

City Administrator's Weekly Briefing



"Rich Heritage, Bright Future"

From: *Damien R. Arrula*

November 8, 2023

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Happy Veterans Day from City Administrator Damien R. Arrula

As we approach Veterans Day, I want to express my profound gratitude and appreciation for the brave men and women who have served our great nation. Each year on November 11th, we come together as a community to honor the sacrifices and courage of our veterans. Veterans Day is a day to reflect and recognize all we owe to those who have served and stood unwaveringly in defense of our freedom. This year, I encourage you to reach out to a veteran, listen to their stories, and express your heartfelt thanks for their service. Small gestures of gratitude can mean the world to those who have sacrificed so much.

As we pay tribute to their service, let us also remember that our responsibility to them extends beyond this day. Let us continue to support and uplift our veterans throughout the year, ensuring they receive the care and recognition they deserve.

To pay tribute to our veterans, the City will host the 35th Annual Veterans Day Observance Ceremony on Saturday, November 11th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Placentia Civic Center. The City also has a veterans monument wall, and new names are added each year at the Observance Ceremony. The Wall is located in the Placentia Civic Center for people to view daily.

This Veterans Day, let us all salute and honor our veterans. May the values they embody continue to inspire us and remind us of the exceptional strength that lies within the heart of our nation. Thank you, and may God bless our veterans, the City of Placentia, and the United States of America.

State of OC San Luncheon

The State of OC Sanitation District was held on Friday, October 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Mile Square Golf Course Clubhouse in Fountain Valley. The event hosted local, state, and federal dignitaries and was a success with nearly 150 attendees.

Council Member Chad Wanke, who is also the OC San Board Chairman, provided an update on OC San, their accomplishments over the last year, and the future direction of the agency. Additionally, he unveiled their newest annual report. To view the 2022-23 OC San Annual Report, please [click here](#).



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Upcoming Meetings and Events

- 11/9/23 Veterans Day Observed—City Facilities Closed
- 11/11/23 Veterans Day Observance Ceremony
- 11/14/23 Planning Commission
- 11/21/23 Thanksgiving Food Distribution
- 11/22-11/23 Thanksgiving—City Facilities Closed

For additional information or

questions about this

Weekly Briefing, please email:

CAWeekly@placentia.org



ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Veterans Day City Facilities Closure

All City facilities will be closed on Thursday, November 9th in observance of Veterans Day. The Police Department and Fire and Life Safety Department will remain open. For non-life threatening emergencies, such as a fallen tree, street flooding, or Public Works issues, please call (714) 993-8111.

2023 Veterans Construction Career Pathways Workshop

Senator Josh Newman will be hosting the 2023 Veterans Construction Career Pathways Workshop webinar on **Thursday, November 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** This event is for military and veterans job seekers interested in breaking into construction and building trades. This virtual event is in partnership with CalVet and Helmets to Hardhats, a national program that connects transitioning service members and veterans with skilled training and quality career opportunities. During the event, attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Hear from statewide industry leaders of California's 14 major construction and building trades.
- Receive immediate answers to questions uniquely relevant to the military and veteran community.
- Connect with local liaisons for their trade(s) of interest.

For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

Upcoming Weekend Closures on SR-57 at Lambert Road

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will be conducting extended weekend closures at various locations on the SR-57 at Lambert Road. The closures will consist of the northbound (NB) and southbound (SB) SR-57 Lambert Road on-ramps and Lambert Road off-ramps, as well as eastbound (EB) and westbound (WB) Lambert Road from Pointe Drive to State College. The closure will begin at 10:00 p.m. Friday, November 17th until 5:00 p.m. Sunday, November 19th. The detours are as follows:

1. **EB/WB Lambert Road from Pointe Drive to State College; EB Detour:** SB State College to EB Imperial Highway to NB Kraemer. **WB Detour:** SB Kraemer to WB Imperial Highway to NB State College.
2. **SB SR-57 Lambert Road off-ramp; Detour:** SB State College to EB Imperial Highway on-ramp.
3. **SB SR-57 Lambert Road on-ramp; Detour:** SB State College to EB Imperial Highway on-ramp
4. **NB SR-57 Lambert Road off-ramp; Detour:** exit Imperial Highway off-ramp *if Imperial Highway is missed, exit Tonner Canyon off-ramp, turn right on Brea Canyon Road onto SB SR-57 exit Imperial Highway off-ramp.
5. **NB SR-57 Lambert on-ramp; Detour:** SB Kraemer to WB Imperial Highway on-ramp.



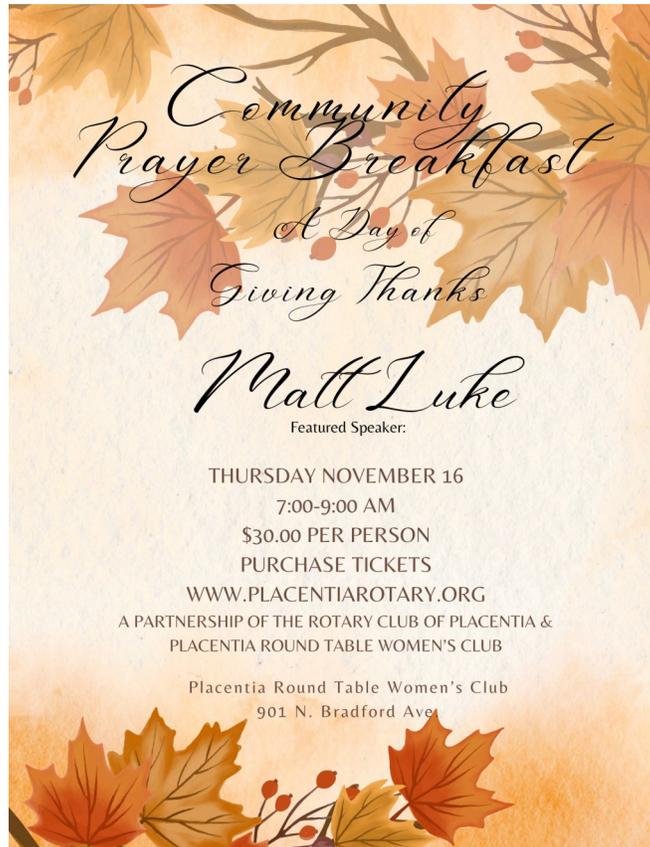
Caltrans asks that everyone please obey all posted signs and traffic instructions for the safety of all Caltrans crews and travelers.



ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Community Prayer Breakfast—A Day of Giving Thanks

The Rotary Club of Placentia and Placentia Round Table Women's Club will host the annual Community Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, November 16th from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Placentia Round Table Women's Club, 901 N. Bradford Avenue. This year's event will feature speaker Matt Luke. Tickets are \$30 per person and may be purchased by visiting www.placentiarotary.org.



Medi-Cal Renewals Happening Now—Take Action to Keep Your Medi-Cal

The County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) has returned to renewing members' Medi-Cal. Don't have a gap in coverage; make sure you have reported any changes to your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number so SSA can contact you.

You will either get a letter saying you were renewed automatically or a renewal form in a yellow envelope. If you receive a renewal form, submit your information within 60 days online, by phone, in person, or by mail. Your renewal will be sent based on the month you first enrolled in Medi-Cal.

Follow these steps to keep your Medi-Cal:

1. Update your contact information with SSA.
2. Create or check your online account at www.BenefitsCal.com.
3. Check your mail for a renewal form in a yellow envelope.
4. Complete your renewal form if you get one.

Go to your Medi-Cal account at www.BenefitsCal.com or call SSA at 1-800-281-9799 for more information.

Take action now to keep your Medi-Cal!



ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

11th Annual El Dorado Fallen Heroes Ceremony

The 11th Annual El Dorado High School Fallen Heroes Ceremony will take place at El Dorado High School on Thursday, November 9th beginning at 10:00 a.m. Gates will open for the event at 9:15 a.m. This event honors all Veterans, Active Duty, and Reservists across our community and also honors our fallen heroes who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. For more information on this event, please [click here](#).



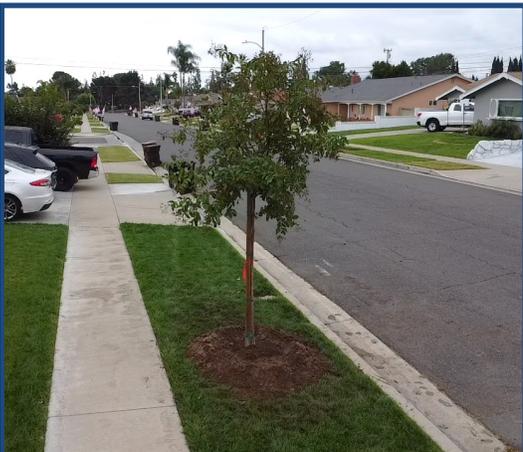
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Urban Forestry Project in the Former Hamer Island

On Monday, November 6th the City began work on an urban forestry project in the former County unincorporated Hamer Island. As part of the City's annexation of the former island, the County of Orange provided the City with funds to use for infrastructure improvements in the former Island. The City Council allocated funds in this year's capital improvement program budget to plant 160 new parkway trees throughout the entire Island to improve the tree and shade canopy throughout the neighborhood. A combination of 24-inch box Crape Myrtles, Australian Willows, and Brisbane Box Trees are being planted in residential parkways as well as in empty tree wells located along Palm Drive and Valencia Drive.



This project further reflects the City's commitment to expanding our urban forest in keeping with the tradition of being a Tree City USA community. Expanding and maintaining our urban forest not only adds aesthetic value and benefits to the community, but it also helps mitigate the effects of climate change and goes a long way with reducing ambient air temperatures in our neighborhoods as we expand our tree canopy. The City budgets funds every year for new tree plantings, so if you would like to have a new parkway tree planted in front of your home, please contact Public Works Supervisor Joey Ruiz at (714) 993-8245 to schedule a consultation. In addition, the City also has an Expand the Forest Program that allows community members to sponsor a tree planting in one of our parks to commemorate a special event or friends and family members. For more information on our Expand the Forest Program, please visit www.placentia.org/urbanforest.





POLICE DEPARTMENT

Veterans Day Observance Event

The City of Placentia will be hosting the 35th Annual Veterans Day Observance Ceremony on Saturday, November 11th at 10:00 a.m. at the Placentia Civic Center. The City is grateful for the many sacrifices made by the men and women who have served our Country. In their honor, we invite all residents, veterans, and their families to celebrate this Veterans Day with us. Special guest speakers, patriotic music, and the new Military Banner Recognition Program recipients will be included in the event program.

In addition, the added service members to the veterans monument will be honored, and their name inscriptions will be unveiled.

For more information, please call (714) 993-8211.



Cybersecurity and Phishing Awareness: QR Codes

In today's digital age, where convenience and efficiency are paramount, QR codes have become an integral part of our lives. They make tasks like accessing websites, making payments, and sharing information incredibly easy. However, as with any technological advancement, the convenience of QR codes also comes with certain risks, especially when it comes to cybersecurity. We want to bring to your attention the growing threat of QR code scams and the importance of staying vigilant to protect your personal and financial information. QR code scams have been on the rise, with cybercriminals exploiting these codes to their

advantage. It is crucial that we remain aware of these risks and take steps to mitigate them. Here are some essential points to keep in mind:

- **Beware of Unsolicited QR Codes:** Be cautious when scanning QR codes received via email, text messages, or on websites, especially if you did not request or expect them. Cybercriminals often use unsolicited QR codes to lead individuals to malicious websites or to download malware onto their devices.
- **Verify the Source:** Only scan QR codes from trusted sources. If you're unsure about the legitimacy of a QR code, verify its source by contacting the sender or checking the official website or app associated with it.
- **Check the URL:** Before scanning a QR code, take a moment to look at the URL it leads to. Make sure it matches the legitimate website's domain. Criminals may create convincing replicas of websites to steal your login credentials.
- **Update Your Smartphone's Security:** Regularly update your smartphone's operating system and security software to ensure you have the latest protection against malware and other cyber threats.
- **Use a QR Code Scanner with Built-in Security:** Consider using a QR code scanner with built-in security features that can help identify potentially harmful codes before you scan them.
- **Be Wary of QR Code Overlays:** Some cybercriminals place malicious QR code overlays on top of legitimate codes. Inspect the code carefully to ensure it hasn't been tampered with.
- **Educate Yourself:** Stay informed about the latest QR code scams and cybersecurity threats by following reputable sources and organizations dedicated to cybersecurity awareness.

Remember, staying informed and practicing good cybersecurity habits is the best defense against QR code scams and other cyber threats.



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Neighborhood Services Office will hold a Turkey Basket Drive on Tuesday, November 21st beginning at 2:00 pm, while supplies last. Donations of Thanksgiving non-perishable food items are now being accepted. The donated baskets will be distributed to families in need in the City of Placentia at the annual Turkey Basket Distribution Event. Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Whitten Community Center located at 900 S. Melrose Street. Please do not bring perishable food items at this time. For more information, please contact the Neighborhood Services Office at (714) 986-2333.

Wagner Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The City held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, November 4th at 11:00 a.m. at Wagner Park, 700 Trumpet Avenue, to unveil the newly renovated park equipment! The event featured free giveaways for the kids and a hot dog lunch for all who attended. In following the Placentia Parks Initiative Plan, the Wagner Park playground highlights a colorful nature theme including new swings, ladybug, butterfly and caterpillar climbers, and new slides. For more information about upcoming park projects, contact the Community Services Department at (714) 993-8232.



Placentia Pony Baseball World Series Champions

The Placentia Pony Baseball 7u All-Star Pinto Division Team won this year's Pony Baseball World Series! This 7u All-Star Team was selected in May after the recreation season and had only weeks to prepare for all-star play. Their hard work and dedication made them the best 7u Pony baseball team in the State! They dominated the post-season competition, earning them a berth in the 7u Pinto World Series in Camarillo. The team had victories over West Covina, Hart, and Simi Valley before overcoming a very tough Orange Olive team in the final game, bringing another World Series title back to Placentia Pony. The City is very proud of these young athletes and honored them this year as the Grand Marshalls at the 58th annual Heritage Parade and presented them with certificates and medals of achievement at the November 7th City Council Meeting. These All-Stars are a special group with a final record of 20 -3 in the post-season. Congratulations, Placentia Pony 7's! For more information about Placentia Pony Baseball, visit www.placentiapony.com.





DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Placentia Welcomes The Donut Chain!

The City of Placentia is pleased to welcome The Donut Chain! Located at the former Donut Place shop at 901 E. Yorba Linda Boulevard, the Donut Chain opened in September 2023. A family-run small business, the Donut Chain is a classic donut shop that boasts freshly-made donuts, bagels, croissants, and coffee. The Donut Chain is open Monday through Friday from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Be sure to look out for their special, holiday-themed donuts! The Donut Chain has crafted a menu of dedicated holiday donuts, apparel, and coffee mugs with the holidays approaching. For more information on new businesses and development in the City, contact Development Services at (714) 993-8124.

