



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: Aug. 27, 2015
Board Meeting Date: Sept. 1, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #16

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Public Safety

Probation Department certified as evidence-based organization

San Mateo County's Probation Department is now a Certified Evidence-Based Organization, according to the Evidence-Based Professionals Society and Joyfields Institute for Professional Development. The distinction means the department has more opportunity to enhance its work, especially in service delivery. Chief John Keene said the months-long process was a good opportunity for the department to look inward through self-assessments including organizational culture, strategic planning, performance measurement and sustainability.

District Attorney's Office honors employees of the year

The District Attorney's Office added "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" to its annual roster of employees honored at its annual picnic. The inaugural recipient was Sergeant Ron Harrison who is the most experienced sexual assault investigator presently in San Mateo County and one of the first to become a trained forensic interviewer. Other employees honored for 2015 were Sean Dabel as prosecutor of the year, Inspector Andrea Higgins as inspector of the year, information technology analyst Andy Maso as

support staff of the year and Felix Wade as victim services employee of the year. The County and its residents are privileged to have these individuals among those who keep the community safe.

Health and Human Services

VRS kitchen renovation continues

The VRS kitchen and cafeteria, beset by mold and needing to be brought up to current code, is being extensively renovated to provide users new plumbing, epoxy flooring, a walk-in refrigerator, moisture-resistant drywall and a stainless steel moisture-resistant façade on all exposed walls. The mold was uncovered in the Quarry Road building in March 2015 during a remodel and the kitchen closed in April.

Despite the closure, VRS continues serving clients thanks to a temporary cafeteria and a 12-foot mobile kitchen obtained from the Health System that was later replaced by a rented 24-foot unit. The mobile kitchen even allowed for catering lunch for 750 at annual “Dad & Me at the Park” event. The reconstruction work is estimated to finish in early Fall 2015.

Community Services

Summer library learning program a hit

The Library’s Summer Learning Program, which kicked off in June and ran through August, was a rousing success promoting learning and literacy for children, teens and adults. With help from Measure A funds, the program launched a new website, started a new Summer Youth Workforce Development Program and held seven Summer Learning Library Camps in Atherton, East Palo Alto, Fair Oaks, La Honda/Pescadero, Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park and South San Francisco. A full report on the program’s achievements will be available this fall.

Human Resources

There’s an app for that

The County continues its trend of using technology to literally put tools in the hands of its employees. The Human Resources Department recently launched its long-awaited employee relations mobile app and website, both which provide quick links and answers to common questions by supervisors and managers. Apple and Android users can download at <http://smarturl.it/smcelr> and everybody can access the information via www.elr-smcgov.org

News, Events and updates

Two new faces in County positions

The County has two new faces among its ranks in two departments. Salvador Zuno is the newly appointed public information officer for the Sheriff’s Office, replacing Sgt. Rebecca Rosenblatt who was promoted. Sal has been with the department for more than 14 years with many different assignments before stepping into this new role.

In the County Manager's Office, Danae Ramirez is the newest analyst in Budget, Policy & Performance. She joined the County Aug. 17, moving from San Diego, and has more than 10 years experience in local government and two years working for a non-profit pediatric hospital. She will be working with HSA and the First Five Commission along with supporting countywide Measure A priorities like The Big Lift.

Charitable Contributions campaign gearing up

The County's famed pumpkin carvers and pie bakers better start practicing because this season's annual Charitable Contributions campaign is underway. The year-round employee donation program is chaired this year by the Parks Department and will include the traditional pumpkin carving contest and pie judging and auction in October. The program is a great way for our County employees to give back to dozens of participating nonprofits while also having a little fall fun.