

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
March 5, 2015

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

I. PRIORITY AND COUNCIL AGENDA ISSUES

None.

II. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. WATER COMMODITY RATE ADJUSTMENT

Bill Murray informs you of the water commodity adjustment rate increase that went into effect January 1, 2015 and will be reflected in bi-monthly bills mailed this week.

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

None.

IV. RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A. PINK 3693

A copy of the response notes to Mr. Sky's complaint that a structure at his home built in 1933 is now considered non-permitted.

B. PINK 3698

A copy of the email sent to Ms. Williams in response to her complaint of the construction project at the Great Wolf Lodge site.

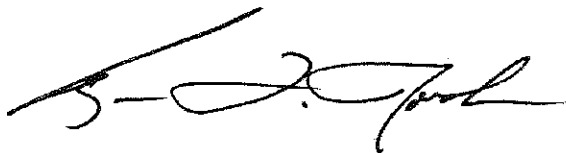
• OTHER ITEMS

- NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

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

- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



ALLAN L. ROEDER
City Manager

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Allan L. Roeder
Dept.: Interim City Manager
Subject: WATER COMMODITY ADJUSTMENT
 CHARGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

From: William E. Murray
Dept.: Public Works
Date: March 5, 2015

On November 11, 2014, City Council reviewed a change in water commodity adjustment changes resulting in an average residential bill increasing by approximately \$1.20 per month. These changes went into effect on January 1, 2015. Water customers will begin to see these changes reflected on their bi-monthly water bills that were sent out this week.

Any questions related to the water commodity adjustment charges should be addressed to Bill Murray at extension 5349.



WILLIAM E. MURRAY, P.E.
Public Works Director



By: Katie Victoria
Administrative Analyst



Pinks System

[Internet Home Page](#) | [Employee Directory](#) Thursday, March 05, 2015

[Admin home](#) | [Pinks home](#) | [Closed Pinks](#) | [Help](#) [Logout](#)

Pink was successfully updated.

Showing pink 3693

*Include in manager's
Memo.
ms.*

Print

Pink ID: 3693

Topic: **Mr. Sky is being told that a rear dwelling at his home from 1933 is now non-permitted.**

Status: **AWAITING APPROVAL**

Requester Name: Paul Sky

Requester Address: 12041 Falling Leaf Circle

Requester CSZ: GG, CA 92840

Issued on: 01/27/2015

Initial Letter Sent: 01/27/2015

Final Response: 03/05/2015

Priority: pink

Need Manager's Memo: no

Need Copy of response letter: no

Need draft response letter on behalf of the Mayor: yes

Need information only: yes

Updated By: melaniev

Updated On: 03/05/2015

Referral Notes: Please investigate and respond to Mr. Sky with a letter on behalf of Mayor Nguyen. (An email will follow with a scan of the original complaint letter)

Response Notes: After meeting with Karl Hill who had personal knowledge of the Trask street widening project that facilitated the property owner to be relocated to the Fallingleaf property, specifically the back

unit in question and researching as much info as available. It is determined that there is inconclusive evidence to pursue the case further at this time. The case will remain open pending further developments. The 720 sq ft structure is shown on County permits and the lot has 22k sq ft which could have accommodated a second unit in 1933. The structure could have been a granny style unit without its classification/use listed on the permit. Along with the verbal agreement with the City through Armando and the City Mayor of that time the structure was allowed to be used as a dwelling. It does not appear to have life safety concerns. Mr Sky was informed of this and seemed satisfied that the case is not being further pursued at this time.

Assigned to: susan1

[Edit](#) | [Back to List](#)

Maria Skje

Paul Sky

12041 Falling Leaf Circle, Garden Grove CA 92840

(714) 252-3843

RECEIVED
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2015 JAN 22 P 2: 31

January 14, 2015

Mayor Bao Nguyen
11222 Acacia Parkway
Garden Grove CA 92840

RE: 12041 Falling Leaf Circle, Garden Grove CA.

Dear Mayor Nguyen,

My name is Paul Sky. I am a life time resident (born and raised) here in the City of Garden Grove. I currently reside at 12041 Falling Leaf Circle in the City of Garden Gove. This is my main residence now. Additionally, I have another home located on Trask Avenue, in the city of Garden Grove, which I have as a rental.

I am retired law enforcement, a retired Veteran, as well as a member of both the Moose Lodge and American Legion Association, here in Garden Grove. I have a rich family history with parents and grandparents being involved in local government and police enforcement.

I am in the midst of a disgruntled neighbor battle. Prompting calls to the city to report me for petty infractions that have all been proven untrue. Starting with too many birds, to ill treatment of said birds, to unlicensed dog. Again, found untrue and proven so. The most recent allegation is an illegal structure on my property at Falling Leaf Circle. Herein referred to as the "Mother in Law" dwelling in the rear of my property.

Recently, Inspector Mike Austin, Building Inspector with the city came out to investigate yet another call from the neighbor. Inspector Austin has come to the conclusion that the dwelling is not permitted.

In 1994 My Mother and I were given, by the City of Garden Grove the home here on Falling Leaf in exchange for the home my Mother owned on Trask Ave. It was part of the Trask widening project the City implemented. We worked with Mr. Armondo Morales with the City of Garden Grove. My Mother was not that willing to move from her one story home on Trask. Her major concern was being alone and unable to take care of herself as she aged.

Mr. Morales worked with her in finding the Falling Leaf home with the "Mother In Laws" dwelling in the rear of the property. Pointing out I could sell or rent my own home on Trask Avenue and live in the back home. When the time came and she was unable to reside in the front house, she could move to the back residence and I could move into the front house. That is exactly what did occur.

My Mother has passed away. I am now older and at a place physically that the stairs are becoming a hardship for me and I have a care taker and implementing the same plan of care.

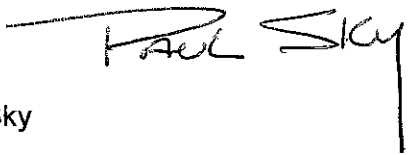
I have gone to the county recorder's office and documented that the dwelling is on the original plans from 1933. Both dwellings have always been insured on my homeowner's policy, I have paid taxes on both dwellings from day one. I have over the years re-roofed both dwellings and have gotten permits to do so with the City of Garden Gove and had the work completed and signed off by the inspector.

I am more than willing to work with inspector Austin if there is an infraction that needs to be done to the back dwelling. He is under the impression that the solution is to tear down the dwelling. I do not believe that is the answer, nor am I going to do that. I was given this house with the dwelling and it is "grandfathered" in. It was the City of Garden Grove that gave me both structures (main house and mother in laws dwelling) in an exchange for the Trask Avenue home my Mother owned at the time. I find it hard to believe after all these year you are going to tell me that the City did an exchange with a non-permitted, illegal structure.

I am willing to work with the inspector to find a compromise. As my Mayor I need your assistance to find the middle ground here. I do not want to hire legal counsel or go to the press and news stations, but I will if I feel my rights are being violated.

My vote aided in your securing the office of Mayor for the City of Garden Grove, I look forward to working with you and seeing first hand your comment to the people of Garden Grove.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in advance for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Sky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left of the first letter.

Paul Sky

cc: Mike Austin
Supervising Building Inspector
City of Garden Grove

Orange County Focus

TRAFFIC

CENTRAL

GARDEN GROVE She Fights to Save Home of 47 Years

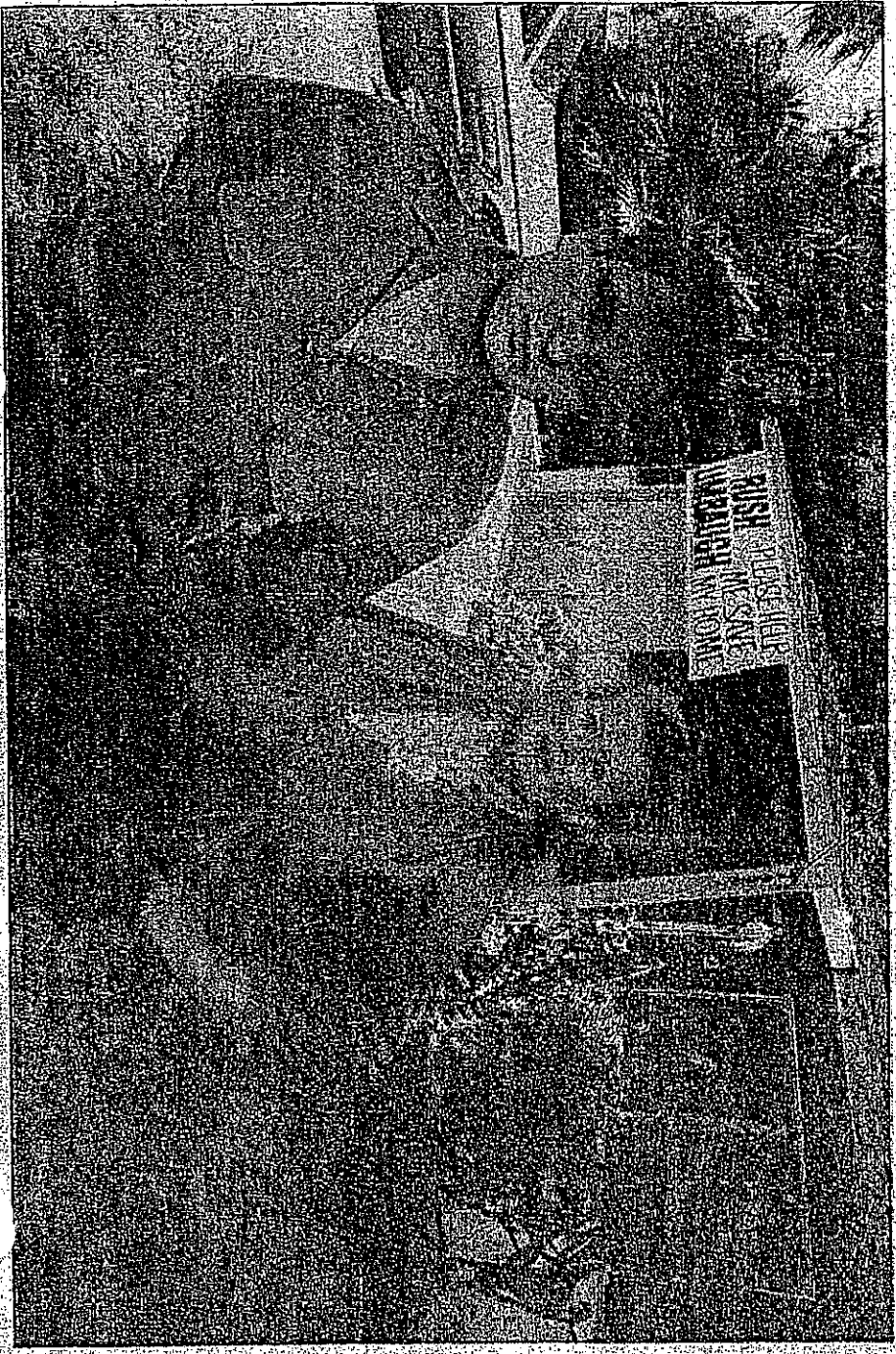
Marguerite L. Warne is angry over a proposed street widening project that threatens to take her home of 47 years on the corner of Trask Avenue and Elizabeth Street.

The city plans to demolish the woman's home to make room for a 64-foot-wide Trask Avenue, an 8-foot-wide sidewalk and a 5-foot-wide bicycle path.

"They want to take my whole damn property," said Warne, 63. "I don't mind if they take the frontage of my home but not the whole thing. My home means a lifetime of scrimping and saving to pay it off. I own it free and clear, and they don't give a damn."

She is so upset that she's hung a 4-foot-by-15-foot, red, white and blue sign from her garage. It reads: "Rush Through Please Help Me Save My Home."

She has vowed to fight City Hall all day, said she'll do anything to save her



KAREN TAPPA
Sales Times
Paul Siv and his mother, Marguerite L. Warne, stand in front of Warne's Trask Avenue home, slated for demolition.

Rush would be interested in what the city is doing to me. I hope he talks about my problem on his TV or radio show."

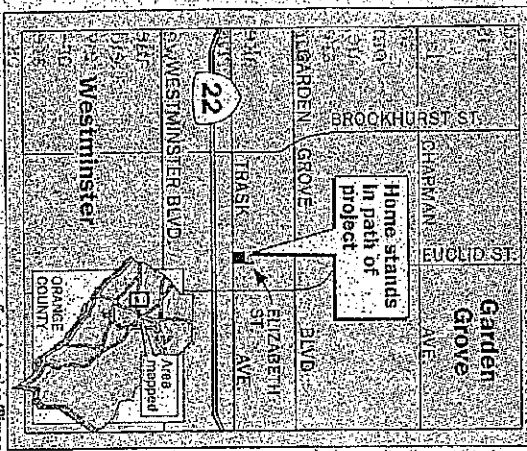
City officials said the street widening plans are not final and could be changed, depending on public response during several scheduled meetings. A draft environmental impact report will be issued July 21, and the public is invited to comment on it at a meeting Aug. 9.

Another public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on Sept. 9, and the City Council is expected to take action on the project Nov. 2.

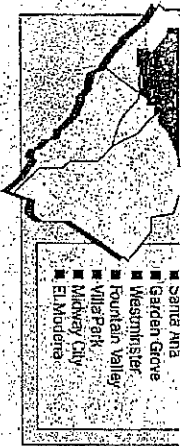
If the city approves the project and Warne's home is designated for acquisition, City Engineer Bill Patapoff said, her home would then be appraised and a "fair market value" would be offered.

For now, Patapoff said, Warne is the only resident against the project. Others have expressed some concerns, but many favor it, he said.

Street Widening Obstacle



Los Angeles Times



The plan is to "remove the bottle-necks on Trask," Patapoff said. "Right now, it's four lanes in some areas and two lanes in others."

Once the \$10-million project is complete, Trask Avenue will be a four-lane road from Brookhurst to Newhope streets.

Phyllis Nelson, who has lived on Trask Avenue since 1965, said the street widening is badly needed.

"The street is really dangerous because it gets narrow," said Nelson, 60.

"Since I moved here, I've seen accidents. People just plow into each other's cars. I've seen some nasty, nasty wrecks."

Patapoff said Trask Avenue, once it is widened, would serve as a safe alternate route to the Garden Grove Freeway.

Warne said she wouldn't mind if the city acquired her entire front yard and widened the street up to her front door. She just doesn't want to move.

"This is just another kick to the back of the bus," she said. "I'm now in my twilight years. If I lose my house, I'll be out on the street, because my \$325 Social Security check won't be enough for me to pay property taxes on a new home, much less live on."

Though everyone seems to agree that Trask should be widened, Warne and a council member said an effort will be made to save her home.

"It's obvious that we're going to have to widen Trask," Councilman Robert F. Dinsen said. "On some parts of the street, there will have to be some full takes, but when a citizen is willing to have the street close to her home in

Recording Requested By:

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

When recorded mail to:

CITY CLERK

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

11391 Acacia Parkway

Garden Grove, CA 92640

RECORDED AT THE REQUEST OF CHICAGO TITLE COMPANY

DOC # 94-0322888
10-MAY-1994 03:43 PM

Recorded in Official Records
of Orange County, California
Lee A. Branch, County Recorder
Page 1 of 3 Fees: \$ 0.00
Tax: \$ 0.00

Space above this line for Recorder's Use

099-271-16
ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER

I HEREBY DECLARE THAT THE GRANTEE IS A
GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY THEREFORE EXEMPT

By *Dorothy Morris*

3446

GRANT DEED

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,

MARGUERITE LOUISE WARNE AN UNMARRIED WOMAN WHO ACQUIRED TITLE AS
MARGUERITE LOUISE SZYMANSKI

014134 CB

3
D
1
OF

does hereby grant to the CITY OF GARDEN GROVE the real property in the City of Garden Grove,
County of Orange, State of California, described as

LOT 10 OF TRACT NO. 1657 AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 49,
PAGES 13 & 14 OF MISCELLANEOUS MAPS IN THE OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE.

CALIFORNIA ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

No. 8190

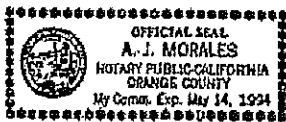
State of CALIFORNIA

County of ORANGE

On 1-14-94 before me, A. J. MORALES, Notary Public
DATE NAME, TITLE OF OFFICER - ED. (NAME DOES, NOTARY PUBLIC)

personally appeared MARGUERITE LOUISE WARNE
NAME(S) OF SIGNER(S)

personally known to me - OR - proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence
to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are
subscribed to the within instrument and ac-
knowledged to me that he/she/they executed
the same in his/her/their authorized
capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their
signature(s) on the instrument the person(s),
or the entity upon behalf of which the
person(s) acted, executed the instrument.



WITNESS my hand and official seal.

A. J. Morales
SIGNATURE OF NOTARY

**OPTIONAL SECTION
CAPACITY CLAIMED BY SIGNER**

Though statute does not require the Notary to fill in the data below, doing so may prove invaluable to persons relying on the document.

- INDIVIDUAL
- CORPORATE OFFICER(S)
- TITLE(S) _____
- PARTNER(S) LIMITED
- GENERAL
- ATTORNEY-IN-FACT
- TRUSTEE(S)
- GUARDIAN/CONSERVATOR
- OTHER: _____

SIGNER IS REPRESENTING:
NAME OF PERSON(S) OR ENTITY(ES)

MARGUERITE LOUISE
WARNE

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE ATTACHED TO
THE DOCUMENT DESCRIBED AT RIGHT:

TITLE OR TYPE OF DOCUMENT GRANT DEED

NUMBER OF PAGES 1 DATE OF DOCUMENT 2-14-94

SIGNER(S) OTHER THAN NAMED ABOVE NONE

Though the data requested here is not required by law,
it could prevent fraudulent reattachment of this form.

Document Number 940322888 Page 2 of 3



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

January 27, 2015

714-741-5104

Paul Sky
12041 Falling Leaf Circle
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Bao Nguyen
Mayor

Steven R. Jones
Mayor Pro Tem

Christopher V. Phan
Council Member

Phat Bui
Council Member

Kris Beard
Council Member

Dear Mr. Sky:

I have received your letter discussing a complaint of the rear dwelling at your property. I'm sorry you are having issues with your neighbor.

In order to investigate the history of your home and the rear structure, I am forwarding your letter to Susan Emery, our Community Development Director. Ms. Emery oversees our building and planning divisions and can direct staff to follow-up on the matter. She will be responding to you directly. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her at 714-741-5121.

Thank you for informing me of the situation, please expect a reply shortly.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen
Mayor



Pinks System

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Showing pink 3698

Print

Pink ID: 3698

Topic: **Sherry Williams complaints of trucks parking in neighborhood during construction of Great Wolf Lodge.**

Status: **AWAITING APPROVAL**

Requester Name: Sherry Williams

Requester Address: wms12702@sbcglobal.net

Requester CSZ:

Issued on: 02/27/2015

Initial Letter Sent:

Final Response: 03/05/2015

Priority: pink

Need Manager's Memo: no

Need Copy of response letter: yes

Need draft response letter on behalf of the Mayor: no

Need information only: no

Updated By: melaniev

Updated On: 03/05/2015

Referral Notes: I will scan and email complaint and photographs.

Response Notes: This is not a Public Works issue. WEM 3/5/15 email to Ms. Williams Dear Ms. Williams - The City of Garden Grove's Agency for Community Development has a Disposition and Development Agreement with the developer of the Great Wolf Lodge Southern California (GWL). The project is currently under construction on Harbor Boulevard. The Developer is continuing to work to

ensure there are no issues with the construction workers of the project parking in the adjacent neighborhoods. The Project Manager in charge of the project is David Bray. He will continue to tell his construction workers not to park in the neighborhoods and direct the construction workers for the project to the parking lot which is located north of Twintree Lane on Harbor Boulevard. The GWL is on schedule to open early 2016. The City and developer apologize for any workers that have parked in your neighborhood. If you have any other concerns or if the problem recurs please call Greg Blodgett at (714) 741-5124 or email me Greg1@garden-grove.org.

Assigned to: kingsley
 wem
 greg1

[Edit](#) | [Back to List](#)

RECEIVED
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Great Wolf Lodge part 2

2015 FEB 23 P 5:03

From : Sherry Williams <wms12702@sbcglobal.net>

Wed, Feb 18, 2015 07:00 AM

Subject : Great Wolf Lodge part 2

1 attachment

To : EconDev@ci.garden-grove.ca.us,
CityClerk@ci.garden-grove.ca.us

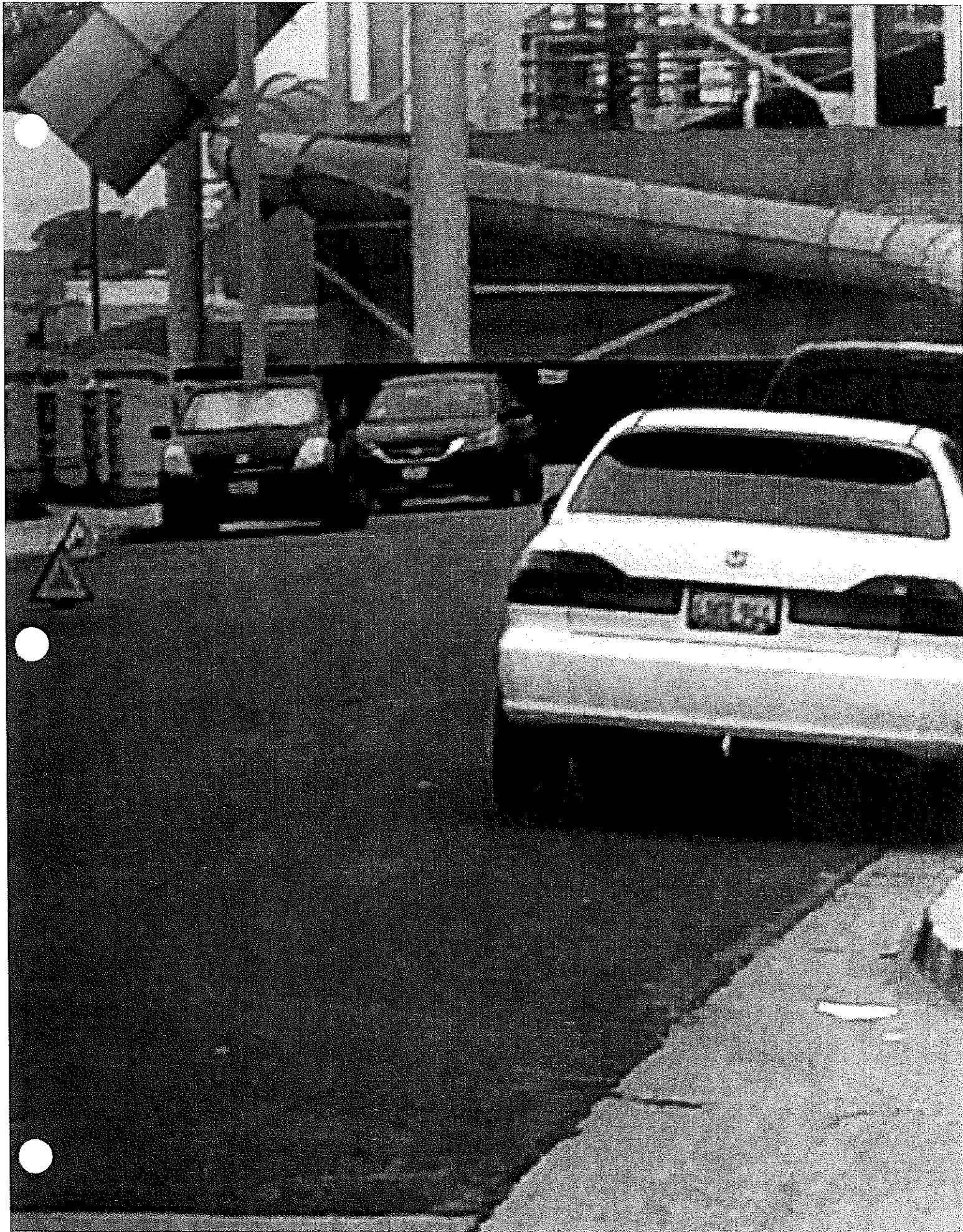
As an addendum to my email sent yesterday please see the photo below.
Instead of just construction worker vehicles parking in our neighborhood today we find a very large tractor trailer apparently waiting to offload its contents.

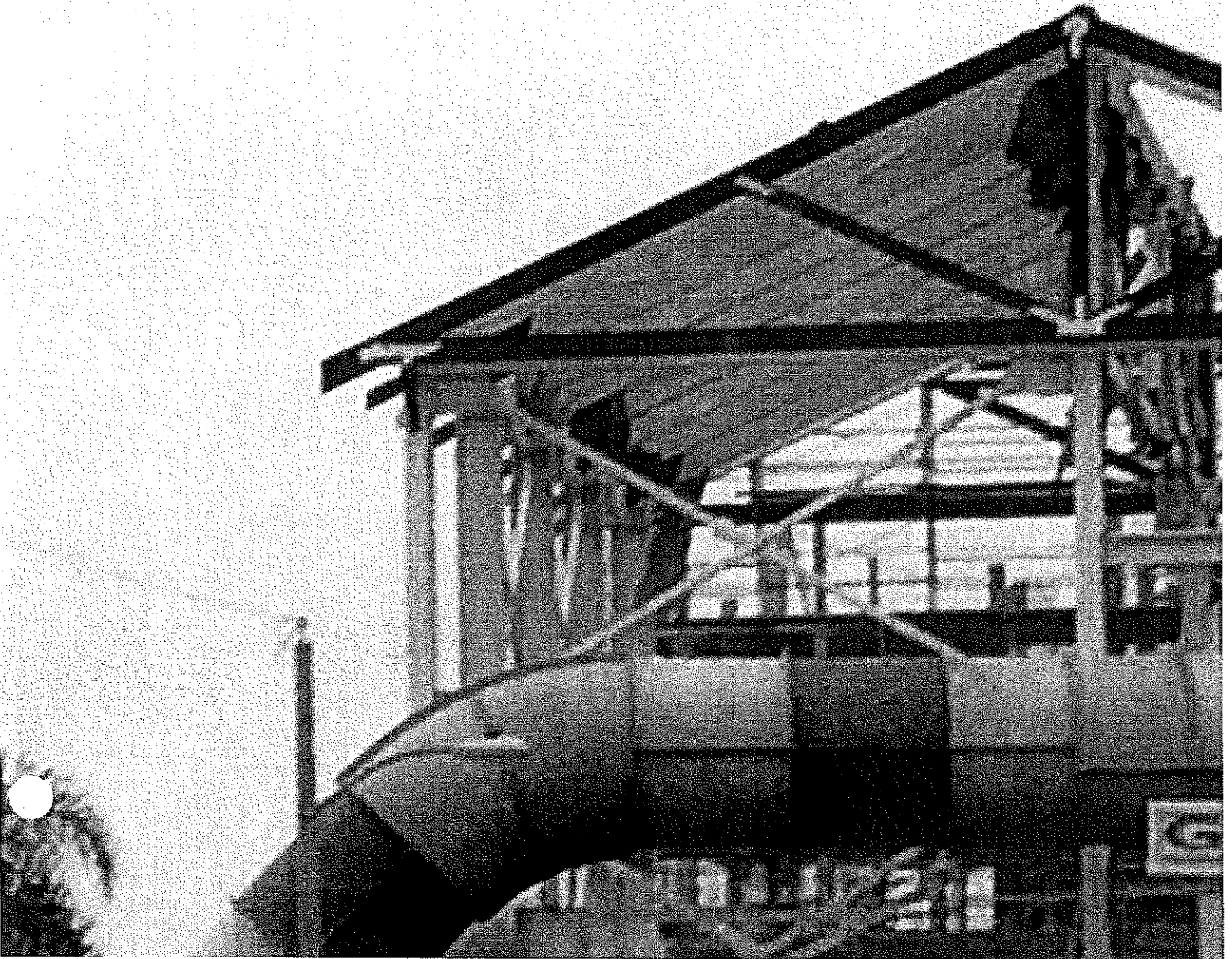
Sherry L. Williams

Sent from my iPhone



IMG_0677.JPG
1 MB





Great Wolf Lodge Construction parkingRECEIVED
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2015 FEB 23 P 5: 04

Tue, Feb 17, 2015 09:23 PM

From : wms12702@sbcglobal.net**Subject :** Great Wolf Lodge Construction parking

Has-Attach

To : EconDev@ci.garden-grove.ca.us

3 attachments

Cc : CityClerk@ci.garden-grove.ca.us

Please see the attached pictures regarding the Great Wolf Lodge construction worker parking problem. The first picture shows a night view of Blue Spruce west of Choisser towards Harbor and the Great Wolf Lodge construction site. Please note that only a car or two is shown parking on the street, which is normal for that block of homes. The second picture shows the same view at 7 a.m. with vehicles parking in the neighborhood from the construction workers. The third picture shows vehicles parked on Choisser Road south of Blue Spruce, the majority if not all, also being construction worker vehicles.

I have previously spoken to the city's project manager regarding the construction workers parking in the neighborhood east of the construction project, namely on Blue Spruce, Choisser and Aspenwood. I was informed that the workers were to park in the lot created for them on Harbor north of Twintree. I was told that the construction managers would be informed at their weekly meeting and to call back if it persisted.

At first the parking lessened. After a week or so the parking resumed. I again contacted the project manager. Although he was originally very receptive and willing to assist with this problem, in our last conversation he tended to give excuses as to how it was difficult to "catch" the construction workers parking in the area, how there are sub-workers only there for a few weeks at a time, and several other excuses. No viable alternative was even suggested nor did he state he would again speak to the construction managers at their weekly meeting.

I have suggested the use of a "No Construction Parking" sign in the neighborhoods but received no response. Those workers parking in my neighborhood are then jaywalking across Harbor Blvd. to get into the construction site. Perhaps the Garden Grove Police Department Traffic officers could be called in to assist. They are most often crossing around 7 a.m. and 3 - 4 p.m.

The parking of the construction worker vehicles crowds our neighborhood streets. It makes backing out of our driveways difficult because of the reduced visibility. The intersection of Blue Spruce and Harbor is already a dangerous intersection due to the restricted visibility caused by the wrought iron fence on the south side home. Cars turning east onto Blue Spruce from northbound Harbor have to maneuver through a narrower driving area with construction worker vehicles parked on both sides of the

street and very close to the intersection.

Lampson Avenue both east and west of Harbor are being heavily impacted by these construction workers parking there also. More vehicles parking on our streets, especially when a designated parking area has been provided for these vehicles, creates an unnecessary burden on our neighborhoods and the people who live here. It creates an unsafe area for pedestrians, especially young students, walking to several nearby schools.

The city created a parking lot for the use of these construction workers. The mandatory use of that designated parking area should have been a requirement of the contract between the City of Garden Grove and the Great Wolf Lodge developer. Sanctions against the developer or some other incentive should be used so that the developer ensures that the construction workers park in the designated lot.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. We all know that there will be some annoyances and disruptions in or near any construction area, but when they can be eliminated or mitigated they should be.

By cc of this email to City Clerk Kathy Bailor, I am requesting that she send or provide a copy to the Mayor and each member of the Garden Grove City Council.

I look forward to your quick response and correction to this parking issue.

Sherry L. Williams
12702 Choisser Road
Garden Grove, CA 92840
714-971-9969



2014-2 Pkg on Blue Spruce night.jpg

1 MB



2014-2 Pkg on Blue Spruce construction.jpg

999 KB



2014-2 Pkg on Choisser construction.jpg

1 MB

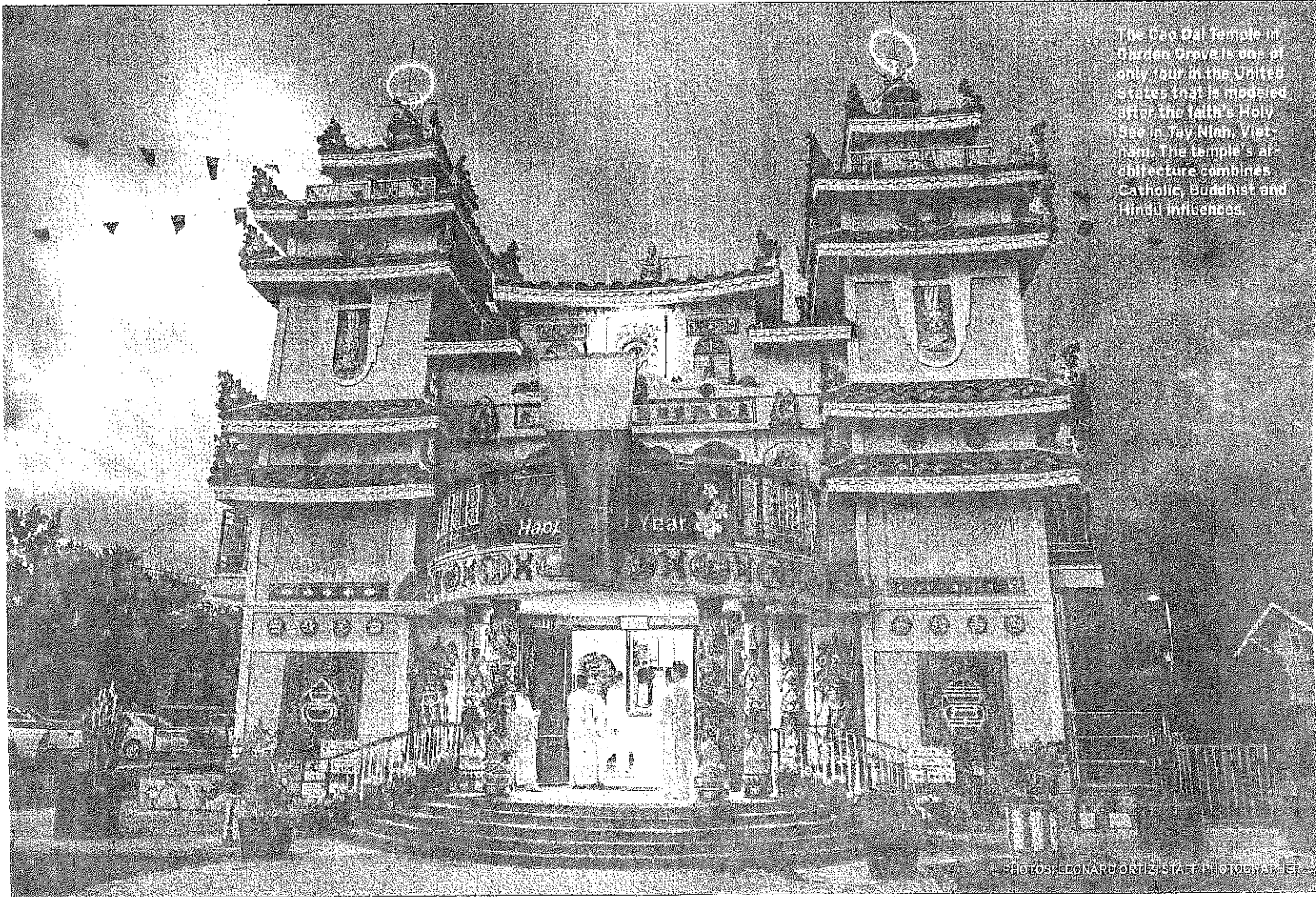




Weekly Memo 3/05/15

**NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES**

Caodaism is a fusion religion founded in Vietnam in 1926. In Garden Grove stands one of only four temples in the U.S. modeled after the main temple near Ho Chi Minh City.



The Cao Dai Temple in Garden Grove is one of only four in the United States that is modeled after the faith's Holy See in Tay Ninh, Vietnam. The temple's architecture combines Catholic, Buddhist and Hindu influences.

PHOTOS BY ANDRZEJ ASAFI/PHOTOMART.NET

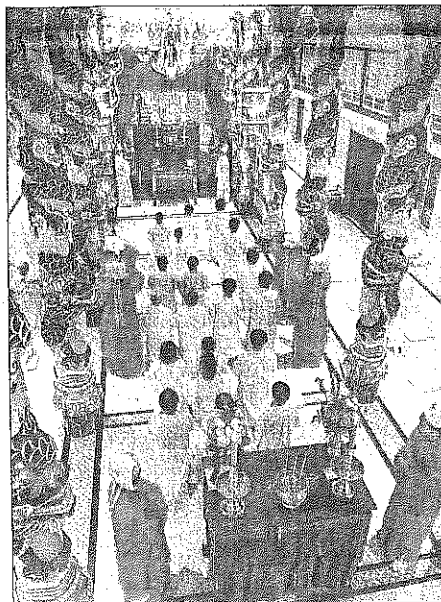
UNITY AT HEART

BY CHRIS HAIRE • STAFF WRITER

Two men in sapphire tunics marched along the aisles of the small but ornate temple Friday evening, delivering offerings to the altar of the all-seeing eye.

First, it was incense. Next it was fruits and flowers. Then wine. And finally, tea.

A small group of Vietnamese Americans, mostly older and clad in white robes, knelt at the center of this temple, tucked away on a residential strip of Orangewood Avenue in Garden Grove, occasionally prostrating themselves in prayer to God.



Cao Dai priests, in blue, take offerings to the altar past worshippers during a service at the Garden Grove temple.

WHAT IS CAODAIISM?

Caodaism is a relatively new religion that draws upon Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Catholicism. Its adherents number about 6 million, though most of those are in the religion's birthplace, Tay Ninh, Vietnam. In the U.S., most Caodaist temples are converted houses, but four are modeled after the main temple in Vietnam, including the one at 8791 Orangewood Ave., in Garden Grove. Caodaists believe in equality across religions, ethnicities and genders, and refer to themselves as brothers and sisters.

The founders didn't start out to found a religion. They wanted to spread an idea that other religions shouldn't fight. But an idea doesn't last that long, so they started Caodaism hoping it will last through many generations."

NEN HUYNH OF ANAHEIM FAMILY HAS FOLLOWED CAODAIISM SINCE ITS INCEPTION

FROM PAGE 1

Their God, one could say, is the God of Muslims, Christians and Jews, but also the God of the Eastern religions: Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism. He is, too, the creator as understood by pagans and agnostics.

That's because this God is the God of anyone who believes in a higher power. His followers, Caodaists, believe religions have, over the years, been distorted by mankind and put into conflict with each other.

Caodaism, founded in Vietnam in 1926, fuses the Eastern beliefs with the main monotheistic ones, primarily Christianity, and preaches harmony toward all, unity among different faiths, the purification of the soul across multiple lives and the ultimate exodus from earth to nirvana.

"For generations, Vietnam had been the crossroads for many religions," said Nen Huynh of Anaheim, whose family has followed Caodaism since its founding. "We had villagers of Indian descent, we were a vassal of China and we had Catholic influence because of the French. So we want to show that all religions come from the same source."

• • •

The Friday ceremony honored Ngo Van Chieu, the man largely credited with founding the religion in Tay Ninh, a province about 60 miles northwest of Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

The religion, whose adherents number about 6 million worldwide, including 25,000 in Southern California, was primarily contained to this province until the mid-1970s. Then came the fall of Saigon in

April 1975 and with it the religious suppression by the communist government.

And even though most Caodaists still reside in Tay

Ninh, many, fearing political and religious persecution, fled the war-torn country - spreading the religion as far as France and

the United States.

There are four Cao Dai (meaning "high tower," a Taoist epithet for the supreme god) temples in Orange County, though three of the four are converted houses.

The Orangewood Avenue site is one of just four in the U.S. that is modeled after the main Cao Dai temple, which followers refer to as their Holy See, in Tay Ninh, with the other three in Texas. The temple's architecture combines Catholic, Buddhist and Hindu influences. Inside, the temple has pastel-pink columns with protruding deep-green dragon statues and a sky-blue ceiling with stars.

The temple opened in 2008 and cost more than \$2 million to build. It has about 40 members. But because Caodaism requires its followers to pray four times a day, the temple is only at capacity during major holidays, such as Friday's ceremony honoring Chieu, Lunar New Year celebrations and Christmas services for Jesus Christ.

"Most of us here come from Tay Ninh," Huynh said as he ate a bowl of vegetable-and-tofu soup fol-

lowing the two-hour ceremony. "My dad spent six years in a re-education camp. So did a lot of other people. We had bad experiences with communism."

• • •

Caodaism is, its followers believe, the third phase of religion, unifying the first two phases: polytheism religions, such as Buddhism, and monotheism, such as Christianity.

Because of this, its symbolism and practices are varied.

Caodaists believe in reincarnation, for example, and the only way to reach heaven is to become a Buddha. But Caodaism also leans heavily on Catholicism. There are several levels of

saints that Caodaists can pray to, including Jesus Christ, the prophet Muhammad, Joan of Arc and the writers Victor Hugo and William Shakespeare.

Caodaism also has a pope, based in Tay Ninh, as well as bishops and priests - and that, largely, is where the Garden Grove temple disassociates itself with its Holy See. Vietnam has relaxed its suppression of religions within the last 20 years. But in order to climb the Caodaism hierarchy, you must receive approval from the government.

"Because of those bad experiences with communism, we don't recognize the pope," Huynh said. "We elect our own leader every two years."

Pham Van Cham, the current leader of the Garden Grove temple, gave a short speech, in Vietnamese, at Friday's ceremony in which he honored Chieu, who, according to doctrine, received a message from Cao Dai inspiring him to start the religion.

During the ceremony, drums and gongs shook the temple, priests chanted and a message to God was read and set aflame.

"When we pray, we forget our selfishness and we think of others and become good like Buddha," said Phong Nguyen, who lives at the temple. "We have to practice at self-improvement. So we don't push anyone to become Caodaists. We just tell them to be good."

Notable saints

Joan of Arc: Teen fought for the French against the English in the 15th century and claimed to be able to communicate with God.

Victor Hugo: The 19th century novelist of "Les Miserables," among other works, was a practicing spiritualist who, Caodaists believe, spoke to the religion's leaders during a seance in 1930.

Louis Pasteur: The French chemist who discovered the principles of vaccination and pasteurization in the 19th century also was a practicing spiritualist.

CONTACT THE WRITER:

714-704-3707 or

chaire@ocregister.com

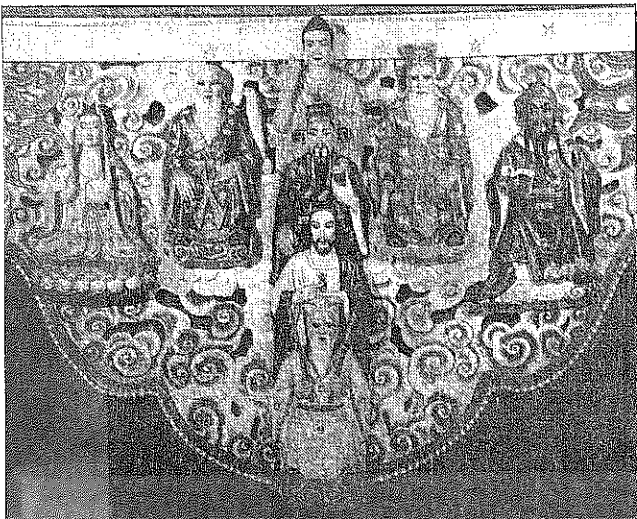
CAODAISM: Garden Grove temple opened in 2008

A Cao Dai priest carries an offering of flowers during a service to honor Ngo Van Chieu, the man who founded the religion in Vietnam.



PHOTOS: LEONARD ORTIZ, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cao Dai priests are seen through the front doors of the Cao Dai temple in Garden Grove. Caodaism is a religion that draws upon Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Catholicism.



A carving of various religious deities hangs above the altar at the Cao Dai temple in Garden Grove.



Musicians play during a Cao Dai service to honor Ngo Van Chieu, the man who founded the the religion.

Resident, business input sought in selecting new city manager

Mayor says opinions from the community 'will weigh heavily' on the decision.

BY CHRIS HAIRE
STAFF WRITER

Garden Grove wants you to help in picking the next chief executive of the city.

Residents and business owners in Garden Grove can now take an online survey - in English, Vietnamese, Spanish or Korean - regarding which qualities they want to see in a permanent city manager.

The survey is available on the city's website or can be picked up at City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway.

The city also is hosting a community forum, along with the company hired to search for a permanent city manager, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



Roeder



Fertal

March 12 at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.

Allan Roeder became interim city manager in January after the retirement of Matt Fertal, who stepped down after 10 years; Roeder has stepped in on a temporary bases for other cities as well.

The deadline to apply for city manager, who is charged with running the city's day-to-day operations, is March 23.

Garden Grove officials hope to announce a permanent city manager by June.

The city manager position is responsible for plan-

Community forum

When: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
March 12

Where: Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.

Cost: Free

More info: 916-471-3111

ning, directing and managing the activities and operations of the city, and overseeing the nine administrative departments. The city manager also implements policy decisions made by the City Council.

"What the community wants will weigh heavily on our selection process," Mayor Bao Nguyen said.

CONTACT THE WRITER:

714-704-3707 or
chaire@ocregister.com

Fire Station No. 6 looking for new digs

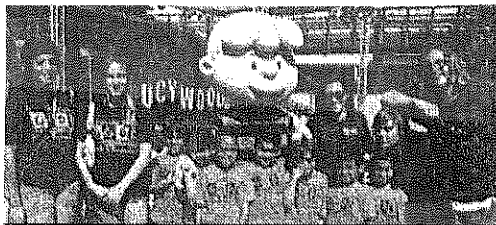
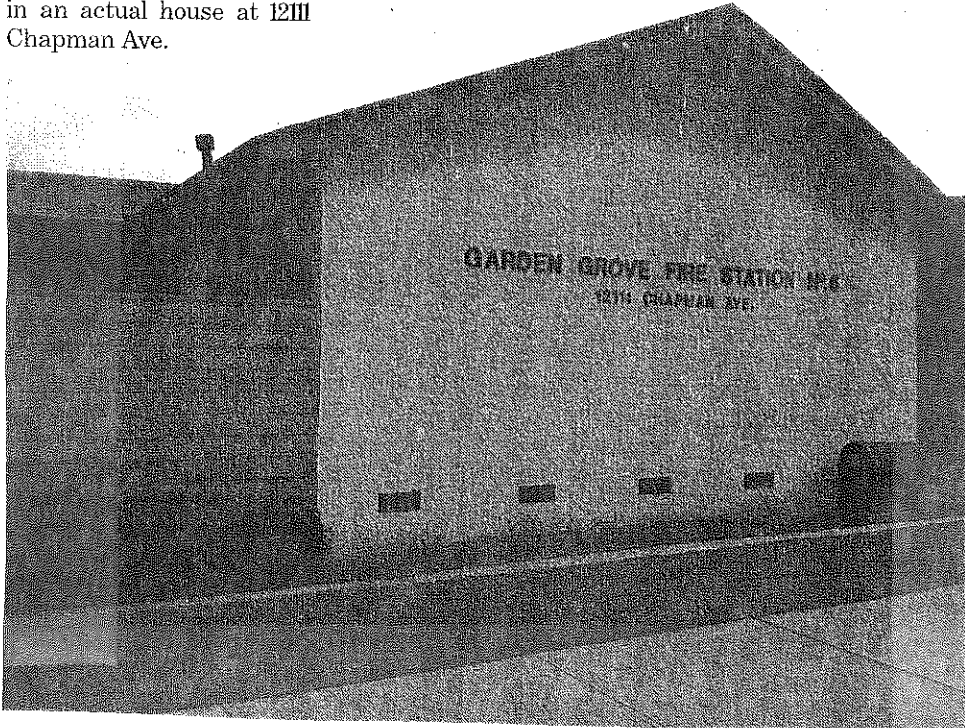
"Home sweet home" is a great expression for people's houses - not so much when describing fire stations.

That's why Garden Grove is looking to find a new location for Fire Station No. 6, which is located in an actual house at 12111 Chapman Ave.

The department has been looking at new locations and may adopt one of the designs the Orange County Fire Authority uses for its stations.

David Barlag, the former fire chief now employed as Garden Grove's public safe-

ty administrator, is in charge of coordinating the search for the new location - one of several responsibilities interim City Manager Allan Roeder recently gave him.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

Summer employees lead kids through the city's Community Services Department.

City seeking part-timers to fill summer job openings

Spend the summer kidding around.

The Garden Grove Community Services Department is now accepting applications for several part-time summer jobs.

Applicants must enjoy

working with kids and being outdoors, and be an outgoing person.

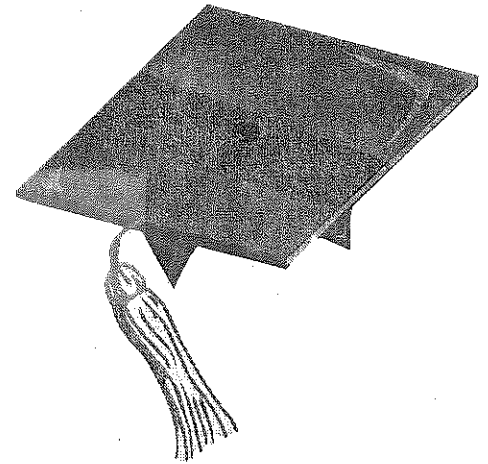
The jobs vary from officiating sporting events to working at a summer day camp.

The deadline to apply is

Monday.

To view the job descriptions and requirements, go to ci-garden-grove.ca.us/jobs.

Information: 714-741-5200.



THE WAY TO COLLEGE

Applying to college can be nerve-racking, sweat-inducing, headache-causing - and it seems like you can never start preparing early enough.

Well, the Garden Grove Unified School District wants to help out.

The district is hosting "Roadmap to College," a workshop for students and parents to help them navigate college prep and the application process, 5-8 p.m. Monday at La Quinta High School, 10372 W. McFadden Ave., in Westminster.

Any students from seventh to 12th grade are welcome to attend. There will be several workshops students and parents can choose from, including ones about financial aid and scholarships, planning for college, athletic recruitment and opportunities for students without documentation.

Two of the workshops will be exclusively for seniors.

During the first, Superintendent Gabriela Mafi will walk seniors through selecting the best university for them; the second is hosted by UC Irvine representatives and will discuss how students and their families can afford college.



CHRIS HAIRE, STAFF

The Festival Amphitheater in Garden Grove is having two shows of "Xanadu."

Fall in love with roller disco

You won't get to see Olivia Newton-John with big hair and roller skates – but the Festival Amphitheater's "Xanadu Jr." still promises to provide a whirlwind time for adults, children and lovers of all things '80s.

The original production of "Xanadu" won a Tony Award in 2008 – a far different reception than the 1980 cult-classic

film it was based on – and follows a Greek muse who goes from Mount Olympus to Venice Beach to inspire a struggling artist.

"Xanadu Jr." will be side-splitting and ear-splitting, boasting both hilarious jokes and classic '80s tunes, organizers said.

– Chris Haire

If you go

When: 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Where: The Garden Grove Festival Amphitheater, 12762 Main St.

Cost: \$15

More info:
714-928-3894 or
thestrawberry
bowl.com

Performers play their parts to perfection in 'Little Shop of Horrors'

By Angela Hatcher

Celebrating its 10 year anniversary, Orange County's Arts & Learning Conservatory "planted" itself on Garden Grove's impressive Freed Theater Stage with its lively production of the eerie '60s Rock 'n Roll musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," and the enthusiastic crowd happily "devoured" every last bite of the doo-wopping carnivorous leafy green plant life.

Written and composed by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, Little Shop is analogous to such mid-century sci-fi B-movie favorites as "Plan B" and "The Attack of the Killer Tomatoes," but there was nothing even remotely old-fashioned about the exuberance that exploded from Arts & Learning's well-rehearsed young cast.

Most folks know the basis of the story. Hapless Seymour Krelborn (Anthony Kutscher) and vulnerable Audrey (Danielle Gauss) are both employees in Mushnik's dilapidated Skid Row flower shop. As the storefront business is teetering on the

verge of closing its doors, Seymour and Audrey are both dreaming of greener pastures.

Seymour secretly pines for Audrey but assumes she's out of his league. Audrey wants out of the asphalt jungle and yearns for her idea of the "American Dream" – a loving husband, white picket fence, a garden, a 12-inch screen TV (OK, folks, giant flat screens weren't invented yet), but she doesn't believe that she is good enough for a nice guy like Krelborn. And then... there's that "strange and unusual plant" that Seymour soon discovers. He names it Audrey II after... well, you know. "Twoey" draws curious paying customers into the shop, business is booming, so the question is: could dreams be coming true? Audrey's sadistic biker boyfriend, Orin Scrivello (Dakota Denton) is still in the picture.

What to do?

The ravenous Audrey II may have a tempting reply. Oddly, in A & L's production, the cantankerous store owner, Mr. Mushnik was nowhere in sight, and in his place stood the tetchy Mrs. Mushnik (Dora Castillo).

A female Mushnik took some getting used to, especially in the fun-loving "Mushnik and Son" song and dance number; but ultimately, Castillo pulled it off beautifully and caused her own waves of belly laughs from the audience.

Another noticeable change in

the show was that the "Greek-chorus" trio was instead a sextet of black-haired bouffant beauties, Elise Ybarra, Grace Shackelford, Alexandra Denton, Sarah Peters, Olivia Castillo, and Kai Yoshida, who delightfully moved the storyline along.

Music direction by Kevin Weed featuring Weed on keyboard, Andre Rossignol on guitar, Chris Booke on bass, and Jeff Segal on drums gave the recognizable music its effervescence and vibrancy.

Kutscher played the shy and nerdy Seymour to perfection. Gauss added sweetness and frailty to Audrey, and Denton was deliciously evil as the cruel and disturbed Orin.

Audrey II and AJ Reiser brought the plant to life with a wonderfully powerful and commanding voice.

Mention also to Colin Severn as The Narrator, Leyla Rakshani as Mrs. Luce/Mom/Customer, Thalia Feliciano as Radio Announcer Patricia Martin, Joseph Adams as Snip Snip, and Kendra, the Puppeteer.

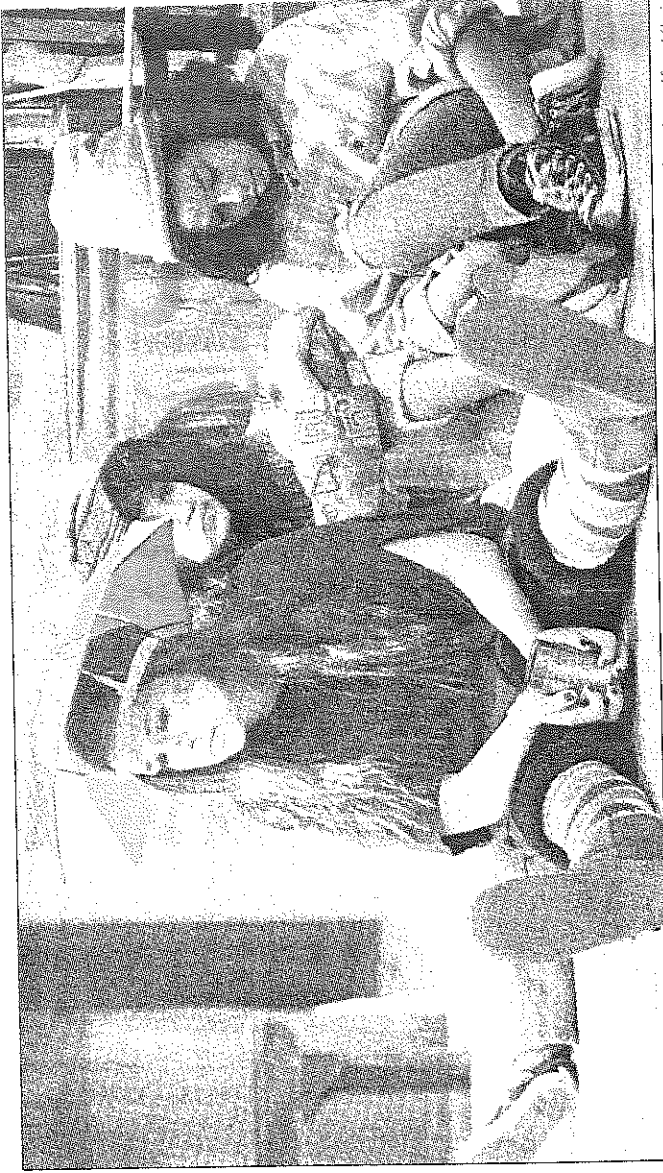
A & L's Little Shop of Horrors was a marvelously well-done and wonderfully entertaining show to attend, unless, of course you had a paper cut on your finger...

For information on classes or future productions, contact Arts & Learning Conservatory, 1518 Brookhollow Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92705 at 714-728.7100, or visit www.artsandlearning.org.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT



Audrey (Danielle Gauss) with Seymour (Anthony Kutscher) during a scene of "Little Shop of Horrors," which played at Garden Grove's Freed Theater Stage.



From left, Sydney Severn, Sarah Reich, Thalia Feliciano as homeless people on Skid Row during a scene in "Little Shop of Horrors" at Garden Grove's Free Theater Stage.

Photos by Jennifer Klein

Orange County News
March 4, 2015

Actors dazzle in 'Little Shop'



Photo by Jennifer Klein

Rachel Peters sells an exotic plant to Seymour (Anthony Kutscher) during a production of "Little Shop of Horrors" at Garden Grove's Freed Theater Stage. For a review of the play, see Page 6.

Orange County News
March 4, 2015

The Garden Grove Unified School District is seeking qualified volunteers to serve on the independent Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) for the implementation of Measure A, the \$250 million school modernization bond measure approved by district voters in June 2010.

The application and committee bylaws are available online at www.ggusd.us or from the Public Information Office at 714-663-6503.

Completed applications must be received by the Public Information Office, Garden Grove Unified School District, 10331 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove 92840, or emailed to astevens1@ggusd.us no later than 4 p.m. on March 13.

All committee members must be district residents and be at least 18 years old.

The committee generally meets several times yearly, with all meetings open to the public. Membership is voluntary and without compensation. Employees, vendors, contractors, consultants, or district officials are ineligible for appointment to the committee. New committee members will be appointed to two-year terms, starting May 10 and ending May 9.

The committee provides transparency and maintains public confidence in the use of Measure A bond proceeds. California state law requires that a BOC be appointed by the Board of Education to monitor bond expenditures and ensure no bond revenues are appropriated for teacher or administrator salaries, or general district operating expenses.

For more information, call the district's Public Information Office at 714-663-6503, or go online to 'Measure A School Bond' link from the district website, www.ggusd.us.

GG school district seeks volunteers

Committee will give input on \$250 mil in modernization

GG, Stanton residents honored

Americana Awards recognizes couples for their community contributions

By Loreen Berlin

The annual Cypress Americana Awards were held over the weekend at the Disneyland Hotel where top residents, including from Garden Grove and Stanton, from the eight cities the college serves were recognized during a gala dinner.

Those honored from Garden Grove were Mark and Debbie Mahoney. Those honored from Stanton were Joel and Debbie Greer.

A video presentation of each of the residents played at the front of the hall and then each recipient was walked to the stage by their mayor or mayor pro-tem.

From Garden Grove, Mark and Debbie Mahoney are not only being recognized as the 2015 Citizens of the Year, but were also the Garden Grove Chamber's Man and Woman of the Year in 2014.

"I truly love Garden Grove and everything we do in the city and it's organizations," said Debbie Mahoney, who grew up in Garden Grove, attending local schools.

"Debbie is a dedicated and compassionate leader whose love for the City of Garden Grove motivates her to work selflessly," said Mark. "I have tremendous pride in the community and continue to volunteer to help create a great place to live," said Debbie.

"Debbie's dedicated and caring nature is an inspirational force in the lives of many, including me, her husband; I'm involved because of Debbie," said Mark.

The Mahoneys said it's the best feeling to know that together they can make a contribution to others.

"We both make individual and combined contributions, Mark said.

Some of those contributions since 1998 include Debbie as a past president of the Women's Division of the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival and past

president of the Garden Grove Renaissance Friends Foundation.

Debbie is the recipient of the Parent Teachers Association Honorary Service Award, a two-time recipient of the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce Women's Division Silver Spoon Award and a recipient of the Honda Center Pond Pride Award.

Mark's service includes past presidency leadership for the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival, Silver Spoon recipient for the festival, and 22-plus years of active membership in the Elks Lodge, including his current 2014-15 role as Lecturing Knight, and Loyal Knight-Elect for 2015-16. Mark is a recipient of the Model T-Ford Club of America's highest Award, the Rosenthal Trophy and served as president for three consecutive years.

Together, Mark and Debbie have been active in the Garden Grove Sister City Program as a host family from 2002-2010.

Mark's family began farming in Anaheim in 1881 in the area that is now part of Buena Park. Mark is a Model-T enthusiast, an interest that introduced him to Debbie. He has spent 40 years as a board member of the Orange County Model-T Ford Club, serving seven times as its president, and has been a board member for 18 years.

In addition to their service, both of the Mahoneys have a rewarding professional life and they are an exemplary couple who make Garden Grove a greater city for all.

Some background information about the Greer's includes:

-In 2007 Joel said he had just finished his MBA at Cal State Long Beach and that Debbie and he were looking for something they could do together;

-Debbie said she found an ad for the Citizen's Academy in the newspaper, that interested them and so they both attended. "That

was an opportunity to meet city officials and learn more about how city government operates," said Joel.

-After the seven-week classes, the Greers began attending City Council meetings to stay informed and that's when the then Mayor David Cadenzas asked if one of them would be interested in serving on the Planning Commission.

"I applied for the position and Councilman Al Ethans appointed me in 2008 where I have served for the past seven years," Joel explained.

Shortly after that, Debbie was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission, where she participated in neighborhood meetings to help determine the Central Park design and participated in the Healthy Eating, Active Living program and was one of the founding members of the Stanton Community Foundation, where she remains an active member.

Both of the Greers continue to participate in citywide events, assisting wherever they're needed. Joel is the official city photographer, taking thousands of pictures at the Easter egg hunts, Halloween with Family and Friends, Christmas in the City, the Veterans Day services, the Car Show, and the Mayor's Prayer breakfasts.

"We have both enjoyed serving on our commissions and being part of city events, and meeting people throughout the city," said Joel.

Debbie grew up in Tennessee and Joel grew up in El Segundo and they have both been active in their church groups. Joel leads a Bible study on Sundays and Debbie serves in the Women's Ministries in Westminster, in addition to their full-time careers.

"We consider it an honor to be selected to represent the City of Stanton at the American Awards dinner."

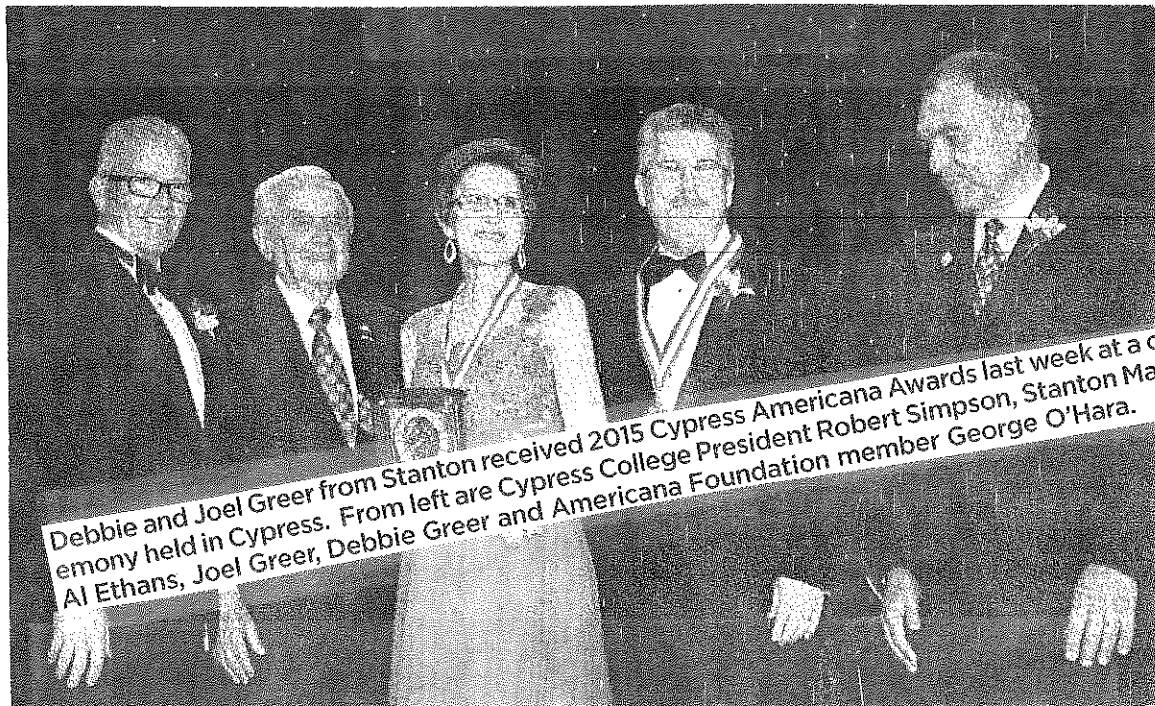
GG couple named Citizens of the Year



Photo by Loreen Berlin

Debbie and Mark Mahoney from Garden Grove were presented the 2015 Cypress Americana Award for Citizens of the Year Saturday evening in Cypress. From left are Cypress College President Robert Simpson, Mark Mahoney, Debbie Mahoney, Garden Grove City Councilman Chris Phan and Americana Foundation member George O'Hara. For story, see page 7.

Orange County News
March 4, 2015



Debbie and Joel Greer from Stanton received 2015 Cypress Americana Awards last week at a ceremony held in Cypress. From left are Cypress College President Robert Simpson, Stanton Mayor Al Ethans, Joel Greer, Debbie Greer and Americana Foundation member George O'Hara.

School district seeks personnel commissioner

Applications are being accepted for slot appointed by Board of Education

The Garden Grove Unified School District is now accepting applications for personnel commissioner to be appointed by the Board of Education.

The district has utilized the merit system since 1966 to ensure that employees are selected, promoted and retained without favoritism or prejudice. Commissioners are private citizens who must be known adherents to the merit system. Commissioners are appointed for three-year terms.

The application is available at www.ggusd.us and must be submitted to the Office of Personnel Services before 5 p.m. Friday, March 6. All eligible Garden Grove Unified School District residents who are interested in the position are encouraged to apply.

In order to be eligible to serve as a commissioner, applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be a citizen of the state of California
- Have his/her primary residence within the GGUSD boundaries

- Be a registered voter
- Support the principle of merit system (This is most easily demonstrated by the applicant's public service, especially within the public school system.)
- Be able to attend meetings at the District Office on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

For a complete description of job duties and expectations, visit: http://ggusd.edlioschool.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_

All applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will have their applications and qualifications reviewed by a committee from the Office of the Personnel Services who will forward a recommendation to the Board of Education.

On March 17, the board will publicly announce the name of the person it intends to appoint at their regular meeting.

On April 21, there will be an open hearing that will provide the public and district employees the opportunity to express their views about the recommendation. Following the open hearing, the board may make the appointment or make a substitute appointment recommendation.

Community Calendar

For more information, visit www.westminster-ca.gov.

Cartoonist lessons offered
 Artists ages 6-12 will have fun drawing and coloring a myriad of expressive characters while learning how to stay on task, follow directions, and be visually, spatially organized. There will be new lessons each week, even for previous students. The next class will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Westminster Civic Center craft room, 8200 Westminster Blvd. in Westminster.

Commission set to meet
 The City of Westminster Planning Commission holds its regular meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd. in Westminster.

Chamber set to meet
 The Westminster Chamber of Commerce holds legislation meetings at 8 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month in its offices, at 14491 Beach Blvd. in Westminster.

Board meetings on Fridays
 The Chamber of Commerce holds a regular board of directors meeting at 8 a.m. the fourth Friday of every month at the chamber's location, 14491 Beach Blvd. in Westminster. For more information, call the chamber at 714-898-9648.

Join preschool storytime hour
 Join the Westminster Public Library for stories, songs, and crafts at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday with your preschool-aged child. The Westminster Library is at 8180 13th St. in Westminster. Contact the children's librarian, Anna, with questions at 714-893-5057.

day of each month at the district offices, 10331 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove.

Ready, young Rembrandts?
 Elementary and preschool students are eager to learn and a joy to teach. Your young artist will learn to draw using our step-by-step process in this class, held on Tuesdays at the Westminster Civic Center craft room, 8200 Westminster Blvd. in Westminster. Give your child a head start in being

handwriting-ready by developing his/her fine motor skills. There will be new lessons each week at the preschool and elementary level. Students ages 3-5 meet at 3:15 p.m. and ages 6-12 meet at 4 p.m.

Dance Center hosts social
 Join the staff of the Cedarbrook Dance Center for nights of square dancing, line dancing, round dancing (pre-choreographed social dancing) and salsa. The Dance Center is at 12812 Garden Grove Blvd. For more information on classes, call Eileen Silvia at 949-637-4169.

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

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

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

School Board to meet
 The Garden Grove Unified School District holds its regular meetings at 7 p.m. the first and third Tues-

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

Grief support
 The Grief Share Support Group is for mothers who have lost children of every age. The group meets Thursday evenings at 12831 Olive St., Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-892-1520 or 714-343-7516.

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

CALENDAR-

Orange County News
 March 4, 2015

Local Assemblyman introduces two bills

AB 839 would address state's educational needs

Last week, Assemblyman Travis Allen (R-Huntington Beach), who represents Garden Grove and Westminster, introduced Assembly Bill 839 and Assembly Bill 943, which will both improve educational opportunities in California through the California Collaborative for Education Excellence.

Following are the bills:

AB 839

The California Education Code established the California Collaborative for Education Excellence (CCEE). The mission of this collaborative is to advise and assist school districts, county superintendents of schools, and charter schools in achieving their goals, and to provide oversight and accountability for all public schools to meet the state standards. AB 839 will simply add a parent and charter school representative to the collaborative.

"Currently, every aspect of our children's education has been afforded representation on the collaborative, except for charter schools and parents. Given the fact that parent involvement is one of the eight goals of California's educational system, we should

live up to our promise to the children of the state," said Allen. "Providing a voice on the collaborative for parents and charter schools will greatly increase the quality of education that our students receive throughout California."

AB 943

Existing law established the CCEE to hire contractors to advise, assist, and audit school districts, county superintendents of schools, and charter schools in achieving their educational goals. AB 943 would require a CCEE contractor assigned to a charter school to have experience, specialized expertise, and a record of success in working with charter schools in improving pupil outcomes. This will further ensure that the state is providing the best resources to our local schools to help them excel in providing education for our children.

"Every school in California has different needs, opportunities, and struggles. Our California parents and students deserve contractors with proven track records in improving academic outcomes to provide the highest quality education for our next generation," said Allen.

Orange County News
March 4, 2015

Kobe Bryant visits area college

Coastline Community College hosted an exclusive NBA Entertainment interview with Kobe Bryant at the Coastline Art Gallery on Jan. 26.

Coastline, which has campuses in Garden Grove, Westminster and other cities, worked with the NBA Corporation to develop the project, Kobe: The Interview for NBA-TV. The interview was hosted by NBA-TV host, Ahmad Rashad who dedicated the interview to focus on the personal side of Kobe Bryant. Rashad gets Kobe to open up about his career in the NBA, the 2008 NBA Finals loss to the Boston Celtics, and some of his milestone moments with the Lakers.

"Coastline Community College's Art Gallery in Newport Beach was the absolute perfect location to host the exclusive interview," said NBA Entertainment Vice President Andy Thompson. "The Newport Beach campus is beautiful, spacious, and very private, which made a huge difference for our project."

NBA Entertainment and Field Producer James Perry toured several locations to host the interview, including various art galleries

in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas.

"We were fortunate to have found the Coastline Art Gallery," said NBA Field Producer James Perry. "Coastline's Newport Beach Center neighbors the building that will be the headquarters for Kobe Bryant's new company, Kobe, Inc., which made it a win-win for his camp and the NBA Corporation."

Coastline's Newport Beach Center has been the prime location for entertainment companies across Orange County and Los Angeles. As a LEED certified state-of-the-art facility, the center is a popular location for companies who are interested in photo shoots, filming commercials, and hosting events.

"Coastline was honored to be part of this special project," said Director of Marketing and Public Relations Nhadira B. Johnson.

Kobe: The Interview aired on Monday, Feb. 16 on NBA-TV.

Visit nbatv.com for more information about Kobe: The Interview.

For more information about Coastline Community College, visit www.coastline.edu or call 714-241-6186.

Local church to dramatize life of Christ

Display will feature works by famous artists, as well as music



Tony on the Town

By Tony Cheong

Christians are in for a treat on March 28 and 29.

Our Redeemer Church in Garden Grove is holding "Living Pictures 2015," a dramatic presentation of the life of Jesus Christ using works of art by famous artists.

The art is accompanied with appropriate script and music. This is the 34th year Our Redeemer Church has been portraying the life of Christ through living art.

The presentations will be held at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, March 28 and 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29.

Our Redeemer Church is at 12301 Magnolia St. in Garden Grove.

For more information, call 714-539-9541.

Which artists will be featured? Michelangelo? Even though I don't believe anything can beat my experience at the Sistine Chapel in Italy, I'll be going to see this presentation.

March madness!

It's difficult to fathom that we're in the third month of 2015.

March madness refers to college basketball, but my beat involves HIGH SCHOOL basketball, and while some of our local teams had successful seasons, many have dropped like flies.

The latest were Rancho Alamitos High School girls' basketball, which lost in the second round to North High, Garden Grove High School boys and girls teams, which lost to Thousand Oaks, Santiago High, which lost to Village Christian, and the West-

minster High School boys' team, which lost to Villa Park, which held Lions' star Tyler Burch — who had scored 56 the week before — to just 13 points.

Our last hope was crushed over the weekend. The Westminster High School girls' team, led by star Vicki Vo, lost in the third round of the playoffs. Vo, by the way, is expected to be named MVP of the Golden West League after leading her team to a league title.

And more good news: the Lady Lions return three starters next season.

Congratulations to Ed Royce, father of Ed Royce Jr., a U.S. Congressman headquartered in Fullerton. The junior Royce represents much of north Orange County. The senior Royce, who celebrated his birthday with family, is healthy, happy and going strong as he enters his ninth decade.

Here's hoping for many more happy birthdays for Mr. Royce.

Have a suggestion, a question, a news tip? Contact Tony at tonyon-town@yahoo.com.

Chamber changes

Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce CEO David Ahern has stepped down from his positions.

He announced it via a letter to the chamber and public last week. Following is the letter:

Dear Friends, I will be leaving my position as Chamber CEO effective tomorrow (Feb. 27) afternoon. I have accepted a new position with the County of Orange as an administrator in their Public Works Department. The Chamber Board of Directors will soon make an announcement regarding filling the CEO position. Meanwhile, our chamber is in good hands and on solid footings. As for me, I have been blessed with many wonderful new friendships while working for the chamber. I want to thank you all for your kindness and generosity of spirit. You folks are what makes Garden Grove a great community. Getting to know each of you has enriched my life immensely. Warmest regards,

Dave Ahern

Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce

Honoring veterans

On Jan. 13, the Stanton City Council proclaimed every Thursday as Red Shirt Thursday.

Residents are encouraged to participate in this special recognition. Red Shirt Thursday has been adopted by local governments, community groups, and private businesses across the nation.

Red Shirt Thursday is a powerful and easy way to show support for men and women who have served in the military. This grassroots effort is growing in the United States to honor service members of the Armed Forces.

To participate, individuals wear a red shirt or other type of red garment every Thursday to pay respect to all the veterans and active duty military personnel.

Job openings in GG

The City of Garden Grove Community Services Department is accepting on-line applications for several part-time seasonal positions at a variety of city facilities.

Applications and a detailed job description for each position can be found on the city's website at www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us/jobs.

The deadline for submissions is March 9.

For more information, contact the Community Services Department at 714-741-5200.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE OVERSIGHT BOARD TO THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE GARDEN GROVE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard; The Oversight Board to The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development (Oversight Board) will hold a Public Hearing, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 34181(f), at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, California. A Property Transfer (Transfer), pursuant to the approved Long Range Property Management Plan, between the The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development and City of Garden Grove of certain real property located at 12361 Chapman Avenue, 12222 Harbor Boulevard, 12252 Harbor Boulevard, 12262 Harbor Boulevard, 12272 Harbor Boulevard, 12292 Harbor Boulevard, 12551 Twintree Avenue, 12571 Twintree Avenue, and 12239 Choisser Road, Garden Grove, will be considered.

All interested persons or organizations may attend the Public Hearing or submit written comments on the proposed Transfer prior to the meeting. Please submit any written comments to the Garden Grove City Clerk, 11222 Acacia Parkway, P.O. Box 3070, Garden Grove, California, 92842-3070. Written correspondence received before 3:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Public Hearing will be given to the Oversight Board prior to the meeting. Information received after that time will be given to the Oversight Board at the time of the meeting.

If you challenge the action taken at this Public Hearing, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this Notice, or in written comments delivered to the City Clerk's Office prior to or at the Public Hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the City Clerk at (714) 741 5040. Notification by Noon on Thursday, March 19, 2015, will enable reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

Further information regarding the proposed Transfer may be obtained by contacting Jim DellaLonga, Senior Project Manager, at (714) 741-5788.

Kathleen Bailor, CMC
Secretary

Date: March 2, 2015
Publish: March 4, 2015 and March 11, 2015
Orange County News
15-50146
Publish Mar. 4, 11, 2015



Orange County News
March 4, 2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE GARDEN GROVE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development (Successor Agency) will hold a Public Hearing, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 33431, at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, California. A Property Transfer (Transfer) pursuant to the approved Long Range Property Management Plan, between the Successor Agency and City of Garden Grove of certain real property located at 12361 Chapman Avenue, 12222 Harbor Boulevard, 12252 Harbor Boulevard, 12262 Harbor Boulevard, 12272 Harbor Boulevard, 12292 Harbor Boulevard, 12551 Twintree Avenue, 12571 Twintree Avenue, and 12239 Choisser Road, Garden Grove, will be considered.

All interested persons or organizations may attend the Public Hearing or submit written comments on the proposed Transfer prior to the meeting. Please submit any written comments to the Garden Grove City Clerk, 11222 Acacia Parkway, P.O. Box 3070, Garden Grove, California, 92842-3070. Written correspondence received before 3:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Public Hearing will be given to the Successor Agency prior to the meeting. Information received after that time will be given to the Successor Agency at the time of the meeting. If you challenge the action taken at this Public Hearing, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this Notice, or in written comments delivered to the City Clerk's Office prior to or at the Public Hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the City Clerk at (714) 741 5040. Notification by Noon on Thursday, March 19, 2015, will enable reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

Further information regarding the proposed Transfer may be obtained by contacting Jim DellaLonga, Senior Project Manager, at (714) 741-5788.

Kathleen Bailor, CMC
Secretary

Date: March 2, 2015
Publish: March 4, 2015 and March 11, 2015
Orange County News
15-50147
Publish Mar. 4, 11, 2015

New hope for stalled Garden Grove structure

Property owner says it has seven
developers vying to build on the site.

This framework of steel beams near Brookhurst Street and Garden Grove Boulevard has been sitting untouched for the past five years. It was originally slated to become the Garden Grove Galleria shopping center.



GARDEN GROVE • The steel skeleton still looms over Garden Grove Boulevard, a sign of economic and legal turmoil.

Though there is still uncertainty over what will become of the unfinished, 90-foot-tall framework of steel beams that was supposed to become the Garden Grove Galleria shopping center, there is a glimmer of hope that it may soon become something the city can be proud of.

After years of legal and economic tangles, the eight-level structure near Brookhurst Street now has seven developers vying to build something - from a commercial space to a mixed-use property - and the two biggest pieces of the puzzle, longtime property owner the Hoag Foundation and Cathay Bank, the lender for any project, are now cooperating.

"We're on the same page now," said Scott Weimer, vice chairman of the board of directors for the Hoag Foundation, a local charitable group that wants to use the rent money it would receive from an eventual de-

veloper to help fund the Boys & Girls Clubs of Garden Grove. "We hope to have a developer soon."

But first, the city needs to be persuaded not to enforce a demolition order that was supposed to go into effect Dec. 1. City leaders have chosen not to execute it because they want to see how much progress Hoag and Cathay Bank can make toward bringing in a developer.

"The rusty skeleton has been there for a long time now, and it's just sitting there," Mayor Bao Nguyen said, noting also that he doesn't want the structure to become high-density housing. "It's something a lot of residents want see a resolution to. It's an eyesore, and it affects businesses and future development."

Hoag representatives asked at Tuesday's City Council meeting for a one-year extension.

No decision was made, though the council had a lengthy discussion about what recourse it had. It decided to talk again at a future meeting, most likely April 7.

"We would more than likely have to go to court to enforce it," Interim City Manager Allan Roeder said of the demolition order, "because Cathay Bank and Hoag would probably contest it. It's an option of last resort."

Councilman Phat Bui, though, said after years of looking at the eyesore and hearing about numerous potential developers, he wants to know for sure whether a project will happen if he is to vote to extend the demolition order for a year.

Interim City Manager Allan Roeder outlined the following possible solutions, which would require some sort of City Council approval:

- Find a project that uses the existing structure and abides by current zoning codes for the site.
- Find a project that uses the existing site but requires zoning-code changes.
- Demolish the structure in conjunction with construction of a different building.
- Demolish the structure before a replacement project is found.

Timeline

- July 12, 2005:** City Council approves the Garden Grove Galleria project, which was to be massive mixed-use shopping center.
- Jan. 12, 2007:** City issues building permits to move the development forward.
- February 2010:** Garden Grove Galleria files a lawsuit against Cathay Bank because, it said, the bank stopped funding the project.
- March 22, 2010:** Garden Grove Galleria tells the city that it stopped work.
- September 2011:** Garden Grove Galleria terminates its lease with the Hoag Foundation.
- January 2012:** Lotus Plaza, steps in to develop a new project using the existing structure.
- Aug. 31, 2012:** A jury awards Garden Grove Galleria \$11,275,000. Cathay Bank appeals (the process is underway today).
- Dec. 18, 2014:** Hoag Foundation board votes against the Lotus Plaza project, citing several concerns including not enough parking.
- February 2015:** Hoag Foundation and Cathay Bank begin accepting proposals for potential developers and have seven suitors, including a refined proposal from the Lotus Plaza developers.

City leaders have so far opted not to enforce a demolition order that was supposed to go into effect Dec. 1

STRUCTURE

Orange County News
Feb. 27, 2015

Community alendar

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

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

Ready, young Rembrandts?
Elementary and preschool students are eager to learn and a joy to teach. Your young artist will learn to draw using our step-by-step process in this class, held on Tuesdays at the Westminster Civic Center craft room, 8200 Westminster Blvd. in Westminster. Give your child a head start in being handwriting-ready by developing his/her fine motor skills. There will be new lessons each week at the preschool and elementary level. Students ages 3-5 meet at 3:15 p.m. and ages 6-12 meet at 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.westminster-ca.gov.

Cartoonist lessons offered
Artists ages 6-12 will have fun drawing and coloring a myriad of expressive characters while learning how to stay on task, follow directions, and be visually, spatially organized. There will be

new lessons each week, even for previous students. The next class will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Westminster Civic Center craft room, 8200 Westminster Blvd. in Westminster.

Commission set to meet
The City of Westminster Planning Commission holds its regular meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd. in Westminster.

Chamber set to meet
The Westminster Chamber of Commerce holds legislative meetings at 8 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month in its offices, at 14491 Beach Blvd. in Westminster.

Board meetings on Fridays
The Chamber of Commerce holds a regular board of directors meeting at 8 a.m. the fourth Friday of every month at the chamber's location, 14491 Beach Blvd. in Westminster. For more information, call the chamber at 714-898-9648.

Join preschool storytime hour
Join the Westminster Public Library for stories, songs, and crafts at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday with your preschool-aged child.

The Westminster Library is at 8180 13th St. in Westminster. Contact the children's librarian, Anna, with questions at 714-893-5057.

A crafty day at library
Kids are invited for a special craft program at 3:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Westminster Public Library, 8180 13th St. in Westminster. Come after school for a fun creative afternoon. For more information, call Anna at 714-893-5057.

Bookworms: get ready
Join the Westminster Public Library for a book discussion group at 10:30 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month. The Westminster Library is at 8180 13th St. in Westminster. For more information, call 714-893-5057.

City Hall to be shuttered
The Westminster City Hall, at 8200 Westminster Blvd., will be closed on alternating Fridays.

WM Kiwanis to meet
The Kiwanis Club of Westminster meets at 7:30 a.m. every Thursday. Meetings are held at Spire's Restaurant, at 13030 Goldenwest St. in Westminster. For more information, e-mail President Doug McIsaac at dmcisaac@westminster-ca.gov.

CALENDAR:

Orange County News
Feb. 27, 2015

Ongoing

Overachievers, check this out
Achievers Club 9331 is hosting communication and leadership meetings featuring professional speakers at the Crystal Cathedral Tower of Hope, 12141 Lewis St. Meetings will be held every Thursday except during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holiday weeks. For more information, call Barbara Barrientas at 714-971-4123, e-mail bbarrientas@crystalcathedral.org or visit www.orgsites.com/ca/achievers9331.

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

Grief support

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

The group meets Thursday evenings at 12831 Olive St., Garden Grove.

For more information, call 714-892-1520 or 714-343-7516.

Learn about Alzheimer's

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

Dance Center hosts social
Join the staff of the Cedarbrook Dance Center for nights of square dancing, line dancing, round dancing (pre-choreographed social dancing) and salsa. The Dance Center is at 12812 Garden Grove Blvd. For more information on classes, call Eileen Silvia at (949) 637-4169.

Eco-friendly storytime

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

Rotary Club to meet

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

Measure M keeping its promises to Orange County

The Measure M Taxpayers Oversight Committee has determined that Measure M is being delivered as promised to Orange County voters for the 24th consecutive year.

The committee held its annual Measure M public hearing Tuesday night and unanimously found that the Orange County Transportation Authority is proceeding in accordance with the ordinances that were approved by voters first in 1990 and renewed in 2006.

The independent, 11-member oversight committee was formed to monitor OCTA's use of Measure M funding, approve all changes to the Measure M plan and hold annual public hearings on the expenditure of funds generated by Measure M.

"I'm very happy that the Taxpayers Oversight Committee has confirmed once again that OCTA is fulfilling its promises to voters and spending Measure M dollars effectively," said OCTA Chairman Jeff Lalloway, also the mayor pro tem of Irvine. "Every resident in this county has benefitted from Measure M and our commitment to delivering these projects will continue for years to come."

The original Measure M half-

cent sales tax made possible more than \$4 billion worth of transportation improvements. Since 1990, hundreds of local projects have been completed that help residents travel throughout the county every day. This includes improvements to every freeway, widened streets, synchronized

signals and improved intersections. Measure M also made possible Metrolink commuter-rail service in Orange County.

Renewed by 70 percent of voters in 2006, Measure M is expected to generate nearly \$16 billion to fund transportation improvements through 2041.

Church schedules 'Living Pictures 2015'

The life of Jesus Christ will be dramatized through famous art works

Our Redeemer Church in Garden Grove is holding "Living Pictures 2015," a dramatic presentation of the life of Jesus Christ using works of art by famous artists.

The art is accompanied with appropriate script and music. This is the 34th year Our Redeemer Church has been portraying the life of Christ through living art.

The presentations will be held at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, March 28 and 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29.

A free will offering will be collected. Snacks will be available.

Our Redeemer Church is at 12301 Magnolia St. in Garden Grove.

For more information, call 714-539-9541

Infant death

Last week, Garden Grove police responded to a baby in cardiac arrest.

The Garden Grove Fire Department arrived on scene and pronounced the infant as dead. The infant

had gone to sleep on a mattress in the family room lying next to the mother. The mother found the infant unresponsive at approximately the time the police were called.

The Orange County Coroner responded and conducted an initial investigation and advised there did not appear to be anything suspicious at the time.

The Orange County Coroner's Office will be doing an autopsy. The mother was extremely distraught and was taken to the hospital.

Stanton rep walks the walk at Tet Festival



Photo by Loreen Berlin
Newly-elected 65th Assemblywoman Young Kim, who represents Stanton, walks in the Tet Festival and Parade held in Garden Grove and Westminster over the weekend. Tet celebrates the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. The event drew about 100,000 people. A similar Tet event was held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa. The extravaganza in Garden Grove and Westminster is considered by many to be more authentic.

New math textbooks and support materials recommended for adoption and purchase by the Garden Grove Unified School District will be on public display from Feb. 25 through March 13, at the district Education Center (10331 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove).
The new math materials are for grades K-12.

The Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education is scheduled to consider adoption of the recommended instructional materials at its March 17 board meeting for introduction beginning next school year.

Regular preview times are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Textbook Preview Area, on the first floor of the Education Center, with an additional examination

period on Feb. 26, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. An evaluation form will be provided for visitors.

Materials on display are recommended for Board of Education adoption after a parent review period and following extensive evaluation by teachers, staff, and school district administrators.

Materials are evaluated based on accuracy, organization of content, and alignment with the state's academic content standards. Evaluators also examined the integration of technology and the presence of clear and definite strategies for working with diverse student populations.

More information is available by calling the Department of K-12 Educational Services at 714-663-6143.

Orange County News
Feb. 27, 2015

GG schools could get new math books

Parents, public will have opportunities to give input

PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE NO. 2854

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE AMENDING CHAPTER 5.28 OF THE GARDEN GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO TEMPORARY FIREWORK STAND PERMITS

City Attorney Summary

This Ordinance amends certain Sections of Chapter 5.28 of the Garden Grove Municipal Code pertaining to temporary fireworks stand permits to allow more time to process applications, require additional information be provided in conjunction with permit applications, delete obsolete references, update indemnification and insurance requirements, and eliminate the current prohibition of stands along Katella Avenue from Dale Street to Euclid Street.

The foregoing Ordinance was passed by the City Council of the City of Garden Grove on the ___ day of _____.

ATTEST:
MAYOR

CITY CLERK

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) SS:
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE)

I, KATHLEEN BAILOR, City Clerk of the City of Garden Grove, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading and passed to second reading on February 24, 2015, with a vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: (5)
BEARD, BUI, JONES, PHAN, NGUYEN
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: (0)
NONE
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: (0)
NONE

Orange County News
14-50141
Publish Feb. 27, 2015

Orange County News
Feb. 27, 2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE OVERSIGHT BOARD TO THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE GARDEN GROVE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, The Oversight Board to The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development (Oversight Board) will hold a Public Hearing, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 34181(f), at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, California. A Property Transfer (Transfer), pursuant to the approved Long Range Property Management Plan, between the The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development and City of Garden Grove of certain real property located at 12361 Chapman Avenue, 12222 Harbor Boulevard, 12252 Harbor Boulevard, 12262 Harbor Boulevard, 12272 Harbor Boulevard, 12292 Harbor Boulevard, 12551 Twintree Avenue, 12571 Twintree Avenue, and 12239 Choisser Road, Garden Grove, will be considered.

All interested persons or organizations may attend the Public Hearing or submit written comments on the proposed Transfer prior to the meeting. Please submit any written comments to the Garden Grove City Clerk, 11222 Acacia Parkway, P.O. Box 3070, Garden Grove, California, 92842-3070. Written correspondence received before 3:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Public Hearing will be given to the Oversight Board prior to the meeting. Information received after that time will be given to the Oversight Board at the time of the meeting.

If you challenge the action taken at this Public Hearing, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this Notice, or in written comments delivered to the City Clerk's Office prior to or at the Public Hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the City Clerk at (714) 741 5040. Notification by Noon on Thursday, March 5, 2015, will enable reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

Further information regarding the proposed Transfer may be obtained by contacting Jim DellaLunga, Senior Project Manager, at (714) 741-5788.

Kathleen Bailor, CMC
Secretary

Date: February 18, 2015
Publish: February 20, 2015 and February 27, 2015
Orange County News
14-50125
Publish Feb. 20, 27, 2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE GARDEN GROVE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development (Successor Agency) will hold a Public Hearing, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 33431, at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, California. A Property Transfer (Transfer) pursuant to the approved Long Range Property Management Plan, between the Successor Agency and City of Garden Grove of certain real property located at 12361 Chapman Avenue, 12222 Harbor Boulevard, 12252 Harbor Boulevard, 12262 Harbor Boulevard, 12272 Harbor Boulevard, 12292 Harbor Boulevard, 12551 Twintree Avenue, 12571 Twintree Avenue, and 12239 Choisser Road, Garden Grove, will be considered.

All interested persons or organizations may attend the Public Hearing or submit written comments on the proposed Transfer prior to the meeting. Please submit any written comments to the Garden Grove City Clerk, 11222 Acacia Parkway, P.O. Box 3070, Garden Grove, California, 92842-3070. Written correspondence received before 3:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Public Hearing will be given to the Successor Agency prior to the meeting. Information received after that time will be given to the Successor Agency at the time of the meeting.

If you challenge the action taken at this Public Hearing, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this Notice, or in written comments delivered to the City Clerk's Office prior to or at the Public Hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the City Clerk at (714) 741 5040. Notification by Noon on Thursday, March 5, 2015, will enable reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

Further information regarding the proposed Transfer may be obtained by contacting Jim DellaLunga, Senior Project Manager, at (714) 741-5788.

Kathleen Bailor, CMC
Secretary

Date: February 18, 2015
Publish: February 20, 2015 and February 27, 2015
Orange County News
14-50126
Publish Feb. 20, 27, 2015

Register
Feb. 27, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

Student musicals: Students from Eisenhower and Hill elementary schools will put on their first musical production, "Aladdin Kids," in March thanks to a partnership with Disney and the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Eisenhower's performances are 6:30 p.m. March 5, and 3 and 5 p.m. March 7. Hill's are 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. March 5. 714-663-6561. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
March 3, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

Anti-bullying: The city's two-day anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying event, scheduled for this past weekend, was postponed because of rain. The event, part of the local Not One More campaign to inform people about the seriousness of bullying, will be rescheduled for a later date at Village Green Park, 12732 Main St. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
March 4, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

Wanted: Benjamin Dinh Nguyen, 21, has a warrant out for his arrest on suspicion of a murder that occurred on March 20, 2011, near Westminster Avenue and West Street. The homicide, police say, resulted from ongoing tensions between two groups. Anyone with information on Nguyen's whereabouts can call 714-741-5704. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

OUR TOWNS

AS CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

GARDEN GROVE

Fire station: The city is looking for new locations for Garden Grove Fire Station No. 6, currently in an old house at 12111 Chapman Ave. Finding a suitable replacement is one of former Fire Chief David Barlag's new responsibilities as the city's public safety administrator. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
Feb. 28, 2015

Register
March 2, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

College help: The school district is hosting Roadmap to College, a workshop for students and parents to help them navigate college prep and the application process, from 5 to 8 p.m. March 9 at La Quinta High School, 10372 McFadden Ave. Students from seventh to 12th grade are welcome to attend. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
March 5, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

CPR class: The city is offering a class for those wishing to become certified in CPR, first aid and using an automated-external defibrillator. It is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21 at the North Net Fire Training Center. The course costs \$25 and participants must register in advance by emailing Van Vi at vanv@ci.garden-grove.ca.us. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

CONTACT:
Raquel Manson (714) 741-5554
Public Works Department

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

FREE COMPOST GIVEAWAY TO GARDEN GROVE RESIDENTS

Garden Grove residents can receive up to 60 gallons, per vehicle, of nutrient-rich compost for free at Garden Grove's annual Compost Giveaway. Rain or shine, the event takes place on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at the Garden Grove Municipal Service Center, located at 13802 Newhope Street, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., or until supplies run out.

Vehicles must enter from the rear of the Municipal Service Center, on A Better Way, accessible from Anabel Street.

Residents are advised to bring their own containers or buckets to pick up the loose compost. Bags are not permitted. Due to the popularity of this free event, residents should expect long lines.

Each year, Republic Services and the Garden Grove Sanitary District host the Compost Giveaway as a special thank-you to residents for participating in the residential green waste collection program.

For more information on the Compost Giveaway, or any of the residential collection programs, please call Republic Services at (714) 238-2444, or visit www.republicservices.com/site/garden-grove-ca/

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Để phổ biến trên các phương tiện truyền thông
Văn phòng thông tin liên lạc: (714) 741-5280

Liên lạc: Laura Stover (714) 741-5010
Thuộc Bộ Nhân Sự

Thứ Tư, 4/3/2015

GARDEN GROVE CẦN GÓP Ý TỪ CỘNG ĐỒNG CHO VIỆC TUYỂN CHỌN QUẢN LÝ THÀNH PHỐ

Thành phố Garden Grove đang trong quá trình tuyển dụng để chọn một Quản lý Thành phố (City Manager) mới, Thành phố cần những đóng góp ý kiến từ cộng đồng về những yếu tố cũng như kinh nghiệm nào cần thiết để trở thành người Quản lý Thành phố tiếp theo. Các bản khảo sát trực tuyến (online survey) bằng bốn ngôn ngữ, tiếng Anh, tiếng Tây Ban Nha, tiếng Việt, và Hàn Quốc, cũng như một diễn đàn cộng đồng đang có trên trang mạng để ghi nhận thông tin phản hồi từ cư dân quanh vùng.

Thị trường Garden Grove Bảo Nguyễn chia sẻ, "Hội đồng Thành phố có trách nhiệm làm việc, thay mặt cho cộng đồng để lựa chọn một người Quản lý cho Thành phố này. Để làm được điều đó, quan trọng là chúng ta cần biết những phẩm chất và kinh nghiệm ở một người Quản lý cần có, nhằm có thể mang lại những phục vụ tốt nhất cho Garden Grove và cộng đồng chúng ta. Những mong muốn của cộng đồng sẽ ảnh hưởng đến quá trình tuyển lựa của chúng tôi."

Hiện tại cộng đồng có thể truy cập vào một cuộc khảo sát trực tuyến ngắn gọn thông qua trang web của Thành phố ở địa chỉ www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us, qua Mobile App của Thành phố, hoặc bằng cách trực tiếp tại link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GGCityManager/Vietnamese>. Bản khảo sát cũng có thể lấy tại City Hall Thành phố Garden Grove, tại địa chỉ 11222 Acacia Parkway.

Một diễn đàn cộng đồng sẽ được diễn ra vào ngày Thứ Năm, ngày 12 tháng 3 từ 5:30 chiều đến 7:30 tại Trung tâm Hội họp cộng đồng, tọa lạc tại 11300 Stanford Avenue.

Ngày cuối để nộp đơn cho vị trí Quản lý Thành phố là ngày 23 tháng 3, 2015, sau đó sẽ là những buổi phỏng vấn sơ bộ. Quyết định cuối cùng của Hội đồng Thành phố dự kiến sẽ được công bố vào tháng 6 năm 2015.

Để đóng góp ý kiến bằng tiếng Việt, xin xem câu hỏi tham khảo tại địa chỉ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GGCityManager/Vietnamese>, hoặc liên lạc cô Kristy Thái tại số điện thoại (714) 741-5101.

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Garden Grove Mời Góp Ý Về Tuyển Quản Lý Thành Phố

05/03/2015 00:00:00

Thành phố Garden Grove đang trong quá trình tuyển dụng để chọn một Quản lý Thành phố (City Manager) mới, Thành phố cần những đóng góp ý kiến từ cộng đồng về những yêu tố cũng như kinh nghiệm nào cần thiết để trở thành người Quản lý Thành phố tiếp theo. Các bản khảo sát trực tuyến (online survey) bằng bốn ngôn ngữ, tiếng Anh, tiếng Tây Ban Nha, tiếng Việt, và Hàn Quốc, cũng như một diễn đàn cộng đồng đang có trên trang mạng để ghi nhận thông tin phản hồi từ cư dân quanh vùng.

Thị trưởng Garden Grove Bảo Nguyễn chia sẻ, "Hội đồng Thành phố có trách nhiệm làm việc, thay mặt cho cộng đồng để lựa chọn một người Quản lý cho Thành phố này. Để làm được điều đó, quan trọng là chúng ta cần biết những phẩm chất và kinh nghiệm ở một người Quản lý cần có, nhằm có thể mang lại những phục vụ tốt nhất cho Garden Grove và cộng đồng chúng ta. Những mong muốn của cộng đồng sẽ ảnh hưởng đến quá trình tuyển lựa của chúng tôi."

Hiện tại cộng đồng có thể truy cập vào một cuộc khảo sát trực tuyến ngắn gọn thông qua trang web của Thành phố ở địa chỉ www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us, qua Mobile App của Thành phố, hoặc bằng cách trực tiếp tại link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GGCityManager/Vietnamese>.

Bản khảo sát cũng có thể lấy tại City Hall Thành phố Garden Grove, tại địa chỉ 11222 Acacia Parkway.

Một diễn đàn cộng đồng sẽ được diễn ra vào ngày Thứ Năm, ngày 12 tháng 3 từ 5:30 chiều đến 7:30 tại Trung tâm Hội họp cộng đồng, tọa lạc tại 11300 Stanford Avenue.

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Để đóng góp ý kiến bằng tiếng Việt, xin xem câu hỏi tham khảo tại địa chỉ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GGCityManager/Vietnamese>, hoặc liên lạc cô Kristy Thái tại số điện thoại (714) 741-5101.



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact:
Captain Keith Velotta (714) 741-5634
Fire Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Monday, March 2, 2015

CPR TRAINING CLASS OFFERED FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The City of Garden Grove will offer a CPR/First Aid/AED certification class by EMS Safety Services, Inc., on Saturday, March 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at North Net Fire Training Center. The cost for the class is \$25. Class space is limited. Reservations for the CPR class must be made in advance by emailing Van Vu at vanv@ci.garden-grove.ca.us.

The CPR class takes place prior to the C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) four-Saturday training academy, which begins April 11. C.E.R.T. is a volunteer organization with the Garden Grove Fire Department that provides free community training on how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster, as well as lend emergency support to first responders.

CPR students who continue and complete the CERT Training Academy will be refunded the \$25 CPR fee.

C.E.R.T. training topics include disaster preparedness, medical operations, I.C.S. (Incident Command System), fire safety, light search and rescue, medical operations, terrorism, and disaster psychology. C.E.R.T. participants must be at least 18 years old and live and/or work in Garden Grove.

For more information on the C.E.R.T. program, contact C.E.R.T. Recruitment at 714-741-5600, or download an application at cert.gardengrovefire.org.

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CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact:
Frank Rojas (916) 471-3111
Executive Recruiter, CPS HR Consulting

Laura Stover (714) 741-5010
Garden Grove Human Resources Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Monday, March 2, 2015

CITY SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT FOR CITY MANAGER SELECTION

As part of the recruitment process for selecting a new City Manager, the City of Garden Grove is seeking input from the community on what they consider to be the qualities and experience needed for the next City Manager. The City is providing an online survey in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean, as well as a community forum to obtain public feedback.

"The City Council has the responsibility of working, on behalf of the community, to choose the best quality leadership for this city. To do that, it's important for us to know what qualities they believe a City Manager must possess to best serve the interests of our city and our community. What the community wants will weigh heavily on our selection process," says Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen.

The community can now access a brief online survey through the City's website at www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us, through the City's Mobile App, or by going directly to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GGCityManager>. The survey can also be obtained and returned at Garden Grove City Hall, at 11222 Acacia Parkway.

A community forum will take place on Thursday, March 12, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, located at 11300 Stanford Avenue.

-more-

CITY SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT FOR CITY MANAGER SELECTION
2-2-2

The forum will be facilitated by representatives from CPS-HR, the executive search firm hired by the City to recruit the next City Manager. Refreshments will be served.

The closing filing date for the City Manager position is March 23, 2015, after which preliminary interviews will take place. The Council's final determination is expected to be announced by June 2015.

Appointed by the Garden Grove City Council, the City Manager is the Chief Executive Officer of the City, overseeing the operations of the City's nine departments. The City Manager is responsible for planning, directing, and managing all activities and operations of the City, ensuring that all public services are delivered in the most efficient and effective manner. The City Manager also implements policy decisions made by the City Council and facilitates the development and implementation of City goals and objectives.

For more information, or to provide additional feedback, please contact Frank Rojas, Executive Recruiter, CPS HR Consulting, at (916) 471-3111, or email at frojas@cps hr.us.

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CONTACT: Kim Huy (714) 741-5280
Community Services Director

Monday, March 2, 2015

ARE YOU THE VOICE OF GARDEN GROVE?

The Garden Grove Community Foundation (GGCF) invites talented local high school students to compete in the 4th annual Voice of Garden Grove singing competition for a chance to win a \$500 cash prize and another \$500 towards their school's choir program.

Auditions will be held on April 30, May 8, and May 14, 2015. Students are required to attend at least one audition date. Current high school identification cards will be checked during auditions.

The vocal event is a pre-show to the free Summer Concert Series at Eastgate Park, 12001 St. Mark Street, every Thursday, from July 16 to August 13, 2015.

The GGCF supports education and the arts in the community and recognizes the degree of young talent within the city. The Voice of Garden Grove is one way the GGCF can provide performance and scholarship opportunities for local high school students, and support the arts in the community.

To sign up for an audition, please visit <http://ggcf.com/> or email thevoice@garden-grove.org no later than April 2, 2015.

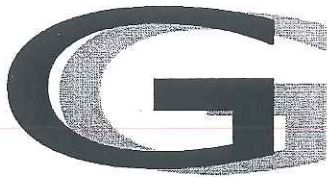
For more information, please contact the GGCF at (714) 741-5280 or visit www.ggcf.com. To view photos from last year's singing competition, visit www.facebook.com/GGCF.1998.

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

March 5, 2015

1. Calendar of Events
2. Letter from the Office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector informing us of new services and additional features on their website.
3. Minutes from the December 1, 2014 Special Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission (NICC).
4. Cancellation notice for the March 12, 2015 Zoning Administrator meeting.
5. Cities Advocates dated February 27, March 2, and March 4, 2015.



GARDEN GROVE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 5, 2015 – March 21, 2015

Thursday	March 5	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Friday	March 6		City Hall Closed
Friday-Saturday	March 6-7	7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Masq Kids presents "Xanadu Jr." The Strawberry Bowl, 12762 Main Street
Tuesday	March 10	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Study Session, Founders Room Housing Authority Meeting, Council Chamber Successor Agency Meeting, Council Chamber City Council Meeting, Council Chamber
Wednesday	March 11	2:00 p.m.	Oversight Board Meeting, Council Chamber CANCELLED
Thursday	March 12	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Study Session, Founders Room Main Street Commission Meeting, Council Chamber Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 rd Floor Training Room CANCELLED
		5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.	Community Forum – City Manager Selection Community Meeting Center
Friday	March 13	8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.	City Council Special Meeting, Sheraton Hotel 12221 Harbor Blvd.
Saturday	March 14	8:00 a.m.- Noon	Project "GO" Graffiti Off, Municipal Service Center
Thursday	March 19		Casual Day – St. Patrick's Day Theme (Green Shirts)
		6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.	Miss Garden Grove Pub Trivia Fundraiser The Globe Gastro Pub, 12926 Main St.
		7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Friday	March 20		City Hall Closed
Saturday	March 21	8:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.	Compost Giveaway, Municipal Service Center 13802 Newhope St.



**OFFICE OF THE
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR**

P.O. BOX 4515
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92702-4515

(714) 834-7625 FAX: (714) 834-2912

ttc.ocgov.com
Treasurer@ttc.ocgov.com

SHARI L. FREIDENRICH, CPA
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

PAUL C. GORMAN, CPA
CHIEF ASSISTANT
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
TREASURY

RECEIVED
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

JENNIFER BURKHART, CFA
ASSISTANT TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
TAX COLLECTION

ROBIN RUSSELL
ASSISTANT TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
ADMINISTRATION

TOMAS VARGAS
ASSISTANT TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
INVESTMENTS

February 24, 2015

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

Dear Honorable Nguyen:

Congratulations on your recent election as Mayor of the City of Garden Grove.

As the Orange County Treasurer, my office bills and collects all property taxes on behalf of over 200 agencies in Orange County. In addition, my office bills and collects animal licenses for 18 cities and includes various assessments for many cities on the property tax bills. Finally, my office invests pooled funds for the Orange County school districts, community college districts, and the 200 plus agencies prior to apportionment of property taxes and after apportionment for those participants who invest as voluntary participants with Orange County.

We have added two new features on our property tax website that will be useful to your constituents. First, we have added detailed information relating to Mello Roos Districts on the website, which will link to information on the property tax bill. This information is available at ocgov.com/melloroos. Secondly, we have added a "Google" type map with parcel boundaries and other filters, such as, cities, school districts, Mello Roos, and supervisorial districts, that we believe will be useful to taxpayers at ocgov.com/octaxmap. I am available to meet with you and your staff and provide updates on any of this information.

We also offer a variety of services related to your annual property tax bill. Please consider subscribing to our tax bill reminder service. Just register at ocgov.com/taxreminder. You will receive an e-mail approximately ten (10) days before the first and second installment delinquent dates. In addition, please consider paying online at no cost with eCheck (your bank account) at ocgov.com/octaxbill. It is the most cost-effective way for us to process tax payments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions by phone at (714) 834-7625 or by e-mail at Shari.Freidenrich@ttc.ocgov.com.

Sincerely,

Shari L. Freidenrich, CPA, CCMT, CPFA, ACPFIM
Treasurer-Tax Collector

Mission: Ensure safe and timely receipt, deposit, collection and investment of public funds.

M I N U T E S of SPECIAL MEETING
GARDEN GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NICC)

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER
11300 STANFORD AVENUE
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA 92840

MONDAY
December 1, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of the NICC was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers

PRESENT: CHAIR ONIELL, VICE CHAIR YOUNIES
COMMISSIONERS: CEPEDA, FREER, and PHAM

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS PHILLIPS, TORO, and

ALSO PRESENT: Allison Mills, Community Development Manager, Nida Watkins, and Rosemarie Jacot, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE

Chair O'Niell led the Pledge of Allegiance

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes for September 8, 2014

ACTION: APPROVED

AYE- CHAIR O'NEILL
AYE- VICE CHAIR YOUNIES
AYE- COMMISSIONER CEPEDA
AYE- COMMISSIONER FREER
AYE- COMMISSIONER PHILLIPS

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chair O'Neill gave an overview of the Commission's objectives and overall purpose.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

3a. Housing and Community Needs Public Workshop

Allison Mills explained that every five (5) years the City receives money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and as such is required to prepare a five (5) year consolidated plan that outlines the City's priority needs and objectives.

Genevieve Sharrow from MIG, consultant that worked on the preparation of the plan and gave a brief overview of what the Five Year Consolidated Plan is. She explained that this plan is basically an application to HUD, how much money the City receives as a result of this application and how and where this money gets spent.

A power point presentation was given to explain the process of how this plan and program work.

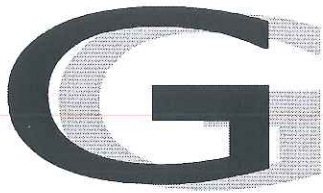
An exercise was presented to the members of the workshop including the Commissioners that gave them an opportunity to give input as to where they would like to see this money spent. This was followed up by a question and answer session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie Jacot
Recording Secretary



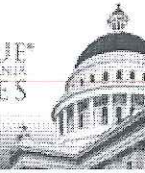
GARDEN GROVE

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 12, 2015**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Third Floor Training Room, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled pursuant to the attached Cancellation Notice.

DATED: March 5, 2015


SUSAN EMERY
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



**Feb. 27, 2015
Issue #18**

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 5: California City Solutions: Novato's Online Tool Allows Residents to Model Sample Financial Scenarios
- Page 6: Plastic Bag Ban Delayed After Referendum Qualifies
- Page 7: U.S. Communities Announces New Utility, Transportation and Golf Vehicles Contract Program
Upcoming Webinars Offered on PACE Financing through CSCDA
- Page 8: California Water Commission Invites Local Agencies to Complete Scoping Survey
Air Resources Board Taking Applications for Car-Sharing Pilot Program
- Page 9: FPPC Launches Candidate Toolkit

**First Hearing on Redevelopment Dissolution Proposal Scheduled for Tuesday;
Hearings of Interest March 3-April 16**
City Officials Encouraged to Attend RDA Hearing in Sacramento

Bills, bill, bills. Today marks the final day legislators may introduce bills for the current legislative session. At last count, 1,071 bills have been introduced in the Assembly and 591 in the Senate; however, a handful of straggler bills are expected to emerge next week. The League is currently reviewing all legislation introduced thus far and will notify members as positions are taken and hot bills are identified. *For more, see Page 2.*



Revised HUTA Estimates Following Gas Tax Reduction Now Available

The California state Board of Equalization (BOE) earlier this week approved a 6 cent per gallon reduction in the variable gas tax rate, bringing the total state gas tax rate down to 30 cents per gallon. This will be effective on July 1. *For more, see Page 4.*



League Staff Presents Local Street and Roads Needs Assessment Update

Two hearings held this week provided the League and transportation advocates the opportunity to bring attention to the deteriorating condition of the state's local streets, roads and other vital transportation infrastructure. *For more, see Page 5.*

City Officials Invited to Sacramento

City officials are strongly encouraged to come to Sacramento on Tuesday, March 3 and attend the [Assembly hearing](#) on Gov. Jerry Brown's redevelopment dissolution budget proposal and voice concerns (see hearing information below). The League took an oppose-unless-amended position this week on the proposal as it contains a number of very harmful provisions for local agencies. For more details, please see "[League Takes Oppose Unless Amended Position on DOF Redevelopment Dissolution Budget Package.](#)" *CA Cities Advocate*, Feb. 25, 2015.

If you plan on attending, please contact your [Regional Public Affairs Manager](#) to RSVP and receive more information.

Upcoming Hearings

In the coming weeks the Legislature will begin to hold hearings on bills. The Legislature is also holding a number of oversight and informational hearings on a variety of policy areas of interest to cities. Here are a number of upcoming hearings of interest to cities:

March 3

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including the Governor's Dissolution of Redevelopment Process Proposal and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
 - **NOTE:** The League urges members to send a representative to this hearing, contact their League regional manager to join various upcoming in-district legislative meetings they may be coordinating and call legislators to inform them about your city's concerns. More information about the Governor's proposal is available on the [Department of Finance's website](#).
- **Assembly Public Safety Committee**, 9 a.m.- noon, State Capitol, Room 126
 - Informational Hearing: Law Enforcement Use of Body Cameras: Policies and Pitfalls

March 4

- **Joint Hearing of the Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security and Senate Public Employees and Retirement Committees**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 3191
 - Informational Hearing: Orientation and Report of the California Actuarial Advisory Panel
- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation**, 9 a.m., Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation, State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover the State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Water Resources
- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 437
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including Proposition 47, realignment under AB 109 and City Law Enforcement Grants

March 10

- **Joint Hearing of Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Quality Committees**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112
 - Oversight Hearing: Ensuring Groundwater Protection: Is the Underground Injection Control Well Program Working?
- **Joint Hearing of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and Revenue and Taxation Committee**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 126
 - Hearing will cover the State Board of Equalization

March 11

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation**, 9:00 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and the Department of Toxic Substances Control
- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 444
 - Hearing will cover the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, including the new trends, deficiencies and the Assembly's budget priorities on this topic
- **Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee**, 9:00 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126
 - Informational Hearing: Affordable Housing Construction and Finance: Challenges and Opportunities

March 12

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 2040
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Housing and Community Development

March 13

- **Senate Transportation and Housing Committee**, 1:30 p.m., Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, METRO Board Room, 3rd Floor, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles
 - Informational Hearing: Transportation Funding

March 17

- **Joint Hearing of the Senate Transportation and Housing and Environmental Quality Committees**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203
 - Oversight Hearing: The Road to 2020 and Beyond: The Role of the Transportation Sector in Meeting California's Climate Goals

March 18

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation**, 9:00 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board
- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 437
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including Body Cameras
- **Joint Hearing Assembly Local Government Committee and Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4202
 - Information Hearing: Transient Occupancy Taxes and the Home-Sharing Phenomenon

March 19

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental, Protection, Energy and Transportation**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Water Resource, Delta Stewardship Council and State Water Resources Control Board
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 2040
 - Hearing will cover State Finances, including the Department of Finance, State Board of Equalization and the Franchise Tax Board

March 24

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- Hearing will cover a number of items including Commission on State Mandates and Public Employees' Retirement System

March 25

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447**
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including Department of Transportation and the California Transportation Commission

March 26

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112**
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including Cap-and-Trade, the Strategic Growth Council and High-Speed Rail Authority
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 113**
 - Hearing will cover Realignment

April 9

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government, 9:30 a.m., Room 2040**
 - Hearing will cover a number of items related to Local Government and Economic Development including Redevelopment Agencies Dissolution Status and Issues, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Commission on State Mandates
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 113**
 - Hearing will cover Public Employees' Retirement System

April 8

- **Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447**
 - Hearing will cover a number of items related to the Air Resources Board, California Coastal Commission and the Office of Planning and Research

April 14

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447**
 - Hearing will cover the State Controller's Office and Secretary of State

April 16

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112**
 - Hearing will cover the LAO's Overview of the Transportation Budget, the California Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation

'HUTA' Continued from Page 1...

The rate comprises an 18 cent base rate that is allocated under streets and Highways Code Sections 2104-2108 to the state highway system, cities and counties, and a variable rate, established with the Fuel Tax Swap of 2010 that is intended to replace the Proposition 42 state sales tax on gasoline.

An updated memo describing these taxes and their allocations in detail may be found at on CaliforniaCityFinance.com. The memo also contains city-by-city and county-by-county estimates of revenue allocations for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16. These estimates were revised to take the BOE's recent action into account.

Estimates are based on California state Department of Finance estimates of statewide revenue that will be generated from the fuel taxes.

For more information on BOE's action, please see: "[Board of Equalization Acts to Reduce Variable Gas Tax Rate](#)," *CA Cities Advocate*, Feb. 25, 2015.

'Transportation Hearing' Continued from Page 1...

During the hearings, League staff presented committee members the results of the [2014 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment](#). The report represents a collaborative effort between the League, the California Association of Counties and other transportation stakeholders to provide critical analysis and information on the condition of the state's local transportation networks.

League Assistant Legislative Director Jennifer Whiting highlighted several key findings from the report, including:

- To bring the average pavement condition of the state's local streets and roads into a state of good repair, or Best Management Practices, the investment in pavement maintenance would need to increase by more than four-fold.
- Investment needs to more than double the existing expenditure in street and road maintenance to keep conditions from deteriorating further.
- It costs 12 times less to maintain a pavement in very good condition, compared to a pavement that is at the end of its service life.
- By 2024, 25 percent of the state's local streets and roads will be in failed condition.
- Under the existing maintenance investment level, the state's average local street and road Pavement Condition Index is projected to drop from 66 to 55 by 2024.
- The maintenance investment needs for local street and road "essential components" — such as curb ramps, storm drains, streetlights and signals — is \$31 billion over the next 10 years, and there is an estimated funding shortfall of \$21 billion.
- The total statewide local bridge needs are estimated at \$4.4 billion over the next 10 years.

Video of both hearings is available online via the California Channel.

- [Assembly Informational Hearing on The Basics of Transportation Funding](#)
 - [Senate Information Hearing on Funding the Transportation Maintenance Backlog](#)
-

California City Solutions: Novato's Online Tool Allows Residents to Model Sample Financial Scenarios

This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2014 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called [California City Solutions](#). Novato's Fiscal Sustainability Plan was submitted in 2014 for the Internal Administration award category.

The city of Novato had figured out how to survive on a budget deficit for more than half a decade, but when the Great Recession hit the city was forced to make painstaking cuts to its services and workforce. The city used this as an opportunity to develop a long-term financial sustainability strategy by analyzing all facets of the city's core functions and investments.

Several circumstances make Novato fiscally vulnerable. The city receives the lowest property tax share in Marin County at 6.8 percent, does not receive waste hauler franchise fees or utility users tax and has limited sales tax opportunities. These factors forced Novato to make years of permanent and temporary reductions. Despite these reductions the city still faced a \$6.7 million structural deficit in August 2009.

The city manager recommended a comprehensive two-year deficit reduction plan. The plan allowed staff to meet with residents, provide data and options to the city council, and transition to

a smaller workforce in a deliberative and respectful manner. City staff met residents in their homes to understand priorities and provide feedback to the city council on which services to protect and where service level reductions could occur.

This work enabled Novato to reduce its workforce by 25 percent, decrease employee compensation and benefits, as well as consolidate and eliminate several city services. In short, Novato saved \$4 million, eliminated 34 staff positions and reduced part-time staff hours by 7,500. Even with these reductions, the city still faced a structural problem. Reluctant to cut further, the city council declared a fiscal emergency and placed a temporary five-year half-cent sales tax on the ballot, which was overwhelmingly passed by the voters.

City staff prioritized the city's services and determined what level they should be funded, keeping in mind the objective to create organizational and operational sustainability, as well as fiscal sustainability.

In July 2012, the city's staff and council launched a series of work sessions to publicly analyze all aspects of the city's budget and financial position. Each session focused on a topic such as revenues, economic development, departments' operations and service levels, employee compensation, pensions, infrastructure and facilities. Sessions also included detailed PowerPoints with recent research and several policy choices intended to improve operational and/or fiscal sustainability. These 13 work sessions formed the foundation for community outreach tools.

Draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan — A Draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan was released in June 2013. The plan provides the community and decision makers with detailed information, policy options, and context regarding the fiscal and organizational topics necessary to develop a road map and long term strategy for Novato's sustainability.

Web-Based Options Tool — A web-based Fiscal Sustainability Options Tool was developed as a companion to the Draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan. It allowed users to see policy proposals under consideration, select their preferred long-range scenario for the city and see the impact on Novato's bottom line. This interactive webpage assisted staff, council members, and the community to understand the tensions and implications of various strategies to solve the city's long term deficit.

Community Outreach — Novato conducted an outreach campaign through the internet, Town Hall meetings, press releases, and more in June 2013. While more than 500 people tried the online Options Tool, less than 30 people attended Town Hall budget meetings. In an effort to increase outreach staff developed a presentation that could be delivered to any group in Novato.

The presentation focused on three significant themes:

1. Unsustainable nature of Novato's revenue structure;
2. Employee compensation and effects on recruiting and retaining quality staff; and
3. Importance of infrastructure investment and maintenance.

While city staff presented the plan to the residents, the city manager and finance manager shared it with dozens of groups throughout Novato, representing more than 600 residents. The groups included business and neighborhood associations, parent-teacher associations, service clubs, senior groups, youth athletic associations, environmental groups, and others.

In January 2014, the Novato City Council unanimously approved the following assumptions for the city's long term Fiscal Sustainability Plan:

- A long term fiscal and organizational sustainability plan;
- Maintain existing service levels;
- Maintain and improve the safety of existing infrastructure; and
- Employee compensation to keep pace with the cost of living increase.

The city council next approved a long term Fiscal Sustainability Strategy in February 2014. This strategy recognized that Novato needed a permanent and significant increase in revenue in order to fund the elements of the Fiscal Sustainability Plan by the end of 2015.

After more than five years of reductions, Novato is starting to move forward and invest in the community and organization. Based on the Fiscal Sustainability Plan, the draft FY 2014-15 Budget allocated \$1 million for infrastructure maintenance investment. The plan also recommends a modest addition of core staffing positions and funding improvements, such as retrofitting streetlights with LED and installing synthetic turf to reduce costs. A consultant plans to meet with the city to determine other outlets for sustainable revenue.

Novato's Fiscal Sustainability Plan created a road map for the city council's vision and decision-making. This multi-year strategy strengthens the city's goals and sets a clear path for improving the quality of life within the community.

Plastic Bag Ban Delayed After Referendum Qualifies

The Secretary of State announced this week the qualification of a referendum to overturn the recently passed statewide ban on single-use plastic bags.

The law, enacted under SB 270 (Padilla, Chapter 850, Statutes of 2014), prohibits the distribution of plastic bags in grocery stores and pharmacies starting July 2015 and from convenience and liquor stores starting July 2016. Under this bill, retailers will have to charge 10 cents or more for recycled paper bags.

By qualifying for the 2016 general election ballot, the referendum will prevent the implementation of the law until voters decide its fate at the polls.

During the previous legislative session, the League did not take a position on SB 270. However, the League worked to ensure that existing local ordinances were grandfathered into the law enabling local governments with bans to continue enforcing their local restrictions.

U.S. Communities Announces New Utility, Transportation and Golf Vehicles Contract Program

Informational Webinars Scheduled for March 3 and 4

U.S. Communities, the League-sponsored cooperative purchasing program, is now offering a new transportation program with Club Car and Columbia ParCar. The program covers utility, transportation, golf vehicles and related accessories equipment, parts and services. This contract delivers work vehicles that will help you improve safety, move people and transport loads while lowering your cost of ownership. Not only will agencies be able to save on the direct cost of vehicles, this contract provides a solution for agencies looking to lessen their environmental impact.

Club Car offers:

- Gas and diesel with two-and automatic four-wheel drive;
- Golf cars and turf utility vehicles; and
- Custom solutions for all your needs, such as trash units or hospitality van boxes.

Columbia ParCar offers:

- Electric vehicles with zero tailpipe emissions;
- Ability to haul up to 5,200 pounds or tow up to 7 tons; and
- People Movers can move up to 26 people to move large groups quietly and efficiently.

Webinar Details

U.S. Communities is hosting two information webinars for local agencies to get more information about the program. Please register online by clicking the links below.

- [Tuesday, March 3, 8 a.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, March 4, 10 a.m.](#)

Please [contact U.S. Communities](#) with questions of if you are unable to participate in one of the scheduled informational webinars.

Upcoming Webinars Offered on PACE Financing through CSCDA *Register Today for Either March 4 or 25 Webinar*

The California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) established the CSCDA Open PACE Program to offer its members a turn-key PACE solution that provides residential and commercial property owners the choice among prequalified PACE financing providers. CSCDA is sponsored by the League of California Cities.

On March 4 and 25 informational webinars will give local agencies more information about this funding opportunity. The webinars will be hosted by CSCDA, AllianceNRG and Renewable Funding (CaliforniaFIRST).

Webinar Details

- Register [online](#) for the March 4, 10 a.m.
- Register [online](#) for the March 25, 10 a.m.

Additional Information

CSCDA has provided an Opt-In Resolution, sample staff report and details on how to authorize the program. Information is on the [CSCDA Open PACE webpage](#).

If you have adopted a CaliforniaFIRST Opt-In Resolution already, please note that CSCDA recently expanded its PACE Program to include an additional program administrator in order to increase access and competition, and you should adopt the new form of Opt-In Resolution to include the expanded Program in your jurisdiction.

Questions about the Opt-In Resolution may be presented at the webinar or submitted separately to clanctot@cscda.org.

California Water Commission Invites Local Agencies to Complete Scoping Survey *Responses Due by March 11*

The California Water Commission, following the passage of Proposition 1, is developing a competitive process to allocate bond funds for the public benefits of qualified water storage projects. An initial [scoping survey](#) is one of the first steps in developing its transparent Water Storage Investment Program. The survey will collect information about potential water storage projects from project proponents that may request Water Bond funding.

Projects must have public benefits such as ecosystem improvements, water quality improvements, flood control benefits, emergency response and recreation. The water projects receiving funding will produce real and measurable public benefits, and help address the long-term water needs for California families, farms, communities, and the environment.

Survey Information

Agencies that have a water storage project under construction that may qualify for Prop. 1 funding must complete the initial [scoping survey](#) by March 11.

The survey requests general agency information and project information, such as project type, anticipated completion dates for feasibility studies and environmental documentation, permit requirements, potential public benefits provided, project cost, and potential funding partners. The commission will use this information to inform the development of the regulations, guidelines, and implementation process.

This survey does not constitute an application for funding and is not a requirement for future funding or participating in the program, but will be useful to identify the number and kinds of water storage projects and their public benefits that are under consideration throughout California.

Please visit www.cwc.ca.gov for more information on the commission, the Water Storage Investment Program, and how to become involved.

Air Resources Board Taking Applications for Car-Sharing Pilot Program *Applications Due by April 8*

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is now taking grant applications for its \$2.5 million Targeted Car Sharing and Mobility Options in Disadvantaged Communities Pilot Project.

Using Cap-and-Trade revenues, the pilot will create a partnership between ARB and one or more grant winners meant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution by introducing advanced car-sharing fleets into disadvantaged communities.

Funding may also go toward other mobility options like advanced technology vanpooling or shuttles. The board says will use the pilot program to collect data that could support larger scale car-sharing programs in the future.

Grant applications are due by April 8.

ARB has scheduled a pair of teleconferences to take questions about applying for grants from the program. They are planned for March 10 and March 24, both from 2 to 4 p.m. Call-in numbers and passcodes are available [online](#).

The grant solicitation and other documents are also available on the [ARB website](#).

More information on Cap-and-Trade programs — including a spread sheet identifying communities as disadvantaged by the state's CalEnviroScreen tool — is available on the League's [Cap-and-Trade hot issues page](#).

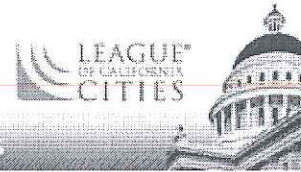
FPPC Launches Candidate Toolkit *New Tool is a One-Stop-Shop for Candidates*

The California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) now offers an online [Candidate Toolkit](#). The toolkit is part of an ongoing effort to make campaign reporting requirements easier for public officials to do and the public to see and provides step-by-step instructions to prospective candidates on how to comply with various state-mandated disclosure requirements. The Candidate Toolkit condenses several manuals already available by the FPPC into a comprehensive, easy-to-use format. It also includes links to the required disclosure forms, filing deadlines, regulations and frequently asked questions to the FPPC.

The FPPC has a renewed emphasis on utilizing technology to increase transparency. One of these efforts, the Top 10 Contributor Lists, was launched just before the start of the 2014 elections and was very well received by the public and interested stakeholders.

It is under this same umbrella the FPPC developed this Candidate Toolkit to help demystify the rules candidates must follow to run for office. One of the key thoughts driving this project was that not every candidate, especially at the local level, can afford or should be forced to obtain a political attorney or professional treasurer to run for office. The toolkit keeps jargon to a minimum and also leverages some of the important resources the FPPC already had into an easily digestible and intuitive webpage.

CA Cities Advocate



LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

**March 2, 2015
Issue #19**

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 3: Upcoming Webinars Offered on PACE Financing through CSCDA

NLC to Host City Leaders During 2015 Congressional City Conference

The National League of Cities (NLC) will hold its annual Congressional City Conference in Washington, D .C. from March 7-11. During the conference, participants from throughout the nation will engage and meet with U.S. Senate and House of Representatives members and their staff to discuss federal policy issues of paramount importance to cities and local governments. *For more, see Page 2.*



DEADLINE EXTENDED: Mayors and Council Members Department Survey Now Due March 6

The deadline for the League's Mayors and Council Members' Department survey has been extended to Friday, March 6. The department is conducting the brief online survey to assess a range of issues related to city elected officials to help the department best meet the needs of its members. Survey results will guide the department's executive committee's efforts to improve communication, increase participation and plan department-led educational programming. *For more, see Page 2.*



Trial Court Revenue Distribution Trainings Offered in May

For the third consecutive year, the Judicial Council and State Controller's Office (SCO) will partner to provide in-person training on trial court revenue distribution. The Judicial Council's Court-Ordered Debt Task Force established this ongoing training in 2013 for court, county, city, and parking entities that perform revenue collection and distribution activities. *For more, see Page 2.*

'NLC' Continued from Page 1...

This year, the conference will cover a range of topic areas, including:

- Federal Transportation Authorization Bill
- The Affordable Care Act impacts on cities
- Federal Lobbying Tips
- Homeland Security
- Telecommunications Update
- Immigration Reform
- Innovations in Housing

The League's Executive Committee will be attending the conference along with other members of the League board of directors. The League's Executive Committee comprises League President Stephany Aguilar, League First Vice President L. Dennis Michael, League Second Vice President JoAnne Mounce, League Immediate Past President José Cisneros and League Executive Director Chris McKenzie.

On Tuesday, the League will host a special briefing for U.S. House of Representatives staff on the League's Federal Priorities with a focus on Transportation. As the House will not be in session during the conference, the League encourages all California attendees to attend the briefing and connect with the staff of the representative. Details are below. While RSVPs for this event are not required, the League would like to have a general count in order to appropriately plan.

California attendees registered for the NLC Congressional City Conference are invited to attend the following events hosted by the League of California Cities:

League of California Cities Reception

Monday, March 9

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

2660 Woodley Road, NW

Washington, D.C.

League of California Cities Priorities Briefing for Congressional Staff

Tuesday, March 10

3:00-4:00 p.m.

1416 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C.

Information on the League's 2015 Federal Priorities is available online, and additional materials will be released this Wednesday, March 4. Printed materials will be available for lobbying at the reception Monday night.

'Survey' Continued from Page 1...

The survey is designed to take five to 10 minutes and all of the information and answers will remain confidential. The League is sending out the request to participate in the survey through several communication channels but only needs each elected city official to complete the survey once.

The survey is available online.

'Trainings' Continued from Page 1...

In 2015, there will be two in-person trainings:

- Friday, May 8, in San Diego
- Tuesday, May 12, in Sacramento

Specific training and registration information will be provided next month.

Judicial Council and SCO staff are currently developing the curriculum for the May training and are interested in collections and revenue distribution related suggestions you may have regarding topics, issues, or specific subject areas that should be covered.

Past training sessions have addressed:

- Overview of Appendix C Changes;
- Review of the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule;
- Revenue Distribution FAQ Updates;
- Audit and Distribution Issues;
- Court-Ordered Debt Task Force Pilot Program; and
- Revenue Distribution Worksheets.

Expect to see updates regarding these topics as part of 2015 training. Conference planners are interested in suggestions for other topics.

Please submit suggested training topics and all other questions to RevenueDistribution@jud.ca.gov.

Additional resources are online.

Judicial Council

- [Revenue Distribution](#)
- [Collections](#)

State Controller's Office

- [Revenue Distribution](#)

Upcoming Webinars Offered on PACE Financing through CSCDA

Register Today for Either March 4 or 25 Webinar

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On March 4 and 25 informational webinars will give local agencies more information about this funding opportunity. The webinars will be hosted by CSCDA, AllianceNRG and Renewable Funding (CaliforniaFIRST).

Webinar Details

- Register [here](#) for the March 4, 10 a.m.
- Register [here](#) for the March 25, 10am

Additional Information

CSCDA has provided an Opt-In Resolution, sample staff report and details on how to authorize the program. Information is on the [CSCDA Open PACE webpage](#).

If you have adopted a CaliforniaFIRST Opt-In Resolution already, please note that CSCDA recently expanded its PACE Program to include an additional program administrator in order to increase access and competition, and you should adopt the new form of Opt-In Resolution to include the expanded Program in your jurisdiction.

March 4, 2015
Issue #20

California Supreme Court Finds Sex Offender Residency Restrictions Under Jessica’s Law Unconstitutional As Applied; Cities Should Review Local Ordinances

The California Supreme Court issued a decision on Monday, March 2, in *In re Taylor* — the case challenging the constitutionality of residency restrictions under Proposition 83, also known as Jessica’s Law. *For more, see Page 2.*



California Supreme Court Provides Guidance on the “Unusual Circumstances Exception” From Applying a Categorical Exemption under CEQA

On Monday, March 2, the California Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Berkeley Hillside Preservation v. City of Berkeley*, clarifying and providing guidance to cities on the use of categorical exemptions for projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). *For more, see Page 2.*



CalRecycle Workshop Will Review Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs

CalRecycle will hold a workshop on March 19 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed FY 2015–16 eligibility criteria for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs ([Organics Grant Program](#) and [Recycled Fiber, Plastic, and Glass Grant Program](#)). The workshop will be held at the Cal/EPA Headquarters Building in Sacramento. *For more, see Page 3.*

'Jessica's Law' Continued from Page 1...

Jessica's Law received 70 percent voter approval when it passed in 2006. Among many other provisions, it added Penal Code section 3003.5(b) to prohibit sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of a school or park, and expressly allowed cities to increase that distance or include other prohibited locations by ordinance.

The intended purpose of Jessica's Law was to protect children from sexual predators. On Monday, the California Supreme Court found that residency restrictions unconstitutionally infringed upon the liberty and privacy interests of registered sex offender parolees in San Diego County, and failed to accomplish the intended purpose of Jessica's Law as a whole.

The residency restrictions in Jessica's Law effectively banned registered sex offender parolees from 97 percent of available residential properties in San Diego County. According to the Court, this hindered registered sex offender parolees from accessing rehabilitative services and often caused them to resort to homelessness and transiency, resulting in a greater, rather than a reduced, public safety risk.

Because the law hampered efforts to monitor, supervise, and rehabilitate parolees, the Court concluded it bore no rational relationship to advancing its stated purpose of protecting children from sexual predators. Therefore, Penal Code section 3003.5(b) was unconstitutional as applied. The Court noted, however, that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation retains authority to impose individualized discretionary parole conditions, including residency restrictions, on a case-by-case basis.

Although the case addressed only the statewide minimum residency restrictions in Jessica's Law, cities with local ordinances on the subject should consider asking their city attorney to review the enforceability of such ordinances in light of the court's ruling in this case.

'CEQA' Continued from Page 1...

The city of Berkeley, in approving a permit application to build a large single-family house, relied on two categorical exemptions from CEQA review for the project (Class 3 for constructing small structures including a single-family residence, and Class 32 for an "in-fill development" project). The Court of Appeal held the exemptions did not apply, invalidated the permit approval and ordered preparation of an environmental impact report, based on CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(c) that states: "A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment *due to unusual circumstances.*" (Italics added.)

The Supreme Court reversed and remanded the case in a majority opinion. The decision confirms that cities should apply a two-part test for determining whether the "unusual circumstances exception" under section 15300.2(c) precludes a city from relying on a categorical exemption(s) for a project. First, the city must determine whether there are any "unusual circumstances" present (subject to the deferential "substantial evidence" standard of review). If not, then the city may rely on a categorical exemption(s) and can look to the local conditions in evaluating unusual circumstances. However, if there are any unusual circumstances, the agency must then determine whether there is "a reasonable possibility" that the unusual circumstance will produce "a significant effect on the environment" (subject to the less deferential "fair argument" standard of review). If not, then the city may rely on the categorical exemption(s) for the project.

The California Supreme Court has accepted ten cases covering a broad range of issues under CEQA in the past few years. The League has filed or will file amicus ("friend of the court") briefs or letters on behalf of California cities in eight of those cases. The Berkeley Hillside ruling is the second decision to emerge from the court from the ten cases, providing much-anticipated clarity for cities on when a categorical exemption from CEQA review may apply to a project.

The League congratulates the city of Berkeley on the ruling and also thanks Amanda J. Monchamp and Melanie Sengupta, with the law firm of Holland & Knight for preparing the League's amicus brief filed in the case.

'CalRecycle' Continued from Page 1...

These grants will promote infrastructure development at California facilities that achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions by diverting more materials from landfills and producing beneficial products. Grants are targeted to build or expand organics infrastructure, such as composting and anaerobic digestion, or reduce food waste. Other targeted activities include new or expanded infrastructure for manufacturing products with recycled content fiber, plastic, or glass.

Webinar capabilities will be available for those that are not able to attend in person. The agenda and details about the webcast will be sent to the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Programs Listserv](#). For questions about the webcast email GHGReductions@CalRecycle.ca.gov.

For more information visit [Climate Change: Proposed Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs](#).
