ocers.org) beginning December 14 and click on the MyOCERS link. When you access the new portal for the first time, you will be asked to create your MyOCERS User Name and Password.

## Newsletter Readership Survey - Thanks for the Feedback!

Thank you to all 2,642 employees who took time to respond to the County Connection Readership Survey. The response rate was about 15 percent, which is an excellent rate of return. Better yet, you like what you're getting!

Top survey highlights:

- Almost half (48 percent) of respondents say they read the newsletter every month, and another quarter (28 percent) read it often.
- Favorite column/content – 78 percent chose HRS News You Can Use, followed by Events (75 percent), Around the County News Briefs (74 percent), and Service Awards (71 percent).
- All columns are seen as "useful" or "interesting" by at least 52 percent of respondents.
- Respondents provided more than 750 comments.

**\*Watch for an announcement about participating in a group photo to update the newsletter masthead.\***





## Events

Bring your Pet to OC Animal Care for a...

# Photo with Santa!

**Saturday, December 5th: 10 am - 2 pm**  
**Saturday, December 12th: 10 am - 2 pm**  
**Saturday, December 19th: 10 am - 2 pm**  
**Sunday, December 20th: 10 am - 2 pm**

**OC Animal Care • 561 The City Dr. • Orange • 92868**

Bring your pet to OC Animal Care for a Photo with Santa! All participants will receive a festive holiday frame with your pet's photo. We will also email you a digital copy to share with your friends and family! All donations will benefit the animals of OC Animal Care!

**Donations received will benefit shelter pets!**

Thank you to Noble Friends Foundation for OC Animal Care for their support!




For more information go to: [www.ocpetinfo.com](http://www.ocpetinfo.com) or call 714.935.6848  
 Follow us at: [OC Animal Care](#), [@OCAnimalcare](#), [OCAnimalcare](#)

# Pawlday Adoption Event


**Saturday, December 19TH**  
**10 am - 2 pm**

**OC Animal Care • 561 The City Dr. • Orange**

**FREE Spay/Neuter & Microchip With Adoption!**



For more information, please visit our website at [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com) or call (714) 935-6848  
 You can follow us at: [OC Animal Care](#), [@OCAnimalcare](#), [OCAnimalcare](#)



**Give a meaningful gift this holiday season.**  
**DONATE BLOOD.**

## Blood Drive

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015**  
**Thursday, December 10, 2015**  
 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 Bloodmobile  
 Orange County Hall of Administration  
 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana 92701

**OC parks** **Heritage Hill Historical Park** **34th Annual Victorian Christmas**



**Saturday, December 5, 2015, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. • \$5 per person (children under 3 free)**

**OC parks** **Heritage Hill Historical Park** **30th Annual Candlelight Walk**



**Saturday, December 12 & Sunday, December 13, 2015, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
**\$5 per person (children under 3 free)**



# Service Awards

for the month of November



## 35 Years

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Diana Jung</b><br>District Attorney         | <b>Alfred Campos</b><br>OC Waste & Recycling<br>Enterprise | <b>Trinh-Nghia Nguyen</b><br>Social Services Agency | <b>Jennifer Tran</b><br>Social Services Agency |
| <b>Connie Truong</b><br>Social Services Agency |  |   |  |

## 30 Years

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Tuyet Vuong</b><br>County Executive Office    | <b>Elizabeth Gomez</b><br>District Attorney | <b>Silvia Galvan</b><br>Health Care Agency       | <b>Carl Kerckhoff</b><br>Health Care Agency       |
| <b>Eileen Lao</b><br>Health Care Agency          | <b>Tuong Nguyen</b><br>Health Care Agency   | <b>Annette Villa</b><br>Health Care Agency       | <b>Jeffrey Dickman</b><br>OC Public Works         |
| <b>Michael Ellis</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner          | <b>Omar Faria</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner        | <b>Stuart Greenberg</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner       | <b>Lynn Koehmstedt</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner         |
| <b>Benjamin Laguna</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner        | <b>Michael Toleda</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner    | <b>Bach-Tuyet Dinh</b><br>Social Services Agency | <b>Maureen Gautschi</b><br>Social Services Agency |
| <b>Aurelia Herrera</b><br>Social Services Agency |   |  |   |

## 25 Years

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Jay Hormuth</b><br>Auditor-Controller      | <b>Antonio Castillo</b><br>Child Support Services | <b>Lori Beglau</b><br>Health Care Agency      | <b>Jo Ann Bowland</b><br>Health Care Agency    |
| <b>Lisa Howell</b><br>Health Care Agency      | <b>Annette Mugrditchian</b><br>Health Care Agency | <b>Elaine Papst</b><br>Health Care Agency     | <b>Cristina Quintero</b><br>Health Care Agency |
| <b>Nicholas Summers</b><br>John Wayne Airport | <b>Kevin Randall</b><br>John Wayne Airport        | <b>Peggy Delima</b><br>OC Community Resources | <b>Grace Raya</b><br>OC Community Resources    |

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

## 25 Years Continued

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Matias Belardes</b><br>OC Public Works      | <b>Forrest De Spain</b><br>OC Public Works        | <b>James Pratte</b><br>OC Public Works          | <b>Eric Brougham</b><br>OC Waste & Recycling      |
| <b>Lisa Angell</b><br>Probation                | <b>Susan De Lacy</b><br>Probation                 | <b>Richard Escamillo</b><br>Probation           | <b>Victor Rodriguez</b><br>Probation              |
| <b>Makerita Silao</b><br>Probation             | <b>Clifford Barnard</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner        | <b>Samuel Castellanos</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner    | <b>Robert Hoffman</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner          |
| <b>Farzana Mahmood</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner      | <b>William Mitchell</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner        | <b>Douglas Payne</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner         | <b>Cheryl Alexander</b><br>Social Services Agency |
| <b>Gloria Castro</b><br>Social Services Agency | <b>Ronald Grigsby</b><br>Social Services Agency   | <b>Connie Guillen</b><br>Social Services Agency | <b>Gary James</b><br>Social Services Agency       |
| <b>Luz Ramirez</b><br>Social Services Agency   | <b>Daniel Rodriguez</b><br>Social Services Agency | <b>Rosa Rubalcava</b><br>Social Services Agency | <b>Bao Tran</b><br>Social Services Agency         |
| <b>Tran B. Tran</b><br>Social Services Agency  | <b>Ivonne Velez</b><br>Social Services Agency     |   |   |

## 20 Years

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Victor Corona</b><br>Child Support Services | <b>Melanie McAllister</b><br>Child Support Services | <b>Linda Medina</b><br>Child Support Services | <b>Scott Holstein</b><br>County Executive Office |
| <b>Frank Kim</b><br>County Executive Office    | <b>Helen Amposta</b><br>Health Care Agency          | <b>Cirilo Hurtado</b><br>Health Care Agency   | <b>Ronald Renish</b><br>OC Public Works          |
| <b>Holly Pham</b><br>OC Waste & Recycling      | <b>Gelene Gutierrez</b><br>Probation                | <b>Lorrie Delgadillo</b><br>Public Defender   | <b>Maria Forsythe</b><br>Public Defender         |
| <b>Jason Ferraiz</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner        | <b>Jeffrey Guffey</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner            | <b>Jeremy Kahala</b><br>Sheriff-Coroner       | <b>Susan Njemanze</b><br>Social Services Agency  |
| <b>Therea Rentzy</b><br>Social Services Agency |   |   |  |

To view the November 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).

## PARTING SHOT

Welcome to Parting Shot, a feature designed to close County Connection with must-see visuals from Orange County, captured through the lenses of County employees. Click on photos to enlarge.



**Stacy Schenkel**, OCPW vegetation hazard reduction inspector, sometimes sees things on her job that could make the rest of us squeal – like this Southern Pacific rattlesnake she and her crew encountered while they were doing weed abatement in Williams Canyon. She writes: “He didn’t rattle at first because he was cold. He only held up his rattle later to show us that he is not to be messed with.” Snakes happen to be an interest of Stacy’s. Good thing – she had to use her snake tongs to move the rattler safely out of the way so the crew could continue clearing the area.



**Audrey Marshall**, information processing specialist, Contract Services, HCA, shot this “sunset symmetry” shot while stuck in traffic – fully stopped – on her I-5 commute home from work. She writes: “It was just a beautiful sky, and I love the way the photo turned out!”

*(Continued on page 18)*



(Continued from page 17)



**Zille Zaman**, accountant/auditor for the District Attorney's office, took this silhouette shot of her husband and grandson in Newport Beach. She reports that her grandson was visiting from Dallas, so the beach was a real treat.

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 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.

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