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A Monthly Community Newspaper

September 2022

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North Tustin Street Plan tabled for now

By Tina Richards

The North Tustin Street Specific Plan (NTSSP) has been put on hold, following a unanimous vote by the Orange City Council. They will rethink the plan's rezoning component and attempt to reach more consensus among voters, property owners and the city before moving forward.

The vote was in response to residents' concerns that the proposed rezoning of the Tustin corridor would overwhelm neighborhoods with multi-story housing units, additional traffic congestion and incompatible density. Neighbors who live near the Village at Orange – a central focus of the NTSSP – also expressed dismay that the city did not notify them about the proposed rezoning, and believed they had been excluded from the process.

Councilmember Kathy Tavoularis, appointed earlier this year to represent District 3, home to the mall, reported that she also felt ignored and, as a resident, asked the council to slow down the process and create an ad hoc committee to "assist with the vision of the NTSSP." The Aug. 9 vote was taken without Mayor Mark

Murphy, who recused himself because his wife works for a major landowner of property along the Tustin corridor.

The market has spoken

The original goal of the NTSSP was to revitalize the corridor between Lincoln and Katella with mixed-use zoning that would allow commercial properties to accommodate housing. The work was paid for with a government grant; the mixed-use zoning designation was determined by market studies and fiscal analysis. "It was," city staff said, "market-driven."

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was commissioned for a conceptual plan that included additional office space, a hotel, less commercial square footage and 2,106 housing units. The city assured residents that the proposed housing units were just a number for planning purposes, and that housing does not have to be built there.

See "North Tustin St." continued on page 3



Photo by Tony Richards

El Modena High water polo players inspect the filtration system for the school's new aquatic center that opened, Aug. 2. From the bottom, Eddy Mosbrook, Claire Timmermans, Danny Marones, Kenny South-erland, Evan Bui and Johnathan Alvarez. See page 2.

Orange council suggests civil servants needn't be civil

By Tina Richards

"Under the First Amendment, freedom of speech is a right given to us as council members and to the public," Orange Councilmember Jon Dumitru stressed at the Aug. 9 council meeting. "We have the right to free expression. The courts have ruled that you have freedom to think as you will and speak as you think. A code of conduct will limit free speech."

The code of conduct Dumitru spoke against was proposed by Councilmember Ana Gutierrez. It was in response to Chip Monaco's

behavior during the July council meeting, wherein he belittled her and colleague Arianna Barrios for their support of citizen concerns, and demeaned the citizens who chose to make public comments during the meeting.

Gutierrez cited her personal discomfort with the disrespect shown to her, Barrios and the public, and asked her council colleagues to support a code of conduct that would address how council members relate to each other and treat members of the public.

Respect, just a little bit

"After last month's meeting, I reflected on our purpose, why we're here," she said. "We're tasked to serve our residents, and respectful discourse should be a priority. I welcome differing opinions, but you can tell me you believe my opinion is flawed in a respectful manner. We don't have rules or tools to guide the mayor. This isn't the first time I've seen disrespect to others. But I hope it is the last."

Gutierrez's comments were reinforced by public speakers who

called out Monaco specifically, and the council in general. "I urge the council to develop rules of decorum," Bonnie Robinson said. "I have witnessed the harassment of other council members and seen you denigrate people in the community."

"Other cities are watching us," Sherry Panttaja advised. "They see citizens called out by name and communities belittled. You

See "Civil Servants" continued on page 3

The fall and rise of Mary's Kitchen

By John Underwood

The sudden demise of Mary's Kitchen, the long-established food kitchen and sanctuary for the homeless, formerly on Struck Avenue in the City of Orange, came as a shock not only to its hundreds of homeless patrons, but to the kitchen's CEO and living matriarch Gloria Suess. She had, she says, been assured by the city that Mary's operating practices, her lease and her reputation were all in good standing in 2019. And then, all of a sudden, they weren't. "Yes, it was a shock to me," says Suess. "People have said, 'We thought you were doing so well.' Well, so did I."

In 2021, the city declared Mary's Kitchen a blight on the community and a burden on its police, and set upon a campaign to expedite a quick eviction of the landmark nonprofit. It must have been a bit of a shock to the city, though, when Federal Judge David Carter disagreed with its

characterizations of Mary's as an enabler of violence and criminal activity. He put the brakes on the eviction for six months while Mary's Kitchen scrambled for new digs.

Bad rap?

Six months have passed, during which time Suess and her board have struggled to find a suitable site to resume operations. "We have worked hard to find a site to begin again," she says. "We've been turned down 11 times, and each of those times the owners said, 'We admire what you do, but we've heard about the troubles you've had, and we can't have that here.' What troubles? We've had no more incidences inside our gates than before." Even Judge Carter challenged the city on that, revealing in court testimony that, in fact, the crime rate around Mary's Kitchen had gone down.

In its zeal to fast-track Mary's

eviction, the city attempted to lay the blame on the nonprofit as devolving into "an attractive nuisance ... we had no choice," Mayor Mark Murphy pronounced.

Gloria Suess disagrees. "They think they can say it over and over and make it true ... but it's not." Only later was it revealed that the city had other priorities. Quietly and without public notice, the city had been processing approval for a massive truck depot and logistics warehouse to be built, bordering the Mary's Kitchen property. Such a project could never have passed environmental review with a homeless walk-up kitchen still operating next door.

The pending removal of Mary's allowed an initial declaration of "no significant impacts," which could have precluded a full out Environmental Impact

See "Mary's Kitchen" continued on page 2



Photo by John Underwood

Mary's Kitchen CEO Gloria Suess carries a big stick.

NEWS INSIDE

SKIP A STEP

Proponents of Palmyra Cemetery ask for design review denial to fast track planning commission approval.

See Green, page 8

A NOT SO FAST ONE

In an action almost lost among routine agenda items, the Orange council grants an extension to proposed development bordering Mabury Ranch.

See Tract map, page 8

CANDID CANDIDATES

Citizens vying for public office introduce themselves to voters.

See SMRPD, page 6; OUSD, page 11

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS

Rules for new SMRPD board members spelled out for easy transition from private citizen to public asset curator.

See Canyon Beat, page 16

PLAY BALL

High school teams return to the fall season field; individual players cited for past performances.

See Community Sports, page 19

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"Mary's Kitchen"
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Report (EIR). The city, however, received a stream of complaints and an EIR is now underway.

From walk-up to drive-to

After six frustrating months of searching, Mary's Kitchen has landed a new location where it will begin again. It won't be in Orange. An Anaheim warehouse has been secured, wherein operations will resume. With its broad-based network of surplus food donors still intact, Mary's Kitchen will be expanding, adding refrigeration trucks and doubling down on its food distribution services to host sites from Fullerton to Anaheim, and Santa Ana to Garden Grove. But it won't be the same operation.

Restricted by the warehouse lease to food collection and distribution, Sues says that it will NOT be the familiar walk-up services the homeless had come to appreciate -- and rely on -- for close to three decades on Struck Avenue.

"That door has closed for the time being," Sues says. "No walk-ups. We can't have them [homeless patrons] at our industrial site."

Hugs and handshakes

That last sentence appeared visibly painful for the matriarch, who revealed that the most personal perk of her reign over Mary's Kitchen has been the one-on-one relationships she developed with her homeless patrons. "Even more difficult for me than saying goodbye to so many who came around to give me a last hug, are the ones who pressed their phone numbers into

Save the date for GOCAT

In keeping with its mission to create a state-of-the-art performance and visual arts complex in Grijalva Park for all ages, the Greater Orange Community Arts Theater Foundation (GOCAT) will hold the GOCAT Gala on Friday, Oct. 28 at the Doubletree Hilton. For sponsorship and ticket info, see GOCAT4ALL.org.



Los Angeles Dodger and El Modena High School graduate Freddie Freeman is donating \$500,000 to OUSD to build a clubhouse and batting cages at his alma mater. The 1,400-sq.-ft. modular structure will include a coach's office, storage area, team meeting room and lockers. The plans first go to the State Architect for approval, before the project starts. The district will pay for site work, walkways, fencing, drinking fountains and furnishings. The total cost is \$1.1 million; unspent contingency funds from the aquatics facility will make up the difference.

my hand and said, 'you'll find us Gloria, I know.' They couldn't accept that Mary's gates could be closed to them. And I don't blame them. It was a place, maybe the only place, they felt accepted."

At least the trucks of Mary's Kitchen will roll again. A number of congregational and community sites have committed to partnering with Gloria to serve foodstuffs, beginning in October. For now, that's as much as Mary's Kitchen can commit to. But Sues says she is open to other options. "We are even open to partnering with someone who could run a shelter, and we could run the kitchen part of it. We know there are many church groups and community nonprofits that acknowledge the need, but don't have the distribution or refrigeration to build on. We have that."

What these partners do have, and share with Mary's Kitchen, Sues says, is "a mission of outreach to the homeless and the hungry ... for all the right reasons. And that's good enough for right now."

John Underwood is a longtime OC journalist who has written for numerous publications and is an award-winning documentary producer.

Orange Chamber to host Candidates' Forum

The Orange Chamber of Commerce's 2022 City Council and Mayoral Candidates' Forum will be held at Santiago Canyon College on Thursday, Sept. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. The SCC campus is located at 8045 E. Chapman Ave.

The in-person forum will be moderated by Gaddi Vasquez, 8th United States Ambassador to the United Nations in Rome. The public will hear from city council and mayoral candidates seeking to serve the City of Orange. Vasquez will ask questions on topics impacting the city.

Chamber Executive Director Elizabeth Holloman urges Orange residents and business owners to save the date for this event that may help shape their choices in the Nov. 8 election.

For more information, contact the Orange Chamber at (714) 538-3581 or email Elizabeth@OrangeChamber.com.



Photo by Tony Richards

In addition to a new 30-m. pool, El Modena High's aquatics facility includes a new scoreboard, timing system, restrooms, lockers and training rooms, and a state-of-the-art filtration and temperature control system that keeps the water sparkling clean at 84 degrees.



The Aug. 2 ceremonial ribbon cutting for El Modena's new aquatics facility featured, from left, OUSD Deputy Supt. Dave Rivera, El Modena Principal Sandra Preciado, OUSD Trustees Angie Rumsey, Rick Ledesma, Ana Page, OUSD Supt. Gunn Marie Hansen, and OUSD Asst. Supt. Cathleen Corella.

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"North Tustin St."
continued from page 1

Village at Orange neighbor Darren Kempkus told the council that he supports revitalization, but not the Specific Plan, as, "It seems to be backed by developers and state grant money."

Resident Jeff Lawrence added that the plan seemed to financially benefit developers, and that the city had already met its state-mandated housing requirements.

Grant comes with a catch

Residents Doug and Matt Hamilton had carefully studied the city's grant application and documents funding the NTSSP, and reported that housing is an expected result of the government's investment. "The application says it's going to

be affordable housing," Matt Hamilton said, "but the EIR says it's going to be market rate. Those documents conflict with what the city has been telling us."

He also fears legal liability if the city spends the money and doesn't build housing.

Planning Director Susan Galvan clarified that the grant money was issued to satisfy two things: work on the city's housing element, and the Tustin Plan. The housing element money has already been spent, and the report sent to the state.

The common thread among residents' public comments was that the mall property should retain its commercial zoning and not include residential.

Mall property owners disagreed, saying that the mall is reaching the end of its useful

life, and consumers are no longer drawn to large malls. "We want a place where residents come to shop and dine, and maybe live," one said. "The problem is, economics won't let strictly commercial zoning work."

Shop where you live

Another noted that introducing residents into commercial areas has worked in other locations. "It's an opportunity to activate this mall," he said, "to put residents close to a retail center. We have plans for a couple hundred homes, not high-rises, just two- to three-story. It will increase sales taxes and property values."

"This plan is flawed," Tavoularis insisted. "I'm frustrated by the lack of transparency or notice. Nobody knows what this plan is. I move

that council cancel the plan, return the grant money, shorten the scope to Lincoln and Meats, and appoint an ad hoc committee."

Chip Monaco seconded the motion, saying, "This plan, this process, has spun out of control. The community became confused. There's no way to move forward in a productive way. We need an ad hoc committee with staff, the community, and property owners. And send the money back to the state. Kathy Tavoularis should chair the committee."

Plan B

Mayor Pro Tem Kim Nichols, chairing the discussion in Murphy's absence, agreed that, "we don't have consensus. We are on a path to step back." She advised that they move with caution, "We survive on

development," she said, "We don't want to be adversarial." She then suggested Monaco serve on the committee, as District 4, which he represents by default, borders the Tustin corridor.

Ana Gutierrez, whose District 5 grazes the NTSSP boundary, had asked to be on the committee at the July council meeting. She again expressed her interest. "No," Nichols told her, "it can only be two councilmembers to comply with the Brown Act."

City Attorney Gary Sheatz summarized the discussion, confirming that the vote was to cancel the specific plan, return the grant money earmarked for the plan, refine its scope, and create an ad hoc committee with Tavoularis and Monaco. It was not clear who else would be invited to join the committee.

"Civil Servants"
continued from page 1

should take a serious look at why you are on the council. You are here to serve us."

"If you are sick of hearing residents complain, you should resign," Dru Whitefeather underlined. "Sometimes the public knows more about an issue than you do. This falls on Mayor Mark Murphy."

Laurel Maldonado insisted that, "this pattern of bullying and disrespect needs to stop. It damages the entire council. I'm asking you to bring back respect, dignity and professionalism."

The right to slight

Dumitru pointed out that the city code does contain two sentences about decorum, but, he said, "It's worthless." Hammering on the constitutional right to free speech, he highlighted the need for "lofty discourse," even if it was discomfiting or abrasive. "We have the freedom to speak

foolishly and without moderation," he said, citing a number of court cases confirming that bad behavior on the dais is legal.

"What's on the books now is more restrictive on the public than the council," Murphy said. "Maybe we could seek a balance between what is expected of the public and the council." Noting that the July meeting was the "exception rather than the rule," he vowed to "tighten the reins on the procedural part of council meetings without infringing on the rights of an individual to have an opinion."

Speak easy

City Attorney Gary Sheatz asked what the council wanted staff to do. "Should we come back with a policy?"

"I'd be happy to see something come back," Kim Nichols advised. "There's always room for self-reflection. But we have to be careful not to prevent free speech. If there's something on the books, let's fix it." But, she added, we don't want language that would lead to lawsuits.

Sheatz acknowledged that he would "come back with something."

Chip Monaco was silent during the entire discussion. Before addressing the next agenda item, he offered an apology of sorts. "I apologize to my colleagues," he said, "for being the source of an hour of time that we shouldn't have to have at the dais."

Later that week, he announced that he would not be running for the District 4 council seat.

Art League presents demo

Richard Suckling will be the featured artist at the Tustin Art League's September online work-in-progress demonstration.

The Zoom meeting will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8. The link can be found at TCFA.org.

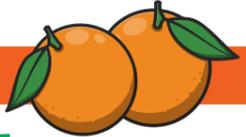


Silverado resident Jean Millar has been named to the board of

MOMS Orange County, a non-profit dedicated to the health of pregnant women and newborns. Millar is regional executive director of the Women and Children's Clinical Institute, Providence, and has leadership experience in healthcare operations, physician relations, financial management and quality improvement. MOMS aims to help vulnerable families have healthy babies, and to disrupt the dynamics of poverty, lack of health insurance and barriers to care. MOMS serves 5,000 mothers, babies and fathers annually.

Chris Horton

for Orange City Council



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- Make Public Safety a top priority
- Vote against any tax increase
- Work with other city leaders to eradicate the homeless issue in our city

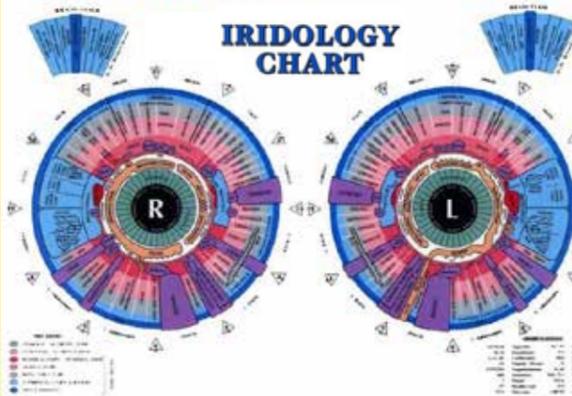
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Explore vintage homes in Old Town Tustin



By Guy Ball

After a two-year hiatus, the Tustin Area Historical Society will host its 24th annual Old Town Tustin Home and Garden Tour, themed "The Heart of Tustin: Welcome Home," on Saturday, Sept., 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour-goers will enjoy a stroll through the city's Old Town area and view how homeowners have turned their vintage homes and gardens into modern living spaces while maintaining the charm of yesteryear. Each home has a unique story, interesting décor, and artifacts collected by their owners.

This year, the architectural styles include two Victorian Italianates, a Victorian Queen Anne, a single-story Craftsman, and a unique two-story Craftsman that was moved to its present location when Interstate 5 was built and threatened to demolish it. Several homes were built before 1900, and two built by the 1920s.

According to event committee member Gretchen Whisler, "You will see the architectural variety in the five houses with individualized layouts. The treat is always

in the personalization and often in the history -- this year we have both."

Other activities include a downtown tree walk at 10:30 a.m. with landscape architect Guy Stivers; a vintage car and trailer show; a quilt show by the Flying Geese Quilters Guild; the traditional Maypole dance performances; a craft marketplace; a talk on drought-tolerant gardens by Laguna Hills Nursery; live music; and a wine and beer garden. A horse-drawn trolley provide transportation between all homes.

Tickets on the day of the event are \$30, with discounted pre-sale tickets available until Sept. 23. For more information or to order tickets online, visit TustinHistory.com, or call (714) 731-5701. The tour will begin at the Tustin Presbyterian Church, 225 W. Main St. An opening ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The tour benefits the Tustin Area Historical Society, and supports the Tustin Area Museum and such other programs as "History in a Box" for school children.

Orange Elks aid CHOC

The Orange Elks, whose motto is "Elks Care and Elks Share," are known for their affiliations within the community. They held a special event for CHOC's (Children's Hospital of Orange County) Cleft and Craniofacial Family Picnic.

The picnic was held at the Santa Ana Zoo for the young patients who have been treated at CHOC for craniofacial problems. The event gives these children an opportunity to meet and enjoy a special day with other individuals who have experienced similar challenges.

Activities included a Western dance demonstration, limbo contests, water fun, tug-of-war, other



Choco the Bear poses with visitors at the Elks-sponsored picnic.

on hand to greet all of the children and families. Choco, the CHOC mascot, was

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Ensure a stronger police presence to combat criminal activity.

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4. ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Employ workable solutions to get homeless people off the streets and out of our parks and help get them back on their feet.

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Protect our neighborhoods from traffic, parking intrusions, accessory apartments and un-kept rental properties.

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Sat, Sep 17, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

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Thu, Sep 29, 7:30pm

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Fri, Sep 30, 7:30pm

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DakhaBrakha

Wed, Oct 5, 7:30pm

MIK NAWOOJ

Classical ensemble at the
"cutting edge of hip-hop." — *Huffington Post*

Thu, Oct 20, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

"...brimming with vitality...powerful"
— *The Boston Globe*

EPIC STORYTELLING,
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THE JUST AND THE BLIND

Fri, Oct 28, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

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Wed, Nov 2, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

NOCHEBUENA
CHRISTMAS EVE IN MEXICO

Ballet Folklórico de
Los Angeles and
Mariachi Garibaldi
de Jaime Cuéllar

Thu, Dec 22, 7:30pm

"One of the most ambitious and literary songwriters of her generation"
— *Rolling Stone*

Rosanne Cash Duo

Thu, Feb 16, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

Exploring the limits of human physicality!

Pilobolus

Thu, Feb 23, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

Lawrence Brownlee
Tenor

Songs from the Harlem Renaissance

Wed, Mar 1, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

Lucia Micarelli Quartet

"A violinist of heart-melting talent."
— *The Wall Street Journal*

Thu, Mar 16, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

Spring Choral Celebration

Orange Community Master Chorale
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Sun, Mar 19, 3pm

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"A brilliant collision of cultures"
— *The New Yorker*

Sat, Apr 29, 7:30pm LEAP OF ART Residency

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CoPA Dance
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The 2022-23 Executive Board of the Woman's Club of Orange consists of, front row from left, Irene Serna, president; Carol Allen, first vice president; Susan Lewis, secretary; Carol Calderwood, second vice president. Back row from left, Jodi Hess, corresponding secretary; Jan McGovney, financial treasurer; and Kathy Host, treasurer. The Woman's Club invites readers to learn about this year's programs and activities by calling (714) 744-6469 or visiting womansclubfororange.org.

Silverado-Modjeska Rec & Parks Candidates



Brittney Kuhn

Since 2007, I have worked in education, including early childhood and preschool, students with special needs in elementary through high school, business communication and public speaking for college students, and yoga for adults. I have served on the Student Advisory Board at Chapman University since 2019, where I have planned and executed many diverse events, which parallel what I hope to bring to the SMRPD Board. I received my B.A. from Chapman University, where I am working toward my master's. As a parent of two children, ages 5 and 10, I aspire to grow recreational programs, not just for our youth, but also for the whole community.

I love that I get to raise my children here, where people think about one another and band together through thick and thin, where nature is protected, nurtured and appreciated. I feel lucky to call the canyons my home, and I'm excited to have the opportunity to join the Silverado-Modjeska Parks & Recreation Board, where I hope to add to the wonderful community that already exists. Let's put recreation back into the park and recreation for our youth and our community by giving ourselves the opportunity to connect, play and learn together.

friendly." We are a unique community with a lot of talent. Our parks and rec board should turn its sails toward facilitating programs and activities, and ease up on its risk management focus. Ready for a workshop?

I'm running for the board with like-minded candidates, Brittney Kuhn and Ted Wright. Our goal is to make the use of our parks and community centers a "no-brainer" for canyon residents.

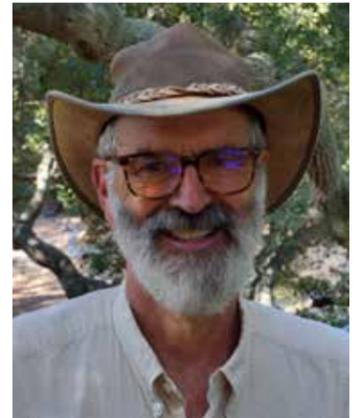
Simplify the process currently needed to use the community centers. Reduce the red tape.

Ensure that canyon facilities, including the Children's Center, are affordable for residents.

I'm a parent of two kids who attended the Children's Center and Silverado Elementary. I'm a landscape architect and have developed practical skills, like problem solving. I'm fortunate to have enjoyed 30 years of canyon life.

I like the park events where the community comes together: the swap meet, country fair, chili cook-off and fabulous summer concert series. The volunteers who make these events happen and the fun of canyon life inspire me to run for the board.

I'd appreciate your vote!



Ted Wright

I am running for Parks & Rec with Laurie Martz and Brittney Kuhn because we believe the Parks District needs a board whose members can work together to streamline operations, increase programs, and maximize benefits for all residents. The three of us will emphasize the following goals.

Facilities: Maintain and develop the canyons' parks and facilities so that residents have a sense of pride and always feel welcome.

Activities: we need a broader range of events and activities for all ages.

User-friendly policies: Make it easier for residents to use the facilities. Residents should not feel overwhelmed by regulations and paperwork for the simplest activities.

Children's Center: Make this an affordable option so that more canyon families can enroll their children.

I am a teacher, administrator, parent and grandparent, and have lived in the canyons since 2013. I have experience serving on boards, both at work and with my church, which, like the Parks & Rec board, oversees a preschool. I am experienced with budgets and know firsthand the challenges of getting the most from limited funds. My experience has taught me the importance of not letting administrative tasks overshadow an organization's true mission. I look forward to serving the canyon communities.

Candidate Jessie Bullis did not respond to Sentry requests for information. Candidate John Nelson could not be reached before publication. Those candidates, therefore, do not appear on this page.



Andrew Ward

Andrew Ward is a practicing engineer who has lived in Silverado since the mid nineties. He and his wife are raising their three children in the canyon, each of whom attended the Silverado Children's Center.

The Silverado Community Center has been an important part of his life, hosting favorite annual events such as the Canyon Concerts and the Easter Pancake Breakfast, as well as a great many family celebrations.

Andrew would like to keep the SMRPD Board in the hands of local residents.



Laurie Martz

Parks and Rec can and should make our canyon parks "user-



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Guest Commentary

Ill-conceived zoning undermines historic homes



By Tara Klasna

I live in a quiet, mostly unheard-of neighborhood in Old Towne Orange called Nutwood Place. Locals may not know that these homes are also part of the historic district – and represent the oldest housing tract in the City of Orange. Over 120 years ago, investors subdivided the acres of orchard land, hoping to create a new neighborhood that offered both status and family appeal.

The low-key nature of this serene neighborhood may have contributed to the current threat that the residents are now facing.

Without much notice, an investment group purchased two historic homes on South Grand Street. The street provides the main access between Old Towne Plaza to Hart Park, and the grandeur of these two homes may be one of the reasons that this street was originally named “Grand.”

Of course, the real estate investment company is not interested in these historic details. It’s business, after all. But, there is one detail that interested them very much: the fact that this historic district area remains designated as R-2 zoning, unlike most of the historic district that was re-designated as R-1 several years ago. This distinction makes all the difference – at least in financial terms for investors who want to build larger rental units with far more square footage than an ordinary Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). One of the projects includes a proposal for both a rental unit (that is similar in bulk and mass to the original home) and a separate ADU.

The consequences of these two proposed projects seem obvious: increased traffic, increased park-

ing problems (on a narrow street that allows parking on one side), and increased noise. But unlike many rental units built on historic properties, this homeowner will not be living on the premises, or anywhere near the property. In fact, I doubt that the neighbors will even have a way to contact these investors who simply view their historic home as a revenue stream.

As a person who once owned rental property in Big Bear, I understand that real estate is a vital financial investment that contributes to long-term prosperity. I also recognize the need for affordable housing in an increasingly expensive rental market. However, these projects are different; they are not reasonable real estate investments that consider the neighbors’ quality of life, and they are definitely not affordable housing units for hard-working families. In fact, the artist renderings of one of the projects depicts a student -- adorned with a backpack -- walking up the sidewalk to the backyard unit.

Given the nearby location of Chapman University, it’s not a

leap in logic to conclude that both of these projects will cater to Chapman students. These students (and their parents) may appreciate the charm of these historic homes, but it’s much more appropriate for Chapman to provide enough on-campus affordable housing for its students. To the misfortune of Old Towne residents, Chapman University accommodates less than 50% of its total population of 8,700 students (with plans to add an additional 1,800).

The average Orange County resident may think that this is an isolated issue, a local concern. Yet, new state legislation and the current economy will only increase the likelihood that your neighborhood may be next. Thankfully, there’s an opportunity for Orange residents to increase the volume of their concerns by voting in the November election for new city council and mayoral candidates who refuse to sacrifice the integrity of the historic district in order to appeal to business interests.

Tara Klasna is a longtime Old Towne resident.

Library Foundation to celebrate STEAM

The Orange Public Library Foundation will honor organizations contributing to STEAM education at its Full STEAM Ahead 2022 Library Legacy Awards and Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 25.

Honorees include Southern California Edison, Rotary Club of Orange, Chapman University Stentors and Keck Center for Science and Engineering Faculty, CARE, and Clockwork Oranges, the BSA Venture Robotics Competition Team.

The event begins at 3 p.m. at the Orange Public Library and History Center, 407 E. Chapman Avenue. It features dinner, drinks, dessert and a silent auction that includes a ride for two on the Goodyear Blimp. Proceeds benefit the Library Foundation.

Tickets are \$100; a sponsorship table for 10 is \$1,000. Call (714) 288-2470, or email OPLibrary-Foundation@gmail.com for information or to purchase tickets.

LETTERS to the EDITOR



Sticking Point

Dear Editor:

As I attended the Aug. 9 Orange City Council meeting, it struck me that Councilmember Jon Dumitru has a misunderstanding regard-

ing what we residents of Orange desire from our representative government. In what seemed to be a defense of the cringe-worthy tirade by Councilman Chip Monaco in July's meeting, and in apparent opposition to the responding proposal by Councilwoman Ana Gutierrez to establish better-defined Rules of Decorum for council meetings, Dumitru spoke at length about First Amendment rights regarding freedom of speech. He quoted several lawsuit precedents regarding the right of city officials to speak poorly of others in the legislative body and of the general public. I am a fan of research, so I appreciate what was clearly some lengthy discovery by Councilman Dumitru into the letter of the law regarding speech on the dais. However, as a resident of the city, I am not particularly interested in the fact that a councilmember may legally allow himself to act with anything other than model decorum; I am interested in responsible leadership that chooses to hold itself to a higher standard than the barest of basics, as set forth in the Constitution.

For Councilman Dumitru's next research project, I suggest he mines the depths of the phrase "earned legitimacy." This is a concept that is particularly salient to government officials in the United States. Officials must establish that they are worthy of elected leadership on the basis of their conduct, character and leadership ability, not solely on the soundness and technical legality of their policy proposals. Of course, legality matters; I'm not suggesting it doesn't. I'm simply saying that there are better standards to which we would hope that our elected officials aspire -- such as the City Council Rules of Decorum as proposed by Gutierrez -- than what is narrowly allowed by legal precedent.

Toward the end of the meeting,

Councilwoman Kathy Tavoularis said, "It is our failure to become our perceived ideal that ... makes Orange weak." While she was speaking on another topic at that moment, I think that her words are fitting for this one, as well.

I hope that each resident of the City of Orange will vote in upcoming elections and ensure that we are being governed by officials who value our representative democracy and who are aware that their conduct, not just their ability to propose and vote on policy, matters to the citizens of our fair city.

Karen Reill
Orange

Dear Editor:

After Chip Monaco's disrespect for his fellow city council members and his tirades to the public, we asked the city to adopt a code of conduct. Councilmembers Dumitru and Nichols had to deflect and make it about the First Amendment. That's not what a code of conduct is about. Not very long ago, Councilman Dumitru felt he was disrespected when somebody used the word "gypsy." He was offended, and let the public know it. All the public was asking for, was a municipal code that would give the public a course of action that has consequences for disrespecting the public and/or council members. The mayor and city council should be held to a higher standard!

I was personally attacked, and it is very apparent that Chip Monaco has contempt for Orange Park Acres. OPA and myself deserve an apology from the city. Mayor Mark Murphy has shown his leadership has no respect for the residents of Orange.

Mr. Murphy, this is an election year.

Dru Whitefeather
Orange

Dear Editor:

As a follow-up to Councilmember Chip Monaco's deplorable tirade at the city council meeting in July, I spoke, along with many others, at the August council

meeting. We expressed our disappointment in Monaco's behavior and, since Mayor Mark Murphy seems to condone this behavior, it was asked that a code of conduct be adopted with consequences of violation. It was interesting that Monaco did not speak at this meeting in his defense. However, two of his cronies (Dumitru and Nichols) tried their best to deflect the seriousness of this issue by saying it was his First Amendment right to speak and do whatever he wants. Though I agree the First Amendment is very important, this issue had nothing to do with it. It was about bringing back decency, courtesy and respect from city council members toward each other and Orange residents. These are elected seats and they should be held to a higher standard.

On Aug. 12, Chip Monaco publicly announced he would not seek election for District 4.

Now the residents of Orange have a rare opportunity, this election year, to turn this city around. We need to break the cycle of retreat, regurgitate and recycle former council members. Do your research to choose carefully and wisely.

It's long overdue to get Mayor Murphy out of office. He has no

respect for the City's General Plan, its residents or the future of Orange. He teams up with irreputable out-of-town land investors that want to change the City's General Plan, make their millions and move on. Dan Slater listens to his constituents, and he is what this city needs to bring back and preserve Orange.

Laurel Maldonado
Orange

CPOC to meet in September

Conservative Patriots of Orange County will kick off its fall season with a roundtable workshop on Thursday, Sept. 15. Topics will include election integrity, how to volunteer and vaccine mandates.

The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. with a buffet dinner for \$30 per person. Purchase tickets online at conservativepatriotsofoc.org, or make an advance reservation by calling Peggy Baranyay at (714) 828-1289. The meeting will be at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon Street.

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Green cemetery project skips Design Review approval

By Tina Richards

A development team member seeking approvals to create a green cemetery chose to accept a denial from the Orange Design Review Committee (DRC) and take the project directly to the city planning commission. The project is proposed for land that once housed a YMCA and BMX motocross track, behind the Orange Dog Park off Yorba.

The DRC had barely concluded its deliberations over the aesthetics and landscaping of the proposed cemetery, and was poised to offer Abdul Saquib of Kornerstone LLC a continuance. He, however, stepped up to the microphone and said he'd rather the DRC recommend denial. "I don't want a continuance," he said, "I'd rather go to the planning commission and find out if this project is going to be a go or

not."

Neighbors of the green cemetery site have opposed the project since they became aware of it last year. The property is a former dump that now generates methane gas. The methane migrated to the point that a house on Jennifer Street, closest to the landfill, was torn down.

First impressions

Residents report that CalRecycle's Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) has written several letters to the property owner, advising that due to ground settlement, drainage, water infiltration into the buried waste and gas generation, it could not approve the site for cemetery use.

Residents who appeared at the July 22 DRC meeting reported LEA's findings, as well concerns about the cemetery's appearance,

10-ft. walls, inadequate landscaping, and its proximity to a school for young children. The neighbors are also alarmed at the prospect of increased traffic and decreased property values of their homes.

In a green cemetery, bodies are not entombed in a casket, but are buried about three feet deep, then covered with soil and a layer of pebbles, not vegetation. This facility, alternately called Kornerstone or Palmyra Cemetery, could hold some 3,500 graves. To avoid disturbing the contaminated soil, the landowner plans to import 11,610 yds. of dirt to cover the landfill, and allow graves to be dug safely above the buried waste.

Neighbors note that the weight of that imported dirt will cause the land to settle even more and force lateral migration of the methane.

More trees, please

The purview of the DRC is limited to a project's aesthetics and "fit" with the neighborhood. It does not address traffic, contaminants or property values. The DRC identifies inappropriate design elements or landscaping, and recommends changes that will allow a project to be approved. Sometimes that requires a continuance to give the property owner time to make those changes.

In this case, committee members questioned the wall height and appearance, minimal landscaping, color palette and inadequate space between the gravesites and exterior wall.

DRC member Jerico Farfan noted the facility's predominately gray appearance, with concrete walks, white gravel and stone walls. "It's gray on gray on gray," he said. "And the pickets on top of the fence make it look like a jail." He also noted the stark appearance of the exterior wall: up to 10 ft. high, with only 3-ft. shrubbery to soften it, and no landscaping at all on the side adjacent to the Santiago Creek Bike Trail. He suggested adding color and more trees.

Anne McDermott, a member of the DRC, reported that she had visited five green cemeteries in preparation for the review meeting. Those facilities, she said, were located within larger cemeteries and tended to be contained areas surrounded by grass and trees, with the white gravel offset by landscaping. "What's being proposed here is much larger, a lot more reflective," she advised. "It's a lot like a parking lot. There's not enough landscaping."

Room for improvement

DRC Chair Robert Imboden also noted that the expanse of white gravel created a heat island. More trees throughout the property would help, he suggested.

Imboden found the project to lack "sensitivity." He questioned the veracity of placing graves so close to a recreational trail, where mourners could be disturbed by noisy bikers, dog walkers and joggers.

Also, the graves are located just one or two feet from the in-

side wall, leaving minimal room for access. "You won't be able to drive a cart along that wall for maintenance," he pointed out. "Gardeners trimming trees at the far end of the property will have to drag branches the length of a football field. It's not sustainable. Those things need a little more thought."

DRC members debated whether to approve the project with conditions, or continue it until a later date. There was no discussion of a denial.

A nod to the neighbors

"The project is out of balance with the neighborhood," McDermott said. "Correcting that, with more landscaping, might result in fewer plots, which is not what the property owner wants."

"This is coming into an existing neighborhood," Imboden agreed. "We have to be cognizant of what we're approving next to people's largest investment, homes they've been living in for 30 years. This project is the newcomer, it has to act that way, so we're looking at a continuance."

Imboden stressed that the project could "get there," but Saquib did not want to spend more time with the DRC, and said he'd accept a denial. "We will consider your comments and improve the sensitivity issues. But we prefer to move forward."

City staff is drafting a resolution outlining the committee's reasons for denial; the DRC will recommend that outcome to the planning commission.

Tract map approval for housing by Mabury Ranch extended

By Tina Richards

The Orange City Council extended its approval of a tentative tract map for 22 houses on a parcel between Santiago Creek and Mabury Ranch for six years.

The property is adjacent to the illegal landfill in East Orange and is owned by the same company, Milan Capital. It has been zoned "residential" since 1993. When Milan's much-larger Trails at Santiago Creek housing project

was overturned by a voter referendum, it sought city approval for a 22-home development on the entitled property.

The tentative tract map was approved in August 2020, as was the environmental report that accompanied it. The approval was good for two years, with a subsequent one-year extension authorized by the city municipal code. Milan applied for an extension in July, but asked for a six-year stretch in-

stead. California allows tentative tract maps to be extended up to six years, but cities are not mandated to follow that.

Orange could have stayed with a one-year extension.

Slip it through

The council's vote on the tract map extension appeared on its Aug. 9 meeting agenda as a "consent calendar" item. The consent calendar consists of routine city business that does not generally illicit any discussion and is approved with a single vote.

The tract map issue, however, was pulled from the consent calendar and opened for discussion at the request of Mabury Ranch residents. Tom Brose, president of the community's HOA, asked the council to "reset the project" and develop a plan more compatible with Mabury Ranch. He noted that city code allows for a one-year extension only, and that the request for more time must include the circumstances which delayed the project. Those circumstances were not provided.

Resident Quinn Promarug noted that when the project was reviewed by the council in 2020, Mabury Ranch opposed it. At that time, he said, the project was presented as nothing out of the ordinary, just a straightforward housing tract map. "If the project was so straightforward," he asked, "why wasn't it completed? Why does Milan need an extension? Did they discover something?"

Nothing to see here

City Attorney Gary Sheatz explained that the city knew the request "was coming," the project had likely been delayed by COVID, and that tentative tract maps "never make it to final in two years."

Councilmember Ana Gutierrez pressed the "circumstances" question. Milan President Chris

Nichelson explained that the company had "been working with the resource agency and mitigating issues." Consultants were unable to complete review due to COVID, he said, and "other things were going on with the site that were taking up our attention."

Gutierrez then asked Sheatz to explain the environmental documents that were extended with the tract map. Since the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) covering Milan's earlier development plans had been decertified by the council, "how is that review now valid for his project?"

"When this tract map was approved," Sheatz explained, "the environmental document was an addendum to Alternative 1 on the EIR for the Trails at Santiago Creek Project." Project EIRs are required to include alternatives to a given development that would be less environmentally intrusive. For the Trails at Santiago Creek, a 128-unit, 40-acre proposal that did not include the property between Santiago Creek and Mabury Ranch, Alternative 1 was simply building fewer units.

Gone but not forgotten

The city council approved the Trails at Santiago Creek and certified the EIR in October 2019. A group of Orange residents challenged the EIR in court and launched a referendum to overturn the Trails approval. The referendum succeeded, and the lawsuit continued to work its way through the courts.

"While the EIR was still in litigation," Sheatz said, "the applicant (Milan) came forward with the tract map. The EIR was still approved and legitimate. Through the course of litigation, the EIR was rendered moot. There was no project anymore, and it wasn't needed. It was decertified so it couldn't be used for a future project. It doesn't go backwards."

"So because the EIR was still valid when the tract map was approved, that addendum can stand?" Gutierrez asked. Sheatz said yes.

Indeed, when the city council reviewed the tract maps in 2020, it found that the environmental impacts of the smaller project would be substantially less than those analyzed in the original EIR, and that an addendum was sufficient.

Don't sweat the small stuff

The staff report states, "This addendum, along with the certified EIR, serves as the environmental review of the proposed project." It further stated, "The impacts of the proposed project are consistent with the impacts previously analyzed in the certified EIR."

With the decertified EIR still standing, Barrios asked if the council had to extend its approval for six years. Could we look at a shorter time period, she queried. Sheatz reported that the state code said "up to" six years, and that the council could opt for less. Barrios asked her colleagues to consider a shorter extension.

"We already have a motion and a second," Mayor Mark Murphy said. "Does anyone want to change it?"

The vote was 6-1 in favor, with Barrios dissenting.

Shop with Purpose

Boutique Noël returns for its 28th annual run at Assistance League of Orange, Oct. 12-15. The craft fair features fall and winter decor, unique gift items, clothing and jewelry. Merchandise tagged with "Shop With Purpose" is handcrafted by Assistance League Noël's volunteers, which allows the majority of funds to be directed to philanthropic programs assisting students, families, veterans, seniors and individuals in need.

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KATHY TAVOULARIS

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 3



Dear Neighbor,

My parents and I immigrated to the United States when I was a child – we found a welcoming community here in Orange. I've lived in what's now Orange District 3 for 41 years.

I'm a product of the Orange Unified School District, attending Taft Elementary School, Peralta Junior High School, and Villa Park High School, before graduating from California State University, Long Beach.

I'm not a career politician who's run for office over and over again. I launched my own small business right here in Orange District 3 fifteen years ago. I'm involved in our community:

- Orange Community Foundation
- Orange Elks
- Orange Chamber of Commerce
- Orange Women's Club

Since I became your Councilwoman in 2021, I've delivered results:

- Defeated and canceled the North Tustin Street Specific Plan
- Led approval of new Orange police officers - for the first time in 22 years
- Added an Orange rescue ambulance
- Advocated for a Veterans' Cemetery northeast of Orange
- Led Orange's efforts to urge Sacramento to suspend the gas tax for six months.

I want to keep giving back to our wonderful city, and I respectfully ask for your vote.

Kathy



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- Strengthening public safety
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- Opposing new taxes and tax increases
- Ensuring the future of the Orange Mall
- Chairwoman of the North Tustin Corridor Revitalization Committee

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 Orange Mayor Mark Murphy
 Orange Mayor Pro Tem Kim Nichols
 Orange Councilmember Jon Dumitru
 Orange Councilmember Chip Monaco

Former Orange Councilmember Mike Alvarez
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Tustin Area Woman's Club kicks off fall schedule

The Tustin Area Woman's Club (TAWC) will hold its first meeting of the new club year on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 11 a.m. at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge.

The lodge is located at 1751 S. Lyon St. TAWC has been serving

the Tustin area for over 60 years, and is a designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The club welcomes new members throughout the year. For more information, please visit tustinareawomansclub.com.



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Love is in the air

Alex and Shannon Salottolo of North Tustin are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Sue, to Austin Parker Cole, son of Tim and Kelly Cole of Rancho Mission Viejo.

The couple met during their time at California Lutheran University, and both were stand-out members of the Cal Lu Regals and Kingsmen Basketball Teams. Jessica graduated in 2017 with a B.S. in business administration, and Austin graduated in 2019 with a B.S. in the business management honors program. Jessica works as a brand manager at Fitness for the Beachbody Company; Austin is a retail real estate broker for Epsteen & Associates in Marina del Rey.

The couple were engaged on Moonlight Beach in Encinitas. They will be married at Galway Downs in Temecula on June 10, 2023. They will reside in Los Angeles.



Shawn Ricker, a 2022 graduate of El Modena High School, received a U.S. Army ROTC scholarship to attend Texas A&M University this fall. The scholarship, worth \$137,424, will cover tuition and fees. It was presented by Major David Lopez at El Modena High's academic award ceremony held at Chapman University. Ricker will also be joining the Corps of Cadets while completing his ROTC training. He plans on majoring in history, eventually teaching at the high school or college level while serving as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve.

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Orange Unified School District Board of Education Candidates

Area 1



Andrea Yamasaki

As a parent of three children who attended OUSD schools and the current president of the OUSD School Board, I understand the enormous impact school board decisions have on students and their education.

During my tenure, OUSD achieved many accomplishments, including new STEM centers, solar panels, electric buses, renovation of Fred Kelly Stadium, and access to academic programs such as Career Technical Pathways and Project Lead the Way.

During the pandemic, OUSD students had the option of attending school in-person or online with the same teacher almost immediately. Computers, internet access, and meals were available to every student. OUSD also expanded student services in the areas of mental and emotional wellness. My priorities going forward:

- Work with law enforcement agencies to ensure safe/secure campuses.
- Improve our students' social/emotional well-being through interventions and increased access to counselors.
- Expand technology, arts, sports and music programs.
- Provide oversight/accountability of bond implementation and taxpayer monies.

Having invested thousands of hours volunteering in the community, visiting our schools, and working with parents, I have the proven experience to better serve the community I love. I am honored to have the support of parents, OUSD teachers and community leaders. I would be honored to have your vote.



Angela Williams

I began my career as a clinical cancer researcher at Children's Hospital of OC (CHOC). My love for science and research quickly became a love for teaching high school students as I moved my focus from lab work to homework.

My husband and children all graduated from the same OUSD schools I taught in. As a teacher, I have spent the last decade pouring into my students. Because of my unique background, the district opened its doors for me to develop and implement a biotechnology pathway at Orange High School.

Sadly, the district has recently turned away from back-to-basics

education by special interests and politics, which takes precedence over parents. At Orange High School, only 16.36% of students meet or exceed state standards in science due to poor pandemic policies. The worst part is that schools across the district are showing similar results. As the new OUSD trustee I will:

- Shift the focus to supporting students and parents;
- Work with parents and students to explore the best educational pathways;
- Help broaden STEM programs;
- Focus on back-to-basics education and curriculum;
- Keep education dollars focused in the classroom, not on special interests.

To learn more, please visit WilliamsforOUSD.com.

Area 4



Kathy Moffat

As an experienced OUSD Trustee, I bring knowledge, community connection and trusted leadership to the Board.

When COVID hit, the district's responsible fiscal management allowed us to provide online learning devices for every student. Under my leadership, OUSD reopened schools sooner than any other OC district.

Strong academics are my priority, and I am proud of our many award-winning schools. Under my leadership, career pathways like aviation, culinary arts, medical, and video/film production have increased.

I spearheaded OUSD's master plan for school improvements. Measure S built excellent STEM Centers at our high schools, and modernization continues. The district's AA1 credit rating and careful fiscal management mean Measure S dollars go farther.

Wise use of district funds allowed us to renovate Kelly Stadium, build a new pool at El Modena High, and remodel classrooms district-wide. New solar panels at schools will save money for OUSD.

School safety and student wellness are critical. Under my leadership, OUSD is working with parents and public safety agencies to strengthen safety plans. We have hired record numbers of counselors and school nurses.

I have been a leader in our community for years. All of my children are OUSD graduates. I am committed to OUSD excellence.



Madison Miner

I am an educator, mama bear of four children and an active

participant in the Orange Unified community for the last 37 years. I began my career in the Santa Ana Unified School District as a speech therapist for mostly students with special needs and disabilities. I took a break from speech therapy to raise our children, and now I'm back in the classroom teaching. I plan to:

- Cut wasteful spending and return tax dollars to the classrooms where they belong.
- Protect parents' rights with medical and school choice decisions.
- Adopt better options to replace the current ethnic studies and sex ed curriculum.
- Like many of my colleagues, my campaign to create a parent-first district is backed by education leaders in the district and across the county, including:

Mari Barke, OCBE; Ken Williams, OCBE; Tim Shaw, OCBE; Lisa Sparks, OCBE; John Ortega, OUSD; AngieSchleuter-Rumsey, OUSD; Rick Ledesma, OUSD

I couldn't be more excited to be running for Orange Unified School Board and would be honored to have your vote. In addition, I'd love to hear your thoughts on how our schools could improve.

Please email me at madison4OUSD@gmail.com or learn more about my candidacy at madison4ousd.com.

Area 5



Kristen Erickson

It has been an honor to serve on the Orange Unified School Board, in a community I have called home for nearly 50 years. My husband, two children and I are proud OUSD graduates, and I feel blessed to help lead this wonderful, family-centered district, where students are our priority.

I know the importance of strong public schools that reflect our community's values. I continue to honor the pledge I made in 2018 to bring integrity and transparency to this position.

Orange Unified is stronger than it was four years ago. My experience as a mom, attorney, business owner, parent volunteer, and OUSD Trustee has given me the passion, skills, and work ethic it takes to make OUSD the best.

Under my leadership, we built new classrooms, renovated campuses, sports facilities, restrooms, and:

- The first OC district to safely and responsibly re-open for classroom learning;
- Increased counselors, psychologists, and school nurses;
- Expanded STEM, dual language programs, Career Technical (vocational) programs;
- Saved taxpayer dollars through responsible budgeting;
- Created an all-electric bus fleet and increased cost-effective, green infrastructure;

I will always fight to keep our schools safe, strong, and focused on the education of our children.

Please vote Kris Erickson for OUSD!



Tim Surridge

For the last 25 years, I have been blessed to serve students as a teacher, varsity basketball coach, technology learning specialist, and as a school administrator.

I also previously served as a governing boardmember for Orange Unified. During my board tenure, I led efforts to form our district's first full language immersion school, the restoration of art and music programs in our elementary schools, and the adoption of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) and solar energy district wide.

I'm running again as I have become alarmed at the lack of focus by the current board majority regarding parent rights, academic excellence, and the outsized emphasis on cultural and political issues not related to student learning or success.

It's important to keep our schools open for children, restore parents as the most vital partner in supporting our students' learning, and provide meaningful choices in educational options. If elected, I'll commit to:

- Support parental rights to send their children to schools that best fit each student and family;
- Ensure transparency in classroom curriculum;
- Cut waste in the budget and make sure education dollars are devoted to our classrooms;
- Prioritizing student safety on our campuses.

I'd be honored to have your vote.

Area 7



Rick Ledesma

My name is Rick Ledesma, and I am proud to serve as your governing board member, Orange Unified School District, Area 7.

I've lived my entire life in the OUSD community and for 12 years attended schools within our district. As a graduate of OUSD schools, I want to continue giving back to the schools that gave me a quality education. I have more than 25 years of extensive corporate experience working as an accounting and finance professional. This experience makes

me uniquely qualified and has given me insight into budgeting and management team building. As an OUSD board member, my priorities will be to focus on students, not politics, protect parents' rights when educating their children, scrutinize and eliminate wasteful spending.

Also, I will continue to support the upgrading of outdated facilities to create a safe, thriving and cutting-edge learning environment for students and teachers.

I am a proud father and husband. My wife of 24 years, Rocio, and I raised two children in this community. I pledge to make the best decisions for the families and taxpayers of OUSD.

Please vote for Rick Ledesma on Nov. 8 for Orange Unified School District, Trustee Area 7.



Sean Griffin

As a public school teacher in my 24th year, and the parent of an Orange Unified graduate who received services for her disability, I have worked with the everyday, real-world impact of board decisions.

I want to bring my extensive experience and expertise to the OUSD School Board to work as hard as I can to support student success in a well-rounded education, while preparing them for life's challenges and for future opportunities, whether a career after high school or college-bound. In addition to being a teacher for students receiving Special Education services, I have spent years volunteering as a coach, mentor, and student advocate, both within and outside of OUSD. Therefore, I pledge to be student and parent centered and make decisions that continue the progress, improvement, and growth that OUSD has recently enjoyed.

I will be open-minded and collaborative to find solutions to issues our district is confronting, including school safety, structural improvements, and a sensible financial plan.

I am honored to be endorsed by leaders throughout our community, including OUSD Board President Andrea Yamasaki, Orange City Council Member Ana Gutierrez, and many others.

Please vote to keep moving OUSD forward. Vote Sean Griffin for OUSD! www.seangriffinforschoolboard.com

Numerous attempts were made to reach Mike Nguyen, a candidate for Area 7, prior to publication without success. The Sentry was unable to include his statement here.



P.E.O. scholarship awarded



Orange resident and El Modena alumna Monica Zmudzinski was awarded the Dorothy Halleck Chapter S P.E.O. Scholarship. The scholarship is offered to local women who have achieved at least junior status in college, in order to encourage their advancement in college.

Monica recently graduated

from Louisiana State University with a major in Communication Disorders, and will begin a doctorate program in audiology at the University of Arizona.

At El Modena, Monica worked with children at a therapeutic horse-riding program, and assisted at a water conservation garden that led to her Girl Scout Gold Award. While at LSU, she was a founding member of the California Tigers Club, a community for students from California, served as treasurer of the National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association, and studied abroad.

For application information, call Nancy at (714) 637-5631.

VPWL kicks off new year



The Villa Park Women's League kicks off the fall quarter with a general membership meeting on Thursday, Sept. 15. The meeting will be held at a local residence and begins at 6 p.m. Contact Carla Gilkerson, VPWL membership chair, at carlagilkerson@firsttteam.com to RSVP. Membership is not required to attend, but a membership application is available at vpwl.org for those who want to join in the events and activities.

The theme for this fall meeting is "Back to Fun." Members can sign up for activities and events for the year and meet and greet old and new friends. Principals

from the local Villa Park schools will be in attendance to give updates on the student populations and their upcoming activities.

VPWL is also partnering with Santiago Canyon College and its Basic Needs program with a Hygiene Drive. Members are

asked to bring unopened hygiene products of any size (body wash, shampoo, conditioner, shaving supplies and feminine products) to be distributed to SCC students. The items will be collected for SCC through the end of June 2023.

Tustin Dems review TUSD races

The September Tustin Democratic Club general meeting will focus on local education, including upcoming Tustin Unified School Board elections, and how school board decisions affect students' access to quality public education. The meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which

has a beautiful outdoor meeting space with plenty of parking. It is located at 1221 Wass St.

Anyone wanting to connect with fellow Democrats, get informed and help increase community involvement in civic engagement is welcome to join Tustin Dems. More information is available at TustinDemocraticClub.org.

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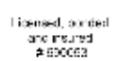
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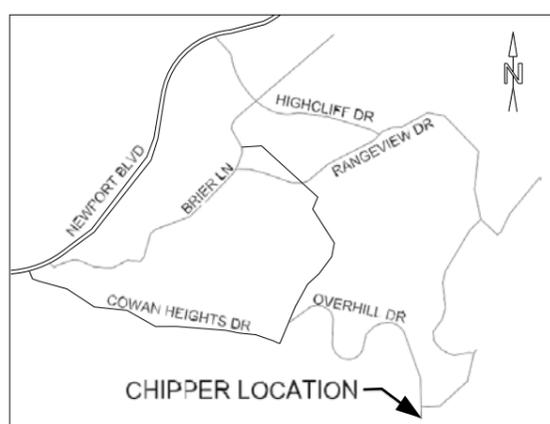
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The Orange Park Acres Women's League held its first fundraising event in three years. It was a resounding success, filling the League's philanthropic fund beyond expectations. The Blue Hawaii Champagne Brunch treated guests to tropical drinks, food, music, and scented flower leis brought in fresh from Hawaii. The funds raised will be directed to such worthy endeavors as Charity on Wheels, Orange Acres Back Breakers 4-H, and the OPAWL scholarship fund. The next League event is Decorating Pumpkins with Succulents Social, planned for October. For information about membership, activities and events, see opawomen.org.



Curriculum Associates recently honored Shane Twamley as one of its National Extraordinary Educators. Chosen from hundreds of nominations, Twamley was among 35 educators from 19 states selected for exhibiting best-in-class practices, illustrating growth and achievement, demonstrating innovation and engagement, and being an advocate for high standards of student achievement. A Tustin resident for 17 years, Twamley has spent the past 33 years as a teacher and coach at Kraemer Middle School of Placentia. Twamley retired from the classroom in June, after 40 years of teaching, and is now broadening his influence as a motivational speaker and educational advocate.

Fairhaven remembers 9/11

Fairhaven Memorial Park will host a 2,200 Steps Walk & Remembrance on Friday, Sept. 9 in recognition of 9/11.

On 9/11, 343 FDNY firefighters gave their lives in the World Trade Centers. The 2,200 steps symbolize the 110 flights of stairs the firefighters took on that day. The public is invited to partici-

pate in a one-mile walk through Fairhaven to commemorate that memorable date of Sept. 11, 2001.

Gates open at 6 a.m.; the opening ceremony begins at 7 a.m., and the walk commences at 7:30 a.m. The memorial park is located at 1702 Fairhaven, Santa Ana. For more information, contact (714) 633-1442.

Assistance League of Orange leadership is in place for 2022-23, with a theme selected by President Leslie Sorrells, "Your Time is Your Gift to Others." Back row, left to right, are: Carolyn Seeley, secretary; Ginny Abell, liaison to Assistsens Auxiliary; Laura Farr, 1st VP membership; Karen Goodwin, 3rd VP Resource Development; Diane Lanois, treasurer; Claire Kocek, strategic planning chair; Andrea Byrnes, chapter center chair. Front row, left to right, are: Daena Hullinger, liaison to Orange Blossoms Auxiliary; Leslie Sorrells, president; Sandra Kosin, president-elect; Catherine Rose, marketing communications chair. Not pictured: Lynn Herndon, 2nd VP programs and Michèle Ohanian, parliamentarian.



TARWF to host candidate forum

Tustin Area Republican Women Federated (TARWF) will host local candidate forum at its Friday, Sept. 30 general meeting. The meeting will be held at 11 a.m. at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge, located at 1751 S. Lyon St. in Santa Ana. The cost is \$35 for

members, \$40 for nonmembers, which includes lunch, the program and free parking. All TARWF general meetings are held the last Friday of the month. For more info, visit TustinAreaRWF.org, or call (888) 845-8279. Visitors are always welcomed.



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WCO Clubhouse and Garden

Woman's Club of Orange
121 South Center Street, Orange
Contact: Pat Longwell
714-501-2246 - plongwell@earthlink.net



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Park owner's manual

Greetings to all of you candidates for the Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District (SMRPD) Board of Directors: Ted Wright, Laurie Martz, John Nelson, Jessie Bullis, Andrew Ward and Brittney Kuhn!

As prospective members of the exclusive club devoted to running what passes for government in the canyons, you might be wondering, "What if I win? What do I do then?"

Don't worry. As a public service, Canyon Beat has condensed the essentials of what every park director needs to know into a few simple rules below.

If you are elected, you will also be issued a larger and more official-looking Handbook, sometimes referred to as the "Big Ol' Book of Resolutions And Policies" (BOBRAP). But that document is not posted on the SMRPD website, since it is so big that it would break the Internet. Also, if ordinary citizens could read it, they might discover that you directors are not doing something correctly, and would not like you.

With that out of the way, here-with the rules:

RULE #1: The main job of a park director is to avoid being sued.

This could happen, for instance, if someone were to step into a gopher hole at one of your parks. If that leads to medical bills (or even if it doesn't), the stepper might say, "You directors should have put up a big 'Danger! Gophers!' sign. I am going to sue you for millions of dollars."

Although this has not occurred locally in recent memory, there is always the nagging suspicion that it might. Just like the theoretical possibility of being struck by lightning while you are wrestling a mountain lion in quicksand.

The usual talisman for warding off problems like this is insurance. Which leads us to ...

RULE #2: Insurance guidelines must be followed. Or not.

SMRPD's insurance covers the cost of mistakes that you might make as a director, such as failing to put up "Danger! Gophers!" signs. But it does not necessarily

cover the cost of mistakes made by park users. Instead, SMRPD's insurer provides "guidelines" for directors to use when deciding whether to cover user mistakes under the district's insurance.

The beauty of guidelines is that they can be followed selectively. So if one of your relatives hurts himself on a gopher hole, that would naturally be covered by the district's insurance. But if a group of strangers wanted to rid the park of gophers, they would obviously need to purchase liability insurance, since you don't know what Those People are like, especially the one with a tattoo.

RULE #3: Park users cause problems.

If people would just keep out of the buildings and off the grounds, your park facilities would remain spotless and attractive. But apparently there's a requirement somewhere mandating that public parks be open to the public occasionally. This is an ongoing problem with no obvious solution.

RULE #4: Providing too much information is dangerous.

This was touched on earlier regarding the BOBRAP, but since nobody reads that anyway, it's not really a problem. What really matters is the wording that you include on application forms, agreements, waivers, and other documents that you create in order to limit park use as much as possible.

For example, on forms that mention insurance, call the guidelines "requirements." And do not mention your ability to waive "requirements" on a case-by-case basis. That just causes problems, especially if word gets out that somebody had to buy insurance to do the same thing that your brother-in-law got to do for free.

Information control is also important when dealing with the press. Do not trust newspapers. If something like this cheat sheet were to be published in a newspaper, it might embarrass you and make people not like you.

Dirty deeds

In July, a giant tractor removed Silverado's iconic dirt mound across from the community cen-

ter. The very hungry Caterpillar ate a phacelia, a boulder, a fence post, chain link, some concrete, bricks, a swing set, and an old car with wooden wheels. But it was still hungry. So it ate all the dirt, too.

Actually, the Caterpillar was really a Doosan, so it never turned into a butterfly like the caterpillar in Eric Carle's classic picture book. A giant moth could have been useful, though: Those are known to be beneficial by fighting off giant three-headed space aliens, at least in Japanese monster movies.

The current worry, though, is dirt still clogging local creeks

after last winter's floods. The county has hired contractors to haul it away, but some residents worry that giant dump trucks might harm the narrow private roads, despite contractors being

required to repair anything that they damage.

Should everyone haul out a bucket of dirt on the way to work each morning instead? Or do we need giant gophers?



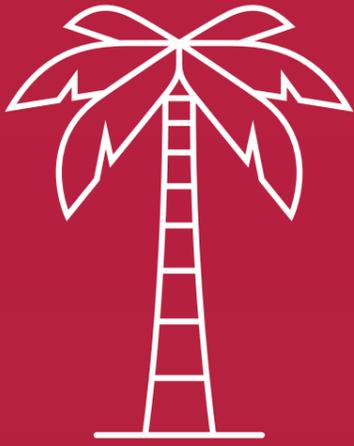
A Doosan scoops out the dirt.

State of the City OCTOBER 7 | 2:00 PM Chapman University Musco Center for the Arts Tickets \$75 Chamber Members | \$85 General Public Sponsorships are available Registration available soon at orangechamber.com Presented by the Honorable Mayor Mark A. Murphy

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Orange County



TOTAL SPENDING
in the City of Orange

\$2.2M

Visitor Spending

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Student Spending

\$82.7M

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LABOR INCOME

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Orange County



TAX REVENUE

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Federal taxes

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PROPERTY TAXES

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paid to the
City of Orange
between 2011-2021

HERE TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR.



Did you know that between the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2020, approximately \$559,700 was collected and donated to nonprofit organizations by members of Chapman's fraternities and sororities? That's just one example of Chapman's commitment to uplifting our community.

A new study by Beacon Economics has assessed the many ways Chapman University drives the local economy, serves as a public resource, and supports arts and cultural programs throughout the City of Orange.

Want to learn more? To see the full report, visit:

Chapman.edu/communityimpact



2022 Orange City Council Voters' Guide

Because Orange now 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 2022 CITY OF ORANGE CANDIDATES	Candidate	Orange Government Experience	Employment	Years in Orange	Top 3 issues	Will you accept campaign contributions from developers, their lobbyists and consultants?	Will you pledge not to support a zone change that could lead to the development of high-density housing at the former Peralta school and/or The Village at Orange mall site?	Should the landowner of the former Sully Miller site be required to clean up the entire site?	According to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) the proposed use of the former La Veta Disposal Site for a cemetery is characteristically incompatible with the criteria set forth in Title 27 Regulations. Do you support the LEA's position?	In the last 20 years, the City of Orange has faced numerous land use lawsuits and 3 successful referendums that ultimately overturned city council votes. Is this an effective use of taxpayer funds?	Do you support or oppose Chapman University's plan to increase its student body by more than 20%?	Do you support rezoning designated open space for housing?	Position on 2020 Ballot Measure AA (Did you support the development of 128 houses on the former Sully Miller site?)
Mayor	Dan Slater	Orange City Council 1994 -2002	Owner Orange Realty, Inc.	49	1) Homelessness 2) More support for police/ crime prevention 3) Protect/enhance open space	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	Support if problems with students living in residential neighborhoods are resolved	NO	NO
District 1 Old Towne	Arianna Barrios	Trustee Rancho Santiago Community College District 2011 -2020 Orange City Council (elected in 2020)	Small Business Owner Communications Lab	50	1) Public Safety 2) Code Enforcement 3) Homelessness	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	OPPOSE	NO	NO
District 3 North Orange	John Russo		IT Managed Service Provider Real Estate Agent	23	1) Public Safety 2) Responsible development that supports preservation of Open Space 3) Fiscal responsibility	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	OPPOSE	NO	NO
	Kathy Tavoularis	Orange City Council (appointed April 2021)	Tavoularis Projects County of Orange	41	1) Adding more police 2) Orange Mall 3) Repairing/revitalization of District 3 streets	YES	YES	NO ANSWER	YES	NO	NO ANSWER	YES	NO ANSWER
District 4 N/E Orange	Chris Horton		Small Business Owner	48	1) Public Safety 2) No new taxes 3) Homelessness	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	OPPOSE	NO	NO
District 6 East Orange	Adrienne Gladson	Design Review Committee 2007 - 2011 Orange Planning Commissioner 2011 - 2018	Small Business Owner - Gladson Consulting	36	1) Public Safety 2) Homelessness 3) Restoring public trust at City Hall	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	OPPOSE	NO	NO
	John Gyllenhammer		Regional Director Amazon	6	1) Public Safety 2) Open Space and parks 3) Financial health of the city	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO ANSWER	NO	YES
	Brian Harrington		Chain Supply Leader - Medical Products Company	8	1) Environment 2) Development must align with community needs 3) Work through issues as neighbors	NO	NO ANSWER	YES	NO ANSWER	NO	NO ANSWER	NO ANSWER	NO

Information was collected from candidate questionnaires and other sources. The following candidates did not return their questionnaire: Mark Murphy (Mayor); Jason White (District #1); Denis Bilodeau and John Newman (District #4).



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COMMUNITY SPORTS

CIF Southern Section News

The CIF Southern Section now has 565 schools spanning the area from from San Clemente to the Santa Barbara area.

Opening week for football saw Orange High beat Pacifica, 42-7. Canyon High, under new head coach Phil Hughes, destroyed Aliso Viejo, 52-20. Victories weren't in favor for Foothill and Villa Park, as Foothill lost to Cypress, 28-13, and Villa Park, on the road, lost to Silverado, 32-29.

Commissioner Rob Wigod has announced his retirement. After 11 years of being the ninth commissioner, this will be his last year. Wigod has set his last date at the helm as Aug. 1, 2023.

The Sept. 29 meeting of the CIF Council will address the proposal to add girls flag football to the list of sports. If it passes, the issue will go to the CIF Federated Council on Feb. 3, 2023. A yes vote will implement the sport in the fall of 23.

The Southern Section announced the California High School Football Hall of Fame during its event at the Rose Bowl. Only one local standout athlete is among the initial 100: Deshaun Foster from Tustin.

Thirteen coaches were selected for the Hall of Fame. Former Villa Park head coach Marijon Ancich was honored for his win-loss record of 360 wins, 134 losses, and 4 ties. Ancich finished his career at St. Paul High School.

Grahovac tours the Make-A-Wish headquarters

Four Orange County high school athletes, including Gavin Grahovac, Orange County's Player of the Year from Villa Park High, were selected to play in the 2022 All-American Classic, which took place Aug. 28 at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona.

Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire hosted the five athletes selected from the regions they serve, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, for a celebratory tour of its Irvine headquarters, Aug. 19.

Proceeds from Perfect Game All-American Classic events will benefit Make-A-Wish and PG Cares Grow the Game Fund. The senior athletes toured the headquarters while gaining a deeper understanding of the Make-A-Wish mission to grant life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Teaching athletes the value of philanthropy is important to the Perfect Game, which is why athletes have been encouraged to start their own peer-to-peer fundraising page to support granting even more wishes for children in Orange County and the Inland Empire.

The All-American Classic is an amateur baseball game featuring a roster of 60 of the best high school baseball players in the country projected to go toward the top of the 2023 draft.



Oscar Rios, Orange quarterback (9), draws a crowd while passing for 281 yards and tossing two TDs.



Kobe Boykin from Orange H.S. flies through the Pacifica line.



Angelo Adetoye (13) and Jonathan Smith, Jr. (23) from Orange High School rush the Pacifica quarterback.



Brennan Maertz (45) from Canyon High School drags an Aliso Viejo defender in the Aliso Viejo game.



Kayvon Monfared, from Canyon High, gets open in the end zone. Monfared scored three TDs against Aliso Viejo.

Marchetti receives highest honor from the NFF

From a nationwide pool of 3,500 scholar-athletes, the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) announced in June that Roman Marchetti, former football player from Foothill High School, joined the 82 members of the 2022 NFF Team of Distinction. Earlier, Marchetti received the top award from the OC Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

As part of its mission to promote the scholar-athlete ideal, the initiative allows the NFF to honor top high school scholar-athletes from around the country as the best and the brightest at the local level, while highlighting the work of the NFF Chapter Network.

The members of the team played their final high school football season during the 2021-22 school year. Marchetti went to the University of Southern California as a walk-on. As part of the award, all of the honorees will be part of a permanent digital display at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

Criteria to make the team includes, but is not limited to, academic achievement, athletic accolades and community involvement. Each chapter is limited to one honoree, distinguishing them as the top scholar-athlete from all the high schools covered by the chapter.

"This initiative allows us to shine a national spotlight on some of the most deserving high school student-athletes honored at the local level by our expansive Chapter Network," said NFF Chairman Archie Manning.

"This honor is one of the most prestigious national awards that a high school player can receive. We would like to congratulate all 82 honorees for their success on and off the field, especially with the challenges caused by the pandemic during their senior year. We also want to salute all of our NFF Chapters who continue to play an important role in promoting football in their communities."



Christian Lundsberg from Canyon High School riddled Aliso Viejo's secondary for six TDs for 412 yards, winning the season opener, 54-20.



Kyle Krause from Canyon High School rushed for 70 yards and two TDs in the win over Aliso Viejo.



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5:00pm Saturday, September 17, 2022

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