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Residents oppose cemetery plan

By Tina Richards

Homeowners in the quiet Orange neighborhood off of Yorba, just south of the dog park, were stunned to learn that the former YMCA property adjacent to their residences is planned to become a green burial cemetery.

Still in the planning stages, the cemetery project had not yet been publicly noticed and was still well below the community's radar. But one resident heard about it and immediately alerted her neighbors.

Aside from the specter of cemetery traffic using residential streets for access, overflow cars parked on neighborhood streets and the unwelcome prospect of living next to a cemetery, neighbors were alarmed because the site is an old landfill. The landfill seeps methane and is contaminated with unknown material that, according to CalRecycle, shouldn't be disturbed.

Fact finding

The first neighborhood meeting about the proposed cemetery was held in September; 75 people came. "We didn't know what we



Residents of a Yorba Street neighborhood organized and educated themselves with facts and figures to fight a proposed cemetery placed on a landfill near their homes.

could do about it," Bernie Galasso says. "We didn't know anything about green burials, landfills, city approvals, airborne contaminants or the impact a cemetery would have on property values. So we formed a leadership team and handed out assignments."

Eric Gilbert was named project manager; Bernie and Sharon Galasso volunteered to assist him. Silvia San Nicolas looked into the environmental and legal issues; Greg Baker and Alan Kincaid focused on landfill contaminants; Ann Chavez took on sight lines and traffic concerns; Ron Miller took charge of neighborhood recruiting; Pristine Lee handled

IT; Bill Vaughtner kept notes; and Caren Lee delved in to the history of the property.

"We wanted to pull all the facts together and know what we were talking about before we went to the city with our concerns," Sharon Galasso says.

They contacted the Local Enforcement Agency, an arm of CalRecycle that oversees landfills and their impacts on the environment, the county health department, the Air Quality Management District, the Green Burial Council. They found a website,

GeoTracker, that provided extensive inspection, complaint, and toxic monitoring reports about landfills and disposal sites.

Do not disturb

From GeoTracker they discovered the land had been inspected by the water resources board last January, as a follow up to an illegal digging complaint. A report from the Department of Toxic

See "Cemetery" continued on page 4

Orange Council mulls over Paseo, parklets and the public good

By Tina Richards

The Orange City Council agreed to stick with the plan to close the Paseo and reopen Glassell Street to vehicular traffic at the end of 2021. A decision to reopen it seasonally or replace it with streetside "parklets" for outdoor dining will be decided in the future.

The original closure was to take place on Dec. 31, but Councilwoman Arianna Barrios recommended allowing the Paseo to remain for New Year's Eve. Her colleagues concurred. The Jan. 2 closure will be followed by a 14-day transition period to allow restaurants to remove their outdoor furnishings and give public works time to make repairs and any needed adjustments before Glassell reopens.

The council will revisit the Paseo after an ongoing environmental study is complete and design standards developed, which is expected to be in April. As an alternative to closing Glassell for a Paseo, the city is considering parklets, which would move dining into outdoor enclosures set up in parking spaces. That would allow Glassell to remain open to through traffic.

Old Towne opposition

Ahead of the meeting, the council received eight written communications supporting the

Paseo and 130 (form letters) from Old Towne residents opposing it. During the meeting, one person spoke in favor; six were against it, and one favored parklets. A restaurateur whose establishment is benefitting from the street closure reported that "everybody loves the Paseo." An Old Towne resident described it as a "rag tag free fire zone." Another said that traffic patterns have grown from flowing creeks to rushing rivers, that 100-year-old streets are not designed for 18-wheelers, and that the uncomplimentary condition of the Paseo is not fulfilling the Old Towne mission statement. "We need to care for this treasure [Old Towne]," he said.

Old Towne Preservation Association President Tony Trabuco raised quality of life issues that the Paseo passed on to residents, and urged the council to collect more public input before making a final decision.

Councilman Chip Monaco applauded his colleagues and restated the benefits derived from the council's decision in July 2020 to create the Paseo and boost business. He asked city staff how much money was spent in those two blocks.

Revenue from that two block

See "Paseo" continued on page 4

Villa Park names 2022 mayor



Mayor Chad Zimmerman

By Andie Mills

Residents of Villa Park care about their city and its elected officials, as evidenced by the full house of spectators at the VP City Council meeting, Dec. 14.

Supporters of Mayor Pro Tem Chad Zimmerman packed the room to assure that he would, as is tradition, advance to the mayoral position. Rumors had swirled that he might be edged out in favor of Vince Rossini, who has previously served as mayor, due to his lack of support for the city's housing element sent to the state.

Before the election of mayor and mayor pro tem, Zimmerman clarified his stance regarding the housing element. He had, he said, voted against the Smith Basin as the most viable option for housing because it would impact 23 homeowners. He apologized for not supporting it after it was voted on by the council, and pledged to 100% support the city council's plan.

Public comments followed, with letters and supporters lauding Chad's volunteerism and commitment to numerous community organizations and activi-

ties, including Boy Scouts, Indian Princesses, Marine Thanksgiving, Rotary Club, Women's League and public school sports and activities. Former councilman and 2021 Parade Grand Marshal Jim Reichert spoke to the longstanding tradition of elevating the mayor pro tem to mayor.

Indeed, as soon as City Manager Steve Franks had declared nominations to be open, Robert Collacott proclaimed, "Rossini," while Councilman Robbie Pitts raised his hand to speak. Franks, despite Collacott's protests, allowed Pitts to voice his nomination first: Chad Zimmerman.

The vote was 3-2, with the crowd erupting in applause. Rossini and Collacott were the naysayers, voting against the tradition that they had so strongly supported in 2018, when Rossini was mayor pro tem, and petitions were brought forth in favor of Pitts for mayor.

Mayor Zimmerman nominated Pitts as pro tem. Collacott nominated Rossini, extolling his work with the Orange County Fire Authority, adding that he "could have brought a whole room of people, too," which brought "boos" from the normally polite audience. Pitts lost the vote, 3-2, with Miles, Collacott and Rossini against. The vote for Rossini was 4-1, with Pitts the only dissenter.

Mayor Zimmerman hopes to rekindle the sense of community, and bring back popular events, such as the city picnic. He has taken on the role of captain for Villa Park, garnering signatures to rescind SB9 and SB10 and gain local control of zoning.

NEWS INSIDE

WIGGLE ROOM

Orange reacts to overreaching state legislation with modest municipal code revisions.

See Orange passes, page 2

TAKEN BY STORM

Canyon Christmas season suspended when mudslides force evacuations, rescues and road closures.

See Canyon Beat, page 6

MERRY MEMORIES

Parades on boats and hoofs, candles lit and houses glitzed, Santa sightings, too.

See Holiday pics, pages 6, 7, 8

REDEFINED BORDER LINES

Results of the 2020 census forced jurisdictions to redraw voter districts. Orange is on it, OC is done.

See Orange, page 8, County, page 11

LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE

Local author/historian takes readers on a "City Walk" through Tustin back when it was barely a town.

See New book, page 10

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The new STEM Science Center at Villa Park High School, funded by Measure S tax assessments, was introduced to the public at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Dec. 16. The ribbon was cut by outgoing President of the Orange Unified School District Board of Trustees Kathy Moffatt (third from left) and incoming President Andrea Yamasaki (fourth from left). They are joined by, from left, OUSD Superintendent Gunn Marie Hansen; Trustees Angie Rumsey, Kris Erickson, Ana Page; OUSD Asst. Supt., Educational Services Cathleen Corella; Asst. Supt., Human Resources Ernie Gonzalez; and Asst. Supt., Business Services David Rivera. The \$42 million facility, featuring 12 state-of-the-art labs, two classrooms and two classroom suites for the medically fragile, will be open for students next semester.

Orange passes urgency ordinance to mitigate SB9

An urgency ordinance, written to lessen the impacts of state legislation (SB9) on single-family neighborhoods, was approved by a unanimous vote of the Orange City Council, Dec. 14.

The state legislation, slated to take effect Jan. 1, permits lots zoned for single-family residences to be reconfigured to accommodate two duplexes. Large lots can be split to accommodate four duplexes. Local jurisdictions are required to approve these higher density plans, regardless of their impacts on parking, infrastructure or neighborhood integrity.

Further, the state has already directed localities to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and Junior ADUs to be built on single-family lots with little discretion. The legislation will, essentially, permit a single-family property to contain eight units.

Cities are, however, allowed some flexibility, and Orange's urgency ordinance enacts every exception/restriction that cities are legally allowed to make. The ordinance is intended to preserve neighborhood character and privacy to adjacent properties. It takes effect immediately, and will stand for 45 days. At that time it

may be extended for 10.5 months, and then again for a year.

Small concessions

The conditions the city is allowed to impose include a prohibition of SB9 development in historic districts, as well as lot splits when an ADU or JADU would result in more than two units on a lot. The city is strengthening its 20-ft. front yard setback requirement, requiring one garage parking place per unit, and establishing a minimum of usable open space.

Design standards for materials, colors, orientation, window offsets and driveway widths are intended to preserve aesthetics, as are requirements that all structures follow setback, height and floor-area ratios spelled out in the existing zoning code. Structures are limited to 16 feet in height, and one story. The maximum unit size for 1,200 to 7,999-sq.-ft. lots is 800 sq. ft., with one bedroom allowed for each 500-sq.-ft. increment.

In addition, the city will require impact fees to be paid, standard fire codes to be met, utilities to be metered separately and public safety access and utility ease-

ments provided. The property owner must intend to live in one of the new units for three years; homeowners associations will retain authority to review proposals.

Easing the threat

Orange's intent is to impose "reasonable and objective regulations" on SB9 applications to avoid "negative and deleterious" effects on public health, safety and welfare that would occur if unrestricted lot splits and second units occurred in r1 neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, voters across the state are petitioning to get a measure on the November ballot that would amend the state constitution and put land use decisions back in local hands. The tri-partisan Neighborhood Voices Initiative petition is being circulated locally, and can be found by emailing StopSB9@gmail.com or calling (714) 900-2672.

Petitions may also be signed or obtained from area captains: Laura Thomas, OPA; Stephanie Lesinski, Mabury Ranch; Tony Trabuco, Old Towne; Dan Slater, Orange; and Chad Zimmerman, Villa Park.



The Orange County Sheriff's Department presented Mike Knowles, maintenance supervisor for Villa Park Public Works, with a cash award for his outstanding service to the city. From left, Captain Gary Knutsen, Mike Knowles and Deputy Sean McDermott.

OTPA membership meeting slated

The Old Towne Preservation Association will hold its annual membership meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 12 at Ruby's Diner at the Metro Station. The meeting will feature the election of the 2022 Board of Directors and a report on OTPA's 2021 accomplishments. City briefings will be provided by interim Orange City Manager Tom Hatch and Councilmember Arianna Barrios. The meeting begins at 6 p.m.; RSVP at otpa.org. New members are welcome.

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See "Cemetery"
continued from page 1

Substance Control stated that "any disturbance of hazardous material changes that material to hazardous waste, and hazardous waste is not to be placed at the property."

They also learned that green burial sites are not necessarily planted over with lawns and shade trees. Gravesites are covered over with gravel or dirt. Bodies are not embalmed and not placed in caskets so they will biodegrade quickly. Green burials must take place within 24-48 hours of death. The cemetery developer says he expects 20-25 burials per month.

Plans for this project indicate 3,500 plots, 12 inches apart, with few walking paths and an estimated 25-30 years to reach capacity.

When queried about placing graves in a landfill, the Green Burial Council wrote, "The short answer is 'no.' This sounds like a disaster for all involved, and not well thought through. Who in their right minds would want to

be buried at a former landfill."

A knowing "no"

The Local Enforcement Agency also opposed the idea, writing in a letter to the landowner, "given that burial plots will be within the landfill cover and that landfill cover maintenance requirements have not been met, the proposed land use for the former disposal site to a proposed cemetery is not approved by LEA or CalRecycle."

Their path of discovery led them to Realtor.com, where they found that proximity to a cemetery devalues homes by some 12.3 percent. "In this neighborhood," Silvia San Nicolas says, "that's an aggregate loss of about \$14 million."

"I'll be looking at the gravel, graves and headstones from my kitchen window," Ann Chavez reports. "What's that going to do to my home value?"

They also learned that the site was being monitored for methane emissions. The YMCA building had methane monitors installed. When they reached a certain point, the pressure was released. That building recently burned

down, and, as far as residents know, no one is monitoring the methane there. A methane vent at the adjacent dog park is, however, inspected annually.

"We don't know what that means," Sharon Galasso says, "but we do know that when it was monitored, methane was escaping. It probably still is. Methane gas is toxic, are we breathing it?"

Fire when ready

The YMCA building fire was one of four recent blazes on the site. It has been saturated with water from fire hoses. "How did all that water impact the contaminants in the landfill?" Eric Gilbert asks. "If that property is disturbed, how many more toxins will be released?"

After three months of research, the residents were ready to bring their case to the city, and did so in public comments made at the Dec. 14 council meeting. The members of the leadership team each took their three-minute comment window to tell the council about site settling, dioxins, arsenic, lead, flooding, coffin flies and beetles, traffic congestion, the neighbor-



Residents researching "green burials" learned that most gravesites are covered with gravel or dirt, not landscaping, as depicted in this photo of a similar cemetery.

ing school, and the land's history as part of the Peralta expedition. Because the comments were not related to an agenda item, the council could not respond.

The property is zoned as recreation/open space, with a small part zoned for low-density residential. That zoning will have to be changed to accommodate the cemetery. "Recreational/open space zoning means the public has access," Gilbert says. "While

some cemeteries are park-like and people are comfortable walking through them, this one isn't. It won't look like a park; There won't be public access."

"It's always been used for recreation," Sharon Galasso adds, "and that's what should be put in there. A place for kids to play, a place for people to enjoy."

The City of Orange must allow the project to continue though the normal process.

See "Paseo"
continued from page 1

area was \$4.9 million for the quarter prior to the pandemic. It was \$12.7 million in the last quarter, translating into \$126,875 in sales taxes paid to the city. It is not clear, however, whether the higher gain was due to the Glassell closure, more people being out and about with pandemic restrictions lifted, or students returning to Chapman University.

Wheels in motion

Monaco observed that Old Towne is a piece of a larger city and that the Paseo is a "beautiful asset to this entire community." Noting that he wanted to "respect the [study] process," he made clear that he doesn't want "anecdotal complaints, flippant remarks; I want data."

Kim Nichols agreed that when the environmental study and design guidelines were finished, the council could "make a responsible, reasonable decision. We care about the historic district, we also care about the success of area businesses."

With the Paseo decision postponed until at least April, the council focused on parklets. As part of the design study, the city's consultant had submitted renderings of what a parklet could look like. The renderings, however, did not inspire a lot of specific discussion, as council comments centered around the concept of parklets in general and the value of building one as a test case.

Chamber of Commerce President and real estate broker Al Ricci suggested installing a prototype downtown, so people could see what it was. "We want to put one in, with K-rails for safety, but boxed in with flowers. Hopefully, it will keep everyone happy." He also reported that Home Depot is willing to donate some of the construction materials, and the chamber would pay for the rest.

"Parklets are a nonstarter for me," Monaco stressed. "They don't solve anything." Councilman Jon Dumitru cited the safety concerns of having cars motoring alongside diners separated from traffic by only a K-rail.

Park the parklet idea

"Let's just stop," Kim Nichols

advised. "Let's wait for the studies to be done." She noted that it is unfair to businesses to tell them one thing (parklets), then change it to another (Paseo) two months later. Ana Gutierrez said she liked the parklet idea, but understood that it is unfair to businesses to ask them to invest in something that could change.

Mayor Mark Murphy suggested putting the single unit together and getting public input. "Let's at least let staff work with the chamber on design revisions. It has to be safe; it has to have no traffic impacts. If that's amenable to the rest of my colleagues, that's what I'd like to do."

"I don't want to build one," Monaco said. "Home Depot isn't going anywhere. Parklets will be part of the environmental review. It will come back to us. We don't need staff working with the chamber until we have data."

Arianna Barrios motioned to build a prototype parklet for public input. Ana Gutierrez seconded it. Monaco offered a substitute motion to continue studying parklets and bring it back as part of the process. That motion carried, 6-1, with Gutierrez opposing.

Conservative Patriots of OC host inaugural meeting

The first 2022 meeting of the Conservative Patriots of Orange County (CPOC) will be held Thursday, Jan. 20 at the Elks Lodge in Santa Ana.

Speakers will be Gina Gleason, executive director of faith and public policy advisor to Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, and Don Dix, chairman of the Republican Party of Riverside County. They will focus on "How the grassroots, faith-based community and official party apparatus can work together to realize success."

Two California initiatives of interest for the November ballot are School Choice and Our Neighborhood Voices (SB9 and SB10 housing). Learn about these, and how you can help. CPOC will be taking formal positions on these initiatives.

Registration opens at 5:30 p.m.; the meeting begins promptly at 6 p.m. A dinner buffet prepared by the Elks Lodge gourmet chefs will be served. The cost is \$25 per person, cash or check. To make reservations, contact Peggy Baranyay at (714) 828-1289.

The Conservative Patriots of Orange County is a new, locally focused organization chartered on Oct. 12, 2021 as an autonomous 527 political not-for-profit entity.

It emerged from the recent dissolution of the Orange Republican Women, Federated (ORWF), which served this area's Republican Party interests for many decades.

The Santa Ana Elks Lodge is located at 1751 S. Lyon St. Visit conservativepatriotsofoc.org for more information.



Eileen Chen, Foothill High



Gillian Alegre, Tustin High



Paula Villalobos, Beckman High

Young Women of the Month announced

The Tustin Area Woman's Club named Eileen Chen, Gillian Alegre and Paula Villalobos as the Young Women of the Month for December. An outstanding high school senior is selected every month of the school year, based on academics, extracurricular activities and leadership.

Eileen Chen of Foothill High has written, illustrated and published a book, "Paper Magic," along with other award-winning plays, stories and poems. They

can be found on her own corner of the internet at PaperMagic.org. She is also on the varsity tennis team and president of the FHS National Honor Society. Eileen plans to one day create television shows that will give kids a "better handbook for life."

Tustin High's Gillian Alegre is pursuing the biomedical field, and interns at Medtronic. She has maintained a 4.7 GPA while being involved in Link Crew and serving as president of the Tus-

tin High National Honor Society. Outside of her academic career, she enjoys distance running, baking and playing with her dog.

Paula Villalobos of Beckman High has been involved in the Medical Certificate Program and Link Cru organizations all four years. She holds leadership positions in both, and enjoys being able to positively influence underclassmen through these clubs. Paula's dream career is to be a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon.

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Residents report status of East Orange landmarks

An update on Santiago Creek and the Sully-Miller dump site was presented at a neighborhood meeting, Dec. 6, by residents who have been following the issues.

Santiago Creek is the last segment of a flood mitigation project undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps has already completed its study of the rest of the Santa Ana River floodplain, and just recently received funding for Santiago Creek. The study area runs from the Villa Park Dam, through the Sully-Miller property, the Bond Pits and Smith Basin, the City of Orange and Hart Park, to its intersection with the Santa Ana River. The last flood mitigation study in that area was done in 1988, and the Corps is looking for conditions that have changed since then.

According to resident Bonnie Robinson, the Army Corps plans to install a mile of riprap lining from the 5 Freeway to the Santa Ana River and initiate "green" engineering. Commenting on the Corps' initial study, residents encouraged the Corps to include habitat restoration and curb development in the mitigation plan.

"The best way to protect

against flooding," Robinson says, "is to protect open spaces and not allow development next to the creek." She also noted that the Army Corps considers the Smith Basin, adjacent to Villa Park, to be "critical to flood control." The revised mitigation plan has not been released yet.

Separate but equal

Santiago Creek, of course, flows through the Sully-Miller property, which has been the focus of community attention for a decade. Used for several years as a repository for construction waste while the property owners sought approvals for a housing tract, the property also attracted the attention of the Local Enforcement Agency, the county arm of CalRecycle. LEA has told the landowner that no additional waste material can be dumped there, and that the site must be cleaned up and free of contaminants before anything can be built on or near it.

Despite LEA's directive, concrete waste was being dumped there over the Thanksgiving holiday. Neighbors reported the illegal activity to the city and LEA.

Kim Plehn reports that the city's response was, "If you don't like it, call the police." Which she did. "The police can't do anything," she said, "but it gives us a record of noncompliance."

A construction company was still using the site in December; LEA has issued a cease and desist order.

The State Water Resources Control Board is also now engaged in studies of the creek and Sully-Miller property. Resident Dru Whitefeather advised that the water board found buried fuel tanks there that will need to be removed. The Board, too, will require extensive testing before anything can be built there, specifically on the acreage north of the creek where the City of Orange approved a 22-unit housing tract.

The Local Enforcement Agency and state water board are actively involved in the oversight of the area because citizens asked for their help. Residents feel the City of Orange has ignored the declining conditions of the property for two decades and continues in its hands-off approach, despite residents' complaints.



This is what it looks like when the Orange Elks and Emblem Club work together for the good of the community. The groups collected holiday goodies for families who otherwise might not have a merry Christmas. They made a delivery to Handy Elementary School on Dec. 16. From left, Handy Office Manager Nicole Rostom, Principal Erika Krohn, Emblem Club Liaison Frances Vargas; Emblem Club President Claudia Castillo; Press Secretary Karen Kremer; Recording Secretary Jan Genelle; First Guard Carole Walters; Elks Rick Ellifrit and Greg McFadden; Emblem Club Treasurer Kim Raya.

THOUGHTS from a TREE M.D.

by Vince Olivieri, ISA Certified Arborist (WE-12884-A)



I have someone in my life who is very dear to me. She is a therapist by trade and spends her days, and sometimes nights, listening to people's problems and absorbing their asphyxiating, negative energy. How a single individual can sit there, day after day, week after week, year after year, listening to concentrated negativity and depression, while still being able to smile and provide invaluable advice and emotional support, is beyond me. Impressively, the more distraught and problematic the scenario, seemingly comes the most valued advice. Some people who aren't therapists are like that as well. They seem to absorb the negativity around them, and in return, breathe back joy, peace of mind, comfort and emotional solidarity.

You might say you don't have such a person in your life. I'm not telling you to go and get yourself a therapist, but I'd like to point out that we all have a little bit of that in ourselves, to some degree. We may just choose not to make that side of ourselves available to

others.

Trees are exactly the same. Trees are naturally carbon dioxide vacuums. Carbon dioxide, a natural asphyxiant to us, is absorbed by trees, which can store up to 22 tons of it in their trunks, branches and root systems. In turn, they release oxygen to us. Oxygen is our most essential and necessary compound for life itself.

When trees die, the exact same quantity of greenhouse gases are released as the tree decomposes. The decomposing wood eventually breaks down, and the gaseous components are absorbed deeper into the earth in the form of humus. Humus becomes more concentrated over time, until it might finally become bituminous or anthracite coal.

So, in a way, trees are the earth's natural therapists, always absorbing the negative, while breathing out life. Even after they've died, they continue to yield benefits and even energy itself. I choose to live like a tree, and attempt to give back positivity and support whenever I can.

LETTERS to the EDITOR



Deja vu

Dear Editor:

Here we go again. Villa Park City Councilman Robert Collacott was stirring up conflict at the December 14 city council meeting. I don't know why he does it. This is an embarrassment and throws shame on our great city.

We should have a peaceful transition from Mayor Pro Tem to Mayor, especially if one has never served as Mayor and is an asset to our community. We also like to give each council member the privilege of serving as Mayor.

Chad Zimmerman served as Mayor Pro Tem this past year. He is very active in the community, serving on committees, working with the Boy Scouts, and has held

leadership roles in the VP Rotary. He will be an excellent representative for the city.

Villa Park has a long-standing tradition of selecting the mayor pro tem to serve as mayor, usually by a unanimous vote. The council has traditionally done this with class and good will.

Now here comes Councilman Collacott nominating someone who has already served as mayor, thus leading to a split vote for Chad Zimmerman. Councilman Collacott seems to enjoy sowing dissension among council members. I hope that this will change in the coming year.

James Reichert
Former Villa Park City Councilman

The *Foothills Sentry* received several letters from readers criticizing its coverage of the Orange Unified School District Board meeting, as well

as the accompanying editorial written by an OUSD parent [December, 2021]. None of the writers wanted their letters published.



Villa Park Councilmember Crystal Miles' last act as mayor was to recognize Elizabeth and Mike Frazier and their family as Distinguished Citizens. They selflessly made and provided Thanksgiving meals to those who might be alone or need a meal. The family started with a drive-thru in 2020, and enjoyed it so much, they repeated and expanded their efforts in 2021, providing over 200 meals.

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Seasonal disasters

Visitors from as far away as Trabuco Canyon enjoyed craft booths, food, music and Santa Claus at Christmas in the Canyons in Silverado, Dec. 11. If they had stuck around longer, they might have had front row seats for Mudslides in the Mountains.

The Dec. 14 rainstorm in the Bond Fire burn area triggered flooding and debris flows in Silverado, destroying one house in Wildcat Canyon, pushing an orange K-rail barrier on Water Way into the creek, and piling more dirt and rocks on top of what was still on Anderson Way from last season's storms, making the road impossible to drive.

OC Fire Authority rescue teams evacuated people who could not cross the muddy "river" roaring past their homes. Rushing water pushed rocks, branches, outdoor furniture, and sandbags down nearby streets.

OC Public Works (OCPW) cleared debris from bridges and Silverado Canyon Road, but since many of Silverado's side streets

are private, the county does not maintain them. (Ladd Canyon Road is maintained because it was deeded to the county in the 1940s.)

County work on private property could be considered misuse of public funds, like using your tax dollars to build someone else a new driveway or gazebo. It was suggested at OCPW's Dec. 8 virtual townhall that private-road residents who cannot clear debris themselves seek help from private organizations like Team Rubicon.

Where to put removed debris is a problem. Mary Schreiber asked an interesting question: What if debris blocking a private road prevented access for emergency vehicles, such as a fire truck trying to reach a burning house? Would the county then be allowed to clear the debris?

In case the county can channel fire/flood aid to the canyons, the Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District created an ad hoc committee on Dec. 16 to work on communicating requests

and responses related to relief.

The California FAIR plan is said to be covering damage from water and debris if it is attributable to the Bond Fire. Insurance elsewhere may be different.

Some people don't wait for outside help, though. A man with a small tractor made the mud on one street at least good enough to drive on. A friend brought him gasoline. Both refused money.

Something we probably wouldn't like to think about right now -- the old song that includes these lines:

God gave Noah the rainbow sign,

No more water; but fire next time.

Transitions

Fran Williams of Silverado is retiring this year, again. The first time was 25 years ago, from Orange County Social Services. Almost immediately, though, she became involved in efforts to keep the Silverado Library open during the county's bankruptcy. Now she is stepping down as head of Friends of the Library, the Inter-Canyon League committee that she has headed since its founding.

For a time, Friends of the Library was the only source of funds for new books and magazines. Starting with baked goods and books for sale outside the library (then located next to Can-

yon Market), Fran organized other fundraisers like holiday raffles, pet vaccinations, swap meets, and a Silverado Fair boutique. She said that her proudest moment, though, was when she evacuated Meghan, the library cat, during the 2007 Santiago Fire.

In Modjeska, meanwhile, Canyon Beat Senior Editor Andrew Tonkovich reports that longtime canyon resident and volunteer activist Joan Kelly Wilson and her husband Chris are selling their home. "She is a retired nurse who got re-certified to help with the recent vaccination drive," he says, "and he is a respected and much-admired craftsman, builder ... lovely people."

tiny seeds with puffy parachutes for catching the wind, like dandelion seeds. That is what you notice in winter.

The coyote brush in our area tends to be erect, but nurseries sometimes sell cultivated prostrate varieties as ground cover. These plants are male clones, to appease gardeners who dislike "messy" seeds.

Although coyote brush is available commercially, be careful about ordering it online, or you might wind up with something from Petsmart that isn't exactly what you had in mind, and which would probably be useless to you unless you happen to own a pet coyote.

Coyote brush

Over the last couple of months, if you happened to notice bushes along Santiago Canyon Road that looked like they were dusted with snow, what you likely noticed was coyote brush. Actually, what you likely noticed was only half of the coyote brush—the female plants. Unlike oaks, which produce male and female flowers on the same tree, a coyote brush is either all male or all female.

Coyote brush, a California native that can grow to over 10 feet in height, blooms from late summer to late fall. The male flowers, less than a quarter inch in size, are yellowish. The white paintbrush-looking female flowers produce



Coyote brush

VP Boat Parade brings "Joy to the World"



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Best Youth Group - Richard Quiones, Villa Park Baseball



Best Use of Lights - Eric Johnson



The Villa Park James Street residents always turn out en masse to greet Santa when he arrives on the fire truck.

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Holiday hoofbeats in OPA



Mary Nori and Trigger and David Hillman and Gretchen escorted Matilda in the Orange Park Acres Christmas parade and caroling ride, Dec. 12. Two reindeer (below) showed up disguised as mini horses.



Good spirits in the canyon



Photos by Tony Richards

Santa Claus was the main attraction at Christmas in the Canyons, Dec. 11. From left, Elf Adam Fanello, Lincoln and Logan Kelly visit with the old soul.



Carnita the pot bellied pig gets into the spirit at the Silverado Canyon Christmas event.

Season's greetings in Orange



The house at 714 E. Maple was named "Most Beautiful" by the judges in this year's Old Towne Holiday Decorating Contest.



Retired Orange Police Chief Tom Kisela served as narrator of the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in the plaza, Dec. 5. Mayor Mark Murphy looks on.



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8 AM	Doors open - Coffee & Donuts	*Election will be for 3 Board Director positions. Board Directors are elected for a 3-year term.
9 AM	Meeting	
10 AM	Nominations & Election of Directors*	

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Orange redistricting maps pared down

Draft redistricting maps for the City of Orange were honed from 19 to four at the Dec. 14 council meeting, with each of them expected to be fine-tuned by the city's demographic consultant before a final selection is made in February.

Of the draft maps under consideration, 16 were submitted by members of the public, and three drawn by the National Demographic Corporation. Several were rejected because they did not follow Fair Map Act guidelines, which state that districts must be fairly equal in population, contiguous, easily identifiable, represent "communities of interest," strengthen minority voices and not be drawn along party lines.

In addition to discarding maps that were out of compliance, the city council looked at those that were similar and selected one from each like group. Others were tabled because they included odd shapes or combined areas that had little in common.

Resident Sammy Rodriguez of El Modena was the only individual to address the council about redistricting. He told members that District 5, which includes El Modena, should not be changed and that any attempt at gerrymandering would be noticed. He reported that the draft maps have been shown to the attorney who filed the lawsuit that forced the city to adopt districts in 2019, and that a court challenge would be forthcoming if the final map violated the Voting Rights Act.

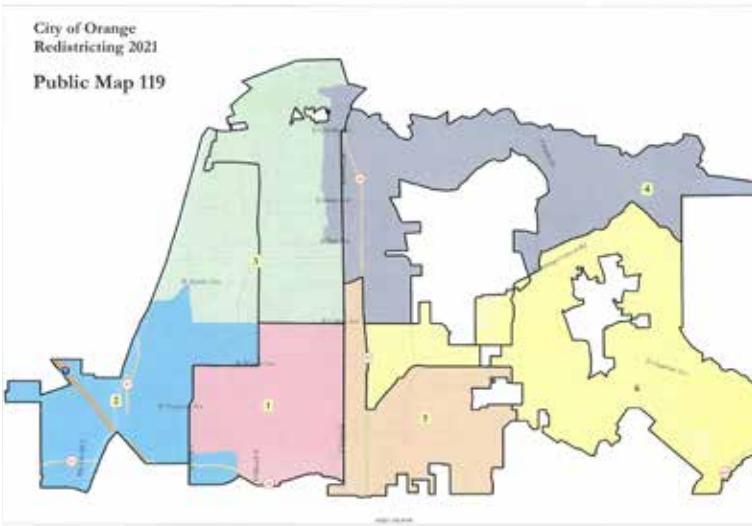
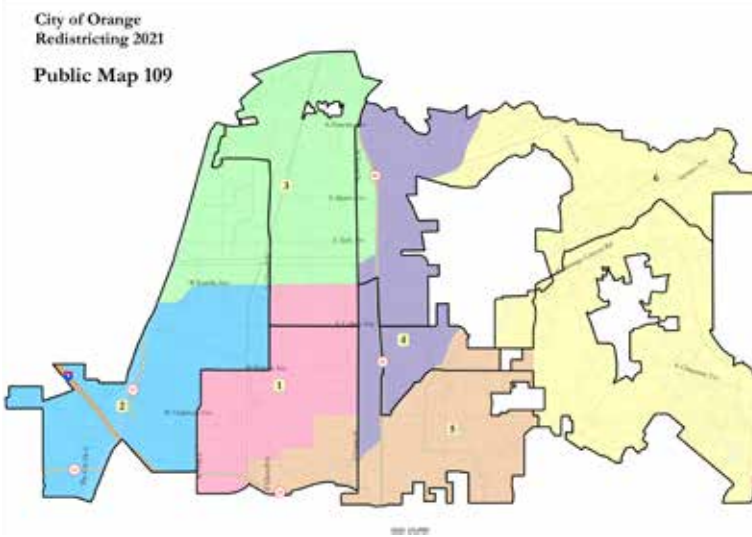
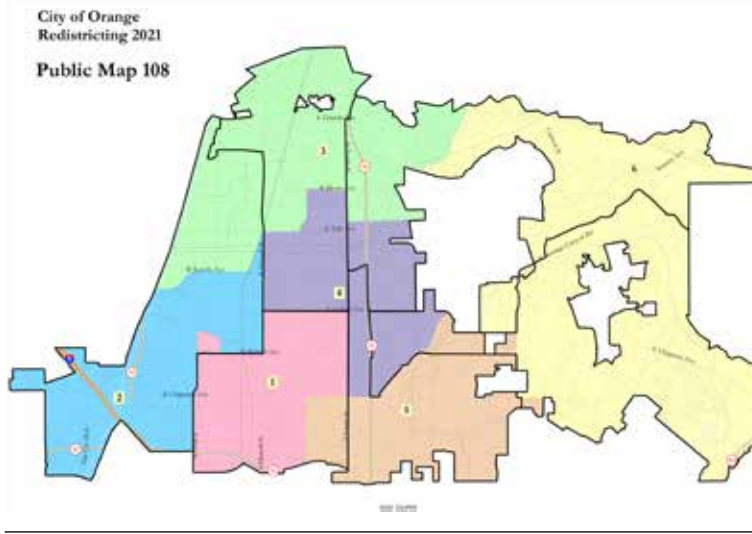
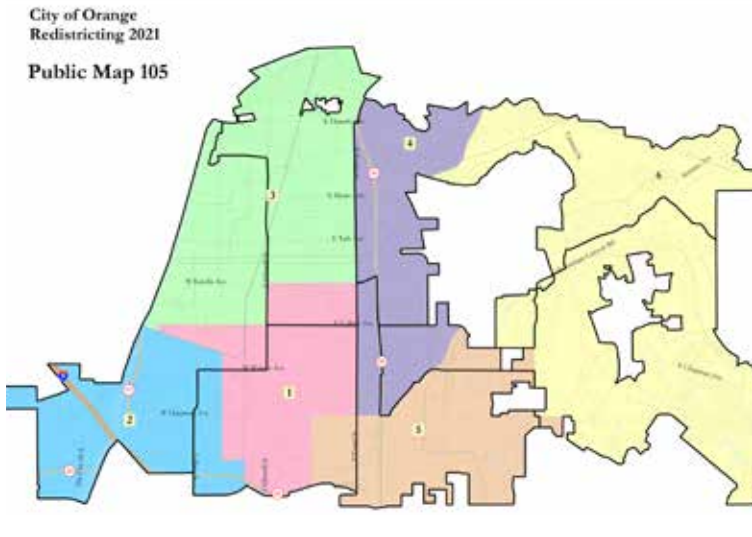
The only written public comment supported map 119, one of the four finalists. The public may continue to provide input or submit additional maps until Jan. 31 (orangedistricts.org). Orange's districts must be configured based on population data from the 2020 census.

OPA meeting is Jan. 29

The Orange Park Association annual general membership meeting will be held at Salem Church School multi-purpose room, 6500 Santiago Canyon Road, on Saturday, Jan. 29. Doors open at 8 a.m.; the meeting starts at 9 a.m., with nominations and the election of officers at 10 a.m. For more information, orangeparkacres.org.



A crowd gathered at the Orange Plaza for the annual lighting of the Hanukkah menorah on Sun., Nov. 28, the first night of the Festival of Lights. The observance was sponsored by Temple Beth Shalom, Orange County's oldest Reform congregation, and the City of Orange. On hand for the lighting were (left to right) Cantor David Reinwald, County Supervisor Don Wagner, City of Orange Mayor Mark Murphy, Rabbi David Lipper, and Orange City Manager Tom Hatch. The group sang Hanukkah songs, enjoyed traditional Hanukkah jelly donuts and lit the menorah.



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Mary Noguera, Director of House for the Woman's Club of Orange, stands outside the newly painted clubhouse. The year 1922 marks the starting date for this historic building, and decades of philanthropy.

Tustin Dems plan January meeting

Tustin Democrats' Zoom general meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 25 will focus on the effort to recall three Tustin Unified School District trustees. The meeting will cover the potential impact on student academic achievement, as well as the financial impact of reduced resources for students, as a recall effort would cost Tustin Unified nearly \$400,000 to verify signatures and hold a special election. It will also address the intimidating behavior community members are encountering from recall proponents when speaking out in support of trustees at school board meetings.

Anyone wanting to connect with fellow Democrats in and around Tustin can find information at TustinDemocraticClub.org. New members and guests are always welcome.



Tustin Mayor and author Letitia Clark presents a copy of her book "Mommy is the Mayor" to Violet Aitken-Penn, 8, at the Tustin Democratic Club holiday brunch on Dec. 19.

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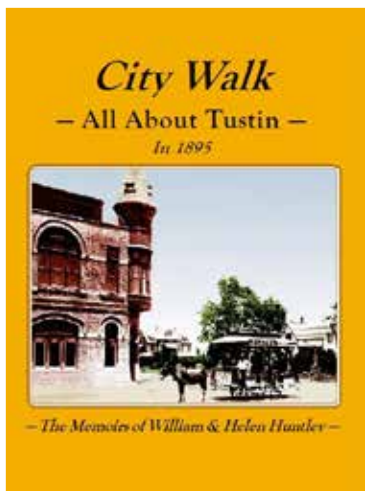
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New book explores the Tustin of 1895



Author Guy Ball and his book.

By Linda Schefcick

“City Walk: All About Tustin in 1895” is a new book by author and historian Guy Ball from Tustin. “City Walk” sets the reader into downtown Tustin back in 1895, when the streets were dirt, the majestic Bank of Tustin sat right in the middle of town (at Main and El Camino), and transportation was usually horses, bicycles or walking. There were no cars, no electricity, and piped water to a home was not common.

Readers will walk down the dusty streets of a small village that has a core area six streets long and five streets wide. They’ll see photos of houses and businesses no longer here. But some of the original homes are still standing, enjoying life with new families. Schools have grown and been replaced. The original doctor’s office is now a Kombucha bar.

The author, Guy Ball, has lived in his adopted city of Tustin for 28 years, and is an active member of the Tustin Area Historical Society. He previously wrote “Images of America: Tustin” and has been the webmaster of the society’s TustinHistory.com for over a decade. He also wrote two books on Santa Ana history and a book on vintage calculators.

We asked him some questions about “City Walk:”

How did you come up with the idea?

A fellow historian and publisher, Doug Westfall from Orange, had written a book on the City of Orange in 1888, and shared a map from 1895 that showed the buildings in the core part of a very early Tustin. It was amazing to see what little made up our small town at the time. I was intrigued to discover more about what life was like then.

This was before electric power or cars. Transportation to the ‘big city’ of Santa Ana took an hour by

horse. Los Angeles was a day’s stage ride. Kids played hoops or ball in the dirt streets. Of course, that was after all the farm chores were done, because produce was one of the main sources of income for most families.

I’ve always been amazed by pioneers who came to these desolate fields of mustard grass with quail running wild, and took a chance on this land of opportunity that we call California. People like Columbus Tustin took a chance with everything they had to create new communities.

They moved their families here to create a new life for themselves and others. Columbus actually died a disappointed man in 1883, before his real estate labors really bore fruit. It wasn’t until the 1890s that Tustin started to take shape and the community grew into something special.

What kind of research did you do?

That was the fun part. No one had done something so specific before.

I had several books to start with, including Carol Jordan’s definitive book on Tustin. Juanita Lovret’s body of personal experiences was helpful. But the writings of C.E. Utt and Helen and William Huntley, both who lived during that time, brought in more details. The Tustin Area Museum has an amazing collection of old images and other resources that I could look through. There were a variety of other sources, and some help from fellow historians who specialize in topics like railroads and plat maps.

There are roughly 120 vintage photos and old maps in the book – many of which have never been published.

In many cases, the photos had no background information, so I had to discover who owned what houses or see if businesses were from that time period.

Why do you write about local history?

I got interested in local history about 35 years ago, and, in particular, California history. I’m a transplant from New Jersey who wanted a piece of that ‘California Dream’. And the more I saw of the innovative thinking that occurs here, the more I realized how it’s been that way since the 1800s. My first three books were really photo books masquerading as history books, and they were popular. People love looking at old photos. So that’s why we included extra shots in this book.

Why write a walking tour book?

I thought it was an interesting way to get readers to think about the city. Some might actually walk the path we laid out. But many more may read the book and visit spots or see locations they know about with new insight. Like seeing the water buildings at Prospect and Main, and knowing the original water works for the whole city started in the same place they are now. Or that a home built for San Franciscan real estate titan David Hewes in 1881 is owned by a new family today.

What’s your next project?

Two, actually. I’m working with a designer to revamp the TustinHistory.com website for the historical society, with better interfaces and more historic content. And I’ll soon start finishing another book I began a few years ago that shows “Then and Now” photos of Tustin and talks about the changes residents have seen.

“City Walk: All about Tustin in 1895”, 106 pgs., is available at specialbooks.com.

VPWL to celebrate city's 60 years

The Feb. 17 general meeting of the Villa Park Women’s League will be themed “Happy Birthday, Villa Park!” The organization will celebrate the 60-year anniversary of the incorporation of the city with exhibits and speakers sharing about the founding and early years of the “Hidden Jewel.”

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Villa Park City Hall. Membership is open to all female residents of the city; see vpwl.org for information.

Art League explores storytelling in painting

Artist Nancy Nowak will present “Painting Successfully, from Start to Finish” at the Tustin Art League’s Zoom meeting on Wed., Jan. 12.

Nowak will explore the stages and thought processes that go into completing an interesting painting that tells a story. In addition to demonstrating techniques and underpainting, she will show how she develops a strong foundation through value studies and the rule of thirds, and how she uses fig-

ures to deepen the story told by the landscape.

All are welcome to attend the meeting at cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98009215926. It runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m.



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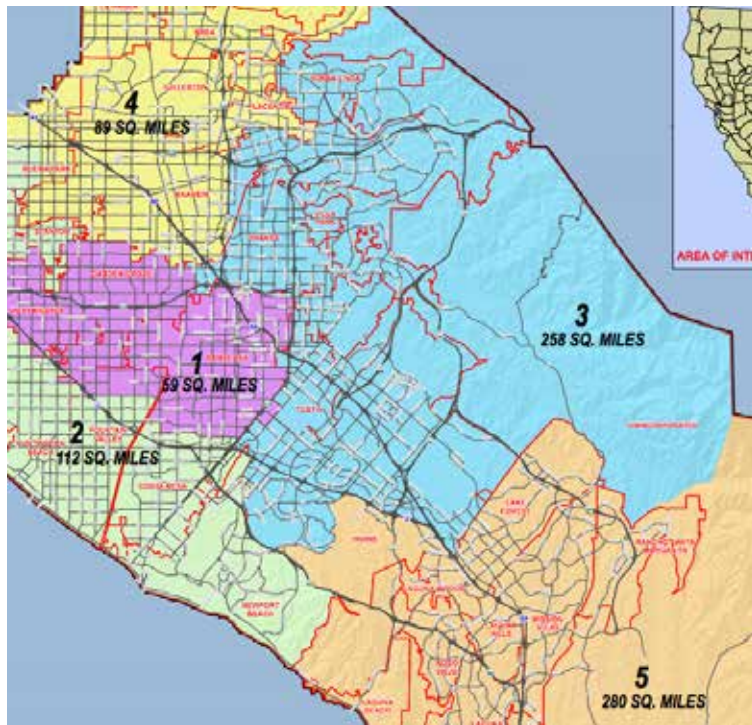
Jones named VP librarian



Kristina Jones in the new librarian at Villa Park Library. She has been an Orange County resident her entire life, and attended Villa Park High School. After a few career false starts, she gave library school a try, and has never looked back.

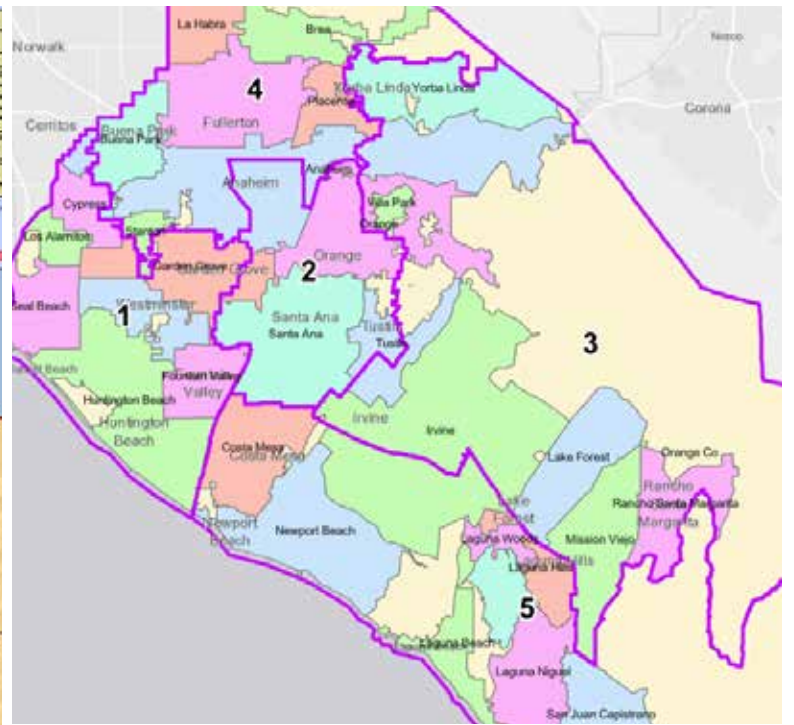
She says, "During my 20-plus years with OC Public Libraries, I've worked as a children's librarian, a materials evaluator, and a branch manager. Library services have grown and changed (remember the card catalog?), and it's been a pleasure to be a part of it, and of course a pleasure to be working with the Villa Park community."

County unveils new districting map



Old map

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a new district map, to reflect population and diversity data from the 2020 census. The major difference is District 2, redrawn to better serve the Latino population, and, at 62.8%, give those residents a stronger voice.



New map

Portions of the City of Orange and North Tustin, formerly in District 3, are now part of District 2. Supervisors will retain their numerical designation, and be "caretakers" for those districts until the next district elections. For example, Katrina Foley, representing the former District 2, will continue to oversee the new District 2, and District 1 Supervisor Andrew Do will serve the new District 1, even though both of those districts are now very different. In 2022, District 5 Supervisor Lisa Bartlett will be termed

out; Foley will likely run for that seat because she lives in Costa Mesa. The District 2 seat will be open in 2022. District 4 Supervisor Doug Chaffee will likely run again next year; District 3 Supervisor Don Wagner's term has three years remaining, until 2025.

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Happy New Year!

Welcome to Real Estate 2022! With 2021 now in our rearview mirror, we can look back, take notes, and focus on what is yet to come. What I'm starting to hear in the industry is a rumbling that interest rates may tick up, which could possibly pressure sales prices to adjust downward. I say "possibly," because with our housing inventory so low, we may still continue to have buyer bidding wars in 2022. And that, of course, could push sales prices to continue on their upward trend.

You might be asking yourself, is there still room for higher sales prices? Many believe that there is. However, our affordability index on those who can purchase, and are willing to purchase, is getting slim. That might have an impact on where those sales prices

actually land. One of the biggest factors that will play a part in real estate sales in 2022 has to be inventory. We already know we have amazing interest rates, but if no one is selling their home, then no one is buying a home. And that, my friends, is what we should all keep an eye on.

The year 2022 is here, and there's no turning back. Typically January is one of the slower months in real estate sales, but let's keep an eye on the market to see what it delivers.

Now, more than ever, it's important you work with someone who is informed about what is happening in your local market. If you are curious about what might be taking place with home values in your neighborhood, contact your local realtor.

MONTH at-a-glance



ORANGE | NOVEMBER 2021

	NOV-21	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	NOV-20	YTD
Median Sales Price	\$920,000	3%	5%	20%	\$841,000
Average Sales Price	\$1,036,939	5%	6%	32%	\$923,709
Properties for Sale	78	-9%	--	-39%	--
Properties Sold	90	-12%	--	-28%	1,228
Avg Days on Market	39	63%	39%	35%	26
Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold)	\$527	4%	2%	20%	\$495
Inventory (Months)	0.9	3%	-8%	-15%	1.0

Based on information from Orange County (CRMLS) for the period 10/31/20 through 11/30/21. Due to MLS reporting methods and allowable reporting policy, this data is only informational and may not be completely accurate. Therefore, Coldwell Banker Realty does not guarantee the data accuracy. Data maintained by the MLS's may not reflect all real estate activity in the market.

MONTH at-a-glance



TUSTIN | NOVEMBER 2021

	NOV-21	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	NOV-20	YTD
Median Sales Price	\$940,000	18%	6%	35%	\$816,620
Average Sales Price	\$979,909	17%	1%	29%	\$891,359
Properties for Sale	38	-14%	--	-51%	--
Properties Sold	49	-22%	--	-40%	718
Avg Days on Market	26	-24%	13%	-32%	27
Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold)	\$538	7%	4%	25%	\$495
Inventory (Months)	0.8	11%	6%	-19%	0.9

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MONTH at-a-glance



VILLA PARK | NOVEMBER 2021

	NOV-21	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	NOV-20	YTD
Median Sales Price	\$2,062,500	18%	25%	51%	\$1,712,500
Average Sales Price	\$2,112,500	24%	18%	59%	\$1,849,797
Properties for Sale	12	-8%	--	-46%	--
Properties Sold	4	33%	--	-60%	94
Avg Days on Market	16	-64%	-33%	-71%	43
Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold)	\$646	12%	18%	46%	\$520
Inventory (Months)	3.0	-31%	10%	36%	1.7

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OBITUARIES



Anthony "Tony" Grifo 1932-2021

Anthony "Tony" Grifo, age 89, of Orange, died of renal failure on November 18.

He is survived by his life partner Rodger Flores, and nieces and nephews Paula Gustafson, Sally Persigan, Jerry Grifo, Michelle Long, Lori Grifo and Rosie Tremaine.

Tony was born February 13, 1932, in Melrose Park, Illinois. He was the youngest of five brothers. After graduating from high school, Tony enlisted in the Army. His primary role was cook, a job he remembered fondly, along with spending time stationed in Japan. He served honorably for four years, reaching the rank of corporal. He left the Army in 1952, but never forgot his time serving his country. He was a true patriot who was always proud to fly the American flag on holidays.

Tony moved to California in 1961 to dodge the cold, windy winters of the midwest. With no family here, he chose Orange County as his home. He got a job as an orderly at Orange County Hospital in Orange, known today as UCI Medical Center. He worked in what was then referred to as the "mental ward." He was considered a "5150" specialist, a good listener who could talk patients out of harming themselves. His empathetic nature led him to his professional calling as a mental health specialist for the Coun-

ty of Orange. He worked the rest of his professional career helping the mentally ill until his retirement in 1991.

In his later years, before he retired, Tony became an avid collector of antiques. He spent many weekends visiting flea markets, estate sales and garage sales. He loved collecting Scottish Terrier memorabilia and antique furnishings. He eventually turned his hobby into a side business, refurbishing antique collections and selling them at flea markets, like the old swap meet at the Orange Drive-In. It was there that he met Rodger Flores in 1975. Rodger was selling furniture next to Tony's stall at the flea market.

Tony and Rodger found they shared a love for Scottish Terriers and collecting antiques. They have been inseparable ever since.

After Tony retired, he worked for the Antique Station in Old Towne Orange and continued buying and selling vintage furnishings and decor. Over four decades, it was routine for Tony and Rodger to jump into Tony's pickup truck to hunt for treasures at yard sales all around Orange.

"We'll always have a piece of Tony with us because I bet everyone he knows has a special 'Treasure from Tony' in their home," Rodger's niece Nancy MacDonald says.

Tony was a savvy entrepreneur and invested in real estate throughout his later years. Everyone called Tony the "mayor of Stevens Street," where he lived since 1966 and owned rental homes. He was close to his mom Rose, and in 1967, bought the house next door and moved her to Stevens Street. She lived next door to him until she passed away in 1982.

Everyone knows Tony was a charming and soft-spoken man. But, here are a few things you might not know about Tony: He would say the Rosary at 3 a.m. every day, using his mother's beads. He also fed his cats at that time. He always prayed for anyone who was sick or in need of help. He loved to pay in cash, and only owned two credit cards his entire life, but never used them.

He loved macaroni and cheese and chicken pot pies.

He loved his cats, his Scottie dogs, and listening to old Dean Martin hits. His last words to Rodger before he passed away: "Feed the cats."



G. Donald Weber 1934-2021

G. Donald Weber, Jr., a 49-year resident of Villa Park, went to be with his Lord Dec. 4. Don was surrounded by his family, including his two grandchildren who flew to California Friday night and were there to spend his last day with him.

Don was born in Philadelphia on Aug. 7, 1934 to G. Donald Weber, Sr. and Carrie Weber. Don met "the love of his life" Joann (his words) on a blind date and always proclaimed it was love at first sight. They married seven months later, on Aug. 22, 1959, and had 62 blessed, love-filled years together.

Don graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in electrical engineering, attended Temple Law School and graduated with a juris doctorate degree. After passing the Patent Office Bar, he worked in the patent departments of Univac and Honeywell (Pennsylvania). He moved to Houston and was patent counsel for Offshore Systems. In California, he worked for Rockwell Automation for nine years. He then established his own private practice and worked for another 45 years. Don was active in community service, serving on the board of Providence Speech and Hearing Center, the Villa Park City Council Planning Board, a softball coach for his daughter's team and as a deacon in his church, Covenant Presby-

terian. Don was a Mason for 67 years.

Don was an avid golfer, playing weekly for many years, until three back surgeries ended that hobby. He was a member of several bridge groups, many of whose members will be greeting him in heaven.

Don is survived by his much-adored wife Joann; son G. Donald III (Valerie); daughter Karen Fleming; brothers, Charles (Joan) and Ken (Sandy); and grandchildren Max Weber, a student at Grand Canyon University; and Ross (Hayley) Williams, who is living in Ohio while Hayley completes her residency in neurology at the Cleveland Clinic.

Donations in Don's memory may be made to Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1855 N. Orange Olive Road, Orange, CA 92865. Don's memorial service will be held at Covenant on Jan. 8 at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon reception.



Douglas Hart 1931 - 2021

Douglas LeRoy Hart, an icon in the Orange Park Acres community, went to the heavens on Nov. 15, at the age of 90.

He had never once, in all his years, been hospitalized or treated for any serious illness, and died in the arms of his loving wife and two daughters.

Doug was born Sept. 19, 1931 in Long Beach. He lost his father at the young age of 15 and took on the responsibility of caring for his mother, three brothers and a sister. He always put his family's needs before his, and worked tirelessly to be the best provider. He outlived all of his siblings and experienced the loss of his daughter, Julie Murray, in 2016.

In 1962, Doug and his brothers opened a series of Chevron,

Texaco and Shell gas stations in Garden Grove and Fountain Valley that he operated until 1998.

He worked on many space projects at Aerojet for seven years, and married his secretary, Ruth Ellingwood, in 1964.

In 1968, Doug purchased his first horse, and needed a property to keep it on, so he started shopping for horse properties. He fell in love with Orange Park Acres and purchased his property on Orange Park Blvd., which consisted of a small house and an orange grove.

His entire family thought he was crazy for buying a property out in the hills, far away from his business in Garden Grove. At the time, there were no freeways, and he traveled Katella daily to get to work. He spent his free time clearing the property, and turned it into a working horse property. He began a horse breeding business, Royal Coachman Farm, and raised and showed Arabian and Peruvian Paso horses.

Doug loved OPA and never once thought of moving. His legacy of a working horse property in OPA is continued by his daughter Sherry, with Hoofprints Equestrian Program.

Doug is survived by his loving wife of 57 years Ruth Hart, daughters Cindy Hart Crowell and Sherry Hart Panttaja, 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandbabies.

Friends of VP Library elects officers

Friends of the Villa Park Library elected new officers for 2022-23. They are: President Bill Baker; Vice President Jonna Allison; CFO James Allison; Secretary Monica Helzer.

The Board of Directors includes Harriet Wedemeyer, Eva Wyskowski, Malki Moonesinghe and Diana Fascenelli. Members-at-large are Bob Bell, Bob Connell, Elaine Connell and Ron Accornero.

The Friends of the Library meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.

Patrons are always welcome to visit or join. Friends of the Villa Park Library works with the OC library system to raise awareness of library services and programs. They fund-raise to augment library programs and the library environment.

Thrift Shop is more than meets the eye

The Assistance League of Orange's Now and Again Thrift Shop has been a familiar fixture on the southeast corner of the Orange Plaza Square for over 60 years. Its regular customers know that when it opens for the week each Tuesday, the shelves and racks will be brimming with new, donated merchandise.

As an all-volunteer staffed enterprise with few expenses, virtually all of the \$3,000-\$4,000 in weekly sales revenue directly supports Assistance League philanthropic programs in the community.

What is less well known about the shop, is that it also advances the organization's mission in a non-financial way. Since 2018, the store has had an agreement with Integrated Resources Institute (IRI) to provide job training for disabled persons through its MentorWorks program. IRI's mission is transforming the lives

of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and it seeks to fully integrate its clients in work roles where they will be successful.

Current program participant Tanya is hearing and speech-impaired, and volunteers every Monday in the thrift shop accompanied by her coach Sandra, helping to restock the store.

"They are a great pair, and we value having Tanya be a part of our team," says Now and Again Chairman Cindy McCandless, who originally sought the partnership with IRI.

"This is a great placement for Tanya," says her coach, referring to the opportunity to volunteer alongside Assistance League members and gain valuable job skills and experience.

An added plus to the arrangement is the exemption from state sales tax, granted because the thrift shop provides this job re-

habilitation opportunity. That exemption, in turn, benefits all customers of the store, many of whom have fixed or lower incomes.

To donate your gently used

clothing, working household goods, jewelry and collectibles, bring them to the S. Orange Street parking lot, behind the Assistance League building, during its open hours and ring the gate bell.

The store is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (except the first Friday of the month) and Saturdays until 4 p.m.

Donation receipts for tax purposes are available upon request.



MentorWorks program participant Tanya at work in the Assistance League Thrift Shop.



Assistance League's Thrift Shop is known for its eye-catching window displays.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

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Steve Harrington, former El Modena softball coach, dies



Steve Harrington, 53, former head coach at El Modena High (2001-2015) died of an apparent heart attack.

Harrington was en route to a club softball game in Riverside when he fell ill. Harrington drove himself to the hospital, where he crashed his car.

Harrington coached at Chaminade High School before taking the ElMo head coaching job. At El Modena, Harrington was named the Orange County Coach

of the Year in 2011. His team captured the CIF-SS Div. 2 title in 2008 and was runner-up in 2002. Harrington moved on and went to La Habra High School where he coached for two years, landed at Beckman, was the hitting coach at the University of Santa Clara, bounced around before taking over the head coaching position at the University of Apple Valley. Harrington coached for two seasons before resigning. Harrington and former Mater Dei head coach Doug Meyers were named National Coaches of the Year when he was coaching the Batbusters, a girls softball team. He recently was coaching the Firecrackers softball team.

Harrington was a master at scouting and preparing for a game, giving fits to his opponents. One of his favorite "weapons" was to swap jerseys at game time. The CIF-SS commissioner said it was within the rules and guidelines, just a little deceptive.

Santiago heads into league play

Santiago Canyon College men's basketball picked up right where it left off in 2020, advancing to 11-1 going into Orange Empire Conference (OEC) play. Four teams in the OEC are ranked in the state's top 20. Fullerton comes in at No. 1 as the top team in the state, and Santiago Canyon is ranked No. 6.

Always a sharp team, with a strong inside and outside game, the Hawk's lone loss came in mid-November against MiraCosta College in a tight one, 78-75. So far this season, SCC has beaten three top-30 teams in No. 29 Mt. San Antonio, No. 16 Citrus, and No. 12 L.A. Harbor. The team is leading the OEC in scoring (83.1 ppg) and in rebounding (42.1 rpg).

Sophomore guard Preston Sims leads the Hawks in scoring at 13.8 ppg, while averaging 6.3 rebounds per game. David Agba, a sophomore guard, follows with 13.5 ppg and leads the team in rebounds at 7.3 per game. Sharpshooting freshman guard Erik Howlin is averaging 13.3 ppg. and is a danger beyond the arc.

Freshman guard Aaron Wadman is another one to watch, with 11.2 ppg. and 5.5 rpg. Santiago Canyon will look to finish what it started prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, by making a run in the state tournament and achieving a state title.



Preston Sims, the 6'5" sophomore from Santiago Canyon College, keeps the men's basketball team flying high, going 11-1 preseason.

Crestview League names water polo standouts

Noah Rowe, a senior on Foothills' boys water polo team, was named Player of the Year for the Century Conference, Crestview League. Named to the All-League First Team were Jack Matos, sr; Riley Clansen, jr, goalkeeper; and Reef Lipa, sr. Named to the Second Team from Foothill were

Bryce Karger, sr; Gavin Nelson, sr.

Chad Harris, sr, from Villa Park High, was named to the second team. El Modena placed Nolan Wyser to the First Team All-North Hills League in water polo. Jon Alvarez was selected to the Second Team All-League.

Century Conference All-League football teams named in Crestview and North Hills Leagues

North Hills League named Canyon's Fox Haugen, a junior, as Co-Offensive Player of the Year.

Canyon athletes named to the First Team include: Kyle Krause, jr; Christian Lundsberg, jr; Troy Mills, jr; Luke Oliva, sr; and Armando Medrano, jr. Named to the Second Team are: Noah Eckenode, jr; Sean Edmiston, sr; Zaki Dostzada, sr; and Sean Artist, jr.

In the Crestview League, Austin Overn, a senior from Foothill,

was named a Player of the Year. A Defensive Player of the Year was Roman Marchetti, a senior from Foothill. Jackson Christie, a Villa Park senior, was named Offensive Player of the Year.

First Team athletes include, from Foothill High: Paddy Hawkins, sr; Brady Schrank, sr; Brody Jones, sr; Dean Pistone, sr; and Ethan Charpentier, jr.

First Team athletes from Villa Park are: Nate Kornely, sr; Diego Sanchez, sr; Arthur Orta, sr; and Owen Duckworth, sr. El Modena

High First Team athletes are Esteban Choucair, jr; Dylan Conner, sr; and Mayson Hitches, jr.

Named to the Crestview League Second Team were, from Foothill High: Jason Woods, sr; Casey Copeland, sr; and Easton Jellerson, sr. From Villa Park, the Second Team athletes include: Devon Goosby, sr; Kaden Baptista, sr; Benjie Lewis, sr; and Cole Cassara, sr.

Named to the Second Team were El Modena athletes Sam Astor, jr; and Owen Smith, jr.



SCC's Matt Williams (10), former Canyon High athlete, is making his plays known when coming off the bench. Williams gets inside on Orange Coast College's Thomas Hanna. Williams scored 4 points in the 93-45 win over Orange Coast.

SCC athletes named to All-OEC Soccer Teams

Santiago Canyon athletes were named to the All-Orange Empire Conference Women's Soccer Team. They include, on the First Team: Kylee Medlin, fr, (Canyon HS); Jacky Alba-Diaz, so; Paige Winters, fr. The Second Team: Alyssa Rubio, fr; Cassie Lewis, fr, (ElMo); and Zaydee Solis, fr.

Athletes named to the All-OEC Men's Soccer Team include Luis Claride, so, goalkeeper to the First Team. Second Team athletes are Luis Sanchez-Diaz, fr, midfielder; and Bryce Allen, fr, midfielder.



Two Orange High School defenders take the ball away from Sam Rubin (21) from El Modena. El Modena won the crosstown game, 49-35.

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What do you call a helpful Citrus? A Lemonaid!

While that pun was terrible, Citrus fruits are not! Citrus provide so many natural, healthy vitamins and nutrients and are known to lower heart disease. Here are some fun facts: 1 Lemon provides about 20 calories, provides a great source of Vitamin C and fiber, and contains many plant compounds, minerals and essential oils. Oranges contain even more Vitamin C (more than any other citrus), about 12 grams of sugar, calcium, potassium and Vitamin A. The vitamins in citrus fruits help protect your cells from damage, produce collagen, boosts your immune system and slows the advance of age-related macular degeneration (vision loss).

The benefits to Citrus fruits to us are endless, and lucky for us, here in Southern California we are in the perfect environment for growing them! We are however, in the "quarantine zone" for citrus greening disease here in Orange County. Citrus Greening Disease or "Huanglongbing" is a disease that affects citrus trees with bacteria in the cambial layer, or live tissue layers, of the tree and restrict movement of water and nutrients throughout the tree's system. Since there is no cure for the disease, the best we can do is to keep the vector (Asian Citrus Psyllid) off of the trees. You can use organic insecticides for the most part, and once we've gained control, citric and neem oils can be a great deterrent. On-going care for your Citrus trees once they contract the disease will make all the difference in terms of life expectancy. If you suspect your Citrus trees may be infected, call the ISA Certified Arborists at Gruett Tree Company to see how we can help you and your trees. We are running specials for a Lime-eted time!

HOT STOVE LEAGUE

We would like to use this space and this platform to thank all of our loyal clients for your support and trust for the past 39 years! Through thick and thin, the good times, the bad times, the economic booms and the recessions, through pandemics and elections. Through the losses of loved ones both in our immediate families, and our extended leafy families, to the emergence of new life in both your family "trees", we thank you all! Thank you for dealing with our quirky, geekiness, knowing that we will give you vital tree knowledge if you stick around long enough. Thank you for putting your faith and trust in our years of experience, our undying passion for our field, and our relentless thirst for knowledge in the field of dendrology.

Many of you have watched us grow from teenagers and saplings into experienced Arborists and babbling Lorax's. This coming year is Gruett's 40th year anniversary, and our new generation is chomping at the bit to uncover all that we have to offer to both you and your trees, like nothing our industry has ever seen! We are always moving forward and our promise to you is to always be at the forefront of our industry, standing side by side with all of you! We wish you all the happiest of holidays with whomever you choose to spend it with. We appreciate you immensely, as do your trees!



WE ARE:

- Licensed C27, C61, D49 Contractor
- ISA Certified Arborist
- Certified Plant Healthcare Technicians
- Landscape Maintenance Specialist
- Consulting Arborists
- Heavy Equipment Operators
- Your Neighbor!



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