

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**July 9, 2015**

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

**I. PRIORITY AND COUNCIL AGENDA ISSUES**

None.

**II. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

**A. FOURTH OF JULY QUICK STATS**

Attached is a copy of the brief log of statistics during the Fourth of July from the Police and Fire Departments.

**III. MATTERS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**A. DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

Copies of the correspondence between the City Attorney's office and Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) regarding District Elections is attached for your review.

**IV. 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

### 4th of July Quick Stats 2015

(0000 July 4th to 0100 July 5th)

<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Dispatched (Type Code "FW")	108	111	-2.7
Self Initiated Activity	40	41	-2.4
Other	5	1	400.0
<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>Citations</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Citations from Self Initiated Activity	31	33	-6.1
Citations from Citizen Calls	12	20	-40.0
<b>Total Administrative Citations</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-18.9</b>

<b>Citation Amounts</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% Change</b>
\$1000 Citations	43	51	-15.7
\$100 Citations	0	2	-100.0
<b>Total Administrative Citations</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-18.9</b>

<b>Phone Calls*</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% Change</b>
9-1-1 Phone Calls	236	288	-18.1
Non Emergency Phone Calls	514	470	9.4
<b>Total Phone Calls</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

\* Incoming phone calls from 0000 on July 4th to 0100 on July 5th



# FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

Tom Schultz  
Fire Chief

Thanh Nguyen  
Captain/PIO  
(714) 741-5628  
[thanhn@garden-grove.org](mailto:thanhn@garden-grove.org)

July 7, 2015

## FOURTH OF JULY REPORT

The Fire Department responded to five fire incidents from midnight, July 4, through 7:00 a.m., July 5, 2015. The fires did not involve structures, and investigation of the five incidents did not reveal fireworks as the apparent cause of fire. There were no reported fireworks-related injuries during this period. Fire Department fire investigators were on duty monitoring for illegal fireworks. A total of 107 pounds of illegal fireworks were confiscated. The illegal fireworks will be go to the Orange County Crime Lab for analysis, and then to the State Fire Marshal. There were 43 \$1,000 citations issued on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

###



# MALDEF

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Attachment III.A.  
Mgrs. Memo 7/9/15

**Sacramento  
Policy Office**  
1512 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel: 916.444.3031  
Fax: 916.444.7207

**National Headquarters  
Los Angeles  
Regional Office**  
634 S. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
Tel: 213.629.2512  
Fax: 213.629.0266

**Chicago  
Regional Office**  
11 East Adams Street  
Suite 700  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Tel: 312.427.0701  
Fax: 312.427.0691

**San Antonio  
Regional Office**  
110 Broadway  
Suite 300  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
Tel: 210.224.5476  
Fax: 210.224.5382

**Washington, D.C.  
Regional Office**  
1016 16th Street, NW  
Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: 202.293.2828  
Fax: 202.293.2849

July 3, 2105

Thomas F. Nixon  
City Attorney  
Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart  
555 Anton Blvd, Suite 1200  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-7670

Re: Garden Grove -- District Elections

Dear, Mr. Woodruff,

I am in receipt of your letters of June 11 and Jun 26, 2015, and your request for our investigation of racially polarized voting in Garden Grove.

I'm sure you can understand that it is not our practice to release our pre-litigation investigative files and the work of our consultants. However, I can tell you that in the past 12 years, there have been at least 10 Latino candidacies for city council and mayor, all unsuccessful. To determine whether those failed candidacies are the result of racially polarized voting, our practice is to examine the city council elections themselves as well as the local results of Orange County and State Elections, from 2006 to 2014.

We are encouraged that you have retained a firm to provide the city with professional demographic services. Should you wish to discuss settlement possibilities, please do not hesitate to call me at 916-642-6352.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Hulett  
National Senior Counsel



June 26, 2015

**VIA FACSIMILE AND U. S. MAIL**

Denise Hulett  
National Senior Counsel  
MALDEF  
634 S. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

Re: Garden Grove – District Elections

Dear Ms. Hulett:

As a follow-up to my letter of June 11, 2015, please be advised that on June 23, 2015 the City Council directed the Interim City Manager to enter into a contract with the Dolinka Group to perform professional demographic services relating to voting patterns in the City of Garden Grove. This action is in furtherance of the City Council's decision to determine whether racially polarized voting exists in the City. For your reference, the Staff report to the City Council and the proposal by the Dolinka Group may be accessed on the City's website (click on the following: 1. Most Requested; 2. Agendas and Videos; View 6/23/15 City Council Meeting; 4. Full Agenda; 5. Item. 21.f.).

As you know, in my June 11, 2015 letter to you, I noted the statement in your June 3, 2015 letter that MALDEF has performed a review of Garden Grove election returns, demographic information and Spanish-surname analysis of votes cast by precinct. I requested that MALDEF provide this study to Garden Grove in order to assist Garden Grove in its analysis of this matter. Having received no response from you, I renew my request for this study.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

WOODRUFF, SPRADLIN & SMART  
A Professional Corporation

THOMAS F. NIXON  
City Attorney, City of Garden Grove

cc: Allan L. Roeder, Interim City Manager  
Mayor Bao Nguyen  
Mayor Pro Tem Steve Jones  
City Council Member Kris Beard  
City Council Member Christopher Phan  
City Council Member Phat Bui

June 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE AND U. S. MAIL

Denise Hulett  
National Senior Counsel  
MALDEF  
634 S. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

Re: Garden Grove – District Elections

Dear Ms. Hulett:

The City of Garden Grove (“City”) is in receipt of your letter of June 3, 2015 regarding the above-referenced matter. As you are likely aware, the discussion of a possible move by the City to district elections was initiated by Garden Grove City Council Member Kris Beard at the May 12, 2015 City Council meeting, at which time the City Council unanimously agreed to place the subject of district elections on the May 26, 2015 City Council agenda. At that time, the Council began substantial discussions on the issue.

Please be advised that at the June 9, 2015 City Council meeting, the City Council directed that the Garden Grove Staff bring back to the City Council a proposal(s) from a qualified consultant to prepare a demographic study to determine whether or not racially polarized voting exists in the City. The City Staff is taking immediate steps to fulfill this City Council direction.

I note that in your June 3, 2015 letter, you state that MALDEF has performed a review of Garden Grove election returns, demographic information and Spanish-surname analysis of votes cast by precinct. In order to assist Garden Grove in its analysis of this matter, the City requests that MALDEF provide this study to Garden Grove.

June 11, 2015

Page 2

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

WOODRUFF, SPRADLIN & SMART  
A Professional Corporation

*Thomas F. Nixon*

THOMAS F. NIXON *SM*

City Attorney, City of Garden Grove

cc: Allan L. Roeder, Interim City Manager  
Mayor Bao Nguyen  
Mayor Pro Tem Steve Jones  
City Council Member Kris Beard  
City Council Member Christopher Phan  
City Council Member Phat Bui

**Weekly Memo 7/09/15**

**NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLES**





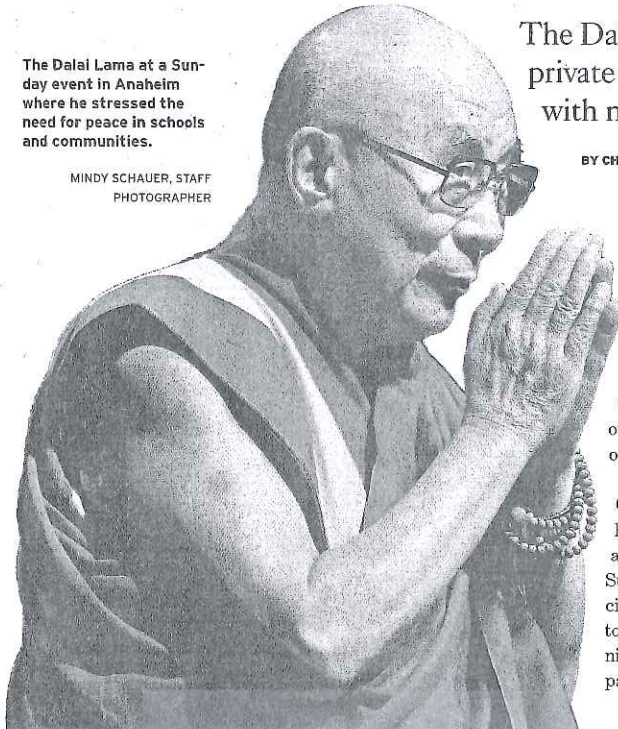
The 14th Dalai Lama blows out candles on a birthday cake Garden Grove officials presented to celebrate his 80th birthday on Sunday.

COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

# COMMON GROUND

The Dalai Lama at a Sunday event in Anaheim where he stressed the need for peace in schools and communities.

MINDY SCHAUER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The Dalai Lama meets with Mayor Bao Nguyen in a small, private gathering – receiving key to city and connecting with many residents who fled after fall of Saigon.

BY CHRIS HAIRE • STAFF WRITER

One is the exiled leader of Tibetan Buddhism; the other is the mayor of Garden Grove, who became a refugee as an infant.

And together Sunday afternoon, they looked at each other, smiled and bowed to one another.

The 14th Dalai Lama, in Orange County this week for his 80th birthday celebration and for a Global Compassion Summit, made an unpublicized visit to Garden Grove – a town the City Council recently nicknamed “the city of compassion.”

“At 24, I lost my country,” the Dalai Lama said during his short remarks. “And many of you are also refugees. We have a special connection.”

He was speaking to the large group of invited Vietnamese-Americans and other community members who attended the Dalai Lama’s visit to the Hyatt in Garden Grove, many of whom – including Mayor Bao Nguyen – fled their homeland in the wake of Saigon falling to northern forces 40 years ago.

Orange County’s Little Saigon, whose sphere of influence

“

At 24, I lost my country. And many of you are also refugees. We have a special connection.”

THE DALAI LAMA

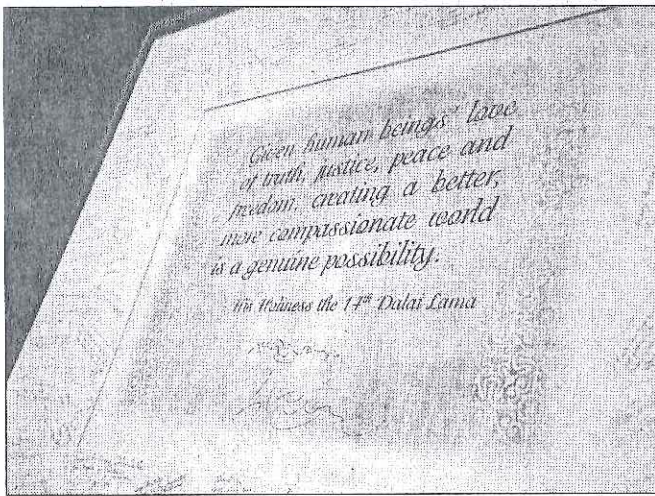
SEE HOLINESS • PAGE 7





COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen helps the Dalai Lama to his seat Sunday in the Hyatt's conference center.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

A quote by the Dalai Lama, which he signed Sunday, will hang in City Hall in Garden Grove.

## HOLINESS

FROM PAGE 1

includes Garden Grove, Westminster, Santa Ana and Fountain Valley, has the largest concentration of Vietnamese outside Southeast Asia.

Many among the first-generation Vietnamese refugees have long opposed the Communist Party, and have sworn to not return to Vietnam until it improves its human rights and democracy records.

The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 after China took over. He received political asylum in India.

In his speech, the Dalai Lama urged compassion and understanding toward all people, re-

gardless of differences.

"Anger and fear," he said, "are very harmful. They destroy our peace of mind and eventually our hearts."

Nguyen, who studied Tibetan Buddhism in college and asked the Dalai Lama to bless a jar of Garden Grove soil, spoke emotionally about the message of one of his heroes.

"This is an inconceivable blessing for me," he said. "I want to be someone like him. What we need in leadership is someone who isn't afraid to be compassionate. We can be kind and compassionate to each other."

CONTACT THE WRITER:

714-704-3707 or  
chaire@ocregister.com





COURTESY OF GARDEN GROVE

**Councilmen Phat Bui, Kris Beard, Chris Phan and Mayor Bao Nguyen shovel dirt on a new live oak tree planted in Civic Center Park honoring the Dalai Lama.**

### Trees of compassion

Garden Grove and Westminster planted trees last week to celebrate the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday.

Westminster planted a purple crepe myrtle tree in Sid Goldstein Freedom Park, 14180 All American Way, which is also the site of the city's Vietnam War Memorial.

Garden Grove, meanwhile, planted a live oak tree in Civic Center Park, across from City Hall on Acacia Parkway. During the planting, the city filmed a video wishing the Dalai Lama happy birthday by having residents and employees holding signs urging compassion, love and understanding.

Both trees are meant as symbols of compassion.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER

**Westminster Mayor Tri Ta and Councilmen Tyler Diep and Sergio Contreras shovel dirt during the planting of a purple crepe myrtle tree for the Dalai Lama.**

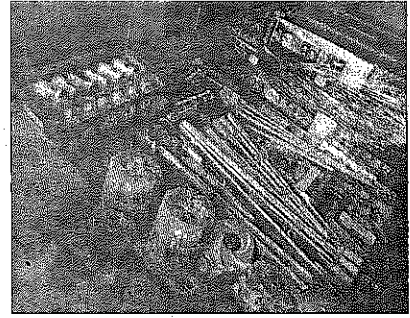
# Reduced patrols cite fewer for illegal fireworks

BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

The Garden Grove Police Department, on Saturday, handed out 43 citations with \$1,000 fines to people using illegal fireworks or using "Safe and Sane" products inappropriately.

That is down from 51 tickets officers gave out during 2014's Independence Day. In 2007, police issued 126 citations and the number has decreased each year since.

Lt. Robert Bogue, the depart-



ISAAC ARJONILLA, FILE PHOTO

**A large collection of different types of confiscated fireworks.**

ment's spokesman, recently attributed the decline to a budget-forced lack of resources. In the early 2000s, every Garden Grove police officer worked the holiday. This year, about 25 officers patrolled the city of 170,000 for fireworks violations.

SEE TICKETS •

## TICKETS

In Stanton, Orange County Sheriff's deputies responded to 41 fireworks-

related calls on the Fourth of July, said Lt. Jeff Hallock, department spokesman. Those calls made up 40 percent of all calls the Stanton substation received Saturday.

Westminster received

372 calls for service, with fewer than one-third of calls related to fireworks, police said.

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

Garden Grove Journal / Register  
July 9, 2015

# THE



## THINGS TO KNOW

Garden Grove Journal / Register  
July 9, 2015

BY CHRIS HAIRE | STAFF WRITER

## Vietnamese activist freed after 2.5 years

Vietnamese activist Le Quoc Quan is free after 30 months in prison – for what officials in Hanoi said was tax offenses but what human rights workers said was meant to silence dissent.

Rep. Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, who represents parts of Garden Grove and Westminster, welcomed Quan's release and decried Vietnam's continued lack of democracy and free-speech rights.

Lowenthal's district includes the largest concentration of those with Vietnamese ethnicity outside of Southeast Asia.

"The Vietnamese government deserves no praise for the release of someone falsely imprisoned for nothing more than standing up for the basic human rights of the Vietnamese people," he said.



COURTESY OF SHAKESPEARE SUMMERFEST ORANGE COUNTY

Evelyn Carol Case and John Walcutt share the stage in Shakespeare Summerfest Orange County's production of "MacBeth" in 2013.

Everybody loves free stuff.

And the Garden Grove Community Foundation is giving away free theater tickets.

While the supply lasts, the Garden Grove Community Foundation is giv-

ing out tickets to this season's Shakespeare/Summerfest Orange County productions.

The company, which performs at the Festival Amphitheater on Main Street, is performing "Romeo and Juliet" until Aug. 1.

Other performances will include "As you Like it," "Walt Whitman Sings," "Pirates of Penzance" and the return of the one-man show "Trieu Tran Unplugged."

For more information, call 714-741-5168 or visit [shakespeareoc.org](http://shakespeareoc.org).



AP FILE PHOTO

Dissident Le Quoc Quan, right, listens to a judge at his trial on Oct. 2, 2013, in Hanoi, Vietnam. He was convicted, then released last week.

## Firefighters fill some big boots

Garden Grove firefighters certainly filled some big shoes – or, rather, boots.

About 35 firefighters, including Chief Tom Schultz, raised more than \$9,000 recently during the annual Fill the Boot fundraiser to help fight muscular dystrophy.

The group strolled the in-

tersection of Harbor Boulevard and Chapman Avenue from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 27, asking stopped drivers and passersby to drop money into their boots. Proceeds go to local Muscular Dystrophy Association programs.

Last year, the department raised \$7,000.



COURTESY OF THE GARDEN GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Tom Schultz, center, and two other firefighters during the Fill the Boot fundraiser.

# Dalai Lama visits Garden Grove

His Holiness speaks about compassion to more than 1,000 at Hyatt Regency hotel

Recognized as the most influential spiritual leader of Tibetans and other Buddhists worldwide, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama made an inaugural visit to Garden Grove on Sunday, to share his message of peace, understanding, responsibility, and compassion with the community.

His Holiness spoke before a capacity crowd of more than 1,100 attendees gathered for "A Celebration of Compassion" at the Garden Grove Hyatt Regency hotel.

"Our community was truly honored to host this very special visit by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, especially during such an important occasion as his 80th birthday. His Holiness not only imparted profound spirituality and wisdom, he shared his genuine love and appreciation for all people, through his words, his humor, and his deep humility. It was a most uniquely meaningful experience for everyone there," says Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen.

At the event, the Garden Grove City Council presented His Holiness with a customized Key to the City, the City's Proclamation proclaiming Garden Grove as a City of Compassion, and a video produced by the City's GGTV3 Cable team.

The video included the recent planting of a Coast Live Oak tree in Civic Center Park, near Acacia Parkway, in honor of His Holiness' 80th birthday. Mayor Nguyen and members of the Garden Grove City Council participated in the planting, along with representatives from the Interfaith Council of Garden Grove,

Stanton, and Westminster, and personnel from the Garden Grove police and fire departments. The video is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/F-CgZ8Jlb7c>.

As part of the city's presentations to His Holiness at the event, Mayor Bao Nguyen asked for His Holiness to bless a jar of soil to be added to the young tree. The mayor also asked for His Holiness to sign a large, framed quote, to be put on display in Garden Grove City Hall. The quote by His Holiness reads, "Given human beings' love of truth, justice, peace, and freedom, creating a better, more passionate world is a genuine possibility."

The event was emceed by former NBC 4 News anchor Ann Curry. The program was also emceed by Reverend Kusala Bhikshu, an American born monk ordained in the Zen tradition of

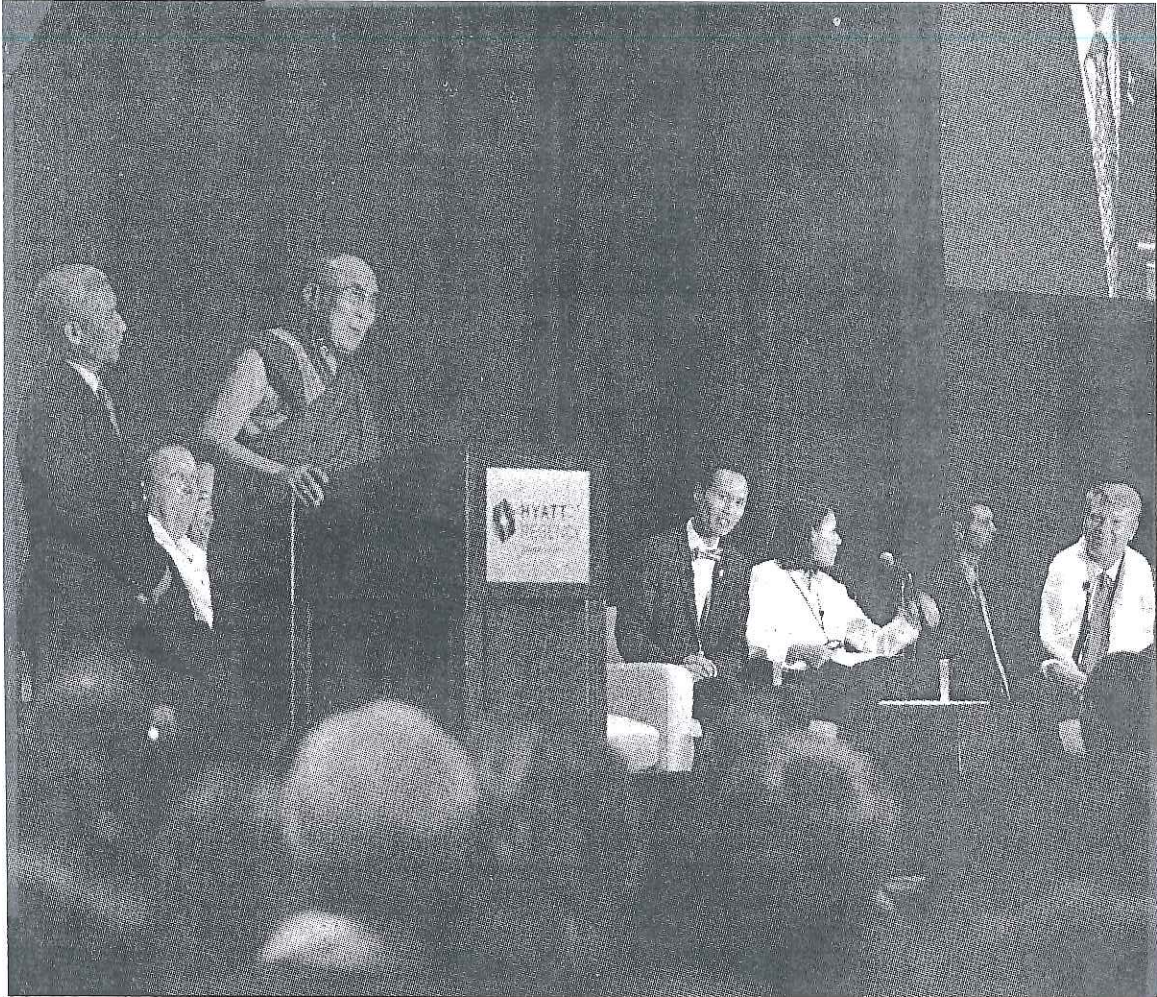
Vietnam. A regular speaker and volunteer throughout Los Angeles County, he also serves as a member of the Interfaith Council of Garden Grove, Stanton, and Westminster, and formerly served as the first Buddhist Chaplain for the Garden Grove Police Department.

The free event was presented in collaboration with The Venerable Lama Tenzin Dhonden, the personal emissary for peace to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, and the Friends of the Dalai Lama, an independent, non-profit organization, founded to amplify the positive messages of His Holiness.

The city wishes to thank its sponsors, the Garden Grove Tourism Promotion Corporation; the Garden Grove Community Foundation; Republic Services; the Hyatt Regency hotel; and the Nguyen Family Foundation.



Orange County News  
July 8, 2015  
2 of 2



Courtesy photo

The Dalai Lama speaks at the Garden Grove Hyatt Regency hotel on Sunday as part of a celebration of compassion. To the right of the podium is Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen. The Dalai Lama was in Orange County July 5-7. He celebrated his 80th birthday on July 6.





Courtesy photos

Engineer Steve Fellner buddies up with a young man coping with muscular dystrophy at a recent Fill The Boot event, which raised \$9,000 to fight the insipid disease.



Twenty five Garden Grove firefighters, along with fire Chief Tom Schultz, helped raise funds to fight muscular dystrophy at a recent Fill The Boot fundraiser.

# Firefighters raise \$9,000 to fight disease

## Fill The Boot event involves firefighters, fire chief and Muscular Dystrophy Association reps

Garden Grove Fire Department firefighters joined the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) on Saturday at the Grove District – Anaheim Resort at this year's Fill The Boot event.

This event was a success largely in part to engineer Steve Fellner, who worked with the MDA to

coordinate the event. Twenty five firefighters along with the fire chief took to the streets with turnout boots to accept donations from the public. Due to the generosity of the community, the total for the event exceeded the previous record of \$7,000, coming in at over \$9,000.

"On behalf of the fire depart-

ment, I would like to thank everyone who came out and supported such a worthy event. It shows that people in our community really do care," said fire Chief Tom Schultz.

The Fill The Boot event raises money for the MDA in its fight against muscular dystrophy. Ac-

cording to the MDA, 77 cents of every dollar goes to their mission to save and improve lives of people fighting muscle disease, which includes research to find treatments and cures.

All funds raised in Orange County stay in the local communities to support MDA programs.



# Kids claim Splash Pad is coooool...

**With the heat wave continuing, kids flock to Atlantis Play Center's water feature**

**By Loreen Berlin**

Perhaps Garden Grove residents and those visiting from other cities have heard about Atlantis Play Center and experienced Halloween, winter or Easter events there, but a little-known secret is the Splash Pad, which is a good place to cool off in the summer.

Recently, at a pool in Garden Grove, it was "rumored" that there was a new splash pad for youngsters at Atlantis. Checking that out, staff members said "yes," it is a well-kept secret, but "no," it's not a new splash pad. The splash pad opened three years ago last month, so it's time to go see and experience the splash pad from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays through Saturdays.

If you plan to attend, staff starts to clear out the park by 3:45 p.m.

There's a tall pelican that fills with water and is willing to empty its bill on any unsuspecting guests below and a tall yellow plastic bucket that will do the same, far above the children's heads, while a yellow and blue sand crab, a green turtle and a blue whale have water spurting around them for children to enjoy,

along with green sea horses that shoot water.

Water is recycled and is purified and has filters which take out the dirt.

"It works like a swimming pool, in that it's cleaned every day," said community service staff member Johnny Luna.

One guest from Santa Ana said she learned about the splash pad through her school.

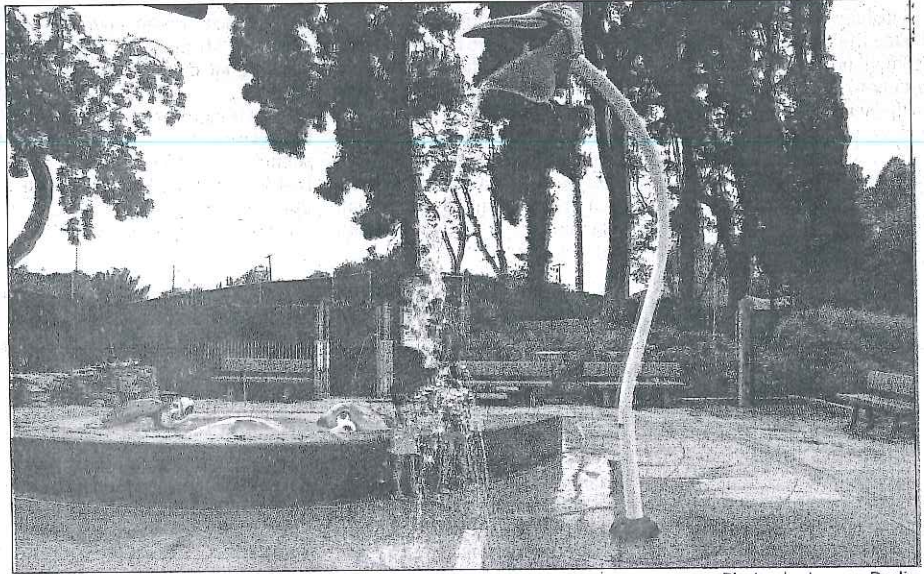
"I was in choir and my teacher told us about Atlantis and the splash pad," she said. "I used to come here with my school."

There are family campouts coming this month at Atlantis, where they have a campfire, games and crafts for children.

"Bring your tent and sleeping bags and we'll provide the rest. All children must be accompanied by an adult," several staff members said. The park is at 13630 Atlantis Way.

It's a children's park, where adults must be accompanied by a child.

For information, call 714-741-5200



Photos by Loreen Berlin

From left, Tram Cao and Joan Cao try to muster up the courage to run under the pelican and into the water.



Anthony Contreras, 2, has fun with one of the green seahorses at Atlantis Play Center's Splash Pad.



# Kids cool off at water park

By Loreen Berlin

Just in time for summer, after the water pump broke at the Harry M. Dotson Water Park in Stanton city officials got right on it and the problem has been resolved.

After seven years of summer use, the pump had served its time and had to be replaced.

The water features at Dotson Park are now operational and open seven days a week from noon to 5 p.m. through Sept. 7, where there are lots of water features for children to splash in, shoot friendly water guns at their friends across the quad, stand under the West Saloon to completely immerse themselves in water from head-to-toe or get sprinkled within the covered wagon.

Away from the water, there's a two-story pirate ship that's wheelchair accessible for the young and young at heart if water isn't your interest and there are plenty of climbing areas and a walkway around the inside perimeter for parents and children and tables and benches where foods can be enjoyed.

Stanton Community Services Director Julie Roman said, "July is Parks and Recreation Month in the City of Stanton and the city has special programs planned in July."

You'll see information on that subject in your Orange County News, as well.

Now, back to the Harry Dotson

Water Park as a great place to cool off in the steamy summer afternoons and also a place to hold parties. Friday afternoon, one young person was being treated to his birthday at the park, with cake and summer foods.

The Stanton City Council celebrated the opening of the 1.3 acre park, 10350 Fern St., on Nov. 8, 2008. The park was named for the late Mayor Harry M. Dotson, commemorating his legacy in the city and celebrating his love for children.

To begin with, the site was completely transformed and is now home to the fun interactive water park, which provides the community with a safe and inviting place to relax and have fun for the whole family.

Children's handprints on the entry gates welcome visitors of all ages into the western-themed re-circulating splash pad at Dotson Park, with covered shaded areas for resting. There are bio-swales in the park, which prevent urban runoff water from entering the storm drain. Water use in the park has been minimized through the creative use of drought-tolerant plants and the reduction of turf areas — all proactive designing before the current drought Southern California is experiencing.

For Stanton information, visit [www.ci.stanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.stanton.ca.us) or call 714-379-9222.



Photos by Loreen Berlin

A boy tries to block the water coming from one of the Western-themed water guns at Harry M. Dotson Park in Stanton.



Youngsters can shoot Western-themed water guns at their friends at Harry M. Dotson Park in Stanton.

Orange County News  
July 8, 2015



# Scout creates habitat at Garden Grove Park



Courtesy photo

Volunteers celebrate after creating a natural habitat at Garden Grove Park. The habitat will provide a home for native plants and pollinators such as butterflies, bees and birds. A Garden Grove Life Scout spearheaded the project. For story, see Page 3.

Orange County News  
July 8, 2015



# Local Scout knows all about the birds and the bees

Jack Minh Terry and other volunteers create natural habitat at GG Park

Jack Minh Terry, a Life Scout in Troop 167, with the assistance of 45 volunteers in his community, recently created a Natural Habitat and Sanctuary at Garden Grove Park.

Natural habitats have been destroyed or affected by urbanization, pollution, as well as by the use of pesticides and other chemicals.

Jack wanted to provide a suitable home for California native plants

and pollinators such as butterflies, bees and birds. Since these creatures pollinate one-third of our crops, we need to protect them.

The volunteers created a garden for pollinators, built a fence, created a walkway, built a sign and spread mulch over 200 square feet of space.

Pack 75 adopted the park to support Jack in his legacy to create a protected area for conserving species and natural habitats.

Orange County News  
July 8, 2015

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE  
NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS  
PROJECT NO. 7271

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for providing labor, material, tools, equipment and transportation, and to perform all the work required for the "BROOKHURST STREET REHABILITATION, PROJECT NO. 7271, FEDERAL PROJECT NO. STPL - 5328 (074) AND HAWK SIGNAL INSTALLATION AT HARBOR BOULEVARD AND TWINTREE LANE INTERSECTION, STATE PROJECT NO. ATPL - 5328 (075)" will be received at the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, City of Garden Grove, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840.

The proposed project consists of Roadway rehabilitation by full depth reclamation and cement treatment; asphalt paving; cold milling; replacement of PCC sidewalk, curb, curb & gutter, drive approach, cross gutter, and handicap ramps; Repairing sidewalk culvert and catch basin; adjustment of utility covers to finish grade; installation of video detection system; Installation of traffic striping, raised pavement markers, and signage; Installation of Redflex traffic loops; Reestablishment of centerline ties and monuments; and Installation of HAWK pedestrian signal located at Harbor Boulevard and Twintree Lane.

The plans, specifications and contract documents may be obtained upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each set of plans and specifications on the first floor at the Building Permit Counter in City Hall located at 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove. If plans are requested to be mailed, add twenty five dollars (\$25) for mailing and handling charges; request shall be to the attention of Department of Public Works/Engineering or call (714) 741-5192.

Bids are due in the City Clerk's Office by 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, and will be opened in Conference Room 1 - South, first floor, in City Hall.

Direct ANY and ALL questions to Mr. Nick Hsieh, Project Engineer, (714) 741-5190.

/s/ KATHLEEN BAILOR, CMC  
City Clerk

Date: June 22, 2015  
Publish: June 24, 2015, July 1, 2015, and July 8, 2015  
**Orange County News**  
15-50440  
Publish June 24, July 1, 8, 2015

## Opinion

# An open invitation to the Dalai Lama

By Tony Cheong

*So, I tell them I'm a pro jock, and who do you think they give me? The Dalai Lama, himself. Twelfth son of the Lama. The flowing robes, the grace, bald... striking. So, I'm on the first tee with him. I give him the driver. He hauls off and whacks one — big hitter, the Lama — long, into a 10,000-foot crevasse, right at the base of this glacier. Do you know what the Lama says? Gunga galunga... gunga, gunga-lagunga. So we finish the 18th and he's gonna stiff me. And I say, "Hey, Lama, hey, how about a little something, you know, for the effort, you know." And he says, "Oh, uh, there won't be any money, but when you die, on your deathbed, you will receive total consciousness." So I got that goin' for me, which is nice — Carl Spackler (Bill Murray), from the movie "Caddyshack"*

Carl Spackler isn't the only one the Dalai Lama stiffed.

Of course, we've moved onto the 14th Lama. A different man.

But the sentiment remains.

The Dalai Lama visited Orange County on July 5-7, and while he trekked over to Garden Grove (for about an hour), for which I give him credit, he skipped Westminster, a city that just might boast more Buddhists per capita than any city in Orange County. Further, Little Saigon is one of the most bustling, fascinating places in Orange County. Nothing quite like it. A must-see.

He could have stopped by Stanton, too. That city could use some spiritual healing.

It appears he restricted his visits to Garden Grove (which was kept a secret), Anaheim and Irvine. He held a Global Compassion Summit and celebrated his 80th birthday in Anaheim.

I have a Spackler-esque ques-

tion for His Holiness, on behalf Westminster: How about a little something for the effort? I should note that Westminster Mayor Tri Ta and members of the Westminster Interfaith Council WENT TO HIM in Garden Grove, but you get my point.

In fairness, the Lama wasn't in Orange County to solely mingle with Buddhists, but come on. If the Pope visited our neck of the woods, surely he would break bread with members of the Orange County Diocese of the Catholic Church, wouldn't he?

This isn't the first time. His Holiness visited Irvine in 2004 and 2011.

The same happens with political figures, save one, who I'll mention in a minute. Every time presidential candidates visit Orange County, you can count on them zeroing in on two tony areas where they can raise yacht-loads of money: Irvine and Newport Beach. President Obama did it. Presidential candidate Mitt Romney did it.

You know who did visit Little Saigon in Westminster? George W. Bush, when he was campaigning for the presidency. I don't have a pro-Bush agenda, I'm just giving him props for making the effort to visit a city that isn't going to result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in his campaign coffers.

But back to the Lama.

Memo from Tony on the Town: Thanks for visiting Garden Grove, but the next time you're in our backyard, you're invited to stop by Westminster, as well. Stanton, too.

And a question: As consolation, will Westminster-ites receive total consciousness on their deathbeds? Because at least they'd have that going for them, which would be nice.

# Free lunches available at schools

Program is designed to meet students' nutritional needs

Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch?

In Garden Grove there is.

Free lunches will be served during the summer school session at 19 locations in the Garden Grove Unified School District through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's summer food service program.

Lunches, provided at no charge, are designed to meet a student's nutritional needs. Any person 18 years of age or younger is eligible to take advantage of this

free program regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability.

"The summer meals program offers healthy lunches for children during the weeks when school is not in session," said Agnes Lally, district food services director. "This service is important for young people who normally receive school meals during the school year. Improper nutrition can lead to consequences such as health problems, low energy levels, and poor performance in school."

Orange County News  
July 8, 2015

# Officer shoots suspect carrying semi-automatic handgun

Suspect, a minor, pointed gun at officer, police say

On June 29, the Garden Grove Police Department received a call from an off-duty Santa Ana police officer who saw a suspect walking in the neighborhood around Fredrick Drive and Ninth Street.

The suspect was carrying a black semi-automatic handgun in his hand and then tucking it into his waist band. A Garden Grove officer found the suspect on the

south sidewalk at Chapman Avenue and Jacalene Lane. Police say the suspect pointed a handgun at the officer; the officer responded by shooting the suspect.

The suspect was given immediate medical attention and was transported to UCI Medical Center in Irvine. He is in stable condition. The suspect is a minor so his name will not be released.

The officer was not injured. The officer is off duty on paid leave pending an investigation of the incident.

The Orange County Crime Lab has been called to handle the crime scene and the Orange County District Attorney's Office has been called to handle the investigation.

*Justine Banal contributed to this report.*

# Police search for 2 robbery suspects

Shell gas station suffers \$500 loss

On June 29, Garden Grove police officers responded to a robbery at a Shell gas station at 12571 Valley View St.

Two suspects entered the business. Suspect No. 2 placed a soda on the counter in front of the

cashier. Suspect No. 1 displayed a semi-auto handgun and demanded money from the register. The suspects took \$500 in cash and fled on foot southbound on Valley View.

No suspect vehicle was seen. The clerk was not injured. Physical

evidence was collected and will be examined.

Police are asking for the public's help in identifying the suspects in the photograph.

Call Investigator Heine at 714-741-5422.



# GG students recognized by local rep

## High school juniors will participate in Boys State Conference in Sacramento

State Sen. Janet Nguyen is proud to recognize 20 students from California's 34th State Senate District — which includes Garden Grove and Westminster — participating in the annual American Legion California Boys State Conference.

The group of high school juniors was among approximately 1,000 high school students from across the state that participated in a seven-day educational program focusing on the inner workings of government.

The conference, hosted by California State University, Sacramento, culminated with the convening of the newly elected Boys State Legislature. The conference provided an opportunity for these students to apply the civic lessons they learned as they conducted mock legislative sessions, court proceedings and law-enforcement presentations, among many other activities.

"These young students should be applauded for their outstanding commitment to their education, as well as their excellent leadership skills," said Nguyen. "I commend the American Legion for promoting civic education and for taking an interest in developing our future leaders."

To recognize them for their participation, program participants visited Nguyen's office, and received certificates for their accomplishments and selection as Boys State delegates.

Following is the list of Boys State delegates living in 34th State Senate District:

- William D. Armstrong: Los Alamitos High School student and a resident of Garden Grove
- Vincent Leung: Pacifica High School student and a resident of Garden Grove
- Patrick A. Grieve: Pacifica High School student and a resident of Garden Grove
- David Lozano: Pacifica High School student and a resident of Garden Grove
- Matthew J. May: Pacifica High School student and a resident of Garden Grove
- Duncan T. Roepke: Pacifica High School student and a resident of Garden Grove
- Samuel J. Barke: Los Alamitos High School student and a resident of Rossmoor
- Alon G. Gary: Marina High School student and a resident of Huntington Beach
- Grant E. Gochman: Ocean View High School student and a resident of Huntington Beach
- Brandon M. Grosse: Saddleback High School student and a resident of Santa Ana
- Zachary R. Leingang: Fountain Valley High School student and a resident of Fountain Valley
- Daniel Lopez: Santa Ana High School student and a resident of Santa Ana
- Francisco Y. Luna: Century High School student and a resident of Santa Ana
- Nicholas J. Navaro: Segerstrom High School student and a resident of Santa Ana
- Cowen K. Ord: Ocean View High School student and a resident of Huntington Beach
- Thomas Pool: Leuzinger High School student and a resident of Long Beach
- Dale E. Reid: Los Alamitos High School student and a resident of Rossmoor
- Mark F. Schneider: Orange County School of the Arts student and a resident of Huntington Beach
- Omar Sosa: Santa Ana High School student and a resident of Santa Ana
- Noah C. Utley: Loyola High School student and a resident of Huntington Beach



# Community Calendar

Orange County News  
July 8, 2015

## Ongoing

Overachievers, check this out: 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 Christ Cathedral, 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.

## Movie night

The community is invited to enjoy an evening under the stars with free activities and a movie on Aug. 20 under the Clock Tower at Village Green Park, 12732 Main St. The movie? Disney's "Big Hero 6."

Snacks will be available for purchase during the event. For the safety and enjoyment of all, no canopies, golf carts, or alcohol is permitted in the park.

For more information, call the Community Services Department at 714-741-5200.

## Crooner advances

Tamsyn Jones of Garden Grove was named a finalist in the Creme de la Tributes singing contest on June 27 at the Orange County Market Place, the weekend swap meet at the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa.

Jones, who performed as Velma Kelly from the musical "Chicago" singing "All that Jazz," will now compete at KaraokeFest 2015 at the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona on Sept. 19.

KaraokeFest, presented by Karaoke Scene Magazine, is the largest event of its kind featuring karaoke style competitions for children 17 and under, adults 18 and over, Elvis tribute artists and other celebrity tributes.

Winners receive cash and merchandise awards.

More information about KaraokeFest can be found at [www.karaoke-scene.com](http://www.karaoke-scene.com) or by calling 714-826-2212.

## Missing man

On June 24, a Mr. Alvarez left his residence at 11301 Euclid St. in Garden Grove en route to a local pharmacy to pick up his prescription.

When he didn't return after an hour, family members went looking for him and could not find him.

After several hours of searching for him with no results, family members contacted the Anaheim Police Department, which took an initial report and conducted a preliminary investigation before forwarding it to detectives at the Garden Grove Police Department.

Mr. Alvarez has not been seen or heard from since leaving his home. According to family members, he is diabetic and in need of medication. He has mild dementia and can become disoriented.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Garden Grove Police Department at 714-741-5877.



# Garden Grove donation to Vietnam War Museum on hold

BY BROOKE E. SEIPEL  
STAFF WRITER

**GARDEN GROVE** • The Vietnam War Museum Foundation may lose out on its annual \$25,000 contribution from the city.

When it approved its fiscal 2016 budget last week, the Garden Grove City Council set aside the money for the foundation but has refused to disburse the funds until it is more confident about the museum's potential success.

Any decision likely will come after an August report by a council subcommittee on the long-stalled \$22 million museum, which would be on 15 acres on Harbor Boulevard.

"I would love to have a Vietnam War Museum," said City Councilman Phat Bui. "But if it isn't going anywhere, I don't want to spend a dime."

Typically, the city gives \$10,000 from the general fund, used to operate the city, and \$15,000 from the

cultural arts fund. But the city has no money left in the cultural arts fund, and if the council donates the funds this year, the \$25,000 would come from the general fund. That unsettles city officials.

"I want zero coming out of the general fund for this foundation," said Mayor Bao Nguyen. "It's a great idea, but we have heard from the public, and we haven't seen very much movement from the board."

So far, the foundation has raised \$206,539 - \$110,000 from the city - but has only \$64,798 in its coffers. The foundation has spent much of its time obtaining nonprofit status, organizing the board of directors and finding a vision for the museum, said Kim Huy, Garden Grove's community services director.

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
714-704-3793 or  
bseipel@ocregister.com

Register  
July 5, 2015



# Pyro sales pop and fizzle

Expanded legalization of fireworks may be shifting sales from city to city.

BY BROOKE EDWARDS STAGGS  
AND BIANCA ALMADA  
STAFF WRITERS

All week, 9-year-old Wellsley Jordan had been looking forward to one thing: buying fireworks.

Last July 4, purchasing even a small sparkler was illegal in Wellsley's hometown of Huntington Beach. Friday, her parents let her help pick out \$150 in fireworks from a booth run by the Ocean View High girls basketball team - one of 15 nonprofits that won a lottery to sell "Safe and Sane" devices leading up to today.

"I think it's wrong that they took them away," her dad, Louis Jordan, said. "I'm glad they're allowing them again."

Ten Orange County cities now allow "Safe and Sane" fireworks in their borders. The new cities this year are Anaheim and Huntington.

Booths in most cities have extended hours today. That gives customers a chance to stock up on Mad Dog Fountains and Pyro Pack Bags while giving non-

## FOURTH

FROM PAGE 1

profits more time to raise needed funds.

Business was booming Friday at booths in Huntington Beach and Anaheim, which also started allowing sales again this year at a superstore at Honda Center. But volunteers say it's been slower this year at California Youth Soccer League's booth in Santa Ana, where fireworks have been sold since 1940.

Soccer dad Arturo Saucedo has volunteered to help run the stand on Grand Avenue and McFadden Boulevard for the past seven years. The league uses money from sales of fireworks - which range from \$1 poppers to \$500 "Big Bang" packages - to buy trophies for players, Saucedo said, plus to offer scholarships for kids who otherwise couldn't afford to play.

"It's a lot of work," Saucedo said, "but it's worth it to help the kids."

Colony of Performing Arts has operated a fireworks stand in the same Garden Grove location since 1978. Director Dan Collins couldn't yet say whether the legalization of fireworks in Anaheim was cutting into their sales this year, but he was optimistic sales would surge until they shut down at around 10 to-

night.

"We have such a loyal base of clients that come back to us every year," Collins said.

Louie Martinez of Anaheim used to set off fireworks in surrounding cities, including Garden Grove and Fullerton, before they became legal in Anaheim for the first time since triggering a fire in 1986.

"Since they just re-legalized fireworks in Anaheim, I know the authorities are probably going to be watching us pretty closely," Martinez said. "So more of a reason to be careful."

Customers regularly ask for mortars at the Oiler Youth Football and Cheer booth in Huntington Beach, chair Ashley Penner said.

"I have to tell them, if it's not on the ground, it's illegal," Penner said, as she put a safety pamphlet in each customer's bag.

Penner watched YouTube videos so she can explain the different fireworks and make recommendations. She's hoping the effort will help the Oilers' match sales a couple years ago, when fireworks were last legal in town and the group made \$60,000.

"Without it, I don't know how we would have been able to have a league," Penner said.

CONTACT THE WRITER:  
714-796-7963 or  
bstaggs@ocregister.com

Register  
July 4, 2015

Register  
July 3, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**City closed:** City Hall will be closed two Fridays in a row, beginning today. City Hall is open alternating Fridays to keep down costs, and the next Friday it is scheduled to be closed is July 10. But because Saturday is Independence Day, the city is observing it today.

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

Register  
July 4, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Tickets:** The Garden Grove Community Foundation is giving away two free tickets per household for Shakespeare/Summerfest Orange County's latest season at the Festival Amphitheater on Main Street. Tickets are available while they last. This season includes five productions and ends in September. Information: 714-741-5168

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

Register  
July 6, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Karaoke finalists:** Garden Grove residents Tamsyn Jones and Julio Berger are among 20 finalists for KaraokeFest's Creme de la Tributes Contest, scheduled for Sept 19 at the Los Angeles County Fair. The pair advanced to the finals after a qualifying round June 27 at the Orange County Fair & Event Center. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
July 7, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Cool down:** The city's H. Louis Lake Senior Center is a public cooling center during the summer, when the weather regularly reaches upward of 90 degrees. The air-conditioned center, at 11300 Stanford Ave., is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven day a week. Information: 714-741-5253. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
July 8, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Fireworks citations:** The Police Department handed out 43 \$1,000 citations on Saturday to those using illegal fireworks or using "safe and sane" ones inappropriately, Lt. Robert Bogue said. That is down from 51 citations during Independence Day in 2014 - continuing a trend of decreasing citations since 2007. Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
July 9, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Volunteers to be honored:** The Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce will honor longtime city volunteers Terry B. and Jo Ann Thomas as the 2015 Man and Woman of the Year from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday at the Embassy Suites Anaheim. The gala's theme this year is "Celebrating Community Pride." Chris Haire, 714-704-3707



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

CONTACT: Kim Huy (714) 741-5280  
Community Services Director

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

## **GARDEN GROVE DAY AT OC FAIR, AUGUST 7**

The OC Fair has invited all 34 Orange County cities to celebrate their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the 'City Days' campaign designed to highlight each city's hometown spirit. On Garden Grove's day, Friday, August 7, 2015, the Mayor and City Council will lead fairgoers in singing the National Anthem during a flag raising ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

To show support for Garden Grove, community members are encouraged to wear clothes that highlight the city including: cheer outfits, baseball caps, Boy and Girl Scout uniforms, shirts with the City logo or the City's colors.

The Garden Grove Unified School District will participate with several performances from the various high school clubs, sports teams, and groups within the District. About 100 students and their families are expected to attend.

\$2 discount admission coupons are available for the general public, courtesy of the OC Fair. Coupons can be picked up on the first floor of Garden Grove City Hall, located at 11222 Acacia Parkway.

The OC Fair is located at 88 Fair Drive in Costa Mesa. For more information, visit [www.ocfair.com](http://www.ocfair.com) or call the City's Office of Community Relations at (714) 741-5280.

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# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Contact: Denise Kehn (714) 741-5036  
City Clerk's Office

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

### **PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS NOW ON CITY'S WEBSITE**

Public records requests can now be submitted on the City of Garden Grove's website at [www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us](http://www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us) under On-Line Services. The online process facilitates and expedites the processing of public records requests. The request must be sufficiently explained and specific to allow staff to locate the requested record(s).

The City Clerk's Office will determine within 10 days from receiving a request, whether the request, in whole or in part, are copies of disclosable public records in possession of the City.

The California State Legislature adopted the Public Records Act in 1975, which requires local government agencies make public records available upon request. The public can inspect or receive a copy of any record except those documents that are exempt from disclosure by express provisions of law or considered confidential or privileged under the law.

For more information, call (714) 741-5036.

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CONTACT: Kim Huy (714) 741-5200  
Community Services Director

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

Monday, July 06, 2015

## **HIS HOLINESS THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DALAI LAMA MAKES FIRST-TIME VISIT TO GARDEN GROVE**

Recognized as the most influential spiritual leader of Tibetans and other Buddhists worldwide, His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama made an inaugural visit to Garden Grove on Sunday, to share his message of peace, understanding, responsibility, and compassion with the community. His Holiness spoke before a capacity crowd of over 1,100 attendees gathered for "A Celebration of Compassion" at the Garden Grove Hyatt Regency hotel.

"Our community was truly honored to host this very special visit by His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, especially during such an important occasion as his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. His Holiness not only imparted profound spirituality and wisdom, he shared his genuine love and appreciation for all people, through his words, his humor, and his deep humility. It was a most uniquely meaningful experience for everyone there," says Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen.

At the event, the Garden Grove City Council presented His Holiness with a customized Key to the City, the City's Proclamation proclaiming Garden Grove as a City of Compassion, and a video produced by the City's GGTV3 Cable team.

The video included the recent planting of a Coast Live Oak tree in Civic Center Park, near Acacia Parkway, in honor of His Holiness' 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mayor Nguyen and members of the Garden Grove City Council participated in the planting, along with representatives from the Interfaith Council of Garden Grove, Stanton,

-more-

HIS HOLINESS MAKES FIRST-TIME VISIT TO GARDEN GROVE  
2-2-2

and Westminster, and personnel from the Garden Grove Police and Fire Departments. The video is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/F-CgZ8Jlb7c>.

As part of the City's presentations to His Holiness at the event, Mayor Bao Nguyen asked for His Holiness to bless a jar of soil to be added to the young tree. The Mayor also asked for His Holiness to sign a large, framed quote, to be put on display in Garden Grove City Hall. The quote by His Holiness reads, "Given human beings' love of truth, justice, peace, and freedom, creating a better, more passionate world is a genuine possibility."

The event was emceed by former NBC 4 News anchor Ann Curry. The program was also emceed by Reverend Kusala Bhikshu, an American born monk ordained in the Zen Tradition of Vietnam. A regular speaker and volunteer throughout Los Angeles County, he also serves as a member of the Interfaith Council of Garden Grove, Stanton, and Westminster, and formerly served as the first Buddhist Chaplain for the Garden Grove Police Department.

The free event was presented in collaboration with The Venerable Lama Tenzin Dhonden, the personal emissary for peace to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, and the Friends of the Dalai Lama, an independent, non-profit organization, founded to amplify the positive messages of His Holiness.

The City wishes to thank its sponsors, the Garden Grove Tourism Promotion Corporation; the Garden Grove Community Foundation; Republic Services; the Hyatt Regency hotel; and the Nguyen Family Foundation.

For more Celebration of Compassion photos, visit the City of Garden Grove website at [www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us](http://www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us), Facebook, and Instagram.



# 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) 741-5200  
Ban Phục Vụ Cộng Đồng

Thứ Tư, 8/7/2015

### **ĐỨC ĐẠT LAI LẠT MA THỨ 14 ĐẾN THĂM GARDEN GROVE LẦN ĐẦU TIÊN**

Được công nhận là lãnh đạo tinh thần có ảnh hưởng nhất của người Tây Tạng và Phật tử trên toàn thế giới, Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma thứ 14 đã có chuyến viếng thăm đặc biệt Garden Grove vào ngày Chủ nhật để chia sẻ thông điệp của ông về hòa bình, sự hiểu biết, trách nhiệm và tình thương với cộng đồng. Ngài đã chia sẻ với hơn 1,100 người tới tham dự "Lễ Hội Từ Bi" tại hội trường khách sạn Garden Grove Hyatt Regency.

Thị trưởng Garden Grove Bảo Nguyễn chia sẻ, "Cộng đồng của chúng ta đã thực sự vinh dự mời được Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma thứ 14 ghé thăm, đặc biệt là trong thời gian nhân dịp sinh nhật lần thứ 80 của Ngài. Ngài không chỉ truyền đạt tâm linh sâu sắc và trí tuệ, ông đã chia sẻ tình yêu đích thực của mình và đánh giá cao cho tất cả mọi người qua những lời nói hài hước của ông, và sự khiêm nhường sâu sắc. Đó là một kinh nghiệm độc đáo có ý nghĩa nhất đối với tất cả mọi người ở đây."

Để chúc mừng sinh nhật 80 của ngài, Thị Trưởng Bảo Nguyễn và Hội Đồng Thành Phố Garden Grove tham dự lễ trồng cây Coast Live Oak ở công viên Civic Center Park, gần đường Acacia Parkway, cùng với đại diện Hội Đồng Liên Tôn ở Garden Grove, Stanton, và Westminster và nhân viên Sở Cảnh Sát và Sở Cứu Hỏa Garden Grove. Băng video này có thể xem ở YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/F-CgZ8Jlb7c>.

Thị Trưởng Báo Nguyễn cũng đã cung thỉnh Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma ban phước lành cho một hũ đất để đưa vào ở gốc cây mới trồng. Thị Trưởng cũng thỉnh Ngài ký vào một câu nói của Ngài được đóng khung sẽ treo ở tòa thị chính Garden Grove City Hall. Câu trích của Ngài được đóng khung là: "Khi đã có lòng yêu thương sự thật, công lý, hòa bình, và tự do, việc tạo ra một thế giới tử bi hơn là có thể có được."

Chương trình điều hợp bởi MC là cô Ann Curry, cựu phóng viên/xướng ngôn viên đài NBC 4 News. Chương trình của điều hợp bởi MC là nhà sư Kusala Bhikshu, một nhà sư sinh ở Hoa Kỳ và thọ giới cụ túc trong truyền thống Thiền Việt Nam (có pháp danh khác là Thích Tâm Thiện.)

Sự kiện này được mang tới trong sự hợp tác với Lạc Ma Tenzin Dhonden, phái viên cá nhân Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma thứ 14, và hội những người bạn của Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma, một tổ chức độc lập, phi phụ lợi, được thành lập để khuếch đại các thông điệp tích cực của sự thánh thiện của Ngài.

Thành phố xin cảm ơn các nhà tài trợ, Tổng công ty Garden Grove Tourism Promotion Corporation; Garden Grove Community Foundation; Republic Services; Khách sạn Hyatt Regency; và Nguyễn Family Foundation.

Để xem những hình ảnh của "Lễ Hội Từ Bi", xin mời coi tại trang nhà của Thành phố [www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us](http://www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us), Facebook và Instagram.

# # #





# 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 Công tác Cộng Đồng

Thứ Tư, 8 tháng 7, 2015

### **GARDEN GROVE MỜI THAM DỰ NGHE NHẠC MÙA HÈ**

Garden Grove Community Foundation (GGCF) phối hợp cùng Thành phố Garden Grove để mang đến cộng đồng những buổi nghe nhạc miễn phí ngoài trời vào mùa hè 2015. Năm này sẽ có tổng cộng 6 buổi concert, sẽ được trình diễn vào mỗi tối Thứ Năm tại Eastgate Park, địa chỉ là 12001 St. Mark Street, góc đường Valley View & Chapman.

Những người yêu âm nhạc có thể đem ghế ngồi, hoặc thức ăn nhẹ tới để tham dự (vì lý do an toàn, xin đừng đem ống dòm, xe golf, hoặc rượu bia theo.) Ở đây sẽ có những gian hàng bán thức ăn, để mọi người thưởng thức âm nhạc và tận hưởng không khí ấm áp của mùa Hè. Những buổi trình diễn concert sẽ tiếp diễn vào mỗi Thứ Năm, cho tới ngày 13 tháng 8, 2015.

Ngày 9 tháng 7, The Funky Hippeez (70's Funk)  
Ngày 16 tháng 7, Brad Johnson & The Killing Time Band (Country)  
Ngày 23 tháng 7, DSB (Journey Tribute Band)  
Ngày 30 tháng 7, Grilled Cheese Soundwich (90's to Today)  
Ngày 6 tháng 8, Flashback Heart Attack (New Wave 80's)  
Ngày 13 tháng 8, Stone Soul (Motown)

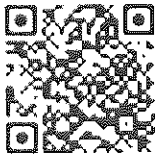
Những buổi nghe nhạc trong mùa hè 2015 đều miễn phí và được bảo trợ bởi Thành phố Garden Grove, Sở vệ sinh Garden Grove, GKN Aerospace, và AT&T Services. Để biết thêm chi tiết, liên lạc về số điện thoại (714) 741-5280, hoặc website là [www.ggcf.org](http://www.ggcf.org), hoặc theo dõi trên trang mạng xã hội #ggsummerconcerts trên Twitter hoặc Instagram.

# # #

VIETBAO

## Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma Thăm Little Saigon, Mời Gọi Từ Bi

07/07/2015 00:00:00



GARDEN GROVE (VB) -- Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma đã thăm Garden Grove hôm Chủ Nhật 5-7-2015, chia sẻ thông điệp về hòa bình, cảm thông, trách nhiệm và từ bi với cộng đồng.

Ngài nói trước cử tọa hơn 1,100 người tới dự "Lễ hội Từ Bi" tại hội trường khách sạn Garden Grove Hyatt Regency.

Bảo Nguyễn, Thị Trưởng Garden Grove, nói: "Cộng đồng chúng tôi thực sự vinh dự tổ chức tiếp đón chuyến viếng thăm đặc biệt của Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma, đặc biệt là trong dịp lễ sinh nhật 80 của ngài. Không chỉ mang tới trí tuệ và tinh thần thâm sâu, ngài chia sẻ tình yêu thương chân thực và cảm thông tới mọi người, xuyên qua lời ngài, qua nét khôi hài tế nhị và lòng khiêm tốn thâm sâu. Đây là kinh nghiệm có ý nghĩa độc đáo nhất cho mọi người nơi đây."

Hội Đồng Thành Phố Garden Grove đã trao tặng ngài Chìa Khóa Thành Phố, trao bản Tuyên Bó để gọi Garden Grove là Thành Phố Từ Bi, và một video thực hiện bởi nhóm GGTV3 Cable của thành phố.

Băng video này cho thấy mới đây cảnh trồng cây Coast Live Oak ở công viên Civic Center Park, gần đường Acacia Parkway, để chúc mừng sinh nhật 80 của ngài.

Thị Trưởng Bảo Nguyễn và Hội Đồng Thành Phố Garden Grove tham dự lễ trồng cây này cùng với đại diện Hội Đồng Liên Tôn ở Garden Grove, Stanton, và Westminster, và nhân viên Ty Cảnh Sát1 và Ty Cứu Hóa Garden Grove.

Băng video này có thể xem ở YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/F-CgZ8Jlb7c>.

Thị Trưởng Bao Nguyen cũng đã cung thỉnh Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma ban phước lành cho một hũ đất để sẽ đưa vaá ở gốc cây mới trồng.

Thị Trưởng cũng thỉnh ngài ký vào một câu nói của ngài được đóng khung để sẽ treo ở tòa thị chính Garden Grove City Hall. Câu trích của ngài được đóng khung là:

"Khi đã có lòng yêu thương sự thật, công lý, hòa bình, và tự do, việc tạo ra một thế giới từ bi hơn là có thể có được."

Chương trình điều hợp bởi MC là cô Ann Curry, cựu phóng viên/xướng ngôn viên đài NBC 4 News.

Chương trình của điều hợp bởi MC là nhà sư Kusala Bhikshu, một nhà sư sinh ở Hoa Kỳ và thọ giới cụ túc trong truyền thống Thiền Việt Nam (có pháp danh khác là Thích Tâm Thiện, xem: <http://kusala.org/>).

Nhà sư Kusala Bhikshu hoạt động thiện nguyện trong khắp quận Los Angeles County, cũng là thành viên Hội Đồng Liên Tôn 3 thành phố Garden Grove, Stanton, và Westminster, và là cựu Tuyên úy Phật giáo cho Ty Cảnh Sát Garden Grove.

Chương trình miễn phí thực hiện với sự hợp tác của đại sư Lama Tenzin Dhonden, đặc sứ hòa bình của Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma, và với Hội Friends of the Dalai Lama, một hội bất vụ lợi, độc lập.





Hình ảnh Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma tại Khách Sạn Garden Grove Hyatt Regency.

Có thêm nhiều hình ảnh ở:

[www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us](http://www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us), Facebook, và Instagram

Sau đây là thêm một số chi tiết về cộng đồng Việt Nam.

Tham dự buổi lễ có ông Thị Trưởng Thành Phố Garden Grove Nguyễn Quốc Bảo, Phó Thị Trưởng Steven R. Jones còn có một quý vị Nghị Viên và viên chức trong thành phố (Ngoại trừ Nghị Viên Phát Bùi bận đi công tác xa.) Hội Đồng Thành Phố Westminster có ông Thị Trưởng Tạ Đức Trí, Phó Thị Trưởng Sergio Contreras, Nghị Viên Diana Lee Carey và một số viên chức chính quyền, ngoài ra còn có: Hòa Thượng Thích Chơn Thành, Phó Thượng Thủ Giáo Hội Phật Giáo Việt Nam Trên Thế Giới, Viện Chủ Chùa Liên Hoa; HT. Thích Nguyên Trí, Phó Chủ Tịch Nội Vụ Hội Đồng Điều Hành Giáo Hội Phật Giáo Việt Nam Thống Nhất Hoa Kỳ, Viện Chủ Chùa Bát Nhã; HT. Thích Giác Sĩ, Phó Tổng Vụ Hoàng Pháp GHPGVNTN/HK, Viện Chủ Tổ Đình Giác Lý, Sư Cô Thích Nữ Ngọc Liên cùng một số chư tôn đức Tăng Ni và quý vị nhân sĩ, trong đó có Tiến Sĩ Huỳnh Tấn Lê, Tổng Vụ Trưởng Tổng Vụ Pháp Chế GHPGVNTN/HK, Cư Sĩ Tâm Diệu, nhà báo Đoàn Hưng, Cư Sĩ Nguyễn Giác...

Về phía cộng đồng có Bác Sĩ Võ Đình Hữu, Chủ Tịch Cộng Đồng Người Việt Quốc Gia Hoa Kỳ, ông Nguyễn Long, Phó Chủ Tịch Cộng Đồng Người Việt Quốc Gia Nam California và phái đoàn.

Vào lúc 4 giờ chiều mọi người đã lần lượt vào hội trường, trong số những người đến chúc mừng sinh nhật Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma có nhiều sắc dân, trong đó phần đông là người Mỹ gốc Việt.

Lúc 4 giờ 30 phút, tất cả hội trường cùng đứng dậy trong im lặng để đón tiếp Đức Đạt Lai Lạt Ma vào khán đài, trong lúc này ông Thị Trưởng Nguyễn Quốc Bảo đã lên tuyên bố lý do buổi lễ, sau đó ông mời Đức Đạt lai Lạt Ma có đôi lời phát biểu cùng mọi người tham dự....

Sau phần phát biểu của Ngài, Thị Trưởng Nguyễn Quốc Bảo cùng các Nghị Viên trong Thành Phố đã trao đến ngài chìa khóa danh dự của Thành Phố và tặng quà mừng sinh nhật lần thứ 80 của Ngài,

Tiếp theo Thị Trưởng Thành Phố Westminster và phu nhân, Phó Thị Trưởng Sergio Contreras cùng các Nghị Viên trong Thành Phố cũng đã trao tặng quà lưu niệm chúc mừng sinh Nhật Ngài, trong lúc này Sư Cô Thích Nữ Ngọc Liên, Nghị Viên Diana Lee Carey, Cô Thanh Thủy, nguyên Trưởng Phòng Thương Mại Thành Phố Westminster, Bác Sĩ Võ Đình Hữu cũng đã đích thân tặng hoa chúc mừng sinh nhật Ngài.

Trong lúc này mọi người đã cùng hát to với Ngài lời chúc Happy Birthday. Sau đó Ngài đã ký vào tấm bảng lưu niệm do Thành Phố Garden Grove đã để sẵn bên cạnh Ngài.

Buổi lễ chấm dứt, mọi người ra về trong lòng lưu luyến hình ảnh và lời nói thật vui tươi và giản dị của Ngài.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**July 9, 2015**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Agenda for the July 16 Planning Commission meeting and the minutes from the June 18, 2015 meeting.
3. Cities Advocates dated July 2 and 8, 2015.



**GARDEN GROVE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9, 2015 – July 22, 2015

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Thursday	July 9	9:00 a.m.	Main Street Commission Meeting, Courtyard Center
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room
		5:00 p.m.	Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission Meeting Teen "Wreck"reation Hall, Eastgate Park
		6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Summer Concert Series – The Funky Hippeez (70s Funk), Eastgate Park
Thursday- Saturday	July 9-11	8:00 p.m.	Shakespeare Orange County presents "Romeo & Juliet", Festival Amphitheater
Thursday- Sunday	July 9-12		One More Productions presents "Next to Normal" Gem Theater
Friday	July 10		City Hall Closed
Friday- Saturday	July 10-11	5:00 p.m.- 9:00 a.m.	2015 Atlantis Family Campout, Atlantis Play Center
Tuesday	July 14	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Successor Agency Meeting, Council Chamber City Council Meeting, Council Chamber
Thursday	July 16	6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Summer Concert Series – Brad Johnson & The Killin' Time Band (Todays Country) Eastgate Park
		7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Thursday- Saturday	July 16-18	8:00 p.m.	Shakespeare Orange County presents "Romeo & Juliet", Festival Amphitheater
Friday- Sunday	July 17-19		One More Productions presents "Next to Normal" Gem Theater
Saturday	July 18	8:00 a.m.- Noon	Project "GO" Graffiti Off, Municipal Service Center
Wednesday	July 22	2:00 p.m.	Oversight Board Meeting, Courtyard Center <b>CANCELLED</b>



## A G E N D A

### GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

#### REGULAR MEETING

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JULY 16, 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: June 18, 2015
- C. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)
  - C.1. VARIANCE NO. V-011-2015

APPLICANT: DAVID WEBBER

LOCATION: SOUTH SIDE OF GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD,  
WEST OF EUCLID STREET AT 11100 AND 11102  
GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD

REQUEST: Variance approval to deviate from the required number of parking spaces, Municipal Code Section 9.18.140.030 (Parking Spaces Required), to allow the operation of a new 14,300 square foot restaurant/eating establishment, East Seafood Buffet, at 11102 Garden Grove Boulevard. The site is in the CC-3 (Civic Center Core) zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15301 - Existing Facilities and Section 15332 - In-Fill Development Projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve Variance No. V-011-2015, subject to the recommended conditions of approval.

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

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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 18, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chair O'Neill  
Vice Chair Kanzler  
Commissioner Mai  
Commissioner Margolin  
Commissioner Pak  
Commissioner Paredes  
Commissioner Zamora

Absent: Kanzler

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner O'Neill

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

JUNE 4, 2015 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Margolin Second: Zamora

Ayes: (6) Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes, Zamora  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Kanzler

Due to a conflict of interest, Commissioner Mai recused himself from the following discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING – VARIANCE NO. V-011-2015. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 11100 AND 11102 GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD, SOUTH SIDE OF GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD, WEST OF EUCLID STREET.

Applicant: David Webber  
Date: June 18, 2015

Request: Variance approval to deviate from the required number of parking spaces, Municipal Code Section 9.18.140.030 (Parking Spaces Required), to allow the operation of a new 14,300 square foot restaurant/eating establishment, East Seafood Buffet, at 11102 Garden



Grove Boulevard. The site is in the CC-3 (Civic Center Core) zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15301 – Existing Facilities and Section 15332 – In-Fill Development Projects.

Action: Public Hearing opened. Speaker(s): None. Staff submitted revisions to the conditions of approval, Josh McIntosh submitted a letter with traffic concerns in Costco parking lot, and Costco submitted a letter of opposition.

Action: No action taken on the item. Motion to continue the open public hearing to the Thursday, July 16, 2015 regular Planning Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. approved.

Motion: Margolin Second: Zamora

Ayes: (5) Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes, Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (2) Kanzler, Mai

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Paredes mentioned traffic concerns in the area and asked staff for an accident report. He also suggested the use of vacant lots for community gardens. Staff responded that a community garden was located downtown at 7<sup>th</sup> and Garden Grove Boulevard on City-owned property; that there was a long waiting list to use the garden; and, that he should contact Kim Huy in Community Services for more information.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff stated that the Thursday, July 2, 2015 Planning Commission meeting was cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:15 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission on Thursday, July 2, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Grove Council Chamber, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove.

Motion: O'Neill Second: Zamora

Ayes: (5) Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes, Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (2) Kanzler, Mai

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Judith Moore, Recording Secretary



July 8, 2015  
Issue #66

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Page 4: Beware of Hotel Scammers when Registering the League's Annual Conference and Expo  
Orlando to Host 2015 NLC University Leadership Summit

## **Governor Brown Signs League-Supported Legislation to Improve Financial Reporting Process for Local Governments**

With bills now moving through committees and on to the floor in the second house, Gov. Jerry Brown is beginning to take action on legislation that reaches his desk. The Governor on Thursday, July 2, signed League-sponsored AB 341 (Achadjian), an important measure that enhances local government transparency by adjusting the timing under which local agencies must submit financial and employee compensation data to the State Controller. This legislation goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2016. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **July 16 Webinar on How to Monetize City and County Telecom Assets**

The California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) is hosting a free one-hour webinar on July 16 on a new program that can help cities and counties monetize their telecom assets. The League sponsors CSCDA. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **Mayors and Council Members Department Announces New Mentorship Program** *Applications due Aug. 3*

This year marks the first for the newly created Mayors and Council Members Department mentor program. Created by the department's executive committee, the program provides an important resource — experienced elected officials to offer advice on the fast paced environment of city leadership. *For more, see Page 3.*

Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian's (R-San Luis Obispo) legislation is the result of several months of meetings between local agency representatives and the Controller's office. These discussions focused on how to improve the accuracy of local data by adjusting the deadline for local agencies to submit annual financial transactions reports and employee compensation information to the Controller.

Under the current statute, local agencies are required to submit this data to the State Controller's office within 110 days of the end of the agency's fiscal year. Most local agencies operate on a fiscal year that runs July 1 to June 30, which means that these agencies have just three and a half months to complete final audited data. The problem, however is that typically auditing firms can take up to six months to complete their work. Local agencies potentially submitted incomplete data to the Controller and then had to resubmit updated information. When AB 341 goes into effect in 2016, the deadlines to submit this data will mean that the Controller receives complete data, increasing the transparency of local government to the public.

The legislation also changes the timing requirements for local agencies to submit employee compensation information to the Controller. Agencies had to send this data for the prior calendar year in October, which again led to outdated data. Now agencies will be required to submit the data annually by April 30, just after employee W-2 information is released. The revised process, which the leadership of the League's Fiscal Officers Department refined, will save costs and time to both local agencies and the state while providing more accurate data to the public.

The League appreciates the collaborative work of Assembly Member Achadjian, the California State Association of Counties, the California Special Districts Association and the office of new Controller Betty Yee in this successful effort.

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'Webinar' Continued from Page 1...

## Details

The Municipal Telecom Market: How Local Governments are Seizing the Opportunity:

Date/Time: Thursday, July 16, 10-11 a.m.

Presenters:

- Jon Penkower, managing director, CSCDA
- Mark Widener, managing director, Jefferies LLC

[Register online.](#)

## Background

Through Jefferies, CSCDA's new program assists public agencies in identifying, measuring and valuing to monetize certain telecommunications related assets. In some cases these assets are unutilized or underutilized. The program focuses primarily on existing third party leases with cell carriers on government-owned infrastructure (towers, buildings, etc.) with the secondary benefit of identifying additional potential value from these assets.

Given the exponential growth in smartphone and tablet use, bandwidth needs are increasing at great rates and the demand is putting tremendous pressure on the telecommunication providers to expand networks. This has in turn pushed the value of existing telecommunication assets to all-time highs and fueled demand for new tower and alternative infrastructure needs for antenna placements.

Many states, cities, counties, and municipal utilities have developed communications infrastructure to support their own needs: public safety, 9-1-1, First Responder, SCADA, etc. In some cases, excess capacity on this infrastructure has been made available to telecommunication service providers and other third-parties for communications needs. These third-party leases are being purchased by tower companies for some of the highest valuations

ever seen in the industry as the cell tower market continues to consolidate. In other cases, the excess capacity has not been made available to third parties and now provides the government owner significant future value waiting to be tapped.

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**'Mentorship Program' Continued from Page 1...**

Interested city officials must apply by Aug. 3. Mentor-mentee pairings will be made prior to the League's Annual Conference in late September. This free program is only available to League members.

**Background**

There is a growing interest among the membership for the department to offer a mentorship program. In the fast paced political arena, often mentoring becomes a priority that gets put on the back burner. Newly elected members stand to gain a tremendous amount from more seasoned members who can share their experiences and offer advice about how they have handled challenges in their tenure.

**Mentors**

Mentors should have at least eight years of experience in elected office. Experience can be in a variety of areas including the planning commission and other boards or commissions. The Membership Committee encourages applicants to have achieved the Advanced Leadership level of the Mayors and Council Members Academy.

**Mentees**

Mentees are typically members who have been elected within the last four years. Newly elected members will be given priority but any member interested in having a mentor can sign-up through the application process.

**Time Commitment**

The Mayors and Council Members Mentoring Program is designed for elected city officials to receive advice and counsel from one another. The mentoring experience is what the mentor and mentee make of it, but the following minimum participation from both individuals is encouraged:

- Establish a timeline of monthly communication (i.e. email, phone calls or coordinating to meet during various League activities/meetings);
- Agree to meet at the MCM Executive Forum, New MCM Academy or Annual Conference; and
- Provide feedback to the Mentorship Committee via periodic emails and a year-end evaluation.

**Application Process**

Applications are available on the League website or contact Sara Rounds to request a Mentor or Mentee application. Completed applications can be faxed to (916) 658-8240 or emailed.

Aug. 3 is the application deadline.

- [Mentor Application](#)
- [Mentee Application](#)

For more information about the program, please contact [Sara Rounds](#) at (916) 658-8243.

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## **Beware of Hotel Scammers when Registering the League's Annual Conference and Expo**

The League has received word that hotel scammers are at it again. Some are saying hotel rates have dropped and may ask for your booking information. Beware of unauthorized housing and hotel reservation services (two examples are Global Travel Partners and Exhibitor Housing Services) that may solicit your business. They may say the League's hotel block is sold out or use some other ploy to book you into a hotel for a room that may not exist. All legitimate communications regarding housing will come directly from the League of California Cities®. Using unauthorized reservation services may create real problems for you and the conference as a whole. You cannot be assured that your credit card information is secure and your room reservation may not actually be made if you use an unauthorized service.

If you receive a suspicious email or phone call asking to book your hotel room for the conference, please contact the League so staff can take immediate action. As always, the League is available to answer your questions on any aspect of the Annual Conference. The League does its very best to ensure your participation is both enjoyable and highly productive.

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## **Orlando to Host 2015 NLC University Leadership Summit**

The National League of Cities (NLC) 2015 Annual Leadership Summit will be held at Loews Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Orlando, in Orlando, Florida, on Sept. 16-19. This year the theme of the program is "Leading through Tough Times." Leadership scholars and experts will explore how to handle challenging community situations, and prepare local leaders to address real-world problems.

This year's summit will feature:

- A keynote address from Mayor Buddy Dyer, who will speak about how the city of Orlando is becoming a hub for innovation, thereby leading to a surge in the younger demographic;
- Special presentations by members NLC's new R.E.A.L. (Race, Equity, and Leadership) initiative;
- A leadership workshop on building trust and resilience, by Roy W. Reid, executive director of communications, University of Central Florida College of Business; and
- Two special receptions hosted in conjunction with the city of Orlando.

The Annual Leadership Summit is as an interactive leadership retreat designed specifically for local government officials. It features presentations by noteworthy leadership scholars and provides many opportunities for engaged learning and networking with leaders from across the nation.

The summit's limited group size fosters a more personalized experience and encourages an actively involved audience. A smaller, more intimate group environment enables the trainers to focus more effectively on the needs of the communities that the participants represent. The aim of the program is to cover leadership skills and topics that are valuable to local leaders on every level.

### **Michael Lynch Scholarship Available**

NLC created a scholarship to attend the Annual Leadership Summit in remembrance of one of their former members, Michael Lynch, who died in a shooting at a city council meeting in Kirkwood, Missouri, in 2008. The Michael H.T. Lynch Memorial Scholarship awards the recipient a stipend in the amount of \$2,500 to cover travel expenses and your registration fee. Michael H.T. Lynch exemplified the leadership skills that the Annual Leadership Summit attempts to cultivate in its participants: a devotion to public service, and pursuing continuing education in order to improve their leadership skills and better serve their community.

For more information about the Michael H.T. Lynch Memorial Scholarship or the 2015 Annual Leadership Summit, please visit the NLC website or contact NLC University.

# CA Cities Advocate



LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

July 02, 2015  
Issue #65

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## **Bills in Committee: July 6-10**

Policy committees are in full swing with just two more weeks before the Legislature adjourns on July 17. Both houses return on Aug. 17 for the final weeks of the 2015 legislative session that ends on Sept. 11. The League will be engaged on several bills during the week of July 6-10, many of them Hot. Cities are encouraged to weigh in on these bills. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **California City Solutions: Eureka Offers Free Summer Camp for Low-Income Families**

*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. Eureka's Camp Cooper was submitted in 2014 for the Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement award category. For more, see Page 3.*



## **Water Conservation Reaches Almost 29 Percent throughout California for the Month of May**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on Wednesday announced that compared with May 2013, urban water usage is down 28.9 percent. This encouraging news reflects efforts being made by Californians to save water with the state in its fourth year of drought. *For more, see Page 4.*

To access any bill on this list, the League's position letter and sample letters, please go to [www.cacities.org/billsearch](http://www.cacities.org/billsearch) and plug in the bill number into the search box.

The League's full 2015 Hot and Priority Bill list is available online.

A full listing of Senate and Assembly hearings is available online. Hearing times are subject to change. Bill language and any available position letters on legislation can be found through the bill search function on the League's website.

### Monday, July 6

Senate Appropriations, 10 a.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **AB 702 (Maienschein) CalWORKs: temporary shelter assistance.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1228 (Gipson) Public postsecondary education: campus housing: priority for homeless youth.** *League position: Support.*

### Tuesday, July 7

Assembly Business and Professions, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- **HOT SB 643 (McGuire) Medical marijuana.** *League position: Support if Amended.*

Senate Privacy and Consumer Protection, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- **HOT SB 175 (Huff) Peace officers: body-worn cameras.** *League position: Support.*

Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 3191

- **HOT AB 278 (Hernández) District-based municipal elections.** *League position: Oppose.*

Senate Transportation and Housing, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **AB 388 (Chang) Housing: veterans: supportive and transitional housing: reports.** *League position: Support.*
- **HOT AB 744 (Chau) Planning and zoning: density bonuses.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1222 (Bloom) Tow trucks.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1236 (Chiu) Local ordinances: electric vehicle charging stations.** *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*

### Wednesday, July 8

Assembly Labor and Employment, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- **SB 3 (Leno) Minimum wage: adjustment.** *League position: Oppose.*

Senate Governance and Finance, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112

- **AB 88 (Gomez) Sales and use taxes: exemption: energy or water efficient home appliances.** *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*
- **AB 313 (Atkins) Enhanced infrastructure financing districts.** *League position: Support.*
- **HOT AB 718 (Chu) Local government: powers.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1157 (Nazarian) Property taxation: certified aircraft assessment.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1217 (Daly) Orange County Fire Authority.** *League position: Oppose.*

Senate Health, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **HOT AB 266 (Bonta) Medical cannabis.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1223 (O'Donnell) Emergency medical services: ambulance transportation.** *League position: Support.*

The city of Eureka almost two decades ago created a summer camp program to keep local students learning and active when school is out. According to the 2012 U.S. Census, 22.1 percent of Eureka's population lives below the poverty line. Eureka's low-income families often have to scramble to find affordable childcare during the summer. Camp Cooper is a free summer camp program for youth ages 5 to 12. The camp also provides a Leaders-in-Training (L.I.T.) Program for youth ages 13 to 17 that are mentored by recreation leaders who teach valuable leadership skills.

According to the National Summer Learning Association, most students lose approximately two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills during the summer without exposure to educational learning activities. Low-income students also lose over two months in reading achievement, while students from higher income level families make slight gains.

More than half of the gap between lower- and higher-income youth achievement is due to access to summer learning opportunities. This can contribute to the fact that low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college. Additionally, the city learned that many children — particularly who are at high risk of obesity — gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school during summer break. I.

The city of Eureka started its free Summer Recreation Program almost two decades ago with a focus on personal and academic development as well as healthy lifestyle. Camp Cooper annually accommodates up to 50 youth per day offering a full-day of programs that feature character building strategies. The camp is held at a public park, rotating every few years.

The developed strategic priorities for the summer camp program include:

- **Provides New Options for Infrastructure Investment and Economic Development.** Camp Cooper's no-cost program and daytime hours provide a valuable free childcare option for working families to take advantage of, enabling them to maintain stable work and contribute to the local economy, while not having to impact any local government financial aid.
- **Expands Reform of Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Policies to Better Contain Long-Term Costs.** Camp Cooper's Summer Camp Program staff, including its coordinating staff, is classified as temporary employees. This enables the city to offer quality programming to low-income families and have no or very little fiscal impact on OPEB.
- **Build Effective Partnerships to Help Respond to Growing Community Needs.** Camp Cooper has a standing partnership with Food-for-People, which provides free sack lunches to low income children whose families cannot afford the additional cost of the extra meals once school is out. This partnership enables the city to provide lunch at no-cost to the 50 youth who participate in camp each day.

Camp recreation leaders are carefully recruited and screened by their level of motivation to give back to the community and have a positive impact on youth. Once selected, staff members go through a very specific training; one which not only focuses on policy and procedure, but also empowers staff to create environments where youth feel safe, are celebrated for their individuality, and are where they want to be.

Camp Cooper offers an opportunity for personal growth. The camp's L.I.T. program gives youth students who have aged out of camp the opportunity to learn and implement many of the same skills and responsibilities of a recreation leader. These young residents have learned the value of receiving the free summer services and then given the opportunity to provide those same services to the next generation.



Camp Cooper's schedule includes both physical and educational activities that promote continuous learning and a healthy active lifestyle during the summer.

Several former campers were so influenced by their experience that they returned as city employees after college. Former Campers and L.I.T's include the current recreation coordinator, who oversees the city's Adorni Recreation Center; the current recreation activities coordinator, who coordinates the city's G.U.L.C.H. Teen Program; and the summer camp coordinator who returns to Eureka each summer to serve the program.

Despite budget cuts, Eureka has continued to invest in quality recreation programs that will improve educational outcomes and assist in developing the full potential of youth in the community. Camp Cooper empowers families to maintain jobs, and spend the quality time with their children when they are not working.

Participating students learn the value of making positive connections and building character and self-esteem because they are the direct benefactors as campers. Long time campers transfer their experiences into valuable and tangible skills in the L.I.T. program. These experiences in camp have an overall impact in our community as it sends the campers and L.I.T's out into the world as young adults who pose a set of skills and mindset to positively contribute to the community.

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'Water' Continued from Page 1...

Gov. Jerry Brown issued an Executive Order on April 1 requiring SWRCB to implement restrictions that mandate a 25 percent reduction in water usage statewide based on 2013 consumption. This amounts to 1.5 million acre-feet of water over a nine month period. These standards, which went into effect on June 1, leave it up to local agencies to determine where and how to save. Because outdoor irrigation accounts for up to 80 percent of residential water use, local agencies are encouraged to focus on savings in this area.

Enforcement and compliance statistics reported for the month of May also indicate that water suppliers are following up on water waste complaints and issuing formal warnings and penalties against alleged violators. Complaints are a very important tool for identifying leaks and overwatering that could go undetected for weeks resulting in millions of gallons of wasted water. This latest information comes ahead of the June reporting period, the first month that the new statewide conservation standards were in effect and measured.

SWRCB also released a fact sheet detailing the May conservation progress. Additional information is available on the SWRCB website.

### **League Resources**

The League has created a Water Issues Listserv to facilitate solution-oriented communication by city staff about local policy, community outreach efforts and technical issues related to water conservation, stormwater and other water issues.

A wide range of resources are available on the League's Water Hot Issues webpage.

### **Save Our Water**

Launched in 2009, Save Our Water is a statewide program to help Californians reduce water usage. This program is a collaborative effort between the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Department of Water Resources. The web portal features water saving tips, fact sheets and other related information.

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## **SCG Awards \$122 Million in Affordable, Transit-Friendly Housing Grants and Loans**

### *First Round of Shovel Ready, Transformative Investment Projects to Combat Climate Change*

The California Strategic Growth Council (SCG) on Tuesday approved \$121.9 million in competitive grants and loans to 28 housing and transit-friendly infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.

The grants are part of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, which is being implemented by the Department of Housing and Community Development in coordination with SCG and California Air Resources Board. California Climate Investments are programs funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund using proceeds from California's Cap-and-Trade auctions.

These grants and loans help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting more compact, infill development patterns, encouraging active transportation and transit usage, and protecting agricultural land from sprawl development. This year's 28 recommended projects leverage nearly six to one in matching funds and will reduce an estimated 723,286 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions — the equivalent to taking 140,483 cars off the road for one year.

Of the recommended projects, 52 percent include transit-oriented developments. This includes both housing and transportation capital improvements and at least one transit station or stop served by high-quality transit. More than \$31 million in funding, or approximately 25 percent, supports bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, transit station area improvements, transit service and other connectivity between housing and communities.

The selected projects represent dozens of diverse communities from all over California. In addition, 77 percent of this year's recommended grants benefit disadvantaged communities. By law, at least 50 percent of funding must be dedicated to affordable housing and benefit disadvantaged communities. In addition, these recommended projects will support the development of more than 2,000 affordable housing units to support a range of incomes and populations across the state.

The full news release is available online.

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## **CTC Awards \$224 Million in Transit and Intercity Rail Grants**

### *First Round of Public Transportation Investments to Combat Climate Change*

The California State Transportation Agency (CTC) on Tuesday announced the 2015 recipients of \$224 million in competitive grants that support high-quality public transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions causing worldwide climate change. These climate investments are funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund using proceeds from the state's Cap-and-Trade auctions.

The grant funding is part of the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, implemented by CTC in coordination with the California Department of Transportation and California Air Resources Board. The grants help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by expanding public transportation ridership and capacity.

This year's 14 grants help support approximately \$720 million in public transportation investments and reduce an estimated 860,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent to taking 180,000 cars off the road. The transit entities benefitting from these grants currently support approximately 360 million transit trips per year. In addition, 93 percent of the projects benefit disadvantaged communities.

Benefits from this year's grants include:

- Constructing station and service improvements for Los Angeles basin light rail and improving and increasing service on Southern California commuter rail services across five counties;
- Offering San Diego improved and increased trolley service and 11 miles of new bus rapid transit;
- Expanding Bay Area light rail service and capacity;
- Refurbishing Sacramento rail cars for future express service;
- Adding capacity to Sonoma County rail service;
- Building two new bus rapid transit corridors and reducing locomotive emissions in the San Joaquin region;
- Improving Monterey and Salinas bus service;
- Reducing Capitol Corridor, Altamont Corridor Express and Amtrak San Joaquin corridor travel times;
- Launching a new Orange County rapid bus route;
- Improving local transit transfers to and from the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner; and
- Commencing new, more frequent electric bus service between the Antelope Valley and Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley and new, more frequent electric bus rapid transit in the Antelope Valley.

These improvements include funds for 16 new and seven refurbished light rail vehicles, three rail cars, nine locomotives, 20 compressed natural gas buses, 12 hybrid buses and 30 zero emission electric buses.

A complete list of the grant recipients can be found [online](#).

## **Mayors and Council Members Department Accepting Applications for Second Vice President**

*Apply by Aug. 7*

The Mayors and Council Members Department of the League of California Cities® is seeking enthusiastic, committed elected officials interested in becoming the department's second vice president. This is a one-year term and the vacancy will be filled at the Annual Conference in San Jose in September.

The department's Executive Committee comprises a president, first vice president, second vice president, immediate past president (all one-year terms) and state League director (two-year term). The second vice president position rotates annually between Northern and Southern California. This year, the department is seeking applicants from Northern California.

### **Qualifications**

The Nominating Committee will use the following information as a basis for selection:

- The individual's professional reputation;
- The individual's perspective on city service;
- Whether the individual has demonstrated a commitment to serving and strengthening the department;
- The individual's depth of knowledge of and experience with city government; and
- The individual's involvement in intergovernmental activities.

### **Office Responsibilities**

The second vice president's responsibilities include acting in the president's or first vice president's absence or inability to act. The second vice president also oversees the Mayors and Council Members' Academy (MCA) and performs other duties assigned by the president.

### **Application and Selection Process**

Applications will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee (appointed by the current Executive Committee). The proposed 2015-16 Executive Committee slate will be presented for vote at Annual Conference. Nominations for the vacancy will also be open from the floor at the Department Business Meeting during the annual conference.

All applications must be received by Aug. 7. Please direct applications by email to Sara Rounds fax to (916) 658-8240. Please call Sara at (916) 658-8243 with questions or to confirm receipt of your application.

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### **Reminder: 2016 Planning Commissioners Academy Session Proposals Due by July 15**

Do you want to help build the 2016 Planning Commissioners Academy program? Do you have an idea for a new session that will inspire and motivate our attendees? Maybe you know of a colleague that would be an excellent speaker?

The League of California Cities® is continuing the search for speakers and session topics for the 2016 Planning Commissioners Academy to be held March 2-4 in San Ramon.

Submissions from any individual, group, business or organization on any topic are welcome. The Program Planning Advisory Committee will consider the educational value of each proposal and the extent to which it presents new and/or significant information.

Submit fully completed ideas, non-commercial in nature through the online proposal form by Wednesday, July 15 for the committee's consideration.

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### **Help Shape the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute, Session Proposals Due by July 23**

Do you want to help build the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute program? Do you have an idea for a new session that will inspire and motivate our attendees? Do you know a colleague who is an excellent speaker?

The League of California Cities® is continuing the search for speakers and session topics for the 2016 conference to be held March 9-11 in Sacramento.

Submit fully completed ideas, non-commercial in nature through the online proposal form by Thursday, July 23 for the committee's consideration.

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### **GO-Biz Launches New California Business Portal: A One-Stop-Shop Website for Business Owners**

*BusinessPortal.ca.gov Consolidates Information on Starting a Business, State Permits and Regulations, Incentives and More*

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) this week launched its California Business Portal, a one-stop-shop website for business owners looking for information and assistance. The new portal is designed to meet the needs of the business community with better online tools and contains information to business owners on starting a new business, permits and licenses, incentives, local resources and more.

The portal is available on the business owner's schedule and has a number of key features, including:

- **Quick Start Guides**, which contain the essential information for starting and growing specific types of businesses in the State of California.
- **California Business Navigator**, which provides custom information for your business including permits, licenses and incentives.

- **Service Desk**, answering commonly asked questions with the California Business Portal Service Desk. If the information for your situation is not here yet, submit your question and GO-Biz will provide a customized answer.
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