

FOOTHILLS SENTRY

The Best News In Town Since 1969

East Orange • Old Towne Orange • Orange Park Acres • Villa Park • Silverado/Modjeska Canyons • North Tustin

A Monthly Community Newspaper

APRIL 2026

New projects taking over 17th Street



The developer's rendering of the Campo on 17th, the former Enderle Center.

NEWS INSIDE

EVERYONE KNOWS HIS NAME

Named as City of Orange Citizen of the Year, Frank Tucker is well-known throughout the community, as he works with multiple organizations.

See Frank Tucker, page 1

THE END OF ENDERLE?

Guy Ball shares the inside scoop about the renowned upscale center.

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HAS TUSTIN ANIMAL SHELTER GONE TO THE DOGS?

The conditions and management of OC Animal Care's Tustin Shelter have been under scrutiny by many.

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ORANGE HEALTH CHECK

Mayor Dan Slater takes the temperature of the City of Orange.

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INAUGURAL DIGITAL ISSUE

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Frank Tucker named Orange 2025 Citizen of the Year



Photo by Grant Romancia

A highlight of the Orange State of the City, March 20, was the presentation of the Orange Citizen of the Year. This award recognizes someone who truly represents the heart of our community – a leader whose generosity and commitment to service have made a lasting impact on the City of Orange.

Frank Tucker was named Orange Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.

Frank has spent much of his professional career with Taco Bell Corporation, serving as Global Chief People Officer and helping launch the Taco Bell Foundation, which supports young people through scholarships, education, and leadership development.

Closer to home, his dedication to service is extraordinary. He cur-

rently serves as President of the Orange Unified Public Schools Foundation, supporting students, educators, and programs across the district. He also serves on the Board of Governors for the Boys & Girls Club of Central Orange Coast and as a board member of the Kiwanis Club of Orange.

His community involvement also includes Leadership Orange, the Community Foundation of Orange, the Orange International Street Fair, the Friendly Center, the Old Towne Preservation Association and many other local organizations.

Those who know Frank describe him as one of the most generous and dedicated volunteers in our community, often working behind the scenes – setting up, grilling at a fundraiser, packing food boxes, mentoring students or simply stepping in wherever help is needed.

Orange Unified School Superintendent Dr. Rachel Monárrez presented the award.

By Guy Ball

Two major projects will soon reshape 17th Street in the north end of Tustin.

Enderle Center was part of the Enderle family orchard, pioneered in the early 1900s by growers Herman Enderle, his brother Frank and his sister Rose. In the 1970s, ground was broken on the land for a premier shopping and restaurant center by Herman's grandson, Al Enderle.

The longtime Enderle Center, now under new ownership, is to be

known as "Campo on 17th". The project redevelops the existing commercial site into a mixed-use shopping center. The proposal involves the rehabilitation and demolition of existing buildings, as well as the new construction of stores, restaurants, and other commercial and residential buildings.

The developers intend to keep the center as a "destination," including ample outdoor space, honoring the Enderle

See "17th Street" continued on page 6

City of Orange Rotary Clubs honor police and fire

The three Rotary Clubs of Orange joined together on March 12 to recognize the city's top first responders at the 52nd Annual William G. Steiner Memorial Police & Fire Awards Luncheon, an annual tradition that highlights exceptional service within the Orange Police Department and Orange Fire Department.

Hosted collaboratively by Orange Rotary, Orange North Rotary, and Orange Plaza Rotary, the

luncheon brought community leaders, public safety officials and local organizations together to celebrate the achievements of the 2025 honorees.

Orange Fire Department Honorees included

- Manager of the Year: Battalion Chief Casey Fieldhouse
- Firefighter of the Year: Fire Captain Stephen Fan

See "Rotary Club" continued on page 2

"Rotary Club" continued from page 1

- Non-sworn Professional Staff Member of the Year: Lucy Echevarria
- Fire Reserve of the Year: Alik Amoranto
- Fire Cadet of the Year: Cooper Adams

Fire Chief Alan Velasco presented the awards, recognizing each individual for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to protecting the community.

Orange Police Department Honorees (2025)

- Supervisor of the Year: Sergeant Kirk Salmon
- Officer of the Year: Detective David Hernandez
- Non-sworn Professional Staff Member of the Year: Richard Martinez
- Explorer of the Year: Yanexy Franco

Police Chief Adam Jevic honored the recipients, noting their leadership, integrity, and service to the residents of Orange.

Program highlights

The ceremony featured contributions from several community figures. Pat Buttress, from Supt. Don Wagner's of-

fice, 3rd District OC, provided opening introductions. Sean Chavarria of the Orange Elks Lodge delivered the invocation. Mayor Dan Slater led the Pledge of Allegiance. Alexandra Geringer Pate performed the national anthem.

Keynote remarks were delivered by Hon. Gene Hernandez, head of the Yorba Linda Water District, former Yorba Linda mayor, and former Orange police officer. A special recognition was presented to retired Orange Fire Chief Sean deMetropolis, who shared reflections on his years of service.

Master of Ceremonies Cam Geringer Pate, the city's newest Duke of Orange, closed the program by thanking all who contribute to sustaining this long standing community tradition, including the presidents of the three Rotary Clubs.

The annual luncheon underscores the strong partnership between the City of Orange and its service organizations. Residents interested in community involvement are encouraged to consider joining a local service club.

For those wishing to learn more, the Orange North Rotary Club welcomes inquiries at (714) 227-3822.

Tustin Area Man and Woman of the Year to be awarded



Last year's winners, Ed Reynolds and Tammis Berkheimer, display their Tustin Area Man and Woman of the Year awards.

Ten nominees have been announced for the 2025 Tustin Area Man and Woman of the Year (TAMWY). Four men and six women have been nominated for the prestigious honor by local nonprofit groups. The 2025 nominees are, for Tustin Area Man of the Year:

- Ken Higman, Tustin Area Senior Center
- Johnny Johnson, Tustin American Legion Post 227
- Jeff Meyers, Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts
- Brady Michel, Tustin Host Lions Club

Nominated as Tustin Area Woman of the Year:

- Linda Fernandez, Santa Ana Elks Lodge #794
- Christine Gregg, Soptimist International of Santa Ana-Tustin
- Irene Iverson, Tustin Area Woman's Club
- Sue McKee, Santa Ana

- Elks Lodge #794
- Kelly Meyers, Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts
- Susan Reid, Tustin Area Historical Society

The TAMWY program has been held for more than 60 years. Tustin area individuals are recognized for their dedicated work, leadership and outstanding volunteerism in the community. Nominations for the award come from local nonprofit organizations or previous winners, who are TAMWY Committee "life members."

The annual Tustin Area Man and Woman of the Year Awards Dinner will be held on Friday, June 5, at 6 p.m. at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Elk Lane, Santa Ana. The dinner is attended by city and county officials, previous TAMWY award winners and community members.

Additionally, the TAMWY Committee will recognize an outstanding high school senior from the Tustin Unified School District. Student musicians from Beckman High School will perform at the event.

The Tustin Man and Woman of the Year will become lifetime members of the TAMWY organization. They will receive special awards, pins, and city and county proclamations at the dinner. They will also ride in the Tustin Tiller Days Parade as guests of honor in October, and have their names permanently etched on a brick walkway in the plaza between the Tustin Library and Clifton C. Miller Community Center at the Tustin Civic Center.

TAMWY 2026 Awards Dinner tickets may be purchased at tamwy.raiselysite.com prior to Friday, May 15. Sponsorships are also available; details can be found on the TAMWY website. Sponsors will be recognized at the dinner and acknowledged in the printed program.

For more information, please contact 2023 TAWOY Sheryl Franke at tamwyfranke2023@gmail.com or 2023 TAMOY Roger Carlson at (714) 318-3629 or rwc-cpa@aol.com.

VP Rotary recognizes Eddie Nash Foundation



From left, VP Rotary President Stephen Ashley, retired county social worker and foundation board member Lourdes Chavez, Brian "Eddie" Nash and Rotarian Risa Scott.

Brian "Eddie" Nash, an advocate for foster youth, shared his personal journey through the foster system, captured in his memoir "A Phoenix Rising: A story of resilience, strength and purpose" at a Villa Park Rotary meeting.

Through his Eddie Nash Foundation, established over 20 years ago, Eddie has worked to reunite siblings, separated by the foster system, through his programs, Camp to Belong and

Together We Belong. His foundation works to uplift youth by offering resources, such as financial literacy seminars, mentorship, and the Resiliency Awards, recognizing youth who have overcome unimaginable challenges are building bright futures.

The Rotary Club of Villa Park presented a \$2,000 check to the Eddie Nash Foundation, to assist with its mission of uplifting and supporting foster youth.

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The Old Towne Preservation Association is proud to be recognized by both the City of Orange and the County of Orange with official Proclamations celebrating 40 years of preservation leadership.

From protecting historic homes to advocating for thoughtful development, the Old Towne Preservation Association has remained committed to preserving the character and integrity of Old Towne Orange.

This milestone is a moment to reflect — but also to celebrate.

Lights. Camera. Preservation!

Join us for OTPA's 40th Birthday Celebration double-header!

SUNDAY, May 17, 2026

Garden Party Reception • Guest Speaker **Brett Waterman**, host of TV's Restored and renowned architectural preservationist.

WEDNESDAY, May 20, 2026

A special film viewing of **The Old Towne Orange Movie** featuring the history and charm of our unique neighborhood and a Q&A with director **Dan Parks**.

One ticket. Two great events!

Tickets available

at www.otpa.org



Irvine Ranch and its historic landscape



Irvine Ranch scene



Chris Jensen at the Hanging Tree, Presita Canyon.

By Guy Ball

Kelley Brugmann of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy will discuss "Living Legacy: Irvine Ranch's Rich History Through Landscape Reflections," at the next meeting of the Orange County Historical Society on Thursday, April 9.

Ranch was shaped by more than 150 years of rich culture, enduring heritage, and thriving open space, cared for by generations of dedicated stewards. For more than 20 years, the Irvine Ranch Conservancy has continued that legacy, protecting and restoring this remarkable landscape for the future,

The historic Irvine

Realtor supports Rupert Motorsports



Rupert Motorsports sports the Silva logo.

Local realtor David Silva, known throughout the community as the GiveMEaRing.com™ REALtor, is once again supporting Rupert Motorsports as they prepare for the NHRA Winternationals in Pomona, taking place April 9–12. Silva has been a valued sponsor of the team for multiple years and now steps forward as one of their premier sponsors.

This season, Silva's GiveMEaRing.com™ logo will appear in a large hood placement on the team's Top Fuel Funny Car driven by Anaheim

resident Jason Rupert. The car, capable of reaching more than 300 miles per hour, will proudly display the familiar branding recognized throughout the Foothills community.

Rupert Motorsports recently completed the Arizona Nationals in March and now shifts focus to the Pomona event at the historic In-N-Out Burger Pomona Dragstrip.

His continued support of Rupert Motorsports reflects his long standing commitment to local organizations and hometown pride.



Irvine Ranch conservatory native seed farm

while inviting the community to experience its beauty. Discover a rare expanse of preserved Orange County open space where monuments, historic sites, and striking geological features reveal the stories of the land.

Kelley Brugmann is a lifelong Orange County resident with over 25 years of experience in environmental education across local cities, the county and nonprofit

organizations. She previously supported public programs at OC Parks' historic sites, and now serves as Program Manager for Community Engagement and Education at Irvine Ranch Conservancy, overseeing a dynamic team that leads stewardship, school programs, and public activities. An award-winning Master Interpreter, she has trained more than 250 park rangers in the art of

interpretation.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, starting at 7:30 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2400 N. Canal St., Orange. Attendance is free for OCHS members, and a \$5 donation for non-members.

For more information about the Orange County Historical Society, local history, and future meetings, visit OrangeCountyHistory.org.

Assistance League® of Orange celebrates grads entering military service

The Assistance League® of Orange is proud to recognize local high school seniors who have chosen to serve our country through military service.

Each year, the Orange chapter hosts a Salute to Service event to honor graduating seniors entering the Armed Forces, and to recognize the families who have supported them along the way.

This year's event will take place on Wednesday, May 13, at 4:30 p.m. The program includes dinner, a guest speaker, presentation of certificates and a raffle. Students from the Orange community who have committed to serve in the military following graduation will be recognized for their dedication and willingness to answer the call to serve. The event celebrates seniors entering all branches of the United States Armed Forces, acknowledging their courage, leadership, and commitment to protecting our nation.

"Through Salute to Service, we are honored to recognize these out-

standing students and celebrate their commitment to serving our country," said Karen Coey, Salute to Service Chair. "Their dedication reflects the very best of our community."

Through this program, the Assistance League of Orange celebrates the courage and commitment of the next genera-

tion of service members.

To learn more about Assistance League of Orange and its community programs, please see alorange.org. For membership information, a Prospective Member Event will be held on Monday, April 27 at 6 p.m. at the Assistance League Chapter House, 124 S. Orange St.



The Woman's Club of Orange Presents:

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87th Annual Spring Flower Show
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Guest Commentary

Tustin Shelter investigated

By John Pellegrino

The Companion Animal Protection Society (CAPS), a national non-profit based in Thousand Oaks, has just released a short documentary entitled "A CAPS Investigation of OC Animal Care." It exposes the incompetence and mismanagement of one of California's largest municipal animal shelters, OC Animal Care. Located in Tustin, it serves 14 communities in Orange County.

Orange County has been plagued by a string of scandals, with horrible consequences for the animals and no accountability for the culprits. For a long time, the appeals of community advocates and an Orange County Grand

Jury report went unanswered. Two Orange County Supervisors, Janet Nguyen and Vicente Sarmiento, eventually brought about important reforms, but much more needs to be done.

CAPS interviewed community members who have a deep understanding of this shelter's operations, and have spent countless hours poring over the shelter's data. What these and other advocates uncovered is an unending series of disasters:

- Employing a human resources bureaucrat with no shelter experience as shelter director
- Using "official" statistics that appear to have been entirely fabricated
- Employing a severely

inadequate number of kennel workers

• Keeping dogs in their kennels for days on end without going for walks or out into the play yards

• Insisting on keeping visitors out of the kennel areas to cover up staffing shortfalls and filthy kennels

• Placing animals on the euthanasia list for mild, treatable medical problems

• Using flimsy excuses to suspend the feral cat Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program

• Sending bunnies, guinea pigs, and hamsters to a snake rescue group to meet an unfathomable fate

All the while, the shelter was leaning hard on cash-strapped rescue organizations, and sending more than 128

dogs to Woofy Acres, which is the subject of a horrific animal cruelty case.

A good example of the blueprint for a well-run shelter is the county's Animal Care Strategic Plan, developed at great expense and unanimously approved in 2018. CAPS' goal is reasonable: Orange County should implement its own Strategic Plan. It is the right way to complete the good reforms brought about by County Supervisors Janet Nguyen and Vicente Sarmiento, who listened to their communities' concerns.

Watch A CAPS Investigation of OC Animal Care

Learn more about CAPS' efforts to reform California's municipal

animal shelters through outreach and legislation and watch the trailer for "The Crisis at California's Municipal Shelters."

About CAPS

Founded in 1992, the Companion Animal Protection Society (CAPS) is the only national non-profit dedicated exclusively to protecting companion animals from cruelty in pet shops and puppy/kitten mills. CAPS addresses animal suffering through investigations, outreach, legislation, legal advocacy, consumer assistance, rescue, and shelter reform.

John Pellegrino, Founded Let It Be Known Public Relations, john@letitbeknownpr.com

LETTERS to the EDITOR



Beware of e-bike

Dear Editor:

On March 12, a Seal Beach woman suffered critical injuries after being struck by an e-bike.

Although this happened in a crosswalk, these bikes are now quite prevalent on our city sidewalks. Not only have I nearly been hit while on my twice-daily dog walks, I've seen dangerously close calls with others.

Orange code 10.10.090 Riding on Sidewalks states, in part:

They are prohibited on sidewalks in business districts unless posted otherwise.

Where sidewalk riding is permitted:

1. Operators must yield to pedestrians and exercise due care
2. Provide an audible signal before overtaking and passing pedestrians
3. Operate at a maximum speed of 10MPH and reduce to 5 when pedestrians are present.

Far too many people disobey traffic laws - running red lights, not stopping behind crosswalk limit lines, speeding, yakking on phones, to name a few. In all instances I mention above, these e-bikers were going well over these speed limits. Do they look for signage, make an audible signal, obey speed limits? Do they even know the laws? The answer is clear. Our absurd, far-too-lenient laws allowing motorized vehicles on sidewalks with pedestrians may well lead to serious injury or death. It's time to make revisions. Immediately.

Steve Tyler
Orange

Tustin Area Woman's Club

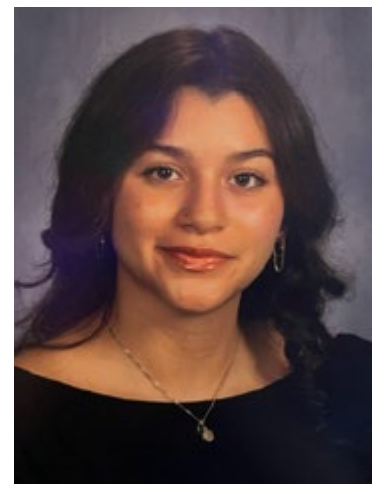
Young Women of the Month – March 2026



Juliana Estrada



Amreen Islam



Olivia Chacon

Tustin Area Woman's Club announced its Young Women of the Month for March 2026. The awardees are Juliana Estrada from Foothill High; Amreen Islam from Legacy High School; and Olivia Chacon from Tustin High.

Juliana Estrada is known for her creative and artistic abilities. She was the President of the Foothill Art Club SOFA (Students of Fine Art); the ASB Publicity Commissioner; and is currently the Fine Arts Commissioner. She has helped to curate several student

art exhibitions and supports the Tustin Art Walk, where student artwork is showcased to the community. Juliana aspires to become a high school art teacher after completing a degree in art and earning her teaching credential.

Amreen Islam has served on the Associated Student Body in leadership roles, such as Director of Academics, Chief Culture and Community Officer and is currently the Chief Executive Officer. She interned at a law firm over the summer, where she strengthened

her desire to pursue a career in law and public service. Amreen plans to major in Political Science and minor in Public Policy and Business at New York University.

Olivia Chacon has taken classes in the Biomedical Pathway at Tustin High School, and is interested in studying forensic anthropology at Long Beach State University. Olivia serves her community by sharing her artistic talents, which include doing chalk murals at Hispanic Heritage Night, making cards for the Maker's Market and supporting the Tustin Art Walk. Olivia is a council member of the Friday Night Live Club, bringing drug awareness and prevention to the Tustin High community.

Isabel Villalobos Finol, Beckman High School, was also named as a March awardee.



Publisher/Editor

Anita Bennyhoff
1969-2013

Editor

Tina Richards
editor@foothillssentry.com

Graphic Designer

Jef Maddock
graphics@foothillssentry.com

Advertising Sales

Andie Mills
advertising@foothillssentry.com
714-926-9299

Office Manager

officemanager@foothillssentry.com

714-532-4406

foothillssentry.com

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"17th Street" continued from page 1

Center's history as part of the Tustin community, and to continue hosting local events there.

As for structural changes, there will be quite a few. On the west side of the property, adjacent to the 55 Freeway, a new car wash will replace some of the older office buildings.

Most of the stores and restaurants will be replaced with new or refurbished structures.

The gas station at the corner of 17th and Yorba will be replaced with a new drive-through restaurant. What is now Enderle Center Drive will be shortened to create an entrance for the center and a second new drive-through restaurant, and to provide access to the Taco Bell on 17th Street, which will remain.

Greenbelt areas will be included in the shopping areas to allow for outdoor relaxing and dining.



An artist's rendering of the new Enderle Center/Campo on 17th.

OTPA's 11th Annual State of Old Towne Forum

Hear what's going on with big issues in Orange from a panel of distinguished City of Orange officials in this informative evening presented by the Old Towne Preservation Association.

The annual event will take place on Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at the Council Chambers at Orange City Hall, 300 E. Chapman. The meeting is free and open to the public; complimentary refreshments provided by OTPA.

Submit your questions to be considered on topics regarding crime, short-term rentals, Chapman's Specific Plan, city finances, Mills Act, and other issues facing Old Towne and the City of Orange.

Any questions can be sent to Info@OTPA.org.

The Old Towne Preservation Association is a public benefit non-profit organization formed as an emergency measure in February of 1986 to halt the demolition of historic homes that was erasing the history of this great city and the charm found in Old Towne Orange's more than 1,400 homes and businesses built before 1941.

It was OTPA who petitioned the State of California, in 1997, to designate Old Towne as a Residential Historic District, placed in the Na-

tional Registry of Historic Places. This makes it the largest, contiguous residential historic district in the State of California. OTPA's constant efforts have protected and preserved Old Towne's historic heritage and ensured that the rich tapestry of side-by-side historic homes remains.

OTPA works to maintain the historic integrity and economic viability of the area through education, community involvement, and service projects which support the concerns of Orange residents in preserving this neighborhood for future generations.

OTPA preservation efforts cover Orange City Council, Design Review Committee, Planning Commission and Code Enforcement meetings, and include, speaking up on projects contrary to the Historic Preservation Design Standards and educating the public. These are the city's regulations and codes regarding our Historic Districts that keep Old Towne a rare pocket of yesterday's charm.

Old Towne enjoys high property values, quality schools, safe streets, a charming Plaza around which we may walk and dine — and we pledge that OTPA will work to keep it that way, with your help and contributions!

One of the largest changes to the property is the addition of 100 residential condominium units along the southern part of the parcel, including the existing parking lot to the east. (The closure of that portion of Enderle Center Drive will allow for the combining of the residential areas.)

The plan for the shopping center is in the final review stage, with public hearings anticipated in the next few months.

Financial Plaza to be re-cast

Over on 17th and Prospect, the five office buildings that make up the Tustin Financial Plaza will be demolished. That property will be redeveloped into residential housing.

The plaza, originally the Meredith Financial Centre, was built in 1972-73 by the prolific developer Eddy Meredith, who was very involved in upscale home development in Orange County, including the Meredith Park, Meredith Village and Meredith Manor communities in North Tustin and Orange. The financial center was his firm's first large-scale business project.

The new project, called "Cypress Grove," will see the site redeveloped to construct a total of 145 market-rate residential condominiums, consisting of 62 single-family detached "cluster" units



The Tustin Financial Plaza will be demolished to make way for housing.



The former Tustin Financial Plaza will become Cypress Grove, shown here.

and 83 single-family attached townhomes. All of the structures will be three stories high, in a variety of Farmhouse, Craftsman, and abstract traditional styles, with three or four bedrooms, ranging from about 2,000 to 2,900 sq. ft. each.

Homes would include two enclosed garage spaces per unit, with 40

designated visitor parking spaces along the internal street. The project's entrance would be on Prospect Avenue. A recreational area near the center would include a community gathering space, lawn and trees, seating and an adventure play area.

Cypress Grove has been approved by the city council.

Tustin to hold community yard sale

Find your treasure!

Join us at the 2026 Tustin Community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 11, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Tustin Civic Center parking lot, 300 Centennial Way in Tustin, between First and Main streets, next to Tustin City Hall.

The Tustin Yard Sale will have a number of vendors selling a wide variety of items, including clothes, toys, books, glassware, household items, electronics, furniture, collectibles and more.

For more information, please contact Miriam Garcia, Recreation Coordinator, at Tustin Parks and Recreation: mgarcia@tustinca.org or visit tustinca.org/yardsale.

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Eternal vigilance

Stop your sobbing

Thanks always to Inter-Canyon League (ICL) Secretary Scott Breeden for faithful note-taking. He reports that at its March meeting, the ICL board voted to partially make up for this year's reduced anti-GSOB support by hiring GSOB nemesis Mike Boeck of Silverado to advocate for the canyons when dealing with county, state and other agencies. Boeck, who has made GSOB awareness and prevention his mission and expertise, will continue work ICL previously funded via grants no longer available.

He has helped the Irvine Ranch Conservancy identify infestations in county park land and its own. Alas, seriously infested oaks cannot be saved by spraying and must be removed. The Cleveland National Forest cannot pay for spraying or removal. Trees on county-owned land should be sprayed or removed by, well, the county. Ipso facto, infested and dead trees on private property should be removed by the landowner. But what if a landowner is absent, doesn't respond, or can't afford the cost? Boeck reports that he's working on language for a proposed tree ordinance to present to the county.

More GSOB

Eternal vigilance is

the price of liberty, or at least pest-free trees. Specialized Tree Care & Landscape has joined the battle to save our oaks. In conjunction with RPW's treatment services, Specialized offers pruning and tree health assessments toward detecting early signs of infestation; it also provides fertilization, mulch applications and removal and disposal of infested trees. Here's their pro tip: Pruning coastal live oak trees during the warmer months helps reduce risk of pathogen infection, while supporting strong structure and overall vigor.

Zero Zone, meet Fair Plan

Canyon homeowners enrolled in the California Fair Plan recently received an invitation, incentive, or perhaps otherwise attention-getting letter, offering modest discounts for specific, if somehow obvious, measures at further wildlife protection. You might already be the beneficiary of one of 10 actions you have already taken, but worthwhile perhaps to double-check the list. Of course, we are a Fire Wise-certified community, which helps. Other actions include documented vegetation and debris clearance, removing combustible materials incorporated into improvements, moving outbuildings

further away from your domicile, and, of course, trimming trees. For bigger discounts and more peace of mind, you could also replace your old roof with a Class-A fire rated one, enclose your eaves, install fire-resistant vents, multi-paned windows or shutters, and make sure that external walls are protected by non-combustible material.

Not your BFF!

Sorry, more bugs! A quick tutorial from fellow backyard Modjeska fig farmer Sarah Sarkisian includes an unwelcome introduction to the black fig fly (BFF) (*Silba adipata*), another invasive pest. This one specifically targets fig trees. First reported in Southern California in 2021, it has spread, and now impacts both commercial and neighborhood fig growers in the Southland.

BFF is *not* your best friend, but it can be forever and ruin your entire harvest. These flies are evil geniuses, finding unprotected young fruit and laying an egg which will hatch into a larva, which will eat out the inside of the fig, causing it to soften, drop dead, and then hit the ground. It gets worse. Under the tree, the eggs made by the larva hatch and burrow into the ground and then at some future date, their horrible kids wake up and attack your tree, assuming it has even bothered to produce fruit. Most fig trees (and there are plenty in our canyons) have two growth cycles, two harvests. Act now, for the earlier, smaller crop. When you see late spring or early summer fruit, carefully apply a bit of white cloth tape to the vulnerable spot on the fruit, toward preventing infection in the first place, and prophylactically stopping the cycle of infestation.

Ectothermic

Distract yourself from local pests with tame cold-blooded creatures who aren't out to destroy fruit or oaks. Library of the Canyons and Friends of the Library invite you to the Thursday morning, April 9, 11 a.m., "Dino Hunt and Reptile Show." Wild Wonders offers a hands-on program where kids and

families can get close to snakes, iguanas and crocodiles, in addition to pretend dinosaur eggs.

In related Friends of the Library news, over 120 came out to the recent Leo Hetzel life-in-photo-journalism show at the Community Room. The Friends board asks you to keep Sunday, June 7 open for its next fundraising event. Hosted by the Sarkissians in Modjeska Canyon, we will once again feed each other and bid on homemade desserts, all toward celebrating our branch library and funding future programs, including one on local canyon history in the fall. Organized and presented by the ICL History Committee, it will feature archival materials, e.g., books, newspapers, photographs, art, and artifacts, curated by this terrific volunteer group.

Arden update

OC Parks PIO Danielle Kennedy reports big improvements coming to the Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens. I just copy and paste: "To help protect and preserve this National Historic Landmark, the existing retaining wall behind the Modjeska home will be replaced and reinforced with a structurally robust system. The project will begin in May, and is expected to be completed in late 2026. While work is being conducted, Arden will be closed on weekdays, but will remain open for guided tours on Saturdays. Multiple tours will be available between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., by advance reservation.

"Once the retaining wall is complete, OC Parks will replace the existing wood shingle roof with fire-treated roofing for improved building protection. This project is expected to continue into 2027. Both projects have been carefully planned, and will use appropriate materials and design elements to maintain and protect the historic character of the property for generations to come. Additional details about these major preservation efforts will be shared at ocparks.com."

Wow. Great news, and great writing. That's what we try for at the "Canyon Beat."

Optometric or optimistic?

"This regime is evil and must never be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons. While we may not see eye-to-eye on this issue, I will always stand with our service members risking their lives for U.S. security and regional peace, and with the Iranian people in their brave struggle for freedom." The above arrived via email from my frequent correspondent Rep. Young Kim, whose ChatGPT AI robot assistant seems to know me by now. Unhelpfully, all her (its) responses to my queries about ICE, the illegal war on Iran, Trump, civil rights, and more, reference our eyesight. Some speculate that her recent full-on hard-right political positions and recent rhetoric track with her 40th CD (recently redistricted) race for reelection against fellow Republican Ken Calvert, where they are (forgive me) neck and neck, toe to toe, and will indeed face off in the June primary.

Hop to it

Silverado's Easter Breakfast at the Community Center begins at 7 a.m., serving until noon at the Community Center, with music, a raffle, and an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30. Modjeska's is at Fire Station 16 starting at 8 a.m., with pancakes, eggs, and sausages until 11. Same prices for both: \$10 adults, \$5 children. Modjeska's hunt for painted ova happens next door at Modjeska Park, 1 p.m. Want to volunteer? Labar@cox.net. Thanks, Paula.

Summer Concert Series

It's not too early to schedule your third Saturday evenings, May through September. Live from the Zachary Dupre Stage at the Silverado Fairgrounds and Community Center, the Silverado Summer Concert Series includes five consecutive monthly shows of locally curated audience-pleasing musical acts, both local legends and regional favorites. This is the most idiosyncratic, eclectic, and grassroots-inspired music get-together in OC. Find the full schedule online at the SMRPD website calendar, and look for monthly reminders here.

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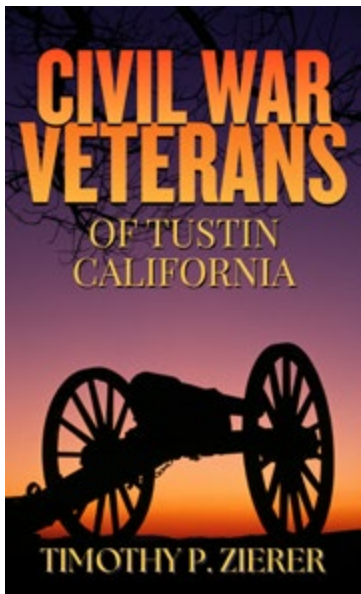
Happy Spring!

dan@DanSlater.com

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Civil War veterans in Tustin



By Guy Ball

The American Civil War raged for four years. When it was over, more than 700,000 Americans were dead. There was hardly a family in the country that the conflict had not touched.

At a re-scheduled "Night at the Museum" presentation on April 24, local historian Tim Zierer will share information about some of the thirty-three Civil War veterans profiled in his just-

published book, "Civil War Veterans of Tustin, California." They fought on many of the major battlefields of the war, including Gettysburg, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chickamauga and Atlanta.

Several participated in Sherman's March to the Sea, and a number were on hand for Lee's surrender at Appomattox. All were young; 14 of the 33 were teenagers. Their war experiences shaped their lives in ways they could never have imagined when they enlisted.

After the war, they all became part of a great westward migration that eventually brought them all to the small southern California town of Tustin.

In Tustin, they were pioneers, helping establish the young community. From these, a state assemblyman, a county supervisor, the county's first treasurer, and the town's first peace of-

ficer were to emerge. Old enemies became neighbors, then friends, beginning the process of healing the nation's wounds.

Tim Zierer has spent several years researching the residents through military records, news articles, family stories, cemetery lists and old documents from around the country. His meticulous work led to connections and a history between so many of Tustin's, and the county's, pioneering leaders.

Tim will have copies of his book available for purchase and to sign.

This Night at the Museum meeting will be held on Friday, April 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Tustin Area Museum, 395 El Camino Real in downtown Tustin. Tickets are \$20 per person and \$15 for members.

For more information and tickets, visit Tustin-History.com, or call the museum at (714) 731-5701.

Five new rest stops on the Santa Ana River Trail



Workers from OC Parks create a rest stop along the Santa Ana River Trail.

By Vicente Sarmiento, 2nd District Supervisor

Last spring, we shared the news that, in collaboration with OC Parks, the City of Orange, OC Public Works, and the OC Water District, we were able to make Bike Trail improvements in North Orange to provide two additional rest stops along the trail.

The trail is a valuable county asset that serves as both a recreational and transportation space, providing a quiet spot for many residents who may not have access to open spaces in this part of the county.

I am happy to share that this year, and just in

time for spring, we have completed the construction of five new rest stops to make the trail more accessible and comfortable for cyclists, walkers and families.

These new improvements are already in use, and continue our efforts to increase recreation spaces and amenities along the Santa Ana River Trail. In collaboration with the City of Orange and thanks to the hard work of OC Parks, this project is now a reality.

For District 2, where park space is limited, enhancements like this help ensure our residents can enjoy shared open spaces for recreation and leisure.

Orange North Rotary Club spreads Easter joy



Photo by Katherine Connaghan

Members of the Orange North Rotary Club proudly display the Easter baskets assembled during Tuesday morning's service project. Left to right are RJ Castelan, Brad Purcha, Teri Harman, Jeff Krolosky and Bryan Rogers.

The Orange North Rotary Club turned sunrise into service, as members gathered at 7 a.m. at the Original Pancake House to assemble dozens of Easter baskets for local families in need. What began as a simple idea blossomed into a cheerful, hands-on project that filled the room with energy, purpose, and plenty of pastel colored treats.

The effort was led by Jeff and Karen Krolosky, who not only organized the project, but personally handled the purchasing, storing, and early morning delivery of all the basket items.

Jeff arrived with boxes full of goodies, and club members wasted no time diving into the assembly line.

Within minutes, the private meeting room transformed into a lively workshop of Rotarians sorting candy, arranging toys, tying ribbons, and sharing laughs over breakfast. Members described the morning as a perfect blend of fellowship and service—exactly what the club strives to embody.

Once the baskets were completed, Jeff and Karen delivered them to the Friendly Center on behalf of the Orange

North Rotary Club. The baskets will be distributed to local children and families who could use a little extra joy this Easter season.

Club president Katherine Connaghan expressed her full support for the project, noting that it reflects the club's ongoing commitment to serving the community with heart and purpose.

"This is what Rotary is all about—coming together, giving our time, and making sure our neighbors feel cared for," she said.

For more information regarding Rotary, contact David Silva at (714) 227-3822.

Villa Park hosts pancake breakfast

Come see some fancy pancake flipping! The 11th Villa Park High School Annual Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the VPHS PFSO, with Rotary Club of Villa Park members at the griddle, will be held Saturday, April 11 from 7 to 11 a.m. at the high school.

Tickets are \$10 each,

and support school teams, clubs, band and the PFSO; tickets are available at the school office, or from school organizations. A silent auction and Spartan merchandise will be available. Live music will be provided by the VPHS band.

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Mayor Dan Slater's State of the City of Orange

The following is a summary of Mayor Dan Slater's address at the State of the City, March 20, at Chapman University, presented by the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome

Good afternoon! On behalf of myself and our entire city council, welcome, and thank you for coming! It's my honor to share the State of the City of Orange with you.

When we look around our historic Old Towne Plaza, our business corridors, and our beautiful residential neighborhoods, we see a city that doesn't just rest on its history, it builds upon it. I want to make this year's theme, as well as every year hereafter, crystal clear: *The City of Orange is open for business.*

In July of 2025, the City received a report from Grant Thornton Advisors with three clear recommendations:

1. Enhance economic development
2. Incorporate additional cost reductions, and
3. Increase the sales tax.

My presentation today is going to focus primarily on the first recommendation, but I'll be addressing points two and three toward the conclusion.

In addition to fostering a new "open for busi-

ness" environment, the report expressed a need to eliminate the old "Orange way."

We are proving that we are moving forward by removing hurdles, upgrading our processes, and reimagining how we serve the public.

Guest speakers

To start, I want to introduce two city partners who represent our continued growth. First, from Citythinkers, the visionaries helping us craft "Orange Yards" along the West Katella corridor as a companion to the City of Anaheim's OC Vibe, please welcome Diego Velasco.

Next, a family-owned and operated success story headquartered right here in Orange: please welcome from MSI, the leading supplier of flooring, countertops, and tile in North America, Raj Shah.

Seamless service: Civic Portal

Thank you to both Diego and Raj. Success like MSI's is only possible if the City is a partner, not a roadblock.

In February of 2025, we launched our new online Civic Portal. We know that for business owners, time is your most precious commodity. Whether you're a business owner, homeowner, architect, or contractor, you can skip trips to

City Hall and apply for planning entitlements, building permits, special events permits, and fire or public works permits seamlessly online.

Orange is now open for business 24/7, at a time that is convenient for you.

Removing red tape: development process improvements

Of course, efficiency isn't just about the software we use, it's about our processes.

We've refined our Zoning Code to be more intuitive, including adopting objective design standards for multi-family residential development projects

Additionally, our new Alcohol Exemption Permit process has been expedited, allowing eligible businesses to skip the Planning Commission public hearing, allowing restaurants to open months earlier.

Lastly, a key change that was made recently is that our Design Review Committee oversight is now reserved strictly for historic properties and districts. If you're building outside those areas, we've eliminated that requirement, demonstrating our efforts to preserve Orange's historic districts while embracing an "open for business" philosophy.

Old Towne, The Village and other projects

Old Towne Orange offers a vibrant, walkable environment that continues to be an inviting destination for new businesses. We are preserving our historic charm while making room for businesses to grow through our new paid parking program, which helps encourage the turnover that our business owners need for success. And it's been wildly successful, according to our downtown businesses.

Meanwhile, we are working with Placemarks to finalize the Meats to Heim Specific Plan, creating a new hub of entertainment, commerce, housing and restaurants. This will reimagine our old Orange Mall into a high-end lifestyle center that's strategically positioned right along the retail corridor of Tustin Street and the

55 Freeway.

We've seen an uptick in activity from major commercial businesses. MSI isn't the only business who has made a massive investment in Orange—Prologis is redeveloping an existing industrial site on West Struck Avenue into a 213,000 square foot logistics facility, which will bring plenty of job opportunities to our area. The Outlets at Orange has recently welcomed Skechers, a new location for Vans, and Barnes and Noble; The Village has added Ulta, Rounds Korean BBQ, and Kura Sushi; while Toyota of Orange is adding service bays and expanding their sales floor with a new building on N. Tustin Street.

In 2025 alone, 1,100 new businesses chose to call Orange home and were issued business licenses by the City.

The Future: City Plaza and Orange Yards

We are also championing "adaptive reuse." At City Plaza near the Outlets at Orange, we are working with the property owner to convert existing office space into approximately 340 residential apartments and exploring some creative parking solutions

We also have 12 new housing projects in the pipeline or under construction in Orange. One is senior housing; two are apartments; and the remaining are all new owner occupied for sale homes.

As you heard from Diego and Citythinkers, Orange Yards is our western gateway. Located near the upcoming OC Vibe (which is currently under construction), this district will invite innovation and future development opportunities to the City.



Mayor Dan Slater

A foundation of safety

We know that economic development can't happen without a foundation of safety. A business-friendly city must be a safe city. Our Code Enforcement team is working hard to deter unlawful activity by outlawing the sale of nitrous oxide and kratom products, and cracking down on tobacco shops and massage parlors.

Our public safety partners at the Orange Police Department are in the field every day protecting our businesses and our community. And with that in mind, I'd like to share this brief message from our new Chief of Police Adam Jevic and our new City Manager Jarad Hildenbrand. [video]

In case you missed it, Orange had a 21% decrease in crime last year, with crime dropping 28% when comparing 2023 to 2025.

Investing in existing businesses: Business Façade Program

To build on that sense of pride and safety, we are launching a new Business Façade Program. Using federal grants, we are providing funding to give facelifts to stores in our low-to-moderate income areas. Applications will open later this year, so keep an eye out for that. We want to help refresh our existing businesses and our streets to keep our city beautiful and our curb appeal high.

Looking forward

As we look forward toward the rest of 2026, we want you to know that the City of Orange is your partner. We are listening, we are evolving, and our staff is working every day to make this the best city in Orange County to grow and run a business.

While the difficulties

Spring into Health 5K
Brought to you by the **VILLA PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES FOUNDATION**
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Lace Up for the Return of The Villa Park 5K

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- Overall awards
- Age group awards
- Medal reveal

All levels are welcome — walk, jog, or sprint — then stay to enjoy the 2nd Annual Health & Wellness Fair happening 7:30am-12:30pm at the finish line in front of City Hall!

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Race Sign Up



Photo by Grant Romancia

OUSD Superintendent Dr. Rachel Monárrez introduces Citizen of the Year Frank Tucker.

that lay ahead of us are clear, we are taking steps to meet these challenges.

The City has already made significant cuts through service reductions and deferred maintenance, including reducing our General Fund budget by over \$20 million since Fiscal Year 2024. We are doing what we can to strike a balance of maintaining essential services for our residents, including public safety, while doing everything we can to not shift costs back to the community.

As our new city manager stated six months ago, Orange is not going to go bankrupt. But, as we pass the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 mid-year point, our City is projecting a \$2 million net deficit by the end of the fiscal year, due to our pension obligation bond debt service. This is despite the City's operating expenditures projected to come under budget in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Addressing our ongoing budgetary gaps has required difficult, but necessary, choices across the organization, including eliminating or freezing positions, which to date for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 alone, is projected to net roughly \$1 million in savings. The City is also expecting to come under budget by an additional \$1.7 million by deferring key operational investments like needed equipment purchases or IT maintenance projects.

Aside from these day-to-day efforts to keep our expenditures down as costs go up, our adopted budget also incorporates nearly \$14 million in capital project deferrals, which is a short-term solution to bridge our budget shortfalls; it is not a long term answer to what is certainly going to be a persistent problem. Any further postponement to services, like our capital

programs, will only lead to more costly projects in the future. In short, Orange is not the only City facing financial challenges, but the challenge is clear, our revenues are not keeping pace with costs, even when significant cost reductions have been made over the past several years.

We continue to keep residents updated on our annual budget process at cityoforange.org/conversation, and we will be holding our first Fiscal Year 2027 budget discussion at the Council meeting March 24.

Additionally, earlier this year, we launched our new Open Finance Portal, which gives residents an accessible and easy-to-understand view of how City revenue is collected and how public funds are allocated. You can find that on our City website as well.

Lastly, we must continue to explore new revenue sources. The choice is simple: Do we want to be a mediocre city that just gets by from year to year? Or, do we want to be a first-class city that maintains our infrastructure, retains good employees at fair salaries and keeps a good "rainy day" reserve on hand? I was recently at Cerro Villa Middle School and was asked what was the one thing I hadn't accomplished yet. I told her that it was to make sure I leave office with the City on a sound financial footing. To do that, we must pass a sales tax increase and that is my #1 goal for the year. We must do this, and there's no getting around it. This, along with other possible revenue sources, will be discussed at the council meeting.

Orange has always taken pride in honoring our past, while growing into our future. Let's do what we need to do to secure our future, and the next generation of Orange residents.



Taco cooks are, left to right, Tom Large, Jason Sherill, Alex Aguilar, Bryan Hyland, Joe Medina and J C Cortez.

The Orange Elks have many committees to support the programs for our Community, our Veterans, our Youth and our Community Partners. One of the unknown committees that work behind the scenes to make events special is our Kitchen Committee – no chairmen, just a bunch of guys who love to cook!

Recently, these cooks prepared tacos, rice and beans for the Orange Coast District Stand Down.

Then, they prepared Teriyaki beef and chicken dinners for the initiation of our new members.

A tri-tip dinner was on the menu for the Inaugural Ball for Lynn Butler and her officers.

The Orange Elks Kitchen Crews have figured out a way to prepare good meals and have fun doing it – and all are volunteers, doing what the Orange Elks do best, "Because We Care."

Elks Kitchen Crews



The Teriyaki cooks are, left to right, Bryan Hyland, Joe Medina, Alex Aguilar and Jason Sherrill.



The chefs for the evening were, from left, Jason Sherrill, Bryan Hyland, Treavor Saunders, Joe Medina, Alex Aguilar, Chris Guerrero and Dan Adams.

Central Dems to meet

On Wednesday, April 22, the Central Orange County Democratic Club will host a candidate forum, featuring candidates who will be on the primary ballot in June. Snacks and shmooze at 6 p.m., general meeting at 6:30. Please note that our meetings are now starting a half hour earlier. RSVP is required to attend.

Central OC Dems includes the communities of Tustin, Tustin Hills, Orange, Villa Park, and surrounding communities. Democrats from all communities in Orange

County are welcome to join. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in Tustin.

Anyone wanting to connect with fellow Democrats, get informed, learn how to be an activist, help increase community involvement in civic engagement, and hobnob with an affable group of friendly people, is welcome to join Central OC Dems. Questions can be sent to CentralOC-Dems@gmail.com or visit CentralOCDems.com.

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MARKET SNAPSHOT
ORANGE, CA
FEBRUARY 2026
Single Family

\$1.35M Avg. Sales Price - 0%	\$1.54M Avg. List Price + 7%	36 No. of Prop. Sold + 18%	41 Avg. Days on Market + 20%	\$667 Avg. Sales Price per Sqft. + 2%
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DAVID SILVA
M: 714-227-0622 | CAR# 01327042

MARKET SNAPSHOT
TUSTIN, CA
FEBRUARY 2026
Single Family

\$1.53M Avg. Sales Price + 11%	\$2.05M Avg. List Price + 1%	17 No. of Prop. Sold + 13%	45 Avg. Days on Market + 30%	\$738 Avg. Sales Price per Sqft. + 4%
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DAVID SILVA
M: 714-227-0622 | CAR# 01327042

MARKET SNAPSHOT
VILLA PARK, CA
FEBRUARY 2026
Single Family

\$3.10M Avg. Sales Price + 18%	\$3.01M Avg. List Price + 2%	4 No. of Prop. Sold + 8%	184 Avg. Days on Market + 303%	\$655 Avg. Sales Price per Sqft. + 6%
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DAVID SILVA
M: 714-227-0622 | CAR# 01327042

Time to get healthy!



Villa Park Community Services Foundation invites the public to participate in the second annual "Spring into Health" Fair and 5K run on Saturday, May 16 in the Villa Park Towne Center.

The Villa Park 5K will commence at 8 a.m. Participants may run, walk or slog through the scenic closed course.

Chip timing and performance race shirts are available; medals will be presented to all participants, with special awards for the top three male and female finishers in each age group, and the top overall finishers. Registration for the 5K opens at 7:30 a.m.; prizes and raffles at 9:10 a.m. at the stage in front of City Hall.

The Health Fair opens at 7:30 a.m. and runs through 12:30 p.m., with a plethora of health professionals and agencies providing demonstrations, exhibits and educational materials to make 2026 the best ever. For information about becoming a sponsor, exhibitor or 5Ker, see vpcsfoundation.org/events.

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NMLS# 281526
CA LIC# 603J651

Orange May Parade returns

Get ready for a sweet slice of our hometown tradition! The Orange May Parade returns for its 60th year on Saturday, May 2, stepping off at 10 a.m. in Old Towne Orange. This year's festive theme, "Orange You Glad It's America's Birthday! Celebrating 250 Years," promises a colorful celebration filled with patriotic spirit, creative floats, marching bands and community pride.

Produced by the Orange Chamber of Commerce Foundation, this beloved parade kicks off the Celebrate Orange Weekend, bringing neighbors and visitors

together for a weekend of fun and nostalgia. Whether you're waving from the sidelines or rolling down the route, it's a can't-miss tradition for all ages.

Interested in joining the excitement? Parade entries and sponsorship opportunities are open—contact elizabeth@orangechamber.com to get involved. Best of all, all donations are tax deductible, making it easy to support this cherished community event.

Mark your calendars and come celebrate 250 years of American history—Orange style!

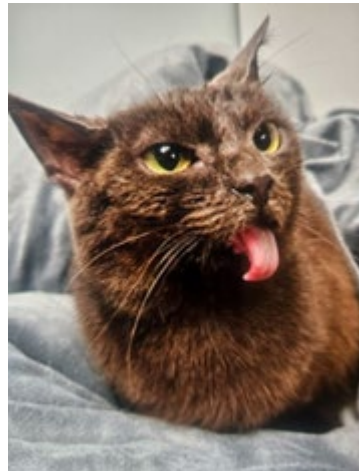
Turtles and tortoises on display

The annual Turtle and Tortoise Show, sponsored by the California Turtle and Tortoise Club of Orange County, will take place on Saturday, May 30.

The event will include husbandry and adoption information, turtle-related goods for sale and, of course, life turtles and tortoises.

The show is held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the First Christian Church of Orange, 1130 E. Walnut in Orange. The club holds monthly meetings on the first Friday of each month, featuring speakers, support, care and adoption information. See tortoise.org/orangecounty for further information.

Help CeCe smile again!



CeCe, a sweet Russian Blue kitten, was injured, and now has a deformed lower jaw that will not allow her to smile, eat or chew properly, or groom herself. Despite that, she is sweet and cuddly – and looking for a new beginning. A surgery at UC Davis Veterinary School will be life-changing for this young girl. Please help her get the help she needs. Donate through MEOOWZRESQ.ORG.

The mission of MeowzResQ is to rescue and rehabilitate abused, abandoned or neglected felines, and find loving homes for them. View their website and apply to adopt or foster.

Hop to Tustin for the Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt

Get prepped for the annual City of Tustin Easter Egg Hunt with a stack of pancakes at the Tustin Community Foundation Pancake Breakfast.

The Pancake Breakfast will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Tustin Sports Park, 12850 Robinson Drive, followed by the

Egg Hunt for ages 0-9, which starts promptly at 9 a.m. There will be an opportunity for photos with the Easter Bunny, a petting zoo and games.

Purchase presale tickets at <https://26-pancakes.raiselysite.com/> for \$1 off per person, plus one free children's book per family!

State Park passes available at county libraries

Through December, free California State Parks vehicle day-use passes are available at Orange County Public Libraries.

This allows Californians to access lakes, beaches, parks and monuments at no charge.

Each pass is valid for entry of one passenger vehicle, with capacity of nine people or less, or one highway-licensed motorcycle at participating state park units.

Passes will be valid at 200+ participating state park units. The pass will not be honored at state park units operated by federal or local govern-

ment and private agencies or concessionaires, or at parks that do not require a vehicle day-use pass, such as marine areas or kayak-in parks.

The pass is not valid for per-person entry or tour fees (such as museums), boat use, camping, group use or sites, special events, additional/extra vehicle fees, sanitation disposal use or for supplemental fees.

There is a limit of one pass per patron at a time; a checkout period of three weeks; the pass is not renewable. For further information, see ocpl.org/parkpasses.

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Looking for love

Ladybug and Grasshopper snuggling together

This bonded brother and sister, kittens born April 21, 2025, are Tabicos, a lovely pairling of Calico and Tabby.

Ladybug is a total sweetheart. Playful and fun-loving, this kitty provides endless entertainment. She is outgoing and confident, and will greet you at the door when you come home. She is a true lovebug who adores cuddling and is always purring up a storm. Sharing is caring and she gets along great with other cats, especially her brother.

Grasshopper approaches life with curiosity and enthusiasm. He

is a perfect little explorer and he's always looking for adventure. When a feather wand is out, his acrobatic jumps could possibly qualify him for the Olympics. Together they love chasing, playing hide and seek, wrestling and climbing cat trees. When not playing, they can be seen snuggling up together on a chair. Since they are bonded, they bring out the best in each other and they are excited to share their love with a new forever family.

For information on adoption of this pair, or others, see MeowzResq.org.

Orange Art to present watercolorist

The Orange Art Association will present well-known local watercolorist and teacher Judy Schroeder at the Monday, April 13 meeting. Judy will demonstrate the use of different hues of color, especially green, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Community of Christ Church, 395 South Tustin.

Women of Distinction named

State Senator Steven Choi's District 37 2026 Women of Distinction were celebrated, March 26, in a ceremony at the Orange City Council Chambers.

Each year, women from throughout the district nominated by their peers for exceptional service, professional achievement, and are recognized for their leadership, service and the lasting impact they have on their communities.

The local honorees were Lucy Dominguez from Orange; Teresa Ramos of Tustin; Beverly McNeff, Anaheim Hills; Pam Dunn of Villa Park.

Julie Moore of Irvine was honored as Woman of the Year. She is currently participating in a clinical trial, and serves as a national advocate for research funding and patient support, and was recognized for her courage and leadership in raising awareness of early-onset Alzheimer's.



The Orange Emblem Club #418 celebrated the 60th Installation of Officers at the 60th birthday of the organization, March 18. Left to right, State Past President/Organist Evelyn Godinez; Supreme District Chaplain Jennifer Kushner; Emblem State President LuAnn Barrows; Emblem State Marshal Carol Lawler; Club President Laurie Padilla; Installing Officer Past Supreme President/State Past President/Past President Huntington Park Emblem Club #66, Jack Fanzo; State Financial Secretary/Installing Marshal Ruth Purbaugh; Leah Shiers, Supreme IVP Kim Latham; and Whittier Club President Jann Prisco.

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Flags over the Plaza

If it is the third Thursday of the month, the Orange Elks will be doing their monthly flag ceremony at the Plaza, supporting veterans and the community, and their community partners. "So long as there is a vet, the Orange Elks will never forget!" is exemplified each month.

The Orange Elks worked with several of our Community Partners to make this program a success. The Orange Blossoms, an Auxiliary of the Assistance League of Orange, served refreshments. The American Legion Post #132 spoke about their 107th birthday.

The next Flags Over the Plaza will be on April 16.



The Orange Elks Cleaver Crew presented a check in the amount of \$500 to Orange High School MCJROTC for their programs. The Cleaver Crew are Elks who specialize in cooking tacos at special events.



At 6 a.m., the crew raised Old Glory and the POW/MIA flags.



Orange High School MCJROTC lowered the flags, and the Orange Elks Emblem Club #418 performed the flag-folding ceremony, while describing the meaning of each fold.

Shred for free

A free community shredding event will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the North Hills Realty parking lot, 17771 17th St. in Tustin. Five banker boxes of paper only, no

binders or electronics, are allowed per person. Donations for the Tustin Senior Center will also be collected; the suggested donation is \$5 per box. The event is sponsored by realtor April Alvarez.

Orange Elks bestow awards

By Bill Neessen

At the end of each Elk year, the Exalted Ruler hands out awards to deserving Lodge members. The individuals selected always seem to be there, and doing things without really being asked. They make the Lodge and its activities better!

This year, Exalted Ruler Kelley Martinez selected Joe Medina as Elk of the Year. Joe demonstrated devotion, dedication, and loyalty to the Lodge.

Julie Sutton was awarded Officer of the Year. Julie went beyond her duties to provide

leadership and voluntary service to the Lodge. This year's Citizen of the Year went to Lesly Adams. Lesly is an outstanding volunteer, works behind the scenes, is very friendly and makes great desserts for Lodge events.

The Grand Exalted Ruler's Outstanding Service Commendation certificate goes to someone who performs outstanding service to the Lodge. The Exalted Ruler selected Gary Doebereiner and Garrett Hamblin for their work initiating, organizing and supervising a very successful Antler program.



From left, Officer of the Year Julie Sutton; Elk of the Year Joe Medina; and Citizen of the Year Lesly Adams.



Exalted Ruler Kelley Martinez and Gary Doebereiner, Outstanding Service commendation recipient



Exalted Ruler Kelley Martinez with Outstanding Service award Garrett Hamblin.