

# FOOTHILLS SENTRY

The Best News In Town Since 1969

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A Monthly Community Newspaper

OCTOBER 2020

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## 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 rewriting 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 often identifies a 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 development, 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"We wanted to eliminate redundancies in the code and remove outdated terminology," Assistant City Attorney Mary Benning explained.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 Eichler tracts and buildings on the historic survey would remain in the committee's domain; all other design and compatibility decisions would be made by the city's director of community de-

See "Design Review"  
continued on page 4



Little Bear the Llama hoofed it over to the Orange Home Grown Farmers and Artisans Market, Sept. 19, to help locals spread a community campaign message to two-legged voters.

## County disputes claim that construction waste mounds are "engineered fill"

By Tina Richards

Chandler/Rio Santiago, operator of the construction waste dump 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

waste 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.

But Chandler/Milan now claim that none of that really matters. Because, they say, they are not operating an inert debris disposal facility, but an inert debris engineered fill operation. That activity, shortened in disposal industry lingo to IDEFO, does not, according to Chandler, require a permit, does not need to be listed on the county Siting Element and does not fall under the auspices of LEA. Chandler advised the

See "Dump site"  
continued on page 4

## El Modena pool project takes a dive

A delay in the progress of the new El Modena High pool was announced at the Sept. 10 OUSD Board of Trustees meeting.

Of the seven contractors bidding on the project to replace the leaking and retired pool at El Modena with a new 30-meter one, four protests were filed regarding the qualifications of the subcontractors listed in the Request For Proposal (RFP). Per public contract codes, contractors and subcontractors must be pre-qualified and pre-approved for public school projects; there was a question as to the preapproval of some of the subcontractors. Scott Harvey, OUSD Facilities,

together with the district's attorney, determined that it would be more efficient to reject all bids and put the proposal out to re-bid, 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 facili-

ties 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 aquatic 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.

## NEWS INSIDE

### FREE FOR ALL

Orange council members will retain "volunteer" status as a motion for modest stipends falls short.

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### SCHOOL DAZED

Classes began remotely while classrooms are reconfigured to protect returning students from infection.

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Candidates for Orange City Council offer voters a look at their qualifications.

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### THE ROAR OF THE CROWD

Orange citizens sound off on the shortcomings of city government.

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### BREAK THE BANKS

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

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### 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 this November's by-district 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.

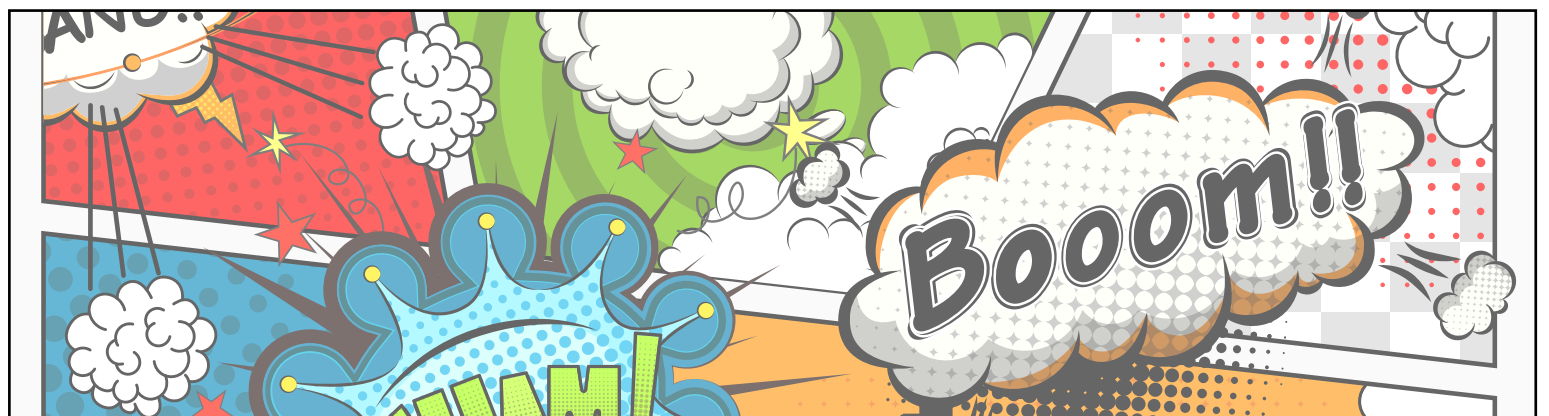
Each year, "Chipper Day" increases in popularity. During

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 Junor 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.



A load of logs and heavy brush is unloaded and dispatched into the chipper by Park West Landscape, Inc.



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**Publisher/Editor**  
Anita Bennyhoff  
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**Editor**  
Tina Richards  
editor@foothillsentry.com

**Sports Editor**  
Cliff Robbins  
sportseeditor@att.net

**Graphic Designer**  
Aimee Armstrong  
graphics@foothillsentry.com

**Advertising Sales**  
Andie Mills  
advertising@foothillsentry.com  
714-926-9299

**Office Manager**  
Kathy Eidson  
officemanager@foothillsentry.com

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Fax: 714-532-6755  
foothillsentry.com  
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### 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 Fresch (Drax) and school counselor JoAnne Motter (Gamora). The video can be seen on the school's website.



Orange Elks members met with OUSD personnel to provide a grant to help needy families. From left to right: Exalted Ruler Danny Salas; OUSD's Ed Howard; Elks Pam Jones, Sheldon Glass and Marilyn Dinger with mascot Little Elroy; Ben Figueroa from OUSD; and Elks Mike Duff, Bill Brogan and Mike Cash.

### Elks extend time and money to help their neighbors

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.



Jack and Henry Steinmann face opening day.



Arroyo Elementary School kindergartner Presley Coloma is all smiles as she virtually meets with her teacher, Stacey Duff.

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.



Let us draw your attention to TUSD kindergartner Jihun 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." Jihun enjoyed this activity so much, his joy is bursting through the computer screen. Thank you, Jihun, it all "adds" up to another day of making distance learning fun - Mark Eliot



### October is National Pasta Month!

If you haven't tried Da Bianca's fresh, delicious award-winning cuisine, now is the perfect opportunity. In addition to fabulous pasta, we serve fresh fish, grilled meats and tasty chicken dishes. We are committed to following all CDC and OC Health guidelines for our customers' safety whether you dine inside, outside on our patio or at home with take out.

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- Marjan and the Da Bianca Staff



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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 Rosen, founder of Working Wardrobes; and Linette Johnston, TAWC program chairman. Earlier in the year, a fire destroyed Working Wardrobes' building and clothing inventory. Rosen reports that Working Wardrobes now has a new location.

## Villa Park Marine Thanksgiving came early

By Carly Rabun and Samantha Frackelton

When Villa Park High School students Carly Rabun '21 and Samantha Frackelton '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 150 Marines, transporting the servicemen and women to the city to spend Thanksgiving Day with a family. Then, COVID.

Camp Pendleton will not allow its Marines to leave base on Thanksgiving this year, so

there will be no event. Carly and Sammy reached out to the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA), and learned that the organization was trying to obtain donations of school supplies for the Marines' students who would be taught virtually. Carly and Sammy immediately decided to donate half of the money remaining from last year's Thanksgiving to the ASYMCA School Supplies for Marines effort. Rotary Club of VP donated \$1,000 for school supplies, other residents contributed too. The organizers delivered the donated supplies to the ASYMCA at Camp Pendleton in early August. The ASYMCA had a drive-thru event to give out the supplies.

See "Design Review" continued from page 1

velopment. 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 commissioners, 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 reinstated 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 benefitting 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, submitted.

"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 pushback. 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 referred to 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.



Travelers along Santiago Canyon Road can't help but notice the ironic juxtaposition of campaign 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 merit of the permit revocation and "waste valuable government resources."

Chandler/Milan insist that the site has continuously operated since 2013, and they have "coordinated 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 misdirecting them to pursue an Inert Debris Type 2 Disposal Facility permit, which meant they needed to be listed on the city's Non Dis-

posal Facility Element (NDFE), not necessarily the county Siting Element.

County Counsel fired back, arguing that Chandler 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 peppered 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 LDEF, 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 fall under the engi-

neered fill designation. Meanwhile, 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 "voluntarily" returned the permit, and therefore "erased" 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 argument 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 and Milan keep all the solid waste that it has stockpiled for all these months and long before any IDEFO written 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."



Photo by Ken Kribel

A Sept. 17 photo reveals that construction waste stockpiling continues unabated.



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### Civic engagement Registration deadline: Oct. 19

The deadline is the headline, especially for canyon residents eager to vote on 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 of an active-duty Marine, dog-mom, 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—230,000 cubic yards, that's an enormous pile of something." Recent calls to county code enforcement revealed what might actually be the conclusion of a nearly 30-year saga involving investigation and prosecution of likely disposal of green waste and construction materials, the landowner lately complying --- perhaps over-complying! --- with required remediation. Ironically, multiple complaints regarding owner Peter Katelaris' alleged naughty 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, pun 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 Riegle and Mary Nolan-Riegle, landscaping and a Prius or two, and cost the county plenty to repair the road.

#### Wagner understands

Your (un)humble scribe faithfully reads those weirdly titled email communiques 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 Scooper'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 misread 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's teachers' union 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.



As an **engineer**, **parent** of three TUSD students

and a **PTO President**, I will be ready

to **lead** on Day 1.

**Allyson Damikolas**  
TUSTIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Allyson Damikolas*

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Paid for by Allyson M. Damikolas for School Board 2020

### 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 in East Orange.

"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 fiscal concerns about the embattled Santiago Creek Project from the beginning.

Murphy declined the opportunity to debate the issue.



### 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.

Serenaded by Chris Arpad on his steel drums, members learned about small group league activities, including Petal Pushers gardening group.

Third District Supervisor Don

Wagner recognized Marie Steuber and Eva Wyszowski-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.

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Advertisement for Leviton electrical products. Includes text: "Now in stock at all Ganahl Lumber locations", "Buy in bulk and save!", "LEVITON", "Decorative Switches", "Switches Interrupteurs", "GFCI Outlets", "15A 120V". Images of product boxes and electrical components.

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# Orange Election 2020 District 1

## 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 volunteerism in Orange, having served on the boards of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation of Orange, GOCAT Advisory Board, and Pitcher 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.

## 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: [eugeneforange.com](http://eugeneforange.com)

## 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 Willits, Ernie Glasgow and Orange taxpayers. [votedavidvazquez.com](http://votedavidvazquez.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](http://VoteVaughan.com). I humbly ask for your vote!

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## Orange Election 2020 District 2

### Daniel Correa



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](http://danielcorrea.org)

### Martin Varona



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](http://www.varonafororange.com).

### Jon Dumitru



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](http://www.jondumitru.com)

### Caroline Alatorre



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.

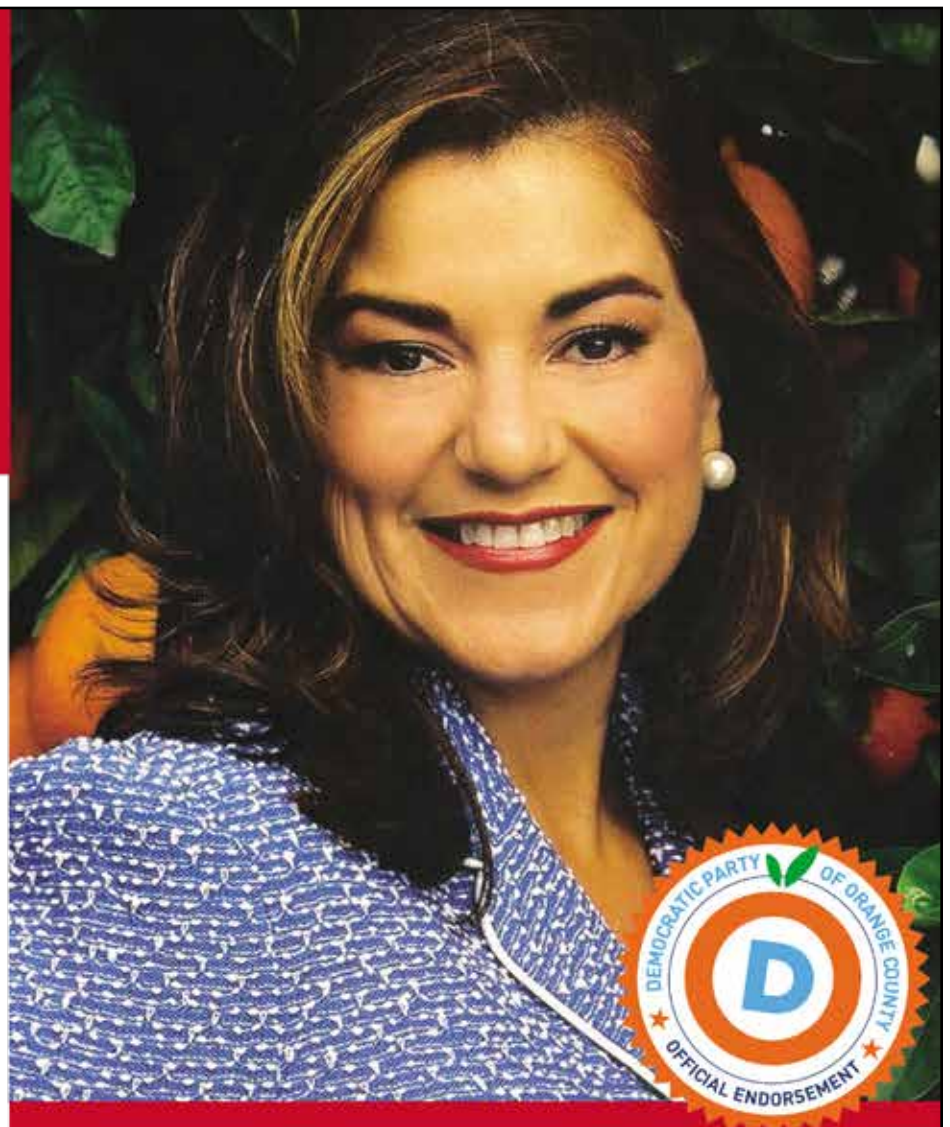
Under my leadership, I will continue upholding community-based financial controls and accountability. I value supporting strong Public Safety addressing crimes related to the homeless crisis, along gangs and graffiti. I will fight for our fair share of Public Works projects and improvements while proposing 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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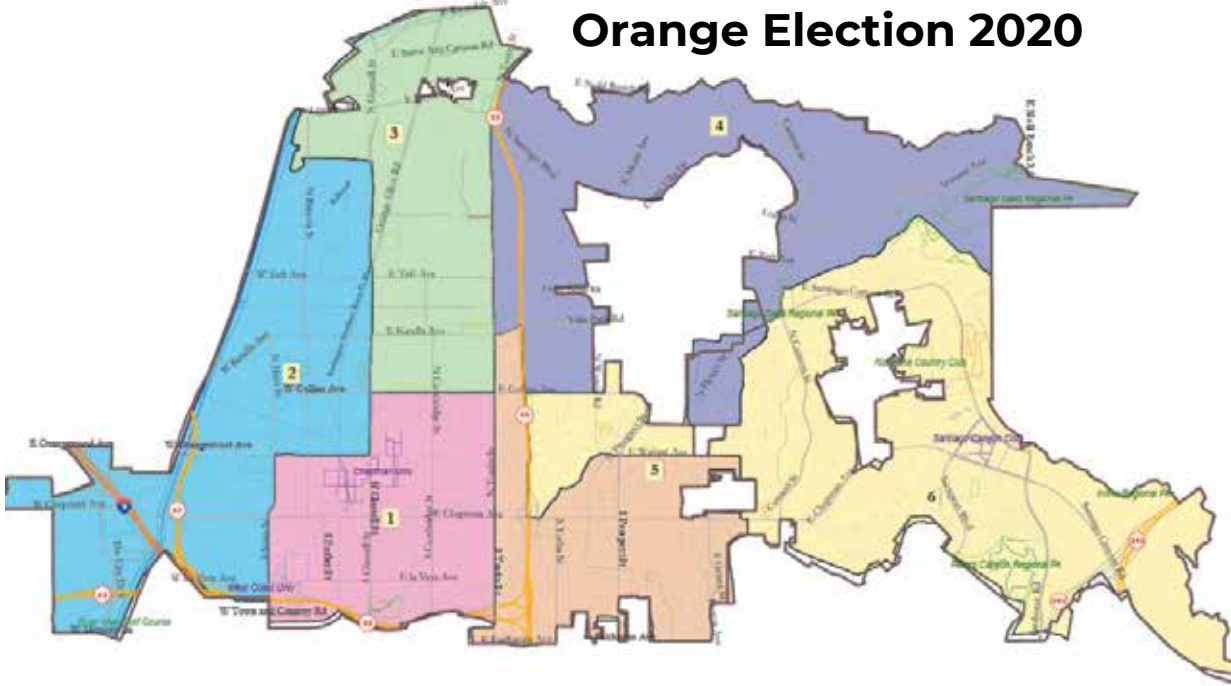


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[www.Loretta.org](http://www.Loretta.org)

Paid for by Loretta Sanchez for Community College Board Trustee 2020  
FPPC Campaign ID #1430277

## Orange Election 2020



Orange voters in Districts 1, 2, 3 and 5 will be selecting their city council representatives in the November election. Districts 4 and 6 will sit out this council race, as the two incumbents are midway through their four-year terms, live in their respective districts and will represent their district until the next election cycle. Voters citywide will participate in the mayoral race.

## Orange Election 2020 District 5



### Ana Gutierrez

As a life-long resident of the El Modena Barrio in District 5 where my husband and I are raising our children, who attend OUSD schools, I want to ensure that our District's voices are heard.

I love my community and want to give back to the District that has shaped me. I believe that good governance begins with honesty and transparency. It listens to its residents and allows for public discourse to achieve sound public policy, all while remaining fiscally responsible and upholding public safety. Being a public school educator for the past 23 years, I've held various positions where I developed strong leadership skills, but most importantly, I've learned how to build a community within my classroom and schoolwide. I am a public servant that is community minded, and I know the importance of building relationships, collaborating and shared decision-making.

Change has come to the city of Orange with a by-district election system, and I am excited to have an opportunity to be part of this transformation! I would be honored to serve you and humbly ask for your vote.

AnaForOrange.com



### Rick Ledesma

I am proud to be running for Orange City Council in District 5. I am a lifelong resident of the City of Orange, graduated from Orange Unified School District schools including El Modena High School, and my wife and I have raised our children here. If elected, I will make public safety my highest priority.

Now, more than ever, our police, fire and all first responders need our unwavering support. To that end, the Orange City Firefighters have endorsed my campaign along with City of Orange Mayor Mark Murphy, and former City of Orange Mayor Pro Tem Fred Whitaker, to name a few.

What sets me apart is a combination of my work as a governing board member for the Orange Unified School District, as well as my decades of private sector experience in finance. I am uniquely qualified to hit the ground running day 1 to help our city navigate the complex issues it faces and support local businesses during these challenging times. In addition, I will make every effort to oppose attempts to repeal or undermine Proposition 13.

### John Russo • District 3



My name is John Russo. I am a candidate for Orange City Council District 3. I am Orange's past, present, and future. I am proud to call Orange my home and the place I have lived my entire life. I am part of many community service organizations, such as Orange Rotary and Knights of Columbus. I also currently serve as a board member for the Orange Community Historical Society. I am a home-grown leader who maintains responsible and traditional values. I am not a politician, just a concerned citizen. My top priority is keeping our city safe. I will support our first responders so they can support the community. I also believe in supporting our local businesses. Through my economic invigoration plan, Orange businesses will have the opportunity to thrive. I am committed to maintaining a balanced budget and providing services to all Orange residents. Vote Russo for new responsible and traditional leadership, while we continue the historical tradition of Orange — and look toward its bright future! You can donate, follow, and volunteer at johnrusso.org.

### Mike Alvarez • District 3



As a life-long resident, city councilman and successful businessman, I care deeply about the issues that affect our community. Orange needs strong leaders, with the knowledge and experience to guide us during these turbulent times. My approach as your 3rd District councilman, I will be accessible and responsive to all our residents. I have provided leadership and a voice for Orange residents in the fight to limit the intrusion of the homeless, short-term rentals and the gang crimes. I am proud to be endorsed by the Orange Police and Firefighters who provide the umbrella of security in our city. Orange has been my family's home since 1955, when my family started the Orange Army-Navy Store. I have raised my family here and I share the same concerns about protecting our neighborhoods. My greatest honor has been to serve you as a city councilman, I am asking you to return me back to the City Council, where I can continue to be of service to you and the community. Please vote, Mike Alvarez for Orange City Council District 3.

### Danett Abbott-Wicker • District 3



I am excited and proud to officially announce my candidacy for Orange City Council, District 3. I have lived in Orange since 1972 – I attended Heim and Fletcher Elementary schools, Peralta Jr. High and Villa Park High. I attended California State University, Fullerton where I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Communications. I know we have untapped potential to be a thriving city. A thriving city engages the voices of the citizens of our local government. We can be the vanguard confronting climate change and ensuring everyone has access to health care, especially during this challenging time in our history. I look forward to representing everyone in District 3 fairly and consciously. I will run a positive campaign, one in which I will display integrity and honesty in all my interactions and treat all that I encounter with the utmost respect.

Together we can make a real positive difference in the City of Orange by addressing the needs of the residents and businesses within District 3.



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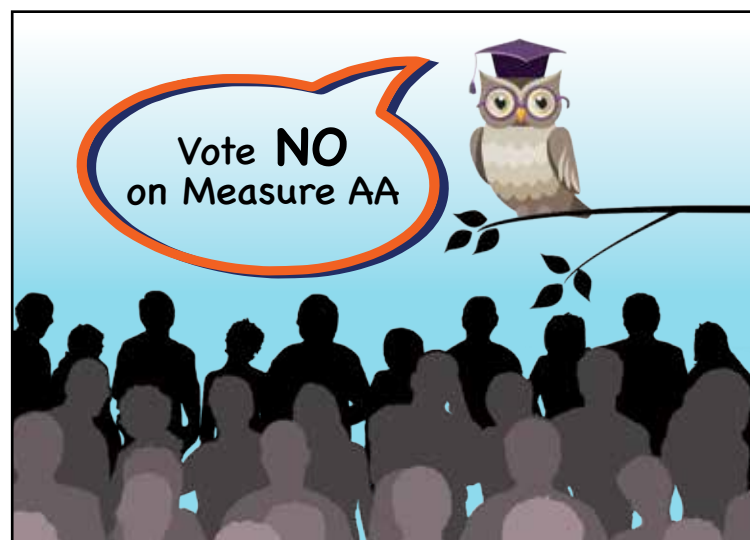
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### Orange Election 2020 Mayor



#### 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 Grijalva 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](http://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 Kim Nichols, Mike Alvarez and Chip Monaco, City of Orange Police Association and the Orange City Firefighters. [markamurphy.com](http://markamurphy.com)

### Orange city candidates to discuss issues, air differences

The Old Towne Preservation Association will again host its Orange City Council Candidate Forum where candidates for mayor and four new council districts will appear together on OTPA's Facebook live.

Candidates for District 1 and Mayor will be at 6 p.m. on Oct. 6, and candidates for Districts 2, 3 and 5 will be at 5 p.m. on Oct. 7, with one hour for each District.

The Forum will be rebroadcast on Channel 6 several times until election day, Nov. 3.

Suggested questions may be submitted in advance online at [info@otpa.org](mailto:info@otpa.org).

### SCC students chronicle COVID experience

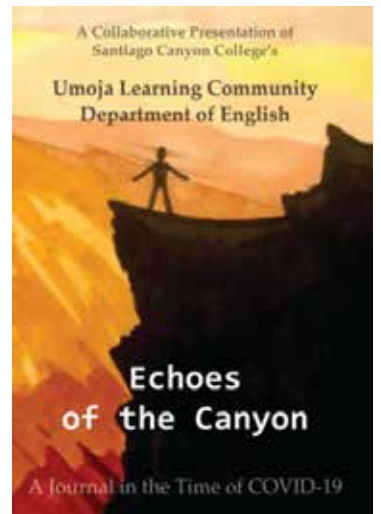
By Kathy Hall

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 Umoja 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](http://sccollege.edu/echoes).

## Your Voice Fighting for Families In District 5



# Ana Gutierrez

Orange City Council  
District 5

[ANAFORORANGE.COM](http://ANAFORORANGE.COM)

VOTE ON OR BEFORE  
NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

Ad Paid for by the Campaign of Ana Gutierrez for Orange City Council 2020

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Theresa Denton brought daughter Cora, 6, a kindergartener at Villa Park Elementary, and pups Violet and Oliver to clean up her campus during Villa Park Community Services Foundation (VPCSF) Clean-Up Day, Sept. 19. Residents and students picked up trash around the city, while VPCSF provided water, grabbers and doggie bags for the workers at three city sites.



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## LETTERS to the EDITOR



## Court Case

## Dear Editor:

There has been a lot of talk about rezoning the Tustin Hills Racquet Club into multi- and single-family dwellings. I personally oppose this idea for several reasons. The tennis club acts as a recreational place for the community. Also, if rezoned and turned into housing, there would be safety issues for those in the surrounding area; finally, there would be lasting negative effects on the environment.

It is said that adults should get 150 minutes of activity a week in order to stay healthy, and kids should get an hour of activity a day. The tennis club provides a place to be physically active, an important part of living a healthy life. If the tennis club is taken away, it would take away an outlet for the community to swim, play tennis and enjoy physical activities. Now, during a global pandemic, being physically fit as well as the benefits of mental health that comes with physical exercise, is crucial.

Adding more homes means more cars and traffic, which would not benefit the safety of the community. The hills around the tennis club are a popular walking and running path for many, including myself. If the tennis club was rezoned and turned into family homes, it would mean that there would be more traffic around those hills, increasing the chances of someone getting hit.

Lastly, putting in more homes would negatively affect the environment. More homes means more pollution. The most noticeable would be noise pollution.

Overall, the Tustin Hills Racquet Club should not be rezoned because it would damage the community's physical health, insurance of safety, and the environment around it.

Hayden Bullard  
North Tustin

## Name Dropping

## Dear Editor:

Following is a letter sent to Mayor Mark Murphy and the Orange City Council:

We are appalled that, during your Aug. 25 city council meeting, you allowed Milan Capital consultant Frank Elfend to go on record with a calculated false statement. Elfend stated, "... Stephanie Lesinski and Michelle Duman support homes north of the creek ..." This is an absolute, bold-faced lie.

All of you are fully aware that during several council meetings, we made it clear we do not support any of the proposals Frank Elfend is promoting for the former Sully-Miller site. In fact, at the Oct. 22, 2019 council meeting, Stephanie Lesinski stated that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Santiago Creek Development cannot be certified due to multiple errors, including the fact that the acreage zoned for homes north of the creek is inaccurate and inconsistent throughout the document. Frank Elfend is attempting to use the same deceptive EIR to justify building homes north of the creek.

We will clearly state, once again, that not only do we not support homes to be built north of the creek, we do not support homes to be built anywhere on the Milan-owned toxic dump site whatsoever.

Please incorporate this letter into the official record.

Stephanie Lesinski  
Michelle Duman  
Mabury Ranch

## It Ain't Broke

## 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 historical 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 could impact the look of our city for years. The idea that a member doesn't even need to live or work in Orange to be on the Design Review Committee that impacts our town is ludicrous.

I strongly urge the council to invite the public to voice its concerns regarding the proposed gutting of the DRC before it votes in the future. Passing these changes now seems a little sneaky.

Jeannette McClain  
Orange

## Dear Editor:

We strongly urge residents and business owners to pay attention to the changes being considered to the city's Design Review Committee if they cherish their city's historic environment.

As a nonprofit member organization whose mission is to promote conservation of our county's architectural and cultural heritage, Preserve Orange County (POC) carefully scrutinizes historic preservation policy in Orange County. POC believes that the action to change the roles and responsibilities of the DRC significantly undermines a number of existing protections for historic resources in Orange, both within the historic districts and throughout the city.

The DRC has long served the city to ensure Orange retains its unique character by integrating new construction in a sympathetic way. This important public review step will change if city council approves the proposed ordinance:

- Greater authority will be transferred from the DRC to city staff, dramatically limiting both the public's awareness and ability to participate in a public forum;

- The DRC will be restricted to projects involving historic buildings and structures in historic districts and those listed in the city's partial and outdated 2005 survey, thus leaving potentially hundreds of historic resources in limbo outside a public review process; and,

- Landscape considerations will no longer be an essential component of DRC review. This potentially excludes significant character-defining features of historic

properties and districts, such as in the Plaza Park. City Council is taking up the issue at the Oct. 13 meeting. Please make your voice heard at [ccpubliccomment@cityoforange.org](mailto:ccpubliccomment@cityoforange.org).

Krista Nicholds, president  
Preserve Orange County

## Dear Editor:

As an architect, resident and business owner in the City of Orange, I urge the city council to vote "no" on Ordinance 13-20.

Adopting this ordinance would be a serious mistake that, I believe, will cause lasting harm to the community and take decades to repair. Since my initial encounter with the DRC nearly 34 years ago, I have found the committee members to be highly qualified and conscientious professionals. They take their mandate to uphold community aesthetics very seriously; they care about all facets of this wonderful city—its downtown, its neighborhoods and business districts—not just certain parts of it. As such, their expert viewpoint on a wide array of complex design and planning issues presented by applicants is an enormous benefit to the community in its entirety. The suggestion by some disgruntled applicants that the committee's expertise is somehow an impediment to development is ludicrous. The suggestion that the committee is unqualified to review numerous and complex applications—and this lack of expertise causes unnecessary delays in the project approval process—is laughable.

Reducing or eliminating the professional qualifications of prospective committee members will haunt this community for a very long time, because it threatens to reduce the committee to a rabble of unqualified hacks and politically connected "insiders" as happens in so many other jurisdictions. Orange is unique among Southern California cities, in that design review in this town is professional, independent and credible. This makes me proud to be a practicing professional in this community.

If you adopt Ordinance 13-20, Strategic Plan Goal #5 will be eviscerated—not strengthened as the Planning Commission claims. This ordinance is nothing less than an attempt to silence independent professional voices who seek to preserve the integrity of our community.

Just to be clear, adopting this ordinance favors "speedy" applications over thoughtful growth; favors pushy developers over long-term livability; and sacrifices community aesthetics on the altar of expediency. If the genuine motivation is to increase the 'effectiveness' of the entire project approval process, adopting Ordinance 13-20 is NOT the best way to do it.

Rick Fox  
Orange

## Fix This

## Dear Editor:

The City of Orange doesn't get to operate in secret thanks to the California Public Records Act of 1968. The Act is very clear that "access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state."

The government must be accountable for its actions, and as such, the public has a right to request and receive copies of gov-

ernment records. That's what transparency is all about.

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 environmental impact reports or public notice being required. Where is the transparency that the city's website proclaims is a core principle?

Bonnie Robinson  
Orange

## We the People

## Dear Editor:

Many people in the Milan camp are asking, "Who are those people opposing the re-zone?"

The people of Orange are a community. We are a major university, praiseworthy in 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 California.

We are the merchants and small businesses that are the pillars of 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 neighborhoods.

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 citizens.

What we definitely are not, is a "pack of elitists, idiots, NIMBY's" and a myriad of other offensive names that Milan, and

its chief spokesman on social media, have called us. Who we are, is a group of concerned citizens who do not want an outside big-money investment company trying to uproot and destroy our community for their profit. We all know that Milan has been conducting an illegal and unregulated dumping ground on the former Sully-Miller site. This company, in violation of legal cease and desist orders from the county and state, continues to dump daily.

That is who Milan is ... and that is not who I believe the citizens of Orange will support in November's election. Please, vote "no" on measure AA. Help us "Keep Orange Safe."

John Reina  
Orange

## Dear Editor:

As current and former Presidents of the OPA Board of Directors, we can attest to Milan's property dealings in Orange Park Acres for decades and their negative impacts on our city. As readers are probably aware, Milan's most recent tactics were met by Orange citizens with another referendum appearing on the November ballot as Measure AA. Additionally, OPA has filed a lawsuit against Milan for violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in connection with Milan's flawed Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Trails at Santiago Creek project. Briefing in the CEQA lawsuit is complete and the trial, which was set for October, has been recently postponed until after the election. OPA's briefs pointed out the numerous deficiencies, inconsistencies, and outright misstatements in Milan's EIR. Milan's brief recycled its tired claims about supposed traffic relief and housing shortages.

Milan's untrustworthiness is further demonstrated by its continuation of rock crushing and stockpiling activities without proper permitting. Orange resi-

Letters continued on page 11

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dents alerted government authorities about the violations. Once Orange County and the State of California got involved, an order was issued directing Milan to cease its activities. Milan ignored the order and has continued its illegal operation. OPA and its attorneys continue to work with the public agencies, as Milan is not entitled to evade the law.

OPA's three-pronged approach to protect our General Plan and open space (Measure AA, CEQA lawsuit, OC cease and desist order) continues, and we need everyone's help. You can contact any member of the OPA Board of Directors to learn how to participate with your time, talent, and funds. In the upcoming election, we urge you to vote "no" on Measure AA as we should not change the General Plan. Defeating Measure AA will force Milan to properly respect the land use planning that has protected the City of Orange for almost 50 years.

Sherry Panttaja, OPA board president  
Don Bradley, immediate past OPA board president

**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 in our Old Towne district and have built a good life. I've always loved Orange, and I still do. But lately, I am seeing a difference in the way our city is run.

Specifically, I wish to address our current mayor and city council's lack of respect for the needs and wishes of Orange citizens. A grassroots community movement by citizens, just like you and I, has driven the referendum that brought about the vote on Measure AA in our upcoming election. This is a group who wants to see laws upheld, promises already made to the community kept, and our unique local natural environments protected. They want to keep all of us safe from natural disasters that could befall our city, from lawsuits that could tax our city budget, from greedy developers trying to strong-arm our community and from a city council that is choosing to look the other way.

I have felt sick at the misleading ads that have presented the promoters of the residential development on the Sully-Miller dumpsite as the group wanting to "protect the environment" and close down the site. The developers, Milan Capital, own the site. They are the ones who have allowed the property to become the eyesore it is today! They continue to operate it, despite the cease and desist orders that have been handed down from the county due to its illegal operations. Why? Because they are using its ugliness in their campaign to push their agenda for their own profit. Milan doesn't care about Orange. They have created this environmental disaster in our city and have done so without permits, which is against the law. Our current mayor and city council have done nothing to stop them. They should enforce the law, close the dumpsite, and support the wishes of their constituents over those of the developer.

I've never been especially political, but when I see a wrong being done, I have to say something. I am tired of big money interests controlling our city. I am tired of regular citizens' voices not being heard. If our current city council and mayor do not seize this opportunity to do what is right and best for the city and its inhabitants ... then maybe it is time for the citizens of Orange to say "no" to them as well. Replace them with public servants who do just that ... serve the public, not the developers.

portunity to do what is right and best for the city and its inhabitants ... then maybe it is time for the citizens of Orange to say "no" to them as well. Replace them with public servants who do just that ... serve the public, not the developers.

Please vote "no" on AA!

Arlene Johnson  
Orange

**Dear Editor:**

When a city exercises its powers to change long-standing plans for a community, it opens the door for change across the city. These types of policies are dangerous for the whole city, as there is much more at stake than one community. Plans should never be altered without overwhelming support from residents. The Orange City Council, however, once again overstepped its authority to change our General Plan for the benefit of an outside developer and in the face of strong opposition from the majority of residents.

While there were a few who spoke out in favor of development on the Sully-Miller dumpsite, they did so out of desperation to be rid of the untenable nuisance that the city ignored. I am pleased to know the county issued a cease and desist order to stop the stockpiling operation of waste concrete that has apparently been going on without compliance to codes and zoning.

The only one who will benefit from approving a development is the investor who gets a lucrative rezone from the city. Everything that comes after the rezone seems to be filled with caveats and promises that are mostly smoke and mirrors. And, instead of protecting us from high-density laws that may come down from Sacramento, a rezone would actually make us vulnerable. Let's keep our designated open space, protect Orange citizens from development on unsafe land, constrain traffic, and follow our long-established plans. Vote "no" on AA.

Lauren McLeary  
Orange

**Candidates Cornered**

**Dear Editor:**

Thank you for publishing the OUSD candidates' statements. One stuck out to me as particularly troublesome. Angie Schlueter-Rumsey claimed to be a "teacher in Orange County" who sent her children to "local Orange County schools" and herself graduated from "local Orange County schools."

Voters need to scrutinize these statements. Schlueter-Rumsey fails to tell voters that her experience is exclusively limited to local private schools. She attended private schools, sent her kids to private schools, and has only ever taught in private schools. While voters are free to choose that experience over a public school experience, it is critical that voters know what they are voting for.

In addition, Schlueter-Rumsey is endorsed by the current OUSD board members whose votes were clearly pre-determined by substantial donations from an outside political action committee (and persons associated with it) who are committed to defunding our public schools by diverting funds to private schools. Their December vote will potentially drain OUSD of nearly \$15 million over the next five years.

I believe that to be a trustee

of a public school district, you should be a solid supporter of public schools, which this candidate shows no evidence of doing. This November, let's make sure the people we elect to our OUSD public school board actually support public schools and their students, not those supported or funded by radicals trying to push a political agenda.

Michelle Weisenberg  
Orange

**Dear Editor:**

As I drove down Santiago Canyon Road approaching Sully-Miller, my jaw dropped and I was dumbfounded. Posted on the fence, with the usual mountain of ugly debris in the background, was sign after sign screaming for my attention. "Re-Elect Mark Murphy For Mayor." Really?! Mark Murphy, are you so proud of the horrific mess you've helped to create that you need to stamp your signature all over it? Orange does not deserve the legacy that you are leaving us on your way out.

Having lived in Orange for 34 years, I remember in 2000 when Hansen operated the Sully-Miller site. It was mostly a flat meadow, except for the small concrete recycling operation screened by trees in the corner of the property. Over time, the mining operation ceased and Hansen was down to the dusty business of just crushing rock. Under the pressure of complaining residents adjacent to the property, the planning commission voted, in 2002, to completely shut down Hansen's operation.

If that had been the close of the story, all would have been a sweet ending because the land could have reverted to open space. But no ... Hansen pleaded for a three-year extension in hopes of recouping financial losses. In an incredulous turn of events, in 2003, the city council, which included Mark Murphy and Mike Alvarez, voted to overturn the whole concept of a shutdown rather than take the three-year deal. Today, Milan is the landowner and the business operation is run by Chandler/Rio Santiago. With a wink and a nod, Mayor Mark Murphy and our city council have allowed their business to operate without supervision and morph into the stockpiling of concrete waste.

Our city council's solution is to sweep the whole thing under the rug by plastering houses over it. It is their intent to invalidate long-term city plans by removing the property from the Santiago Greenbelt Plan and support a rezoning in favor of houses. Our city council rubber-stamped their approval to place family homes in a dam inundation area, next to a field with migrating methane gas, and adding to traffic gridlock in a fire zone -- robbing the city of designated open space that was agreed upon 50 years ago.

We have had enough of Mark Murphy and Mike Alvarez, who seem committed to outside investors over the citizens of Orange. It is crystal clear that the time to act is now. Please vote Murphy and Alvarez out. Please vote NO on AA to stop houses from being built and to preserve open space zoning on the Sully-Miller property. It's the right thing to do.

Julie Maurer  
Orange

**Dear Editor:**

"Between a Crime and a Dime:

Bribery and Campaign Contributions" is a published legal analysis about the corruption of politicians. The analysis noted that a scenario of a "pay to play" crime can be a contributor's "undue influence" on the political acts of a candidate, that deprivation of honest services can be a crime, and that the appearance of corruption can include the perceptions of voters and constituents.

An examination of contributions to past and current campaigns of candidates for the Orange City Council raises questions as to why certain individuals and businesses are making donations. The incumbent mayor, who is seeking re-election on Nov. 3, and two, so far, council candidates have each received a \$1,000 contribution from the California Real Estate Political Action Committee (CREPAC). Why? CREPAC is administered by the California Association of Realtors, which, according to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), spent \$471,250 to help defeat a measure that sought to protect 400,000 acres of rural land in Santa Clara County.

In the Orange mayor's 2018 campaign, he received contributions from a property manager and a consultant for developer Milan Capital, which seeks to build 128 houses on the Sully-Miller site. The mayor later led the council in approving a General Plan amendment that enables Milan's proposed development known as Trails at Santiago Creek. That approval is being challenged on the Nov. 3 ballot because more than 13,000 Orange voters signed a

petition for a referendum leading to Measure AA.

Other previous campaign donations include payments from Southern California Edison to all four current council members. Why? In 2010 another private investor-owned utility, PG&E, spent \$46 million on Proposition 16 to make it difficult for cities to provide lower energy rates to residents and businesses through Community Choice Energy (CCE).

The proposition failed after opponents, with access to less than \$100,000, cited a study finding customers of public electricity providers paid lower rates than customers of private utilities. In light of Edison's proposed 14.4 percent residential rate increase effective in January, why doesn't the Orange City Council even study CCE to save constituents money on their energy bills?

In "Big Money Talks," the FPPC wrote, "The reality in politics is that money talks." While political action committees and private utilities may spend vast sums of money influencing legislators, constituents can overcome them by exerting their will and power with their votes. Ratepayers can decide that saving money on energy bills makes it worthwhile to explore CCE. Voters can outshine the influence of special interests, including developers, and not be swayed by promotional media featuring incumbents at taxpayer expense and produced by campaign donors.


Nancy Jo Albers  
Orange

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**Dr. Barbara Doty**

<p>The 'candy season' of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas/Hanukkah is beginning. Remember: <b>candy can make your pet sick.</b></p>	<p>Read all about it at <a href="http://www.ocvector.org">www.ocvector.org</a> &amp; <a href="http://www.ochealthinfo.com">www.ochealthinfo.com</a></p> <p>West Nile virus (WNV) is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. It affects the brain, has varying symptoms &amp; can cause serious illness in people. There is no treatment except supportive care, although experimental therapies are being studied.</p> <p>Animals can be infected with WNV, too. Certain birds play an important part in the life cycle &amp; spread of the virus although birds do not directly spread the infection to humans.</p> <p>Avoiding mosquito bites is the #1 way to prevent WNV infection. Talk to your family veterinarian about effective mosquito control for your pets &amp; environment.</p> <p>The current West Nile virus Risk Rating for Orange County is considered "Elevated" risk. As of September 15, 2020, 5 people have been diagnosed as infected. 196 mosquitoes &amp; 27 dead birds tested have positive.</p>
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<p><b>The California Veterinary Medical Board is still recommending 'at a distance parking lot service'. We are as unhappy about this as you are, but must comply for now. We're sorry.</b></p>	

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# Guest Commentary: A hobbled DRC shortchanges every neighborhood

By J.P. McDermott

As a citizen and homeowner in the City of Orange, I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Ordinance 13-20, 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 the impact that 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 or denial 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 announcement 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 in one meeting.

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 risk management professional. His wife Anne is a member of the DRC.*

2020 Orange City Council Voters' Guide												
Because this is the first year Orange votes in districts, United Neighborhoods of Orange (UNO) has prepared this easy reference voters' guide. UNO is an organization that puts Orange first by promoting safe neighborhoods and upholding residents' property rights. Questionnaires were sent to all of the candidates. Below is a summary of their responses.												
MEET THE 2020 CITY OF ORANGE CANDIDATES	Candidate	Platform/ Experience	Career	Years in Orange	Highest Level of Education	Languages Spoken	Top 3 issues:	Should the City Honor 1996 Voter Approved Term Limits?	Should Candidates Accept Campaign Contributions from Developers & their Associates?	Do Short-Term Rentals Belong in Residential Neighborhoods?	Should Chapman U abide by existing Specific Plan that Limits Enrollment?	YES or NO on Measure AA? (Santiago Creek Development?)
District 1 Old Towne	Arianna Barrios	Elected Trustee, Santiago Community College Board of Trustees	Small Business Owner	50	BA, Communications	English, some Spanish	1) Protect public safety 2) Economic recovery 3) Code enforcement	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
	Eugene W. Fields	First African American elected to OC Democratic Central Cmte	Communications Mgr / Assoc. Professor	6	Masters, Public Administration	English	1) Public safety 2) Help small businesses survive Covid19 3) Install crosswalk flashers at elementary school	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
District 2 West Orange	Daniel Correa	Former Orange Planning Commissioner, Former Law Enforcement Officer	Planning Consultant	20	Masters, Public Administration	Fluent in English & Spanish	1) Orange's Economy 2) Preserve the quality of our neighborhoods 3) Resolve homelessness	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
	Martin Varona	Favors defunding the police dept.	Civil Engineer	28	Masters, Civil Engineering	English & Spanish	1) Making local gov't accessible & inclusive 2) Reprioritize city budget for people over politics 3) Address climate change	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
District 3 North Orange	John R. Russo	Supports economic development, previously ran for mayor	OUSD Boys Volleyball Coach	22	n/a	English	1) Public Safety 2) Economic Development 3) a Balanced Budget	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
District 5 El Mo	Ana Gutierrez	Supports local police	Educator	53	Masters, Educational Leadership	English & Spanish	1) Public Safety & Security 2) Support Local Business 3) Protect Open Spaces, Parks & Trails	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
Mayor	Adrienne Gladson	Former City of Orange Planning Commissioner	Small Business Owner	34	BA, Geography	English, some French	1) COVID-19 Recovery 2) Protecting Neighborhoods 3) Economic Growth	YES	NO	YES (with restrictions)	YES	NO

Information collected from candidate questionnaires. Candidates that did not return their questionnaire: District #1 - David Vazquez, Christian L. Vaughan; District #2 - Jon Dumitru, Caroline Alatorre; District #3 - Danett Abbott-Wicker, Michael Alvarez; District #5 - Rick Ledesma; Mayor - Mark Murphy YES ON AA - Mark Murphy, David Vazquez, Michael Alvarez

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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 photobooth, 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, Joshua Miller, Shawn Ricker and 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 college level.

Miller built a food preparation table for Manna For Life food bank for his Eagle project. After high school, he plans to focus

on computer science in college, transitioning that to a job in the computer field and then working on his master's degree.

Ricker built an adjustable podium with wheels on it for the Civil Air Patrol. Shawn's long-term goals include a college education, and becoming a military officer through ROTC. After that, he would like to direct music at the collegiate level.

For his Eagle project, Ettipio built 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 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:40 p.m at the Cerro Villa Middle School auditorium.



Griffin Dwyer



Joseph Ettipio



Joshua Miller



Shawn Ricker

### OUSD students rank nationally

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

Ryan Mahoney, Karina Patel and Anna Vaughan from Canyon High, and Dagny Parayao from El Modena High will compete to become National Merit Scholarship finalists and earn scholarships of \$2,500 or more per year.

Over 1.5 million juniors in approximately 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Approximately 16,000 students, less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, will be recognized as semifinalists nationwide.

Finalists will be announced in February.



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 presented. A stake president is a church lay leader of a stake, which is a geographic area similar to a Catholic diocese. Being a stake president is usually a nine to 10-year volunteer commitment. The Orange Stake president oversees the spiritual progress of several thousand local LDS members in Tustin, North Tustin, Orange, Villa Park and Santa Ana.

### VP applies state funds to aid business recovery

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 businesses within the city. The city council approved the slate of grant recipients at its Aug. 25 meeting. Twelve businesses re-

ceived \$5,000; one, \$4,000; three, \$2,000 and one, \$1,000. Thirteen of the awardees had also received funding under Phase 1.

In Phase 1, Villa Park disbursed a maximum of \$10,000 in 17 grants to small city businesses. The recovery program was set in motion when the State of Califor-

nia distributed \$500 million of its share of CARES Act federal funds on a per capita basis to cities that did not receive a direct allocation from the federal government, or to those with 300,000 or fewer residents. The OC Board of Supervisors initially granted \$147,382 to VP for Phase 1.



Since the highly popular 83rd Annual Flower Show by the Woman's Club of Orange was canceled due to the pandemic, the group found other ways to keep their flowers and plants moving. Over the summer, club members held private yard sales of homegrown plants. This one, held in September at the home of Flower Show chairperson Pietra Gaw, was replete with masks and social distancing (as much as could be enforced among enthusiastic shoppers).

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FOR STATE ASSEMBLY

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**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. Youth members have opportunities to get involved in animal husbandry projects, leadership, and community service. For registration and more information, email [oabb4h@yahoo.com](mailto:oabb4h@yahoo.com).

**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 for youth, and by youth, with adult advisers. The overall program is administered through the University of California's Orange County Cooperative Extension. [oc4h.org](http://oc4h.org)

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# Guest Commentary

## Other city councils listen, why not Orange?

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 Cannon 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 \$29,716. Cities rack up even greater costs when issues go to litigation. Attorney Charles Krolkowski, who represents several Orange County citizen groups, says it can cost cities hundreds of thousands of dollars to respond to citizen group lawsuits. When asked how cities can avoid litigation, Krolkowski says, in a word, "transparency."

**Residents in Santa Ana open council's eyes**

In February, the group North Santa Ana Preservation Alliance led a successful referendum drive after the Santa Ana City Council voted 4-3 in favor of a 256-unit apartment complex. Another group, Santa Ana Citizens for Responsible Development filed a lawsuit, claiming the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) failed to address impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. On his Facebook page, Councilmember David Penalzoza called residents' efforts to gather 19,000 signatures in 30 days "inspiring" and "eye-opening." Following the referendum drive, the council voted to repeal the actions that rezoned the property, negating the need to put the issue on the ballot.

According to Dale Helvig, who lives near the site and participated in the referendum, their district representative Jose Solorio repeatedly sang the praises of the project. When it came to voting on repealing the ordinance, Solorio abstained. "They've got to realize," Helvig said, "it's the people that put them in, and it's the people that can remove them." Two of the current council members are running for mayor in November. One of them is Solorio.

**Anaheim Hills residents turn up the heat**

In February, the Anaheim City Council reversed its approval of the Residences at Nohl Ranch, a 54-unit condo development that would have wiped out a popular neighborhood retail center in Anaheim Hills. In the EIR, the property owner claimed the center at Serrano Ave. and Nohl Ranch Road was "under utilized." However, residents who showed up in large numbers painted a dif-

ferent picture. A neighborhood group Citizens Advocating Responsible Development (CARD) filed a lawsuit over what it called "inaccuracies" in the EIR. During the second reading, Councilmember Denise Barnes 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 reelection, 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 it on the ballot, fueling outrage 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 Collins 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.

"People are becoming more active in politics," warned Helvig. "You have to listen to the people you represent, or you're not going to be in there again."

*Stephanie Lesinski is a resident of Mabury Ranch.*



Max Ngo, a student at Pioneer Middle School in Tustin, earned first place in the middle school age category of Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council's 2020 Blue Ribbon Youth Art Contest. His artwork was selected out of entries representing 16 middle schools. The 12-year-old received a certificate, gift card and large poster of his winning entry.

## Fireworks funds nonprofits

The three entities that operated safe and sane fireworks stands in Villa Park before the July 4th holiday have reported sales and earnings for 2020.

Villa Park High School Parent, Faculty, Student Organization (PFSO) reported gross sales of \$111,495 and a profit of \$51,460. Rotary Club of Villa Park indicated sales of \$110,256 and \$42,302 profit. The Villa Park High School March N' Spartans had \$55,990 in sales, and \$27,519 in profits.

Proceeds will fund programs for the nonprofits. During the sales period, no violations were reported after inspections by OC Fire Authority and city staff.

## Tustin to offer free health services

In conjunction with St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare, the City of Tustin Parks and Recreation Dept. will offer a Resource Fair and Flu Shot Clinic from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1 at the Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St.

The free event will offer flu shots for seniors, age 60 and up, as well as hearing screenings; complimentary oral exams and hygiene packets from local dentists. Housing information; advocacy groups; and representatives to provide medicare insurance information will also be on site.

Raffle prizes, giveaways and light refreshments will be available.

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## Guest Commentary

### A review of our city council's mistakes and long-term consequences

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 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.

The consequence of this shortsighted decision has allowed this site to illegally convert into a dumpsite, which city hall condoned. For over 12 years, residents have had to endure Milan'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 failed 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 inter-

ests 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.*

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the kind of ethical, hard-working and fiscally responsible leaders OUSD needs."



#### Linda Horist

California Teacher of the Year

"Ana, Carrie, & Tiger have our students' interests at heart.

Their willingness to roll up their sleeves and be visible in our community is exactly the change we need."



### Pint-sized hero gets free ice cream

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.

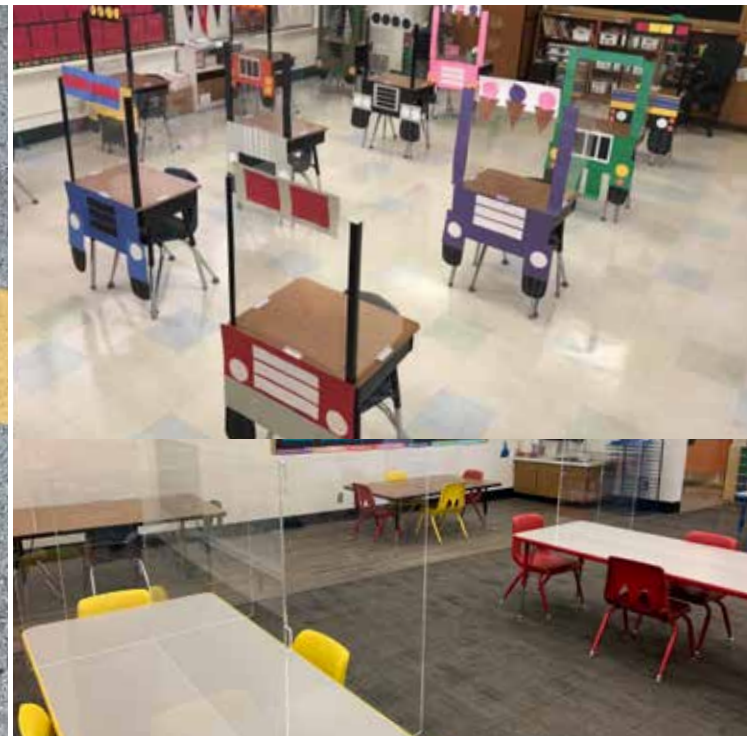
Baskin-Robbins named her a Pint-Sized Hero, an honorific that celebrates the acts of kindness initiated by young people nationwide.

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.

### OUSD reconfigures for safe reopening



Photo by Kevin Sullivan, OUSD



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 Stilwell 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**  
**128 Houses**

**Don't be fooled by the open space propaganda.**

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Please join more than 13,000 Orange voters who signed the referendum.

**Only you can stop this by voting “NO on AA” on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



The Tustin Area Woman's Club 2020/21 Board is working together to plan fundraising events for the coming year. Bottom row, left to right, are Barbara Grider, Beth Smith, Pat Filley; second row, Gretchen Veleke, Linette Johnston, Barbara George, Bunny Smith, Sheryl Franke, Peggy George, Nettie Hershman and Loveda Prescott.

### THOUGHTS from a TREE M.D.

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



Doctors of Medicine are in high demand. Their services help to sustain life, as we know it, save lives acutely affected by accidents and of violence. They provide relief from pain and set our broken bones back into place. But even after all of their education, and all their help, our bodies do the actual healing.

Our bodies are such amazing, self-healing organisms -- it's mind-blowing. Let's take smoking, for instance. After just one day of quitting smoking, the risk of heart attack begins to decrease. Blood pressure begins to drop, and oxygen levels rise. Just two days after quitting, the nerve endings responsible for smell and taste begin to heal, resulting in a heightened sense of smell and more vivid tastes. After nine months, the lungs have significantly healed themselves. Cilia, the small hair-like projections in the bronchus, recover from the damage of cigarette smoke, which allows them to push out mucus from the lungs and help fight infections. Roughly 10 years after quitting smoking, your lungs are like that of a person who has never smoked.

Trees are similar to us in that when they are cut, they bleed. Where a wound is, a scar forms. CODIT is the acronym for Compartmentalization Of Decay In Trees. It is the processes that occur when a tree is wounded, wherein damaged or diseased ar-

reas are isolated from healthy tissue surrounding the wound. After wounding, the cambium forms a wall. This wall is called a "barrier zone," and separates wood formed before wounding from wood that forms after wounding. Chemical barriers develop around the injured tissues and are zoned as four "walls." Walls one to three are not very strong, but the fourth wall confines invaders to the wood present at the time of wounding. Ever see those giant trees that have a hole cut out so cars can drive through them?

CODIT is what allows trees to not fail when they have been damaged to the extent that they are.

Some tree species perform their own plastic surgery. As the tree gets older and the trunk gets wider, it conceals the scars created by exterior damages. As the tree continues to grow, the outer bark is replaced by new bark, pushing the damaged bark inward as new bark forms on the outside.

Clearly, this article's purpose isn't to give you the go-ahead to hurt or damage your trees, rather to understand their incredible abilities, and similarities to our own bodies and recovery systems.

"When you know that trees experience pain and have memories and that tree parents live together with their children, then you can no longer just chop them down and disrupt their lives with large machines." - Peter Wohlleben

### Villa Park to host free flu shot clinic

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.

### Pirates Cave to haunt Orange

The Pirates Cave home haunt will open for its 21st year, keeping Halloween alive by providing family-friendly scares.

This year, the cave walls will be opened for a walk up display, sharing the origins of how the scary pirates came to be. The event features a six-minute multi-screen video presentation synced to lighting effects, props, special effects and live actors. More nights have been added this year to help thin-out crowds; masks are recommended.

The Pirates Cave haunt is a labor of love headed up by the fa-

ther and son team, Dave and Jacob Larson. They spend approximately three months prepping, with up to 25 volunteers to help set-up and run the haunt.

Jeffrey Simons of Keller Williams Realty and Pam Dunn of Mulberry Street Mortgage help sponsor the event.

The outdoor presentation will be open Oct. 23-25, 30, 31 and Nov. 1 from 7-10 p.m. at 2548 E. Garfield in Orange. A \$1 per person donation is suggested, but not required.

For photos and info, see [Piratescavehaunt.wixsite.com](http://Piratescavehaunt.wixsite.com).



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To View Superintendent's Video

[www.orangeusd.org/phase2](http://www.orangeusd.org/phase2)





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.



Creek flood waters invade Hart Park.

## Santiago Creek safety valve should not be overlooked

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 piled 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 last 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 rebounded 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.

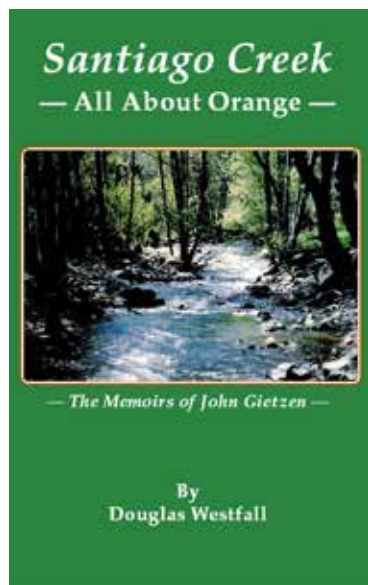
The Villa Park Dam is usually kept low to allow a back-up system for the Irvine Lake. It holds 15,600 acre-feet, or 40 percent of the total volume of Irvine Lake. Together, the dams are there to contain 84 square miles of runoff. At even one-foot depth of water, that represents nearly 54,000 acre-feet — 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 1¼-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 that 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.



Douglas Westfall has authored numerous books on Orange history. His latest, Santiago Creek, is available at specialbooks.com

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## 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 inventory 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 one bit 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 looking 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 to schedule; appraisals 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 holiday season. Check back again next month, and have a Happy Halloween --- Mwahahaha!



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 be 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 pole at his furr-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) 815-4300 or, the faster way to bring your new family member home, is to email [ocsp.adoptions@gmail.com](mailto:ocsp.adoptions@gmail.com), putting the cat's name in the subject line. For information on current adoption events, see [ocsmallpaws.org](http://ocsmallpaws.org).

MONTH at-a-glance		ORANGE   AUGUST 2020					
		AUG-20	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	AUG-19	YTD	
<b>\$755,000</b> MEDIAN SALES PRICE	<b>\$419</b> AVERAGE PRICE PER SQ FT	<b>1.5</b> MONTH'S SUPPLY OF INVENTORY	Median Sales Price \$755,000	1%	2%	13%	\$730,000
			Average Sales Price \$756,931	-4%	1%	6%	\$755,350
			Properties for Sale 181	17%	--	-23%	--
			Properties Sold 123	-14%	--	31%	715
			Avg Days on Market 25	-19%	-17%	-51%	36
			Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold) \$419	-2%	-1%	2%	\$417
			Inventory (Months) 1.5	36%	5%	-41%	2.0

MONTH at-a-glance		TUSTIN   AUGUST 2020					
		AUG-20	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	AUG-19	YTD	
<b>\$770,000</b> MEDIAN SALES PRICE	<b>\$432</b> AVERAGE PRICE PER SQ FT	<b>1.7</b> MONTH'S SUPPLY OF INVENTORY	Median Sales Price \$770,000	1%	2%	13%	\$747,000
			Average Sales Price \$768,853	-10%	-5%	1%	\$801,933
			Properties for Sale 115	19%	--	-15%	--
			Properties Sold 67	-12%	--	-7%	371
			Avg Days on Market 31	-33%	-18%	-21%	37
			Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold) \$432	-1%	-2%	1%	\$440
			Inventory (Months) 1.7	35%	-3%	-9%	2.1

MONTH at-a-glance		VILLA PARK   AUGUST 2020					
		AUG-20	LAST MO	LAST 3 MOS	AUG-19	YTD	
<b>\$1,373,000</b> MEDIAN SALES PRICE	<b>\$415</b> AVERAGE PRICE PER SQ FT	<b>2.0</b> MONTH'S SUPPLY OF INVENTORY	Median Sales Price \$1,373,000	-13%	-9%	9%	\$1,517,000
			Average Sales Price \$1,424,745	-8%	-6%	-1%	\$1,562,454
			Properties for Sale 18	-25%	--	-31%	--
			Properties Sold 9	50%	--	-18%	45
			Avg Days on Market 91	69%	21%	3%	76
			Avg Price/Sq Ft (Sold) \$415	-1%	-3%	4%	\$422
			Inventory (Months) 2.0	-50%	-46%	-15%	4.4



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 backyard 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, parents themselves, know that many families don't have the time, money or

transportation available to send their children to expensive private lessons.

"What 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 teacher 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, scores of vocal exercises, personalized backing tracks, contests, workshops, and both virtual and live performance opportunities.

For information, see [theinsidevoice.org](http://theinsidevoice.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 their vehicles and donned vintage clothing from the 1940s to parade through the city, culminating at President Norma Hock-

ensmith's home for prizes, music and snacks from that era.

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 Assisteens Auxiliaries.



The Best Themed Car was decorated by, left to right, Shirley Mullens, Valerye Golub, Barbara Walsh and Sandy Benz.



Member Alice Prothero won for Best 40s Costume.



Winners of the Prettiest Car were, left to right, Geri Walker, Karen Wooley and Jan Hildenbrand.



Vikki Murphy and Dana Guns won for Most Supportive Car.

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OBITUARIES



**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.

Arlene and Fred Springe moved to Baltimore soon after they were married. 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 whatever 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 throughout 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 extensive international travel 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 condolence 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 (Jim) of Santa Barbara; sons Fred Jr. (Keyla) of Paso Robles and Erik (Stacey) of American Canyon; deceased son Kirk's wife Suzan Springe of Riverside; 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/ocie/orangeco20/team-arlene>.

**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 (DSAofOC) 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 DSAofOC and The Eli Home, each for \$1,750.

The Elks will miss seeing the smiles at the DSAofOC 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 DSAofOC, left to right, Elks Rosie Cash, Linda Salas, Exalted Ruler Danny Salas, DSAofOC Executive Director Kellie Perez and her daughter Alex holding Lil Elroy, Mike Cash and Rick Ellifritt.*



Beacon Grant funds were presented to the Eli Home, above, left to right, Elks Bill Brogdan, Danny Salas; Eli Home Executive Director Lorri Galloway holding Lil Elroy; Beata Lichtenstein and Mike Cash.



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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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