

# P-TOWN INFORMER

A Bimonthly Report to the Community

June 25, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 11



PLACENTIA  
California

"The People Are The City"

## CITY'S WEBSITE MAKES THE GRADE ON EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

The grades are in and the City of Placentia received straight "A's" from the Orange County Grand Jury for the accessibility, content and clarity of the employee compensation information on its website. In fact, the City was one of only five cities in Orange County to receive an **excellent** rating from the Grand Jury.

Transparency in government, especially when it comes to public employee compensation costs, is nothing new. However in the wake of the compensation and benefits scandal in the City of Bell and several other incidents of government waste and abuse, transparency has taken on a new meaning and has been a subject of intense public debate at various levels of government. The State Legislature has passed numerous bills over the past two years in an effort to mandate transparency in government and to give the public better access to public employee compensation costs. While some of these bills have significantly changed, in large part to the good, how public employee compensation is reported, other bills are trying to fix problems that do not exist and in the process are creating inconsistent and inaccurate reporting which hampers transparency.

People look to government institutions to work on their behalf and provide oversight on mat-

ters that significantly impact their quality of life. Government fulfills this role most effectively when its activities are open and transparent to citizens. With visibility into government actions and spending, people are more likely to participate in the political process and hold government officials accountable for their actions. When citizens engage in the issues that affect them, they can help to ensure that power and public funds are used wisely and are representative of their interests.

To better understand and rate the clarity, content and accessibility of employee compensation costs, the 2011-2012 Orange County Grand Jury reviewed the reported compensation costs that each local government agency (i.e., county, city and special district) is required, by law, to post on their website for all employee positions within their organization. Also reviewed was the top-level compensation cost for all elected officials and executives over \$100,000 in base salary.

The Grand Jury assessed the compensation costs information based on the following three categories:

*(continued on page 2)*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### News Bits

- ◆ Online Business License Renewal Now Available
- ◆ Photography Contest
- ◆ Annual Recruitment for Commission and Committee Vacancies
- ◆ Grant Applications for Placentia Community Foundation

### Crime View

- ◆ Window Vandalisms
- ◆ Fireworks are Prohibited in Placentia
- ◆ Police Reports
- ◆ Ecklund Cold Homicide Case

### Development Services

- ◆ Temporary Street Closure on Placentia Ave.
- ◆ Code Compliance
- ◆ New Business License

### Meeting Notes

- ◆ City Council
- ◆ Planning Commission
- ◆ Recreation and Parks Commission
- ◆ Cultural Arts Commission
- ◆ Heritage Committee
- ◆ Veterans Advisory Committee



## UPCOMING COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 3	Tuesday	Placentia City Council Meeting at 7 p.m. City Hall - Cancelled
July 4	Wednesday	Independence Day - All Facilities Closed
July 5	Thursday	Concerts in the Park - Custom Made Band & Show at Tri City Park
July 9	Monday	Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. City Hall
July 9	Monday	Financial Audit Committee at 7 p.m. City Hall
July 10	Tuesday	Cultural Arts Commission at 6:30 p.m. City Hall
July 10	Tuesday	Planning Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. City Hall



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## NEWS BITS

### City's Website Makes the Grade on Employee Compensation Information (Cont.)

1. Accessibility – Are transparent compensation costs readily identifiable from the home page, accessible without complex website search and layered navigations?
2. Content & Clarity for Executive Compensation Page – Are the components of both actual salary and all benefit costs presented? Are the components shown in detail, with a total compensation cost included in table form? Is the compensation information presented in a clear concise format that can be easily read and understood by the average viewer?
3. Content & Clarity for Employee Compensation Page – Are the components of both actual salary and all benefit costs presented? Are the components shown in detail, with a total compensation cost included in table form? Is the composition information presented in a clear, concise format that may be easily read and understood by the average viewer?

Although the study found that compensation cost transparency is improving in Orange County local governments, with a few notable exceptions, complete pension costs for employees are still hidden from public view. The City of Placentia was given high marks by the Grand Jury and its website ([www.placentia.org](http://www.placentia.org)) was placed on the Grand Jury's 2012 Gold Honor Roll for providing the best compensation cost transparency. The Grand Jury's full report cost compensation transparency can be viewed [here](#).

While not easy to implement or maintain, transparency and good government are undoubtedly worth the price. The Placentia City Council and City Staff are strongly committed to maintaining the highest level of transparency in government and will continue to post information on employee compensation costs and other matters of public interest on the City's website so that the public has open access to this information.

*This article was written by Troy L. Butzlaff, City Administrator for the City of Placentia*

### Annual Recruitment Deadline Extended for Commission and Committee Vacancies

The Placentia City Council welcomes interested residents wishing to serve on official City Commissions and Committees to submit an application. Residents interested in serving may obtain an application form from the City Clerk's Office located in Placentia City Hall. For additional inquiries, please call (714) 993-8231. The deadline for filing applications will be 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 28, 2012. Council will conduct brief interviews and make appointments in July.

### Now Accepting Grant Applications for the Placentia Community Foundation

The Placentia Community Foundation Grant was established with the mission to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of life for residents by establishing or funding programs that address the cultural, recreational and educational needs of this community. In accordance with its mission, the Placentia Community Foundation will award grants to non-profit organizations, public schools and libraries that serve and focus on the cultural, recreational or educational needs of the community. Grant amounts will vary with the maximum award being no more than \$5,000. Grants are not awarded to individuals, or for political lobbying, political campaign or voter registration purposes. If you are interested in submitting a grant application, contact Jonathan Nicks, Executive Director via email at [jnicks@placentiafoundation.com](mailto:jnicks@placentiafoundation.com) to officially register as a prospective applicant. This year's grant application deadline is July 10, 2012. Applications postmarked after this deadline will be considered during the next review period.

### Online Business License Renewal Now Available

The City of Placentia's Business License Web Renewal is now available. The feature allows most businesses to renew their Business License online. You can save time, money and hassle by renewing electronically and avoid a trip to City Hall. Go to the City's website ([www.placentia.org](http://www.placentia.org)) and follow the easy steps to renew your Business License. For questions and assistance with electronic renewal contact the Business License Division at (714) 993-8230.

### Photography Contest

The Cultural Arts Commission sponsored the annual Photography Contest. Participants were asked to submit their best photos for judging. A total of twenty-two people participate with over fifty photos submitted for judging. The following are the winners:

People & Animals	17 & Under	Grant Bagne	Killer Splash
People & Animals	18 & Over	Liz Marchant	Woman Waiting
Landscape & Still Life	17 & Under	Connor Colby	Blooms of Spring
Landscape & Still Life	18 & Over	Matthew Nelson	Antelope Canyon
Life in Placentia	17 & Under	Grant Bagne	Alta Vista Sunset
Life in Placentia	18 & Over	David McLaren	Vietnam
Best of Show	All Ages	Nancy McLaren	A Cloudy Adventure
Placentia's Choice	All Ages	Nancy McLaren	A Cloudy Adventure



## CRIME VIEW

### Window Vandalisms

A series of window breakings have been occurring throughout the City. The Police Department received three reports of windows being broken on June 2nd. Similar incidents were reported on May 31 and on May 23. No suspect information has been reported except that a vehicle, possibly white, was seen leaving the area of one location. The Placentia Special Enforcement Detail and all patrol officers have been alerted to the rash of vandalisms and are working to deter future crimes and arrest the suspect(s). An interesting though troubling note is that Placentia is not alone in suffering recent vandalisms. Other Orange County agencies have reported a spate of similar crimes with the City of Orange reporting 27 such events very recently. The Police Department is communicating with other law enforcement agencies in an effort to stop these malicious and dangerous events. A reward has been graciously offered by friends of one of the victims.

### Fireworks are Prohibited in Placentia

The City of Placentia and the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) wants to remind everyone that the sale, discharge or possession of fireworks is illegal in most areas of Orange County. Only five cities allow the sale of "safe and sane" fireworks with very specific restrictions on their sale and discharge. Those cities include Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Garden Grove and Stanton. It is important to know that you cannot buy fireworks in those cities and then light them off in another city. The OCFA recommends that residents enjoy a Fourth of July celebration with friends and family at a professional firework show. Many communities provide additional amenities, including barbecues, concerts and children's activities along with a large firework show. To obtain a list of these shows, please call the OCFA at (714) 573-6200 or visit their website at [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org).

### Police Reports

#### May 27th

The coroner's office was notified and an investigator responded to a residence in the 300 Block Sunrise for a dead body. Officers' determined drug overdose was the most likely cause, as there was nothing overly suspicious at the scene. The deceased was transported to the coroner's office for further examination.

#### May 28th

Officers were broken from briefing to handle a solo vehicle, injury traffic collision which resulted in a downed light standard and power lines. The driver was transported to Placentia Linda Hospital with moderate injuries and Edison responded to address the electrical issue. The collision occurred at Jefferson and Zion.

### Ecklund Cold Homicide Case

The Police Department has been asked by the Discovery Network show called "On the Case with Paula Zahn" to allow the Placentia Police Department to participate in a documentary covering this case, our investigation and the successful outcome. The Discovery Network will bear all expenses in order to get the story first hand from our personnel. This is a terrific opportunity to showcase the excellent work done by the Placentia Police Department on this difficult case.



## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### Temporary Street Closure on Placentia Avenue

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has begun construction for the Placentia Avenue underpass. Temporary street closure of Placentia Avenue will occur on Friday, June 22, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. through Monday, July 2, 2012 at 6:00 a.m. This will allow construction crews to rebuild the intersection and prepare for the opening of a new bypass road for drivers. This closure will result in a detour route around the project area. In accordance with federal railroad safety regulations, residents should expect to hear an increase in the frequency of train horns due to construction activities on and around the project area. For additional information on traffic delays, work schedule, and safety information, please click [here](#).

### Code Compliance Activity

#### May 30th-June 5th

Courtesy Notices	30
Administrative Citations	5
Cumulative Fines	\$800

#### Year to Date 2012:

Courtesy Notices	323
Administrative Citations	92
Building Permit Violations	33

### New Business License Issued

Business Name	Address
Joann Marie Designs	630 Jefferson #H, I, J
Allegro Ballroom	310 Orangethorpe #G, H, J
Zhangs Asian Bistro	187 Yorba Linda
Michael Morreale	350 Orangethorpe #15
Pawstively Elegant	1525 Placentia
Yorba Linda Arco	1202 Yorba Linda



## MEETING NOTES

The following is an annotated summary of key actions taken by the City Council and various City Commissions/Committees. For additional details including the full agenda for the City Council and Commissions, please visit the City's website at [www.placentia.org](http://www.placentia.org). Live and recorded City Council meetings or individual agenda items can be viewed [here](#).

### City Council

The City Council met on Tuesday, June 5th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ Acceptance of Resignation from the Cultural Arts Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission
- ◆ Solid Waste Handling Services Rate Adjustment and Related Resolutions for Fiscal Year 2012-13
- ◆ Approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Onward Engineering for Construction Management Services Related to the 2012 Residential Street Improvement Project
- ◆ Approval to award construction to VT Electric, Inc. for the Park Lighting Improvement Project Phase I
- ◆ Transfer of Asset Forfeiture Funds and Authorization to Purchase a Police Service Dog and Associated Canine Team Training and Equipment
- ◆ Approval of Program Application, Guidelines, & Procedures for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Program

The City Council met on Tuesday, June 19th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ Acceptance of the Mandated Biennial Review of the City's Conflict of Interest Code
- ◆ Acceptance of the Notice of General Municipal Election—November 6, 2012 Consolidation with Statewide Election and Regulations for Candidates
- ◆ Acceptance of the Proposition 1B Funding Appropriation Adjustment to Add Remaining Fiscal Year 2009-10 Funds to Citywide Residential Street Rehabilitation Project
- ◆ Approved the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget for 2012-13

### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission met on Tuesday, June 12th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ Amended Chapter 23.90 of Title 23 (Zoning Ordinance) of the Placentia Municipal Code adding a new Section 23.90.045 requiring specified signs utilizing non-Latin/Roman alphabet characters to provide a generic description of the business in English and requires applications for such signs to include a certified English translation thereof.
- ◆ Approved the General Plan Conformance Finding for Fiscal Year 2012 to 2019 Seven Year Capital Improvement Program

### Recreation and Parks Commission

The monthly Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

### Cultural Arts Commission

The Cultural Arts Commission met on Tuesday, June 12th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ Provided an update on the 2012 Photography Contest.
- ◆ Discussed the new logo.
- ◆ Discussed non-profit participation at the Concerts in the Park.

### Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee met on Wednesday, June 13th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ Planned for the 48th annual Heritage Festival and Parade
- ◆ A representative from the Friendly Center attended the meeting for initial discussions of the Beer Garden area.

### Veterans Advisory Committee

The Veterans Advisory Committee met on Monday, June 4th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ Reviewed the 2011 Veterans Day Observance Ceremony
- ◆ Discussed the 2012 Veterans Day Observance Ceremony
- ◆ Discussed the speakers, monument, applications, singer and chorus for the event.