



## CEO's Message



I wanted to touch base with all of you about budgetary challenges or “growth opportunities” we may be facing in the near future.

The Governor just announced that the State budget is now facing a \$16 billion shortfall and we are still waiting to see the details of how that will impact us. Also, we are facing declining sales tax revenues for Proposition 172 and Measure M, a housing sector recession, easing of interest rates resulting in revenue declines and concerns with our Structured Investment Vehicles.

Now that I have delivered the bad news, I'd like to focus on the good news.

First of all, we have a Board that is rolling up their sleeves and burning the midnight oil to help us through the economic downturn.

We are in the process of ex-

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## Chairman Delivers State of the County



Chairman John M.W. Moorlach gives his State of the County address at the Jan. 29th Board Meeting.

Board Chairman John M.W. Moorlach delivered his **State of the County** address at the Jan. 29th Board meeting. He emphasized that the County will face many challenges this year including state budget cuts, declining sales tax revenues, impacts on health care for low-income families/disabled and a housing sector recession.

Chairman Moorlach also noted that we will be called on to do more because of the economic down-cycle. In Orange County, we are looking at unemployment rate increases, falling construction starts for new homes and declining auto sales.

“We must retain the public’s trust and give them the best bang

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aming our “strategic focus” to see where we want to be in the future. Also, we are maximizing the use of technology and pursuing the best and brightest employees. Our primary asset is the talent and dedication of the first class employees of this County... each of you!!

I want to encourage all of you to look for ways to improve what we do and stay engaged in the work of this fine County. In addition, we need to all pull together and continue to assure our residents that they can count on us. Our new slogan - “OC: Our Community, Our Commitment” – really says it all in a very concise way!

With each of you, I look forward to working on our new challenges and new initiatives...including budget reductions, of course!!

My thanks to you for your continued focus on excellence and all that you do to serve the public.

**Thomas G. Mauk**  
County Executive Officer



# OC Citizens' Report



Auditor-Controller David Sundstrom reviews the latest edition of the OC Citizens' Report, which has earned awards for outstanding financial reporting for the past four years.

The financial highlights for the County during fiscal year 2006-07 have been released by the Auditor-Controller's Office in the fifth installment of the OC Citizens' Report. The report summarizes the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in an easy to understand manner, details trends on our local economy, and illustrates an economic comparison with surrounding counties, the state and the nation.

The report earned accolades at last year's Annual Government Finance Officers Association conference for the fourth consecutive year. The honor recognized the County

for producing financial reports that contain information easily accessed and understood by a broader audience and for reflecting creativity, presentation and reader appeal.

“Even more gratifying than receiving the award, was watching our report held up as an example for governments in the rest of the nation to follow,” said Auditor-Controller David Sundstrom. “Thank you to the many County employees who contribute to the success of the financial statements and the OC Citizens' report.”

The OC Citizen's report is available on the Auditor-Controller's web site at <http://www.ac.ocgov.com/finrpt.asp>. If you have any questions about the report, contact [david.sundstrom@ocgov.com](mailto:david.sundstrom@ocgov.com).



The fifth edition of the OC Citizens' Report highlights the County's financial information for FY 2006-07.

# New Legislative Affairs Director Joins County Team

When Bruce Matthias walked his first voter precinct at the age of 15, he could have hardly known that his youthful interest in government would lead him to a varied journey in the field. Now, after gaining years of political affairs experience, he has begun his new post as the Director for the County Executive Office's Legislative Affairs division.

"Managing legislative affairs is a thrilling opportunity to serve as the eyes and ears for the Board, the CEO and the departments in both our state and federal capitols," said Matthias. "At the same time, we also serve as their voice regarding public policy decisions that are made in our legislatures."

Matthias became skilled with the inner-workings of our legislatures by serving as a staff advisor for members of the U.S. Congress and California State Assembly prior to managing the government affairs and public relations efforts of Hyundai Motor America. His most recent charge was with the Los Angeles Turf Club, where he was responsible for establishing and building the simulcast operation at Santa Anita Park.



Director for CEO/Legislative Affairs, Bruce Matthias, settles into his first days with the County.

"Joining the County is a terrific opportunity to use everything I've learned thus far and put it to work for the Board and the taxpayers of Orange County," said Matthias. "It's a fun challenge, and working with great people and for a great institution, make it even more so."

Matthias attended Westmont College in Santa Barbara for his undergrad education and earned a Masters in Public Administration from Cal State Fullerton. On the ideal Sunday afternoon, Matthias and his wife, Sonja, delve into new cooking recipes and collaborate on finding the perfect pasta sauce. The couple lives in Anaheim Hills and has two children in college.

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for their buck," said Chairman Moorlach. "We want to work together through thick and thin, but we need all hands on the oars."

His strategies for moving forward include:

- Reviewing our "corporate focus" and looking at where we want to be in the future
- Pursuing a "servant leadership" management model from the top down
- Maximizing the use of technology wherever and whenever possible
- Pursuing the best and brightest

Please click on the following link to read the entire text of the **State of the County 2008**:  
[http://egov.ocgov.com/vgnfiles/ocgov/BOS2/doc/State\\_County08.pdf](http://egov.ocgov.com/vgnfiles/ocgov/BOS2/doc/State_County08.pdf).

# Employee Recognition Leadership Academy VIII



Chairman Moorlach congratulated the graduates of the eighth session of the Orange County Leadership Academy at the Feb. 5th Board meeting.

The participants of the eighth session of the Orange County Leadership Academy (OCLA) just graduated – bringing the total number of County managers who have completed the leadership development program to more than 240. The Academy’s philosophy distinguishes between routine managing and becoming a true leader. The program’s key fundamentals are communication, teamwork, collaboration and leadership sharing.

## Leadership Academy VIII Graduates

**Mike Sliwa**  
Assessor Dept.

**Phillip Daigneau**  
Auditor-Controller

**Pradeep Parikh**  
Auditor-Controller

**Mario Mainero**  
Board of Supervisors, Second District

**Tom McCool**  
Child Support Services

**Phyllis Johnson**  
Clerk-Recorder

**Karen Christensen**  
County Counsel

**Ron Vienna**  
CEO/Purchasing

**Anil Kukreja**  
CEO/Budget

**Laurie Browning**  
CEO/Risk Management

**Steve Yonemura**  
District Attorney

**Mary Davis**  
Health Care Agency

**Prity Thanki**  
Health Care Agency

**Oscar Garza**  
Housing & Community Services

**John Arnau**  
Integrated Waste Management Department

**Lily Chin**  
Internal Audit

**Scott Suzuki**  
John Wayne Airport

**Stephanie Beverage**  
Public Library

**Ricki Parker**  
Public Library

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# Probation Volunteers Receive Excellence Award



Chief Probation Officer Colleene Preciado (left in all photos) congratulates three individuals who received the Excellence in Volunteerism Award. The honorees are (from left to right) Donna Persson, Dennis Forsyth and Pete DeMeyer.

Three dedicated and diligent volunteers with the Probation Department received Excellence in Volunteerism Awards at a Jan. 24th ceremony. The honorees – Donna Persson, Pete DeMeyer and Dennis Forsyth – have collectively donated more than five thousand hours of their time and expertise to help at-risk youth and adult probationers seek treatment and rehabilitation.

Donna Persson is a principal member of the Volunteer in Probation program at the department’s Youth Guidance Center. Through coordinating guest speakers and leading group discussions, Donna reaches out to teens and preteens at the facility who are recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Hard-work, patience and encouragement are just three of many qualities Donna con-

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**Sean Barry**  
Probation

**Bryan Prieto**  
Probation

**Robert Knox**  
Public Defender

**Kate Gold**  
Registrar of Voters

**Mary Anne Skorpanich**  
Resources & Development  
Management Department

**Mark Morgan**  
Resources & Development  
Management Department

**Charlie Walters**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Michael Riley**  
Social Services Agency

**Gary Taylor**  
Social Services Agency

**Rogelia Martinez**  
Treasurer-Tax Collector

# Celebrate Katie Wheeler Branch Library's Grand Opening



An artist's rendering of the Katie Wheeler Library.

County employees and members of the community attended the grand opening of the Katie Wheeler Branch Library on Saturday, Feb. 23rd.

The building, located inside the Irvine Ranch Historic Park at 13109 Old Myford Road, was structurally replicated after the 1900s Irvine family home.

Library services include materials and programs for adults, children and teens. The opening was made possible by development agreements and a \$1 million grant from the Orange County Community Foundation, funded by the James T. Irvine Foundation.

For more information, please contact Helen Fried at (714) 566-3065.

## United Way Wrap Up

The 2007 United Way campaign – United for a Better Tomorrow – is wrapping up, marking another year of hard work and dedication from County family. As of Feb. 5th, the campaign draws to a close having raised \$699,295.85!

“County employees are generous and giving, and I am proud to have worked with all the employees who participated in making sure we had another successful United Way campaign,” said Chair Ingrid Harita, Director of the Social Services Agency.

An awards ceremony was held on Feb. 21st in the Old Orange County Courthouse to recognize individual agencies/departments and top contributors for their commitment to the campaign.

To learn more, please contact Mona Gustafson at (714) 245-6288 or [Mona.Gustafson@ssa.ocgov.com](mailto:Mona.Gustafson@ssa.ocgov.com).

## Get The 411 On OC Assessor

- The Assessor is the elected official mandated by the Constitution of the State of California to discover, assess and value all real property in Orange County, such as land, buildings, structures, and all business personal property including boats and airplanes. The total net value of Orange County property for FY 07-08 is about \$408.7 billion.
- The department implemented a user-friendly assessment roll research system at its public service counter that incorporates touch-screen technology to allow residents to search, view and print current year public value information, assessor parcel maps and mailing labels. Staff provided public service support for 84,000 telephone inquiries and 24,000 walk-in customers in FY 06-07.
- Every year, employees produce lists of all property subject to assessment and valuation called the Assessment Rolls. The Secured Roll has 881,233 parcels and the Unsecured Roll has approximately 138,300 businesses, 36,700 boats and 980 aircrafts. The taxable value of property serves as the basis for property tax collection that provides almost \$5 billion for schools, police, fire services, libraries, parks, infrastructure and various other essential services.
- In 2004, the California Assessor's Association appointed the Orange County Assessor to lead the effort in developing a statewide system to enable businesses to file property statements online. The resulting Standard Data Record (SDR) Project targeted large companies with multiple locations. In 2007, an e-SDR component was added for small businesses and individual filers. Today, 40 out of 58 counties (66%) provide some automation to assist taxpayers with the filing of 93% of all Business Property Statements using SDR and e-SDR.

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

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sistently demonstrates to support the therapeutic community and the juveniles.

Indispensable support is provided by Volunteer Probation Officers like Pete DeMeyer, who completed a rigorous training program to carry out tasks similar to Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs). Working under the supervision of DPO Pamela Hostetler, Pete donates his time undertaking duties such as investigating adult and juvenile cases, performing home/jail visits and revising the substantial County Parole Manual.

Dennis Forsyth is a member of Probation Community Action Association's Board of Directors, while also leading the annual "Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament. Dennis' energy and talent strengthens the tournament, which raises funds for programs that assist youth probationers to achieve educational goals. The proceeds from the event cover education-related expenses such as college or trade school fees and the removal of gang-affiliated tattoos.

The Excellence in Volunteerism Awards program is a prestigious County award program that recognizes volunteers who generously apply their talents and expertise in meeting community needs and challenges. It celebrates the successful partnership between County employees and volunteers whose combined efforts enhance services for our residents.

# CAPS+ Project Update

An update of the CAPS+ project is available in the [attached letter](#) from Auditor-Controller David Sundstrom. Also, the next County-wide All-Hands CAPS+ meeting will be held March 25<sup>th</sup> in the Board Hearing and Planning Commission Rooms. The Billing & Accounts Receivable demonstration has been rescheduled to coincide with the All-Hands CAPS+ meeting as follows:

**AM Session: March 25, 2008**

All-Hands Meeting 9:30 – 10:30  
 Billings Demonstration 10:30 – 12:00

**PM Session: March 25, 2008**

All-Hands Meeting 1:30 – 2:30  
 Billings Demonstration 2:30 – 4:00

Please remember to mark your calendars with the new dates and times. For additional information, please contact [CAPS+ Upgrade@ocgov.com](mailto:CAPS+ Upgrade@ocgov.com).



## 35 Years

**Richard Garza**  
 Resources & Development  
 Management Department

## 30 Years

**Ricardo Valverde**  
 Health Care Agency

**Alan Albright**  
 Health Care Agency

**James Colocino**  
 Health Care Agency

**Thuyet Nguyen**  
 Health Care Agency

**Deborah Kwast**  
 Public Defender

**Akiye Yuasa**  
 Social Services Agency

**Greg Lepore**  
 Resources & Development  
 Management Department

**Darlene Wilson**  
 Resources & Development  
 Management Department

**Richard Grier**  
 John Wayne Airport

**Timothy Sandefer**  
 Resources & Development  
 Management Department

**Lorenzo Magalona**  
 Resources & Development  
 Management Department

**Raul Herrera**  
 Resources & Development  
 Management Department

## 25 Years

**Susan Novak**  
 Clerk of the Board

**Scott Hitt**  
 Sheriff-Coroner

**Colin Murphy**  
 Sheriff-Coroner

**Marri Derby**  
 Public Defender

**Betty Ostrow**  
 Clerk-Recorder

**David Knecht**  
 Sheriff-Coroner

**Carol Barnes**  
 Sheriff-Coroner

**Lawrence Cognito**  
 Sheriff-Coroner

**Frank Denison**  
 Sheriff-Coroner

**Theodore Boyne**  
 Sheriff-Coroner

**Martha Garcia**  
 Social Services Agency

**Alan Murphy**  
 John Wayne Airport

**Kari Rigoni**  
 John Wayne Airport

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**Danny Scharton**  
Resources & Development  
Management Department

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## 20 Years

**Stephan Sauer**  
District Attorney

**Jeffrey Levy**  
District Attorney

**Mary Meloch**  
District Attorney

**Jo Escobar**  
District Attorney

**Camille Hill**  
District Attorney

**James Gorzo**  
Child Support Services

**Kathryn Pavich**  
Health Care Agency

**Robert Wilson**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Wanda Haaland**  
Probation

**Elia Madrigal**  
Probation

**Marco Perez**  
Probation

**Raymond Yarbrough**  
Probation

**John Asplund**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Wayne Byerley**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Gregory Seachrist**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Simon Kim**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Kent Colton**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Sophie Aldana**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Roy Llewellyn**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Miles Schuler**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Michael Wagner**  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Lisa Liera**  
Social Services Agency

**Susan Keagy**  
Social Services Agency

**Donna Avise**  
Social Services Agency

**David Frankel**  
Social Services Agency

**Louie Mecado**  
Social Services Agency

**Isabel Geraurd**  
Social Services Agency

**Yen Thu Nguy**  
Social Services Agency

**Lauren Singletary**  
Social Services Agency

**Kim-Anh Tran**  
Social Services Agency

**Maureen Loya**  
Social Services Agency

**Wendy Aquin**  
Social Services Agency

**Janet Van Reenen**  
Public Library

**Allen Robinson**  
Public Library

**Faranak Yazdi**  
Public Library

**Anna Plank**  
Housing & Community Services

**Rick Nagle**  
Integrated Waste  
Management Department

**Joseph Woods**  
Integrated Waste  
Management Department

**Mark Johnson**  
Integrated Waste  
Management Department

## County Connection

**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](mailto:ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com) with any suggestions and comments.

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