Chair Nguyen Gives State of the County Address

New Board of Supervisors Chair Janet Nguyen set the stage for 2010 with the State of the County address offered on January 12th. Recognizing the challenges ahead, Chair Nguyen encouraged County staff to seize the opportunities presented to us this year and expressed her hopes that in January 2011 the County will be able to celebrate the many goals we will have accomplished together this year.

The following are excerpts from the Chair's State of the County address:

"...Orange County has a unique and rich history. That history has helped to shape who we are today. We are a county of enterprising and innovative business leaders, resilient in our strengths and I know these qualities will serve us well in 2010.



Board Chair Janet Nguyen gives the 2010 State of the County address.

Over the past year, the nation has been in the midst of a severe recession that has significantly impacted the ability of state and local governments to support critical public services. For Orange County, the recession has significantly reduced our ongoing revenue from property tax, sales tax and vehicle license fees, which account for 91% of the Net County Cost that supports the County's public safety, infrastructure and safety net services.

The county's jobless rate has grown from 4.4% in January 2008 to 9.4% in November 2009. Similarly, the growth in secured assessed valuations has declined from 8.3% in FY 2007-08 to negative 1.4% as fewer and fewer families are able to afford median home prices.

Although we are beginning to see signs of economic recovery, there are still economic indicators that signal that further challenges may be forthcoming. Until we are able to sustain a steady month-overmonth improvement in the jobless rate, we cannot anticipate significant improvement in the County's revenues.

As such, the Board of Supervisors needs to continue to exercise prudent stewardship of the County's finances in order to overcome the challenge of supporting critical public services within the financial means that are available. The good news is that we have taken action early to reduce our costs, we have set aside reserves that are available to mitigate some of the impacts, and we have completed our Strategic Financial Plan that will provide guidance on the actions necessary during this critical time.

We stand together ready to make the difficult decisions that are necessary to maintain the financial integrity of the County, so that we may preserve our core public safety, infrastructure, and safety net services for the citizens of Orange County.

Despite the economic difficulties we faced in 2009, the County had some excellent accomplishments as well..."

"...I want to thank all of our County employees, managers and department heads for their hard (Continued on page 2)

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work and dedication to the residents of Orange County.

In looking back at all the County accomplished in 2009, one aspect of our success stands out above the rest: Teamwork. It is paramount that we work together — staff, management, the business community, unions, non-profits and so many more, as well as this Board — to address the challenges presented to us and make the difficult decisions that must be made to continue County services and keep us in a stable financial position.

I look forward to working with our team — including my colleagues on this Board, the CEO and his staff — to address any shortfalls and find solutions together this year."

The complete text of Chair Nguyen's State of the County address is available by clicking here.

Supervisor Norby Heads to Sacramento

Supervisor Chris Norby took a gracious bow at the Jan. 26th Board Meeting, as fellow Board Members along with County agency and department heads sent off the Fourth District Supervisor with a resolution, a commemorative slideshow and an array of both amusing and notable tokens of appreciation. Sup. Norby is leaving the County after seven years of distinguished service to work in the State Capitol as 72nd District Assemblyman.

Supervisor Norby has been a strong advocate for fiscal reform through all levels of government as well as a proponent for personal property rights and personal liberties. One of the Supervisor's projects that will prove to be a lasting impression is upgraded signage in the O.C. Civic Center, including two electronic reader boards on the corners of Broadway & Civic Center and Broadway & Santa Ana Blvd.

What Supervisor Norby may best be known for, however, is his effort to enliven Board Meetings with effective and persuasive presentations by County staff, including personally treating all Board Meeting attendees to dynamic songs.

As Fourth District Supervisor, Norby directly represented the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra and Placentia since 2003. The Primary Election to fill his vacant supervisorial seat is set for June 8th.



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Supervisor Norby (center) stands with his wife Martha as he receives a resolution from fellow Board Members Nguyen, Moorlach (left), and Campbell (right).



OC Parks Director Mark Denny (right) presents an oil painting of Supervisor Norby (center) painted by County artist Sandra Heaton (left).

AlertOC Comes Through In a Storm

Several Orange County communities used the AlertOC system to inform their residents of important information during the severe storms experienced in late January.

AlertOC allowed these cities to immediately reach thousands of people with vital weather information and urge them to take needed precautions during the brief periods of calm between each successive wave in the series of storms. The capabilities of AlertOC also allow the County of Orange and 31 participating cities in Orange County to geographically target messages to neighborhoods directly impacted by storm conditions.

Have you registered for Alert OC yet? If not, visit www.alertoc.com and sign up to receive emergency messages via cell phone, text message and/or e-mail. Using this free service, you'll be ready to be notified when the next emergency arises. Examples of when a notification via AlertOC may be needed include the issuance of a "shelter in place" message during a disaster or an "evacuation order" for potential debris flow locations.

Mobile Multi Service Center Delivers Services in O.C. Civic Center

The newly expanded Mobile Multi Service Center stopped in downtown Santa Ana last month to deliver flu shots and other vital services to the area's homeless. The mobile unit brings services to the homeless families and individuals in places they are likely to congregate in an effort to overcome some of the many barriers that prevent them from receiving adequate services and becoming housed. The event was commemorated by all five sitting Board Members, OC Community Services Director Karen Roper, Public Health Officer Dr. Eric Handler and Illumination Foundation Director Paul Leon.

"The Mobile Multi Service Center is a unique opportunity to deliver services to residents experiencing homelessness and improve their quality of life at a very dark time in their lives," said Vice Chairman Bill Campbell. "The Mobile Multi Service Center is a truly collaborative effort that came out of receiving input from various agencies and reviewing models from other Counties. I am proud to see our county working compassionately and diligently to meet the needs of our homeless population."

The mobile unit is operated through a partnership between OC Community Services/Homeless



Staff members from various County agencies and nonprofits gather to form a one-stop service center and point of entry for residents experiencing homelessness.

Prevention, the Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency and the Illumination Foundation. The primary function of the Mobile Multi Service Center is to act as a one-stop service center and a point of entry for homeless individuals and families to receive supportive services from nearly 60 agencies ranging from housing and employment to education and medical services. Through additional funding made available by the Board of Supervisors and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, the mobile unit is now offering expanded services and hours of operation.

History-making Supervisor Remembered

Harriett Wieder, who held the distinction of serving as the first female member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, died on Jan. 11th in Newport Beach. She was 89.

A former resident and mayor of Huntington Beach, Wieder served as an Orange County Supervisor from 1979 through 1994 and chaired the Board in 1984, 1988 and 1993. She moved to Orange County in 1971 and in 1973, she ran successfully for Huntington Beach City Council. She served on the council from 1974 to 1978, and was mayor in 1976. Wieder ran for the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 1978, becoming the county's first female supervisor.

Throughout her career, Supervisor Wieder was involved in such issues as health care, air pollution, hazardous waste and domestic violence. Among accomplishments she listed as most significant were the agreement among developers, environmentalists and the city of Huntington Beach to develop and restore the Bolsa Chica Wetlands; establishment of the eight-county Southern California Water Committee in 1984; and creation of the OC Health Care Task Force in 1990, whose work resulted in the establishment of a county organized



health system for Medi-Cal recipients, known as Cal-OPTIMA.

Wieder's accomplishments and service to the County of Orange were recognized through the naming of a County park in her honor. In 2001, work began on Harriett Wieder Regional Park in Huntington Beach. Groundbreaking took place in Sept. 2002, with the park officially opened to the public on April 6, 2004. After leaving the Board of Supervisors, she founded Linkage, a public affairs consulting agency.

Will the 2010 Census Settle An Argument?

The following item was published in the Sacramento Bee on December 25, 2009, so it probably didn't get much attention. It does, however, give you an idea of what is at stake with the 2010 Census.

The feds and the state have been arguing over California's population for nearly a decade, and it looks like the matter won't get settled until the 2010 census. Last week, the state Department of Finance figured it, as of June 30, at 38.5 million. This week the U.S. Census Bureau put it at just under 37 million. They disagree on how many people have moved from California to other states. What's at stake is a bunch of federal dollars, plus a vote in Congress ...

A difference of 1.5 million people is significant and could mean hundreds of millions of dollars of

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additional funding for a state suffering through a financial crisis. In fact, one group estimates that each uncounted resident could result in the loss of \$1,000 a year in federal funding for a state. And since the Census numbers retain their importance for a decade, that means more like \$10,000 for each uncounted resident.

Census forms will arrive in March, so when you receive your form, fill it out and return it as soon as possible. Not only will you be helping Orange County achieve a complete count, you may help settle the disagreement over California's true population.

Census 2010

Board Support for Leadership Academy Saluted

The graduation of the twelfth class from the Orange County Leadership Academy marked a significant accomplishment in participation of staff from offices of the Board of Supervisors.

With the completion of the most recent session, representatives from all five Board offices have now participated in and completed the Orange County Leadership Academy (OCLA) program. Board Chair Janet Nguyen was on hand for the OCLA graduation to offer her congratulations to all of the members of the class, including her Deputy Chief of Staff, Matthew Harper.

Now in its seventh year, OCLA focuses on the development of servant leaders. By approaching leadership not only as a way of "doing" but also as a way of being, the goal of the program is to make the County organization a more connected and effective community, a place that brings out the best in all of us as we provide outstanding services to others.



The twelfth class of the Orange County Leadership Academy graduated on Jan. 15th, making 360 total County managers who have completed the program.

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Eric Gayden

Assessor Dept.

Cecilia Novella

Auditor-Controller

Matthew Harper

Board of Supervisors, District 1

Whitney Secor

Board of Supervisors, District 3

Don Hughes

Board of Supervisors, District 5

Claudia Burton

Child Support Services

Mikki Tiberghien

Clerk Recorder

Wanda Florence

County Counsel

Kathleen Long

CEO/Budget

Brooke De Baca

CEO/Community & Media Relations

Ana Cassinelli

CEO/Legislative Affairs

OCLA XII GRADUATES

Dr. Jeffrey Nagel

Health Care Agency

Annette Mugrditchian

Health Care Agency

Syndie Ly

Human Resources

Rosie Santiesteban

Human Resources

Nancy Campoy

John Wayne Airport

Ryan Drabek

OC Community Resources

Mike Brajdic

OC Community Resources

Lydia Garcia

OC Community Resources

Kathleen Wade

OC Community Resources

Patricia Daniells

OC Public Works

Octavio Rivas

OC Public Works

Kevin Kondru

OC Waste & Recycling

Todd Graham

Probation

Marya Forster

Probation

Jerry Sakelaris

Offices of the Public Defender

Robert Beaver

Sheriff-Coroner

Ryan Burris

Sheriff-Coroner

Brigette McLellan

Social Services Agency

Raquel Vargas

Social Services Agency

Anna Bryson

Treasurer – Tax Collector

Get the 411 On the Offices of the Public Defender

- In addition to representing adults and juveniles in the criminal courts, the Public Defender also represents many people in Mental Health cases. These clients are predominantly the elderly and infirm for whom guardianship or involuntary hospitalization is being sought.
- One of the senior trial lawyers left the Public Defender's Office for a 2 year period to prosecute war crimes at the United Nations' International Criminal Tribunal arising from the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. She has now rejoined the office.
- A Senior Investigator with the Department is a writer and movie critic ('Reel Critic") for the Daily Pilot and the Huntington Beach Independent local newspapers serving the Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, and Newport Beach area.
- The Offices of the Orange County Public Defender create equal justice by providing high quality representation. "There can be no equal justice where the kind of trial a man gets depends on the amount of money he has." U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, 1964.

For more information or to contact the Offices of the Public Defender please go to: www.pubdef.ocgov.com.



35 YEARS

Arthur Romero OC Community Resources

Donald McLaren Social Services Agency

Jayne Medlock Social Services Agency

Patricia Schwenn Social Services Agency

Steve Owens OC Waste & Recycling

30 YEARS

Esperanza Garcia Auditor-Controller

Ronald Maciel Probation

Ignacio Ochoa OC Public Works

Margaret Ebargaray Sheriff-Coroner

Gwendolyn Brown Social Services Agency

Rudy Borboa OC Waste & Recycling

25 YEARS

Donna Laffoon OC Community Resources

Thoa Kim Tran Health Care Agency

William Zimmerman Health Care Agency

Mark Nestor OC Public Works

Halbert Tran OC Public Works

Jon Auer Sheriff-Coroner

Amber Bowers Sheriff-Coroner

Steven Doan Sheriff-Coroner

Jeff Foster Sheriff-Coroner

Juanita Hastings Sheriff-Coroner

Ronald Kennedy Sheriff-Coroner

Rafael Ortiz Sheriff-Coroner

James Stringer Sheriff-Coroner

Nancy Hatada Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Karen Bragg Assessor

Maria Luna Assessor

Flora Cayetano Auditor-Controller Claire Moynihan Auditor-Controller

Rachel Eubanks Child Support Services

Martha Luna Child Support Services

Maria Arevalo County Counsel

Jack Golden County Counsel

Martha Campbell County Executive Office

Marisela Villasenor Silva Safi Popal County Executive Office

Daniel Hess District Attorney

Maria Stump District Attorney

Carlos Andrade Health Care Agency

Shehrnaz Irani Health Care Agency

Daniel Rivers Health Care Agency

Giselle Rocha Health Care Agency

Michelle Roth Health Care Agency

John Van Sky Health Care Agency

Loree Dyer Probation

Doreen Lore Probation

Lourdes Magallan Probation

Sandy-Truc Mai Probation

Luis Valdez Probation

Diana Hantsche Public Defender

Dannah Murphy Public Defender

Leslie Chang OC Public Works

Salvador Falcon OC Public Works

Virgilio Gonzales OC Public Works

OC Public Works

Denise Weaver OC Public Works

Latricia Santos Registrar of Voters

Timothy Africano Sheriff-Coroner

Ioana Aronovici Sheriff-Coroner

Jane Brennan Sheriff-Coroner

Stephen Brown Sheriff-Coroner

Edward Buse Sheriff-Coroner

Aubrey Carroll Sheriff-Coroner

Eva Curiel Sheriff-Coroner

Wendy Davis Sheriff-Coroner

Craig Goldsmith Sheriff-Coroner

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

20 YEARS CONTINUED

Anthony Grayson Sheriff-Coroner

Todd Greer Sheriff-Coroner

Sam Hernandez Sheriff-Coroner

Scott JarvisSheriff-Coroner

Elizabeth Jelev Sheriff-Coroner

James Johnston Sheriff-Coroner

Morley Kwaschnefski Sheriff-Coroner

Denise LittenSheriff-Coroner

Donald McCraner Sheriff-Coroner

Erik Mansoor Sheriff-Coroner

David Martin Sheriff-Coroner

David Mayer Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Missel Sheriff-Coroner

Jesse Oller Sheriff-Coroner

Lawrence Packard Sheriff-Coroner

Christine Phillips
Sheriff-Coroner

David Ray Sheriff-Coroner John Roche Sheriff-Coroner

Cecil SellersSheriff-Coroner

Johnny Seto Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Sima Sheriff-Coroner

Stephen Simpson Sheriff-Coroner

Andre Spencer Sheriff-Coroner

Sharon Tabata Sheriff-Coroner

Michael Thompson Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Toyer Sheriff-Coroner

Ihor Turczynsky Sheriff-Coroner

Mark Willbanks
Sheriff-Coroner

James Carter Social Services Agency

Sandra Charette Social Services Agency

Dane Clark Social Services Agency

Vianey Cortez Social Services Agency

Eric DalnesSocial Services Agency

Olga Figueroa Social Services Agency

Flor De Maria Flores Social Services Agency Damaso Garcia Social Services Agency

Janet Gomez
Social Services Agency

Rocio Gonzalez Social Services Agency

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Rene LeClair Social Services Agency

Guillermina Lewis
Social Services Agency

Louis Luu Social Services Agency

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Tri NguyenSocial Services Agency

Valarie Page Social Services Agency

Laura Perez Social Services Agency Pedro Renteria Social Services Agency

Susan Rhodes
Social Services Agency

Cecilia Rondini Social Services Agency

Lidia Sanchez Social Services Agency

Priscila Sanchez Social Services Agency

Sharon Sotelo Social Services Agency

James Tapia Social Services Agency

Lina TapiaSocial Services Agency

Rose Tran Social Services Agency

Binh Trinh Social Services Agency

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OC Waste & Recycling

CONTACT US

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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