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A Monthly Community Newspaper

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VP weighs options for state-directed housing

By Andie Mills

Villa Park's updates to the state General Plan Housing Element for 2021-21 were discussed at a special City Council meeting, April 13.

The city is required to submit an updated plan to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by October 15, reflecting up to 296 state-mandated affordable housing units within the city, or face fines and penalties.

The city is looking to ADUs, city-owned land, land available and suitable for residential development, possible rezoning, as well its permit processes and building codes for affordable housing compliance. The city had previously identified 133 units of the targeted 296. The council discussed the various available options presented by consultant John Douglas.

Tight squeeze

The council weighed the merits of rezoning part, or all, of the Towne Center by adding three or more stories of housing atop retail businesses; rezoning the approximately 1.3 acres currently occupied by Tropical Plaza Nursery; incentivizing ADUs, allowing more than two on larger lots; reducing minimum lot size on specific properties; looking at closed or surplus school properties; or using the property on Wanda, between Lincoln and Collins.

The most-discussed option was rezoning 22 acres of Santiago Creek open space west of Cannon, off of the north side of Villa Park Road. The parcel is owned by Orange County Water District. Councilman Robert Collacott suggested that clean fill dirt could be used to backfill the 22 acres there, making 120 to 900 units possible. It would be "painful" to invade a green space, said Mayor Pro Tem Chad

See "VP" continued on page 3



The Orange Park Association Board is bringing back the popular 4th of July Parade. From left (top) John Reina, Kelley Chaplin; bottom row, Lance Mora, Laura Thomas, Sherry Panttaja, Laurel Maldonado Wykes, Kathy Bonnaud and Peter Jacklin. Board member David Hillman is not pictured.

OPA 4th of July Parade is coming back

With the pandemic subsiding, the Orange Park Association Board is planning to revive its annual 4th of July Parade.

The comeback was inspired by the Cowboy Easter service, led by Pastor Larry Day who delivered

an uplifting message, blessed the animals and blessed the OPA board.

Look for 4th of July Parade details via OPA eTree; orangeparkacres.org; or Orange Park Acres Facebook. OPA is

anticipating scheduling other signature community events.

To volunteer to help with the parade, contact: Sherry Panttaja, OPA president at (714) 343-4965; info@orangeparkacres.org; or the OPA hotline 714-900-2OPA(672).

Orange City Council overrides voters and fills District 3 seat with appointee

By Tina Richards

The Orange City Council appointed Kathryn Tavoularis, April 13, to fill the District 3 seat vacated by Mike Alvarez.

Tavoularis was one of seven District 3 residents who applied for the position in the event the council would choose to appoint someone instead of calling an election. Her name, along with the others, was posted on the city's website, but there was no additional information provided -- no resumes, no statement of qualifications, no letters of support from voters.

Tavoularis looms large in the OC Republican Central Committee, but according to several District 3 residents, is unfamiliar to many average voters in that part of the city. The average voters who had contacted the council ahead of time had demanded an election.

Election annulled

The District 3 seat was left open

when a superior court ruled that Mike Alvarez's election to that position was invalid because his run for office was illegal. A term limits ordinance approved by Orange voters in 1996 made him ineligible to run for what would be his third term. The judge annulled the District 3 election, and Alvarez stepped down.

The city council had the option to fill the seat with an appointee, who would serve until the next general election in November 2022, or call for a special election that would be held this November. A special election would give District 3 voters the opportunity to elect a representative who would hold the seat until the term ends in 2024. A special election would cost the city an estimated \$150,000.

Several public commenters during the city council meeting took the city to task for allowing Alvarez to run despite his being termed out, and paving the way for the District 3 vote to be

nullified.

"There's a stain on this city," Robert Bell advised. "The illegal election of Mike Alvarez was a mistake, but no one has spoken about it." Due to "poor legal council," he said, an election was overturned -- something that rarely happens. "The silence screams. You must have the courage to speak to it."

Damage done

Michael Fischer stressed that he and his District 3 neighbors support a special election. "You misled citizens," he said, "now you want to make this decision for us. Appointing someone might be an easy out, but we are here due to a negligent mistake. An appointment doesn't repair the damage done to District 3."

Failing an election, Fischer added, "the only appointment that

See "Orange Voters" continued on page 3

Orange will allow short-term rentals – with restrictions

Following up on its retreat from an outright ban on short-term rentals (STRs), championed by councilman Chip Monaco and former councilman Mike Alvarez, the Orange City Council voted 4-2, April 13, to license them, enact restrictions and limit their numbers.

The new city ordinance calls for a \$250 business license and requires the property owner to pay the city a temporary occupancy tax (TOT). Licenses are limited to two per individual or trust (no corporations) and gives preference to units owned by Or-

ange residents. Licenses will be granted to a maximum 125 STRs within city limits.

Operational regulations include two people per bedroom plus two (a three-bedroom unit could house eight people); a minimum two-night stay; the property manager must be on-site or able to respond in 30 minutes. Off-street parking is required; quiet time is between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m.

The ordinance categorizes minor and major offenses, and sets fines for each. Anyone amassing three major offenses will lose their permit for 12 months.

The goal is to permit property owners to financially benefit from the popularity of short-term rentals, but protect neighbors and neighborhoods from abuse.

While Mayor Mark Murphy, Councilmembers Arianna Barrios, Ana Gutierrez and Kim Nichols supported the regulatory ordinance, Monaco held firm to his desire for an outright ban, restating that commercial establishments do not belong in residential neighborhoods, STR restrictions will be difficult to enforce, staff will be unduly impacted and neighbors will bear

the brunt.

The council had actually voted to ban the rental units last fall when a regulatory ordinance supported by Murphy and Nichols failed to get a majority vote. With only four council members seated at that time, Monaco's and Alvarez's "no" vote against the ordinance left the council holding the default position -- a ban.

Alvarez's recent resignation from the council cost Monaco an ally on the ban issue, but he may have swayed Jon Dumitru, who joined him in a "no" vote on the new ordinance.

NEWS INSIDE

TRASHING A TREASURE

Backfilling a state-designated wetland is considered an over-the-counter transaction.

See City, page 2

GOOD TO THE FIRST DROP

Local water district earns applause for proactive steps taken to remove more chemicals from aquifer.

See Serrano, page 4

TORCHES AND PITCHFORKS

Orange District 3 voters are inflamed over city council's appointment of unelected applicant to represent them.

See Letters, page 7

AHEAD OF THE CLASS

Many OUSD students won't be going "back" to school, because they've been there safely since September.

See Guest Commentary, page 7

ONE SIZE MAY NOT FIT ALL

OC Parks is planning a pilot program to limit some multi-use trails to bikes or hikers and horses only.

See Santiago Oaks, page 15

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Letters To The Editor	Pages 7-9
Canyon Beat	Page 10
Service Directory	Pages 12-14
Prof. Directory	Page 14
Classifieds	Page 14
Real Estate	Page 16
Obituaries	Page 17
Sports	Pages 18-19

City and fill operator out of touch with state and resident reality

By Tina Richards

Chandler LLC wants to fill in an abandoned mine pit with 750,000 cubic yards of inert dirt and debris, filling the excavation up to street level.

A small group of East Orange residents want to protect a natural riparian area, home to a unique ecosystem that includes a wetland, native plants and animals, some of them endangered species.

The conflict between those two seemingly reasonable goals is that the mine pit and wildlife refuge are one and the same. Located near the corner of Santiago Canyon Road and Cannon and hidden from view, it has been out of sight, out of mind, for 70 years. Over that time, nature reclaimed the acreage, turning land once scarred by mining into a lush habitat for birds, reptiles and fish.

The property is adjacent to Santiago Creek and is part of the flood plain. The City of Orange calls it a "puddle." The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board calls it "wetlands, waters of the State of California." The city's assessment is based on information provided by Chandler's attorney in a September 2018 letter. The wetlands designation came only after citizens gave up arguing with the city over the property's fate and turned to the water quality agency for help.

No fuss, no muss

The city had been assured by Chandler's legal counsel that its own regulations and zoning designations allowed the backfill project to proceed with only a grading permit. Backfilling on property zoned as sand and gravel is considered "by right," and doesn't need a conditional use permit. Grading permits are issued as "ministerial" actions requiring no environmental review. As precedent, Chandler's letter cited the grading permit the city issued for the Sully-Miller property in 2011.

The letter also noted that the city's General Plan designated a portion of the area as "open space," and that "much, but not all, of the land includes steep hillsides or environmentally sensitive areas that should be preserved." While the grading was not expected to impact those areas, the letter pointed out that the open space designation itself did not prohibit development.

The city apparently agreed with that assessment because it undertook no further analysis of the project. It was prepared to issue the grading permit, pending Chandler's request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that it redraw the boundaries of the flood plain that encompassed the project. FEMA later did.

Digging deeper

In the meantime, the public learned of the proposed backfilling that would bury the natural landscape tucked below the Blue Ribbon nursery. Citizens alerted the city about the site's natural resources and implored it to conduct an environmental review before taking action. The city's response was that the project could proceed with a grading permit. Period.

In May 2019, the State of Cali-

fornia introduced new regulations that made it harder to destroy a wetland and revised the definition of wetland to include "man-made, such as from mining." Because the Chandler property fits the guidelines, citizens brought it to the attention of the regional water board. In August 2020, the board designated the two acres in question "waters of the state."

In February, the water board advised the county that "we will require an appropriate CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) analysis for the proposed project. Chandler stated that the proposed project is a ministerial project already approved by the city as part of their grading permit. We won't accept that."

In March, the agency rejected Chandler's application for a waste discharge permit, noting that the operator's wetlands characterization was insufficient, aquatic resource information was missing, an alternative analysis was missing, no CEQA study had been done and the mitigation plan did not address loss of wetlands.



Photo by Tony Richards

The hillside above the California-designated wetland is, after being undisturbed for decades, now rapidly eroding.

Orange finally accepted the water board's determination that CEQA was needed.

Chandler had removed much of the vegetation on the slopes above the wetland and cut an access road along the top of it. By 2020, the hillside was eroding at an alarming rate. A citizen alerted the water board, noting that debris was going down the canyon and polluting waters of the state.

Hillside slide

When contacted by the water board about the erosion, a

city engineer responded, "We have asked our public works department to look into the location. It was determined there is no further protection currently needed for the hillside."

Chandler's position, as presented in its water agency application, is that the now-eroding hillside is a safety hazard, which, it claims, the backfill would remedy.

The site has recently come to the attention of the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), the county arm of CalRecycle that shut down the illegal Rio Santiago dumping

operation on the Sully-Miller site last year.

"What is this site? Where is it located?" an LEA official enquired of the water agency. "If it's another inert waste disposal facility, they require a permit from us. I'd hate for this to be another Rio Santiago situation."

Much of the information herein was obtained through a public records request made by a private citizen. The regional water quality board responded; the City of Orange did not.

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See "Orange Voters" continued from page 1

makes sense is the runner-up John Russo. Don't appoint someone who never received a single vote. If you do, it could result in a recall. I urge the council to respect District 3 voters."

District 3 voter Michael McIssac is one of two citizens who filed a legal challenge to Alvarez's run for office. Term limits, he said, could not have been a more straightforward ordinance. "The blame lands on the city's legal council. Citizens assume all candidates on the ballot are qualified. You might favor an appointment as more expedient and cheaper, but democracy is not free. A special election will cost less than the city attorney's base salary."

The fault line

Chip Monaco took exception to McIssacs' comments. "The council is not here to determine who can't run. Any other candidate could have challenged Alvarez, but not one stepped forward. I'm not sure it's legal counsel's job to determine the status of candidates. There's responsibility on the other candidates."

Kim Nichols also defended the council's inaction. "Nobody challenged Mike Alvarez. It was the opinion of a judge that it's a legal matter. Not the city council. Not the city attorney. There was a reasonable belief that he could run."

It was clear during the council discussion that members Ana Gutierrez and Arianna Barrios favored an election. Councilmembers Jon Dumitru, Monaco and Mayor Mark Murphy did not want to spend \$150,000 on an election. "I'm open to either option," Monaco said, "but spending \$150,000 is inefficient."

Nichols admitted that she was torn, that she was a "strong advocate for voters." But, she pointed out, "statistically people don't turn out for special elections. The last two special elections in the county drew only 19% and 13% of voters," she advised.

Don't follow the money

It was noted that if a vote on the District 3 seat were to be deferred until the already-scheduled November 2022 election, it would not cost the city any additional money. "So," Dumitru summarized, "there's no cost to an appointment and no cost to the 2022 election."

Barrios brought up a memo from the city manager advising the council that the city was due to receive \$14.5 million in relief funding from the federal government before July 1. "The city is not bleeding money," she asserted.

"When there was a vacant

seat in 2019," Barrios reminded her colleagues, "Mayor Murphy stated you 'can't put a price on democracy.' Nichols said that the 'investment of city funds is appropriate to support democracy.' Monaco pointed out that democracy is 'costly and messy.' What changed?" she queried.

"I don't believe the city is going to be made whole by the federal government," Mayor Murphy countered. "And I don't want to spend \$150,000 on an election that would add just 12 months to the term." If we hold an election, he explained, the winner will serve until 2024 (36 months). If we appoint someone, they'll serve until 2022, and then the voters can choose them, or someone else, for a two-year term, until 2024. The difference is 12 months.

An idea!

"I'm of a mind that we should consider appointing someone this evening," he declared. "I motion to appoint Kathryn Tavoularis. Do I have a second?"

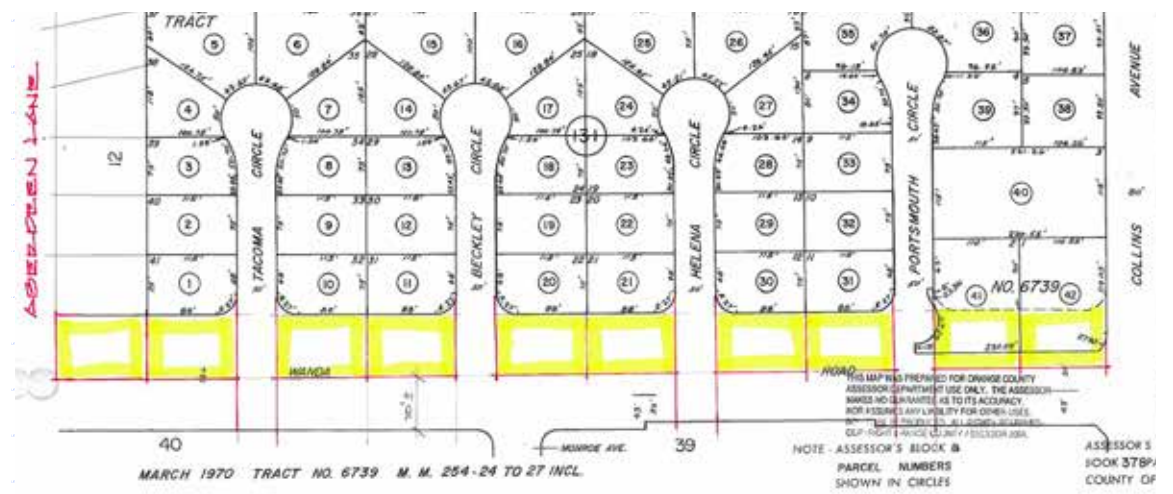
Chip Monaco seconded. "Any discussion?" Murphy asked.

There was. Ana Gutierrez stated that District 3 should be allowed to make that choice. "I think," she added, "that council members and city staff should protect the city and its best interests."

Arianna Barrios said the district should at least be part of the process. She suggested an alternate motion to postpone the decision to give voters a chance to meet the top applicants in a forum setting. Nichols joined her and Gutierrez in a "yes" to the postponement, but three votes is not a majority on a six-person council.

Murphy added a few words about Tavoularis' involvement in the city and her work experience. There was no further discussion, no suggestions to consider any of the other applicants.

Dumitru, Monaco, Nichols and Murphy said "yes" to Talouvaris. Barrios and Gutierrez voted "no."



Rezoning Wanda Road is one option to create additional housing units.

See "VP" continued from page 1

Zimmerman. Changing zoning restrictions for properties or open space "will not be reversible," he said. "We are on a slippery slope." Councilman Vince Rossini was of a different mindset, indicating that this natural space is "not a tremendous value."

Proceed with caution

Though it is not required that these housing units be built, Zimmerman emphasized that a thoughtful, considered approach is necessary to retain the city's small-town, rural character and ambiance for future generations. Collacott agreed, "We don't want to disrupt neighborhoods."

Should zoning restrictions be altered or open space become available, the possibility of homeowners or developer(s) building out is likely. It was noted that permits for eight ADUs had been issued already this year, as compared to a total of six to eight in all of 2020.

Input from the community is requested; the next public meeting will be held on May 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. City Manager Steve Franks indicated a mailing will go out to all residents.

For more information, see vil-lapark.org.



Rezoning the 22 acres owned by OCWD, allowing the green space to be developed, is an option to be discussed.

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Photo by Bhavik Muni

M S International, Inc., in conjunction with the Orange Senior Center, donated 100 refurbished iPads to help seniors transition and connect during the pandemic. MSI volunteers will conduct seminars for the seniors to help them use the iPads. From left are MSI's Dayana Peguero, Senior Center Executive Director Katherine Connaghan, MSI's Rika Shah, Manu Shah and Reggy Soenarso.



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Santiago Hills landscape assessment will increase

Property owners in Santiago Hills can expect their annual landscape assessment district fee to go up this year. The Orange City Council will hold a public hearing on the increase at its June meeting.

The contract for Santiago Hills landscaping expires this June. The city requested bid proposals for a new four-year contract. Nieves Landscaping, the current contractor, submitted the most responsive and lowest bid.

The \$1,234,140 four-year bid reflects an increase of 14% over the expiring four-year contract. Higher costs are attributed primarily to cost-of-living adjustments, higher labor and materials costs, and steeper insurance rates. Property owners will not be assessed the full increase. Jumps in the annual landscape assessment approved by voters in 2015 are limited by the Consumer Price Index; staff will be recommending a 1.5% raise at the June meeting. The additional costs are, according to city staff, "financially sustainable."

Many Santiago Hills residents

have asked the city to stop using chemicals to curtail weeds and pests in the community landscaping. Orange Community Services requested bidders to include prices for chemical-free abatement and also for a total pesticide-free approach. The lowest bid for chemical-free maintenance was 51% higher and pesticide-free 71% higher than the Nieves bid for status quo weed, insect and rodent management.

Community Services sent out a survey to Santiago Hills property owners in February asking them if they would favor a transition to organics and the resulting higher cost, or if they would prefer to retain current chemical-based maintenance techniques.

Of the 1,475 surveys sent, 204 were returned. Of those, 85% favored keeping the current program; 12% opted for organics; and 3% picked both.

Santiago Hills is one of two communities in Orange that pays a landscape assessment fee to the city - instead of a homeowners' association -- to manage common area maintenance.

City surplus property sold for affordable housing

The City Council approved the sale of three houses on La Veta Avenue to HomeAid, a nonprofit that provides low-cost shelter and housing, at its April 13 meeting.

HomeAid will pay \$700,000 for the properties, and create six dwelling units. Three existing houses will be renovated using Old Towne Historic Design Standards, and an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) added on each lot.

The city purchased the properties at 617, 625, and 637 West La Veta Avenue between 1992 and 1999 for a planned street widening. The widening project never moved forward. The city declared them surplus in April 2020 and, as dictated by law, notified other public agencies that the property was for sale at market value.

HomeAid was the only entity that submitted a proposal to purchase the properties from the city. HomeAid has successfully developed 59 housing projects in Orange County that have added 1,451 shelter beds across the entire homeless continuum of care spectrum. These facilities range from emergency housing, to interim housing, and permanent supportive housing.

The six housing units on La Veta will be kept affordable for 55 years, designated for people earning 50% or less of the Area Median Income.



Three surplus houses on La Veta will be refurbished for low income housing.



Ground was broken for the OCWD PFAS treatment facility, April 12, to be built on SWD property in Villa Park. The structure, which will rise only 10 feet above ground, is slated for fall completion.

Serrano Water District recognized for proactive efforts

Serrano Water District (SWD) and Orange County Water District (OCWD) were recognized by the American Society of Civil Engineers-Orange County (ASCE-OC) for their work on a PFAS treatment plant. The award highlights the agencies' proactive efforts to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from groundwater supplies.

OCWD focused on PFAS following a lowering of the state's health advisory levels for two PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), in February 2020.

The state's action prompted Orange County water agencies, such as SWD, who pump water from the aquifer to take dozens of wells out of service and rely on more expensive imported water for their primary supply. OCWD will design and construct 10 PFAS treatment plants, including SWD's, with the goal of getting plants online within two years to fully utilize the basin again.

"Our agency proactively took two impacted wells out of service to continue providing high-quality, reliable water," said SWD General Manager Jerry Vilander. "Through a collaborative process with OCWD and our community members, the PFAS treatment plant will support our priority to

get drinking water wells back in operation later this year to continue our legacy of providing a sustainable water supply to the residents and businesses we serve."

PFAS contamination was caused by chemical manufacturers. To protect ratepayers and ensure PFAS costs are borne by the companies that developed and manufactured them, OCWD and 10 of Orange County's public water agencies have filed a lawsuit.

Dan Adams appointed Orange's next police chief


Captain Dan Adams has been appointed as Orange's new Chief of Police, effective July 4. Adams will replace Chief Tom Kisela, who is retiring on July 3 after 35 years with the Orange Police Department, including the last five as chief of police.

Adams began his law enforcement career with the City of Orange Police Department 31 years ago. He most recently commanded the department's largest division, Field Services, where he was responsible for over 130 employees and managed the department's patrol services, traffic bureau, neighborhood enhancement team, homeless engagement team, communications center, and SWAT team. Adams had previously led the Support Services Division, where he was directly responsible for the department's budget, hiring and training, crime

prevention and homeland security.

Adams was born and raised in Orange and is a graduate of Orange High School. He and his wife Lesly have two adult sons. Adams spent many years as a youth hockey coach, where he focused on mentoring kids with character-based values. Adams holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Management.



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Housing issues; Challenges & Solutions during the yearlong pandemic.

Kelly Ernby, OCGP Voter Registration & Precinct Operations
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Orange is rethinking Tustin Street, mandated housing under a state grant

The City of Orange has received a \$500,000 grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to pay for the preparation and adoption of planning documents and process improvements to accelerate housing production.

Under the agreement with HCD, Orange is updating its General Plan housing element and creating a specific plan for the North Tustin Street corridor from Katella to Lincoln.

The housing element update is intended to identifying sites suitable for housing development at different income levels, developing programs and incentives to increase housing production and streamline the entitlement processes. The goal is to meet the city's regional

housing needs assessment allocation mandated by the state. Orange's allotment is 3,936 units ranging from very low to above moderate income levels.

As part of the North Tustin Street Specific Plan, the area's zoning designation will be changed from mostly commercial to mixed use. The mixed-use designation will create opportunities for infill development and a more flexible urban environment.

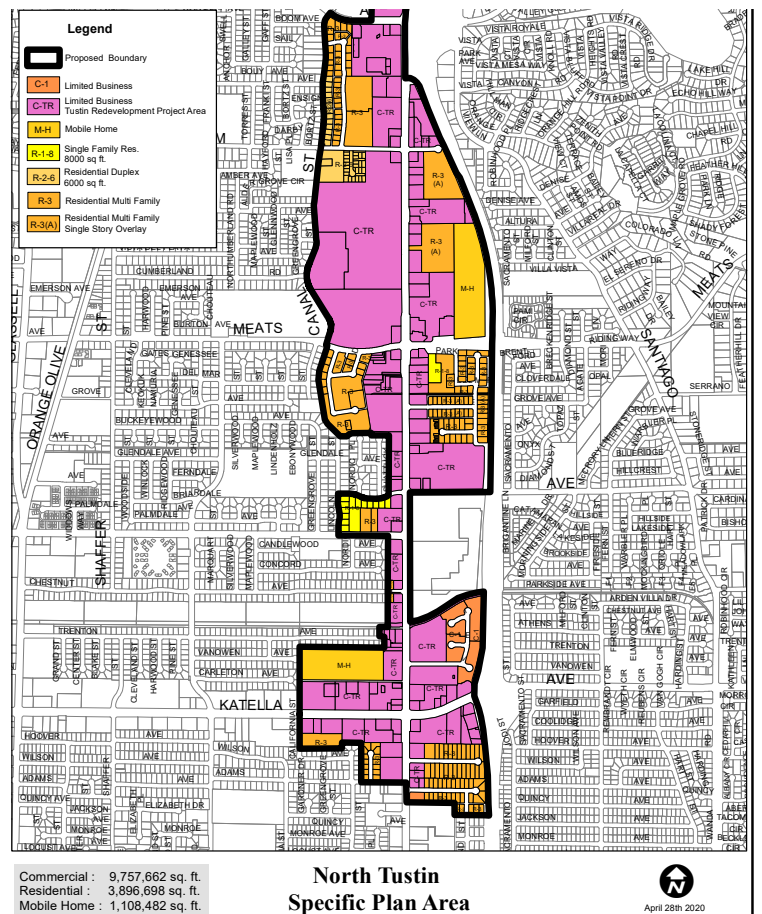
The city hopes to create a land use program that enhances sales tax revenue and new business opportunities, allows for integrated multi-family residential development, create a walkable, urban neighborhood district and streamline new development.

At 63 acres, the Village at Orange, is a focal point for redevelopment. That property,

along with the entire west side of the plan area, is in District 3. Many District 3 residents have indicated their concerns that the specific plan rezoning will take place while they do not have a vetted representative on the city council. The east side of Tustin Street is District 4.

Orange residents have been invited to participate in the planning effort via surveys and community presentations. An initial survey was completed earlier this year; an updated survey is available at cityoforange.org/northtustinstreetspecificplan. To date, one public presentation has been given.

A second presentation/workshop is planned, but no timeline has been set. City staff expects to have a draft strategic plan for the council in October. The preliminary work must be completed by February 2022, in order for the city to receive the grant funding.



Exalted Ruler Danny Salas

Orange Elks receive national recognition

Many of the Orange Elks signature programs were cancelled or substantially effected by COVID-19 this past year. Exalted Ruler Danny Salas, his officers, the committee chairmen and lodge members were able to "Improvise, Adapt and Overcome" to serve the community, while assuring all individuals followed safety guidelines. For his leadership and the lodge's work during this difficult year, Salas accepted the Elks' "Making a Difference Special Citation" on behalf of the Orange lodge.

The Elks message was disseminated in new ways -- online, streaming, Zoom -- to allow 15 assistance programs to be continued, Americanism programs presented, Boy and Girl Scouting programs kept alive, donations made to veterans' programs and

new youth activities started.

Despite the difficulties this year, the Elks have donated \$2,500 from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to Waste Not OC; conducted drug awareness assemblies to elementary, junior high and high schools online; held a drive-by to hand out scholarship awards to graduating high school seniors; helped deliver boxes of food to families at Skyview School; helped Youth Centers of Orange pass out food; and volunteered at food distribution locations

The Elks also donated to Down Syndrome Association of OC and the Eli Home; collected gifts for the Eli Home Christmas Tree Program; helped the Orange Police Department with the "Shop with a Cop" program; and continue the drug awareness poster, essay and video contest programs.

TUSD announces in-person graduation

Tustin Unified School District has announced in-person high school graduation ceremonies and eighth-grade promotions will be held in May.

High school graduations will be held at Northrup Stadium on the Tustin High campus. Foothill High ceremonies will be on Monday, May 24 at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Tustin High School graduates will receive their diplomas on Tuesday, May 25 at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Tustin Connect High School will celebrate on Thursday, May 27 at 12 p.m.

Hewes Middle School will hold an on-campus promotion on

Wednesday, May 19 at 9 a.m., 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

All events will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Tustin Unified will follow health and safety guidelines provided by the California Department of Public Health, including face coverings, physical distancing, protocols for entering and exiting venues, and sanitizing after each ceremony.

Multiple ceremonies are planned each day, and schools must allow at least two hours between ceremonies to avoid mixing attendees.

The last day of school for all grades is Friday, May 28.

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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Guest Commentary

Kids are IN SCHOOL, IN PERSON in OUSD

By Kathy Moffat

The coronavirus pandemic has overwhelmed the world for more than a year. Many activities were suspended and many have yet to return to normal. But in Orange Unified School District (OUSD), our students have been in school, in person, since September!

When the pandemic was declared in March of 2020, OUSD immediately instituted distance learning without missing a day of school.

Many teachers were already adept at preparing online lessons and teaching children virtually. The district administration ramped up training programs for teachers who needed help.

All of our students attended classes via computers. OUSD used reserve funds and grants from businesses and foundations to purchase Chromebooks and hot spots for students whose families could not afford computers.

Even the school lunch program continued, with OUSD distribut-

ing lunches to students in need throughout the spring and summer of 2020. Education - and nutrition - did not skip a beat for kids in OUSD.

By summer, Orange Unified was planning in earnest for the new school year. Important collaborative discussions with teachers and support staff resulted in agreements about how classes would operate, incorporating COVID safety requirements. Appropriate classroom sanitizing protocols were developed. Cleaning supplies, materials and equipment were ordered, as were masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment. Schools were deep-cleaned and sanitized, and special new filters were installed in HVAC systems. Classrooms were redesigned with six-foot distancing and Plexiglas shields surrounding desks. Hand-washing stations were installed around campuses.

High school schedules were re-imagined to ensure that students

spent the school day in small cohorts. That way, if a student did become ill, only a handful of students would be quarantined, rather than a whole school.

In September, with over \$9 million invested in training, personnel, supplies and equipment, OUSD opened its doors to students in transitional kindergarten through grade eight for in-person learning. High schoolers began their on-campus classes a bit later, and a virtual option was always available in all grades.

Miracle workers

I recently visited some of our elementary schools, where extraordinary educators are pulling off a miracle. One teacher has 25 kindergarteners in-person in her class, with eight more at home on their computers. She also teaches several students with special needs. Another teacher has a "combo" class of kindergarteners and first graders, some in-person and others at home. Each grade

has its own curriculum, so the teacher plans for both.

These teachers, like many others, go home exhausted and worried that they may not be doing enough for each child.

I saw another school at lunch time. The school once needed only two lunch periods, but now has five so that the children can be socially distanced while they eat. Between lunch periods, the custodian cleans and sanitizes the tables and benches. The playground equipment gets the same. This custodian was just named OUSD's Classified Employee of the Year, and when I congratulated him, he said, with a huge smile, that he is honored to work in Orange Unified.

I spoke to two of our brilliant principals. They manage an operation that is unbelievably complex, and they know just how vital their mission is. They understand, too, that it is critical to nurture and encourage staff that has been asked to do so much

more than a reasonable person can imagine. They know their tired and stressed-out teachers and staff are doing heroic work, and they tell them so each day.

Today, the pandemic seems to be heading in a positive direction. We look forward to the day when all restrictions are lifted, and we get back to normal at long last! OUSD has been first out of the gate each time new permissions have been granted, and we'll be first on that great day, too.

So, let's be thankful for today's improving conditions, and grateful and supportive of the extraordinary educators we have in our exemplary local schools. I am beyond proud of them all.

As a community, let's also be strong in our resolve to continue to act with caution and restraint, so the end of this pandemic arrives sooner rather than later.

Kathy Moffat is president of the OUSD Board of Education.



Honorable mention

Dear Editor:

My wife and I are the very proud parents of three daughters, two of whom are athletes. They both play softball: the oldest, a senior at Chapman University (Foothill High alumni), and our youngest, a junior who pitches at Foothill. As with all parents of athletes, we are thrilled with the fact that they get to see all their hard work play out on the field this year. As much as we were excited to see your article about high school sports opening up, we were very disappointed by the fact that not one girl was featured in your article. Girl's teams were mentioned in the text, but considering the conversation of inclusion and diversity today, how can it be that the girls are ignored for their individual contributions? Very disappointing.

Aram Chahbazian
North Tustin

Where's the money?

Dear Editor:

The following was sent to Shawn Reid, Field Representative, Community Development Block program, HUD.

We ≠Grant in the El Modena Barrio in the City of Orange are requesting the HUD/CDBG Office to investigate and audit the City of Orange CDBG funds for the last 20 years in regards to the El Modena Barrio. We have asked the City of Orange CDBG program to provide data and information on how the funds have been spent in the El Modena Barrio during the last 20 years.

The El Modena Barrio has been a poverty pocket in the City of Orange since the 1940s, but has been excluded from CDBG funds that have gone to City of Orange pet projects. We ask HUD/CDBG to provide the oversight to ensure that the El Modena Barrio is receiving its fair share of CDBG funds for blighted areas. We look forward to communicating with

you on this very important issue to the people of the El Modena Barrio.

Sammy Rodriguez
Orange

Slings and Arrows

Dear Editor:

It was shocking and disappointing that the Orange City Council majority recently voted to appoint someone to fill the vacant seat in District 3, instead of letting the voters decide who would represent them on the City Council.

Back in November 2020, Mike Alvarez got the most votes for that seat, but when litigated, a judge ruled Alvarez had violated the term limit ordinance, and he resigned last month. The city council majority could have at least appointed the runner-up, John Russo, who actually ran for the District 3 seat in November and who received close to 3,000 votes.

But no, a person who didn't run or receive a single vote in that race was mysteriously appointed. Several residents of District 3 spoke at the meeting in strong support of a special election, and Councilmembers Arianna Barrios and Ana Gutierrez also made strong appeals for the same. But it was to no avail, as the majority (Murphy, Nichols, Monaco and Dumitru) voted for the appointment - basically stripping away our right to vote for someone who will represent our best interests in District 3. This is especially troubling with the important land use and budgetary issues facing our city. I don't believe the voters in District 3 will take this quietly.

Michael Fischer
Orange, District 3

Dear Editor:

I am a 29-year resident of District 3 in Orange. I recently became aware of the appointment of Kathy Tavoularis to be my representative in our district.

I know nothing about Kathy

Tavoularis other than what I read on the City of Orange website after her appointment. She never even ran for the office, and I was never afforded the opportunity to vote for or against her. This does not feel like democracy.

I do not endorse or agree with her appointment to represent me and the over 10,000 other voters in District 3. We did not vote for Tavoularis, nor was her name on the ballot. Though we will vote again Nov. 8, 2022, Tavoularis will be the incumbent without being chosen by the voters.

Timothy Smith
Orange, District 3

Dear Editor:

My wife and I have lived and raised our children on Cumberland Road in Orange (District 3) for almost 35 years. We have seen many changes in our neighborhood during those years, including the conversion of Peralta Junior High into a golf driving range and a long-term, gradual decline in the economic viability of The Village (aka the Orange Mall).

A few years ago, there was a (failed) push to convert the driving range into high-density housing. That development would have made our neighborhood a much less desirable place to live and would have hurt our property values. Given that the driving range is still in operation, I am sure a similar development will be proposed again, sooner or later.

I have also heard talk about replacing the mall with high-density housing, similar to what was proposed for the driving range.

Amazon has not indicated that it is interested in setting up shop at The Village, and I don't know if The Village is courting them. I also have not seen evidence of any concrete plans to build high-density housing on the site. However, I am sure that The Village will do something with its property, and its plans could be bad for the atmosphere and value of our neighborhood.

With all the changes that have happened, and those that are certainly coming in the future, it will be important for us to have someone on the Orange City Council who will look out for our interests. For this reason, the

city council should have a special election to replace Mike Alvarez, rather than just appointing someone, so that we in District 3 can decide who will represent us.

Carl Nagy
Orange, District 3

Dear Editor:

How are we supposed to have confidence in council members who can't get basic concepts right and flip-flop on their positions from year to year?

At the last city council meeting (April 13), Councilman Chip Monaco kept insisting he couldn't support spending \$150,000 for "16 months of leadership only for that person to have to run again" in 2022. Councilmember Arianna Barrios and the city attorney politely explained he was incorrect, and that a special election in November 2021 would actually be for the remaining three-year (36-month) term ending in 2024 for the existing District 3

vacancy. Monaco then argued that a special election would be "an ineffective, inefficient way to spend taxpayer dollars," yet in 2019 he voted to spend \$450,000 for a special election and stated, "investment of city funds is appropriate to support democracy." If this weren't such a serious matter, the hypocrisy would be comical. District 3 voters should not be deprived of our right to vote for our city council member, like we were when Monaco joined Murphy, Nichols and Dumitru to appoint their selected person. I would definitely support a recall of the appointed candidate.

Jacob Haines
Orange, District 3

Dear Editor:

The sign of a good leader is to be able to admit when one makes

See "Letters" continued on page 8

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Guest Commentary

District 3 should be allowed to vote

By Arianna Barrios and Ana Gutierrez

On a cold February morning, at a time when Americans across the country are having serious conversations about voter suppression and protecting the democratic rights of our fellow citizens, it is almost incomprehensible that a brazen act of voter disenfranchisement would take place in the City of Orange.

With little attempt to hide their hypocrisy, the council majority moved swiftly to make an appointment to fill the vacancy left by Councilmember Mike Alvarez in District 3, after a judge declared him ineligible for re-election due to the city's term limits ordinance. It wasn't city staffers or the prior city council that fought to uphold our overwhelmingly voter-approved term limits ordinance, it was District 3 residents fighting to protect their rights. In making this appointment, those same citizens, and all the voters in District 3, were essentially told that they could not be trusted to elect their

own representative.

Orange residents had no opportunity to review potential applicants or their qualifications prior to the orchestrated appointment. No financial information or potential conflicts of interest were requested from applicants, as required for electoral candidates. The council majority, individually, held private interviews behind closed doors, designed to ensure there would be no public participation. There was not even a semblance of debate or a serious discussion about the selection process itself. The public was not permitted to learn who the applicants were, what their policy positions are, what their community connections might be.

As new council members, we decided we would not hold secret interviews, but instead send a questionnaire asking applicants about their position on important city issues. We made it clear that their answers would be made public so the voters could get a better understanding of who these

applicants were, and what they stood for. While several applicants replied, Kathy Tavoularis, the individual who was appointed, did not. (NOTE: copies of these replies are available with the online version of this article.)

None of this is to say that Tavoularis will not make a good council member. She may be the best choice and perhaps even the candidate the voters of District 3 would like to represent them. But she was done a disservice by the council majority, who hid her positions, her policies and her viewpoints from the public.

The reason the council majority gave for snatching the vote away from the electorate was the \$150,000 cost of a special election. Two years ago, that same majority told us that we "couldn't put a price on democracy" when they called for a city-wide special election to the tune of \$450,000. With some magical thinking and very fuzzy math, we are now being told that the cost of a District election, at 66% lower cost, was

suddenly too high and not an appropriate way to spend Orange's tax dollars. Meanwhile, rather than pay for democracy, the council majority bestowed upon one individual the priceless gift of incumbency.

Adding to the insult, every council member knew prior to the meeting that the City of Orange will be receiving its first check from the federal government next month for \$14 million to start backfilling the city's losses during the pandemic. All told, the city is anticipating \$30 million from the American Recovery Act. Yet the council majority proclaimed, by its action, that the voters of District 3 are not worth one-half-of-one percent of their own federal tax dollars.

District 3 is facing some of the biggest decisions to come before the council in the next year, including the fate of the Village at Orange. Silencing the voters in District 3 now, after failing to protect their rights and the integrity of their last election, is a dou-

ble whammy on those residents. Orange is changing into a diverse, vibrant city of residents who want to participate in the public process to keep Orange special. Yet, again and again, there is a sad and tired pattern of closed doors and secrecy. As elected members to your city council, who worked hard to safely meet with voters during a pandemic to discuss the important issues, we believe strongly that allowing the people to choose their own representatives is a core tenet of our democracy. Like many of you, we are angered at this audacious move by our colleagues to rule by fiat rather than in collaboration with our community. We urge our fellow residents not to be disheartened, but to stand with us to bring transparency and partnership back to the people of Orange.

Arianna Barrios represents District 1 on the Orange City Council; Ana Gutierrez represents District 5.

Letters continued from page 7

a mistake. We know in 2020 our city council (Mark Murphy, Chip Monaco and Kim Nichols) looked the other way when Mike Alvarez decided to run for a third term; some of those council members even endorsed him. Now that the court has confirmed our term limit ordinance must be followed, one would expect there would be a little remorse at city hall for letting the citizens down.

Not so - there was no shame from these folks. At the April 13 city council meeting this group

offered lame excuses, became very defensive, and even second-guessed the court decision. There was no apology to the residents of District 3.

Instead, in rapid speed, a motion was made by Mayor Murphy to appoint "their person" with Nichols, Monaco and Jon Dumitru all in favor. Arianna Barrios and Ana Gutierrez objected and reiterated that a special election would provide the needed transparency.

We cannot allow those that caused the problem to now select who will represent our community. This simply cannot stand.

Steve Palumbo Orange, District 3

Dear Editor:

I want to thank Orange City Councilmembers Ana Gutierrez and Arianna Barrios for standing up for District 3 residents by supporting a special election, which would have allowed voters to directly elect our council member.

Barrios was spot-on when she pointed out the double standard of the council members - Kim Nichols, Mark Murphy and Chip Monaco - who in 2019 were willing to spend \$450,000 for a special election, but now balk at \$150,000 for District 3. Barrios asked several times, "What has changed?" Kim Nichols claimed that nothing had changed, and that she was an advocate for, and believed in, democracy.

If that was the case, why was Nichols silent when Mike Alvarez ran for a third consecutive term in 2020? She could have stood up for District 3 voters and demanded that the term-limit ordinance be enforced. Why didn't the city attorney require Mike Alvarez to prove in court that he had the right to violate term limits? The burden belonged squarely on Alvarez. After all, two consecutive terms are two consecutive terms, whether you're voting at-large or by district.

Why did residents have to take legal action to protect our term-limit ordinance? I believe it all comes down to development issues such as the The Village, Chapman University expansion and high-density housing. District 3 voters have no elected representative to voice and

protect our concerns regarding these issues, which could have a tremendous negative impact on our immediate community.

Alvarez's indiscretion to try and sneak in a third consecutive term and the council's refusal to hold a special election to fill the District 3 vacancy have disenfranchised all the voters of District 3, and relegated us to having a non-elected representative who already seems to not have the interests and well-being of District 3 at heart.

It's a shame some council members have cast aside their duties and turned their back on a fundamental cornerstone of democracy by refusing to hold an election so voters can decide who their representative should be. In 2019, Mayor Mark Murphy stated that you "cannot put a price on democracy." He left out telling us that didn't apply to District 3.

Gary Ehnes Orange, District 3

Dear Editor:

It's important to note that the District 3 council seat vacancy was caused by a Superior Court ruling that the "Nov. 3, 2020 election for the Third District in the City of Orange is annulled and set aside." The judge did not declare an elected seat holder. The judge ruled that there was no election.

The expression "special election" is a non sequitur. There is nothing "special" about this. It's a "delayed" election. It is the November 2020 election as prescribed by City of Orange Municipal Code 2.02.030 (A) and affirmed by the judge in his finding.

This is the only option available -- to have an election. Everything else is a violation of the city's municipal code.

If our city attorney denies this, remember that it was he who caused this embarrassing situation by allowing Mike Alvarez to run for a District 3 seat, when Alvarez was clearly ineligible.

In America, final decision makers are to be elected. They are not appointed. Appointments to seats that hold final authority are the opposite of the American experience. Americans want to vote; they have the right to vote, and any other decision is not worthy of consideration.

One can argue that an election is expensive. Americans of the opposite ideal will argue that elections are mandatory, and the monies required are what taxpayers pay for.

One can also argue that if the city attorney had paid more attention to the obvious constructs of initiative law and less attention to Alvarez's attorney and had disqualified him, there would be no delayed election needed.

Since the council chose to appoint someone, it should have been John Russo. He came the closest to appearing in an election and finished second. Had Alvarez not run, he might have won. This opinion, however, fails to overcome the people's will to vote for their representatives.

Also, appointing someone to the Third District seat leaves the Third District, the Fourth District and the Sixth District without elected representation. That is one-half of the elected city coun-

cil. This outrage will last for the better part of the next two years and is completely unacceptable.

If the strongest argument in favor of appointing a Third District council member is the cost of an election, be advised that this decision will result in a recall and a VERY special election to restore our republic.

Peter Jacklin Orange

Dear Editor:

On April 13, the mayor and city council clearly demonstrated that they are the worst possible group to represent the citizens of Orange. Despite an overwhelming outcry of support for an election to determine who should fill the Third District seat vacated by Mike Alvarez, this group decided to appoint a relatively unknown person to the seat.

Although legally allowed to "appoint" someone, this group



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of self-serving minions decided to forego the democratic process favored by the actual residents of Orange, and appointed someone who has been an outspoken supporter of developers -- sound familiar?

Although those of us who were watching were not surprised by this overt action to "pad" the council with another Mark Murphy supporter, this "appointee" will unfailingly vote for whatever our mayor feels is best for the city. (Again, a familiar situation.) This appointment eliminated any chance of the people's will being heard, and once again does a political end-around of the democratic process.

How much longer are the citizens of Orange going to tolerate the autocracy of this faction?

John Reina
Orange

Dear Editor:

This most recent appointment to the city council by Mayor Mark Murphy is a blatant example of him shepherding into public office those who will cater to his personal agenda, rather than the interests and concerns of the residents. He wants puppets, disguised as team players. Conversely, John Russo, who Murphy did not appoint, despite him being a strong second candidate, is a person who has proven to be even-handed, who actually cares about the residents -- not pretends to care. Unlike Murphy and his appointee, Russo made a written promise to the citizens to reject developers' donations and actually carry out his constituents' rational requests.

Murphy defended his appointment by stating that he saved taxpayers \$150,000 by not having a

special election. But Murphy did not appoint a person who District 3 residents endorsed. On the contrary, Murphy appointed an unknown person, strongly indicating his desire to appoint someone more likely to support his personal agenda -- and not the residents.

If Murphy's objective is to maintain Republicans in office by appointing a young Republican, then why did Murphy not appoint Russo, a young conservative Republican? Instead, Murphy appointed a Republican who the residents do not know and did not vote for, which only leads me to believe that this appointment is nothing more than cronyism.

Daniel Correa
Orange

Dear Editor:

During the discussion of whether to appoint or allow the voters to decide their own council representative for District 3, I thought it was interesting that the mayor pro tem brought up that Councilmember Arianna Barrios had also been appointed when she first joined the Rancho Santiago Community College Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, the mayor pro tem left out the details of that appointment. At that time, each applicant for that position was scrutinized in an open, transparent and public process during the appointment proceedings. Their applications were made public; they were each asked to make public statements during the meeting, and each had to respond to public questioning from the trustees about their qualifications.

But what was most interesting, was Trustee John Hanna's comments before a final selection was announced. Hanna made

it clear that the Orange County Democratic Party had lobbied the board, made up of almost all Democrats, to make a partisan selection and turn this nonpartisan position into a political issue. However, he and the board, as a whole, were united in their feeling that the choice should not be based on backroom political influence, but be made in the best interest of the community the new trustee would serve. They did not cave to partisan pressure from the left.

As a Republican, and one that holds the utmost respect for the electoral process, I was saddened to learn that this recent vacancy on the Orange City Council became politicized and was heavily influenced by Republican Party leaders, and that the Republican Party majority went with a partisan selection rather than allowing the community to make their own choice.

When Republicans around Orange County wonder why their philosophy of independence, liberty and self-reliance is falling on deaf ears with the next generation, one just needs to look at these kinds of backroom political machinations that were on embarrassing display with this appointment to the Orange City Council to understand why GOP registration continues to plummet. Political gamesmanship like this will provide the OCGOP with some short-term gains in our city, but it will result in long-term damage to my party and my community.

Brian Lochrie
Orange

Dear Editor:

I add my voice to the chorus expressing outrage at the mayor

and council majority who have blatantly disregarded the spirit and letter of the law with regards to the vacant council seat. This "vacancy" is of their own doing, playing fast and loose with judicial rule. Shall the citizens have to mount more legal efforts to have their voice heard?

Carolyn Cavecche had to run a second campaign because council wouldn't appoint her during a similar race, and the council seat vacated by Murphy in the previous election meant no appointment. But suddenly with Mike Alvarez' seat, it's perfectly fine to have a political appointee waltz right in without the vetting of voters. Really?

Alvarez should have been thanked for his many years of service to Orange and continued on to new challenges with our best wishes. Instead, a mess has been created, which stinks of partisanship and cronyism. I'm almost ashamed to be a Republican.

I say we bring the llama out of retirement and mount a community recall effort! There should have been a special election, and the expense borne by those in leadership who allowed this debacle to be carried out.

Heaven help most of our citizens who look to their councilpersons to represent their districts, let alone the city at large.

Lisa Ackerman Baldwin
Orange

Dear Editor:

Thank you, Robert Bell, for your public comment about the illegal election and resignation of Michael Alvarez during the April 13 city council meeting. Your pleas for transparency and ethical integrity have been repeated

again and again and again by so many in our community.

Why did the mayor move fast to fill the vacancy by appointing someone versus scheduling a special election? Well, that's easy to figure out. Letting voters decide is too risky. Plus, waiting until Nov. 2 for a full council of seven could delay projects that don't have council support. Achieving the four votes required for approval of developments could be hard for him to secure.

Your stated that what the city council allowed to happen is "a stain in this city," "a significant breach of trust with your constituents" I wholeheartedly agree.

The judges will be the Orange voters in 2022 who will confirm if trust is gone. Unfortunately, the 13,500-plus District 3 voters were deprived of the opportunity to elect their council member last November and most recently, in April when four council members decided they knew best and selected the mayor's nominee. Ana Gutierrez (District 5) and Arianna Barrios (District 1) supported a special election.

Your call to "find out what happened, why it happened, and learn from it" is a thoughtful and reasonable request.

I made the same request last December and again in March. I have little hope it will happen even though we should continue to ask for it.

There is a possible silver lining from this whole mess. Former Mayor pro tem Mike Alvarez is free to tell us what happened the last three years. It would shed a great deal of light on this and a lot of other council decisions.

Adrienne Gladson
Orange

Elks video winners advance to state and national finals



Vicky Mull, "Stop the Cycle."



Keiana DeGrave, "Think Twice."

Three of the 15 entries in the annual Orange Elks Drug Awareness Video Contest won at the local lodge level, advanced through Orange Coast District competition, to then win at the California-Hawaii state level, with one entry continuing to compete nationally.

"Stop the Cycle," a video by Vicki Mull, El Modena High School Instructor, will go on to compete in the post-high school category at the national level, after winning first place at the state level.

The national winners will be revealed in July.

Two other videos earned state recognition. Cerro Villa Middle School student Keiana DeGrave,

with Emma Dierking, Nicole Gray and Calista Neske, took second place in the pre-high school category at the state level with their video, "Think Twice."

Canyon High School's video entry, "Drug Abuse? No Excuse" by junior Caden Schlechter and Shane Lockwood garnered third place honors at the state level.

The Orange Elks, in conjunction with OUSD, has had more national wins than any other lodge in the country.

To view the videos, go to YouTube and search for: Stop the Cycle Orange 1475 Post HS; Keiana CVTV Orange 1475 MS Entry; SchlechterCaden Lockwood-Shane Orange Elks.

Art League to Zoom artist demonstration

The Tustin Art League will feature artist Robert Burrige in a zoom demonstration, Wednesday, May 12 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Burrige will paint, from start to finish, an abstract painting, showing what he does in his studio, from prepping to final varnish and signature. He will also explain his "5Cs": concept, composition, color combo, continue and commit.

The public is welcome. Join "Paint the Loose, Realistic Abstract" early to socialize at cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98009215926.



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Into the wild

If, while hiking in the Cleveland National Forest north of Silverado, you encounter a tall young man hunched over a tiny wildflower, holding a ruler next to it with one hand while snapping a cellphone photo of it with the other, that's probably botany student Daniel Donovan.

For his master's degree from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), Donovan is conducting a floristic survey of Ladd Canyon. "Ladd Canyon" here doesn't mean the road in Silverado, but the national forest land northeast of it, all the way to the Riverside County line.

Since recording all the flowers in an area this big could take some time, Donovan is making several trips. Fortunately, he enjoys backpacking, whenever that is required.

Botanists have collected Ladd Canyon plants before, but one reason that Donovan chose this area is that it has not been studied as much as other places. Part of Donovan's work involves revis-

iting sites of historic specimen collection to see if the same species are still present. He will also explore new territory. In order to collect specimens, he had to obtain a permit from the Forest Service.

Along with Silverado resident Anthony Mack, personnel from the Canyon Beat Botanical Research Division had the opportunity to accompany Donovan on a collecting hike, April 8. Whenever he noticed a species of interest, Donovan followed a procedure that he described as basically unchanged since the time of naturalist Alexander von Humboldt, who died in 1859: He wrote down a description of the site, including location, elevation, and names of nearby species. He also took photos, and if there were enough samples present, he collected a few of them. Ideally, each sample would include flower, fruit, leaves, and even roots, but that isn't always possible.

After specimens are collected from the field, they are arranged,

pressed using blotting paper and cardboard, and fan-dried for archival preservation. In the field, though, Donovan carries a large flat pack in which to press flowers temporarily between cardboard and newspaper. He is partial to the Long Beach Grunion Gazette because of its size. The similar-sized *Foothills Sentry*, therefore, should also work, if pressing flowers against large color illustrations can be avoided.

A collection of plants preserved like this for scientific purposes is called a "herbarium." Some well-known local herbaria are at UC Riverside and at Claremont's California Botanical Garden. Donovan's collection, along with his notes, will become part of the CSULB herbarium, which, he said, contains "only" about 20,000 specimens. (There is a herbarium at UC Berkeley containing over two million specimens.)

You can view some of Donovan's nature photos by searching for ddonovan17 under the "community" tab at inaturalist.org.

Coping with cats

You can't herd them, so sometimes you have to put up barriers.

That's what the Cougar Conservancy did for Modjeska resident Vallary Townsell in March, after a local mountain lion apparently mistook her goats for the Cleveland National Forest deli section.

The LA-based Cougar Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing human/wildlife conflict by providing information and assistance to residents living in mountain lion country. Founder Korinna Domingo gave a presentation at the April 6 Inter-Canyon League (ICL) meeting in which she related cougar facts, described services offered by the Conservancy, and gave safety tips for ensuring peaceful coexistence with large felines.

Assistance services offered by the Cougar Conservancy include pre-conflict and post-conflict visits. Upon request, team members will inspect a resident's property and make recommendations that are specific to both the area (like the Santa Ana Mountains) and to the site (like a back yard) for safeguarding pets and livestock. Residents who qualify may receive assistance in building cougar-proof animal enclosures.

Some enclosures can be retrofitted to be cougar-proof. Measures include providing a roof that can support 200 pounds, and closing all gaps wider than four inches. ("Mountain lions are liquid," says Domingo.) The Conservancy can also design secure roofs for structures like dog kennels, for instance. One tip: Doors should be secured with a welded chain and quick link, not a padlock. This allows quick evacua-

tion in a wildfire.

Domingo encouraged everyone to call the Conservancy hot line to report any mountain lion sightings or incidents, or to request information or assistance: (800) 930-1087. Information is also available at cougarconservancy.org and on YouTube.

Human happenings

The ICL History Committee plans to meet May 1 for the first time in a year. Friends of the Library has tentatively set a June date for its swap meet, as has the Fire Safe Council for its Chipper Day.

Such events, of course, are due to progress in the fight against COVID-19. Vaccinations cannot protect you against everything, though. The Forest Service still advises against donning a deer costume and sauntering out at dawn to try to lure a mountain lion into petting range.



Daniel Donovan

Florence Morrow to celebrate 100th birthday

Florence Morrow, known as Flossie, will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 18. A longtime Villa Park resident and community volunteer, her Villa Park home is on the property purchased by her grandfather many years ago.

Flossie was born in Kansas and came to Villa Park after high school.

She likes to tell stories of working in the WW II factories as Rosie the Riveter. She was married to Bill Morrow for 38 years, until his passing in 1988. They have two children, five grandchildren and three great-grand-

children, all living in Orange and Riverside County.

Florence always says that "we are in this world to help others," and exemplified that as an active volunteer at St. Johns Church, the Villa Park Women's League, Villa Park Fire Department fundraisers, RIO, 4-H and the Good Shepherd Home. Her favorite childhood memory is watching her father put out fires on the church Christmas tree during services. They would attach real candles as decorations!

Though bedridden, she still beats her daughter at cards, and

would welcome birthday greetings, c/o 2712 E. Grove Ave., Orange, CA 92867.



OUSD slates 2021 graduations

Orange Unified School District has announced that high school graduations will be held in-person on June 9 and 10 at Fred Kelly Stadium. At this time, each graduating senior is allowed only two guests. The schedule is as follows: Richland and Parkside,

4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9; Orange High, 7 p.m. on June 9. On Thursday, June 10, El Modena graduates will receive their diplomas, beginning at 1 p.m.; Canyon at 4 p.m. on June 10; and Villa Park graduates will be recognized at 7 p.m. on June 10.

Young Women of the Month named by TAWC

The Tustin Area Woman's Club has named Maya Vicario, Crystal Miller and Rumjhum Hemnani as the Young Women of the Month for April.

Maya Vicario, from Foothill High School, will be attending UC Davis, majoring in Sustainable Environmental Design in the field of environmental science. She is president of the Go Green Club at Foothill, and created the "Monarch" Project, where she supplied butterfly garden kits for a second grade class at a local elementary school.

Vicario is involved in her school, community projects and has been a member of the Assistance League of Tustin As-

sistens Auxiliary since eighth grade. She has been on the principal's honor roll for four years, and received an MVP award in tennis.

During her four years at Tustin High, Crystal Miller has been involved in various activities, including sports, academic pursuits and college preparation. She has applied for a number of scholarships, including interviewing for the coveted Gates Scholarship. She has received acceptances from UCLA, USC, Claremont McKenna and NYU.

Based on her experience in the United Nations Program at Tustin High, she plans to major in political science, envisioning

studying abroad, or attending law school and working for government entities or nonprofits.

Rumjhum Hemnani, from Beckman High, has earned Academic Honor Roll every semester of high school and held qualifying Scholarship Federation status for multiple years.

She is enrolled in the Beckman Early College program and will receive her high school diploma along with her associate college degree at graduation.

She is involved in many academic programs, community service and creative projects.

TAWC Young Women of the Month are nominated by their school counselors.



Maya Vicario



Crystal Miller



Rumjhum Hemnani

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Mural, mural on the wall



Joyce Agis holds the ladder for Christin Ibrahim.

May we draw your attention to a very cool project? Members of Tustin High School's chapter of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) have created a new mural in Peppertree Park in Tustin. The mural was designed by Christin Ibrahim, a 2013 Tustin High graduate and past president of Tustin NAHS. Ibrahim answered a call from the City of Tustin for artists to submit proposals for a mural reflecting Tustin's commitment to the arts. She included collaboration with current NAHS members in her proposal, and her design was selected. NAHS members helped prep the wall, layout Christin's design and paint layer after layer to complete the project. Tustin High students Jalyn Reeves and Joyce Agis headed up the NAHS team, organizing work crews and communicating work schedules. They also spent many hours working hands-on alongside NAHS members Samantha Arroyo, Malintzin Blanco, Michelle Bravo, Lucia Conejo, Daniela Diaz, Wendy Estrada, Tiffany Guillen, Genesis Guzman, Nadeen Heyari, Chelsea Lobato, Brian Ngan, Anna Nguyen, Rossy Quintero and Arly Zavala. When it comes to painting a colorful wall mural, these students have got it covered. All in a day's artwork. – Mark Eliot



Senior flash mob invades Albertsons' parking lot

A dozen seniors, ranging from 70 to 85, performed a flash mob dance program in the parking lot of Albertsons, April 10, returning to the venue after the coronavirus shut them down last year.

The Seniors Over Sixty (SOS) dance crew has entertained on-lookers with over 100 shows at various locations, including the Orange Albertsons for six years, with the exception of 2020. Now, fully vaccinated, the SOS dance

crew inspires others by performing an outdoor masked and socially-distanced dance program.

The dancers live in Orange and Irvine, and have danced together every Tuesday and Thursday morning in a Zumba Gold class for over eight years.

Instructor Susie Vanderlip moved the classes online when the gym closed last March, and now reports that seniors from as far away as South Carolina have

joined the group. Research on aging promotes dancing as top of the list for deterring dementia, keeping senior bodies healthy, building brain cells, and fighting depression.

The Albertsons on Chapman has previously welcomed the senior flash mob inside the store. Before the virus, store checkers, baggers and managers have jumped in and danced along to invigorate customers.



UCI student Kimo Gandall, Paula Prizio, OC GOP youth chair, and UCI student Anthony Mansfield spoke at the April ORWF meeting about the challenges of being conservatives on a liberal campus.

Trevor O'Neil to speak at ORWF meeting

Orange Republican Women, Federated welcomes guest speaker Anaheim City Councilman Trevor O'Neil to its Friday, May 21 meeting.

O'Neil will address "Housing issues, the challenges and solutions City of Anaheim has endured during the yearlong pandemic."

The group will also hear an informative presentation from Kelly Ernby, OCGOP Voter Registration and Precinct Operations. Kelly will share GOP strategies to increase voter registration and precinct campaign volunteer opportunities.

The doors open at 10:30 a.m.; meeting begins promptly at 11 a.m. at the Elks Lodge in Santa

Ana, 1751 S. Lyon St. Lunch, prepared by the Elks Lodge chefs will be served. The cost is \$25 per person, cash or check. To make your reservation, contact Peggy Baranyay at (714) 828-1289.

ORWF will be dark both June and July. Mark your calendar for Aug. 19. ORWF will host a dinner evening meeting 6 p.m. The speaker will be Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer.

Also, Anne Dunsmore Hyde will give ORWF the inside scoop on the Recall Newsom campaign.

More details will be forthcoming in the July/August *Foothills Sentry*.

For more information, contact Andrea Krupka, ORWF President at andrea.krupka44@gmail.com.

Tita Smith named to SCCF

Former mayor of the City of Orange, Tita Smith has been named to the Santiago Canyon College Foundation Board of Directors.

Smith is a longtime public servant, with 12 years on the Orange Planning Commission, eight years on the city council and mayor for six years. Her volunteerism includes Orange Centennial Committee, YWCA, Holy Family Cathedral and Orange Public Library.

In addition to her community service, Smith has a long, professional history working with faith-based and other nonprofits advancing family and social welfare, mental health and the prevention of drug abuse.

Smith holds a bachelor's degree



in social science and a master's in social work. She is a seventh generation California native and a fifth-generation resident of Orange.

The SCC Foundation is managed by a 10-member board, and is in charge of raising funds to support programs and scholarships for students at the college.

Assistance League of Orange honored

Assistance League of Orange, an all-volunteer nonprofit that has served the greater Orange community for 80 years, with over 20 philanthropic programs, has earned the Waymakers "Victim Service Award."

Waymakers works with troubled youth, families and victims of violence.

Assistance League began a Kits of Kindness program for Waymakers, providing bags filled with fidget balls and sensory objects for distribution by Waymakers counselors and advocates to youth who are being processed and are awaiting trial. They have also provided Assault Survivor Kits containing new clothing and hygiene supplies for victims. Additionally, Assistance League provided items needed in the Lamoreaux Justice Center children's waiting room.

The Assistance League was also the recipient of a monetary donation from Orange Children and Parents Together (OCPT). The organization closed its doors, and, on behalf of OCPT, Nedra Kunisch presented a portion of



Assistance League of Orange President Norma Hockensmith, left, and President-elect Leslie Sorrells received the Waymakers award on behalf of the chapter.

its unspent funds to the Chapter and Orange Blossoms Auxiliary, in thanks for their many years of service. The Orange Blossoms Auxiliary had established a popular Save Our Soles program

for OCPT preschool children, providing shoes and a program on Valentine's Day.

For information about Assistance League programs and philanthropies, see alorange.org.



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The Woman's Club of Orange held a spring plant sale, with all proceeds donated to the club's charities. The group's annual flower show had to be cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, but members plan to make up for the loss with a clubhouse full of blooms next year.

Climate change is topic at Tustin Dem meeting

The Tustin Democratic Club is marking spring by learning and connecting with fellow community members.

Jeff Stoddard of the Citizens' Climate Lobby will be the featured speaker on Tuesday, May 25 at 7 p.m. to discuss creating a broad, sustainable foundation for climate action across all geographic regions and political inclinations. Tustin Mayor Letitia Clark and City Councilmember Becki Gomez will address climate change as it relates to the local community.

Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom until the community is widely vaccinated and it's safe to meet in person. Tustin Dems are helping the community get vaccinated by connecting citizens with the best ways to find their vaccine appointment.

Would you like to connect with fellow Democrats in and around Tustin? Find us at TustinDemocraticClub.org.

TUSD communicator and Sentry contributor is retiring



Mark Eliot, Director of Communications and Public Information for the Tustin Unified School District, and a longtime contributor to the *Foothills Sentry*, has announced he will retire at the end of the school year. His last day will be June 30.

Eliot has worked in public education for 36 years – all in Tustin Unified. He was hired in August 1985 as the district's first communications specialist and was promoted to director of communications and public information in 2001.

During his career in Tustin Unified, Eliot has handled communications, media relations, community relations, marketing, district publications and materials, social media and printing services. He has provided the *Sentry* with TUSD news and events every month for more than a decade.

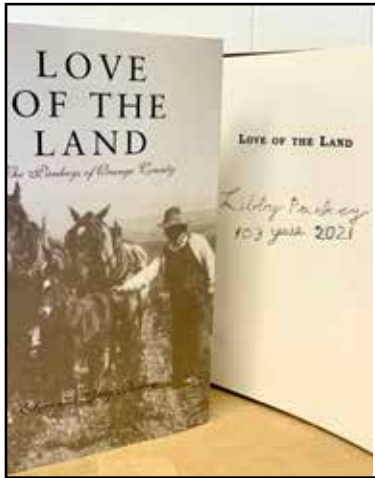
Eliot has started and

coordinated several employee recognition programs, and has helped organize the "Friends of Tustin Schools" Community Recognition Dinner for the past 34 years

Eliot has maintained strong relationships with a number of community organizations. He has volunteered at Broadway in the Park, the Dinosaur Dash, Tustin Chili Cook-off and Street Fair, and Tustin Tiller Days.

Eliot has won Excellence in Communications awards from the California School Public Relations Association, received the PTA/PTO Coordinating Council's Special Recognition Award, was nominated as Tustin Area Man of the Year four times and was named one of the Tustin Community Foundation's 2019 Superheroes of Tustin.

His reports of TUSD news and pun-filled contributions to the *Sentry* will be missed.



A story that appeared in the December *Foothills Sentry* about a historic estate in North Tustin captured the attention of Elizabeth Pankey. The Tustin resident, now 103, is a member of the family that built the Pankey Estate in the 1930s. She lived there for a time, and wrote a book about the family and its connection to the land, "Love of the Land, The Pankeys of Orange County." Pankey was so pleased with the *Sentry* story, that she gave the paper an autographed copy of her book.

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Selected Santiago Oaks trails will test limitations on multi-uses

A proposed pilot plan that will designate certain trails in Santiago Oaks Park for hikers/horses only or restrict them to just mountain bikes is an OC Parks experiment intended to increase trail safety for all users.

Santiago Oaks is one of three regional parks that will assign trails for specific users and designate some of them as one-way only. The pilot program is in response to a number of trail use concerns, including conflicts between hikers, bikers and horseback riders; habitat impacts resulting from non-permitted activity; trail quality/conditions and overuse; the safety of users and wildlife; and insufficient enforcement.

Right now, 45 OC park rangers oversee some 60,000 acres of wilderness that accommodates hikers, bikers, equestrians, runners, birdwatchers, and protected wildlife and plants. The number of trails in these areas is limited by funding and land-use restrictions. OC Parks and the (often at-odds) trail users must make do with a finite resource.

Happy trails

When identifying current multi-use trails for the pilot pro-

gram, OC Parks considered safety, feasibility and connectivity. At Santiago Oaks, designated use and direction will be tested on the Peralta Hills, Chutes Ridgeline, Yucca Ridge, Cactus Canyon and Pony Trails.

Peralta Hills, a single-track trail currently open to all users, will be limited to hiking and equestrian use. It will remain bidirectional. Restricting use of that trail is anticipated to reduce potential impacts, safety issues and overcrowding by limiting it to those users traveling at slower speeds.

The Chutes Ridgeline Trail will be designated for bikers traveling downhill only. That passageway connects Santiago Oaks to Irvine Park, and is primarily used today by bikers heading downhill, from one park to the next. The 10 mph speed limit will remain. A parallel lower trail (Chutes) will still be available for all users traveling in both directions.

Overused and overworked

Yucca Ridge is a heavily-used trail that connects Anaheim Hills to the inner canyon trails in Santiago Oaks. It will continue to be available to all users, but will be downhill only. The goal is to ease

congestion. The adjacent Coachwhip Trail can be used to go uphill.

Cactus Canyon, connecting Barham Ridge to the inner canyon, is used by hikers and equestrians, but is most heavily traversed by bikers going downhill on berm turns. It will be restricted to downhill only (for all users) to reduce congestion. Users traveling uphill may use the Coachwhip, BumbleBee/Mountain Goat Trails.

One of two entrances to the south end of the park, the Pony Trail is mainly used by equestrians. It will be restricted to hikers and horses, to reduce congestion and limit speed. Bikers may enter and exit the park by the Santiago Creek Trail.

The pilot program is still in the presentation stage, being shared with user groups countywide. The OPA Trails Committee was given the details at its April 21 meeting.

The plan must next be approved by the county Parks Commission before it is put into play. Once activated, it will be temporary only, providing OC Parks with data to assess results/success and analyze operational impacts.



Photo by Tony Richards

New cars stored behind the backyard fences of Parkside come and go at all hours of the day and night.



Dust kicked up by the unwelcome vehicles settles into neighboring yards and residences.

From paradise to parking lot

Roger McClennan has lived in his house on Parkside in Orange for 50 years. He and his wife raised a family there and planned to enjoy their retirement in the quiet neighborhood that has always been home.

All was well until 2017, when a car dealership began parking cars on the railroad right of way behind their backyard fence. When that dealership stopped warehousing new cars there, another took its place. And another after that, and then another.

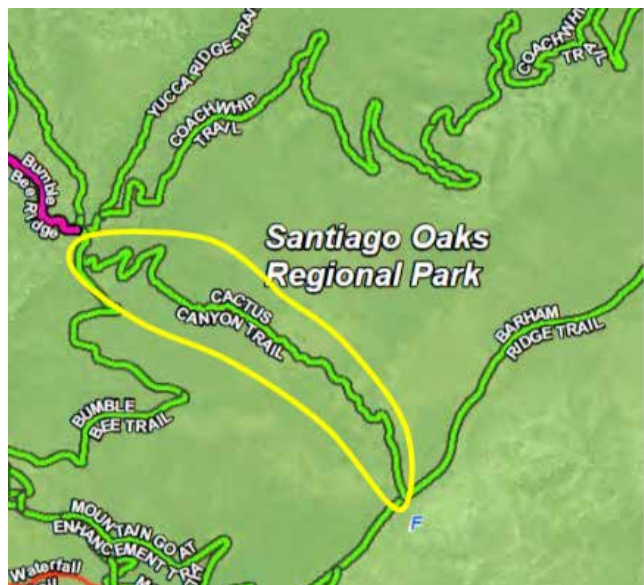
"It was Toyota, Volkswagen, Kia and Now Hyundai," McClennan says. "And Hyundai isn't even an Orange dealership.

They're in Anaheim."

The cars themselves are not the problem. It's the constant in-and-out at all times of day, seven days a week. "And the dust," McClennan sighs. "They kick up dust that settles all over the yard and in the house. My wife complains that she can't keep it clean."

McClennan and several of his neighbors have complained to the city. They've called code enforcement and city planners repeatedly since 2017. To no avail.

"I can't believe this is a legal use of this property," he says. "If it is, no one has ever informed us. No one has ever acknowledged this neighborhood at all."



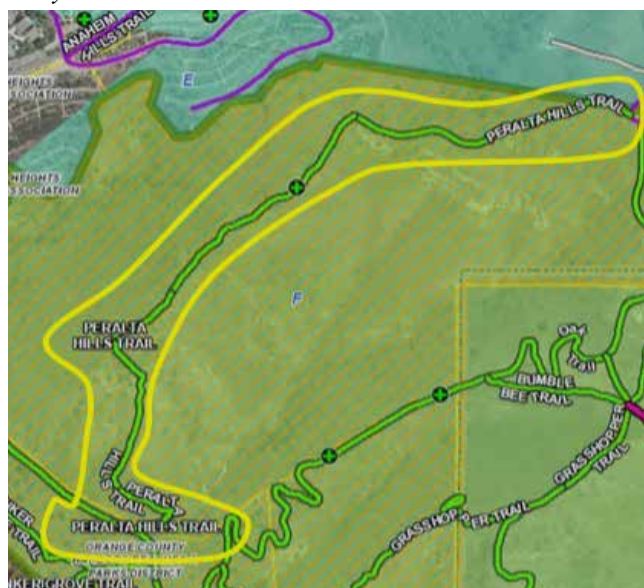
Cactus Canyon Trail



Yucca Ridge Trail



Pony Trail



Chutes Ridgeline Trail



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Curb appeal for the win

Welcome back! Can you believe it's already May 2021? This month, we're going to talk about your home's curb appeal. I'll share several DIY ideas and suggest professional services that can be done to spruce things up around your home. You've heard those sayings that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" and that "a picture is worth 1,000 words."

When it comes to selling your home, the pictures might be worth thousands of dollars or might be the clincher in getting an offer. Even in a hot market, the first impression could be what gets a buyer to your home and turns their offer into a transaction. So, let's dive in.

DIY for \$\$\$

First, clean up that yard. As you prepare to put your home on the market, you might want to hit that lawn with a little extra seed and water to get those greens a little greener. Be sure to get out the weed whacker and do some clean edging to get that lawn looking sharp.

If you have shrubs up against the home, remove any dead leaves or branches, and try to create some clean lines. If the shrubs are growing in front of the windows, then trim them down a bit. Doing this will allow more sunlight into your home, which always helps in your home's listing photos.

Next, ask yourself how the driveway is looking. If you have

a beautiful driveway, but it's oil-stained, pick up some driveway degreaser and give that a try. Call a professional to high pressure clean, if needed. Could your home use some new exterior paint? If the outside paint is in pretty good shape except for a few spots that are chipped, or peeling, you might be able to take a sample to the local home supply store and get it color matched. Do some patch painting. For best results, have a professional give it an entirely new fresh coat of exterior paint.

Potted plants around the front are another great way to add some color.

To make your home's exterior pop, add some hearty and colorful flowering plants in your planters. While you're at it, toss in a few bags of colored mulch too. After all, it's still spring until June 20th. If you have a tile roof with some discoloring, consider having that pressure washed. Be sure to rinse down the entryway and clean up any spider webs. Clean the windows and screens, too. If you have the room, put a small table with a couple of chairs to add an inviting touch.

For more great tips on curb appeal, talk to your Realtor before putting your home on the market. They will have great ideas and professional contacts for almost any project you want to tackle. As always, thanks for reading, stay safe and tune in next month.

ORANGE | MARCH 2021

	MAR-21	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	MAR-20	YTD
Median Sales Price	\$805,000	4%	4%	13%	\$775,000
Average Sales Price	\$861,849	-4%	1%	15%	\$844,002
Properties for Sale	117	22%	--	-30%	--
Properties Sold	125	60%	--	15%	280
Avg Days on Market	24	-25%	-23%	-42%	29
Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold)	\$467	2%	2%	13%	\$462
Inventory (Months)	0.9	-24%	-19%	-39%	1.2

TUSTIN | MARCH 2021

	MAR-21	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	MAR-20	YTD
Median Sales Price	\$737,500	2%	-1%	4%	\$740,000
Average Sales Price	\$793,539	3%	-3%	-6%	\$791,801
Properties for Sale	74	35%	--	-22%	--
Properties Sold	76	36%	--	65%	181
Avg Days on Market	34	-8%	-11%	3%	38
Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold)	\$473	1%	3%	8%	\$461
Inventory (Months)	1.0	-1%	-9%	-53%	1.1

VILLA PARK | MARCH 2021

	MAR-21	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	MAR-20	YTD
Median Sales Price	\$2,162,500	32%	36%	78%	\$1,699,000
Average Sales Price	\$2,123,250	15%	23%	43%	\$1,818,714
Properties for Sale	13	44%	--	-38%	--
Properties Sold	8	0%	--	33%	21
Avg Days on Market	64	56%	28%	-37%	64
Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold)	\$489	2%	5%	24%	\$488
Inventory (Months)	1.6	44%	12%	-54%	1.5



NCL presents 2021 graduates

The National Charity League senior class; front row, from left: Jessica Lynn Rahn, Claire Marie Hamelin, Hannah Klarissa Velasco, Kassie Linnea Machado, Megan Claire Nickerson, Chloe Anne Gonzalez, Greta Maurene Harness; second row, Hayley Marie Vanderpool, Madison Nicole Gorton, Andrea Kennice Smith, Naomi Constance Kollie McLeary, Zoe Alexandra Patton, Alexandria Sophia Morrell, Ryann Dawn Blue-mel; back row, Katherine Margaret Threshie, Emily Mae Froemke, Sydney Bernadette Jetter Montague, Marysol Yvonne Cazarez, Carly Elizabeth Rabun, Lydia Yee Wong, Colette Brandi Chandler; not pictured: Kelsey Belle Arvidson, McKay Ashlyn Arvidson, Reagan Elizabeth Arvidson, Sophia Jansen, Kate Monica Kuli and Rachel Lee. The graduates, with their mothers, have completed a six-year journey, dedicated to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. They have served a combined 6,304 volunteer hours in support of 24 NCL philanthropy partners.



Immune response

I recently got over a four-day fever (not COVID-19 related). As you all know, it's not enjoyable. The body aches, cold sweats, burning up, then freezing under three blankets. We've all been through it.

However, no matter how bad I felt, I knew that my body was fighting some kind of infection, which I could be happy about. It meant my immune response system was working.

As I lay there in my bed (my thoughts never sway far from trees), I thought of pine trees. We get calls from our tree guardians all the time, frantically reporting sap oozing from the trees.

To us, this is actually a relief! It shows us that the resin tubes in the pine tree are responding to stresses, and the immune response system is operational.

In humans, the hypothalamus, which sits at the bottom, in the center of your brain, acts as the body's thermostat.

It's triggered by floating biochemical substances called pyrogens, which flow from sites where the immune system has identified potential trouble to the hypothalamus via the bloodstream. When the hypothalamus detects them, it

tells the body to generate and retain more heat, thus producing a fever. When your pine tree is fighting an invasion of any kind, the resin tubes respond much like a fever. Ever heard of the expression, "feed a cold, starve a fever?"

The reason for that, is that provoking digestion amidst the increased physiological stress your body has while generating a fever can cause your fever to spike higher than your body intends.

When your pine tree is oozing sap, you shouldn't trim it, or apply fertilizers. "Feeding" the pine fever will force the tree to use its much-needed energy to grow more, instead of allowing it to fight off the pests or disease it was fighting off in the first place. Generally, your tree needs help fighting what's attacking it, and usually needs site condition changes. If your pine tree doesn't ooze sap, that would be a tree to be concerned about.

All in all, I got over my fever and my body fought off whatever was attacking it.

Your pine trees may need some help getting over what's attacking them, but if you look for the signs, you'll know when to help.

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Looking for love



My name is Pablo, and I'm 1.5 years old. I am finally ready to go to my very special forever home! As a tiny kitten, I was diagnosed with a heart murmur. I've been seen by a cardiologist and have medication that I will be on forever. I am happily living in a foster home with other cats, but not all of them appreciate my kitten exuberance. My water bowl must be on a tray, because I play with the water. I like to plant one foot in the bottom of the water bowl while I drink. I enjoy looking out the window and playing with my toys. I like to be picked up and held and carried, but I'm not quite a lap cat. I am very helpful with the chores. I love helping sort the laundry and loading the dryer. I supervise the loading/unloading of the dishwasher. I inspect the contents of the refrigerator. Basically, if you open a door -- I am there. So always keep an eye on me. I have pulmonic stenosis and subaortic stenosis; because of this, I have an unknown life expectancy. Every six months, I will need a veterinary exam and ultrasound. If you are interested, please submit an application to Compassionate Animal Rescue for Medical Aid at carmaoc.org.



Cowboy Easter brought blessings to all

The Cowboy Easter service returned to Orange Park Acres, April 4, after the coronavirus shut it down last year. A crowd of some 300 people filled the lot and set forth an emergency donut and coffee run after the original supply was depleted.

Pastor Larry Day spoke about the nature of man, God, horses and how they relate to each other. His talk followed recitations from Bob and Caroline Torrez, Bruce Ferguson, Sam Day and Jim Oliver. An empty saddle ceremony commemorated the neighbors who had passed in the preceding year.

The service ended with a blessing of the animals and music by Margaret Steiner and Stacey McMillan and the No Name Bluegrass Band.

Seen above are OPA board members, from left, Lance Mora, Laurel Maldonado Wykes, Sherry Pattanja, Kelley Chaplin, Kathy Bonnaud and Laura Thomas. Larry Day is at the podium.

OBITUARIES



Marilyn M. Thompson 1932 - 2021

Marilyn M. Thompson, 88, of Orange, very sadly passed away on Feb. 5, due to complications of COVID-19 pneumonia.

Marilyn was born on May 4, 1932 in Harvard, Nebraska to George and Verna Marsh. The family really struggled during the Great Depression and eventually moved to Santa Ana. The youngest of three sisters, Marilyn rode across the country to Southern California with her dad in an old jalopy.

She would tell her daughters, years later, that one of her favorite movies, "Paper Moon," reminded her of the cross-country drive with her dad all those years ago.

Bright and energetic, Marilyn graduated from Santa Ana High School. She began working full time at age 18, first as a typist, and then as an accounts clerk for the Orange County Tax Collector-Treasurer.

Marilyn met her husband, a young Marine named Don Thompson, at El Morro Beach in Laguna. The couple married in 1951, and lived in Santa Ana and Pasadena. Marilyn and Don had two daughters, Megan and Brooke.

On the same day her husband, Don, received his graduate degree from Caltech, Marilyn was awarded a "Ph.T." ("Put Husband Through") diploma by the wife of

the Caltech president.

Marilyn, also called "Mow," was known by her family and friends for her lifelong sense of humor and spirit. Marilyn was an avid reader and pinochle card player, and loved all animals. Marilyn also had an adventurous side, which included parasailing trips and whitewater rafting.

In 1988, Marilyn began working for the Diocese of Orange as the employee benefits insurance coordinator. She worked there for over 20 years, and made so many wonderful friends.

Marilyn was predeceased by her parents and by her sisters, Mildred Looney and Marjory Young, and also by her niece, Patricia DiCiolla.

Marilyn is survived by her daughter, Megan Drake, of Orange, and by her daughter and son-in-law, Brooke and Steve Howhannesian, of Tustin. Marilyn is also survived by her grandson, Richard Drake, Jr., of Orange, and by her niece, Maureen Michel, of Austin, Texas.

A memorial service for Marilyn will be held this summer.



Gerald Lee "Jerry" Sandberg 1936-2021

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Gerald (Jerry) Lee Sandberg, beloved husband, father, grandfather and

great-grandfather. He passed away on March 7, of a non-COVID related illness; he was 85. He was a resident of Orange Park Acres for over 75 years.

Jerry was born on Jan. 9, 1936 in Hollywood, California. He attended Fairfax High School and went on to study at UCLA, where he received a bachelor's degree in engineering. Jerry was not only extremely intelligent, he was artistic, skillful at many things, and accomplished a lot in his lifetime.

Jerry was a well-respected engineer, a master jeweler, pilot and a successful business owner.

He built a seaworthy 26-foot Thunderbird sailboat, sabots, and beautiful wooden kayaks by hand; transformed a school bus into a motor home; designed microchips for various aerospace companies, including the circuitry for the Lunar Landing Module in the 1960s; and managed a thin-film coating company. At the age of 60, he and his wife Nona started Coatings By Sandberg (CBS), an international art glass company that was a first of its kind, and is still thriving today. Jerry and Nona have made a huge impact on the art glass community and have touched the lives of their employees and the artists that use CBS dichroic glass. Jerry loved his job and, thankfully, was physically and mentally able to work until the very end.

Jerry had many hobbies. He enjoyed fishing, hiking, flying his Cessna airplane, sailing to Catalina, snow skiing, traveling, golfing, playing the organ, listening to classical music, designing and creating jewelry, and dancing. He and Nona were semi-professional ballroom dancers and danced regularly with their dance group for many years.

Of all the things Jerry created, the most enduring was his 59-year marriage to Nona, resulting in a large family that will continue to admire, respect, revere and love him. We feel blessed and are extremely proud to have been a part of his amazing life and to witness the incredible achievements he brought to this life, his family and his business.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Nona, his six children, 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He leaves behind an incredible legacy that will live on in the lives of those he touched. He will be dearly missed.

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COMMUNITY SPORTS

BY CLIFF ROBBINS AND CHAD KLINE

Canyon turns out eight on NCAA National Letter of Intent Day

Canyon High School held its Letter of Intent signing on April 12. Eight athletes committed to play their sport at their college of choice and continue their education. Signing were: Connor Albin, cross country and track and field (Cal State University, Fullerton); Maddi Askins, softball (Howard University); Connor Borra, soccer (Cal State, Dominguez Hills); Carly Cross, soccer (Boise State University); Brett Eskelson, baseball (Hendrix College); Lexi Gamez, softball (Fort Hays State

University); Andrew Gaspar, baseball (University of Dallas); and Sotero Ureno, baseball (Midland University).

Early signees were Cameron Magee, baseball (Arizona State University); Emily McDaniel, volleyball (University of California, San Diego); Giovanna Salcido, softball (Dominican College); Madison Sanchez, softball (Cal State University, Fullerton); and Sarah Paino, cross country and track and field (University of California, San Diego).



Elena Torres from Foothill High School faces off with the Santa Margarita goalkeeper and scores. Foothill won the game, 16-5.



Grace Cumming gets checked advancing the ball up field in the St. Margaret's game.



Esperanza defender (right) had trouble covering Canyon's Ryan Gardner (20) and Fox Haugen (7) in the end zone.



David Agba (15), a returning SCC starter, and Jake Martin, a freshman from Canyon High, go after a loose ball in the Cypress game.



Harrison Wiese (22) from Santiago Canyon College teams up with David Agba to block the shot. SCC won 88-53.

CIF playoff picture

Football finished its short season with no championship games scheduled. Villa Park (3-0, 5-1) captured the Crestview League title with wins over Yorba Linda, El Modena and Foothill.

Brea Olinda (3-0, 3-2) captured the North Hills League title with wins over El Dorado, Esperanza and Canyon High Schools.

The CIF-SS announced that section championships for the following sports will be scheduled: baseball, B/G basketball, B/G lacrosse, B/G team tennis, Boys volleyball and softball. CIF-SS is planning for B/G golf, B/G swim and diving, B/G tennis, and B/G track and field championships. Boys and girls wrestling, being a high contact sport, will not be able to conduct section championships.



Aaron Wadman from Santiago Canyon College controls the boards against Cypress College. SCC won the game, 72-60.



Preston Sims (24) from Santiago Canyon College blocks a Palo Verde shot.



Rael Halim (10) from Canyon High School, just called up to the varsity, stops the ball in front of El Modena's Johnny Dominguez.



Oscar Henriquez (right) from Canyon High School gets the pass off as Johnny Dominguez from El Modena defends on the play.



Canyon's Koosha Yar (left) locks horns with Uli Lopez from El Modena. Canyon won the game, 5-2.



Delaney O'Donoghue from Foothill had the hot bat, as she connects for a solo home run.



Carson Cooper, from Canyon High School, takes the throw as the Millikan High runner attempts to take third base.



Andrea Saucedo (right) from El Modena gets under the tag of Foothill shortstop Arissa Calvillo to steal the base.



Giovanna Salcido from Canyon High School sends one over the wall in the game against Millikan High.



Arisa Calvillo, Foothill shortstop, throws out an El Modena runner. Foothill won the game, 7-2.

O'Donoghue bats Foothill to victory over El Modena

Foothill girls softball team improved to 4-7 overall, dropping North Hills League El Modena to 0-9. Foothill opened the second inning with a single by Mia Mendoza, followed by two back-to-back walks by Abby Fryhoff and Alyson Crawford to load the bases.

Foothill's Delaney O'Donoghue doubled to clean the bases. She

collected two hits, a double and a home run. O'Donoghue led off the fourth inning with a solo home run to put the Foothill Lady Knights out front, 4-1.

Foothill starting pitcher Lauren Mendez gave up two runs, six hits, four walks, and struck out two.

Eva Chahbazian came on in relief pitching the sixth and

seventh innings to preserve the 7-2 win. Chahbazian gave up two hits and struck out three Vanguard batters.

Gianna Pulido from El Modena struck out three and gave up 10 hits before giving way to Katlyn Simpson in the sixth. Simpson struck out two, walked two and got Nicole Zerkel to fly out to center to end the inning.

Gruettville Gazette

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SUMMER PRUNING

Summer pruning has always been carried out on trained apples and pears—those in the form of cordons or espaliers and all the other clever shapes that can be created from their branches. Summer pruning is less common on untrained trees, but as garden apples and pears are now almost always grown on dwarfing stock (tall, standard trees are not pruned in summer), it's not only possible, but they'll be much easier to control and you'll gain a deeper understanding of how your trees work.

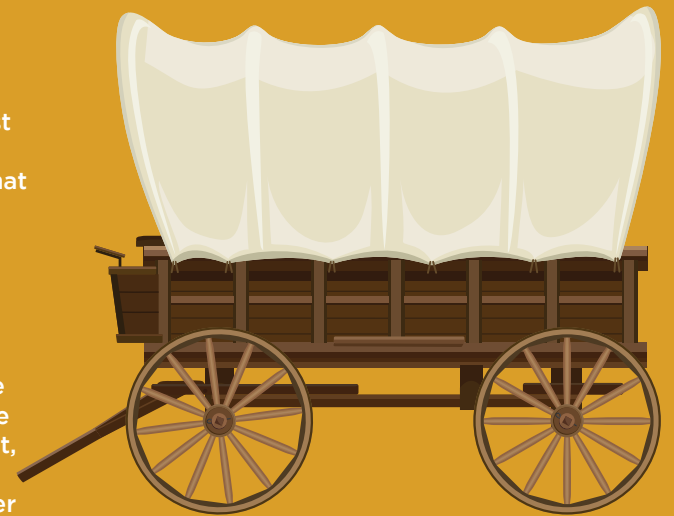
Two caveats. First, you may have a tip-bearing tree, which means its fruit forms at the tips of branches instead of on short "spurs" along the branches, and these need pruning with more caution. Here, I'm writing about spur-bearing trees, which are far more common, especially among more modern varieties.

Second, if your tree seems to be a bit of a weakling, put the pruners away. When you're cutting away foliage, you're reducing the tree's food factory, and this will contribute to its weakness. Chances are, though, that you have a mature spur-bearer that positively bristles with foliage. This is your moment.

PIONEER TREES

Ever wonder why some tree's seeds are big and bulky? Like nuts, and pinecones for instance. And then some tree's seeds are light, feathery, padded or even equipped with tiny wings? Species like poplar, silver birch, quaking aspens and pussy willows for instance. Well, like most things in nature, there are reasons for this! Pine trees, oak trees and other species with larger, heavier seeds need to grow up with a community. They rely on the cozy, social interactions that a forest floor affords. When one tree in the stand or group is attacked, injured or in need of nutrients, the others support them, sending them care packages, shielding their bark from direct sunlight, etc.

There are a few species however, that could care less about the forest comforts and prefer to strike out on their own! These species with light, small, padded seeds can travel miles if the wind catches them just right. These "pioneer" trees strike out on their own and prefer to have no neighbors. This also means they must protect themselves against attack as they don't have the numbers for support. Take the silver birch for example, the white bark reflects the sunlight, protecting it from the winter sunlight and heat that can cause other species to literally burst! These pioneer species also grow faster than other species as they need to become taller faster in order to survive herbivores grazing in the open field.



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