



CEO's Message



Happy New Year everyone! We are off to a fast start in 2007 with only a few bumps along the way so far. The ones that are there are significant, but at least there are only a few.

First, I want to welcome the new Board members. It's not easy to make a fast transition to the Board offices, but Supervisors Moorlach and Bates and their respective staffs are well underway. From my perspective, it is important to remember that the Board sets County policy and it is our job to advise and implement. In that regard, I would like to keep in place the staff "action" orientation that we initiated and energized a few years ago. It is in that mode we can best serve the Board. There are many critical challenges we face in 2007, including implementing the Strategic Plan Program, dealing with the Governor's proposed budget, putting into effect the recommendations of the Facilities Master Plan, pursuing an effective Pay-for-Performance Program and so on. On Tuesday, January 23rd, we heard the Board Chairman and individual Board members express their 2007 Goals and Ob-

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Changes for Board

Newly elected Fifth District Supervisor Pat Bates and returning Fourth District Supervisor Chris Norby were sworn into office at the Board Meeting on Jan. 9. An overflowing crowd including former Supervisors Marian Bergeson, Todd Spitzer, Bill Steiner, Harriett Wieder and Tom Wilson, were present for the ceremony at the beginning of the Board Meeting.



With the support of his family, Supervisor Norby remarks about beginning his second term as the Fourth District Supervisor. From left: brother Eric, sisters Nancy and Polly, father Cornell, wife Marsha, son Alex and Superior Court Judge Wieben-Stock.

Supervisor Bates, joined by her husband John, was sworn-in by former Supervisor Marian Bergeson. She is the fourth woman elected to the Board of Supervisors. Previously, she was a member of the State Assembly representing the 73rd District. The Fifth District includes the cities of Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano.



Patricia C. Bates is sworn in as the Fifth District Supervisor by former Supervisor Marian Bergeson. Husband John is by her side.

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jectives. From that, we will develop specific CEO and staff action plans for the year.

No report would be accurate without mentioning the current contract discussions and impasse with the Association of the Orange County Deputy Sheriffs (AOCDS). That is a policy discussion which must be worked out under the leadership of the Board and with the Deputies Association. The two major issues currently are Health Trust Fund disclosure and audit reports, and retiree medical reform. The Board has been very clear on both issues and we will work cooperatively with AOCDS and its Executive Board on these and all matters relating to the contract discussions.

Another current labor relations matter is the "Market Rate" adjustments agreed to with certain employee organizations. It is very important that those agreements (up to 1.25% of association salary base) were intended to address critical problems of employee attraction and retention (i.e. the term "Market Rate" adjustments). It is the goal of the County Executive Office and Human Resources to make recommendations to the Board that address real market rate and competitive labor market problems. The tendency, of course, is to spread the resources broadly so as many people as possible benefit. But, this was an effort to address competitive issues on a group-by-group basis as supported by survey data and internal comparison. It is in that way that we will attract, retain and maintain a continuing first class, service-oriented employee base.

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Supervisor Norby was joined by his wife Marsha, son Alex, brother Eric, sisters Nancy and Polly, and father Cornell. He was sworn in by Presiding Superior Court Judge Nancy Wieben Stock. The Fourth District includes the cities of Anaheim,

Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra and Placentia.

Later in the meeting, Supervisor Norby was selected as Chairman and Supervisor Moorlach was selected as Vice Chairman by a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Wilson Bids Farewell

After ten years of distinguished service, Fifth District Supervisor Tom Wilson left the Board of Supervisors on Dec. 19th.

Supervisor Wilson was a moving force for the preservation of open space in south Orange County, renovation of Dana Point Harbor, funding for senior transportation, passage of the Newport Heights Agreement and the defeat of an airport at El Toro.



Supervisor Wilson stands with his wife, Nancy Wilson, as he receives a resolution from fellow board members Norby, Moorlach and Campbell for his dedicated years of service on the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.



Supervisor Wilson receives an honorary park ranger package, given on behalf of RDMD/ Harbors, Beaches and Parks, before his last board meeting on Dec. 19.

He was also a strong proponent of improvements in watershed and ocean water quality now enjoyed in Orange County.

During his tenure with the Board, Supervisor Wilson was elected Chairman in 2003 and 2004. Wilson, who resides in Laguna Niguel, plans to spend more time with his wife Nancy and his grandchildren.

Countywide Book Fair

A countywide book fair for "Literary Orange – A Celebration of Authors," will take place Feb. 11 – 18. Please click here for more information about the event sponsored by the Orange County Public Library: <http://www.ocpl.org/literaryorange/>.

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Anyway, thanks for listening! I wish each of you a happy and successful 2007 and, as always, I thank you for your commitment to the County of Orange.

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer

News Briefs

New Exhibit Stops Traffic

Visitors who step through the doors of the Old Courthouse Museum can step back in time to a unique period in California's history as captured by photographer Rondal Partridge.

At 5 years old, Partridge enjoyed helping his mother develop pictures in her darkroom. In later life, this interest blossomed into a career assisting renowned photographers Ansel Adams and Dorothea Lange and working as a photojournalist for LIFE and Look magazines

From 1936 to 1969, Partridge used the camera to chronicle many of the tumultuous developments taking place in the state. "From the Byways to the Highways," is an exhibit of shots depicting the Great Depression, World War II, post-war expansions of highways and subdivisions, and the environmental impact of a booming population.

Admission is free. The exhibit is on display until Feb. 18, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 211 W. Santa Ana Blvd. For more information, please visit www.ocparks.com/oldcourthouse, call (714) 973-6605, or e-mail oldcourthouse@ocparks.com.

New CFO Joins County

On January 8, Bob Franz became the new Chief Financial Officer for the County of Orange.

"One of the most important factors in my interest in this position was the excellent reputation of both the Finance staff and County employees in general," said Franz. "The County has a great foundation of financial responsibility through a strong system of checks and balances, along with a good level of reserves and contingency funds."

Franz continued, "I plan to spend several weeks to gain a better understanding of the County in order to develop my priorities. My first challenge is to determine how I can have the greatest positive impact."

He has a reputation for his strong analytical abilities, calming influence and the ability to absorb a great deal of complexity while maintaining a strategic view. He characterizes his management style as open and

participative.

Franz has more than 35 years experience as a public sector finance professional. He was the Director of Administrative Services for the City of Glendale since 1998. His responsibilities there included Finance, Budget, Human Resources, Labor Relations, Risk Management, Purchasing and Graphics. Prior to joining the City of Glendale, he also served in similar top management positions in the Cities of Huntington Beach and Montebello.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Occidental College and his Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California. His interests include family activities, skiing, music, basketball, and the theater. He resides in the City of Huntington Beach with his wife Julie. Their two children, son Chris and daughter Jamie, also live in southern California.



In his second day on the job, Chief Financial Officer Bob Franz is settling in to his new position.

Tracking Down Disease



The staff of HCA/ Epidemiology & Assessment, first row (from left): Mary McDonald, Micah Jones, Billy Huynh, Joey Vo, Erika De Anda, Alina Burgi, Florida Cabale; second row (from left): Mike Carson, Dr Hildy Meyers, Mai Chiem, Dr Michelle Cheung, Eileen O'Malley, Josephina Gutierrez, Linh Quach, Fran Miller, Prudy Darley, Pam Hipp, Steve Klish, Rita Tietz; not pictured: Annette Banuelos, Linda Campbell, Natalie Ramos and Sheila Gill

Last year, John Doe walked into his doctor's office to complain about an insidious cough and difficulty breathing. Wheezing through breaths, John explains the varied symptoms he's been having for the last seven weeks. John's doctor orders several tests and is ultimately taken aback to learn that John has a form of a lung infection rarely seen in the United States.

Since *Paragonimus*, or lung fluke, is not found in California, the doctor reported the case to the County's Health Care Agency (HCA) as mandated by State regulations.

Two weeks later, a second case of lung fluke infection was reported.

The approximate 20 employees of HCA/ Epidemiology & Assessment program didn't wait to spring into action. They quickly got to work to determine where the infection originated, how many people were infected and identify any control methods to stop future infections.

With more than one person to compare details with, the epidemiologists, public health nurses, physicians and other staff were able to determine the common thread among the first two infected people – the eating of live, raw crabs found at a few local sushi restaurants.

Epidemiology & Assessment then worked with HCA/Environmental Health and HCA/Public Health Lab, along with other state public agencies to trace the parasite found in the crabs back to the crab distributor. Next, staff interviewed all employees and former employees of the restaurants to find out if they had eaten the crab, if they were having symptoms and to offer testing. The staff also educated them about lung fluke and how to prevent future exposures.

HCA/ Environmental Health staff sought out to identify and contact every sushi restaurant in Orange County, while Epidemiology staff worked on informing healthcare providers and the community so that people with symptoms could get diagnosed and treated immediately.

"A lot of the time an outbreak is already over by the time we [Epidemiology & Assessment] know about it and can begin investigating," said Dr. Hildy Meyers, Medical Director of Epidemiology & Assessment. "Because lung fluke has a longer incubation period (the time from exposure to exhibiting symptoms), we were able to investigate the situation while it was still ongoing, and then could take steps to prevent more infections."

While the lung fluke investigation had many distinctive characteristics to it, the overall steps Epidemiology & Assessment took are common to other communicable disease investigations.

First, and most important, employees of Epidemiology & Assessment must determine that a perceived outbreak is actually a real outbreak. Sometimes a physician may see more patients with a particular disease within their population of clients, but there is no actual increase in the rest of the county. The doctor is actually seeing more patients with the disease because of changes made by health insurers.

Next, the investigation begins. Depending

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Public Health Nurse Micah Jones administers a rabies vaccination for an infected person without health insurance.

upon how the illness is discovered, an epidemiologist or public health nurse in Epidemiology & Assessment will contact the individuals who are sick to try to determine how they may have contracted the disease, determine if they have exposed others, and provide information on the disease and how to prevent it. They will also interview people who are well to form a control group and compare symptoms.

“Sometimes the calls we make can be difficult,” said Micah Jones, Public Health Nurse for Epidemiology & Assessment. “One person I spoke to while investigating a possible lyme disease case was initially upset, because his doctor hadn’t informed him of the potential diagnosis. But after we had a chance to talk about it, he was very thankful to speak to a nurse and learn about the disease. This appreciation makes the harder calls easier.”

In the final stages, the group works to summarize their findings and put forth recommendations for follow up and to prevent future outbreaks. Often an investigation of a foodborne illness will involve HCA/ Environmental Health inspecting a restaurant. For individuals, Epidemiology & Assessment may provide post-exposure treatment for diseases such as hepatitis A, pertussis (whooping cough) or rabies.

On a normal day in Epidemiology & Assessment, staff sift through several reports that come in from physicians, hospitals, laboratories

and clinics throughout the Orange County area. The reports document cases ranging from whooping cough to the mosquito bite-driven West Nile virus to outbreaks of norovirus.

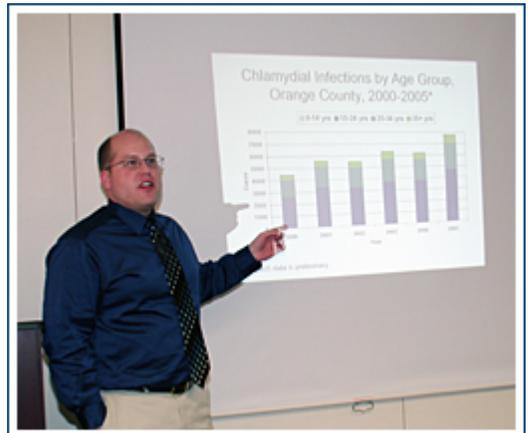
While public health nurses and other staff follow up with the individual cases and doctors offices as needed, epidemiologists monitor and analyze trends in reportable communicable diseases and provide this information to doctors, hospitals, community members and news media. Each week, the new cases of communicable disease are reported to the California Department of Health Services.

“Our focus as epidemiologists,” said Steve Klish, Senior Epidemiologist, “is to study disease trends in the population and to ultimately improve the health of our community.”

Newer methods of identifying outbreaks include DNA-fingerprinting of the bacteria isolated from some cases, such as those infected with the Salmonella bacteria. The results are compared with Salmonella bacteria from across the country through a program run by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention called PulseNet.

A couple of years ago, two isolated cases of a particular strain of Salmonella popped up in Orange County days apart from two similarly isolated cases across the country in Connecticut. Through the sharing of information in PulseNet, HCA staff

was able to determine that all four foodborne illness cases originated from salmon-stuffed crab at a restaurant in South Orange



Senior Epidemiologist Steve Klish gives a presentation on the occurrence trend of sexually transmitted diseases in Orange County from 2000 – 2005.

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County. The two infected people on the East Coast had just vacationed in Orange County and ate the same dish at the restaurant prior to their illness.

“It’s great when we can find the smoking gun we’re looking for,” said Klish. “When we can’t find the originating cause, at least our resources and network with other agencies help us to get close.”

The program is especially busy during flu season, Oct. through May, surveying specimen, monitoring death certificates and writing community newsletters. Although influenza, is not a reportable disease, the program tracks how widespread the community is hit with it each year.

“Ultimately, good hygiene goes a long way in staying healthy,” said Dr. Meyers. “Basic things such as washing your hands and staying home when you are sick not only help keep you well, but prevent many illnesses from transferring to other people.”

Learn more at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/index.htm>.

To see Epidemiology & Assessment’s latest Eye on Influenza newsletter, visit <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm> and click on the Eye on Influenza icon. You can sign up to receive the newsletter electronically by sending an e-mail to Epi@ochca.com.

Employees Fed the Hungry During the Holidays

Last November, County employees filled more than 200 barrels of food for impoverished community members during Housing & Community Services’ Harvest for the Holidays Food Drive. The food barrels, delivered to approximately 100 locations County-wide, collected six and a half tons of canned and boxed goods.

Combined for the last two years, County employees donated 33,867 pounds of food that provided more than 67,734 meals to hungry people living in Orange County.

The Social Services Agency was the largest contributor to the 2006 food drive – collecting a notable 2,982 pounds of food.

Employee Recognition



2006 Board Chairman Campbell recognized employees for their efforts in the Harvest for the Holidays Food Drive at the Dec. 19 Board Meeting. From left: Executive Director of HCS’ Office on Aging and Homeless Prevention Karen Roper, Mary Bishop (HCS), Supervisor Campbell, Stacy Dyer (SSA), Renee Welling (OCPL), Rosemary Dey (CEO), Lynn Fenton (Superior Court), Margarethe Smith (HCA) and CEO Tom Mauk.

Newsletter Links

Interested in newsletters from other County agencies/departments? Please click here <http://ocintranet.ocgov.com/newsletters/index.asp> for a list of available newsletters.



For the Month of December

30 Years

Barbara Greenfield
Health Care Agency

Lisa Powers
Social Services Agency

Terri Greenberg
Social Services Agency

Dora Nungaray
Social Services Agency

Maritza Cheslin
Social Services Agency

Donna Hanson
Housing & Community Services Department

Alicia Cavazos
Human Resources

25 Years

Vicki Black
District Attorney

Richard L. Rodriguez
Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Walsh
Social Services Agency

Yolanda Guerrero
Social Services Agency

Linda Carrillo
Social Services Agency

Cathy Nowak
Resources & Development Management Department

UNITED WAY



Bryan Speegle, Director of Resources and Development Management Department (RDMD) (right), and Steve Danley, (RDMD), present a check valued at \$20,000 to United Way's Kim Reeves for proceeds from the 2006 Golf Tournament, Leadership Breakfast and County Family Fun Day at the Park. Look for the overall 2006 campaign totals in next month's *Connection*.

Get The 411 On OC Probation Department

1. The Probation Department is the second largest criminal justice agency in Orange County employing more than 1,600 people. First established in 1908, Probation is a local community corrections program that is a critical component of Orange County's criminal justice services.
2. Probation's primary focus is the management of approximately 16,000 adult and 6,000 juvenile offenders by redirecting their previous life of crime to law-abiding choices and lifestyles.
3. In 2006, 71% of adult and 77% of juvenile probationers completed formal probation without any new law violations.
4. The Probation Department also operates the County Juvenile Hall, as well as five other juvenile facilities, which provide residential treatment for more than 950 youths who are detained pending adjudication or are committed by the Juvenile Court.
5. During office visits, unannounced home visits, and other contacts with the probationers in 2005, staff confiscated more than 700 pounds of illegal drugs with a street value of approximately \$9 million, conducted nearly 30,000 searches, confiscated more than 800 dangerous weapons and arrested about 4,500 individuals.
6. The department also collects restitution from offenders to address the needs and interests of the victims. More than \$3.9 million were collected last fiscal year and paid out to victims. In addition, juvenile probationers completed 435 hours of community service to further teach them responsibility.

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.