

City Administrator's Weekly Briefing

From: *Damien R. Arrula*

February 27, 2020



“Rich Heritage, Bright Future”

John Pono Van Gieson Takes the Reins as Placentia’s Inaugural, Local Fire Chief

Following a nationwide search, John Pono Van Gieson has taken the reins as the inaugural Fire Chief of Placentia’s new, local Fire and Life Safety Department.

“A US Army Veteran with combat medic experience, Fire Chief Van Gieson comes to Placentia with over three decades of firefighting and 911 emergency response expertise, most recently leading these services as part of award-winning departments and teams serving over one million residents,” said Damien Arrula, City Administrator. “We are thrilled to have him lead our City’s newly established local, homegrown Fire Department.”



Nearly 77% of 911 emergency calls in Placentia are for medical emergencies. The Placentia City Fire Department will increase capacity to dispatch ambulances quickly, saving lives, time and money. Residents have prioritized public safety services including reducing 911 emergency response times and maintaining police officers, firefighters and paramedics.

“I am looking forward to meeting the Placentia community and taking the reins on the important work to enhance 911 emergency response times and provide the level of local fire safety and emergency response services residents expect and deserve,” said Fire Chief Van Gieson.

In 2018, Placentia voters enacted Measure U to maintain the City’s public safety and essential City services. Measure U ensures rapid response to 911 medical emergencies and enough police officers to keep our community safe. Measure U funding has prevented the City from facing millions in cuts to public safety services including reductions to firefighters, paramedics and police officers and increasing 911 emergency response times.

Mr. Van Gieson will be formally introduced as the new Fire Chief for the Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department at the March 3, 2020 City Council meeting.

For more information and continual updates on the new local fire department, the community is encouraged to visit www.placentia.org/fireems.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

- 02/29/20 Placentia California Tree Team Workshop
- 03/03/20 City Council Meeting
- 03/10/20 Parks Arts and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 03/11/20 Heritage Committee Meeting
- 03/16/20 Streetscape & Transportation Advisory Committee

**For additional
information or**

**questions about this
Weekly Briefing please email:
CAWeekly@placentia.org**



ADMINISTRATION

City is Hiring Full-time Fire Personnel

The City is hiring full-time fire personnel for its new Fire and Life Safety Department, including Firefighters and Reserve Firefighters. Please visit www.placentia.org/jobs for additional information.



Fire and Life Safety Department-Quarterly Update

At the February 18th City Council meeting, staff provided a comprehensive quarterly update on the progress being made on the Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department. Please click on the following link to view the [PowerPoint presentation](#) with facts on fire recruitment, apparatus, operations, training and much more.

OC Register Article: Placentia Fire Reforms Spark Unhinged Retort

Please visit the following link to read an OC Register article regarding the City of Placentia:

<https://www.ocregister.com/2020/02/27/placentia-fire-reforms-spark-unhinged-retort/amp/>

County of Orange Declares Emergency Over Coronavirus

The County of Orange has declared a local health emergency to prepare for COVID-19, commonly known as novel coronavirus. In an effort to keep Placentia residents and businesses advised, we are providing this information.

The preemptive declaration of a local health emergency will assist the County of Orange to better leverage resources in order to prepare adequate staffing needs and greater agency coordination. Placentia residents should take the proper precautions to ensure their health and welfare are protected at all times. Some simple steps to take to keep yourself healthy include:

- Wash hands frequently
- Avoid others who are sick
- If you are sick, stay home and get well. Doing so will prevent the spreading of illness.

Placentia residents are encouraged to visit www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus to receive the most accurate and up to date information related to COVID-19.

“Pump Up” Placentia!

The City of Placentia has partnered with Galaxy Oil Company to operate the Placentia Gas Station, also known as “Best 4 Less 76” gasoline station at 480 S. Placentia Avenue (northeast corner of Placentia and Crowther Avenue). Through this partnership with Galaxy Oil, a portion of the revenue generated by the gas station will go directly back to the City for critical services including Police, Fire, and Public Works projects. This will greatly assist the City with infrastructure maintenance such as roads and facility improvements. The City encourages all residents and visitors to fuel their vehicles at the 76 Gasoline Station and “Pump Up Placentia” by putting money directly back into your local services. For additional information about this partnership or questions regarding the 76 Gasoline Station, call (714) 993-8264.



Registrar of Voters Message to Orange County Voters: If Possible Don't Wait to Vote

This election voting is different –Vote Centers are open for 11 days-avoid Election Day congestion by voting in advance of March 3rd

The Registrar of Voters is urging Orange County's voters to not wait until March 3rd to vote. This election voting is different– new options allow voters to vote in-person over an 11 day window. Vote Centers are open now through March 3rd-for locations and hours visit ocvote.com/votecenter.



With Orange County's transition to Vote Centers, each site serves as a fully functioning voting location that mirrors a traditional Election Day. This means that every ballot cast during the 11-day in-person options is processed and counted the same way.

Voters can also choose to use the ballot that was mailed to them and vote at home. Vote-by-mail returns to date have been very strong. When compared to the same period in 2012, is a 70% increase (140,745 versus 239,708) and when compared to 2016 there is a 33% increase (179,993 versus 239,708). For a full list of ballot return option visit ocvote.com/mail.

Placentia Navigation Center Update

The Placentia Navigation Center, located at 731 S. Melrose Street, will empower our local law enforcement with the tools necessary to prevent camping on public locations, including the freeway underpass on Crowther and the 57 Freeway. The City is dedicated to addressing homelessness in the City and will continue to work to open the Navigation Center by the end of March, which will then allow our Police Department to enforce our local anticamping ordinance throughout the City including the Crowther encampment. For additional information on addressing homelessness, please visit www.placentia.org/homelessness or call (714) 993-8107.

PLACENTIA NAVIGATION CENTER - WEEK AT A GLANCE - 02/19/20	
	
Insulation underway	Framing well underway, steel columns installed
	
Voluntary seismic upgrade work at the exterior	Offices framed, low wall framing commenced
	Prepared by Totum 



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Spring Activities in Placentia

Spring Activities are now available online, please visit www.placentia.org/classes. The Spring Edition of the Placentia Palm Quarterly offers a full range of programs for all ages including dance, fitness, and sports. Registration for Placentia residents begins on Thursday, February 27th. Non-resident registration will begin on Monday, March 2nd. Register Online at www.placentia.org/classes or during regular Office hours from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday. Highlighted activities for this Spring include:

- Youth Sport classes
- Adult Dance classes
- Hypnosis classes
- Tai Chi classes

For more information, regarding events, programs, and classes, please contact the Community Services Department at (714) 993-8232.

City of Placentia Senior Center

The Placentia Senior Center offers many activities and programs for older adults. The Center is a great way for seniors to socialize and feel a part of the community. Seniors have access to many resources at the Center. We offer free transportation from your home to the Center and back. Please call (714) 986-2332 for additional information.

Easter Basket Donations

The Friendly Center and Neighborhood Services Office is collecting Easter baskets for the annual Spring Fun Day event. Donations will be accepted through Thursday, April 2nd from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at the Whitten Community Center located at 900 S. Melrose Street. For more information regarding basket items, please [click here](#).



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Civilian Investigator hired for the Placentia Police Department

The Placentia Police Department gained an additional full-time Civilian Investigator this week to our General Investigation Bureau. Please join us in welcoming Civilian Investigator Andrea Bennett to our Department. She will work collaboratively with our current sworn Detectives and our other Civilian Investigators working a variety of criminal cases. Andrea has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Human Relations and a Master of Science degree in Psychology. Her formal education and prior experience as a Deputy Sheriff with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department will no doubt assist her in developing into an effective investigator.





PUBLIC WORKS

Placentia Residents, Receive a Free Tree Sapling this Spring!

The City has received the Circle 3.0 Grant to provide 100 FREE trees to Placentia Residents to plant on their private properties at no cost! Part of the California Urban Forestry Council's Invest from the Ground Up tree planting program, Circle 3.0 is California's Initiative to Reduce Carbon and Limit Emissions. The City is excited to partner with West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA) and the California Urban Forests Council (CaUFC) to bring this wonderful opportunity to our community. Circle 3.0 is a grant project funded through CalFire with the goal to reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by planting urban trees.

These young trees are to be planted on private property, front or back yard, NOT on the parkway and will be owned and maintained by the resident. Trees are 1 to 5 gallon and will be planted by West Coast Arborists, Inc. starting in March of 2020.

To reserve a tree, simply visit www.arborday.org/circle3.0, enter resident information and select a tree species. Tree species available on a first come, first serve basis include: Australian willows, Tipu trees, Fern pines, Turkish pines, and pink trumpet trees. Deadline to reserve a tree is February 20, 2020.



The selected tree will be planted on your property (not in City easement). After you have confirmed your species, please attend the upcoming CA Tree Team Workshop scheduled for Saturday, February 29th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., at the Whitten Community Center to pick up your tree marking flag. Flags will be used to mark the area in your yard where you would like the tree planted.

Upcoming California Tree Team Workshop

The City, in partnership with the California Urban Forest Council (CaUFC) and West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA) have set aside grant funding to plant new trees for Placentia through the Cool Parks grant program funded by CalFire. The goal of this grant program is to reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by planting urban trees in local parks and streetscapes. Funding for Placentia will provide up to 150 new trees to be planted in City parks and public spaces.

As part of this program, the City, in collaboration with local and state partners, is offering a free tree education workshop on Saturday, February 29th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., at the Whitten Community Center in Placentia. Come learn how to plant a tree, tree benefits, urban forestry and become a leader for our spring tree planting event!



City staff is working separately with WCA to develop an Arbor Day planting event in April 2020 as part of this grant and details regarding this event will be released in the near future.

For RSVPs or questions regarding this free workshop, please email: grantinfo@wcainc.com. To learn more about this program, please visit www.investfromthegroundup.org.





DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Springhill Suites Marriott

Placentia Hospitality, LLC, a subsidiary to Fine Hospitality Group, is currently constructing an approximately 69,663-square foot, five-story, 116-room hotel building on an approximately 2.1-gross acre, unimproved site located at 380 S. Placentia Avenue. The development will feature a 116-space parking lot, decorative hardscape and landscape improvements.

The hotel will operate 24 hours per day, seven days a week. It will have 60 King Rooms plus 10 King accessible rooms, 38 Double-Queen Rooms plus 8 double queen accessible rooms. Amenities will include an outdoor pool area, breakfast lounge, convenience market, fitness center and meeting/conference room.

The hotel building will feature a modern geometric architectural design theme with facades featuring horizontal and vertical reveals. Additional monolithic (e.g., tower) architectural elements will be affixed to north and south elevations. A metal porte-cochere will visually accentuate the main entry to the hotel with a strong emphasis on architectural details such as enhanced paving, lighting, window treatments, and stone wall cladding.

Most of the utility improvements have been completed, with the project in the framing phase of the development. First floor framing is nearly completed with the remaining floors forthcoming.

Construction is anticipated to be completed within the first quarter of 2021. You may contact the Development Services Department at (714) 993-8124 to receive updates or answer questions about the development project.



EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Placentia Library District Weekly Summary

OC Passport Day

Voting Centers Update

PYLUUSD Full-Day Kindergarten



Placentia Library District

WEEKLY SUMMARY – February 28 – March 5, 2020

Follow us on Instagram!
@placentialib

Introducing The Hangar

THE HANGAR

Placentia Library welcomes you to The Hangar, a place to design, build, tinker, explore, and create! Use our maker equipment to develop your projects, pick up a new hobby, or get expert advice from our resident Tinkerer. The Hangar is open to adults and teens ages 14+ with a valid library card, ID and signed waiver. Makers ages 9-13 are welcome with supervision from a parent or guardian. Children under 9 are welcome during family programs.

NEW HANGAR HOURS, BEGINNING MARCH 1

Tuesday: 12:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: 12:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Adult & Teen Services

READ, WRITE, SPEAK CLUB

Friday, February 28, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Placentia Library Meeting Room

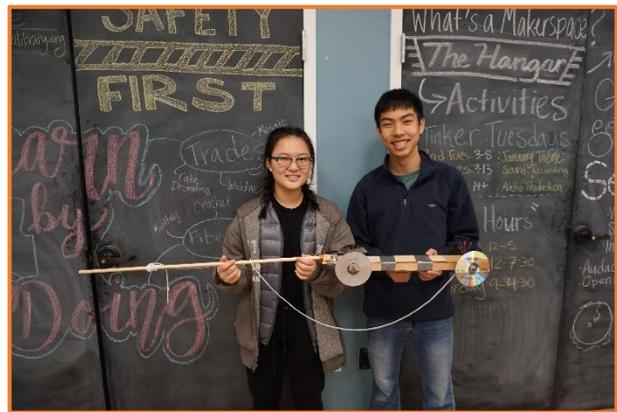
VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Next orientation: Sunday, March 15, 2:00 – 3:45 p.m.
Placentia Library Meeting Room
Sign up to volunteer online at placentialibrary.org/support-the-library/volunteering

LITERACY PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Did you know the library has an adult literacy program? The library provides one-one-one tutoring for English literacy as well as a weekly drop-in Read, Write, Speak Club, a great opportunity to chat with other English language learners in a relaxed and comfortable environment.

For more information, visit placentialibrary.org/services/literacy or call or stop by the library.



Children's Services

SUNSHINE BABIES STORYTIME

Tuesday or Thursday, March 3 or 5, 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Virginia and Norman Haussmann Storytime Alcove
Class is open to all caregivers and their babies ages 0-18 months.

TODDLER TALES STORYTIME

Tuesday or Thursday, March 3 or 5, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Virginia and Norman Haussmann Storytime Alcove
Class is open to all caregivers and their toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years.

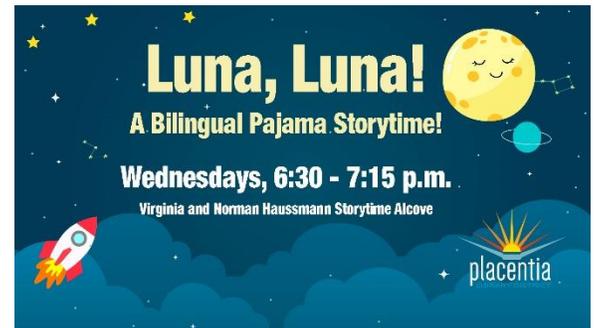
RISE AND SHINE STORYTIME

Saturday, February 29, 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.
Virginia and Norman Haussmann Storytime Alcove
Join us for a fun-filled storytime on Saturday mornings for children of all ages!

LUNA, LUNA! A BILINGUAL PAJAMA STORYTIME!

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Virginia and Norman Haussmann Storytime Alcove
Luna, Luna! is an evening storytime with rhymes, songs and stories in English and Spanish! Children will learn new vocabulary in both languages and be introduced to the wonderful world of dual language learning. Children of all ages are invited to wear their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal!

Luna, Luna! es una hora de cuentos bilingüe con rimas, canciones, y cuentos en Español e Inglés! Participantes aprenderán nuevo vocabulario en los dos idiomas y serán introducidos a las maravillas de un mundo bilingüe. Niños y niñas de todas edades son invitados a traer puestas sus pijamas y traer su peluche favorito!



Tickets now available!

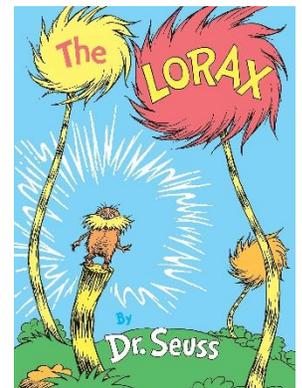
AUTHOR'S LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER: JUDY A. BERNSTEIN

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.
Alta Vista Country Club, 777 Alta Vista St., Placentia
Presented by Placentia Library Friends Foundation. Tickets on sale now at placentialibraryfriends.com

Special Storytime

LORAX STORYTIME

Sunday, March 1, 2:00 p.m.
Placentia Library Lawn
Come celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with a special Lorax storytime that will include fun activities that focus on conversation and the environment. Everyone will also have an opportunity to plant their own tree to take home.





Hugh Nguyen
OC Clerk-Recorder

PASSPORT DAY



Saturday, March 7, 2020 (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM)

SPECIAL SATURDAY OPENING

- Passport Books/Cards & Photos
- Convenient, Quick & Easy
- Walk-Ins Are Welcomed
- Birth Certificates Available

Old County Courthouse
211 Santa Ana Blvd, Room 201
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Only new passport applications will be processed
We recommend making an appointment. Please Call:

(714) 834 - 3136

YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE YOUR CHOICE



A NEW WAY TO VOTE IS ON THE WAY!

One of the most exciting parts of serving as Orange County's Registrar of Voters is seeing voter's reactions when they have a positive experience.

Our voters tell us that the two most important factors they consider when casting their ballot are simplicity and security. As we move to Vote Centers in 2020 it means that we are bringing more choices to voters on where, when and how they would like to cast their ballot. It means opportunities for not just smoother operations, but to enhance the voter experience, take the hassles out of voting and providing a more secure environment.

My team and I look forward to helping you cast your ballot with ease - we appreciate you and thank you for continuing you to trust us with your ballot.

Happy voting!



Neal Kelley
Registrar of Voters
Orange County, CA

WHAT IS A VOTE CENTER?

In-person voting and much more.

- You'll have the opportunity to vote at one of nearly 200 customer service centers located throughout Orange County
- Vote for 10 days prior to any election day, including Saturdays and Sundays.
- You'll be greeted and checked in electronically
- Drop off completed vote-by-mail ballot at any location
- Receive the best customer service, a smooth process and a secure environment we will meet voter's needs throughout Orange County.

VOTING OPTIONS

Options match your schedule, not ours.

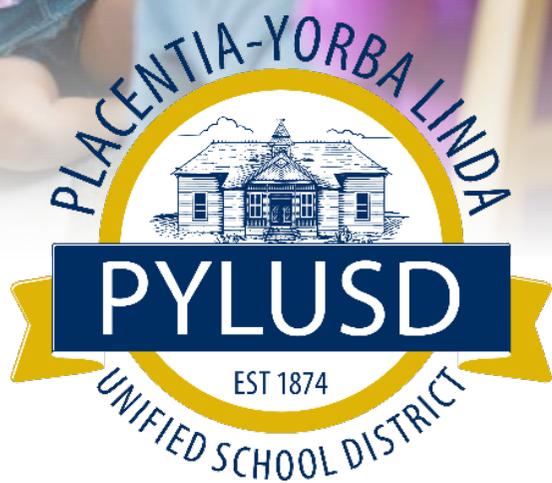
- Elections are no longer a one-day event
- Voting begins the month before any election day when every registered voter receives a Voter Information Guide as well as a vote-by-mail ballot
- Take advantage of the alternatives available
 - voting-at-home
 - drive-thru ballot drop-off
 - in-person options
 - returning your ballot via United States Postal Service or deliver your ballot to us



Orange County Registrar of Voters
1300 South Grand Avenue, Building C
Santa Ana, CA 92705
ocvote.com/votecenter
714-567-7600

For a full menu of voting information including information on the election, candidates, where to vote, how to vote, and more, visit ocvote.com/votecenter

@ocrov @ocregistrar @ocregistrar



Full-Day Kindergarten Coming to PYLUSD in Fall!

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District will launch Full-Day Kindergarten at all elementary schools with the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten



Additional time for students in a developmentally appropriate, academic environment



Students receive extended lessons including hands-on science, art, music & movement



Students interact more frequently with other students & their teacher to enhance social skills



“Play to Learn” teaches students collaboration & problem solving skills



Students leave kindergarten ready for first grade & beyond

Visit www.pylusd.org/kindergarten for more info.