Connection



Vol. III, July 2006



Congratulations! The Board of Supervisors has completed its review of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006-07 during public session on June 13 and 14 and subsequently adopted the budget on June 27. The review included a Department-by-Department summary and discussion, together with dialogue with various Departments and their staff members. Thanks to each of you who contributed to the County effort over the past year.

In opening remarks, it was pointed out that the budget for 2006-07 has been built on the success and contributions of each County employee during 2005-06. The Board acknowledged this as well during the two-day budget hearing.

Among the major budget highlights are the following:

- Improved general purpose revenues
- 2. Less debt
- 3. More spending on infrastructure and capital projects

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Employee Opinions Count; Be Sure That Yours Gets Counted

In just a few weeks, every
County employee will have the
opportunity to provide invaluable
feedback for planning the
County's future. Employees will
be asked to complete a confidential survey about a variety of
County issues. The survey will
be sent via email in late July and
will be available online to employees until late August. Special arrangements will be made

for employees who do not have direct access to their own computers.

"The employee survey is a vital part of the Strate-

gic Focus, and we definitely need the candid replies of all County employees," said Chairman Bill Campbell. "This survey is a tangible symbol of the trust and respect we have for employees. We need your participation as we begin re-defining our mission and vision for the future."

In total, the survey should take only 15 minutes to complete. The first portion will ask employees about basic demographic information. Next, employees will be asked to respond to approximately 21 statements on a scale from strongly agree to

strongly disagree. The third section will consist of ranking 10 aspects of the County that will help provide direction for the Strategic Focus. That section will include such areas as employee training, business processes and County services. A final question will seek open comment.

MGH Consulting of Oakland

will compile survey results, and individual information will be confidential. A summary report will be completed by early October and will be shared with employees.

"The survey is a real priority for us and, while it is in progress, we will send out weekly emails to let you know how many responses we've received," said CEO Thomas G. Mauk. "The Board of Supervisors and I are firmly committed to the Strategic Focus and this employee survey. Finding out what employees think is critical to setting the County's direction."

More information will be headed your way as the count-down begins for launching the survey.

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- 4. Strategic enhancement services
- 5. A reduction of the anticipated pension cost increase
- 6. Starting to replenish reserves

And now we have begun the new fiscal year. Happy New Year!!

We still have some important problems to solve. At the top of the list, of course, is to curtail the escalating costs and \$1.4 billion unfunded liability problem associated with the retiree medical program. If we can do that by submitting thoughtful and financially sound recommendations to the Board, I believe we can protect our retirees and retain a modified, albeit revised and restructured program. This will support both active and retired employees, and we will need everyone's support. The existing finances of the program cannot continue, and we will all be well served by supporting the Board of Supervisors as they deal with this difficult problem.

In conclusion, as a theme for Fiscal Year 2006-07, I want to share with you a comment the Chairman made on behalf of the entire Board of Supervisors during the recent Strategic Planning retreat. Without quoting directly, he said that he looks forward to the day when a customer comes to a County facility regarding an issue --- and when he leaves, he says "Wow, what a great service I just received!" Let's give it a try!

Again, Happy New Year and Regards,

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer

Board Approves Forward-Focused Budget



Marking a shift from the austere post-bankruptcy budgets, the Board of Supervisors on June 27 adopted a balanced budget of \$5.56 billion. The budget growth was possible because of increased revenues due to the growth in real estate values.

The new budget can be characterized in just three words:

- Prudent
- Stable
- Forward-Focused

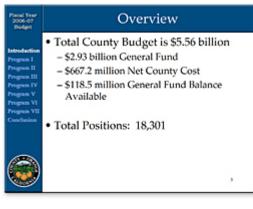
"The Board's prudent financial planning continues an Orange County tradition of fiscal conservatism," said CEO Thomas G. Mauk. "This budgetary care has created a foundation that allows the County to plan for its future."

Highlights of the Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget include:

- Begins to rebuild reserves after two-year shift of County property tax revenues to the state
- Increases positions by 1.5 percent (18,301 positions), the third lowest growth rate in over ten years

- Allows most departments to grow at a modest three percent rate after two years of holding their budgets level
- Adds \$10 million in funding for medical care for indigents through financial support of hospitals and clinics throughout the county
 - Expands staff and operations to \$3.5 million at Theo Lacy Branch Jail
 - Restores \$1.5 million in funding to the Probation Department to open a Youth and Family Resource Center in Santa Ana
 - Increases funding by \$700,000 to the District Attorney to expand its hightech crime unit

"The good planning and the results of several years of belt-tightening make this a year in which the County can focus on improving the future of Orange County residents and creating a more efficient, customer-oriented government to serve the needs of Orange Countians," said Chairman Bill Campbell.





Probation Department Gets Board Resolution

Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Campbell will honor the Probation Department at the July 18 Board meeting with the presentation of a resolution marking National Probation, Parole and Community Corrections Week, July 16 - 22.

The resolution commends the Probation Department's 1,600 employees and more than 600 volunteers who work diligently to protect the community by conducting investigations for the court, enforcing court orders, assisting victims and facilitating the re-socialization of offenders. The department's Probation Officers supervise approximately 15,500 adult and 6,000 juvenile offenders on court-ordered probation or in diversion programs.

Travel Smart This Summer

John Wayne Airport offers summer travel tips to alleviate stress during the busy travel season. The following tips are part of a public education campaign called *Time Flies! Let's make sure you do*.

Plan Smart - Arrive at the airport at least one and a half to two hours prior to your scheduled departure. This will allow enough time to park, check in and go through the security screening process.

Pack Smart - Be ready for the "1+1" rule. This means you are

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OCERS Board Gets Good News for Retirement System

The Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS) Board got good news at its June 19 meeting when it received a valuation report that noted several key elements of improvement to positively impact the retirement system. Below is a summary of the major points.

- Investment gains resulted in a rate of return of 8.11 percent. This number exceeded the anticipated rate of 7.75 percent which was increased this year from 7.5 percent.
- The actuarial valuation of assets (a number that is representative of the size of the system) increased 10 percent, from \$5.2 billion to \$5.8 billion.
- The value of assets increased at a higher rate than liabilities which resulted in

the Funded Ratio increase from 70.9 percent to 71.5 percent. This number is often looked at to gauge the health of the system.

 Both the rate of employee costs and County costs for the retirement system are more stable than in previous years.

"We're very encouraged about the results of the valuation report," said County Executive Office Budget Manager Steve Dunivent. "We are confident that we will benefit from these results during the update of the Strategic Financial Plan and that these results will also help us reinforce our stable financial condition."

To obtain a complete copy of the Actuarial Valuation Report, visit http://www.ocers.org/.

Get The 411 On OC

Public Defender

- The Offices of the Public Defender employ nearly 400 people, more than half of whom are lawyers, throughout three independent divisions: the Main Office, the Alternate Defender Office and the Associate Defender Office. Together, the three units serve approximately 77,500 clients per year.
- 2. Both the Alternate Defender Office and Associate Defender Office handle cases that were at one-time in the County's history processed by court-appointed private lawyers at a much higher cost.
- 3. Last year alone, the staff of the Public Defender's Office received three awards: the 2005 Community Partner of the Year, awarded by the Public Law Center, the Homeless Court Humanitarian of the Year, and the Community Partnership Award.

To get more of the 411, visit http://www.pubdef.ocgov.com/index.htm.

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allowed one carry-on bag and one personal item – such as a purse, briefcase, laptop computer or diaper bag – through the security screening and onto the aircraft. Remember to remove all prohibited items from your carry-on luggage.

Park Smart - Terminal parking is available in A1, A2, B1 and B2, as well as convenient curbside valet parking. Remote parking is available at the airport's Main Street lot. Complimentary shuttle service to the Terminal is offered every 15 minutes. Be aware that parking may be limited due to construction. Call ahead for parking status at 949.252.5200.

For more travel tips, visit http://www.ocair.com/parking/ parkingtraveltips.htm and www.tsatraveltips.us.

Hear Blues in the Park

The Summer Blues Music Series is underway at Irvine Regional Park. Throughout the summer, bands belting the blues will entertain park guests on the third Thursdays of the month.

The band line-up is Big Rocking Daddy & The Usual Suspects on July 20, Elnora & Sumpthin' Cookin' on August 17, and The Brian Young Blues Band on September 21.

All performances are under an amphitheater shell located across from the parking lot and the Orange County Zoo. Blankets and lawn chairs are advised for comfortable seating.

Admission is free and parking is \$3 per vehicle. Irvine Regional Park is located at 1 Irvine Park Rd. in Orange.

And the Beat Goes On -Leadership Academy Grads Continue Pursuit of Service and Growth

Graduation doesn't halt the lessons for graduates of the Orange County Leadership Academy (OCLA). Rather, the study and service just begin. Graduates from each of the five Leadership Academy sessions have formed an alumni group to continue the Academy's goal of "building the bench" of County managers.

"During the Academy, everyone is enthusiastic about
managerial concepts that are
shared and the professional
relationships that are built,"
said Barbara Mizerek, Child
Support Services Administrative Manager and graduate of
the first OCLA session. "We
began the alumni group to
continue building upon these
relationships and to continue
supporting one another as we

apply what we've learned to our job functions and to the County as a whole."

At the end of every Academy graduation ceremony, each graduate becomes a member of the OCLA alumni group. Graduates are also invited to join the OCLA Alumni Steering Committee. A record number of participants from the fifth class joined the steering committee last month at their graduation.

"One of the awesome outcomes of the OCLA alumni group is the growing number of participants," said Jess Carbajal, Social Services Agency, Director of Administrative Services Division. "Participation is occurring from all over the

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Six members of the OCLA Steering Committee stride towards the pursuit of service and growth, from left to right: Shirley Charity (CEO), Julie Mussche (HR), David Kurtz (SSA), Becky Juliano (Public Defender), Jack Golden (County Counsel), Maninder Kochar (SSA). See complete list of OCLA Steering Committee members on page 6 and 7.



Q. A recent article in the Orange County Register promoted telecommuting as a practical, viable remedy to alleviating some of the current gas price crunch. Does the County have any plans to consider allowing some County positions (where appropriate) to telecommute at least a portion of the work week?

A. The County does not have a policy regarding telecommuting. That is an issue handled individually by departments. The County does, however, make available "rideshare" information and opportunities through Commuter Assistance Program. The program also offers incentives aimed at encouraging employees to travel to work by means other than driving alone. Incentives include:

- Commuter Choice Employees can purchase Metrolink,
 OCTA bus and vanpool
 "tickets" through monthly payroll deductions. Employees
 can reduce the amount of
 their taxable income by up to
 \$105 per month. New train
 and bus enrollees receive the
 first month free.
- Try the Bus on Us Employees who want to give OCTA bus services a try-out for their commute to work can receive a complimentary one-day ticket.
- Commuter Club "Club" membership is open to employees who commit to ride-

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County. OCLA alumni are getting involved in numerous projects that will help re-shape the services we provide to each other and Orange County residents. Someone once said, 'If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go as a group."

Although the official Academy has ended for the graduates, the alumni group continues to provide opportunities to challenge each other to exceed their personal best. Professional development activities, created by the steering committee, ensure that OCLA graduates continue to grow and learn. Upcoming activities will address the challenges faced with managing people from multiple generations and the impact interpersonal com-

munication has in the workplace.

They're also actively involved in the Strategic Planning Focus. After attending extensive training, the alumni will interview community stakeholders about County services and solicit feedback about the County's direction for the future.

"I know that it can be easy for us to become isolated within our own departments," said Mizerek. "The Academy and alumni group are great opportunities to meet and get to know some of the quality managers throughout the County. It is inspiring to see the tasks and goals many of them have accomplished."

Orange County Leadership Academy Steering Committee Members

Jill Howery

Child Support Services

Nancy Kolodisner

Child Support Services

Barbara Mizerek

Child Support Services

Jack Golden

County Counsel

Shirley Charity

County Executive Office

Julie Mussche

Human Resources

Suzanne McClanahan

Integrated Waste Management Department

Chip Monaco

Integrated Waste
Management Department

Kathleen Tahilramani

Integrated Waste
Management Department

Colleene Preciado

Probation Department

Micheal Collins

Probation Department

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share at least once a week or five times a month. Members enjoy discounts at local merchants, receive a special thank-you gift each year, and are eligible to win quarterly prizes and other special promotions.

Try the Train on Us - Employees who audition Metrolink for their commute can receive a complimentary four-trip ticket.

To learn more about the Commuter Assistance Program visit http://www.ocgov.com/hr/ rideshare/default.asp or call 714.834.4068.

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Lorna Winterrowd

Probation Department

Becky Juliano

Public Defender

Neal Kelley

Registrar of Voters

Larry McKenney

Resources & Development Management Department

Tim Board

Sheriff-Coroner

Jane Reyes

Sheriff-Coroner

Jess Carbajal

Social Services Agency

Maninder Kochar

Social Services Agency

David Kurtz

Social Services Agency

Roy Lipshin

Social Services Agency

County Receives Acclaim from United Way

The Orange County United Way recognized the County last month at its annual awards luncheon for the County's notable fundraising efforts and activities during the 2005-06 campaign. On behalf of the County family, the Integrated Waste Management Department (IWMD) accepted the Golden Key Award for generosity and dedication along with the Community Cornerstone Award for exemplary contributions and community volunteer efforts.

The two awards commemorate the generosity of County employees with their monetary and their community involvement. The Golden Key Award is presented to the top 20 organizations that have donated to United Way. It is based on total funds raised. The prized Community Cornerstone Award is only presented to three or four organizations and is designed to honor the groups that are most active within their communities' volunteer efforts.

"I was honored to accept the United Way awards for 2005-06 on behalf of the County family," said Jan Goss, Chair of last year's campaign and Director of IWMD. "Our success is due to the generosity of employees who appreciate the quality of life in Orange County and choose to support the community through individual contributions to United Way. I would also like to thank my last year's

co-chair, Bryan Speegle, Director of Resources & Development Management Department, and Chairman Bill Campbell for their assistance and enthusiasm. We are all looking forward to demonstrating our Unity in Action in the 2006-07 campaign which is being led by Bryan."

The top three event fundraisers during last year's campaign were the Golf Tournament, the Civic Center Kick-Off Rally and the Leadership Breakfast. Together, these events raised more than \$44,700.

For more information on this year's United Way campaign and to view upcoming events, visit http://ocintranet.ocgov.com/unitedway/.



Chairman Campbell holds the United Way Community Cornerstone Award accompanied by Jan Goss, Director of Integrated Waste Management Department and Bryan Speegle, Director of Resources and Development Management Department.



For the Month of June

30 Years

Candy Haggard County Executive Office

Michael Pear District Attorney

Nancy White District Attorney

Mary Malinick Health Care Agency

Colleene Preciado Probation

Patsy Vasquez Public Defender

Mary Coulter Sheriff-Coroner

Pam Palka District Attorney / Social Services Agency

Steven Goodrum **Integrated Waste** Management Department **Scott Smith**

Resources & Development Management Department

Assessor

Renee Cannon Assessor

Adam McClain Assessor

Audrey Greenhalgh Auditor-Controller

Shaun Skelly Auditor-Controller

Michael Montijo Auditor-Controller

Lisa Howell Auditor-Controller

Keith Geiger Resources & Development Management Department

David Poeung Health Care Agency

Mirth Jones Health Care Agency

Erma Lundquist Health Care Agency

Debra Bane Sheriff-Coroner **Damian Cheli** Sheriff-Coroner

Timothy Haire Sheriff-Coroner

Fredrick Tharaldson Sheriff-Coroner

Sandra Abrams Sheriff-Coroner

Jerold Brittain Sheriff-Coroner

April Celis Social Services Agency

Hazel Poppin Social Services Agency

Patricia Ruiz Social Services Agency

Lany Nguyen **Public Library**

Loan Leblow John Wayne Airport

Susan Eastman Resources & Development Management Department

Elayne Rail Resources & Development

Management Department

Marlene Braidic Resources & Development Management Department

County Connection is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Media Relations. All suggestions and comments may be emailed to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com or faxed to 714.796.8426.