



## CTN Videographer/Producer Becomes A Citizen After 24 Years

When Dominic Fulgoni was 12, his family moved from a small, English town to Southern California, the land of Hollywood and Disneyland – the place where anyone who became famous in Britain went to live.

He loved their new home in Orange County, surrounded by horse trails and nurseries that eventually gave way to housing tracts, and in his new school, his accent was cool.

“They wanted you to say bad words in your English accent,” Fulgoni said.

At 18, Fulgoni became a resident alien. He attended college, married and had two children. He now works as a videographer and producer for the County Television Network.

Last month, he became a U.S citizen.

“After having kids I thought it was something I should do so I could participate in the democracy in which we live,” Fulgoni said.

“I could do everything but vote,” he said.

Fulgoni and hundreds of other new citizens were sworn in at Golden Hall downtown on Nov. 19.



*Dominic Fulgoni celebrated his citizenship with his children, Sofia, 8, and Michael, 6.*

Fulgoni, 36, began the citizenship process earlier this year.

He was asked to answer a series of questions about his work and travel history, and whether he had ever been caught for prostitution.

Next he had fingerprints taken, and his background checked.

After a few months, he was given his date for his

citizenship interview at the federal building downtown.

During the interview, he was asked about Benjamin Franklin, the Declaration of Independence, why Americans celebrate Independence Day and why the colonists came to America.

When he arrived for the swearing in, the line stretched down the block and around the corner. At 7:30 a.m. the line started moving slowly and soon Fulgoni added his green card (it's actually pink) to a growing pile.

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## Rescued Border Puppy Finds Loving Family and Gives Back

Following her rescue at the U.S. Mexico Border on July 2, Spirit continues to improve. The Department of Animal Services' adoption partner, Four Paws Coonhound Rescue and Friends, fostered Spirit while she recovered from medical treatment for her horrendous injuries. In search of a good family for Spirit, Four Paws reviewed many adoption applications, but one stood out -- Loree Shirazi and her daughter, Danielle.

Shirazi wanted a dog to accompany her to work at her shop, 'Paw Pleasers' in San Diego, while Danielle wanted a small, non-purebred dog with upstanding ears to train as a therapy dog. Spirit was a perfect match and is now living with the Shirazi family.

Spirit spends her days as the official taste tester for "Tail Wagging Treats" at Shirazi's store. In addition, Spirit's new family is giving back by printing dog rescue-themed T-shirts with Spirit's picture and selling them at 'Paw Pleasers' to benefit Four Paws' rescue efforts.

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*Spirit, shown here with a favorite toy, is recovering from the injuries she sustained last summer when she was beaten.*

## Golden Guardian Helps the County Prepare for the Big One



The phones started ringing about 10 a.m. on Nov. 13, around the same time that sirens sounded and thousands of schoolchildren across San Diego County crawled under their desks.

It was the start of the Great Southern California ShakeOut, the statewide public earthquake drill, and Golden Guardian 2008, the disaster preparedness exercise involving more than 100 local, state and federal agencies. About 300 County employees were notified by phone and e-mail to report for duty.

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**Adoptions Photography Exhibit hosted by County Library**

The Spring Valley Branch of the San Diego County Library hosted the County Adoption Services "Heart Gallery" photography exhibit throughout October. The exhibit, featuring portraits of adoptable children who live in foster care, moved to the Rancho Santa Fe Branch Library in November. Professional photographers volunteered their time and expertise to take the pictures.

The purpose of the exhibit is to raise awareness for the need for adoptive families, as well as to promote the need for children in the foster care system to have permanent homes and families. To further promote adoption, the Library plans to distribute a large quantity of the annual 12-month Adoptions Calendar to its library branches as a free giveaway to the public.

**Cleanup in Crest**

The County's Code Enforcement Division pleased Crest residents and protected the public's safety by hauling more than 60 truckloads of junk and waste from an overrun property.

The 11-day, \$79,500 job was one of Code Enforcement's biggest abatements in recent years. In all, Code Enforcement crews lugged away nine 40-yard bins of material, 60 30-yard truckloads of trash, five broken-down vehicles, some inoperable equipment and about 100 old tires. One yard equals about 8,000 gallons of material.

The abatement was conducted on a warrant, and the cost will become a lien on the owner's next property-tax bill. The abatement took two years to be put into motion, and neighbors had complained the area had become a haven for criminal activity in addition to an unbearable junk yard.

One of those neighbors, Margie Schingle, sent an appreciative e-mail to Code Enforcement officers.

"On behalf of the entire street, I want to express our heartfelt thanks to you," Schingle wrote. "We really have our street back. It's nice to have it clean for a while. I still can't believe how much junk was hauled out of there."

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*In Walt's Words*

**Holiday Trivia Time**

After a year's hiatus – and seeing those ads on TV for the new edition of Trivial Pursuit - I've decided to bring back the traditional annual holiday trivia contest. For those who have recently joined the County, and to remind those of you who may have forgotten, here's how it works.

Every County employee can enter the contest. All you need to do is answer the 10 questions below and send them to [countynews@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:countynews@sdcountry.ca.gov) by 5 p.m. Dec. 8. The winner will be the first person, according to time-stamped email records, who answers all the questions correctly.

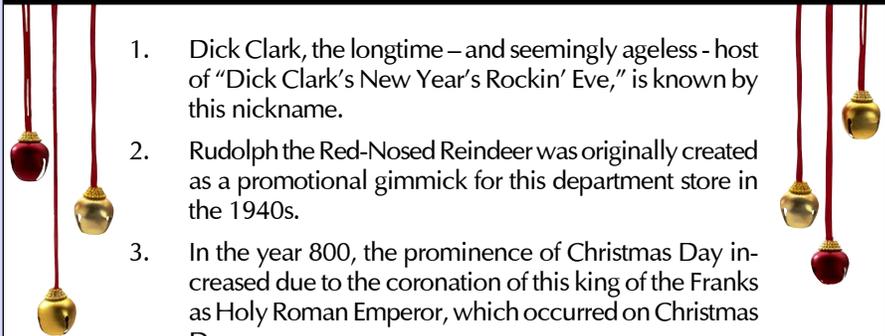
This also will be the person who receives a treat, personally delivered by me, along with a holiday song, sung by me. All of it will be captured on film for January's edition of County News, when I will also divulge the answers.

I've tried to be inclusive in this sampling of holiday stumpers, and you'll see that questions are in the form of answers, a la Jeopardy! So when you send in your responses, please submit them in the form of a question. Got it? And please, remember not to use County working hours to hunt for your answers.

Good luck, and Happy Holidays!

*Walt*

Walt Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer



1. Dick Clark, the longtime – and seemingly ageless - host of "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve," is known by this nickname.
2. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was originally created as a promotional gimmick for this department store in the 1940s.
3. In the year 800, the prominence of Christmas Day increased due to the coronation of this king of the Franks as Holy Roman Emperor, which occurred on Christmas Day.
4. The primary axis of this ancient monument in Britain appears to have been aligned on a sight-line to frame the winter solstice sunset.
5. The 1947 classic movie "Miracle on 34th Street" centers on this famous department store.
6. It is a generous tradition of this celebration for a family to set a place at the dinner table in case a hungry stranger wanders in.
7. During Kwanzaa, these colors honor people, their struggle and the future.
8. Eggnog, or Nog – a variation on the word Grog, a drink made with rum – was first consumed by Americans here in 1607.
9. In this country, it's customary to dine on carp on New Year's Eve, and slip a few of the fish's scales into your wallet for good luck in the coming year.
10. It's about one pound for the average American during the holiday season.

**CTN Videographer/Producer Becomes A Citizen**

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A judge recognized each of the 83 countries represented in the crowd, and then led everyone in renouncing their allegiance to their native countries.

"At the end of it, he just said, 'Congratulations, you're in.'"

After saying the Pledge of Allegiance, Fulgoni posed for photos with his family, including wife, Tiffany, daughter Sofia, 8, and son Michael, 6.

Then it was off to Corvette Diner for a classic American lunch.

"It didn't feel that transformative for me because I've been here so long," Fulgoni said.

The day may have had a stronger impact on Fulgoni's daughter.

"Every time I did something for the rest of the day, Sofia would say: 'That's the first time you did that as a citizen!'"

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**County's General Plan Update Takes Major Step**

The County's first complete overhaul since the 1970s of its master growth and development plans leapt forward in November when the Department of Planning and Land Use released its draft General Plan Update for public comment.

The final plan is expected to be brought to County Supervisors for approval in 2010. The public has 60 days to comment on the draft plan, which would clear the way to complete the plan's Environmental Impact Report, a process that could take 18 to 24 months.

General plans guide the development of the communities they represent. In general, they set the philosophy and policies that determine what gets built where – how communities will accommodate growth while preserving character and protecting what the community values.

The General Plan Update aims to improve the existing general plan by balancing growth with the need to control traffic congestion, protect the environment and ease the strain on essential services such as water supplies and fire protection.

The Update proposes to reduce the growth that could occur under the existing plan by 15 percent. But it would still allow 168,000 to 198,000 more people to live in unincorporated communities that now house about 492,000 people.

The draft plan was developed with broad public input from builders, business owners, environmentalists, farmers, homeowners, landowners and renters.

**North County Hosts Award-Winning Intergenerational Games**

North County kids and seniors participated in the award-winning "Intergenerational Games" on October 29. The games, held in San Marcos for the first time, were a joint project of the North County Action Network and Twin Oaks Elementary School.

The event featured 30 older adults and 30 fifth-graders participating in 12 activities focusing on exercise, nutrition, trivia games, disaster preparedness and safety. Among the featured activities were Frisbee golf and soccer, the food pyramid and veggie toss, and the challenging "Are You Smarter than a Fifth-Grader?" game.

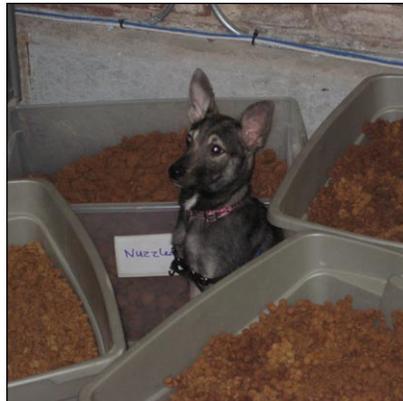
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**Rescued Border Puppy**

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Because Spirit's medical issues are not completely reconciled, she maintains a status of 'permanent foster' dog with the Shirazi family. There is a small chance that her leg might require further surgery if it does not grow normally. In the meantime, the Shirazi family has become partners in her recovery process and will officially adopt her once she receives medical clearance.

Spirit was originally brought to the County Animal Shelter in Bonita. The Department of Animal Services will continue to seek extradition for the abuse suspect; which can often be a lengthy and complicated process.



*Spirit guards the food at the store her new owner owns.*

**Golden Guardian Helps the County Prepare**

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"This is a drill," one of the messages began.

"The County of San Diego Emergency Operations Center has been activated due to an earthquake affecting San Diego County.



*Shelter workers at the County's mock shelter at CSU-San Marcos aid a volunteer playing the part of an earthquake survivor.*

Please report to the Emergency Operations Center. Parking will not be available inside the secured gate area. Public parking is available at building 2, or along Complex Street, or at the County Court. This is a drill."

The drill simulated a 7.8 magnitude earthquake along the southern portion of the San Andreas Fault causing massive amounts of damage, injuries and deaths, most of them in neighboring counties. The exercise was based on a scenario described by a group of scientists, who say that a catastrophic earthquake is inevitable in Southern California.

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## HHSA Tests Children for Lead Poisoning

In a remarkable demonstration of teamwork, the HHSA's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) and the Central Region Public Health Center conducted a lead testing event that looked more like an emergency drill than a community screening.

Central Region Public Health Nurse Manager Bonnie Copland recognized an ideal opportunity for interagency collaboration when CLPPP Community Health Promotion Specialist Theresa Gonzalez contacted her requesting clinic space to conduct lead testing during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Oct. 19 – 25.



The County also hosted lead-testing in National City, Escondido, Chula Vista and Oceanside during the week. Toys, ceramic ware, candy and chips of dried paint all are potential hazards to children if they contain lead paint. The only way to know if children have been exposed to lead is through a blood test.

Lead poisoning may not be immediately apparent in children, and can sometimes be the cause of behavioral problems and learning disabilities.

"We've heard a lot lately about the sources of lead, from candy to toys to artificial turf," said Board Chairman Greg Cox. "The best thing parents can do is be informed, and when appropriate, get their kids tested."

As the first to arrive at the Central Region Public Health Center on October 23rd, Central Region PHC Social Service Assistant Lourdes Sandoval rapidly re-

sponded to the anxious crowd, mostly of Head Start families, gathering at the clinic for the blood testing, scheduled to run from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"It was a hot day," Sandoval said. "We had to move the lines several times because of the sun, the cars, and the children running around the parking lot." Under Copland's oversight, additional Center staff arrived.

CLPPP staff Pendeza Green and Armita Santalo were shocked to see the crowd awaiting them. Public Health Nurses Theresa Gonzalez and Diane Rexin soon arrived to provide the much needed assistance.

"It was like a freeway at 5 p.m. on a Friday," Gonzalez said.

Sandoval interpreted for Spanish-speaking families, and other Center staff distributed water and pencils to the children and assisted the crowd as needed. Head Start staff arrived with bottled water and crackers.

"Our goal was to screen kids, it wasn't a matter of time," Green said.

"We gave out 78 numbers but some people left," Sandoval said. Although the event was scheduled until 11 a.m., doors remained open until 2:45 p.m. with 74 children tested.

CLPPP offers resources on lead poisoning prevention, lead sources, and testing and home remodeling information. If you have questions about lead poisoning prevention, please call (619) 515-6694.



## Buying a Car Takes Some Planning

Auto financing is something that most people have done and will do in the future. It takes knowledge of money, budgets and even long-term planning. Nearly everyone can afford to finance the purchase of a car -- but not everyone can finance the purchase of the same car. Therefore, be aware of your budget constraints and what you need in a vehicle before beginning the process of auto financing.

Here are three easy steps that will help you with your next auto financing need:

**Know your financial limits.** It's essential that you're aware of your financial limits when you finance the purchase of a car. Before you start looking for a car, work out a budget for what you can actually pay. You also will have to decide whether to make a down payment on the vehicle. Your financial obligation will continue for several years after you buy a car. Do you have the income to support a sizeable loan?

**Pick your car.** Make a list of all of the essentials that you will need from your new car, such as reliability, size, gas mileage and low maintenance costs. From there, look for vehicles that match your budget and needs.

**Research loans.** Every lender will offer you a different rate, loan amount, and terms of the loan. Before going to the dealership, research rates for the car you're interested in buying. Don't be afraid to compare rates and terms from different lenders.

San Diego County Credit Union offers a free auto buying service to help you select and finance a new or used vehicle. For more information visit [www.sdccu.com](http://www.sdccu.com), call (877) 732-2848, or talk to a financial services representative at any one of the 25 branch locations.

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County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego. The newsletter is available online at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dmpr](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dmpr) (click on "Employee Newsletter") or via the County's Intranet at CWW. This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

### To contact County News:

Elizabeth Fitzsimons, Editor  
Phone: (619) 595-4513  
Fax: (619) 557-4027  
Mail: 1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 208  
San Diego, CA 92101 (MS A-359)  
E-mail: [CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Volume 30, No. 12 - December 2008

News Makers

**Golden Guardian Helps the County Prepare**  
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*OES Director Ron Lane briefs the Policy Group at the EOC.*

Golden Guardian was the largest, state-sponsored emergency exercise in the nation, and caught the attention of national media such as CNN.

"The Golden Guardian exercise was a great training opportunity that brought together dozens of local, state and federal agencies and private organizations to practice responding to a naturally occurring disaster such as an earthquake," said Ron Lane, director of the County's Office of Emergency Services.

After the simulated earthquake, the County activated its Emergency Operations Center, along with its Medical Operations Center and the Departmental Operations Centers and staff reacted to "injects," simulated news about casualties and damage to infrastructure.

Everyone was expected to react to whatever was thrown their way, including the loss of phones and Internet, which were restored at 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m.

The loss of communication was acutely felt in the Joint Information Center, or JIC, where the County's public information officers disseminate up-to-the-minute updates to the public. Without phones or the Web, the JIC relied on publicizing messages in other ways, such as from a low-flying Sheriff's helicopter, or electronic Caltrans

signs posted along the freeways.

"The exercise was different from the 2007 wildfires because we were able to test our ability to communicate without phones, computers or our normal communications systems," Lane said.

On the second day of the drill, the focus was on setting up two mock shelters for evacuees from neighboring counties. One was at Cal State University San Marcos, the other at Alliant International University in Scripps Ranch. The third day, Monday, was focused on assessing damage from the quake.

As in an actual shelter set-up, shelter workers set up cots, separate areas for pets and people who were sick or injured, as well as a play area for children. They even practiced helping evacuees – volunteers who played the part of injured and traumatized survivors.

"The drill was an eye opening for us since it was so different from our normal County job," said Nanette Encarnacion, one of the shelter managers at the Alliant shelter.

"Just remembering my experience as the first night Shelter Manager at Del Mar Fairgrounds, I wished we had this kind of training before the 2007 Firestorm. Back then, we built the plane while flying it," Encarnacion said.

**DEH Receives Environmental Justice Award**

The Department of Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Program received an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council for its role with the Negocio Verde Environmental Justice Task Force. Susan Hahn, DEH coordinator, received the award on behalf of the County during a conference in Atlanta on October 21.

San Diego's Negocio Verde Environmental Justice Task Force provides free, bilingual compliance assistance and pollution prevention training, primarily in the county's communities that face the greatest environmental justice concerns. Since 2003, the Task Force has trained over 6,500 individuals and promoted interaction between small businesses, local agencies and community members on issues of environmental justice.

**DHR Wins NEOGOV Award**

The Department of Human Resources was awarded Best Managed Implementation - 2008 for its conversion to NEOGOV's online job application system. The County was selected by NEOGOV as the winner out of 15 large agencies. The award was based on a variety of factors, including the speed of the implementation, thoroughness of the business process re-engineering and the team effort by Human Resources, the County Technology Office and Northrop Grumman.

The project was completed on time and under budget in approximately 60 days and was highlighted during a presentation at the NEOGOV annual conference in October.

**Chairman Cox Provides Keynote Address to National Emergency Leaders**

Board Chairman Greg Cox gave the keynote address at the Council for Excellence in Government Forum for the emergency managers of the largest metro areas in the nation. The event, held October 8 and 9 at the Hotel Del in Coronado, was hosted by the Office of Emergency Services.

Also in attendance were the Emergency Management Directors from New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Washington D.C., Miami-Dade, Harris County (Houston), Seattle and San Francisco, along with key leaders from the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA.

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**(North County Hosts Award-Winning Intergenerational Games cont.)**

Sponsored by the County's Aging & Independence Services, the goal of the Games program is to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices for youth and seniors. It also fosters new mentor relationships, as seniors become active in the lives of children.

**Vice Chairwoman Jacob Cuts Ribbon on Expanded Descanso Library**

On October 23, Vice Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and Library Director Jose Aponte cut the ribbon on the newly-expanded Descanso Branch of the San Diego County Library. The 455-square-foot expansion has allowed for the opening of a new community room, conversion of the former community room into a children's room and creation of a "teen space." Other new features include wireless Internet access, additional seating, two early-literacy learning stations for children and an additional public computer.

The Friends of the Library raised \$100,000 for the construction and Vice Chairwoman Jacob provided \$150,000 from District Two Community Project funds. The project also included the installation of a new roof, exterior painting, installation of a more energy-efficient heating/cooling system and paving of the parking lot.

In the 1980's, the Descanso Library was named "America's Second Smallest Public Library" by the American Libraries magazine (the Okracoke Island, N.C. library just inched out Descanso for the dubious honor). The former 192-square-foot library branch is now the Friends of the Library bookstore.

**New Borrego Springs Branch Library Grand Opening**

Supervisor Bill Horn and Library Director Jose Aponte officially opened the Borrego Springs Branch of the San Diego County Library on October 25, during Borrego Days Desert Festival. Honorary Mayor Betsy Knaak and Friends of the Library President Jim Roller also spoke.

The Friends of the Borrego Springs Library helped secure the new location at the east end of The Mall Shopping Center. At 3,787-square-feet, the new facility is more than double the size of the former branch, which was located at the west end of the same shopping center.

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**County's BARK Helps Protect Against Bites**

It can happen at the park, or while walking to school or playing in the yard: a strange dog wanders up to a child. Would your child know what to do?

Children who have been visited at school by the County's Department of Animal Services would. They'd know how to read a dog's body language to gauge whether it was scared, angry or happy. And they'd know, if the dog was aggressive, to stand like a tree and not make eye contact. And if knocked down, they'd pretend to be a rock until the dog lost interest and left them alone.

"Many of our dog bites are kids, so we're really concerned about safety with children," Animal Services Lt. Heidi Moore said. Through its BARK Dog Bite Prevention Program, Animal Services provides free visits to schools and community centers around the county.

"Our goal is not to scare children, but to teach them how to give space to a dog, and how to respect that dog. Our behaviors can encourage a dog to bite, or they can bring out the best in a dog," Moore said.

Last year, more than 2,000 dog bites were reported to Animal Services. Most dog bites can be prevented, simply by knowing how to act safely in situations involving dogs. Since July 1, more than 220 children have been bitten by dogs.

Through BARK – which stands for Be Aware, Responsible and Kind – children learn **not to:**

- Stick their hand through a fence or a car window to pet a dog.
- Approach a sleeping or eating dog.
- Run from an aggressive dog.
- Play tug-of-war; it's harmful to the dog and teaches it to take items from humans.

"We teach kids what an angry dog looks like and what a scared dog looks like and you never approach these dogs," said Animal Control Officer Robin Sellers.

"We also teach them what a happy dog looks like, but that you never pet a dog without first getting permission."

Recently, Animal Control Officer Robin Sellers brought her German Shepherd, Panzer, to visit students at the Monarch School for homeless and at-risk children.

She showed them a video about how to approach a dog, and to ask the owner for permission to pet it. She also showed them how to stand like trees, with their hands tucked into their armpits and looking straight ahead. She showed them how to drop to the floor and pretend to be a rock, with their heads down and their hands protecting their necks.

Then Sellers put the children to the test.

"You're trees!" she told them. And the children stood bolt upright while Panzer roamed among them in search of treats. Satisfied with the "trees," Sellers then yelled, "You're rocks!" The kids dropped to the floor and Sellers tossed treats in between the kids, reminding them to stay still as Panzer stepped over them.

The students were rewarded in the end with a chance to pet Panzer. But they had to do it right – by asking permission and then putting him on his side and not his face. One by one, the students approached Sellers.

"Is your dog friendly?" they'd ask.  
 "Yes, he is," she'd say.  
 "Can I pet him?"  
 "Yes, you can."



## Dog Bite Statistics

For Fiscal Year 2007-2008, 2,056 dog bites were reported to the County Department of Animal Services. Here is the breakdown:

Child (up to age 12)	423
Teenager (13 to 19 years old)	143
Adult (20 to 55 years old)	825
Elderly (56 years or older)	262
Victims of an unknown age	403
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2,056</b>

Since July 1, 2008, 221 children across San Diego County have been bitten by dogs.

## The County Line

### Your questions answered

**Q:** I'm cooking my first Christmas dinner this year – turkey with all the trimmings. But I don't really know what I'm doing. Help!  
*-- A Nervous Newlywed*

**A:** Well, let's start with the basics: not sickening your family and friends. Every year, the County's Department of Environmental Health provides holiday meal safety tips to the public. They're pretty easy to follow, and doing so will keep everyone from spending the holidays doubled over in pain. (For recipes, please consult your mom, aunt, grandmother or Martha Stewart.)

~ **PLAN:** Plan ahead. Decide how much food can be safely served, taking into account the cooking and refrigerator space. Thinking of defrosting a frozen turkey? Do it in the fridge. A large turkey requires at least 24 hours for every 5 pounds of weight. Get your meat thermometer ready for a busy day.

~ **CLEAN:** Wash your hands before and after handling food. Thoroughly rinse whole raw produce prior to use. Wash the counters, cutting boards and equipment before and after preparing your holiday feast.

~ **SEPARATE:** Keep produce separated from raw meat products. Place turkey on a plate or in a pan at the bottom of the refrigerator to prevent juices from dripping onto other foods while defrosting in the refrigerator. Defrosted, the turkey can be refrigerated for one to two days before cooking. Try using separate cutting boards for meat and fruits or vegetables.

~ **COOK:** Cook turkey and stuffing to 165°F. Use a meat thermometer to ensure proper cooking temperatures are reached. The temperature of a whole turkey must reach 165°F in the innermost part of the thigh. The safest way to cook stuffing is separate from the bird. Germs can thrive in the stuffing ingredients if it is improperly cooked in the turkey. Leftovers should be reheated to 165°F before eating. Gravy should be reheated to a boil and leftovers, if heated, should be thoroughly reheated to 165° F.

~ **CHILL:** Keep cold foods at 41°F or colder. Check the temperature inside your refrigerator. If preparing foods ahead of time, refrigerate to minimize bacterial growth. Cut leftover turkey into small pieces, or slice. Within two hours of cooking, refrigerate the stuffing and turkey separately in shallow containers.

Have questions, need advice? Write to The County Line, at [CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov).

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### (New Borrego Springs Branch Library Grand Opening cont.)

The County signed a five-year lease, with two five-year options to extend. Features include new furniture, a larger children's area, a new teen area, additional seating and more public computers. A community room will allow for more library programs and events for children, teens and adults. The room will also be available for public meetings.

District Five Community Project funds in the amount of \$114,000 augmented Library Funds for the project.

### Marriage Numbers Up in the County

The Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk's office announced record-breaking numbers of marriage licenses issued and ceremonies performed. From June 17, the day same-sex marriages went into effect, through the month of October, there was a 29.84% increase in the total marriage licenses issued and a 44.03% increase in the total number of ceremonies performed over the same period in 2007.

Marriage Licenses	2007	2008	% Increase
June	1,238	1,794	44.91%
July	2,617	3,029	15.74%
August	2,548	3,170	24.41%
September	2,101	2,664	26.80%
October	1,737	2,640	51.99%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,241</b>	<b>13,297</b>	<b>29.84%</b>

Ceremonies	2007	2008	% Increase
June	512	935	82.62%
July	1,120	1,269	13.30%
August	1,039	1,484	42.83%
September	887	1,155	30.21%
October	873	1,539	76.29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,431</b>	<b>6,382</b>	<b>44.03%</b>

## News Makers

### (Chairman Cox Provides Keynote Address cont.)

The forum focused on common homeland security and disaster response issues faced by large metropolitan areas; sharing solutions and best practices. The group toured the County's Emergency Operations Center and went on an in-depth tour of the U.S./Mexican border.

**Minh Nguyen (Family Resource Center/HHSA)** was praised for her help “with the difficult and challenging process of transferring two children from Foster Care into the Adoption system.”

“Many social workers, CPS workers, YMCA Childcare Resources, WIC, Voices for Children and others have been involved in our lives as well, but Minh stands out as one of the brightest stars. She is intelligent, detail-oriented, kind and compassionate, when many other contacts seemed to have lost any warmth they may have had at one time.”

**Charles Wilhelm (Work Projects/Probation)** got high marks for being “courteous, prompt and positive.” He went the extra mile for a customer who came in to register for the work projects program.

“After getting the ‘ok’ from his supervisor, Charles was kind enough to help me enroll after the office had just closed. (He was already in his car to go home for the day.) He cared about all the difficulties that I’ve had coming in to register.”

**Sheila Ligayon (Code Enforcement/DPLU)** was acknowledged for her “excellent work in serving the public” and for “following through quickly and professionally.”

“One instance was a foreclosure next to our house with piles of junk and trash. She immediately contacted the proper bank, and in two days a cleaning crew was out to clean up! Our sincere thanks to you and your employee Sheila.”

**Veronica Molina (South Region HHSA)** makes great impressions on her clients.

“Once again I want to thank Veronica for being helpful and nice to me on the telephone. She is very understanding and kind.” Another compliment came from a mother who wrote a letter on behalf of her child who wanted to thank Veronica for “being so caring and helping her (the child) get the medical attention she needed.”

**Officers Ken Winter and Virginia Girolami (Animal Services)** prompted a couple to write “We’re glad to know that our County has established such a good program to help keep our citizens safe.”

“We had a rattlesnake on our patio and your officers arrived within 20 minutes. They captured the snake and were very knowledgeable, as well as nice and enjoyable to have around.”

**Bortai Shaw (Probation)** was praised by a father who “wanted thank her for all the hard work and effort that she put into (his son’s) case.”

“She is tough with him, but deep down he knows that Bortai has his best interests at heart. I am hopeful he can overcome his addiction and

I firmly believe that her work has had a positive effect on him. I again thank Bortai and everyone in the youth offender program. I know in this case it is making a difference.”

**Dr. Nikos Gurfield (County Veterinarian/AWM)** received a letter of appreciation from the State Department for providing a glimpse of the new San Diego County Medical Examiner & Forensic Center to a foreign emissary.

“On behalf of Mr. Ma Lijia of China and the Department of State, I want to thank you for meeting with him and showing him your new facility. Ma is very envious of your facility and the work which can be done there. I know that this will be an example of what may be possible in China.”

**Mike McCullough (Hazardous Materials/Environmental Health)** was thanked for providing “an exceptional experience” for the students at the School of Science, Connections & Technology.

“Our students really enjoyed the event and gathered a lot of valuable information for their Sophomore Water Project. We will invite you to be a part of those presentations so that you can see what an impact you have made on our students. Thank you for your willingness to get involved in the educational process.”

**Elizabeth Castellanos (Family Resource Center/HHSA)** was recognized for being “extremely courteous and helpful” and “a very pleasant and informative person.”

“Elizabeth went out of her way to help and direct me toward employment opportunities and securing a job to enable me to become self sufficient.”

**Dolores Cruz (Property Assessment/ARCC)** earned a letter of appreciation from a civil engineer who said “she has the voice of an angel.”

“Dolores Cruz projects over the telephone sincerity, truth, caring and concern for her customer. From the very first word she spoke I was at peace knowing that she was going to help me with my problem.”

**Officer Curtis Butts (Work Projects/Probation)** was praised by a SD City School Police Officer for the work that he and his crew did near Baker Elementary cleaning up a homeless camp adjacent to the school campus.

“Your crew did a phenomenal job and we very much appreciate the level of detail that the crew put into clearing the area of debris and trash.”

And more kudos from the City of La Mesa: “Officer Butts and his crew were the best, fastest and cleanest group I have ever worked with!”

**The County Library** truly is ‘Building a Brighter Future’ with extraordinary programs and services. Some of the most popular classes that they offer are the computer and internet classes for beginners.

“I would like to thank the San Diego County Library for all the computer education I have received at the Lakeside Library. Your library has brought my ‘Dark Ages’ computer illiteracy/zero knowledge to a level where I can now find a good job, help my son with his homework and find my own reference materials.”

And from a customer at the Poway Branch: “This place is terrific! I totally appreciate the opportunity to learn and improve my computer skills here.”

**Jim Hutchison (Planning & Land Use)** received an “Excellent” rating by a customer for going out of his way to help research a Tentative Map and find all of the background files that he needed.

“Jim Hutchison was very professional and informative. He was a pleasure to work with.”

**Kim Dinh (Property Assessment/ARCC)** “is a breath of fresh air” according to one of her clients who also wrote to say “I know my estimation of your office is elevated, thanks to the positive and helpful interactions I’ve had with her.”

“She has explained things clearly and never passed off to someone else a question that she could answer, or for which she could find an answer, even if she was busy or the question did not pertain directly to her office.”

**Danielle Porter (Family Resource Center/HHSA)** earned a clients’ appreciation who wrote “to thank Danielle and San Diego County Health and Human Services for the prompt and helpful response to his petition.”

“The food stamps make the difference for my family.”

**Officer Ruben Hernandez (Work Projects/Probation)** received kudos from the road crew supervisor in Alpine for “the wonderful job he and his crew did.”

“I was amazed at how much work was accomplished. Keep up the good work.”

**Vector Control (Environmental Health)** received a nice compliment for helping control the mosquito population.

“I live in Rancho Santa Fe and I was wondering if you did something new this past spring/summer because the mosquitoes were 1000% (my scientific calculation) better. Keep up the good work.”

## Service Awards

### 35 Years

Marsha L. Bettis (Probation)  
 Shelley L. McGee (Health & Human Services)  
 Dawn E. Nielsen (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)

### 30 Years

Rosie L. Bankhead (Health & Human Services)  
 Edward F. Cadena (Health & Human Services)  
 Jose H. Castilleja (Fleet Services)  
 John V. Fondo (Sheriff)  
 Theodore F. Nilsen (Medical Examiner)  
 Blanca E. Pelowitz (Sheriff)  
 Cesar A. Rivas (Health & Human Services)  
 Maria A. Vedar (Sheriff)

### 25 Years

Conrad M. Berlinsky (Sheriff)  
 Patricia A. Bernens (Health & Human Services)  
 Benny S. Cruz (Sheriff)  
 William J. Donahue (Sheriff)  
 Norma O. Evangelio (Child Support)  
 Thomas J. Fitzgerald (Sheriff)  
 David J. Glover (Health & Human Services)  
 Lesia Paine (Health & Human Services)  
 Eugene Palos, Jr. (Sheriff)  
 Mario A. Rubio (Public Works)  
 Clifford J. Savage (Public Works)  
 Josephine M. Subido (Health & Human Services)  
 Mary Lou White (Environmental Health)

### 20 Years

Luana B. Blevins (Health & Human Services)  
 Angelo A. Bomediano (District Attorney)  
 Robert J. Borges (Sheriff)  
 David D. Burkhart (Sheriff)  
 Michael E. Butler (Public Defender)  
 Margo J. Chiu (Health & Human Services)  
 Gloria L. Cosio (Health & Human Services)  
 Sheila M. Dashnaw (Health & Human Services)

### 20 Years continued

Julita Q. Diosa (Purchasing & Contracting)  
 Walfredo A. Don (Health & Human Services)  
 Sharon Y. Douglas (County Counsel)  
 Cesar B. Enriquez (Sheriff)  
 Crissie J. Everett (Child Support)  
 Velia Fematt (Health & Human Services)  
 Barbara M. Hagood (Health & Human Services)  
 Teresa E. Haliburton (Health & Human Services)  
 Emily A. Harmon (Public Defender)  
 Kimberlee A. Hill (District Attorney)  
 Janice Lafreniere (Health & Human Services)  
 Janet L. Lake (Health & Human Services)  
 Sharyn M. Leonard (Public Defender)  
 Ernie D. Lucero (Public Defender)  
 Alice M. Lundy (Child Support)  
 Anna Marquez (Facilities Management)  
 Jeffrey R. Martin (Alternate Public Defender)  
 Pamela J. Mathieu (District Attorney)  
 Mary L. McSwain (Health & Human Services)  
 Mary D. Mitchell (County Counsel)  
 Scott J. Morken (Health & Human Services)  
 Aster T. Mussie (Health & Human Services)  
 James T. Myers (Sheriff)  
 Anna M. Orellana (Health & Human Services)  
 Francisco N. Ortiz (Public Works)  
 Emelita A. Oxina (Health & Human Services)  
 Margaret T. Palechek (Auditor & Controller)  
 Brenda D. Price (Health & Human Services)  
 Gregory S. Rylaarsdam (Sheriff)  
 Carolyn Schramm (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)  
 Ray W. Scott (Sheriff)  
 Kenneth W. Searcy (Health & Human Services)  
 Robert J. Stall, Jr. (Public Defender)  
 William M. Stone (Public Defender)  
 Arturo O. Uribe (Sheriff)  
 Carlos Vasquez (Public Defender)  
 Geraldine M. Washabaugh (Health & Human Services)  
 Robert T. Yanes (Health & Human Services)

## Retirements

David H. Altman (Child Support)  
 Patricia M. Braswell (Health & Human Services)  
 Patricia Chavez-Fallon (Superior Court)  
 Conchita P. Delapaz (Health & Human Services)  
 Florence M. Evans (Health & Human Services)  
 Doreen S. Harlow (Health & Human Services)  
 Sylvia B. Kinter (Superior Court)  
 Doyle W. Krouskop (Sheriff)  
 Edith A. Lozares (Health & Human Services)  
 Rosalie E. Menezes (Superior Court)  
 Perry A. Moyd, Jr. (Sheriff)

LaMar C. Olds (Planning & Land Use)  
 Jung O. Park (Health & Human Services)  
 Emma G. Pineda (Health & Human Services)  
 Franklin F. Puzon (Sheriff)  
 Maria G. Quiroz (Health & Human Services)  
 Lilia S. Reyes (Child Support)  
 Nora Sheker (Health & Human Services)  
 Susan M. Taylor (Health & Human Services)  
 Deborah J. Thomas (Health & Human Services)  
 Maria Velasco (Health & Human Services)

In Memoriam

James B. Anderson (Planning & Land Use, 1986)	10/08	Melvin E. McGlocklin (Transportation, 1978)	10/08
Loren C. Arns (General Services, 1978)	10/08	Estela S. McKenzie (Health & Human Services, 1997)	9/08
Jack Blackwell (Sheriff, 1983)	10/08	Edwin J. Moses (Public Works, 1977)	10/08
Myrna Butler (Sheriff, 2004)	9/08	Charles Murphy (Health & Human Services, 1997)	8/08
Winifred M. Caulfield (Probation, 1979)	9/08	Steven O'Connell (Public Works, 2002)	9/08
Betty K. Coburn (Health & Human Services, 1986)	9/08	Evelyn Orcutt (Edgemoor Hospital, 1974)	10/08
Norma Copeland (Health & Human Services, 1976)	9/08	Joy L. Prince (Health & Human Services, 2005)	9/08
Ralph DePalma (Health & Human Services, 1977)	10/08	Lillian R. Russell (Health & Human Services, 1978)	9/08
Norma J. Durkin (Health & Human Services, 2002)	9/08	Robert P. Shultz (General Services, 1984)	9/08
Mary C. Flores (County Clerk/Recorder, 1987)	9/08	Betty L. Thomas (Health & Human Services, 1979)	9/08
Yvonne Garland (County Clerk/Recorder, 1976)	9/08	George H. Vaughn (Public Works, 2000)	10/08
James E. Harms (Animal Control, 1986)	9/08	Marion J. W. Wanner (Municipal Court, 1994)	9/08
Gerald J. Lonergan (Auditor & Controller, 1986)	10/08	Doris Watrous (Public Works, 1978)	9/08
James R. Looney (Public Works, 1984)	9/08	Charles L. Wooten (Sheriff, 1988)	9/08