



CEO's Message



As a man who likes to keep a low profile, this last month has certainly been off the charts for me personally. For a brief time I entertained an opportunity to serve as CAO of Los Angeles County. But after some deep soul-searching, I am pleased to be staying as your County Executive Officer.

Of course, a big part of my decision to stay here is the strong support of the Board of Supervisors, agency/department heads and County staff. I am very touched by the show of confidence.

Now that this is settled, we have a lot of work to do in Orange County under the direction of the Board of Supervisors including:

- Strategic plan process
- Labor negotiations with the Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs
- Retiree medical reform implementation
- Public facilities study and master plan
- 2007-08 budget and business plans

(Continued on page 2)

Chairman's Goals for 2007

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Chris Norby unveiled his 2007 goals while delivering his **State of the County Address** at the Jan. 23 Board meeting. He emphasized that County employees play a vital role in serving residents and that we will build on our past experience to face our challenges this year.

Public protection is government's most basic responsibility and Chairman Norby's goal is to make our County even safer in 2007. Deputies will be cross-trained to identify and deport criminal aliens. In addition, we will work to complete the Musick Jail and to develop a local DNA data base.

With the completion of the Facilities Master Plan, his goal is to consolidate and fully utilize all County buildings and real estate, and then sell those that are surplus.

Disaster preparedness efforts must continue, including efforts to prepare for potentially destructive earthquakes and floods.

Chairman Norby also wants to take a fresh look at the County's system of parks,



Supervisor Chris Norby
Board Chairman
(4th District)

beaches and harbors. In particular, his goal is to address the North-South imbalance of park facilities. Also, the cost of harbor safety in Huntington Beach and Newport Beach should be borne by those cities.

For upcoming elections, he wants to take a look at readjusting precinct boundaries to equalize waiting times and enlist a new generation of poll workers.

In the financial arena, the Chairman wants to accelerate the payoff on the bankruptcy debt with available new reve-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

- Expand open space and recreation opportunities in North Orange County
- Implementation of Dana Point Harbor revitalization

I look forward to continuing our work together. Again, thanks for your support.

Regards,

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer



Human Relations Commission Receives Honors

Rusty Kennedy, Executive Director of Housing and Community Services' Human Relations Commission, recently accepted two awards on behalf of staff for their work eradicating prejudice, intolerance and discrimination from the community.

The Leon Owens Foundation recognized the Commission's BRIDGES program, which helps local school children develop understanding and respect for diversity, with a Civil Service Award at its January banquet.

ACCESS California Services, a nonprofit social services agency located in Anaheim, presented Kennedy with its "Visionary Leadership and Distinguished Contributions to Our Community Award" at its February gala. The Commission was praised for facilitating open dialogue among people from different faiths, backgrounds and cultures in the aftermath of 9/11.

(Continued from page 1)

nues. Also, he wants to be vigilant with the public purse and make sure that each Orange County resident receives services worth the \$1,853 from our \$5.6 billion annual budget. Existing funds must be used more efficiently and programs must be evaluated based on their results, not their intentions.

He wants to continue to foster a mutually respectful relationship with employee organizations. The growing retirement costs will not be borne by rais-

ing taxes or by cutting raises for current employees. His goal is a fair and equitable new contract with our Sheriff's deputies to reduce the remaining liability.

In his closing, the Chairman noted that the challenges are formidable and the goals ambitious, but we have the people to take them on and the leadership of this Board to see them to completion. Click on the following link to read the entire text of the State of the County: <http://bos.ocgov.com/fourth/index.asp>

Supervisor Correa Bids Farewell

After serving for two years representing the First District on the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Lou Correa left in early January. He moved into his new position in Sacramento as State Senator representing the 34th District.

During his tenure with the County, Supervisor Correa was a champion for children's health issues including enhanced outreach, enrollment, retention and utilization of health insurance and medical services for an estimated 46,000 uninsured eligible children.

He was a strong advocate for senior health concerns, improved handling of mental health patients, open space



Former Supervisor Lou Correa (right) receives a resolution from Chairman Chris Norby for his dedicated service on the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.

opportunities, education and academic mentoring. He also served numerous hours on public bodies including the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)



Former Supervisor Correa receives a sweatshirt with his alma mater's crest as part of a survival kit offered from the Health Care Agency. His wife, Esther, is by his side.

Children and Families Commission of Orange County and the Orange County Mental Health Board.

Prior to entering public service, Correa taught in the Rancho Santiago Community College District. He also was an investment banker and a real estate broker. Supervisor Correa lives in Santa Ana with his wife, Dr. Esther Correa, and their four children, Alex, Andres, Adan and Emilia.

George Washington's Birthday Party

Chairman Norby invites the OC Family to join us for lunch and cherry pie.

Complimentary Lunch Menu:

- Virginia Ham Sandwiches
- American Turkey Sandwiches
- Mt. Vernon Salad
- Cherry Pie
- Washington Apple Juice

Thursday, Feb. 22, Noon-1:30 pm
Salma's Kitchen (Cafeteria)
Bldg. 12, 3rd Floor
Civic Center Plaza

Chief Technology Officer Joins County Team

Bringing with him more than 20 years of information technology experience, James "Jim" Pierce began his new role as Chief Technology Officer for the County on Jan. 23.

Quickly after starting his new position, Pierce joined a kick off meeting with CEO Tom Mauk, Deputy CEO/ Chief Information Officer Satish Ajmani and Department Heads to focus on the Information Technology (IT) Strategic Plan. The proposal establishes guiding principles for business information and technical architecture and is designed to complement the County's Strategic Focus process.

Pierce most recently served as Executive Vice President

and Chief Technology Officer for Countrywide Financial Corp., where he was also responsible for the organization's IT Strategic Plan.



Chief Technology Officer Jim Pierce began his new position with the County on Jan. 23.

"It already feels like home," said Pierce, noting the similarities in his new position with his experience in the field.

In addition to working for Countrywide Financial, Pierce has provided technology solutions to the United States Postal Office, United States Naval Weapons Center and the City of Diamond Bar. He also served in the United States Marine Corps as an Electronics Engineer.

"I look forward to being able to support County agencies and departments with the most cost-effective technical solutions to meet their missions and provide accessible services to the community," said Pierce.

"Ultimately, our business needs should drive our technology."

United Way Wrap Up

The 2006 United Way campaign – Unity in Action – has wrapped up another year of generous giving from County employees. As of Jan. 31, the United Way campaign culminated in a significant \$768,252.83!

“The 2006 United Way campaign can be summed up in three words - Unity in Action,” said Chair Bryan Speegle, Director of Resources & Development Management. “That’s the reason we achieved such great results. These words also describe the fashion in which the campaign was carried out - by all County employees, departments and agencies working together as a united team.”

Working alongside Co-Chair Ingrid Harita, Director of Social Services Agency, the two departments oversaw several fundraisers. The fundraising activities involved special events, including the Civic Center Kick Off and the Golf Tournament; the launch of E-Way, the electronic pledging system; as well as traditional Payroll Deductions.

An awards ceremony was held on Feb. 14 in the Hall of Administration Building to recognize individual departments and top contributors for their dedicated participation in the 2006 United Way campaign.

Librarian Retires from County

After 16 years of steering the County’s public library system, County Librarian John Adams will set off for retirement. As time would have it, Adams is presently the last standing Department Head who endured the bankruptcy, as a Department Head, more than 12 years ago.

Growing up, Adams enjoyed delving into books and cites “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald to be his all-time favorite. After settling into the public library field, Adams worked his way to becoming Director of the Public Library in Tampa, FL before joining Orange County in 1991.

Throughout Adams’ tenure with the Orange County Public Library (OCPL), the department has increased the annual number of books loaned to community members by 42 percent. Currently, the 32 library branches loan out more than seven million materials combined each year.

Other areas the department has grown under Adams’ direction include the establishment of a

literacy program, the formation of a library advisory board among City Council members and County staff, and the transition of the library system into an electronic media information source.

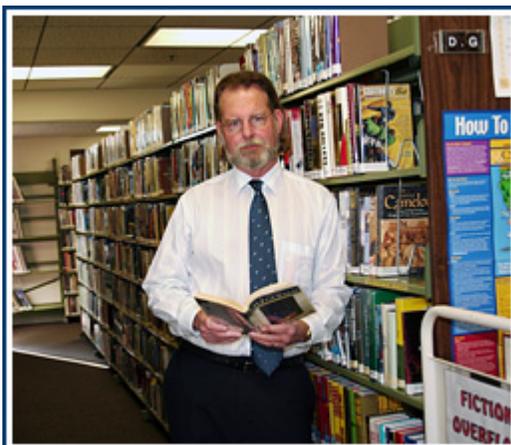
“Back in 1991 when I first started with the department we thought a web site was where Charlotte lived,” said Adams. “Today, we have an extensive web site where patrons can check online catalogues, databases and even download audio books.”

The library system also fell upon severe financial setbacks in the 1990s, resulting in the reduction of the department’s budget and causing many branches to be open only two days a week. Adams’ attributes one of his proudest moments with managing these crises without layoffs.

The OCPL system, along with the rest of the County, has since prospered, and today nearly half of the branches are open seven days a week.

“Having gone through extremely difficult times

(Continued on page 5)



County Librarian John Adams peruses one of his favorite novels, “The Great Gatsby”, at the Tustin Public Library. Adams will retire from the County on March 1.

(Continued from page 4)

and, likewise, extremely good times over the past 16 years,” said Adams. “What I’m most proud of is having been associated with the staff of the Orange County Public Library. They are the ones who’ve maintained this organization

through possibly the most difficult times any public library has had to deal with.”

Adams’ priorities for retirement best fit that of an accomplished librarian – he plans to write books.

Volunteer Thankful for Operation Santa Claus Experience

To Teri Hughes, an Operation Santa Claus volunteer with the Social Services Agency (SSA) for more than 20 years, it seemed like just another season drawing to a close at the toy warehouse.

With Christmas fast approaching, there were only a few hours left for the parents and families of needy children to stop by and “shop” for donated gifts. For volunteer elves like Hughes, there was still work to be done. The boxes of artificial trees that she had discovered in a store-room were finding homes quickly, but there were more shelves to stock and shipments to unload.

Emerging from the back, Hughes happened to notice a little boy and his mother walking toward the parking lot. He couldn’t be more than 4 years old, and yet was struggling to carry one of the 4-foot trees on his own. According to a nearby volunteer, Mom hadn’t been able to afford a tree, so the boy had created one from cardboard and taped it up in the living room at home. The youngster was so excited to discover

a “real” tree waiting at the Operation Santa Claus warehouse that he insisted upon bringing it back to the car himself – no matter how heavy it was.

“All of a sudden it hit me that this is what Operation Santa Claus is all about,” Hughes told Mona Gustafson, Program Coordinator for Operation Santa Claus. “Thank you for allowing me to play a small part in such a big-hearted program.”

Last year, Operation Santa Claus was able to distribute more than 42,000 gifts to deserving kids.

“The contributions Countywide made 2006 another big success,” said Gustafson. “The extraordinary efforts from our agencies, especially the Resources & Development Management Department, Sheriff-Coroner’s Office, Public Library, Probation and SSA, greatly contributed to the program and allowed so many underprivileged children to receive gifts.”

Get The 411 On OC Dana Point Harbor Department

- In 1997, Former Supervisor Tom Wilson led a planning task force comprised of merchants, boaters, residents, and representatives from the City of Dana Point and County of Orange to develop ways to refurbish and expand its facilities.
- Formation of the Dana Point Harbor Department (DPHD) was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2005. The department has direct oversight of day-to-day Harbor operations as well as the Revitalization Project, which will begin construction later this year to modernize amenities.
- To minimize public disruption, implementation of commercial and marina improvements will take place in phases. More than 400 new parking spaces and 30,000 sq. feet of retail space will be added. Handicap access to numerous locations will also be improved, general walkways expanded, and deteriorating docks, slips and gangways replaced.
- Today, more than 10 million people visit the Dana Point Harbor annually and more than two thousand boats call its docks home.

To get more of the 411, visit: <http://www.dphplan.com>



25 Years

Cora Gonzales
Assessor

Margaret McMicheaux
Auditor-Controller

Mary Rodriguez
Child Support Services

Martha Macias
Child Support Services

Rebecca Getzen
Registrar of Voters

Donna Scherer
Health Care Agency

Julie Ontiveros
Health Care Agency

Joann Nichols
Probation

Bernadette Cemore
Probation

Ramesh Cadambi
Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Hahn
Sheriff-Coroner

William Smith
Sheriff-Coroner

Julio Gomez
Sheriff-Coroner

Edward Hutchinson
Sheriff-Coroner

Richard Paddock
Sheriff-Coroner

Arely Melendez
Social Services Agency

Joan Dusenbury
Social Services Agency

Janice Johnson
Social Services Agency

Michael McConnelee
Resources & Development
Management Department

Richard Uraine
Sheriff-Coroner

35 Years

Gloria Long
Health Care Agency

Margaret Garcia
Social Services Agency

Blanca Garcia
Social Services Agency

30 Years

Christopher Kralick
District Attorney

Ana B. Lopez
District Attorney



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