

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**October 5, 2023**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council      FROM: Lisa Kim, City Manager  
Members

**I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

A. REQUEST FOR VETO

Mayor's letter to Governor requesting veto of AB 1637 (Irwin): Website Domain Names.

B. REQUEST FOR VETO

Mayor's letter to Governor requesting veto of AB 1484 (Zbur): Temporary Public Employees.

**II. OTHER ITEMS**

– SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



Lisa Kim  
City Manager



## CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

October 4, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1637 (Irwin) Domain Names.  
REQUEST FOR VETO**

**Steve Jones**  
Mayor  
**George S. Brietigam**  
Mayor Pro Tem - District 1  
**John R. O'Neill**  
Council Member - District 2  
**Cindy Ngoc Tran**  
Council Member - District 3  
**Joe DoVinh**  
Council Member - District 4  
**Stephanie Klopfenstein**  
Council Member - District 5  
**Kim B. Nguyen-Penaloza**  
Council Member - District 6

Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Garden Grove respectfully requests that you **veto AB 1637**, which would require local agencies to secure and migrate to a new .gov or .ca.gov domain no later than January 1, 2029. It would also require all associated email addresses connected to reflect the updated domain within the same time frame.

The author's office states that the intent of AB 1637 is to make it easy for the public to verify that a government website is actually a government website. As the Senate Committee on Governance and Finance accurately noted in their analysis, *"there aren't any known examples of fraudsters impersonating local government websites in California. The Committee may wish to consider whether there is sufficient evidence that such fraud exists to justify additional costs and work for local governments, and whether the bill would effectively address such fraud."*

Initial sampling of several local governments identified considerable costs and programmatic impacts that would result from AB 1637, in the millions. The cumulative costs to all county and city departments, including county hospitals, police and sheriff departments, fire departments (including volunteer), municipal utilities and power providers will cause significant cost pressures against core activities, programs and services that local municipalities are responsible for.

Even the Governor's chief fiscal policy advisor, the **California Department of Finance** [estimated that AB 1637<sup>1</sup>](#) would have, *"significant local costs, likely at least in the tens of millions in the aggregate, for cities and counties that are not currently compliant with the bill's requirements to make administrative and programmatic changes necessary to utilize a ".gov" or ".ca.gov" domain name for websites and email addresses."*

Counties and cities across the state have worked hard to establish reliable websites that are known and trusted by the communities they serve. While the measure allows for website redirection, doing so will only add to confusion (and added costs for

<sup>1</sup> <https://esd.dof.ca.gov/LegAnalysis/getPdf/ADA973A2-DF3D-EE11-A824-00224843A957>

**AB 1637 (Irwin) Domain Names.**

**REQUEST FOR VETO**

October 4, 2023

Page 2

operating two urls), as residents are redirected from their trusted local agency website to a new landing page that would not comport to the addresses on public facing

material including business cards, fleets, letterhead, elections, and other public outreach materials, etc. The result could compromise local communities' trust in their local leaders and would only create frustration in administering a transparent and user-focused government website.

AB 1637 creates a new and costly state mandate for local agencies that does not improve local cybersecurity. In this constrained fiscal climate, we are hard-pressed to consider a project of this scope with no guarantee of any benefits for our shared constituency. Local agencies must prioritize direct service responsibilities to local communities for which our members are already obligated.

For these reasons, the City of Garden Grove respectfully requests that you **veto AB 1637 (Irwin)**.

Sincerely,



Steve Jones  
Mayor

c: Jacqui Irwin, Assembly Member, 42<sup>nd</sup> District, ([Brandon.Bjerke@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Bjerke@asm.ca.gov))

Senator Tom Umberg, 34<sup>th</sup> District, ([Marlena.Truong@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Marlena.Truong@sen.ca.gov))

Senator Janet Nguyen, 36<sup>th</sup> District, ([Jenny.Tran@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Jenny.Tran@sen.ca.gov))

Assembly Member Tri Ta, 70<sup>th</sup> District, ([Hauwie.Tieu@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Hauwie.Tieu@asm.ca.gov))

Connor Medina, League of California Cities, ([cmedina@calcities.org](mailto:cmedina@calcities.org))

Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, ([cityletters@calcities.org](mailto:cityletters@calcities.org))

Lauren Kline, ACCOC, ([lkline@accoc.org](mailto:lkline@accoc.org))





## CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

October 4, 2023

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1484 (Zbur) Temporary Public Employees.  
REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Garden Grove respectfully requests that you **veto AB 1484 (Zbur)** related to temporary employment. As written, AB 1484 includes requirements that will be difficult for public employers to fulfill.

AB 1484 would negatively impact public services. "Extra help" employees are often retained for seasonal, or "surge" needs, such as summer programs and community service programs. This bill would significantly increase the costs to hire such employees, thereby reducing levels of service to residents. Similarly, temporary employees are frequently hired to backfill permanent employees who are on leave or temporarily reassigned. This bill would discourage such hiring, leaving positions unfilled and the public unserved.

Furthermore, AB 1484 would have unintended and unpredictable consequences when applied to the myriad existing local programs and the laws governing them. This includes retired annuitants — whose terms and conditions of employment are strictly controlled by state law in ways that would severely impair any meaningful bargaining.

Public agencies also often offer paid student internship programs, which provide valuable work experience for the next generation of public employees. Requiring agencies to include those positions with the bargaining unit (and give them discharge protections) will strongly discourage local governments from offering such programs.

AB 1484 would also require public agencies to inform temporary employees and the employee organization of the anticipated length of employment and end date. However, temporary employees are often hired to fulfill an immediate need of uncertain duration, as was the case during the COVID-19 emergency. In these cases, the agency will not be able to identify an end date that is anything more than speculation, which will serve no useful purpose and may lead to unnecessary disputes.

In conclusion, temporary employees are hired for a temporary and urgent need. The provisions of this bill severely limit local agencies' ability to utilize this workforce, which ultimately impacts our ability to provide services.

**Steve Jones**  
Mayor  
**George S. Brietigam**  
Mayor Pro Tem - District 1  
**John R. O'Neill**  
Council Member - District 2  
**Cindy Ngoc Tran**  
Council Member - District 3  
**Joe DoVinh**  
Council Member - District 4  
**Stephanie Klopfenstein**  
Council Member - District 5  
**Kim B. Nguyen-Penaloza**  
Council Member - District 6



**AB 1484 (Zbur) Temporary Public Employees.**

**REQUEST FOR VETO**

October 4, 2023

Page 2

For these reasons, the City of Garden Grove **requests your veto** on AB 1484 (Zbur).

Sincerely,



Steve Jones  
Mayor

c: Assembly Member Zbur, 51<sup>st</sup> District ([nicholas.thell@asm.ca.gov](mailto:nicholas.thell@asm.ca.gov))

Senator Tom Umberg, 34<sup>th</sup> District, ([Marlena.Truong@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Marlena.Truong@sen.ca.gov))

Senator Janet Nguyen, 36<sup>th</sup> District, ([Jenny.Tran@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Jenny.Tran@sen.ca.gov))

Assembly Member Tri Ta, 70<sup>th</sup> District, ([Hauwie.Tieu@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Hauwie.Tieu@asm.ca.gov))

Connor Medina, League of California Cities, ([cmedina@calcities.org](mailto:cmedina@calcities.org))

Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, ([cityletters@calcities.org](mailto:cityletters@calcities.org))

Lauren Kline, ACCOC, ([lkline@accoc.org](mailto:lkline@accoc.org))

**WEEKLY MEMO 10-5-2023**

# **SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



# Post Performance

September 28, 2023 - October 4, 2023

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.



**Included in this Report**

 @CityGardenGrove

 Garden Grove City Hall

 gardengrovecityhall



@CityGardenGrove

Wed 10/4/2023 4:52 pm PDT

Do you live in an apartment or condominium & want to learn more about the **#OrganicsRecycling** program?...

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6PM  
BUENA CLINTON FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, 12661 SUNSWEPT AVE  
English and Spanish language services will be available.

- Wednesday, October 25, 2023; 6PM  
MAGNOLIA PARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, 11402 MAGNOLIA ST  
English and Spanish language services will be available.
- Wednesday, November 1, 2023; 6PM  
COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER, 11300 STANFORD AVENUE  
English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean language services will be available.
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023; 10AM  
BUENA CLINTON FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, 12661 SUNSWEPT AVE  
Vietnamese language only service available.

Join the City of Garden Grove and Republic Services for a presentation on the Organics Recycling program, part of the state-wide organic waste recycling law, SB 1383, requiring a reduction of organic waste in landfills to reduce emission of harmful environmental pollutants and how it impacts multi-family properties.

Impressions	121
Potential Reach	4,691
Engagements	4
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.3%



gardengrovecityhall

Wed 10/4/2023 4:48 pm PDT

👉 Multi-Family Residents Invited to Upcoming Organics Recycling Meetings, **Receive Free Kitchen Pail** 🗑️ Do you li...

Organics Recycling  
COMMUNITY MEETINGS FOR MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTIES  
VISIT [GCCITY.ORG/ORGANICS](http://GCCITY.ORG/ORGANICS)

Attendees will receive a free kitchen pail used to collect food scraps prior to emptying into recycling containers. Kitchen pails are limited to one per household, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Impressions	491
Reach	457
Engagements	14
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.9%



Garden Grove City Hall

Wed 10/4/2023 4:35 pm PDT

👉 Multi-Family Residents Invited to Upcoming Organics Recycling Meetings, **Receive Free Kitchen Pail** 🗑️ Do you li...

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6PM  
BUENA CLINTON FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, 12661 SUNSWEPT AVE  
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Impressions	230
Reach	226
Engagements	15
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	6.5%



**gardengrovecityhall**

Wed 10/4/2023 10:58 am PDT

🌮 Treat yourself to extra guac today because it's #NationalTacoDay, Garden Grove! Celebrate by enjoying delicious...



Impressions	<b>1,394</b>
Reach	<b>1,360</b>
Comments	<b>0</b>
Story Taps Back	<b>16</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Wed 10/4/2023 10:58 am PDT

🌮 Treat yourself to extra guac today because it's #NationalTacoDay, Garden Grove! Celebrate by enjoying delicious...



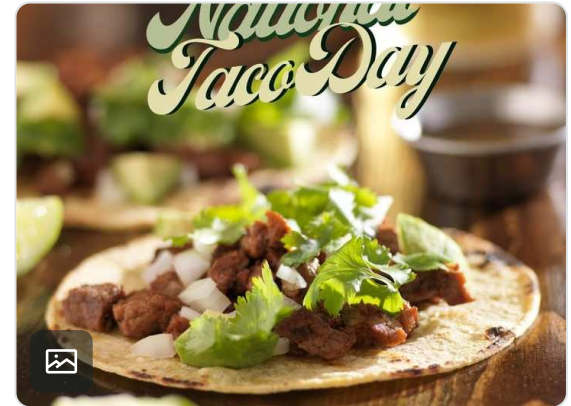
Impressions	<b>162</b>
Potential Reach	<b>4,691</b>
Engagements	<b>9</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>5.6%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Wed 10/4/2023 10:58 am PDT

🌮 Treat yourself to extra guac today because it's #NationalTacoDay, Garden Grove! Celebrate by enjoying delicious...



Impressions	<b>1,189</b>
Reach	<b>1,171</b>
Engagements	<b>33</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>2.8%</b>

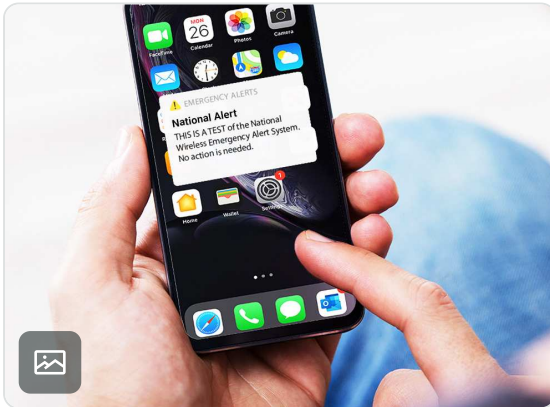




@CityGardenGrove

Tue 10/3/2023 4:36 pm PDT

Tomorrow, October 4, at 11:20 a.m., the @fema will perform a nationwide emergency alert test on cell phones,...



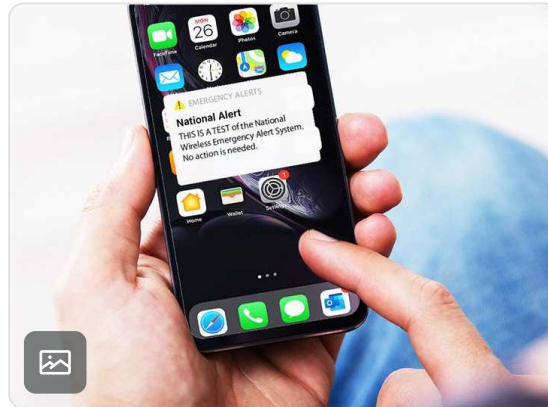
Impressions	338
Potential Reach	5,268
Engagements	7
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.1%



Garden Grove City Hall

Tue 10/3/2023 4:35 pm PDT

Tomorrow, October 4, at 11:20 a.m., the FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency will perform a nationwide...



Impressions	377
Reach	368
Engagements	16
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	4.2%



@CityGardenGrove

Tue 10/3/2023 10:23 am PDT

You're invited to a public hearing to adopt the 2021-2029 Housing Element, which establishes programs, policies & actions ...



Impressions	140
Potential Reach	4,692
Engagements	3
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.1%



**gardengrovecityhall**

Tue 10/3/2023 10:17 am PDT

..... You're invited to attend a public hearing to adopt the updated .....  
 ..... You're invited to attend a public hearing to adopt the updated .....



Impressions	423
Reach	373
Engagements	7
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.7%



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Tue 10/3/2023 10:13 am PDT

..... You're invited to attend a public hearing to adopt the updated .....  
 ..... You're invited to attend a public hearing to adopt the updated .....

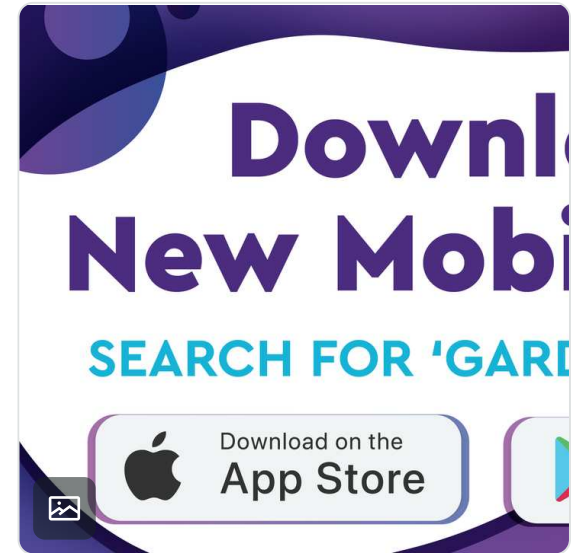


Impressions	262
Reach	261
Engagements	5
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.9%




**Garden Grove City Hall**


Mon 10/2/2023 7:51 am PDT




Impressions	—
Reach	—
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—

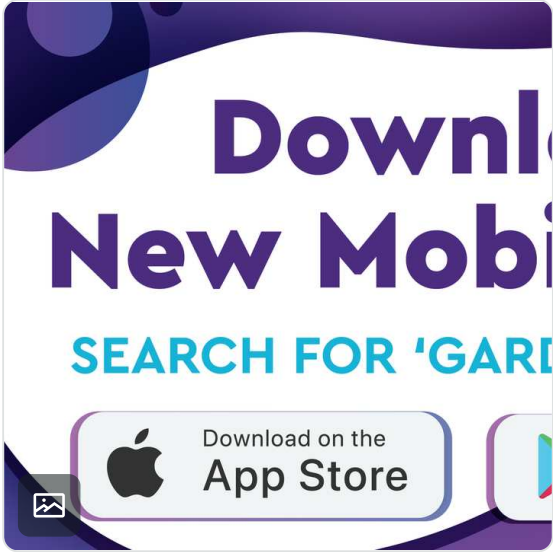
 **Garden Grove City Hall**  
 Mon 10/2/2023 7:48 am PDT

From everyday needs to emergency notifications, the new app is a more dynamic and more user-friendly platform...



Impressions	693
Reach	676
Engagements	8
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.2%

 **Garden Grove City Hall**  
 Mon 10/2/2023 7:48 am PDT



Impressions	—
Reach	—
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—

 **@CityGardenGrove**  
 Fri 9/29/2023 4:15 pm PDT

🚧 On 10/1, from 3PM - 9PM, Historic Main Street will be closed for the 🌕 Mooncake Festival. During this time, parking on...



Impressions	343
Potential Reach	13,938
Engagements	20
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	5.8%





**gardengrovecityhall**

Fri 9/29/2023 4:15 pm PDT

🚧 On Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Historic Main Street will be closed for the 🎃 Mooncake Festival...



Impressions	<b>3,781</b>
Reach	<b>3,386</b>
Engagements	<b>262</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>6.9%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Fri 9/29/2023 4:15 pm PDT

🚧 On Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Historic Main Street will be closed for the 🎃 Mooncake Festival...



Impressions	<b>2,164</b>
Reach	<b>2,093</b>
Engagements	<b>82</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.8%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Fri 9/29/2023 12:56 pm PDT

Oh my gourd 🎃, Jack O' Lantern Jamboree is coming up on Saturday, October 28, 2023! 🕒 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 📍 Atlan...



Impressions	<b>3,174</b>
Reach	<b>2,237</b>
Engagements	<b>149</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>4.7%</b>



[@CityGardenGrove](#)

Fri 9/29/2023 12:56 pm PDT

Oh my gourd 🎃, Jack O' Lantern Jamboree is coming up on Saturday, October 28, 2023! 🕒 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 📍 Atlan...



Impressions	208
Potential Reach	4,687
Engagements	2
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1%



[@CityGardenGrove](#)

Fri 9/29/2023 12:56 pm PDT

Tickets must be purchased in advance and go on sale Monday, October 9 until quantities run out. Tickets 💎 can be...



Impressions	99
Potential Reach	4,687
Engagements	1
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1%



[Garden Grove City Hall](#)

Fri 9/29/2023 12:56 pm PDT

Oh my gourd 🎃, Jack O' Lantern Jamboree is coming up on Saturday, October 28, 2023! 🕒 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 📍 Atlan...



Impressions	24,917
Reach	19,225
Engagements	3,678
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	14.8%



@CityGardenGrove

Fri 9/29/2023 7:49 am PDT

Happy ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️! Don't sleep on these DEALS & FREEBIES from multiple coffee shops, including Duck Donuts, at...



Impressions	159
Potential Reach	4,687
Engagements	14
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	8.8%



gardengrovecityhall

Fri 9/29/2023 7:45 am PDT

This good morning is brought to you by coffee. ☕️👉 Don't sleep on these DEALS and FREEBIES from multiple coffee shops...



Impressions	1,034
Reach	1,021
Comments	0
Story Taps Back	6



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 9/29/2023 7:39 am PDT

This good morning is brought to you by coffee. ☕️👉 Happy ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️, Garden Grove! Don't sleep on these DEA...



Impressions	653
Reach	619
Engagements	9
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.4%





@CityGardenGrove

Thu 9/28/2023 5:33 pm PDT

**UPDATE 9/28, 5:30 p.m.**  
 Eastbound Lampson Avenue, from Springdale Street to Lamplighter Street, is now open. Thank you for your patience.



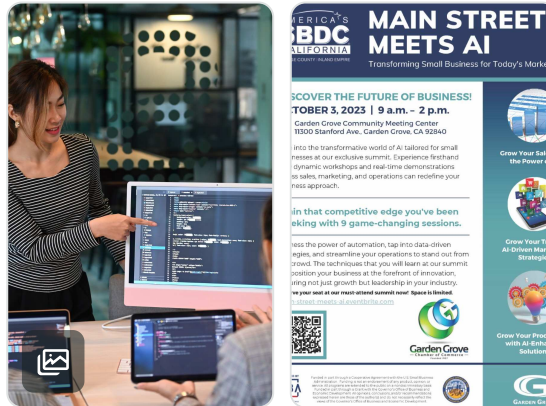
Impressions	95
Potential Reach	4,686
Engagements	4
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	4.2%



gardengrovecityhall

Thu 9/28/2023 4:27 pm PDT

Are you looking for ways to transform your small business through artificial intelligence (AI)? Join the Orange...



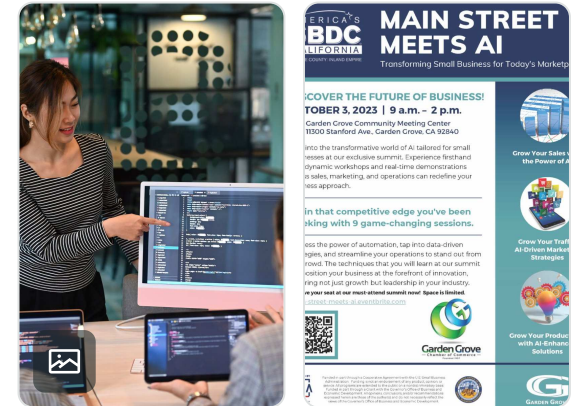
Impressions	828
Reach	592
Engagements	10
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.2%



@CityGardenGrove

Thu 9/28/2023 4:26 pm PDT

Are you looking for ways to transform your small business through artificial intelligence? Join the OC/IE SBDC for a...



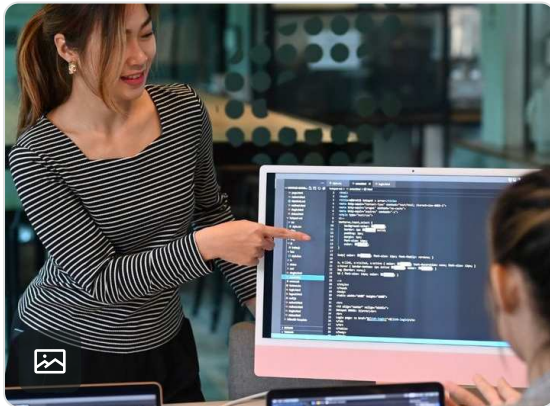
Impressions	206
Potential Reach	5,014
Engagements	9
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	4.4%



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Thu 9/28/2023 4:26 pm PDT

Are you looking for ways to transform your small business through artificial intelligence (AI)? Join the Orange...



Impressions	<b>619</b>
Reach	<b>591</b>
Engagements	<b>8</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>1.3%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Thu 9/28/2023 9:32 am PDT

Tis the season for boutique crafters wanted at this year's **Winter in the Grove!** 🎄👉 Share your craft with...



Impressions	<b>1,523</b>
Reach	<b>1,026</b>
Engagements	<b>47</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.1%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Thu 9/28/2023 9:30 am PDT

Tis the season for boutique crafters wanted at this year's **Winter in the Grove!** 🎄👉 Share your craft with...



Impressions	<b>23,735</b>
Reach	<b>16,979</b>
Engagements	<b>2,767</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>11.7%</b>






# Post Performance

September 28, 2023 - October 4, 2023


Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

**Included in this Report**

 Garden Grove Police Department

 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Wed 10/4/2023 4:32 pm PDT

This morning at 5:15 AM, Manhattan Beach Motorcycle Officer Chad Swanson was involved in a fatal, on duty traffic collision...



Impressions	0
Reach	0
Engagements	35
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—

 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Tue 10/3/2023 1:30 pm PDT

National Coffee with a Cop Day is happening tomorrow, Wednesday, October 4th, from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, at McDonal...




Impressions	2,235
Reach	2,030
Engagements	170
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	7.6%

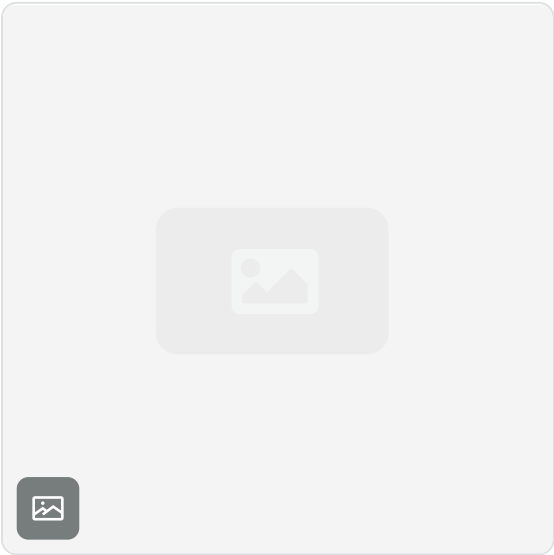
 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Sun 10/1/2023 11:08 am PDT

\*\*\*UPDATE (10/1/23, 1:55 PM): Missing person has been LOCATED and will be reunited with her family. Thank you for...




Impressions	7,653
Reach	7,404
Engagements	718
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	9.4%


 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Sun 10/1/2023 11:08 am PDT




Impressions	—
Reach	—
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—

 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Sat 9/30/2023 12:00 pm PDT


Outreach & Cleanup Recap: this week, #GardenGrovePD's Special Resource Team (SRT) collaborated with Be Well OC,...



Impressions	<b>1,715</b>
Reach	<b>1,599</b>
Engagements	<b>150</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>8.7%</b>

 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Fri 9/29/2023 12:00 pm PDT

Earlier this year, Boy Scout Andrew Lopez chose #GardenGrovePD as the recipient of his Eagle Scout project. Andrew wanted t...



Impressions	<b>3,329</b>
Reach	<b>3,225</b>
Engagements	<b>534</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>16%</b>

**WEEKLY MEMO 10-5-2023**

# **NEWS ARTICLES**





# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT: Sgt. Lino Santana  
Garden Grove Police Department  
(714) 741-5704; [linos@ggcity.org](mailto:linos@ggcity.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Friday, September 29, 2023



## MAIN STREET TO CLOSE FOR COMMUNITY EVENT

On Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Historic Main Street will close for the Mooncake Festival. Parking on Historic Main Street will be restricted during that time. Historic Main Street will be accessible to pedestrians and businesses will remain open.

The Mooncake Festival will take place on Sunday, October 1, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Activities at the event include folk games, lion dancers, a costume contest, a lantern parade, and more.

For more information on the street closure, contact the Garden Grove Police Department at (714) 741-5704.

For more information on the Mooncake Festival event, visit [facebook.com/phuongusa](https://facebook.com/phuongusa).

###



CONTACT:  
Amanda Cross  
Community Services Department  
(714) 741-5168

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



Thursday, September 28, 2023

**CITY HOSTS ANNUAL JACK O' LANTERN JAMBOREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

The community is invited to attend the City of Garden Grove's Halloween-themed community event, Jack O' Lantern Jamboree on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Atlantis Play Center, located in Garden Grove Park, at 13630 Atlantis Way.

Activities include train rides, inflatable obstacle courses, a magic show, balloon twister, a pumpkin patch, carnival games, a reptile booth with educational shows, and more. Costumes are encouraged.

Children, ages 2-10, will have the opportunity to select a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch and decorate it in the craft area. All attendees will have access to event activities and Halloween candy. C&M Ohana will be onsite selling kettle corn, lemonade, shaved ice, and ice cream.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and go on sale Monday, October 9 until quantities run out.

Ticket prices are \$12 per child, ages 2-10; \$3 for individuals, ages 11 and over; and youth, 1 and under, are free.

To purchase tickets, visit [ggcity.org/registro](http://ggcity.org/registro) or visit the Recreation Counter, located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Garden Grove City Hall, at 11222 Acacia Parkway.

For more information, visit [ggcity.org/joj](http://ggcity.org/joj) or call (714) 741-5200.

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# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: Chris Chung (714) 741-5314  
Senior Planner

Monday, October 2, 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

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## **COMMUNITY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON HOUSING STRATEGY**

The community is encouraged to attend a public hearing during the regular meeting of the Garden Grove City Council on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. to adopt the updated 2021-2029 Housing Element. The public hearing will be held at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, located at 11300 Stanford Avenue.

The Housing Element is a community housing strategy which establishes programs, policies, and actions to meet the existing and projected housing needs in Garden Grove. The revised draft of the adopted 2021-2029 Housing Element is available online at [www.ggcity.org/housing-element](http://www.ggcity.org/housing-element).

For more information, visit [www.ggcity.org/housing-element](http://www.ggcity.org/housing-element) or contact the Planning Division at (714) 741-5312.

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CONTACT: Mark Ladney  
Public Works Department  
(714) 741-5372/[markla@ggcity.org](mailto:markla@ggcity.org)

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Tuesday, October 3, 2023

**MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTS INVITED TO UPCOMING  
ORGANICS RECYCLING MEETINGS, RECEIVE FREE KITCHEN PAIL**

The Garden Grove Sanitary District, in collaboration with Republic Services, invites residents living in multi-family properties, such as apartments and condominiums, to attend a presentation on the state-mandated Organics Recycling program focused on residential food waste recycling. Meetings will be held in October and November in various locations throughout the city. Presentations will be available in multi-languages.

The in-person meetings are scheduled for:

- Thursday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m., at the Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center, located at 12661 Sunswept Avenue (English and Spanish);
- Wednesday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m., at the Magnolia Park Family Resource Center, at 11402 Magnolia Street (English and Spanish);
- Wednesday, November 1 at 6:00 p.m., at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, located at 11300 Stanford Avenue (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean); and
- Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m., at the Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center, at 12661 Sunswept Avenue (Vietnamese only).

Attendees will receive a free kitchen pail used to collect food scraps prior to emptying into recycling containers. Kitchen pails are limited to one per household, on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Multi-Family Residents Invited to Organics Recycling Meetings 2-2-2

Topics to be discussed include the state's organic waste recycling law, SB 1383, and the importance of organics recycling; waste collection service changes for multi-family residents; proper separation of organic waste; and steps to mitigate unwanted pests and smells.

Implemented in 2022, the City's Organics Recycling program was created in response to California State Law SB 1383, requiring a reduction of organic waste in landfills to reduce emissions of harmful environmental pollutants, which enables residents and businesses to recycle all food waste and food-soiled paper in an organics bin. SB 1383 requires non-compliant accounts to be fined starting in 2024.

For more information about the Organics Recycling program, visit [ggcity.org/organics-recycling](http://ggcity.org/organics-recycling).

###



## OC TRIBUNE

### A sweet time on Main Street

October 3



A large crowd on Main Street on Sunday for the Mooncake Festival (Philip Ho photo).

More than 700 families gather around Main Street in downtown Garden Grove on Sunday to celebrate the traditional Vietnamese Mooncake Festival event, the first ever in that location.

Around 3 p.m., the sign-in line was starting to form and, by 4 p.m., it stretched all the way around the block of Acacia Parkway. There was a staging area with a backdrop and some chairs and a basic sound system for entertainment. Volunteers and organizers set up tables and chairs, ready to serve the community.

Around 4:30, as participants continued to sign-in, the event lights up with performances from local volunteer groups Hoa Hau Tu Thien and 3 a.m. Working in tandem with each other, the two groups performed a total of five dance performances, alternating each other after each song.

Following the performances, MC Oscar Nguyen gathered the children around for activities. Dozens of children came to the staging area to participate in tug-of-war, potato sack race, and Oscar's notorious bingo game show. Although a children-friendly event, competitiveness was in the air as these activities all had cash prizes.

As the sun set, people tightly packed around the staging area for the much-anticipated Chu Cuoi and Chi Hang costume contest. The contest had 35 children, both boys and girls under the age of 15, dressed up with traditional mooncake-style outfits.

As the children displayed their unique outfits in front of hundreds of people, the judges were grading them on confidence, outfit decoration, and overall appearances. The event had many local dignitaries, as Councilmember Cindy Tran, City Manager Lisa Kim, and Garden Grove's Downtown Business Association President Jennifer Stewart, were judges for the costume contest. Councilmember Joe DoVinh was also present and when asked about the event, DoVinh said "We had a good time; give our best regards to the organizers and sponsors.'

Following the costume contest, the loud sound from banging of the drums started as it was time for the traditional lion dance. The three lion performers captivated the crowd with their flashy ornaments and movements. While the lion dance was stealing the show, organizers and volunteers prepared lanterns to give out to the participants. After the lion dance, Main Street was filled with energetic children playing around with their lanterns and with parents smiling and taking pictures of their children.

Overall, the event was a success, according to Ny's Beauty and Phuc Long Coffee & Tea, organizers of the event. Although only 200-300 families were expected, they were prepared and tried their best to serve everyone in attendance. Although overwhelmed at times, the organizers said they appreciated the help from volunteers from La Quinta High School's Key Club.

With such a good turn out, the Ny's Beauty and Phuc Long Coffee & Tea sent their appreciation to the people that showed up and the City of Garden Grove.

## Signs on planners' agenda

September 28



**ELKS LODGE** is at Newhope and Trask in Garden Grove (Orange County Tribune photo).

Signs are on the agenda for the Thursday, Oct. 5 agenda of the meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission.

A public hearing is set to consider a request for a variance to construct a new standard monument sign with changeable electronic changeable copy at the southwest corner of the Garden Grove Elks Lodge, which located at the northeast corner of Newhope Street and Trask Avenue.

Another public hearing is for a site plan and conditional use permit for the Garden Grove Hyundai dealership located on the southside of Trask Avenue between Brookhurst Street and Magnolia Street.

The applicant is requesting to remove the arched cap feature on the existing freeway dealer electronic readerboard sign and to install a 20-foot tall freeway reader dealer sign.

The commission meets in the Community Meeting Center at 11300 Stanford Ave. at 5 p.m.

## THE OC REGISTER

### **CalOptima's street medicine program seeing success in action Next is a center for people in the program to have a place to stay, thrive**



Richard Vincent leaves a Healthcare in Action medical van in Garden Grove, CA on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. Vincent has been homeless off and on for 8 years. The program is a partnership between CalOptima Health, the city of Garden Grove and Healthcare in Action. (Photo by Paul Bersebach, Orange County Register/SCNG)

During one of the first appointments on a recent day, registered nurse Nicole Coye hopped from the van she drives the streets, tending to folks, and was quickly engulfed in a hug by her next patient, Carrie Firestein.

Firestein, who has been homeless for more than eight years, and her partner Joel Spillman, who has been homeless for more than three years, say the “doctors office on wheels” has been a blessing for them.

“It’s really cool that they do this because getting to our doctor appointments, it would never happen,” Spillman said. “If we were more stable with housing, then it would be easier because we can plan things.”

Organized by CalOptima Health, in partnership with the city of Garden Grove and Healthcare in Action, the street medicine team Coye travels with is there to not just check vitals and that medications are working, its members are also equipped to help with a number of social services. And they are a caring face in a day of harsh realities.

“These guys are a blessing,” Spillman said, “because they don’t just help with medical stuff.”

Dennette Schwab, who has been homeless for 13 years, is on “a hugging basis with most of these people.

“That’s how awesome they are for everybody who needs medical help,” Schwab said. “They check on me all the time. They helped me get my birth certificate. They stop by the park where I hang out, check my blood pressure and make sure I’m in good shape. I’ve grown real close to these guys.”

Getting medical care, Schwab said, would be nearly impossible without this program.

“They actually do pay attention to you when you’re talking to them. They’re very kind. I’ve never seen any of them get upset with anybody,” Schwab said of how important that was in earning her trust. “It makes it really nice to have them here, like a breath of fresh air.”

Schwab laughed looking back at those initial days meeting the team.

“I hadn’t even gone to a doctor. I don’t like to go to the doctor most of the time. These guys are friendly. They’re very outgoing, personable,” Schwab said. “It just took me a little while to get used to everybody. I’d kind of be like, ‘What do you guys really want? Are you guys spies for somebody?’”

And that’s the whole point, bringing care to those most unlikely to access traditional sources.

The traveling medical team includes a physician assistant and a registered nurse, who provide primary care and clinical management, a mental health specialist and peer navigators, who can connect folks with supportive services and community resources.

Twice a week, the street medicine team also stops at the First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove, where church staff open the space for people to shower, have a light meal and get connected to resources.

During this stop, they met with Richard Vincent, who has been homeless on and off for the last eight years.

“I’m an alcoholic. I’m trying to pull my head out of my derriere,” Vincent said. “These people will give you a hand up.”

And he said he’s ready to take it. “Next month, I’m going to detox, for 10 days. I’m done. I’m 63 and I’m tired of living out here on the streets. It’s like living in a foreign country.”

Other patients that day were a couple who are heavy fentanyl users. The woman, who asked not to be interviewed, made the decision that day to go to a rehabilitation center, a promising step toward getting her off the street, the team said. A peer navigator and mental health specialist dropped everything they were doing to stay behind with her and ensure she got to her next destination.

When it launched, CalOptima gave Healthcare in Action – it's part of the SCAN Group and provides health care and other services to unhoused individuals – a goal of signing up 200 patients in 18 months.

After just five months on the road, the street medical team has enrolled nearly 100 participants who are receiving services such as health care, behavioral health support, substance use treatment and case management, including help with replacing birth certificates and identifications, all necessary to access many services.

Its success can be traced to the team's ability to earn the trust of its patients. It's as simple, they said, as treating everyone with kindness and without judgement.

The street team also can help connect people with housing resources, though Scott Blaisdell, a mental health specialist for the team, said, "In Orange County, there seems to be a lot more people who need housing than there is housing."

Now, CalOptima wants to expand the program to address this issue as well.

CalOptima plans to open a 52-room Street Medicine Support Center in Garden Grove to house individuals, mainly older adults, who qualify and are referred by the street medicine clinical team.

"We have learned that our Street Medicine Support Center is more needed than we ever thought," said Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima's executive director of Medi-Cal/CalAIM. CalOptima is the provider of publicly funded health coverage in Orange County and, with support from the state, is investing more into addressing housing needs with its healthcare support services.

"The folks that we're seeing are not choosing to be unhoused. They're choosing not to necessarily utilize the services that are there because they don't meet their needs," Bruno-Nelson said. "And so it has reinforced why creating the Street Medicine Support Center is an important piece of this model. We can only help individuals be so healthy unless we can ultimately house them."

The support center, Bruno-Nelson said, is for people who need a "low barrier" place to go that they trust and can get services that are specific to their needs.

Once completed, the center will include 52 private rooms with a kitchenette and bathroom, shared laundry facilities, staff administrative offices and outdoor open space. Members using the facility will receive three meals a day and benefit from 24/7 on-site security. The center is set to open in spring 2025.

"What will happen is folks that are in the street medicine program that are ready for that next step will be able to stay there," Bruno-Nelson said. "Healthcare in Action will be able to do an assessment and figure out who's ready for that next step.

"Some people are, some people aren't, but it will be available to them when they are ready," she said. "If we don't have that place to go, then we lose that opportunity and the person may end up right back where they were before and not be ready again.

"You can't expect folks to navigate out of being unhoused if there's no place to navigate to," she added.



Bruno-Nelson said CalOptima Health will also be looking for two more cities that want to bring the traveling medicine services to their streets. She said what made the Garden Grove program great was that the city was an active participant in designing it.

“We didn’t just come and throw our program in. We designed something reflective of the needs of Garden Grove. The city sat with us for six months prior and designed that with us. We’re looking for that same level of partnership,” Bruno-Nelson said. “Every city is different. Every city has different resources.

“It has a different number of unhoused, different shelter systems. So we have to design with the city and make sure that our program is reflective of that,” she said. “We’re looking for a city or two that are willing to partner, design and collaborate with us along the entire way.”

Bruno-Nelson said the street medicine program is about building rapport first and care second and that is where success is seen.

“I’ve had people say to me, ‘Why are you investing money in this? They’re just going to destroy it.’ No, they’re not, because I show them immediately the level of respect that I have for them as a human,” she said. “I show them that they’re worthy of sheets that match the pillowcases. Walls that don’t have big cracks in them, that are painted with an accent wall.

“I show them they’re worthy of that, and then they will show me that same worthiness. That’s how life works,” she said. “But also the exact opposite happens when you treat people poorly. So I’m not worried about our \$20 million investment at all, because I know that the folks that we’re going to serve there are going to be respectful and they’re going to be gracious and kind and they’re going to move on and be housed. I have no doubt.”

## **Rước Đèn Trung Thu tượng bưng trên đường Main ở Garden Grove**

October 4

**GARDEN GROVE, California (NV)** – Đông đảo thiếu nhi cùng gia đình đến dự “Rước Đèn Trung Thu” do Coffee Phúc Long, Ny Beauty USA, Công Ty Gạo Miền Tây và Cali Foodies Wholesales đồng tổ chức vào chiều Chủ Nhật, 1 Tháng Mười, trên đường Main St., thành phố Garden Grove, nơi từng tổ chức Phố Hoa vào dịp Tết Quý Mão 2023.



Theo ban tổ chức, có khoảng 1,500 bánh Trung Thu cùng nhiều loại bánh khác, và 1,500 lồng đèn để phát miễn phí cho các thiếu nhi đến dự. Coffee Phúc Long cũng tài trợ cho 300 phần gồm cà phê, nước giải khát đủ loại, và 300 bánh mì thịt đủ loại cho các thiếu nhi và đồng hương đến tham dự sớm.

Cô Huyền Ny, đại diện ban tổ chức, cho hay: “Đây là lần đầu tiên ban tổ chức thực hiện chương trình Tết Trung Thu tại khu Phố Hoa trên đường Main St., thành phố Garden Grove. Mục đích của ban tổ chức là muốn duy trì truyền thống của dân tộc Việt Nam tại Hoa Kỳ. Hằng năm, Lễ Hội Trung Thu hay còn được gọi là Tết Thiếu Nhi, đó là một trong những lễ hội của dân tộc Việt không thể thiếu được.”

“Chúng tôi rất hạnh diện khi thấy đông đảo thiếu nhi và phụ huynh đến dự hôm nay. Sự thành công này không phải riêng về ban tổ chức, mà còn do tinh thần đoàn kết của đồng hương đã đưa con cháu của mình đến ủng hộ chương trình này. Và chúng tôi cũng có lời cảm

ơn tất cả những mạnh thường quân đã nhiệt tình hỗ trợ cho ban tổ chức được thành công tốt đẹp trong việc duy trì truyền thống và văn hóa Việt trên xứ người.”

Ca sĩ Oscar trong vai trò MC, nói: “Tất cả những trò chơi và thi trang phục đẹp dành cho thiếu nhi đều có trúng thưởng. Đặc biệt là có chương trình ca hát trong tiết mục chơi Lô Tô cho tất cả mọi người. Trong tinh thần tạo niềm vui cho các thiếu nhi trong Lễ Hội Trung Thu, ban tổ chức không đặt một tư lợi nào cả. Vì chúng ta rời xa quê hương, nhưng vẫn còn nhớ về nguồn cội của mình, mà thiếu nhi là những mầm non cần được sự hỗ trợ rất nhiều về mặt tinh thần và cuộc sống hồn nhiên của tuổi thơ trong gia đình và xã hội.”

Anh Phúc Hồ, đại diện Coffee Phúc Long, nói: “Chúng tôi đã chuẩn bị 300 ly cà phê, nước giải khát, và sinh tố cho bà con và các thiếu nhi đến nhận miễn phí. Ngoài ra, chúng tôi cũng chuẩn bị trên 300 bánh mì thịt đủ loại cho những ai đến sớm, cũng hoàn toàn miễn phí. Người Việt dù đi đến đâu, sống tại quốc gia nào cũng không quên nguồn cội của mình, và thiếu nhi là những thành phần sẽ thay thế chúng ta để bảo tồn văn hóa Việt. Tết Trung Thu là một trong những văn hóa đó rất cần sự duy trì của cộng đồng người Việt tha hương.”

Cô Ngân Nguyễn, đại diện Công Ty Gạo Miền Tây, cũng có lời chia sẻ: “Chương trình Tết Trung Thu hằng năm thì Công Ty Gạo Miền Tây đều có ủng hộ. Nguồn gốc của Gạo Miền Tây là Gạo Sóc Trăng được nhập vào Hoa Kỳ đầu tiên. Nhưng sau đó, có nhiều cơ sở thương mại khác đã lấy danh hiệu Gạo Sóc Trăng để phát mãi cho đồng hương tại hải ngoại. Vì thế, từ đầu năm 2023, công ty của chúng tôi mới đổi danh hiệu là Gạo Miền Tây, để bà con không còn nhầm lẫn với nhiều loại gạo Sóc Trăng khác. Mục đích của Gạo Miền Tây là để cho đồng hương của mình được mua gạo ngon chính gốc và rẻ. Vì thế, để cảm ơn đồng hương đã ủng hộ Gạo Miền Tây nhiệt tình, nên hằng năm chúng tôi đều có tổ chức những việc làm từ thiện cũng như trợ giúp cho những ban tổ chức về các lễ hội truyền thống của Việt Nam tại Little Saigon.”

Ông Minh Nguyễn, đại diện Công Ty Cali Foodies Wholesales, nói: “Chúng tôi đã chuẩn bị trên 3,000 phần quà tặng, gồm có bánh Trung Thu và những loại bánh ngọt khác để hỗ trợ cho chương trình này. Đặc biệt trong Lễ Hội Trung Thu này, tất cả những thiếu nhi đến dự sẽ được ít nhất một bánh Trung Thu và nhiều loại bánh khác, kể cả các phụ huynh cũng được công ty này tặng cho ba phần bánh khác do họ tự chọn.”

Ông Joe Đỗ Vinh, nghị viên Garden Grove (Địa Hạt 4), cho hay: “Thành phố đã cho đóng đường Main St. từ sớm để cho đồng hương hưởng một đêm Trung Thu thật đúng nghĩa với phong tục tập quán của dân tộc Việt. Tôi rất cảm ơn ban tổ chức đã có nhã ý tổ chức Lễ Hội Trung Thu năm nay tại đường Main St., thuộc Địa Hạt 4 của Garden Grove, cũng là nơi tôi đang làm việc. Tôi rất cảm ơn đồng hương mình đã đưa con cháu thiếu nhi đến chung vui trong lễ hội truyền thống của dân tộc tại thành phố Garden Grove. Đồng thời tôi cũng cảm ơn Hội Đồng Thành Phố cũng như thị trưởng Garden Grove đã tạo điều kiện về an ninh cũng như giấy phép cho ban tổ chức và đồng hương đến dự Tết Trung Thu 2023 tại thành phố này.”

rong số đồng hương đến dự, anh chị Đức Lê, cư dân Westminster, đưa hai đứa con gái đi

chơi Trung Thu nói: “Tuy con tôi còn nhỏ (8 và 9 tuổi), nhưng chúng tôi đã tập cho con làm quen với những lễ hội của Việt Nam để con không quên nguồn cội mình là người Việt Nam.”

Chương trình “Rước Đèn Trung Thu” diễn ra tương xứng với các hoạt động: phát lồng đèn và bánh Trung Thu cho các thiếu nhi; thiếu nhi thi trang phục đẹp của Hằng Nga và Chú Cuội; những trò chơi có thưởng dành cho thiếu nhi, như nhảy bao bố, kéo co... Ngoài ra còn có chương trình ca nhạc, do Nhóm Hoa Hậu Từ Thiện; nhóm ca múa “Ba Âm” thực hiện và các thiếu nhi diễn hành Rước Đèn Trung Thu cùng đoàn lân Nghĩa Đường. [qd]

## [VIET-BAO ONLINE NEWS](#)

### **TP Garden Grove giới thiệu ứng dụng di động mới**

October 5



Nhằm kết nối với người dân và doanh nghiệp địa phương tốt hơn với các dịch vụ, tin tức và thông tin từ Thành phố, Garden Grove đã ra mắt phiên bản mới của ứng dụng di động (mobile app), hiện có sẵn để tải xuống trên thiết bị iOS và Android. Tìm ứng dụng mới trên 'Apple Store' hoặc 'Google Play' bằng cách tìm kiếm từ khóa 'Garden Grove.'

Tất cả các lượt tải xuống mới được thực hiện cho đến ngày 31 tháng 10, 2023, ba người dùng sẽ được chọn ngẫu nhiên để nhận thẻ quà tặng (gift card) Costco trị giá \$100 USD. Để tham gia chương trình, hay tải xuống và mở ứng dụng lần đầu tiên, cho phép nhận thông báo (notification.) Người thắng giải sẽ được tin nhắn thông báo vào ngày 1 tháng 11, 2023.

Giám đốc Công nghệ Thông tin Anand Rao cho biết: “Từ nhu cầu hàng ngày đến thông báo khẩn cấp, ứng dụng điện thoại mới thiết kế năng động và thân thiện hơn với người dùng, giúp cộng đồng tham gia nhiều hơn trên các thiết bị thông minh.”

Thiết kế mới bảo gồm các tính năng quen thuộc như Báo cáo vấn đề, thanh toán tiền nước, giấy phép xây dựng, danh sách thú nuôi đi lạc, và chương trình mua sắm 'Buy in Garden Grove'. Người

dùng cũng có thể tìm thấy lịch trình quét rác và quét đường cũng như các sự kiện và điểm tham quan địa phương thông dựa trên định vị mới có tên 'My Garden Grove.'

Người dùng có ứng dụng cũ tải trên điện thoại phải xóa ứng dụng này khỏi thiết bị của mình và tải xuống ứng dụng mới trước tháng 12, 2023. Để biết thêm thông tin, xem tại [ggcity.org/mobile-app](http://ggcity.org/mobile-app) hoặc gọi (714) 741-5225.



**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**  
**October 5, 2023**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Notice of cancellation of the October 12, 2023 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator meeting.
3. League of California Cities articles from September 29, 2023 to October 5, 2023.
4. Meet the Mayors of OC 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition publication
5. Garden Grove Historical Society Newsletter October 2023



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 5, 2023 – November 2, 2023

Thursday	October 5	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	October 6		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Saturday	October 7	6:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.	The Casino Night for the John Reynolds Youth Support Canine Foundation The Gem Theatre, 12852 Main St.
Sunday	October 8	10:00 am- 6:00 p.m.	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Elvis Festival, Historic Main Street
Tuesday	October 10	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	October 12	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
		6:00 p.m.	Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission Meeting, CMC
			\$2 Casual Dress Day
Thursday	October 19	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
			Holiday Drive \$2 Casual Dress Day
Friday	October 20		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	October 24	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Wednesday	October 25	11:30 am- 1:00 p.m.	Halloween Luncheon – Vampire’s Ball, CMC, AB Room
Thursday	October 26	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Saturday	October 28	1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Jack O’ Lantern Jamboree, Atlantis Play Center, 13630 Atlantis Way
Thursday	November 2	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC



**GARDEN GROVE**

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**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION  
OF THE  
GARDEN GROVE  
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2023**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: October 5, 2023

DAVID DENT  
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



## Cal Cities joins legal challenge against ‘taxpayer protection’ ballot measure

*Oct 4, 2023*

The League of California Cities last week filed an [amicus letter](#) in support of a legal challenge against the deceptive “[Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act](#)” initiative.

In late September, the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom filed [the emergency petition](#) with the California Supreme Court to remove the initiative from the November 2024 ballot. The petitioners allege it unlawfully revises the state constitution and would cripple essential government functions.

The California Business Roundtable (CBRT) — a group of the state’s wealthiest corporations — is sponsoring the initiative. The ballot measure would expand the definition of what constitutes a tax and raise the voter approval threshold for local taxes. The initiative would also limit certain fees to the least amount necessary to provide the service.

Several other government associations joined Cal Cities in supporting the request for pre-election review of the initiative. The letter highlights the CBRT initiative’s vague provisions, unlawful revisions to the state constitution, and its potential to “disable fiscal planning” by local governments.

“... The proposed measure is already destabilizing government finance,” the letter states. “Substantial questions as to the lawfulness and meaning of the proposed measure arise that, if left unresolved through the November 2024 election, will exacerbate these uncertainties and necessarily reduce government efficiency for months and years after that election.”

The CBRT ballot measure would apply to any tax and certain fees adopted after Jan. 1, 2022. Local governments would have one year to ask voters to reapprove those taxes. The initiative would also impose new requirements for the ballot materials used to submit taxes to voters.

The mayors of some of California's biggest cities also filed a [separate letter](#), urging the Court for a pre-election review of the initiative. They argued it "poses an immediate threat to vital state and local services".

"By granting review now, the Court has the opportunity to prevent Californians from voting on an improper Constitutional revision, and to relieve our communities of the pressure to comply with the Measure before its validity is determined," the group of eight mayors said.

Courts generally hear writ petitions as a matter of discretion. Pre-election ballot measure reviews occur when the validity of an initiative is in serious doubt, and where the matter can be resolved before unnecessary expenditures of time and effort have been placed into a futile election campaign.





## Which of the measures on the Governor's desk should cities watch?

*Oct 4, 2023*

Politicians often like to make big decisions at the last minute and Gov. Gavin Newsom is no exception. But in his defense, he has around 700 bills to sign or veto. And he has [been busy](#). Here are the remaining top bills cities should consider acting on before his constitutional deadline of Oct. 14.

### **Behavioral health care overhaul not yet signed**

Changes to California's behavioral health care system are all but likely. But nothing is certain until the Governor signs it. This includes his signature policy proposal, [SB 326 \(Eggman\)](#), which would modernize the Mental Health Services Act to prioritize investments in housing interventions for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Another measure by Sen. Susan Eggman, [SB 43](#), would update California's 1967 conservatorship law by expanding the definition of "gravely disabled" to include conditions that result in an inability to provide for one's personal safety or necessary medical care. The current law's high threshold makes it difficult to provide treatment for people unable to care for themselves.

Cal Cities supports both measures.

### **Another year, another top-down housing bill**

A bill that would extend a [2017 streamlined permitting law](#) is also awaiting the Governor's action. [SB 423 \(Wiener\)](#) would expand multifamily housing streamlining requirements, bypass the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and allow the state to determine local building requirements.

The bill was sent to the Governor's desk with minor amendments, none of which addressed the League of California Cities' key concern: Doubling down on new, top-down, one-size-fits-all legislation every year will not get California out of its housing crisis. Ongoing funding for cities and strong state-city partnerships are the only way to keep residents off the streets and in their homes.

## Potential progress on ambulance offload times and fentanyl

A lack of affordable housing is just one of the challenges facing the state. According to the Emergency Medical Services Authority, roughly 70,000 Californians wait over an hour to be moved to a hospital bed. This can lead to delays in care, poor pain control, delayed time to receive antibiotics, increased morbidity, and even mortality.

That could change in the coming years if the Governor signs [AB 40 \(Rodriguez\)](#) into law. The bill would establish a statewide standard for ambulance patient offload time and require a protocol to reduce ambulance patient offload time if needed.

The Governor is also considering a measure that would clamp down on illegal fentanyl. [AB 701 \(Villapudua\)](#) would add fentanyl to the list of controlled substances for large-scale dealers. Fentanyl is often disguised as other drugs, a trend that has sparked a dramatic increase in overdose-related deaths. Cal Cities supports both bills.

## Combined impact of labor bills could halt public services

It could be harder for cities to deliver critical services next year. [AB 504 \(Reyes\)](#) would make sympathy striking a human right, allowing nearly any city employee to sympathy strike regardless of their job duties. [AB 1484 \(Zbur\)](#) would require cities to include temporary employees in the same bargaining unit as permanent employees upon request of the union.

The combined impact of these bills could lead to frequent, prolonged strikes that halt public services. During both primary and sympathy strikes, it would be harder for local agencies to utilize temporary employees and backfill positions to maintain essential public services. Temporary employees would be in the same bargaining unit as those on strike and unable to maintain public service during a dispute.

Cal Cities opposes the two measures.

## Polishing up California's plastic laws

Last year's landmark recycling law is set to get minor, but critical tweaks. Time constraints prevented Sen. Ben Allen from adding agreed-upon language to [SB 54 \(Allen\)](#). [AB 1526](#), authored by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, would require plastic producers to schedule and remit funds owed to a local government to cover collection costs.

Another related bill by Sen. Allen, [SB 665](#), would create a working group to develop a framework for evaluating single-use plastic alternatives. This would allow policymakers

to more quickly consider and respond to new packaging types and forms as the state moves to a [circular economy](#). Cal Cities supports both measures.

### **Cycling bill ignores safety risks**

Gov. Gavin Newsom has yet to act on a measure that would remove cities' authority to prohibit cycling on certain sidewalks. Asm. Issac Bryan introduced [AB 825](#) to reduce [unnecessary stops of people of color](#). However, this measure would do so to the detriment of pedestrian safety.

AB 825 ignores [well-documented safety risks](#) associated with shared sidewalks. The bill's author removed a series of safety provisions, including a set speed limit and a requirement that cyclists yield the right of way to pedestrians. Cyclists would not even need to use an auditory signal when passing from the rear, which is when the most [dangerous collisions](#) occur.

Cal Cities opposes AB 825.

### **Brown Act bill makes it to the Governor's desk**

A bill co-sponsored by Cal Cities, [AB 557 \(Hart\)](#), is also awaiting action from the Governor. The bill would eliminate the sunset provisions in [AB 361 \(R. Rivas, 2021\)](#). The Rivas measure allows cities to meet remotely during proclaimed states of emergency under modified Brown Act requirements. The Hart bill would also provide greater flexibility for agencies that meet on a fixed date every month by extending the SB 361 renewal period to 45 days.

### **Web domain bill is a solution in search of a problem**

Does your agency's website have a .gov domain? If not, get prepared to have one by 2029 if this bill becomes law. [AB 1637 \(Irwin\)](#) would require all local agencies to transition their web services to a .gov domain. This would come at a [significant and unnecessary cost](#) to local governments, as well as create confusion for residents. Crucially, it does not add any actual protection against cybersecurity threats.



# Newsom rejects unemployment pay for striking workers

Oct 4, 2023

## ***Gov. Gavin Newsom cites budget concerns in veto message***

Labor unions were arguably some of the [biggest winners](#) of the 2023 legislative session. Building on California's [hot labor summer](#), the unions pushed several longstanding priorities out of the Legislature and onto the Governor's desk. But last week, one closely watched bill hit a roadblock: Gov. Gavin Newsom.

On Saturday, the Governor vetoed [SB 799 \(Portantino\)](#). The bill would have allowed striking workers to draw unemployment benefits after two weeks. The League of California Cities opposed the bill, arguing it would strain local government budgets and the state's unemployment insurance fund.

According to a report from the [U.S. Department of Labor](#), California owes the federal government \$18.6 billion for money borrowed during the COVID-19 pandemic to cover the fund's budget shortfall. [Cal Cities and other local government associations](#) argued SB 799 would further strain the fund and make it harder to provide unemployment insurance during an economic downturn.

It was an argument that resonated with the Governor. He cited the fund's outdated financing structure, its potential insolvency, and the state's sizable loan repayments in his [veto message](#).

"Now is not the time to increase costs or incur this sizable debt," Newsom said.

Two other Cal Cities-opposed labor bills are still sitting on the Governor's desk. [AB 504 \(Reyes\)](#) would make sympathy striking a human right. [AB 1484 \(Zbur\)](#) would require cities to include temporary employees in the same bargaining unit as permanent employees upon request of the union.

Combined, the two bills could lead to more frequent, prolonged strikes that halt critical

public services. During both primary and sympathy strikes, it would be harder for local agencies to utilize temporary employees and backfill positions to maintain essential public services. Temporary employees would be in the same bargaining unit as those on strike and unable to maintain public service during a dispute.

City officials can use these [sample veto request letters](#) to help stop the bills. However, they should act fast: The Governor has only until Oct. 14 to sign or veto any [remaining bills](#).





## Serve on the Coastal Cities Group to drive coastal zone policy

*Oct 4, 2023*

The League of California Cities is [accepting applications](#) through Oct. 30 for a year-long appointment to the Coastal Cities Group Leadership Committee. Composed of the 61 cities within the coastal zone, the Coastal Cities Group collaborates on sea level rise mitigation efforts, land use regulations, and other coastal issues.

The leadership committee consists of one elected official and their respective city manager or staff designee from each of the [six regions within the coastal zone](#). The committee helps facilitate the group's operations and plays a key role in its activities, including building relationships with California Coastal Commissioners and staff. It also serves as a conduit for related information and works closely with Cal Cities' policy committees and Board of Directors.

The Coastal Cities Group chair and vice chair positions are drawn from the leadership committee.

Applicants will be reviewed on the basis of their leadership skills, policy awareness, expertise on coastal issues, and experience within Cal Cities. Applications must be submitted online. [Applications must be submitted online](#).

For more information, please contact Cal Cities Environmental Quality Lobbyist [Melissa Sparks-Kranz](#) or visit the Coastal Cities Group [webpage](#).

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# of Orange County

3rd  
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2023 – 2024





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**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR:** Nancy Lueder  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**  
Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura  
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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our third edition of *Meet the Mayors of Orange County*, which we publish annually in October. The quality of communities are directly related to the quality of the leadership. The brief articles herein are an introduction and the city websites are included in the mastheads. If you missed the previous issues, please visit our website [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com).

Thank you for including this edition among your reading choices. If you would like to receive future issues emailed to you, please sign-up on our website.



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## City of Aliso Viejo

12 Journey Ste. 100, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • 949/425-2500 • [avcity.org](http://avcity.org)

# A Commitment to Service



**Richard Hurt**  
Mayor

The City of Aliso Viejo is a thriving place to live, work, and play in south Orange County. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as Mayor and to continue building upon the strong foundations of our community alongside my fellow Council Members.

I believe that community is strengthened through service, and I am grateful to represent the City on various regional boards and committees. As a longtime community volunteer, I am also humbled by the spirit of volunteerism I see from our residents.

We are a community that gives back, through clean-up days, blood drives, supporting our youth, and more. In 2021, the City of Aliso Viejo held the grand opening of the historic Aliso Viejo Ranch, and we have since donated hundreds of pounds of fresh produce from our working farm to local food programs for those in need.

While the City continues providing a structure of support for our residents, we also strive to foster growth for local businesses. One of the biggest projects currently taking place is the remodeling of The Commons shopping center, a major focal point in our community. With this project and others throughout Aliso Viejo, we have seen several new businesses locate their operations here as we live up to our reputation as a business-friendly city.

I'm excited to see what the bright future holds for Aliso Viejo, and I'm proud to continue my service and commitment to the City. On behalf of the City Council, I welcome you to visit Aliso Viejo and see everything we have to offer.

## City of Anaheim

200 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92805 • 714/765-4311 • [anaheim.net](http://anaheim.net)

# We Are Anaheim



**Ashleigh Aitken**  
Mayor

It's a new day in Anaheim, and I'm proud to play a leading role as the city's first female mayor in Anaheim's rich 165-year history.

Since joining the City Council in December, I've remained committed to restoring confidence in our city while leading the effort for commonsense government reforms that enhance transparency.

While there's much work ahead, our residents, neighborhoods and businesses remain our top priority.

I'm committed to ensuring residents have access to the services they need and deserve.

One of my first initiatives as mayor was to expand hours and days at Anaheim's libraries. Earlier this year, we increased daily access to libraries in the east, central and west parts of our city. Families can now visit a library in our city any day of the week, no matter where they live.

We've also expanded our partnership with schools to bring afterschool community use of fields at Trident Education Center, South Junior High School and Sycamore Junior High School. The fields at all three schools are set to be used for youth sports, while Sycamore Junior High also will be used as general park space.

We're also hiring more firefighters and police to keep our community safe and to further reduce response times when our residents and businesses need us. We're able to do this thanks to a record economic recovery driven by the 25 million yearly visitors making their return to Anaheim's theme parks, convention center and other attractions.

For the 12 months through June, Anaheim saw a record \$184 million in visitor hotel revenue. It's visitor spending like this that's allowing us to focus our daily efforts on police, fire, parks, community centers, affordable housing and homeless outreach.

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## City of Brea

1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7600 • [cityofbrea.net](http://cityofbrea.net)

# Brea Offers Something for Everyone



**Marty Simonoff**  
Mayor

Whether you live, work, or visit the City of Brea, we gladly welcome you! I'm Marty Simonoff, proudly serving as Brea's Mayor this year. Brea's long been recognized for its vision and innovation. We pride ourselves in offering various programs, services, destination shopping, dining, art, and plenty of places to have fun.

There are a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment venues in Brea to please all. Soon, a large-scale project will begin construction to complement our vast options. The Brea Mall's redevelopment project was approved this year by the City Council. It is a mixed-use project encompassing the

Southwest Mall property. It includes demolishing the vacant Sears building and constructing an outdoor retail court with gathering spaces, a new fitness center, and a 380-unit apartment building.

If you enjoy the outdoors, Brea has 22 parks and recreational facilities. These include a renovated Skate Park, Sports Park, a historic swimming facility, municipal golf courses, and The Tracks at Brea Trail. Brea also offers art and cultural amenities. Proud of our reputation as one of North Orange County's premiere cultural venues, Brea hosts live performing arts at the Curtis Theatre, a 190-piece Arts in Public Places outdoor sculpture collection, and an Art Gallery.

Brea strives to provide the best experiences for all who visit, work, and live here. Learn more about the community, what we've accomplished, and what's to come by watching this year's State of the City. It was presented virtually, offering everyone the opportunity to learn about Brea. I invite you to visit [cityofbrea.net](http://cityofbrea.net) to view it and find more city-related information.

## City of Costa Mesa

77 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/754-5000 • [costamesaca.gov](http://costamesaca.gov)

# Stronger Every Day



**John Stephens**  
Mayor

The beginning of this school year coincided with my State of the City address, the theme of which was, "Stronger Every Day." Like the students and teachers who serve them, the City is faced with challenges each year, but we press forward each day.

To address housing challenges, the City provided \$1 million to 275 at-risk families for rental assistance and, in many cases, prevent eviction. Further, the City granted \$975,000 to Families Forward for the Bungalows housing project to provide housing to eight families. We've developed a partnership with California Legal Aid to advise residents facing eviction.

To address public safety, our Police Department underwent a culture change. Our officers are guided by the core values of Empathy, Professionalism, Courage and Integrity and the motto, "Honored to Serve." We also partnered with the School District to add a third School Resource Officer on high school campuses.

We opened Luke Davis Field as park space and through our partnership with Newport-Mesa, we are opening other school sites to create more green space.

We hired an outstanding operator of the Costa Mesa Tennis Center, who is introducing tennis to children on the Westside through Save Our Youth.

We completed over \$2.5 million in improvements to Jack Hammet Sports Complex for youth sports.

The Orange County Museum of Art is completing its first year of operation with over 100,000 taking advantage of free admission. It has become a key addition to the City of the Arts.

I'm proud to be the mayor of a great city that is truly stronger every day!

## City of Buena Park

6650 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90622 • 714/562-3500 • [buenapark.com](http://buenapark.com)

# Proudly Serving the Community



**Arthur C. Brown**  
Mayor

Art Brown was first elected to office in 1990 and is Buena Park's most senior member of the City Council. Art has served as Mayor in 1993, 1997, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2015, and 2019. This year, Art is serving his eighth term as Mayor.

Mayor Brown was raised locally and attended schools in Long Beach. Art served our country in the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, and received an Honorable Discharge as Gunnery Sergeant. Art served as a police officer for 26 years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Upon retirement, Mayor Brown began his career as an elected official by serving on the Savanna Elementary School District School Board.

Throughout the past thirty years, Art has recognized that being an effective Council Member goes beyond attending Council Meetings. Art has dedicated himself to promoting Buena Park's interest at the regional level serving as:

- Former Chairman of the Board of the Orange County Transportation Authority
- Former Chairman of the Board for Metrolink Rail
- Former Chairman Orange County Council of Governments
- Former Vice Chairman I-5 Joint Powers Authority
- Director of Southern California Association of Governments
- Director of the OC Waste Management Commission
- Commissioner of the California Peace Officers Memorial

Currently, Art was elected to serve as the President of Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Art has a true passion for public service. In addition to his previous service, Art is currently serving as a member of the Buena Park Historical Society, the Buena Park Noon Lions Club, and a member of the Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas.

## City of Cypress

5275 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/229-6700 • [cypressca.org](http://cypressca.org)

# Cypress is Calling



**Anne Hertz-Mallari**  
Mayor

I am incredibly proud to serve as the 2023 Mayor of the City of Cypress, a city with a small-town feel and big-city amenities. Cypress' door is open to everyone. From serving seniors who have lived here for a lifetime and young families building a future to nurturing a business-friendly environment, we work diligently to deliver on a promise of progress.

With growth as our guide, 2023 marked the beginning of many new initiatives and the continuation of others that bring improved services and opportunities to our City. Our ongoing investment in developing first-class facilities and delivering efficient municipal services is a source of pride. This year marked the start of our Reimagine Arnold Cypress Park initiative to bring the City's longest-standing community park into the 21st century. The project will feature state-of-the-art sports facilities, upgraded equipment, and recreation spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Our investments don't stop there, as Cypress continues to be a leader in economic development. Our continued efforts to attract businesses were rewarded this past year with the opening of The Square, a development that has become a center of activity and economic revitalization. We have also invested in our existing business community, launching a new business-to-business gift card program and waiving fees to support their ongoing work.

Thanks to these efforts and many other initiatives led by City leadership and our exceptional staff, Cypress is a city that residents, businesses, and visitors can call "home." I am honored to have answered the call to be Mayor of this great City and invite everyone to visit Cypress!



## City of Dana Point

33282 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, CA 92629 • 949/248-3500 • [danapoint.org](http://danapoint.org)

### Focused on Planning for Prosperity



**Mike Frost**  
Mayor

As Mayor of Dana Point, a priority for me and our council is to continue Dana Point's reputation as a vibrant, world-class city. This year, we are focused on planning for prosperity.

When you look across Dana Point, you can see the exciting changes taking place, whether it is new housing and retail in the Lantern District, investment for redeveloping the harbor, and the Doheny Village plan recently approved by the Coastal Commission. When we plan, we bring about the changes that matter to our residents, businesses, and visitors, today and for the long term.

While we face some of the issues that other communities in California face, Dana Point is a safe, well maintained, and a compassionate, connected community. I am proud that in our annual community survey, Dana Point residents are satisfied with the services the City provides and feel Dana Point's staff and City Council listen and are responsive to residents. This is a good foundation, but we have more to do. We are wrapping up a general plan update to guide our land use planning decisions over the next 20 years as a blueprint for the future. Another priority for me includes a municipal code and building code review as these are vitally important to ensuring business is done in a simple, efficient, and purposeful way.

I look forward to working with our council, commissions, non-profits, and committees as we all strive to ensure Dana Point remains the best place to live, work and visit.

## City of Fountain Valley

10200 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/593-4400 • [fountainvalley.org](http://fountainvalley.org)

### Proudly Serving Our "Nice Place to Live"



**Kim Constantine**  
Mayor

It has been my absolute honor and privilege to serve as Mayor of Fountain Valley – also known as “A Nice Place to Live” to nearly 56,000 residents. I remained active and engaged overseeing many pivotal and exciting milestones. This year, our City Council approved and received significant grant funding for Fountain Valley's first ever Universally Accessible Playground (UAP) in our Fountain Valley Sports Park. The City partnered with the Cities of Garden Grove and Westminster on a Navigation Center that will be a referral-based temporary shelter available to all 3 communities' unhoused population.

Both the Navigation Center and UAP will be operational in Spring. The I-405 Improvement Project is nearing its completion. Our 7 City bridges are now reconfigured to their fullest potential and have reopened.

Not only is FV a Nice Place to Live, but also to work & play. The City continues to welcome new businesses and strives to be a food destination in Orange County. This year, we welcomed MOI Cuisines, Urban Plates, and look forward to welcoming the first two Dutch Bros. Coffee locations in Orange County! Our anxiously awaited community events, to include the Crawfish and Lobster Festivals and the annual Summerfest were well-attended.

As I wrap up my Mayoral term, I reflect on the great accomplishments we achieved. Our City Council and City staff look forward to discovering new and innovative ways to deliver high quality services to our community so our residents, businesses and visitors may thrive and “Live their Best Life.”

## City of Fullerton

303 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/738-6300 • [cityoffullerton.com](http://cityoffullerton.com)

### The City of Opportunities



**Fred Jung**  
Mayor

Nearly 120 years ago, in 1904, Charles Chapman was the City of Fullerton's first Mayor. I am the city's 53rd.

We live in a time of extraordinary change. Advancements in technology have reshaped the way we live and the way we work. Whether we like it or not, the pace of this change, and the opportunities afforded to us, will only accelerate.

Fullerton has been through big changes before and there were those who told us back then to fear the future and slam the brakes on progress. Each time, we overcame those fears and acted anew. The cynics, the pessimists, and those who do not wish us well that have plagued our city will find no safe harbor in Fullerton's bright future.

By expanding into the global marketplace and encouraging global investment in the City of Fullerton, we have a unique opportunity to increase sales tax revenue, to market real estate purchases in our city and expand our property tax revenue, and to seek global development partners to modernize sections of our city - long ignored and underappreciated.

Working diligently to change the culture of city hall and our residents who have lived here for many decades, we are relentlessly promoting and marketing the absolute real amenities the City of Fullerton has to offer.

Everywhere you look — there is work to be done.

We have begun the journey to remake Fullerton. With hope and virtue, I trust those who share our promise join me.

Let's have our eyes fixed on the horizon and be brave enough to do the hard, difficult things.

We as Americans were built on that spirit.

And Fullerton was built on that promise.

## City of Garden Grove

11222 Acacia Pkwy., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/741-5000 • [ggcity.org](http://ggcity.org)

### The World Comes to Garden Grove



**Steve Jones**  
Mayor

To say Garden Grove is an international city is an understatement. From our diverse neighborhoods and places of worship, to our vibrant food culture and traditional celebrations, Garden Grove is a tapestry of international people, places, and events. It's also home to well-known cultural hubs such as Little Saigon and OC Koreatown.

For the last 34 years, the city has maintained an active and friendly relationship with its sister city of Anyang, Republic of Korea. Anyang is a modern city, located about 13 miles south of Seoul with a population of around 600,000.

In 1991, the Sister City Association of Garden Grove was formed to coordinate a student exchange program with Anyang. Each January, the association welcomes high school students from Anyang for a one-week stay to visit local sites, experience American culture, and live with host families. During the spring break, the association sponsors Garden Grove Unified School District high school students to travel to Anyang and arrange their stays with Korean host families.

In 2019, to mark our 30th anniversary as sister cities, a delegation from Anyang visited Garden Grove to ceremoniously reaffirm our sister city relationship.

Recently, by invitation of the City of Anyang, a small City of Garden Grove delegation visited Anyang to commemorate their 50th anniversary of cityhood and meet with travel and trade representatives to promote tourism.

Garden Grove's ability to thrive in peace and harmony relies on our genuine appreciation, understanding, and welcoming of global societies and their many valued contributions to our community.

## City of Huntington Beach

155 Fifth St., Ste. 111, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/969-3492 • [surfcityusa.com](http://surfcityusa.com)

### Proudly Serving Surf City



**Tony Strickland**  
Mayor

I'm Mayor Tony Strickland and I'm proud to serve you as Surf City's Mayor. As a former State Assemblyman and State Senator, I can tell you by far, being Huntington Beach's Mayor serves as a highlight in my life.

I absolutely love Surf City! From our nearly 10 miles of uninterrupted, world-class beaches, to our picturesque pier, the prestigious Bolsa Chica wetlands, to our wonderful equestrian center – there is truly something for everyone here in HB. Residents and visitors alike appreciate our perfect weather, ocean breezes, and killer sunsets.

Beginning in 2024, I look forward to serving our community for the next three years as a Council Member, as my Mayoral term expires in early December. I look forward to passing the baton to Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark and I am confident she will do a fantastic job serving as the Mayor Huntington Beach in 2024.

Surf City has something for everyone to enjoy year-round! I hope you had a chance to see the Pacific Airshow! The holidays are fast approaching, so check out our website at [SurfCityBreak.com](http://SurfCityBreak.com) for the latest news and event happenings!

I look forward to collaborating more with residents, our business community and my colleagues on the City Council to enhance services and further define our priorities for the future.

## City of Irvine

1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA 92606 • 949/724-6000 • [cityofirvine.org](http://cityofirvine.org)

### We are One Irvine



**Farran N. Khan**  
Mayor

The City of Irvine is home to over 300,000 residents and we pride ourselves on being One Irvine – where we exist to serve our community in the continual pursuit of a City that offers an exceptional quality of life. As the second largest City in Orange County and growing, we are extremely grateful for our ranking as one of America's safest cities for the 17th consecutive year, according to FBI data. Our unique master-planned community continues to grow in residential and business sectors, while maintaining a commitment to our core values of empathy, humility, passion, innovation, and integrity.

May 2023 marked the beginning of the next phase of development at the Great Park in Irvine. A project area spanning nearly 1,300 acres, with more than 500-acres open today and 300-acres in the next phase of development, the Great Park is a park for all. The plan's initial phase brings an exciting array of amenities, including a world-class outdoor amphitheater, new cultural attractions, and expansive space dedicated to unprogrammed passive enjoyment and will deliver an expanding array of new opportunities to secure the park's place among the world's greatest metropolitan parks.

The City of Irvine is a unique and unparalleled city full of diversity and inclusivity. From award winning schools and open space to trailblazing sustainability goals – including reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 – Irvine is destined to thrive and prosper through its innovative approaches and commitment to community.

## City of La Habra

110 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/383-4000 • [lahabracity.com](http://lahabracity.com)

### A Caring Community



**James Gomez**  
Mayor

Proud to be known as “A Caring Community,” La Habra and it's 63,000 residents have a long history of public service and community events. Local service organizations, such as the La Habra Host Lions Club and the La Habra Collaborative, host public events throughout the year, raising funds to support programs that assist seniors, children, and families in need.

No matter the season, there is always something to do in La Habra. For example, the La Habra Citrus Fair in the spring and the La Habra Corn Festival in the fall each attract thousands of people to the City's downtown, both offering a family friendly and fun selection of carnival entertainment, dining and shopping choices. The City's “Fourth of July Spectacular” is the highlight of the summer season and provides La Habrans and visitors an opportunity to celebrate our nation's history and shared ideals. And certainly, no holiday season would be complete without the La Habra Tamale Festival, a celebration of family and friendship, and of course, delicious tamales! Not a week goes by without at least one event in La Habra meant to encourage a greater sense of community, whether it be a free concert or “movie in the park,” a youth sporting event, or an event planned by a local non-profit organization.

Visit La Habra today and experience for yourself all that this wonderful community has to offer.

Mayor James Gomez was first elected to the City Council in November 2002 and is currently serving his fifth appointment as Mayor. As a life long resident of La Habra, Mayor Gomez is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the community. He is a dedicated volunteer and an advocate for La Habra's local business community. Through his actions, Mayor Gomez demonstrates the meaning of La Habra's motto, “A Caring Community.”

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[cityofirvine.org/jobs](http://cityofirvine.org/jobs)

**TOP WORK PLACES 2021-2022**

**CITY OF IRVINE REGISTER**



## City of La Palma

7822 Walker St. La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/690-3300 • [cityoflapalma.org](http://cityoflapalma.org)

# Creating Unity In Community



**Debbie S. Baker**  
Mayor

Debbie S. Baker has been a resident of La Palma since 1974, attending elementary, junior high, and high school in the City.

In 2016, she was appointed to the City's Development and Circulation Committee (DCC) and later assumed the role of Chair in 2020. Additionally, she actively contributes to the community as a Block Captain for Neighborhood Watch.

Following her election to the City Council in 2020, Debbie Baker assumed the esteemed position of Mayor in 2023. In addition to her mayoral responsibilities, she holds crucial roles on various State and County committees and boards, including Cal Cities' Community Services Policy Committee, Orange County Library

Advisory Board, the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees and the Operations Committee, and an alternate representative for the Orange County Sanitation District Board. Additionally, Debbie serves as an alternate representative for the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, Co-Chairs the La Palma's Business Engagement Ad Hoc Committee, serves as the Council liaison on the La Palma Community Foundation, and is an active member of the Community Emergency Response Team.

Debbie takes great pride in enriching the lives of La Palma's residents by organizing and facilitating various public events, programs, and activities. In 2023, Debbie was a recipient of the Woman of Distinction Award from California State Senator Janet Nguyen. Her dedication lies in fostering a strong and vibrant sense of community within La Palma, ensuring its continuous expansion and growth.

La Palma, a 1.9 square mile general law City located in northwest Orange County, has earned the distinction of being ranked four times by Money Magazine as one of America's Best Places to Live. The City takes great pride in its responsive municipal government and fosters a strong sense of community among its residents.

## City of Laguna Hills

24035 El Toro Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/707-2600 • [www.lagunahillscga.gov](http://www.lagunahillscga.gov)

# One Town, One Team



**Janine Heft**  
Mayor

Laguna Hills has a long and rich history. Dating back to the late 1800's, Lewis and Nellie Gail Moulton pioneered the settling of South Orange County and made their home in what is now modern-day Laguna Hills. Our equestrian community, Nellie Gail Ranch, is named after our famous matriarch and is known for its beautiful homes and estates.

I was elected in 2016 and I am currently serving my second term as Mayor. I also serve as Immediate Past President of the Association of California Cities-Orange County and as Vice Chair of The Toll Roads. My husband Carl and I have made Laguna Hills our family home for over nineteen years and are raising our two children here.

Last year, Laguna Hills High School won the state championship in Varsity Football, a rare feat that has only been accomplished by four OC high schools. When a citywide celebration was held where each player received their champion rings, I felt so proud to be the Mayor of Laguna Hills at this historic time. The LHHS motto, "One Town, One Team", really sums up our amazing city: whether it is honoring our veterans at our Memorial Day Race, celebrating Independence Day, or commemorating our ranching roots at Heritage Day, our whole community comes together just like a small town in the Midwest.

The highly anticipated 68 acres Village at Laguna Hills is currently under construction. When completed, it will feature a new hotel, office buildings, housing, as well as shopping, dining, and entertainment. Our goal is to make it a top destination regionwide, so come visit us soon!

## City of Laguna Beach

505 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach, CA 92651 • 949/497-3311 • [lagunabeachcity.net](http://lagunabeachcity.net)

# Welcome to Laguna Beach



**Bob Whalen**  
Mayor

Moving to the City of Laguna Beach in 1984 was an easy decision for my wife and me. The combination of good schools and a thriving artist community set in a town with such distinct character, history, beautiful beaches and kind, genuine people captivated us. Ever since our arrival, Laguna Beach has become not just a place we live, but a place we love and have chosen to call home.

Since 2012 I have had the privilege to serve the Laguna Beach community as a City Councilmember, and am currently serving my fifth term as Mayor. Given that we attract an estimated 6.5 million annual visitors to our nearly 8 miles of coastline, ensuring public safety is vital. Our dedicated Police Department, Fire Department and Marine Safety Department have consistently demonstrated their commitment to providing outstanding protection and service. Given that nearly 90 percent of our City in the highest-risk fire zone, fire safety is one of our top priorities. While the City Council has already adopted a comprehensive wildfire mitigation and fire safety plan, we continue to pursue ways to improve our preparedness measures to safeguard our community.

The strength of our economy in Laguna Beach thrives on the contributions from our small businesses, restaurants, hotels and arts organizations. Flourishing new outdoor dining areas throughout the City have infused new energy into Downtown and beyond. North Laguna and our HIP District are witnessing the emergence of unique shops and restaurants. A number of our hotel properties are undergoing renovations and upgrades and our summer art festivals continue to support local artists and entertain both residents and visitors to our City.

I am proud to share that the City maintains its prominent role as environmental steward through initiatives such as our Marine Protection Zone, Balloon Ban, and as a Plastic-Free City through our Neighborhood & Environmental Protection Plan. Our residents, City Council and City staff enthusiastically join me in welcoming you to Laguna Beach

## City of Laguna Niguel

30111 Crown Valley Pkwy., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/362-4300 • [cityoflagunaniguel.org](http://cityoflagunaniguel.org)

# Fostering a Sense of Unity



**Kelly Jennings**  
Mayor

Mayor Kelly Jennings is a dedicated public servant for the City of Laguna Niguel, gracefully serving with care, compassion, and kindness. Elected as a City Council Member in 2020, Mayor Jennings has been a strong advocate for positive change and enhancing the strong sense of community that Laguna Niguel is so well known for. Her dedication to residents embodies the true spirit of public service and demonstrates a love for giving back.

Her passion for serving others extends beyond City Hall, as she actively engages with organizations dedicated to making a positive impact on a local and larger regional scale. As the Community Life Director for Mission Lutheran Church, Mayor Jennings not only oversees the church's operations but also plays a pivotal role in its work with six global and five regional charities. Additionally, Mayor Jennings brings a wealth of experience to her role, having previously served as the elected Director for the Moulton Niguel Water District and as a Commissioner for the Santiago Aqueduct Commission. These past positions have provided her with valuable experience and insights into the intricate workings of vital community infrastructure, empowering her to make informed decisions that benefit all residents.

Mayor Kelly Jennings' passion for public service, love for giving back, and genuine care for the well-being of residents have made her an invaluable asset to the Laguna Niguel community. Her leadership has fostered a sense of unity, as she works tirelessly to create a better future for all. Through her unwavering dedication and compassionate approach, Mayor Jennings continues to illuminate the path towards a brighter and more prosperous Laguna Niguel.

## City of Laguna Woods

24264 El Toro Rd., Laguna Woods, CA 92637 • 949/639-0500 • [cityoflagunawoods.org](http://cityoflagunawoods.org)

### We are Going Strong!



**Cynthia S. Conners**  
Mayor

2023 marks my 14th year on the Laguna Woods City Council and my fourth time serving as Mayor. I am honored to represent Laguna Woods on the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency's Board of Directors and, in years past, have also served as our City Council's representative on the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority's Board of Directors and the Coastal Greenbelt Authority. I am a veteran of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and a retired attorney.

Laguna Woods is a predominantly residential community that prides itself on abundant open space. Our location just east of Laguna Beach, nestled against the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, provides remarkable opportunities for our 17,644 residents to enjoy the natural beauty of South Orange County.

We sometimes say Laguna Woods is both one of Orange County's oldest and newest cities – the median age of our residents is just under 75, but we are third “youngest” by date of incorporation. Residents voted to form Laguna Woods in March 1999, eight months before Rancho Santa Margarita and two years before Aliso Viejo. 24 years later, we are going strong!

This year, the City Council is exploring the potential construction of a new fire station to improve emergency response times, as well as looking forward to celebrating the much-awaited opening of our first ever public library building. Other efforts have to do with fostering a local business environment that provides our residents with access to high-quality goods and services close to home.

## City of Los Alamitos

3191 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/431-3538 • [cityoflosalamitos.org](http://cityoflosalamitos.org)

### A Mighty Little City



**Tanya Doby**  
Mayor

Recently named a 2023 Woman of Distinction by both the State Senate and Assembly, Mayor Tanya Doby first joined the Los Alamitos City Council by appointment in 2019. Seizing upon Mayor Doby's long history of community involvement and volunteerism, residents voted her to her first full term in 2020.

Along with her engaging leadership style, Mayor Doby has an impressive human resource and personnel development background with over 20 years in recruiting and staff development. As a champion and advocate for policies that are consistent, fair, and cost effective, the Mayor has put these skills to work successfully overseeing the rebuilding of the City's law enforcement team and the City's overall management structure. As she happily reported during the recent State of the City, the City of Los Alamitos has a fully staffed and funded public safety operation for the first time in almost a decade. Under her leadership, the City has implemented a number of aggressive new strategies aimed at ensuring that Los Alamitos remains one of the safest places to live in Orange County.

Mayor Doby remains focused on her primary goals of preserving and advancing Los Alamitos' public safety record and implementing creative initiatives to stimulate the local businesses economy. Fond of saying that Los Alamitos is transitioning from a small town into a small city, Mayor Doby is quick to point out that Los Alamitos is a mighty little city and a force to be reckoned with. This ethos has become increasingly apparent as the Mayor was able to secure over \$3 million in State and Federal grants for the City in the last 8 months.

To learn more about Mayor Tanya Doby, visit the City's website at: <http://cityoflosalamitos.org/321/Tanya-Doby>.

## City of Lake Forest

100 Civic Center Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/461-3400 • [lakeforestca.gov](http://lakeforestca.gov)

### Enjoy the Magic of Lake Forest



**Doug Cirbo**  
Mayor

I've long been an amateur magician, but it wasn't until I was elected to the City Council in 2020 that I saw the real magic of Lake Forest.

Now, as Mayor, I use my weekly “Mayors Minute” video to pull back the curtain for residents and share the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. In addition to remaining debt free, Lake Forest is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents and creating a balanced community.

A key effort is the Southwest Lake Forest Neighborhood Improvement Project. Residents in the older part of town are asked what would improve their quality of life. The city then identifies and carries out projects to meet those needs. We have created green spaces, improved infrastructure, and enhanced public amenities. This ongoing work improved the area, and City Hall's relationship with the residents.

It is also no sleight of hand that affordable senior apartments were included in the new Meadows and Portola Hills developments. The City worked with National Community Renaissance on the Mountain View Community off El Toro Road. Altogether, nearly 200 affordable units are being added.

The City supported the business community by creating a buy-one, get-one gift-card program. Those who bought gift cards worth \$25, \$50, or \$100 received a free card of equal value to be used at participating Lake Forest businesses. The BOGO program was so successful that the City Council approved two encores – we're on round three now.

There is never a dry spell of Lake Forest's blend of natural beauty, community spirit, educational opportunities, and economic vitality. It is an honor to serve as Mayor in the city my wife and I have called home since 1986. Working together, City leaders and staff will ensure generations of residents can enjoy the magic of Lake Forest.

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## City of Mission Viejo

200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/470-3000 • [cityofmissionviejo.org](http://cityofmissionviejo.org)

### Gold Medal Support for Mission Viejo



**Brian Goodell**  
Mayor

Mayor Brian Goodell was first elected to the Mission Viejo City Council in 2016. Since then, his deep roots, proactive leadership, economic development efforts and conservative fiscal policies have continued to enhance this community.

Mayor Goodell, who also served in the mayoral role in 2020, led the City with distinction through uncharted waters during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has continued to work to connect this community, preserve its open space and enhance public safety. Some of his most notable accomplishments include:

- Acquiring the Oso Creek Golf Course and open space
- Developing new parks and recreation facilities
- Enhancing public safety by adding more school resource officers
- Acquiring “The Mart” building to further the Community Core Vision Plan

In addition to bringing a wealth of commitment to this community, Mayor Goodell brings an Olympic tradition. He was a member of the world-famous Mission Viejo Nadadores swim team and became the first Olympic Gold Medalist from Mission Viejo, breaking two world records while winning two Gold Medals at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. He was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame; UCLA Athletics Hall of Fame; Orange County Sports Hall of Fame; and the Saddleback Valley Unified School District Hall of Fame. Mayor Goodell also won the Congressional Gold Medal of Achievement as a member of the 1980 USA Olympic Men’s Swimming Team that boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

A resident for more than five decades, Mayor Goodell and his wife Vicki raised their three sons in this City. All are alumni of Mission Viejo High School. The couple has five grandchildren.

## City of Newport Beach

100 Civic Center Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/644-3309 • [newportbeachca.gov](http://newportbeachca.gov)

### Focused on History and Progress



**Noah Blom**  
Mayor

Mayor Noah Blom was elected to the Newport Beach City Council in November 2020, and is currently serving his first term as mayor.

Noah, a Newport Beach native, has a deep and impassioned love for the city. As a second-generation Newporter, Noah learned hard work and dedication from his parents, who owned a photography studio in Corona del Mar.

Noah left Newport Beach after high school to travel and pursue business opportunities in the U.S. and Europe. A chef-turned-restaurateur, his ventures and dealings gave him an opportunity to work with many diverse people and municipalities, learning the intricacies of government relations as he worked to open restaurants in vastly different markets. After being away for many years, Noah returned home to Newport Beach, where he met his wife, Marin. The two continued to open restaurants, this time focusing on the towns and cities of Orange County.

Noah and Marin Blom give back to the community through many philanthropic organizations and causes. In recent years they have focused on youth sports in Newport Beach, and in particular, aquatic activities in the ocean and harbor. Their work includes helping provide opportunities for children who do not otherwise have the means to participate in ocean and harbor activities.

Throughout his entire life, Noah has had a deep love and passion for the political process as a vehicle to achieve change and evolution in the world. He believes that the sidelines are for spectators, and wishes to fight for the history and progress of Newport Beach.

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## City of Orange

300 E. Chapman Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/744-2225 • [cityoforange.org](http://cityoforange.org)

### Proud to Serve the City of Orange



**Dan Slater**  
Mayor

As a third generation Orange resident, I am honored and grateful to call this City home. In fact, my family can trace our roots in Orange back to the 1880s, around the time when the City was incorporated. However, Orange's history actually dates back to 1869 when Alfred Chapman and Andrew Glassell first laid out a one square mile town surrounding a forty-acre central town site. This center became known as the Plaza, which has become the symbol of our community. Today, the Old Towne Plaza still contains many homes and buildings dating to the early days of the City, including the 1923 California Bungalow that I call home. It is of note that Old Towne Orange was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997, and is the largest National Register District in California.

The Plaza is just one of Orange's many unique neighborhoods that offer a great place to live, work, and shop. We are also home to outstanding K-12 schools in the Orange Unified School District, and first-rate colleges in Chapman University and Santiago Canyon College.

I care deeply about our current residents, but it's also important to protect our future for all residents, and that includes preserving our existing natural spaces, parks, and trees. On two Saturdays every month, I enjoy spending my mornings picking up trash in Santiago Creek or on the 55 Freeway. We are currently taking steps to restore and improve Santiago Creek, which runs through the middle of Orange and is Orange County's largest watershed, ensuring that we leave a lasting legacy for Orange families.

Although we are a city of more than 140,000 people, our strong values bind us together, and make what is a large city feel like a small town with a lot of Old Towne charm. We are interconnected and grounded to the obligation of serving one another and making the City of Orange the best it can be for our community.

## City of Placentia

401 E. Chapman Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/993-8117 • [placentia.org](http://placentia.org)

### Fostering a Secure and Flourishing Placentia



**Ward Smith**  
Mayor

The City of Placentia has nearly 52,000 residents who enjoy a close-knit, quiet community with great schools, wonderful amenities, and many exciting developments. Mayor Ward Smith was elected to the City Council in 2016 and reelected in 2020. He has been a Placentia resident for most of his life, and before serving on the City Council, he spent his career with the Placentia Police Department, eventually retiring as Chief of Police. Top priorities for Mayor Smith include public safety, investment in the Old Town and Transient Oriented Development Districts, and City infrastructure rehabilitation, including streets and parks. A robust infrastructure forms the backbone of a thriving city, and Placentia is committed to rehabilitating its streets, roads, parks, and buildings, ensuring they are resilient and capable of accommodating future growth. Understanding that green spaces are essential for a healthy community, the City Council adopted the Placentia Parks Initiative in 2021 to revamp all City parks to promote physical well-being and foster social interaction and a sense of community.

Mayor Smith believes that the Placentia Chamber of Commerce and the local business community are vital partners in the journey toward economic growth. These partnerships foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation, helping the economy and benefiting residents. He believes Placentia's achievements result from the collaborative spirit of dedicated City staff, engaged community members, and supportive neighboring agencies. Placentia is a dynamic and strong community where public safety, revitalization, and economic growth converge. The City Council's commitment to collaboration will ensure that Placentia remains a shining example of a city that cherishes its past while embracing its future.

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City of Placentia

**Tiny Tots**

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Tiny Tot Registration Now Available!

The Kindergarten Readiness class is a developmental program in a recreational setting hosted at the Koch Park Recreation Center. The Tiny Tot program will prepare children 3-5yrs for a successful transition into kindergarten.

For more information please, contact the Community Services Department at (714) 993-8232



## City of San Clemente

910 Calle Negocio, San Clemente, CA 92673 • 949/361-8200 • [san-clemente.org](http://san-clemente.org)

### One Town, One Team



**Chris Duncan**  
Mayor

San Clemente has always prided itself on being a community of resilience, unity, and dynamism. This past year, however, our beautiful city has faced a barrage of challenges that have tested our collective resolve.

The year began with a jolt - a series of powerful storms and landslides that interrupted rail service. Homes were endangered, roads were blocked, and even our historic Casa Romantica was put at risk. In response, we sprang into action and rolled up our sleeves to repair, rebuild, and ensure the safety and security of our fellow residents.

We faced another challenge with an unexpected council vacancy. Recognizing the need for unity, we appointed a respected public safety commissioner and former police officer. Our goal was, and remains, to ensure that our city's leadership strives towards collaborative solutions to protect our excellent quality of life and away from partisan divides that hold us back.

As Mayor, I am incredibly proud of our city's response to these challenges. And we bounced back in a big way. This year, San Clemente hosted renowned sporting events, including the Rip Curl World Surf League finals and both the Professional Pickleball Association and Major League Pickleball finals. These events showcased our city's vibrancy and our capability to shine on the global stage.

There's a simple yet powerful motto that resonates with every San Clemente resident: "One Town, One Team." Our future is bright, not because challenges won't arise - they inevitably will - but because we've proven that when we set aside our differences and work together, there's no hurdle, or aspiration, too high for San Clemente.

## City of San Juan Capistrano

32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/443-6375 • [sanjuancapistrano.org](http://sanjuancapistrano.org)

### A Rich Heritage



**Howard Hart**  
Mayor

It is a humbling and unique experience to serve as the Mayor of San Juan Capistrano, a city nearly as old as our nation itself. Founded in 1776, Mission San Juan Capistrano - the Jewel of the Missions - serves as the spiritual and cultural hub of our community. However, it is just one important aspect of our history. Even predating the Mission, the Acjachemen indigenous people maintained a sizable village in modern day San Juan Capistrano, known as Putuidem, which is replicated at our Northwest Open Space. We also boast the oldest continuously occupied neighborhood in California - our beautiful Los Rios Historic District.

Another feature of San Juan Capistrano life is our equestrian and rancho heritage. Whether you are a Western rider or an English rider, San Juan Capistrano is for you. We proudly boast of our title as Equestrian Capital of the West and look to solidify that reputation in coming years.

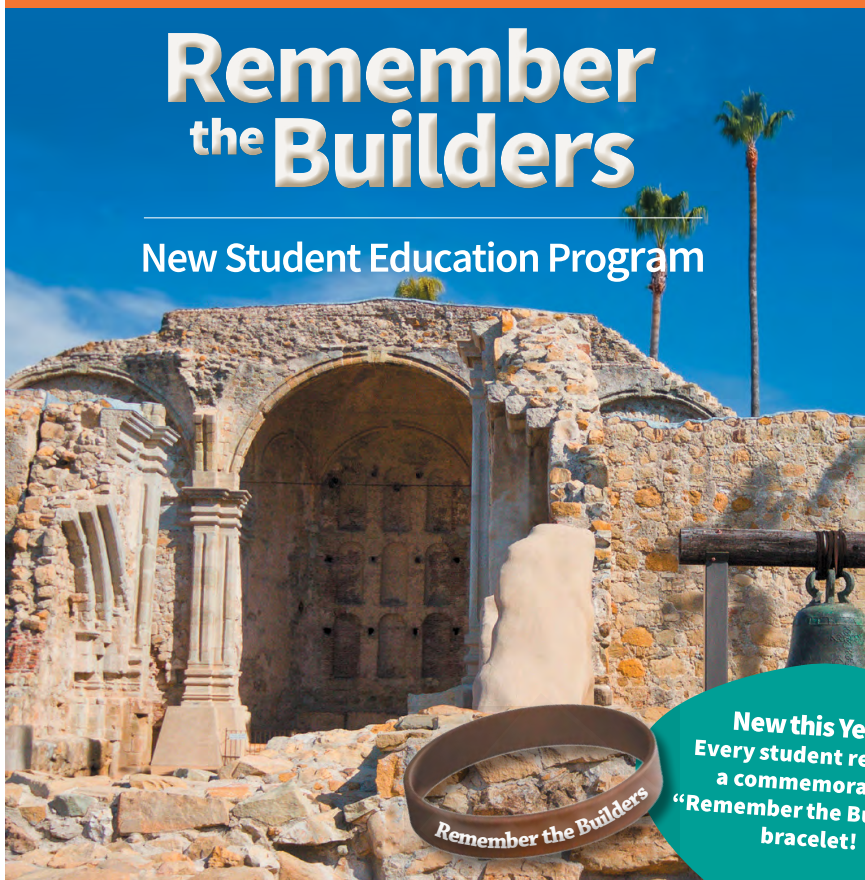
Our strong sense of history, our equestrian heritage, and our small but bustling downtown all combine to create a strong sense of community identity. The biggest challenge we face is to respect private property rights and a robust business environment, and to accommodate state housing initiatives, while maintaining the "San Juan Vibe."

So, while we welcome Ganahl Lumber, In-N-Out, and River Street Marketplace, we also have signed or are negotiating long term leases that will preserve our open spaces at the Ecology Center, the Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park, and the Northwest Open Space. While we move into the future, our roots are firmly planted in our heritage!

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## City of Santa Ana

20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701 • 714/647-5400 • [santa-ana.org](http://santa-ana.org)

### Making Santa Ana History



**Valerie Amezcua**  
Mayor

Mayor Valerie Amezcua made history when she took office on Dec. 13, 2022, as the first woman ever to serve as mayor of Santa Ana since its founding 154 years ago. The City of Santa Ana is a proud community of active neighborhoods, thriving businesses, culture, art and educational institutions. Santa Ana is the county seat and one of the most populous cities in Orange County, with over 300,000 residents.

Mayor Amezcua previously served as a member of the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Education for eight years. She had a 30-year career with the Orange County Probation Department, retiring from her position as a supervising probation officer in 2017, and is a graduate of the University of La Verne.

Mayor Amezcua is a mentor, a bridge builder and a collaborator who understands the value of partnerships to the long-term success of Santa Ana's neighborhoods and community at large. Her top priority as mayor is to improve and enhance the quality of life of all Santa Ana residents, particularly the most vulnerable members of the community.

Mayor Amezcua has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the OC Human Relations Commission, the Board of Directors for the National Hispanic Business Women's Association, and the Early Prevention & Intervention Commission (EPIC) for the City of Santa Ana. Her family has a long history in Santa Ana and she is grateful for their support. Mayor Amezcua is a proud mom to her adult son, Mike Melendrez, and appreciates life every day with her husband, Sam Marin.

## City of Stanton

7800 Katella Ave., Stanton, CA 90680 • 714/379-9222 • [www.StantonCA.gov](http://www.StantonCA.gov)

### Honored to Serve the People of Stanton



**David J. Shawver**  
Mayor

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the people of Stanton for the past 35 years. I have been married to my wife Jennifer for 46 years while living in Stanton where I raised my family of five.

During this time, with the help of my fellow City Councilmembers, we were able to completely transform our town of "Community Pride and Forward Vision." Today Stanton is totally different than the way it used to be. We have new business and residential centers throughout our town, and it is not going to stop.

My family and I are active in our local church and local schools. This gave me an opportunity to volunteer with local nonprofits and community organizations. I served as President of the Cypress College Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Stanton while also volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America, the Boys and Girls Club of Stanton, the Youth Assistance Foundation, Orange County Inter-Faith Council, St. Polycarp Church, and many other worthwhile groups.

I currently represent the people of Stanton and Orange County by serving on the Boards of the Orange County Fire Authority, Ground Water Replenishment System, Public Cable Television Authority, Orange County Parks/Trails Commission, Orange County Waste and Recycling Commission, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Crime Lab/RAN Board, Public Cable Television Authority, and Orange County City Select Committee.

In addition, I serve on the Orange County Council of Governments, Association of Orange County Cities, Southern California Association of Governments, and Orange County League of California Cities. These opportunities provide me with the resources to assist all residents of Stanton and Orange County in providing their needed services.

However, I am most proud of our town's residents and business owners who truly make Stanton a city of "Community Pride and Forward Vision." Together we will continue the renaissance. Thank you for my opportunity to serve.

## City of Seal Beach

211 Eighth St., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/431-2527 • [sealbeachca.gov](http://sealbeachca.gov)

### Seal Beach: Enchanting Small Town Charm



**Thomas Moore**  
Mayor

As I embark on my seventh year serving on the City Council, I am honored to be Seal Beach's Mayor in 2023.

Drawing from my experience as an IT professional and former entrepreneur who successfully launched two companies, I bring a unique background from the private sector to guide the city towards sound fiscal decisions. Moreover, my current full-time role in the IT industry equips me with the technical skills to help streamline and enhance the city's computer systems.

Seal Beach's reputation is built on its family-friendly ambiance, several fantastic eateries, charming shops, and the ever-inviting beach that surfers and families continually come to enjoy.

Leisure World is an important part of our city with around 9000 residents. The city provides shuttles to the beach, affordable meals, and police services to the senior population.

The revival of our historic red car stands as a testament to our commitment to preserving the rich history of our town. It serves as a reminder of our enduring heritage. Soon the Bay Theater will re-open on Main street which is being remodeled to look exactly as it did when it opened in 1945.

This year we continue to have exceptional events such as the Seal Beach Car Show and the Seal Beach Lion's Fish Fry. These gatherings have not only broken attendance records but have also ushered in a return to the sense of normalcy we've longed for over the past few years.

I invite for you to experience the magic of our town firsthand. May your time in Seal Beach be as enchanting as it continues to be for me.



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**5021 E. Anaheim St.  
Long Beach, CA 90804**

## City of Tustin

300 Centennial Wy., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/573-3000 • [tustinca.org](http://tustinca.org)

### Best Place to Live for Families



**Austin Lumbard**  
Mayor

This past year, the City of Tustin was honored to be ranked the number 1 city in California and 12th nationwide in Fortune's 25 Best Places to Live for Families. Tustin welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds and we are proud of our diverse family friendly community.

Our City boasts an expansive park system, encompassing both tranquil and vibrant parks. This year we completed renovations at Pioneer Park and Pine Tree Park, and we look forward to opening Tustin's first dog park, The Barks Barracks at Tustin Legacy Park, very soon.

Tustin offers a range of housing options, from contemporary developments in Tustin Legacy to newer suburban neighborhoods in Tustin Ranch, and, of course, our cherished historic homes in Old Town.

Our popular events such as the Chili Cook-Off, Tustin Tiller Days, Movies and Concerts in the Park, our weekly Certified Farmer's Market, and the appeal of popular destinations like the District at Tustin Legacy, the Tustin Market Place, and Tustin Auto Center, make it easy to see why many chose to live, work and play in Tustin.

The City of Tustin truly is a one-of-a-kind place with a rich history and a bright future that offers lifelong memories.

It is my great honor to serve as Tustin's Mayor.

## City of Villa Park

17855 Santiago Blvd., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/998-1500 • [villapark.org](http://villapark.org)

### We are Extended Family



**Robert Pitts**  
Mayor

I love history and am especially thrilled to have learned more about our wonderful city from those that have blessed our city over the past 50 + years. Villa Park was incorporated in 1962.

There were many challenges in the early years to keep Villa Park from becoming too urban. There were numerous news articles with headlines that read "Villa Park, A Mix of Mayberry and Beverly Hills" and Villa Park "Is a Small Countrified, Satisfied City."

People remember children riding their horses down the streets in Villa Park early on and we have pictures of houses next to the horse stables during the early years of development, in fact most streets still do not have sidewalks. Back in the 1800's the Villa Park area was known for grape growing and was known as the raisin capital of the world. A blight took place in 1887 and that was the beginning of the growing of Valencia Oranges which soon gave way to some of Orange County's amazing landscape and homes.

There are many traditions in Villa Park that we enjoy and attend every year; Concerts in the Park, July 4th parades, Villa Park Dry Land Boat parade and I still believe the highlight of the year is the Santa Tour that fosters the amazing comradery that takes place in our city.

We have over the years been able to help create a community where we are not known as neighbors, but extended family.

I am honored to have served two terms as mayor of our amazing city, which has a small-town culture and feel to it. And I look forward to continuing to serve for many years to come.

## City of Westminster

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/898-3311 • [westminster-ca.gov](http://westminster-ca.gov)

### First-Time Mayor, Lifetime Public Servant



**Chi Charlie Nguyen**  
Mayor

The City of Westminster is a vibrant and diverse city that serves as a cultural destination with a rich history, and I am proud to serve my first term as Mayor.

When I came to this country after the Fall of Saigon, I never imagined I would someday serve as the mayor for a city. I came to America to escape oppression, and was faced with learning a new culture, a new language, and a new way of life.

Eventually, I became a family man and worked hard to instill the values of kindness, humility, perseverance, and public service in my children. Always a believer that you must lead by example, I was involved with school activities, youth sports, non-profit organizations, and community groups.

That sense of community responsibility has led me to a life of public service that continues to grow. And I could not be prouder of representing Westminster and the many accomplishments, as well as future endeavors.

In the past nine months, the City Council has prioritized economic development, addressing homelessness, funding opportunities, increase in public safety, revitalizing public spaces, and enhancing customer service. The Westminster Mall revitalization project continues to move along, and the decades-long I-405 Freeway Improvement Project is coming to an end.

As a graduate of public schools and the California State University system, education is important to me, and I am excited to continue sharing the wonderful things about Westminster through this publication.

At your service

## City of Yorba Linda

4845 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/961-7100 • [yorbalindaca.gov](http://yorbalindaca.gov)

### The Land of Gracious Living



**Gene Hernandez**  
Mayor

It's an incredible honor to represent the City of Yorba Linda as Mayor. We pride ourselves as being "the Land of Gracious Living," and we have countless reasons to make that bold claim.

With over 100 miles of trails, 200 acres of parkland, the Nixon Presidential Library, beautiful and distinct neighborhoods, engaged faith communities, award-winning schools, and fantastic shopping and dining opportunities — Yorba Linda is brimming with small town charm, but big city amenities.

Over the last few years, we have invested heavily in creating exciting gathering spaces, such as our new, state-of-the-art Public Library and Cultural Arts Center. Just in time for summer, we reopened our Adventure Playground facility following a \$7 million renovation to transform this cherished facility into an incredible year-round destination for creative play. With a double water slide, splash pad, zip line, whiffle ball field, and giant play structure, Adventure Playground is a must-visit destination for Yorba Linda's youth.

Yorba Linda is a city full of unparalleled opportunity, attracting new residents and exciting businesses & restaurants. Yorba Linda is also frequently ranked as one of the top five safest cities in California, making our community an exceptional place to live, work, play, and worship.

But our most vivid point of pride is our people. Yorba Linda is filled with engaged residents and passionate volunteers. I call them unsung heroes because they unite our community for the common good. We are proud that Yorba Linda is a place of unmatched civic pride, patriotic character, and caring neighbors."



## Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent



**Dr. Ramon Miramontes**  
Deputy  
Superintendent  
of Instructional  
Programs

In the Star Wars universe, whenever a spacecraft makes the jump to light speed, the stars outside the cockpit stretch out into luminous streaks. It's a mesmerizing visual of acceleration that brings to mind the dizzying advancement of

technology here on planet Earth — and the urgent need for educational systems to keep pace.

With artificial intelligence poised to reshape workplaces and society at large, the Orange County Department of Education is moving ahead with an ambitious initiative that will evaluate and determine the best approaches for integrating AI into teaching and learning. This could include more personalized learning, real-time feedback for students and teachers, or the automation of routine tasks, allowing educators to focus more on matters that demand human insight, judgment and creative thinking.

While the outcomes have yet to be determined, we do know this won't be a solitary endeavor. Led by our Educational Services division, OCDE is taking the first steps of a collaborative journey that will involve school district leaders, industry partners, educators, parents and students. And we envision it taking place in three distinct phases.

The first phase will seek to elevate AI literacy and leadership, establishing a common understanding and terminology in Orange County. The second phase will develop strategies and an implementation plan in collaboration with leaders of the county's 28 independent school districts. Finally, a third phase will evaluate our efforts, gather data and plan for the future. OCDE's commitment to continuous improvement and

community engagement ensures that the feedback loop will remain open, fostering a culture of learning and adaptability.

OCDE has long sought to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to emerging technologies, but AI represents something we haven't quite seen before. These newer tools simulate human intelligence, enabling computers to perform tasks that typically require human cognitive abilities. As such, they have the potential to impact just about every aspect of our work and lives, from teaching and learning to health care, transportation, media, energy, finance and customer service.

While ChatGPT and other publicly available services aren't perfect, remember that they are programmed to learn from us, which means they can and will evolve exponentially. In other words, the examples we see today are the worst versions we're going to encounter moving forward.

Preparing students for an AI-driven future isn't just about passing along technical skills. It's about teaching adaptability, critical thinking and ethical decision-making. By integrating AI literacy across educational settings, OCDE and our partners will be able to equip students with the capacity to navigate an increasingly complex world without losing those traits that make us uniquely human, like kindness, character and artistic expression. And through community engagement, we can pursue a shared vision for AI that aligns with our local values and needs.

The need for education to remain in stride with technology is undeniable, and the Orange County Department of Education has long been a leader in this arena. But collaboration is the key to what lies ahead. That's how we'll ensure that the next generation isn't just ready to embrace the challenges of an AI-driven world, but that they're poised to drive innovation, forge new paths and contribute meaningfully to a future that's constantly in motion.





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Volume 55 Issue 7  
Editor - Barbara Gossett

Office Hours: Tuesday 9 - 12; Friday 9 - 1  
Phone: (714) 530-8871; fax 534-2611  
Email: gardengrovehistsoc@att.net

# *Garden Grove Historical Society*

## *Calendar of Activities*

### *October*

October 1 - Public tour, 1:30 PM

October 15 - Public tour, 1:30 PM

October 17 - Board meeting, 9:30 AM

October 26, 27 and 28 - Semi-annual Barn and Book Sale. We have clothing, household goods, jewelry, and fine art, not to mention books (but not the barn). Join us for the best deals in town!

### *November*

November 5 - Public tour, 1:30 PM

November 19 - Public tour, 1:30 PM

November 23 - Thanksgiving. Enjoy Turkey Day!

November 28 - Board meeting, 9:30 AM

**Note: We'll be holding our General Meeting in December, voting on officers for 2024, and to hear and sing with the Bolsa Grande Concert Choir to celebrate the holidays. And don't forget the holiday sale, Dec 1 & 2.**

## **A Short History of Orange County**

This quick trip through Orange County's story is summarized from a "Historical Highlights" booklet published by First American Title Insurance Company in 1978

Exploration of what is now Orange County began in 1769, with the arrival of Don Gaspar de Portolá and his Spanish expedition of 67 men and 104 mules. They spent a week traversing the area, leaving many familiar place names: Trabuco (blunderbuss), named for a lost firearm, Margarita, La Cristianitos, and, of course, Santa Ana. Despite this, Portolá was so unimpressed by California as a whole that he returned to Spain at the earliest opportunity and apparently had no desire to see Alta California again.

No permanent settlement was established in Orange County until Father Junípero Serra founded Mission San Juan Capistrano on November 1, 1776. He gave it the name of San Juan Capistrano de Quanis Savit in honor of an Italian priest, St. Giovanni Capistrano. The name also referred to a nearby Indian village believed to have stood on the grounds of present-day San Juan Capistrano High School.

In 1821 Mexico, including California, gained its independence from Spain. In 1834, during a time of political turbulence, the governor of Alta California, Jose Figueroa, ordered the missions secularized, freeing the Indians from further service to the missions and directing the Franciscans to relinquish control of mission property to secular clergy. Later the mission buildings and adjoining grounds were restored to the Roman Catholic Church in a bill signed by President Abraham Lincoln in March, 1865.



The signing of this bill marked the beginning of the great rancho period. Eleven ranchos encompassed most of the county, granted either by the king of Spain or the Mexican government. They introduced an era of feudal splendor. Raising longhorn cattle for their hides and tallow, rancheros lived carefree lives, served by an army of vaqueros and other retainers. However, severe drought in the early 1860s led to bankruptcy and the loss of their lands.

The next arrivals were sheep ranchers who came south to buy up the cheap land. James Irvine Sr. and his business partners, Flint, Bixby & Co., bought 97,000 acres for \$25,000. James Irvine Jr. eventually acquired the land, having come to Orange County from San Francisco on a bicycle, while roads were still rutted wagon trails.

Anaheim was founded in 1857 by some German immigrants down from San Francisco, calling themselves the Los Angeles Vineyard Society. They were so diligent that Anaheim became the highest wine-producing area in the state before a blight destroyed the vines.

Abel Stearns, a native of Massachusetts, arrived here in 1831 and became a money-lender. He soon owned most of the western part of the county, including much of the present-day cities of Buena Park, Stanton, Cypress, Westminster, Garden Grove, and Huntington Beach.

Columbus Tustin, a successful "49'er," bought land near the Irvine Ranch in 1867 and plotted his city. William H. Spurgeon, another gold seeker, carved Santa Ana from the great Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana.

In 1870 Westminster, which then bordered Anaheim, was formed as a Presbyterian temperance colony. Orange was subdivided by two Los Angeles attorneys, Chapman and Glassell, who had represented the heirs of one ranchero in the partitioning of Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana, receiving a portion of their legal fees in land.

After completion of the transcontinental railroad and the breakup of the great Spanish ranchos, Americans from the east began arriving in great numbers. The Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroads even engaged in a rate war, with the cost

of a one-way ticket from Kansas City to Los Angeles reaching a low of \$1.00.

The Southern Pacific railroad had arrived in Orange County in 1875 and the Santa Fe in 1886. Trains pulled in daily with prospective buyers of real estate, who were met at the station by eager land promoters. Several cities planned during this period are remembered today only by old maps on the public record. A few, such as Buena Park and Fullerton, made it off the drawing boards and developed into major metropolitan centers.

In 1886, Santa Ana incorporated as a city. Interest was rapidly mounting to create a county in the Santa Ana Valley, which had been part of Los Angeles County since 1850, the year of statehood. It was a four-hour trip by rail to the county seat, Los Angeles. So, in 1889, the state legislature finally passed a bill creating Orange County, and on March 11 the governor signed it into law, effective officially August 1, 1889. Santa Ana became the county seat.

During the 1890s, the county was developing a major citrus industry and other crops were successfully adopted by local farmers. Celery, sugar beets, and lima beans were especially profitable. Southern California and Madagascar are the only places where lima beans are still grown.

Inter-urban transportation was the keynote for Southern California and Orange County in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Pacific Electric Railway and its big "red cars" were familiar sights passing through citrus groves and celery fields as tourists and residents enjoyed Sunday outings to an increasing number of resorts. The "red car" was so important to the economy of the county seat that Santa Ana celebrated with a "Parade of Products" when the first street car arrived in 1906. After 1920, the street car was gradually replaced by the horseless carriage, especially as paved roads increased in number. By 1946, virtually all of them were gone, superseded by freeways.

In the early days, the Garden Grove community, which covered a vast area in the western part of the county, included both pastures for large herds of cattle and small family orchards. Abel Stearns purchased this area at a ridiculously low price. His desire was to set up the Stearns Empire. However,

following the floods and drought of 1860-1870 he had to sell the rancho for \$1.50 per acre. Almost the entire settlement of Garden Grove was within the Rancho Las Bolsas, which included 33,000 acres stretching from the Santa Ana River on its eastern boundary to the Pacific Ocean on the south.

In the 1920s the South Coast Improvement Association had implemented a program to develop Newport Harbor. During prohibition, the harbor sometimes became a rendezvous for "rum runners" who unloaded their cargoes at various points along the coastline.

Ole Hanson promoted San Clemente in the mid-1920s and, while its Spanish architectural theme was put aside by the Depression, the community continued to expand. It was one of the last towns in which lots were sold under an auction tent to the highest bidder.

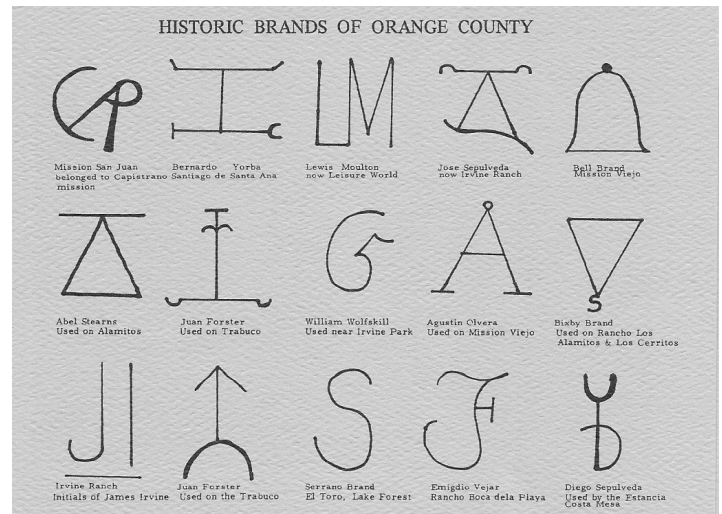
In 1887, the city of Fullerton was established by the Amerige brothers. They named the town to honor George H. Fullerton, who was a president of Pacific Land and Trust Co., part of the Santa Fe Railroad corporation, and who assured the Ameriges that the train would come through their town. When Mr. Fullerton left the company, locals changed the townsite name to La Habra, although old habits stuck and tickets continued to read "Fullerton." Another nearby town assumed the name of La Habra. Fullerton was incorporated in 1904, and became a successful producer of crops, including walnuts and citrus, products that Edward Ware of Garden Grove was instrumental in developing and propagating.

The decade of the 1930s saw two devastating events to add to the burden of the Depression: a massive earthquake in March, 1933, and a flood of the Santa Ana River in 1938.

During World War II, Orange County became a part of the nation's arsenal, with shipyards building minesweepers and other naval vessels. Air bases, including the helicopter hangars that are still part of the landscape in south Tustin near Irvine, proliferated. Many servicemen liked what they saw and returned later to stay. Agricultural land and citrus groves became housing subdivisions and shopping centers; multi-lane freeways were built to accommodate the growing population.

The University of California established a campus in Irvine, one of eight in the state. It opened in the autumn of 1965.

Tourism has become a major source of income for the county. Such recreational attractions include Anaheim Stadium (opened April, 1966); Disneyland (1955); Knotts Berry Farm (1920); Newport Harbor; and Mission San Juan Capistrano (1776; rebuilt after 1812).



As Orange County swings to industry and suburban centers, its noted citrus groves – like the Indians, Spanish explorers, and rancheros – are part of history. The future promises to be as dynamic and colorful as the pioneer past.



Part of the war effort in Orange County was air

observation for enemy aircraft. Haster airfield is shown here, with Winifred German, Roland Rosselot, and Wesley Lamb scanning the skies.

THE GARDEN GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
12174 Euclid Street  
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GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA 92843-4297



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CENTENNIAL	\$1874



The Garden Grove Historical Society is a 501C(3) Non-profit organization founded in April 1966, and is not funded by any city, county, state, or federal agency. Our funding is from membership dues, fundraisers, and gifts of property or dollars. A charitable tax deduction is available for gifts.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

**GARDEN GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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FALL BARN SALE**



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8:00AM – 4:00PM**

**WIDE RANGE OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS,  
CLOTHING, BOOKS, JEWELRY, CRAFT ITEMS,  
TOYS, AND COLLECTIBLES.**

12174 Euclid Street, Garden Grove, CA  
714-530-8871  
gardengrovehistsoc@att.net

*All proceeds benefit Stanley Ranch Museum Restoration and Development*