

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**

**April 30, 2015**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council      FROM: Allan Roeder, City Manager  
Members

**I. PRIORITY AND COUNCIL AGENDA ISSUES**

**A. LETTER TO CONGRESS**

A copy of the Mayor's letter to Congressmembers Sanchez and Lowenthal requesting attention to the Transportation Infrastructure funding bill that expires in 30 days.

**II. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

**A. GARDEN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SAFETY UPDATE**

Dave Barlag updates you on the status of student safety efforts around Garden Grove High School.

**III. ITEMS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS**

**A. LETTER FROM SENATOR JANET NGUYEN REGARDING SCA 2**

Senator Nguyen's letter is seeking support for the Senate Constitutional Amendment 2 to prohibit the ban of the U.S. flag on state funded college campuses in California.

**B. SECOND QUARTER VECTOR REPORT**

A copy of the second quarterly report from Robin Marcario, appointed Mosquito and Vector Control District Trustee.

**• OTHER ITEMS**

– NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



ALLAN L. ROEDER  
City Manager



## CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

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April 28, 2015

Honorable Loretta Sanchez  
District 46, U.S. House of Representatives  
1211 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Bao Nguyen  
Mayor

Steven R. Jones  
Mayor Pro Tem

Christopher V. Phan  
Council Member

Phat Bui  
Council Member

Kris Beard  
Council Member

Dear Congressman Sanchez:

We are writing to request your urgent attention to the Transportation Infrastructure funding bill that expires in 30 days. There have been numerous extensions to this bill. We believe that bi-partisan Congressional action is needed to support and enact a transportation bill that provides long-term transportation funding (4-6 years based upon past precedent which allows cities and counties predictable planning for completing important infrastructure investments).

We make this urgent request because the national highway system and our roads are crumbling. The US has fallen from #1 to #17 in the world in infrastructure investment (Investment as a percentage of the GDP-Gross National Product). Congestion causes our workers, residents, and goods to market over \$124 billion a year in lost productivity due to a system that has not kept pace with the world. Our ability to export goods to other countries, transport goods within the national system as well as get goods to market within our communities is significantly impaired (Southern California communities have over 2000 bridges that do not meet federal safety standards).

In addition to funding the highway and transit system, it is past time for Congress to enact and support a dedicated freight federal funding program as part of the national system. Freight plays an everyday role in our resident's and businesses by delivering the things they need. In Southern California, goods movement and logistic industries located in our communities account for 2.9 million jobs and is a significant economic driver. Independent economic experts have found that for every \$1 invested, there are \$5 in benefits including increased jobs, reduced congestion, reduced air pollution and increased mobility.

We hope you will discuss with leadership the need to debunk the myth that residents and businesses do not benefit from transportation investment and will not support user fee based financing for improving the national system. In our state and

Honorable Loretta Sanchez

April 28, 2015

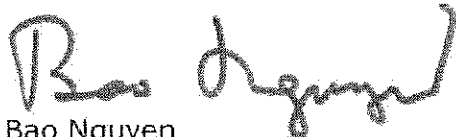
Page 2

communities, we have taxed ourselves to increase transportation multi-modal solutions.

Our communities, business and residents need you to contact leadership and discuss the urgency for enacting a long-term financing bill which in the nations (and our community's) best interest. 19 states have passed gas tax increases and 92% of those leaders who were courageous to support those efforts were re-elected.

The nation's international competitive future for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is dependent on Congress taking action and passing a long term transportation bill that includes a dedicated federal freight funding program. Please consider the generations to come and our joint role in providing a legacy of a strong economy and a quality of life we are proud to be a part of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bao Nguyen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bao Nguyen  
Mayor



## CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

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April 28, 2015

Honorable Alan Lowenthal  
District 47, U.S. House of Representatives  
108 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

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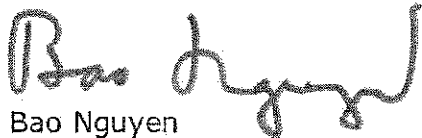
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April 28, 2015  
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Bao Nguyen  
Mayor

**City of Garden Grove**

**INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

To: Allan L. Roeder  
Dept: Interim City Manager  
Subject: GARDEN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENT SAFETY UPDATE

From: David R. Barlag  
Dept: CM Office  
Date: April 28, 2015

There are concerns regarding student safety around Garden Grove High School (GGHS). The purpose of this memo is to provide an update of the current status.

To date, staff has met twice in an all hands meeting with the School District, School Administrators, and parents representing the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA).

The first meeting was on 3/24/15, City Staff listened to the concerns as they were expressed from members of the PTSA and Administration on site.

Primary issues raised by the school site were:

- Crosswalk locations,
- Use of crossing guards,
- Possibility of an additional stop sign at Seventh and Stanford.

Other points brought up by the City Staff included:

- Student/parent education through the school's website,
- Possible use of a traffic plan posted on the website,
- Median fence to prevent mid-street jay walking.

Both sides agreed to go back and research these issues further:

- The school was going to check with their risk management on the use of volunteer crossing guards. (Administrators/Teachers/parents/volunteer and students)
- The City's traffic engineering would conduct a traffic count, and research a potential stop sign at Seventh and Stanford, and the best location of a crosswalk at the west end of Stanford.

The second meeting was on 4/23/15. At this meeting, staff provided background information regarding the current City contract with All City Management Services (ACMS) for crossing guards. The City conducted an evaluation including GGPD, the School District and ACMS in June of 2013 and agreed on the use of crossing guards at 18 locations within the City. These locations are all elementary schools with the exception one intermediate school and the crossing guards are primarily used on arterial streets. The City's cost is approximately \$197,000 for this contract per year.

Another factor discussed at this meeting that is impacting the use of Stanford is the school's modernization process. This is a three year construction project and the School is about 18 months into it. The modernization project has dislocated the student parking area to make room for modular classrooms. This has forced additional driving students on to Stanford and into neighboring parking lots.

As follow up items from the previous meeting, the School's Administration consulted with their Risk Management and found that administrators and teachers were not allowed to be used as crossing guards. They were also not comfortable with students being used. They did say they had volunteers and parents participating at other sites, however the Administration did not feel it was a viable option for GGHS.

From the City side, Traffic Engineering conducted the traffic study for the stop sign at Seventh and Stanford. That study did not meet warrants; therefore, Traffic Engineering is not recommending any modifications. They also looked at the current crosswalk location verses a new location for the west crosswalk. Traffic Engineering found the current crosswalk location was the most appropriate location. As a solution, Traffic Engineering is recommending the use of a median fence to prevent the random crossings of pedestrians and to encourage the use of the current crosswalks. The goal is to get the fence up as soon as possible and get feedback this school year on its effectiveness.

Another suggestion the City presented to the Administration was for the School District to enter into an agreement with the First Baptist Church of Garden Grove, located just west of the school on Euclid, for use as a drop off and pick up location for students. This could keep the additional traffic off Stanford and the students would be utilizing a controlled crosswalk to enter the north side of Stanford, then into the school. If this agreement can be secured, the School would then publicize the plan on its website to reach out to parents and students.

The School was in favor of installing the fence as soon as possible and they were going to reach out to the church to attempt to secure an agreement for use of the parking lot. The use agreement was identified as being a longer process and the school administration did not want to wait on the installation of the median fencing trail.

Presently, Traffic Engineering will be requesting the installation of a temporary fence in the median and reviewing its effectiveness through the end of this school year. Staff plans to meet just prior to the end of the school year to discuss the results with the all hands group.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at extension 5994.



David R. Barlag  
Public Safety Administrative Officer

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4034

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
JANET NGUYEN

THIRTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDEN GROVE

2015 APR 27 A 10:42



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Bao Nguyen  
Mayor  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Dear Mayor Nguyen:

As Senator of California's 34th Senate District, I am writing to respectfully request that the City of Garden Grove support my Senate Constitutional Amendment 2 (SCA 2) to prohibit banning the U.S. flag on state funded college campuses in California.

Last month the University of California, Irvine's Legislative Student Council passed a resolution that banned the display of the American flag, citing potential negative interpretations of the flag. While the Executive Cabinet of the Associated Students of UC Irvine ultimately vetoed the flag ban, this incident has drawn attention to a potential problem that could occur at another campus in the future. To ensure that this does not happen, I authored SCA 2 which prohibits the ban of the U.S. flag on any state funded campus of higher education. A constitutional amendment is needed because the UC system is a constitutionally independent system and can ignore statutory direction from the legislature.

For more than 200 years, millions of brave service men and women have made great sacrifices so that we can fly the American flag with dignity and pride. Today, thousands more have left families and jobs behind to defend the principles of freedom and democracy. Our Veterans deserve for us to make every effort to ensure that the American flag is proudly displayed at public universities and colleges throughout California. Consequently, I ask that the City of Garden Grove join me in supporting our Veterans by adopting a resolution in support of SCA 2.

Last year, I asked you to join me in honoring our Veterans by adopting a designation as a Purple Heart City and today, thanks to your support; all cities in Orange County carry this honorable



designation. Ensuring that the American flag is not prohibited on any campus in the State of California falls in line with our efforts to honor our Veterans and I hope to count on your support for SCA 2.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Watson at (916) 651-4034 or Diana Moreno at (714) 558-4400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Nguyen", written over the printed name.

JANET NGUYEN  
State Senator, Thirty-Fourth District  
California State Legislature

CC: Honorable City Council, Members  
Allan Roeder, City Manager

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_**

WHEREAS, the City of \_\_\_\_\_ proudly displays and supports the honorable flag of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS; for more than 200 years brave men and women have made great sacrifices to protect the principles of freedom and democracy which the flag of United States of America represents; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to ensure that the flag of the United States is proudly displayed at campuses throughout California, State Senator Janet Nguyen introduced Senate Constitutional Amendment 2; and

WHEREAS; Senate Constitutional Amendment 2, amends the Constitution of the State of California to prohibit State funded Post Secondary Educational Institutions from banning the display of the American flag;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The City Council of the City of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_, supports Senate Constitutional Amendment 2 and urges the California State Legislature of the to pass this legislation in protection of the American Flag.

**Section 2.** The Clerk of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ is directed to send this resolution to the Honorable Members of the California State Senate and the California State Assembly representing the City of \_\_\_\_\_; and

**Section 3:** The resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the Clerk of the Council shall attest to and certify the vote adopting this Resolution.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 2015.

Zimbra

melaniev@ci.garden-grove.ca.us

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## 2nd quarter, Vector report

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**From :** Melanie Valdes <melaniev@ci.garden-grove.ca.us> Wed, Apr 29, 2015 10:39 AM  
**Subject :** 2nd quarter, Vector report  
**To :** Melanie Valdes <melaniev@ci.garden-grove.ca.us>

Robin Marcario  
9721 Lampson Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92841

City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92841

March 31, 2014

Dear Garden Grove City Council,

This is the second of the quarterly report as your appointed Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District Trustee. The district protects the public from vectors, including mosquitoes, fire ants and rats to limit disease transmission throughout the county.

The wet, warm weather this year has created additional mosquito breeding sites such as neglected pools, buckets, pots, any container that holds water needs to be dumped and emptied.

The public can take these simple steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

- Dump stagnant, still water sources to remove breeding sites
- Fix or repair window and door screens
- Stay indoors in the early mornings and late at night when mosquitoes bite
- When outdoors wear light colored clothing with long sleeves and pants
- Use DEET mosquito repellent

If you have or see unused swimming pools or ponds the district provides free mosquito feeding fish. Call 714 971-2421 or visit [www.ocvcd.org](http://www.ocvcd.org). Follow us on [www.facebook.com/OCVector](https://www.facebook.com/OCVector) and <http://www.twitter.com/OCVector>

Last year, was the worst outbreak, in an over ten year history, of West Nile Virus in Orange County with 277 cases and 7 deaths. California had 733 and the U.S. With 1,820 cases.

Garden Grove had 19 cases.

This month an article was submitted for the April/May Garden Grove water bill insert. Mayor and City Council added information about Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control to the city website to better inform the public. I gave an informative presentation during oral communication on March 21, 2015.

Vector Control is in the process of coordinating an Integrated Management Plan to proactively respond to increased mosquitoes and mosquito disease transmission. One component of the plan is aerial spraying to control adult mosquito population. We approved a standing contract with Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management for an as needed basis.

The district is reviewing the proposed annual budget for 2015-2016. The district budget is \$11.8 million countywide property tax assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community. Please call if you have questions at 714-534-1428 or email at [robinmarcario@hotmail.com](mailto:robinmarcario@hotmail.com)

Thoughtfully,  
Robin Marcario

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**Weekly Memo 4/30/15**

**NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLES**

# VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY REMEMBERS SAIGON'S FALL

Forty years ago, South Vietnamese fled their homes, many making a long journey that landed them in Orange County.

BY DAYNA DRUM AND CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITERS

**F**orty years ago today, Communist forces swept through the city of Saigon, and as the South Vietnamese capital fell, the Vietnam War ended.

South Vietnamese soldiers were captured by Communist troops and put in prison camps. The well-connected got on the last planes and helicopters out of the crumbling capital. Others fled on boats to Guam, the Philippines or Malaysia.

"It was scary," Jennifer Itow remembers. "We had heard bombs were going off in the north, but we never knew what was going on."

Itow, 49, a Newport Beach resident who owns a jewelry store, was 9 and living in Nha Trang when Saigon fell. She remembers that everyone had a curfew, and then suddenly her parents were packing all of their belongings and she was getting on a boat in the harbor.

Many of the refugees - 50,000, in fact - ended up at Camp Pendleton.

Today, Orange County is home to Little Saigon, the largest concentration of Vietnamese outside of Southeast Asia.

The community has succeeded in America - politically, economically, culturally.

## VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY



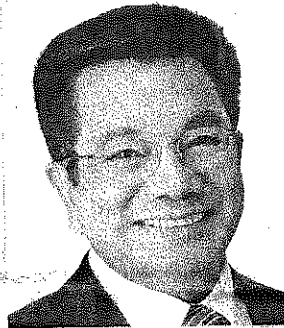
### NGAN NGUYEN

Nguyen, 60, was on the USS Midway off the coast of Vietnam when Saigon fell.

"We landed by helicopter," she said. "I was terrified. We had no time to say goodbye to our family."

Nguyen, who now lives in Santa Ana, was evacuated to the Midway with her three children and husband. Every helicopter that landed, she said, was emptied of its passengers and then pushed over the side into the water to make more room.

"It was very emotional," Nguyen said. "It seems like yesterday."

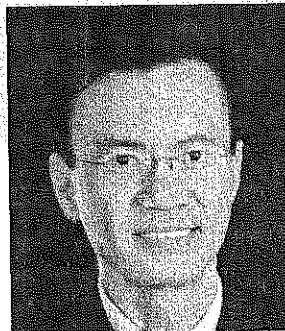


### PHAT BUI

Forty years ago, Garden Grove City Councilman Phat Bui, now 57, gathered on a beach with his family to get into a South Vietnamese Navy landing boat with the hopes rumors were true they might get picked up out in the ocean.

A large cargo ship able to hold 10,000 was rescuing boats full of fleeing Vietnamese and Bui and eight other family members were taken to Guam, where he spent a month before flying to the U.S.

"We appreciate the generosity of the people of this new home," Bui said.



### LAN QUOC NGUYEN

Nguyen, 50, said he doesn't remember the specific day Saigon fell 125 miles away from his home in the central Vietnam city of Phan Rang, which had been taken over by Communist troops two weeks before.

As his family packed their belongings to flee the city, "tanks were rolling front of us," the Garden Grove lawyer said.

The South Vietnamese military had dropped their weapons in the streets, leaving all of the neighborhood children with what they thought were toys. While the adults stayed inside, Nguyen and his brothers played with bullets.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, unified since 1975, normalized relations with the United States in 1995.

But still, for many in the Vietnamese American community, April 30 is a day of mourning. So this evening, more than 1,000 are expected to gather at Westminster's Vietnam War Memorial for a commemoration hosted by the Vietnamese American Federation of Southern California.

### IF YOU GO

**When:** 6 to 9 tonight

**Where:** Sid Goldstein Freedom Park, 14180 All American Way, Westminster

**Cost:** Free

**More info:** Ha Son Tran at 714-623-9023

### LITTLE SAIGON

The Orange County Register has launched a new Web page dedicated to the Vietnamese American community in Orange County. International news of interest to that community will also be a part of the site at [ocregister.com/littlesaigon](http://ocregister.com/littlesaigon).

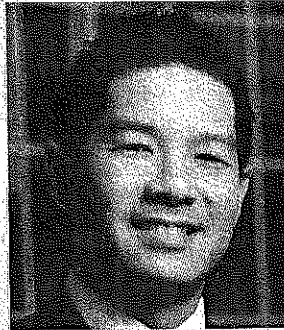


### KEVIN NGUYEN

Not all South Vietnamese living in Saigon who wanted to leave the new unified country were able to right away. It took Nguyen's parents several years to save the money and then, in the dark of night, they boarded a boat in the harbor.

Nguyen, 44, a Huntington Beach resident, remembers complete darkness as the fishing boat headed for open waters with no lights on.

"We got shot at when we left the harbor," he said. "We drifted for 10 days after we ran out of gas. We sat there and prayed to die."



### TAM NGUYEN

"How weird is it to say I'm grateful we lost the war," said Nguyen, 41, a former Vietnamese-American Chamber of Commerce president, "so that I can have this great life in America."

Too young to remember Saigon, Nguyen instead remembers watching his father, now 84, and his mother, now 71, over the past 40 years dealing with their traumatic experience as refugees and adjusting to life in America.

**BACKGROUND:** In April 29, 1975, people try to scale the 14-foot wall of the U.S. embassy in Saigon to reach evacuation helicopters as the last of the Americans depart from Vietnam.

AP FILE PHOTO

# Experiencing Vietnam

Garden Grove Journal / Register  
April 30, 2015  
1 of 2

## through the silver screen

The 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon is big news this week and the mother ship – aka the Orange County Register – is doing a crackerjack job on covering all of the ways in which that event sent, and still sends, ripples through these parts.

So what's Brainiac got to add to the mix, you might well ask yourself. We wondered the same thing. Brainiac was a kid during the Vietnam War, too young for the draft, but old enough to see the footage on the nightly news and read the stories and stare at the photographs in Life magazine.

And that got us onto a tangent that maybe opened the door to a different way of looking at Vietnam, with and without the war, and the ways in which we've learned what we know of such things. In many ways, what helped shape Brainiac's point of view was the view itself as presented in the movies made about the war, our two countries and all of the people swept up in that ongoing narrative.

What, we wondered, are the films that have taught us something, made us feel something, caused us to question what we thought we knew?

What follows is Brainiac's completely subjective list – you may not like all of these like we do – of some of the best of the films we've seen about Vietnam.

### "THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA" (1993)

This film by the Vietnamese French director Tran Anh Hùng is a lovely, meditative tale of pre-war Vietnam, a love story told through the eyes of a young ser-



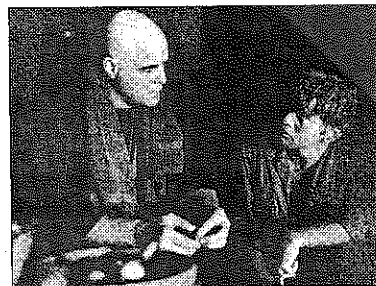
PHOTO COURTESY OF HAM TRAN

**Kieu Chinh, Diem Lien, Preston Nguyen and Long Nguyen star in 'Journey From the Fall.' Inspired by actual events, "Journey From the Fall" is a story about a family torn apart and forced to escape.**

vant girl in the country in the early 1950s. It won top prizes at the Cannes film festival and the Césars – the French equivalent of the Academy Awards – and is important in part because it shows a country other than the war-torn one we've seen in so many other films.

### "THE DEER HUNTER" (1978)

The Michael Cimino-directed war epic might have oversold some of its stories – there's never been much proof of real-life equivalents to the Russian roulette scenes it includes – but as a por-



FILE PHOTO

**Marlon Brando and Martin Sheen in "Apocalypse Now"**

trait of how young American men went overseas and had their lives forever changed, it's a remarka-



ble piece of filmmaking with stand-out turns by a cast that includes Robert DeNiro, Christopher Walken, John Savage and, in one of her earliest roles, Meryl Streep.

#### **"APOCALYPSE NOW" (1979)**

Like "The Deer Hunter," this Francis Ford Coppola film swaps a specific kind of realism for a surrealistic kind of greater truth. Was there anyone like Marlon Brando's Col. Kurtz in this loose adaptation of Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness?" Probably not.

But in Martin Sheen's quest to

find him, we experience a lot of what it feels likely was the weirdly strange and illogical aspect of the war.

#### **"THREE SEASONS" (1999)**

Set in Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon, after the war, director Tony Bui's film won several prizes at the Sundance film festival and was the first American-made movie to ever shoot all of its scenes in Vietnam. It follows a trio of outcasts - an orphan, a prostitute, a street urchin - to show the impacts of the post-war Westernization taking place a quarter-century after the fall of Saigon.

#### **"JOURNEY FROM THE FALL" (2006)**

This movie is less known than the others on our list, but it has a special place here in that its ties to Orange County are strong and it was funded entirely by members of the Vietnamese American community.

Director Ham Tran focuses on the story of the boat people who fled post-Fall Vietnam and the so-called re-education camps, finding their way eventually to Orange County and many other parts of the United States. It's also notable in that its cast includes Kieu Chinh, the much-esteemed Vietnamese American actress who long has lived in Garden Grove.

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What are your favorite films about Vietnam, the war and all related events? Share 'em with us at [Brainiac@ocregister.com](mailto:Brainiac@ocregister.com) and if we get enough responses perhaps we'll do a readers choice column next week!

## COMMEMORATING THE FALL OF SAIGON



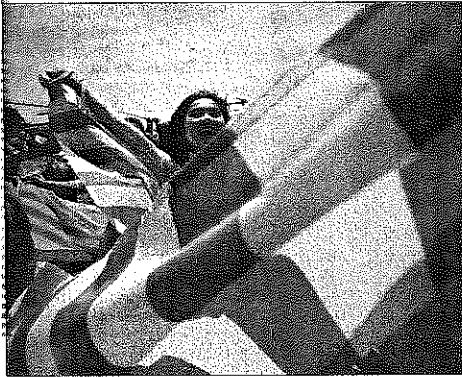
ED CRISOSTOMO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

South Vietnamese marine veterans John Tran, left, and Benjamin Ly, both of Garden Grove, share a laugh.



ED CRISOSTOMO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Singers perform for the audience Saturday during The 40th Commemoration of Black April event at Bolsa Grande High School Stadium in Garden Grove.



CINDY YAMANAKA, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Westminster-based Thien An dancers run through the aisles with flags from several nations on the USS Midway.

Vern Jumper, left, was the air boss of the USS Midway in April 1975, when the ship was involved in the rescue of more than 3,000 Vietnamese refugees. Larry Chambers, right, was the captain of the ship.



CINDY YAMANAKA, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



CINDY YAMANAKA, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gary Dou of Toronto, second from left; his wife, Anagela; and their daughter Aimee, 9, strike a pose aboard the USS Midway. The commemoration event for the 40th anniversary of Operation Frequent Wind and the fall of Saigon took place Sunday in San Diego.

**Sharing her thoughts:** Jackie Cutts recently traveled to the state Capitol to read the essay that won her the California Youth in Theater Day Advocacy Essay Contest.

Students were asked to write about why theater arts education is important to the country's future. Cutts is the third student in the past four years from Cornelia Connelly School in Anaheim to win the statewide essay contest.

A senior at Connelly, Cutts is active in the Tri-School Theatre program. She has gravitated to the technical side of theater. ...

**Her story:** "Through a Mother's Eyes," written by **Rose Briceno** of Garden Grove, was recently released. It is about her son's recovery and life living with a traumatic brain injury after a car accident in 2008, as told through her eyes.

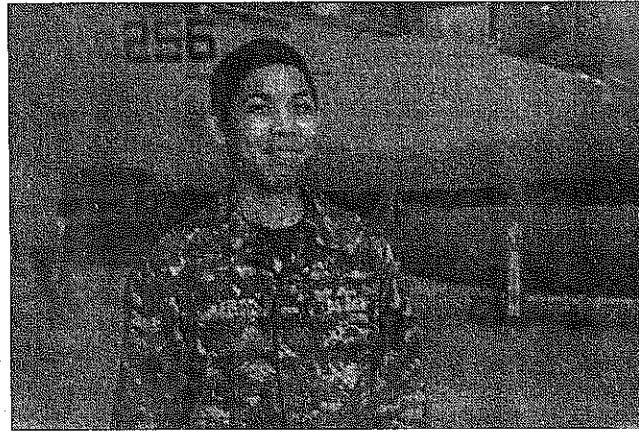
Briceno said she started writing stories for her children when they were toddlers and then decided to try writing novels, mostly fiction. She does a lot of her writing at night after the family's four children go to bed. ...

**Keeping them flying:** A 2012 La Quinta High graduate is serving with the United States Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron 122, often known as the "Flying Eagles."

Airman **Karem Kaplli**, a Westminster native, works as an aviation machinist mate repairing and maintaining Super Hornet strike fighter aircraft engines and fuel systems. He is stationed at Naval Air Station Lemoore.

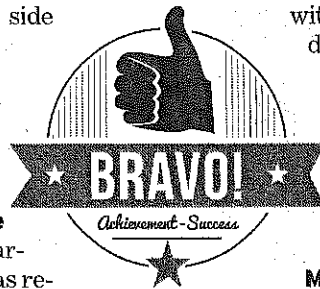
Super Hornets can reach a maximum speed of 1,190 miles an hour and land and take off from aircraft carriers.

"I like the camaraderie



COURTESY OF NAVY

**Navy Airman Karem Kaplli is a Westminster native. "The Navy is a great way to meet new people and go places that most people never get to go to," Kaplli said.**



within the squadron," Kaplli said in a Navy press release. "We work hard but we also have fun." ...

**Major donor:** **Cathy Gach** of the Rotary Club of Fullerton was recently honored by the Rotary Foundation as a major donor for her "substantial contribution toward the goal of international understanding and peace."

The award was presented by local club president **Bill Schenk**, who said in a press release: "She supports and honors the humanitarian and educational programs of the Rotary Foundation that make a difference in the lives of others."

Gach, who retired in 2013 as the principal of Fullerton Union High, has been a Fullerton Rotarian since 2003.

**New Eagle:** Orange Elks Lodge Boy Scout Troop 1475 recently celebrated its latest member to earn the Eagle Scout rank: **Brian Delgado**.

Delgado is the 10th troop member to earn the prestigious rank since 2006 and along with his brother, Jonathan, the troop boasts three sets of brothers earning the rank.

Delgado, a junior at El Modena High, has completed 22 merit badges and served in several leadership roles for the troop. He designed and organized the construction of a three-part information center at the El Modena Nature Center for his required community service project.

The Bravo! section highlights the achievements and success of our north Orange County residents and groups. Send news of achievements to [northbravo@ocregister.com](mailto:northbravo@ocregister.com).



**Rose Briceno of Garden Grove - here with her husband - has released the book "Through a Mother's Eyes."**

COURTESY OF  
TURVILLE  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# THE FIVE

## THINGS TO KNOW

BY CHRIS HAIRE / STAFF WRITER

### DRIVERS WATCHED ON CINCO DE MAYO

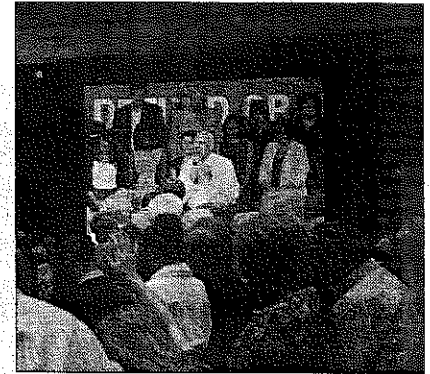
Garden Grove police will be out in droves on Tuesday.

The Police Department plans to have extra officers on duty for Cinco de Mayo to identify and arrest those suspected of driving under the influence.

The police are also reminding people that "buzzed driving is drunk driving," and if you plan on drinking at all, have a sober designated driver or use a ride service.

**Garden Grove patrols will be looking for drunken drivers on Cinco de Mayo.**

KURT STRAZDINS, FILE PHOTO



NEW YORK TIMES FILE PHOTO

**Senator Ted Cruz's father Rafael Cruz, seen on a television screen, leads prayer at a rally in 2013.**

### CRUZ'S FATHER WILL SPEAK IN STANTON

Presidential candidate Ted Cruz's father will be stopping Saturday in Stanton to tell his story and encourage Christians to be more involved politically.

Pastor Rafael Cruz, a Cuban-born immigrant who first came to the United States on a student visa in 1957, has spent years touring the country and telling listeners about what he says are the biblical foundations of the United States.

His son, a Republican senator from Texas, was the first person to announce his 2016 candidacy for president.

Cruz will speak at 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Northwest Orange County Republican Headquarters, 11296 Beach Blvd. A question-and-answer session will follow. RSVP to Stanton City Councilman David Shawver: 714-931-8863 or dshawver1@att.net.

### NONPROFITS RAISE THOUSANDS

Garden Grove, Westminster and Stanton nonprofits raised \$43,611 during iheartoc Giving Day.

The Orange County Community Foundation organized the first countywide day of giving, which was from 6 a.m. April 21 to noon April 22.

More than \$1.8 million was raised for 347 nonprofits, with 100 percent of the money going to participating organizations.

In Garden Grove, 12 nonprofits raised \$36,761, with Helping Others Prepare for Eternity earning the most, \$10,350. Stanton's lone participating nonprofit, Livingstone Community Development Corporation raised \$1,750.

Two Westminster nonprofits received \$5,100 - the bulk of which went to the Joyful Child Foundation: \$4,400.



**Jagger, a rescue dog from The Pet Rescue Center in Mission Viejo, interacted at iheartoc Giving Day.**

COURTESY OF  
ORANGE  
COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# CELEBRATING NATURE

**M**other Nature had a big week in Garden Grove last week.

On Friday, a California Pepper Tree was planted at Elizabeth Lane and Stanford Avenue. It fills the void left when "Elizabeth," an 80-year-old California Pepper Tree, so named by neighbors after its location, was removed nearly a year ago because of a wood-decaying disease.

Earlier in the week, a public art piece in honor of Earth Day was unveiled at the Garden Grove Civic Center Park. The High Stakes for Earth art installation by James Dinh will remain for a month.

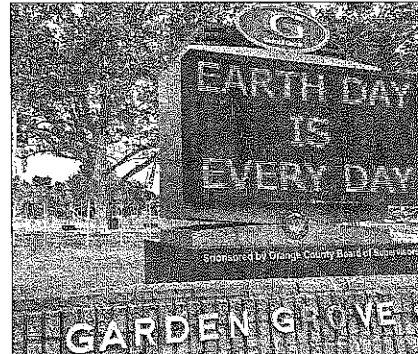


PHOTOS: FRANK D'AMATO, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

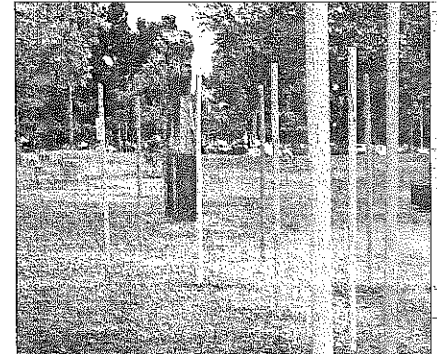
City of Garden Grove Senior Program Specialist Jeff Davis, far right, takes video while city workers Mauricio Garcia, Richard Gosselin, Hermilo Hernandez and A.J. Holmon III gather with Mayor Bao Nguyen during the planting.



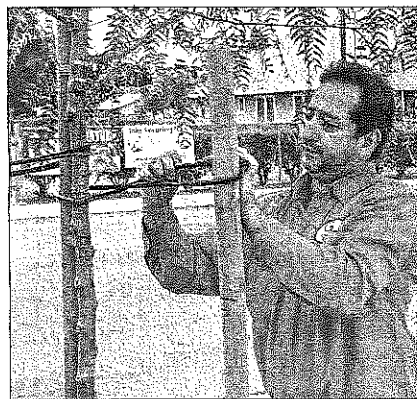
Twelve banners hang from an old London plane tree at the Garden Grove Civic Center Park expressing the wishes of the community in celebration of Earth Day.



The High Stakes for Earth art installation will be on display for a month.



The art installation consists of 52 wooden stakes, one for each week of the year painted in four different colors.



Mauricio Garcia with Garden Grove Public Works ties straps to support the young California pepper tree.



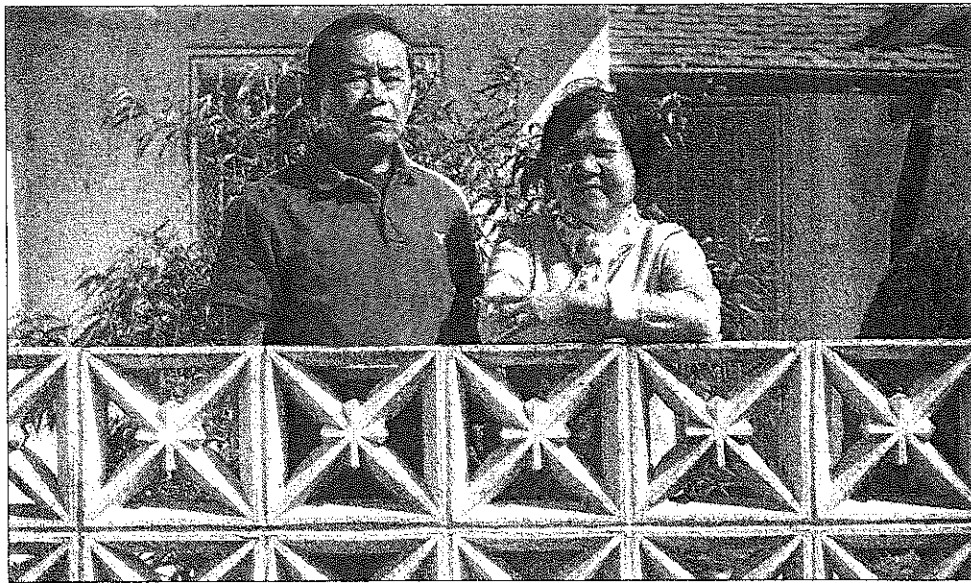
Tony Martin Sr., street maintenance worker with the city of Garden Grove, prepares the new Elizabeth Lane sign.



Twelve banners hang from a tree over the High Stakes for Earth art installation by James Dinh in the Garden Grove Civic Center Park.



Hermilo Hernandez with Garden Grove Public Works puts the finishing touches to the bed around the California pepper tree that was planted at corner of Elizabeth Lane and Stanford Avenue.



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April 30, 2015

SAM GANGWER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No Bui, 66, and his wife, Nhieu Thi Le, stand in front of their Garden Grove home. Bui was an officer in the South Vietnamese Navy and he, his father and his four brothers spent 10 years in concentration camps after the fall of Saigon.

# HAVING COURAGE AFTER HELL

**Bio:** No Bui, 66, has worked as a custodian at La Habra High School for more than 20 years. He was an officer in the South Vietnamese Navy, and he, his father and his four brothers spent 10 years in concentration camps after the fall of Saigon. The Garden Grove resident still has a bullet in a shoulder and two in his back.

**Why he came:** "We did hard labor and only ate a little (in the concentration camp). I was 150 pounds when I first went into the camp and weighed 80 when I left. I would often dream about food. Then when I got out, my family house was empty. My mother burned all our photos and documents (to destroy any evidence), and the communists took everything else. It was no way to live."

**How he came:** "In order to leave Vietnam, you needed two things: courage and money. ... But I was in the Navy, so I got on (a) boat for free because I could sail ... I spent 25 months between Malaysia and the Philippines before a friend sponsored me to come to the United States."

**Why he stayed in O.C.:** "I was starving in Vietnam, and on my first day in Orange County, my friend took me to one of those all-you-can-eat places. I just laughed. I'd never seen so much food in my life. Living in Vietnam after the communists was like

living in hell. Living here is like living in heaven."

**Biggest accomplishment:** "I could provide for my family, and I get to watch my daughter wear a cap and gown and graduate from college (UC Irvine) this year."

**Biggest challenge:** "Living in the concentration camps for 10 years and then getting out and living under the communists. I said to myself, 'How can I live like this?' We were second-class citizens. They controlled our lives."

**On telling his daughter about the war:** "My daughter doesn't know many of my stories. I haven't told her, and she hasn't really asked. But she knows that my wife and I escaped. Someday I will talk to her about it, about the war and my escape."

**What inspires him:** "The hope that one day very soon the government in Vietnam will collapse and people will have freedom."

**Can't do without:** "My wife and daughter, and my religion."

**What's next:** "I will continue fighting for democracy and human rights in Vietnam by protesting. I'll do anything to make sure the government collapses."

- Chris Haire

# THE GUIDE TO A NEW LIFE

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Trung Le has helped hundreds make the transition from Vietnam to Little Saigon.

BY DEEPA BHARATH  
STAFF WRITER

Trung Le knows what it feels like to be imprisoned and fed rancid scraps, to be stripped of human dignity.

The former officer in the South Vietnamese navy spent six years in the prison system described in Communist Vietnam as re-education camps.

He also knows what it's like to regain that dignity, to rebuild a life.

Since 1990, Le has worked to help Vietnamese refugees arriving in Little Saigon. He's an immigration services specialist at the Horizon Cross Cultural Center in Orange.

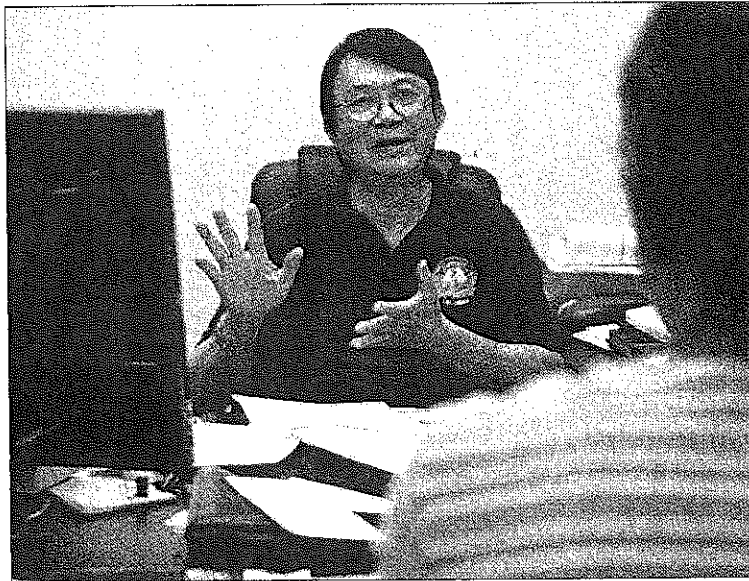
It's the only job that Le, now 68 and living in Westminster, has had in this country.

"When I first came here, there were two important things - learn English and get a job," Le said.

"I was happy to help other people with what I had learned," he added. "I felt like it was the least I could do."

Founded in 1976 by the Rev. Samir Habiby, rector at the St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Garden Grove, the center has helped more than 10,000 Vietnamese American families find their footing in a new land. The center, which recently changed its name to Horizon, offers help such as English classes and assistance with paperwork.

In one sense, Le's job was simple. When refugees arrived, he would pick them up from the airport or bus station and give them a tour of the Little Saigon area,



NICK AGRO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Trung Le, 68, of Westminster, an immigration services specialist at Horizon Cross Cultural Center in Orange, assists a client at his office. He was a former officer in the South Vietnamese navy.**

showing them where to buy groceries, purchase a car or send their kids to school. He'd also help them get Social Security cards and tell them about possible benefits, English classes and job programs.

But Le helped in other ways, too.

When he saw clients struggling emotionally, he'd visit them at their homes. He'd have a smoke or a cup of coffee, play shrink with them; talk, listen, give hope.

"These were former South Vietnamese officers who had good lives back home. Suddenly, they found themselves with nothing," he said. "It was tough for them to accept their situation."

The center's role in the community, and Le's job, have expanded over the years.

Vietnam and the United States normalized relations in 1995, meaning people coming to the United States from Vietnam arrive as immigrants, not as officially designated political refu-

gees.

Today, the center still helps hundreds of immigrant families annually, including many from Vietnam, but also many others from other cultures and countries. The center also offers citizenship classes in addition to other services.

Le is the center's unofficial historian, collecting images and burning DVDs with videos and stories of refugees the center has helped.

During his years in Little Saigon, Le has sponsored 30 of his friends and family to get them out of Vietnam.

When he got out of the re-education camp, Le had malaria. His body was weak; he had no money job or connections. But he still remembers a simple moment when his life changed:

A neighbor offered him a bowl of rice.

"That gesture of kindness showed me that you don't need to have much to help another human being," he said.

"All you need is courage."

# LIFE FOOD

# 25

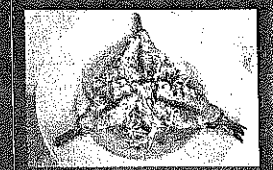
## BEST THINGS TO EAT IN LITTLE SAIGON

Looking to dig in to the O.C. enclave's dizzying array of choices? Here's something for starters.

SEE PAGE 3



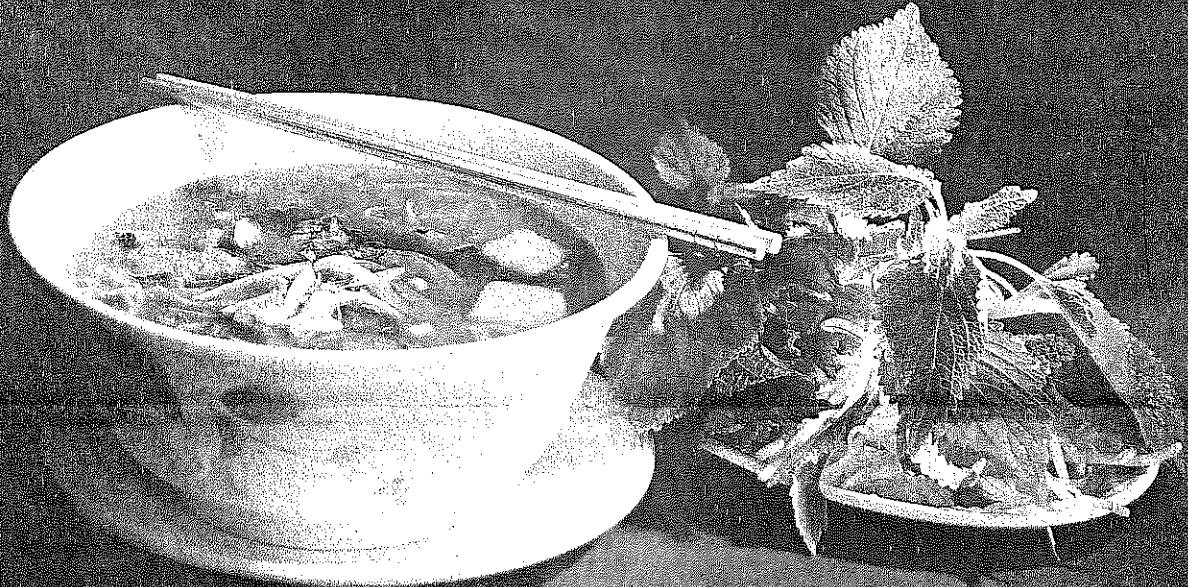
Mussels at Red Crab



Grilled prawns at Fusion 11



Banh hoi at Bo De Tinh Tam Chay



Red Crab in Westminster serves up rieu, a soup with crab or tofu, tomatoes, noodles and a hint of tamarind.

CINDY YANAHAYA  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# THE BEST OF LITTLE SAIGON

One of America's great culinary enclaves is right here in O.C. Here are 25 ways to enjoy it.

The scent of Little Saigon hits me in the face. An intoxicating perfume of jackfruit and bananas and the vanilla-y scent of pandanus leaves wraps itself around me in a warm, tight embrace. It's a sunny Friday afternoon, and the line to purchase something cold and sweet at Thach Che Hien Khanh in Garden Grove stretches out the front door and down the sidewalk, past a vendor of exotic fruits and knickknacks — chopsticks, paper lanterns, plastic Buddhas, various figurines of the lunar zodiac. Incense from a nearby shop muscled itself into the mix. As I get closer to the dessert counter, I see dozens of wildly colorful puddings and cakes and sheet-pans filled with fluorescent mounds of sticky rice.

The young woman directly in front of me is nervously eyeing something in the display case. "Ohhh," she says, anxiously tugging on her friend's arm every time someone orders one. "I know, I know," her cohort responds. "The last two times I waited in this line, they sold out before I could get to the front."

I can see now what they're talking about. It's something I will later learn is called *banh don lon*, which resembles a layer cake but is actually alternating ribbons of bright green and yellowish gelatin made from pandanus leaves, coconut and mung beans. They are flying off the shelf, but everyone on this day, including me, seems able to score at least one.

I want to taste more than just *banh don lon*, though. "What's that over there?" I ask, pointing to a tray of technicolor pudding. The woman behind the counter stares at me blankly, unable to understand the gibberish that's coming from my mouth. She turns to a co-worker, who just shrugs and smiles. Lifting her ladle, she makes a motion that I translate to mean, "How much would you like?"

I change tack. I see something that looks like the sweet corn porridge I discovered earlier this year at a street vendor in Vietnam, so I point to that one instead. "I'll take some of that," I say. "And a No. 3 che," pointing to the colorful milk tea pictured on the wall with "#3" on it. I have no idea what's in it, but it looks like a fun mix of green, white, blue and red squiggles.

After visiting Vietnam again in February, I decided it was time that I got to know Little Saigon a little better. It's an exploration that began even before I moved to Orange County, thanks to a couple of Vietnamese-American friends who live in Garden Grove and eat out daily. They took me under their



BRAD A. JOHNSON, STAFF

Garlic crab at Garlic & Chives.

wings and introduced me to all of their favorites before turning me loose to explore on my own. In all, I have dined at more than 50 restaurants in Westminster, Garden Grove and Fountain Valley. It sometimes feels like I've barely scratched the surface.

Little Saigon can easily overwhelm. There are thousands of restaurants to consider, many of which don't offer menus in English, or menus at all. It's a collision of two worlds, not of east and west but rather of old and new. Old barbecue joints — with ducks hanging by their necks and pigs by their tails — exist alongside trendy shaved-ice parlors and noodle cafes. It's common to see old men squatting on plastic stools and smoking cigarettes outside one shop, while next door you see teenagers wearing fancy designer jeans and sending text messages between slurps of milk tea. But where the generations overlap, there is great food. Lots of it.

Here are the 25 best things I've found to eat — and then some — in Little Saigon. All restaurants are open daily unless noted.

**Garlic crab at Garlic & Chives:** I like everything I've eaten at this spiffy little newcomer that opened in December, but the house specialty and best thing on the menu is the wok-fried crab, cooked with jalapeños, dried chilies and handfuls of garlic — more garlic than you can possibly imagine — but you won't regret it. 9892 Westminster Blvd.,

No. 311, Garden Grove; 714-591-5196.

**Bun rieu at Red Crab:** Vietnamese country singer and heartthrob Duy Truong is a local celebrity in Little Saigon, but he is also an avid cook. Last year he opened a restaurant that, like so many others, draws inspiration not just from Vietnam but also New Orleans. It's like Boiling Crab or Kicking Crab, but much smaller, more intimate and ultimately more fun. The crawfish and crab are great, but what's even better is Truong's *bun rieu*, a traditional Vietnamese noodle soup made with a tomato-based broth and a hint of tamarind. You can get it loaded with fresh crab or tofu. 9211 Bolsa Ave., No. 120, Westminster; 714-894-4536.

**Bun cha Hanoi at Tra House:** *Bun cha* is a traditional street food from Hanoi, where vendors set up their makeshift charcoal grills in the middle of the sidewalks to cook pork patties and thin strips of fatty pork, which they mix together and serve in bowls of cold, sweet broth made with water, sugar, vinegar and fish sauce, plus a fistful of cold noodles and a pile of fresh herbs and lettuce. The version that most reminds me of Hanoi is the one I found at Tra House, a trendy steampunk-themed Vietnamese gastropub and tea house, where the portion is larger and more beautiful than anywhere else. 14291 N. Euclid St., Garden Grove; 714-554-0401.

**Chicken pho at Hien Thanh:** Everybody loves a bowl of



BRAD A. JOHNSON, STAFF

Banh beo chen at Hue Oi in Fountain Valley.

steamy chicken noodle soup. And the pho ga at Hien Thanh is outstanding. The first and most important rule of pho is that the broth must be extremely hot — so hot that it can hurt you. This one lives up to that, so be careful. Blow on it. You'll appreciate the clean, subtle fragrance of the soup as you infuse it with mint and ginger. The noodles are supple, slippery perfection. 9741 Bolsa Ave., No. 108, Westminster; 714-887-9349.

**Stir-fried beef with lemongrass and garlic at Qi Tea Lounge:** Opened a few months ago, Qi, which oddly has a drive-through, has come to be adored by Little Saigon's ladies who lunch and businessmen who drive fancy sports cars. The kitchen's talent goes much deeper than the restaurant's "tea lounge" moniker might suggest. The menu offers several versions of filet mignon, my favorite of which is stir-fried with garlic and lemongrass, with a fried egg served atop the rice. 15560 Brookhurst St., Westminster; 714-839-3886.

**Imperial rolls at Vien Dong:** Fried spring rolls, or imperial rolls, are one of the most basic staples of Vietnamese cuisine, and one of the first tastes most Westerners get to know. And while Vien Dong is perhaps best known for sizzling fish with dill and turmeric, what I really love here are the imperial rolls. They are big and substantial and, surprisingly, not very greasy. I could happily make a meal out of a single order of these, again and again. 14271

Brookhurst St., Garden Grove; 714-531-8253.

**Nem nuong cuon at Brodad:** More than 200 diners at a time squeeze into Brodad, all ravenous, all here for the nem nuong cuon, a type of spring roll made with grilled pork sausage and crisp wonton strips wrapped in rice paper. The sausage is slightly sweet and garlicky, but if you want more of a kick, there's a jar of unpeeled garlic cloves and tongue-melting chilies on the table. The menu offers several types of spring rolls, and if you attempt to order anything other than nem nuong cuon, the waiter will likely correct you, as he did me when I purposefully tried to work my way down the list. "You don't want that one," he insisted. "You want nem nuong cuon," he said, tapping on the picture that's on the cover of the menu. Be prepared to wait in line for up to an hour if you come at peak dining hours. 9892 Westminster Ave., Garden Grove; 714-530-1744. Closed Tuesdays.

**Chinese barbecue at BBQ One, Lien Hoa and New Duong Son:** Chinese barbecue became an integral component in Vietnamese cooking a long, long time ago, and it's a tradition that has thankfully not been lost in Little Saigon. The newest player is BBQ One, which opened this year next door to the legendary Lien Hoa and one block from the just as famous and always excellent New Duong Son. They all sell essentially the same things: barbecue duck, barbecue pork and soy sauce

chicken. I bought samples of everything from all three places on the same day to compare, and it's really hard to pick a winner. But I do love the idea of sitting down for a meal at BBQ One, whereas the others offer only takeout. BBQ One, 9299 Bolsa Ave., Westminster; 714-898-0800. Lien Hoa BBQ, 9311 Bolsa Ave., Westminster; 714-894-1085. New Duong Son BBQ, 9211 Bolsa Ave., Westminster; 714-901-1600.

**Banh beo chen at Hue Oi:** Countless restaurants serve the diminutive rice-flour pancakes known as *banh beo chen*, but they almost always come off as clumsy and messy, leaving most people to think that's the way they're supposed to be made. But if you go to Hue Oi, you will learn to appreciate their elegance and sophistication. Each little disc, about the size of a silver dollar, is topped with crushed dried shrimp, chopped scallions and a nugget of fried pork rind. Splash it with some decidedly non-fishy fish sauce and a pinch of chili, then pop it into your mouth. Pure joy. 16537 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley; 714-531-1305. Closed Tuesdays.

**Banh mi bo kho at Le Croissant Dore:** This place is especially popular for weekend breakfast, where old-timers and college kids alike come together for ultra-strong Vietnamese coffee and plates of beef stew known as *bo kho*, served with exceptional French baguettes, or *banh mi*. Because it's inexplicably served on a plate, rather than in a bowl, some of it will end up on the table. Try to sop it up with the baguette before that happens. 9122 Bolsa Ave., Westminster; 714-895-3070.

**Shrimp on a stick at Rice Paper:** This is Southeast Asian street food at its best, except your waiter here will give you way more napkins than you would ever get from a street vendor. And you'll certainly need a stack. The shrimp are incredible, skewered with their heads, shells and tails intact, then basted and heavily charred on the grill. You'll end up with sauce everywhere: covering your fingers, dribbled in your lap, smeared across your face, possibly even in your ears... but you'll love every minute of it. 10561 Bolsa Ave., Garden Grove; 714-554-8889. Closed Tuesdays.

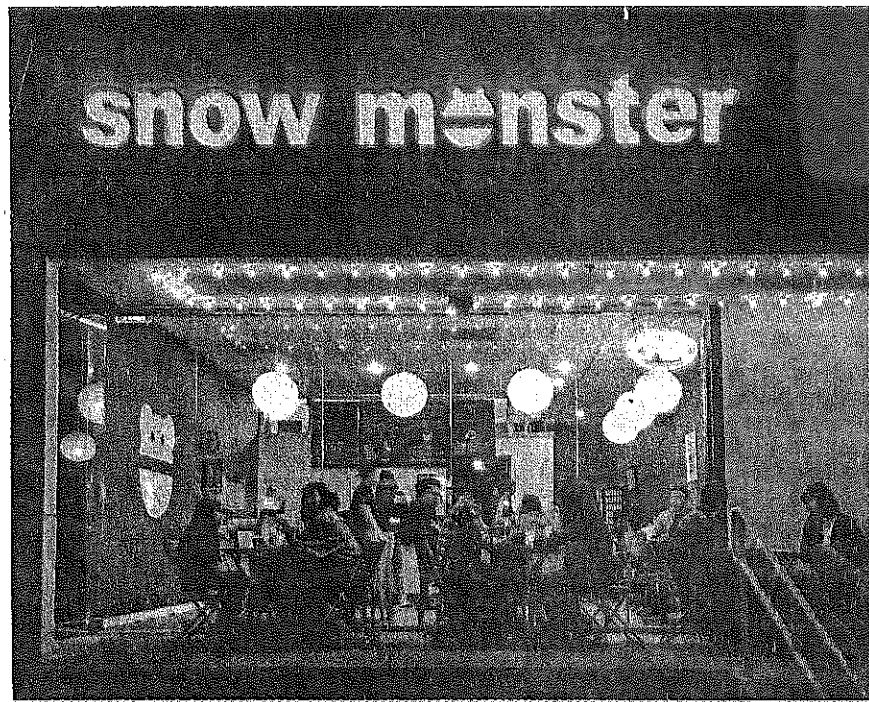
**Vermicelli bowl with pork and shrimp at Thanh My:** Flip through the menu until you find that section for vermicelli noodles, or *bun*, then choose the one that's loaded with grilled pork, shrimp and fried spring rolls, all of which come piled into a large bowl. They'll give you a smaller bowl filled with slightly sweet fish sauce; dump all of this into the noodles. The table is set with bottles of chili sauce and hoisin

sauce; add some of each. Throw in a handful of fresh green herbs. There's no right or wrong formula. Just keep tweaking it until it feels right to your individual taste buds. This is one of my favorite foods on a hot summer day. 9553 Bolsa Ave., Westminster; 714-531-9540.

**Newport special lobster at Tan Cang Newport Seafood:** Call up a bunch of friends and have them meet you here. Admire the massive lobster tanks near the entrance, then order the 7-pound, house-special lobster. Round out the Lazy Susan with an extra-large order of yang chow fried rice and the spicy clams. Notice how quiet it suddenly gets after the lobster arrives. 10541 Bolsa Ave., Garden Grove, 714-554-3996.

**Shaved ice at Snow Monster:** If you are older than, say, 40, you might feel out of place here on a Friday night when all the cool kids gather to gossip and flirt and eat shaved ice. If you've not had this stuff before, it helps to know that shaved ice tastes more like ice cream than, say, a snow cone or Slurpee. 9600 Bolsa Ave., Suite G, Westminster; 714-582-6023.

**Banh mi at Lynda Sandwich:** Banh mi sandwiches have become so ubiquitous that even Taco Bell's parent company has jumped on the bandwagon. Everyone in Little Saigon has their favorite baguette stuffed with grilled pork or meatloaf, along with handfuls of pickled radish, fresh cucumber and jalapeño. Lots of fans swear by Banh Mi Che Cali, or the recently opened Westminster branch of Mr. Baguette. I find the former's bread too tough, not crisp or crumbly enough, and I find the latter too bland. When you bite into a banh mi, you should always end up with crumbs in your



PHOTOS: BRAD A. JOHNSON, STAFF

**It's always a scene after dark at shaved-ice shop Snow Monster.**

lap. For my money, which is merely a few bucks, nobody in Little Saigon makes a better pork sandwich on a better, crisper French baguette than Lynda Sandwich. 15380 Beach Blvd., Suite B, Westminster; 714-898-5400.

**Beef pho at Pho 45:** Nothing brings out the claws faster than a debate about who makes the best pho. My favorite place for beef noodle soup is Pho 45. Unless you're a competitive eater, you won't be able to finish the whole bowl, but that's OK. They'll sell you a smaller bowl if you wish, but where's the fun in that? The texture of the noodles, the clarity of the broth, the freshness of the raw beef, everything about this soup is excellent. 9240 Garden Grove Blvd., No. 19, Garden Grove; 714-587-9000.

**No. 3 che at Thach Che Hien Khanh:** There are several locations of this Vietnamese dessert shop, but I prefer the newest one at the corner of Brookhurst Street and Bolsa Avenue. Unlike the more crowded, older outpost across the street, this one actually has a place to sit and enjoy your dessert — just one table, though, so you'll have to fight for it. Otherwise, it's the same li-

neup of banh don lon, sweet sticky rice, puddings and che as the other locations. 9854 Bolsa Ave., Westminster; 714-839-8869. Closed Saturdays-Sundays.

**Bun bo Hue at Quan Vy Da:** Bun bo Hue is typically a very hearty, spicy bowl of beef noodle soup amplified by cubes of jelly made from beef blood, plus meatballs, pig shanks (or sometimes the trotters) and various innards. It's not for wimps. My go-to version of this is at Quan Vy Da, where the broth packs a spicier-than-average punch. It's ready to eat, but for the handful of fresh herbs that should be thrown in at the very last minute. 9950 Bolsa Ave., Suite B, Westminster, 714-531-2905. Closed Mondays.

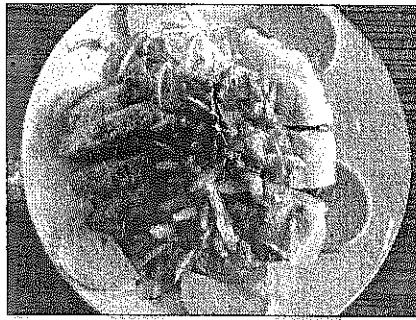
**Vegan bun bo Hue at Nhan Duc Hanh:** It's important to repeat what I just said: Bun bo Hue is typically a very hearty, spicy bowl of beef noodle soup amped up with cubes of jelly made from beef blood, plus meatballs, pig shanks and various innards. So when I see this on the menu at a vegetarian — mostly vegan — restaurant that opened in December, I'm naturally skeptical. But then I taste it, and I'm blown away. It's almost as good as

the real thing. 8540 Westminster Blvd., Westminster; 714-225-5384.

**Duck noodle soup at Phat Ky Mi Gia:** I'm still about 15 years away from perfecting the art of dismantling the hindquarter of a duck using nothing but chopsticks and a plastic spoon, but that doesn't stop me from enjoying one of the best noodle soups known to mankind. The broth tastes subtly of star anise and a pinch of palm sugar. Springy egg noodles bounce between your teeth, encouraging you to smile as you chew. And that duck, oh my. The cook delivers all the food to your table herself. 14140 Brookhurst St., Garden Grove; 714-530-9228. Closed Tuesdays.

**Garlic noodles with grilled prawns at Fusion 11:** This is a lovely fine-dining restaurant with white tablecloths, professional service and a modern French-Vietnamese menu that ranges from traditional Southeast Asian street food to lamb chops and prime steaks. Whatever you do, don't miss the garlic noodles with grilled prawns. These spaghetti noodles prove the brilliance of simplicity and the importance of cultural fusion in the his-

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**Banh cuon is the specialty at Banh Cuon Tay Ho #4 in Westminster.**



**The bowls are big and the quality matches at Pho 45.**

tory of Vietnamese cuisine. 14580 Brookhurst St., Westminster; 714-531-1428. Closed Tuesdays.

**Snails in coconut curry at Oc & Lau:** "Do you know how to eat that?" the waiter asks as he places a skillet of snails atop a small tabletop burner. Bass-rattling hip-hop blares from the stereo. I hesitate to answer. Whenever I've eaten snails in the past, I've always been given a tiny fork or toothpick to dig the creatures from their shells, but I don't see any tools like that here. I look at my waiter for help. "Just suck it, and it'll come out," he says. "But wait until it gets really hot."

Oc is the Vietnamese word for snail, and you can see by the restaurant's name that snails are an important part of the menu here. I like the little ones best, served in coconut curry, which is somewhat sweet when it comes to the table, so I prefer to add some chopped bird's-eye chilies to give it some much-needed balance. 10130 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove; 714-636-2000. Closed Tuesdays.

**Banh hoi at Bo De Tinh Tam Chay:** Imagine the most intricate lace doily. Now ima-

gine that it's made from rice flour and is extremely delicious. It's called banh hoi, and it's a specialty of this popular vegetarian restaurant. It serves banh hoi different ways, but I suggest trying the version that's wrapped around roasted bean curd, which you'll dip into a vegan version of the popular condiment nuoc mam pha. 15352 Beach Blvd., Westminster; 714-891-4455.

**Banh cuon at Banh Cuon Tay Ho #4:** "It's good, isn't it?" I look around to see who just asked that, since it sounds like the question was directed at me, having just taken a bite of the banh cuon. I look to my left and notice my waitress, who might also be the owner, sitting down to lunch herself. She's smiling at me, excitedly awaiting my reaction. I nod enthusiastically, my mouth still full of delicious rice sheets that have been sprinkled with ground pork and mushrooms and rolled into neat little logs. I've ordered the No. 1 combo, which comes with a simple salad of cucumbers and bean sprouts, plus deep-fried shrimp and sweet potato fritters, a multigrain muffin, and some sort of strangely white luncheon meat. I don't care for the luncheon meat, but everything else is fantastic. 9822 Bolsa Ave., Westminster; 714-531-5171. Closed Thursdays.

**Goi bo at Quan Hop:** This is one of my all-time favorite salads: a tangled heap of shaved filet mignon, stir-fried and tossed with a finely shredded banana blossoms, onion and sweet red peppers along with handfuls of mint, cilantro and sesame seeds. It's very light and refreshing, served with great little rice crackers that have the texture of chicharrones (fried pork rinds). 15640 Brookhurst St., Westminster; 714-689-0555.

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## Fall of Saigon resolution before House

Commemoration effort follows  
those by state, local officials.

**BY MARTIN WISCKOL**  
STAFF WRITER

Rep. Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, introduced a House resolution Tuesday recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, following on the heels of related resolutions passed by the state Legislature and the county Board of Supervisors earlier this month.

Lowenthal's district includes most of Orange County's Little Saigon, which has the largest Vietnamese population outside of Vietnam.

"This annual commemoration serves as a celebration of survival, a remembrance of tremen-

dous loss and a hopeful reminder of what the Vietnamese community has built in America," Lowenthal said.

On April 30, 1975, communist forces overtook Saigon and the Republic of Vietnam collapsed. The event is known as Black April.

State Sen. Janet Nguyen, R-Garden Grove, sponsored a successful resolution earlier declaring this month "Black April Memorial Month." Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do sponsored a similar "Black April Memorial Month" resolution approved by the Board of Supervisors.

# Graduation rates continue to climb

The 89% rate for the Class of 2014 is the county's best mark since 2010 adoption of tracking system.

BY FERMIN LEAL  
STAFF WRITER

Orange County's high school graduation rate climbed to 89 percent for the Class of 2014, while the dropout rate decreased to about 6.7 percent, according to state figures released Tuesday.

Countywide, 36,439 seniors from last year's graduating class earned diplomas, and 2,754 dropped out. In the previous year, for the Class of 2013, 88 percent of seniors graduated, while 7.3 percent dropped out.

The Class of 2014's graduation rate is the highest since the state adopted in 2010 the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System, or CalPADS, which tracks student classes over a four-year period.

Statewide, the 2014 graduation rate was 81 percent and the dropout rate was 11.6 percent. Those averages have also improved each year since 2010.

"Our record-high graduation rate is great news, especially since it is occurring at the same time we are raising academic standards," state Superintendent Tom Torlakson said in a statement.

Each year, some students

## AMBULANCE

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Laguna Niguel. Many people also praised the work of Doctor's Ambulance, which will essentially be shut down in Orange County under the new contracts, worth \$2.29 million.

"I can't see the change being anything positive at this point," said Marilyn Diddy, CEO of Age Well Senior Services, which contracts with Orange County and serves senior centers.

But county officials were facing strict orders from state officials to award contracts to the lowest bidders. The vote ended a long and troubled process that began when the state stripped the Orange County Fire Authority of the ability to award contracts in 2013 over concerns about the fairness of previous decisions.

Supervisors also were faced with a time crunch: They'd already gotten state officials to extend the contract deadline twice, and the state Emergency Medical Services Authority said Monday that no further extensions would be granted.

If county leaders hadn't approved the new contract Tuesday, the current ambulance providers would lose their exclusive rights to the service areas and other companies would be allowed to compete for calls.

Care Ambulance Service CEO Troy Hagen said that would be like going back to the 1960s "when it was a race to the call."

"The public risk of going on a rotation system is, I believe, extreme," Hagen said.

But many south Orange County city leaders were so upset about losing Doctor's Ambulance that Supervisor Lisa Bartlett suggested approving only the contracts for the North County regions and allowing companies to compete for calls in the south regions while the board reconsiders its options. But no other supervi-

## New ambulance providers

Orange County contracts with companies to provide ambulance services in 19 cities and unincorporated areas. Other cities handle their own ambulance contracts. The contracts approved Tuesday are:

- Placentia, Yorba Linda and unincorporated areas will keep Emergency Ambulance Service.
- Cypress, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Stanton and unincorporated areas will keep Care Ambulance Service.
- Irvine, Tustin, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Woods, Dana Point, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita and San Juan Capistrano will switch from Doctor's Ambulance Service to Care Ambulance Service beginning June 2. Villa Park will switch from AmeriCare Ambulance to Care.

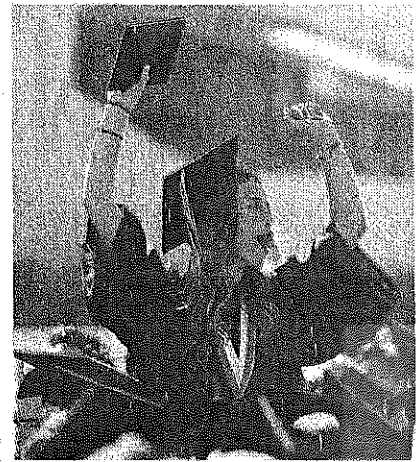
sor supported her, and she was the lone vote against the approval of all contracts, saying she couldn't ignore the concerns of leaders in her district.

"This is a process that will leave us with unhappy people no matter what the process is," Supervisor Shawn Nelson said. "We have to make sausage out of all our ingredients at some point."

Nelson also said that while some say they haven't had a chance to weigh in, they've actually had many opportunities. Whether they knew of them is another issue.

"We don't have the ability to go beat knowledge into someone or drag them out of their living room," Nelson said.

Michael Herren, vice president of Doctor's Ambulance, told supervisors April 14 that he was "shocked and extremely uncomfortable" to see the contracts up for approval after a "chaotic and controversial process with no city input."



LEONARD ORTIZ, FILE PHOTO

A graduating Beckman High School senior stands up and cheers during last year's graduation ceremony at Tustin High School.

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fail to earn diplomas because of a lack of credits or other reason but continue working toward degrees. They are considered neither graduates nor dropouts, just like those who eventually receive GEDs.

Excluding continuation schools, Early College High in Costa Mesa and Middle College High in Santa Ana had the county's highest graduation rates, at 100 percent. Both are magnet-type schools where students take college credit courses while enrolled in high school.

Valley High in Santa Ana, with a graduation rate of 81 percent and a dropout rate of 10.6 percent, and Rancho Alamitos High in Garden Grove, where 85 percent of students graduated and 12.5 percent dropped out, ranked the lowest in the county.

The graduation rate of 83 percent for the county's Latino students ranked as the lowest among all ethnic/racial groups. However, Latinos have shown the biggest improvement among all groups since 2010, when just 72 percent of seniors earned diplomas.

Santa Ana Unified Deputy Supt. Dave Haglund credits the district's steady growth to an increase in tutoring for struggling students, longer library hours aimed at providing increased access to technology and other measures.

"We want to ensure every student walks away with a diploma," he said. "We have to remember that these numbers represent people."

## Graduation, dropout rates

Graduation and dropout rates for Class of 2014:

School	Graduation % rate	Dropout % rate
Aliso Niguel High	98.5	1.0
Anaheim High	85.9	7.4
Arnold O. Beckman High	98.3	0.8
Back Bay High	93.1	4.1
Bolsa Grande High	91.4	7.4
Brea Canyon High	96.4	1.6
Brea-Olinda High	97.3	0.8
Buena Park High	95.6	2.1
Canyon High	97.3	1.3
Capistrano Connections Acad.	67.3	19.4
Capistrano Valley High	97.4	2.6
Century High	87.2	9.5
Cesar E. Chavez High	87.4	8.2
Coast High	83.3	11.9
Corona del Mar High	97.7	0.5
Costa Mesa High	93.6	2.8
Creekside High	95.7	2.6
Cypress High	95.6	3.0
Dana Hills High	96.1	1.3
Early College High	100.0	0.0
Edison High	94.6	0.8
El Camino Real High	93.9	3.8
El Dorado High	94.6	2.6
El Modena High	94.9	2.9
El Toro High	96.8	1.2
Esperanza High	97.3	1.4
Estancia High	87.4	4.5
Foothill High	98.5	1.0
Fountain Valley High	97.7	0.3
Fullerton Union High	96.4	2.5
Garden Grove High	92.5	6.7
Gilbert High	84.8	8.6
Hector G. Godinez	99.4	0.5
Hillview High	97.0	2.1
Huntington Beach High	98.6	0.6
Irvine High	96.8	2.1
John F. Kennedy High	96.7	3.1
Junipero Serra High	81.7	13.7
Katella High	95.2	3.7
La Entrada High	100.0	0.0
La Habra High	97.8	1.0
La Quinta High	91.7	4.8
La Sierra High	93.4	3.5
La Vista High	93.4	3.5
Laguna Beach High	98.1	1.5
Laguna Hills High	95.9	2.9
Laurel High	97.9	1.1
Lincoln High	89.7	8.1
Loara High	88.6	7.3
Lorin Griset Academy	87.4	8.2
Los Alamitos High	98.4	0.7
Los Amigos High	86.9	10.9

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Magnolia High	86.0	10.2
Marie L. Hare High	89.7	8.1
Marina High	95.9	1.7
Middle College High	100.0	0.0
Mira Monte High	74.3	20.0
Mission Viejo High	97.4	1.0
Monte Vista High	84.3	11.4
Newport Harbor High	95.3	4.1
Northwood High	98.7	0.0
Nova Academy	87.0	4.3
Ocean View High	91.3	3.5
OCSA	98.5	1.5
Orange High	92.9	5.3
Oxford Academy	99.4	0.6
Pacifica High	95.1	3.2
Polaris High	36.4	37.1
Rancho Alamitos High	84.6	12.5
Richland Continuation High	92.7	5.2
Saddleback High	88.4	6.2
San Clemente High	97.2	2.1
San Juan Hills High	99.6	0.2
Santa Ana High	85.9	11.5
Santiago High	91.6	7.0
Savanna High	87.1	5.7
Segerstrom High	98.2	0.8
Silverado High	94.7	2.6
Seneca High	95.1	0.5
Sunny Hills High	99.3	0.3
Tesoro High	96.5	1.2
Trebucos Hills High	98.1	0.7
Troy High	97.5	0.5
Tustin High	95.6	3.2
University High	95.2	2.6
Valencia High	96.1	3.5
Valley High	81.5	10.6
Valley Vista High	94.1	2.3
Villa Park High	96.7	1.6
Western High	94.6	2.0
Westminster High	89.6	3.6
Woodbridge High	98.0	0.9
Yorba Linda High	99.3	0.4
<b>Orange County Average</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>

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### GARDEN GROVE

**Buzzed driving:** The Police Department will have extra officers deployed to look for those driving under the influence on May 5 - Cinco de Mayo. The department is reminding residents that "buzzed driving is drunk driving."

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

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### GARDEN GROVE

**Mother's Day:** The Senior Center is hosting a Mother's Day event from 10 a.m. to noon May 6 that will include lunch, music by The Serenaders and dancing. The celebration, at the H. Louis Lake Senior Center, at 11300 Stanford Ave., is for anyone 65 or older. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 for lunch. Information: 714-741-5253.

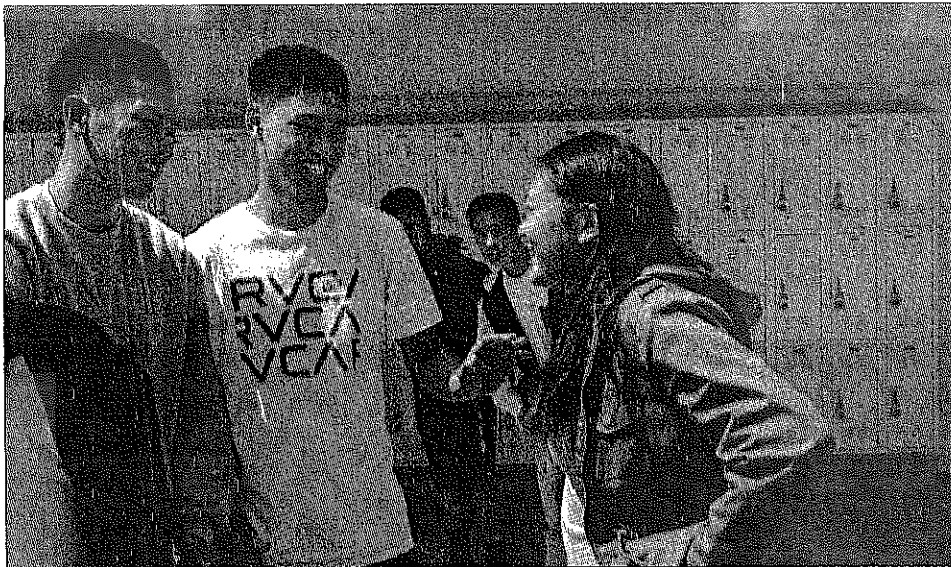
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

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### GARDEN GROVE

**Pecor Plaza:** A parking lot at 12916 Main St., between Motorsport Cafe and The Globe, may soon become known as Malcolm L. Pecor Memorial Plaza, pending City Council approval today. Pecor, who died in July, was a veteran, and a long-time business owner and resident of Garden Grove.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com



La Quinta High student Shawna Le, 17, talks with Kyle Vu, left, 17, and Kevin Nguyen, 17, friends of hers since freshman year, during lunch break earlier this month. Le's parents emigrated as children from Vietnam after the war.

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### GARDEN GROVE

**Take on Hate:** The City Council has publicly endorsed the mission of Take on Hate, a national grass-roots movement that promotes positive images of Arab and Muslim-Americans and said that it stands "with all Americans, regardless of their ethnicity or religion, and against those who preach hate and incite violence."

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

## VIETNAMESE IMMERSION PROGRAM TO DEBUT THIS FALL

BY FERMIN LEAL  
STAFF WRITER

A Westminster School District program will allow students to learn Vietnamese as part of their daily classroom lessons.

California's first Vietnamese dual-language immersion program will debut this fall at DeMille Elementary School in Midway City.

It's starting in kindergarten, but will expand into the first grade the following

year. If enough students keep participating, the program will continue into higher grades in future years.

Students will learn half of their lessons in Vietnamese and the other half in English. Teachers trained in Vietnamese instruction will run the lessons. Students won't need to come in knowing any Vietnamese.

DeMille was chosen because of its proximity to Little Saigon, home to the nation's largest concentration

of Vietnamese Americans.

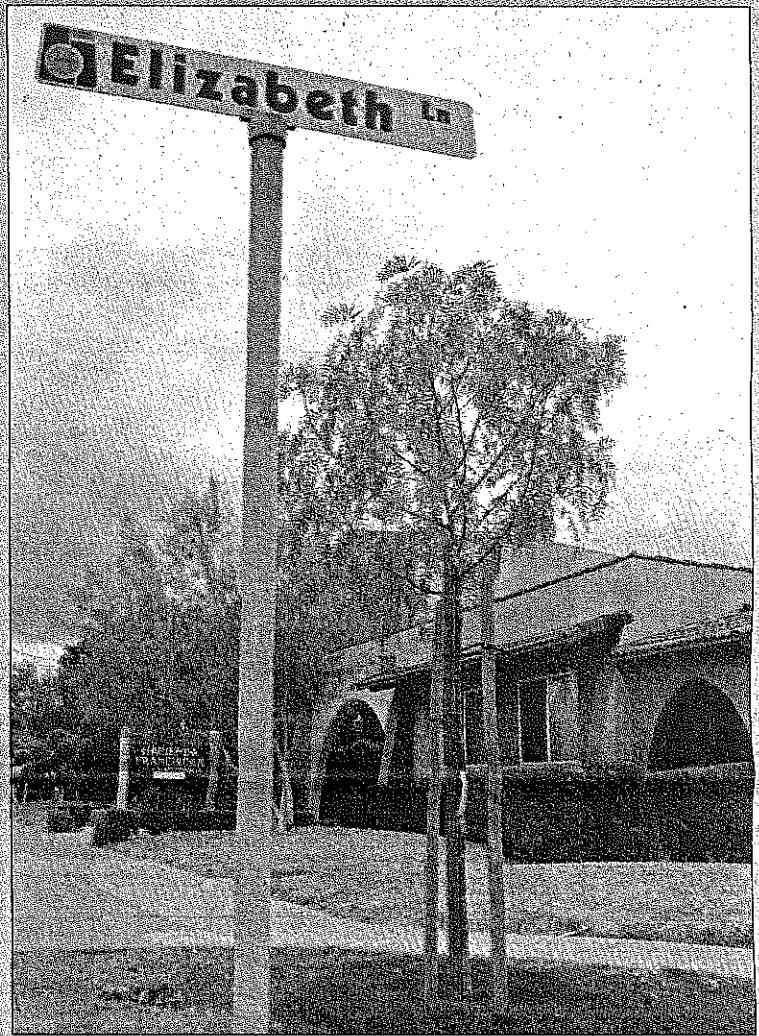
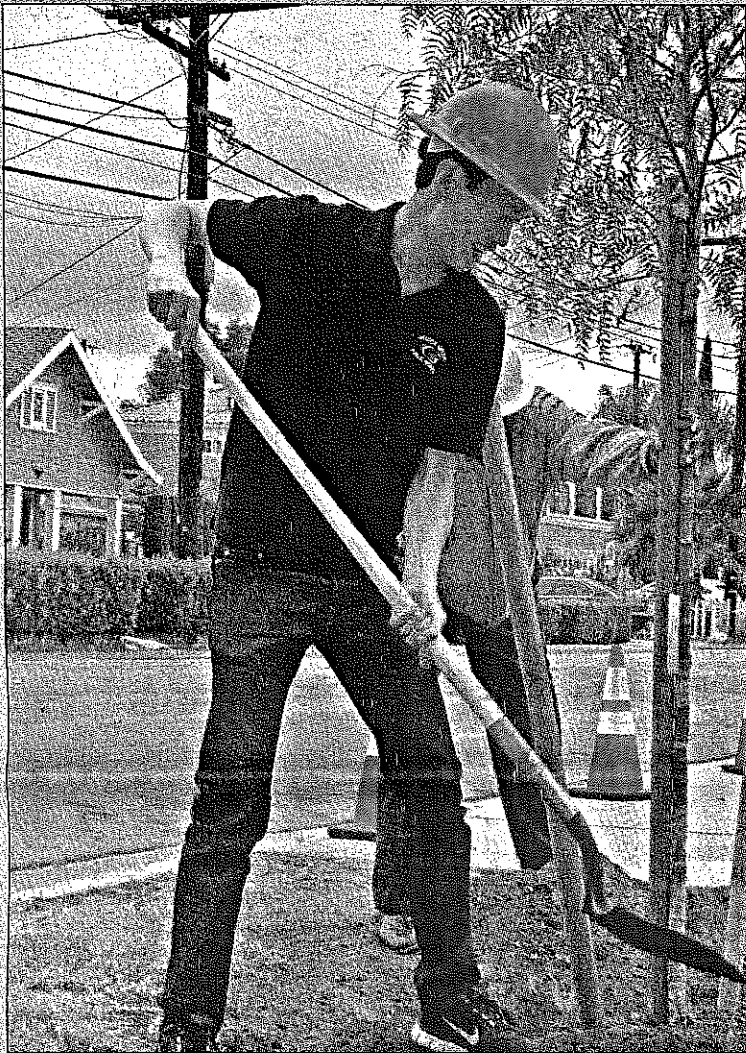
The neighboring Garden Grove Unified School District has been exploring its own Vietnamese immersion program at one or more of its elementary schools.

Other public secondary schools around the Little Saigon area already offer Vietnamese courses as foreign-language electives. They include Westminster High, La Quinta High, Bolsa Grande High and Garden Grove High.

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# Mayor plants pepper tree to pep up area



Courtesy photos

Above left, Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen helps plant a new pepper tree at Elizabeth Lane and Stanford Avenue. The previous, 80-year-old pepper tree, named Elizabeth, had to be cut down because it was stricken with a wood-decaying disease that destroyed its interior. At right is the new tree.



Photos by Loreen Berlin

Garden Grove Councilman Phat Bui and Mayor Pro tem Steve Jones are on hand for the grand opening of the Black Umbrella Tattoo and Art Gallery recently.

## Ink it in: Newest shop opens on Main Street

### Black Umbrella Tattoo and Art Gallery draws crowd for grand opening

By Loreen Berlin

Black Umbrella Art Gallery and Tattoo Studio, 12951 Historic Main St. in Garden Grove, officially opened its doors recently, with owners and family members tearing off the brown-paper-wrapped front doors, to reveal the interior.

The studio holds 49 occupants and so after the occupancy limit was reached, as owners, Krystin and Kurtis Gibson stood at the door welcoming guests, another group of guests patiently waited outside for their turn to view a huge selection of artwork on the walls, along with incredibly unique sculptures by Jennifer Stewart, who just happens to own the Azteca Mexican Restaurant, also on Main Street.

Robin Marcario also has her tile artwork on display inside Black Umbrella and around the City of Garden Grove.

"We are really excited to celebrate tonight with everyone who supported us to get here," said Krystin Gibson, along with other artists.

The Gibsons hired a museum curator to assist in placement of

the artwork and statues.

Black Umbrella is flanked to the immediate north by The Brickhouse Restaurant and Lounge and Huy Khiem Photography on the south and another close neighbor is Kaye's Kitchen.

Most of the studio is taken up with artwork in the front of the gallery, with the back portion, set up in an upscale setting for four tattoo artists, said Joey Vargas, who helps set up tattoo appointments.

Garden Grove Mayor Pro tem Steve Jones said he is excited to see the Gibsons succeed with their business.

"It's a fresh new life on Main Street," said Jones. "It's taken at least a year for them to get here," he said.

Planning Commission Chair John O'Neill said he thinks it's great that Black Umbrella has opened on Main Street.

"The Gibsons are a great couple who are home-grown in Garden Grove and love this community and want the community and Main Street to grow," said O'Neill. "Regardless of the feeling of tat-

toos, it's a family business and that's what it's always been about here on Main Street."

"I think it's fantastic they've opened here," said Garden Grove Councilman Phat Bui. "It's really a nice mixture of different art mediums, statues and pictures, and Main Street will appreciate several art studios and this will encourage others to also showcase their art."

Bui said other artists will appreciate the opportunity to display their artistic endeavors at the Black Umbrella.

"I'm humbled by the effect of this huge gallery; it was expensive for the Gibsons to do this and so it has to be a real passion of theirs to do this. I'm glad they persisted and the city gave them the opportunity to open here," Bui added.

"This is a very nice addition to the community and it's going to make Main Street a destination where people will want to come and stay, with community interaction," said Stewart. "It's a friendly gallery that will give young artists a start."

# GG police gear up for Cinco de Mayo

## Officers will be on the lookout for drunk drivers

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo – like St. Patrick’s Day – is, for many people, an occasion for having a good time with alcohol.

Do you plan to join the fiesta on May 5?

The Garden Grove Police Department has planned to deploy officers looking to identify and stop suspected drunk drivers.

Additionally, every traffic and patrol officer assigned to duty will be on heightened alert to prevent a senseless tragedy due to alcohol or drugs.

The unfortunate truth is this: Many people might be making party plans for Cinco de Mayo, but they aren’t planning ahead for getting home. Only 64 percent of the drivers in fatal crashes on Cinco de Mayo weekend in 2013 had no alcohol in their systems.

What about the other 36 percent?

They were driving after drinking. Too many people are lying to themselves about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Some fiesta-goers think that they can play it by ear, and wait until after they drink to decide whether they’re “OK to drive.” By then, it’s too late.

Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent).

Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol. Mixing medication or drugs – legal or illegal – is a dangerous cocktail.

Specially trained drug recognition experts will be checking for drug impairment whenever suspected.

If you don’t designate a sober driver ahead of time or have a solid plan for how you’ll get home safely, you are setting yourself up for disaster.

Buzzed driving is drunk driving, and when you drive drunk, you run the risk of killing yourself or someone else. Even if you don’t harm anyone, the average DUI costs about \$10,000. Wouldn’t you rather pay for a taxi?

“Our main goal is to save lives,” said Sgt. Fischer of the Garden Grove Police Department. “Around the county, we want to debunk the myth that you can drink until

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you feel it and then get behind the wheel. You can’t. Remember that buzzed driving is drunk driving.”

Cinco de Mayo can be a fun and festive time for those who choose to celebrate the right way: with a plan for a sober ride. If you make your plans when you’re sober, you won’t make a bad decision when you’re drunk.

As you make your Cinco de Mayo plans, the California Office of Traffic Safety is offering a free mobile app – DDVIP – aimed at thanking the sober designated driver with perks and free offers at area bars and restaurants.

And for those without a DD, make a sober ride home your priority; the new SaferRide app from NHTSA makes it easier than ever.

A final statistic to remember: drunk-driving deaths are 100 percent preventable.

## Three suspects detained in thievery scheme

Last week, officers were dispatched to a storage facility at 11284 Westminster Ave., in Garden Grove, in reference to a stolen vehicle.

The vehicle was a U-Haul truck and a trailer carrying a Toyota van that was also stolen April 18 from the Hyatt Hotel in Cypress. While the call was pending, the suspects returned to the facility.

Officers arrived and were in the process of setting up a perimeter to contain the suspects. As they were getting into position, two of the suspects walked into view, where they were detained. A third suspect ran into the housing tract south of the storage lot and a perimeter was set up. An air unit was requested, and a helicopter from the Orange County Sheriff's Department responded.

The third suspect was found a couple of blocks away in the bushes of a yard on Progresso Street in Santa Ana. He was taken into custody without incident.

Back at the storage facility, officers located three trucks full of property that had been stolen from the victims in Cypress.

The victims in this investigation were in the process of moving from Southern California to Washington State. Their entire personal possessions from their home were inside the stolen U-Haul, as well as their family car that was being towed behind the U-Haul.

They were distraught that family photos and other heirlooms were stolen by the suspects.

Detectives were called in to take over the investigation. They conducted extensive follow-up investigation that led them to residences in Garden Grove and Santa Ana. At these locations, they found additional property that belonged to the victims.

The property recovered was estimated to be valued around \$50,000. All three suspects were booked into Orange County Jail.

## Senator Nguyen fights to give money back to counties

As a member of the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, State Sen. Janet Nguyen successfully led efforts to encourage her colleagues to support reimbursing counties for mandates that the state is currently failing to pay for.

Funding these mandates will help enhance public safety and ensure fair and uniform elections.

On the public safety front, Senator Nguyen led the effort to secure \$22.6 million in funding for two public safety mandates that are intended to protect victims of domestic violence.

As a result, counties would now be reimbursed for the costs incurred to report the presence of firearms or deadly weapons at the scene of a domestic violence incident and domestic violence-related calls for assistance and take custody of firearms or deadly weapons under certain circumstances.

Counties would also be reimbursed to perform database searches of people who are

charged with domestic violence or when considering domestic violence restraining orders.

"As a former county supervisor, I was able to experience firsthand the struggle that counties go through to implement mandates when there is no funding attached," said Nguyen.

"Protecting the safety of our residents, especially those who are victims of domestic violence is of utmost importance and we need to provide our counties with the funding necessary to carry out these critical duties."

In order to ensure fair and uniform elections, Nguyen also took the lead in pushing to reimburse counties for eight previously suspended election mandates. The mandates cover areas such as primary elections, absentee ballots and voter registration and verification. In the past, concerns have been raised regarding the lack of incentive for counties to review late absentee and provisional ballots due to the costs associated with these processes.

# I'm ready to make my million-dollar move

### Also, today marks a profound anniversary for many veterans in Westminster



**Tony on the Town**

By Tony Cheong

I'll be going to Amazon Smoke Shop & Water on Brookhurst Street in Garden Grove this week.

And I don't even smoke.

But I wouldn't mind making a million bucks.

Let me explain. A Santa Ana woman last week bought a lottery ticket and won \$100. She went back later in the week, bought another ticket and won \$5,000. So... she did what any sane person would do. She returned. This time, she won \$1 million.

Boo-ya!

Actually, on the last one, she bought three Emerald 10's, three Ultimate Riches and three 50x The Cash Scratchers.

Yamilet Torrez said she will buy a new car with her winnings.

Today is a HUGE day in Westminster. Many of the veterans

of the Vietnam War will be commemorating the 40-year anniversary of the Fall of Saigon at the end of the war.

Some, no doubt, will try to forget about it.

It's a painful memory. This fact is also painful: more than 4,000 homeless people in Orange County are veterans. I come across them all the time, and try to help when I can. Is it just me, or are most of the homeless veterans of the Vietnam era?

At any rate, today, I say thank you to those veterans. You were the only warriors in this country's history to return to America and promptly get ignored, insulted and even spat upon. No homecoming ceremonies, parades, etc. It's a shame. And "Thank you" and handing a bag of McDonald's to hungry, street-living veteran seems insufficient, but what else can I do?

Another newspaper in this county did a big write-up on Stanton last week.

It was all roses and perfume.

Don't get me wrong, Stanton is doing a lot of good things. But come on.

And let me remind you: The Orange County News covers Stanton every week, not once in a blue moon. So, dear reader, don't let that puff piece change your reading habits.

*Do you have a question, comment, or news tip? Tony can be reached at [tonyontown@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyontown@yahoo.com).*

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## Measure A

The West Orange County Regional Chamber of Commerce is voicing its opinion about Measure A. Ho-El Park, vice-chairman of the West Orange County Regional Chamber of Commerce, lent his opinion about Measure A with an abbreviated comment that has been excerpted.

Recently, our board of directors has taken a position to oppose Measure A, which would amend the "Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan" of the City of Buena Park. If passed, this would essentially prohibit the construction of any building or structure on property designated as "open space" in Buena Park's General Plan Land Use Map or the change of its use designation on these properties without the approval of the voters. Measure A will be decided entirely by mail-in ballots and the last day for ballots to be received is May 19.

## Lions luncheons

Do you enjoy giving back to your community?

One of the most charitable groups in Garden Grove is the Garden Grove Host Lions Club.

The club holds weekly luncheon meetings from noon to 1 p.m. at the Lions Clubhouse adjacent to the Boys & Girls Club, 9860 Larson Ave. Garden Grove.

For more information, call 714-292-8170.

## Bingo party

B9, that's B9... Bingo!

The Woman's Civic Club of Garden Grove is hosting a Bingo party at noon, April 29 at its clubhouse, 9501 Chapman Ave.

The event includes lunch, raffles and prizes.

Donation is \$6.

Call 714-589-2495.

# Community Calendar

## Ongoing

Overachievers, check this out. Chamber holds Friday meetings. The Garden Grove Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee meets the second Friday of the month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call the chamber at 714-638-7950.

### Grief support

The Grief Share Support Group is for mothers who have lost children of every age.

The group meets Thursday evenings at 12831 Olive St., Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-892-1520 or 714-343-7516.

### Learn about Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's Association of Orange County hosts a support group to provide an opportunity to meet other caregivers and families, share experiences and exchange ideas. These meetings are free and open to all caregivers and family members of individuals with dementia. All groups listed are in compliance with chapter and national standards. This is a faith-based meeting and may include prayer or pastoral speaker, and will take place at 1 p.m. Saturdays at Christ Cathedral, 12141 Lewis St. in Garden Grove. For more information, call Peggy Woelke at 714-634-2161.

Dance Center hosts social. Join the staff of the Cedarbrook Dance Center for nights of square

dancing, line dancing, round dancing (pre-choreographed social dancing) and salsa. The Dance Center is at 12812 Garden Grove Blvd. For more information on classes, call Eileen Silvia at 949-637-4169.

### Eco-friendly storytime

Family storytime all through the summer will highlight books about our environment and the animals that live in rivers, oceans and icy places. All ages are encouraged to attend at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Garden Grove Regional Library, 11200 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-530-0711.

### Rotary Club to meet

The Rotary Club of Garden Grove meets at 12:10 p.m. Wednesdays at The Marriott Hotel, at Chapman Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove.

### GG Kiwanis to meet

The Kiwanis Club of Garden Grove hosts dinner meetings at 7 p.m. Thursdays at Kiwanisland, 9840 Larson Ave. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call 714-892-7267.

### School Board to meet

The Garden Grove Unified School District holds its regular meetings at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the district offices, 10331 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP No. S-1166

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent for the City of Garden Grove, second floor, Room 220, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840. Provide Off-Site Scanning and Document Management Services for the City of Garden Grove Police Department. Contractors interested in submitting a proposal for this project are required to attend a MANDATORY pre-proposal meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 21, 2015, at Garden Grove City Hall, Third Floor Training Room located at 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840. A copy of the RFP document may be obtained from the City of Garden Grove's website. Questions can be directed to Sandy Segawa in writing at sandras@ci.garden-grove.ca.us. Proposals are due in the office of the Purchasing Agent at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2015. Proposals received after that exact time will not be considered.

Dated: April 29, 2015

Sandy Segawa, C.P.M., CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

**Orange County News**  
15-50268  
Publish April 29, May 6, 2015

City of Garden Grove

Notice Inviting Sealed Bids (IFB)

Project No. S-1164

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent for the City of Garden Grove, Room 220, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840 to Furnish all Labor, Material, Tools and Equipment for the Remodel of the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA. A copy of the bid document may be obtained from the City of Garden Grove's website. Contractors interested in submitting a bid for this project are required to attend a MANDATORY pre-bid meeting scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, B Room, located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840. Please direct any questions regarding this bid process to Sandra Segawa via email sandras@ci.garden-grove.ca.us. Bids are due and will be opened in the office of the Purchasing Agent at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Bids received after that exact time will not be considered.

Dated: April 29, 2015

Sandra Segawa, C.P.M., CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
sandras@garden-grove.org

**Orange County News**  
15-50281  
Publish April 29, May 6, 2015

Orange County News  
April 29, 2015

LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER, 11300 STANFORD AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, ON TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015, TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER ALL EVIDENCE AND REPORTS RELATIVE TO THE APPLICATION DESCRIBED BELOW:

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015, 6:30 P.M.

CASE NUMBER:  
APPEAL OF DENIAL OF VARIANCE NO. V-010-2015

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**  
A request, by Inge Realty/Sophie Inge, for Variance approval to deviate from the sign design and removal requirements of Garden Grove Municipal Code Section 9.20.045, in order to allow the existing nonconforming freestanding pylon sign, located at 12461 Harbor Boulevard (Assessor's Parcel No. 231-455-33), to remain in its current location, partially within the Harbor Boulevard right-of-way. On May 13, 2014, the Garden Grove City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2837, enacting Municipal Code Section 9.20.045 and adopting specified standards for the placement of design of freestanding signs ("Sign Standards") for specified properties located along or near Harbor Boulevard, north of the Garden Grove Freeway, including the applicant's property. Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 9.20.045, existing freestanding signs that have been in place for 15 years or more prior to the effective date of Ordinance No. 2837, and which do not conform to the Sign Standards, are subject to removal and replacement, provided the City pays the owner fair and just compensation to remove and replace the sign with one that conforms to the Sign Standards. The subject sign is an approximately forty-foot (40'-0") tall pylon sign that does not conform to the Sign Standards and which has been in place since approximately 1965. The subject sign is also partially located within the existing public right-of-way. The applicant is requesting relief from the provision of Municipal Code Section 9.20.045 authorizing the City to require the removal of its nonconforming sign upon payment of fair and just compensation by the City and to keep the sign in its current location. The sign is in the PUD-121-98 (Planned Unit Development) zone.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**  
WEST SIDE OF HARBOR BOULEVARD, NORTH OF LAMPSON AVENUE AT 12461 HARBOR BOULEVARD

**ZONING:**  
PUD-121-98 (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT)

On March 5, 2015, pursuant to Resolution No. 5842-15, the City of Garden Grove Planning Commission denied Variance No. V-010-2015. Because the Variance request was denied, the Planning Commission determined that Resolution No. 5842-15 was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. Potential City Council action could include (i) denial of the appeal and upholding of the Planning Commission's decision (ii) granting of the appeal, and/or (iii) consideration of the requested Variance and related conditions of approval.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the City Council Public Hearing, or write a letter, and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposal as outlined above. If you challenge the application in Court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the Public Hearing. Written correspondence received before 3:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the hearing will be given to the City Council prior to the meeting. Information received after that time will be given to the City Council at the time of the meeting. Further information on the above matter may be obtained from the Planning Services Division, City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, or by telephone at (714) 741-5312.

/s/ KATHLEEN BAILOR, CMC  
City Clerk

Date: April 27, 2015  
Publish: April 29, 2015

**Orange County News**  
15-50287  
Publish Apr. 29, 2015

LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER, 11300 STANFORD AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, ON THE DATE \* INDICATED BELOW TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER ALL EVIDENCE AND REPORTS RELATIVE TO THE APPLICATION(S) DESCRIBED BELOW:

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• THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M., MAY 21, 2015

**SITE PLAN NO. SP-020-2015**

A request for Site Plan approval to reconstruct an existing McDonald's drive-thru restaurant with a new 3,861 square foot building. The site is at 12051 Valley View Street in the Planned Unit Development No. PUD-104-73 zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15302 – Replacement and Reconstruction and Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

**CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-035-2015  
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-151-05  
REVOCATION**

A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to allow the operation of a new trade school, California Premier Culinary School, in conjunction with an existing religious trade school, Gospel Global University, in an existing 6,888 square foot 1-story building. Also, a request to revoke Conditional Use Permit No. CUP-151-05, which previously allowed the operation of the adult day care facility in the adjacent building to the west. The site is at 8100 Garden Grove Boulevard in the GGMU1 (Garden Grove Mixed Use 1) zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15301 – Existing Facilities.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend said Hearing and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposal as outlined above, on May 21, 2015. If you challenge the application in Court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Further information on the above may be obtained at the Planning Services Division, City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway, or by telephone at (714)

741 5312.

DATE: April 27, 2015  
PUBLISH: April 29, 2015  
**Orange County News**  
15-50283  
Publish Apr. 29, 2015

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Orange County News  
April 29, 2015

# THROWING THE BOOK AT PIMPS

Register  
April 26, 2015  
1 of 3

O.C. prosecutors draw on widely available literature to understand sex trafficking.

One of the most important rules of the pimping game is revealed in a book that's on the required-reading list for many Orange County vice squads and prosecutors.

"Most (prostitutes) have low self-esteem for a reason," observes pimp-turned-author Ken Ivy in "Pimpology: The 48 Laws of the Game."



TERI SFORZA  
STAFF COLUMNIST

"A pimp looks for that weakness. ... Then he uses those weaknesses to his advantage. Weakness is the best trait a person can find in someone they want to control. If you can't find a weakness, you have to create one. You have to tear someone's ego down to nothing before they will start looking to you for salvation."

Prosecutors have used this startling pas-

sage - and more like it, from a widely-available body of literature on how to manipulate and master vulnerable girls and women - to convict men of pimping, pandering and human trafficking in Orange County courts.

It's part of a sea change in how law enforcement views the crime of prostitution, and where it places the blame.

"You can't throw the word 'slavery' around carelessly," said Deputy District Attorney Brad Schoenleben. "But we are dealing with modern-day slavery here.

"These women are branded, controlled, forced to do things against their will. People say, 'That's not a problem in my neighborhood.' Well, if you have a motel, you have a problem."

Police in Anaheim, Westminster and Garden Grove have been on the leading edge in considering that women who "walk the track" may be victims of vicious manipulators rather than garden-variety criminals.

"The main thing about putting a b--- you just turned out to work is breaking her down mentally," instructs the how-to website [pimpfeet.com](http://pimpfeet.com), which carries a disclaimer that it's for entertainment purposes only. "Making sure she understands she no longer owns (her sexual organs), or a body or even a mind at this point. You own that - and she belongs to you. You need to make sure that

principle is set from the very beginning and you keep that up."

Prostitution, a victimless crime? Hardly.

Prostitutes have traditionally been busted because they're easy to catch. About 600 women were arrested on prostitution-related charges in Orange County in 2013, according to the California Department of Justice. But law enforcement is viewing them as the starting point of the probe, rather than the end game.

Officers try to isolate these women from the men - especially if they suspect the girls are underage - and wrangle parents' names and phone numbers out of them. They call the families - who often couldn't care less - and get the girls to safe harbors for care, counseling and education. These efforts are usually not much welcomed at first, but officials keep trying.

"One of the great things about Orange County is we're one of the pioneers in this," said Lita Mercado, program director for Community Service Programs, which administers the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force. "We're figuring it out as we go."

## 'LAZY AND GREEDY'

In addition to the likes of "Pimpology" and [pimpfeet.com](http://pimpfeet.com), the informal curriculum to demystify this underworld includes films like

the HBO documentary "Pimps Up, Ho's Down," "Iceberg Slim: Portrait of a Pimp," and "Cross Country Pimping;" and books like Iceberg Slim's "The Story of My Life" and Quincy Mack's "The Naked Soul of Pimps and Prostitutes," officials at Anaheim PD said.

The material is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), some of it for instant download.

"(A) pimp ... has a whole different use of the women he's in control of ... to get him rich. He sees each of his women as a walking ATM; with a heartbeat!" wrote Mack.

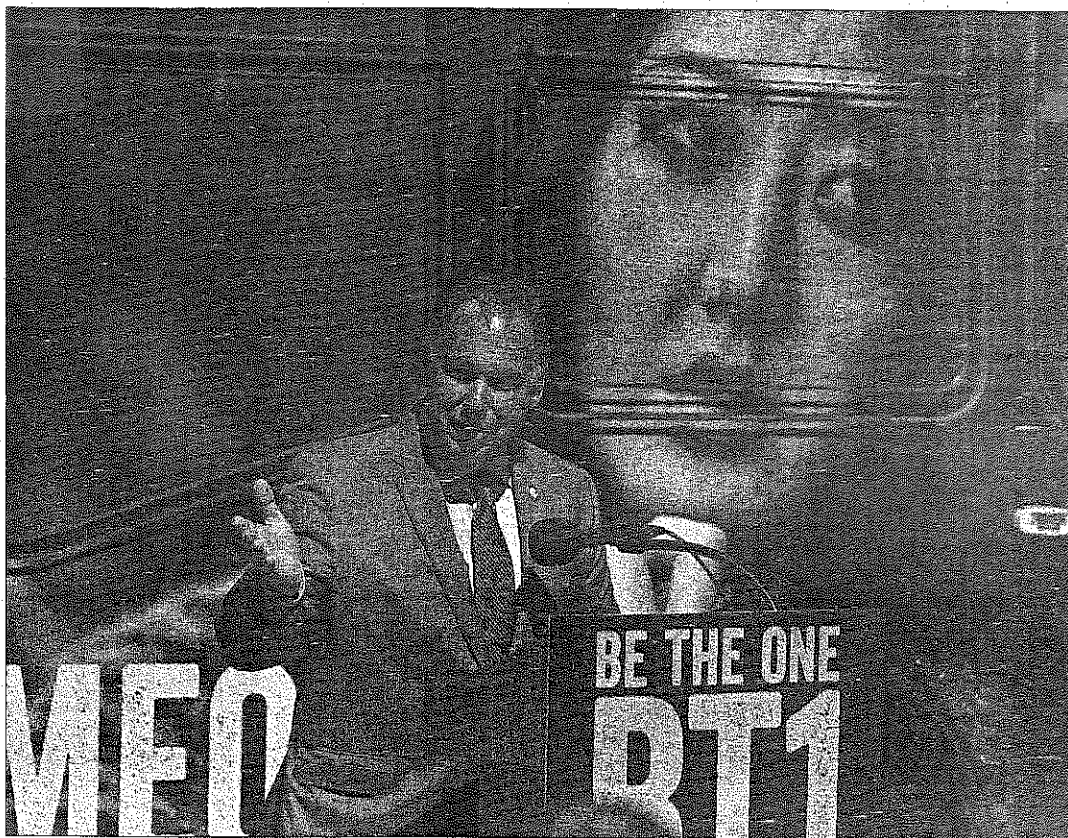
Tricks turn for about \$120 in tourist-destination O.C., and a single girl can bring her pimp \$1,000 a day. Worldwide, human trafficking is a \$32 billion industry, second only to illicit drugs, according to the International Labor Organization.

"Pimps are lazy and greedy, so it's a great business for them," said Susan Kang Schroeder, the Orange County district attorney's chief of staff.

"It's easier and cheaper and safer to traffic human beings than to traffic drugs, and you're less likely to get caught. You get dope, you sell it, it's gone. You need more product. But if I can flip a girl, I can sit back in my hotel room playing on my computer and enjoying myself, and I can sell her over and over and over again."

Since voters overwhelmingly approved the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act initiative in





SAM GANGWER, FILE PHOTO

District Attorney Tony Rackauckas spoke last year in front of a bus about a new awareness campaign about human trafficking. Police in Anaheim, Westminster and Garden Grove are said to be leading the way in going beyond the prostitutes and trying to root out the people who control them.

## PIMPS:

# Getting to vicious manipulators

Register  
April 26, 2015  
2 of 3

2012 - which increases prison terms for human traffickers, requires them to register as sex offenders, and mandates law enforcement training about human trafficking - the D.A.'s office has pursued pimps more aggressively than ever. And it is winning stiffer sentences for them.

The number of cases handled by its Human Exploitation and Trafficking unit went from five in 2011 to a high of 51 in 2013, and now hovers at about 60, officials said.

### WALL OF SHAME

The D.A.'s office has a public wall of shame, displaying online the photos of johns arrested for soliciting sex. And it's taking its blueprint for prosecuting men who use love, fear and violence to sexually enslave women on the road to various law enforcement groups, hoping to see it replicated throughout California.

Ivy, the author of "Pimpology" and "The Art of Hu-

man Chess: A Study Guide to Winning," knows that his book is on law enforcement's reading list. He now counsels young people to stop pimping - "I have been changed," he said. But he is quite skeptical of stiff new laws targeting men who happen to be largely black and Latino.

"The young men are victims too," Ivy said. "Human trafficking' is so broad, and a lot of these young men have no idea what those words even mean. And I'm telling you, pimping is done. Eighty percent of women in the life today are independent contractors. But they have boyfriends, and their boyfriends get all caught up in these new laws, and they can get sent to prison for years."

Officials are constantly inventing new ways to keep jails full, Ivy said, because that means more money for the corrections industry. "Are you really concerned about young women, or are you investing in private prisons?" he asked.

### 'HOW TO' GUIDE

Mack, author of "Naked Soul," pleaded guilty to pimping in Orange County in 2012, and was sentenced to three years in state prison. He now faces similar charges in Los Angeles - with the human trafficking

# PIMPS

enhancement.

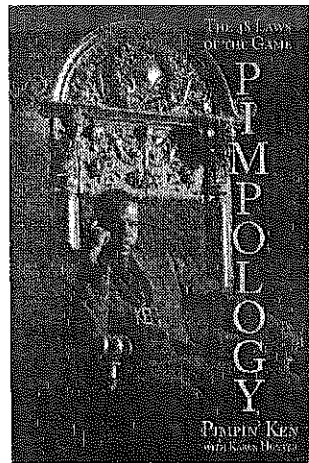
The woman who helped put Mack behind bars in O.C. had a tattoo on her left thigh. "Late the Great," it said - Mack's nickname.

"It's a brand that the pimp will place on prostitutes," explained Anaheim PD's Craig Friesen in court. "They have to earn the right to do that."

Women earn the right to be branded by submitting to and following the rules. That often means not speaking until they're spoken to, fulfilling their quota by earning at least as much money as her pimp said she must earn that day, and handing every last penny of it over to him immediately.

"In the pimping game there is no split," pimpfeet.com emphasizes. "One hundred percent of the money all of your b---s make is 100 percent your money. How you decide to spend your money is completely up to you. ..."

Another important tool: Making the woman do things she doesn't want to



**"Pimpology: The 48 Laws of the Game," is a book that's on the required-reading list for many Orange County vice squads and prosecutors.**

do, "to break her and show her your new control over her," pimpfeet.com says. "Nothing is too far or too nasty ... not only will they do it, they will learn to love doing it for you."

If a prostitute refuses, "smack" her "and let her know you're disappointed in her. ... Once you're done humiliating her like that she will eventually come around to the idea ... you just got to keep at it and eventually they will break."

This desire for love and

approval must also be used to keep women striving and off balance, the pimps say. Men are counseled to confess that, when a woman makes him a lot of money, he feels a deeper connection toward her, and when a woman comes up short, he sees it as if she didn't love him enough to make him "his" money.

In addition to beatings and the withholding of food and affection, punishment for not obeying rules and fulfilling quotas has expanded to include submersion in ice baths, said the D.A.'s Kang Schroeder. She considers that a form of torture.

Pimps also keep the women's official identification, making it that much harder to escape.

## 'BROKEN KIDS'

Mack, Ivy and the other pimp how-tos note that the women who endure this brutal exploitation were almost always neglected, abused, raped or molested as children, and that their resulting thirst for love and approval makes them easy targets. "Pimp daddies" simply need to step aggressively into the void.

The people committing

these crimes hone in on such women and girls through social media sites, the foster care system, at bus stations, at malls, said Deputy D.A. Schoenleben.

Runaway teens may be the most vulnerable of all: They may start out trading sex for food and a place to stay because they have no money, and that can quickly morph into forced prostitution. Many women in O.C.'s system started in "the life" when they were just 11 or 12, Schoenleben and Schroeder said.

It took the D.A.'s office some time to come around to a more sympathetic view of prostitutes.

"I have to really credit Anaheim PD for being a pioneer here," said Kang Schroeder. "They helped everyone look beyond the girl who may have a long rap sheet, and instead of just arresting her and treating her like a criminal, asking, 'What's behind her story? What's her background?'"

"You start talking to them and getting to know them, and you see that these are just broken kids."

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
tsforza@ocregister.com

# SOMBER SAIGON CEREMONY

About 2,000 attend event remembering fall.

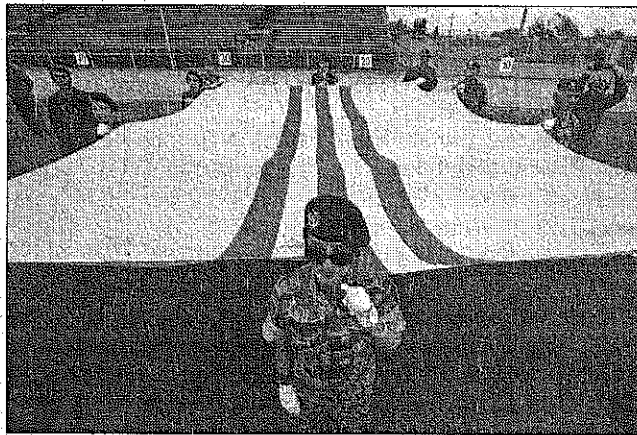
BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

**GARDEN GROVE** • National pride, tears for fallen soldiers and a continued defiance of Vietnam's communist government marked a commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon on Saturday afternoon.

The ceremony, originally planned for Camp Pendleton but moved to Bolsa Grande High School's football stadium, was one of several set for this month, to be culminated Thursday evening – the anniversary of Saigon's fall.

"The Communists took over South Vietnam in 1975, and that is too long," said Soc Nguyen, 63, of Garden Grove as he donned his South Vietnamese paratrooper fatigues. "A couple of more years and the Communists will fall. The people have no freedom."

About 2,000 people attended the Bolsa ceremony, far fewer than were expect-



PHOTOS: ED CRISOSTOMO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**South Vietnamese marine veteran association member Phuong Nguyen and other members grab the South Vietnamese flag before a ceremony at Bolsa Grande High.**



**A South Vietnamese veteran is one of many at the event commemorating the anniversary of the fall of Saigon on Saturday.**

ed to attend the one planned for Camp Pendleton. The Marines base remembrance was billed as a return to Camp Pendleton, complete with a re-creation of the tent city where 50,000 Vietnamese refu-

gees temporarily lived after arriving in the United States in 1975.

Organizers scrapped Pendleton as the ceremony's location after learning they couldn't use the South Vietnamese flag or play its

national anthem because of a U.S. policy prohibiting the use of symbols of unrecognized countries in federal facilities.

That sparked a scramble by organizers to find a new location. In 10 days, organizers raised \$25,000 and set up the commemoration at Bolsa Grande High.

The remembrance included a speech by Talbot Henry Bashall, who directed the Refugee Control Center in Hong Kong in 1979 and 1980, a time when thousands of boat people escaped Vietnam; performances by marching bands from Bolsa Grande and La Quinta high schools; a photo exhibit of life at Camp Pendleton; and the South Vietnamese national anthem.

The South Vietnamese flag flew high alongside the American flag.

"Every year this time, my family is really, really sad," Tracy Tran, 50, of Midway City said as tears rolled down her cheeks. "My dad was in the navy, and he disappeared. For years, my mother held out hope he would return to us. We lost a lot."

Register  
April 26, 2015

## Local rep lobbies for autistic children

State Sen. Janet Nguyen  
challenges the Department of  
Health Care Services

### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Garden Grove Unified School District of Orange County, California, will receive bids up to and including 10:00 a.m. on May 20, 2015 at the District Education Center, Purchasing Department, 10331 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840.

At this time, date, and place, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for Bid No. 1409 – Roof Repairs at one (1) school site, in accordance with the Instructions, Conditions, and Specifications now on file in the Purchasing Department of said School District.

A job walk is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Meet at the Garden Grove Unified School District Maintenance and Operations Center, 8211 Lampson Avenue, Garden Grove. Bid packages, including specifications, will be issued at the job walk. Attendance at this job walk is mandatory in order to bid on this project.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bidder's Bond equal in amount to 10% of the total amount bid, said check or bond to guarantee the bidder's compliance with the terms of the bid, and shall be made payable to the Garden Grove Unified School District. (The above applies to bidders whose total bid will exceed \$1,000.)

Pursuant to Section 4590 of the Government Code of the State of California, the contract will contain provisions permitting the successful bidder to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the contract.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularity therein. The right is also reserved by the Board to select items and/or services which, in their opinion, will best serve the needs of the District.

The prevailing wage scale has been adopted by the School District and a copy of this wage scale is on file in the District Business Office.

Dated this 23rd day of April 2015.

GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Cross  
Assistant Director, Business Services

Publishing Dates: April 24, and May 1, 2015  
Orange County News – PO#172V0006  
Orange County News  
15-50273  
Publish April 24, May 1, 2015

As vice-chair of the Senate's Health Committee, State Sen. Janet Nguyen has expressed concerns to the Department of Health Care Services regarding access to quality care for children diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

Last fall, the State of California mandated the transition of ABA services for autism into managed care. Since then parents and providers have expressed grave concerns regarding this transition, specifically regarding continuity of care and access to the level of specialized services that children diagnosed with autism need.

To address this issue, Senator Nguyen has appealed to DHCS, urging them to render a reimbursement rate for Applied Behavioral Analysis services that protects the health care needs of individuals with autism.

see LOBBY, page 3

## LOBBY:

Continued from page 1

The rate that DHCS sets for analysis services for autism will impact how local health plans are able to administer ABA services throughout the state. The rate will also impact the number of providers that are available to provide specialized care to children with autism.

"Serving California's children with developmental disabilities, especially those diagnosed with autism, is extremely critical to their overall wellbeing," said Senator Nguyen. "As the department tasked with setting the reimbursement rates for autism services, DHCS has the unique opportunity to protect both conti-

nity and access to care by setting a reimbursement rate that meets the needs of these children."

According to research, analysis services have been proven to be effective in treating individuals with autism. Research has also shown that children who receive early intervention of treatment can greatly improve cognitive skills, language skills and social living skills.

"As we make these indispensable benefits part of managed care, I hope that DHCS will consider the unique medical needs of this population, as well as the positive long-term effects of ABA therapy on children," said Nguyen.

Reimbursement rates from DHCS are expected to be released in May or June.



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

CONTACT: Dana Saucedo (714) 741-5253  
Community Services Department

Thursday, April 30, 2015

## **SWEET CELEBRATION FOR 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STRAWBERRY BALL**

Garden Grove's sweet celebration of senior volunteerism, the Strawberry Ball, marks its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Hosted by the City of Garden Grove Community Services Department, the gala will be held at the Community Meeting Center, located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, on Thursday, May 21, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The special highlight of the gala is the introduction of the King and Queen of the Strawberry Ball, Hazlette "Tsuki" Tsukiyama, a volunteer for the Garden Grove Police Department, and Yolanda Montaña, from the H. Louis Lake Senior Center. In addition to being the regal duo, they have each earned the titles of Senior Volunteer of the Year. For 40 years, the City of Garden Grove has selected two special senior volunteers to be honored for the multitude of service hours each provided in and around the community with various organizations.

The Strawberry Ball is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 per person, and include a prime rib dinner and dancing, as well as music by the "5 Star Band." Advance reservations are required.

For more information, please call the H. Louis Lake Senior Center at (714) 741-5253 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

# # #

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**April 30, 2015**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Planning Commission agenda for the May 7 meeting along with the minutes from April 2 and 16, 2015.
3. Cities Advocates dated April 24, 28 and 29, 2015.



**GARDEN GROVE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 30, 2015 – May 15, 2015

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Thursday-Sunday	April 30-May 3		One More Productions presents "Anything Goes" Gem Theater
Friday	May 1		City Hall Closed
Tuesday	May 5	6:00 p.m.	Traffic Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Wednesday	May 6	9:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.	11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Grove Community Foundation And Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, Willowick Golf Course
Thursday	May 7	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Friday	May 8	7:00 p.m.- 10:30 p.m.	Angels vs. Astros coordinated by the Customer Service Coaches, Angel Stadium 2000 E. Gene Autry Way, Anaheim, CA
Saturday	May 9	8:00 a.m.- Noon	Project "GO" Graffiti Off, Municipal Service Center
Tuesday	May 12	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, Founders Room Successor Agency Meeting, Council Chamber City Council Meeting, Council Chamber
Wednesday	May 13	2:00 p.m.	Oversight Board Meeting, Council Chamber
Thursday	May 14		Casual Day – Military Camo Day
		9:00 a.m.	Main Street Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room
		3:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.	Royal Crown Reception hosted by the H. Louis Lake Senior Center Community Meeting Center, A Room
		5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.	28 <sup>th</sup> Annual "Call to Duty" Police Memorial Memorial Plaza, 11301 Acacia Parkway
Friday	May 15		City Hall Closed
		3:00 p.m.	Special City Council Meeting, Council Chamber

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## A G E N D A

### GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

#### REGULAR MEETING

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MAY 7, 2015

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER  
11300 STANFORD AVENUE

#### REGULAR SESSION - 7:00 P.M. COUNCIL CHAMBER

ROLL CALL: CHAIR O'NEILL, VICE CHAIR KANZLER  
COMMISSIONERS MAI, MARGOLIN, PAK, PAREDES, ZAMORA

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except public hearings, must do so during Oral Communications at the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker shall fill out a card stating name and address, to be presented to the Recording Secretary, and shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services due to a disability should contact the City Clerk's office at (714) 741-5035 to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2).

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to all or a majority of the Planning Commissioners within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Planning Services Division during normal business hours; and (2) at the City Council Chamber at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Planning Commission may take legislative action it deems appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 2, 2015 and April 16, 2015
- C. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)
  - C.1. NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
AMENDMENT NO. A-013-2015

APPLICANT: CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

LOCATION: CC-1 (CIVIC CENTER MIXED USE 1) AND AR (ADAPTIVE REUSE) ZONES



REQUEST: A request for Planning Commission recommendation to City Council to amend Chapter 18 (Mixed Use Regulations), Chapter 4 (Definitions), and Chapter 32 (Procedures and Hearings) of Title 9 of the Municipal Code. The proposed amendment includes adding additional uses to the Land Use chart for the CC-1 (Civic Center Mixed Use 1) and the AR (Adaptive Reuse) zones that are not currently permitted in these zones (Section 9.18.020); adding definitions for new uses in Chapter 4 (Section 9.04.060); adding additional standards for the conversion of single-family homes to commercial uses ministerially along with additional standards for parking location, outside eating areas, and non-vehicular and vehicular vending, event space, and additional compatibility standards in the CC-1 zone (Sections 9.18.090.030, 9.18.090.040, 9.18.070.010, 9.18.070.020, and 9.18.110.020); and revising Section 9.32.030D.3(2)(a)(d) of Chapter 32 exempting single-family home conversions to any other use in the CC-1 zone from the requirement to submit a Site Plan application. The City of Garden Grove has determined that a Negative Declaration be adopted pursuant to CEQA.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommend adoption of a Negative Declaration and approval of Amendment No. A-013-2015 to City Council.

D. PUBLIC HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)

D.1. SITE PLAN NO. SP-021-2015  
TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. TT-17818

APPLICANT: HERITAGE HOMES MANAGEMENT, LLC  
LOCATION: WEST SIDE OF NELSON STREET, NORTH OF LAMPSON AVENUE AT 12381 NELSON STREET

REQUEST: Site Plan approval to construct four (4), detached, two-story, single-family residential units along with private street improvements. Also, a request for Tentative Tract Map approval to subdivide the subject 39,340 square foot property into five (5) separate lots - four (4) residential lots (with lot sizes of 7,455 square feet, 7,455 square feet, 7,560 square feet, and 9,380 square feet) and one lot for a private street ("Lot A"). The site is in the R-1 (Single-Family Residential) zone. The project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section No. 15332 - In-Fill Development Projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve Site Plan No. SP-021-2015 and Tentative Tract Map No. TT-17818, subject to the recommended conditions of approval.

- E. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS
- F. MATTERS FROM STAFF
- G. ADJOURNMENT

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chair O'Neill  
Vice Chair Kanzler  
Commissioner Mai  
Commissioner Margolin  
Commissioner Pak  
Commissioner Paredes  
Commissioner Zamora

Absent: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Paredes.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC: Mr. Charles Zabinski expressed praise for the Open Streets event with the incorporation of a bike path and asked if the City plans to extend the bike path in the future. Staff responded that the City was in the process of applying for a grant to design a Bicycle Master Plan.

MARCH 5, 2015 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.  
Motion: Margolin Second: Zamora  
Ayes: (7) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes,  
Zamora  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None

PUBLIC HEARING - CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-032-2015. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 12042 BROOKHURST STREET, EAST SIDE OF BROOKHURST STREET, SOUTH OF CHAPMAN AVENUE.

Applicant: Verizon Wireless  
Date: April 2, 2015

Request: Conditional Use Permit approval to allow for the construction and operation of a 50'-0" tall stealth wireless telecommunication facility disguised as a pine tree (mono-pine), along with related ground-

mounted equipment and site improvements. The site is in the BCSP - BCC (Brookhurst/ Chapman Specific Plan – Brookhurst Chapman Commercial) zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

Action: Public Hearing held. Speaker(s): Ms. Brittany Pell

Action: Resolution No. 5844-15 approved.

Motion: Kanzler Second: Zamora

Ayes: (7) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes, Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Due to a conflict of interest, Vice Chair Kanzler recused himself from the following discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING –NEGATIVE DECLARATION, AMENDMENT NO. A-013-2015. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CC-1 (CIVIC CENTER MIXED USE 1) AND AR (ADAPTIVE REUSE) ZONES.

Applicant: City of Garden Grove

Date: April 2, 2015

Request: A request for Planning Commission recommendation to City Council to amend Chapter 18 (Mixed Use Regulations), Chapter 4 (Definitions), and Chapter 32 (Procedures and Hearings) of Title 9 of the Municipal Code. The proposed amendment includes adding additional uses to the Land Use chart for the CC-1 (Civic Center Mixed Use 1) and the AR (Adaptive Reuse) zones that are not currently permitted in these zones (Section 9.18.020); adding definitions for new uses in Chapter 4 (Section 9.04.060); adding additional standards for the conversion of single-family homes to commercial uses ministerially along with additional standards for parking location, outside eating areas, and non-vehicular and vehicular vending, event space, and additional compatibility standards in the CC-1 zone (Sections 9.18.090.030, 9.18.090.040, 9.18.070.010, 9.18.070.020, and 9.18.110.020); and revising Section 9.32.030D.3(2)(a)(d) of Chapter 32 exempting single-family home conversions to any other use in the CC-1 zone from the requirement to submit a Site Plan application. The City of Garden Grove has determined that a Negative Declaration be adopted pursuant to CEQA.

Action: Public Hearing held and remains open. Speaker(s): Ms. Darcy Golden.

Action: No action taken on the item. Motion to continue the open public hearing to the Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 regular Planning Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. approved.

Motion: Margolin Second: Pak

Ayes: (6) Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes,  
Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (1) Kanzler

Vice Chair Kanzler rejoined the meeting.

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION - REVIEW OF THE CODE OF ETHICS: Commissioners reviewed and acknowledged the Code of Ethics governing the Planning Commission.

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE GENERAL PLAN:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Zamora Second: Margolin

Ayes: (7) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes,  
Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Margolin asked staff for an update on the Galleria project. Staff responded that a recent meeting was held to select a developer to use the existing structure and that the tri-party consisted of Hoag, Cathay Bank, and a Developer. Commissioner Margolin then mentioned the new 25 percent water reduction strategy and asked who should be contacted to report overwatering. Staff stated they would look into the matter, and Vice Chair Kanzler mentioned that any new plan would be implemented in approximately one month.

Commissioner Zamora asked staff how the City addresses the homelessness Issue. Staff responded that it was not illegal to be homeless, however, and the City uses multiple approaches. The Neighborhood Improvement Commission approved the annual Consolidated Plan, which designates how Federal Funds are used such as for Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), and that funds are provided to the Armory, which opens when the weather gets cold. With homeless issues being varied, the Police are involved, along with churches such as the Presbyterian Church, which helps with a food and shower program. Also, the City has a guide for homeless services though there is no comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Pak asked to adjourn the meeting in memory of Televangelist Reverend Robert Schuller, who passed away that day, April 2, 2015.

Commissioner Mai asked staff to define low-income for the Brookhurst Triangle project. Staff stated that standard income categories were based on the size of the household to determine very low, low, or moderate income and that a household could be an extended family; that data is used by the Federal Government, State Government and the County to determine what percentage of income residents pay toward rent to be affordable; that programs are subject to the same standards of Section 8; and, that there are restrictions on household size versus the size of the dwelling unit. In programs, household size and income verification are documented annually for residents to qualify for affordable housing.

Chair O'Neill mentioned that homelessness and water conservation were big issues everywhere. He also mentioned that he was on the Citizen's Advisory Commission of the Orange County Water District and urged residents to conserve.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff gave a brief description of agenda items for the April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and May 21<sup>st</sup> Planning Commission meetings, and added that Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> would be a Community Meeting Study Session on Code Amendment No. A-013-2015, with the Amendment to be tentatively scheduled for consideration on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Also, the topics for a Study Session in June would include Alcoholic Beverage Control Licenses (ABC), and tentatively a General Plan, Zoning, and Mixed Use discussion. Lastly, staff mentioned that a consultant was hired to write a grant for the Caltrans Active Transportation Program, which is an important funding source for bike trails.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:05 p.m., in memory of Reverend Robert Schuller, to the Community Meeting Study Session of the Garden Grove Planning Commission on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, Constitution Room, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove.

Motion:	Paredes	Second:	Margolin
Ayes:	(7)	Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes, Zamora	
Noes:	(0)	None	
Absent:	(0)	None	

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Judith Moore, Recording Secretary

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Constitution Room  
Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Special Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 16, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Mai  
Commissioner Margolin  
Commissioner O'Neill  
Commissioner Pak  
Commissioner Paredes  
Commissioner Zamora

Absent: Due to a conflict of interest, Commissioner Kanzler was absent from the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

STUDY SESSION – REVIEW OF TEXT AMENDMENT NO. A-013-2015.

Staff discussed and received input on the proposed Code Amendment to the AR (Adaptive Reuse) and CC-1 (Civic Center Mixed Use 1) zones. Concerns included noise, traffic, parking, and uses.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: None.

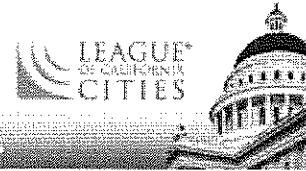
MATTERS FROM STAFF: None.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:30 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission on Thursday, May 7, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Grove Council Chamber, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove.

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Judith Moore, Recording Secretary

# CA Cities Advocate



LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

April 24, 2015  
Issue #40

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National Travel & Tourism Week Offers Economic Development Opportunities and Inspiration

**League Gears Up for 2015 Legislative Action Day**  
*Hundreds of City Officials in Sacramento on April 29 to Lobby*

Every April brings hundreds of city officials to Sacramento as part of the League's Legislative Action Day. This year, Scotts Valley Council Member and League President Stephany Aguilar will be welcoming the delegates for a legislative briefing. The annual event focuses on the organization's legislative priorities and top bills and is an opportunity for mayors and council members to meet with their legislators face to face in the Capitol. *For more, see Page 2.*



**Policy Summit on Environmental Impacts and Public Safety Issues Arising from  
Illegal Marijuana Grow Sites Scheduled Next Week**  
*RSVP by Wednesday, April 28*

The League of California Cities is holding a policy summit on illegal marijuana grows and the significant environmental and public safety impacts as a result of the adopted 2014 resolution brought to the League's General Assembly by the Redwood Empire Division. The summit is scheduled for April 29 in the State Capitol from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. *For more, see Page 2.*



**California Supreme Court Denies Review of Emeryville Re-entered  
Agreement Decision**

*DOF's Pending Legislative Proposal Attempts to Reverse Decision As Well As Other  
Cases Where Local Agencies Have Prevailed, DOF Expected to Propose Revisions in  
Conjunction with May Budget Revise*

The California Supreme Court on April 22 denied review of the Third District Court of Appeal's decision in *City of Emeryville v. Cohen*. This closely-watched case involved various agreements between the city and its former redevelopment agency. After the Legislature dissolved redevelopment, the city re-entered into these agreements with its Successor Agency as permitted by the redevelopment dissolution statute, ABx1 26. The city then attempted to list these agreements on its recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS). The Department of Finance (DOF), however, rejected the agreements. *For more, see Page 3.*



**'Leg Action Day' Continued from Page 1...**

The opening general session will cover a range of topics including the state budget, economic development tools, transportation funding, affordable housing, water conservation and a very harmful redevelopment proposal that would change the rules on the dissolution process.

Several legislators will attend to brief attendees on various issues, including:

- Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose), chair, Senate Transportation Committee, will discuss pending transportation funding proposals.
- Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova), former council member of Rancho Cordova, who once served as the League's First-Vice President, will discuss progress with AB 266, the medical marijuana measure sponsored by the League and the California Police Chiefs Association
- Assembly Republican Leader Kristin Olsen (R-Modesto) will outline the priorities of the Assembly Republican Caucus.

League staff has prepared fact sheets with talking points for city officials to use in their meetings with legislators. These will cover:

- Transportation and Public Works
- Economic Development and Redevelopment
- Affordable Housing
- Medical Marijuana

A copy of the agenda and these fact sheets are available on the League's website in advance of Legislative Action Day.

There are also two special briefings being offered, one on illegal marijuana grow sites and the other, which is co-sponsored by the League's Latino Caucus, on economic development, followed by a legislative reception. Some of the events will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel with others at the Capitol.

The League appreciates the participation of city officials in this annual event.

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**'Policy Summit' Continued from Page 1...**

Illegal marijuana grows are now occurring throughout California. The associated impacts are at the landscape level on both private and public lands. The cumulative effects are far-reaching as growers blatantly divert water streams, destroy habitat, and diminish efforts to recover state and federally listed endangered species. These expanding activities pose greater risks to public safety and are leaving behind a legacy of environmental hazards without any fiscal or regulatory tools to restore the damage to both our communities and wildlife.

Cities in certain areas of the state have grappled with the impacts of illicit marijuana grows for decades. However, the environmental and related public safety threats have grown exponentially in recent years. Located within the Redwood Empire Division is the "Emerald Triangle" which has become infamous for marijuana production. Today these activities span well beyond the borders of the division and have escalated to an issue of statewide concern.

Not to be forgotten, the Redwood Empire Division continues to grieve the loss of Fort Bragg city council member, Jere Melo. Council member Melo was murdered on Aug. 27, 2011 while investigating an illegal marijuana grow. He was an exceptional leader in the region, the League and statewide.

The division's resolution seeks to address the devastating environmental impacts of illegal marijuana grows on both private and public lands throughout California and the rising threat to public safety relating to these illegal sites.

## Policy Summit Details

The League will be hosting a "Special Policy Summit: Environmental Impacts and Public Safety Issues Arising from Illegal Marijuana Grow Sites on Wednesday," April 29 from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. in State Capitol, Room 127.

This summit will gather distinguished experts on the environment, local government and public safety to discuss the significant environmental impacts and public safety challenges resulting from illegal marijuana grow sites in California.

Dr. Mourad Gabriel, the keynote, will speak about the rippling effects of these trespass grows. Marijuana cultivation, whether trespass grows on public or tribal lands or the cultivation on private lands, has significant impacts on California's natural resources. These ecological impacts run deep and wide in many ways and add more burden to the state's currently strained natural resources. Impacts range from the malicious poisoning of federal and state-listed wildlife species with banned and restricted-use pesticides, poaching of game, illegal water diversions, habitat destruction, and the contamination of water and soil.

In addition, illegal marijuana cultivation has desecrated culturally and spiritually significant tribal lands as well as endangered the health of law enforcement and the public from the indiscriminate use of hazardous chemicals. It cost Californians millions of dollars in both wildland fire suppression directly attributed to trespass marijuana cultivation as well as the increased cost to conduct publically funded research and conservation projects on these lands.

Other speakers include:

- Cris Carrigan, director of the Office of Enforcement, California State Water Board
- Scott Bauer, senior environmental scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- DeWayne Little, lieutenant, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Mark Imsdahl, warden, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Chris Dewey, police chief, city of Ukiah
- John D'Agostini, sheriff, El Dorado County

Please RSVP to [Melissa Lienau](#) by Tuesday, April 28.

If you have questions, please contact [Sara Rounds](#) at (916) 658-8243.

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'Ruling' Continued from Page 1...

DOF advanced a number of arguments to justify its rejection of the agreements, all of which the Court rejected. The Court held that the plain language of ABx1 26 allowed the city and its successor agency, with the approval of the Oversight Board, to re-enter into agreements that were initially enter into by the city and its former redevelopment agency. DOF further argued that AB 1484, enacted after ABx1 26, applied retroactively to invalidate re-entered agreements. The Court rejected this argument finding that there was no legislative intent that AB 1484 apply retroactively to invalidate these agreements. In addition, it also rejected DOF's suggestion that the city acted with improper motives by rushing through these agreements with knowledge that AB 1484 was pending in the legislature. In rejecting this argument, the Court took the commonsense approach that it is not "necessarily sinister for [the city] to hasten to comply with a law before adverse changes occur."

With the Supreme Court's denial of DOF's petition for review, the Emeryville case is now final.

The Third District Court of Appeal has also issued a ruling in favor of re-entered agreements in *County of Sonoma v. Cohen*, which is currently the subject of a pending petition for review to the Supreme Court. And a third case concerning re-entered agreements, *City of Riverside v. Cohen* is currently under submission in the Third District.

## DOF's Pending Legislative Proposal

While such interpretations of redevelopment dissolution statutes are pending in the courts, many cities have been very concerned over a budget proposal by DOF. This proposal seeks to overturn several court decisions where local agencies have prevailed, and make other retroactive changes harmful to local agencies.

A copy of the League's most recent letter on this issue is available [online](#). In addition, the League has prepared a document detailing the proposal's harmful provisions, which is also available [online](#).

City officials have attended budget subcommittee hearing in recent months to oppose this proposal on [March 3](#) and [April 10](#).

DOF is expected to propose revisions to its proposal in conjunction with the May Revise. The League continues to advocate that legislators should reject any components that attempt to reverse court decisions and cause other harm to cities.

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## Bills in Committee: April 27-May 1

*Medical Marijuana Bills and Senate Transportation Proposal have April 28 Hearings; AB 1335 (Atkins) Housing Funding Measure, to be Heard on April 29*

Next week promises to be busy for the League and our member cities. A number of hot bills, including medical marijuana and the Senate transportation proposal, are up for their first legislative hearings on Tuesday. Wednesday, the League welcomes hundreds of city officials to Sacramento for the annual Legislative Action Day for policy briefings and meetings with legislators and their staff in the Capitol. City officials will be talking with their legislators about city priorities including economic development, housing, transportation, medical marijuana and more.

Medical marijuana regulation will be the focus of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee when it meets Tuesday morning. Two bills are up AB 266 (Cooley), the League-sponsored medical marijuana regulatory framework measure that protects local control, public safety and public health through a dual licensing process and AB 34 (Bonta). The League has an oppose, unless amended position on AB 34, which proposes to put the regulation of medical marijuana under Alcoholic Beverage Control, and contains other provisions which could undermine local authority.

Tuesday afternoon the League will be testifying in support of SB 16 (Beall) in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. This is the Senate's transportation funding proposal that would create a five year temporary revenue stream for California's transportation system. Cities are urged to support this plan to provide much-needed funding to maintain and preserve all local roadways.

On Wednesday, Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) will present her AB 1335, which could generate up to \$700 million annually for affordable housing, in the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.

[A full listing](#) of Senate and Assembly hearings is available online. Hearing times are subject to change.

Additional information about the important bills the League is tracking is available in [the 2015 Hot and Priority Bill List](#). This list, first released on April 8, will be continually updated as bills are amended and change. Bill language and any available position letters on legislation can be found through the bill search function on the [League's website](#).

## Monday, April 27

Assembly Committee on Transportation and Housing, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4202

- [HOT ACA 4 \(Frazier\) Local government transportation projects: special taxes: voter approved. League position: Support.](#)

## Tuesday, April 28

Assembly Committee on Business and Professions, 8:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- HOT [AB 34 \(Bonta\) Medical cannabis regulation and enforcement](#). *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*
- HOT [AB 266 \(Cooley\) Medical marijuana](#). *League position: Support.*

Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- HOT [SB 16 \(Beall\) Transportation funding](#). *League position: Support.*

## Wednesday, April 29

Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs, 4 p.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- [AB 388 \(Chang\) Housing: homeless veterans: reports](#). *League position: Support.*

Assembly Committee on Housing, Community and Economic Development, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- HOT [AB 1335 \(Atkins\) Building Homes and Jobs Act](#). *League position: Support.*

Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 127

- HOT [AB 185 \(Garcia\) Income taxation: insurance taxation: credits: California New Markets Tax Credit](#). *League position: Support.*

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## Legislative Transparency Bill Supported by League

*ACA 1 would create 72-Hour Print Rule*

The League took a support position this week on ACA 1 (Olsen), which would require legislation to be in print or posted online for at least 72 hours prior to a vote on its final passage in either legislative house. This requirement would not apply to specified urgency bills to address a state of emergency declared by the Governor.

With a long history of advocating for transparency at all levels of government, the League has supported previous efforts to increase public accessibility to legislation by means of two proposed constitutional amendments in 2013, SCA 10 (Wolk) and ACA 4 (Olsen). These two measures contained similar provisions, requiring a bill to be in print or posted online for a certain time period, but ultimately never made it to the Governor's desk.

City officials, concerned with the process experienced with SB 89 (2011), a fast-moving measure that swept city vehicle license fees, strongly supported a resolution at the [2011 League's General Assembly](#) "calling for improved transparency in and public access to the proceedings of the California Legislature."

Providing a three-day window for the public to review bills in print or online is essential for the proper functioning of representative government. This is especially the case at the end of legislative sessions when measures are quickly being transformed with little or no notice to meet constitutional deadlines.

City officials are encouraged to send a support letter on ACA 1. The League's support letter, as well as a sample support letter, is available on the [League's website](#).

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## California City Solutions: Lancaster Maximizes Energy and Savings on Solar

*This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2014 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called [California City Solutions](#). Solar Lancaster was submitted in 2014 for the Housing Programs and Innovations award category.*

The high desert city of Lancaster has no shortage of sun. After being hit hard by the economic and housing market crash, Lancaster was determined to make the best of its relatively inexpensive and abundant land by encouraging the development of solar facilities.

Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris set an ambitious goal to become the nation's first "Net Zero" city, generating 100 percent of its energy from renewable sources. After forming a partnership in 2010 with SolarCity, the city created a Joint Powers Authority and ultimately a new venture called Solar Lancaster. This innovative effort has saved the city and local school districts valuable funds, while attracting numerous solar companies and jobs to the region.

A retirement, military and bedroom community north of the Los Angeles basin, Lancaster felt the effects of the Great Recession. Housing prices dropped, while unemployment spiked from 7.3 percent in 2007 to more than 17 percent in 2010 and 2011. Abandoned developments and vacant lots tarnished the city's urban areas, while fields along outskirts of Lancaster's perimeter continued to lay unused; many of these agricultural fields had been abandoned decades ago.

Mayor Parris watched the recession take its toll on the city's budget. The crisis had curbed revenue, but energy costs continued to rise. Services and infrastructure remained in high demand. The mayor brainstormed with staff on ways to further advance the city's solar program. As they drafted plans and crunched numbers, they realized the potential revenue and tax savings if the city became its own utility, generating and selling solar energy. This idea led Lancaster to start with the area's schools as the city's initial step toward becoming Net Zero.

Lancaster hired SolarCity in 2010 to construct solar panel-covered parking lot canopies at the city's Performing Arts Center, Municipal Stadium, two Park n' Ride sites, the city maintenance yard, and City Hall. The city purchased the clean energy in bulk (the industry term is a Power Purchase Agreement) at a price of \$.10 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) compared to the previous rate it had been paying of \$.17 per kWh. Although this might have seemed like a small savings, it left Mayor Parris and the city council desiring more.

To help Lancaster sell energy, in June 2010 the city created a Joint Powers Authority. The Lancaster School District became the first client. The school district had little experience in such capital projects, whereas the city had plenty of experience with construction and maintenance, and has a financial capability that school districts don't possess — the ability to package bonds.

City staff looked to private equity and secured a \$26,860,000 bond to build the initial solar facilities. Lancaster is liable to pay off the bond, but the bulk of it will be received during the first five years because of a California subsidy which pays the city \$.15 per kWh produced (as the client, the school district also shares in the savings, paying \$.125 per kWh, which has saved them nearly \$.07 per kWh.) Lancaster projects a \$16.8 million operating revenue over the life of the bond.

As for unused land, Lancaster is turning many of its brown fields into solar fields. Because this agricultural land had been previously used for farming, solar developers did not face some of the environmental issues with undisturbed natural habitats.

The city also had two vacant lots that had been slated for development until the mortgage crisis hit, which now serve as mini suburban solar fields, with one project currently harvesting 4 megawatts and the other 2.3 megawatts of electricity.

In an effort to fully support Lancaster's solar program, city staff have made it a priority to expedite the city's approval process on solar projects. Large scale solar services are generally approved in less than four months, while similar projects can take years in other Los Angeles County locations. Residents adding solar to their homes can receive approval at City Hall in

approximately 15 minutes. The teamwork of the city staff members with local schools and a number of solar companies resulted in 87.26 megawatts of electricity that's currently being generated or under construction, bringing the city to more than 40 percent of its Phase I Net Zero Energy Goal of 215 megawatts.

Approximately 1,500 acres of previously undeveloped land have been approved for solar projects, have had solar built on them or are currently undergoing the entitlement process. Most of these properties (1,462 acres) were previously fallow farmlands. Solar panels also embellish 25 of Lancaster's schools, the city's municipal structures, and a number of local businesses and organizations.

Lancaster's Solar Program has had a great impact on the city and school district's budgets. The city saves \$50,000 per year on energy, while the school district's savings is approximately \$420,000 per year. Lancaster also profits from leasing land to private solar developers. One of the city's lots, spanning approximately 16 acres, is expected to bring in more than \$503,000 over its 20-year lease. The other lot, slightly larger than 9 acres, should produce close to \$330,000 during its 20-year lease.

Lancaster issued its 1,500th single family residential solar power permit in November 2013. In collaboration with the city, KB Home has developed several cutting-edge alternative energy model homes in Lancaster, including multiple housing tracts in which solar is offered as a standard feature on all new homes. Lancaster has placed itself on the leading edge of the global renewable energy arena providing a successful scenario on what can be done at a municipal level.

In 2012, Lancaster was internationally recognized for its alternative energy projects, receiving a World Energy Globe Award. Competing directly with revolutionary software developed in the Netherlands, and electricity pockets engineered to transform Israel's Palestinian communities, the city took first place in the "Fire" (solar) category for utilizing public-private partnerships to create and expand new energy resources throughout the city and beyond.

The Lancaster community has been energized by the city's effort to save and create more than 1,000 jobs, reduce energy costs and emissions, and spurring economic growth and environmental sustainability.

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## **Application Period Closes May 8 for League Board of Directors At-Large Position and Second Vice President**

There are only three weeks left for elected officials to apply for one of the six at-large positions (two-year term) or second vice president (one-year term) positions open on the League of California Cities' board of directors.

All nominees for second vice president must currently be serving or have previously served on the board of directors.

### **Board Composition**

The League board of directors comprises the League officers — president, first vice president, second vice president, immediate past president and executive director — a representative from each of the League's 16 divisions, and a representative from each of the League's 11 functional departments, the mayors or designees (alternates) of the mayors of the 10 largest cities by population, and 12 at-large positions, with one reserved for a representative of a small city (under 12,000 population).

City officials serving on the National League of Cities (NLC) board of directors also serve on the League of California Cities board of directors for the duration of their term on the NLC board (two-year term).

The League board typically meets on a quarterly basis at locations throughout the state. Nominees are expected to make a commitment to attend all meetings. All travel-related expenses

to attend League board meetings are reimbursed by the League.

### **Nomination Process**

The 2015 Board Nominating Committee will meet on July 16, prior to the July 16-17 board meeting, to interview at-large finalists and all applicants for the position of second vice president.

The nominating committee comprises:

- Bruce Channing (chair), city manager, Laguna Hills;
- Carl Morehouse, council member, Ventura;
- Jerry Thorne, mayor, Pleasanton;
- Owen Newcomer, council member, Whittier;
- Daniel Parra, mayor pro tem, Fowler;
- Randy Breault, public works director, Brisbane;
- Steve Manos, mayor pro tem, Lake Elsinore;
- Scott Nassif, council member, Apple Valley;
- Sam Racadio, mayor, Highland;
- Janet Arbuckle, council member, Grass Valley; and
- Suzanne Chan, vice mayor, Fremont.

The nominating committee will make recommendations to the board of directors at its July meeting. If the board approves the candidates, the recommended candidates will then be announced during the Opening Session of the League's 2015 Annual Conference in San Jose, Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Following confirmation of the final candidates, the 2015-16 board of directors will be announced at the Closing Session of the Annual Conference on Oct. 2.

### **Submission Process**

If you are interested in submitting your name for nomination to the League board of directors, please provide the information requested on the nomination application, along with a biography and letters of endorsement, to the League's Sacramento headquarters on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, May 8.

Please send all nomination applications by email to: [msharpe@cacities.org](mailto:msharpe@cacities.org)

Or mail to:

Mimi Sharpe

Executive Assistant

League of California Cities

1400 K Street, Suite 400

Sacramento, CA 95814

Board nominations packets can also be faxed to the attention of Mimi Sharpe at (916) 658-8240.

### **Application Forms**

- [At-Large Nomination Form](#)
- [Second Vice President Nomination Form](#)

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### **Volunteer Judges Needed for the 2015 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence Application Submissions**

Now that the 2015 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence applications have been submitted it's time to score them and determine the winning cities. The League is seeking approximately 60 volunteers to serve on various juries, covering the 11 award categories.

It is very important to recognize, celebrate and learn from the successes of other cities. The Helen Putnam Award process is a valuable and respected way of doing this, and our dedicated volunteer juries are vital to the success of this program which brings positive attention to all cities.

To help select the 2014 Helen Putnam Award winning cities the League is asking for volunteer assistance from city officials to serve on the award selection juries. Participating jury members will review submitted applications online at [www.helenputnam.org](http://www.helenputnam.org) and convene via conference call to select the winners.

If you are willing to serve on a Helen Putnam Jury (and get a preview of some great innovations you might use in your city) please complete the [volunteer form](#) and respond by May 8. Information on each application will be sent after we have confirmed your participation.

Award categories include:

- CCS Partnership Intergovernmental Collaboration Award
- Community Services and Economic Development
- Economic Development through the Arts
- Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement
- Health and Wellness Programs
- Housing Programs and Innovations
- Internal Administration
- Planning and Environmental Quality
- Public Safety
- Public Works, Infrastructure, Transportation
- Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government

If you know your city has applied under a certain category please do not volunteer for that category.

Submit your volunteer form by email to [Melissa Lienau](mailto:Melissa.Lienau) or fax to (916) 658-8240. For questions about volunteering to be a Helen Putnam Award judge, please contact Melissa Lienau at (916) 658-8216.

The League would like to thank the city officials who volunteer their time for this project.

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### **Be Recognized for Your Dedication to Continuing Education and Service through the Mayors and Council Members Leadership Academy**

Elected city officials who complete the Mayors and Council Members Leadership Academy's continuing education program can be recognized by the League of California Cities in a variety of ways.

To honor your achievements, a recognition ceremony before your colleagues is held at the department meeting at the League's Annual Conference. Alternatively you can choose to be recognized in your own city at an appropriate occasion and/or via a press release provided by the League. Upon completion of each level, you will be awarded an Academy Graduation Certificate and lapel pin.

Information about how to complete the program as well as complete criteria for the three levels of achievement: Leadership, Advanced Leadership and Leadership in Action can be found [online](#).

A list of Mayors and Council Members who have received recognition since 2003 is available on the [League website](#).

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### **National Travel & Tourism Week Offers Economic Development Opportunities and Inspiration**

With California's tourism industry on the cusp of unprecedented growth this year, there's no better time to celebrate National Travel & Tourism Week, which this year is May 2-10. The event provides an opportunity to educate and inspire local businesses to take local destination tourism development and marketing to the next level.



The week's marquee event is [Travel Rally Day](#), slated for May 5, which will raise awareness about the benefits of travel and provide a platform to amplify how traveler spending supports communities and local businesses. Use U.S. Travel resources – including a helpful [Tool Kit](#) – to develop opportunities and invite media to attend local rallies.

Visit California, the nation's first public-private partnership established to promote state tourism, is leading the effort to promote the Golden State as a premier travel destination and will host several events throughout the state during National Travel & Tourism Week, which will feature new tourism data and more information on partnership opportunities. [Visit California](#) has information about the local impact of tourism in California.

Watch for a feature article about tourism and economic development in the May 2015 issue of [Western City](#) magazine.

April 28, 2015  
Issue #41

## League Updates Hot and Priority Bills List

Compiled as April 29's Legislative Action Day approaches, this list spotlights Hot Bills — those of greatest importance to cities — while highlighting others upon which the League has taken a support or oppose position.

Cities should expect this list to be updated frequently in the coming weeks. Positions are subject to change as bills move through the legislative process.

Titles are linked to more information about a bill's status, as well as to sample letters that cities can use.

### SUPPORT

**HOT AB 2 (Alejo): Community revitalization authority.**

This bill authorizes the creation of a new entity at the local level called a Community Revitalization Investment Authority (CRIA) that would provide a redevelopment option for the most disadvantaged and poorest areas of our state.

**HOT AB 22 (Rodriguez): Office of Emergency Services: oil-by-rail spills: firefighters.**

This measure will direct the state Office of Emergency Services to establish a program to reimburse local fire departments for costs incurred in sending firefighters to training courses identified by the Curriculum Development Advisory Committee and OES, using funds received from grants or the OES General Fund.

**HOT AB 35 (Chiu): Income taxes: credits: low-income housing: allocation increase.**

This bill would increase the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit by \$300 million to build and rehabilitate affordable housing.

**AB 74 (Calderon): Care facilities: regulatory visits.**

This bill would make community care facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, child day care centers and family day care centers subject to an annual unannounced visit by the Department of Social Services. The department would be required to visit no less than 30 percent of facilities by July 1, 2016, 40 percent by July 1, 2017 and all facilities annually after July 1, 2018.

**AB 90 (Chau and Atkins): Federal Housing Trust Fund:**

This bill would designate the state Department of Housing and Community Development as the entity responsible for administering funds received through the Federal Housing Trust Fund. The bill requires the department to collaborate with the California Housing Finance Agency in developing an allocation process meeting geographic distribution and other criteria and establishes a stakeholder process to inform these discussions.

**HOT AB 150 (Melendez): Theft: firearms.**

This bill would make the theft of a firearm grand theft in all cases, punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months, or 2 or 3 years. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. Under Prop. 47, the theft of property that does not exceed \$950 is considered petty theft, punishable as a misdemeanor, except in cases when the defendant has previously

been convicted of one or more specified serious or violent felonies or an offense requiring registration as a sex offender.

AB 184 (Garcia, Eduardo): Small Business Technical Assistance Act of 2015.

AB 184 directs the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to: serve as the lead state entity for overseeing the state's participation and coordination with federal business outreach, development and technical assistance programs; assist small businesses via contracts with federal small business technical-assistance centers; and collect and report to the Legislature information about federal small business technical assistance programs within the state.

HOT AB 185 (Garcia, Eduardo): Income taxation: insurance taxation: credits: California New Markets Tax Credit.

AB 185 creates the California New Markets Tax Credit Program, with the goal of stimulating private sector investments into lower income communities by providing a tax incentive to qualified entities.

HOT AB 266 (Cooley): Medical marijuana.

This bill provides a framework for medical marijuana distribution that upholds local control, addresses public safety concerns, and includes important health and safety requirements. The League is a co-sponsor of this measure with the California Police Chiefs Association.

AB 313 (Atkins): Enhanced infrastructure financing districts.

This measure contains some clarifications to last year's SB 628 (Beall) requested by city attorneys to facilitate its implementation. These clarifications include requiring the public financing authority, rather than the legislative body as the entity required to prepare the plan, and that any private dwelling units proposed to be removed or destroyed within a district that receives district financing shall be subject to the law's housing replacement requirements.

AB 323 (Olsen): California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: roadway improvement.

AB 323 would extend the sunset date for current law that exempts city roadway improvement projects from California Environmental Quality Act requirements if the project is within the existing right-of-way, improves safety and is within a jurisdiction with a population of less than 100,000 people.

AB 327 (Gordon): Public works: volunteers.

This bill would eliminate the sunset date on Labor Code Section 1720.4, permanently enabling local governments to use volunteer labor on public works projects. Examples include tree planting, park maintenance and playground construction.

AB 341 (Achadjian): Financial affairs: reports.

This measure would improve the accuracy of local data by adjusting the timing for local agencies to submit their annual financial transactions reports to the State Controller.

AB 388 (Chang): Housing: homeless veterans: reports.

This bill would require the state Department of Housing and Community Development to report specified performance data as part of an annual evaluation performed by the department, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, on the expenditure of \$600 million in bonds, authorized by Proposition 41, for a variety of housing options including assisting homeless veterans.

AB 428 (Nazarian): Income taxes credit: seismic retrofits.

AB 428 would authorize up to a 30 percent state income tax credit for the seismic rehabilitation of existing properties.

HOT AB 448 (Brown): Local government finance: property tax revenue allocations: vehicle license fee adjustments.

Restores funding stability to cities that annex inhabited territory, and re-establishes a foundation that supports sustainable and compact growth policies.

AB 451 (Bonilla): Private parking facilities.

This bill would clarify that local governments can authorize an owner of privately owned and maintained parking facilities to regulate unauthorized parking on their properties.

AB 702 (Maienschein): CalWORKs: temporary shelter assistance.

This bill removes the requirement that all 16 days of eligibility for homeless assistance under CalWORKS must be used consecutively, thereby enabling an individual to obtain such assistance when needed.

AB 771 (Atkins): Personal income and corporation taxes: credits: rehabilitation.

AB 771 would authorize up to a 25 percent state income tax credit for the rehabilitation of certified historic structures.

AB 988 (Stone): Outdoor environmental education and recreation grants program.

AB 988 would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to establish an Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grants Program. This would increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor recreation and educational experiences by awarding grants to public or nonprofit organizations.

HOT AB 1159 (Gordon): Product stewardship: pilot program: household batteries and home-generated sharps waste.

This bill would require, by no later than January 1, 2017, CalRecycle to adopt regulations to implement a product stewardship pilot program for home-generated sharps and household batteries.

HOT AB 1335 (Atkins): Building Homes and Jobs Act.

AB 1335 would generate up to \$700 million per year for affordable rental or ownership housing, supportive housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing and other housing needs via a \$75 recordation fee on real estate transactions. This fee would not apply to home sales.

HOT ACA 1 (Olsen): Legislative procedure.

This measure would require a bill to be in print and available on the Internet for at least 72 hours prior to a vote on its final passage in either house of the Legislature.

HOT ACA 4 (Frazier): Local government transportation projects: special taxes: voter approval.

This bill would lower the voter threshold requirements for special taxes by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for transportation projects from 2/3rds approval to 55 percent approval.

HOT SB 16 (Beall): Transportation funding.

SB 16 would create a five-year funding program to address deferred maintenance on the local streets and roads system and state highway system. The bill would raise an estimated \$2.8 to \$3.6 billion annually through a 10-cent increase in the gas tax, a 12-cent increase in the diesel tax, a \$35 vehicle registration fee increase and a new \$100 surcharge for zero-emission vehicles. The bill also includes a vehicle license fee increase of 0.35 percent to backfill the general fund for the shift in weight fees. Five percent of revenues would be set aside to incentivize counties without a local transportation funding measure to approve such a measure.

HOT SB 25 (Roth): Local government finance: property tax revenue allocation: vehicle license fee adjustments.

This bill would restore funding stability to four recently incorporated cities, Eastvale, Wildomar, Menifee and Jurupa Valley, which have experienced severe financial hardships since 2011, when the state swept all remaining shares of city vehicle license fee revenues. SB 69 resolves this problem with a statutory formula that provides cities that incorporated between 2004 and 2013 with shares of property tax to offset the amount of vehicle license fee revenue they would have received. In future years, the amount would be adjusted according to the same rules applied to other cities.

HOT SB 175 (Huff): Peace officers: body-worn cameras.

SB 175 will require each police agency, if it elects to require its officers to wear body cameras, to develop a policy relating to the use of the cameras, and to distribute a copy of that policy to the officers required to wear them.

HOT SB 321 (Beall): Motor vehicle fuel taxes: rates: adjustments.

This bill would infuse more stability into the variable gas tax rate set by the Board of Equalization by taking into account fuel prices of the previous four years in addition to the estimated fuel price of the current year.

**OPPOSE**

HOT AB 34 (Bonta): Medical cannabis regulation and enforcement.

This bill would enact the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Control Act and would establish the Division of Medical Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement within the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The bill contains provisions that undermine the power of local ordinances, setting the stage for further litigation on this issue. The League believes that no state agency should have the primary role of enforcement of marijuana regulation, because the cost to the state would be excessive and, in the case of ABC, in particular, enforcement has shown to be neither timely nor responsive to local concerns. Local governments should play a key role in enforcement, yet no such role is included in AB 34. The bill does not include local licensing, and the authority that locals are given to temporarily suspend a license flows through ABC – unlike current law, which allows locals to shut down non-compliant business unilaterally. AB 34 also contains language that calls into question pre-existing local bans on marijuana sales and cultivation.

HOT AB 36 (Campos): Local government: federal surplus property.

This bill would prohibit a local agency from receiving surplus military equipment without a vote at a public meeting and declares this a matter of statewide concern. The League of Cities opposes this measure as an unjustified incursion upon municipal sovereignty. Under current law, local agencies are fully within their constitutional police power in deciding whether to acquire military equipment from the Department of Defense and under what circumstances.

HOT AB 278 (Hernandez): District-based municipal elections.

This measure would require that a city, with a population of 100,000 or more, switch to a by-district election system. The bill imposes a one-size-fits-all policy based on an arbitrary population threshold and fails to take into account the unique characteristics of affected cities.

AB 511 (Gibson): Workers' compensation.

AB 511 adds language to the Labor Code allowing new categories of peace officers to be eligible for the cancer presumption provided to some public safety officers. The bill would introduce new and unnecessary labor code provisions related to the provision of presumptions through local ordinance or collective bargaining agreement. The bill also has implications regarding taxable status of local adopted ordinances or agreements providing higher benefits for certain presumptive conditions.

AB 744 (Chau): Planning and zoning: density bonuses.

As drafted, this measure would eliminate local minimum parking requirements that can be imposed on senior housing, special needs housing and housing within one-half mile of a major transit stop. The bill does not recognize local parking realities or community preferences. Two of the categories of housing that the bill would exempt, seniors and people with special needs, have no connection with access to available transit.

HOT AB 1301 (Jones-Sawyer): Voting rights: preclearance.

AB 1301 creates a statewide pre-clearance system requiring that all changes to an election system within a qualifying jurisdiction obtain approval by the Secretary of State before implementation. The bill is nearly identical to 2014's AB 280, which many local governments and agencies opposed. It makes slight changes to address incidents within 30 days of an election, but it remains a sweeping and costly mandate that does little to identify areas with a legitimate problem.

HOT AB 1347 (Chiu): Public contracts: claims.

AB 1347 would mandate a new claims resolution process on all public contracts. It would require payment due on any undisputed portion of the claim to be made within seven days after the public agency issues its written response to a written demand or assertion. By comparison,

current prompt payment law requires public agencies to make progress payments within 30 days after receipt of an undisputed and properly submitted payment request. Under AB 1347, if a public agency failed to respond to a written demand, a 10 percent per annum penalty would be applied.

SB 239 (Hertzberg): Local services: contracts: fire protection services.

SB 239 places agreements between public agencies to provide fire protection services under the purview of local agency formation commissions (LAFCOs). This bill requires the contracting local agency to receive written permission from the recognized employee organization to extend fire services outside its service area. Flexibility for local agencies to contract for services is necessary to ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness and maximize resources to meet the needs of the public. LAFCOs are not, and should not be, tasked with making the day-to-day financial decisions for local agencies. It is also unclear if, under the bill, local agencies would have recourse to protest the employee organization's disapproval of a contract.

April 29, 2015  
Issue #42

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Page 3: Comments on Proposed Emergency Water Conservation Regulations due May 4

## **Governor Brown Announces New Drought Legislation to Help Locals Enforce Water Conservation Requirements**

*Maximum Daily Penalties Would Rise from \$500 to \$10,000 per Violation*

Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday held a meeting with a group of mayors to discuss the drought and release preliminary details on legislation he is proposing to help with the enforcement of water restrictions. According to the Governor's Office, cities, counties and water agencies will be given greater authority to increase the penalties for water waste. The legislation has not yet appeared in draft form, but it reportedly will supplement not replace, local ordinances on the same subject, with penalties from enforcement be used for local conservation efforts. Separately, the Governor announced he has directed state agencies to help local water agencies by streamlining the state's environmental reviews of local water supply projects. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **Comprehensive Medical Marijuana Legislation Passes First Committee**

The Assembly Business and Professions Committee on a unanimous 12-0 bipartisan vote yesterday passed AB 266 (Cooley). This measure would enact a structure for the business-based distribution and regulation of marijuana in California with an emphasis on local government enforcement. The bill will next advance to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **Senate Transportation Funding Proposal Moves to Next Committee**

*Assembly Bill to Lower Voter Threshold on Local Special Taxes for Local Transportation Projects Also Passes First Committee*

Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) presented his transportation funding proposal on Tuesday before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, the committee he chairs. The committee passed SB 16 after a long line of advocates for cities, counties, transportation and other groups expressed their support. The League announced its support of the proposal on April 15 when the senator released it. The bill will be heard next in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee next Wednesday, May 6. *For more, see Page 3.*

**'Drought' Continued from Page 1...**

The mayors, from more than a dozen cities stood with the Governor as he made the announcement. League First Vice President Dennis Michael, mayor of Rancho Cucamonga, represented the organization. Other mayors present include:

- Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait;
- Coachella Mayor Steve Hernandez;
- Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin;
- Livermore Mayor John Marchand;
- Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia;
- Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf;
- Redding Mayor Francie Sullivan;
- Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey;
- San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer;
- San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo;
- Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido;
- Santa Rosa Mayor John Sawyer; and
- Visalia Mayor Steven Nelsen.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie was also present at the meeting. He remarked on the myriad of strategies local governments are implementing to save water both in their operations and by their residents. "The League appreciates the Governor's strong leadership on water conservation. While cities either already have in place or are in the process of developing and adopting drought related penalties to discourage water waste, we welcome any assistance from the state in providing cities with additional enforcement tools to address this emergency situation. The public understands the depth of the water crisis our states faces, and protecting our remaining precious water supplies from misuse and waste is a top priority of city leaders."

The Governor's proposal in brief would:

- Establish a new penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation, expanding on \$500 per day maximum infraction established in last year's drought legislation.
- Allow penalties to be issued administratively by wholesale and retail water agencies, as well as city and county governments. This change speeds up an infraction process involving courts that was established in last year's emergency drought legislation.
- Enable these entities to enforce local water restrictions against water waste, as well as conservation restrictions established by the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Allow local public agencies to deputize staff to issue water conservation-related warnings and citations.

The Governor also wants to streamline environmental permitting for critical water supply projects. The Office of Planning and Research and other state agencies will be charged with working with local water agencies to cut down the time it takes to comply with state reviews.

The League will update members with more details as they become available.

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**'AB 266' Continued from Page 1...**

The success of this bill is due in part to the leadership of the author, Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova), who has been effective at bringing together disparate groups on the issue of marijuana regulation. Assembly Member Cooley, a former League first vice president and Rancho Cordova mayor and council member, understands quite well the challenges that local governments face on the issue of marijuana regulation.

AB 266 unconditionally protects local control with a dual licensing scheme, under which the state would issue a conditional license only, and local governments would issue the actual permit to operate in a specific jurisdiction. It is unequivocal on the issue of allowing locals to maintain existing bans.



It will impose uniform health and safety standards, testing standards for contaminants and potency, and security standards throughout the state.

More information is available at [www.cacities.org/medicalmarijuana](http://www.cacities.org/medicalmarijuana).

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'SB 16' Continued from Page 1...

The funding proposal is focused on the backlog of maintenance needs on the state and local system and is estimated to generate between \$2.8 and \$3.6 billion annually. In addition, 5 percent of the revenues would be set aside to incentivize counties currently without a local transportation funding measure to approve such a measure.

The senator's testimony focused on the mounting need of California's highways, roads and streets and he stressed how all users of the system should support it. State highways have a \$59 billion backlog. The local system, in the next decade, will have a nearly \$80 billion shortfall of funding to maintain our streets, roads and bridges. Sen. Beall simply stated: "We can pay now or pay a lot later." He urged legislators to come together and approve this proposal instead of "kicking the can down the road."

Several committee members expressed how they were concerned that this proposal would not provide enough funding because the need is so great. However, the majority of the committee recognized the importance of moving the proposal so that discussions can continue.

In brief, the Senate's plan would raise revenues through:

- A 10 cent increase in the excise tax on gasoline and a 12 cent increase in the excise tax on diesel;
- \$35 Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) increase for all vehicles;
- A \$100 VRF increase for zero-emission vehicles;
- Payback of outstanding transportation loans over a three-year period; and
- Truck Weight Fees would be returned to the transportation fund over a five-year period (20 percent annually. The General Fund would be backfilled by a 0.35 percent increase in the VLF over the five-year period (raised in 0.07 increments over the five-year period).

#### **ACA 4 — Lowering the Voter Threshold**

On Monday, the Assembly Committee on Transportation heard and passed Assembly Member Jim Frazier (D-Oakley)'s ACA 4. This League-supported measure would lower the voter threshold requirements for special taxes by a local government to provide funding for transportation projects. The threshold would be lowered from two-thirds to 55 percent. The bill now goes to the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

The League is a strong advocate for transportation funding as in the next 10 years there is a projected almost \$80 billion shortfall of funding for streets and roads. ACA 4 would strengthen local control and permit local communities to move forward that address their pressing infrastructure needs.

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#### **Comments on Proposed Emergency Water Conservation Regulations due May 4**

The Proposed Emergency Regulation to implement the urban water conservation called for in Gov. Jerry Brown's April 1 Executive Order is now available on the State Water Resources Control Board website. The Water Board is asking stakeholders to review and submit comments on the Proposed Emergency Regulation and supporting documents by 10 a.m. on Monday, May 4.

The Water Board scheduled to adopt the Proposed Emergency Regulations at its May 5-6 meeting in Sacramento.

Submit comments electronically to: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov) or in writing to the Water Board with the subject line: "Comment Letter – Emergency Conservation Regulation."

The following documents are available on the Water Board website:

- [Fact sheet](#);
- [Proposed Emergency Regulation](#); and
- [Proposed Urban Water Supplier Usage Tiers \(spreadsheet\)](#).