

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**February 26, 2015**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council      FROM: Allan Roeder ~~City Manager~~  
Members

**I. PRIORITY AND COUNCIL AGENDA ISSUES**

None.

**II. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

**A. CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

Laura Stover updates you on the recruitment for a City Manager.

**B. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

An update of activities in the Public Works department is included for your review.

**III. ITEMS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS**

**A. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Notification from the Department of Transportation of the Preferred Alternative (PA) for the Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project.

**IV. RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

**A. PINK 3694**

Information is provided on Mrs. Lynn Mata's concerns at the 2/10 City Council meeting of a 9-1-1 call she placed when her husband appeared to be having a heart attack.

**• OTHER ITEMS**

– NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

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

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.

ALLAN L. ROEDER  
City Manager

**City of Garden Grove**

**INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

To: Allan Roeder  
From: Laura J. Stover  
Dept: City Manager  
Dept: Human Resources  
Subject: CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT UPDATE  
Date: Feb. 26, 2015

This memo is being provided as an update for the recruitment for City Manager. The recruitment is on schedule with the brochure having been completed and sent out, and advertising begun. Frank Rojas, with CPS Consulting, has reached out to potential applicants and is very pleased with the interest for this position.

It was the desire of the sub-committee to obtain input from our community for criteria for a new City Manager. To this end, a Community Forum Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 12, from 5:30-7:30 pm in the CMC B Room. A news release is being prepared to advertise this meeting.

Additionally, a survey has been created and is available as of tomorrow, Feb. 27th. The survey is comprised of just three questions and will be available in four languages. Hard copies of the survey will be available in all City buildings for visitors who want to fill them out and return them immediately.

The survey is conveniently available online, and is being publicized on social media and our Garden Grove website, as well as traditional media. It can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GGCityManager>

The City is also emailing the survey to our special events list, which is around 200 plus subscribers. We have also asked the Chamber to blast the survey out to their 600 businesses.

Obtaining community input is an important component to this recruitment and we are hopeful of a good response to the survey, as well as high turnout for the Community Forum.

The final filing date for this recruitment is March 23, after which time Mr. Rojas will conduct preliminary interviews. A report of candidates will be provided to the City near the end of March.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

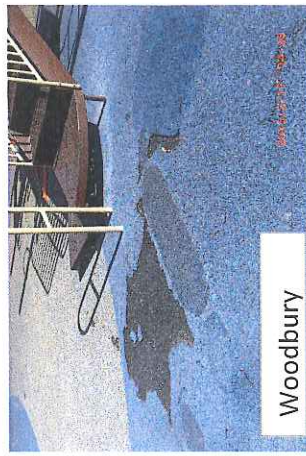
**Central Management  
Public Works Update  
February 2015**

**KEY PROJECTS**

Division	Project Name/Status
Parking Control	Stolen Vehicle Reporting Program: During the parking citation process, Staff utilizes the City's Stolen Vehicle Records System to identify and report stolen vehicles to the Police Department. This process has helped the Police Department reduce recovery time. In 2014, staff helped identify 38 stolen vehicles.
ALL	In support of reducing gang violence by improving aesthetics in our city, Department Staff completed over 1,600 graffiti abatement work orders from November 1, 2015 to February 18, 2015.
Streets	Tet Festival 2014: In support of this event, Street's Staff repaved 96,000 sq ft parking lot at the Garden Grove Park over the course of approximately 2 1/2 weeks. In order to expedite this process, normal operations were placed on hold during the duration of this project.

Park Playground Surface Assessment: Over the past year, Staff has been addressing repairs at playground surfaces in various park sites. At this time, Staff is facing playground surface sites beyond repair that are greatly deteriorating due to age, weather, heavy usage and vandalism. These specific playground surface sites include the following, in order of severity: Eastgate, Woodbury, Magnolia, Gutosky and Pioneer. All of these sites are averaging 15 years old and industry standards recommend replacement every 7-10 years. In addition to age, these surfaces are less shock absorbing and pose risk for trip and fall hazards (e.g. serious head injuries). To replace all of the playground surfaces mentioned above, it would cost \$380,800. Below outlines the costs and photos for each site.

	Estimate		Total
	Total Sq Ft	Per Sq Ft	
Eastgate	4,000	\$ 17	\$68,000
Woodbury	4,350	\$ 17	\$73,950
Magnolia	5,500	\$ 17	\$93,500
Gutosky	1,750	\$ 17	\$29,750
Pioneer	2,800	\$ 17	\$47,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,400</b>		<b>\$380,800</b>



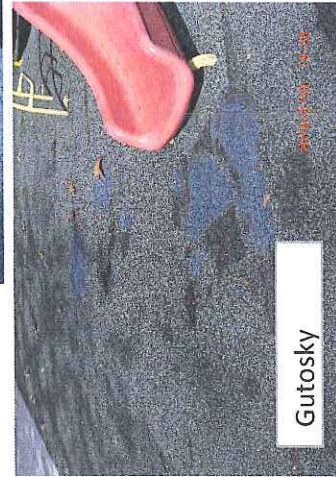
Woodbury



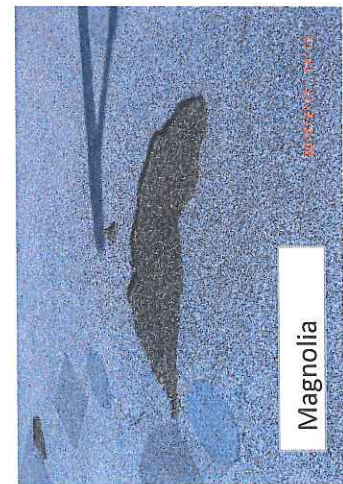
Eastgate



Pioneer



Gutosky



Magnolia

Facilities

**Central Management  
Public Works Update  
February 2015**

**KEY PROJECTS (CONT'D)**

Trees	<p><u>Trees Replanting Plan:</u> As part of last year's Tree Removal &amp; Replacement SOP, Staff developed a replanting plan that targets all of the existing empty tree wells in major arterials, totaling approximately 1,200. On average, Staff replaces 40 trees per year and removes 210 trees, based on existing resources. For this fiscal year, 30 trees have been replanted. Additional funding is needed to fully replenish the removed inventory. Each tree costs approximately \$765 in contractor fees for planting, annual trimming for the first 3 years and watering weekly for the first year (all components are necessary for root growth and maximizing life cycle).</p> <p><u>Tree Replanting Survey Poll:</u> Following the communities' response to the removal of a California Pepper Tree on Elizabeth Ln and Stanford Ave, Staff posted a survey on the Department's facebook in February to seek community input on the type of tree to replant at this site. The results showed the following: 31% California Pepper, 23% Jacaranda, 15% Long Leafed Yellowwood, 6% Podocarpus Gracilior, 4% Pink Trumpet. Based on community input, Staff will plant a California Pepper Tree for National Arbor Day on Friday, April 24th.</p>
Envir	<p>Environmental Staff have identified several businesses without city permits such as business permits and construction permits. Addresses of businesses without business licenses are referred to the Finance Department's Business License Tax Section. Businesses that perform construction activities without proper permits are documented in the Public Works workorder system. Per our NPDES permit, this information is in the workorder system and is reported to the State five times a year.</p>
Water	<p><u>Grant Application:</u> In December 2014, Staff submitted a grant application to the Department of Water Resources for a Water Energy Grant for water and energy efficiency projects. The water efficiency project involves retrofitting the street median landscaping on Magnolia Street, where turf will be replaced with drought tolerant plants and a high efficiency irrigation system. The energy efficiency project involves installing solar panels on the roof of the Lampson Reservoir site that would increase operational efficiencies by hedging against rising energy costs and will increase water supply reliability for water customers. A total of \$1.1 million of grant funding is being requested and a total \$1.4 million of water enterprise funds will be committed.</p>

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Division	Project Name	Contractor/ Inhouse	Project Cost	Street Limits	Status/Comments	% Complete	Estimated Completion Date
Water	West GG Booster Pump Station Engine Replacement and Well 22 Rehabilitation Project (Sam Kim, ext 5534)	Amaz Engineering Contractors Inc.	\$3.2 M	Knott and Chapman. Limit within the existing facility.	Contractor has completed the installation of the first pump/engine.	75%	Aug 2015
Water/Sewer	Joyzelle St and Hill Road Water & Sewer Improvement Project (Sam Kim, ext 5534)	Paulus Engineering	\$900 K	Joyzelle (Barkley Dr to Gilbert St) Hill Rd (Brookhurst St to Garden Rd)	Construction to commence on the third week of February.	1%	TBD

**Central Management  
Public Works Update  
February 2015**

**CAPITAL PROJECTS (CONT'D)**

Division	Project Name	Contractor/ Inhouse	Project Cost	Street Limits	Status/Comments	% Complete	Estimated Completion Date
Engineering	Arterial Street Rehabilitation Projects (Dan Candelaria, ext 5185)	RJ Noble	\$2.9 M	Brookhurst - Chapman to Orangewood Brookhurst - Orangewood to Katella	Construction began late October	40%	Mar 2015
Engineering	Harbor Landscape (Dan Candelaria, ext 5185)	GMC	\$5.2M	Palm to Chapman	Includes new signal at Great Wolf Lodge, Construction to begin in January 2014	10%	Aug 2014
Facilities	Fire Station #4 Remodel (Phil Carter, ext 5390)	Damon Inc	\$124K	Valley View/Chapman		100%	Complete
Facilities	Chapman Library (Phil Carter, ext 5390)	A2Z Construct Inc	\$186K	Chapman/Magnolia	Carpet to be installed.	80%	Mar 2015
Streets	Residential Street Rehabilitation (AJ Holmon, ext 5956)	All American Asphalt	\$1.0 M		976,694 square ft. rehabilitation to (22) residential streets and (1) alley. Areas identified in poor conditions (e.g. reoccurring potholes) and listed in 2012 Pavement Management Plan.	100%	Complete
Streets	Rubberized Slurry Sealing Project (AJ Holmon, ext 5956)	Pavement Coatings, Inc.	\$225K		1.5 M Sq. Ft. of slurry sealing applied to (53) residential streets. This project helps extend the street life from 5-7 years.	100%	Complete

**Central Management  
Public Works Update  
February 2015**

(000's)

<b>UNFUNDED PROJECTS</b>		<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Division</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>		
<b>Needs Assessment</b>										
<b>Streets</b>	111	700.0	700.0	700.0	700.0	700.0	700.0	700.0	3,500.0	Per 2014 Pavement Management Plan- current CIP budget of \$4.9 million is insufficient to meet minimum OCTA standards, goal is to fund \$5.6 million on streets Includes:(1) Street Mtncce Wrkr, (1) Sr Street Mtncce Wrkr, (1) Truck
	111 (40%) / 601(60%)	280.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	920.0 per Year	To address 200-300 backlog in potholes
	111	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	900.0	If no action is taken, claims would amount to approx \$150k To comply with mandate
<b>Trees</b>	111	160.7	160.7	160.7	160.7	160.7	160.7	160.7	803.3	Contractor fees for new SOP (removals and replacements of 210 trees)
	111	152.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	512.0	Needed to manage the new SOP
	630 (70%) / 601 (30%)	142.0	80.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	501.0	To address new permit
<b>Environmental</b>	081	1,500.0	1,500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	4,500.0	Upgrade antiquated 1960's Hydraulic Irrigation System to Electric System (has caused an increase in broken valves and staff is unable to purchase parts for old system)
<b>Parks</b>										
<b>Building Maintenance</b>	111	250.0	250.0						250.0	Last plan completed in 2006 by PCA, new ADA spec Last plan completed in 2006 by PCA, new ADA spec requirements are needed
	111	175.0							175.0	(attached is supporting cost breakdown)
	111	2,245.0	2,245.0	2,420.0	2,420.0	2,420.0	2,420.0	11,750.0	Staff manages 58 buildings comprised of 300,000 sq foot	Need to address the backlog of 210 vehicle replacements, out of a total fleet of 433
<b>Vehicle Maintenance</b>	785	1,800.0	1,800.0	1,800.0	1,800.0	1,800.0	1,800.0	9,000.0	400.0	Improve equipment procurement, replacement/repair cost tracking
	785	300.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	400.0	Need support for newly constructed Traffic Management Center, updating the City's Master Plan of Bikeways, reviewing traffic control plans, draft and perform preliminary design of traffic signal project, etc.
<b>Engineering</b>	111	118.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	398.0	Needed support for capital projects, an in-house inspector is more cost effective than the current use of consultants
	111	126.0	77.0	77.0	77.0	77.0	77.0	77.0	434.0	Belgrave Channel Improvements
	111	3,000.0	3,000.0	3,000.0	3,000.0	3,000.0	3,000.0	15,000.0	15,000.0	Yockey/Newland Storm Drain Improvements
	111	10,998.7	10,457.7	9,395.7	9,095.7	9,095.7	9,095.7	49,043.3	49,043.3	
<b>TOTAL- ADDITIONAL BUDGET NEEDS</b>										
		3,970.7	3,886.7	3,811.7	3,511.7	3,511.7	3,511.7	18,692.3	18,692.3	
		7,028.0	6,571.0	5,584.0	5,584.0	5,584.0	5,584.0	30,351.0	30,351.0	

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 12

3347 MICHELSON DRIVE

SUITE 100

IRVINE, CA 92612-1692

PHONE (949) 724-2245

FAX (949) 724-2256

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2015 FEB 25 P 2: 29



*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

February 19, 2015

City of Garden Grove  
Attn: Mayor Bao Nguyen  
9862 Catherine Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92841

Subject: Notification of the Preferred Alternative (PA) for the Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project

Dear Mayor Nguyen,

Effective October 1, 2012, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assigned, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) assumed, all the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to 23 USC 327(a)(2)(A). Caltrans assumed all of FHWA's responsibilities under NEPA for projects on California's State Highway System (SHS) and for federal-aid local streets and roads projects under FHWA's Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program. Caltrans also assumed all of FHWA's responsibilities for environmental coordination and consultation under other federal environmental laws pertaining to the review or approval of projects under NEPA Assignment. For the purposes of carrying out the responsibilities assumed under NEPA Assignment, Caltrans is deemed to be acting as FHWA with respect to the environmental review, consultation, and other actions required under those responsibilities.

Caltrans, as the lead agency, in coordination with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) as the funding agency and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) as cooperating agency, is in the process of producing a joint Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project (approximately 16 miles long) in Orange and Los Angeles Counties, California, between State Route (SR) 73 and I-605.

In accordance with the Efficient Environment Review Process codified at 23 USC 139, Caltrans is notifying your agency that the Preferred Alternative (PA) identified by the Project Development Team (PDT) on July 24, 2014 was Alternative 3 which proposes to add one GP lane plus one tolled Express lane in each direction, such that this tolled Express lane and the existing HOV lane would be managed

jointly as a tolled Express Facility. The two other Build Alternatives under consideration were Alternative 1 which proposed to add one GP lane in each direction and Alternative 2 which proposed to add two GP lanes in each direction.

This PA identification was made after considering all information in the Draft EIS/EIR, Supplemental Draft EIS/EIR, and technical studies. It was also based on extensive input from the internal PDT members, public, stakeholders, interested citizens, cooperating agency (ACOE), federal, state, regional, and local agencies during the project development process. Extensive public outreach/ coordination resulted in comments from the public and agencies; all comments have been carefully considered during the PA process. Consideration was given to all issues raised, including the complexity of the project, shortage of funding, public concerns, project purpose and need, as well as project's environmental/ economic/ social impacts. The PDT used the following evaluation criteria:

- Reduce congestion on GP/HOV lanes
- Enhance & optimize Operations
- Increase Mobility
- Improve trip reliability
- Maximize throughput
- Minimize environmental impacts and ROW acquisition
- Address Peak-period traffic demand that exceeds capacity in GP & HOV lanes
- Address mainline operational & geometric deficiencies
- Address interchange deficiencies
- Address limitations in technological infrastructure

All three Build Alternatives would meet the project's purpose and need by reducing congestion; enhancing operations; increasing mobility; improving trip reliability, maximizing throughput, and optimizing operations; and by minimizing environmental impacts and right of way acquisitions. The No Build Alternative would not meet the project purpose and need but serves as a baseline against which to compare the Build Alternatives.

The three Build Alternatives would generally have similar social and economic impacts with Alternative 3's impacts being slightly more than Alternative 2 and Alternative 2's being slightly more than Alternative 1's impacts. The avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures would also be generally similar for most resource areas.

During the PA identification process, it was noted that the cities within the corridor had general opposition towards tolling and supported adding one General Purpose (GP) lane. As a result, the OCTA Board in 2012 and 2013 selected Alternative 1 as its preferred alternative.

The PDT concluded that although social and economic impacts, as noted above, were generally similar for all three Build Alternatives, people throughput; maximizing performance of existing system; trip reliability and long-term congestion relief were substantially different for the three build alternatives. Increased vehicle throughput for build alternatives, mobility for 2040 by peak hour throughput, average daily traffic, and travel-time savings for all Alternatives is given in the table below. It depicts that Alternative 3, the identified PA, is the most beneficial as compared to Alternative 1 and 2 and best fulfills the purpose and need of the project.



All Build Alternatives would result in operating improvements. However, Alternative 3 has lower travel times and higher travel speeds as compared to Alternatives 1 and 2. Also, Alternatives 1 and 2 have higher travel times and lower travel speeds due to less capacity. General purpose lanes will not deliver service life for the design year as demand exceeds capacity. But managed lanes can preserve mobility beyond the design year.

Although, the construction costs would be higher for Alternative 3 as compared to Alternatives 1 and 2, the revenue generation from toll collection, the operational benefits in the long run, and carpool encouragement would outweigh any increase in construction cost.

Due to all of the reasons mentioned above, the PDT reached a consensus and Alternative 3 was identified as the Preferred Alternative, the alternative to move forward for design and construction.

In accordance with the Efficient Environment Review Process codified at 23 USC 139, we inform the City of Garden Grove, as a participating/cooperating agency, about the PA for the I-405 Improvement Project. Our next major step in the NEPA Process will be to finalize the Final EIS and announce its proposed action to the public.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project or the agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the Final EIS, please contact me at (949) 724-2245.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Smिता Deshpande". The signature is written in a cursive style.

SMITA DESHPANDE  
Chief

**Table: Mobility by Alternatives (2040)**

	No Build	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3
Increased vehicle throughput	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0% SR - 73 to Brookhurst Street</li> <li>• 20% between Brookhurst Street and SR-22 East; &amp;</li> <li>• 13% between SR-22 East and I-605.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0% SR - 73 to Brookhurst Street</li> <li>• 40% between Brookhurst Street and SR-22 East; &amp;</li> <li>• 25% between SR-22 East and I 605.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24% SR - 73 to Brookhurst Street</li> <li>• 50% between Brookhurst Street and SR-22 East; &amp;</li> <li>• 23% between SR-22 East and I-605.</li> </ul>
Peak Hour Throughput (potential, one direction)	6,000 vehicles per hour	7,200 vehicles per hour	8,400 vehicles per hour	9,500 vehicles per hour
Average Daily Traffic	324,000 – 489,000	334,000 – 499,000	344,000-509,00	348,000 – 503,000
Travel Time SR-73 to I-605 (Northbound, PM Peak Period)	133 min GP 121 min HOV	57 min GP 54 min HOV	28 min GP 27 min HOV	29 min GP 13 min Express



Pinks System

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## Showing pink 3694

Print

Pink ID: 3694

**Topic: Mrs. Lynn Mata's concerns at the 2/10 City Council meeting of a 9-1-1 call she placed when her husband appeared to be having a heart attack.**

Status: **OPEN**

Requester Name: Lynn Mata

Requester Address:

Requester CSZ:

Issued on: 02/11/2015

Initial Letter Sent:

Final Response: 02/26/2015

Priority: pink

Need Manager's Memo: no

Need Copy of response letter: no

Need draft response letter on behalf of the Mayor: no

Need information only: yes

Updated By: melaniev

Updated On: 02/26/2015

Referral Notes:

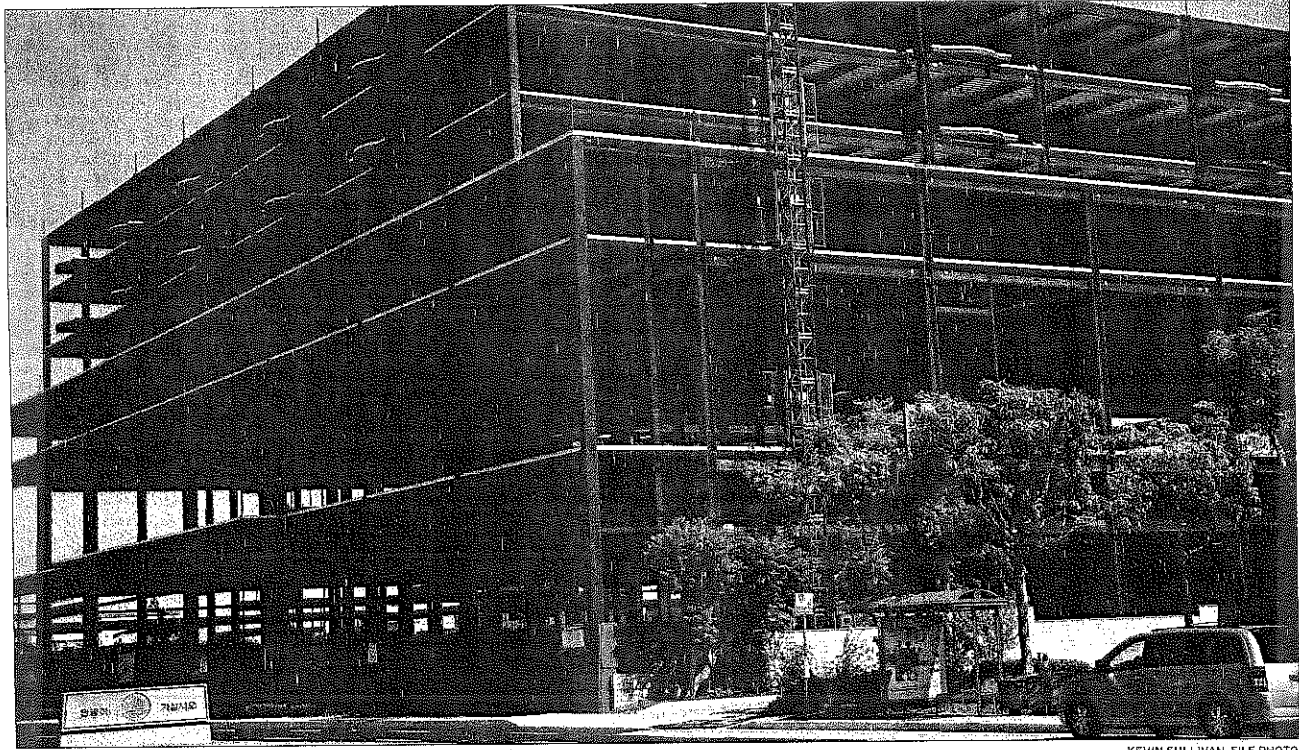
Response Notes: Per Fire - Mrs. Mata placed the 9-1-1 call and medics were dispatched to her address. Mrs. Mata left the reported location of the call before medics arrived. A second call was placed while she was driving which caused difficulties in attempting to lock in her location. The response time was within 5 minutes. Fire followed up and talked to her and she seemed satisfied.

[Edit](#) | [Back to List](#)

**Weekly Memo 2/26/15**

**NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLES**

THE FORMER GARDEN GROVE GALLERIA, WHICH NEVER CAME TO FRUITION, HAS AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE, BUT THE CITY COUNCIL WANTS TO SPEED UP AND HEAR OPTIONS.



KEVIN SULLIVAN, FILE PHOTO

The partly built Garden Grove Galleria sits near Brookhurst Street and Garden Grove Boulevard. No progress has been made since this photo was taken in 2010.

# CITY OFFICIALS STIR UP HOPE FOR STEEL SKELETON

## Options

Interim City Manager Allan Roeder outlined the following possible solutions, which would require some sort of City Council approval:

- Find a project that uses the existing structure and abides by current zoning codes for the site.
- Find a project that uses the existing site but requires zoning-code changes.
- Demolish the structure in conjunction with construction of a different building.
- Demolish the structure before a replacement project is found.

BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

It's still a behemoth on Garden Grove Boulevard.

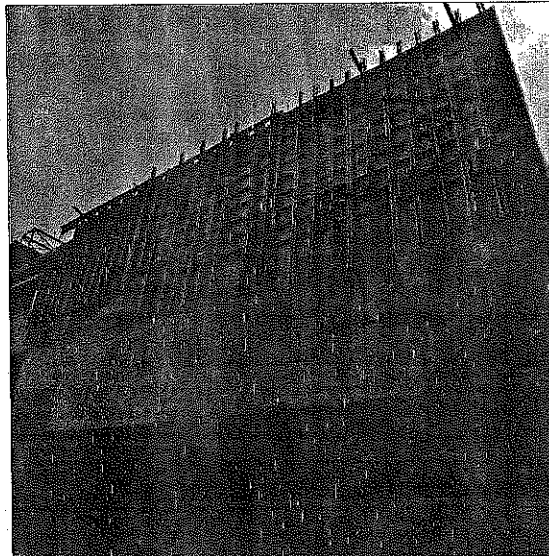
It's still a steel skeleton.

It's still, Garden Grove officials and residents say, a scab on the face of the city.

But the unfinished, 90-foot-tall structure of steel beams that was supposed to become the Garden Grove Galleria shopping center soon may become something the city can be proud of.

After years of legal and economic tangles, the eight-level structure now has seven developers vying to build something — from a commercial space to a mixed-use property — and the two biggest pieces of the puzzle, longtime property owner the Hoag Foundation and Cathay Bank, the lender for any project, are now cooperating.

"We're on the same page now," said Scott Weimer, vice



The Garden Grove Galleria Project was to be a massive mixed-use shopping center. Construction stalled in 2010.

## Timeline

**July 12, 2005:** City Council approves the Garden Grove Galleria project, which was to be massive mixed-use shopping center.

**Jan. 12, 2007:** The city issues building permits so the development can move forward.

**February 2010:** Garden Grove Galleria files a lawsuit against Cathay Bank because, it said, the bank stopped funding the project.

**March 22, 2010:** Garden Grove Galleria tells the city that it has stopped work on the project.

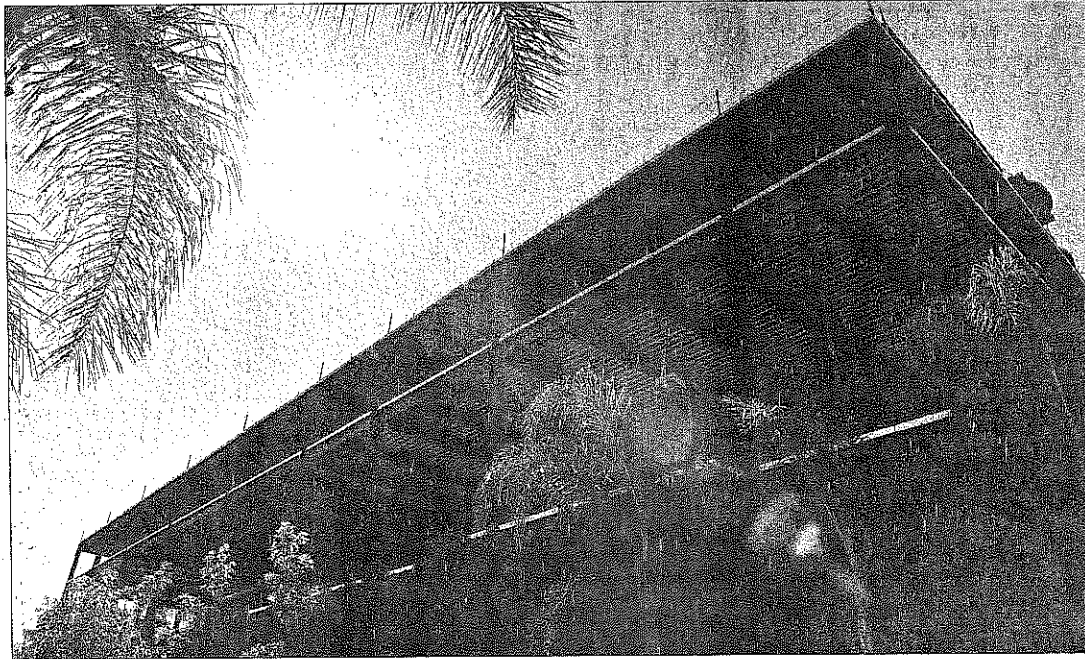
**September 2011:** Garden Grove Galleria terminates its lease with the Hoag Foundation.

**January 2012:** A new developer, Lotus Plaza, steps in to develop a new project using the existing structure.

**Aug. 31, 2012:** A jury awards Garden Grove Galleria \$11,275,000. Cathay Bank appeals (the process is underway today).

**Dec. 18, 2014:** Hoag Foundation board votes against the Lotus Plaza project, citing several concerns including not enough parking.

**February 2015:** Hoag Foundation and Cathay Bank begin accepting proposals for potential developers and have seven suitors, including a refined proposal from the Lotus Plaza developers.



FILE PHOTOS: STUART PALLEY, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The steel skeleton of the unfinished Garden Grove Galleria in Garden Grove. The eight-level structure now has seven developers vying to build something - from a commercial space to a mixed-use property.

## VOICES

"The best thing that could happen is that the residents get all the information in a digestible format. Then I would like to see something go in there using the existing structure, if that's viable, so it's useful to the public. At least there's a glimmer of hope."

- MAUREEN BLACKMUN, PRESIDENT OF THE GARDEN GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

"For the first time in five years, it's actually possible to move forward. We (Hoag Foundation and Cathay Bank) are on the same page. Now that there's a light at the end of the tunnel, we don't want to rush things. We want to get it right."

- SCOTT WEIMER, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOAG FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"The rust skeleton has been there for a long time now, and it's just sitting there. It's something a lot of residents want see a resolution to. It's an eyesore, and it affects businesses and future development."

- MAYOR BAO NGUYEN

"In the next few months, a buyer or developer will be selected by Cathay Bank and Hoag Foundation we hope will be compatible with working with the city to obtain entitlements to complete the project. It's Cathay Bank and Hoag Foundation's goal to construct a building that the city of Garden Grove and the Hoag Foundation will be proud to have in its city for a very long time."

- LISA KIM, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF CATHAY BANK, IN A LETTER TO GARDEN GROVE

## CENTER

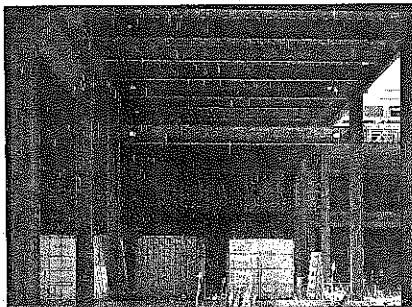
FROM PAGE 1

chairman of the board of directors for the Hoag Foundation, a local charitable group that wants to use the rent money it would receive from an eventual developer to help fund the Boys & Girls Clubs of Garden Grove. "We hope to have a developer soon."

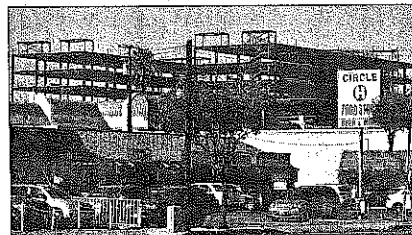
But first, the city needs to be persuaded not to enforce a demolition order that was supposed to go into effect Dec. 1. Hoag representatives asked at Tuesday's council meeting for a one-year extension. No decision was made.

At the City Council's request, Cathay Bank, the Hoag Foundation and city officials recently met to discuss the blighted structure.

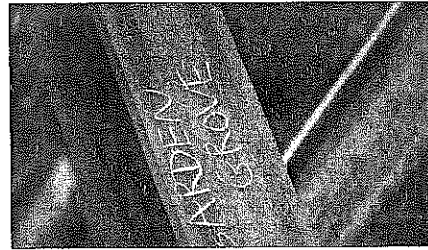
**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
714-704-3707 or  
chaire@ecregister.com



Shipping containers are visible on the first floor of the unfinished steel structure of the Garden Grove Galleria.



The structure rises behind businesses as seen off Brookhurst Street in Garden Grove.



A steel support beam with "Garden Grove" written on it makes up part of the Galleria's skeleton.



A man rides his bike past 10080 Garden Grove Blvd., site of the unfinished skeleton of the Garden Grove Galleria.

# SAY NO TO BULLYING

Shoving kids into lockers, giving them wedgies, taunting them online – that is so not cool.

And in recent years, the anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying movement has rapidly gained momentum, and Garden Grove and the

## If you go

**When:** Noon-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

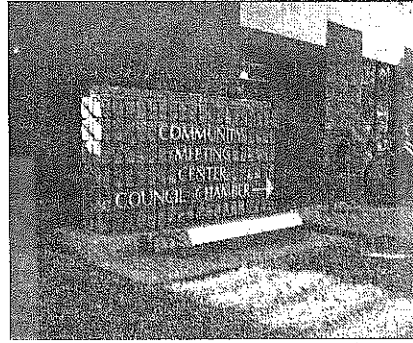
**Where:** Village Green Park, 12732 Main St., Garden Grove

**Cost:** Free  
**More info:** 714-741-5280

Garden Grove Unified School District are working to make local schools safer for everyone. That's why in conjunction with Friday's International Stand Up to Bullying Day, the city and the school district are hosting a bullying prevention event Saturday and Sunday in Village Green Park.

Part of the local Not One More campaign, the event will include a vigil of wooden figurines representing those who died because of bullying, workshops on how to create safe and encouraging academic environments, and special guests from Challenge Day, an anti-bullying nonprofit that has been featured on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and MTV.

– Chris Haire



CHRIS HAIRE, STAFF

Council meetings now can be viewed on YouTube and are available for live streaming.

## Garden Grove goes live with YouTube

Civic-minded residents can whip out their smartphones or tablets, or fire up YouTube and live-stream Garden Grove council meetings from wherever they may be at that time.

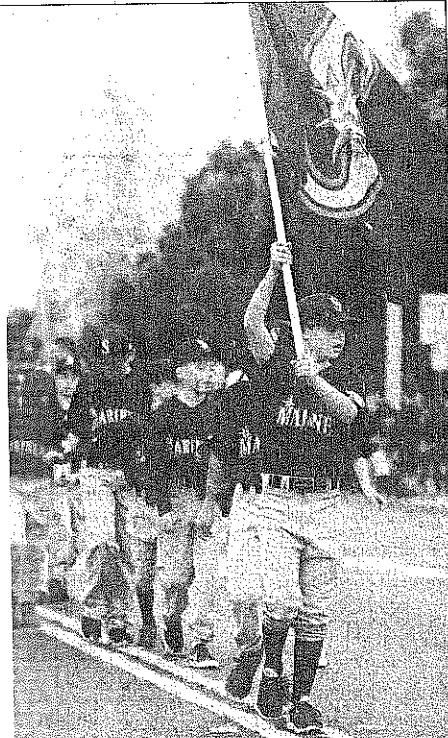
The city now has its own YouTube channel, Garden Grove TV3. It can be found through searching YouTube's website, and you can watch meetings live.

You also can check out other city videos, such as Todd Elgin being sworn in as police chief and a resident receiving the Chief's Coin for Merit.

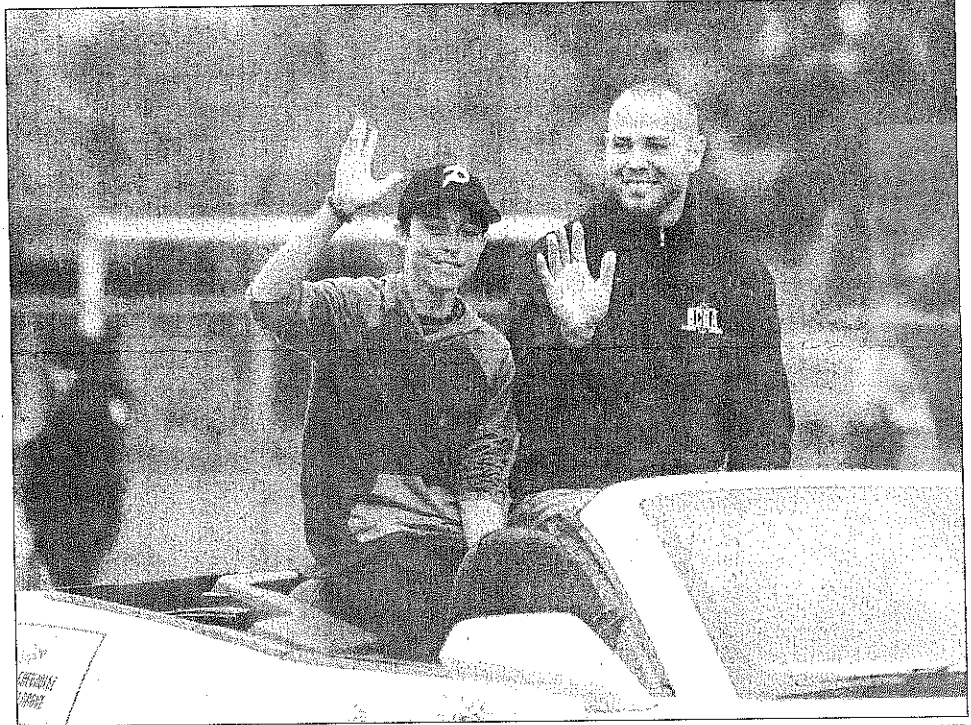
Garden Grove Journal / Register  
Feb. 26, 2015

# NEW LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON UNDERWAY IN WEST GARDEN GROVE

Youth baseball organization hosts annual parade of teams and opening ceremonies featuring 2004 American League Rookie of the Year Bobby Crosby as the grand marshal.

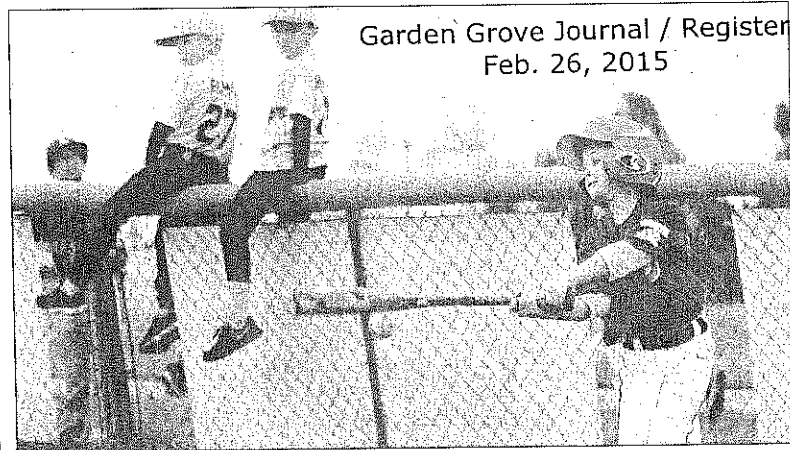


Parade teammates walk down Springdale Street during West Garden Grove Youth Baseball parade Saturday.



PHOTOS: DREW A. KELLEY, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Parade grand marshal Bobby Crosby, right, waves from the back of a convertible Saturday morning. Crosby played for various Major League Baseball teams from 2003 to 2010.



Garden Grove Journal / Register  
Feb. 26, 2015

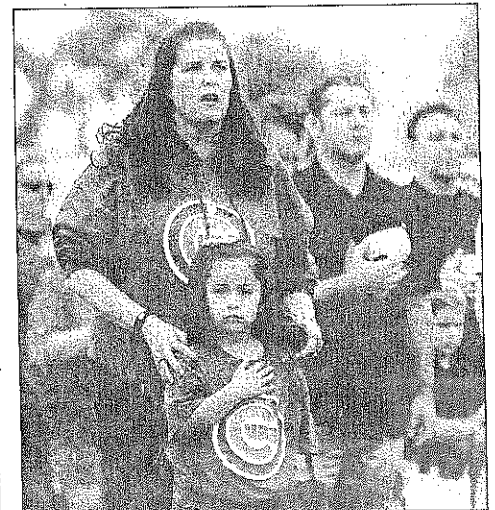
Eight-year-old Spencer Groff practices hitting during opening day festivities.



11-year-old Edward Davis hugs his grandmother Ana Garcia during opening day of West Garden Grove Youth Baseball at Bell Junior High School.



Luke Edmundson catches the ball during opening day of West Garden Grove Youth Baseball.



Heidi and Hailey Galindo listen to the "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the opening day ceremony Saturday.



# Settlement with ex-fire chief is legal, consultant says

Report says Garden Grove officials showed 'good faith' in its agreement with David Barlag.

BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

**GARDEN GROVE** • The city's settlement with former fire Chief David Barlag is legal, protected Garden Grove from a possible lawsuit, and was "not a gift of public funds," says an eight-page report by an outside attorney hired by the city.

The city showed "a good faith and substantial effort to comply with the Brown Act and be transparent," attorney Alan Burns said in his report.

Mayor Bao Nguyen, who asked for the report, said Burns' conclusions show that the city needs to be more proactive in clarifying its hiring policies.

"I'm satisfied with the report in terms of legal consideration," said Nguyen, noting that he still wants to see what the Orange County District Attorney's Office finds during its investigation. "But if there is nothing illegal, that doesn't



Barlag

Barlag, who became shrouded in controversy over the hiring of a former mayor's son and the department's handling of hazardous-materials inspections, signed a settlement with Garden Grove on Sept. 30 — the same day he resigned from the department after 28 years.

The settlement was approved by the City Council during a public meeting before November's election changed the panel's makeup. The contract, though, says the agreement should be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Whether the agreement was transparent enough is one of the elements the D.A.'s Office is looking into, said interim City Manager Allan Roeder.

Before his resignation, Barlag, who received a vote of no-confidence from the firefighters' union in June 2014, may have found "working conditions intolerable and believed termination was likely," Burns'

mean we can't put policies in place so these things don't happen in the future."

report said.

In October 2013, former Mayor Bruce Broadwater's son was hired despite a criminal record; 10 firefighters were hired out of 500 candidates. Later, superiors recommended that he be fired for poor performance.

Further, city documents say the department inspected nearly 100 businesses with hazardous materials in 2012, but a Register investigation found that wasn't the case even though the department charged the businesses more than \$150,000 collectively.

The settlement keeps Barlag employed for two years in return for him not pursuing a wrongful-termination suit against the city. The former chief, who declined comment through the City Clerk's Office, has a \$226,380 salary.

In the months between the deal being struck and February, Barlag was rarely seen around City Hall, Nguyen and Roeder said.

Since Feb. 1, though, Barlag has reported regularly to City Hall and has specific responsibilities, such as working on the city's emergency preparedness and searching for a new location for Fire Station No. 6, which is currently a converted house, Roeder said.



ANA VENEGAS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leena Nhan of Westminster finds a colorful spot to pose for a friend at the UVSA Tet Festival at the OC Fair & Event Center on Friday in Costa Mesa. That festival, and the Tet Festival in Garden Grove, each expect to attract 30,000 to 70,000 people over the weekend.

# Dual Tet fests begin duel

BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

The Vietnamese community's two biggest parties are underway.

The Tet festivals in Garden Grove and Costa Mesa, which celebrate the Lunar New Year, began Friday and run through Sunday. Each of the events expects to attract 30,000 to 70,000 people over the weekend.

The Garden Grove Tet Festival, hosted by the Vietnamese Community of Southern California, is considered the more traditional of the two. That festival, in Garden Grove Park, has makeshift Buddhist temples, as well as several political booths about fighting for freedom in Vietnam.

"This one is better because it feels more Vietnamese," said Henry

SEE TET

## If you go

**When:** 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. today; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday  
**Where:** Orange County Fair & Event Center, Costa Mesa  
**Cost:** \$6 for admission and \$7 for parking  
**More info:** 844-838-3378 or info@uvsa.org

## If you go

**When:** 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. today; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday  
**Where:** Garden Grove Park, 9301 Westminster Ave., Garden Grove  
**Cost:** \$3 for children under 4 feet tall; \$5 for adults  
**More info:** 800-404-6616 or info@hoitetcongdong.org

# TET: Dueling festivals

FROM PAGE 1

Nguyen, who came from Palm Springs with his wife, Tram Le, and attends the festivals most years. "But there should be more decorations, so it feels more like a Lunar New Year festival instead of a regular carnival."

The Costa Mesa Festival, hosted by the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations, had a younger and more diverse crowd Friday.

The UVSA's festival, though, also has historical exhibits, such as a life-size replica of a traditional Vietnamese village in the Orange County fairgrounds - part of plans to have more historically resonant exhibits, both to teach non-Vietnamese about the culture and to honor 40 years of Vietnamese Americans in Orange County.

"I like the photo exhibits and all the history," said Jeff Hanson, who traveled from San Diego with his girlfriend, Rebecca Ye. "I used to live in Korea, so I love Asian culture."

The UVSA had for years held its annual Tet celebration in Garden Grove. But failed contract negotiations in the fall of 2013 forced the UVSA to move its 2014 festival to Costa Mesa.

The Vietnamese Community of Southern California stepped up at the last minute and put on a Garden Grove festival on the fly.

This is the first year the two major Tet festivals are on the same weekend, meaning they are competing to attract many of the same people and vendors.

"We chose to have a booth (in Garden Grove) because it is closer to the Vietnamese community," said

Peter Chau, who was passing out pamphlets for The Church of Orange in Santa Ana. "But I may visit the one in Costa Mesa, look around and if it's good, maybe next year we will go there."

Those who attend the festivals, though, don't reside exclusively in Orange County. Attendees come from all over the country, from San Diego to Boston, for the new year - a time of family and community gathering.

"I'm really interested in all the changes this year," said Marlon Lam of Orange. "It's much bigger than last year. I really like the village."

CONTACT THE WRITER:

714-704-3707 or

chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
Feb. 20, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Graduates honored:** The city wants to know about residents receiving undergraduate or postgraduate degrees following the spring or fall 2015 semesters; the City Council wants to recognize them at its April 28 meeting. Residents must submit their names by April 1. Information: 714-741-5280 or veronicaa@ci.garden-grove.ca.us.  
**Chris Haire, 714-704-3707**  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
Feb. 23, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Math books:** Proposed new math textbooks will be on display at the main Garden Grove Unified School District office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday from Thursday to March 13. Evaluation forms will be available for parents to comment on the books, which, if approved by the school board, would be used during the 2015-16 school year. The books are for the various grade levels. Information: 714-663-6143.

**Chris Haire, 714-704-3707**  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
Feb. 24, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Jobs:** The city is looking to fill positions in the administration, Community Services and Parks and Recreation departments. Garden Grove is also accepting applications for a police recruit. To see the job openings and apply, go to the city's website and select the "jobs" tab under the "most requested section."  
**Chris Haire, 714-704-3707**  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
Feb. 26, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Fireworks:** Nonprofit organizations that sell fireworks for the Fourth of July will be allowed to set up stands with city approval on Katella Avenue between Dale and Euclid streets, an area where stands were formerly prohibited. The City Council made several changes on Tuesday evening to Garden Grove's fireworks laws.  
**Chris Haire, 714-704-3707**  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
Feb. 25, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**New proposals:** There are seven developers vying to complete the steel skeleton on Garden Grove Boulevard that was supposed to become the Garden Grove Galleria mixed-use shopping center, said Scott Weimer, vice chairman of the board of directors for the Hoag Foundation, the long-time property owner of the site.  
**Chris Haire, 714-704-3707**  
chaire@ocregister.com

## Tet Festival turns into big hit



Photo by Loreen Berith

Bolsa Grande High School's Cheer team marches in the Tet Festival and Parade held in Garden Grove and Westminster over the weekend. Bolsa Grande is part of the Garden Grove Unified School District. Tet celebrates the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. The event drew about 100,000 from Orange County and beyond. A similar Tet event was held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa. The extravaganza in Garden Grove and Westminster is considered by many to be more authentic. For more pictures, see Page 8.

# Tet Festival and Parade draws tens of thousands to area

Celebration of Vietnamese Lunar New Year a huge event in GG, WM

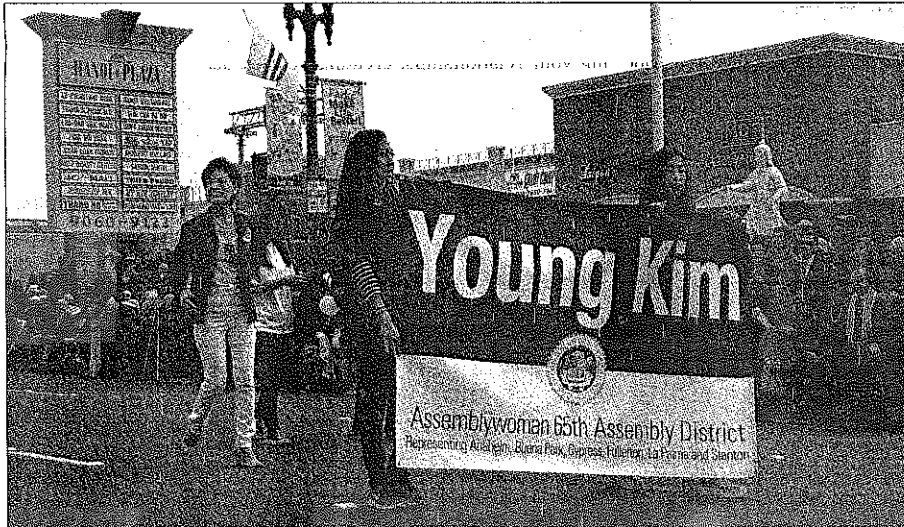


Photos by Loreen Berlin

Young girls in Vietnamese traditional dress march in the Tet Festival and Parade in Garden Grove and Westminster. Tet, which drew about 100,000 over the weekend, celebrates the Vietnamese Lunar New Year.



Military officers carry the American flag, along with the former South Vietnam flag and other military flags to start the Tet Festival and Parade held over the weekend in Garden Grove and Westminster. Tet celebrates the Vietnamese Lunar New Year.



Newly-elected 65th Assemblywoman Young Kim, who represents Stanton, walks in the Tet Festival and Parade held in Garden Grove and Westminster.



Young girls dance during the Tet Festival and Parade held in Garden Grove and Westminster over the weekend.



Musicians show off their skills during the Tet Festival and Parade.



A lady drummer shows off her drumming skills, along with her beautiful traditional attire at the Tet Festival and Parade.

# GG Little Leaguers hold opening day



Courtesy photo

West Garden Grove Little League is fantastical, as these girls show during opening ceremonies over the weekend.

## Former major leaguer is on hand for ceremony

By Loreen Berlin

Former infielder in Major League Baseball Bobby Crosby was the grand marshal Saturday morning at Edgar Park in Garden Grove during the West Garden Grove Youth Baseball's annual "Opening Day Ceremony."

The parade concluded at Bell Intermediate School in Garden Grove, where the teams' fields are located.

The league has 330 players according to league board member Paul Dillman.

"Bobby has given back to his community and the youth in our area by participating in our first baseball clinic at our fields, where we had more than 100 kids at the clinic; it was a great success," said Dillman.

"Also, we have seen an 8 percent  
see DAY,

### GG Elks help

The Garden Grove Elks Lodge will host the Down Syndrome Association of Orange County and families with Down Syndrome children to a "Picnic in the Park" at Elks Park at 11551 Trask Ave. in Garden Grove at the corner of Newhope Street.

The date is set for March 7. The event will begin at 11 a.m. and go until 3 p.m. There will be food, special guests, clowns, face painting, a disc jockey and dancing.

All families and friends of Down Syndrome children are invited to this free event; however those wishing to attend must RSVP no later than March 3 indicating the number of children and adults to be attending. RSVP to Kellie Perez; email at kperex@dsaoc.org or call 714-540-5794.

### Bank on it...

As part of its ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, and in celebration of Lunar New Year, Union Bank welcomes the Year of the Sheep by hosting Wishing Trees at participating California branches, including in Garden Grove and Westminster.

The Garden Grove event is still in the planning stage.

In the spirit of the Year of the Sheep, customers who visit 15 participating Union Bank branches throughout California through March 14 will have an opportunity to share their wishes and support their local community by making a contribution to a local non-profit organization.

Donations will be matched (up to \$2,500 per organization) by the MUFG Union Bank Foundation.

### Infant death

Last week, Garden Grove police responded to a baby in cardiac arrest.

The Garden Grove Fire Department arrived on scene and pronounced the infant as dead. The infant

had gone to sleep on a mattress in the family room lying next to the mother. The mother found the infant unresponsive at approximately the time the police were called.

The Orange County Coroner responded and conducted an initial investigation and advised there did not appear to be anything suspicious at the time.

The Orange County Coroner's Office will be doing an autopsy. The mother was extremely distraught and was taken to the hospital.



## DAY:

Continued from page 1

increase in our player registration this season over last season and we pride ourselves on truly being about the kids," he added.

Riding in the parade car with Crosby was his nephew, Bladen Crosby.

Crosby is a former Garden Grove resident, where he attended Pacifica High School in Garden Grove and graduated from La Quinta High in Fountain Valley.

In 1998, Crosby was selected by the Angels in the 34th round of the Major League Baseball draft. However, he opted to play college baseball at Cal State Long Beach.

He was Rookie of the Year in 2004. In 2001, Crosby was selected by the Oakland Athletics in the first round and was

the 25th pick of the Major League Baseball draft.

In 2004, Crosby's first full MLB season, he took over the Athletics' shortstop duties. That year, Crosby hit .239 with 22 home runs and 64 RBI. He also led American League rookies with 130 hits and 34 doubles, with 48 walks.

Those numbers earned him Rookie of the Year, the sixth Athletics player to do so; he was the second shortstop in a row to win the award and he was also the eighth shortstop in 22 seasons to earn top rookie honors.

Crosby was just a vote shy of being the unanimous pick, despite

his batting average being the lowest ever for a Rookie of the Year. He struck out 141 times, fourth-most in the AL and the team's most since 1991.

Crosby and the Oakland Athletics agreed to a five-year contract in 2005, where he was moved to utility infielder and the Pittsburgh Pirates signed Crosby as a free agent in 2009 where he appeared in 61 games, batting .224. The Pirates traded Crosby to the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2010.

He batted .167 and was released in August of that year.

He was signed in a minor league deal with Milwaukee Brewers, but after hitting poorly in spring training and not showing improvement, Crosby was released by the Brewers in 2013.

He is the son of former major league infielder Ed Crosby and mother Kathy.

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**"Bobby has given back to his community and the youth in our area by participating in our first baseball clinic at our fields, where we had more than 100 kids at the clinic; it was a great success. Also, we have seen an 8 percent increase in our player registration this season over last season and we pride ourselves on truly being about the kids" — Paul Dillman, Little League board member**

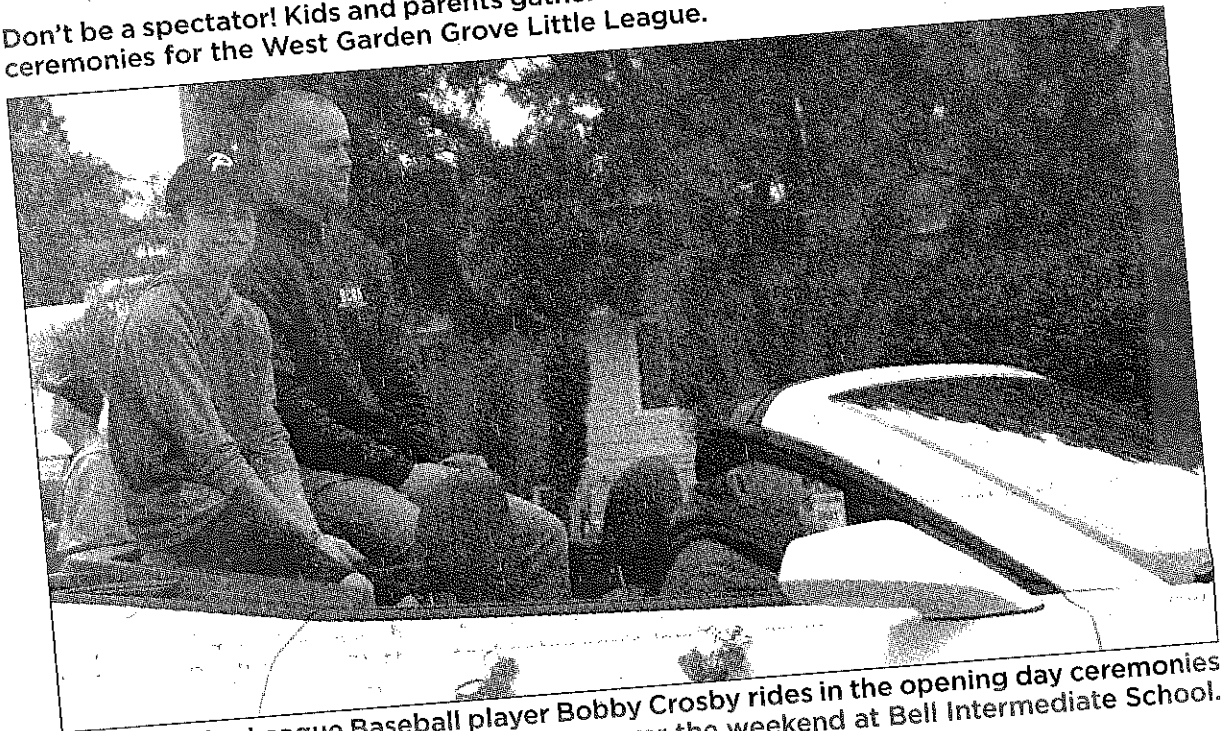
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# SILTON THOMAS FIELD

Courtesy photos

Don't be a spectator! Kids and parents gather at Silton Thomas Field during opening day ceremonies for the West Garden Grove Little League.



Former Major League Baseball player Bobby Crosby rides in the opening day ceremonies for the West Garden Grove Little League over the weekend at Bell Intermediate School.

# Parents encouraged to register kids for kindergarten

Garden Grove School District looks ahead to 2015-16

Early registration for fall 2015-16 transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes in the Garden Grove Unified School District begins March 4.

Parents are encouraged to register at their child's home school as early as possible, between March 4 and June 30. Elementary school offices will be closed throughout the summer and will not resume registration until they reopen in the fall.

Transitional kindergarten is provided at all district elementary schools and is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. Transitional kindergarten features a modified kindergarten curriculum with lessons that are age and developmentally appropriate.

The daily, half-day sessions will include whole group and small group discussion and independent and hands-on learning. Participation in transitional kin-

dergarten is voluntary; however, the district strongly encourages the enrollment of all eligible children because an additional year of learning will provide a stronger foundation for building academic success in school.

For the 2015-16 school year, children entering kindergarten must turn 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2015. A child may be admitted to transitional kindergarten only if the child's birthday falls between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, 2010. There are no exceptions to the minimum age requirements for transitional kindergarten or kindergarten.

For transitional kindergarten or kindergarten registration, parents are requested to present one of the following documents to the school office as proof of the child's birth date: certified copy of the birth record; statement of the local registrar/county recorder certifying the date of

birth; baptism certificate duly attested; passport; immigration visa; or an affidavit from the parent, guardian, or custodian of the minor when no other document is obtainable.

Before children can be legally enrolled in school, California law also requires they receive the following immunizations: the MMR series — red measles (rubella), mumps, German measles (rubella); the DTP series — diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis); polio; Hepatitis B; and chicken pox (varicella).

The requirement for the chicken pox immunization may be waived if a health care provider documents immunity. Contact the local school for specific immunization dosage requirements.

Immunizations are available from private medical providers, at clinics maintained by the Orange County Health Care Agency 714-834-4722, and the district's Assessment and Registration Center (ARC) clinic located at 13611 Clinton St. in Garden Grove. Contact number is 714-663-6411.

The parent or guardian must accompany the student for immunizations at the ARC clinic, and they are required to provide written documentation of any previous immunizations administered by a physician or health care agency.

Children are required by state law to receive a full physical exam, which includes a tuberculosis skin test, within 18 months of entering first grade. Parents should arrange for this checkup with their pediatrician, at which time the child must obtain the TB test and update any required immunizations. To satisfy first-grade admission requirements, the physical must not be completed earlier than March 1 of this year. All required forms are available from the school office.

Along with the immunization requirements, all children must receive an "oral health assessment" — a dental check-up — by May 31 in either kindergarten or first-grade, whichever is his or her first year in public school. Oral health assessments administered up to 12 months before a child enters school also satisfy this requirement. The assessment must be performed by a licensed dentist and/or other licensed or registered dental health professional.

An "Oral Health Assessment/Waiver Request" form, available in the school office, must be completed by the parent or dental professional and returned to the school. Please contact the school office for additional information.

Information on school attendance areas is available at district elementary schools or can be obtained by calling the district office at 714-663-6391.

Orange County News  
Feb. 25, 2015

# GG schools could get new math books

## Parents, public will have opportunities to give input

New math textbooks and support materials recommended for adoption and purchase by the Garden Grove Unified School District will be on public display from Feb. 25 through March 13, at the district Education Center (10331 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove).

The new math materials are for grades K-12.

The Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education is scheduled to consider adoption of the recommended instructional materials at its March 17 board meeting for introduction beginning next school year.

Regular preview times are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Textbook Preview Area, on the first floor of the Education Center, with an additional examination

period on Feb. 26, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. An evaluation form will be provided for visitors.

Materials on display are recommended for Board of Education adoption after a parent review period and following extensive evaluation by teachers, staff, and school district administrators.

Materials are evaluated based on accuracy, organization of content, and alignment with the state's academic content standards. Evaluators also examined the integration of technology and the presence of clear and definite strategies for working with diverse student populations.

More information is available by calling the Department of K-12 Educational Services at 714-663-6143.

Orange County News  
Feb. 25, 2015

City of Garden Grove

Notice Inviting Sealed Bids (IFB)

Project No. S-1155

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, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840 to Furnish all Labor, Material, Tools and Equipment for Demolition and Replacement of Three Existing Ceramic Tile Shower Stalls at Garden Grove Fire Station Number One. 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., Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at Garden Grove Fire Station Number One located at 11301 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840. Please direct any questions regarding this bid process to Sandra Segawa via email sandras@ci.garden-grove.ca.us. Bids are due and will be opened in the office of the Purchasing Agent at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2015. Bids received after that exact time will not be considered.

Dated: February 18, 2015

Sandra Segawa, C.P.M., CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
sandras@garden-grove.org

Orange County News

15-50112

Publish Feb. 18, 25, 2015

## 'Roadmap to College' event set

The Garden Grove Unified School District students in grades seven through 12 and their parents are invited to "Roadmap to College" on Monday, March 9 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at La Quinta High School (10372 McFadden Avenue in the city of Westminster).

Attendees will have an opportunity to select from several workshops that will help them navigate the college preparation and application process. Attendees can choose workshops about financial aid and scholarships, planning for college as early as the seventh grade, athletic recruiting and opportunities for undocumented students.

Students will also be able to

hear the latest information on admissions exams and the new SAT. Former district students, who are currently in college, will be available to answer questions about their experiences.

Additionally, there will be two workshops exclusively for seniors. District Superintendent Gabriela Mafi, will walk seniors through selecting the university that is best for them, and UCI representatives will discuss financial aid packages and discuss how students and their families can afford college.

Workshops will be in English with interpretation in Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean. Child-care will be provided for children ages two through 10.

# My wish to you: great wealth but... spend it like dripping coffee

A primer on cultural traditions of local Vietnamese-Americans



**Tony on the Town**

**By Tony Cheong**

It was all about the Tet Festival and Parade in Garden Grove and Westminster over the weekend.

Wow!

As usual, there was no shortage of delicious foods, stunning costumes and family fun.

I love seeing Vietnamese-Americans continue their cultural traditions, while at the same time embracing America. We have in our area about the biggest concentration of Vietnamese Americans — thousands who fled from war-torn Saigon in the 1970s — in our area.

On the food: there was sticky

rice (xoi), sausage (cha), candied fruits (mut) and much more. The candied fruits are my favorite. Unlike Western jam, which is usually in liquid form and served with bread, “Vietnamese jam” is mainly in dry form, usually dried fruits and some kind of seeds (pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, watermelon seeds). This once-in-year mix of snack is very large in variety, with so many tastes: ginger, carrot, coconut, pineapple, pumpkin, lotus seed, star fruit, sweet potato.

On the costumes: Most of these can be seen at the parade on Bolsa Avenue in Westminster (the festival is held in Garden Grove). A picture really is worth a thousand words, so I’m not going to spend a thousand words describing the costumes. Just check out Loreen Berlin’s photos in this paper. Stunning!

On the family fun: There were games, arts and crafts and shopping. And... too many cute children to count.

What else should you know about Tet? The Vietnamese use many kinds of flowers and plants to decorate their houses during Tet, which celebrates the Lunar New Year. It’s common to see chrysanthus, marigolds, mao ga flowers, paperwhite flowers and lavender. But there are three

that are an absolute must in Vietnamese culture: peach flower, ochona-integerrima and marumi kumquat.

The Vietnamese are big on toasts and well-wishing. At Tet, you may wish someone a happy new year and/or many other things. Here are a handful that I hear every year at Tet:

I wish you a wealthy new year.

I wish that you will get promoted in the new year.

I wish that the new year will bring health to all your family.

New year, new triumphs.

All wishes come true.

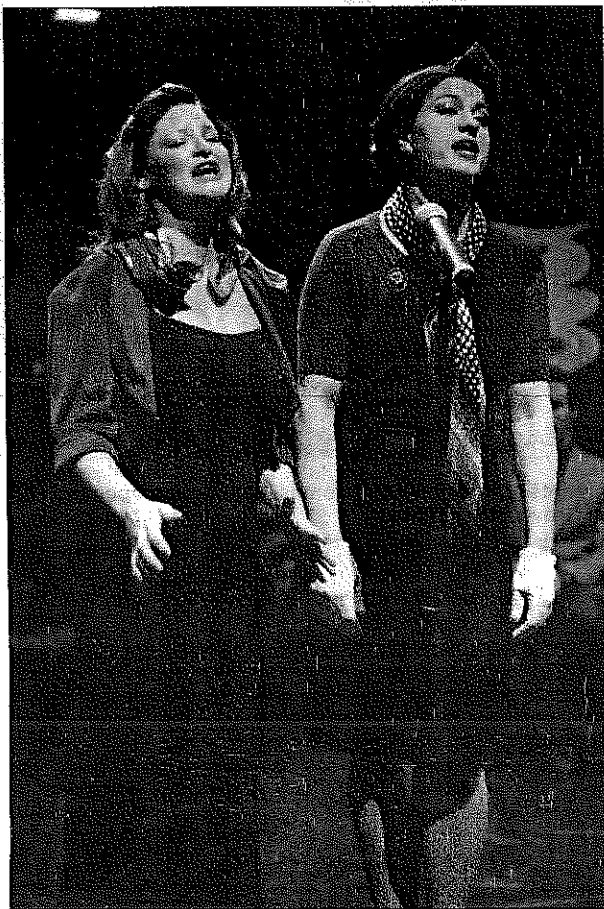
New lover will come in the new year. Note: this one’s for single people.

And now, drum roll please, my favorite wish of them all. Full disclosure: I’m a frugal person, so I repeat the second part of this wish to my husband, who never saw a restaurant special he didn’t want to try.

Money influx is as strong as Da’s river; expenditure is as little as dripping coffee.

Spend as little as dripping coffee. Isn’t that great? Sounds like something financial whiz Suze Orman would say.

*Have a comment, question or suggestion? You can reach Tony at [tonyontown@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyontown@yahoo.com).*



Photos by Lisa Scarsi

From left, Adriana Sanchez as Gabby/Bobbi and Nicole Cassesso as Donna/Dolie belt out a song during a production of "City of Angels" at The Gem Theater in Garden Grove.

# 'City of Angels' pays homage to the 1940s

By Angela Hatcher

Moving up into the ranks of first time big leaguers, One More Productions kicked off its 2015 Season with a total game changer, Larry Gelbart's Tony Award-winning musical, "City of Angels," and with more than 50 productions under its belts, this ambitious production marked many "firsts" for co-founders Damien Lorton and Nicole Cassesso.

Sitting in Lorton's back yard 10 years ago, the two friends began their collaboration and decided that they wanted "...to put on some shows, and we did it!" said Lorton. "But, this show is different," he went on to say, "...it's magical, it's a musical performed in four and five part harmony, it has all leading players." Cassesso continued, "This is the first time we have done a staged reading, the first time we have done a show with a full 14 piece orchestra, there are new and exciting stage and lighting techniques, from color to black and white and back again. It's been fun falling in love with the lighting, the period costumes, and there are 10 strong leads playing dual characters. Everyone is so incredibly talented." Their exuberance does not go unfounded as the full-capacity crowd at Garden Grove's Gem Theatre embraced the glamorous and highly entertaining homage to old Hollywood's '40s "film noir" genre with open arms and thunderous applause.

With mega-giant Cy Coleman's sensational and highly complex ballad and jazz-infused musical score, David Zippel's clever and powerful lyrics, and Lorton's directing precision, the vocals and incomparable onstage orchestra shared equal starring roles with the actors in OMP's outstanding City of Angels production.

In The Gem's intimate space,



From left, David Stoneman as a private eye, Stone and Allison McGuire as Carla/ALaura sizzle during a production of "City of Angels" at The Gem Theater in Garden Grove.

the balance between the orchestra and the vocals was remarkably on point, and every number from "Prologue," to "Stay With Me," and the rousing "You're Nothing Without Me," was sheer musical perfection.

In a scene at the Blue Note Lounge, the gloriously stylish Miss Bobbie Stovall also delighted the audience with her exceptional piano skills. The show is about writer Stine (Alex Bodrero), who is turning his novel about trench coat donning private eye Stone (David Stoneman) into a screenplay, and he is struggling not to let power play producer, Buddy (Tim Klega), tear apart his storyline.

The fascination is seeing how the characters in Stine's fictional and real life intertwine, and thanks to Buddy, how they are constantly changing in these parallel worlds. The glamorous Carla, and smoldering femme fatale, Alaura, are well-played by Allison McGuire. Detective Stone says about her, "Only the floor kept her legs from going on forever."

With an exceptionally strong cast, special mention must go to

Nicole Cassesso as Donna/Dolie, Fiona Wynder as Avril/Mallory, Danny Diaz as Vargas/Munoz, Tad Fujioka as Dr. Mandril, and Adriana Sanchez as Gabby/Bobbi.

The simplicity of Wally Huntton's set design was ingenious, and along with Jon Hyrkas' lighting design, City of Angels' imitation of life was perfectly clear as the players instantly transformed from living color to fading into black and white and back again.

This three-night extravaganza was part of OMP's Seventh Annual Hearts for the Arts Fundraising Event, and whether OMP got its new "wings" from the "City of Angels," or from hard work, dedication, and commitment, it's fair to say that this is the just the beginning of a season of excellence, and the only downside is that this show didn't have a longer run.

Look for Cole Porter's first class musical, "Anything Goes," opening April 9 and running through May 3 at The Gem Theatre, 12852 Main St., Garden Grove. For information or tickets, call 714-741-9550, ext. 221, or visit [www.onemoreproductions.com](http://www.onemoreproductions.com).



Courtesy photo

Pictured are college graduates from Garden Grove, being honored by the City Council last year. Graduates will be honored this year on April 28.

## City Council to give kudos to grads

### College graduates from Garden Grove will be honored at April 28 meeting

For a third year, the city is recognizing Garden Grove college graduates for their outstanding accomplishments.

The city is seeking names and information from Garden Grove residents who will receive a spring or fall 2015 undergraduate or post-graduate academic degree from any college or university. Graduates who submit their information by April 1, 2015 will be recognized at the April 28 City Council meet-

ing, at 6:30 p.m.

Prior to the recognition, the higher education alumnae and their guests will be invited to attend a private reception, hosted by Mayor Bao Nguyen and the Garden Grove City Council, at 5:30 p.m. During the private reception, each graduate will be entered into an opportunity drawing for a chance to win an Apple iPad Air 2, sponsored by Signal Hill Petroleum, or a \$100 gift card from Target.

Businesses who would like to sponsor this event are asked to contact the Office of Community Relations at 714-741-5280 no later than March 16, 2015.

For more details or to submit information, call the Office of Community Relations at 714-741-5280 or email [veronicaa@ci.gardengrove.ca.us](mailto:veronicaa@ci.gardengrove.ca.us). To see photos from last year's recognition, visit the city's Facebook at Garden Grove City Hall.

# Community Calendar

Orange County News  
Feb. 25, 2015

## Ongoing

**Overachievers, check this out**  
Achievers Club 9331 is hosting communication and leadership meetings featuring professional speakers at the Crystal Cathedral Tower of Hope, 12141 Lewis St. Meetings will be held every Thursday except during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holiday weeks. For more information, call Barbara Barrientas at 714-971-4123, e-mail [bbarrientas@crystalcathedral.org](mailto:bbarrientas@crystalcathedral.org) or visit [www.orgsites.com/ca/achievers9331](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/achievers9331).

**Chamber holds Friday meetings**  
The Garden Grove Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee meets the second Friday of the month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call the chamber at 714-638-7950.

**Grief support**  
The Grief Share Support Group is for mothers who have lost children of every age. The group meets Thursday evenings at 12831 Olive St., Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-892-1520 or 714-343-7516.

**Learn about Alzheimer's**  
The Alzheimer's Association of Orange County hosts a support group to provide an opportunity

to meet other caregivers and families, share experiences and exchange ideas. These meetings are free and open to all caregivers and family members of individuals with dementia. All groups listed are in compliance with chapter and national standards. This is a faith-based meeting and may include prayer or pastoral speaker, and will take place at 1 p.m. Saturdays at the Crystal Cathedral Arboretum, 12141 Lewis St. in Garden Grove. For more information, call Peggy Woelke at 714-634-2161.

**Dance Center hosts social**  
Join the staff of the Cedarbrook Dance Center for nights of square dancing, line dancing, round dancing (pre-choreographed social dancing) and salsa. The Dance Center is at 12812 Garden Grove Blvd. For more information on classes, call Eileen Silvia at 949-637-4169.

**Eco-friendly storytime**  
Family storytime all through the summer will highlight books about our environment and the animals that live in rivers, oceans and icy places. All ages are encouraged to attend at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Garden Grove Regional Library, 11200 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-530-0711.

**Rotary Club to meet**  
The Rotary Club of Garden Grove meets at 12:10 p.m. Wednesdays at The Marriott Hotel, at Chapman Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove.  
**GG Kiwanis to meet**  
The Kiwanis Club of Garden Grove hosts dinner meetings at 7 p.m. Thursdays at Kiwanisland, 9840 Larson Ave. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. For more

information, call 714-892-7267.  
**School Board to meet**  
The Garden Grove Unified School District holds its regular meetings at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the district offices, 10331 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove.  
**Ready, young Rembrandts?**  
Elementary and preschool students are eager to learn and a joy to teach. Your young artist will learn to draw using our step-by-step process in this class, held on Tuesdays at the Westminster Civic Center craft room, 8200 Westminster Blvd. in Westminster. Give your child a head start in being handwriting-ready by developing his/her fine motor skills. There will be new lessons each week at the preschool and elementary level. Students ages 3-5 meet at 3:15 p.m. and ages 6-12 meet at 4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.westminster-ca.gov](http://www.westminster-ca.gov).

**Cartoonist lessons offered**  
Artists ages 6-12 will have fun drawing and coloring a myriad of expressive characters while learning how to stay on task, follow directions, and be visually, spatially organized. There will be new lessons each week, even for previous students. The next class will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Westminster Civic Center craft room, 8200 Westminster Blvd. in



## Celebration!

As part of its ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, and in celebration of Lunar New Year, Union Bank welcomes the Year of the Sheep by hosting Wishing Trees at participating California branches, including in Garden Grove and Westminster.

Union Bank held an event in Westminster last week.

The Garden Grove event is still in the planning stage.

In the spirit of the Year of the Sheep, customers who visit 15 participating Union Bank branches throughout California through March 14 will have an opportunity to share their wishes and support their local community by making a contribution to a local non-profit organization.

Donations will be matched (up to \$2,500 per organization) by the MUFG Union Bank Foundation.

## Suspects detained

Seal Beach Police Department detectives on Feb. 9 arrested four suspects, including two from Garden Grove, for vehicle burglaries throughout the city.

The four were taken into custody while police conducted a vehicle stop at Ninth Street and Chapman Avenue in Garden Grove. The Seal Beach Police Department issued a thank you to its law enforcement partners who assisted with this investigation, including the Garden Grove Police Department.

This investigation netted the recovery of several stolen iPads, cellular phones and money.

All suspects taken into custody will be charged with vehicle burglary and possession of stolen property.

The suspects are Banisha Deering, 22, Garden Grove; Gabrielle Menou, 22, Garden Grove;

Walter Walker, 25, Anaheim; and Christopher Walker, 25, Anaheim.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE GARDEN GROVE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development (Successor Agency) will hold a Public Hearing, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 33431, at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, California. A Property Transfer (Transfer) pursuant to the approved Long Range Property Management Plan, between the Successor Agency and City of Garden Grove of certain real property located at 12361 Chapman Avenue, 12222 Harbor Boulevard, 12252 Harbor Boulevard, 12262 Harbor Boulevard, 12272 Harbor Boulevard, 12292 Harbor Boulevard, 12551 Twintree Avenue, 12571 Twintree Avenue, and 12239 Choisser Road, Garden Grove, will be considered.

All interested persons or organizations may attend the Public Hearing or submit written comments on the proposed Transfer prior to the meeting. Please submit any written comments to the Garden Grove City Clerk, 11222 Acacia Parkway, P.O. Box 3070, Garden Grove, California, 92842-3070. Written correspondence received before 3:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Public Hearing will be given to the Successor Agency prior to the meeting. Information received after that time will be given to the Successor Agency at the time of the meeting.

If you challenge the action taken at this Public Hearing, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this Notice, or in written comments delivered to the City Clerk's Office prior to or at the Public Hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the City Clerk at (714) 741 5040. Notification by Noon on Thursday, March 5, 2015, will enable reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

Further information regarding the proposed Transfer may be obtained by contacting Jim DellaLunga, Senior Project Manager, at (714) 741-5788.

Kathleen Bailor, CMC  
Secretary

Date: February 18, 2015  
Publish: February 20, 2015 and February 27, 2015  
**Orange County News**  
14-50126  
Publish Feb. 20, 27, 2015

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE OVERSIGHT BOARD TO THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE GARDEN GROVE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, The Oversight Board to The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development (Oversight Board) will hold a Public Hearing, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 34181(f), at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center located at 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, California. A Property Transfer (Transfer), pursuant to the approved Long Range Property Management Plan, between the The City of Garden Grove as Successor Agency to the Garden Grove Agency for Community Development and City of Garden Grove of certain real property located at 12361 Chapman Avenue, 12222 Harbor Boulevard, 12252 Harbor Boulevard, 12262 Harbor Boulevard, 12272 Harbor Boulevard, 12292 Harbor Boulevard, 12551 Twintree Avenue, 12571 Twintree Avenue, and 12239 Choisser Road, Garden Grove, will be considered.

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Kathleen Bailor, CMC  
Secretary

Date: February 18, 2015  
Publish: February 20, 2015 and February 27, 2015  
**Orange County News**  
14-50125  
Publish Feb. 20, 27, 2015

Orange County News  
Feb. 20, 2015

# Community Calendar

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see **CALENDAR**, next page

## CALENDAR:

Continued from previous page

and icy places. All ages are encouraged to attend at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Garden Grove Regional Library, 11200 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-530-0711.

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### GG Kiwanis to meet

The Kiwanis Club of Garden Grove hosts dinner meetings at 7 p.m. Thursdays at Kiwanisland, 9840 Larson Ave. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call 714-892-7267.

### Chamber set to meet

The Westminster Chamber of Commerce holds legislation meetings at 8 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month in its offices, at 14491 Beach Blvd. in Westminster.

Orange County News  
Feb. 20, 2015



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT:

John Montanez, Recreation Manager  
Community Services Department  
(714) 741-5200

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Thursday, February 26, 2015

## **CITY SEEKS PART-TIME SEASONAL STAFF**

The City of Garden Grove Community Services Department is now accepting on-line applications for several part-time seasonal positions at a variety of city facilities. If you enjoy working with children, being outdoors, and have an enthusiastic and outgoing personality, this could be the job for you.

Applications and a detailed job description for each position can be found on the City's website at [www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us/jobs](http://www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us/jobs). The deadline for submissions is March 9, 2015.

The City of Garden Grove is a positive, team-oriented organization with a commitment to providing exceptional customer service to its community.

For further information, contact the Community Services Department at (714) 741-5200. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

# # #



GARDEN GROVE

# THÔNG TIN

## Từ Thành Phố Garden Grove

**Để phổ biến trên các phương tiện truyền thông**  
Văn phòng thông tin liên lạc: ( 714) 741-5280

Liên lạc: Kim Huy (714) 741-5280  
Ban liên lạc cộng đồng

Thứ Ba, 24/2/2015

### **LỄ TUYÊN DƯƠNG CÁC SINH VIÊN ĐẠI HỌC TẠI THÀNH PHỐ GARDEN GROVE**

Garden Grove muốn ban thưởng những sinh viên đại học cho những thành tích xuất sắc của họ. Những cư dân tại Garden Grove đang học tại đại học, hoặc sẽ ra trường trong mùa học 2015 sắp tới có thể liên lạc với Thành phố để ghi danh nhận được những biểu dương từ Thành phố.

Các sinh viên undergraduate, post-graduate, hoặc sẽ ra trường mùa Spring/Summer 2015 và là cư dân sống trong Garden Grove có thể liên lạc với Thành phố để tham gia lễ ghi nhận thành tích học tập của mình vào ngày Thứ Ba, 28 tháng Tư, 2015. Ông Thị Trưởng cùng những Nghị viên Thành phố sẽ tham dự để vinh danh cho các sinh viên vào lúc 5:30 chiều. Các sinh viên cũng sẽ được tham gia bốc thăm để trúng thưởng 1 máy Apple IPAD air 2 và những gift card khác của Target.

Các sinh viên cần cung cấp tên, địa chỉ, số phone, email, trường đang học, bằng cấp học ngành nào trước ngày Thứ Tư, 1 tháng 4, 2015 tại Ban Liên lạc cộng đồng, số phone là (714) 741-5280 hoặc email cho [veronicaa@ci.garden-grove.ca.us](mailto:veronicaa@ci.garden-grove.ca.us)

###

VIỆTBÁO

**Garden Grove: Tuyên Dương Sinh Viên Đại Học Xuất Sắc**

25/02/2015 00:00:00

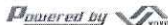
Garden Grove muốn ban thưởng những sinh viên đại học cho những thành tích xuất sắc của họ. Những cư dân tại Garden Grove đang học tại đại học, hoặc sẽ ra trường trong mùa học 2015 sắp tới có thể liên lạc với Thành phố để ghi danh nhận được những biểu dương từ Thành phố.

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Các sinh viên cần cung cấp tên, địa chỉ, số phone, email, trường đang học, bằng cấp học ngành nào trước ngày Thứ Tư, 1 tháng 4, 2015 tại Ban Liên lạc cộng đồng, số phone là (714) 741-5280 hoặc email cho [veronica@ci.garden-grove.ca.us](mailto:veronica@ci.garden-grove.ca.us)

# # #

11222 Acacia Parkway · P.O. Box 3070 · Garden Grove, CA 92842

[www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us](http://www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us)Copyright © 2015 vietbao.com All rights reserved 

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## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**February 26, 2015**

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1. Calendar of Events
2. Minutes from the January 15 and February 19 Planning Commission meeting and the agenda for the March 5, 2015 meeting.
3. Agenda for the March 2, 2015 Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission.
4. Cities Advocates dated February 20 and 25, 2015.



**GARDEN GROVE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 26, 2015 – March 25, 2015

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Thursday	February 26	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room <b>CANCELLED</b>
Monday	March 2	6:30 p.m.	Neighborhood Improvement & Conservation Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Tuesday	March 3	6:00 p.m.	Traffic Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Thursday	March 5	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Friday	March 6		City Hall Closed
Tuesday	March 10	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Study Session, Founders Room Successor Agency Meeting, Council Chamber City Council Meeting, Council Chamber
Wednesday	March 11	2:00 p.m.	Oversight Board Meeting, Council Chamber
Thursday	March 12	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.  9:00 a.m.	Study Session, Founders Room Main Street Commission Meeting, Council Chamber  Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room
Saturday	March 14	8:00 a.m.- Noon	Project "GO" Graffiti Off, Municipal Service Center
Thursday	March 19		Casual Day – St. Patrick's Day Theme (Green Shirts)  7:00 p.m.
Friday	March 20		City Hall Closed
Tuesday	March 24	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, Founders Room Housing Authority Meeting, Council Chamber Sanitary District Meeting, Council Chamber Successor Agency Meeting, Council Chamber City Council Meeting, Council Chamber
Wednesday	March 25	2:00 p.m.	Oversight Board Meeting, Council Chamber

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 15, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Lazenby  
Vice Chair Margolin  
Commissioner Alejandro  
Commissioner Brietigam  
Commissioner Silva

Absent: Zamora

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Brietigam.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: Mr. Ryan Farsai, owner of a gas station, mentioned gas prices and expressed the importance of creating revenue for his business in order to be successful.

DECEMBER 4, 2014 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Margolin Second: Alejandro

Ayes: (5) Alejandro, Brietigam, Lazenby, Margolin, Silva

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (1) Zamora

PUBLIC HEARING – SITE PLAN NO. SP-016-2014, VARIANCE NO. V-009-2014. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 12502 BROOKHURST STREET, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BROOKHURST STREET AND LAMPSON AVENUE.

Applicant: RAMCAM Engineering Group, Inc.

Date: January 15, 2015

Request: Site Plan approval to construct a new approximately 2,447 square foot one-story building on a lot improved with an existing approximately 1,755 square foot medical office building, located on the southeast corner of Brookhurst Street and Lampson Avenue at 12502 Brookhurst Street. The project scope also includes site improvements for a new parking lot and new landscaping. Also, a request for Variance approval to deviate from the minimum ten-foot (10'-0") interior side setback to



construct the new building and the new trash enclosure to encroach five feet (5'-0") into the interior side setback. The site is in the O-P (Office Professional) zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section – 15303(c) – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and 15305(a) – Minor Alterations and Land Use Limitations.

Action: Public Hearing held. Speakers: Mr. Alex Irshaid.

Action: Resolution No. 5839-14 adopted.

Motion: Alejandro Second: Brietigam

Ayes: (5) Alejandro, Brietigam, Lazenby, Margolin, Silva  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Zamora

PUBLIC HEARING – SITE PLAN NO. SP-017-2014. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9472 KATELLA AVENUE, SOUTHWEST CORNER OF KATELLA AVENUE AND GILBERT STREET.

Applicant: Yenny Ng  
Date: January 15, 2015

Request: Site Plan approval to construct a small, multi-tenant commercial building of approximately 1,600 square feet on a property that is improved with an existing gas station and convenience market. The site is in the C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section – 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

Action: Public Hearing held. Speakers: Mr. Ali Farsai and Mr. Ryan Farsai.

Action: Resolution No. 5840-14 adopted.

Motion: Brietigam Second: Margolin

Ayes: (5) Alejandro, Brietigam, Lazenby, Margolin, Silva  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Zamora

PUBLIC HEARING – SITE PLAN NO. SP-018-2014. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9737 CHAPMAN AVENUE, NORTHWEST CORNER OF BROOKHURST STREET AND CHAPMAN AVENUE, BUILDING PAD "D" FRONTS ON CHAPMAN AVENUE.

Applicant: Geoff Reeslund, HGGA Promenade, L.P.  
Date: January 15, 2015

Request: Site Plan approval to construct a 6,200 square foot pad building at the Promenade Shopping Mall. The building will have four tenant spaces occupied by proposed restaurants. The building is proposed on a pad that is along Chapman Avenue, west of the main drive aisle entrance to the Regal Theaters. The site is in the NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction.

Action: Public Hearing held. Speakers: Mr. Geoff Reeslund.

Action: Resolution No. 5841-14 adopted.

Motion: Margolin Second: Alejandro

Ayes: (4) Alejandro, Lazenby, Margolin, Silva

Noes: (1) Brietigam

Absent: (1) Zamora

#### MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Brietigam mentioned traffic signals near IHOP and wondered if there were studies to warrant signals to be removed. Staff was not aware of any such studies. The Commissioner then added that the Police Department needed to be increased by 20 and the Fire Department by seven and that a plan was needed to increase public safety.

Commissioner Silva asked for a study session on "Re:Imagine" as information had not been updated for over a year and he had received questions from residents. Staff explained that "Re:Imagine" was not a 'plan' or 'document', rather the intent was to gather ideas and separate them into short, mid, and long-term phases; that staff would meet with the Mayor over the Open Streets' success; that a Bike Master Plan initiative was in the works; that a plan was needed to secure grants; and that after the City Council was updated with a presentation, the information would be brought back to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Alejandro commended staff for their work, especially for the agenda items that night, which were pro-growth for the City. Fellow Commissioners also expressed their appreciation for staff.

#### MATTERS FROM STAFF:

Staff stated that the Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting would be cancelled and mentioned that Commission appointments should occur at the January 27<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:50 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission on Thursday, February 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Grove Council Chamber, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove.

Motion: Brietigam Second: Alejandro

Ayes: (5) Alejandro, Brietigam, Lazenby, Margolin, Silva

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (1) Zamora

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Judith Moore, Recording Secretary

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 19, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONERS:

Oath of Office administered to Commissioners by the City Clerk.

Commissioner Margolin led the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Kanzler  
Commissioner Mai  
Commissioner Margolin  
Commissioner O'Neill  
Commissioner Paredes  
Commissioner Zamora

Absent: Pak.

Commissioner Pak joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and was administered the Oath of Office by Mayor Nguyen.

SELECTION OF CHAIR:

Action: Commissioner O'Neill nominated as Chair by Commissioner Kanzler. No further nominations received.

Action: Commissioner O'Neill selected as Chair.

Motion: Kanzler Second: Paredes

Ayes: (6) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Paredes, Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (1) Pak

Commissioner Margolin turned the meeting over to Chair O'Neill.

SELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

Action: Commissioner Kanzler nominated as Vice Chair by Commissioner Paredes. No further nominations received.

Action: Commissioner Kanzler selected as Vice Chair.

Motion: Paredes Second: O'Neill

Ayes: (6) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Paredes, Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (1) Pak

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Zamora.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

JANUARY 15, 2015 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Margolin Second: Zamora

Ayes: (6) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Paredes  
Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (1) Pak

STUDY SESSION – PLANNING COMMISSION ORIENTATION - GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BROWN ACT, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AND RELATED MATTERS AND ISSUES WITHIN THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION.

Discussed the Brown Act, Conflicts of Interest, and related matters and issues within the Planning Commission's jurisdiction.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Pak apologized for being late; Vice Chair Kanzler wished everyone a Happy New Year; and Chair O'Neill expressed that he was honored to be a Planning Commissioner; that he was interested in the community and would uphold the General Plan and Municipal Code; and that his goal was to run good and productive meetings.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff mentioned that materials given to the Commissioners included copies of the Draft General Plan, Housing Element, Title 9 of the Municipal Code, Specific Plans, Planning Commissioners Handbook, and Brown Act guide.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:30 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission on Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Grove Council Chamber, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove.

Motion: O'Neill      Second: Margolin  
Ayes: (7) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes,  
Zamora  
Noes: (0) None

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Judith Moore, Recording Secretary



## A G E N D A

### GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

#### REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 5, 2015

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER  
11300 STANFORD AVENUE

#### REGULAR SESSION - 7:00 P.M. COUNCIL CHAMBER

ROLL CALL: CHAIR O'NEILL, VICE CHAIR KANZLER  
COMMISSIONERS MAI, MARGOLIN, PAK, PAREDES, ZAMORA

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except public hearings, must do so during Oral Communications at the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker shall fill out a card stating name and address, to be presented to the Recording Secretary, and shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services due to a disability should contact the City Clerk's office at (714) 741-5035 to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2).

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to all or a majority of the Planning Commissioners within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Planning Services Division during normal business hours; and (2) at the City Council Chamber at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Planning Commission may take legislative action it deems appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 19, 2015
- C. PUBLIC HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)
  - C.1. VARIANCE NO. V-010-2015

APPLICANT: INGE REALTY

LOCATION: WEST SIDE OF HARBOR BOULEVARD, NORTH OF  
LAMPSON AVENUE AT 12461 HARBOR BOULEVARD

REQUEST: A request by Inge Realty/Sophie Inge, for Variance approval to deviate from the sign design and removal

requirements of Garden Grove Municipal Code Section 9.20.045, in order to allow the existing nonconforming freestanding pylon sign, located at 12461 Harbor Boulevard (Assessor's Parcel No. 231-455-33), to remain in its current location, partially within the Harbor Boulevard right-of-way. On May 13, 2014, the Garden Grove City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2837, enacting Municipal Code Section 9.20.045 and adopting specified standards for the placement of design of freestanding signs ("Sign Standards") for specified properties located along or near Harbor Boulevard, north of the Garden Grove Freeway, including the applicant's property. Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 9.20.045, existing freestanding signs that have been in place for 15 years or more prior to the effective date of Ordinance No. 2837, and which do not conform to the Sign Standards, are subject to removal and replacement, provided the City pays the owner fair and just compensation to remove and replace the sign with one that conforms to the Sign Standards. The subject sign is an approximately forty-foot (40'-0") tall pylon sign that does not conform to the Sign Standards and which has been in place since approximately 1965. The subject sign is also partially located within the existing public right-of-way. The applicant is requesting relief from the provision of Municipal Code Section 9.20.045 authorizing the City to require the removal of its nonconforming sign upon payment of fair and just compensation by the City and to keep the sign in its current location. The sign is in the PUD-121-98 (Planned Unit Development) zone. The City of Garden Grove has determined that environmental action is not necessary at this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Denial of Variance No. V-010-2015.

- D. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS
- E. MATTERS FROM STAFF
- F. ADJOURNMENT





AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Community Meeting Center  
11300 Stanford Avenue

March 2, 2015  
6:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: COMMISSIONERS BLACKMUN, BRIETIGAM, CONSTANTINO,  
MCINTOSH, MUNETON, PHAM, RAMIREZ

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except Public Hearings, must do so during Oral Communications at the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker shall fill out a card stating name and address, to be presented to the Recording Secretary, and shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services due to a disability should contact the City Clerk's Office to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2)

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to all or a majority of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commissioners within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Neighborhood Improvement Office during normal business hours; and (2) at the City Council Chamber at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission may take legislative action it deems appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. COMMISSIONERS OATH
2. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2015 TERM
3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 4.a. Minutes from December 1, 2014 meeting
5. MATTERS FROM STAFF
  - 5.a. Acknowledge of 2015 Meeting Dates
  - 5.b. Brown Act
  - 5.c. Housing Element Update
  - 5.d. Public Hearing for 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan and Fiscal Year 2015-16 Action Plan

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6. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission will be held Monday, June 1, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in the Courtyard Center, 12732 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA.

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**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**February 26, 2015**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council      FROM: Allan Roeder, City Manager  
Members

**I. PRIORITY AND COUNCIL AGENDA ISSUES**

None.

**II. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

**A. CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

Laura Stover updates you on the recruitment for a City Manager.

**B. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

An update of activities in the Public Works department is included for your review.

**III. ITEMS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS**

**A. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Notification from the Department of Transportation of the Preferred Alternative (PA) for the Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project.

**IV. RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

**A. PINK 3694**

Information is provided on Mrs. Lynn Mata's concerns at the 2/10 City Council meeting of a 9-1-1 call she placed when her husband appeared to be having a heart attack.

**• OTHER ITEMS**

– NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

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

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.

ALLAN L. ROEDER  
City Manager

## California City Solutions: Napa Transforms Economic Development Through Flood Protection Project

*This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2014 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called California City Solutions. Napa's Downtown Riverfront Improvement Integrated with Flood Protection project was submitted in 2014 for the Community Services and Economic Development award category.*

The Napa River is a significant estuary system, delivering fresh water from Mt. St. Helena down to the San Pablo Bay and eventually on to the San Francisco Bay. Six miles of the lower river meander through the city of Napa, flowing right through the edge of its downtown district and many residential areas. After experiencing many devastating floods and attempts at flood control, the voters approved a local flood tax. With this funding, and more than a decade of planning, the Napa River-Napa Creek Flood Protection Project took root and began transitioning a floodplain while increasing economic development for the city. *For more, see Page 2.*



### Upcoming Legislative Hearings of Interest Feb. 23-April 16

The Legislature will host a number of oversight and informational hearings on a variety of policy areas of interest to cities in the coming weeks. Following the fast approaching Feb. 27 bill introduction deadline, expect to see a decrease in informational hearings as the Legislature prepares for hearings on the FY 2015-16 budget and specific legislation. *For more, see Page 3.*

construction of four major bridge replacements, provided necessary environmental cleanup and positioned riverside properties for future development.

The project preserved historic and low-income housing on the west side of the river, while cleaning up contamination and expanding the floodplain to the east. The city advocated for riverside trails to be incorporated into the project design ensuring that areas such as Veterans Memorial Park and the Oxbow Bypass were designed and funded as usable public space amenities rather than simply water conveyance or detention areas. The city contributed funding for projects that were not covered by federal components and private sector developments.

After six years of construction, the city started seeing results. The damage from a New Year's Day Flood in 2006 was far less than it would have been if a number of project components had not been completed. Dozens of species of fish, birds and mammals began to repopulate areas where they had not been seen in decades. Contemporary hotels, offices, retail and housing replaced blighted and underused properties along the river's edge, increasing economic development for the city.

The Great Recession hindered the pace of the project, but the city used the slowdown to develop a Downtown Specific Plan. It specified public improvements, a public art ordinance, creating a permanent funding source for public art, and a Tourism Improvement District, establishing a dependable funding source for destination marketing. Investors have renewed private development efforts, new businesses are filling once-vacant spaces, and businesses that weathered the recession are now prospering.

As of mid-2014, the city was experiencing a strong economic rebound, which was accelerating the completion of river trails and its third pocket park on the riverfront. The crucial Oxbow Bypass is on the verge of construction – the next major milestone in providing flood protection with space for a public park.

The total public and private investment (real estate transactions and construction) in the riverfront/ downtown area since 1996 now tops \$1.16 billion, with just under \$1 billion of this amount from private investment.

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**'Upcoming Hearings' Continued from Page 1...**

Here are a number of upcoming hearings of interest to cities:

**Feb. 23**

- **Assembly Transportation Committee**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4202
  - Information Hearing: The Basics of Transportation Funding
- **Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 126
  - Information Hearing: The Administration of California's State Taxes

**Feb. 24**

- **Joint Hearing of the Senate Transportation and Housing and Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203
  - Informational Hearing: Funding the Transportation Maintenance Backlog
- **Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 444
  - Informational Hearing: The State of Privacy in California

**Feb. 25**

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation**, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447
  - Hearing items include the State Transportation Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency
- **Joint Hearing of the Senate Governance and Finance and Natural Resources and Water Committees**, Upon adjournment of Senate Governance and Finance Committee, State Capitol, Room 3191

**March 17**

- **Joint Hearing of the Senate Transportation and Housing and Environmental Quality Committees, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203**
  - Oversight Hearing: The Road to 2020 and Beyond: The Role of the Transportation Sector in Meeting California's Climate Goals

**March 18**

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 437**
  - Hearing will cover a number of items including Body Cameras
- **Joint Hearing Assembly Local Government Committee and Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4202**
  - Information Hearing: Transient Occupancy Taxes and the Home-Sharing Phenomenon

**March 19**

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental, Protection, Energy and Transportation, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112**
  - Hearing will cover the Department of Water Resource, Delta Stewardship Council and State Water Resources Control Board
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 2040**
  - Hearing will cover State Finances, including the Department of Finance, State Board of Equalization and the Franchise Tax Board

**March 24**

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447**
  - Hearing will cover a number of items including Commission on State Mandates and Public Employees' Retirement System

**March 25**

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447**
  - Hearing will cover a number of items including Department of Transportation and the California Transportation Commission

**March 26**

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112**
  - Hearing will cover a number of items including Cap-and-Trade, the Strategic Growth Council and High-Speed Rail Authority
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 113**
  - Hearing will cover Realignment

**April 9**

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government, 9:30 a.m., Room 2040**
  - Hearing will cover a number of items related to Local Government and Economic Development including Redevelopment Agencies Dissolution Status and Issues, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Commission on State Mandates

**April 14**

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447**
  - Hearing will cover the State Controller's Office and Secretary of State

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Page 3: Ask Your Congressional Representatives to Support MuniBonds

Page 4: The Mayors and Council Members Department Survey is Due March 4

**League Takes an Oppose Unless Amended Position on DOF Redevelopment  
Dissolution Budget Proposal**  
*Cities Urged to Take Immediate Action*

The League board of directors last week voted unanimously to oppose unless amended Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to make changes to the redevelopment dissolution process as part of the FY 2015-16 budget. The recently released [language to the proposal](#) is anticipated to be included in a budget trailer bill. The proposal contains a number of significantly harmful provisions to local agencies that would reverse recent court decisions regarding the redevelopment dissolution process, undo previous incentives and limit transparency, accountability and opportunities for local agencies to protect their legal rights. The League board action occurred in advance of several upcoming hearings on the matter. *For more, see Page 2.*



**Board of Equalization Acts to Reduce Variable Gas Tax Rate**  
*Sen. Jim Beall Introduces Bill to Provide More Stability*

The [State Board of Equalization](#) (BOE) yesterday approved a 6 cent per gallon decrease, from 18 cents to 12 cents, in the state variable tax on gasoline for FY 2015-16. This action will result in a dramatic decrease in the variable gas tax revenues received by cities. The decrease is more than the Department of Finance's projected 5.5 cent reduction, but is lower than the BOE staff recommendation of a 7.5 cent reduction. The decrease will take effect July 1. *For more, see Page 2.*



**Assembly Speaker Announces Democrats Affordable Housing Plan**

Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) today announced the [Assembly Democrat's plan](#) to introduce several legislative measures focused on creating more affordable housing in California. The Speaker was joined by California Treasurer John Chiang, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, as well as Assembly Members Ed Chau (D-Alhambra) Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) and David Chiu (D-San Francisco). *For more, see Page 3.*

but the current reality with automobile transportation fuels is both a slackening of demand and a downward trend in prices. The result is the dramatic downturn in the estimated allocations in FY 2015-16 from the prior year.

The variable gas tax rate has seen significant increases and decreases since the BOE adjustment process was implemented. The resulting instability has had a significant impact on state and local agency ability to plan for future projects. In response, Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) introduced [SB 321](#) that would allow BOE to make partial adjustments of the rate over a three year period — a process referred to as “smoothing.” It would also authorize BOE to adjust the rate on a quarterly basis if the board makes a determination that the amount of revenues generated by the motor vehicle fuel tax will be significantly different than the original estimates made by the board. This important bill is expected to be expedited through the process in order to take effect before the start of the new fiscal year.

Cities can expect more information on this effort shortly. In addition, [CaliforniaCityFinance.com](#) is preparing to distribute updated city by city estimates of FY 2015-16 gas tax allocations that incorporate the BOE action.

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**‘Housing’ Continued from Page 1...**

The plan announced this afternoon seeks to recompense for the loss of over \$1 billion per year of redevelopment housing funds, a critical state funding source. Speaker Atkins said that her plan provides a more permanent source of funding that would allow the state to fund existing programs at dependable levels, and create a more reliable and efficient mechanism than the occasional housing bond.

The proposal would:

- Establish a permanent source of funding for affordable housing by placing a \$75 fee on real estate transaction documents, excluding home sales;
- Increase the state’s [Low Income Housing Tax Credit](#) by \$300 million;
- Provide legislation to create a framework for how California will spend any funds received from the [National Housing Trust Fund](#) that are expected to flow to states in 2016; and
- Use a portion of the [Proposition 47](#) funds to reduce recidivism through investment in rapid rehousing and housing supports for formerly incarcerated Californians.

According to estimates, the proposal would generate approximately \$500 million annually statewide for affordable housing needs via the proposed \$75 recordation fee on real estate transactions with the exception of home sales — a provision identical to a failed bill the League supported last legislative session, [SB 391 \(DeSaulnier\)](#). The Speaker’s plan also estimates that for every \$500 million spent on affordable housing, approximately 29,000 jobs would be created.

Detailed provisions of the bill package have yet to be released, but are expected sometime later this week. The League will monitor the progress of the proposed bill package and inform members of developments as it makes its way through the legislative process.

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### **Ask Your Congressional Representatives to Support MuniBonds**

In anticipation of another effort this year to eliminate or modify the current tax-exemption for municipal bonds (MuniBonds), the National League of Cities is encouraging Congressional members to sign onto a [bipartisan Dear Colleague](#) letter being led by Reps. Randy Hultgren (IL-14) and C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02). The letter to House leadership urges support for the preservation of the tax exemption on municipal bond interest.

The deadline for your representative to sign on is this Thursday, Feb. 26. That’s why we need you to [ask your representative](#) to sign on immediately.

With tax-exempt municipal bonds, local governments finance roads, water infrastructure, public utilities, health care facilities, and so much more. However, despite their enormous effectiveness