



March 2017



FRANKLY SPEAKING



Earlier this year, we learned of a significant impact to our County budget beginning in Fiscal Year 2017-18. This impact results from the State's decision to eliminate state funding for the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) and require California's counties to bear an increased burden of administering the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. IHSS provides services for aged, blind or disabled persons who are limited in their ability to care for themselves and cannot live safely at home without help.

For the County of Orange, the State's IHSS cost shift means an estimated \$38 million unanticipated expenditure in the upcoming year. You can read in-depth about the "Costs of In-Home Supportive Services Shift to Counties" on page six of this edition of County Connection.

While this cost shift impacts all counties in California, counties with large populations bear the greatest burden. In addition to the IHSS cost shift of an estimated \$38 million, we are in our final two years of payments to the State resulting from the Vehicle License Fee Adjustment Amount (VLFAA). Those payments are \$50 million in FY 17-18 and \$55 million in FY 18-19. Add to that the fact that Orange County receives back from the state just 6 percent of property tax revenues, compared to the 17 percent average for the 15 largest counties.

I want you to know that the County is working closely our legislative advocates, your labor associations, and our fellow 57 counties to address this significant issue with the State. We are working hard to eliminate or reduce the estimated impact to counties.

It is critically important that the County take a prudent approach early in order to prepare for financial impacts. This approach includes a countywide hiring freeze, a freeze on discretionary expenditures and proposed budget reductions for the upcoming year. We know that this is concerning, but we must be prepared to mitigate impacts on critical services for the community we serve. The County has faced and overcome similar challenges in the past. I have no doubt that we will continue to provide exceptional public service, and I commit to providing additional updates as information becomes available.

Tracey Priest: Ready to Respond to Families and Children in Crisis

A Focus on SSA During Professional Social Work Month

Tracey Priest, a Senior Social Worker in the Social Services Agency's (SSA) Emergency Response Program in the Children and Family Services Division, knows that when she meets with people it is often at one of the lowest points of their lives. Whether she is responding to a situation involving potential child abuse, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, Tracey prides herself on being able to offer comfort and assistance.



SSA Tracey Priest
Photo Credit: CEO Communications

"I'm able to go into a home or a situation where we don't know what's going on and find some kind of empathy," Tracey said. "I think that's a really important strength for a social worker, to be able to walk into a situation and deescalate what's going on and to give a family comfort and direction in some of the worst times they've ever experienced."

For Tracey, her interest in social work sparked from her interest in human behavior and psychology.

"I always loved studying how and why people reacted to life," Tracey said. "I really like to be in the home working with families in their own environment," she explained, describing her preference for social work over other psychology-related efforts like therapy.

A typical workday of an Emergency Response (ER) social worker is anything but typical. When Tracey is on call, she must be ready to respond to two types of calls – "immediates" and "10-day-responses." The "immediate" calls must be responded to within two hours, and the others have to be responded to within 10 days of the report being filed.

"The thing with ER is that it can change on a dime," Tracey said. "You can have a day when you go and see multiple kids, and you're just educating the parents and investigating allegations, and everything is fine. And then you can have another day where you have a more serious case and it

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requires writing a warrant, and possibly taking a child into custody if the warrant is approved.”

Although her job can involve removing children from unsafe environments, Tracey emphasized that it is not the primary focus.

“Most people think that our job is about removing kids, and I would say that that is the smallest portion of our job. The biggest part of our job is assessing the safety of children and helping a family either by giving them education or resources,” Tracey said. “I think that everybody wants to be a good parent, but not everybody knows how to be a good parent. Sometimes they just need a bit of an education on what’s working and what’s not working, from an outside party.”

In addition to working in the ER Program, Tracey is involved in the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program as one of the program’s primary ER social workers.

“If I had to highlight one thing I’m most proud of, it would be my CSEC involvement,” Tracey said. “Growing up in Orange County, the sexual exploitation of children wasn’t something I was really well aware of. The more I started working with the victims, though, the more I started to become passionate about what was going on and trying to help them.”

As part of her involvement in the CSEC Program, Tracey must be ready to respond to calls at all hours.

“I may get a call at 8 p.m. for CSEC that will say ‘We’re working on a rescue mission; we’ll let you know if something comes about. Please be on call,’” Tracey said. “And at midnight, I might get the call that could say that I need to be at the substation in an hour. Sometimes we’ll work all through the night, with other agencies from the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force and Community Services Program, to make sure the victim is appropriately taken care of.”

Tracey urges everyone to be aware that the commercial sexual exploitation of children is happening here in Orange County, and that it is important to be ready to report suspicious activity.

“I remember talking to a girl, and what really struck me was that she had braces with pink rubber bands. And yet people were exploiting and propositioning her,” Tracey said. “It’s definitely something that does happen in our County, and it seems to increase year over year. A lot of these girls don’t identify as victims, so it’s really up to the community to see when things look askew and call law enforcement.”

For those wanting to get involved in helping children and families in Orange County, Tracey recommends a variety of programs from [volunteering with the Social Services Agency](#) or even [becoming a resource family](#).

With March being national Social Work Month, Tracey appreciated the need to recognize the contributions of social workers and SSA as a whole.

“Social workers’ hearts are in the right place. It’s hard work; it’s emotionally draining work, and we give 110 percent when we’re in a family’s home to try and help them,” Tracey said. “We don’t have a crystal ball to be able to say what the future will hold for each family, but we’re doing everything we can try keep families intact.”



Tracey looking over one of her case files at the SSA Building in Anaheim.
Photo Credit: CEO Communications

PLEASE SEND PROFILE SUBJECTS FOR COUNTY CONNECTION!

Do you know someone who would make a good employee profile? 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 jennifer.nentwig@ocgov.com.



County Teams Deliver Count of Homeless Population as Part of “Point in Time” 2017

Saturday morning, January 28, was an early start for County personnel who began staffing the five locations used as staging areas for the 2017 Point in Time national count of people experiencing homelessness.

Close to 1,500 OC volunteers rallied at 4 a.m. and were briefed on the mission and protocols of finding homeless individuals and recording their interviews and locations.

The information garnered by the teams will be compiled and an analysis will be produced on the needs of the homeless population in both a micro and macro spreadsheet according to Juanita Preciado, Operations Director for the Point in Time project.

Assisted by Ashley Cunningham, Programs Manager of 211OC and their Continuum of Care mission, Preciado and her volunteers at Cal State Fullerton (CSUF) lined up hundreds of volunteers who staged in the cold at Titan Gym for registration.

Once check-in was completed, the teams of five and six volunteers took packets of interview sheets and maps to a grid/location to initiate the count.

Because of the efficient planning and pre-event tutoring by the County Social Services Agency and 211OC, the delivery teams were quickly out the door and on the streets by 5 a.m.

Working Harbor Blvd. at the 91 freeway grid were Natalie Wieckert and Steve Spernak, both Policy Advisors for Fourth District Supervisor Shawn Nelson. Their team also included OC Sheriff's Department Government Affairs Director Ray Grangoff and Pam Sousa from Pathway of Hope.

The Supervisor's team counted 19 homeless individuals in their map-site and secured the results and interview replies after 7 a.m. back at CSUF with Preciado and Cunningham.

Results of the Point in Time field research will be analyzed and delivered to the Board approximately 60 days from the count. The report helps focus funding and personnel on critical issues within the homeless community by civic leaders, charities and mental health-behavioral health departments, and the results of the count help shape the County's overall approach to ending homelessness.



Natalie Wieckert and Steve Spernak from the Office of Supervisor Shawn Nelson ready for homeless count. Photo Credit: Steve Spernak



Ray Grangoff joins Natalie Wieckert, Sara Jedlicka, Young Kim, Pam Sousa (left to right) and Steve Spernak as they ready for the 4 a.m. count. Photo Credit: Steve Spernak

County Launches “myOCgov” Mobile App

On February 15, the County of Orange announced the launch of a mobile application (app) called “myOCgov,” a free interactive tool that makes information about County services easily accessible to community members on their mobile devices.

The new app, available online through the Apple iPhone “App Store” and through Android Google Play, gives users the ability to browse and search all County services near them or learn more about services in categories such as “Libraries,” “Parks,” “Health & Human Services,” “Public Safety” and “Other Government Services.”

The County of Orange offers many public services to make the County a safe, healthy and fulfilling place to live, work and play. This app gives users greater visibility to County of Orange services, particularly services close to an app user’s location.



The “myOCgov” app can be used in ways such as the following:

- Real estate agents can show clients the closest parks, libraries and other services available to a location.
- Job-seekers can locate the closest one-stop center to search for jobs.
- Entrepreneurs can easily get directions to file their fictitious name statements and register a “Doing Business As” (DBA) name.
- Health and social services can be easily located by proximity to the user’s location.
- Families can quickly locate the closest County park.

To download the app, visit <http://apple.co/2iILGj9> for Apple devices and <http://bit.ly/2lpzSO6> for Android devices.



More than 100 colleagues experienced a beautiful Fitness with Frank hike at Ralph B. Clark Regional Park on February 25. Clark Regional Park is nestled at the foot of the Coyote Hills in Buena Park and is one of the true gems of the OC Parks system. Participants (especially canines!) enjoyed hiking the hills around the park, enjoying the panoramic views from the hills. The Interpretive Center was open after the hike and visitors got to tour the paleontology museum that provides an educational view of prehistoric Orange County.

Many thanks to the OC Parks staff for the hospitality at Clark and to all who participated!

The next Fitness with Frank hike will be Saturday, April 8, at Irvine Regional Park. Mark your calendars.



Photo Credit: Carolyn McInerney



Photo Credit: Carolyn McInerney





County Connection editorial staff talked with Peggy Erdner, Senior Emergency Management Program Coordinator, about tsunami preparedness. California's 2017 Tsunami Preparedness Week is March 27-31.

Can you tell us about your role with the Emergency Operations Center?

One of my job responsibilities as the Senior Emergency Management Program Coordinator is to maintain the County of Orange and Orange County Operational Area Tsunami Annex, which is the emergency response plan that addresses tsunami specific emergency actions. We review and update the plan at a minimum of every two years to ensure we're always ready to respond to a tsunami or any other type of disaster in Orange County.

How did you become involved in the work you do today, and tsunami preparedness in particular?

I started working in the Emergency Management Division in March of 2003 as a Senior Accounting Assistant. I worked my way up and promoted to the Senior Emergency Management Program Coordinator in 2007.

The Tsunami Annex was first developed in 2005. Developing new or maintaining existing hazard plans is part of our responsibilities, and we work to bring them up-to-date to meet best practices, and incorporate current guidance from both the state and federal government.

With Tsunami Preparedness Week coming up March 27 - 31, are there certain programs or initiatives that the EOC is working on?

We are planning on participating in the statewide tsunami drill that will be held during preparedness week. We will also have a tsunami communications drill with the County and our coastal jurisdictions on Wednesday, March 29, 2017. Across the County, each of the coastal jurisdictions will be hosting their own tsunami preparedness education programs for their communities.

What does the County do to be prepared in case of a tsunami?

We gather lessons learned from real-life examples. Especially after large events like the 2011 Japanese earthquake, tsunami and nuclear emergency and the 2015 Chilean earthquake and tsunami, we get valuable insight on what has worked well and what hasn't work well, and we enhance our own processes. We're very coordinated here in Orange County, between the County and the coastal jurisdictions, and we're always in dialogue.



We meet in person at least twice a year with the State and all the coastal counties, which provides us an opportunity to provide input or questions to incorporate best practices concerning evacuations, notifications and planning guidance. The State has completed mapping of the whole California coastline, and the maps display tsunami inundation areas and tsunami inundation lines. Each of the cities has these maps and has established their evacuation routes for their populations. The County works through the State for funding for tsunami signage that tell people when they're in a tsunami hazard zone and for signs indicating evacuation routes.

An important item to note is all of the coastal cities, the County of Orange and the Orange County Sanitation District have been designated "Tsunami Ready" through the efforts of a collaborative program involving local, State and Federal partners. In 2006, Orange County was the first County in the nation to have all local agencies participating and certified in the "Tsunami Ready" Program. The County renews its certification every three years, our last recertification was in 2016 so we're good through 2019.

What are some things that everyone, including County employees, should know and do to be prepared for possible tsunamis?

Residents and business owners can make a promise to prepare and strengthen their personal preparedness at the ReadyOC website (www.readyoc.org) as well as register to receive emergency information by through the County Mass Notification system known as AlertOC through their mobile devices. Everyone should register at www.alertoc.com.

Lastly, if you live or are visiting the coastline and you feel a strong shaking, get to higher ground or move inland. If you're told to evacuate by public safety officials, listen to them and follow their directions. Follow the evacuation signage; you should look and see where those are ahead of time. Enjoy the beach, but be aware: you are in a hazard zone.



Costs of In-Home Supportive Services Shift to Counties

In the Governor’s Proposed Budget for California for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 which was released in January, the State proposes to eliminate the Coordinated Care Initiative, which would also dismantle the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The IHSS Program provides supportive services, such as housecleaning, meal preparation and personal care services, for aged, blind or disabled persons who are limited in their ability to care for themselves and cannot live safely at home without help.



Photo Credit: Orange County Elder Care

Many of the individuals assisted through the IHSS Program would otherwise require the services of skilled nursing facilities, which would involve a higher cost of care. The IHSS MOE was established by the State in FY 2011-12 and was designed to dictate the share of costs between counties and the State for the administration of the IHSS program.

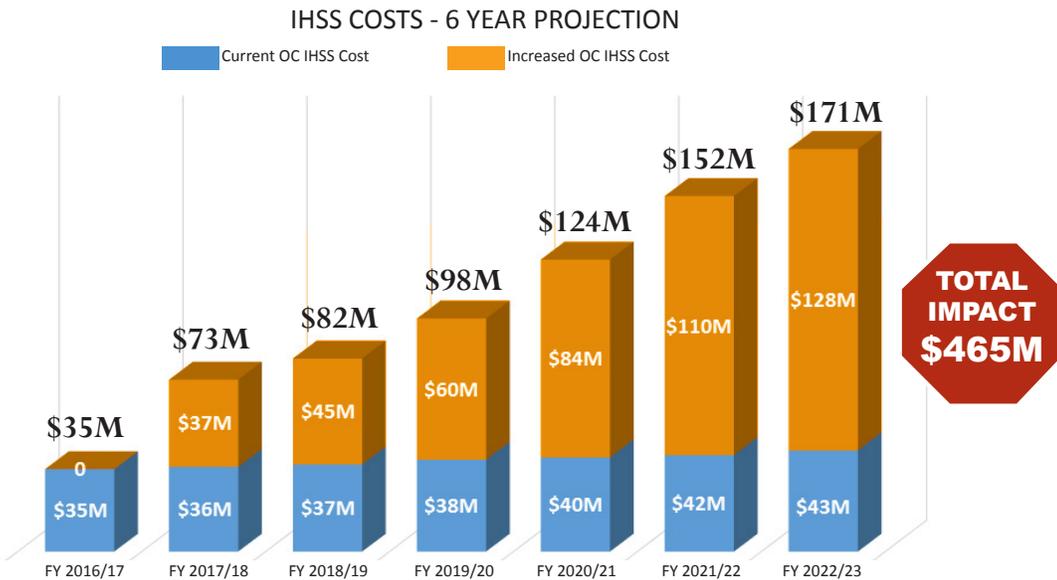
With the proposed elimination of the IHSS MOE, counties will bear a significantly increased cost to administer the IHSS program. In Orange County, this is projected to be about \$38 million more than anticipated for FY 2017-18.

The County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) is working together with the County Executive Office, legislative advocates, the California State Association of Counties, the County Welfare Director’s Association of California, the California Association of Public Authorities, the County Health Executives Association of California, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, Urban Counties of California, labor associations and our 57 sister counties to address the issue with the State of California.

All 58 counties across the state share the same concerns as Orange County and are bringing a united front on this issue.

In the Governor’s Proposed Budget, the State recognizes that there will be insufficient revenues to cover the additional IHSS costs and that this change is likely to result in financial hardships for counties. The governor’s administration stated that they are prepared to work with counties to mitigate, to the extent possible, the impact to counties. However, the State indicated that additional information related to budget impacts will not be known until the Governor’s May Revise of his proposed budget.

The County of Orange will continue to work through this issue with the State and will provide updates as information is available.



All figures are estimates based on current projections.



OC Rideshare Program Celebrates 20th Year

How we all commute to work impacts local traffic, air quality and often our stress levels. To help you find better and easier ways to commute, CEO Human Resource Services created the OC Rideshare Program in 1997. Each year, the program encourages more and more employees to carpool, vanpool, ride the train, bike or walk to work. New support services and incentives are often added based on employee comments and local air quality regulations. The County has received numerous awards from the South Coast Air Quality Management District, OC Business Council, Metro and the Orange County Transportation Authority.



OC RIDESHARE PROGRAM

START CARPOOLING OR VANPOOLING— To help you find the right commuting partner, we'll add you to the **Carpool/Vanpool Match List** on the secure IntraOC. With this tool, you can contact others interested in carpooling or vanpooling from your specific area or along your commute route. Also, with the **Start-A-Vanpool** program, you could be eligible for a \$300 incentive when you lease an authorized vanpool vehicle.

START RIDING THE TRAIN or BUS —With the **Try-Transit-On-Us** program, you'll be reimbursed for 75 percent, then 50 percent, then 25 percent of your ticket price if you send us proof of purchase once a month for the first three months!

PAY FOR BUS, TRAIN OR VANPOOL FARES WITH PRE-TAX DOLLARS —Purchase transit or vanpool "tickets" through a payroll deduction and reduce your taxable income by up to \$255 each month. Simply enroll in the **Commuter Choice Program** and save!

GO ELECTRIC – Need a nudge to purchase or lease an electric vehicle or a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle? Do and you may be eligible for a \$100 incentive through the **Get-A-Charge-On-Us** program.

JOIN THE CLUB! — It's easy! If you carpool, vanpool, take the train or bus, bike or walk to work you can register for **Club Rideshare**. Members are eligible for monthly drawings, merchant discounts and other contests plus a monthly e-Bulletin that highlights additional discounts, alerts and fun things for rideshare participants. You may also be eligible for a \$40 incentive when you register and a \$15 incentive when you renew annually.

EMERGENCY RIDE HOME — If an emergency arises on a day that you rideshare to work, catch a ride using any transportation service. Send in your receipt and you could be eligible for reimbursement of that cost.

For applications and details about these and other rideshare incentives, please visit the OC Rideshare Program website at www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare.



OC Rideshare awards presented from numerous public services and agencies. Photo Credit: CEO Human Resource Services



HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

News You Can Use

New Wellness Challenge: “Right This Weigh” to a Healthy Weight

“Right this Weigh” is a fun, interactive wellness program that takes you on a virtual journey to some of the world’s most famous hiking travels while learning and practicing habits that lead to a healthy weight for life. Each time you record a “Right This Weigh” activity – such as exercise, making good produce choices, eating a healthy breakfast, getting enough sleep – you will proceed along a trail and be rewarded with exciting images and descriptions of each area’s people and places.

How It Works

Your goal is to travel at least 600 virtual miles along the trails. There are a variety of ways to earn mileage and move along each trail, and you can choose to participate individually or turn the challenge into a team event. Consistency and balance are rewarded over great athleticism or dramatic changes, because when it comes to attaining and maintaining a healthy weight, simple, everyday healthy habits produce the greatest long-term benefits – and the most success.

“Right This Weigh” keeps you on the path to weight loss success with:

- An easy-to-use tracking tool for daily/weekly activities and habits that contribute to a healthy weight
- Easy-to-make, healthy recipes
- Daily health tips, articles and web resources for inspiration and education
- Mobile app and FitBit compatibility

Prizes for Participants

The challenge will run for 12 weeks. Participants who enter their weight into the program every Monday will have weekly opportunities to win prizes including gift cards to Sprouts and/or Trader Joe’s. At the end of the challenge, there will be drawings for prizes such as FitBits, FitBit scales, bicycles and a one-year gym membership to 24 Hour Fitness provided by our County Health Plan vendors.

Start Your Journey Today!

“Right This Weigh” runs from February 20 through May 14, 2017. All activity must be logged in by May 17, 2017. To learn more and enroll in the challenge, visit the Staywell website at www.ohealthysteps.staywell.com.



Around the County News, Events and Happenings



County Executive Office CEO Budget Receives Distinguished Presentation Award

On January 6, the County of Orange received notification from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada that the County Executive Office (CEO) Budget Office received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The GFOA is a major professional association servicing the needs of nearly 19,000 appointed and elected local, state and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. For more information about GFOA, visit: <http://www.gfoa.org/>

The award represents a significant achievement by the award-winner, according to the GFOA.

“In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation,” the GFOA stated in a press release. “These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity’s budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.”

For more information about CEO Budget and to view budget documents, visit their webpage at <http://www.ocgov.com/gov/ceo/deputy/finance/budget>



CEO Budget Team. Photo Credit: CEO Communications

John Wayne Airport / OCSD Airport Operations Captain Honored by Military as ‘Patriotic Employer’

Congratulations to Captain Wayne Byerley, John Wayne Airport Police Services Bureau, Orange County Sheriff’s Department.

He was recently nominated and awarded the Patriot Award which recognizes the efforts of supervisors to support personnel who serve in the National Guard or Reserve through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules and time off prior to and after deployment.

Capt. Byerley was nominated by Sheriff’s Special Officer Grant Cooper who serves in the United States Naval Reserve.



From left to right in the photo is Capt. Wayne Byerley, Sheriff’s Special Officer and United States Naval Reservist Grant Cooper, and John Goosman from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Organization. Photo Credit: John Wayne Airport/OCSD

Health Care Agency 5 Things You Need To Know About New Car Seat Law

- Effective January 1, 2017, State law requires kids to stay in rear-facing car seats until they are two years old, 40 pounds or 40 inches tall.
- According to a 2007 study in Injury Prevention, children younger than 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or be severely injured in a crash when they're riding in rear-facing car seats.
- Parents who break the law could face fines up to \$400. Read more about the new car seat law [here](#).
- It's important for parents to know when to replace a car seat. Children have outgrown their current car seat when there is less than one inch of space between the top of their head and the top of the car seat.
- HCA's Public Health Services provides free car seat inspections, classes and a whole host of car seat safety resources available [here](#).



Car Seat Law now currently in effect.
Photo credit: Health Care Agency

Health Care Agency New Food Facility Inspection Report Emphasizes Health and Safety of OC Residents and Visitors

Food facilities in Orange County are now being inspected using a new “checklist” inspection report that’s better aligned with other state jurisdictions to focus on risk-based factors and emphasize the prevention of foodborne illness.

“With the new inspection mandates and all of our new Environmental Health (EH) Food Protection Program staff members, this new process will assist with productivity, efficiency and effectiveness in a tremendous way,” said **Denise Fennessy**, Regulatory/Medical Health Services Chief of Operations.

Introduced by HCA’s EH division last month, the new Retail Food Inspection Report is based on the California Food Inspection Data Fields Marking Guideline and aligns with the risk-based inspection process that was adopted by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in August 2015.

Some key highlights include:

- Routine inspections will now be provided in a “checklist” format, which will recognize food facilities for complying with critical risk factors, in addition to noting those violations that need to be corrected.
- The inspection report is divided into three sections: (1) Critical Risk Factors, (2) Good Retail Practices, and (3) Compliance & Enforcement to more clearly depict the

degree of risk associated with each violation and measures taken in response to the observed violation.

- Posting of the inspection notification seals (Pass, Reinspection Due-Pass, Closed) will remain the same.

For a thorough description of the changes, read the Retail Food Program Inspection Guide [here](#) or visit www.ocfoodinfo.com to learn more about Environmental Health’s Food Protection Program.



Photo credit: Health Care Agency

Public Defender Shining in the Legal Community

On Thursday, February 9, the Orange County Public Defender's office received the "Law Firm of the Year" award during the Constitutional Rights Foundation's mock trial awards.

This is the first year the Orange County Public Defender's office received the award, which has typically gone to civil law firms in the past, according to Orange County Public Defender Sharon Petrosino.

"Public defenders are busy all day long in court defending the indigent. There are great demands on their time between work and home life. Yet, over 25 of our attorneys volunteered their evening and Saturday hours to coach and keep score for high school mock trial," Sharon said. "They demonstrated compassion and leadership in helping our community, and I am so very proud of each of them."

In addition, Dan Cook, Chief Deputy Public Defender, won the rare and coveted "Distinguished Service Award." This award is not given every year and only to those who have distinguished themselves by their commitment to the program.

The Constitutional Rights Foundation mock trial program aims to help students acquire a working knowledge of the judicial system, develop analytical abilities and communication skills, and gain an understanding of their obligations and responsibilities as participating members of society. The program currently involves 36 California counties. For more information, visit: <http://www.crf-usa.org/mock-trial-program/mock-trial-program.html>.



Public Defender Team displaying their awards
(Photo Credit: OC Public Defender)

OC Public Libraries Helping Adults Earn High School Diplomas

Interested in earning a high school diploma? You can earn your diploma today with OC Public Libraries' Career Online High School Program (COHS). This program allows adult students, ages 19 and older, the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma while gaining career skills in one of eight employment fields.

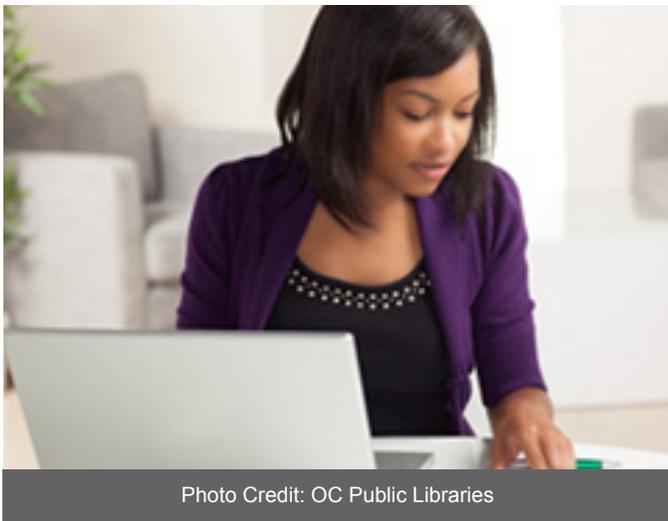


Photo Credit: OC Public Libraries

But that isn't all. The program works to ensure student success with these features:

- a flexible, anytime-anywhere online platform
- self-paced, mastery learning instructional method
- core academic curriculum aligned to national standards
- academic coaches and certified support instructors for multiple layers of assistance
- the opportunity to learn a new career skill along with core academics
- career guidance and resources to prepare students for the workforce

Students are able to graduate in as few as four to six months by transferring in previously earned high school credits. To learn more about this exciting new program, students can visit the library's website at www.ocpl.org or call Rebecca Braun at 714-566-3091.

This program is made possible by the San Clemente Friends, Gale, a part of Cengage Learning, and the California State Library.

OC Waste & Recycling Landfills Remain Open During Storms

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night...” The U.S. Postal Service creed is well-known and often quoted. But they are not alone in delivering service amid foul weather and other challenges. During the January and February storms OC Waste & Recycling’s three landfills remained open for business. The Prima Deshecha Landfill alone recorded rainfall of 2.35 inches with winds up to 75 miles-per-hour during the storm on Friday, February 17.

The planning and preparation for winter storms ensured that the landfills were ready for the worst. Best management practices include clearing culverts and v-ditches, placing sandbags and grading the top deck to divert runoff to culverts—among many others.

Once the rain starts the refuse haulers are directed to the wet deck—an area covered with crushed asphalt where the trucks can dump their loads without sinking into mud. That’s where dedicated landfill crews keep up with the refuse loads amid rain, wind and related obstacles.



OCWR staff, Irineo Rios installs a silt fence that will slow the flow of runoff and collect the silt on slopes.
Photo Credit: OC Waste & Recycling

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNICATION AND SAFETY TIPS FOR A CHANGING WORKPLACE

- Never Respond in a Hostile Manner
- Avoid Raising Your Voice or Talking Too Fast
- Try and Stay Calm
- Face to Face Postures Can Be Seen as Aggressive



The OC Health Care Agency has produced a short video called “Communication and Safety Tips for a Changing Workplace” that shares ideas and tips on communicating with those with mental health issues. We all need to recognize that our work environment has changed, particularly in the area around the Civic Center.

Please take a few minutes to watch the video, and if you have any questions or would like more information, please call Jason Austin at 714-834-2077.

<http://bos.ocgov.com/safety/tips.asp>

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS TO RETIRE

Steve Franks, Director of OC Community Resources (OCCR), announced plans to retire at the beginning of March. The County has named **Dylan Wright**, currently the Director of OC Waste and Recycling, as the new Director of OCCR. **Cymantha Atkinson**, who is currently the Director of Government and Community Relations, County Executive Office, will also join OCCR as the new Deputy Director, .

Mark Refowitz, Director of Orange County’s Health Care Agency (OCHCA), announced plans to retire at the end of March. The County is in the process of conducting a public recruitment for the Director of OCHCA.

Thank you to both Steve Franks and Mark Refowitz for your service to the County!



OCCR's Steve Franks



HCA's Mark Refowitz

OC History

Journeys Through Orange County's
Origins, Obstacles and Opportunities



When Orange County was Green *By Chris Jepsen*

As Orange County came into its own in the early 20th century, farming – or ranching, as we preferred to call it – continued to dominate our landscape and economy. In addition to our already prolific citrus and walnuts, in the early 1910s avocados also began to be grown here commercially. This fruit (yes, fruit) became even more popular when La Habra postman Rudolph Hass originated the popular Hass Avocado in La Habra Heights in the 1920s.

Commercial growing of berries in Orange County also began in the 1910s and 1920s. The leading grower was Walter Knott of Buena Park, whose success with youngberries, rhubarb and other crops became stardom when he introduced Anaheim Park Superintendent Rudy Boysen's boysenberry to the world in 1934.

Meanwhile, the thriving local citrus industry continued to grow in stature and scope. Growers' associations and cooperatives helped farmers get their products to market and were a major force in the community. Though hardly Orange County's only crop, citrus ruled the local economy for over half a century.



Harvesting celery in central Orange County, 1947.
Photo Credit: OC Archives

Among our numerous farm labor disputes, the 1936 citrus workers' strike was particularly ugly. Nearly 3,000 Orange County citrus pickers went on strike during the harvest, panicking ranchers. Most growers had small operations and all hinged their annual income on a timely harvest during the brief picking season. Vigilantes attacked picket lines and labor meetings with tear gas and axe handles. Strikers made bomb threats and burned vehicles. Sheriff Logan Jackson, a grower himself, ordered deputies to "shoot to kill" strikers. There was blood on both sides, and hundreds of strikers were arrested. Ultimately, the workers won what they'd demanded: better pay, free equipment and transportation. But the unions lost their bid to organize pickers.

In central and southern Orange County, limas, blackeyes and other bean varieties grew well. At one time, the Irvine Ranch

held a world record, with more than 60,000 acres of lima beans in production. A number of prominent local families, including the Segerstroms, started out growing beans. Beans once rivaled the financial prowess of citrus, but they could never replace our colorful county symbol.



Weldon Field's famed tree puller was acquired by O.C. Harbors Beaches & Parks in 1994. But where is it today?
Photo Credit: OC Archives

In the 1920s, mechanic Weldon Field of Orange invented a "tree puller" that extracted sickly, dead or unwanted trees from the ground, roots and all. His business thrived in the years after World War II, as groves fell victim to disease, higher taxes and subdivisions.

Simultaneously, strawberries were burgeoning. As development gobbled up farm land, a small field of strawberries could still turn a significant profit. By 1968, strawberries were our most profitable crop.

Our colossal post-war population boom also created colossal demand for ornamental trees, groundcover and other landscaping plants. Many nurseries sprang up to meet the demand and soon became a key part of our agricultural scene.

Although local agriculture still generates many millions of dollars today, it's now a tiny fraction of our economy. However, we also enjoy less tangible benefits from resting our freeway-traffic-addled eyes on a verdant field and being reminded of our roots.

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 or 714-834-4771 if you have questions about the Archives.

Workplace Safety - Office Safety and Good Work Habits

In 2015, the Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed 237,400 nonfatal occupational injuries for local government employees. Nonfatal occupational injuries can be mitigated by making a few simple changes in your work habits. For instance, sitting for long periods of time without interruptions may slow metabolism, which can affect the body's ability to regulate blood sugar, blood pressure and break down body fat.

You can create a comfortable work space and prevent injuries and illnesses by:

- **Adjusting your chair as it can circumvent back pain and improve your posture.**
- **Learning the correct method for lifting safely by starting in a stable position, keeping the load close to your waist and your back straight.**
- **Taking frequent short breaks to give your muscles a chance to relax.**
- **Taking breaks from computer screens to relieve your eyes.**
- **Arranging your desk so necessary items do not require you to overreach or use awkward postures.**

Also, it is important to recognize early warning signs of stress. Usually symptoms are headache, sleep problems, a short temper, difficulty concentrating, upset stomach, job dissatisfaction and low morale. A few steps to manage stress before it gets out of control are to stretch your arms, legs and neck to recover from muscle fatigue, eat healthy meals and snacks, limit drinks that have high levels of fat, calories and sugar, and become physically active for a few hours a week to strengthen muscles and raise your heart rate.

The Safety and Loss Prevention Staff encourages employees to stay healthy and adhere to safety practices to ensure positive results.

For information regarding resources and training, contact the Safety and Loss Prevention Program at 714-285-5500 or email us at Safety@ocgov.com.

RECURRING RESOLUTIONS - MARCH

Every year, the Board of Supervisors approves a list of recurring resolutions. These resolutions commemorate or celebrate causes and/or organizational efforts on a monthly basis. Click on any of the recurring resolutions to the right to learn more about them.

American Red Cross Month

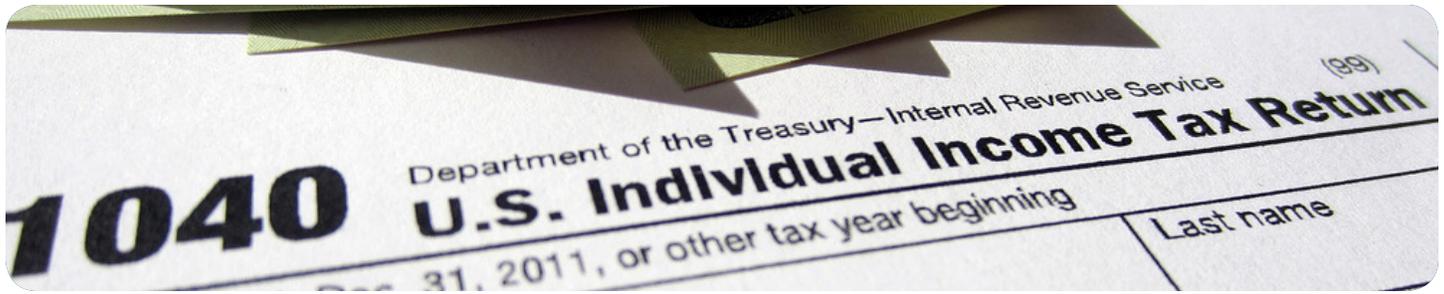
**Professional Social
Worker Month**

Save Your Vision Week

World TB Day



Cyber Safety - Cyber Security Awareness During Tax Season



Tax season is a prime time for identify theft. Cyber criminals continue to look for ways to obtain your personal information to cash in on a refund check or steal your personal identity. The flood of personal and financial data available online during the tax season is a tremendous target. In 2015, the Federal Trade Commission received almost half a million complaints that were related to tax fraud. Cyber criminals are crafty. They can break into your account and/or devices and literally steal your online identity as well as your tax refund.

TIPS ON WHAT TO CHECK FOR:

- **PHISHING SCAMS:** Cyber criminals will try to get you to click on a link or reply back to an email to be able to steal your personal information. Pay attention to unsolicited emails, social media posts, fake websites and text messages. Once the personal information has been obtained, cyber criminals then commit identity theft. Opening malicious links or attachments can cause malware such as viruses.
- **IMPOSTERS CLAIMING TO BE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AGENTS:** IRS will never email or call and demand immediate payment without mailing a bill first. IRS will never ask for a credit or debit card number via phone or email.
- **TAX PREPARER FRAUD:** When hiring a tax preparer to prepare your tax returns, make sure that the preparer signs the tax return along with their tax identification number. There is large majority of tax preparers who provide honest service, but there may also be a few dishonest individuals who target unsuspected taxpayers which results in identity theft or tax refund fraud.
- **TWO-STEP AUTHENTICATION:** Turn on the two-step authentication on your accounts.
- **CREATE A STRONG PASSWORD:** Create a long password that consists of capital, lowercase letters with number and symbols. This will provide better protection.
- **WI-FI HOTSPOTS:** Do not use public wireless networks; they are not secure. Cyber criminals can intercept internet connections while you are accessing personal information on public Wi-Fi.
- **WHENEVER IN DOUBT, DELETE:** Be cautious when using email; links to emails are often ways that cyber criminals can gain access to your personal information. If an email doesn't look right, delete it.
- **FILE YOUR TAX FORMS ON A SECURE HTTPS SITE ONLY:** Do not use any links from emails to get to the IRS website, the proper way is to open up a browser and type in the IRS' url.
- **MALWARE ISSUES:** Confirm that your tax preparation service provider has checked for any issues with malware or viruses.
- **PROTECT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY:** Don't carry your Social Security card or any documents that would include your Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- **CREDIT MONITORING:** Check your credit report each year.
- **PROTECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION:** Don't give out your personal information to anyone through the mail, phone or internet unless you have initiated the contact and are sure of the recipient.
- **PROTECTING YOUR FINANCIAL INFORMATION:** If you no longer need documents that contain your personal information, make sure to shred them first.

PROTECT YOURSELF DURING THE TAX SEASON:

- **KEEP ALL OF YOUR MACHINES CLEAN:** Make sure to have updated software on all your devices that connect to the internet. This includes security software, web browsers and operating systems for PCs and mobile devices. Having current software is a strong defense against malware and viruses that are able to steal login credentials or potentially use your computer to generate spam.

If you have any questions, please email: SecurityAdmin@ceoit.ocgov.com.



Service Awards

for the month of February



35 Years

Brian Frick
OC Community
Resources

Nancy Nunez
Social Services Agency

30 Years

Hazel Bennett
Clerk-Recorder

Thom Baker
OC Public Works

Nga Le
Sheriff-Coroner

Lee Gonzales
Social Services Agency

20 Years

Weixing Wang
Assessor

Pamela Thomas
Child Support Services

Kimberly Doyle
District Attorney

Matthew Lockhart
District Attorney

Nagy Morcos
District Attorney

Erin Rowe
District Attorney

Scott Weitzman
District Attorney

Jovita Gonzalez
Health Care Agency

Sandra Walden
Health Care Agency

Julio Ayala
OC Community
Resources

Grace Barnes
OC Community
Resources

Michael De Matteo
OC Community
Resources

Nooshin Jahed
OC Community
Resources

Patrick O'Halloran
OC Community
Resources

Joanne Taylor
OC Community
Resources

Karen Wall
OC Community
Resources

Frank Avelar
Probation

Vineeta Chopra
Probation

Jessica Johnson
Probation

Stefanie Moorman
Probation

Joseph Polman
Probation

Donnamarie Rufrano
Probation

Rudy Zamudio
Probation

Leticia Romo
Public Defender

Rayleen Cruz
Sheriff-Coroner

Brian Bruns
Sheriff-Coroner

Kelly Keyes
Sheriff-Coroner

Cecilia Moguel
Sheriff-Coroner

Linhthy Nguyen
Sheriff-Coroner

Guillermina Sanchez
Sheriff-Coroner

Martin Zamudio
Sheriff-Coroner

Louis Chalk
Social Services Agency



20 Years Continued

Cynthia Desurra
Social Services Agency

Silvia Fuller
Social Services Agency

Mercy Gayanilo
Social Services Agency

Leticia Rivas
Social Services Agency

Obrey Williams
Social Services Agency

To view the February 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.

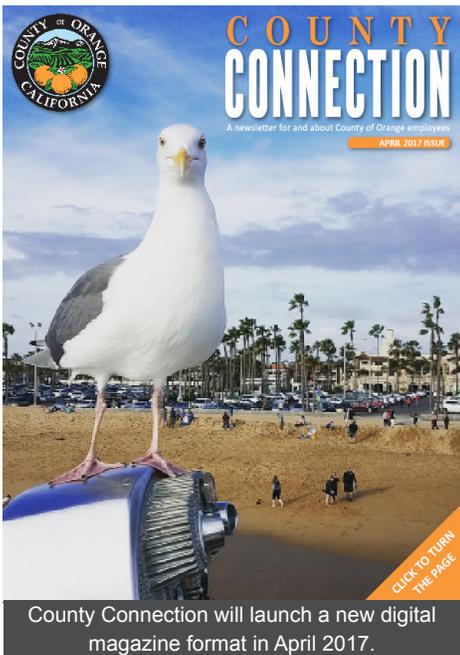
County Connection - The Digital Magazine

Throughout the years, the monthly County Connection newsletter has been a way to inform employees on all of the happenings within the County and its departments. There have been variations of County Connection with its look and functionality, and now we are switching things up yet again with something entirely new!

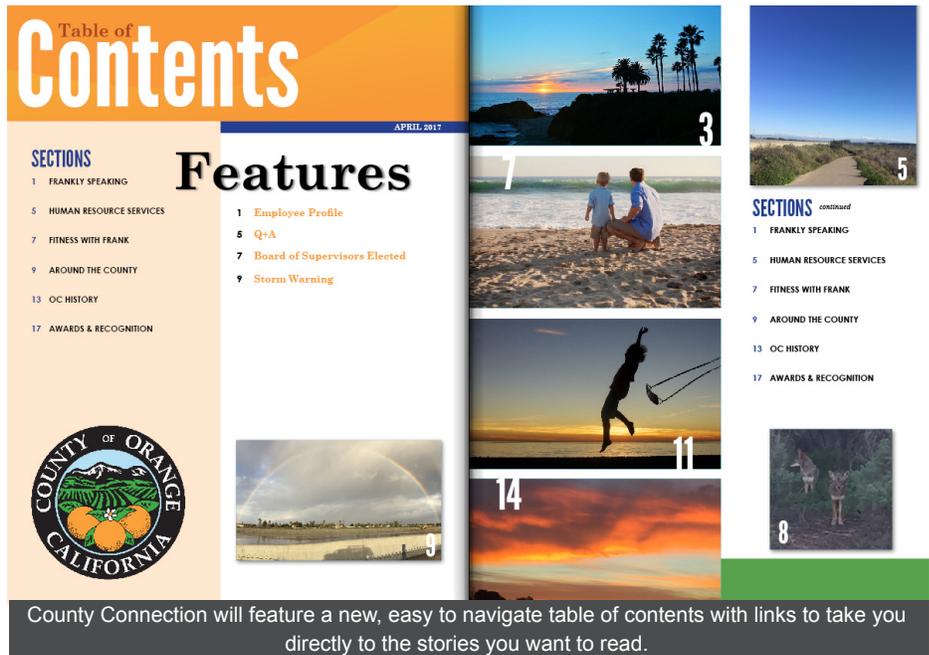
In our digital age, traditional magazines have been making their way onto our computers and tablet devices. Now with the swipe of a finger or the click of the mouse, you can view a digital magazine right from your desk. We intend to up the design quality and functionality of County Connection with a digital magazine format. With a more exciting look and feel, County Connection will be even better than ever.

Every month will feature the same content that is normally brought to you, but with more dynamic graphics, presentation and beautiful artwork/photography. You can simply click on the corner of a page and County Connection will turn to the next spread, just like a real magazine.

Look for the first digital County Connection magazine edition next month, April 2017.



County Connection will launch a new digital magazine format in April 2017.



County Connection will feature a new, easy to navigate table of contents with links to take you directly to the stories you want to read.

Events

"Love Orange County" Photo Contest



Show What You LOVE Most About Orange County.

1. Take your best photo of Orange County.
2. Email your photo to ceocom@ocgov.com between now and March 14, 2017.
3. LIKE our Facebook page (@ocgov) to view entries and vote on the top three finalists.

For additional contest details and Entry Agreement, visit www.ocgov.com/about/infooc/photocontest17



Mile Square Regional Park

ocparks.com

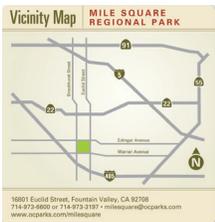
IT MIGHT BE YOUR LUCKY DAY!

Free Kids' Fishing Derby

Saturday, March 18
Registration: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Fishing Derby: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mile Square Regional Park
16801 Euclid St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

For more information:
(714) 973-6600 or email
milesquare@ocparks.com



Event is free. Parking is \$5 per vehicle.

OC Parks, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Angler Chronicles host the anticipated annual Kids' Fishing Derby at the North Lake at Mile Square Regional Park.

Kids ages 6 to 15 fish for free at the Fishing Derby and compete to win prizes for finalists and winners in different age groups.

The lake will be stocked with over 1,000 pounds of trout or catfish for the derby.

Fishing clinics will be held on-site and a limited quantity of fishing rods will be available for loan.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain will not cancel event.



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- No Renewals – No Holds
- Three Item Limit

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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. Each month, one photo will be selected as the featured Parting Shot. Click on the photos to enlarge.



1. **Ashley Becerra**, Child Support Services office assistant, shared this photo of the Seal Beach pier while enjoying a workout on the beach.

(Parting Shot continued)



2. **David Harper**, Social Services Agency family specialist, captured the Black Star waterfall after the winter storms recently, which lies out beyond the County’s recreational land parcel in Black Star Canyon.
3. **Michael Chiles**, Health Care Agency communications coordinator, photographed the foothills of Rancho Mission Viejo while on a hiking trail.
4. **Patsy Aguirre**, Auditor Controller accounting supervisor, captured this beautiful sunset near the Orange Reservoir after the recent rain storms.
5. **Cymantha Atkinson**, Government and Community Relations director, photographed this scene of two hikers and their dog while at a local County park.

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 travis.lariviere@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.

Connect with Us on Social Media

On **Twitter** at www.Twitter.com/OCGovCA

On **Facebook** at www.Facebook.com/OCGov

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