

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**March 31, 2016**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council      FROM: Scott Stiles, City Manager  
Members

**I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

**A. SB 969**

A copy of the letter sent to Senator Nguyen in support of Senate Bill 969 to allow the year-round sale of traditional Vietnamese rice cakes.

**B. CITY'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LETTER**

A copy of the letter sent to all employees informing them of the City's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on June 18, 2016 is attached for your information. Extra commemorative lapel pins are also being provided to you.

**• OTHER ITEMS**

- NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



SCOTT C. STILES  
City Manager



## CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

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March 29, 2016

The Honorable Janet Nguyen  
Senator of California  
State Capitol, Room 3048  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: (916) 651-4934

**RE: SB 969 (Nguyen) – Vietnamese Rice Cakes  
Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Nguyen:

The Garden Grove City Council supports your bill, SB 969 that would allow for an exemption in the Health and Safety Code for traditional Vietnamese Rice Cakes to be sold year-round, provided that they are labeled with health precautions warning that the rice cake must be consumed within two days. A resolution will be forthcoming, following the City Council Meeting on April 12, 2016.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Stiles  
City Manager

Bao Nguyen  
Mayor

Steven R. Jones  
Mayor Pro Tem

Christopher V. Phan  
Council Member

Phat Bui  
Council Member

Kris Beard  
Council Member

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE  
**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

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March 31, 2016

Dear Fellow Employees:

The City of Garden Grove is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year! Birthday party plans are in the works to mark this milestone on the City's actual date of incorporation six decades ago, June 18. The Saturday festivities will take place at Village Green Park, which is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The free event will be jam-packed with activities for all ages, from a carnival corner and imagination station for younger kids, to an interactive teen zone for the iGeneration. Also in store are free giveaways, family photo booths, a sugar shack complete with retro candy, food trucks, and a classic car show.

And of course, no birthday party is complete without cutting a cake and singing 'Happy Birthday,' which our Mayor and City Council will lead.

The Garden Grove Unified School District will be wrapping up its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and presenting a two-hour show featuring talented students from dozens of local schools, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Following that, making their Orange County debut, is SOTO, a popular SoCal band with a song list sure to have everyone dancing from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

After the City's party in the park ends, the birthday bash continues on Main Street, with the Downtown Business Association hosting the band, Stone Soul, and tapping a craft beer trailer.

To get us in the party mood early, please enjoy this commemorative 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lapel pin as a small token of my appreciation of the diligence with which you serve this community. It is my hope you will wear it with the same pride I see you display, each and every day.

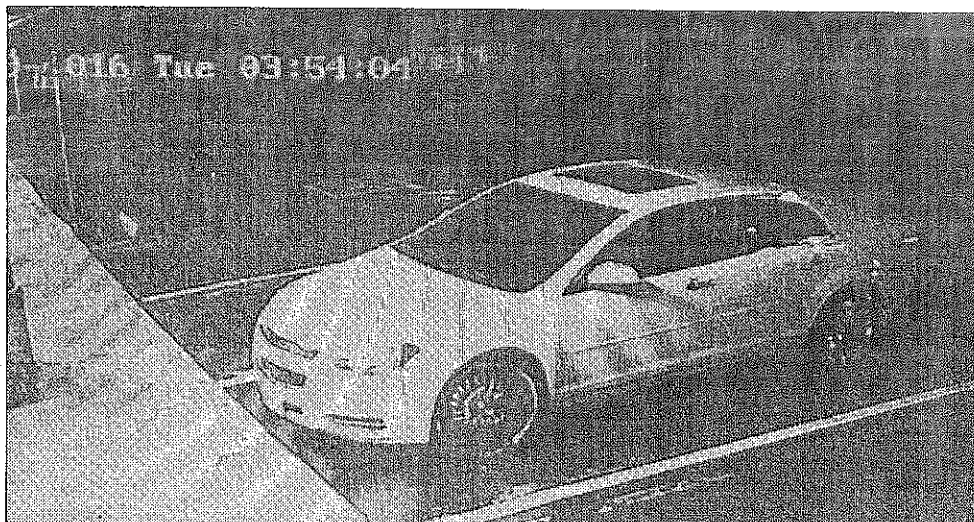
Bring the family and friends, and join me, and the community, on Saturday, June 18, to extend Garden Grove all the best birthday wishes it deserves.



Scott Stiles  
City Manager

**Weekly Memo 3/31/16**

**NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLES**



COURTESY OF THE GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police arrested José Angel Gutierrez in Stanton on Tuesday after finding him in a white 2012 Chevrolet Malibu that they say was used in multiple robberies.

## Fountain Valley man arrested in rash of 7-Eleven robberies

By LOUIS CASIANO Jr.  
STAFF WRITER

A 42-year-old man suspected of multiple 7-Eleven armed robberies since September was caught on Tuesday, apparently hours after his latest heist, authorities said.

Garden Grove police had already identified Jose Angel Gutierrez of Fountain Valley as a suspect when he walked in to a 7-Eleven in the 11000 block of Brookhurst Street in Fountain Valley at 4:05 a.m. and used a gun to take cash and cigarette cartons, said Lt. Bob Bogue of the Garden Grove Police Department.

At 8 a.m., Garden Grove and Santa Ana police detectives served a search warrant at his home, but Gutierrez was not there. In-



Gutierrez

side they found a sawed-off shotgun, handguns, illegal drugs and a mask worn in other robberies.

Several hours later, Gutierrez was found at a cafe at Western and Cerritos avenues in Stanton in a white 2012 Chevrolet Malibu that was used in other robberies. He was arrested without incident.

Police found a loaded gun and some of the stolen cigarette cartons from the robbery hours earlier, Bogue said.

He was arrested on suspicion of armed robbery, felon in possession of a firearm and possession of narcotics. He is being held in

Orange County jail on \$50,000 bail.

Gutierrez is suspected of robbing two Garden Grove 7-Elevens on Feb. 13. Investigators also suspect that he could be involved in robberies in Orange, Tustin and Westminster.

He is suspected of a rash of 7-Eleven robberies in Santa Ana since September of last year, police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna said.

"We know of four," he said.

Court records show Gutierrez pleaded guilty in 1993 to felony battery and gun possession. In 1992, he pleaded guilty to receiving stolen property, evading a peace officer and stealing a vehicle.

His next court appearance is scheduled for Friday.

## Police seeking burglar who hit Garden Grove cellphone store

By LOUIS CASIANO Jr.  
STAFF WRITER

Garden Grove police are asking the public to help identify a burglary suspect caught on video breaking into an AT&T store Monday.

The break-in took place at 3:55 a.m. at an AT&T store in the 12700 block of Brookhurst Way, a police statement said. Video surveillance shows a man using

a tool to smash the glass front door of the store and crawling inside. He took \$3,000 in cellphones and fled in a light-colored compact car parked in front of the business.



Man seen in surveillance footage of an AT&T store in Garden Grove.

Authorities have linked him to the March 21 burglary of a Sprint cellphone store in Fountain Valley.

He is described as being in his 30s with a medium build, shaved head and goatee. The vehicle is light-colored with a dark lower trim.

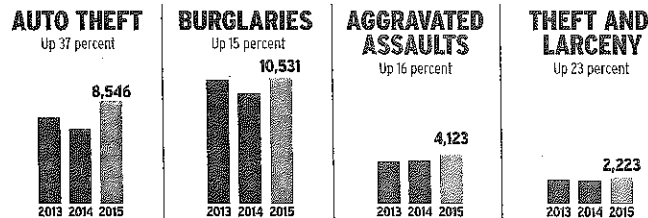
Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to contact the Garden Grove Police Department at 714-741-5872.

# CRIME UP

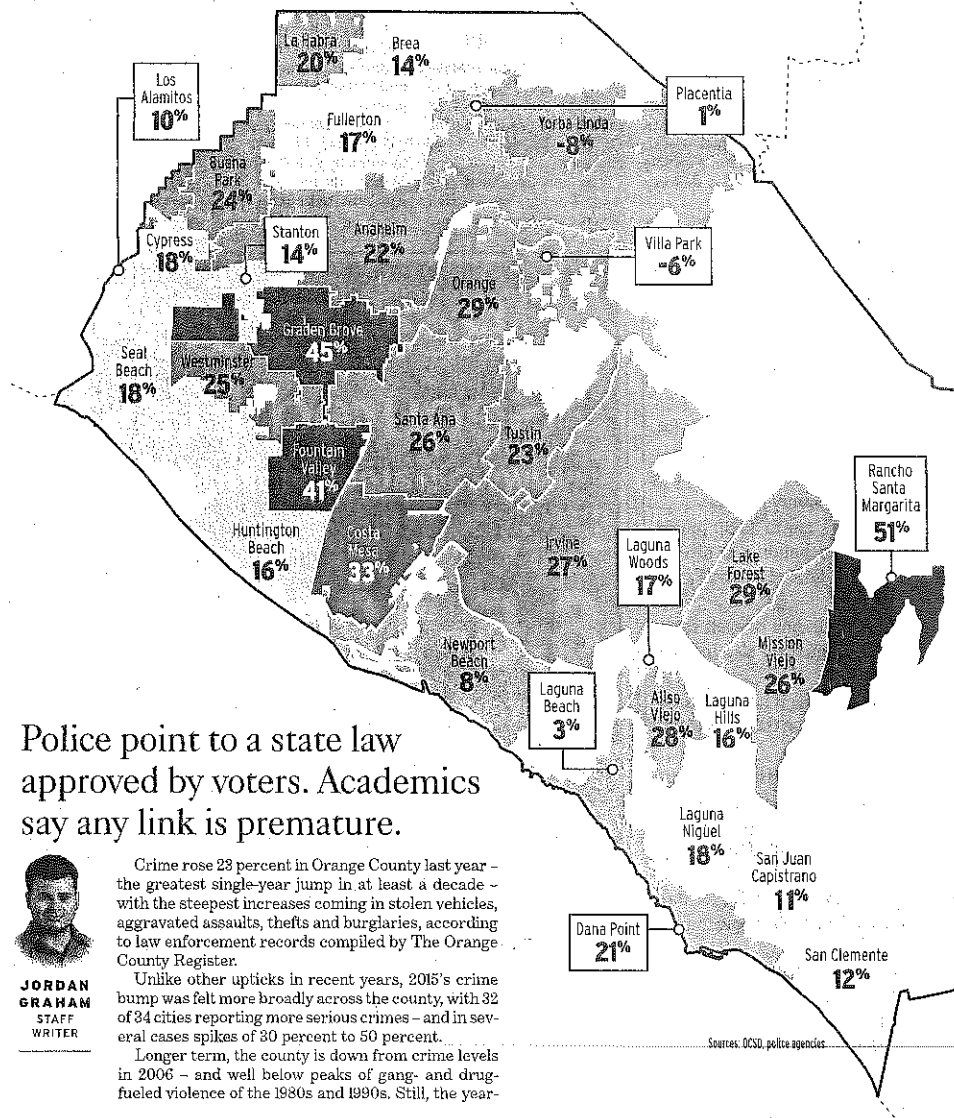
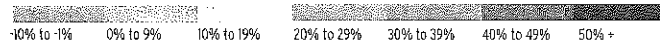
## WHAT'S TO BLAME?

Register  
March 30, 2016  
1 of 4

Few O.C. cities were spared from a wave that sent crime soaring **23 percent** in 2015 over the year before – with the biggest rises in stolen vehicles, aggravated assaults, thefts and burglaries. Figuring out why isn't so easy.



### PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CRIME FROM 2014



Police point to a state law approved by voters. Academics say any link is premature.



**JORDAN GRAHAM**  
STAFF WRITER

Crime rose 23 percent in Orange County last year – the greatest single-year jump in at least a decade – with the steepest increases coming in stolen vehicles, aggravated assaults, thefts and burglaries, according to law enforcement records compiled by The Orange County Register.

Unlike other upticks in recent years, 2015's crime bump was felt more broadly across the county, with 32 of 34 cities reporting more serious crimes – and in several cases spikes of 30 percent to 50 percent.

Longer term, the county is down from crime levels in 2006 – and well below peaks of gang- and drug-fueled violence of the 1980s and 1990s. Still, the year-

Sources: OCSD, police agencies



# CRIME: Poverty, gang activity, demographics may play a part

FROM PAGE 1

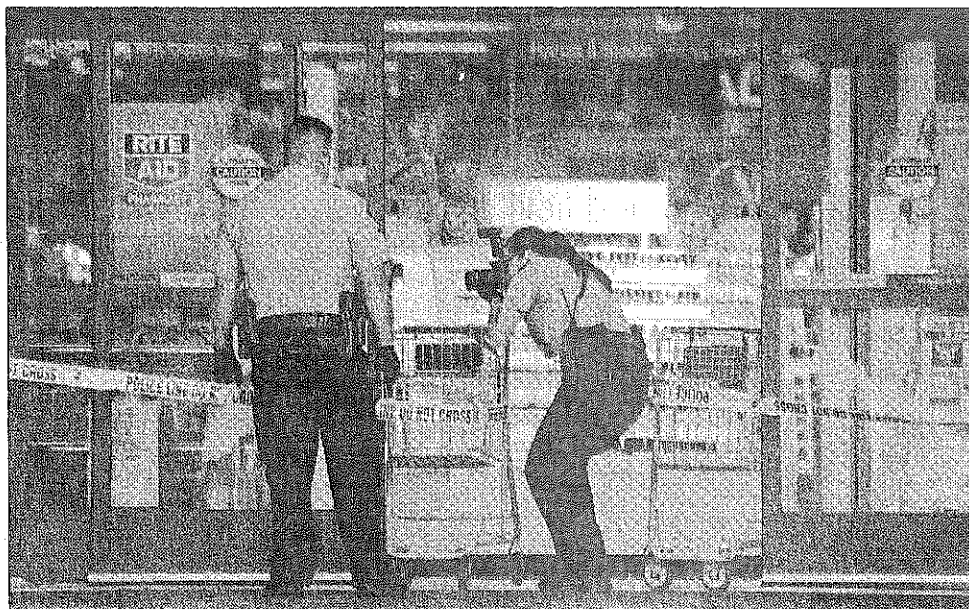
over-year surge in the number of crimes has raised concerns in many communities.

In Seal Beach, police have run television ads urging residents to begin locking their cars. In Santa Ana, a rash of shootings, mostly attributed to gang activity, reached a rate of one per day early this year. And in west Garden Grove, a jump in thefts prompted residents to step up installations of video cameras and security systems.

"It seems like we're under attack by people targeting our neighborhood, casing our neighborhood," said Alan Derow, 55, a neighborhood watch leader who has lived in west Garden Grove for 23 years. "It wasn't like that five years ago. We've become very vigilant."

Many Orange County police officials blame the surge on a state law they say makes it difficult to keep drug addicts and other low-level offenders locked up, leaving them on the streets to repeat the same crimes and steal to feed their addictions.

Criminologists say that link is speculative, at best, and has not been supported by research of the complex variables that may affect crime rates. They also warn against faulting a major criminal justice initiative be-



KEN STEINHARDT, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Crime scene investigators this month photograph a door that had been pried open at a Rite Aid in Tustin, one of a handful of Rite Aids hit that week. Four men were detained.**

fore its effects have been fully evaluated.

But even as they urge restraint in drawing conclusions about the causes, academics concede something is driving up crime throughout California, which saw a 13 percent increase in property crime and a 9 percent rise in violent crime in the first half of last year, according to FBI data.

By contrast, property crime nationally fell by 4.2 percent and violent crime rose 1.7 percent in the same time frame.

## PROP. 47 TO BLAME?

So what changed in California? Law enforcement agencies throughout the state point to Proposition 47. The 2014 voter-approved measure reduced some felony theft and drug offenses to misdemeanors, making it more difficult to keep low-level offenders behind bars. The law took effect last year and has since had its intended impact of reducing state prison populations by more than 4,500 inmates, saving millions of dollars.

"We used to put someone in jail for methamphetamines and they'd be in jail for a while," said Garden Grove Police spokesman Lt. Bob Bogue. "Now it's just a citation. It's not uncommon to arrest the same guy twice in a single day. It's almost like criminals are laughing in our face."

Bogue said Orange County Sheriff's Department deputies who run the jail system have advised police not to book misdemeanor offenders into the county lockup because it's not worth an officer's time.

Sheriff's Department spokesman Lt. Mark Stichter said deputies provide that advice based on state penal code statutes. To keep misdemeanor violators in custody until a court hearing, officers must be able to prove the suspects are likely to re-offend or pose a danger - a difficult legal burden. If the officer can't justify incarceration, it's better to simply cite and release in the field, Stichter said. Such citations can include possession of small amounts of meth, cocaine and heroin.

Susan Kang Schroeder, the district attorney's chief of staff, said police officers have told her they have stopped taking some misdemeanor suspects into custody. She said they think, "Why bother arresting for cases that are almost non-crimes?"

In Derow's Garden Grove neighborhood of single-family homes near the Westminster and Los Alamitos borders, small items have been taken in most of the thefts and home burglaries. "They can get in, get out, sell at pawn shops and get money," he said.

Local criminologists warn that anecdotal evidence and short-term increases in crime have been used in the past by police, prosecutors and others to attack legislation they oppose - regardless of whether a causal link has been established.

Charis E. Kubrin, a UC Irvine professor of criminology, said that was the case in 2011, when police departments around the state predicted a new state law, AB109, would cause a crime wave. The legislation, in-

tended to reduce California prison crowding, shifted some state inmates and ex-inmates to the supervision of county agencies.

Nearly five years later, the predictions of increased crime tied to the change were largely discredited in numerous studies by the nation's top criminologists. The collected studies were published this month in a volume of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science that Kubrin co-edited.

"Prop. 47 has become the new scapegoat, just like realignment was a few years ago," Kubrin said. "There has not been one single study that has linked rising crime rates to Proposition 47. If I'm going to make a bet, I'm going to say that this is not related to Prop. 47 because of what we found with realignment, which is a much more drastic measure because of its size."

### OTHER FACTORS

So what could be driving the statewide crime spike?

Kubrin said she doesn't know and wouldn't speculate. But she said other established crime factors requiring additional study are poverty rates, unemployment, housing market changes, gang activity, drug markets, police-community relations and demographic shifts.

Orange County's unemployment rate dropped in 2015, but rents hit an all-time high, creating a rental market that effectively doubled the county's poverty rate, according to the San Francisco-based nonprofit California Housing Partnership Corp.

Another element of Prop. 47 that hasn't been properly analyzed, she said, is what effect expanded drug treatment and community support services could have. Kubrin said that during the study of ABI09, academics found that crime actually dropped in some counties that invested more in rehabilitation.

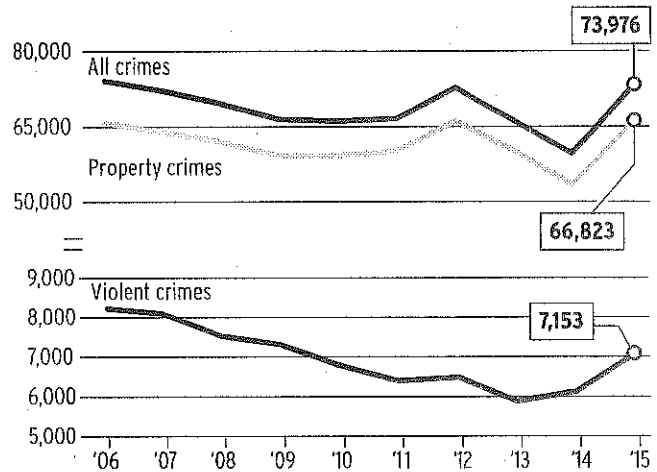
Prop. 47 promised to fund programs to help people stay out of prison and to pay for those services with the savings gained from reducing prison populations. But the state has yet to distribute any of that money and won't do so until August.

When it does, Orange County will have to apply for the money annually and could be denied funding if its proposal isn't picked. Also, California recently slashed its estimate of first-year savings produced by Prop. 47 - to \$29.3 million from the \$100 million to \$200 million previously predicted by state analysts.

"We didn't really do much with people once we diverted them from prison," said UC Irvine criminology professor Elliott P. Currie. "In California, we have a history of passing this type of legislation but not backing it up with nearly the right level of community level resources."

## Crime on the rise in O.C.

Crime rose in all but two cities in Orange County last year. Police blame the increase on the state law that makes it difficult to keep low-level offenders locked up, leaving them on the streets to repeat the same crimes.

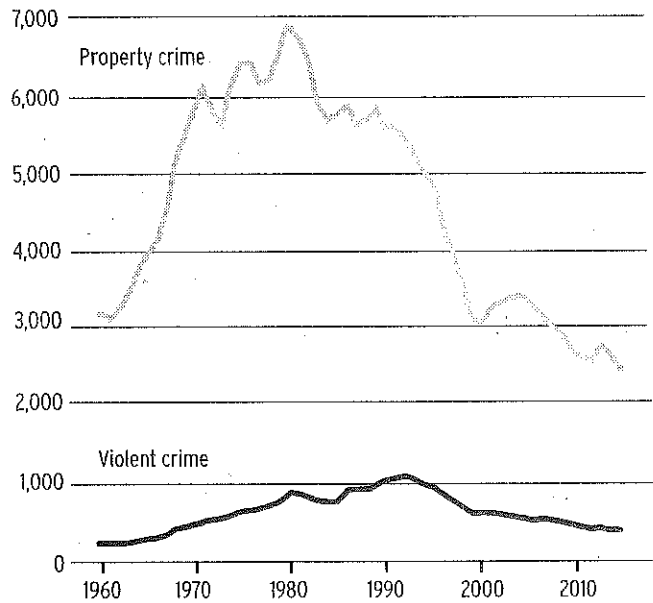


Source: Orange County Sheriff's Department and city police

STAFF GRAPHIC

## Violent and property crime in California

1960-2014 per 100,000 people



Source: Public Policy Institute of California Crime statistics calculated for the vehicle state, not a subset of cities

CALMATTERS



## O.C. crime breakdown

Number of crimes in 2015 and percent change from 2014.

CITY/AREA	PROPERTIES	% CHG.	VIOLENT	% CHG.	TOTAL	% CHG.
Aliso Viejo	32	-9%	363	33%	395	28%
Anaheim	1,271	15%	10,038	22%	11,309	22%
Brea	80	51%	1,257	12%	1,337	14%
Buena Park	235	8%	2,556	26%	2,791	24%
Costa Mesa	378	19%	4,658	35%	5,036	33%
Cypress	56	10%	888	18%	944	18%
Dana Point	57	-20%	589	27%	646	21%
Fountain Valley	66	-23%	1,495	46%	1,561	41%
Fullerton	391	15%	3,759	17%	4,150	17%
Garden Grove	539	33%	4,525	46%	5,064	45%
Huntington Beach	420	7%	4,942	17%	5,362	16%
Irvine	144	20%	3,868	27%	4,012	27%
La Habra	104	-1%	1,279	22%	1,383	20%
La Palma	13	8%	302	22%	315	22%
Laguna Beach	39	-39%	502	9%	541	3%
Laguna Hills	43	-4%	522	18%	565	16%
Laguna Niguel	49	-33%	691	25%	740	18%
Laguna Woods	5	-17%	140	19%	145	17%
Lake Forest	108	4%	909	33%	1,017	29%
Los Alamitos	18	13%	224	10%	242	10%
Mission Viejo	86	21%	1,092	26%	1,178	26%
Newport Beach	104	-5%	2,037	8%	2,141	8%
Orange	172	21%	2,897	29%	3,069	29%
Placentia	76	-7%	743	2%	819	1%
Rancho Santa Margarita	44	63%	303	49%	347	51%
San Clemente	79	14%	771	12%	850	12%
San Juan Capistrano	66	6%	429	12%	495	11%
Santa Ana	1,627	29%	7,270	26%	8,897	26%
Seal Beach	25	-4%	591	20%	616	18%
Stanton	153	23%	770	13%	923	14%
Tustin	128	-3%	1,697	25%	1,825	23%
Villa Park	1	-80%	83	-1%	84	-6%
Westminster	292	51%	2,718	23%	3,010	25%
Yorba Linda	39	-13%	650	-7%	689	-8%
Unincorporated county	213	-15%	1,265	9%	1,478	5%
<b>O.C.</b>	<b>7,153</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>66,823</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>73,976</b>	<b>23%</b>

Sources: OCSD, police agencies

The Register

"We shouldn't assume there is one easily identifiable cause in these short-term spikes," Currie said. "But the bottom line contributor to these spikes in crime is that we haven't done anything to deal with the social and personal issues that lead to crime - whether that is drug addiction, mental health, extreme poverty and depression."

### IS UPTICK A TREND?

Statewide, violent crime and property rates are both only a third of their peaks, which occurred in 1992 and 1980 respectively, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. A similar pattern holds true in Orange County.

"These are upticks following drastic downticks over a number of years, even decades," Kubrin said. "So the question is, will this continue? When does an uptick become a trend?"

In Seal Beach, police Sgt. Michael Henderson said people haven't been diligent about locking their cars in past years because the city is viewed as safe. The department is encouraging residents to change habits in light of a 20 percent increase in property crime. But the larger perception of the city holds true, he said.

"We need to work hard to get a realistic perception," he said, "and that perception is that Seal Beach is a very safe city, but theft happens."

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
 jgraham@ocregister.com or  
 714-796-7960

# Community Meeting Center gets facelift

Million dollar renovation complete; rededication ceremony held

Garden Grove leaders and residents had 1.1 million reasons to be happy last week.

And what a happy 40th birthday it was for one of the city's iconic buildings.

On March 22, Mayor Bao Nguyen, along with city officials and members of the community, gathered in Garden Grove's Community Meeting Center, after a nearly one-year closure, to celebrate the completion of the facility's \$1.1 million renovation and honor its 40th anniversary with a rededication ceremony.

Members of the media were invited to the event, which occurred prior to the Garden Grove City  
see **FACELIFT**, page 3



Courtesy photo

Mayor Bao Nguyen and other officials and members of the community gathered last week in Garden Grove's iconic Community Meeting Center, after a nearly one-year closure, to celebrate the completion of the facility's \$1.1 million renovation and honor its 40th anniversary with a rededication ceremony. Here, Nguyen takes a moment with State Sen. Janet Nguyen, who represents Garden Grove.

## **FACELIFT:**

Continued from page 1

Council meeting.

Mayor Nguyen spoke on the accomplishments of the Community Meeting Center, emphasizing the important role the facility plays in Garden Grove's multi-cultural, multi-generational communi-

ty. A bronze plaque, honoring the milestone achievement and rededication to the citizens of Garden Grove, were introduced at the event.

In 2015, the building underwent major renovation to enhance and modernize the interior. Upgrades include improved lighting and technology, a replaced skylight roof, new flooring finishes, and

accommodations to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Funding for the project came from park fees, which are paid by companies building developments in the city.

The H. Louis Lake Senior Center was also be honored in commemoration of its 40 years of enhancing the well-being of senior citizens in the community.

## All I want for Easter is... help me here, I can't put it into words



Photo by Loreen Berlin  
From left, two 11-month-old girls, Sofia and Julieta, enjoy an outing on the grass at the Easter eggs-cavation event at Atlantis Play Center in Garden Grove on Saturday. For story, see Page 6.

# Kids have a blast at Easter

By Loreen Berlin

For the first 300 to registered for the eighth annual eggs-cavation Easter event in Garden Grove, there was plenty of activity at the Atlantis Play Center in Garden Grove Park.

Hunting for Easter eggs of all types, from yummy chocolate to plastic eggs filled with goodies, and a few "golden" eggs with a special prize, was divided into age groups of 3-to-4, 5-to-6, 7-to-8 and 9-to-10 year-olds, spaced 15 minutes apart, making it easy for each age group to navigate the planned Easter treat areas.

For those who had a keen eye, even the top of the monkey-bars yielded sweet treats.

In addition to the regular slides and fun at Atlantis, there was an Easter Bunny picture-taking location in the park, three bounce houses, decorating cookies with sprinkles and frosting, carnival-type challenge games, and arts and crafts for the young ones.

Ada Ramos attended the event with her two children and was grateful to the city for providing the activity.

"I want the people who put this together to know that I really appreciate that they do this every year, which helps to bring the community together," she said.

Eggs-cavation is put on by the city of Garden Grove through

its Community Services Department.

Jason Harper of Garden Grove said this is the first time in 35 years he's been back to the park, but that he used to come to the park when he was a child. This year, it was to bring his son, Jacob, 4, to the Eggs-cavation, with wife Marcia.

Always a favorite with children is the balloon art, tended to by Eric John Williams of "Twist and Shout Balloons." Children patiently stood in line to make their requests and watch Williams' artistry before their very eyes.

Not only was it an Easter egg hunt, it was also a "Bunny Hunt" for two special rabbits by the names of Rupert and Regina, both of whom were hidden in the park. Finding those two was guaranteed to earn an awesome prize. Those bunnies were yellow and pink.

Children also took part in having their faces painted in their choice of characters, animals, etc.

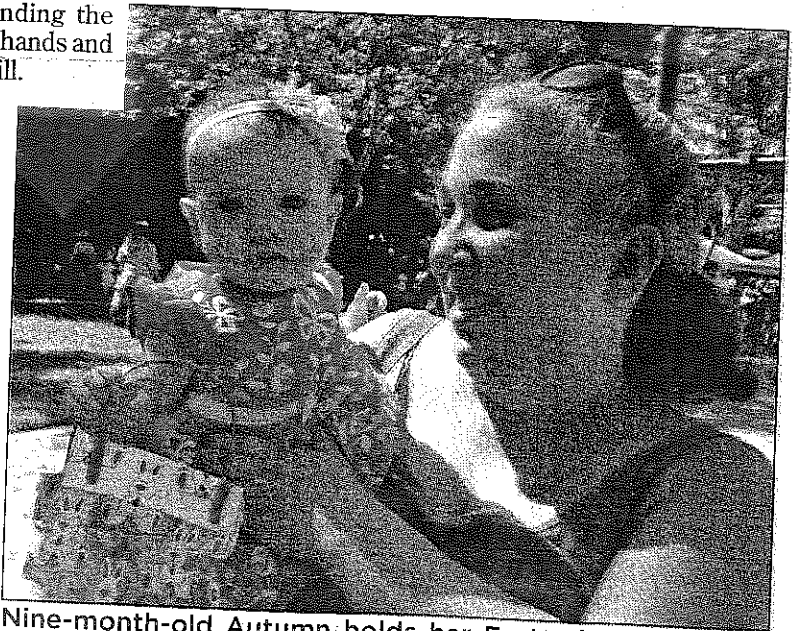
It turned out to be a nice warm day for all of the Easter festivities. In the carnival game area, one of the games involved two large squirt activities, where youngsters could navigate small plastic ships with carefully-aimed squirts of water, not even minding the water dripping on their hands and feet. A true game of skill.

eggs-cavation event

Orange County News

March 30, 2016

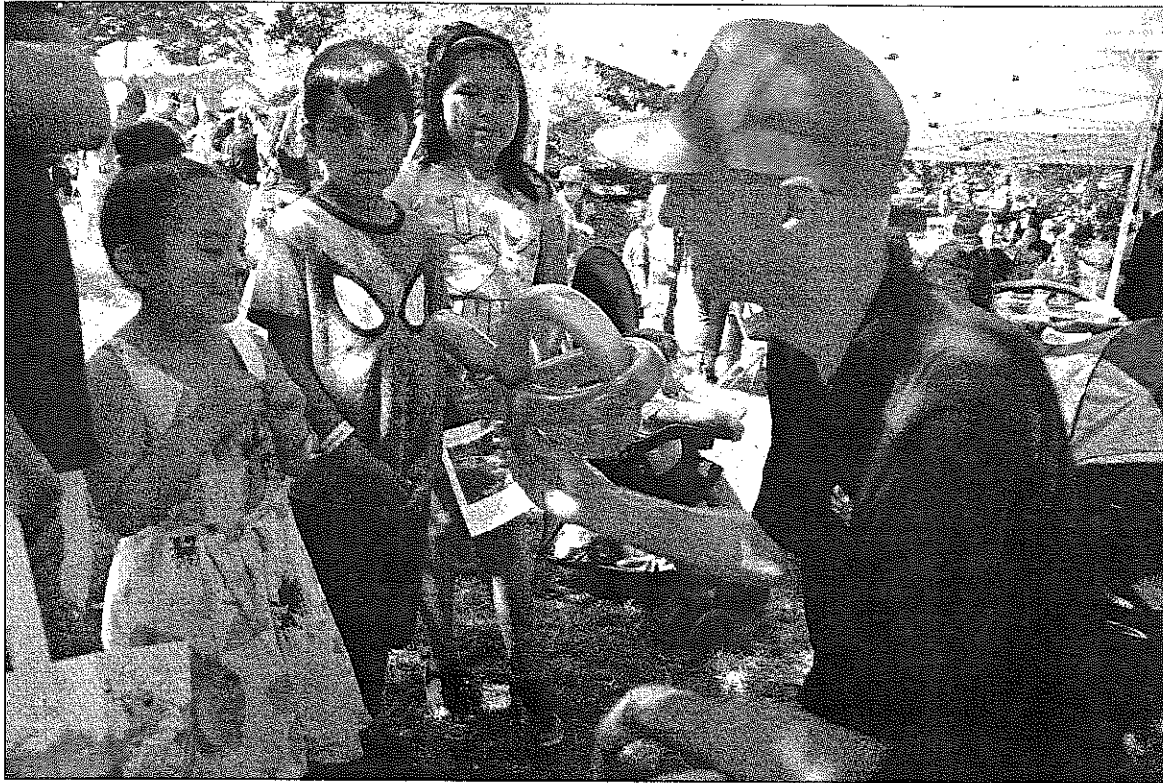
2 of 3



Nine-month-old Autumn holds her Easter bag while her mother, Charlotte Neubauer, holds her.



Activities include an egg hunt and picture-taking with the Easter Bunny



Photos by Loreen Berlin

Julissa, 4, left, of Garden Grove receives balloon art from balloon artist Eric John Williams during the Easter eggs-cavation event at Atlantis Play Center on Saturday.



Two young ladies are sharp shooters with their oversized squirt guns during the Easter eggs-cavation event. The winner of this match was Elizabeth, 9, left, of Stanton.

Orange County News  
March 30, 2016

City of Garden Grove

Notice Inviting Sealed Bids (IFB)

IFB No. S-1178-A

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent for the City of Garden Grove, Room 220, Second Floor, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840 to Provide One New and Unused Eight Inch Sound Attenuated Trailer Mounted Diesel Driven Pumpset per the Technical Specifications. A copy of the bid document may be obtained from the City of Garden Grove's website. Direct any questions regarding this bid process to Sandra Segawa via email at sandras@garden-grove.org. Bids are due and will be opened in the office of the Purchasing Agent at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2016. Bids received after that exact time will not be considered.

Dated: March 30, 2016

Sandra Segawa, C.P.M., CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

**Orange County News**  
16-51134  
**Publish Mar. 30, Apr. 6, 2016**

City of Garden Grove

Notice Inviting Sealed Bids (IFB)

Project No. S-1189

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent for the City of Garden Grove, Room 220, Second Floor, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840 to: Furnish All Labor, Material and Equipment For On-Call Concrete Construction at Various Locations for the City of Garden Grove per City Standards and Specifications. A copy of the bid document may be obtained from the City of Garden Grove's website. Contractors interested in submitting a bid for this project are required to attend a MANDATORY pre-bid meeting scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2016, at the Public Works Municipal Service Center, Training Room, located at 13802 Newhope Street, Garden Grove, CA 92843. Direct any questions regarding this bid process to Sandra Segawa via email at sandras@garden-grove.org. Bids are due and will be opened in the office of the Purchasing Agent at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2016. Bids received after that exact time will not be considered.

Dated: March 23, 2016

Sandra Segawa, C.P.M., CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

**Orange County News**  
16-51095  
**Publish Mar. 23, 30, 2016**

City of Garden Grove

Notice Inviting Sealed Bids (IFB)

IFB No. S-1190

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent for the City of Garden Grove, Room 220, Second Floor, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840 to Provide One New and Unused Extended Cab/Super Cab Utility Truck per the bid specifications. A copy of the bid document may be obtained from the City of Garden Grove's website. Direct any questions regarding this bid process to Sandra Segawa via email at sandras@garden-grove.org. Bids are due and will be opened in the office of the Purchasing Agent at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2016. Bids received after that exact time will not be considered.

Dated: March 30, 2016

Sandra Segawa, C.P.M., CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

**Orange County News**  
16-51135  
**Publish Mar. 30, Apr. 6, 2016**



# Police: Teen carjacked mom, kidnapped sister

Suspect, 18, surrenders after leading officers on pursuit. Girl, 16, is unharmed.

Police arrested an 18-year-old man Monday after he allegedly carjacked his mother and held his younger sister



**LOUIS CASIANO JR.**  
STAFF WRITER

against her will while leading Garden Grove police on a car chase, authorities said. Officers were called shortly before 4 p.m. to Gilbert Street and Orange-wood Avenue after the 16-year-old sister of Azael Gonzales was heard screaming during a 911 call after he pushed his mother and other sister out of the car they were in, police Lt. Chris Lawton said.

The sister spoke with officers a short time later and

said Gonzales was driving recklessly at high speeds with her inside.

Officers found the vehicle, but Gonzales refused to stop and a chase ensued, Lawton said.

During the pursuit, other officers found Gonzales' mother, who could not initially explain what happened because of a language barrier.

The chase extended into Anaheim, where officers lost Gonzales near Brookhurst Street and Ball Road. Minutes later, Garden Grove police made phone contact with Gonzales and persuaded him to surrender around 5:05 p.m. in the area of Bristol Street and the 22 in Orange.

Gonzales was arrested on suspicion of multiple charges, including carjacking, kidnapping and felony evading.

His sister was not harmed. It was not immediately clear what prompted Gonzales to push his mother and other sister out of the car.

# Ex-fire chief leaves post made for him

Garden Grove job  
created to avoid suit  
likely won't be filled.

BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

**GARDEN GROVE** • An embattled former fire chief with the city has resigned from the public-safety position the City Council created for him behind closed doors to prevent a lawsuit.

City Manager Scott Stiles said Dave Barlag sent him an email Monday saying he was retiring and his last day of work was Friday.

Stiles said Barlag's position, public safety administrative officer, likely would not be filled.

When reached for comment, Barlag hung up.

"I'm glad he resigned," Councilman Phat Bui said. "Now we don't have to waste any more taxpayer



Barlag

SEE BARLAG • PAGE 4

## BARLAG

FROM PAGE 1

money. It's not necessary."

Barlag had been the city's public safety administrative officer since Sept. 30, 2014, the day he stepped down as fire chief amid several department controversies, including the 2013 hiring of then-Mayor Bruce Broadwater's son, Jeremy Broadwater, as a firefighter.

The City Council created the position as part of a settlement agreement with Barlag, who threatened to sue if he was fired as chief,

according to a city document. That settlement, approved during a closed-session meeting, gave Barlag a \$226,380 annual salary for two years — ending December 2016 — in exchange for waiving his right to sue.

The settlement is still intact, said City Attorney Omar Sandoval.

"Requiring an employee to work is illegal," he said. "As an employee, he is entitled to retire when he wants."

It is unclear why Barlag chose to retire now; Stiles, Bui and Mayor Bao Nguyen said they don't know Barlag's reasoning.

"It's an interesting turn

of events," Nguyen said. "It's a sigh of relief that no longer do the people of Garden Grove have this specter hanging over the city."

In a recent report from the Orange County District Attorney's Office, investigators wrote that the city "violated the spirit and intent of the Brown Act" when it created Barlag's position in closed session. The report offered several recommendations for the council to increase transparency.

The council unanimously agrees with most of the recommendations — such as recording closed-session meetings. But the panel

deadlocked 2-2 on whether to audit Barlag's work as the public safety administrative officer for his first two months in that post, before the council approved in an open meeting the settlement and he was publicly assigned tasks.

"I still want to do the audit," said Nguyen, who wasn't on the council at the time.

Bui was also in favor of such a report; Councilman Chris Phan, who works in the D.A.'s Office, recused himself.

"An audit," Nguyen said, "will (determine) whether it was created as a no-show job."

# Vietnamese entertainer held on suspicion of sexual assault

Minh Quang Hong of Garden Grove faces three counts of acts against a minor.

By **SCOTT SCHWEBKE**  
STAFF WRITER

**GARDEN GROVE** • A well-known Vietnamese entertainer from Garden Grove is suspected of sexually assaulting a boy this month, authorities said Monday.

Minh Quang Hong, 38, who goes by the stage name Minh Beo, was charged Friday with one count each of oral copulation of a minor, attempting to commit a lewd act upon a child under the age of 14, and meeting with a minor with the intent to engage in lewd conduct.

Efforts to contact Michael Morrison, listed in court records as Hong's attorney, were unsuccessful Monday.

If convicted on all felony



Hong

son and mandatory lifetime sex offender registration, the Orange County District Attorney's Office said in a statement.

He is being held in the Orange County jail in lieu of \$1 million bail and is due to be arraigned April 15.

Prosecutors described Hong as a well-known Vietnamese entertainer with access to children.

A Vietnamese Wikipedia page lists Hong as an actor, comedian and stage director.

Hong spoke on March 20 to a group of dancers at a talent show at a radio station in Huntington Beach, telling them he was hosting auditions for a video project, prosecutors said.

charges, Hong would face a maximum sentence of five years and eight months in state prison

Hong is accused of orally copulating a boy on March 23, when the victim arrived for an audition, according to prosecutors.

The boy reported the incident to Garden Grove police, who launched an investigation.

The next day, an undercover Garden Grove officer posing as a minor under the age of 14 communicated with Hong, prosecutors said. Hong is accused of attempting to set up a meeting with the officer with the intent of committing a sexual assault and was subsequently arrested, according to prosecutors.

Anyone with information or who believes he or she may have been a victim is asked to contact Investigator Mark Gutierrez at 714-347-8794.

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**

714-796-7767

sschwebke@ocregister.com

Twitter: @thechalkoutline

Register  
March 29, 2016

## Victim of Santa Ana riverbed shooting ID'd

By **JESSICA KWONG**  
STAFF WRITER

**SANTA ANA** • A man shot dead on the Santa Ana riverbed trail just east of Edna Park on Sunday night has been identified, police said.

Santa Ana police said the man was Angel Quintero, 41, of Garden Grove.

A witness called police

about 9:35 p.m., reporting shots fired in the 2100 block of Edna Drive, and responding officers found a man with gunshot wounds in his upper torso. He was pronounced dead at the scene, Cmdr. Matt Sorenson said.

The initial investigation showed that the victim was on the bike trail of the riverbed when he came in contact with two males and

got into a fight, according to police. At least one of the two males shot him.

"At this point it's not known if it is gang-related," Sorenson said.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Santa Ana Police Department's homicide detectives at 714-245-8390 or Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1-855-TIP-OCCS.

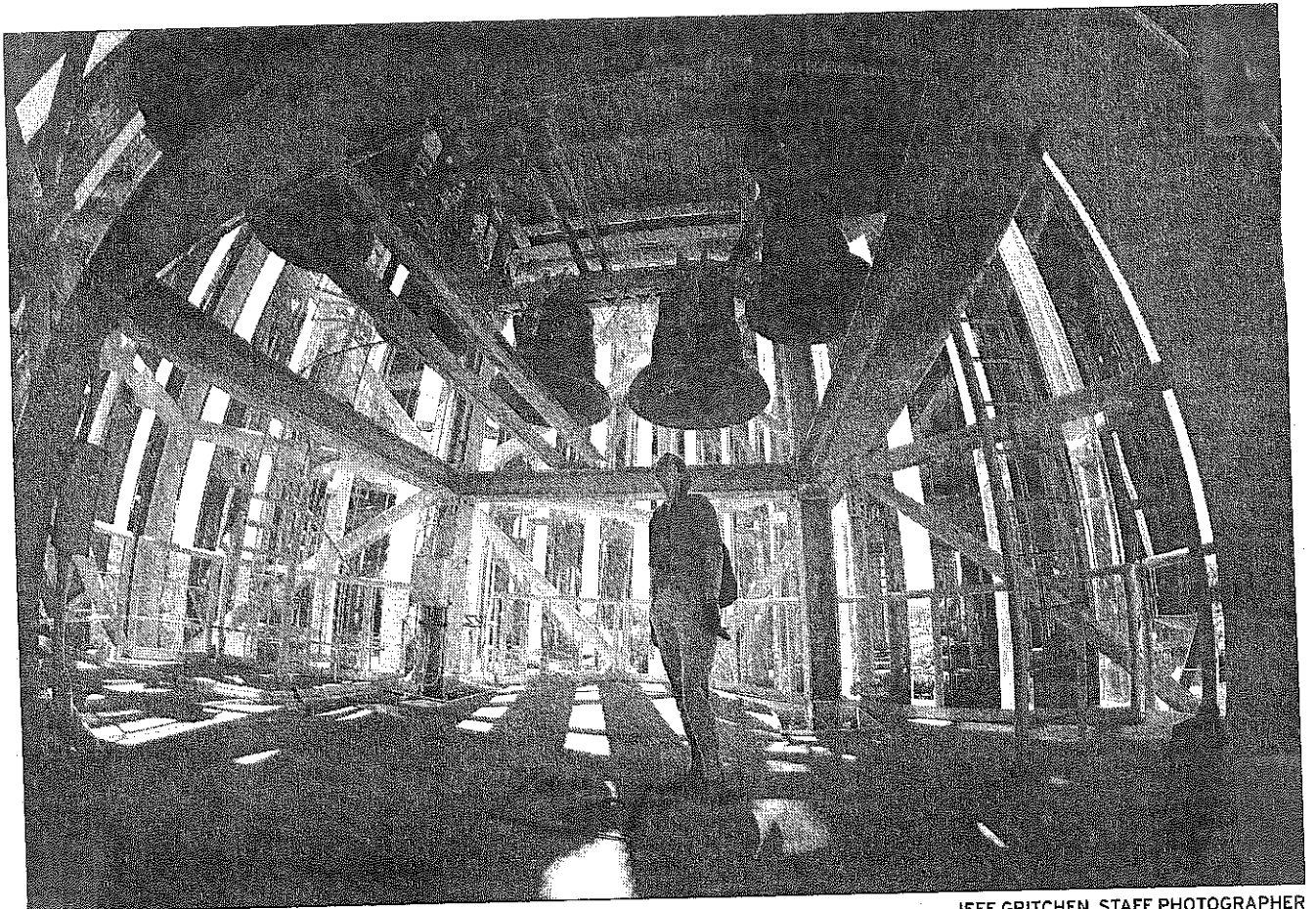
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March 27, 2016  
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# BELLS TO TOLL

Musician will  
climb 14 stories to  
play the carillon.

BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

# AGAIN AT CATHEDRAL



JEFF GRITCHEN, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carillonneur Melissa Weidner examines the bells atop the Crean Tower at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove.

**GARDEN GROVE** • Melissa Weidner plays the most inaccessible instrument in all of Orange County.

She puts on black gloves. She throws a backpack, with thin-soled organist's shoes in it, over her shoulders. She scurries up a portable ladder, gripped for stability by a security guard.

Then she climbs 14 stories - straight up.

She doesn't have a harness. She takes only occasional breaks, on narrow platforms provided every couple of stories. If it's windy, she feels it more and more the higher she climbs.

She doesn't look down.

"The first time I went up, it was pretty terrifying," Weidner said.

On Wednesday, Weidner, 34, will make that climb again. When she gets to the top, she'll play a 19-ton instrument - a carillon - for anyone in a four-block radius of Christ Cathedral as part of the parish's inaugural seven-week Easter Concert Series.

For Orange County carillon fans, of which there are few, the performances will continue a 500-year-old musical tradition that began in medieval France. For others, this will be an introduction to the obscure instrument, a keyboard and foot pedals connected to bells.

For the carillon itself, the performances will be a reawakening after years of dormancy.

"Having it stay silent for so long," said John Romeri, Christ Cathedral's music director, "is a tragedy."

### TOWERING INSTRUMENT

The Arvella Schuller Carillon is 52 bells, weighing 50 pounds to 2 tons, each sounding a different note. The carillon resides near the top of the 236-foot-tall stainless-steel Crean Tower,

next to the former Crystal Cathedral made famous by the Rev. Robert H. Schuller, who died last year.

The carillon, named after Schuller's late wife, is one of five in California. There are fewer than 200 playable ones in North America.

This carillon was installed during the 1990 construction of the \$5 million Crean Tower.

Schuller built the tower as "a symbol of hope," said grandson Bobby Schuller, pastor at nearby Shepherd's Grove.

And if the tower embodies the reverend's vision of hope, the carillon is its voice.

Bobby Schuller remembers living near the campus in the early 1990s and waking most mornings to the sound of the carillon.

"There's something about the carillon that is just joyful and celebratory," he said. "And Christ Cathedral was always meant to be that way."

But in the 2000s, financial struggles and controversy hit the Schuller ministry

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2 of 3

## WHAT IS A CARILLON?

A carillon is a musical instrument similar to an organ, except instead of pipes, it uses bells connected via cables to a keyboard and foot pedals.

Most carillons - typically at universities or churches - are at the top of towers and broken into three levels: The lowest level holds the heaviest bells, the middle has the cabin that houses the keyboard, and the top level has the lightest bells.

Carillons are touch sensitive, like pianos, so performers can make them louder or softer depending on how hard they strike the keys.

- Chris Haire

## IF YOU GO

**When:** 12:40-1 p.m. each Wednesday until May 11

**Where:** Christ Cathedral, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove

**Cost:** Free

**More info:** [christcathedralcalifornia.org](http://christcathedralcalifornia.org)

hard. Selling the 34-acre cathedral campus became inevitable. Like with much of the campus - the leaky cathedral, the dry and cracked fountains - the carillon suffered.

Maintenance on the instrument became too expensive. And the lift that once carried the first two carillonners to the top broke. The carillon largely fell

quiet.

In 2012, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange bought the cathedral campus. Basic upkeep has been done on the carillon, although much more is needed, and the instrument is poised again to play.

### A NEW BEGINNING

For Weidner, one of only 150 people in the United

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3 of 3

States certified as a carillonneur, playing the instrument is a lonely yet uniquely public endeavor.

Most musicians and their audience are intimate: People pay to hear orchestras, or linger near the street musician's park bench. The carillon, when played, often reaches the unintentional listener.

"If you play well," said Tim Sleep, president of The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, "pedestrians will step in time to the music."

But you play it alone, secluded in a cabin way up in the air.

"I can't hear it (the same as the audience) when I play," said Weidner, who lives in Lake Forest and tunes pianos and organs for a living. "For years, I didn't know what the carillon sounded like on the ground."

Weidner has played carillons for a decade, elsewhere. To get to this carillon, she must navigate seven switch-back ladders. A misstep would leave her dangling

like the star of an action film.

If she falls backward, there's a chance she will career off one of the platforms and fall through the tower's center - landing on the tiny chapel at its base.

Upper-body strength, endurance and a lack of acrophobia are required. Weidner, a surfer, is served well by her athleticism.

Last week, Weidner headed upward to practice. She climbed quickly. At the top, she breathed heavily but seemed unfazed.

She opened the door to the 10-by-6-foot cabin, cracked the windows so that she could hear the bells toll, and began inspecting the keyboard and its cables.

"It's fun climbing the ladders," Weidner said. "Most carillons have elevators or spiral staircases. I learned it's a bad idea to look down. I had to completely concentrate."

The first time Weidner played the Arvella Schuller Carillon was during its namesake's funeral in 2014; a year later, she performed for the Rev. Schuller's funeral. She has played it only two or three other times, for fundraisers.

During last week's practice, she played classic baroque pieces created for the carillon, with clappers striking the bells to create a medley of chimes and gongs.

This Wednesday, after making her climb, she will throw in some seasonal tunes, including Easter hymns. Then she will make the 10-minute descent and hope people are lingering - so that she can explain the carillon to them.

Weidner will repeat the ritual for seven weeks - the carillon's first lengthy stint in years.

Romeri, the music director, is planning a fall concert series for the Arvella Schuller Carillon and wants the instrument's bells to toll regularly.

"It's great to get it playing again," Weidner said when she touched the ground after her practice. "It's been quiet for too long."



# Man jailed in pot dispensary robbery

Garden Grove police say the man's partner in Sunday's heist is still at large.

By ALMA FAUSTO  
STAFF WRITER

Garden Grove police have arrested one man and are searching for another in an armed robbery of a marijuana dispensary.

On Sunday, officers were called to the dispensary Organic House at 9840 Garden Grove Blvd. a little after 10:30 a.m. and found three employees who had been robbed at gunpoint, accord-



Hightower

ing to Garden Grove police.

Police said two men entered the business, one with an Uzi-type gun, and disarmed the security guard before forcing him to the ground. Two female employees also were forced to the ground at gunpoint.

"One suspect watched over the three employees while another suspect placed the marijuana into a large (duffel) bag," Lt. Bob Bogue said. "After gathering the marijuana, the two suspects fled the store and

drove away in the suspect vehicle."

None of the employees was injured. The suspects left with marijuana, cash, the security guard's gun and the employees' cell-phones.

During the investigation, detectives identified one suspect, 27-year-old Edward Hightower of Long Beach, and arrested him Tuesday.

Hightower, who was arrested in Paramount, was on parole for robbery. At the time of his arrest, he was in possession of the gun stolen from the dispensary's security guard and another gun was found at his apartment, police said.

Hightower was booked into an Orange County jail.

Marijuana dispensaries are illegal in Garden Grove. Though the operation is illegal, it has not been cited but could be, Bogue said.

Police are seeking the public's help to identify the second suspect, who is described as a male - in his late 20s to early 30s and with a heavy build - who can be seen in a surveillance video.

The two men were seen fleeing the scene in a newer-model black Toyota Camry with four doors and chrome rims.

Anyone with information should call Detective John Casaccia at 714-741-5840.

# Firefighters show solidarity by shaving heads

Event raises money to fight childhood cancer.

By Loreen Berlin

Garden Grove firefighters recently participated in the fifth annual event in which they shaved their heads to raise money and awareness for childhood cancer.

The Career Academy of Beauty, 12471 Valley View St. in Garden Grove, hosted the event, with all students and staff taking part in the volunteer program.

"Shaving their heads is a way to raise money for childhood cancer research," said Career Placement staff member Michelle Cappel. "Shaving their hair shows they are in solidarity with children who are fighting cancer and have lost their hair."

Cappel said getting involved teaches the students at their academy to give back and to be part of the community while raising money for a good cause.

Asked why she started the program, Cappel said, "I'm a childhood cancer survivor," explaining that as a child she fought cancer for a year with Stage 3 Hodgkin Lymphoma.

Cappel's husband, Kevin O'Neil, shaved his head and beard in support of the St. Baldrick's Foundation program at the academy.

"I feel naked," he said. "Neither my wife nor my son have seen me without facial hair..."

Each firefighter raised money by asking friends and family for their support and then showed up March 16, at the early hour of 6 a.m., to participate.

Engineer Jose Camberos said he was excited to be part of the event.

"This is my first time doing this," said firefighter/paramedic Kicker Vencill. "It's an awesome opportu-

nity to come out in the community that we serve and show support for pediatric cancer; a lot of firefighters got donations to do this. I'm proud and honored to be part of this day."

Capt. Thanh Nguyen, said the foundation's website states that one-in-285 children in the United States will have cancer before age 20.

"This is a sobering statistic, and we're looking to help in any way we can," said Fire Chief Tom Schultz.

Capt. Justin Truhill's 9-year-old son, Gavin, put it into perspective: "I'm having my head shaved to show that bald is beautiful; you don't need hair to be beautiful and that people with cancer can be who they are."

This is Truhill's second year of participation (17 years with the GG Fire Department). "This shows solidarity for those who are unable to have their own hair because of cancer. It's for a good cause. I brought my two sons with me to pass along the idea of raising funds for the community."

Raising the most money was Capt. Cheyne Maule. He raised \$1,850 for research.

"I love participating. One of my friend's kid's came down with cancer, so that's heavy on my heart and so I felt I just had to get involved," he said.

Capt Nguyen was resisting having his head shaved in the early morning hours, noting that he was heading to cold country, Utah, in a couple of weeks and needed his hair to stay warm.

As he stood there, ready to take a picture of his comrades, suddenly an envelope was passed around, netting him \$200 within a couple of minutes. He had his head shaved

for charity, with hair stylist Alexis Sandoval doing the honors.

In total, 17 firefighters and two junior firefighters stepped up to the challenge, helping to raise about \$35,000.

Nick Arroyo, CEO of Vantari Genetics, donated \$5,000.

"Our company looks at inherited cancer," he said, explaining this is their first year participating.

Each participant received a Certificate of Recognition as a Squire of Hope from St. Baldrick's Foundation and a green T-shirt.

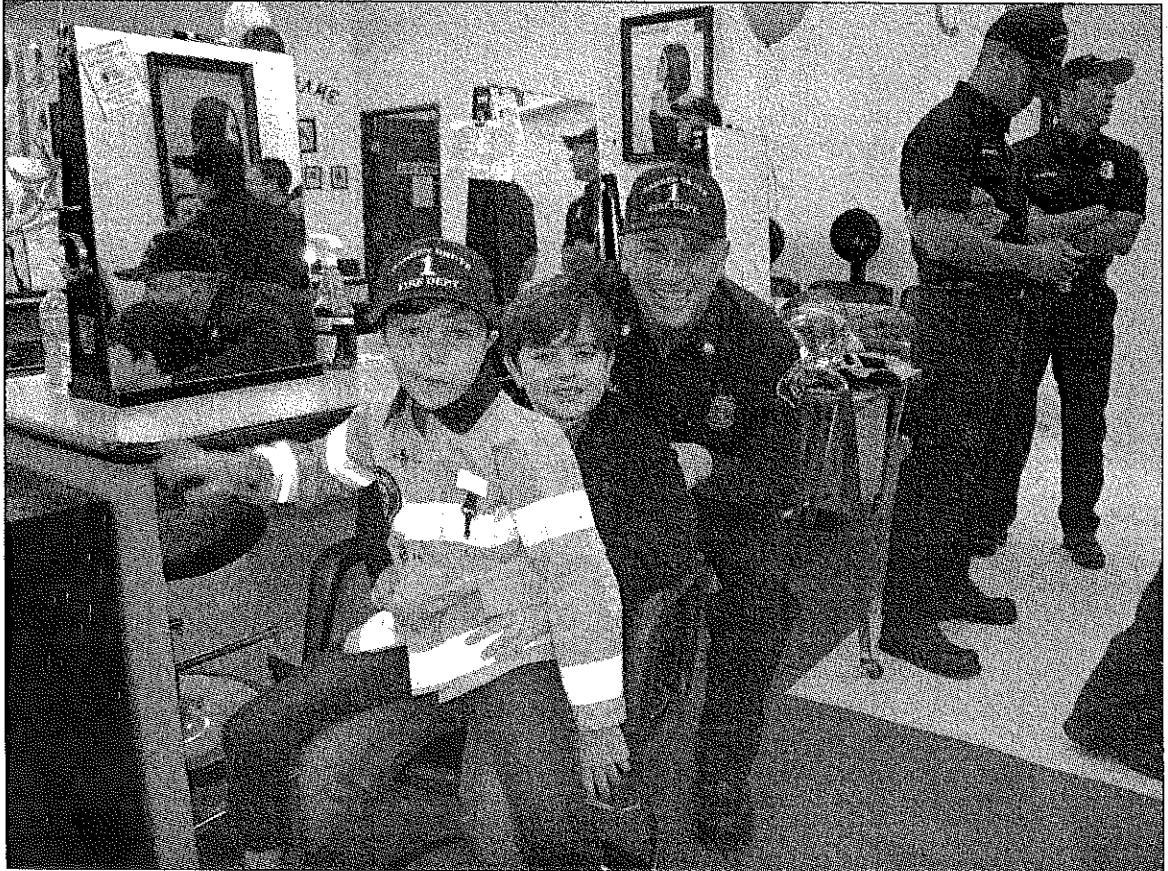


Photo by Loreen Berlin

**Garden Grove Fire Capt. Justin Truhill with sons Gavin, 9 and Cooper, 8, prepares to have their heads shaved to raise money to fight childhood cancer. Truhill had his own head shaved for the second year in a row.**

Orange County News  
March 25, 2016

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE  
NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS  
PROJECT NO. 7359

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for providing material, equipment, and labor for Project No. 7359 "WEST HAVEN RESERVOIRS REHABILITATION PROJECT" will be received at the Garden Grove City Clerk's Office at 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840.

The West Haven Reservoirs Rehabilitation Project consists of the repair work for the buried pre-stressed concrete West and East Reservoirs located in West Haven Park, consisting of crack repair, spall repair, joint repair, construction of seismic curb, roof waterproofing, rust spot repair, and the addition of a fall protection system for the reservoirs. Site improvements include replacing two 16-inch butterfly valves, flap gate replacements, installing conduit for future intrusion alarms, removal and replacement of PCC and AC concrete pavement within the West Haven Pump Station site, construction of a steel picket perimeter fence on the west and north sides of the park, curb cut and driveway approach improvements, construction of concrete pads for park benches, furnishing and installation of park benches, and restoration of turf and irrigation facilities. Engineer's estimate on this project is around \$2,484,000 dollars.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the proposed project site located at 12252 West Street, Garden Grove, California. The purpose of the mandatory pre-bid meeting will be to discuss objectives and requirements of the work and other items deemed necessary to provide a bid.

The plans, specifications and contract documents may be purchased from ARC for the price of one hundred forty-one dollars and ninety cents (\$141.90). The price does not include tax or shipping and handling if needed. The documents may be made available for "will call" or shipped directly to you. Please contact:

ARC  
345 Clinton Street  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
www.ocbinc.com  
949-660-1150 (ask for the Planwell Department)  
or e-mail your order to [costamesa.planwell@e-arc.com](mailto:costamesa.planwell@e-arc.com)

Bids are due in the City Clerk's Office on Thursday, May 5, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., and will be opened in the Conference Room 1 South, first floor, in City Hall.

Direct ANY and ALL questions to Ms. Rebecca Li, Associate Engineer, (714) 741-5562.

/s/ Kathleen Bailor, CMC  
City Clerk

Date: March 22, 2016  
Publish: March 25, 2016 and April 1, 2016

*Orange County News*  
16-51104  
Publish Mar. 25, Apr. 1, 2016

## GARDEN GROVE

**Deadlocked:** The City Council remains split, 2-2, on whether to audit the work of a public safety administrative officer. Because the council couldn't agree Tuesday on the audit, it didn't adopt part of the same package requiring a two-year record of closed-session meetings or voting in public on new positions. The council has agreed they should. Councilman Chris Phan recused himself.

Chris Haire, 714-796-6979

Register  
Marcy 25, 2016

## GARDEN GROVE

**Council chambers:** The City Council on Tuesday held its first meeting in the recently renovated Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. The council chambers had a complete makeover as part of the \$11 million project and the venue is now more in line with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The council has been meeting in the Courtyard Center.

Chris Haire, 714-796-6979  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
March 26, 2016

## GARDEN GROVE

**Volunteer award:** Rob Engel, a business teacher at Bolsa Grande High School, will receive an award at OneOC's 2016 Spirit of Volunteerism Awards Luncheon on April 28. Engel helped organize 16 events for the nonprofit Acacia Adult Day Services in 2015. OneOC is a nonprofit that provides various resources to other nonprofits.

Chris Haire, 714-796-6979

Register  
March 28, 2016

## GARDEN GROVE

**Graduates:** The deadline to apply for the city's College Graduates Reception is Friday. On April 26, the City Council will honor residents who are graduating in the spring, summer or fall; graduates have a chance to win an Apple iPad or \$500.

RSVP at 714-741-5280 or communityrelations@ci.garden-grove.ca.us.

Chris Haire, 714-796-6979  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
March 29, 2016

## GARDEN GROVE

**Water-wise:** Residents who want to nominate their houses as water-wise homes for the 43rd annual Garden Grove Pride Awards have until April 18. Water-wise homes must have front yards that meet drought-tolerant criteria, such as native plants, non-grass ground cover and irrigation systems. Call 714-741-5290. The awards ceremony is May 23.

Chris Haire, 714-796-6979  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
March 30, 2016

## GARDEN GROVE

**AVID distinction:** Alamitos Intermediate has received the AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction for the 2015-16 school year, the highest level of distinction for the program, which helps students prepare for college. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. Among the school's strategies is using Socratic-method seminars to explore content more complexly.

Chris Haire, 714-796-6979  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
March 31, 2016



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact:  
Scott Stiles (714) 741-5000  
City Manager

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

## **CITY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF FORMER FIRE CHIEF DAVID BARLAG**

The City of Garden Grove officially announces the immediate retirement of the City's Public Safety Administrative Officer and former fire chief, David Barlag.

Barlag started his Garden Grove Fire Department career in 1986, holding every position in the department, until achieving the rank of fire chief in 2012. In September 2014, he resigned as fire chief, and accepted the position of Public Safety Administrative Officer.

In a communication announcing his retirement to Garden Grove City Manager Scott Stiles, Barlag spoke about his many years ensuring the safety of the community, and thanked the City Manager and his peers for their support.

# # #



## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**March 31, 2016**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Cancellation Notice for the April 7, 2016 Planning Commission meeting.
3. Notification from the S.C. Gas Company of their request for a rate increase to cover costs for the Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project.
4. League of California Cities, "CA Cities Advocates" dated March 25, 2016.



**GARDEN GROVE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1, 2016 – April 12, 2016

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Friday	April 1		City Hall Closed
Saturday	April 2	8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Upcoming Disaster Preparedness Program–Class 1 Hosted by the Garden Grove C.E.R.T. Team North Net Fire Training Center, 2400 E. Orangewood Ave.
		3:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	World Autism Awareness Day Carnival hosted by Orange County Autism Village Green Park (Tickets available at the Recreation Counter)
		6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	World Autism Awareness Day Celebration "Light It Up Blue", Village Green Park Clock Tower
		7:00 p.m.	Strawberry Productions presents "Platinum Rockstars", Classic Rock Tribute Band Festival Amphitheater
Wednesday	April 6	7:30 p.m.	Comedy Relief Orange County presents "Mark Schumacher: The Funny Teacher" Festival Amphitheater
Thursday	April 7	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chamber <b>CANCELLED</b>
Thursday- Sunday	April 7-10		One More Productions presents "Always Patsy Cline", Gem Theater
Saturday	April 9	8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Upcoming Disaster Preparedness Program–Class 2 Hosted by the Garden Grove C.E.R.T. Team North Net Fire Training Center, 2400 E. Orangewood Ave.
		7:00 p.m.	Strawberry Productions presents "Desperado" Eagles Tribute Band, Festival Amphitheater
Tuesday	April 12	5:30 p.m.	Closed Session, Founders Room
		6:30 p.m.	Successor Agency Meeting, Council Chamber
		6:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting, Council Chamber

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**GARDEN GROVE**

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**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION**  
**OF THE**  
**GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**APRIL 7, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled pursuant to the attached Cancellation Notice.

DATED: March 29, 2016

JOHN O'NEILL  
CHAIR

Para más detalles en Español llame al 1-800-342-4545

NOTIFICATION OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY'S REQUEST TO  
INCREASE RATES FOR THE  
PIPELINE SAFETY & RELIABILITY PROJECT  
A.15-09-013

RECEIVED  
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
2016 MAR 24 AM 10:36

On September 30, 2015, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E®) filed its Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project Application (A.15-09-013) (Project) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) seeking approval to increase rates for costs related to the implementation of the \$596 million project. This application will also address cost allocation and rate design proposals. On March 21, 2016, at the direction of the CPUC, SoCalGas filed an amendment to its application. This amendment requires a cost analysis, safety and compliance analysis, and information regarding construction or extension of utility facilities in compliance with Rule 3.1 of the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The amended application seeks an additional \$37 million to include updated cost estimates, including costs to lower the pressure of Line 1600. In total, SDG&E and SoCalGas is requesting \$633 million for the Project.

**PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** The purpose of the Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project is to construct a new natural gas pipeline and associated facilities in San Diego County. Listed below are the three fundamental objectives for the SoCalGas and SDG&E integrated natural gas transmission system.

1. Natural gas pipeline safety requirements for transmission Line 1600 and modernization of the system
2. Improvement of system reliability by minimizing dependence on a single pipeline
3. Enhanced operational flexibility during high gas demand periods by increasing system capacity

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:** The Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project involves the construction of a new approximately 47-mile-long, 36-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline in San Diego County. The new pipeline will carry natural gas from SDG&E's existing Rainbow Metering Station near the Riverside County line to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar. In addition to the pipeline, the Project will include natural gas facilities. These facilities will include mainline valves, metering equipment, pressure-limiting equipment, in-line inspection equipment, corrosion protection systems, and intrusion detection and leak monitoring systems. Once the new line is constructed, the existing Line 1600 would be used for distribution and would operate at a lower pressure. The project will cost approximately \$633 million and take approximately 18 months to construct after receiving necessary approvals.

Customer Class	Current Bundled Rate (BTS and Gas) (\$/th)	Proposed Bundled Rate (BTS, L1600 and Gas) Increase Impact (\$/th)	Total Rate Increase (\$/th)	% Percentage Rate Increase
<b>Core</b>				
Residential	\$1.093	\$1.101	\$0.008	0.8%
Commercial/Industrial	\$0.729	\$0.737	\$0.008	1.1%
NGV	\$0.540	\$0.548	\$0.008	1.6%
<b>Noncore</b>				
C/I – Distribution	\$0.382	\$0.390	\$0.008	2.2%
C/I- TLS	\$0.331	\$0.339	\$0.008	2.5%
Electric Generation – Distribution	\$0.367	\$0.375	\$0.008	2.3%
Electric Generation – TLS	\$0.328	\$0.336	\$0.008	2.5%

**ILLUSTRATIVE IMPACT ON GAS RATES AND BILLS**

If the CPUC approves the amended application, and once the project is complete, a residential customer who uses the system wide average of 37 therms per month will see an increase of 31 cents, from the current \$39.28 per month to \$39.59 per month. The impact on each customer and customer class will vary depending on individual usage and the final decision.

If approved, the proposed project would be allocated to the BTS rate (1), which would increase by \$0.008 per therm/per day, from \$0.016 per therm/per day to \$0.024 per therm/per day. The additional L1600 costs would be allocated to Transportation rates. These increases would result in approximate bundled rate impacts as follows (2):

(1) Backbone Transmission Services are rights that customers may purchase to transport gas over the backbone system to the SoCalGas Citygate and are recovered through the procurement rate. All customers are charged BTS. Core customers who purchase gas supplies from SoCalGas will have BTS included in the gas commodity rate. Customers that do not purchase gas supplies from SoCalGas may purchase BTS directly from SoCalGas.

(2) The table reflects a direct impact to end-use customers based on the proposed increase in the BTS rate. The bundled rates include an example average gas commodity price of \$0.315 per therm. Since the BTS rate and the gas commodity price are market based rates, each customer's impact will be unique to their situation.

*The impact on each customer and each customer class could vary depending on individual usage and the CPUC's final decision.*

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

You may request additional information or obtain a copy of the application and related exhibits by writing to: Shirley Amrany, Regulatory Business Manager, Southern California Gas Company, 555 W. Fifth St., GT14D6, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011. SoCalGas will provide a copy of this application upon request. SoCalGas' application and attachments may be reviewed at the CPUC's Central Files Office by appointment. For more information, please contact them at [aljcentralfilesid@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:aljcentralfilesid@cpuc.ca.gov) or (415) 703-2045.

The application is available electronically on SoCalGas' website at [www.socalgas.com/regulatory/cpuc.shtml](http://www.socalgas.com/regulatory/cpuc.shtml).

Copies of this bill insert will be available for viewing and printing on SoCalGas' website at [www.socalgas.com/regulatory](http://www.socalgas.com/regulatory).

#### **CPUC PROCESS**

This application has been assigned to an Administrative Law Judge (Judge) who will determine how to receive evidence and other related documents, necessary for the CPUC to establish a record upon which to base its decision. Evidentiary Hearings (EHs) may be held where parties of record will present their testimony and may be subject to cross-examination by other parties. These EHs are open to the public, but only those who are parties of record can participate.

After considering all proposals and evidence presented during the formal hearing process, the assigned Judge will issue a proposed decision which may adopt SoCalGas' proposal, modify it or deny it. Any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision. The proposed decision, and any alternate decisions, will be discussed and voted upon at a scheduled CPUC Voting Meeting.

The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) may review this application. ORA is the independent consumer advocate within the CPUC with a legislative mandate to represent investor-owned utility customers to obtain the lowest possible rate for service consistent with reliable and safe service levels. ORA has a multi-disciplinary staff with expertise in economics, finance, accounting and engineering. For more information about ORA, please call (415) 703-1584, e-mail [ora@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:ora@cpuc.ca.gov) or visit ORA's website at [www.ora.ca.gov](http://www.ora.ca.gov).

#### **STAY INFORMED**

If you would like to follow this proceeding, or any other issue before the CPUC, you may use the CPUC's free subscription service. Sign up at: <http://subscribe/cpuc.ca.gov/>.

If you would like to learn how you can participate in the proceeding, have informal comments, or if you have questions about the CPUC processes, you may access the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office (PAO) webpage at <http://consumers.cpuc.ca.gov/pao/>. You may also contact the PAO as follows:

Write: CPUC Public Advisor's Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Email: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)

Phone: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free) or 1-415-703-2074  
TTY: 1-866-836-7825 (toll-free) or 1-415-703-5282

Please reference **SoCalGas' Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project Application No. 15-09-013** in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter. All public comments will become part of the public correspondence file for this proceeding and made available for review for the assigned Judge, the Commissioners, and appropriate CPUC staff.



March 25, 2016

Issue #25

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Page 5: Session Proposals for 2016 Municipal Finance Institute due April 8  
U.S. Communities Launches New Contract to Help Government Agencies with Interpretation and Translation Services
- Page 6: Considering a Sales Tax Increase? Do it Right.  
Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service is Fast Approaching

## **Local Government Officials, Business, Labor, Transportation Advocates Gather in Fresno to Urge Legislature to Pass Transportation Funding Package**

Raising concern about the California Transportation Commission's (CTCs) mandated cut of \$754 million in transportation funding statewide, local elected officials, business officials, labor leaders and transportation officials gathered on Wednesday morning in Fresno near Highway 180 in Centerville to urge the Legislature and Governor Brown to pass a transportation funding and reform package immediately. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **April 29 Application Deadline Just A Few Weeks Away for Two League Board of Directors Positions**

The League of California Cities® is now accepting nominations from elected officials interested in serving in one of six at-large board positions (two-year term), or as second vice president (one-year term). All nominees for second vice president must currently be serving or have previously served on the board of directors. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **California City Solutions: La Puente's L.E.A.D. Engages Students in Mock City Council Meetings and Community Enhancements**

*This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2015 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called California City Solutions. The city of La Puente's Project L.E.A.D. was submitted in 2015 for the Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government in city Government award category. For more, see Page 3.*



'Transportation' Continued from Page 1...

News conference speakers included:

- San Joaquin Mayor Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, chair, Fresno Council of Governments
- Sanger Mayor Pro Tem Raul Cantu, policy board member, Fresno Council of Governments policy
- Tulare City Council Member Craig Vejvoda, board member, League of California Cities
- Fresno City Council Member Esmeralda Soria
- Darius Assemi, vice chair, California Transportation Commission
- Michael Quigley, executive director, California Alliance for Jobs
- Mark Kyle, Operating Engineers Local 3

## **Background**

Highway 180 serves as the gateway to Kings and Sequoia Canyon National Parks. It also serves as the main corridor for transporting agricultural goods through eastern Fresno County to be shipped around the world. Highway 180 westbound lanes have already been expanded from two lanes to four. Construction of Segment 3, to expand the east bound lanes, was set to start this summer. However, the last piece of the funding puzzle, state funding from the CTC needed to complete the project, may not come. This pulls the rug out from under the project and puts it at risk of delay or possible cancellation.

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'Board' Continued from Page 1...

## **Board Composition**

The board of directors comprises the League's officers — president, first vice president, second vice president, immediate past president and executive director — a representative from each of the League's 16 divisions, and a representative from each of the League's 11 functional departments, the mayors or designees (alternates) of the mayors of the 10 largest cities by population, and 12 at-large positions, with one reserved for a representative of a small city (under 12,000 population).

City officials serving on the National League of Cities (NLC) board of directors also serve on the League of California Cities board of directors for the duration of their term on the NLC board (two-year term).

The League board typically meets on a quarterly basis at locations throughout the state. Nominees are expected to make a commitment to attend all meetings. All travel-related expenses to attend League board meetings are reimbursed by the League.

## **Nomination Process**

The 2016 Board Nominating Committee will meet on June 24, prior to the June 24-25 board meeting, to interview at-large finalists and all applicants for the position of second vice president.

The nominating committee members:

- Bell Mayor Pro Tem Ana Maria Quintana (chair)
- Ceres Vice Mayor Ken Lane
- Apple Valley Mayor Pro Tem Scott Nassif
- Watsonville Mayor Pro Tem Karina Cervantez
- Danville Planning Commissioner Robert Combs
- Placentia Mayor Scott Nelson
- Mountain View Council Member Mike Kasperzak
- Rancho Cordova Mayor David Sander
- San Diego Council Member Mark Kersey
- Pasadena City Attorney/Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris
- Fremont Council Member Suzanne Lee Chan

The committee will make recommendations to the board of directors at its June meeting. If the board approves the candidates, the recommended candidates will then be announced during the Opening Session of the League's 2016 Annual Conference in Long Beach, Oct. 5-7, 2016. Following confirmation of the final candidates, the 2016-17 board of directors will be announced at the Closing Session of the Annual Conference on Oct. 7.

### Submission Process

If you are interested in submitting your name for nomination to the League board of directors, please provide the information requested on the nomination application, along with a biography and letters of endorsement, to the League's Sacramento headquarters on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

The forms are available on the League website:

- [Second Vice President Nomination Form](#)
- [At-Large Director Nomination Form](#)

Nominations may be sent via email to [msharpe@cacities.org](mailto:msharpe@cacities.org)

Or mail to:

Mimi Sharpe  
Executive Assistant  
League of California Cities  
1400 K Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Board nominations packets can also be faxed to the attention of Mimi Sharpe at (916) 658-8240.

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### 'La Puente' Continued from Page 1...

Whether it is through voting, volunteering or running for public office, citizens have the opportunity become engaged and informed. Life Experiences About Democracy (L.E.A.D.) is a partnership between the city of La Puente and the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD) that focuses on student and parent engagement at city council meetings and incorporating them in city events and projects to impact meaningful change in the community. Among other activities, L.E.A.D. includes a mock city council meeting environment so students can learn about making important decisions affecting their community.

Maechelle Brown, at teacher at Workman Elementary School met with then La Puente Mayor Violeta Lewis to brainstorm how to enhance her democracy education. Mrs. Brown envisioned students visiting city hall, engaging with elected officials and city staff and experiencing firsthand the workings of local government. She partnered with colleagues from the HLPUSD, Sparks Middle School and Sunset Elementary. This coincided with the introduction of Common Core Standards in the classroom to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

Annual city events are the preferred family activities in this community. La Puente's 2014 Independence Day Celebration attracted an estimated 20,000 attendees, which is approximately half of the city's residents. City officials wanted to see the same interest translate over to civic engagement and a healthier community.

In summer 2014, educators from HLPUSD and city officials, including then Mayor Lewis and City Manager David Carmany, met to explore Mrs. Brown's ideas. They discussed the challenge of combining this grassroots movement with the city's strategic plan goals to create a civically-minded community that is engaged, healthy, clean/green and informed. As a solution, the partnership created L.E.A.D. By the end of the summer, the entire school year had been mapped out to align Common Core State Standards with the curriculum taught in the classroom and the city's strategic goals.

L.E.A.D. kicked off the school year by engaging the community at an assembly at each of the schools. These assemblies provided students and parents with the opportunity to meet city

officials, to receive an update on current projects and to learn about the city's departments and their functions. Students and parents asked questions and dialogued with city officials.

L.E.A.D. provided opportunities for community engagement at city hall. Since September 2014, students and parents are regularly attending city council meetings. At these meetings, students lead the flag salute and each school has a student or parent presenter give a report on the activities going on in their schools that are given the opportunity to have a one-on-one discussion with the mayor prior to the start of the meeting.

Through L.E.A.D., students received diet and exercise lessons from HLPUSD's director of Food Services. Students applied their learning by hosting a booth at the city's Health, Wellness and Safety Fair. Students educated the community on the importance of healthy choices. This helped to further the city's strategic goal towards a healthier La Puente.

The city's clean/green strategic goal was met when the city and L.E.A.D. held a Community Clean-up Day and a Community Tree Planting Day. The Clean-Up Day was held at La Puente Park and Community Center where trash was picked up, picnic tables and shelters were repaired, cleaned and painted. The Community Center received a face-lift with freshly painted activity rooms and new plants new flowers. The Tree Planting Day brought more than 60 volunteers to Sunset Elementary school to plant 19 trees at the school and the surrounding neighborhood. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps helped dig holes and plant trees. This event was made possible through a grant from the office of Los Angeles County's First Supervisorial District.

The city and HLPUSD partnered to give L.E.A.D. create a Youth in Government Day. Then Mayor Pro Tem Dan Holloway and HLPUSD Board President Anthony Duarte discussed the important role that they and their families have in creating a stronger city and school district. Students attended workshops presented by the city manager, city attorney and the department leaders. Students continued their learning with a mock city council meeting. This meeting featured a five-member mock city council of L.E.A.D. students who were elected and had to consider the development of a new skate park. Students in the audience prepared and delivered research-based presentations supporting or opposing the skate park. Other students portrayed the role of staff members by giving reports to the mock city council and answering questions.

To measure the impact and effectiveness of L.E.A.D. the team looked to the city's strategic goals along with community feedback, attendance and participation records. The city received hand written letters from the students with positive feedback about school assemblies. In the letters the students thanked the city officials for coming to their school, asked additional questions about the material that was presented and provided input regarding what they would like to see in their city. City officials responded by sending personalized letters to each of the students addressing their individual questions and acknowledging their ideas.

L.E.A.D. also used technology as a tool to gauge participation. An online survey solicited feedback about the city and the program . The use of technology was applied in the classrooms when L.E.A.D. teachers asked students and parents to download the city's GORrequest app. This free application allowed students to submit service requests. Students received a confirmation email and status updates on the progress of their request. Analytics show that a verifiable increase from zero to approximately 100 students and parents in attendance and involvement at city council meetings and events has occurred through L.E.A.D., creating a greener environment with the Clean-up and Tree Planting Day.

Before L.E.A.D., La Puente's youth did not actively participate in city government. Students now present information twice a month, while learning about city issues and getting to know their city leaders. L.E.A.D. gives students an opportunity to see themselves at city hall as decision makers. In addition, these young leaders have spread positive energy throughout the community, infused new life inside the council chambers and have revitalized city employees and officials.

## **U.S. Communities Launches New Contract to Help Government Agencies with Interpretation and Translation Services**

*Informational Webinars Scheduled for April 5 and 7*

U.S. Communities, the League sponsored government purchasing alliance, has awarded Language Select a multi-year award to provide interpretation and translation services and related services and solutions.

Through this contract, public agencies will have access to a unique business solution provided by an elite group of language professionals that help agencies:

- Facilitate clear communication eliminating any language or cultural barriers;
- Access high-quality interpretation and translation services at competitive rates;
- Assist with communication in a life threatening emergency; and
- Complete a business transaction without translation difficulties.

Language Select provides on-demand telephone interpreting services with access to over 200 languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In addition, Language Select offers video remote interpreting services, on-site interpreting services, written translation services, and ancillary services.

### **Informational Webinars**

To introduce public agencies to Language Select's services and solutions, U.S. Communities is offering two complimentary one hour webinars. Register today through the following links:

- [Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 8:00 a.m. PDT/11:00 a.m. EDT](#)
- [Thursday, April 7, 2016, 11:00 a.m. PDT/2:00 p.m. EDT](#)

### **About U.S. Communities**

The U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, a strategic partner of the League of California Cities, is a government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. U.S. Communities provides world class procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education, and nonprofits. State and local governments have access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with best in class national suppliers.

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### **Session Proposals for 2016 Municipal Finance Institute due April 8**

The League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> is seeking session ideas for the Municipal Finance Institute, which will be held Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Monterey. This is the premiere educational event for finance officers, city treasurers, city managers and staff.

#### **Submission Guidelines**

- Submissions, non-commercial in nature, from any individual, group, business or organization, on any topic are welcome.
- The Executive Forum Program Planning Committee will consider the educational value of each proposal and the extent to which it presents new and/or significant information.
- Sessions may not include sales, commercialism or product promotion of any kind.
- Proposals must be submitted online on or before Friday, April 8.

For additional information please contact [Brian Sanders](#).

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## **Considering a Sales Tax Increase, Do it Right**

A local add-on sales tax is legally a “transactions and use tax” (TrUT) and must be adopted in conformance with state law. The state Board of Equalization (BOE) is responsible for administering these taxes, which the BOE also calls “district taxes.” The BOE offers an invaluable publication, “Tax Information for City and County Officials: Local Sales and Use Tax, Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax.” (Publication 28).

The booklet is an invaluable resource for local agencies considering putting a TrUT increase on the ballot, as well as for cities wanting to understand and ensure proper allocation of all sales tax revenues. The publication covers the unique differences between sales and use taxes and TrUT and provides essential resources and contacts to ensure your taxes are adopted legally.

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## **Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service is Fast Approaching**

Mayors from across the United States are invited to participate in the third annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, scheduled for April 7. The event is led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the National League of Cities, and Cities of Service.

This year's event will highlight the impact of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. Participating in the event is a way for mayors to hold public events and use traditional and social media to highlight the value and impact of national service to the nation's cities. Last year, 1,760 mayors representing more than 110 million citizens participated in the second-annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service.

Register online to participate.

CNCS has put together a comprehensive toolkit for the event that includes FAQs, key messages, sample news release, sample proclamation and more.

For questions, please contact Laurie Cannady of the CNCS CA State Office at (310) 235-7421.

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