

LEADERSHIP SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS



COUNTY OF SOLANO
2008 ANNUAL REPORT

ORGANIZATION CHART

ELECTORATE

Board of Supervisors



Barbara R. Kondylis
District 1



John F. Silva
District 2
Chairman of the Board



James P. Spering
District 3



John M. Vasquez
District 4
Vice Chairman



Michael J. Reagan
District 5



Michael D. Johnson
County Administrator



Quang Ho
Assistant County Administrator



Veronica Ferguson
Assistant County Administrator



Dennis Bunting
County Counsel

County Administrator's Office

Appointed Officials

Health and Public Assistance



Patrick Duterte
Health & Social Services



Pamela Posehn
Child Support Services



William Reardon
Veterans Services



Spencer C. Bole
General Services



Ira Rosenthal
CIO/ROV



Donald Turko
Human Resources

Public Protection



Isabelle Voit
Probation



Jeffrey Thoma
Public Defender



Jim Allan
Ag. Commissioner/
Sealer Weights and Measures

Land Use, Agriculture, Transportation



Birgitta Corsello
Resource Management



Carole Paterson
UC Cooperative Extension



Ann Cousineau
Library

Education

Elected Officials

Public Protection



Gary Stanton
Sheriff/Coroner



David W. Paulson
District Attorney

General Government and Support Services



Marc Tonnesen
Assessor-Recorder



Simona Padilla-Scholtens
Auditor-Controller



Charles Lomeli
Tax Collector/County Clerk
/Treasurer

.....Personnel/Budgetary Controls Only

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



To the Citizens of Solano County,

Over my 12 years on the Board of Supervisors I have continued to become more and more impressed with the ability of this County to soar to new heights. Whether that is with innovative programs to address the needs of residents, or forward-thinking approaches to tackle whatever challenges come our way, the leadership embodied in this organization makes a difference in the lives of the people who live, learn, work and play in Solano County.

This annual report chronicles over 100 different examples of leadership in action. They represent the solid planning that transforms broad policies and programs into real-life solutions for the people this County is charged to serve. And that is ultimately what it is all about – helping people.

There are also examples of the tough decisions leaders have to make to ensure the organization has the resources to address the known needs of today as well as the uncertain demands of the future. During my long tenure in local government, I have seen how the fiscal roller coaster jars the ability of an organization to be effective and efficient. Solano County has shown it has the fiscal leadership needed during a statewide budget crisis and a national economic downturn. It is only with that strong leadership could the County be in the envious position of having sufficient reserves to cushion the financial impact of those uncertainties for the next three to five years.

This concept of leadership goes beyond the policy makers and the senior executives running the County. The success of the County depends on the stalwart leadership that exists at all levels of this organization. The theme of this year's annual report – Leadership: Soaring to New Heights – illustrates what can be accomplished when each individual assumes personal responsibility for getting things done.

I encourage you to read this report with a renewed sense of pride in the 3,000-plus County employees who made these accomplishments possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Silva". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John F. Silva
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

OUR MISSION

To serve the people and to provide a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

OUR VISION

The County of Solano will be locally and nationally recognized for its partnerships and leadership in providing innovative, effective and fiscally responsive services that result in the highest quality of life for its residents.



FROM THE SOLANO COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MANAGER'S PRINCIPLES

We are leaders; we are personally and professionally accountable for our actions; our chief function is to serve the best interest of those who reside and work in Solano County; we value teamwork and take pride in working for the County of Solano.

OUR VALUES

Integrity

Be open and honest, ethical and fair

Dignity

Treat all persons with respect

Excellence

Provide quality, integrated, sustainable and innovative public service

Accountability

Take ownership, be fiscally responsible and result-driven

Leadership

Be personally responsible and a positive example for others

To the Citizens of Solano County,

The 2008 Annual Report outlines a year filled with significant accomplishments and prestigious recognition. This is important to note in a year that was marred by protracted State budget negotiations and a serious economic downturn, both of which significantly reduced the resources needed to get the job done here.

I am proud to report that County employees stepped up to the challenge of limited resources and continued to deliver the highest quality of service possible, and in some areas providing even more as the demand for services increased. Our list of accomplishments this year include:

- Adopting the update of the Solano County General Plan
- Improving customer service with the launching of the 211 referral service, the Solano311 Customer Service Center, a Benefits Action Center for social services clients, and Customer Connect for child support payments
- Starting construction on a new social services campus in Vallejo and public health and forensic laboratories in Fairfield
- Dedicating a solar array/school bus parking structure project that made the County the No. 1 green energy producer in Solano County
- Beginning the master planning process for the Nut Tree Airport and our Animal Care Facilities
- Giving residents a way to get 20% or more in discounts on prescription drugs
- Hosting the first countywide Youth Summit and our fourth Economic Summit

To achieve this, County employees had to actively use our core organizational values on a daily basis. Only with Integrity, Dignity, Excellence, Accountability and Leadership could Solano County employees have fulfilled their mission of serving the people and providing a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play. They demonstrated the leadership needed to soar to new heights.

On behalf of all the County employees, volunteers and community partners, I want to thank the citizens of Solano County for your continued support. We look forward to continuing the task of ensuring this organization, which so often stands as a model throughout the state, is able to adapt to whatever challenges the future may bring.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Johnson
County Administrator

STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION
GOALS
PERFORMANCE MEASURES
OBJECTIVES
INDICATORS

Serve the people and provide a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play

Responsible & Sustainable Land Use

Viable Agricultural Industry

Comprehensive Update of County General Plan for 2030

Increase farm gate production by 5% by 2012.
.....
Consensus on updated General Plan.

- Crop Report
- Fallow Land
- New Planting
- Passage of Measure T

Health & Well-Being

Obesity Rate

Healthy Children

Reduce the obesity rate for County employees by 5% by 2010.
.....
Increase percentage of County employees engaging in physical activity by 2010.
.....
Increase number of children and adults who engage in physical activity by 10% by 2010.
.....
Increase health outcomes for children 0-5 by 2010.

- County Employee Weight Change
- Wellness Challenge
- CHIS Fitness-Gram in Pilot Schools
- First 5
- Baby First Solano Measures of Full-term Births & Optimum Birth-weight Births
- Healthy Kids: Children 0-5 with Health Insurance

Maintain a Safe Community

Felony Crime Rate

Reduce the recidivism rate of adults age 18-25 in first felony pilot program by 10% by 2012.
.....
Reduce the recidivism rate of adults & juveniles participating in drug courts by 20% by 2012.

- Referral Follow-throughs
- Decrease in Failures to Appear
- Fewer Positive Drug Tests
- Adult Participants
- Juvenile Participants
- Family Participants

Invest In & For The Future

Customer Satisfaction

Service Responsiveness, Improvement & Resiliency

Workforce Development

Achieve target satisfaction rates for County services.
.....
Establish long-term management plans for services, assets and equipment by end of FY 2009/10.
.....
Develop a comprehensive plan to address the County's current and future workforce needs.

- Customer Survey Results
- 311 Calls
- Customer Comment Cards
- Fiscal Wellness
- Completion of Department Template on Continuity of Operations
- Percent of Funded Plans Completed
- Recruitment Cycle
- Vacancy Rate
- Probation Retention Rate
- Employee Survey Results
- Tuition Reimbursement Requests

IN SERVICE BEYOND THE COUNTY

The men and women serving in leadership roles in Solano County are also called upon to serve in leadership roles at the regional, state, and national level, expanding their leadership skills to the benefit of Solano County residents.

Board of Supervisors

Chairman John Silva: California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Administration of Justice Policy Committee and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee.

Vice Chairman John Vasquez: NACo Arts and Cultural Committee, NACo Human Services and Education Steering Committee, CSAC Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee, and Co-chairs the National Association of Latina and Appointed Officials/Robert Woods Foundation Leadership for Healthy Communities Committee.

Supervisor Barbara Kondylis: Association of Bay Area Counties (ABAG) Executive Board and its Legislative and Governmental Organization, Finance and Personnel, and Bay Area Estuary Project Implementation committees.

Supervisor Jim Spring: Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Supervisor Mike Reagan: CSAC Board of Directors and its Housing, Land Use and Transportation Committee, Economic Development Policy Committee, and Water and Flood Control Task Force; Delta Protection Commission; Delta Long-Term Management Strategy for Dredging Executive Committee; ABAG Bay Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee, and Bay Area Coalition of Counties.

Senior Management

County Administrator **Michael D. Johnson:** NACo Technology Committee and the California Sex Offender Management Board.

Assistant County Administrators **Veronica Ferguson and Quang Ho:** NACo Finance and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee.

Auditor-Controller **Simona Padilla-Scholtens:** Vice President for the State Association of County Auditors and its Legislative, Accounting Standards and Budget committees.

District Attorney **Dave Paulson:** Past President of the California District Attorneys

Association (CDAA), Co-chairs the CDAA Prison Crimes Committee, California Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Chairs the Chapman University School of Law Master of Law program in prosecutorial science.

Chief Probation Officer **Isabelle Voit:** Chief Probation Officers of California Executive Committee Secretary and President-elect for 2009.

Human Resources Director **Don Turko:** County Personnel Administrators Association of California President-elect for 2009.

Resource Management Director **Birgitta Corsello:** Chairs the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) Solid Waste Committee Chair, CEAC representative to the California Integrated Waste Management Task Force on Illegal Dumping, CEAC Regional Director for the CEAC North Bay County Regional Group.



Grooming future County leadership

Like many other public and private sector organizations, Solano County is facing workforce challenges as the "baby boomer" generation begins to retire. Over half of its executive and senior management staff is currently eligible to retire, which would be a significant loss of knowledge and program continuity. To address this organizational challenge, the County has developed a comprehensive succession planning model to meet its unique needs. Like today's leaders, the future leaders must display initiative as results-driven problem solvers, have good interpersonal relationships, understand the importance of developing others and have the ability to see and relate the broader organizational mission to the areas they manage. Twenty-three managers from 12 departments are participating in the first Solano County Future Leaders Program.

Other County Leaders

County Architect **Kanon Artiche:** California Counties Architects and Engineers Association President. Building Official **David Cliché:** Napa-Solano Chapter of the International Code Council Education Committee Chair.

Environmental Health Manager **Terry Schmidtbauer:** California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health Executive Committee and its Land Use Policy Committee Chair.

Hazardous Materials Specialist **Josuwa Bernardo:** Redwood Chapter of the California Environmental Health Association President.

Weights and Measures Inspector **Steve Paris:** California Agricultural Standards Professional Association Treasurer.

Juvenile Detention Facility Superintendent **Richard Watson:** California Association of Probation Institutions Administrators President.

Probation Services Manager **Lisa Wamble:** California Association of Probation Services Admin Board Secretary. 

MANAGING THE RESOURCES OF TODAY FOR THE FUTURE

The themes of “The Economy, The Environment and Social Equity” that guided the development of the 2008 General Plan also define the County’s day-to-day approach to ensuring responsible use of the 675 square miles of unincorporated rural area.

Completion of a 2008 General Plan

The 2008 General Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in August and approved by the voters in November contains the policy framework necessary to fulfill the community’s vision for Solano County through 2030—a sustainable place with a thriving environment and an economy that maintains social equity. The General Plan continues the County development policy directing most growth into the cities. The plan provides new tools and strategies designed to create a more sustainable Solano County. The plan consists of eight chapters and establishes long-term policies and provides a guide for day-to-day County decision making. Together these chapters provide a comprehensive statement of the goals, objectives, policies, and programs for shaping growth and development within the county and for protecting its agricultural and natural resources.

Pesky moth still finding its way here

The light brown apple moth continued to show up in Solano County, possibly as hitchhikers on vehicles from infested regions in the Bay Area, but the pest have yet to take hold here. Since it was first discovered on Mare Island in June 2007, County agricultural staff have been working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to set additional delimitation traps to monitor its progress and pheromone-laced twist

ties to confuse the moth’s breeding patterns. Only two of the 24 moths discovered have been outside of the Mare Island-Vallejo area, one near Benicia in October 2007 and the other in Fairfield in November 2008. The Fairfield discovery was the closest to production agricultural; however, the CDFA did not expand the quarantine area beyond Vallejo.

Medfly eradicated in only 11 months

Not quite 11 months after four wild Mediterranean fruit flies were found during routine trapping in Dixon, the eradication effort and quarantine that impacted farmers in a 114-square mile area was over. Genetic analysis determined the medflies were most likely brought to the area on smuggled fruit from Hawaii. The incident demonstrated the effectiveness of Solano County’s eradication procedures; however, the Agricultural Commissioner points out that the more than \$1 million of increased operational costs for farmers was an expensive lesson on the importance of not bringing fruit from foreign sources into California illegally.

The joint U.S. Department of Agriculture and CDFA project was coordinated with the County Agricultural Commissioner, including the stripping of fruit from trees in residential areas, ground spraying and the release of millions of sexually sterilized male medflies. Cooperation of local residents and growers was essential to the success of the project.



Secret of Lynch Canyon goes public

The “secret” beauty of Lynch Canyon Open Space was outed by *Sunset Magazine* when it listed the open space as one of the seven hidden wonders of the West. The announcement came between the mountain bike race in April and the trail run in June (pictured above) that attracted more than 250 people. Each month hundreds of equestrians, runners, bikers and bird watchers enjoy the 1,039 acres of open space.

Japanese dodder eradicated; apple-cedar rust detected early

Actions by Solano County Agricultural staff prevented two exotic pests from taking hold. Japanese dodder, a yellow, stringy parasitic plant that literally sucks the life out of its host, was found at two parks in Fairfield and Suisun City. The staff carefully removed and disposed of the dodder so it did not spread. It is thought that the exotic plant parasite was brought into the area intentionally as a folk remedy. Japanese dodder, which can cover a landscape in one season, has the potential to become a major pest of crop, landscape and wildland plant populations. Eradications are currently under way in several other counties across the state.

A routine inspection by a Solano County agricultural inspector turned up a shipment of yellow apple trees seriously infected with cedar-

LEFT TO RIGHT: Bart the Parcel Sniffing Dog has made several "collars" in Solano County. Bart is part of a north state collaborative program profiling parcels containing plants and fruits coming through package express terminals. "Sharpie" is the sharpshooter mascot in costume at various outreach activities promoting the glassy-winged sharpshooter control program.

Over 15,000 tires were gathered for recycling during the first Waste Tire Amnesty Day.



apple rust disease. This fungal disease, a pest not previously found in the West, has spores that can spread up to two miles. This find prevented an infestation that would have damaged and destroyed urban and agricultural fruit trees, ornamental plants and cedar and juniper trees.

Crop values hit all-time high

Gross value of Solano County agricultural production hit an all time high at \$268,255,200, thanks to favorable weather conditions and strong commodity prices that pushed values up more than 12% above the previous record crop year in 2005. The all-time production record helped the County move toward its Strategic Plan objective of increasing farm gate production by 5% by 2012. After accounting for inflation, the 2007 production exceeds the farm gate value of any year since 1998 by at least 5%.

TOP 10 CROPS	DOLLAR VALUE
1. Nursery Stock.....	\$56,610,700
2. Alfalfa.....	\$24,679,900
3. Tomatoes.....	\$23,955,200
4. Cattle and Calves	\$23,273,200
5. Walnuts.....	\$21,955,300
6. Milk	\$17,022,200
7. Wine Grapes	\$17,022,200
8. Almonds	\$6,935,100
9. Field Corn.....	\$6,761,100
10. Sheep and Lambs.....	\$6,489,300

Environmental Health wins top honors

Solano County's comprehensive program to manage the land application of biosolids received the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a local environmental health program. The California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health presented its Excellence in Environmental Health Award to Resource Management's Environmental Health Services Division. The award recognizes the division's extensive public participation and education efforts, innovative partnerships with stakeholders and researchers, and broad protective enforcement measures.

Amnesty keeps buildings in compliance

Solano County continues to assist the public in voluntary compliance of permitting structures built without the benefit of permit. The County's original 90-day amnesty

program was expanded so a property owner could voluntarily come in and begin the process for a building permit, up to 10 days after a "Stop Work Order" has been posted. The amnesty program eliminates the double permit fees and additional costs associated with the code enforcement program.

Programs put waste tires in their place

Over 15,000 tires were collected in September as residents, farmers and ranchers brought in old tires to the Hay Road Landfill for Solano County's first Waste Tire Amnesty Day. At the same time, the County implemented a Waste Tire Enforcement Program to investigate illegal tire disposal activities, to inspect waste tire facilities and to ensure tire dealers, auto dismantlers, tire haulers and other businesses where waste tires are generated are in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. These two programs were made possible through grants from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

County wins Best of Show at 2008 California State Fair

The Best of Show tradition continues with Solano County "Bigger Than Life" exhibit at the California State Fair garnering a Gold Award and the Best of Show title for the fourth consecutive year. A barn-sized animated chicken constructed by the General Services maintenance team gave visitors a glimpse at the county's diversity of agricultural as well as connecting them to a host of movies filmed here, including "All The Kings Men" and "The General's Daughter." The judges scored the exhibit 99 out of 100 points. The visitors gave the exhibit a thumbs up for being the most fun and the overall People's Choice Award.



LEADING THE WAY TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Improving the health of the people of Solano County takes a three-prong strategy: provide the services to address the immediate health concerns, educate to alter lifestyle choices that impact good health, and flexibility to adjust to the needs of the community.

Residents get relief from prescription drug prices with convenient discount card

In September residents got relief from the high price of prescription drugs when Solano County launched a discount card program that offers an average saving of 20% off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. The program sponsored by the National Association of Counties can be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. The card offers a significant savings to uninsured and underinsured residents without any complicated forms. Just present the card and start saving.



Solano joins Bay Area 211 system

On 2-11 of this year, Solano County residents could find out about social service programs by dialing 2-1-1. This referral service helps connect residents to social service programs provided by the County, other agencies and area nonprofit organizations in Solano County and the region.



State lauds Mental Health plan as model

Solano County Mental Health engaged in a three-month community planning process for new Prevention and Early Intervention programs. As a result, the County was awarded \$1.9 million for mental prevention strategies, with over half of these dollars targeted at children and youth programs. The State Department of Mental Health praised the Solano County plan, calling it an “exemplary” program and the level of outreach “impressive.” The State Review Team stated they are “pleased to endorse Solano County’s plan as a model for other counties.”

Mental Health redesign increases efficiency, better client access

Planning for a complete Mental Health system redesign involved all levels of staff, contractors, consumers and their family members working as teams. The recommendations for change have resulted in services that are more consumer-driven and family-focused.

The system redesign resulted in a new Children’s Mental Health program that integrates and works collaboratively with schools, primary care providers and children in need of multiple services. Of the 29 families and children enrolled in the program, 88% were able to

remain in their homes with their families, and 90% were able to maintain their school placement.

Making a difference in the lives of others

Solano County Public Health Officer Dr. Ronald Chapman was selected by the American Medical Association to receive its Dr. Nathan Davis award in the category of Outstanding Career Public Servant at the Local Level. Among the many accomplishments listed for the award were the creation of the County’s first five-year public health strategic plan and the institution of one of the first Continuous Quality Improvement projects in public health in the United States. These projects have led to improvements in the care of people with diabetes, HIV and tuberculosis.

Family Violence Prevention Officer Carolyn Thomas-Wold was chosen to participate in the Women of Color National Leadership Institute: Advocating for Battered Women of Color, held in New Orleans in August 2008. The Institute was funded from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. Carolyn was one of 60 women from across the United States to



Smile in Style is all smiles as program expands reach to even more children

Solano County expanded the Smile in Style program, a school-based oral health program designed to prevent dental disease. When the expansion effort began in 2007, Smile in Style serviced 4,000 children. One year later, 11,026 students had received two 45-minute classroom visits. These visits include hands-on flossing and brushing instruction. Staff conducted a pilot project to place fluoride varnish on 545 Head Start preschool children and screened all third-graders throughout the county for dental disease—a total of 2,737 students. In addition, staff screened 998 children and placed 1,419 dental sealants—more than triple the number from the past year.

LEFT TO RIGHT: The community was reminded of the successes and work left to be done in preventing child abuse during the 4th Annual Children's Memorial Flag Day ceremony.

Residents turned in 315 pounds of expired prescriptions in the annual Pharmaceutical Take Back Event.

Helicopter ambulance service returned to Solano County when CalStar contracted to operate out of the Nut Tree Airport.

Among the radio and TV campaigns in 2008 were "Solano311 Knows the Answer" to promote the new customer call center and "What a Wonderful Life" to curb teenage use of drugs and alcohol.



Project captures childhood memories of growing up in Solano in 1930s, 1940s

Building on the success of the Greatest Generation Project in 2007, the Library turned its focus on a new generation. In May 2008, 36 longtime residents told their childhood stories of what it was like to grow up in the county during the 1930s and 1940s when the population was about one-tenth of what it is today. Local students and volunteers interviewed these residents and wrote their stories. These stories, along with photos, were displayed in local libraries and at the Solano County Fair. They can be viewed online in the news section of the Library's website, solanolibrary.com.

Solano Kids Read 'Letters from Wolfie'

The Library's second annual Solano Kids Read encouraged thousands of children and adults to participate in this one-book, one-county program. From September to November, fifth- to eighth-graders countywide were encouraged to read "Letters from Wolfie" by Patti Sherlock and to attend programs related to the book. The event was topped off by a three-day visit by the author, who presented and participated in a number of activities at libraries across the county. Many of the Library's adult and children's book discussion groups also read the book. This year the Benicia Public Library joined in the fun. As part of the activities, children wrote letters to U.S. soldiers serving in various countries. To make it easier for children to get a copy of the book, the Solano County Library Foundation purchased sets of the book for each elementary school in the Library's service area, paid for bus rentals to bring children to programs and funded a luncheon and reception for the author.

participate in this unique opportunity to network and learn from leaders in the field of advocating for battered women of color.

Welfare Consortium recognized for information technology excellence

Solano County and the other 17 members of Welfare Client Data Systems Consortium were on CIO Magazine's exclusive list 2008 CIO 100, which recognizes organizations that exemplify the highest level of operational and strategic excellence in information technology. The consortium shares the title with past winners, such as AT&T, Merrill Lynch, General Motors and FedEx.

Partnership expands preschool screening

In May, the Child Health and Disability Prevention program staff collaborated with their counterparts in Napa County and Napa/Solano Child Start as well with the Northern California Society to Prevent Blindness to provide preschool vision screening training for 30 staff members Napa and Solano counties. The staff distributed Kindergarten/First Grade School Registration Packets to local school districts and participated in 11 Community Health Fairs.

ODAS responds to the Casa de Vallejo fire

The response to the disastrous fire at Casa de Vallejo in August 2008 was a textbook example of community and County partnership. Older and Disabled Adult Services Division (ODAS) had recently developed procedures and protocols for responding to special needs consumers in the event of an emergency. The planning effort was tested and proved successful in delivering services to the Casa de Vallejo for victims.

A team of public health nurses, social workers, social services workers and a mental health clinician was quickly organized to assess individual needs, provide emotional support, and marshal resources for all victims. Replacing dentures, hearing aids and medical equipment was organized by ODAS staff in collaboration with the American Red Cross and other donating agencies in Vallejo. Finding housing for 117 low-income clients took about 45 days. ODAS and over 40 collaborating agencies helped clients move into their new living arrangements.





County keeps children out of foster care

Child Welfare Services significantly decreased the number of neglected children who had to be placed into foster care by providing their families with two new services. Voluntary Family Maintenance Services provides willing families with intensive supportive services to assist them in correcting the problems that have led to their children's neglect, without removing the children from the home. The Team Decision-Making Meetings program approach brings the family, their support network and community resources together to address safety concerns and to develop the best plan for the child.

Employees generous with time, money

When 2007 came to a close, Solano County employees could brag they raised more per employee than their counterparts in Contra Costa. Solano employees raised over \$24,000 for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, and brought home the Big Apple Trophy. In the four years of the friendly competition, each County has held the title twice. County employees also donated nearly \$57,000 to United Way. Other examples of employees making a difference in their off-duty time include raising awareness and funds for Muscular Dystrophy Association, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, Paws for Life, Batten Disease Support and Research Association, and Reading Education Assistance Dogs.

Clinic adds diabetic case management

The Family Health Services Clinic initiated a diabetic case management program to improve patients' blood sugar control, which decreases

long-term morbidity and mortality, and to connect patients with appropriate services and health education. By May, 161 patients were receiving intensive nurse care management services, exceeding the strategic goal by 7%.

Building a continuum of youth services

Child Welfare Services embarked on a 3-year plan to create a comprehensive continuum of services for transitional age youth in foster care. In January nearly 100 community members and representatives of community organizations and agencies learned about the results of an assessment of Solano County's services for transitional age youth in foster care at a Board of Supervisors Health and Social Services Committee. Members continue to meet monthly to develop a work plan for comprehensive services that successfully

earned a grant from the California Connected by 25 Initiative to implement tangible plan goals in the areas of K-12 Education, Employment and Job Training, Postsecondary Education, Housing, Independent Living Skills, Financial Literacy, Savings and Asset Development, Personal/Social Asset Development, and Permanency.



Centenarians honored at annual event

Centenarians once again took center stage in September when the Board of Supervisors and the Senior Coalition of Solano County honored 20 local seniors ranging in age from 100 to 108. The Board began this annual Centenarian Day recognition event last year to bring attention to the issues facing seniors in Solano County.

In June, the Board received the "Solano County Status Report on Seniors 2008" from the Senior Coalition. The report is an in-depth look at the local perspective of the national story on the aging of Americans at unprecedented rates. The report discussed how the demographic change will have broad and profound implications on the economic, health care and social systems in the county.

Pictured above; Joe Lopez and Supervisor John Vasquez spend time with their former elementary school teacher Lena Yolo, 101, during the Centenarian Day reception.

Enhanced training for IHSS consumers

The Public Authority implemented an enhanced services component to its existing program to train and coach In-Home Supportive Services consumers who find it difficult to manage the employer-employee relationships. The new component offers consumers a variety of tools and a mediation process to ensure the success of the match. In

Upgrades at Sandy Beach County Park include a new kiosk office at the front entrance, new picnic tables, grills and fire rings.



addition, Public Authority implemented an improved objective interview and screening process for registry applicants to recruit reliable and professional workers.

Bringing VA services closer to local veterans

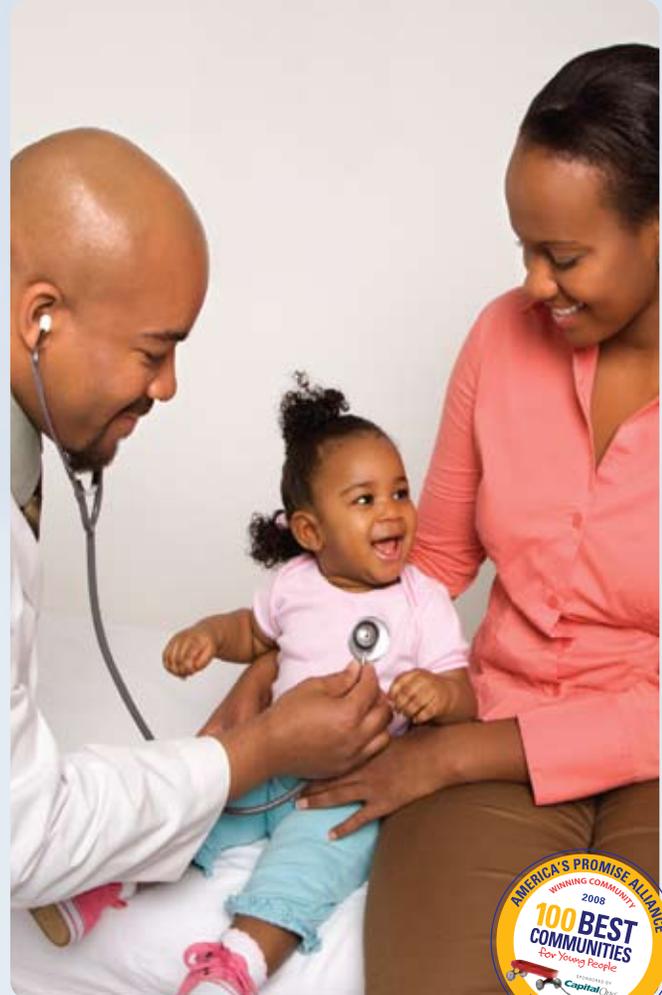
A vocational rehabilitation counselor from the Veteran Administration's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service now shares office space with the Fairfield office of the Solano County Veterans Services Office (VSO). This allows local veterans to avoid travelling to Oakland or Sacramento for services and provides easier access for veterans seeking vocational rehabilitation services, such as education and training, to help them overcome barriers to employment brought on by their service-related disabilities.

In 2008, the VSO saw more than 4,500 clients—veterans, their dependents or their survivors. The department filed over 2,400 claims on their behalf, resulting in annual payments of new or increased benefits of about \$4.8 million. This was in addition to nearly \$4 million in one-time or lump-sum payments.

Through its administration of the Dependents Fee Waiver Program, on behalf of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, the VSO issued almost 1,100 fee waivers to the children of Solano County veterans. This program allows eligible children of a disabled veteran to attend any California Community College, State University, or University of California school without having to pay the mandatory tuition and fees. These waivers resulted in savings of approximately \$2.8 million to the students.

Customer Connect parents to information

Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) implemented "Customer Connect," a new statewide service that allows parents, guardians, employers, and others to get child support information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. By calling the toll-free number 866-901-3212, existing customers can obtain information about their case, including detailed payment information and upcoming appointments, as well as general information on frequently asked questions. Customers needing to speak directly with a customer service representative are directed to DCSS. Information can also be obtained by visiting the secured self-service website at childsup-connect.ca.gov.



100 Best Communities Award

For the third consecutive year Solano County was selected by the America's Promise Alliance as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People because of its collaborative approach to helping its young people. Solano County is the only community in California and one of only 12 in the nation to have this distinction. This year the award focused on the concerted efforts to reduce the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. The hard-hitting presentations to middle school students by the Public Defender on the dangers of methamphetamines, a push to keep the at-risk youth involved in the Juvenile and Family Drug Courts in school and successful in their educational goals, and the efforts of the various community organizations and city-based teams exemplified the countywide efforts. Additionally, in keeping with their commitment that all kids have health insurance, a comprehensive health care coverage plan for kids who do not qualify for public programs has insured 97% of children in Solano County for the last five years.

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

By working together the departments charged with public protection are battling crime and protecting the rights of individuals. Their leadership can be seen as they look beyond the old ways of doing things to more effective and efficient strategies to reduce and prevent crime.

Agencies more prepared for disaster response

A tabletop exercise in May moved representatives from all seven cities, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and Emergency Medical Services through all phases of dealing with a disaster scenario. The day involved pandemic preparedness and planning, mortality management, mass vaccinations, mutual aid and effective communications between all agencies.

In a separate May event, Public Health Emergency Preparedness invited faith-based organizations to a summit on disaster preparedness. More than 80 participants from 26 local churches and the staff from the Salvation Army, United Way and the American Red Cross learned about the role they could have during a pandemic disaster.

In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority began a series of disaster preparedness trainings for its consumers. In the coming year, this initiative will be broadened to include more seniors served by the Area Agency on Aging and training offered at senior congregate living sites throughout the county.

The Solano County Coroner now has a trailer and all the equipment needed by Coroner Investigators at the scene of a mass fatality incident, including a state-of-the-art dental digital X-ray system used for victim identification. In addition, the Coroner's office has formed a Disaster Relief Worker Volunteer Program to recruit and train a core group of volunteers who would be able to respond to a mass-fatality scene.

Office of Emergency Services completed National Incident Management System training for all County personnel. This training ensures all government, private-sector and non-governmental organizations can work together during a disaster.

'College' educates public defenders on felonies

The Public Defender Office continued to build on its in-house attorney training program as a designated provider of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education by the California State Bar. This unique status enabled the department to host its second annual "Felony Transition College," a week-long program with faculty from throughout the state, to prepare attorneys for a felony case load.

Cal-MMET pulls drugs, dealers off the streets

The Solano County California Multi-jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team Program was responsible for the arrest of 119 suspects for drug-related offenses. Cal-MMET assisted the Dixon and Benicia police departments in a narcotic offender parolee and probation compliance search

program. The unit conducted over 218 searches and arrested 59 narcotic violators. Among its success statistics are the removal of 15,489 marijuana plants and nearly 1,500 grams of methamphetamine "ice." The detectives have closed 103 and opened 61 narcotic cases, served 66 search warrants, conducted over 218 probation/parole searches, seized 32 firearms and, as part of the Drug Endangered Children program, placed 19 children into protective custody. A total of \$28,872 in cash was seized.

Grant helps to get FIT against violence

The Office of Family Violence Prevention acquired a \$200,000 grant from the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women to fund its Family Violence Intervention Team (FIT) of two social workers and a detective from the Sheriff's Office. FIT provides follow-up investigation and victim assessment in cases of family violence occurring primarily in the unincorporated areas of Solano County. FIT worked with over 450 citizens affected by domestic and family violence.



Mobile command posts proves itself vital

Clay Street is the home of the new and fully functioning Office of Emergency Services garage that accommodates Solano County's Mobile Command Unit (MC-1) and other emergency vehicles and equipment. The MC-1 responds to all three-alarm fires and significant incidents in support of the incident commander and management team responsible for the event. MC-1 has proved itself a vital benefit and resource to incident commanders in 2008, including the "wildland fire" that ravaged hundreds of acres along the ridge between Napa and Solano counties, the Ashland Chemical Company fire in Fairfield, and the Travis Air Force Base fire that gutted over 200 abandoned homes.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Members of the Solano County SWAT team hide among the grasses during a training exercise.

The Sheriff's Marine Patrol Bureau helps boat operators to be safe on nearly 150 miles of navigable rivers, sloughs, channels and bays.

The addition of a lawn and walkways gives Fouts Springs Youth Detention Facility a more campus-like atmosphere.



Sheriff enhances tracking of sex offenders

The Sheriff's Office implemented Offender Watch, an online sex offender management and tracking system that streamlines the registration and data collection process required by Megan's Law and allows citizens to sign up for e-mail notifications when a registered sex offender moves into their neighborhood.

The Sheriff joined 11 other counties in central and northern California to form a regional task force to monitor registered sex offenders. The goal of Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) effort is to reduce the number of out-of-compliance registered sex offenders. The COPPS team conducted 327 compliance checks on registered sex offenders, in which 72 sex offenders were arrested, and 31 surveillances were conducted on sex offenders.

Sheriff upgrades downtown detention facility

The Sheriff's Office Custody Division has undertaken three projects to repair and update the infrastructure of the Fairfield Justice Center Detention Facility. The first project completely refurbished 27 inmate showers. A Spacesaver Mechanical Mobile Storage System was installed to increase the inmate property storage capacity by 300%, a needed upgrade due to the inmate population growth since the jail's initial construction almost 20 years ago. The final project is a complete retrofit of the booking area work space.

Fraud, waste, abuse reporting simplified

The Auditor-Controller formalized Solano County's process for people to report perceived incidents of fraud, waste and abuse with a Whistleblower Program. Now, an individual or entity that works with the County can call (866) 384-TIPS or go to solanocounty.com/whistleblower if they believe they have witnessed misconduct. All reports received are reviewed by the Auditor-Controller's Internal Audit Division and investigated in cooperation with the respective departments and the County Administrator. Non-criminal activity will be addressed administratively and potential criminal activity will be reported to the District Attorney or other appropriate authorities. Although the ability to report incidents to the Auditor-Controller's Office has been a long-standing practice, the formalization of the Whistleblower Program enhances the County's stewardship efforts and reinforces sound management practices and existing internal administrative controls.

Alternative sentence program pays societal debt without overcrowding in local jail

The use of various alternative sentence programs allows sentenced inmates the opportunity to serve their court-ordered time without being held in custody at a jail facility. This approach helps to relieve jail overcrowding, reduces the cost of offender housing and care, and encourages reintegration into the community by allowing offenders to remain gainfully employed or to attend school. The Sheriff operates three alternative programs: Work Furlough, Work Release and Electronic Monitoring.

To further enhance its electronic monitoring services, the Sheriff expanded its use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), which provides a 24-hour house arrest with continual tracking every 10 seconds. GPS has immediate notification capability, with the ability to locate the offender within 15 feet.

Overlay program repairs, widens rural roads

Several years ago Solano County began a program of systematically adding two to four feet to the paved width of narrow roads—originally designed for low volumes of rural traffic—when those roads were overlaid with a new layer of asphalt. In 2008, over six miles of roads, including portions of Suisun Valley Road near Fairfield and Dixon Avenue West near Dixon, were widened to safely handle the higher volumes of traffic.

Combined operations enhances capabilities

The Reserve Deputy, Sheriff's Posse, and Search and Rescue programs have been consolidated under the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to enhance the responsibilities and capabilities of these units in order to better serve the community. To this end, OES purchased mobile/handheld radio direction finding equipment used to locate transmitted radio frequencies of lost hikers, downed airplanes and vessels. Participation and recruitment has increased in each of these programs.

Pilot program uses multi-agency approach to target young offenders on probation

As part of the Strategic Plan, Probation implemented a pilot program for 18- to 25-year-old offenders on probation in July. Using a strengths-based approach, the goal of this multi-agency collaboration is to support, motivate, rehabilitate and educate transitional age youth so that they may become positive, productive adults in the community.





Additional services offered to this population include education on life and social skills, substance abuse treatment groups, cognitive behavioral treatment workshops and mentoring.

Citizens' Academy gives insight into operations

Twenty-eight people participated in the second annual Sheriff's Citizens' Academy, a 10-week educational program designed to give interested citizens a chance to learn more about the services the Sheriff provides. Participants learned about patrol and K-9 operations, criminal investigative procedures, jail operations, Marine Patrol operations, emergency preparedness, emergency services, terrorism, and field-training scenarios including shoot/don't-shoot scenarios on the firearms training simulator.

District Attorney adds Cold Case Unit to Bureau of Investigations

The District Attorney (DA) created a Cold Case Unit in the Bureau of Investigations to help local police agencies investigate unsolved homicides. Two DA Investigators work with investigators from the Fairfield Police Department and the Solano County Sheriff on a countywide Cold Case investigations team. The unit has already completed one 20+ year-old case, now being prosecuted, and is working on several more.

During the past year, in response to the Bureau's increasing role, the District Attorney expanded into a portion of the previously unfinished space on the fourth floor of the County Administration Center. Adding over 3,800 square feet of office space, all of the various units in the Bureau of Investigations are now conveniently located adjacent to each other.

Construction begins on new labs

The dream of the County building its own lab and reducing the impact of the rising cost of contract forensic laboratory services became a reality in May when the County broke ground on a new Public Health clinical lab in Fairfield, replacing the existed lab in Vallejo. The new Forensic Lab will share the second floor of the new facility.

When the forensic lab opens in late 2009, it will provide a variety of forensic services to the District Attorney and to all of the law enforcement agencies in Solano County, including analysis of blood and urine for the presence of alcohol and drugs, maintenance of breath alcohol testing equipment, and solid dose analysis of unknown substances for the presence of drugs.

Other services, including latent fingerprint analysis and ballistics analysis and testing as well as a broad range of criminalistics work that will be added in later years.

Sheriff Marine Patrol makes local waterways safer

The Sheriff's Marine Patrol Bureau conducted more than 3,200 boat safety inspections, towed to safety 24 boats with over 120 passengers on board, conducted five search and rescue missions, investigated two boating accidents, and conducted 17 boating safety community education events.

The Bureau, in conjunction with County Counsel, drafted a County ordinance prohibiting vessel owners from mooring their vessels for more than 96 hours in any Solano County waterway. The ordinance also allows deputies to issue citations and take possession of abandoned vessels.

In May, the Marine Patrol participated in a program sponsored by the Department of Boating and Waterways in which people brought their personal floatation devices to the Sam's Club in Vacaville to be inspected and, if found to be deficient, they were provided with a new personal floatation device. During this event, 46 personal floatation devices were given away.

Fouts Springs gets new look, new program

New walkways and lawn areas give the program school, Clinton B. Nielson High School, a more campus-like appearance in the Fouts Springs Youth Facility. The project for the fully accredited high school operated by the Colusa County Office of Education was accomplished through the hard work of staff and the young men in the program as part of Fouts' Saturday work crew activities. Using State Youthful Offender Block Grant funding, a program coordinator was added to enhance the facility's ongoing efforts to use evidence-based practices, including providing quality assessments, cognitive behavioral treatment interventions and improved planning for return to the community.

Probation staff trained in assessing risk, treatment needs

Probation's Adult Services Division completed training of all staff on the Level of Service Case Management Inventory Assessment Tool that has assisted the department in identifying the risk level and treatment needs of offenders. The OffenderLink telephone reporting system was implemented for low-risk offenders, allowing the department to focus its resources on higher risk offenders.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Sheriff Gary Stanton participates in the graduation ceremony of the 72nd Basic Police Academy class from Napa Valley College.

Sheriff deputies use the in-car video system during traffic stops.



Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System

Probation's Juvenile Division fully implemented the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS), an evidence-based tool created by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency designed to identify both appropriate intervention strategies and recidivism risk levels. The information gathered from the web-based tool helps probation officers to develop a case plan to assist the minor and family. The overall goal of the JAIS tool is to reduce recidivism, provide targeted interventions based on criminogenic needs, and to change behavior through cognitive behavioral programs. Solano County was the first California county to adopt the JAIS tool. Since implementing the tool, Probation has provided assistance to Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties as they implement JAIS in their local jurisdictions.

Youth learn how 'to be the change' needed

Twenty-three youth involved in the criminal justice system participated in "Challenge Day" in April. Adult volunteers from Probation, Solano County Mental Health, and the Liberty Christian Center in Fairfield participated in the day's activities, which sought to challenge kids to "be the change" they want to see in their schools and communities. They learned to increase personal power and self esteem, to shift dangerous peer pressures to positive peer support, to eliminate the acceptability of teasing, violence, racism, and harassment, to teach conflict management, as well as educate minors on the negative impact of drugs and alcohol.

Adult Drug Court increases chances of success

Adult Drug Court was re-established to augment intervention services designed to get adult drug offenders sober. Adult Drug Court is a collaborative effort among the Superior Courts and the County's Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff and Health and Social Services departments. This partnership also supports a Juvenile Drug Court and a Family Drug Court.

Program reduces crime, increases safety

The District Attorney, in cooperation with the cities of Fairfield and Vallejo, has established a Community Prosecution Program designed to address quality-of-life issues in both cities. The objective of the program is to enhance prosecutions, reduce crime, and increase community safety. A Deputy DA works closely with the cities' police, fire, code enforcement and other departments to target offenders and seek proper abatement and imposition of penalties along with cost recovery.

Challenge Program highlighted for innovation

In January, the Probation Department opened the Juvenile Detention Facility's Challenge Program, a transition program for minors committed to out-of-home placement and to house minors who otherwise would be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The program houses 20 male teens and provides individual assessments, treatment strategies, referral services and activities to empower youth to make positive behavioral choices and to develop the necessary skills needed for pro-social lifestyles.

The program was showcased at the California Probation Parole and Correctional Association conference as one of California's "most exciting and innovative programs" because its graduates are expected to have lower recidivism, higher rates of successful completion of probation, improved family dynamics and an ability to make better and responsible decisions for themselves.

Meth presentations studied as positive example

The National Drug Court Institute's national conference this year examined effective programs working with schools. The Public Defender's Office was invited to the conference to present a paper on its three-year campaign to educate eighth graders on the dire consequences of using methamphetamines as an example of its efforts. The paper also focused on the department's efforts to work with the the local schools and Juvenile Drug Court. The school presentations were also the subject of a 2007 California State Association of Counties Merit Award.

In-car digital video added to Sheriff patrols

The Sheriff's Office implemented an in-car-video system in 13 patrol vehicles, allowing deputies to capture digital video and sound at traffic stops as well as criminal activity in and around the vehicles. Once video is captured in the field, it is wirelessly downloaded to a server and hard drive storage. The returns on the use of the system are expected to be very significant. The cameras should reduce the hours involved in investigating citizen complaints and reduce liability in numerous instances.

County offers low cost spay, neuter services

Animal Care Services now offers the public monthly low-cost spay and neuter services for the pets of Solano County residents. The successful clinic operates on an appointment-basis. To date 73 dogs, 41 cats and 2 rabbits have been spayed or neutered through the program. 🐾



LOOKING AHEAD, WORKING NOW, FOR A BETTER FUTURE

An effective organization cannot just handle the day-to-day activities of delivering quality services. It must also position the resources—people, systems, buildings and equipment—needed to continue providing excellent services in the future.

Survey: Residents give County high marks

In a survey conducted in February, residents gave Solano County high marks for the quality of life (80%) and their overall satisfaction with County services and programs (78%). Ninety-one percent of residents gave the County a passing grade on its customer service, with 70% saying it was good or excellent. All 11 of the County strategic priorities polled resonated as important with at least 81% of the residents, and eight of the priorities were rated important by 90% or better. The County will conduct the survey again in 2010 to measure its progress in these areas.

First countywide Youth Summit

Nearly 300 students from high schools across Solano County came together in October for the first countywide Youth Summit. The forum was designed to hear what the students believe can be done to enhance schools, engage them in the community and connect them to the work place. Among the many suggestions by the students was the creation of a countywide Youth Commission.

Employee pay statements go paperless with e-pay

In December, the Auditor-Controller's Office and the Department of Information Technology implemented electronic pay statements (known as "e-pay") for County employees. Using e-pay, employees can access up to three years of pay statements online. E-pay is expected to save thousands of dollars by reducing the County's paper and postage charges as well as supports the County's efforts of "going green."

Project opens access to old real property records

Quick computerized records searches have been the norm for real property transactions recorded since 1998.

But for the more than 5 million documents the Assessor-Recorder has on microfilm, dating back to 1848, it has been a more time-consuming task. A conversion project under way at the Assessor-Recorder's office will enable the public to research these records via the Internet. This conversion project will reduce the department's maintenance costs of the microfilm and microfilm readers as well as enhance its ability to recover from disasters that would destroy microfilm or prevent access to the film records.

Seeking partnerships is how Solano County finds solutions to shared challenges

An even better county focus of Solano Economic Summit 4

Community leaders came back together in November to learn about the inaugural

Solano County 2008 Index of Economic and Community Progress and to discuss the significance of its findings. The report said Solano County has provided unprecedented economic opportunities over the last decade, outpacing the state and the Bay Area. It also revealed that the county needs to do more to connect its youth to the opportunities in the work force. The participants discussed ways to enhance the education experience, reduce the high school dropout rate and to reduce juvenile crime.

Delta Counties Coalition protecting local interests

The ebbs and flows from the California Delta, the area where the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers converge, affect Solano County borders stretching from the Yolo Bypass to the Suisun Marsh. The State has been evaluating several environmental studies of the region as it develops a Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which includes water conveyance options and major habitat restoration projects. Solano County is one of the primary target areas for this Bay Delta plan, so Solano County took a leadership role in creating the Delta Counties Coalition. With a unified voice for the five Delta counties, the Coalition is encouraging the State and other



First 5 Solano wins CSAC Challenge Award

Focusing on programs that provide preventive and early intervention services earned First 5 Solano the California State Association of Counties Challenge Award for innovation in government. The award recognizes how First 5 Solano targets its funding on such programs as the Integrated Family Support Initiative, Baby First Solano and School Readiness. First 5 calculates this strategy of focusing on front-end, prevention and early intervention services may have saved as much as \$2.7 million in long-term foster care and pregnancy-related health care costs. First 5 also received a 2008 Cities Counties Schools Partnership Merit Award for its creative use of presenting program results at its annual Results Fair.

LEFT TO RIGHT: The Sister City relationship with the City of Ji'an became more youthful when a teen delegation visited Solano County.

Peer mentoring and training on the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System strengthen Probation officers' case management skills.

The flow of patrons into the new Suisun Library continues to reflect its opening day crowds.



interests to examine how best to mitigate the concerns of affected communities, including the compensating for any tax losses, increased expenses, and land and infrastructure changes that result from the actions of the State.

Three countywide elections in one year

The trip to the polls came three times in 2008, with a Presidential Primary in February, Statewide Direct Primary in June and the Presidential General Election in November. The number of registered voters grew 13.5%, going from 168,577 to 191,387. The number of vote-by-mail voters grew 15.5%, going from 81,639 to 94,316. The voter turnout grew from 62% in February to 80% in November. Between the new voter registrations and the two-page ballot, the Elections Office processed over 400,000 pieces of paper.

Vets to get new home; facilities get upgrades

Shortly after escrow closed on 1305 North First St., the Dixon veterans and County staff were working together to figure out how to convert the retail center into a new Veterans Memorial Hall. In Suisun City, a new roof was installed. Design work to improve disabled access and to renew building systems is being done for the Suisun and Benicia Veterans Memorial buildings. In Vacaville, crews improved the fire suppression system in the kitchen.

Equipment improves process, service

The Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk added document imaging to its customer service tools. The imaging of tax payment exception letters, penalty cancellation requests, County Clerk records and Treasury bank records enabled the office to expedite the processing of penalty cancellation and refund requests and shorten the wait time for public records retrieval requests. This also reduced the required storage area for all of these documents. The office also upgraded critical remittance processing equipment that improved its ability to process tax payments.

The Sheriff's Office also began implementing a document imaging system. Workstations for Civil Service Bureau clerks are now equipped to scan the documents in a standardized format to ensure long-term readability. This system has given the civil clerks faster access to the documents they need to research, cut down the time to manually file documents into folders and storage areas, and in the near future, will free up space that is currently being used for storage.

The Division of Architectural Services electronically uploaded sets of construction documents dating back to

the early 1900s on the County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) system to make these documents available to other County departments. The effort is expected to improve productivity, decrease internal costs for document reproduction, and reduce waste generated by document reproduction while increasing access to information with appropriate security controls in place. More than 550 sets (or 12,000 sheets) of architectural plans and specifications have been archived into a central server and a database has been created to easily retrieve archived documents.

County hosts two delegations from Sister City

"Welcome Friends From China" across a banner in English and Chinese characters greeted a teen delegation from the City of Ji'an, Peoples Republic of China for a two-week visit, including participation in the annual four-day 4-H Statewide Leadership Conference at the University of California, Davis. Each of the six teens and their chaperone were matched to a local 4-H family that opened their homes and daily lives to their visitors. Many of the families took their guest on extended trips to see the ocean, the California Redwoods, Monterey Bay, Tahoe and the State Capitol.

In November, a Chinese agricultural delegation toured Solano County's wine region to learn about the local viticulture practices. This marks the sixth exchange visit between the County and the City of Ji'an since the Sister City relationship began in 2005.

Animal Care facilities get master plan

The Animal Care Facilities Master Plan process kicked off in July with community input on the vision of how the facility should serve the community. By the time the master plan is presented to the Board of Supervisors around May 2009, the process will have explored three options for developing a new Animal Care Facility:

- Expanding and renovating the existing facility on Claybank Road;
- Building one new facility centrally located in the county; or
- Building two new facilities—one each in the north and south ends of the county.

County makes strides toward being greener

Solano County became the first local agency to adopt a Voluntary Green Builder Program designed to reduce greenhouse gases and the diversion of waste to landfills from residential building projects, which is being modeled by surrounding jurisdictions.





The County's pilot Green Business Program certified its first green business in April when a Dixon ink manufacturing plant passed the scrutiny of several agencies to certify its compliance with federal, state and local regulations and met the Bay Area Green Business Program standards for conserving energy and water, preventing pollution and minimizing waste. Nearly two dozen companies have since completed the designation or are in the process of certification.

The County also reduced its permit fees for the installation of standard residential and commercial solar panels making it among the top 10 least expensive places in California to go solar.

The County is now harnessing more than 1 million watts of electrical energy from the sun's rays. General Services, along with Honeywell International, recently completed a 746,000-watt solar array project to offset nearly 60% of the power needs of the Claybank Adult Detention Facility. The solar array is located off Claybank Road in Fairfield and serves double duty by providing a shade structure for the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District buses which uses the old missile site as a parking lot.

The County has two other solar electric facilities in Fairfield: a 230,000-watt system on the roof of the Health & Social Services

building on Beck Avenue and a 120,000-watt array on the parking structure of the County Government Center.

With grant funding from both the Yolo Solano and Bay Area air quality management districts, the County retrofitted seven dump trucks to meet new state emission requirements.

Public Works switched to an organic, green version of the dust control agent magnesium chloride it spread on 32 miles of rural gravel roads.

Investment in Nut Tree Airport taking flight

The County's ongoing commitment to improve and plan for the future of general aviation took off with a successful year for projects and nearly \$4.5 million in grant funding for the Nut Tree Airport:

- Completed its Environmental Assessment and a Finding of No Significant Impact for proposed land acquisitions.
- Purchased 40 acres of land for runway approach protection, ensuring land use compatibility between the Airport's most critical flight arrival corridor and the non-aviation-related uses on nearby properties.
- Received grant funding for a 15.66 acre property purchase in 2005 and funding for 27 acres acquired in 2008.

Health and Social Services Twin Campus Project in Vallejo and Fairfield

Culminating two years of programming and needs assessments, concept became reality as ground broke in May on a Vallejo Health and Social Services building and a Public Health Clinic/Lab and Forensic Laboratory Building in Fairfield.

The three-story, 57,000 square foot Vallejo facility will house several Health and Social Services functions including Family Health Clinic on the first level, Eligibility and Employment Services on the second and third levels, including Older and Disabled Adult Services, Women and Infant Children programs, Fiscal



Disbursement, and Records on the third level.

Following completion of the new facility being built using the design/build delivery method, the existing three-story, 68,000-square-foot H&SS building will receive an extensive renovation. Limited remodeling will occur in the existing Vallejo Hall of Justice.

In Fairfield, a new two-story, 30,000 square foot facility will house a Public Health Clinic on

the first level. The second floor will contain a new Public Health Lab and the first phase of a forensics lab.

The design of the building has incorporated options for future building expansions. Following completion of the new building, a portion of the existing facility at 2101 Courage Drive will be renovated for an expanded dental clinic.

LEFT TO RIGHT: The new "cool roof" on the Law and Justice Center will save about \$18,000 annually in energy costs.

The Library offers several programs to help adults improve their literacy.

With the opening of the solar array facility on Claybank Road, Solano County became the largest producer of solar energy in the county.



- Grant funding for the design of a new helicopter parking apron to improve safety and operations between fixed wing aircraft and rotorcraft.
- Over the next 18 to 24 months, the County will be working with its aviation stakeholders and the City of Vacaville on an Airport Master Plan Update.

County launches Solano311 Customer Call Center

Residents can now dial 3-1-1 to connect with a customer service representative who can answer their questions about Solano County services. For nearly six months, a team from Affiliated Computer Services, the contractor providing the 311 service, worked with Solano County staff to build a database of questions and answers. Shortly after launching in September, Solano311 was answering thousands of questions about the upcoming election, tax bills, property assessments, jail bookings and much more. The one-stop approach to customer service has enabled County departments to focus on delivery services.



Customer access to multiple programs improves

The Employment and Eligibility Division's new business model allows customers to apply for multiple programs while working with only one eligibility worker. The addition of a new call center—Benefit Action Center—has improved the clients' ability to access ongoing Food Stamps and Medi-Cal services by dialing (800) 400-6001 to connect to a pool of case workers.

Technologically Advanced Training Center opens

The employment and Eligibility Division opened a modern Training Center in April equipped with two training rooms, each having capacity for 30 trainees and access to networked audio visual and Internet technologies, which allow real time training on new CalWIN database releases. This center has a 60-person conference room equipped with audio visual, Internet and smart wall technology for large meetings and presentations. The Division was able to train 150 supervisors, workers and clerical staff over six weeks to introduce the Benefit Action Center Operations Model in 15 classes.

Connecting emancipated youth to housing

The Transitional Housing Program Plus completed its first year in August. The service provider, First Place for Youth, successfully provided housing and supportive services to 35 emancipated or emancipating foster youth during its first year of operation. Youth receive financial literacy training, placement in an apartment of their own with training on

how to be a good tenant, and support in finding employment or continuing their education in order to become a self-sufficient adult.

Youth find new homes through Heart Gallery

The Solano Heart Gallery, a photographic display of children waiting to be adopted, celebrated its first full year of operation in November of those children were matched with a potential adoptive placement, including one sibling group. Visit the Solano Heart Gallery at solanoheartgallery.com to learn more about becoming a foster parent, adoptive parent.

Program provides youth more permanency

Child Welfare Services (CWS) launched a new program to ensure that no youth leaves the system without a permanent lifelong connection to a caring adult. In early 2008, CWS began the planning and implementation of California Permanency for Youth, a program of the Stuart Foundation. Using intensive family-finding and engagement strategies, this program has been very successful in other jurisdictions in helping youths re-engage with long-lost extended family members and other caring adults. The program will initially focus on finding permanent connections for 20 Solano County youths.

New 'JOC' process delivers faster results for less

Solano County expedited small- and medium-sized construction projects under the new Job Order Contracting (JOC) concept of a single, competitively bid construction contract. In the last year, the County has completed tenant improvements, building systems modernizations, energy retrofits and renovation projects using this method, delivering projects in an expedited time frame thereby accruing cost savings. Projects included:

- Improvements at Sandy Beach Park connected pathways to the beach, upgraded picnic areas and restrooms, and building a new Park Ranger office.
- Vacaville Library exterior was repainted, windows were re-caulked and the aging heating, ventilating and air conditioning system was replaced to improve energy efficiency, indoor air quality and comfort.
- Law and Justice Center Reroof Project, which was performed with the facility fully occupied, was crafted to minimize operational impacts.
- Historical Records Commission moved their operations from a non-conditioned warehouse area to a new 2,000-square-foot, fully air conditioned space collocated with the County's Central Service's records storage operations on Chadbourne Road in Fairfield. The newly improved space houses records





and documents of historical significance from various County departments. The space provides an open office environment for volunteer staff and a public research area.

Information easier to find on redesigned websites

Solano County's official website took on a new look and feel in August, with a focus on making it easier to access the hundreds of pages of useful information. One of the new features is a "How Do I?" search function that allows people to find information based on frequently asked questions.

In October, a new Intranet site gave employees easier access to news, policies and shared documents.

County wins accolades for transportation leadership

Solano County's Department of Resource Management was recognized as the Public Agency of the Year by the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) for its leadership role in helping the STA deliver transportation projects that will improve mobility for the county and region. Projects include providing traffic relief with the North Connector, improving access to Travis Air Force Base, and providing resources to help transition Vallejo Transit to the Water Emergency Transit Authority. The Special Award was given to Supervisor John Silva for his ongoing support of transportation issues, including securing \$2.8 million in Federal funding for the I-80 HOV/Turner Overcrossing project in Vallejo. Public Health Education Manager Robin Cox was recognized as the Advisory Committee Member of the Year for her role on STA's Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee. 🐦



Literacy programs make an investment beyond words

The Library offers many programs to improve literacy among children and adults. Its Reach and Read pediatric literacy program distributed over 14,500 free children's books, surpassing a program goal by 20%. Medical providers during well-child checkups in eight clinics in Solano County counseled parents of children aged 0 to 5 on the importance of reading aloud to their children.

The Library taught 219 adult learners how to read and write with the help of 153 volunteer tutors. The Library's Families for Literacy program taught 39 adult learners how to read and another 68 adults learned to speak English as a second language in order to communicate with their doctor, find a better job, or obtain U.S. citizenship.

New this year is a four-month life-coaching seminar for 15 women who are adult learners, thanks to a donation from Soroptimist International-Central Solano. Participants identify their life priorities, examine barriers to reaching their goals, and then develop plans to attain their goals. Solano County is the only known library to offer such a program in California.

New fine encourages reading

At the beginning of the year, the Library launched the Read Away Fines program to encourage children to keep using their local library, even if they had fines on their cards. Children under the age of 18 can now pay their overdue fines by reading. For every 15 minutes of reading, they can earn 50 cents to apply to their fines. The program is prominently featured on the Library's website solanolibrary.com. In its first year, the program looks to have 2,500 children read off about \$5,000 in fines.

Library reopens to a full house

The new Suisun City Library opened in June to a standing-room-only crowd who had been eagerly anticipating the event. On this warm, Wednesday afternoon, after all the speeches were made and the ribbon-cutting ceremony concluded, local residents flowed through the doors. They quickly found the computers, DVDs, new books and browsed the collection for other treasures. In the first four hours the library was open over 1,000 people walked through the doors and checked out more than 1,100 items.

USING TAXPAYER DOLLARS FOR THE GREATEST PUBLIC BENEFIT

In good budgets as well as tight budgets, the No. 1 concern is to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used in the most effective manner to provide the greatest public benefit today and in the future.

Erratic County budget year reflects volatile economy, housing market, and State budget

When the Board of Supervisors adopted a balanced \$969 million budget in June, the financial forecast said the County could expect a modest 2% growth in property taxes. However, an exponential growth in the housing market downturn shifted those numbers. The Assessor-Recorder temporarily reduced the assessed values of nearly 29,000 homes purchased between 2004 and 2007 in accordance with "Proposition 8" guidelines. The net effect of the \$2.94 billion reduction in property value assessments was a reduction of \$8 million in projected County property tax revenues. At the same time, the crisis in the State Budget resulted in a cut of nearly \$4 million in revenues beyond what the County anticipated. The County took unprecedented action and made significant course corrections at the end of the first quarter—a decision model generally reserved for midyear and third quarter.

Solid investment practices help local agencies

Despite the volatility in the stock market and a national credit crisis, the Solano County Treasurer's Investment Pool maintained its Standard & Poor's "AAAF" fund credit quality and a "S1" fund volatility rating. This strong position enabled the County to be a stabilizing resource for local agencies dealing with cash flow problems due to the State budget impasse. The County extended a \$12 million line of credit to the Partnership Health Plan of California, and transferred \$10.4 million to the Solano Community College and \$5.5 million to the Dixon Unified School District.

County wins awards for financial reporting

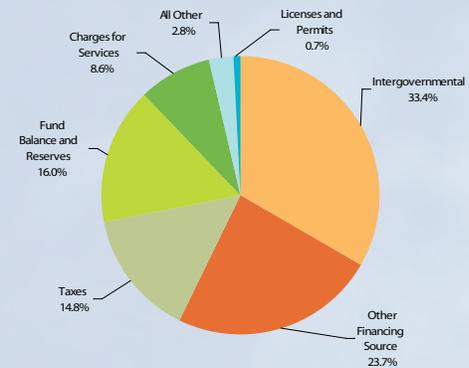
For the sixth consecutive year, Solano County has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. The award is for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. This award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its continuous attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the County, the Auditor's Office and all of the County management team. The County also received the State Controller's Award for Achieving Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Grants, partnerships expand resources

Solano County enhanced its countywide grants management program by providing County departments and local nonprofits the ability to access the eCivis Grants Research Network, a comprehensive database for Federal, State and foundation grants. Workshops provided users resources on how to define

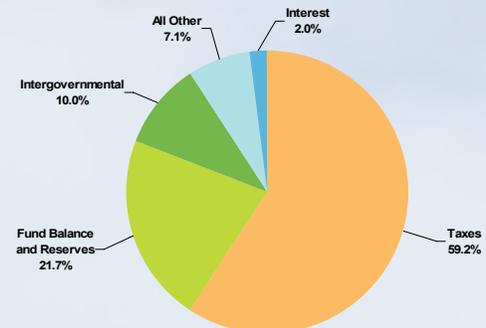
Revenues by Source

FINAL BUDGET 2008/09 (TOTAL: \$955 million)



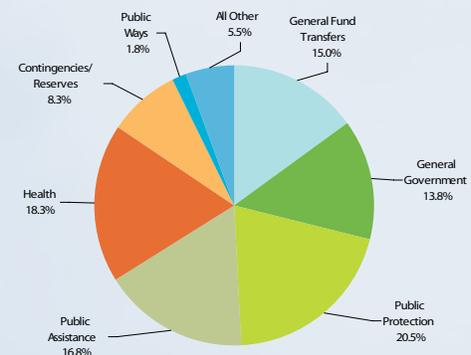
Sources of Discretionary Revenue

FINAL BUDGET 2008/09 (TOTAL: \$211 million)



Spending Plan by Function

FINAL BUDGET 2008/09 (TOTAL: \$995 million)



10-Year History of County's General Reserves



10-Year History of County's General Fund Contingency



projects and to write grant proposals that are more likely to get funded. Nonprofits were also the focus of a Board of Supervisors Study Session designed to remove barriers to the financial stability of nonprofit organizations. Increased access to grants and the volume purchasing power of the County were among nearly 15 ways the participants proposed the County could promote and build on existing partnerships with the nonprofit community to ensure the delivery of quality, cost-effective services to Solano County residents.

Projected budget for FY2008/09

The Spending Plan by Function chart indicates the percentage of total budget for each of the functional areas required within the County Budget. As shown, Public Safety represents the single largest category of County expenditures at 20.5%. Health, the second largest, represents 18.3% of the total.

The Revenues by Source chart indicates the sources of funding to finance the budget. The County's single largest revenue source is Intergovernmental Revenue from state and federal agencies, generally with specific requirements for the funds' expenditures. Intergovernmental Revenue represents 33.4% of the total.

The Sources of Discretionary Revenue chart provides information concerning General Fund financing for County operations. Discretionary revenues are not collected in direct response to services provided. This includes countywide property taxes as well as intergovernmental revenue that comes to the

County without restrictions. These non-program revenues are reflected in the General Revenue budget.

Budget Strategy

General Budget Policy

- Build reserves during economic expansion; apply reserves to stabilize spending during fiscal distress;
- Avoid back-filling reductions in state and federal funds with County discretionary dollars, to the extent possible;
- Use one-time revenue for one-time costs instead of ongoing operational expenses.

Reserves

- Allow the County to normalize the County Budget during periods of fiscal distress;
- Maintain a minimum of 5% of the total budget, with a target of 10% of the County budget, excluding inter-fund transfers;
- Used as the last resort in balancing the County Budget;
- A maximum spend-down of \$6 million per year;
- Provide for designations for accrued leave payoffs, deferred maintenance for capital projects and uncertainties with the State budget.

Contingencies

- Mitigate the impact of potential risks to the General Fund;
- Target of 10% of the General Fund budget. ↘





County Administrator's Office

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, California 94533-6342

(707) 784-6100 or 866-7 SOLANO
(707) 784-7975 Fax
solanocounty.com
co.solano.ca.us