

# Solano

County of  
**Solano**  
California

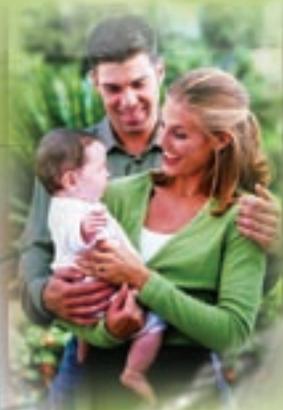
2005

## Annual Report



The Place for  
People to Live, Learn,  
Work and Play

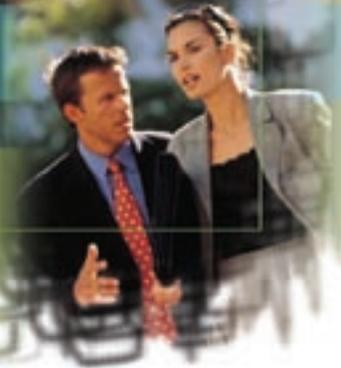
play



learn



work



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# 2005 annual report

## Board of Supervisors

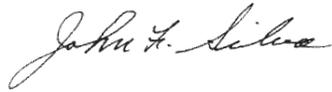
**Barbara R. Kondylis**

*District 1*



**John F. Silva**

*District 2*



**Duane K. Kromm**

*District 3*



**John M. Vasquez**

*District 4*



**Michael J. Reagan**

*District 5*



## County of Solano, California 2005 Annual Report

### Solano County's Mission:

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

### Solano County's 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 Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors

To the Citizens of Solano County:

The County of Solano has a clear mission—to serve the people and to provide a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play. To fulfill this mission, we must do two things—set sound goals and objectives and make sure we achieve them.

The Board of Supervisors and the County's Executive Team recently spent considerable effort creating the County's Vision Statement and Strategic Plan. Not only did the Board update its set of priorities, or goals, for accomplishing our mission over the next three years, but we also developed key performance measures and strategic objectives to make sure the goals are meaningful and achievable. The Board adopted the following six priorities:

- ✘ Improve the Lives of Children and Their Families
- ✘ Improve the Health and Well-Being of Those Who Live and Work Here
- ✘ Promote Agriculture and Support Responsible Land Use and Economic Development
- ✘ Maintain a Safe Community
- ✘ Invest Resources In and For the Future
- ✘ Increase Organizational Effectiveness, Efficiency and Communication

This document summarizes some of the more notable achievements Solano County has made towards achieving its priorities. As always, we recognize that what we have achieved and what we hope we can achieve in the future is only possible with our relationships with community partners and the ongoing support of the citizens. By focusing on these core priorities, we believe we can make Solano County *the place for people to live, work, learn and play.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara R. Kondylis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara R. Kondylis, Chairwoman  
Board of Supervisors

# County of Solano Organizational Chart

## ELECTORATE

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



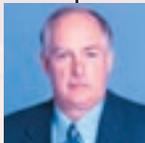
Dennis Bunting  
County Counsel



Michael D. Johnson  
County Administrator

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS



Gary Stanton  
Sheriff



David W. Paulson  
District Attorney



Gemma Grossi  
Probation



Yolanda Irgon  
Human Resources



Carole Paterson  
Cooperative Extension



Charles Lomeli  
Treasurer/Tax Collector/  
County Clerk



Simona Padilla-Scholten  
Auditor-Controller



Patrick Duterte  
Health & Social Services



Ann Cousineau  
Library Services



Dennis Covell  
Child Support Services



Skip Thomson  
Assessor/Recorder



William Reardon  
Veterans Services



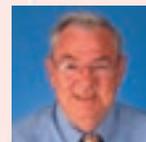
Birgitta Corsello  
Resource Management



Veronica Ferguson  
General Services



Ira Rosenthal  
Information Technology/  
Registrar of Voters



Jearl Howard  
Ag Commissioner/  
Sealer of Weights &  
Measures



Jeffrey Thoma  
Public Defender

..... Budgetary Controls Only



## From the County Administrator

To the Citizens of Solano County:

2005 has been a significant year for California counties. The year started with a forecast of a substantial deficit in the State budget and a number of proposed reforms that could seriously impact the ability of counties to maintain service levels. However, when the dust settled on the State budget process, the magnitude of proposed reductions was far less than some had feared at the beginning of the year.

Solano County has continued to be fiscally conservative, recognizing that the State's fiscal problems are long term in nature. Due to prudent budgetary policies, we have built healthy reserves into the current fiscal year. A number of County initiatives were brought to fruition. This report provides information on some of the many accomplishments in 2005.

On behalf of the County's employees, volunteers and community partners, I would like to thank you for your support as we work to build an organization that is capable of meeting your needs well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael D. Johnson  
County Administrator



# families

The Board of Supervisors' active commitment to children and youth through its policy, funding commitments and practice, as well as the many collaborative networks, alliances and public/private partnerships for children and youth throughout the County, were also key factors in Solano's selection.

As a 100 Best Communities for Young People award winner, Solano County representatives participated in a National Forum in Washington, DC. The America's Promise Alliance will also sponsor a yearlong celebration including a special day in each of the winning communities and a series of regional forums across the country that will enable communities to share their success stories and learn effective strategies from one another that will further enrich the lives of their young people. To learn more about America's Promise, visit [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org).

## Homework Assistance Grant

The Library was awarded a grant from the California State Library to conduct a pilot homework assistance program. The program works primarily through an electronic tutoring program called *tutor.com*. Students can type in a question about a homework assignment and receive immediate help electronically from a tutor with expertise in the subject area. Most of the tutors are retired teachers or advanced degree students working on their teaching credentials or subject specialties. This service is available every day from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. It is also available in Spanish. Students can access the service in the Library or remotely from a home computer.

## Improve the Lives of Children and Their Families

### Solano County Recognized as One of the 100 Best Communities in the Country

In September, Solano County was selected by "America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth Today" as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in the United States.



General Colin Powell, founding Chairman of America's Promise, launched the competition in May. Nearly 1,200 communities submitted applications for this first-ever national competition to identify communities across America to be celebrated for their commitment

to provide healthy, safe and caring environments for young people. Solano was one of only three counties in California (along with four cities) recognized by America's Promise.

Solano County was selected primarily for its achievements in the area of children's health, particularly the Solano Coalition for Better Health's accomplishment of achieving the lowest rate of uninsured children in California (4%, compared to the California average of 14%).



Client Lesha Smith with children Robert, Arman and Miya

## Prenatal Care Collaborative

In Solano County, health outcomes for pregnant women and infants fall short of the national standards, especially when broken down by race and ethnicity. Even though these indicators have improved over the past decade, much work remains. Solano County departments, such as FIRST 5 Solano and Health and Social

Services, came together with other community partners to strategize and address Solano prenatal issues.

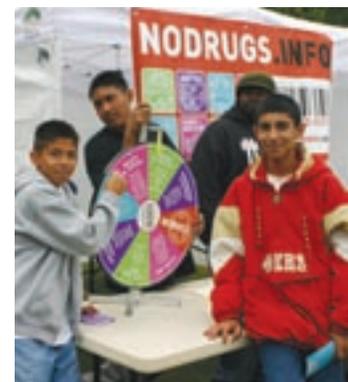
As a result, FIRST 5 Solano funded the Solano Prenatal Care Collaborative, a public and private partnership committed to improving birth outcomes in Solano County by expanding services to pregnant parenting teens and African-American women. The funded agencies include Adolescent Family Life Program, Black Infant Health, Latino Family Services, Nubian Mentoring Program, Prenatal Care Guidance, Partnership Health Plan of California, and Youth and Family Services. In the past year, the program accomplished the following:

- ✘ Provided an **additional 300** teens or African-American women comprehensive prenatal services, including case management, care coordination, client workshops, childbirth preparation, parenting classes and mentorship.
- ✘ Provided three out of four high-risk, hard-to-reach pregnant women access to prenatal care in the first trimester – more than 90% entered care in the first or second trimester. All of the women entered care before delivery.
- ✘ Succeeded in having almost all pregnant women (97%) attend at least 60% of their prenatal care visits.
- ✘ Worked to have more than 97% of newborns linked to a health care provider.
- ✘ Achieved a less than 7% rate of African-American infants born below five pounds, eight ounces and/or before 37 weeks of gestation.
- ✘ Expanded the Collaborative's project to identify and address prenatal substance abuse and partnered with an additional three community organizations to provide comprehensive services to these at-risk pregnant women.

## MSA Dollars at Work

Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) funds, which were made available as a result of a lawsuit settlement between the Federal government, the State and tobacco companies to mitigate the detrimental effects of tobacco on health, are used in the County for a variety of health programs.

- ➔ Through the Solano Kids' Insurance Program, 2,978 children were assisted with enrollment into health insurance programs. As a result of these efforts, Solano County has the lowest rate of uninsured children in California; only 4% of the County's children are uninsured.
- ➔ The City Team project, which provides preventative services to youth in order to reduce rates of alcohol, tobacco and drug use, sponsored a variety of events and after-school programs. Through this project, 8,885 children, in all seven cities, were served by projects supported by MSA funds. In addition, 285 compliance checks of vendors were accomplished by city teams to identify those who sell alcohol and tobacco to minors.
- ➔ The Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Coalition launched a locally produced television campaign to address issues of youth drinking. The campaign was targeted to educate parents and to encourage them to talk with their children about the dangers of under-age drinking. Local youth performed in these commercials. The 30-second spots aired more than 4,800 times on a variety of channels. A random telephone survey of 400 parents in the County found that 50% recalled the advertisement and, of those, three-fifths had talked with their children about this problem.



Earth Day, April 2005

## Child Welfare Services Improves Response Rate

Child Welfare Services monitors how quickly they can respond to complaints. They were able to exceed the State goal by responding to more than 90% of investigations within 24 hours. During the period April to June, 96.7% of investigations were responded to within 24 hours.

In addition, the number of family reunifications nearly doubled, rising from 61 in FY2003/04 to 120 in FY2004/05.

## Summer Camp for Foster Care Youth

Fifty foster care youth went to Camp Rocking U, a one-week summer camp near Marysville. They ranged in ages from eight to fourteen, with an equal number of boys and girls. Because

siblings are often separated when they are in placement, sibling groups are prioritized for summer camp participation. This allows them to spend extended time with their siblings. The children's behaviors and needs are carefully assessed and require current physical exams, doctor's releases, and court orders authorizing them to attend.



Volunteer doctor Jeff Gaborko shares books with his young patients

### Making Books Part of a Healthy Childhood

In the Library's pediatric literacy program, over 11,000 age-appropriate books were given to children six months to five years of age by doctors and health care providers during well-baby visits. The Solano County Library Foundation raises the money to purchase the donated books.

### County Child Care Facility

The County's new child care facility is located within the Health and Social Services Building at 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield. Recently leased to and operated by the Fairfield-based provider, *A Child's Place*, the goal is to deliver quality child care services for up to 60 children ranging in age from toddlers through pre-school. *A Child's Place* commenced operations on September 1<sup>st</sup>.



County employees' children enjoy outdoor play structure at County's child care facility

### Record Collection of Child Support Payments

The Department of Child Support Services enforces the collection of child support payments. Approximately 75% of the Department's caseload are non-welfare cases. Child support enforcement activities on behalf of families not receiving public assistance result in the collected funds going directly to the family. Total annual collections set a Department record of \$38,224,212, of which approximately 75% is sent directly to those children and families the same day payment is received.

### CASA Swears in New Volunteers

The County's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) held its swearing-in ceremony for CASA volunteers in June. Nineteen new CASA volunteers were sworn in. CASA had more than 60 volunteers dedicating their time and energy to children who are in the foster care system.



Newly sworn CASA volunteers with their certificates

The Solano County CASA program successfully transitioned from a County operated program to a non-profit corporation (CASA of Solano County). The Board of Directors and the Officers of the non-profit incorporated on May 25<sup>th</sup> and received tax exempt status from the IRS as a 501(c) 3 organization. The CASA program has also relocated to offices in the Solano County Courts Building.

### Fouts Springs Merged with Probation Department

As a result of merging Fouts Springs Youth Facility with the Probation Department, the program was restructured to better meet the needs of the youth in placement. Additional treatment groups were added to assist the youth in their successful transition back into the community. The new format will better assist staff in the planning of individual treatment plans for each youth placed at the facility. ☺

In the Library's pediatric literacy program, over 11,000 age-appropriate books were given to children six months to five years of age by doctors and health care providers during well-baby visits.

# health



## Improve the Health and Well-Being of Those Who Live and Work Here

### Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities

Health and Social Services, in collaboration with the Solano Coalition for Better Health, released "Health Disparities 2004 Report: A Call to Action." The report concluded that African-Americans generally ranked lower than other ethnic/racial groups in nearly all health indicators. The negative health outcomes present in the African-American community in Solano County are not unique; they mirror national trends. The Solano Coalition for Better Health formed four subcommittees to provide input to the development of a strategic plan for eliminating health disparities in the African-American population. Solano County programs aimed at eliminating health disparities include the Black Infant Health Program and the newly formed Solano Prenatal Care Collaborative, committed to improving birth outcomes for infants born to teens and African-American women. The opportunity and challenge is to work collaboratively and creatively to eliminate Solano health disparities.

### Healthcare for the Homeless Program Implemented

A new federally funded Healthcare for the Homeless program was implemented in Vallejo. The grant supports expanded primary medical care, mental health and substance abuse treatment and dental services for the homeless. Locations for these services include the Family Health Services clinic in Vallejo, the Success Center on Mare Island and at shelter sites. When fully operational, up to 4,600 clients can be served. As a result of receiving this grant, the County was awarded status as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and began operations on July 1<sup>st</sup>. As an FQHC, the County will be reimbursed for services provided to MediCal patients at 100% of costs. The Family Health Services clinic is implementing new performance improvement systems to meet the requirements of the federal funding which will result in enhanced quality of services for our clients.

### Implementation of the Mental Health Services Act

A three-year plan was prepared to implement the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) in Solano. The MHSA is a result of the passage of Proposition 63 in November 2004 and is designed to provide new resources to counties for the delivery of mental health care. All services must be outcome driven, with substantial involvement from consumers and their family members. In addition, counties are to include key community partners, such as police, hospitals, health care providers and social service agencies in the development and monitoring of the MHSA plan. The plan must include an emphasis on culturally competent service delivery aimed at reducing ethnic and racial disparities. The planning process provided an in-depth analysis of unmet needs, including the consequences of lack of treatment. More than 80 community forums were convened and numerous one-on-one interviews with consumers were held. The process identified the need for a variety of outreach support services. The plan will be phased in, beginning in early 2006, to address these needs.

### Veterans Services Office Partners with U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Travis Air Force Base

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was established to meet the needs of separating service members during their period of transition into civilian life. As part of the TAP, service members leaving the military with a service-connected disability are encouraged to begin the process of applying for VA compensation prior to separation. Applying before discharge can cut months off the process.



Janet Damm assists Staff Sergeant Trusty

Veterans' Benefits Counselors are available through the TAP to review the medical records of service members to determine if they have a service-connected disability. The counselors then prepare the claim on behalf of the service member and submit it directly to VA for processing and continue to track the claim through completion. These counselors assisted over 250 service members this year in obtaining faster and easier access to the variety of benefits offered to disabled veterans, such as free medical care and training and employment programs.

### Restroom Accessibility Upgrades at Lake Solano and Sandy Beach Parks

Using voter-approved funds from Propositions 12 and 40, 13 existing restroom facilities were upgraded and a new accessible shower facility was installed in County parks to provide improved access for persons living with disabilities. The parking area and drainage system were also improved at Lake Solano Park. These renovated facilities enhance the quality of the park for all park users and allow the public greater accessibility.

### New Ordinance Adopted for Wood Burning Appliances

The Board of Supervisors approved a new ordinance adding a section to Solano County Code governing the installation or replacement of wood-burning appliances for the unincorporated areas of the County. The new restrictions were prompted by requests by the Yolo/Solano and the Bay Area Air Pollution Control Districts to assist with addressing existing pollution issues and by concerns in a 2005 report regarding the high occurrence rate of asthma in Solano County.



County acquires American Legion building in Vallejo

### New Veterans Hall in Vallejo

The County acquired a replacement Veterans Hall at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane for the Vallejo-based veterans. The acquired building replaces the existing Veterans Hall put in service in 1929. The acquired building is operated and managed by the Vallejo veterans' groups. It provides a convenient and functional location for community-based events and commemorative activities.

### After-hours Environmental Health Response

The County has expanded its capability of documenting and responding to environmental health concerns that occur after business hours. In August, the Environmental Health Services Division implemented an after-hours standby protocol for general environmental health nuisance complaints. A toll-free telephone number (866-329-0932) was established to provide the public with the opportunity to leave a complaint and have a registered Environmental Health Specialist contact them. A complaint form is also provided on the Solano County website ([www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com)). With this new protocol in place, Environmental Health has the capability to respond to all program areas within its purview on a 24-hour basis.

### West Nile Virus Task Force

In anticipation of the spread of West Nile Virus across the United States, the Solano County West Nile Virus Task Force was created in 2003 and has been working to



West Nile Virus state-wide awareness campaign

protect residents. With a quick-moving communications protocol, the Task Force can easily share news of West Nile Virus events in Solano County with its members and the community. Through various outreach programs and educational materials, the Task Force has alerted and educated residents on how to protect themselves from West Nile Virus, by emphasizing protection to those who are most vulnerable to the disease, either due to age, health status or risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Members of the Task Force include a number of County

departments: Health and Social Services, Agriculture, Resource Management, Animal Care and Emergency Medical Services.

### Nutrition Education Services to Food Stamp Recipients

Over 600 food stamp recipient families received nutrition education by attending classes provided through a partnership with the Health and Social Services Department, University of California Cooperative Extension and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. The project is recognized as a model by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is being replicated throughout the country.



Georgia Hall (left) of the UC Coop Extension, receives recognition as Outstanding Educator in California from a USDA official



Left (from left to right): County employees Cynthia Coutee, Joy Bryant and Ruth Dejauregui; Below: Guhn Landwehr receives her vaccination from nurse Aleya Salvatore

## County Holds Mass Vaccination Drill, 2005

Solano County Public Health officials held the largest emergency vaccination drill in the county's history November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Solano County Fairgrounds Exposition Hall, Vallejo. The purpose of the Solano Responds: Mass Vaccination Drill 2005, was to test the readiness of public health workers to administer flu vaccine to a large number of people at a rate of 300–350 people per hour.

During the drill, Public Health professionals vaccinated 263 adult participants with this season's flu shots. During one surge, Public Health staff were vaccinating the public at a rate of 152 people in thirty minutes, achieving the goal rate set by the Centers for Disease Control for mass vaccinations.

While this was a drill, and not an actual emergency, it was designed to test the County's ability to screen individuals, handle large crowds and successfully administer this year's seasonal flu vaccine in a short period of time. In the event of an outbreak of a serious communicable disease, Solano Public Health professionals could be called upon to vaccinate as many as 425,000 residents within 48 hours in a number of locations simultaneously. >>



“Actually practicing the plans, assessing what works and making the needed adaptations are crucial for preparedness,” said Robin Cox, Health Education Manager.

The events of 9/11, the very real risks posed by new strains of Avian Flu virus showing up in Southeast Asia and Europe, and emergency health impacts of Hurricane Katrina highlight the need for local public health preparedness for emergencies. Preparedness is an on-going process, that involves continual training and practice. “Actually practicing the plans, assessing what works and making the needed adaptations are crucial for preparedness,” said Robin Cox, Health Education Manager. “This drill offered a vital opportunity for Health and Social Services staff to practice with a number of agencies that would collaborate in a real emergency.”

Organizations who participated in the mass vaccination drill included the Solano County Office of Emergency Services, Solano County Sheriff's Department, and the Solano County Fairgrounds. Approximately 90 Health and Social Services employees staffed the drill.

“Getting the flu vaccine is the single best way to protect oneself from seasonal influenza,” said Dr. Ronald Chapman, Health Officer and Deputy Director. “In this drill, not only did we provide an immediate service by vaccinating 263 adults, but we also practiced our plans and were able to train many staff as emergency service workers.”



Teens participating in the campaign to reduce Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs, Westfield Shoppingtown Solano

## Two Grants Received to Reduce the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

The County successfully implemented two Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community grants. The first grant funds the *Strengthening Connections* program, which includes three separate strategies to reduce the use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD), including: (1) Friday Night Live Peer Mentoring Programs, (2) Reconnecting Youth Curriculum, and (3) Nurturing Parents Programs. The *Strengthening Connections* program has been implemented in a number of junior high and high schools in the County. The second grant funds a program to provide life skills training and student and family assistance in three Vallejo elementary schools. It also targets adult members of the community to increase public awareness of youth ATOD use and encourages local governments to enact ordinances to restrict alcohol and tobacco advertising and sales.

## County Implements CalWIN

After several years of planning, Solano County migrated over 30,000 active cases from the 30-year-old Welfare Case Data System to the new CalWORKs Information Network (CalWIN) system, with a successful conversion rate of 99.85%. CalWIN automates a number of public assistance programs.

The local planning effort was rigorous. In addition to standard practices of project management, principles and controls, CalWIN has established multiple communication tools to monitor the progress of the project. This is the largest automated project the State of California has ever embarked upon and cost the State over \$800 million.

Outstanding efforts by the CalWIN leadership team and dozens of Health and Social Services and Information Technology staff ensured that the transition was as seamless as possible for the clients.

## Project TOKEN Addresses Teen Issues

A National Children, Youth and Families at Risk Project, supported through a \$100,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant through the 4-H Youth Development Program, has helped launch a Vallejo-based project to address the growing teen health issue of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Project TOKEN (Teen Outreach, Knowledge & Education to Neighbors) is a peer-led project that will introduce teens to confidential health care providers as well as inform teens of the conditions and consequences of contracting STDs. Part of the project focuses on identifying healthy lifestyle choices and increasing leadership opportunities to teens. A collaboration of health care and youth serving agencies and institutions is helping guide this local effort.

## County Receives Grant from Centers for Disease Control

The County, in collaboration with nine other county counsel offices and two city attorney offices, assisted in the preparation of a guide entitled "Health Officer Practice Guide for Communicable Disease Control in California." The purpose of the booklet is to provide guidance to local health officers when responding to bioterrorism or outbreaks of communicable diseases. Funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control, the document will be distributed statewide. ☺

Project TOKEN (Teen Outreach, Knowledge & Education to Neighbors) is a peer-led project that will introduce teens to confidential health care providers as well as inform teens of the conditions and consequences of contracting STDs.

# community



## Maintain a Safe Community

### Fairfield Adult Detention Facility Security Improvements

The security system in the Fairfield Adult Detention Facility was upgraded to improve safety and security of detainees and staff. This project improved electronic monitoring, visual surveillance, door controls, motion sensors and intercom system and was the first overhaul of the security systems since the facility's original construction in the late 1980s.

### New Real Estate Fraud Unit

In 2004 a \$2.00 per document fee for filing real estate documents with the County Recorder was established to provide funding to deter, investigate and prosecute crimes involving real estate fraud. Real estate fraud includes stealing equity in property, rental fraud and loan fraud. The funding allowed the District Attorney to establish a Real Estate Fraud Unit, which has already investigated 19 cases in the first two months of operation.

### Illegal Food Vendors Targeted

The County's Environmental Health Division, along with various city Police Departments, are working together to address unapproved food vending from carts. This cooperative interaction began in response to illegal food vendors selling potentially hazardous foods to school children during after school hours. These vendors, many from out of the County, set up near the school grounds and sell food prepared from an unauthorized facility. Through this partnership, unauthorized vendors are prevented from selling potentially harmful foods to the public.

### Improved Road Safety

The County's Public Works Division constructed the first roundabout, designed to handle high traffic volume at the intersection of Abernathy Road and Rockville Road in lower Suisun Valley. This heavily traveled intersection needed upgrading, since the previous four-way stop was causing long delays to travelers during peak periods of the day. The roundabout was designed to incorporate traffic calming features that move vehicles safely through the intersection, while also accommodating the large trucks necessary for agricultural operations. In addition to achieving these goals, the roundabout has enhanced the appearance of the intersection, through the use of architectural features such as textured, colored concrete. In November, the County received the Solano Transportation Authority's Safety Project of the Year award for the roundabout.



Roundabout at the intersection of Abernathy and Rockville roads in Fairfield

### District Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit Collects over \$6 million

The Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit successfully concluded several enforcement actions during the past year, with recovery of costs, penalties and fees totaling more than \$6 million. The Unit prosecutes health and safety cases that impact Solano County. A significant settlement with Kinder Morgan followed the recent unreported leaks in the Suisun Marsh. Kinder Morgan subsequently agreed to make full restitution and to pay more than \$5 million in fines, costs and fees.

The Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit has also prosecuted several cases involving the unlawful transportation of hazardous materials and waste, which compromises the safety of California motorists on the Interstate 80 corridor. In addition, the Unit files cases related to false and misleading advertisement of dietary products—those that falsely promote better health and fitness.

## County's Domestic Violence Intensive Supervision Program Implemented

The County's Probation Department fully implemented a Domestic Violence intensive supervision program directed at individuals who pose a high risk to their victim and/or children who remain within their sphere of influence. The federally funded program requires (1) more frequent Probation Officers' contacts, including field visits with the offender; (2) establishing relationships with victims and their children; and (3) closely monitoring the offender's probation conditions, including observing the defendant's compliance with "no uninvited contact" and "no contact" orders. Approximately 85% of the program participants successfully completed treatment, an increase of 15% compared to probationers receiving traditional supervision service.

## Probation Department Partnering with Schools

Partnering with the Napa County Office of Education, Vallejo City Unified School District, and Youth and Family Services, the County Probation Department received a Safe Schools Healthy Students Federal grant to base a juvenile probation officer on a high school site. While at the high school, the probation officer supervises the probationers on campus, completes court investigations on students going through the juvenile court process who attend that school, and works collaboratively with school staff to prevent others from coming into the justice system. School attendance of students on probation has increased dramatically. ☺



Safe Schools Healthy Students website, [sshs.samhsa.gov](http://sshs.samhsa.gov)



Children interact and learn about safety when the Sheriff department was on hand to show some of their equipment, including the Department's Hummer

## Community Oriented Policing Helps Provide a Safe Community

The Sheriff's Office Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving program (COPPS) is comprised of four sheriff deputies and a supervising sergeant. Each deputy is assigned to a specific section of the County as the resident deputy. The primary responsibility of each resident deputy is to provide his/her assigned geographical area with a problem-solving resource. In addition to providing law enforcement services, resident deputies participate in Neighborhood Watch, Farm Watch, homeowner association meetings and community sponsored events.

The COPPS teams have established partnerships with other law enforcement agencies in the County and State to proactively enforce state and local laws. With the assistance of these agencies we have improved our capability to provide a full spectrum of quality law enforcement services in the community and have effectively reduced crime in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Approximately 85% of the Domestic Violence Intensive Supervision Program participants successfully completed treatment, an increase of 15% compared to probationers receiving traditional supervision service.



# land

## Promote and Protect Agriculture and Support Responsible Land Use and Economic Development

### Nut Tree Airport Celebrates 50 Years

The County-operated Nut Tree Airport celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an airfield. Founded by the Power family in 1955, the Airport currently operates as a general aviation airport and serves both the recreational and business flyer. The Board of Supervisors appointed the Nut Tree Airport Advisory Committee in late 2004 with the responsibility for advising the Board on aviation-related issues. The Committee worked

successfully on Standardized Operations Procedures, Strategic Business Planning, Runway Instrumentation and Special Aerial Events. In July, the County purchased an additional 15 acres adjacent to the Airport to facilitate operational expansion. On October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Airport hosted its 50-year Anniversary Celebration Air Faire.



Airport Advisory members Martha Leong and John Peters prepare for take off

### County Crop and Livestock Production tops \$205 Million

Agricultural production values dipped 4% below the all time record set in 2003 of \$214 million, but still topped the \$200 million mark. Solano County had 21 crops or commodities that had production values in excess of \$1 million. The top 10 agricultural crops or commodities in 2004 were nursery stock, cattle and calves, alfalfa, processing tomatoes, milk, wine grapes, walnuts, field corn, wheat, and sheep and lambs. The complete Solano County Crop and Livestock Report for 2004 is available at [www.solanocounty.com/ag](http://www.solanocounty.com/ag).

### New Ag Commissioner Sets High Goals

Jearl D. (Jerry) Howard joined the Solano County management team in July, when he assumed the position of County Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights and Measures. Jerry had previously held similar positions in Tuolumne County and Calaveras County. He was also responsible for the administration of the Office of Animal Control, the Environmental Health Department and the Air Pollution Control District.



Jerry Howard

The County Agricultural Commissioner is charged with promoting and protecting the local agricultural industry. The Department accomplishes this formidable task by serving as the "local delivery system" for several statewide agricultural regulatory programs under the direction of the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures is responsible for ensuring equity in the marketplace for all consumers in Solano County. To this end, the Department is charged with enforcement of laws and regulations associated with transactions involving the weight, measure or count of all products sold or offered for sale in the County.

Jerry's most immediate goals include continuing the efforts to eradicate the glassy-winged sharpshooter from Vacaville and working with the community to educate them on regulatory requirements that may impact their businesses, and to facilitate a strong working relationship that focuses on compliance with pertinent laws and regulations. "My long-term goal is to have the Solano County Department of Agriculture and Weights and Measures recognized by both the private and public sectors as the best such department in the State of California!"

### Third Annual Youth Weed Infestations Mapped with GIS

A consortium of governmental, non-governmental and private organizations in Solano County has helped create a noxious weed Geographic Information System map to track the location, density and size of weed infestations for noxious weeds. The map can be used to develop strategic and efficient Countywide weed control programs to eradicate or limit further spread of noxious weed infestations.



Artichoke thistle impairs grazing wildlife and recreational uses

### Agriculture Day a Success

On May 31<sup>st</sup> over 1,200 third-grade students and 900 teachers and parents from every school district in the County participated in the third annual "Youth Ag Day" at the Solano County Fairgrounds. The program is a collaborative effort by the County Fair, County Department of Agriculture, Sheriff's Office, UC Cooperative Extension's 4-H Program, and many community organizations. County Counsel's Office helped raise over \$4,300 to host the event. Designed to introduce third-graders to the County's diverse agricultural environment, the students could pet baby animals and observe demonstrations of steer roping and sheep herding. Participants also learned about beneficial and threatening insects, bee keeping and wool and fiber production. Local farmers and ranchers gave hands-on lessons about harvesting methods, water conservation, composting, crop production and food safety.



"Youth Ag Day" at the Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, May 2005

## County Protects Agriculture With a Strong Pest Exclusion Program

Several pests were discovered that, if they were to become established in the County, could be devastating to the local agricultural economy and/or the environment. Significant pest finds include the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), brown marmorated stink bug, false codling moth and gypsy moth.

Following a find of the GWSS in June 2004, the County has been on alert to eradicate the insect, which transmits pathogens that can kill or infect grapevines. In mid-May, GWSS nymphs were detected within the previously infested area. Response by the Agriculture Department, in conjunction with state agencies and the owner of the infested property, eliminated the GWSS host material of the insect by mechanical removal of landscape plants in the area. Soil injection of insecticides was then applied to the area and remaining plants. New landscaping was installed and a limited protective treatment of the area was made.



Ivan Godwyn checks glassy-winged sharpshooter trap, Fairfield

Over 2,500 properties and 825 traps have been inspected in the infested area. No additional pest finds have been made in the area since May. Eradication and aggressive monitoring are expected to continue through 2006.

In March the Agriculture Department responded to a call from an alert citizen in Vallejo about an unusual insect. The insect was determined to be a brown marmorated stink bug, a serious agriculture pest which attacks a variety of crops, native to Asia. The insect apparently entered the County on a shipment of furniture from Pennsylvania. The infested furniture and the surrounding area were treated and ongoing monitoring has not detected any additional brown marmorated stink bugs.

Upon notification that two retail outlets in the County had received clementine tangerines from South Africa that were known to be infested with false codling moth, the County Agriculture Department confiscated 49 boxes of South African clementines. The false codling moth infestations lead to premature fruit drop in citrus. Six dead false codling moth larvae were found and all confiscated fruit was destroyed.

In July a single gypsy moth was trapped during routine exotic pest detection surveillance activities in the City of Vallejo. Gypsy moth is native to Europe and is a serious pest of forests. In response to this find, 25 traps per square mile in a four square mile area were placed around the location where the single moth was trapped. No additional gypsy moths have been detected. Intensive trapping will continue through 2006 to insure that this was an isolated incident and not indicative of an infestation.

“The five years I served as the 4-H Staff Assistant were action-packed and filled with the prospect of expanding the reach of 4-H Clubs into underserved areas of the County such as Vallejo and Benicia,” recalls Carole Paterson, new Department Head for UC Cooperative Extension.

### Bridging University of California with the Solano County Cooperative Extension

“My career path has always had a focus on children and youth,” states Carole Paterson, new Department Head for UC Cooperative Extension. Following graduation from California State University San Jose, where she received her B.A. Degree, she accepted a short-term job funded by Solano County to serve as the 4-H Staff Assistant for Cooperative Extension. “The five years I served as the 4-H Staff Assistant were action-packed and filled with the prospect of expanding the reach of 4-H Clubs into underserved areas of the County such as Vallejo and Benicia,” she recalls.



Carole Paterson

Carole completed her master’s degree in the Department of Human & Community Development at UC Davis and was appointed the 4-H Youth Development Advisor in Solano County in 1981. She was tapped to serve as a member of a national science education team that trained 4-H “Teens as Teachers” around the country.

As Department Head, Carole is able to continue her research and education efforts to support youth development initiatives, sharing with Solano residents the “gateway to UC” which the local Cooperative Extension Office offers. One of her goals is to expand access to resources of the University of California such as the Master Gardener Program, Small and Limited Resource Farm support, Range and Natural Resource information, Nutrition Education services, and the 4-H Youth Development Program. “UC Cooperative Extension has been part of Solano County since 1916—almost 90 years, and we look forward to continuing to serve its citizens for many more years to come!”

### Pesticide Training Provided

The County Agriculture Department hosted sessions in January to provide interested growers and certified applicators with updates on and changes to the pesticide regulatory program. Topics covered included worker health and safety requirements, new ground water protection regulations and electronic use reporting. The sessions were attended by approximately 90 people.

In addition, three training opportunities in various locations in Dixon for pesticide applicators were held in July. All sessions were given in Spanish to approximately 40 pesticide handlers and field workers. Topics included how to read and understand pesticide labels, personal protective equipment requirements for workers, safe pesticide mixing, loading and application techniques, field worker safety requirements, signs and symptoms of pesticide exposure and heat stress.

### County Approved New Standards for Confined Animal Facilities

After extensive research and public input, the County adopted additional development standards and permitting requirements for Confined Animal Facilities. The revisions apply to cattle, dairy cows and horses. The ordinance allows for the continued use of these facilities in a manner that protects public health and the environment. The changes included expanded public noticing and increased setbacks from cities, residences and other sensitive areas.

### County Permits Additional Wind Turbines

The first phase of construction of another renewable energy project is underway in Solano County. The project is 100 new generation type wind turbines in the Montezuma Hills. These turbines are located on farm land that will remain in grazing, providing both electric power for California, as well as maintaining agricultural lands. ☺



Wind turbines in the Montezuma Hills, Southeast Solano County

# communications



## Increase Organizational Effectiveness, Efficiency and Communication

### Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk Department Improves Customer Service

The Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk Department was restructured to provide a higher level of service to its customers. Improvements include:

- ➔ Reducing average call wait time from 5 to 2½ minutes.
- ➔ Allowing electronic checks to be used for tax payments.
- ➔ Cross-training staff to better respond to customers' needs.
- ➔ Providing better notification to property owners and streamlining the Tax Sale process.



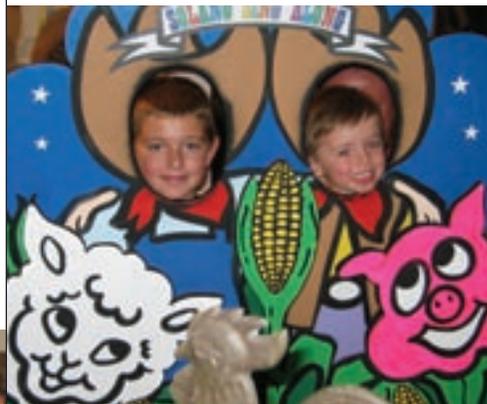
JoAnn Huff, Civil Marriage Commissioner "at work"

### Customer Service Enhanced at Libraries

The Library has become a destination for representatives from numerous cities and counties in Northern California, who want to see how technology, self-service and marketing techniques are being used to improve customer service in a library setting. Solano County Library's new and remodeled buildings are designed to promote a business model that allows users to pick up their own holds and check them out which has the added benefit of ensuring privacy and confidentiality. It also gets staff out from behind desks and on the floor assisting customers. Phone calls are diverted to a centralized Telephone Assistance Center so all library patrons receive better customer service. Using marketing and display techniques from retail, various parts of the collection can be highlighted.

### Attorney Training Approved for Continuing Education Credits

The Public Defender's Office implemented an in-house training program, which was approved by the State Bar for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education credits. The first four seminars, available to both County attorneys and other legal counselors, focused on best practices in the area of criminal defense and organizing presentations for trial or negotiation.



Cutout lets kids "cut up" at the County's State Fair exhibit

### Solano County Recognized as "Best of Show"

Continuing a winning tradition of recent years, Solano County's exhibit at the 2005 California State Fair won eight awards including the coveted Best of Show and

the People's Choice awards for most educational and most fun exhibit, based on public voting in the counties exhibit competition program. Solano's exhibit also was awarded a Gold Medal, the award for Best Technology, the award for Best Use of Experience, and the Manager's award. The exhibit focused on Solano County's agricultural heritage, featuring a whimsical colossal tractor piloted by an animated "Poppy," the golden bear. The exhibit and visitors were brought to life to the rest of the world by a direct internet feed linked to the County's website.

## Improving Services Through Technology

The County hosted the second annual Technology Fair in late October. The Technology Fair provided a venue for employees to get a flavor of emerging technologies and learn about new systems to improve services for County residents. Local and national hardware and software vendors displayed wireless technology for notebook computers, phones, personal digital assistants and printers; also demonstrated were smart boards (intelligent, electronic white boards), state of the art Public Safety systems, E-Commerce software, and document imaging and retrieval products designed to increase productivity, provide business solutions, and raise employee capabilities in the technology arena.

## Padilla-Scholtens Takes Reins as Auditor-Controller

Simona Padilla-Scholtens, a 21-year public servant of the County Auditor-Controller's office, was unanimously appointed by the Board of Supervisors in October 2004 to complete the term of William A. Eldridge. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Simona's accounting career has been primarily with Solano County. She joined the County as an internal auditor in February, 1984. She was promoted to Chief of Internal Audits in January, 1986, and in August, 1994, she was promoted to Assistant Auditor-Controller.

Simona has been and continues to be a key participant in complex countywide accounting, finance and other administrative issues. She provides valuable input to ensure fiscal accountability. "My goals include continuing to maximize the use of technology to better meet the needs of our customers; consistently improving our customer service by ensuring we understand our customer needs; maintaining standards to be recognized by both Federal and State agencies for the quality of the Financial Reports; and to ensure that the fiscal stability of the County is maintained," states Simona. "I want the Board of Supervisors and other public agencies, as well as the general public, to feel confident about the accuracy of the financial information, advice and services they receive from the Auditor's Office."

Simona is active in various committees within the State Association of County Auditors and currently chairs the Bay Area subcommittee.



Simona Padilla-Scholtens

## New Agenda Process Improves Public Access

The County Administrator's Office implemented a new electronic agenda, minutes and video streaming for Board of Supervisor meetings. The new system allows the public to view Board meetings over the internet and to access searchable digital archived documents for any agenda item. Training on the system provided a refresher on how to prepare agenda items and attachments, as well as an overview of the workflow from the time an agenda item is created to the point it is posted on the internet.

## County Wins Accounting Awards

The Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the County of Solano for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004. This award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the third consecutive year the County has received this distinguished award. In addition, the County received the State Controller's Award for Achieving Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003.



Sheila Turgo, Phyllis Taynton and Simona Padilla-Scholtens display GFOA award

## County Forms the Northern California Counties Tribal Matters Consortium

In January, the Board of Supervisors officially formed the Northern California Counties Tribal Matters Consortium with Sonoma and Napa Counties. One member of the Board of Supervisors of each county serves on the Steering Committee of the Consortium.

The purpose of the Consortium is for the counties to develop a regional approach to tribal matters, tribal land use and other related policies and respond to federal legal and policy decisions driving tribal development. Each county adopted the same "Statement of General Principles" which cites the growth of tribal casino development in California since 1999, and the lack of local government participation and influence in federal decisions regarding tribal development. The principles address the interest of the Consortium member counties to minimize impacts that new gaming facilities or other development on tribal trust lands might have on the environment, agricultural land, sensitive habitat and wetlands, local infrastructure, public services, and health and safety. ☺

# future



## Invest Resources In and For the Future

### Communications Division Working to Improve Countywide Radio Systems

The County completed upgrading its microwave radio system to a fully digital system. Work continued with the seven cities and fire districts in the County to resolve countywide two-way radio inoperability issues of the various police, fire and emergency service agencies and ensure that communication systems conform to Federal regulations. The County received \$2.7 million in grants to implement radio interoperability improvements. Enhancing the emergency service communication systems will enable first responders to provide better coordinated services to the public.

### Land Acquired by the Tri-City County Cooperative Planning Group

The County, along with the cities of Fairfield, Benicia and Vallejo, comprise a Joint Powers Authority known as the Tri-City County Cooperative Planning Group. The purpose of this Group is to preserve agricultural and open space land. The Group has completed the purchase of 2,313 acres of land owned by PG&E. This acquisition furthers the efforts to implement the Sky Valley Cordelia Open Space Project Area, an area that the Group hopes will become a new regional park sometime in the future.

### New and Remodeled Libraries throughout the County

The Vacaville Public Library—Cultural Center facility was remodeled to improve customer service and give the interior a “facelift” after 10 years of heavy use. Improvements included renovation of the lobby area with a smaller service desk, installing shelving for users to pick up reserved materials and re-locating self-checkout machines. New signage helps direct customers to different destinations and areas of the collection. A 15-workstation computer center was built in response to public input. All computers offer a variety of software programs and high speed internet access. A wireless network was installed so library patrons can use their laptops to connect to the internet anywhere in the building.



Young library fan with the *Storyteller* sculpture by Edward E. Hlavka, Town Square Library, Vacaville

The new Fairfield/Cordelia Library project went to bid in June, and the construction contract was awarded by the Fairfield City Council in August. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in late September and construction began with the Library slated for completion in December 2006.

Also, in a unique partnership, the County, Suisun City and Fairfield Suisun Unified School District hired a local architect to complete a feasibility study for a joint use public/school library. The new library will be a 10,000 square foot library built adjacent to Suisun Elementary School. The District is eligible for up to \$1 million from Proposition 47, a State educational bond measure to offset cost of the project.

### Solano Park Health Facility Receives an Energy Retrofit

Solano County continued its commitment to responsible energy use by retrofitting the Solano Park Health Facility. This building, with portions that operate round the clock, received a comprehensive lighting retrofit, installation of a facility automation system to improve energy management, replacement air and heating units, and installation of solar window coverings designed to provide a more comfortable environment for building occupants and users. These retrofits resulted in an energy usage reduction of approximately 45% annually.



Clockwise from upper left: Michael D. Johnson, Solano County Administrator and Hu Changlin, Mayor of City of Ji'an, China, sign in official Sister City-County relationship; (left to right) John Silva, John Vasquez, Chen Zhiming, Mike Reagan, Quang Ho, Regina Yin, Michael D. Johnson, Hu Changlin, Duane Kromm, Ai Xindong, Shelli Vasquez; viewing Chinese exhibit at Vacaville Museum; During Solano County's trip to Ji'an in 2004 (left to right): Quang Ho, Shelli Vasquez, Chen Zhiming, John Vasquez, Michael D. Johnson, Hu Changlin, Qiu Weidong, Xu Yi Guo, Ai Xindong; Downtown Ji'an



## Visit of Delegation from our Sister City, Ji'an, China

An official delegation from the City of Ji'an, People's Republic of China, visited Solano County in October, to sign an official agreement to establish a "Sister City-County" relationship. The delegation included the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Ji'an and the Director and staff of the Foreign and Overseas Affairs Office. This is the first time that Solano County has established an international Sister City-County relationship. Both the City of Ji'an and Solano County are interested in developing strong economies with a strong emphasis on agricultural production. In 2004, a delegation of Solano County officials went to the City of Ji'an on an official invitation of the Mayor of Ji'an to learn more about the City.

The purpose of Sister City relationships is to increase global cooperation, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development. The agreement signed by Solano County and the City of Ji'an includes authorization for reciprocal exchanges and cooperation in such fields as economic trade, science and technology, agriculture, and education and on-going communication between the City and the County. The agreement is for at least a five year period. >>



While visiting Solano County, the Ji'an delegation met with a number of government, agricultural, business, education, and cultural representatives to discuss opportunities for mutual exchanges and cooperation. The itinerary for the visit was designed to build bridges between the educational, agricultural and business sectors in Solano County with the City of Ji'an. Sites visited included Jelly

Belly, Budweiser, Mariani Packing Company, Ledgewood Winery and Nourot Glass Company. To promote teacher exchanges, the delegation visited Rodriguez High School and Solano Community College to meet with educators. The last stop was the Vacaville Museum to see an exhibit on the history of the Chinese in Solano County.

Travel costs associated with the visit to Ji'an City was covered by individual participants. The Solano County Partnership for International Friendship and Cultural Exchange, a non-profit organization, assisted with the planning and costs for hosting the delegation and conducting the Sister City project activities in Solano County.

The agreement signed by Solano County and the City of Ji'an includes authorization for reciprocal exchanges and cooperation in such fields as economic trade, science and technology, agriculture, education and on-going communication between the City and the County.





Young citizens enjoy playful water feature in front of the CAC

### Solano County Celebrated its New Government Center

With the completion of the Solano County Government Center, the largest capital improvement project in the County's history, 16 County departments are now co-located in the downtown Fairfield County campus. The design-build project consists of a centralized six-story County Administration Center (CAC) with 300,000 gross square feet flanked by an adjoining five-level parking structure with approximately 1,000 stalls, and a public plaza and courtyard that are sited to complement the 1930s vintage Old Library. The project also included construction of a new 42,500 square foot, two-story Probation Building.

The infrastructure of the new CAC provides state-of-the-art technology that will enhance data processing, communication and security capabilities for both employees and the public. Examples of the new technology in the CAC include wireless internet access for the public and a voice-over internet protocol (VOIP) phone system that will result in significant communication system cost savings and serve as an anchor for future integrated messaging capabilities. The Government Center received a national Merit Award in the category of Public Sector Building Over \$15 Million from the Design Build Institute of America.

The completion of the project culminated in a countywide Community Celebration featuring building tours, local entertainment, art talks and an artists reception.

### Technology Enhances Governmental Services

The County contracted for the purchase of an aerial photography service and related software license funded from Homeland Security grant funds. This program utilizes geo-referenced, high-resolution aerial digital images of Solano County that appear three dimensional. Law enforcement and fire departments use the software to provide information to assist in the apprehension of fleeing criminals, to identify threatened areas subject to burn during a fire and to identify alternate routes for emergency crews to respond in certain situations. The Assessor-Recorder Department also can use the software to enhance the discovery and assessment of new constructions for both real property and living improvements (orchards and vineyards). This software significantly enhances assessment operations by allowing the Assessor-Recorder

Law enforcement and fire departments use the aerial photography software to provide information to assist in the apprehension of fleeing criminals, to identify threatened areas subject to burn during a fire and to identify alternate routes for emergency crews to respond in certain situations.

to verify improvement data thus increasing valuation accuracy, especially in rural areas where access is difficult.

### Work Begins on the South County Government Center in Vallejo

Preconstruction activities and a financing plan were completed for a new two-story, 70,000 square foot building adjacent to the existing Health and Social Services building in Vallejo. Construction of this facility for Health and Social Services functions will allow the court-related agencies under the County's purview to relocate from the existing Hall of Justice into the existing Health and Social Services Building, thus allowing for future State Court expansion.

### Cat Adoption Center

Remodeling of former office space into a new 1,100 square foot Cat Adoption Center in the existing Fairfield Animal Care Center on Claybank Drive was completed this year. This state-of-the-art facility is a beautiful example of what a Cat Adoption Center should be for the sheltering community. The new center has the capability of housing 96 cats in kennels that provide a warm, quiet



Cats enjoy a new home at the Cat Adoption Center in Fairfield

environment for the cats. Tempered glass in front prevents the public from randomly touching multiple cats, which helps reduce the spread of respiratory infections among the cat population.

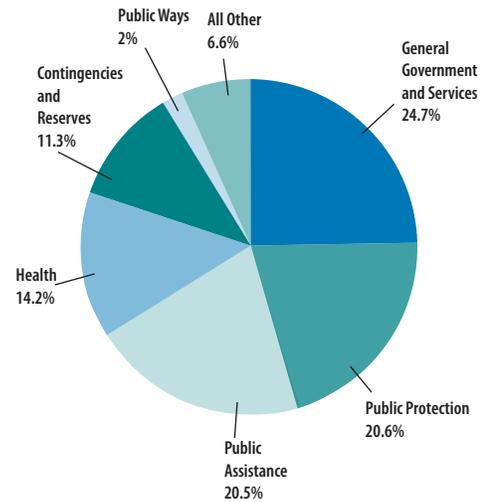
The public can take cats into a meet and greet room, which is designed as a living room in a home. The ultimate goal of the new Cat Adoption Center is to increase the adoption rate of felines back into the community. ☺

# financials



## SPENDING PLAN BY FUNCTION

Final Budget 2005/06 (Total: \$799.8 million)



## Financial Summary

The County's strong economic and strategic planning capabilities provide an environment that promotes consistent and stable growth in the County's fiscal portfolio which in turn supports a myriad of vital County services. The County's fiscal stability is further enhanced by strong reserves based on an established reserve policy and the existence of healthy General Fund Contingencies for use during periods of economic uncertainty.

### Spending Plan by Function

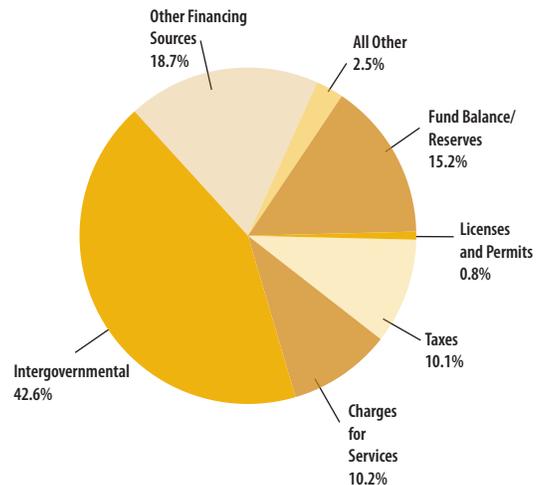
The *Spending Plan by Function* graph indicates the percent of total for each of the functional areas required within the County's budget. As shown, Public Protection represents the single largest category of the County expenditures at 20.6%. The second largest, Public Assistance, represents 20.5%.

### Revenues by Source

The *Revenues by Source* graph indicates sources of funding to finance the County's budget. The County receives 42.6% of its revenues from State and Federal agencies. Most of these revenues have specific requirements for how the funds can be spent.

## REVENUES BY SOURCE

Final Budget 2005/06 (Total: \$799.8 million)



## Sources of Discretionary Revenue

The *Sources of Discretionary Revenue* graph provides information concerning the General Fund financing for County operations. These revenues are discretionary revenues which are not collected in direct response to services provided. For example, revenue from the issuance of building permits, marriage licenses, etc. are categorized as program revenues and are shown within the operating departments. Non-program revenue, or discretionary revenue, includes countywide property taxes as well as Intergovernmental Aid that comes to the County without restrictions as to specific program use. These revenues are reflected in the General Revenue budget.

## Where the Typical Property Tax Dollar Goes

There are some interesting facts about where the typical property tax dollar goes in the County. The County's General Fund receives 20% of this dollar while 3% goes to support other County services such as the library, aviation, recreation and lighting districts. A little more than a decade ago, the General Fund received 33% of the property tax.

The largest share, 43.8%, of all property taxes supports school districts. A significant portion of the schools' share resulted from the FY1992/93 and FY1993/94 State budget property tax shifts. The County's General Fund lost approximately \$47 million from this shift this year.

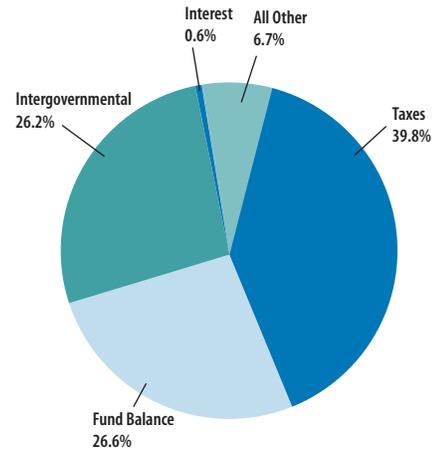
Approximately \$55 million of the property tax dollars are designated for the redevelopment agencies. Of this amount, about \$25 million is from the County's General Fund.

## 10 Year History of County's General Fund Reserves and General Fund Contingency

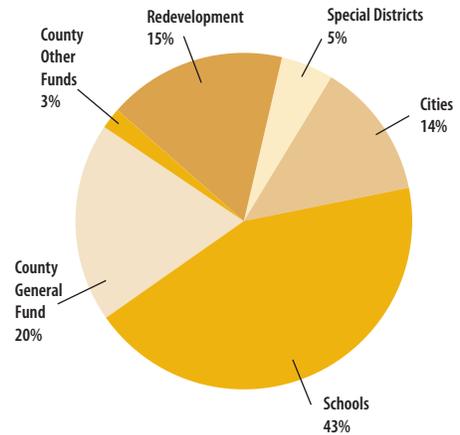
The County's reserve policy is structured to build reserves during growth years and to spend reserves down slowly during fiscally distressful periods. General Fund Contingencies have been established in anticipation of potential risks to the General Fund and other funds related to funding problems that occur when an anticipated funding source is no longer available or in the case of unanticipated and emergency expenditures. ☺

## SOURCES OF DISCRETIONARY REVENUE

FINAL BUDGET 2005/06 (Total: \$170.4 million)

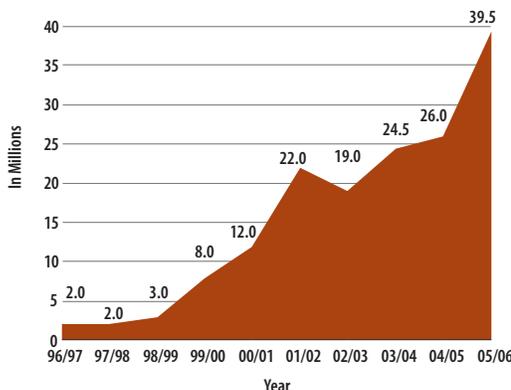


## WHERE THE TYPICAL PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR GOES



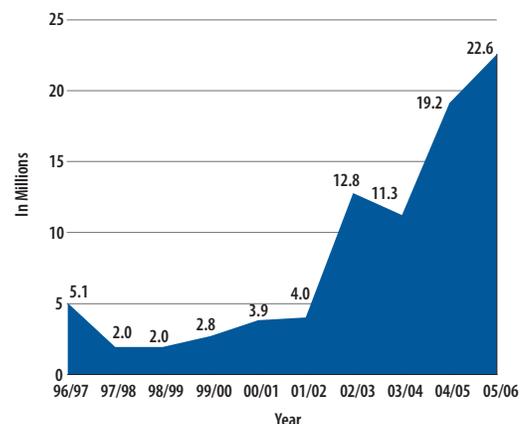
## 10 YEAR HISTORY OF COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND RESERVES

FY1996/97–FY2005/06



## 10 YEAR HISTORY OF COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY

FY1996/97–FY2005/06



## Managers' Principles component from the County of Solano Strategic Plan:

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.

### Core Values

#### Integrity

Be open and honest, ethical and fair

#### Dignity

Treat all persons with respect

#### Excellence

Provide quality, integrated, sustainable and innovative public services

#### Accountability

Take ownership, be fiscally responsible and result-driven

## County of Solano Management Team

### County Administrator's Office

Michael D. Johnson—County Administrator

Quang T. Ho—Assistant County Administrator

### Public Protection

David W. Paulson—District Attorney

Gary Stanton—Sheriff

Jeffrey Thoma—Public Defender

Gemma Grossi—Chief Probation Officer

### Health & Public Assistance

Patrick O. Duterte—Health and Social Services Director

William Reardon—Veterans Services Officer

Dennis Covell—Child Support Services Director

### Land Use, Agriculture and Transportation

Birgitta Corsello—Resource Management Director

Jearl Howard—Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of

Weights and Measures

### Education

Ann Cousineau—Library Director

Carole Paterson—Cooperative Extension Director

### General Government & Support Services

Skip Thomson—Assessor-Recorder

Simona Padilla-Scholtens—Auditor-Controller

Charles Lomeli—Treasurer/Tax Collector/County Clerk

Ira Rosenthal—IT Director/Registrar of Voters

Dennis Bunting—County Counsel

Yolanda Irigon—Human Resources Director

Veronica Ferguson—General Services Director

County of  
**Solano**  
California

2005



County Administrator's Office  
675 West Texas Street, Suite 6500, Fairfield,  
California 94533-6342

(707) 784-6100 or 866-7SOLANO  
(707) 784-7975 fax

[www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com)

[www.co.solano.ca.us](http://www.co.solano.ca.us)