

COUNTY NEWS

ISSUE 05 YEAR 09



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Administrative Professionals Celebrated at Luncheon

About 400 administrative professionals from across County departments gathered last month at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley for the annual Administrative Professionals Luncheon.

Doors opened at 11:30 a.m. and before long, the line for appetizers stretched across the back of the ballroom. The luncheon, hosted by the Finance & General Government Group, featured a video highlighting administrative professionals and messages from group managers.

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Watch the Administrative Professionals video.

County Breaks Ground on New Operations Center

The County of San Diego Board of Supervisors recently broke ground on the new County Operations Center, a campus of public buildings designed to be kind to the environment, accessible to the public and more functional for the wide array of services the County provides.



The estimated \$500 million project will rise in three distinct phases in the footprint of the current operations center, an outdated cluster of inefficient buildings located in Kearny Mesa. The \$188.5 million first phase includes two 150,000-square-foot office buildings, a 1,700-space parking garage and utilities plant.



The project is "one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of County government," said Chairwoman Dianne Jacob. "The first phase is taking place without the help of the federal stimulus package and is greatly needed to meet the changing demands of our dynamic region."

With plans for energy-efficient roofing and



County Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard turn the ceremonial shovels.

windows, drought tolerant landscaping and work stations that take advantage of abundant natural light, the County hopes the project will achieve a LEED rating from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"Government should lead by example," said Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price. "Using sustainable building practices, we aim to show protecting the planet and protecting public dollars go hand-in-hand."

The County began to explore the feasibility of its new campus in 2005. A study determined that maintenance costs for the existing complex would top \$216 million over the next 20 years.

"By rebuilding instead of retrofitting, the County will achieve cost savings in the long run," said Supervisor Bill Horn. "We're doing away with expensive leased space and consolidating services now scattered in separate locations."

(Continued on Page 3)

MAY 2009 Calendar of Events

- CINCO DE MAYO 5
- MOTHER'S DAY 10
- ARMED FORCES DAY 16
- MEMORIAL DAY 25

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

County Celebrates Earth Day with Universal Waste Event

Hundreds of County employees helped celebrate Earth Day on April 22 by bringing in batteries, fluorescent bulbs and other universal waste from their homes to a recycling event at the County Administration Center.



Environmental Health Specialist Karilyn Merlos and Michael Dorsey, Chief of the Community Health Division of the Department of Environmental Health, collect household universal waste items from County employees at the Earth Day event organized by Supervisor Greg Cox and the Industrial Environmental Association.

The event was organized by Supervisor Greg Cox, the Industrial Environmental Association (IEA) and business and community leaders.

The event focused on recycling and proper disposal of fluorescent bulbs, household batteries and cell phones. Employees who brought household items to be recycled and properly disposed of were given mercury-free thermometers, reusable shopping bags, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators to reduce water usage in bathrooms and kitchens.

"We know people want to be environmentally friendly," said Cox. "Our goal is to make every day Earth Day by encouraging consumers to recycle and properly dispose of their universal waste."

Using the slogan "Go Green, Save Green," officials informed consumers that they can save money during tough times by using energy efficient products that use less energy to operate. In addition, officials with Sony announced a new initiative that is part of the company's national "Take Back Recycling" program, which currently offers free recycling for Sony products at more than 270 permanent drop-off sites throughout the country.

Cox recognized the IEA, Allied Waste, San Diego Gas & Electric, Sony and Waste Management for organizing the event and promoting recycling and proper disposal of universal waste. A total of 48 local compa-

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In *Walt's* Words

Fighting for Our Piece of the Stimulus Pie

Ever since President Obama signed the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, governments large and small across the country have been clamoring for their share of the stimulus bill.

The package, unprecedented in value and ambition, seeks to create or save 3 to 4 million American jobs and breathe life into our depressed economy.

Here at the County of San Diego, where revenue from sales and property taxes continues to dwindle and state cuts have left us scrambling to provide our residents with the services they need, the stimulus money will help us offset some of our losses, and make some much-needed improvements.

We're actively pursuing our rightful share of these funds, and already we're due to receive at least \$70 million in estimated awards that will help sustain or create jobs across the county. These grants also will help our community in areas such as public works, health and human services, public safety, homeless prevention, energy conservation, and assistance to homebuyers.

We've already received \$5.1 million for loans and grants to homebuyers to purchase foreclosed properties and make energy-efficient improvements, and loans/grants to developers to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosures to provide long-term low-income rentals. And we've also been awarded \$2.5 million to rebuild more than a mile of aging taxiways at Gillespie Field, used not only by private aircraft, but by our own public safety aircraft.

But that's not it for us. All of our groups are busy pursuing millions of dollars in requests.

A County task force has been put together to manage stimulus funds in our region to track grants throughout the entire process.

Sarah Aghassi, Director of the Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs, is the head of the task force, and members include groups finance directors, County Counsel and various group/department liaisons.

Soon, thanks to Sarah's team, you'll be able to follow the County's progress on the Web, at www.recoverysdcounty.org.

There, you'll be able to see which projects we're seeking funding for, as well as how things are developing on the work that's already underway.

It will be a clearinghouse for all the County's stimulus-related information, and we think that's an important part of maintaining the transparency and accountability to taxpayers.

The site also will provide its visitors with a way to report any stimulus-related fraud or abuse.

To track how much money is coming to the state of California, or to other states, visit the federal government's stimulus Web site, at www.recovery.gov.

This stimulus money won't solve all our problems. But it's certainly going to help.

Walt

Walt Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer

Post script: Back in March, after I'd chosen Sara Gurrola's submission as my favorite "25 Things" for April's column, I received another entry. It was from MaryAnn Merrell, an office support specialist in the Department of Media and Public Relations, and after reading it I knew I had to share with all of you. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Thanks, MaryAnn!

(MaryAnn's "25 Things" continued on Page 6)

Breaking Ground on COC
(continued from page 1)

The project's master developer is Lowe Enterprises Real Estate Group-West, Inc. Other partners include ROEL Construction, RJC Architects and Project Management Advisors, Inc.

"Our development team has taken great pains to ensure that the design is more accessible and welcoming to the public," said Supervisor Ron Roberts, a former architect. "The public will find that the new campus is as functional as it is beautiful."

The first phase of construction is expected to be completed in fall 2010 with employee move-in scheduled for winter 2010.

"The three-phase construction schedule should be minimally disruptive to all," said



Supervisor Greg Cox. "We want to thank our valued employees in advance for their patience and can-do County attitude as we prepare for the future."

"Do Not Share Food With Your Cat..."

Take one part nutrition education, combine it with creative art work, and a dash of pint-sized perspective, and you have the ingredients for a new food safety calendar created by local students.

Thirteen students from the San Marcos Unified School District were named "Junior Food Safety Officers" last month by the County Department of Environmental Health at a ceremony at Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary School in Vista.

The children submitted the winning entries used in the calendar. They were asked to complete the sentence, "Food safety is..." with an illustration. A sample of their unique advice:

- Do not share food with your cat. (Karla Mendoza, third grade)
- Not eating food on the ground. (Ashley Gonzales, third grade)
- Don't eat when you touch money. First, wash your hands. (Melissa Ramirez, third grade)
- Eating at places with an "A" card. (Jordan Feffer, second grade)

Department of Environmental Health Director Gary Erbeck and County Public Health Officer Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., presented the winners with a plaque and medal. They also talked to the student body about the importance of food safety and healthy food choices.

"Even the most nutritious food can be unhealthy if it is not prepared and stored properly. The children are learning to keep cold and hot foods at the right temperatures, keep utensils clean and separate raw food from ready-to-eat food," said Erbeck.

"This is information the kids can easily share with their parents to keep the whole family safe

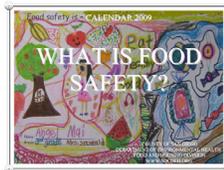


Second grader Jordan Feffer, from La Costa Meadows Elementary School is named a "Junior Food Safety Officer" by Department of Environmental Health Director Gary Erbeck and County Public Health Officer Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.

and healthy."

The County is a partner in the school district's Nutrition Advisory Council, an innovative program to involve students in choosing which foods are served at school. Three campuses currently participate in the program, which includes nutrition education, food sampling, and food safety information.

This is the first calendar created for the program. In addition to the children's contributions, the calendar features food safety tips from the Department of Environmental Health. See the calendar and award-winning submissions online at www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh, or download the [calendar here](#).



nies were also recognized for their recycling and disposal efforts.

Land Use introduces new online customer service

Homeowners and builders can now check the Developer Deposit accounts they take out with County Land Use agencies with the click of a mouse, making their service faster and more reliable.

When people bring development proposals to the County, they're charged an upfront deposit to cover the cost the County estimates it will take to review their plans.

Until now, our customers could only check the status of their Developer Deposit accounts by tracking their monthly statements and by calling or visiting the County's various Land Use departments for updates.

Now, they can immediately check their account balances with a laptop or personal computer by going to <http://projectbalance.sdcounty.ca.gov> and typing in any of three numbers: their Customer Number, Reference Number or KIVA Project Number.

The new service will not only be faster and easier for customers; it will also provide them with more accurate, up-to-date balance information. That's because the online information will reflect the charges posted against the accounts within the last two days in our Kronos computer system, rather than the end-of-month statements in our Oracle-based billing software.

The online service includes an easy-to-understand "help" feature that can be used when people have trouble identifying the numbers they need to use to access their accounts.

Animal Services to Implement "Responsible Pet Ownership" Classes

Modeled after traffic ticket school, individuals who have received a criminal citation for one or more minor animal-related offences may now attend a "Responsible Pet Ownership" class to reduce fines and/or remove the misdemeanor conviction from their record.

The Department of Animal Services (DAS) developed and presents the classroom information at the three-hour class, which is intended to educate the attendees who are primarily, but not exclusively, dog owners.

Eligibility for attendance is determined by the Office of the City Attorney, in cooperation with the courts, following arraignment

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Administrative Professionals (continued from page 1)

In one scene, a harried Community Services Group Director Mikel Haas has taken over for Executive Secretary Vicki Chappell and tries, unsuccessfully, to meet the demands of the job.

Board Chairwoman Dianne Jacob addressed the crowd, and Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard delivered a song that poked fun at managers and himself – inciting laughs and rounds of applause – and praised the administrative professionals who keep the County running.



Click on the slideshow above to view photos from the Administrative Professionals Luncheon

Kittens and Cats in Need of Good Homes

Each year, the Department of Animal Services receives hundreds of kittens that are younger than eight weeks old and, therefore, not old enough for its adoption program. Referred to as “Tweenies,” these kittens are usually between four to eight weeks old and need foster care outside of the shelter environment.

DAS needs foster families who can provide the extra care and socialization these kittens need until they can return to the shelter for adoption at eight or nine weeks.



The Department will provide all the necessary supplies and food to those who wish to become a “Tweenie” foster parent: food, bowls, toys, litter and bedding. All you need to provide are a loving home environment, socialization and snuggles.

If you have the time, desire, and commitment to be a foster parent, raising young kittens can be a very entertaining and rewarding experience.

For more information about the “Tweenie” foster program, please e-mail one of our foster care coordinators at the shelter most convenient for you.

- North County Region:
vanessa.brush@sdcounty.ca.gov
- San Diego Region:
kimberlee.tardy@sdcounty.ca.gov
- South County Region:
terri.green@sdcounty.ca.gov

If you would rather adopt a kitten that is older than the foster kittens, you can adopt one kitten for \$59 and get the other at half price. Also, you can still adopt an older cat from County Animal Services. Cats five years or older are available at a reduced price of \$35, which includes vaccination, spay or neuter, microchip and FELV testing. Check out shelters in all three locations:

- 5480 Gaines St. in San Diego
- 2481 Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad
- 5821 Sweetwater Road in Bonita.

Crossing the Border or Traveling Internationally?



The County of San Diego is alerting travelers who plan to travel internationally or who want to cross the Mexican border after June 1 to have a passport book, passport card or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security.

On June 1, the second phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) will go into effect, and travelers will need to have these documents to be able to re-enter the U.S. when returning from Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea ports-of-entry. The first phase of this initiative, which went into effect in 2007, required passports for re-entering the U.S. by air in those locations.

“Without the proper travel document, travelers will be denied entry into the U.S. Proper planning can help ensure that this doesn’t happen to you,” said Thomas Pastuszka, County Clerk of the Board. “It’s better to have peace of mind and the proper documents so you can travel without worry. It can take a few weeks to get your passport, that’s why it’s a good idea to apply in advance of the June 1 deadline.”

The passport card is different from a passport book because it was designed to meet the requirements of the land and sea phase of the WHTI. The passport card is valid in border communities where crossing the border is a daily occurrence. The passport card is not valid for international air travel. The passport card may only be used at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda. You will need a passport book for international air travel.

The County of San Diego encourages travelers to apply for a passport book or passport card at the County Administration Center at 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402 in San Diego. Normally, it can take up to six weeks to receive your passport; however for an additional fee you can receive it within two to three weeks if you need to travel. At the County, there are no lines, no hassles and free two-hour parking! No appointment is necessary. First-time applicants will pay \$45 for adult cards and \$35 for children. Service is offered from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Additional information is available at www.sandiegocob.com.

Board of Supervisors
Greg Cox, District 1
Dianne Jacob, District 2
Pam Slater-Price, District 3
Ron Roberts, District 4
Bill Horn, District 5

Chief Administrative Officer
Walter F. Ekard

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Online Banking: It's Safe and Easy!

For those of you who have never tried online banking, you really do not know what you are missing. It is such a convenient way to pay your bills, keep track of the money in your accounts and make your investments. The beauty of it is that you can do it from a personal computer on secure Web sites with passwords and layers of protection for your money.

Online banking offers you many services beyond simply paying the bills. You can also receive your statements this way instead of having them mailed to you. You can transfer money between your various accounts, so all you need to keep in your checking account is enough to pay your bills until you transfer funds in to pay the next bill. And that allows you to keep your money in your savings account, where it can collect the maximum amount of interest. You can even use online services to apply for loans and open certificates. These applications are all available online.

Other reasons to use online services: you'll never get a check returned to you because bank personnel could not read your handwriting or because you wrote the wrong information on the check; you won't have to worry about being late with payments; and you can set up automatic online payments or pay the bill when it is due and not worry about stamps, envelopes and the post office. That means having to work late, getting sick, or a trip out of town will never again make your payment late.

If the only reason you haven't tried online banking is because you are worried about your bank's Web site security, you aren't alone. However, some experts consider online banking to be even more secure than traditional methods because you won't have papers with sensitive information in your house or in the mail. Check that the site is secure whenever conducting business online, never send passwords or account information in e-mails, and be sure to log out when you've finished your session. If you follow those practices, the chance of your account being compromised by an identity thief is very small.

San Diego County Credit Union offers online banking services, including Bill Payer Plus and eStatements. For more information visit www.sdccu.com, call (877) 732-2848 or visit any of its 26 branch locations.

San Diego County Credit Union's Kearny Mesa Branch – at 5555 Overland Ave. – is open during construction at the County Operations Center. Please pardon the dust! Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

County Steps into Social Media

You can now follow County of San Diego news and events on the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter – and view County videos on YouTube, too.

On Facebook, simply search for County of San Diego. Once you become a “fan,” the County's updates will appear regularly in your regular news feeds from your “friends.”

On Twitter, search for “SanDiego-County” and become a follower. You'll receive postings on news stories and events at County libraries and parks.

To see County-produced news and features on YouTube, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/countysandiego>.

The pages on these sites are managed by the County's Department of Media and Public Relations. Questions? E-mail us at CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov.



Aspiring filmmaker Kevin Vigil works as a Library Associate with the County's El Cajon Library branch. Kevin's film “Paletas” was accepted and played at this year's Latino Film Festival here in San Diego. Kevin has other stories he has written and is excited about filming those stories in the future.

for a qualifying criminal violation. Qualifying incidents include leash law violations, animals left unattended in cars and other minor neglect-type infractions. Attendees are charged \$100 for the course, which covers the cost of providing the class.

The District Attorney's Office is in the process of expanding availability for the program, which is currently only available within the City of San Diego's jurisdiction. Based on the current caseload within the City of San Diego, it is anticipated that one class will be held each month, alternating between evening and weekend schedules, with attendance averaging six to 10 violators.

Benefits of the program include providing an alternative to traditional punitive actions, which place demands on court resources and do little to impact owner behavior; providing cost savings to DAS, the courts, the DA's Office and the City Attorney's office; reducing pet owner animosity; and providing an opportunity to disseminate helpful information to owners, potentially reducing the number of future violations. Other intangible benefits include potential reductions in the number of future incidents which may put people and animals at risk, and cost savings for medical expenses and civil litigation.

County Launches Summer Beach Water Monitoring Program

County Environmental Health Officials began monitoring the water quality of local beaches last month, just in time for the start of the summer beach season.



Environmental Health Specialist Ewan Moffat collects a sample of water from Mission Bay.

The State's budget crisis threatened to delay the start of the program, which has been operated by the County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) since 1999. However, the County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal from Supervisor Greg Cox in March to temporarily fund the program.

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"This is no April Fool's joke – we are kicking off our beach water monitoring program just as the weather starts to heat up in San Diego," Cox said of the program's April 1 start.

"With this program, we will be able to monitor our beaches so beachgoers can know that they can jump right in 'cause the water is fine."

A total of 60 samples will be taken and analyzed each week from beaches and bays along San Diego's coastline. DEH will issue alerts and advisories to warn the public and the media about elevated bacteria levels, sewage spills, or urban runoff.

"Surfers and swimmers have come to rely on our beach water monitoring program and we are very excited to get this program going again," said DEH Director Gary Erbeck.

The program is mandated by State law, when funded by the State. The State has reimbursed the County for program operating costs in years past. Last year, the Governor vetoed funding for the statewide beach program. However, Supervisor Cox led a regional effort that convinced the State Water Resources Control Board to appropriate up to \$1.9 million statewide from Proposition 13 funds for the local programs.

Investment & Retirement Symposium This Month

San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister is pleased to announce the next Investment & Retirement Symposium presented by the Deferred Compensation Division. This evening symposium will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at the Four Points Sheraton from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Come and hear our outstanding special guest speakers. Renowned local real estate analyst Gary H. London, president of the London Group Realty Advisors, will give us an overview of San Diego's real estate market and how it can impact one of the most expensive investments you might make. Jeff Isaac, San Diego's very own "Lawyer in Blue Jeans" will help navigate through ways of protecting your assets from disappearing to taxes.

The cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Registration by May 15 is required. Dinner and parking are included with your paid registration. Great giveaways and prizes too!

For registration and information, call the Deferred Compensation Department at (619) 531-5840 or go to www.myDCplan.com under "Save the Date."

25 Random Things About ... MaryAnn Merrell

Here's MaryAnn's 25 Things:

1. I grew up in rural Wisconsin and there was only one stoplight in town at the time, called the "Stop and Go" light by nearly everyone who lived there.
2. I was born left-handed, but the nuns at the Catholic school didn't believe me or my parents, and they used rulers to convince me otherwise.
3. My dad had a horse ranch called Skyview and he bred Arabian horses. One of the foals from his prize stallion was purchased by Wayne Newton.
4. I love warm bread pudding with fresh whipped crème.
5. I met my husband in Manzanillo while I was carrying a bag of trash down the dock. He jumped off of the back of the boat he was working on to carry it for me.
6. My favorite vacation was driving up the coast of Maine with my sister Patty and exploring the lighthouses and eating lobsters every day.
7. The most fun job that I ever had was cooking on a drift fishing boat in the Bahamas, especially on the snorkeling and shelling trips.
8. I used to love watching football with my dad. He would jump off of the couch and throw his handkerchief on the floor when the refs made a bad call.
9. I wish I had more time to volunteer. I'd take my dog Rusty to hospitals and nursing homes to cheer people up. He's really good at it.
10. My first boat job was on a treasure salvage ship. I spent a year off the island of Dominica on an old Navy minesweeper called The James Bay.
11. I regret not getting my AA degree. I'm only missing an algebra credit. I was accepted into Florida Atlantic University as an honor student and never finished.
12. I was the SCUBA Instructor's Assistant at Florida Keys Community College and got paid to go swimming and diving.
13. The benefits working for USAirways were awesome: free flights in first class, a month's paid vacation, freedom to trade shifts and adjust start times and no co-pays for medical or dental. (No wonder the airlines went bankrupt!)
14. I didn't get married until I was 37 years old. Both of my parents walked me down the aisle to Elvis Presley's song "Love Me Tender."
15. I held a 100 Ton Coast Guard Captain's License for 15 years.
16. I'd like to work in a County library helping people learn how to use the computers to make their lives easier.
17. I love Wisconsin in the fall, not so much in the winter.
18. My favorite movie of all time is "Lonesome Dove."
19. I moved to Oregon by myself when I was 18 without knowing a soul.
20. In my travels in Europe, I thought the people in Ireland were the friendliest, the scenery in Norway the prettiest and the food in Spain the most delicious.
21. My mom was the kindest person. She never raised her voice or said a harsh word about anyone. All six of us kids would have done anything for her.
22. My dad was a Marine and he didn't believe in kids sleeping in – ever! He wanted us up by sunrise to do chores. He raised his voice a lot.
23. Both of my parents and one of my sisters have died in the last 12 years. I'll miss them as long as I live.
24. If I had the money I would buy a small inn on the coast and cater to people that love to travel with their dogs.
25. I love to go out to a really nice dinner at a restaurant where the food is so good that it makes you close your eyes for a moment.

San Diego County Outperforms Other Large Counties

In March, California Department of Child Support Services Director Jan C. Sturla awarded San Diego a certificate for excellence in serving the children and families of California as the top performing very large caseload Local Child Support Agency for the Federal Fiscal Year 2008 (October 2007 – September 2008).

The State DCSS annually recognizes the top performing counties based on an average of their ranking in the five federal performance measures.

"This recognition is confirmation that what you do everyday does make a difference for our customers," SDDCSS Director Jeff Grissom said to all DCSS staff. "All your hard work has gotten us acknowledged again!"

Probation Honored for Efforts to Stop Drunk Driving

Last month at a Mothers Against Drunk Driving luncheon, Assemblywoman Lori Saldana presented Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins with a certificate of recognition honoring the Probation Department for its efforts to stop drunk driving through the use of an alcohol monitoring device, which detects alcohol use 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The department has been using the device for about two years now and has found it helps prevent chronic drunk drivers from using alcohol.

The device fits on the ankle and detects consumed alcohol through the skin. It sends alerts to the Probation Department when it detects alcohol use, allowing officers to respond.

The department has found that very few people who wear the device use alcohol while wearing it because they know they will be arrested. MADD's annual recognition luncheon recognizes law enforcement, prosecutors and community volunteers who've made a strong contribution to stop drunk driving, support victims, and prevent underage drinking.

County Auditor Earns International Award for "Risky" Article

Jim Pelletier of the Auditor & Controller's Office was recently recognized for an outstanding literary contribution in the field of internal auditing. His article, entitled "Adding Risk Back into the Audit Process," was submitted and published in the magazine *Internal Auditor* in 2008. Then the article was chosen by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) to receive the John B. Thurston Award,

a recognition given annually for an article judged to be the outstanding paper in the field of internal auditing.

Jim will accept his award at the 2009 IIA International Conference, held this year in Johannesburg, South Africa. Established in 1941, the IIA is an international professional association that serves as the internal audit profession's global voice, recognized authority, acknowledged leader, chief advocate and principal educator. Members work in internal auditing, risk management, governance, internal control, information technology audit, education and security in private companies and public agencies.

County's Senior Fitness Programs Receive Accolades

The MetLife Foundation is awarding the Silver Age Yoga program a \$2,500 prize as one of three recipients of their 2009 Older Volunteers Enrich America Award. Nominated by Aging & Independence Services (AIS), Silver Age Yoga increases participants' strength, balance, energy and overall health through physical activity and education. The program also focuses on improving chronic health conditions and fall prevention for seniors.

The Journal of Active Aging recently profiled the AIS Feeling Fit Program, which is designed to increase physical fitness and social interaction among older adults. The article stated that the program excels at reaching out to a diverse population, particularly elder Hispanics. It was noted that bilingual Feeling Fit instructors are effective in their outreach efforts by going to individual housing complexes to promote their classes. Feeling Fit classes are held at various sites throughout the county and are also regularly featured on the County's television network, CTN.

Necropsy Nets Dog Owner 180 Days in Jail & 3 Years Probation

A necropsy performed at the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) was instrumental in prosecuting and convicting a man on two counts of animal cruelty.

The body of a Chihuahua suspected of having been abused was submitted to the ADDL by the San Diego Humane Society. ADDL's veterinary staff determined that the dog had severe traumatic injuries, including a bruised lung and damage to its chest and neck.

The Chihuahua had been hospitalized on two occasions for a leg fracture and bruised abdomen. The dog's owner was sentenced to 180 days in jail and placed on three years probation.

Conserving Water at the County's Waterfront Landmark

The Clerk of the Board has been championing energy conservation at the County Administration Center (CAC), significantly reducing electricity usage by 39 percent and gas usage by 21 percent over the past 10 years. Recent efforts have focused on water conservation at the facility, reducing consumption by more than 10 percent in each of the past two years; and, during the first two months of 2009, resulting in a consumption drop by more than 40 percent compared to the same period in 2008.

Outside the CAC, much of the existing ground cover plant materials have been replaced with mulch, while annuals have been replaced with drought tolerant plantings at the wedding arbor and North entrance. In addition, many planter area sprinklers have been converted to a drip irrigation system, ensuring that water is provided directly to plants and eliminating ineffective and wasteful overspray; lawn and garden irrigation is now activated only when needed; and water-retaining and environmentally friendly compost has been used extensively around trees and planters. A comprehensive landscape irrigation plan is currently under development to respond to calls for water rationing. The plan will focus primarily on preserving the historic plantings around the facility.

Water conservation initiatives inside the CAC include the installation of sensor-activated faucets and the replacement of toilets, faucets and showerheads with low water usage devices. A waterless urinal pilot program is underway, with the installation of waterless urinals in three washrooms located on the first, second and third floors. A grant application has been submitted to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which would allow for an expansion of the pilot program throughout the facility via the purchase of 17 additional waterless urinals.

The Clerk of the Board's efforts to conserve limited resources will continue in the years ahead. Use of drought-tolerant plants and materials in CAC landscapes and gardens will increase, as will ongoing monitoring of electricity and gas usage focused on conservation strategies.

Dr. David Kellum (Entomologist/Agriculture, Weights and Measures) *“was being interviewed on KPBS and it was so refreshing to hear a government official not delineating the dire consequences of just about anything.”*

“His expertise about insects made me wonder if I’ve been duped all these years by insecticide manufacturers. His combination of patience, empathy and sort of avuncular kindness made me happy that my tax dollars are so well invested.”

Carol Barrett and Linda Rodgers (Realty Division/ARCC) were commended for *“their professionalism in handling a recent property assessment appeal.”*

“Your staff was pleasant to work with and promptly responded to my inquiries. I would like to specifically acknowledge Linda Rodgers (retired) and Carol Barrett for their dedication to customer service and efficient processing of my appeal.”

KUDOS FOR THE COUNTY LIBRARY
Merri Kelley, Librarian, and Gretchen Hauser, a volunteer (Poway Branch) *“are exceptional when it comes to teaching and being gracious with their students.”*

“As a retired Federal Judge, I have taken computer classes both while with the government and after retiring. None of the teachers that I have ever had can hold a candle to either of them. I hope that the Poway Library and its marvelous staff continue to serve our community. The library is a haven for us all.”

From a customer at the **Santee Branch**:
“Thank you for making computers available for library users. I lost my job 2 months ago and with it went my computer access. Being able to use one at the library is wonderful!”

Jessie Goodwin received positive feedback from a customer of the **La Mesa Branch**:
“Thanks Jesse. Whenever people complain about the government, I always think of the library, which is so well run and tries so hard to help its patrons.”

A customer of the **Lemon Grove Branch** attended a classical guitar concert and commented:
“I’m unemployed right now so I’ve been able to attend the presentations to help release stress. Please continue the outstanding idea of these kinds of programs. It is greatly appreciated.”

KUDOS FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Brenda Garcia was complimented for *“getting the paperwork done on time.”*
“I feel you need to know Brenda was a very sweet, pleasant and professional person to talk to. I really appreciate the help she provided to my mom during her transition to the County of San Diego. She’s a good person and a good worker.”

Mike Nguyen provides *“Excellent Customer Service”* all the time.
“Mike’s concern for his applicants is truly genuine. His understanding for us, the people, is greatly appreciated.”

Katherine Romine *“is a very professional and accommodating representative.”*
“Her response time is excellent. She is courteous, thoughtful and very proficient in her job. During a very tough time, I personally appreciate the respectful professionalism that I have received from Katherine.”

KUDOS FOR THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
Lucila Gardona (Southeast Family Resource Center) *“is a great worker and cares for others’ well-being.”*

Divinia Go (Southeast Family Resource Center) was recognized by a customer for being *“helpful and attentive.”*
“She answered all of my questions and explained everything I was supposed to know very well. She seemed very caring.”

Dawnetta Meshack (Southeast Family Resource Center) impressed a customer by *“going above and beyond what her duties are as a worker.”*
“Ms. Meshack went out of her way to help me, and as busy as I know they are, I really appreciate the fact that she was able to stop and take the time to help me. Thank you and God Bless.”

Olga O’Brien (Maternal Child & Family Health) was acknowledged by a grateful parent for her assistance accessing urgent dental care through the ‘Share the Care’ program.
“I just want to let you know that my child’s treatment has been completed and I want to thank you for all that you have done for her. I really appreciate the help I received from your program. You were so kind.”

The parent of a child served at a recent free preventative dental clinic held by the **Dental Health Initiative/Share the Care Program (Maternal Child & Family Health)** was also grateful for the program.
“Thank you for having this free clinic for the care of kids. It has been very helpful for my child.”

KUDOS FOR THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT
The Staff and Officers of Juvenile Hall received a letter of *“sincere appreciation”* from the parent of a detainee whose *“opinion was changed significantly by the friendly, helpful and kind officers at Juvenile Hall.”*
“The level of medical attention he is receiving is better than what he got from me at home! Anyone who spends any amount of time watching your officers interact with the detainees can see that they like the kids and are motivated to help them. Whatever it is you are doing – keep doing it.”

Officer Brian Day was commended for the *“exceptional presentation he made to the Law Enforcement Administration class.”*
“What a fantastic speaker and role model! He gave us information about his background, training, experiences and the career opportunities in your department. The County Probation Department is very fortunate to employ such an experienced professional.”

Ver•ba•tim

Officer Isabel Brown and her crew provided great service while cleaning up a neighborhood and one of the residents wanted the County to know about it.

"Officer Brown was exceptional and her crew worked hard and was very respectful. I was very impressed with how the neighborhood looked afterward. The clean-up was really needed. Thank you for a job well done."

Officers Allison Garcia and Michelle Thomas "are absolutely professional and what the Probation Department should exemplify."

"These two employees take pride in their jobs and do their very best on each and every case. They need to be commended for their hard work and their upbeat personalities when all around us is gloomy."

Officer Esmeralda Solozano and the Staff of the South Bay Office "should be commended for doing a fantastic job."

"My experience with this office has been nothing but pleasant. I am treated like a human being and not just another criminal. Whenever I have questions or concerns, someone always goes out of their way to provide the information I need. Please extend my gratitude and thanks to the entire staff."

Officer Steve Blatchford (Work Projects) made a positive impression on a community member while performing weed abatement on her street.

"His work crew was well supervised and he was very professional in his interaction with me. I was concerned that they would remove the flowers that we had planted to beautify a vacant lot. He recognized my concerns and had the crew clear the overgrowth without harming our flowers."

KUDOS FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Alex Abare was thanked by a grateful mother for "all that you have done for my son."

"Your interview was extremely helpful and beneficial to get him processed and entered into the Teen Challenge Program. Through your coordinated efforts this was a seamless transition. Thank you for your excellent follow-up that took him where he wanted and needed to go."

Steven Carroll, Laura Arnold and Michael Owens were thanked for giving one of their clients "a second chance in life."

"Since I left prison I successfully completed drug treatment and am now off parole. I am currently attending Palomar College and truly doing something different with my life. I thank you all for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to move forward with my life."

KUDOS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

Sandra Alfaro is "a prime example of an excellent case-worker."

"Sandra was very helpful and courteous. She explained very clearly the options and answered all of my questions. Sandra was knowledgeable, friendly and to the point, and all with a smile!"

The entire department received a "heartfelt thank you" from a happy custodial parent.

"I honestly didn't have much faith in the system, but my case was handled appropriately and diligently. I am sure the job is not easy, especially with all of the recent budget cuts. I thank any and everyone that had anything to do with the opening of my case. I am elated!"

"Carmen Castillo and the staff of Child Support Services are very kind, cordial and responsible. I would like to congratulate your personnel for being so efficient and helpful."

KUDOS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Robert Murillo and his staff (Vector Control) were complimented by a representative from Point Loma Nazarene University for providing "exemplary customer service."

"PLNO had an excellent experience with the County's Vector Control Department. We had some standing water on campus and they came out quickly and helped us identify the problem. Robert Murillo was very helpful and responsive. He was expedient in returning my calls and he walked me through the entire process. We were very impressed."

Susan Hahn (Hazardous Materials) was invited to represent the County on the California Source Reduction Committee for her "outstanding work in supporting and promoting pollution prevention."

"I know that your insight, experience and wisdom would be a great benefit to achieving California's pollution prevention goals and objectives."

Retirements

Benjamin V. Abrena (Sheriff)
 Susan Almaguer (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Susan G. Banner (Superior Court)
 Karen K. Barch (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Patricia A. Burke-Jennings (Superior Court)
 Shirley A. Callahan (Sheriff)
 Roy M. Castaneda (Sheriff)
 Timothy A. Chandler (Alternate Public Defender)
 John B. Charnley (Parks & Recreation)
 John R. Condit (Sheriff)
 Carol A. Conner (Superior Court)
 Franco N. Delrosario (Sheriff)
 Cesar M. Diosdado (Sheriff)
 Maria M. Dolan (Superior Court)
 Alexander Dominguez (Sheriff)
 Linda S. Ellis (Sheriff)
 Carol M. Frausto (Superior Court)
 Efrain Garcia (Sheriff)
 Manuela Garcia (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Richard S. Glenn (Purchasing & Contracting)
 Jose J. Gonzales (Sheriff)
 Mary C. Harris (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Guy W. Johnson (District Attorney)
 Jerry R. Keck (Sheriff)

William M. Kemery (Sheriff)
 Martha L. Lee (Health & Human Services Agency)
 L. Matta (Probation)
 Shelley L. McGee (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Kathy J. Morton (Superior Court)
 Robert L. Naranjo (Office of Emergency Services)
 Anthony J. Nares (Sheriff)
 Richard A. Poggemeyer (Medical Examiner)
 Sheila Porter (Sheriff)
 John A. Reiderer (Fleet Maintenance Support)
 Walter Shaw, Jr. (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Patricia V. Smith (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Roger A. Stockstill (Child Support)
 Ghiliamichael Tesfamariam (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Cristina Teves (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Carolyn D. Thompson (Sheriff)
 Carolyn R. Uittenbogaard (District Attorney)
 Bella Veitzman (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Andrea G. Weil (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Michelle C. Winchell (Superior Court)
 Dolores Woodford (Probation)
 Dennis F. Yoshonis (Sheriff)
 Richard A. Zuniga (Sheriff)

In Memoriam

William J. Barton (Municipal Court, 1995)	3/09	Barbara Marcus (Health & Human Services,, 1998)	3/09
Beverly D. Blair (Health & Human Services, 1981)	3/09	James R. McCarty (Health & Human Services, 1988)	2/09
William D. Bray (Probation, 1990)	3/09	Albert C. McLean (Animal Services, 1973)	2/09
William Broughton (Health & Human Services, 1989)	2/09	June D. Moeser (County Marshal, 1971)	2/09
Robert J. Buckner (Agriculture, Weights & Measures, 1978)	3/09	Elvira M. O'Brien (Sheriff, 1983)	3/09
Grace V. Campdoras (Health & Human Services, 1978)	12/08	Sharon Reed (Planning & Land Use, 2003)	2/09
Esther A. Cardall (Health & Human Services, 1981)	1/09	Elizabeth P. Reminick (Health & Human Services, 1974)	3/09
Marina M. Cataroja (Environmental Health, 2003)	3/09	Ana M. Sanchez (Health & Human Services, 2005)	1/09
David W. Drake (Sheriff, 2004)	3/09	Loren L. Schmitz (Probation, 1977)	3/09
Edith D. Drew(Health & Human Services,, 1996)	2/09	Woodrow Smith (General Services, 1986)	2/09
Joye M. Goodwin (Health & Human Services, 1988)	3/09	Edith P. Vivian (Assessor, 1971)	3/09
John W. Johnson (Planning & Land Use, 1986)	2/09	Beth J. Wickler (Health & Human Services, 1986)	2/09
Clarence Kaufman (Public Works, 1993)	2/09	Marilyn A. Wiczynski (Superior Court, 2008)	2/09
Raymond Kentro (Animal Services, 1977)	2/09	Hubert G. Wolff (General Services, 1986)	2/09
Elmer E. Kern (Parks & Recreation, 1972)	2/09	Phyllis J. Worth (District Attorney, 1991)	3/09
Andrew S. Love (General Services, 1983)	2/09	Daniel J. Zack (Public Administrator, 1986)	3/09
Paul R. Lowery (Health & Human Services,, 1993)	2/09		

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of active County employees Barbara Karlin, Health & Human Services Agency, (2/09) and Maria Sarmiento, Health & Human Services Agency, (3/09).”

Service Awards

30 Years

Allene D. Austin (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Susan P. Baker (Sheriff)
 Leslie C. Ceccherini (Sheriff)
 James N. Chavez (Auditor & Controller)
 Margy Fordyce (Sheriff)
 Lane H. Hicks (Auditor & Controller)
 Carlos I. Jacobo (Sheriff)
 Larry L. Kusler (Sheriff)
 Brian P. McCauley (Sheriff)
 Gloria L. Shepard (Sheriff)
 Cynthia Smart-Zeigler (Public Works)
 Cheryl L. Smith (Planning & Land Use)
 Roderick Skannal (Child Support)
 Susan A. Vaughn (Environmental Health)

25 Years

Joan M. Anderson (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Anthony M. Bier (Sheriff)
 Diana E. Dessel (Planning & Land Use)
 Belen G. Durazo (Animal Services)
 Louis A. Chertkow (Parks & Recreation)
 Eulalia M. Chiong (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Soon I. Chu (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Gary O. Floyd (Sheriff)
 William O. Giltner (Sheriff)
 David R. Gould (Sheriff)
 Michael M. McNally (Sheriff)
 Jeffrey G. Miller (Sheriff)
 Lucy A. Pacheco (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Angelina S. Pedrano (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)
 Tyrrell L. Perley (Sheriff)
 Norman Triplett (Public Defender)
 Helen M. Varga (District Attorney)

20 Years

Maria Andrews (Sheriff)
 Martha L. Armenta (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Margo M. Beamon (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Brenda S. Belden (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Rachel E. Borrego (District Attorney)
 Donald R. Bruders (Environmental Health)
 James J. Campbell (Public Defender)
 Raul Carrillo (Auditor & Controller)
 Lorenza C. Craig (Public Defender)
 Dan H. DeLeon (Probation)
 Ricky E. Derkatz (Facilities Management)
 Anthony D. Dillard (Sheriff)
 Matthew J. Ellis (Sheriff)
 Kathryn Gayle (District Attorney)
 Barbara G. Gilbert (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Thuy K. Hoang (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)
 Anna L. Holmes (Sheriff)
 Juliana B. Humphrey (Public Defender)
 Alan C. Kessler (District Attorney)
 Cheryl Jones (Planning & Land Use)
 Mercedes M. Jones (Housing & Community Development)
 Kathleen S. Moser (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Erlinda C. Olaes (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)
 Thomas S. Palmer (Public Defender)
 Maryanne L. Salini (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Jill F. Serrano (Sheriff)
 Rosemarie E. Simpson (Human Resources)
 Klaus H. Steuermann (Health & Human Services Agency)
 Steven I. Wadler (Alternate Public Defender)