



Board Selects New Officers and Swears In Supervisors Nguyen and Campbell

At the Jan. 13th Board Meeting, Supervisor Patricia C. Bates was selected to serve as the 2009 Board Chair and Supervisor Janet Nguyen was selected to serve as the Vice Chair by a unanimous vote. For the first time in the County's history, both officers of the Board are female.



Outgoing Board Chair John Moorlach passes the gavel to Supervisor Pat Bates, the 2009 Board Chair.

"It is an honor to be elected by my colleagues to serve as Chair of the Board," said Supervisor Bates. "The coming year will bring many challenges as we continue to face a difficult economic climate. It will be my highest priority to lead the Board forward with fiscally responsible policies to ensure we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars."

Also during the Jan. 13th Board Meeting, newly re-elected Supervisors Nguyen and Campbell were sworn into a new term of office. Supervisor Janet Nguyen was sworn into her first full

term as the First District Supervisor by State Senator Mimi Walters. The First District is comprised of Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Westminster and Midway City.

Immediately following, Supervisor Bill Campbell was sworn into his second full term as the Third District Supervisor. His wife, Mary Campbell, administered the oath of office with their son, Chris, at their side. The Third District includes the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Irvine, Orange, Tustin, Villa Park and Yorba Linda. Unincorporated areas of the Third District are Cowan Heights, El Modena, Lemon Heights, El Toro, Olinda, Olive, Orange Hills, Orange Park Acres, Tustin Foothills and Modjeska, Santiago, Silverado and Trabuco Canyons.

Among a standing room only crowd, Super-



First District Supervisor Janet Nguyen (left) is sworn into another term of office by Senator Mimi Walters (right). Sup. Nguyen's husband, Tom Bonikowski, assisted in the ceremony.

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sors Nguyen and Campbell gave remarks on the privilege of being public servants and stressed the importance of working together through difficult budget times. Former Board Supervisors Cynthia Coad, Bill Steiner and Thomas W. Wilson were present for the ceremony. ■



Bill Campbell, Third District Supervisor, was sworn into his final term of office by his wife Mary Campbell with their son, Chris, at their side.

Employees Spread Holiday Cheer

Amidst the hardships of a faltering economy, County-operated holiday programs that provide gifts and funds to low-income families were in greater demand this season. Volunteers observed a more heightened sense of desperation and gratitude for assistance throughout the community than in recent years. Coordinators faced the challenge of meeting this need with fewer donations to operate with.

GIVING FROM THE HEART

Approximately 53 Probation families were ad-



(from left to right) Deputy Probation Officers Juan Gonzalez, Judy Casillas, and Gracie Pedroza fill bags with donations alongside program PCAA Chair Carol Koelle.

opted by Orange County residents in 2008. Each donor was provided with a “wish list” created by a family in need, which often included household items like towels, clothing and sheets. Many went above and beyond to also furnish Christmas trees and holiday meals as well.

To highlight just one of the many organizations that sponsored fundraisers, Spurgeon United Methodist Church held a “Heep the Jeep” event where the congregation piled new sleeping bags into a jeep to drive over for low-income families.

Since expenses totaled nearly \$5,000 and the program received more than \$7,500 in donations, the Probation Community Action Association (PCAA) will use the balance of funds to continue assisting the community throughout 2009.

For more information about the Giving from the Heart program, please visit www.pcaaac.org, or contact Lois McKoon at (714) 569-2153 or Lois.McKoon@ocgov.com.

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HOLIDAY HOPE

The Health Care Agency’s Holiday Hope assistance program began in 1985 to provide holiday meals to the agency’s neediest clients. Many of these recipients, who range in age from infants to senior citizens, have serious medical and nutritional problems.

The program is completely financed through the support of County employees, who volunteer to feed a family by donating cash or grocery gift certificates. In 2008, 232 HCA families received gift cards totaling \$12,875.

To learn more about the Holiday of Hope program, please contact Amber Alford at (714) 834-4144 or AAlford@ochca.com.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

New gifts were collected from bins placed in County facilities and libraries and delivered daily to the Operation Santa Claus warehouse, where deserving families “shopped” for books, toys and clothing for their children.



Sheriff Sandra Hutchens wheels a donated bicycle and Deputy Alan Dadd carries a new guitar to be delivered to the Operation Santa Claus warehouse. The Sheriff’s Department lined the shelves with two truckloads of toys and \$4,000 in gift cards.

Despite fewer tangible donations, more volunteers worked longer days in 2008. Approximately 290 community volunteers and Probation youth donated a total of 2,848 hours in 2008, an increase of nearly 700 hours from 2007.



Kathy Cooper, manager with the Social Services Agency, volunteers her time to work the counter at the Operation Santa Claus warehouse.

“Thanks to the continued support of everyone in the County family, we didn’t turn a single person away,” said Mona Gustafson, manager for the Social Services Agency and Operation Santa Claus.

Approximately 43,000 gifts were distributed overall.

To learn more about Operation Santa Claus, please contact Mona Gustafson at (714) 679-2438 or Mona.Gustafson@ssa.ocgov.com.

SENIOR SANTA AND FRIENDS

Senior Santa and Friends hand-delivered gifts to approximately 650 abused and disabled elderly clients, whose holiday wishes generally centered on practical items like supplement

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shakes and kitchen appliances. Due to the cold weather, space heaters were especially popular in 2008.

John Aliberti, supervisor for the Social Services Agency, was touched by the special efforts of one community member and his co-workers.

“This year, donations were down due to the economy,” said Aliberti. “This was especially true of big ticket items like microwaves. One week before the holiday, there were only two microwaves available to deliver. We contacted Ken Taylor of Willdan Engineering, the husband of a social worker and employee of a company that gives to the program every year. They purchased 14 microwaves just in time to be delivered to our clients.”

For more information about the Senior Santa program, please contact Kim Pham at (714) 825-3000 or Senior.Santa@ssa.ocgov.com.



Shera is a “Lend a Helping Paw” dog that brings joy to hospital patients and young children suffering from illness. This gentle giant spent days with Operation Santa Claus making kids, shoppers and volunteers happy.

New Risk Manager Joins County Team

Tom Phillips joined the County last November to head the Risk Management division of the County Executive Office. With nearly 27 years of risk management and insurance experience, Phillips now oversees the Workers’ Compensation, Liability, Safety and Property/Casualty Insurance and Self-Insurance programs for the County.

From managing several types of insurance



Tom Phillips settles into his new position as County Risk Manager.

programs designed to protect the County’s assets to administering the County’s safety and loss prevention program, Phillips describes risk management as a profession that touches upon a variety of subjects and operational areas, ranging from legal to medical to construction. One of the primary focuses of the County’s risk management operation is to provide a safe working environment for County employees.

“The foundation of a solid risk management program starts with an effective safety program and our most important resource is our employees,” said Phillips. “Managing risk requires responsibility and participation from all employees. We need everyone to keep their eyes and ears open so we can be proactive in our safety approach and minimizing risk to employees.”

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Phillips began his risk management career with Liberty Mutual Insurance before starting with the Orange County Transportation Authority (known then as the Orange County Transportation District) and later served for 22 years as the City of Santa Monica’s first and only Risk Manager.

“It’s kind of like coming home again,” said Phillips about returning to work for County government.

Phillips is also a contributing author in *Risk Management for Public Entities*, a textbook produced by the Insurance Institute of America. In 2000, he was noted by the Institute for Government as one of the top risk managers in the nation.

Tom is a longtime resident of Anaheim Hills, where he lives with his wife. In his free time, Tom enjoys playing tennis, traveling and dining.

New Online Safety Training Courses

Each quarter the CEO/Risk Management Safety Office offers more than 36 regularly scheduled training classes to help departments meet their safety training goals.

CEO/Risk Management is transitioning on-line registration for safety classes to the new Training Partner web site. Employees may sign up any day or time through the new Training Partner web site, which is available from any computer with Internet access.

The safety training schedule can be accessed from the County Intranet site at <http://ocintranet.ocgov.com/>. Scroll down to the left-hand column and click on Risk Man-

agement (white lettering). Once on the Risk Management Intranet site, a complete schedule of safety classes is available.

All safety training classes are presented at the CEO/Risk Management Office at 600 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Suite 105 in Santa Ana. CEO/Risk Management also offers onsite safety training for County departments and agencies. Parking can be validated for the parking lot on the corner of Ross St. and Santa Ana Blvd. only.

If you have questions regarding safety training, contact Vernon Goad at (714) 285-5535 or Craig Loyd at (714) 285-5537.

Emergency Management Intern Receives Excellence in Volunteerism Award

Though his home was continually threatened by the fires and subsequent mudslides that have plagued Southern California over the past year, County intern Ethan Miller Brown showed unwavering focus and provided exceptional support to the Sheriff’s Emergency Management Bureau over an eight-month

period. He was honored with an Excellence in Volunteerism Award Dec. 23rd.

A limited number of volunteers are selected each year by the Board of Supervisors as recipients of the Excellence in Volunteerism

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Awards. The honorees are chosen from the more than 20,000 individuals who volunteer annually with County agencies and departments.

As an intern, Ethan provided crucial expertise in the field of Geographic Information Services, which greatly assisted in the creation of maps for use by decision-makers and first responders in actual emergencies and the expedited notification of emergency notifications to impacted communities in the AlertOC system.

“Ethan demonstrated unwavering enthusiasm and a ‘can-do’ attitude throughout his internship,” said Donna Boston, Emergency Manager with the Sheriff’s Department. “He displayed consummate professionalism in performing his day-to-day duties and was instrumental in completing numerous projects that were vital to the safety and security of Orange County.”

Ethan is a recent graduate of Chapman

University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He is currently attending California State University, Fullerton, pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Urban Management.

To learn more about the Excellence in Volunteerism Awards, please contact Jane Dawson at Jane.Dawson@ocgov.com or (714) 834-7440.



Donna Boston (left) presents Ethan Miller Brown (right) with the Excellence in Volunteerism Award, who dedicated more than 400 hours of service as an intern.

OC Archives Launches OC Stories and Learning Kits

In addition to filing the steady stream of records such as marriage licenses, birth certificates and fictitious business names, the Clerk-Recorder Department is also committed to making local history approachable and entertaining through its OC Archives program, established in 1983.

Patrons of OC Archives can download historical information from www.ocarchives.com about topics like the Spanish and Mexican ranchos of Orange County, landmarks and even how Orange County got its name.

Recently OC Archives has expanded their web site with the debut of OC Stories – presentations that spotlight memorable tales in

Orange County’s past. Each of the 19 stories chronicle absorbing details and illustrate events with photos frozen-in-time. Captivating stories include the establishment of the County, the advancement of freeways and how Orange County’s first celebrity, Helena Modjeska, became part of the local culture and social scene.

Teachers, students, history enthusiasts and residents will likely be intrigued by the entertaining presentations in a user-friendly format. To discover more, visit www.ocarchives.com and click on OC Stories.

In partnership with the Orange County De-

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partment of Education (OCDE), OC Archives also added two newly created digital learning kits on KitZu.com (a web site sponsored by OCDE). Titled Orange County History: The Creation of Orange County and Orange County History: From Ranchos to Farming, the learning kits include photos, illustrations, video clips and audio clips.

To access these free tools, go to www.KitZu.com and click on 3rd Grade, History and Social Science, then scroll down to find the Orange County kits.

OC Archives provides a wealth of materials for research and education focused on transformative events in Orange County’s history. The Archives is located at the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To contact the Archives, call (714) 834-2536.

New Law Bans Drivers from Text Messaging

A new State law prohibiting drivers from text messaging went into effect Jan. 1 and may impact the way employees use their County-issued vehicles and BlackBerry devices.

Beginning this month, drivers may not use electronic wireless devices to write, send, or read text-based communications while operating a motor vehicle. The ban extends to e-mailing and instant messaging.

Violators will be subject to a ticketed base fine

of \$20 (at least \$70 after penalties are added) for a first offense and \$50 (at least \$175 after penalties are added) for subsequent offenses.

If you need to request a hands-free device for use with your County-issued cellular phone, please contact your department’s Information Technology staff or supervisor for assistance.

To learn more, please visit <http://gov.ca.gov/press-release/10608>.

County Staff Needed as Emergency Shelter Workers



The Brea Community Center is converted to an American Red Cross Emergency Shelter during the Freeway Complex Fire in Nov. 2008.

Last November, County employees helped respond to the largest wild land fire in Orange County since 1948 and the subsequent threat of mudflows that ensued.

Approximately 30,305 acres were burned during the Freeway Complex Fire, 190 residential structures were destroyed and 123 residential structures were damaged. County staff trained in emergency shelter operations were deployed to support the response.

Days later, the Emergency Operations Center

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was activated once again due to the threat of mudflows in the City of Yorba Linda. Approximately 948 single family homes and 38 apartment/condo homes were placed under mandatory evacuation orders.

In the event of major disasters like these in Orange County, a tremendous need arises to shelter residents. To meet these needs, it is a priority to train County employees in emergency shelter operations.

County staff is urged to volunteer for this vital program. Training classes may be taken on work time with advance approval from your immediate supervisor. It is important to keep in mind that you may not be able to volunteer as an emergency shelter worker if you are already assigned to another area of County duty during a disaster.

To be trained and certified as an American Red Cross Emergency Shelter Worker, two classes must be completed within the same week: **Introduction to Disaster Services and Shelter Operations** (Training Partner Code 5071) **and Shelter Care Simulation** (Training Partner Code 5072). The training takes one and one-half days over a two-day period.

To enroll, go to the Training Partner web site at: <http://tp2003.ocgov.com> and sign-in by entering your name and password. Use the course codes to locate and enroll in the classes.

If you have questions or would like a list of classes e-mailed to you, please contact Kevin Hill at (714) 245-6166.

Get the 411 on OC Office of the Performance Auditor Director

- The Office of Performance Audit Director opened in Jan. '08 after being approved by the Board of Supervisors during the FY 2007-08 budget process.
- The Office's mission is to independently and objectively assess the performance of County operations and programs, and provide the Board and County Executive Management with reliable, insightful, and useful information to make sound business decisions.
- To date, staff has completed three reports, including an information review of Orange County DNA lab issues, a financial review of OC Public Libraries and an overtime audit of the Sheriff-Coroner department.
- The Office is currently working on a full performance audit of the Health Care Agency's Correctional Medical Services division. The team is looking at every aspect of the operation, which provides health care to County jail inmates, and will make its findings available next month.
- Future scheduled audits include: (1) A variety of constituent issues related to OC Public Works' Planning & Development Services division building and safety activities, (2) Selection procedures in place at the Human Resources Department, and (3) Full performance review of CEO/Risk Management to identify best practices and opportunities for improvement.

To get more of the 411, visit

[http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info OC/Departments & Agencies/Office of the Performance Audit Director](http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info/OC/Departments%20&%20Agencies/Office%20of%20the%20Performance%20Audit%20Director).

Internal Audit Fraud Hotline



If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of County resources, contact the OC Internal Audit Department Fraud Hotline at (714) 834-3608 or visit www.ocgov.com/audit. Messages are accepted any day or time and can be made anonymously. In addition, employees are provided protection under the California Whistleblower Law.



Service Awards

For the Month of December

35 YEARS

Lucy Flores
Assessor

Guadalupe Davila
Social Services Agency

Steven Dixon
Social Services Agency

Margot Knife Chief
Social Services Agency

Gary Brown
OC Waste & Recycling

Elayne Dowling
Sheriff-Coroner

Cecilia Arroyo
Social Services Agency

Carmen Harper
Social Services Agency

Ramona Rangel
Social Services Agency

30 YEARS

Jan Grimes
Auditor-Controller

Simona Plascencia
District Attorney

Maureen Cook
Health Care Agency

Hoa Ho
Health Care Agency

Susan Lorenz
Probation

Bruce Moore
OC Public Works

Theresa Carmona
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Charlene Fehner
Assessor

Sharee Thornberry
Assessor

Juan Balcazar
OC Community Resources

John Brown
OC Public Works

Mark Browning
OC Public Works

Michael Genovese
Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Salcedo
Sheriff-Coroner

20 YEARS

Estella Giancola
OC Community Resources

Christine Hutchinson
OC Community Resources

Frank Prado
OC Community Resources

Brandi Solarte
OC Community Resources

Gloria Horton
County Executive Office

Douglas Brannan
District Attorney

Debra Jackson
District Attorney

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Timothy Grogan
Health Care Agency

Pravin Kansagra
Health Care Agency

Ruth Strickland
Health Care Agency

Norman Wohkittel
John Wayne Airport

Artemio Jaime
OC Public Works

Barbara Adrian
Probation

Robert Gibson
Probation

Gwendolyn Harris
Probation

Betty Nicholson
Probation

Miguel Aguilar
Sheriff-Coroner

Sandra Brown
Sheriff-Coroner

Denise Castro
Sheriff-Coroner

Ronald Eccles
Sheriff-Coroner

Kirsten Goins
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Miller
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Reidling
Sheriff-Coroner

George Senorans
Sheriff-Coroner

Frances Rumsey
Sheriff-Coroner

Mark Campbell
Social Services Agency

Sun Chang
Social Services Agency

Wes Cleveringa
Social Services Agency

Gina Diep
Social Services Agency

Elva Duval
Social Services Agency

Hossein Foroughi
Social Services Agency

Rita Leek
Social Services Agency

Deborah Leon
Social Services Agency

Mary Lew
Social Services Agency

Margene Medeiros
Social Services Agency

Phuc Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Rosa Nunez
Social Services Agency

Sherene Perez
Social Services Agency

Kim Pham
Social Services Agency

Christine Salas
Social Services Agency

Abigail Sanchez
Social Services Agency

Laurie Paulsen Smith
Social Services Agency

Sandra Strawn
Social Services Agency

Kelly Whitehead
Social Services Agency

Melissa Dobbins
Treasurer-Tax Collector

Robin Hall
OC Waste & Recycling



COUNTY CONNECTION is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Community/Media Relations. Call 714.834.6203 or e-mail ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com with any suggestions and comments.

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