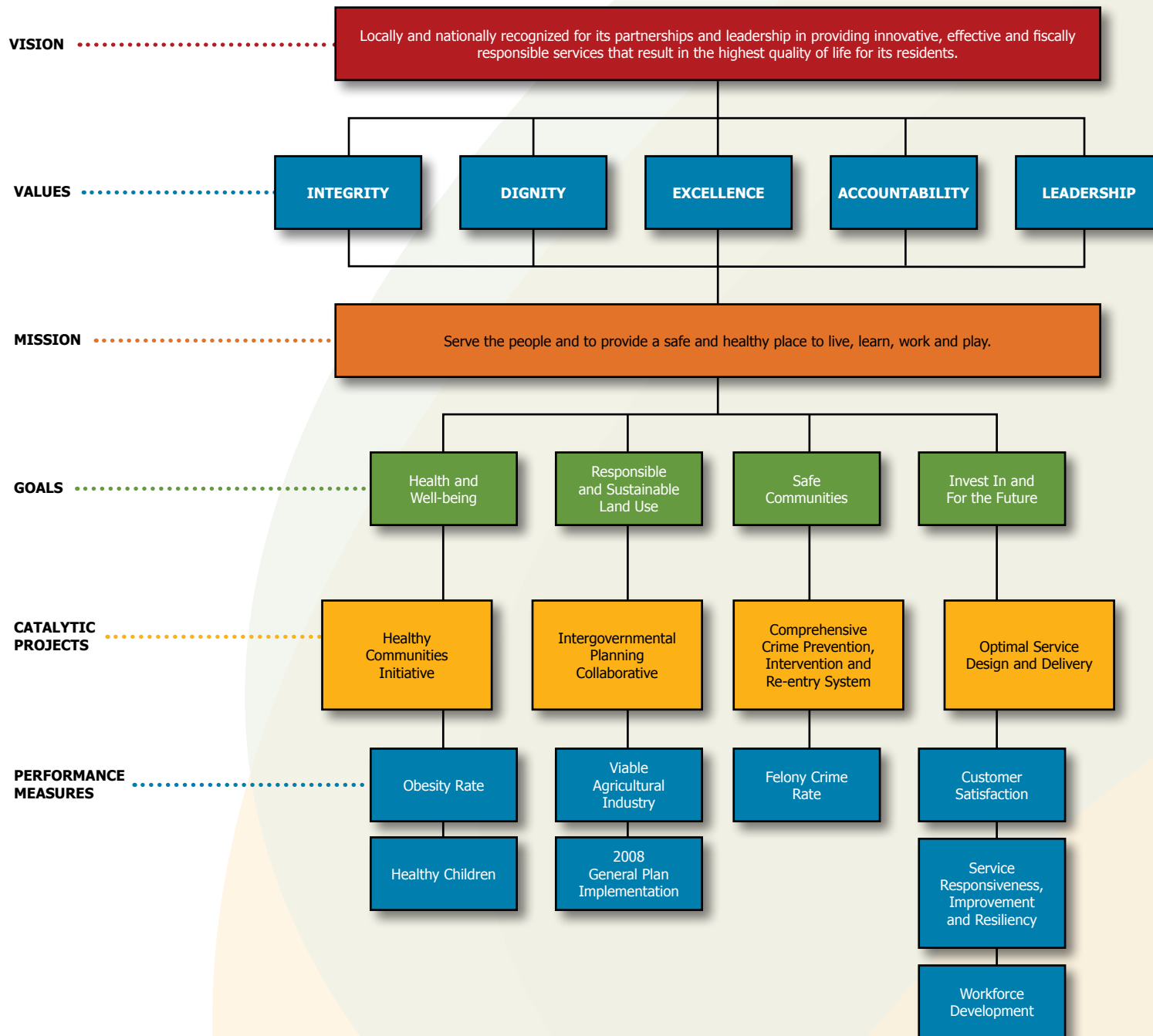




COUNTY OF SOLANO 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



STRATEGIC PLAN





To the Citizens of Solano County,


It is my pleasure to present the 2009 Annual Report. During the past year, your Solano County government has worked to provide the best possible service to its constituents. This task was made more challenging by the downturn in the economy and State budget woes, but we remained focused on making a positive difference in the lives of Solano County residents.

The fiscal realities meant tough decisions had to be made, from the Board of Supervisors down to the frontline staff delivering services. We focused on how it is we can deliver services and continue making a difference with fewer resources. As a result of prudent fiscal planning during the good years, the County was also able to make facility investments—such as the Twin Campus project, Library Technical Services building and the Lake Solano Nature Center—that will enhance our ability to serve the community. Collectively, these actions will shape how the County of Solano operates for many years to come.

The information in this report offers the community insights on our continuing effort to provide efficient and effective services. It also highlights how County employees earned statewide and national recognition for excellence, implemented new and innovative ways to deliver services, and made progress on many projects that invest in our future. These accomplishments reflect the dedication and hard work of people committed to the County's mission of serving the people and providing a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

As always, we recognize that what we have achieved and what we hope to achieve in the future is only possible with our relationships with our community partners and the ongoing support of the citizens. By focusing on the core priorities, we can continue making Solano County a model county for others to emulate.

Sincerely,



John M. Vasquez, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

OUR MISSION

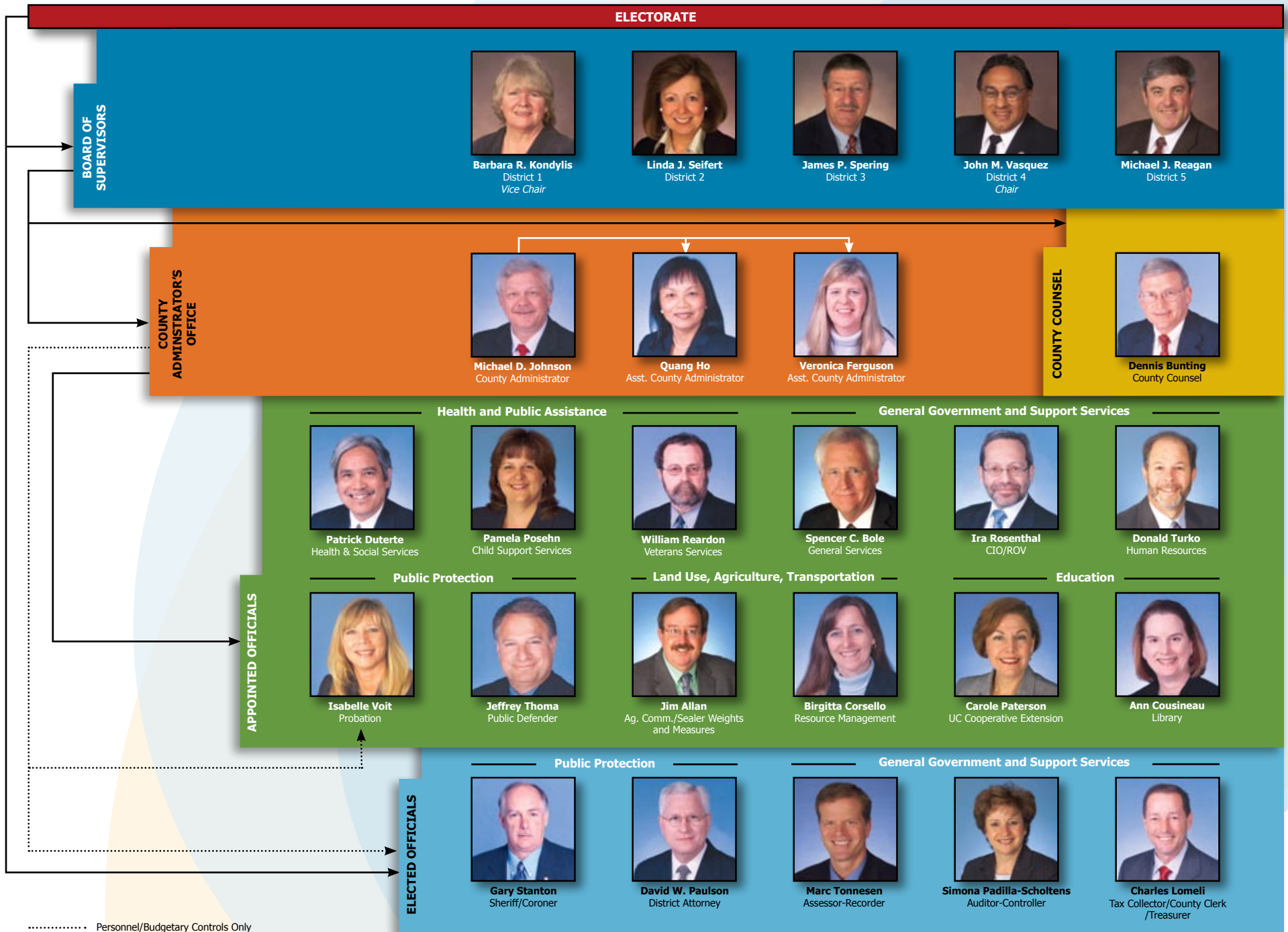
To serve the people and to provide a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

OUR VISION

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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ORGANIZATION CHART





To the Citizens of Solano County,

2009 was indeed a challenging year for California's counties. It included a collapse in the real estate market that created an avalanche of property value reductions and cuts in State funding as a result of the largest budget deficit in State history. These ongoing revenue reductions were significant, essentially leaving us with only 88 cents on the dollar going forward. In addition, the State's ongoing failure to fully deal with its revenue and expenditure imbalance—now almost \$21 billion—means funding for counties and county-administered programs will be at risk for several years to come.

In facing these challenges, Solano County has been more fortunate than most other counties. As a result of sound financial planning, we have been able to deal with the impacts of the economy and the State's fiscal problems in a planned and deliberate way. County leadership has had to make some difficult and sometimes unpleasant decisions to keep finances on track; however, the cuts would have been harsher if we had not established healthy reserves and a tradition of prudent fiscal discipline.

The budgetary problems have focused us on reexamining how we deliver services, and which services we provide. This continuous evaluation of programs and processes helps us live up to the expectations of the community. This annual report contains a variety of charts, graphs and other measures that convey how successful the County has been on meeting the needs of the community. You will see more of this in the coming year, as we try to reassure the public of our commitment to quality service even in an environment of fewer resources.

After all, County government is about making a difference in the lives of people who live, work, learn and play in Solano County. It is the reason many of us have chosen to serve our community, either as County employees or volunteers of the many non-profits and community organizations that assist the County in its work.

On behalf of the County's employees, volunteers and community partners, I would like to thank you for your support as we work to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Johnson
County Administrator

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

RESPONSIBLE LAND USE

Since the County received a Fair rating on its 1,173 lane miles by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Pavement Condition Index in 2007, Public Works has chip sealed and overlaid 197 lane miles, or 17% of County roads.



FACTOID

Solano Index, Economic Summits recognized for excellence, community partnerships

The California Association for Local Economic Development presented the County an Award of Excellence in Economic Development Programs for its 2008 Index of Economic and Community Progress, which has 14 diverse indicator areas that measure the strength of the local economy and the health of the community. Since the Index was presented in November 2008, several workshops and a countywide Youth Summit were held that engaged a diverse group of community members to address challenges identified in the Index as having an impact on the future growth of the economy, including reducing the high school dropout rate and juvenile crime. In addition, analyses of the life science and energy industry clusters were presented in February and November, respectively. These reports showed that the industries grew faster than the Bay Area and the state. All of this collaborative activity earned the County the 2009 Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership Award. The reports are available at solanocounty.com/economicindex.

County adopts local purchase preference policy

The County's purchasing power is even more directed toward local vendors with a new policy adopted by the Board of Supervisors. County employees must look first to local vendors whenever possible in their purchases of supplies and professional services. On formal and informal bids, the local bidder has the opportunity to match the low bid if they are within 5 percent of the lowest bid. The County also enhanced its standard contract language to encourage firms to hire qualified local residents to work on County projects. The new policy expands upon the existing local preference policy that awarded contracts to local bidders if they tied for the lowest bid. The change does not increase the cost of County contracts, it only expands the opportunities for local businesses to participate in County solicitations. Due to Federal and State government restrictions, the new policy does not include public works projects.

FACTOID



671 pounds of prescriptions were gathered during the 2009 Pharmaceutical Drop-off Week, a 125% increase in the amount of drugs kept out of landfills and waterways.

Amnesty event for waste tires

Solano County's Tire Amnesty Event program continued to get waste tires into recycling bins instead of being stockpiled or illegally dumped, where left unmanaged they create mosquito breeding grounds and potential burn hazards. This year's event, which collected 4,854 passenger tires and 437 tractor tires, allowed residents, growers, ranchers and farmers to register and pick the day to turn them in that was convenient to them. In September 2008, Solano County held a one-day tire amnesty event that collected over 13,000 tires.

County exhibit bearish on awards

The annual showcase of Solano agriculture at the California State Fair earned the County the 2009 Agricultural Progress Award, the first county to ever win the



award. The Agricultural Progress Award is presented by the California Exposition and State Fair Board of Directors to recognize an individual or organization that has contributed extensively over a number of years to the promotion, advancement and growth of the California State Fair Agricultural programs. The 2009 Solano County exhibit—entitled “A Farmer’s Paradise in Solano: The Enchanted Orchard”—won a Gold Award and was named Best of Show for the fifth consecutive year. The display also won the Best Agricultural Display for the second year in a row. Fairgoers voted the exhibit the Most Fun, Most Educational and the overall People’s Choice.



Countywide statistics for the 2009 California Coastal Cleanup Day surpassed all prior records with 2,693 volunteers picking up 40,183 pounds of trash and 4,333 pounds of recyclable materials from an area covering 87.5 miles in Solano County.

FACTOID

implementation measures were identified that address agriculture/business, natural resources and energy consumption, including the creation of an agricultural planner and ombudsman, updating the zoning ordinance, the development of a Climate Action Plan and updating the Suisun Marsh Local Protection program. •

Solano County 2009 exhibit “A Farmer’s Paradise in Solano: The Enchanted Orchard” won six awards, including Best of Show, at the California State Fair.

7 Solano businesses green certified, 21 more small firms under way

More local businesses joined the ranks of certified green businesses under Solano County’s green business program. Center for Right Relationship in Benicia, 7 Flags Car Wash and Express Lube in Fairfield and Vacaville, A-1 Guaranteed Heating and Air in Vallejo, Vineyard RV Park in rural Vacaville and two locations of Triangle Digital INX Company in Dixon are now green certified. Currently 21 small businesses throughout the county are working toward their certification. Solano County launched a pilot green business program in July 2007 to encourage small- to medium-sized businesses that handle or generate hazardous waste to voluntarily undergo a rigorous certification process. The program was expanded in 2008 to work with other businesses wanting the green business certification.

Implementing the General Plan

The voters approved the 2008 General Plan to provide a policy framework necessary to fulfill the community’s vision for Solano County through 2030. To implement this vision, the County initiated a specific plan for potential residential development of Middle Green Valley and a strategic plan to enhance the agricultural viability of Suisun Valley. In addition, several other General Plan

RESPONSIBLE LAND USE

Local agriculture production reaches all-time high again

Increasingly favorable commodity prices helped set an all-time high for agricultural production for the second year in a row. The gross value of the more than 80 crops was \$292.8 million in 2008, up almost \$25 million, or 9 percent from the previous year. An added element of the Solano County Crop and Livestock Report this year was a description of international trade. Thirty-seven commodities, including endive, grapes, tomatoes and hay, are exported to 45 countries across six continents.

SOLANO COUNTY TOP 10 CROPS

| | 2008 | 2007 | Change |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| Nursery Products | \$43,056,300 | \$56,610,700 | -24% |
| Alfalfa | \$42,889,900 | \$24,679,900 | 74% |
| Tomatoes, Processing | \$29,850,600 | \$23,955,200 | 25% |
| Cattle and Calves | \$23,321,100 | \$23,273,200 | 0% |
| Walnuts | \$19,948,100 | \$21,955,300 | -9% |
| Milk, Market | \$16,437,000 | \$17,022,200 | -3% |
| Grapes, Wine | \$11,064,700 | \$8,095,000 | 37% |
| Wheat, Irrigated | \$8,335,200 | \$5,338,800 | 56% |
| Sunflower Seed, Certified | \$8,224,200 | \$5,117,000 | 61% |
| Corn, Field | \$8,081,600 | \$6,761,100 | 20% |

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Board challenges community to help ensure kids have health insurance

The Board of Supervisors once again issued its challenge to local businesses and residents to help insure Solano County's children through the Healthy Kids program. For every dollar raised by the community, the Board committed to match those donations dollar for dollar—up to \$162,000. The community responded at the Solano Magazine Classic for Kids, an annual fundraiser for the program, by raising over \$63,000. More donations continue to come in and are eagerly accepted. Supervisors initiated the challenge in 2005 to encourage community support for the program, which has provided \$625,000 in matching dollars for the Healthy Kids program. The program is a leading factor in the county achieving and maintaining a 96 percent insured rate among children.

County lends hand in free food giveaway

Over 200 County employees were part of an army of volunteers who made the Hope for the Hungry project the largest free food giveaway event in Solano County's history. About 115,000 pounds of food donated from the 2009 San Francisco Fancy Food Show was brought to the Liberty Christian Center in Fairfield for sorting and distributing on January 24 to about 5,400 people at eight sites in Fairfield and Suisun City. For two days prior, the volunteers unloaded and sorted 95 pallets of food from large trailer trucks. The task was made even more challenging with rain forcing the entire operation under tents.

County reconfigures mental health services

Mental Health reconfigured the way it offered crisis services to the community by combining the functions of the Mental Health Outpatient Clinics and Crisis Clinics in Vallejo and Fairfield. In addition, the County expanded the use of its Mobile Crisis Team for afterhours care. Under the new strategy, people requiring involuntary treatment are immediately triaged and taken directly to the most appropriate mental health treatment facility. Mobile Crisis Team

staff meet the individual at that treatment facility to provide additional screening and discharge coordination. Crisis services remain accessible anytime by calling the 24-hour Crisis Line (707-428-1131) and Mental Health Access Line (800-547-0495). The move improved their ability to deliver services and reduced costs by \$915,000.

FACTOID



Smile in Style program taught 12,547 school children about oral healthcare, 1,447 students were screened, and 612 students had sealants placed on their molars to prevent tooth decay.

Nurses visit first-time mothers

Solano County is one of 17 counties implementing a pilot child abuse prevention program. Using a \$1.4 million federal grant and a proven Nurse Family Partnership model, Health and Social Services nurses and child welfare workers will be visiting first-time mothers to ensure they have a healthy pregnancy, develop a strong and positive parent-child relationship, and are capable to raise a baby who is physically, emotionally, and socially healthy. Solano's proposal is unique because it targets services to former foster youth and their partners who become young parents.

Eliminating health disparities for moms, babies

BabyFirst Solano, a consortium of community clinics and public health programs, provided over 2,300 prenatal assessments, ensuring women had prenatal care and health insurance. They also screened the women for high-risk psychosocial needs. In addition, staff helped 683 moms to avoid substance abuse during and after pregnancy with 86 percent of the moms being substance free by their delivery date. All totaled, one out of four pregnant women in Solano County was touched by BabyFirst Solano.

While Solano has made great strides in providing excellent healthcare, the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Community Assessment revealed challenges with high teen birth rate and growing rates of chlamydia. Despite State funding cuts for these needed services, Solano staff and its partners continue to provide services in an effort to turn the curve on this trend.

Foster children visit parents in friendly atmosphere

Child Welfare Services opened a visitation center at the Health and Social Services campus at 275 Beck Avenue in Fairfield. The visitation center serves as a central place where parents can visit with children who are in foster care. The space is warmly decorated and offers activities for parents and children. Quality visitation is at the heart of the division's successful reunification strategy.

County unveils new web portal for veterans

A new web portal helps connect veterans to information and resources for them and their families. The web portal—networkofcare.org—brings together over 15,000 web links and 250,000 pages of information into an easy-to-search database.

It includes information on and access to available services, articles on health and veterans issues, legislative issues and advocacy opportunities, social networking and personal health records. California is only the second state in the country to launch the Network of Care website for veterans and service people and is leading the way in bringing resources to veterans and their families.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



County Veterans Services outpaces nation, state

Veterans Services outpaces the nation and state in statistics that reflect how the department helps Solano veterans. Its performance was recognized by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) with its inaugural Deputy Secretary's Award of Excellence. The department also used a \$30,000 CDVA grant to help expand its outreach activities to veterans and active duty service members, including getting them timely information and assisting them in accessing programs and entitlements earned by their military service.

VETERANS ACCESSING BENEFITS

| | % Veterans Receiving Benefits | Average Benefits Per Veteran |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Solano | 19.40% | \$2,244 |
| California | 10.95% | \$1,327 |
| Nation | 11.82% | \$1,453 |



Making Safe Routes to School

In partnership with the Solano Transportation Authority, Public Health will continue building the Safe Routes to Schools Program. This two-year program identifies and coordinates walking routes for children attending local schools. This collaboration is unique in California and opens opportunities for injury prevention, obesity prevention and chronic disease prevention. The program reduces vehicle miles traveled, improves air quality and decreases the gridlock around neighborhood schools.

Food inspection reports go online

The public is only a few clicks away from the two most recent inspection reports for all 1,300-plus food facilities operating in the county. Information at solanocounty.com/foodreports includes the name and address of the business, date of inspection and any code violations observed along with the corrective action required. If a violation is corrected, the follow-up inspection showing the correction will appear first, followed by the routine inspection where the violation was discovered. Posting inspection reports on the County website is part of the Resource Management's continued automation improvement process for the food facility program, which includes the use of handheld computers to electronically record food-related inspections.

First 5 Solano funds school readiness and childcare sites throughout the county to help children succeed in school and have a safe place to be cared for while their parents are at work.



FACTOID

Setting the example with employee wellness

A formal County Employee Wellness Program kicked off in December 2008 to enhance employee health and morale, to develop healthier work environments that encourage and support healthier lifestyles, and to reduce the incidence of lifestyle-related illness for employees and their families. This effort has ranged from over a dozen brown bag wellness workshops that give employees insight on such topics as stress management and overall wellness education to a change in the vending machine policy at County facilities. The policy now requires at least 50% of the items to be healthy food and beverage options.

Employees and their family members also increased their physical activity by joining local fitness clubs, taking advantage of membership discounts that the program offers. An estimated 11 percent of the employee work force has a fitness club membership and nearly 250 are members of Walking Clubs. Overall, County employees lost more than 300 pounds by participating in the County's Weight Watchers at Work, Walking Clubs and Employee Wellness Challenge programs.

Digital Storytelling captures local history

A commitment to oral history in our communities led the Library to apply for and receive a grant from the State Library to purchase a Digital Storytelling Station. Staff interviewed, recorded and edited stories from local residents who shared their memories of growing up in Solano County or some aspect of life in California. At the end of the project, the Library had 18 stories and celebrated with the storytellers, their family and friends in a special "premiere" event. In the first few months there were almost 1,200 viewings of the stories at solanolibrary.com/stories.

Outreach informs prisoners about child support

Department of Child Support Services continued its program to educate and assist inmates at the California State Prison – Solano on how they can request a modification of their child support order while incarcerated. Through collaboration with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, child support staff met with more than 200 inmates monthly at the prison to address their change in circumstances early on, thereby reducing obstacles to a successful re-entry after release from prison.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

County responds to H1N1

The County Office of Emergency Services, Public Health and other agencies have been preparing for an influenza pandemic for the past four years, including a tabletop exercise in April that included representatives from area hospitals, schools, clinics, long-term and skilled-nursing facilities, businesses, public safety, and federal, state, and local government.

Throughout the first wave of the 2009 H1N1 pandemic in the spring, Public Health closely monitored H1N1 cases. They worked closely with numerous community partners to keep them informed and to help spread the word regarding practical steps people can take to reduce the spread of the virus.

This collaborative effort was reinforced in October at a joint press conference by Public Health and the local medical community, including more than 35 healthcare providers representing 15 healthcare agencies, to relay up-to-date information about the second wave of the 2009 H1N1 virus, the importance of getting vaccinated, and to call 211 or visit solanocounty.com/H1N1 for information about Public Health H1N1 community clinic times and locations. A Twitter account was established for the public to know when new information was being posted to the County's website.

The Sheriff's Office Custody Division managed the spread of the H1N1 virus among the jail inmates by quarantining the facility in July after an inmate tested positive for the virus. The success of the response was in part due to their entire staff having just completed a comprehensive critical incident management training program, which included containment of a pandemic flu outbreak.

When the first doses of the H1N1 vaccination became available in October, a series of community vaccination clinics sprung up all over Solano County to inoculate over 7,100 people in a little over a week. These H1N1 clinics were in addition to the traditional seasonal flu vaccine clinics organized by Public Health. A partnership among the Library, Health and Social Services and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People brought regular seasonal flu shot clinics to the library branches in Fairfield, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo. More than 2,000 people visited their neighborhood library to receive the seasonal flu shot.

Residents heeded Public Health advice to get seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations at clinics across the county.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

First 5 invests in Solano kids

First 5 Solano expanded its strategies for investing in 2009, including measures that responded to the economic downturn and state funding shortfalls, such as:

- establishing a \$1 million Community Stability Fund to address increased needs;
- a onetime allocation for the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) expansion of the Healthy Families program for health insurance for children aged 0-5; and
- increased funding to the Family Support Services Initiative (Family Resource Centers).

They launched the new PEAK Initiative (Partnerships for Early Access for Kids), which provides early mental/developmental health screenings, assessments, and treatment services, parent and provider outreach, and training and collaborative support.

First 5 Solano also initiated a long-term “Business Engagement Strategy” in partnership with the Solano Economic Development Corporation to enlist support from the business community for expanding the quality of the future workforce by supporting early childhood education and development programs, and to address young children’s and family issues in the current workforce.

Reaching parents in a family fun way

In celebration of Child Support Awareness Month, the Department of Child Support Services sponsored a “Family Fun Day” in August. Through generous donations by 22 local businesses, the Saturday event featured a carnival with free games, prizes, food, and a live goat. Staff members were on hand to answer questions about the child support program and

to release suspended licenses through the “Get Back on the Road Again” driver license release program. This statewide program encouraged non-custodial parents to make a child support payment as an incentive for having a suspended license released during the month of August.

Senior falls prevention program

The Solano County Fall Prevention Partnership was formed in March by the Senior Coalition and other community members, city partners, and non-profit and for-profit senior service providers. The goal of the Partnership is to increase awareness and education about the risks and long-term consequences when seniors fall. They will be conducting a needs assessment and developing a strategic plan to establish a countywide falls prevention program. The effort addressing one of the top three needs identified in the Solano County Status Report on Seniors 2008. •



Crowds race to Lynch Canyon healthy recreational event

The 2nd annual Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike on May 30 attracted over 200 people to participate in a half-marathon, 10-kilometer race course or 2.5-mile hike. Event sponsors included Kaiser Permanente, Fleet Feet and Deloitte Consulting. The Lynch Canyon Trail Run is a unique off-road running experience catering to local and Bay Area trail runners. The race course climbs 600 feet in elevation to the ridges surrounding Lynch Canyon, offering a challenging and scenic setting for this healthy event.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SAFE COMMUNITY



Twelve inmates completed a forklift operator training and testing certification program, acquiring viable employment skills and reducing the likelihood of continued criminal behavior.

Drug Court graduates better citizens

Two graduation ceremonies for participants in Adult Felony Drug Court celebrated eight former offenders who successfully completed the 18-month program. Since opening in December 2007, 31 drug offenders have entered the program with 17 continuing to participate, eight graduating and 10 failing to complete or not currently active in the program. A \$200,000 federal Department of Justice grant will enhance the funding for the program through August 2011.

Assessment tool improves probation

Probation's Adult Services Division fully implemented a model of supervision based on a risk-based assessment. The web-based tools help evaluate the risk factors of all offenders referred to Probation. Higher-risk cases are placed with probation officers with smaller caseloads so they can receive frequent contact with a probation officer. The lowest-risk cases use a telephone reporting software program to monitor compliance. The impact of this change has been to better monitor compliance, support behavioral change and manage treatment needs for higher-risk offenders.

Weekend Academy teaches community service to troubled Solano youth

Four Saturdays a month, minors assigned to Probation Juvenile Division's Weekend Academy Program are getting more than the official intermediate sanction alternative to incarceration for violating the terms of their probation or diversion program. The mandatory community service hours they perform have provided labor for such tasks as picking up trash or gardening at Lynch Canyon Open Space, Rush Ranch, Solano County Animal Shelter and Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden at Benicia State Park. Minors are referred to the program by their Probation officer or by the Juvenile Court Judge. A conditional release officer supervises the minors the entire time and usually provides transportation to and from the worksites.



Deputies explain the capabilities of the B.E.A.R. and the additional options it provides the Sheriff's Office during emergency situations.

B.E.A.R. joins Sheriff's response team

The Office of Emergency Services purchased an armored tactical rescue vehicle with Homeland Security grant funds. The Lenco B.E.A.R. (Ballistic Engineered Armored Response) vehicle brings a higher level and added dimension of response capability to Solano County law enforcement agencies. The B.E.A.R. can transport up to 15 fully equipped law enforcement officers to the scene of an emergency and provide ballistic protection once there, or it can transport or rescue up to 30 civilians with the same protection. It has thermal imaging capability, as well as built in explosive gas and radiation detection systems. The B.E.A.R. will be operated and maintained by the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team and will be made available to all county and regional law enforcement agencies by request.

Electronic monitoring of juveniles

Juvenile services marked the 10th anniversary of its Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) with a success rate of 94 percent of participants not reoffending within six months to a year after completing the program. EMP is an alternative to confinement in juvenile hall and intensively monitors minors via an ankle bracelet that accounts for their whereabouts at all times. The minors must have good school attendance and pass drug tests. They also receive a variety of services including referrals to community service, counseling and employment. Violations of the program can return the youth to juvenile hall. Parents are charged a daily fee for EMP services. This program saved the department 6,244 bed days at juvenile hall annually.

Domestic violence program gives victims resources

The Office of Family Violence Prevention developed a state-certified Domestic Violence Volunteer Advocate Training Program to provide victims a friendly resource to navigate the various agencies. The program was created to help community-based domestic violence service agencies cope with significant losses in funding, which impacted their ability to hire and retain enough paid staff to serve an increasing number of domestic violence victims seeking services. Staff partnered with the community-based agencies to recruit and train 17 volunteer advocates who will be placed within these community-based agencies, assisting domestic violence victims in obtaining orders for protection, assistance with housing, counseling, and other critical services.

FACTOID

On a typical day, the Sheriff has 960 adults in jail and 75 adults in an alternative sentencing program. Probation has 4,400 adults and 1,100 juveniles under the supervision of a probation officer and 85 minors in juvenile hall.

Fingerprint system upgraded

The Sheriff upgraded the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) in June and added new Livescan terminals and software at police stations throughout the county. Staff can enter fingerprints into the system and search prints on file as well as review Livescan jail bookings. The new system allows law enforcement agencies to review and retrieve fingerprint information from the electronic database. Since implementing the system, investigators have collected 98 sets of fingerprints, of which 16 were identified as "hits" to known suspects.

Adding more emergency capabilities

The Coroner's Office has enlarged two of its resources needed in a mass-fatality incident. The expanded staff of Emergency Disaster Relief Workers program, which is affiliated with the County Office of Emergency Services, provides additional trained forensic technicians who can be called upon during mass-fatality incidents.

The recently finished mass-fatality response trailer provides the Coroner's Office with the supplies needed for maintaining operations at a mass-fatality incident for 72 hours. The Office of Emergency Services continues to manage a large volunteer program that includes Search and Rescue, Sheriff's Posse, Sheriff Reserve Deputies, and the Auxiliary Communications Service (HAM radio operators). These volunteers took an existing trailer and converted it into a fully functional mobile emergency operations center.



New illegal dumping program reducing litter

The Sheriff's Office and the Environmental Health Division joined forces to create an Environmental Crimes Unit to enforce a new no-tolerance policy for illegal dumping. Violators face fines of up to \$100. The team has identified more than 240 illegal dump sites across the county. Results so far reflect a 25 percent decline in the amount of illegal dumping, which historically has meant Solano road crews spending nearly 600 hours a year picking up litter and hundreds of hours a month for landfill operators removing trash.

Investigators take out indoor grow-houses

The Solano County Sheriff's Office Cal-MMET (California Multi-jurisdiction Methamphetamine Enforcement Team) and Sol-NET (Solano County Narcotic Enforcement Team) was very busy investigating indoor marijuana grow houses— taking out of commission a record number 11 indoor marijuana grow-houses. Over 16,437 marijuana plants and 102 pounds of processed marijuana were prevented from reaching the streets of Solano County. In addition, 35 pounds of methamphetamines, 1.2 pounds of heroin, 1 pound of cocaine, 31 guns and \$115,193 in cash was seized. A total of 110 arrests were made, and 18 children were removed from unsafe environments.

Fruit sniffing dogs thwart unwanted pests

The Agriculture Department used the noses of specially trained dogs to inspect inbound packages of fruit and nursery plants that could introduce unwanted pests into the area. The dogs uncovered the presence of the Caribbean fruit fly and the Asian citrus psyllid in packages.

Sheriff Patrol dogs in action

Three new Belgian Malinois police dogs—Honda, Richter and Fedor—joined the Sheriff's Office, in part due to Homeland Security grant funding that was used to purchase one of the dogs and provide training for all of the dogs and their handlers. One of those dogs is always available for a patrol shift. The new dogs do walk in the shadow of former police dogs gone "Hollywood." Prior to retiring from the Solano County Sheriff's Office, police dogs King, Niko, Basco and Khan provided the barks and growls used in the Pixar movie *Up*. •

SAFE COMMUNITY



Marine Patrol rids waterways of abandoned boats

As part of a state and local cooperative effort, the Solano County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Bureau received a \$30,000 grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways to participate in the Abandon Water Craft Abatement Fund program. This grant was used to remove six derelict vessels that were either partially sunk or beached, creating a hazard to the environment and a safety concern for the public in the Solano County waterways. This action was made possible by the adoption of a new ordinance giving the Sheriff the authority to remove abandoned vessels.

INVEST IN THE FUTURE



Solano County among top digital counties

Solano County was recognized as one of the top technologically advanced county governments in the United States, receiving a top 10 ranking in its population category in a national survey conducted by the Center for Digital Government and National Association of Counties. The award comes only a year after the County launched a redesigned website—solanocounty.com—designed to make it easier for residents to access the hundreds of pages of useful information about County services and programs.

The 2009 Digital Counties Survey found that Solano County uses information technology in increasingly innovative ways to deliver service to the county's residents, including a comprehensive database of land parcels, webcasts of Board of Supervisors meetings, online tax payments, photos of pets available for adoption, online Library catalog, and dozens of online forms from registering to vote by mail to starting a child support case. About 1 million users visit the County website annually, viewing more than 3.4 million pages.

5 elections canvass the county

From November 2008 to November 2009, the Registrar of Voters office conducted five unique elections. The November 2008 Presidential election was the largest in County history, with 85 percent of the 191,387 registered voters filling out a two-page ballot—one card for candidates and one card for measures. In April, an all-mail ballot was used for a Dixon City Council Special Election. The Statewide Special Election on May 19 saw voter registration inch up to 192,354, but turnout barely topped 33 percent. The Registrar consolidated precincts and counted ballots centrally for a special election on September 1 to replace Representative Ellen



Tauscher following her presidential appointment to Under Secretary of State. Money-saving strategies eliminated the expense of deploying counting machines and Election Day technical support staff, as well as the number of extra ballots and poll workers

needed. The strategy was replicated on the November 2009 Consolidated Election. In the last three elections, vote-by-mail voters accounted for about three-fourths of the ballots cast.

Victories in battle to protect the Delta

The County achieved some battle victories in its ongoing advocacy efforts to protect the county from undesirable impacts included in State plans that redefine water usage and protections for the Delta. More than anything, the County strengthened its partnerships among the Solano County Water Agency, Solano Resource Conservation District and Reclamation District 2068 and the Delta counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo. Acting as the Delta Counties Coalition, the solidarity of voices secured:

FACTOID



Residents continually use the Library for its technology resources and high-speed internet. The Library increased its bandwidth from 20 to 50 megabytes.

- a greater voice in the governance of the Delta;
- limits on the regulatory reach of any new agency;
- protections on area-of-origin water rights;
- a better share of any bond funding; and
- a balance of economic and environmental interests for the region.

Library earns ProLiteracy accreditation

The Library's literacy program received a four-year accreditation from ProLiteracy America, the largest nongovernmental organization of adult basic education and literacy programs in the world. The program met ProLiteracy's 16 standards in the categories of organization management, student-centered services and instructor/tutor services. Community stakeholders such as the Fairfield-Adult School, Solano Community College, North Vallejo Family Resource Center, Solano County Library Foundation and Soroptimist International-Central Solano participated in the site review. According to the reviewer, Solano's program will serve as an example for other libraries in the region and state that are working toward this accreditation.



Rio Vista Library remodel

The Rio Vista Library received a facelift in spring 2009. The remodel added more public computers, improved the display of CD and DVD collections, consolidated the service desks and improved the flow of customers within the building.

Improved equipment to assure equity

Weights and measures inspectors verify the accuracy of utility submeters at apartment complexes, marinas and trailer parks. Using in-house expertise they designed new testing procedures and standards for utility submeters used for electricity, water and vapor gas. These new procedures help the Agriculture Department stay current with technology and assure equity in the marketplace. The department also replaced the heavy capacity test truck used to carry large test weights to test vehicle, livestock and large floor scales. The truck is designed to apply 46,000 pounds of weight in a very small compact area to verify the accuracy of the commercial scales.

Food Stamp program highly effective

Health and Social Services received a Recognition of Excellence Award from the California Department of Social Services for contributing to California's Historical Low Food Stamp Error Rate and a Certification of Appreciation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Solano has come a long way from a food stamp error rate of 12.6 percent back in 1999 to 1.78 percent in 2008. The Quality Control division monitors emerging error trends and implements just-in-time training to correct them. This avoids federal sanctions for Solano County and the State.

Mental Health Services are efficient

In its 2009 State audit, Solano County Mental Health received special recognition for its low rate of Medi-Cal Denied Claims. In an era of increased scrutiny of claims submitted, Solano ranked 9th in the state for its low 1.27 percent denial rate compared to a 4.91 percent state average.

Using education to improve compliance

Worker safety regulations require agriculture field workers to receive pesticide safety training from an approved trainer; however, no program was available locally to train and certify



Sandy Beach campground rated Best of the Delta

The *Delta Explorer* magazine asked its readers to tell them which campground deserved the Best of the Delta honors and they chose Sandy Beach County Park as No. 1. Located along the Sacramento River near Rio Vista, Sandy Beach offers year-round access to a 24-hour boat-launching ramp, camp sites, picnic grounds, hiking trail, miles of country roads for bicycling and a sandy beach stretching for over half a mile.



Voted by the Readers of the Delta Explorer

INVEST IN THE FUTURE



trainers. The County's agricultural staff created a Department of Pesticide Regulation-approved curriculum and organized a local "Train the Trainer" class. The success of the well-attended event made the pilot program a model that is being considered for regional and statewide train-the-trainer pesticide programs.

Job search assistance

With the downturn in the economy, staff saw a surge in the number of people using the Library as a resource to look for jobs, fill out online job applications and write resumes. Access to free computers and internet was coupled with workshops on finding a job and one-on-one assistance from staff to help people unfamiliar with how to use computerized systems. Library usage jumped 15 percent over the previous year as people took advantage of these free services.

Energy conservation program

In September, the Board authorized the Treasurer to form a steering committee to establish a Solano County Energy Conservation Program. Final details on the program are in the works and are expected in early 2010. Using voluntary assessments, property owners can borrow money from the County to make energy efficiency or water conservation upgrades and repay the loan through their annual property taxes. Some of the potential projects include solar panels, tankless water heaters, cool roofs, wind turbines, new windows, furnaces, and air conditioners. The goal of the program is to reduce energy consumption and increase independence while reducing the County's carbon footprint.

Read Away Fines keeps kids in books

Almost 6,000 children participated in the Library's Read Away Fines program, which resulted in about \$16,000 in waivers of fines. The program is designed to encourage children to keep using their local library, even if they have fines on their cards. Children under the age of 18 can pay their overdue fines by reading. For every 15 minutes of reading, they can earn \$1 to apply to their fines. The popularity of the program continues to grow as children discover how to eliminate their fines with the added bonus that they keep up their reading skills.

FACTOID



Since implementing such web-based tools as TurboCourt, lobby kiosks and a telephone Integrated Voice Response system, about 44% of Child Support Services customers now select the self-service option.

Earn It! Keep It! Save It!

The Library coordinated an Earn It! Keep It! Save It! program with United Way of the Bay Area and Children's Network of Solano County for three "Super Saturdays" at the Fairfield Civic Center, Vacaville Cultural Center and Vallejo John F. Kennedy libraries. The program is a federal income tax credit that assists low- and moderate-income working families and individuals by providing cash refunds up to \$4,300. Volunteers are trained to help people file their income taxes so they can benefit from the tax credit.

It was the second year that Fairfield offered the program and the first year for both Vacaville

and Vallejo. More than 300 people, including participants and volunteers, attended these sessions. Over 100 filed electronic returns with volunteers following up with those who did not have time to file on the day of the session. Combined with the other sites throughout the county, the program is responsible for more than \$2.5 million in tax refunds coming back to Solano residents.

Summits focus attention on transit system

County officials wanted a better understanding of the transportation issues facing seniors and disabled individuals. They solicited their feedback through surveys and by conducting a Senior and Disabled Transportation Summit in June, where nearly 150 people had an opportunity to voice their concerns about public transit services in Solano. The main issues raised were the need for transit services to be more accessible, more reliable and provide a greater sense of independence. A second summit in October looked at options to enhance the existing public transit system and address issues raised at the first summit. Several solutions were presented, including a consolidated transit information directory, which was distributed during the summit; a proposed countywide transit consortium, and an inter-city taxi scrip program to augment the paratransit system. The summits were sponsored by the County of Solano, Solano Transportation Authority, Senior Coalition of Solano County, and Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Volunteerism thrives at Lynch Canyon Open Space

Solano County residents showed their can-do spirit and love of the outdoors at Lynch Canyon Open Space, a County-operated park in the hills near Vallejo. Over 260 individuals and members of local Scout troops, church groups and corporations volunteered more than 2,900 hours leading tours, building trails, installing signs, and helping put on public recreational events. Volunteers were recruited and trained by the Solano Land Trust in conjunction with County Parks staff.

Major construction projects

- **TWIN CAMPUS:** County staff moved into the new \$27.8 million, three-story 58,000-square-foot Health & Social Services clinic and office building in Vallejo and the \$18.8 million, two-story, 30,000-square-foot Public Health Clinic/Laboratory and Forensics Laboratory building in Fairfield. The relocation of Public Health Laboratory to Fairfield will improve the

County's response time during emergencies, and the creation of a Forensics Laboratory will expedite the criminal justice process. The improvements at both sites included expanded parking, landscaping, hardscaping, signage and public art to create more cohesive County campuses focused on efficient service delivery at a time when demand for services are at an all time high. The project continues through 2010 with the renovation of three existing facilities at both campuses.

- **LAW & JUSTICE CENTER WALL REPAIR:** A \$2.1 million facade repair project to give the Law & Justice Center an additional 25 years service life was completed while the facility was in continuous operation. The project resolved long-standing exterior finish issues that affected the building's performance, maintenance and appearance.
- **NUT TREE AIRPORT MONUMENT SIGN:** A 24-foot high and 39-foot wide stainless steel sign modeled after the tail of an airplane now marks the entrance to Nut Tree Airport. Other improvements include a directory sign and landscaping.



INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Adoption and Shelter Awareness Days at Solano County Animal Shelter

Adoption and Shelter Awareness Day events on the third Sunday of every month from noon to 3 p.m. at the Solano County Animal Shelter helped increase the public's awareness of adopting shelter animals and educate them on the other services the shelter provides. The days include a low-cost vaccination and micro-chipping clinic as well as booths providing pet owners with information on pet first aid and disaster preparedness. After seven events 18 dogs, 6 cats and 1 rabbit were adopted, 21 pets were micro-chipped, and 167 pets were vaccinated.



Above: In just a few weeks, crews demolished the former Administrative Annex and established a grassy park area in downtown Fairfield. Top: A conceptual drawing of the William J. Carroll Government Center planned for construction in Vacaville.

- **DIXON VETERANS HALL:** In December veterans moved into a new location after the \$1.5 million renovation of a 8,400-square foot building at 1305 N. 1st Street. The project created a large assembly area, a full commercial kitchen, three smaller meeting areas and administrative offices for local veteran groups. The building will also provide a reception space for families of veterans buried at the nearby Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

- **WILLIAM J. CARROLL GOVERNMENT CENTER:** This north county campus for Health and Social Services programs is in the initial design and pre-construction phase. A public forum gathered input on the design and land planning of the \$16.7 million, two-story 25,000-square-foot building. The City of Vacaville is planning development of a 25,000-square-foot building on an adjacent site to complement the County-provided services. The campus is named in honor of former Vacaville Mayor and Supervisor William J. Carroll.

FACTOID



The Twin Campus project constructs new buildings in Fairfield and Vallejo, adding 88,000 square feet of space to better serve the public through the use of a consolidated campus model.

- **LIBRARY TECHNICAL SERVICES BUILDING:** Library Technical Services moved into a 9,100-square-foot vacant building at 601 Kentucky St. to handle the increase in new books and materials processed and delivered to Library branches. The \$3.9 million renovation project streamlined the inflow and outflow of new materials, as well as repaved the parking lot and made the building accessible to persons living with disabilities.

- **MEETING/CONFERENCE CENTER:** Work began on the \$4.1 million project to convert the former Library building into a Meeting/Conference Center. The renovation will preserve many of the original architectural features of the 78-year-old building, including hand-painted roof trusses, decorative ceramic tiles, a fireplace and terra cotta roof tiles as well as incorporating new features consistent with the original design intent. The two-story, 10,900-square-foot building will have a new elevator, three meeting rooms and a serving kitchen on the first floor, and a small conference room and offices on the second

floor. The statue of Chief Solano will remain as the centerpiece of the site, but landscaping and hardscaping improvements, including an elevated patio that will double as a stage on the west side of the building. The project is scheduled to be completed in April 2010.

- **E-85 FUEL TANK:** The installation of a 10,000-gallon E-85 (85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline) above-ground concrete storage tank enables the County to use the alternative, environmentally-friendly fuel for 100 of the County vehicles. The project's vapor recovery system has been approved by the California Air Resources Board as a research and development site to generate data for a state study.
- **LAKE SOLANO NATURE CENTER:** A ribbon-cutting ceremony on Earth Day celebrated the grand opening of the new 5,000-square-foot building with a landscaped, outdoor education circle. The \$2.8 million center features over 2,000 square feet of exhibit area, reservable meeting rooms, administrative offices and storage space. The exhibit area features a "Wild About Wetlands" exhibit on loan from Sacramento County, which highlights the Nature Center's water and nature educational focus. •



More than 180,000 people a year visit Solano County parks, and the addition of the Lake Solano Nature Center is expected to increase those numbers.

INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Building an internal leadership pipeline to sustain continuity

A viable succession plan is critical for sustaining knowledge and leadership continuity, and for minimizing expensive, time-consuming executive recruitment and selection efforts. An essential step toward this goal was completed with the launch of the Future Leaders program. Twenty-three leaders from 12 departments graduated from this eight-month formal leadership development program through the University of California, Davis.



Graduates of the inaugural Future Leaders program.

The first promoted from this group was Bonnie Katz, who was appointed to replace Library Services Director Ann Cousineau upon her retirement in late December.



ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR QUANG HO is the most senior employee taking advantage of the County's Early Retirement Incentive program, retiring after nearly 17 years in the County Administrator's Office. She has served as a senior management analyst and budget officer before assuming her current role in 2001. She has been an integral part of the County's strategy to build its reserves to give the organization flexibility in good and bad times.

Another piece of the continuity puzzle is being solved with the mentoring program, which provides mentees (line staff employees) with nine months of coaching, guidance, skills and knowledge from mentors. Twenty-two mentees were partnered with management and supervisory staff to help develop the employees and help them pursue their career goals. In addition to weekly mentoring sessions and job shadowing opportunities, the employees learned about career path opportunities within the County and other soft skills that benefit them in their job today and as their careers progress.

LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR ANN COUSINEAU has accumulated a long list of accomplishments in her 22 years with the County, the last 15 as the director. Topping her list is keeping the promises that came with the passage of the eighth of a penny sales tax in 1998: more books on the shelves, more libraries and longer library hours to name a few.



These programs will help the County address an expected loss in experience stemming from a budget-reduction move that offered people in select job classifications an encouragement to retire early.



ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR BONNIE KATZ has served with Ann during her tenure as Library Services Director; therefore, the tradition of coming up with "new ways of doing business" that are pioneered in the eight-library system and adopted by libraries across the state will continue when Bonnie becomes Library Services Director.



Acting now to preserve resources for the future

The Board of Supervisors adopted a balanced \$836 million budget in June anticipating it would have to return multiple times throughout the year to respond to State budget cuts and the impacts of the economy. As the year progressed, short- and long-term revenue assumptions continued to show declines while expenses were expected to continue growing. To reverse the trend, the County developed a strategy to reduce a structural fund deficit of \$18.9 million that would grow to \$37.4 million in FY2010/11 if left unchecked. In November the Board approved \$10.5 million in cuts that reduced the size of the workforce and cut expenditures on contract services and supplies. An Early Retirement Incentive program offered to employees in select job classifications and other program reductions will further reduce the General Fund structural deficit. In January 2010, the Board will conduct a special meeting to discuss program prioritization, consolidation and elimination to further address the structural deficit.

Property tax assessment relief

Due to the declining real estate market, the Assessor undertook a proactive reduction in property tax assessments for residential homeowners. Assessments were reduced for 56,800 homeowners amounting to a \$4.98

billion reduction in assessed values. The Assessor also worked with owners of manufactured homes and multi-residential, commercial and industrial property owners to review their property tax assessments. The lowered assessments, along with home sales at lower prices, translated into a \$12 million reduction in property tax revenue for the County. An another \$8 million drop is expected in FY2010/11.

Presentation of budget wins distinguished award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) selected Solano County to receive its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The award is for the FY2008/09 budget document, and represents a significant achievement for a government organization. To receive the award, the County had to publish a document that met rigorous criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide for the organization, as a financial plan and as a tool to communicate to the public.

County earns 7th GFOA Certificate of Excellence

For the seventh consecutive year, Solano County has earned a Certificate of Achievement in 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, 2008. The County's financial report was judged on its ability to meet the high GFOA standards, including demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and to motivate potential users to read the document. The financial report also satisfied generally accepted accounting principles and all applicable legal requirements.

Final budget for FY2009/10

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 (39.3 percent), which are restricted to specific funds' expenditures. The Sources of Discretionary Revenue chart provides

FACTOID

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 18.75 | 37.34 | 17.12 | +0.75 | 1.81% |
| 11.47 | 17.02 | 42.15 | +0.13 | 0.48% |
| 45.45 | 40.86 | 27.09 | +0.46 | 2.09% |
| 37.15 | 26.07 | 22.47 | -1.26 | -5.12% |
| 22.59 | 21.71 | 23.37 | +12.51 | 3.30% |
| 29.97 | 22.74 | 23.37 | +0.74 | 0.78% |
| 384.78 | 377.43 | 391.66 | +0.42 | 1.69% |
| 95.67 | 93.96 | 95.61 | +0.30 | 1.22% |
| 25.32 | 24.74 | 25.22 | | |
| 24.88 | 24.35 | 24.82 | | |
| 57.55 | 55.00 | | | |

The Solano County Treasurer's Investment Pool maintained its Standard & Poor's "AAAF" fund credit quality and a "S1" fund volatility rating.

information concerning General Fund financing for County operations. This includes countywide property taxes as well as intergovernmental revenue that come to the County without restrictions. These non-program revenues are reflected in the General Revenue budget.

The Spending Plan by Function chart indicates the percentage of total budget for each of the functional areas required within the County Budget. Public Safety represents the single largest category of County expenditures at 22.9 percent, followed by Health at 19.8 percent of the total. The General Fund Spending Plan chart portrays how the County's allocates its General Fund revenue, which is where it has the most discretion. Public Safety accounts for 40.5 percent. The All Other category includes areas such as Agricultural Commissioner, Animal Care and Resource Management.

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 POLICY

- Allow the County to normalize the County Budget during periods of fiscal distress
- Maintain a minimum of 5 percent of the total budget, with a target of 10 percent 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

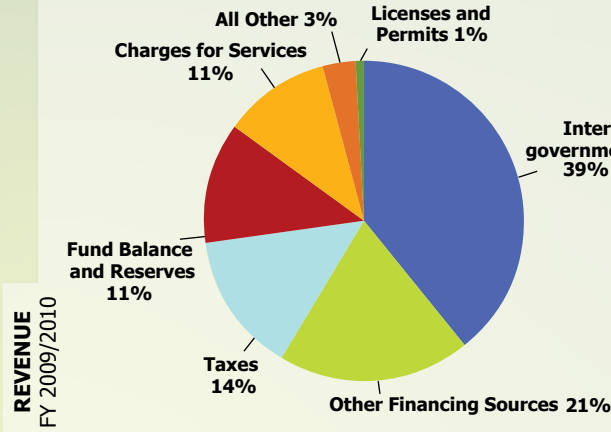
CONTINGENCIES POLICY

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

FINANCIAL

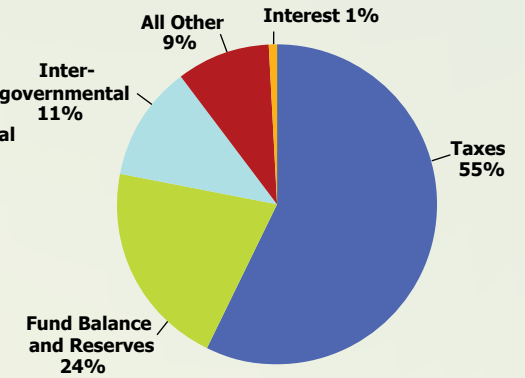
REVENUES BY SOURCE

Total \$849.7 million



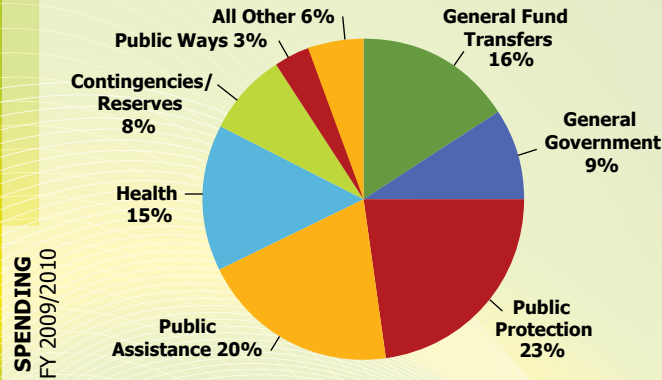
SOURCES OF DISCRETIONARY REVENUE

Total \$193.8 million



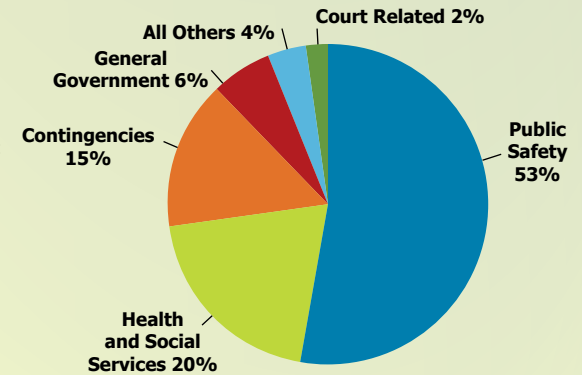
SPENDING PLAN BY FUNCTION

Total \$849.7 million



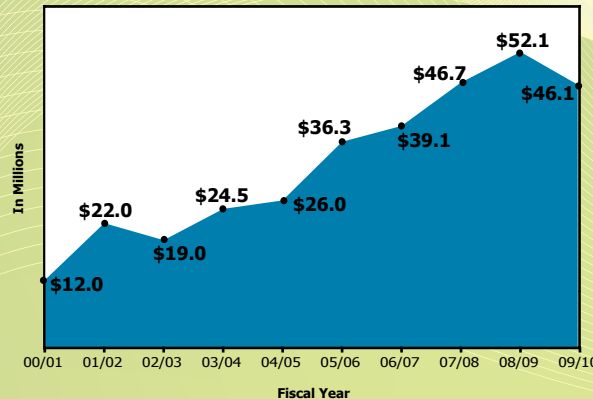
DISCRETIONARY SPENDING PLAN

Total \$193.8 million

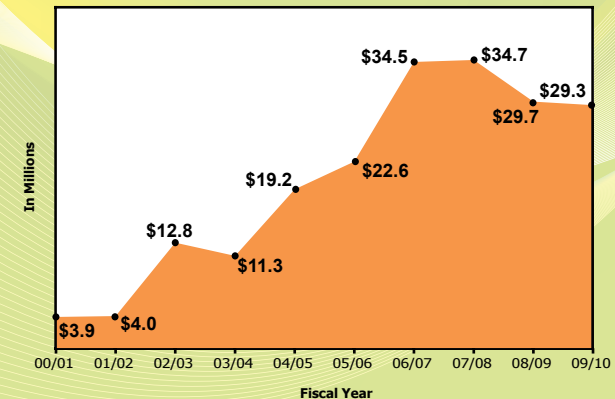


SPENDING

GENERAL FUND RESERVES



GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY



10-YEAR HISTORY



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