Decision to disable DRC delayed

By Tina Richards

The Orange City Council’s unceremonious attempt to limit the purview of the Design Review Committee (DRC) by reworking its governing ordinance was thwarted when members of the public got wind of it.

The DRC was established in 1974 to provide architectural and landscaping review of development projects, primarily in historic districts, but also those impacting neighborhoods city-wide. Back then, the city believed “that the inclusion of specific aesthetic development standards is impracticable from one time period to another and from one neighborhood to another, it is in the public interest to establish an authority for project review.”

The five-member committee considers design elements, massing and scale, color palette, context, landscaping and signage. Committee members are appointed, but must have professional experience in either architecture, landscaping, urban planning, or historic preservation. The goal is to ensure new developments are compatible with their surroundings and meet city standards.

Better not fettered

The committee rarely rejects a development proposal outright, but acknowledges project’s shortcomings and asks the builder or property owner to make changes and bring them back to the DRC. “Most applicants want their project to be better through this process,” says DRC member Tim McCormick. “It seems to work, and most applicants are pleased with the experience.” Most, but apparently not all.

According to several committee members, a few developers have found the DRC process inconvenient and complained to the city. Determined to give applicants more “protection” and streamline the timetable for new developments, the city embarked on a scrub of the DRC’s focus and responsibilities.

“We wanted to eliminate redundancies in the code and remove outdated terminology,” Assistant City Attorney Mary Benning explained. “We found items in the code already covered by council resolution or state law.”

City hall knows best

The purge removed all projects in non-historic districts from the DRC’s review. Old Towne, the Eisenhower tracts and buildings on the historic survey would remain in the committee’s domain; all other design and compatibility responsibilities.

The original plan to use the ex-coping locker and restroom facilities in the gym to accommodate pool users was shelved by Orange County Health Department requirements. It became apparent it would be more efficient to reject all bids and put the proposal out to rebid, clarifying the subcontractor clauses. The Request for Proposal was sent out Sept. 17. Proposals are due Oct. 29, and the winning bidder will be selected at the Nov. 19 OUSD Board meeting.

The project had experienced previous delays at the state and county level. Plans were submitted to the California Division of the State Architect in December, but COVID slowed the approval process until July.

The original plan to use the existing locker and restroom facilities in the gym to accommodate pool users was shelved by Orange County Health Department requirements. It became apparent that it would cost more to update the facilities to new code requirements than it would be to build new ones. The straightforward pool project blossomed into a $7 million pool and aquatics center, to include lockers, restrooms, training supplies and storage, all of which altered the original timeline and budget. Following the selection of the contractor, construction of the aquatic center is slated to begin in early December, with the facility opening in spring 2022.

County disputes claim that construction waste mounds are “engineered fill”

By Tina Richards

Chandler/Rio Santiago, operator of the construction waste mound on Santiago Canyon Road, and property owner Milan Capital agreed to surrender their disposal permit, while taking up semantic arms against the county and state over the definition of what activity is actually occurring on the site.

The county agency that represents CalRecycle had issued a registration permit to Chandler/ Milan for an Inert Debris Type A Disposal Facility (recycling) in June, but revoked it a few weeks later because the site was not properly listed on the county’s disposal Siting Element, as required. Chandler/Milan refused to relinquish the permit, and the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) responded with a notice, Aug. 3, to cease and desist collecting waste on the site. The operator ignored that notice as well as a more strongly worded Aug. 11 order to cease and desist. Chandler asked CalRecycle to stay the order, and requested a hearing with LEA on the permit revocation.

Don’t cease to resist

CalRecycle denied the operator’s request for a stay, Aug. 26. The county scheduled a hearing on the matter with an independent hearing officer presiding.

The Roar of the Crowd

Orange citizens sound off on the shortcomings of city government.

See letters, page 10, 11; Guest Commentary, page 12, 16, 17

Break The Banks

Floods happen. A long-time safety valve for inevitable overflow deserves respect.

See Santiago Creek, page 20

FOLLOW US at Foothills Sente
Split vote keeps Orange council pay at bay

A city ordinance granting modest stipends to Orange council members failed to pass in a 2-2 vote at the Sept. 8 council meeting. Three votes are needed for any council action to proceed. The proposed ordinance was originally discussed during the June council meeting, when concerns were raised that the lack of compensation for members might prevent some citizens from running in November’s by-election.

Agreeing that the “time is not right” in June, the council continued the question of compensation until September. Were it to pass, it would have taken effect following the Nov. 3 election.

Timing is everything

With council members Mike Alvarez and Chip Monaco advocating for the proposed $600 per month stipend, Mayor Mark Murphy and Councilwoman Kim Nichols held fast to the argument that the time was “still not right.” Monaco maintained that stipends might encourage people to run for office who would otherwise have to choose between staying at work or attending a council meeting. “There isn’t a right time for this discussion,” he said, “but it’s absolutely the right thing to do.”

Alvarez agreed, noting that, “not everyone can afford to be here (on the council).” Nichols maintained that in light of today’s economy, now is the wrong time to introduce stipends for council members. “Communications on this have not been global” she said. “There is some support for it; some people perceive it as political. My gut says now isn’t the right time. I’m not opposed to it in the future, just not right now.”

Something for nothing

Murphy, noting that city employees were asked to work without getting the raises they were due, echoed Nichols’ remarks. While the ordinance stated that the stipend was optional, that council members did not have to accept it, Murphy and Nichols would not relent. They voted against the ordinance. Alvarez and Monaco voted to approve it.

Orange council members received salary, health and retirement benefits until November 2011, when the then-council eliminated all forms of compensation.

Orange, Tustin and Villa Park are the only cities in the county that do not offer compensation to council members. Tustin residents voted to eliminate salaries and benefits for its council representatives in 2012. This November, Tustin voters will be asked to reinstate a $600 per month salary with no additional benefits.

North Tustin chips away at fire danger

North Tustin residents cleared brush and plant debris from around their homes to participate in the community’s third annual “Chipper Day,” Sept. 12. The 2020 residential chipper program was sponsored by FCA Fire Safe Council, a committee of the Foothill Communities Association (FCA).

With the increasing potential for wildfires in the area, and for the safety of all residents, homeowners were asked to inspect their properties and ensure there is adequate space to provide firefighters access and a safe area from which to defend an encroaching threat. Annual “Chipper Day” is a key resource to help North Tustin residents get rid of plant debris and dry vegetation. It is recommended home owners clear brush 30-100 feet from their homes to create a buffer between buildings and any wildland around them. This defensible space zone around residential property is vital, as it also reduces the risk fire will spread from one area to another.

Each year, “Chipper Day” increases in popularity. During this year’s event, large volumes of material were processed from about 60 truckloads of vegetation debris brought to the site on Overhill Drive, adjacent to Peters Canyon Regional Park. Park West Landscape Inc. and liaison Roxie Bryant provided the chipping machine to dispose of plant material. The service was free to residents.

Volunteers from Team Rubicon offered curbside pickup, when requested by residents. FCA President Rick Nelson and volunteers Roxie Bryant, John Sears, Bruce Janor and Tony Coco were on hand to help. Kathy and Walt Ashford brought lunch for volunteers and workers. The process was efficient, and all who came were in and out quickly.

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Come in costume on Halloween and receive a free dessert with entree!

- Marjan and the Da Bianca Staff

October is National Pasta Month!

Let us draw your attention to TUSD kindergartner Jihan Ju, who is all smiles as he solves a math problem. Karyn Wright’s kindergarten class recently learned about the math symbols “greater than,” “less than” and “equal to.” “We showed our thinking by drawing cookies below each number and putting them on a plate for the hungry little alligator to eat,” Wright said. “Of course, the alligator always wants to eat the greatest amount of cookies, so his big toothy jaws turn toward the greatest number.” Jihan enjoyed this activity so much, his joy is bursting through the computer screen. Thank you, Jihan, it all “adds” up to another day of making distance learning fun – Mark Eliot

The pandemic might have slowed down the country, but it has not slowed down the Orange Elks. In the last five months, Lodge 1475 members have shopped and assisted their neighbors by purchasing and delivering food and medical supplies. They drove friends to appointments. They helped deliver boxes of food to families at the Sky View School, passed out food at the Youth Centers of Orange and volunteered at several food distribution spots in the city.

The Elks coordinated work with city partners, obtained a list of local businesses to support, and published charts of grocery stores and store hours. Monetary donations were made to city food banks, and food purchased for upcoming events was donated to local food banks.

Two grants were received from the Grand Lodge. The Gratitude Grant of $2,500 was given to Waste Not OC to help feed the homeless and at-risk families. A second grant, dubbed the Spotlight Grant, of $2,000 was given to OUSD Student Services, to be used for COVID relief for at-risk and in-need families.

Elks extend time and money to help their neighbors

TUSD is back in session

Tustin Unified students and teachers overcame the limitations of COVID restrictions to tackle the first day of school with aplomb. Teachers at Hewes Middle School created a “Welcome Back” video adapted from the “Guardians of the Galaxy.” Cast members included, from left, Principal Eric Kilian (Star Lord), school secretaries Julie Gullion (Groot) and Cindy McCarthy (Rocket), Assistant Principal Troy Frasch (Drax) and school counselor Joanne Motter (Gamora). The video can be seen on the school’s website.

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Preschooler Skyler Hoang was among those welcomed to in-person instruction at one of two TUSD elementary schools. The full-day preschool programs are open to children of essential workers.

TPSF/TUSD State of the Schools slated for online

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation and Tustin Unified School District will present the ninth annual State of the Schools update on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 4 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin. He will address education today, and specifically how the district adapted to distance learning and transitioned to in-person classes and extracurricular activities, while keeping student and staff safety at the forefront.

The event will be held in a virtual format. All are welcome to suggest questions to be answered during the program. Sponsor and individual reservations can be made at tpsf.net.

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October is National Pasta Month!
Villa Park Marine Thanksgiving came early

By Carly Rabun and Samantha Franke0

When Villa Park High School students Carly Rabun 21 and Samantha Frankelton 24 took over as chair and co-chair, respectively, of the event from Sammy’s older brothers, they planned to have Marine Thanksgiving 2020 be the biggest and best ever since its inception by Rick Barnett in 2002. They hoped to recruit enough local families to “adopt” over 1,000 children so the servicemen and women could spend Thanksgiving Day with a family.

Camp Pendleton will not allow its Marines to leave base on Thanksgiving this year, so the ASYMCA had a drive-thru event to give out the supplies. The ASYMCA had a drive-thru event to give out the supplies.

Developed by the director’s assessment and approval of a development project would take place behind closed doors, with no public notice or participation.

Orange residents and DRC members themselves knew nothing about the revisions until they appeared on the planning commission agenda, Aug. 24. Caught off guard, no community stakeholders provided comments to the commission. Planning commission members, bolstered by two support letters from developers, approved the revised ordinance without a ripple.

When the issue reached the city council, Sept. 8, DRC stakeholders were ready. The council received comment letters from the Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA), three members of the DRC, the Orange Park Association, and several unaffiliated citizens.

Public Pressure

Although projects in the Old Towne historic district would remain within DRC’s review authority, OTPA did not fully support the new ordinance. It asked that landscaping, which would be transferred to the community development director’s discretion, be retracted to the DRC, objected to the removal of “public meeting” from the approval process, and wanted clarification on the meaning of some of the new language, specifically, “as appropriate.”

An Orange resident wondered just who was benefiting from these changes. “Developers? Builders? City staff? What benefit is there to residents?” he asked.

Another resident noted that, “Limiting the DRC focus to Old Towne and historic districts clearly tells Orange citizens this city council does not value any other area in Orange.”

The changes don’t increase efficiency. It degrades the quality of the city,” Ann McDermott, a DRC member, said. “Bringing this agenda item forward during COVID-19,” the Orange Park Association pointed out, “when the public is shut out of meaningful discussion for this important issue, undermines the spirit of good governance. Moreover, this is not an urgent issue.”

A hitch in the get along

The city council was clearly unprepared for any public back. Chip Monaco concentrated on the OPTA letter and wanted assurances from city staff that the association’s concerns had been addressed. He was told they had been.

Kim Nichols reported that, due to a death in the family, she didn’t have a chance to “dissect the details of the issue” and would welcome additional time to talk to staff.

Mike Alvarez admitted that during his due diligence he had not called any DRC members to discuss the item with them. He said he’d like the opportunity to do so and suggested the subject be continued until the next meeting.

“There is additional information to absorb,” Mayor Mark Murphy acknowledged. He referenced the “last minute” nature of the comments received and agreed that a continuance made sense. “I want to be comfortable with the changes being made here,” he said. “Maybe some were unintentional.”

“Continuance is a great idea,” Monaco agreed.

The DRC will be back on the council’s Oct. 13 agenda.

Viewpoint

“Design Review” continued from page 1

The DRC will be back on the council’s Oct. 13 agenda.

October 2020

Travelers along Santiago Canyon Road can’t help but notice the ironic juxtaposition of position signs and construction waste stockpiled with the consent of Orange City Hall.

See "Dump site" continued from page 1

county that it had issued “notice that it was operating an IDEFO” on Aug. 11, and that once notice is submitted, it is authorized to operate.

In a scalding Sept. 9 letter, County Counsel Massoud Shamel wrote that the facility is “anything but an IDEFO.” He noted that it “remains a disposal facility with respect to the large stockpiles of inert debris. It is the deposition of solid waste onto land, i.e., disposal.”

It’s not what you think

Shamel also found it “curious” and “contradictory” that Chandler/Milan would now take the position that the operation is an IDEFO and not a disposal facility. If that were the case, he posited, there would be no reason for Chandler/Milan to request a hearing on the merits of the permit revocation and “waste valuable government resources.”

Chandler/Milan insist that the site has continuously operated since 2013, and they have “co-ordinated with public agencies.” They insist the site has been and “remains subject to inspections and oversight by the City of Orange.” They blame LEA for mis-directing them to pursue an Inert Debris Type 2 Disposal Facility permit, which meant they needed to be listed on the city’s Non Disposal Facility Element (NDFE), not necessarily the county Siting Element.

County Counsel fired back, arguing that Chandler/Milan has not cooperated with LEA, that the agency has yet to receive any operating records and has no idea what is actually being dumped there. He pepped his letter with such phrases as “operating in total disregard,” “continuing operation without regard for law,” and “chronic pattern of noncompliance.”

Shamel found Chandler’s claims that its status as an IDEFO negate the need for a permit or adherence to the cease and desist order to be a “material misrepresentation.”

Too little, too late

LEA did not lead the operator to seek a city IDEFO, the county rebutted, but instead “guided them to those agencies” (Orange County Waste, CalRecycle) to seek assistance. Further, it wasn’t until the agency got involved that Chandler/Milan agreed to pursue a permit. “It would have continued its unauthorized operation had the LEA not got involved,” Shamel stressed.

Even if Chandler/Milan are now operating an inert debris engineering fill operation, the county asserts, that would be valid only from the date notice was filed. Everything stockpiled before that date is, LEA underscores, waste disposal. “Only new debris” could fail under the engineered fill designation. Mean- while, LEA continues to inspect the site frequently and notes that it is “merely stockpiling waste.”

Chandler/Milan are nonetheless sticking to the IDEFO story, arguing that the permit dust-up and cease and desist order are moot. They now claim that they “vol- untarily” returned the permit, and therefore “aroused” CalRecycle’s designation of the operation as an inert debris disposal facility.

Push back

County Counsel, once again, disagreed. In a Sept. 21 letter, Shamel reminded the operators that their permit was not voluntarily surrendered, but revoked and has nothing to do with the facility’s status.

Chandler/Milan’s legal argu- ment is, Shamel wrote, “namely, let’s forget that the facility was ever a disposal site, let’s get along and treat the facility as IDEFO, let’s let Chandler/Milan and Kirk manage all the solid waste that it has stockpiled for all these months and long before any IDEFO writ- ten notification was submitted to LEA, and let’s not enforce the law when it comes to Chandler/Rio Santiago and Milan.”

The hearing will be Oct. 8. LEA insists its focus is the protection of public health and the environment, and that, “Milan cannot take the position that they are entitled to continue their business and nothing should come in their way.”

Tustin Area Woman’s League presented a $250 donation to Working Wardrobes, to help the organization fund career training, work force readiness, job placement assistance and professional wardrobe services to veterans, the unemployed, victims of domestic violence and the homeless. From left, are TAWL President Barbara Grider; Jerrie Rosendell, director of Working Wardrobes; and Luannette Johnston, TAWL program chairman. Earlier in the year, a fire destroyed Working Wardrobes’ building and clothing inventory. Rosens reports that Working Wardrobes now has a new location.
Civic engagement
Registration deadline: Oct. 19

The deadline is the headline, especially for canyon residents eager to save Silverado-Modjeska Parks and Recreation District Board (SMRPD) member replacements for the nearly irreplaceable Tara Saraya (president) and indefatigable Francesca Duff (treasurer). The secretary position, two years remaining, was recently vacated, and will, by press time, likely have been filled via board appointment. In the race for the two positions on the ballot are Celeste Veerkamp, Julie “Rusty” Morris and Michelle Agopian of, respectively, Silverado, Silverado and Jackson Ranch. Veerkamp and Morris are running as a two-woman slate. In response to questions about motivation, residency, potential conflicts of interest and the Sil-Mod Plan, all three candidates expressed vigorous and unanimous support for our land-use bible. All affirmed their full-time residency and understanding of this government position’s expectations. Veerkamp credited her late neighbor and activist Connie Nelson with inspiring her candidacy. Morris noted her time here, citing purchase of her very first property on Shadybrook in 1976. Agopian, who described herself as spouse and mother, and horse lover is “running as a Silverado businesswoman.” All registered canyon voters will receive vote-by-mail ballots. SMRPD is, with the cooperation (sometimes non-cooperation, intervention or obliviousness) of the supervisors, our singular self-governance entity.

Failing grades
It’s certainly hard to shock longtime Modjeska resident Geoff Sarkissian, but here’s his response to news of illegal dumping on the 150-acre property at 17345 Santiago Canyon Road: “Look at the quantity—250,000 cubic yards, that’s an enormous pile of something.” Recent calls to county code enforcement about what might actually be the conclusion of a nearly 30-year saga involving investigation and prosecution of likely disposal of clean waste and construction materials, the landowner lately complying — perhaps over-conplying! — with required remediation. Ironically, multiple complaints regarding owner Peter Katelaris’ alleged naughtiness behavior were the result of high-volume clean-up efforts begun in early summer, including restoration and a revised plan to address the safety threat (including fire) and negative environmental impact on two canyons and a federally protected pond. Public Works has more patience with scofflaws than do locals, with Mo Canyon residents annoyed by earth moving, dredging and, yes, illegal legal grading day and night. Citation of this further violation moved, put intended, the landowner, who lives next door to the property, to speed up long overdue work.

Just add water
Residents might recall a disastrous December 2010 debris flow resulting from a tenant and absentee landowner on Modjeska Canyon Road who’d conspired to allow construction site dumping that destroyed the “downstream” property of Chris Riegel and Mary Nolan-Riegel. Landscaping and a Prius or two, and cost the county plenty to repair the road.

Wagner understands
Your (un)humble scribe faithfully reads those weekly titled email communications from our Third District Supervisor, a commitment to both civic engagement and staying amused. Don Wagner’s recent “Supervisor’s Scoop” (insert scatological humor here) didn’t disappoint, and led to an exchange for the ages, if your age is about 10, which would make you a fifth grader.

Here, the original, to which a reader (me) responded with a query about which teachers’ unions exactly provided Wagner (presumably via constituents) “conflicting information.”

“I understand many families and children are struggling out there with this situation, all of them determined to safely educate their children but getting conflicting information from the State, the media, and, often, the teachers’ unions.”

“I admire civic poetry, so reproduce in its entirety, the Scoopervisor’s response, noting a single reference to a faraway union with, of course, a reliable attack on the (Democratic) governor.”

“Your [sic] request clarity but seem to mistrust the sentence you quote. I did not say I have been provided conflicting information by teachers’ unions. I said families have been provided conflicting information. For example, the state originally said that schools were only going to be allowed to open on-line, and then allowed to open with waivers, and then allowed to open in person on Sept. 8, and now not allowed to open in person until Sept 22 – and that is only if the governor does not again change the rules. L.A. Unified School District board reportedly said there would be no reopening until a list of other demands were met, irrespective of whichever of the governor’s three reopening schemes was in place at the time. Meanwhile, local teachers’ unions were cooperating with the county on the waiver process. The media is reporting all of these differing and changing positions. Dan Walters published a very nice column this week in the Register outlining the governor’s three schemes rolled out during the pandemic. These are conflict internally [sic] with each other. So yes, families are struggling with conflicting information from the State, the media, and, often, the teachers’ unions.”

Perhaps, as your Canyon Beat reporter does, other constituents and their families will find comfort in the Supervisor’s insistence on conflicting information.

Mayoral candidate urges debate on Measure AA
Orange mayoral candidate Adrienne Gladson, at a virtual forum sponsored by the Orange Chamber of Commerce, challenged Mayor Mark Murphy to a debate on Measure AA, the ballot measure seeking voter approval for the embattled Santiago Creek Project.

“Since Measure AA did not come up,” Gladson said, “we need to talk about this measure — just the two of us. I’m ready to talk about this measure any day, any time. This is a critical issue on who people choose for mayor. We deserve to know the truth.”

Gladson, a former chair of the Orange Planning Commission and a certified city planner, has raised planning, safety, and mitigation concerns about the proposed Santiago Creek Project from the beginning.

Murphy declined the opportunity to debate the issue.

As an engineer, parent of three TUSD students and a PTO President, I will be ready to lead on Day 1.

Allison Damikolas
TUSD Board Member

Foothills Sentry

Villa Park Women’s League cultivates membership
By Betsy Little
The Baril’s lovely lawn was the setting for the VPWL 2020-21 kickoff General Meeting. Serned by Chris Arpad on his steel drums, members learned about small group league activities, including Petal Pushers garden group.

Third District Supervisor Don Wagner recognized Marie Steuber and Eva Wyszkowski-Hartman with proclamations honoring their service to VP – Community Service and Circle of Friendship awards, respectively. Frumpy Middle-Aged Mom Marla Jo Fisher will be the guest speaker at the Nov. 19 meeting. For information, see vpwl.org.
Arianna Barrios

As a lifelong resident and small business owner in District 1, I am passionate about Orange. I am running for City Council because it is my firm belief that serving my fellow residents is the highest form of community service. I’ve dedicated my life to volunteering in Orange, having served on the boards of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation of Orange, GOCAT Advisory Board, and Pitzer Park Community Foundation, among others. My goals, if elected, are to protect public safety, address homelessness and grow our economy in a way that balances the needs of small businesses and our residents’ quality of life. We have big challenges ahead, and we need new ideas and experienced leadership. I have a proven record delivering results on our community college board: refinancing bonds, negotiating with unions, protecting workforce development and supporting our veterans. My record and experience earned me bipartisan endorsements from Orange’s trusted leaders: former Mayors Tita Smith and Carolyn Cavecche, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Alvarez, RSCCD Trustee John Hanna and OUSD Trustee Andrea Yamasaki. I would be honored to have your vote.

David Vazquez

I am a husband and father who wants to ensure Orange’s future is secured for my children and generations of Orange residents to come. That’s why I’m running for City Council. I am not a career politician. As an Orange Planning Commissioner and educator, with a master’s of public administration, I will always work to protect and enhance the historical charm of Old Towne. Public safety is my top priority, and I will ensure that we have the resources necessary to protect our community and keep us safe. This includes addressing homelessness in a sensible way that maintains the safety of our neighborhoods and parks. The current pandemic has hurt our local economy, and I will work to help small businesses weather this storm and create new jobs. I will also protect your taxpayer dollars and maintain a balanced budget. I am proud to be endorsed by Orange Mayor Mark Murphy; Councilmembers Kim Nichols and Chip Monaco; Orange County Supervisor Don Wagner; Former Councilmember Fred Whitaker; community leaders John Aust, Doug & Susie Willis, Ernie Glasgow and Orange taxpayers. votedavidvazquez.com

Eugene Fields

I am an educator, the son and grandson of veterans and working-class Americans. My wife and I were married in District 1. Our daughter was born here. As a husband and father, I’m extremely concerned about maintaining the quality of life residents in Orange are accustomed to. The COVID-19 pandemic has shuttered local businesses and caused historic job losses. Homelessness is an unresolved epidemic. Crime is on the rise. We must protect our community’s health, safety and quality of life. As an award-winning reporter for the Orange City News, my work included examining budgets, new laws, and labor negotiations. A good journalist is much like a good elected representative: asking tough questions, doing homework on issues, being responsive to concerns and criticisms. Those skills served me well in my three years on the OCTA Taxpayer Oversight Committee, monitoring the use of Measure M funds. If elected, I promise to bring those skills to the City Council. I am passionate about making our town a better place for our families. I humbly ask for your vote. To learn more, visit: eugenefororange.com

Christian Vaughan

My name is Christian Vaughan. I’ve lived in this beautiful city for over 20 years. My wife and I are blessed to raise our children here. I’ve dedicated my adult life to public service, having served eight years in the Army and the last 23 years in law enforcement. As a detective, I’m a court-certified expert in domestic violence and elder abuse. I’ve served as an Orange traffic commissioner for the last nine years. I obtained a master’s degree in public administration. As an educator and certified law enforcement instructor, I teach many of today’s youth at the college level. Orange continues to need poised, reliable leadership in order to maintain the quality of life we all enjoy. As a fiscal conservative, I am dedicated to maintaining our public safety, historic traditions and community values through partnership and collaboration with residents, business owners, community organizations and city employees. I am committed to providing confident, dependable leadership that the people of Orange and District 1 deserve. For more information, visit VoteVaughan.com. I humbly ask for your vote!
I've dedicated my life to public service: former police officer, state investigator, park ranger, code enforcement officer, city urban planner, and planning commissioner here in Orange. I'm known for being an honest and ethical office holder. As a planning commissioner, I fought for my community against abusive developments and for the preservation of our city's neighborhoods. I supported affordable housing and veterans. As an office holder, I know the seat is not mine. It's yours. I'm simply holding it for you. My public record attests to my word. I've lived in my neighborhood for two decades; I know the needs of our community and I've made myself available to residents to listen to their concerns. I plan to develop a program for children to be academic achievers, which will allow them to enrich our community more and to bring in new businesses. Help me to help you. Vote for a man with proven integrity who has an economic plan for our city. Vote for Daniel Correa on Nov. 3. My education: AA, BA, BS, and MPA. “Most Popular Planning Commissioner” [Daniel Correa], Foothills Sentry, December 2018. danielcorrea.org

My name is Martin Varona. I am from Orange and for Orange. I am a licensed civil engineer, husband, first-generation American, and product of Orange public schools. It is past due for our elected leaders to take a bold and modern approach to local government. Communities of Orange's District 2 have seldom had adequate representation on the council, and I seek to put our residents in a position to benefit from equitable local initiatives. Through my working-class upbringing and experience at an elite graduate program, I developed the grit, resilience and knowledge to connect with the diverse perspectives of our community. A community whose diversity is exemplified in Orange’s District 2. People like me have historically been underrepresented in the Orange City Council, and it is time that changed. If elected, I will seek to make the local economy and government more inclusive and accessible, address the climate crisis, and reprioritize our budget to reflect our commitment to people over politics. Vote early, starting Oct. 5. Vote Varona! Visit www.varonafororange.com.

I was born and raised in Orange and it has been my honor to have previously served as a Councilman. In my previous service I brought forward eight balanced budgets while increasing our Police and Fire Department staffing. I kept my promise to fight tax and fee increases while working to bring additional parks, community events and programs for seniors. I will continue to battle attempts at undermining your Prop 13 protections. I will use my experience to lead Orange in these troubling times and continue to fight for a safe and financially secure city. My 29 years of service with the Orange County Fire Authority gives me experience that cannot be matched in public safety, and I am endorsed by Orange City Firefighters. My goal is to make Orange the safest city in California and never tolerate another crisis like the Santa Ana River homeless encampments. My vision for Orange is one of respect for our Police Officers, honoring our culture and working together for expansion of businesses and job creation. I would be honored to earn your vote, and together we will keep Orange the best city to live, work and raise a family. www.jondumitru.com

My name is Caroline Alatorre, and I am proud to have been born and raised in District 2 of Orange. As the daughter of working-class immigrants, my parents instilled in me the cornerstone of being a good citizen is valuing democracy and education. Under my leadership, I will continue upholding community-based financial controls and accountability. I value supporting strong Public Safety addressing crimes related to the homeless crisis, along gangs and graffiti. I will fight for our fair share of Public Works projects and improvements while proposing sensible sustainability modeled solutions towards our lack of affordable housing; including reparation to our budget deficit. Our district has been underserved and underrepresented in the past, now is our chance to have someone from our neighborhood represent us. I want to be your advocate and representative at City Hall. I am ready to stir up some “good trouble” dissenting loudly against toxic policies that negatively impact our neighborhoods. Please vote Caroline Alatorre for Orange City Council, District 2. “Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.” - Ruth Bader Ginsburg
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Adrienne Gladson
Orange Mayor
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Vote for Ana. V ote Russo for new responsible and traditional leadership, while we continue the historical tradi-
Adrienne Gladson

It’s time for change! Let’s re-boot and raise the bar.
I’ve lived in Orange for 34 years and own a home near Grisalva Park. I am a small business owner, city planner, graduate of Leadership Orange, past president of the Orange Community Historical Society, and I’ve served you nearly 12 years on the Planning Commission and Design Review Committee.

My top priority is to keep Orange safe and feeling secure. My vision includes expanding business, growing the city responsibly, reducing traffic, improving code enforcement, and addressing our open space deficit and aging infrastructure.

I enjoy solving problems. I’m fiscally responsible, and will protect our neighborhoods and quality of life. High density has its place, not within single-family neighborhoods.

I believe in a higher calling and doing what’s right. I’ll rely on facts, fairness, excellence, community input, and move the city we all love forward.

Orange stands at a crossroads. What is your hope and vision for the future? If you want change, no obligations to outside influences that hold us back, I humbly ask for your vote.

gladsonfororange.com

Mark A. Murphy

Occupation: Mayor, City of Orange / Businessman
Born and raised in Orange, it is my privilege to serve as your mayor and councilman. Together, we have worked to increase fiscal responsibility while maintaining our strong police and fire departments. I have kept my pledge to fight taxes (protecting Prop 13) while securing additional resources to support residents and businesses during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I ask for your support to elect me as your mayor. We will continue to fight for a safe, financially secure community. My career in business gives me the practical experience to lead Orange through these challenging times.

Our city can only accommodate responsible growth. We must reduce traffic congestion, address our homelessness issue and preserve the history of our great city.

With your help, we will keep Orange among the best communities while teaming with our schools to benefit our kids with programs and opportunities. My service has earned the endorsements of Supervisor Don Wagner, Mayor Tita Smith, Councilmembers KimNichols, Mike Alvarez and Char Monaco, City of Orange Police Association and the Orange City Firefighters. markamurphy.com

Your Voice Fighting for Families In District 5

Ana Gutierrez

Orange City Council District 5

VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 3rd

anafororange.com

SCC students chronicle COVID experience

By Kathy Hall

It began as an English class assignment at Santiago Canyon College: learn how to conduct historical research using first-person accounts from letters, essays, journals and diaries. It ended as a published book of students’ accounts of their experiences confronting COVID-19.

The book, “Echoes of the Canyon,” is a compilation of letters, journal entries, short stories, and poems written by over 100 English Department students and students participating in the spring 2020 Umooja Learning Community.

Some wrote about friends and family members lost to the pandemic, while others described their daily, self-imposed decontamination rituals designed to keep elderly or pregnant relatives safe from the virus. All had their college year disrupted by the move from in-class to remote instruction. Many faced complicating circumstances.

The students are donating all net profits from its sale to the Hawk’s Nest Food Pantry at Santiago Canyon College.

For more information on the book or to purchase copies, go to sccollege.edu/echoes.
Dear Editor:

We will clearly state, once again, that not only do we not support homes to be built north of the creek, we do not want homes to be built anywhere on the Milan-owned toxic dump site wherever it is located. Please incorporate this letter into the official record.

Stephanie Lesinski
Michelle Duman
Mabury Ranch

It Ain’t Broken

Dear Editor:

As a long-time homeowner in Orange, I am alarmed at the proposed changes to the Design Review Committee. The proposed changes weaken the existing protections of historic buildings and landscaping, and provide opportunities for developers to destroy architectural integrity not only in historic districts, but throughout the city. There has been no opportunity for the public to voice its concerns over these changes that impact the look of our city for years. The idea that a member doesn’t even need to live or work in Orange for Orange, is unconscionable. The Design Review Committee that impacts our town will be unworthy of public trust.

I strongly urge the council to invite the public to voice its concerns upon approval of the ordinance. We, prospective committee members who will haunt this community for a very long time, believe it threatens to reduce the committee to a rabble of unqualified and badly connected “insiders” as happens in so many other jurisdictions. Orange is unique from all California cities, in that design review in this town is professional, independent and creditable. Prospective committee members care about all aspects of the community. As an architect, Ordinance 13-20, Strategic Plan Goal #5 will be reviscous—-not strengthened as the Planning Commission claims. This ordinance is nothing less than an attempt to silence independent architectural voices who seek to preserve the integrity of our community.

Just to be clear, adopting this ordinance favors “speedy” application of thoughtless growth; favors developers over long-term livability; and sacrifices community aesthetics on the altar of expediency. If you adopt Ordinance 13-20 NOT is the best way to do it.

Rick Fox

We the People

Many people in the Milan camp are feeling frustrated. Who are those people opposing the re-zone?

The people of Orange are a community. We are a major university, praised for its diversity. We are homeowners and renters in downtown Orange who live in quiet neighborhoods, on shady tree-lined streets, reminiscent of a bygone era in America. We post signs in our yards, proclaiming “A Hero Lives Here” and “Orange Strong.” We are the residents who are proud of the best police and fire departments in the state, continuing to support in our city. We are the Elks, the Knights of Columbus, the Women’s League, and many other organizations that make Orange the great city that it is. We are the residents of the west side, the people who work for the Gas Company, Edison, AT&T, and hundreds of other businesses, and we are proud of our neighbor- hoods.

We are the residents of Orange Park Acres, who provide over 25 miles of trails for equestrian, mountain biking, and hiking — all at no cost to our city residents. We are the residents of Orange, "It Ain’t Broke..." and a myriad of other offensive names that Milan, and its chief spokesperson on social media, has called us. Who are we, a group of concerned citizens who do not support a big-money investment company trying to uproot and destroy our community? We are the residents of Orange who all know that Milan has been con- ducting an illegal and unregulat- ed dump site proclamations for years on the former Sully-Miller site. This company, in violation of legal cease and de- sist orders from the county and state, continues to dump daily.

That is who Milan is ... that is who we are, and the citizens of Orange will support in Novem- ber’s election. Please, vote “no” to anything that would negatively affect the environment.

John Reina

Letters continued on page 11

Dear Editor:

For whatever reason, our city doesn’t take these laws seriously, as I have made several requests that have not been fulfilled in a timely manner. The staff doesn’t get to decide what to provide and what to withhold.

In addition, permits have been applied for on land designated as open space, with no environment- al impact statement being required. Where is the transparency that the city’s web- site proclaims is a core principle?

Bonnie Robinson

Orange

We the People

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Gary Johnson
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Dear Editor:
I have lived in the City of Orange almost all my life. I went to school here, got married, bought a home here, and now I own a business here and have to say something. Orange is not the same city I grew up in. I’ve always loved Orange, and I still do. But lately, I am seeing a difference in the way our city is being run.
Specifically, I wish to address the issue of a seemingly endless change of plans for the Sully-Miller dumpsite. This former golf course and community development proposal of the twenty-first century is development of the twenty-first century. All citizens are aware of the saga. For years, the Sully-Miller dumpsite has been Sites for the site to be used as a landfill. Everyone knows that the property has been declared an eyesore for the whole city, where there is a need to keep it free of development. The property was supposed to be used as a public park, but it was never built as such. The city has failed to keep the property clean and free of development, and it has become a liability for the city. The city has failed to keep the property clean and free of development, and it has become a liability for the city.
I have felt sick at the misleading ads that have presented the prospective citizens of the development in the Sully-Miller dumpsite as the “go to plan” for development. A close look at our community and our city council that is choosing to overlook the facts.
I am tired of being lied to by our city council and mayor don’t seize this opportunity to do what is right and best for the city and its inhabitants — then maybe it’s time for us citizens to vote them out of office when the time comes. As long as the city council and mayor continue to operate it, despite the eyesore it is today! They allowed the property to become closed down the site. The developer, the planning commission, and the city council have reverted to open space. But the former manager of the Sully-Miller dumpsite, it was 2000 when it was closed, and the city of Orange was the legal owner of the property, the planning commission and the city council made the decision to close it.

Orange

Candidates Cornered

Dear Editor:
Thank you for publishing the OUSD candidate statements. One stuck out to me as particularly troublesome. Angie Schlueter-Rumsey is running for a seat in the Orange County Board of Education. She has not listed her experience or qualifications. She did not list her experience or qualifications. She did not list her experience or qualifications.

Dr. Barbara Doty

The ‘candy season’ of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas is the perfect time to encourage your children to get into the habit of eating healthy snacks and avoiding sugary treats. Children love sweet things, and candy can be a tasty treat. However, it is important to encourage moderation and limit the amount of candy consumed. Here are some tips to help children enjoy the season while making healthy choices:

1. Set limits: Establish a limit of how many pieces of candy your child can eat in one day.
2. Plan ahead: Plan for how you will handle leftover candy, such as giving it to a neighbor or donating it to a food bank.
3. Make healthy choices: Encourage children to try fruit, nuts, or other healthy snacks instead of candy.
4. Teach moderation: Teach children about moderation and portion control.
5. Be a role model: Set a good example by eating healthy snacks yourself.

Remember, moderation is key!

Nancy Jo Albers
Orange
By J.P. McDermott

As a citizen homeowner in the City of Orange, I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Ordinance 11-20, severely limiting the scope of the Design Review Committee (DRC). The impetus behind these changes appears to be an effort to fast-track projects for well-connected developers, regardless of whether these projects have on the city and its many diverse neighborhoods. This is troubling.

Since the 1970s, the DRC and its predecessors have served the citizens of Orange, reviewing architectural projects throughout the city. The DRC protects the unique character of all of our neighborhoods, while maintaining a vital business community. The committee’s discussions and decisions have been transparent, carried out in public meetings.

Now the city wants to take, essentially, all authority from the DRC and vest it in a single city employee, the Community Development Director (CDD). The revised ordinance deletes language requiring that approval of projects be made at a public meeting. The DRC will no longer review any project, except those in the historic districts. Even in Old Towne and the Eichler neighborhoods, the DRC will be without real authority, limited to making recommendations rather than determinations.

We will be vesting all of this power in an unknown quantity. The current CDD has served the city well, but has announced his retirement coincident with the passage of these changes.

The new CDD will be responsible for the initial design decisions on every project in the city; his or her job will be on the line with every decision.

The design of the built environment, including architecture, landscaping, signage, and streetscape is a major contributor to the quality of life in our city. Whether in Old Towne, on Tustin Street, off Katella Avenue or anywhere in Orange, having significant projects reviewed by a qualified committee of citizens in open public meetings is surely good governance, and a service to the community. The DRC is motivated to see well-designed projects built. Projects that come to the DRC with designs that are sensitive and compatible with their surroundings are usually approved.

While this sweeping change is positioned as a focus on historic districts, a citizen-empowered design review function was established long before anything was designated as historic in Orange. The DRC’s original and most important work is citywide. Large-scale development in Orange is often right up against a residential neighborhood. Whether it’s a multi-story senior living center or the enormous new development on the last big parcel of open space, these projects should be reviewed by design professionals in a public forum. These projects need review to ensure thoughtful design and compatibility, not less. “Streamlining” to get these projects approved quickly, quietly, and out of the public eye is not in the interest of anyone but the developers.

The city has to keep some semblance of a DRC to maintain its National Historic designations, even if it has no real teeth. Old Towne and the Eichler districts are not well protected in these revisions, and protecting them is important. However, it is not the only important thing.

Removing a committee of qualified citizen reviewers from the planning process might serve developers, but it does not serve the people of the City of Orange.

J.P. McDermott is a resident of Old Towne Orange and a management professional. His wife, Anne, is a member of the DRC.
Foothills Sentry
Page 13

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Orange celebrates Festifall in City Hall

The City of Orange invites children and families to wear costumes, bring a decorated pumpkin for the pumpkin patch and celebrate Festifall at City Hall. Pose for photos in the fall-themed photo booth, make your way through the fun maze, and take home a fall craft kit. Drop in hours at City Hall, 300 E. Chapman, will be Fri., Oct. 23, 3 to 6 p.m.; Sat. and Sun., Oct. 24-25, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Mon. to Thurs., Oct 26-29, 3 to 6 p.m. Face coverings, social distancing and all COVID guidelines will apply.

Please Support Your Local Small Businesses!
Troop 850 inducts four new Eagles

Despite the impacts of COVID-19, Griffin Dwyer, Joseph Ettipio of Boy Scout Troop 850 have earned their Eagle rank. This brings the number of Eagle Scouts in Troop 850 to 118, an amazing accomplishment considering that Scouting’s highest honor is achieved only by six percent of those who join the organization.

Dwyer’s Eagle project was a large bird wingspan information kiosk built at the San Joaquin Duck Club. The kiosk includes the wingspan, name, and shape information of six different-sized birds. His college plans include a major in biology and possibly playing lacrosse at the collegiate level.

Ettipio’s Eagle project includes a memorial garden at Salem Lutheran Church that included installing a brick pad, and planting landscaping. After completing high school, he plans to attend college, concentrating on biology and business.

Troop 850 is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Villa Park and meets every Tuesday evening for its meeting. Twelve businesses were recognized at its Aug. 25 meeting. Twelve businesses re-

OUSD students rank nationally

Four Orange Unified School District seniors were named as semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

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Over 500 households of the Orange California Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints viewed a virtual conference as new leadership, Orange California Stake President Ben Olson (center) and his counselors Shawn Hansen (left) and Brad Zimmerman, were pre-

Villa Park initiated Phase 2 of its business recovery grant program, using $71,194 of state funding. Awards of up to $5,000 were distributed to small busi-

On November 3rd, vote for Melissa Fox for State Assembly 2020

Melissa Fox is an Orange County native, attorney, small businesswoman, and mother who currently serves on the Irvine City Council. Melissa is supported by local firefighters, nurses, teachers, and grocery store workers because she is dedicated to keeping our Orange County communities safe.

MEASURE AA

Vote No on Measure AA

2020-2021 Orange Acres Back Breakers 4-H Club

Our Program Year is Beginning! Sign-ups Starting Now.

General Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, currently virtual on Zoom. Project offerings vary by year.

4-H is an organization for youth ages 5-19 that promotes hands-on, experiential learning, leadership development, and public speaking skills. 4-H welcomes youth members and adult volunteers from all backgrounds and all locations. The local clubs are run by youth, and by youth, with adult advisers. The organization is administered through the University of California's Orange County Cooperative Extension.

What is 4-H?

4-H is an organization for youth ages 5-19 that promotes hands-on, experiential learning, leadership development, and public speaking skills. 4-H welcomes youth members and adult volunteers from all backgrounds and all locations. The local clubs are run by youth, and by youth, with adult advisers. The organization is administered through the University of California’s Orange County Cooperative Extension.
By Stephanie Lesinski

Last fall, Orange residents packed city council chambers to voice their opposition to the 128-home Trails at Santiago Creek development on the former Sully-Miller site. Residents told council members it wasn’t responsible to put homes near a flood plain, in a high-risk fire area, next to a methane-emitting landfill.

They urged council not to change the “resource/open space” designation of the General Plan, which prohibits houses on the site. They wanted long-standing community plans upheld that designate the land as “open space.” Ignoring those concerns, council members — Mark Murphy, Chip Monaco, Kim Nichols and Mike Alvarez — voted unanimously to change the General Plan to “residential,” paving the way for the large housing development at the already traffic-jammed intersection of Santiago Canyon Road and Canyon Street.

Residents fought back. In just 27 days, more than 13,000 Orange voters signed a referendum to put the issue on the ballot this November. Only 7,001 signatures were needed. This should have come as no surprise to city council. It was the third referendum drive in recent history. Cities, and ultimately, taxpayers, bear the cost of validating referendum signatures.

In Orange, that cost was $27,916. Cities rack up even greater costs when issues go to litigation. Attorney Charles Krolikowski says, in a word, litigation “can cost cities hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps a million dollars, or more.”

If a citizen group sues, it can cost cities hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps a million dollars, or more. Krolikowski says it can cost cities hundreds of thousands of dollars. “The greater costs when issues go to litigation.” Attorney Charles Krolikowski had called the city’s response to a petition asking how cities can avoid litigating “inaccuracies” in the EIR. During the second reading, Councilmember Denise Barros was the swing vote that stopped the project from moving forward. “When residents keep showing up, citing the same concerns and sharing the view that the process is unfair, then it is clear we are not offering assurance to residents who trust us to make decisions that impact our long-term quality of life,” said Barnes. Council voted 3-3 to deny rezoning. It would have taken four votes to uphold it. Anaheim Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Faessel, who voted in favor of the development, is up for election, as is Barnes, who voted against it.

Showdown coming to Orange

Meanwhile, the battle rages on in Orange. The group Orange Citizens challenged the validity of the EIR by filing a lawsuit against the city and the developer, Milan Capital. After the successful referendum drive, Orange City Council had the same option to rescind its vote and extend the olive branch to angry citizens. Instead, it voted to put on the ballot, fouling outside heading into November, when Mayor Mark Murphy is up for reelection and several new district seats are to be decided.

One of those is District 3, located north of Collin’s Avenue and west of Tustin Street. This district hosts a popular recreation center at the Peralta School site that residents fought to keep when OUSD tried to sell the property to a developer. Current Mayor Pro Tem Mike Alvarez terms out in November, but is running anyway in District 3, in defiance of the more than 80 percent of Orange voters that voted for term limits.

“We are becoming more ac
tive in politics,” warned Helvig. “You have to listen to the people you represent, or you’re not going to be there anymore.”

Stefanie Lesinski is a resident of Mabury Ranch.
By Laura Thomas

Owning a business in Orange, living in Orange, serving with the Chamber of Commerce, and being actively involved with community issues has given me a unique vantage point of city hall, the city council, and the community at large.

Our city is at a crossroads, especially as we transition into the district elections mandated by the court. Residents are upset by a long list of grievances that include short-term rentals, changes to the Design Review Committee, Chapman expansion, potential land-use changes for the mall on Chapman expansion, potential land-use changes for the mall on Tustin Avenue, and, not the least, the dumpsite at the former Sully-Miller site.

I have witnessed three major mistakes made by our city council over the years, and I am perplexed that the resulting consequences have never been connected to these council errors:

1. The city council reversed the planning commission’s decision to close the Sully-Miller site. In 2002, the planning commission voted to shut down the Sully-Miller site. The landowner, Hansen, appealed to the city council and proposed to continue operations for three years and then shut it down. But in 2003, the city council reversed the planning commission decision and allowed the operation to continue without accepting Hansen’s offer to close the site in three years. Both Mark Murphy and Mike Alvarez were on the council. Had the city council simply accepted Hansen’s proposal, the entire mess that has transpired on the site would have been avoided.

2. The city council updated the General Plan but ignored all of East Orange, including its responsibility to address the proper land use of the Sully-Miller site since mining had ceased. This was the obvious time to reclaim the land to its former state and ensure that the zoning remained consistent with the open space vision of our General Plan and the Santiago Greenbelt Plan by rezoning it open space. The majority of the site is designated “Resource” in our General Plan. Resource allows for mining, agriculture and open space. But, nowhere in our General Plan does it support changing the resource designation to “Housing” despite assertions otherwise by developers.

3. The city council was not active on district elections. There is confusion as to why the city council was forced to increase to seven members with voting by districts. In 2017, the city was notified that it was in violation of the California Voting Rights Act.

The consequence of this shortsighted decision has allowed the site to illegally convert into a dumpsite, which city hall condemned. For over 12 years, residents have had to endure Milán’s bad behavior. Citizens are fed up with the council’s lack of leadership and have taken matters into their own hands. The county and the state have now intervened.

2. The city council updated the General Plan but failed to include East Orange.

In 2005, our city started the General Plan update but ignored all of East Orange, including its responsibility to address the proper land use of the Sully-Miller site since mining had ceased. This was the obvious time to reclaim the land to its former state and ensure that the zoning remained consistent with the open space vision of our General Plan and the Santiago Greenbelt Plan by rezoning it open space. The majority of the site is designated “Resource” in our General Plan. Resource allows for mining, agriculture and open space. But, nowhere in our General Plan does it support changing the resource designation to “Housing” despite assertions otherwise by developers.

The consequence of this shortsighted decision has created unnecessary conflict, confusion and uncertainty. It has forced citizens to fight city hall and exercise their referendum rights to put Measure AA on the ballot.

3. The city council was not proactive on district elections.

There is confusion as to why the city council was forced to increase to seven members with voting by districts. In 2017, the city was notified that it was in violation of the California Voting Rights Act.

However, the city council was forced to address the issue head on. In fact, it exacerbated the situation when faced with a vacant council seat by setting up a special election in 2019, which got canceled by the courts.

The consequences of the council’s insensitivity and lack of inclusion resulted in a lawsuit against the city to instate voting by districts to protect the interests of Latinos. The costs to the city were $340,000 just for the plaintiff’s attorney fees. The subsequent change failed to include term limits for which Orange residents voted to enforce in 1996. And now, Mike Alvarez, who has termed out, is running for re-election.

Our city is in turmoil. Citizens are angry as they watch developers drive the issues in our town, with little concern for residents and our quality of life. The consequences of these shortsighted decisions need to be reversed. The only way to do that is a change of leadership. We have new people stepping up and are willing to serve without pay. I recommend we stay away from recycled politicians and vote in community-minded leaders for our city council.

Laura Thomas has been an Orange resident for 38 years. She served two terms as president of the Orange Park Association.
Foothill High School junior Natalie Salvatierra is no stranger to giving back, and during the pandemic, she took things to the next level with Solely Sunshine—a platform for sharing notes of encouragement to those who need it most.

Back in May, Natalie noticed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantining, many people were struggling with anxiety and mental health more than usual. Because of this, she started Solely Sunshine as a way to spread “sunshine” to those who are suffering with a mental health condition. Natalie began this initiative by asking her personal Instagram followers to write letters, and since then, Solely Sunshine has grown into an online platform that allows anyone around the world to submit an encouraging letter and make a difference within minutes. To date, Natalie has received and sent nearly 1,000 letters to people in 32 states and 35 countries across the globe.

Baskin-Robbins named her a Pint-Sized Hero, an honorific that celebrates the acts of kindness initiated by young people nationwide.

To celebrate her contributions, the Baskin-Robbins Joy in Childhood Foundation is treating Natalie to a year of free ice cream and paying her good deeds forward with a $5,000 donation shared between the local charities of her choice, CHOC Mental Health Facility and the Assistance League of Tustin.

OUUSD reconfigures for safe reopening

OUSD is taking extensive safety precautions to protect students and teachers, reconfiguring rooms, installing plexiglass dividers, signage and sanitizer stations and disinfecting high-touch areas, such as door handles. Teachers Courtney Silveira and Maurine Tombrello gave their second-grade students’ plexiglass a creative twist.

AA Stands for Another Attempt to mislead voters!
HERE IS WHAT THE DEVELOPER IS NOT SHOWING YOU

Don’t be fooled by the open space propaganda.
This will be a large housing development on a very congested and dangerous street in Orange.

Please join more than 13,000 Orange voters who signed the referendum.
Only you can stop this by voting “NO on AA” on November 3rd.

Ad paid for by Orange Citizens to Keep Orange Safe, opposing Measure AA #1428860
To View Superintendent’s Video
HERE


to help thin-out crowds; masks are recommended. To lighting effects, props, special effects and live actors. More tickets are sold for each show. For photos and info, see Piratescavehaunt.wixsite.com.

Villa Park is again sponsoring a flu shot clinic in conjunction with the Orange County Health Department.

Free flu shots will be available on a first come, first served basis from 3 to 7 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 7 in Villa Park City Hall. No appointment is necessary, masks are required and all must adhere to social distancing protocols. Only 200 vaccines will be available. Registered nurses from CHOC will administer the shots, volunteering their time to provide this free service to residents.

To help thin-out crowds; masks are recommended. To lighting effects, props, special effects and live actors. More tickets are sold for each show. For photos and info, see Piratescavehaunt.wixsite.com.

To help thin-out crowds; masks are recommended. To lighting effects, props, special effects and live actors. More tickets are sold for each show. For photos and info, see Piratescavehaunt.wixsite.com.
By Douglas Westfall, National Historian

The watershed of the Santiago Creek encompasses over 100 square miles of the Santa Ana Mountains and has 10 major tributaries throughout its course. The creek is harnessed by two upstream dams, but is still subject to periodic flooding. Until recently, there was an additional safety valve, an open flood plane bordering Santiago Canyon Road and Cannon Street. For years, that property was a sand and gravel mine, some 500 feet across and one mile long. Undeveloped, it gave Santiago Creek a place to spread out and slow down when it overflowed its banks. Now it is filled high with construction waste that would effectively block any overflow from the creek. Without that buffer, a raging Santiago Creek would threaten Villa Park and Orange.

The last catastrophic Santiago Creek flood was in 1969. What are the chances it could happen again? There are three factors to consider: rainfall, heavy rain frequency and water storage. Over the past 140 years, the average rainfall in Orange County has been 14½ inches. Since then, every quarter-century shows averages of 14 to 16 inches, and the area has cracked 30 inches of seasonal rainfall five times since record-taking began. The last time was in the 2004-05 season, when we received 31 inches of rain between November and February. We’ve had 125 percent above average rainfall, 40 times in the 140 years with an average span of just three years in between. During the flood of 1969, we had 16 to 27 inches for three years — all back-to-back. Through our recent drought starting in 2012, we had four consecutive years ranging from 5 to 9 inches ending in 2015 — all back-to-back again, and all way below average. Yet in the fifth year ending with 2016, we hit almost 21 inches, then had two low years of 4 inches each but reboarded the next year with near 21 inches again.

The Santiago Reservoir, known as Irvine Lake, is often full. The dam, opened in 1931, is compacted earth with a rock fill. It holds up to 38,800 acre-feet of water, or more than 12 billion gallons. This represents two-thirds of the watershed — with but one foot of rain. The Villa Park Dam is usually kept low to allow a back-up system for the Irvine Lake. It holds 15,600 acre-feet, or 40 percent of the total volume of Irvine Lake. Together, the dams are there to contain 84 square miles of runoff. At even one-foot depth of water, that represents nearly 54,000 acre-feet — or exactly what the two reservoirs hold together.

When the two reservoirs overflowed in 1969, they could not contain the 84 square miles of water surface — which was far above the one-foot level. The sand and gravel mine site helped contain the Santiago water flow by allowing the creek to spread out. And there is one more thing. There is a 1½-mile-long earthquake fault directly under the Santiago earth-filled dam. No one could have known it was there when the dam was constructed, and for over 40 years, it went undetected. If a large earthquake should ever happen in the area — especially in winter — all 12 billion gallons of Irvine Lake will immediately fill the Villa Park Reservoir. The remaining 60 percent of that water will bypass the former floodplain relief valve and flood Orange Park Acres, Villa Park and Orange until it reaches the Santa Ana River. If the rainfall is heavy, the Santa Ana River will already be overflowing.

Santiago Creek is a great resource to the northern Orange County area, in the way of preservation, recreation and history. Yet it can be a raging torrent, taking out roads, homes and bridges. We should really consider just staying out of its way.

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Foothills Sentry October 2020
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A FEMA map shows the flood plain (blue and red stripes) where Santiago Creek overruns its banks. A torrent of Santiago Creek floodwater took out a road in 1969.

An earthquake fault, discovered in 1973, runs directly beneath the earthen Santiago Dam. Flood waters invade Hart Park.

Santiago Creek safety valve should not be overlooked

Douglas Westfall has authored numerous books on Orange history. His latest, Santiago Creek, is available at specialbooks.com
Welcome to October
Goblins and ghouls may be knocking on your door

Being a local realtor for over 18 years, I've seen my share of scary things in the Real Estate world. This month, I want to alert you to prepare yourself for some of those scary monsters, especially if you’re in the market to possibly purchase or sell residential property. As this article is written, we are still dealing with low inventories and high competition. In our local market, with Orange hovering at around 100 properties for sale. That alone is a little scary if you wanted to take your time and leisurely make offers on homes that are hot. Yes, we’ve had some extremely hot weather, but that hasn’t seemed to slow down the buyers in any way as multiple offers continue to be made on homes priced right and with desirable features. One of the most important things to prepare yourself for, if you’re hoping to dive into the real estate market, is Father Time. You see, time is very unpredictable, both with the purchase and the sale. If you’re a buyer looking in the hottest of price ranges, you’ll have to be fully prepared to possibly make a purchase immediately or take the risk of being too late to the show. And if you’re the seller, by pricing it right, you just might find yourself in that multiple offer situation, where the “scary” that comes into play is the time. If you’re fortunate to get into escrow quickly -- as either the buyer or seller -- be prepared for longer time frames in almost all aspects of the sale. Home inspection may take longer than expected; and most importantly, loans may take much longer than anticipated.

So as we head into the fourth quarter of the year, remember to allow for delays in time and if you do, that might just help you avoid some of the horrors during this season. Check back again next month, and have a Happy Halloween -- Mwahhahaha!

The Villa Park High School track is now, after several glitches, open for student practices.

Locals pivot to provide affordable music lessons

The Inside Voice was a back-yard idea of husband and wife duo, Travis and Molly Webb. As the founders of Molly’s Music, one of the largest music schools in the county, they were concerned about the accessibility of music lessons. As schools have cut music programs, parents have little choice but to seek out private lessons for their children.

The Webbs, born and raised in Orange, have watched thousands of parents themselves, know that many families don’t have the time, money or transportation available to send their children to expensive private lessons.

“We really bothered Travis was the fact that, when he was a kid, there was no way his parents could afford to send him to lessons at a school like ours,” Molly Webb explains. “He wanted to figure out a way to provide high-quality lessons, at a price a working-class family could afford.”

Thus, the Inside Voice was born. It provides a combination of live lessons, either online or at one of the studios, and “pocket lessons,” a video exchange, in which the instructor sends back a picture-in-picture video giving advice on a song.

In addition, the student is provided professionally produced videos on a variety of topics, including vocal exercises, personalized backing tracks, contests, workshops, and both virtual and in-person performance opportunities. For information, see theinsidevoice.org.

Meet Burt! He is a purr-fect lover boy who adores being petted while he walks back and forth on your lap. It’s unanimous that this big, gentle and playful boy is as sweet as they come. Burt would make a great friend for your current cat, but he is what we call a follower -- if your kitty is friendly, he will be friendly. But if your kitty is shy, he will shy too -- he’s a true copycat. He would be OK as a single feline, but he does really well with other cats. Burt would love to have a cat pal at his fur-ever home, as he loves to watch the world go by from up high. When he is comfortable, he will enjoy toys and keep himself occupied in between catnaps. For information about Burt, or any other adoptable cats, contact OC Small Paws at (714) 831-4290 or, the faster way to bring your new family member home, is to email ocsp.adoptions@gmail.com, putting the cat’s name in the subject line.

For information on current adoption events, see ocsmallpaws.org.

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Parade honors veteran on his 98th birthday

Bill Scott was honored for his military service in World War II on his 98th birthday with a surprise drive by parade on Sept. 13. Over 100 vehicles, including veterans on Harleys and several Model T Fords, paraded past the 58-year Orange resident’s home, as neighbors lined the streets.

Officials from the Veterans of Foreign Wars-Orange Chapter presented him with an honorary membership, and Mayor Mark Murphy stopped by. Approximately 60 celebrants gathered outside to share birthday cake, good wishes, and thank him for his service.

Assistance League of Orange kickoff to celebrate 80 years

Assistance League of Orange is observing its 80th continuous year of philanthropic endeavors, serving the community of Orange. To kick off the yearlong celebration, volunteer members decorated outside to share birthday cake, good wishes, and thank him for his service.

The organization was created in 1941 by 33 members, with the stated purpose of serving those in need in the City of Orange. Within nine years of its inception, it was granted chapter status with the national organization. Initially, philanthropic assistance was individualized: funds were raised for a child’s tonsillectomy, incubators for the county hospital, milk and oranges for a school. Today, ALO impacts the lives of children, families, veterans, seniors, students and the homeless with over 15 philanthropic programs provided by over 350 volunteers, including Chapter and Orange Blossoms and Assistees Auxiliaries.
Arlene Estelle Springe 1935-2020

Arlene Estelle Springe, 85, died of natural causes on Aug. 27 in her Villa Park home, surrounded by her four children and the wife of her deceased son.

Arlene was born in Chicago in 1935 to Alex and Barbara Mundo. Arlene married Fred Springe in Chicago in 1954. Fred passed away in 2004, a few months before their 50th wedding anniversary in 2005.

In 1957, the Springes moved to Culver City. The Springe family purchased their first home in Anaheim in 1959, and moved to their current home in Villa Park in 1969.

Arlene was a devoted mother and a fabulous cook, known for offering individual members of her family what they wanted for breakfast each morning. When the children entered their late teens, Arlene volunteered to stand in line for them, while the kids were in school, in order to buy their tickets for rock concerts, always making new friends with the young people in line with her. Arlene and Fred Springe greatly enjoyed entertaining, and everyone always had great food and conversation at social events that the Springes hosted in their home.

In 1987, Fred and Arlene moved to Australia for a year and a half for his job at Rockwell. She especially loved living in Sydney, where she had a view of both the famed Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Bridge.

Arlene loved to travel through-out the world, and in the course of her life visited countries in Europe, Asia, Australia, and Central and South America. She eventually implemented a plan, after Fred’s death, to take each of her grandchildren on an international trip, and took grandchildren on tours of Australia, Italy, Germany, France and England.

Arlene spent many years as a volunteer fundraiser for Anaheim Memorial Hospital, including time spent managing the hospital gift shop. She also served in several volunteer positions at Trinity Episcopal Church in Orange. Arlene was a voracious reader.

She loved good food, and her love, and the great fun and joy she taught everyone, by example, how to live life with many adventures, great food, great humor, great conversation and a lot of love. Her family and friends will miss the constant, warm beam of her love, and the great fun and joy of her company.

Arlene was a voracious reader. Made her very knowledgeable of international cuisine. For example, many of her family members and friends first learned details about sushi from Arlene and Fred, who discovered it on a 1972 trip to Japan. If Arlene recommended a restaurant, you could count on it.

Her humor and “sass” now come up in notes of fondness and in celebrating her life, from grandchildren to children to friends. She had that wonderful Chicago way of being frank, irreverent and funny, all at the same time.

Arlene was always interested in what you had to say, always remembered your story and always welcomed hearing your latest news.

Arlene was great fun to be around, and was very generous in her time and resources with family and friends. She lived a big life, working hard to raise five wonderful children, while also taking time to volunteer to help others.

She taught everyone, by example, how to live life with many adventures, great food, great humor, great conversation and a lot of love. Her family and friends will miss the constant, warm beam of her love, and the great fun and joy of her company.

She is survived by her daughters Debra Springe-Kilroy (John) of Orange and Barbara Kilroy (Fred) of Santa Barbara; sons Fred Jr. (Kyla) of Paso Robles and Erik (Stacey) of American Canyon; deceased son Kirk’s wife Suzan Springe of Riversides; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and her second husband Fred Whitaker. Arlene married Fred Whitaker in 2009.

Due to the pandemic, graveside services for Arlene will be open only to family members. A celebration of her life is planned for 2021, when we can all safely gather together again.

In lieu of flowers, the Springe family requests donations be sent to Arlene’s Team to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. https://pages.lls.org/ltn/2021-aofoc/20-team-arlene

Villa Park Towne Center

Elks Lodge Beacon Grant helps nonprofits in need

This year, the Orange Elks have cancelled two of their favorite events, the Down Syndrome Association of Orange County (DS- AoFOC) family picnic and the Eli Home (a shelter for abused children) Thanksgiving celebration. Because of the Coronavirus, fundraising for nonprofits has been difficult. Orange Lodge 1475 was awarded a Beacon Grant from Elks Community Investments Program for $3,500 and presented checks to DS-AoFOC and The Eli Home, each for $1,750. The Elks will miss seeing the smiles at the DS-AoFOC picnic and Eli Home Thanksgiving celebration, but knowing that the Elks are helping in some way makes this is a great day in Elkdom. The Elks Beacon Grant, presented to the DS-AoFOC, left to right, Elks Bill Braden, Danny Salas; Eli Home Executive Director Lorri Galloway holding Lil Elroy; Beata Lichtenstein and Mike Cash. Beacon Grant funds were presented to the Eli Home, above, left to right, Elks Bill Braden, Danny Salas; Eli Home Executive Director Lorri Galloway holding Lil Elroy; Beata Lichtenstein and Mike Cash.
INVASIVE ROOT SYSTEMS

Never forget your roots! Tree root problems are an easily overlooked matter. Just because you don’t see them, doesn’t mean they are not there. Tree maintenance difficulties and safety are two primary root issues. Large root structures can prevent mowing and other activities. Invasive roots can break the surface interfering with streets, sidewalks, and become walking hazards. As the roots grow and spread in search of water and nutrients, they can cause leaks or form plugs in plumbing and sewer systems.

Simply removing the tree is sometimes not the solution because the stump and roots may continue to grow. Tree root systems vary from shallow to deep, wide to narrow. Knowledge about prevention and planting only those with non-invasive root systems are the best ways to avoid tree root problems. Installing the right root barriers can help you achieve the aesthetic you’re looking for, while providing the proper protection for your property and foundation.

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