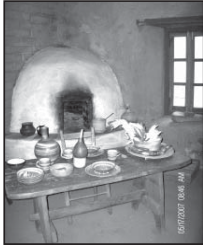




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# THE ORANGE COAST VOICE

No. 9 Serving Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa and surrounding communities June 2007

## Wetlands Coverup?

*Coastal Commission investigates alleged illegal fill*

**By LISA WELLS**  
OC Voice

**S**tunning photographic evidence purports to show developer Shea Homes in the act of bulldozing over and concealing a wetland environment. The image highlights a showdown that took place between developers and environmentalists in front of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) last month.

The dramatic documentation convinced the commission to postpone the hearing until July in order to examine these allegations of illegal wetland filling. This revelation, which came to light during the CCC meeting held in Long Beach, may end up being the death-blow to developer Shea Home's plans to build a 170-home area to be called Parkside Estates.

Illegal wetland destruction is a serious allegation. California's wetland habitat is severely endangered—90 percent of its natural wetland habitat has already been lost in the last 200 years.

Shea Homes denies the allegations.

The Shea Homes proposal took up half of the 10-hour CCC meeting held on May 10.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK BIXBY

**FARMER SHEA?:** Shea Homes says it was farming with this bulldozer, but opponents say it was illegally filling a wetlands area.

Discussion of the Shea Homes proposal commenced with a CCC staff report on the various environmentally sensitive areas of the property: three swaths of wetland and two environmentally sensitive bird habitats. There were two organized presentations, from contrasting viewpoints: one by Shea Homes and one by the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. After the pre-

sentations there were two hours of public comment from both supporters of the development and from wetland conservationists.

**Wintersburg Pond**

At the core of the contentious battle was an almost acre-sized section of the developer's property referred to as Wintersburg Pond. The CCC's staff, who advises and educates the commissioners,

claims that the pond meets wetland criteria.

Ron Metzler, Vice President of Planning and Development for Shea Homes, a construction company owned by conglomerate J.F. Shea Co., Inc., spoke first. He urged the commission to remove any wetland status from Wintersburg Pond and to reduce buffers to just 100 feet around environmentally sensitive raptor habitat. Raptor is a general term for birds of prey: for example, hawks and eagles.

Unmoved by Metzler's urgings, many of the commissioners were convinced that the bird habitat buffers need to be at least 100 meters—about three times wider than Shea Homes wants them—and they insisted that Wintersburg Pond truly can be considered a wetland. The commissioners also showed outrage over the new photographic evidence that uncovers possible deception by Shea Homes.

**Evidence is Substantial**

CCC Executive Director Peter Douglas said that the photographic evidence was substantial. "We saw evidence today that makes me concerned about the nature of our recommendation,"

See **CC WETLANDS**, Page 4

## HB Seizes Medicine From Sick

*Medical pot patients caught in crossfire*

**By SARA ELLIS**  
OC Voice

**I**magine your local police department taking it upon themselves to cite public sculptures for nudity and you've got a good analogy for the absurd plight faced by medical cannabis users in Huntington Beach.

Despite two state laws enacted to protect medical marijuana patients from criminal prosecution, the city's police department, along with several other municipalities, have chosen to lean on a Supreme Court ruling favoring John Ashcroft and his bedside torture master, Alberto Gonzales.

Like Gonzales's own freewheeling interpretation of the Constitution, Gonzales vs. Raich—the 2005 ruling that allows a congressional ban on cannabis to eclipse

state law—is now being used as carte blanche for "legal" theft and in many cases, as patients assert, police harassment.

**Getting into the action**

The Huntington Beach City Council has also decided to get in on the action, voting 6-1 at a meeting on March 7, to support a legal spat being waged between by the City of Garden Grove against the Orange County Superior Court. The latter has ordered the Garden Grove Police Department to return some 8 grams of medical marijuana to Felix Kha, a patient whose prescription was confiscated

after he failed to make a complete stop while driving his car in 2005. Kha's been fighting for its return ever since.

"The judge says 'give it back along with any other property

**Americans for Safe Access, a group working to ensure safe and legal access to medical cannabis, says that Huntington Beach is one of several 'rogue cities' within the state ...**

that has been taken," says Kha's attorney, Joe Elford, "(The City of Garden Grove) have an obligation to return your property to you, but he walks in with his property order in-hand and the cops say 'no.'"

Elford, who is also chief counsel for Americans for Safe Access, a group working to ensure safe and legal access to medical cannabis,

says that Huntington Beach is one of several "rogue cities" within the state that are marching to federal orders and disregarding state law. Although a majority of the counties have implemented an I.D. card program under Senate Bill 420, a few stragglers are opting for a catch-22 even more dazing and confusing than the alleged effects of marijuana.

"They have an obligation to enforce state law over federal," Elford says. Ironically, federal law is rarely used in medical marijuana citations.

"It's gross inefficiency. When they arrest the person or cite them, then they would be following federal law, which they never say in any of these cases. They're being cited for state law when they haven't broken state law. They See **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**, Page 3

THE ORANGE COAST  
**VOICE**

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**ENVIRONMENT**

# It's No Bull

*Beef production creates global warming*

By **SARA S. MOSKO, Ph.D.**  
Earth Resource Foundation

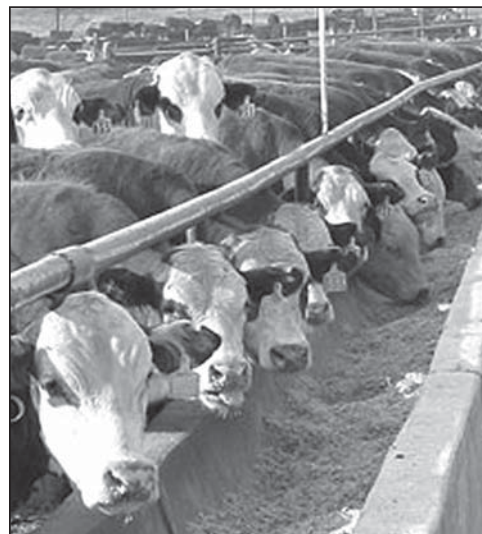
**G**lobal warming is on the tip of many tongues these days, but so are hamburgers, pork chops and fried chicken. As hybrid car sales are up and SUV sales on the decline, it seems Americans might be waking up to the reality that each of us bears some responsibility for climate change through our everyday consumer choices. John Robbins, the once heir-apparent of the Baskin-Robbins ice cream company, has authored bestsellers, such as *The Food Revolution*, detailing the detrimental environmental impacts of a meat-based diet. He and other experts make a strong case that food choices rank right up there with what car you drive in determining your personal contribution to global warming. A quick look inside the hamburger bun easily makes the point.

**Massive Fossil Fuels Consumed to Produce Beef**

Most U.S. beef comes from cows raised on factory farms where herds of animals are crowded onto concrete lots and fed grains, mostly corn. The grains are also grown using industrial farming methods that rely heavily on application of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and pesticides manufactured from natural gas or oil. Enormous amounts of energy were consumed to extract those fossil fuels and transport them, often across the globe, to chemical factories where energy again is used to transform them into the desired chemicals. Those fertilizers/pesticides are then transported to grain farms that, from planting through harvest, run on diesel-fueled machinery. Fossil fuels were also expended to manufacture the farm equipment. Electricity, derived from the burning of coal, pumps up water from underground aquifers to irrigate the fields. The feed grain products are moved by truck or rail to feed lots. Once the cattle are fattened up, they're trucked to slaughter houses where electrically-driven machines prepare and package burger patties. Refrigerated trucks carry the patties to markets and restaurants nationwide. The burgers are most likely cooked on a natural gas-fired grill.

**Livestock Produce Volumes of Global Warming Gases**

Heat-trapping CO<sub>2</sub> is produced at each of these steps, all of which rely on fossil fuels (oil, coal or natural gas). About 16 fossil fuel calories are burned to produce a single calorie from beef. Producing one calorie from soybeans, in contrast, eats up only 1/4 of a calorie from fossil fuels, making soybean production – 64 times more efficient. According to a 2006 report from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, 29% of all CO<sub>2</sub> stemming from human activity is attributable to the livestock sector. And it doesn't stop there. The report highlighted that livestock are major contributors to two other highly potent green-



**MOO:** Studies find that vegetable protein is not only perfectly adequate but is also associated with better health and a longer lifespan than beef.

house gases: 37% of human-related methane (23 times the global warming potential of CO<sub>2</sub>) comes from the belching and flatulence of cattle and other ruminants; 65% of human-related nitrous oxide (296 times the global warming potential of CO<sub>2</sub>) comes largely from manure. Furthermore, tropical rainforests are being burned down at an alarming rate to create pastureland for cattle, releasing suddenly into the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub> the vast amounts of carbon that were stored over centuries

**Most U.S. beef comes from cows raised on factory farms where herds of animals are crowded onto concrete lots and fed grains, mostly corn. The grains are also grown using industrial farming methods that rely heavily on application of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and pesticides manufactured from natural gas or oil.**

within the plant material.

**Food Choices Affect Global Warming as Much as Driving Choices**

Most of us probably blame vehicle emissions when we think of global climate change. However, the United Nations report concluded that the livestock sector is responsible for 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions (measured in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents) – more than that of the transport sector! Indeed, geophysicists Gidon Eshel and Pamela Martin at

the Univ. Chicago compared the total greenhouse gas emissions of animal- and plant-based diets and found that a person eating a vegetarian diet contributes about 1.5 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents less per year than someone consuming the same number of calories from a typical American diet (about 28% of which come from animal sources). Going veg reduces your greenhouse gas emissions more than switching from an average sedan (Toyota Camry) to an ultra fuel-efficient hybrid (Toyota Prius).

For those of us raised on meat protein dished up three times a day, the connection between our meal choices and global warming might be another "inconvenient truth" that is particularly hard to swallow. Maybe it will help to learn that study after study finds that vegetable protein is not only perfectly adequate but also associated with better health and longer lifespan!

My hope is that a cultural shift is coming where the veggie patty replaces the beef patty in the All-American burger. I hope it happens soon since the latest research from The National Center for Atmospheric Research predicts that the Arctic could be nearly devoid of summer sea ice by as early as 2040 if greenhouse gas emissions are not seriously curtailed. To the dwindling number of skeptics, global warming might still feel reminiscent of Chicken Little crying out "the sky is falling," – but given what human negligence has done to our atmosphere, this time it's for real.

*Sarah S. Mosko, Ph.D. is a member of the Earth Resource Foundation. For more information, please visit [www.earthresource.org](http://www.earthresource.org) or call (949) 645-5163.*

# LETTERS

The *Orange Coast Voice* encourages letters to the editor and will attempt to print all those received. However, due to space constraints, letters are subject to editing. All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters can be electronically sent to [letters@ocvoice.com](mailto:letters@ocvoice.com), or mailed directly to: *Orange Coast Voice*, 419 Main Street, #209, Huntington Beach, California, 92648.

## Harman disappointing

For those of us who walked precincts for Tom Harman and his wife during their campaigns, thinking Tom would be at least a moderate supporter of the environment, his introduction of SB 427 is hugely disappointing ["Harman: Shorten EIR", May 2007]. You can bet the Republican party had a firm "Dutch Uncle" talk with him and told him to get in line or else. Personally, his withdrawal of support of Flossie Horgan during the City Council campaign, was the most stinging indictment of his character or rather a lack of the same. Upon reflection, we should have known. As the old saying goes "lie down with dogs, come up with fleas". Many of us will not be fooled again.

*Merle Moshiri  
Huntington Beach, CA*

## Solar still a good choice

The *OC Voice* article, "Solar Initiative" [May 2007] brings to light an unforeseen glitch with SB 1, the Million Solar Roofs bill, signed into law by Gov. Schwarzenegger last year and taking effect January 1, 2007. The glitch has created a situation in which some consumers, though not all, would see an increase in their electric bills after purchasing a solar energy system instead of the expected decrease in energy costs. The problem stems from the SB 1 requirement that all solar customers sign up for what is called "Time-of-Use" (TOU) rates where electricity is more expensive during peak demand time periods and less expensive off peak. TOU rates are not a problem in and of themselves, or even throughout California. Rather, the problem arises in two situations. First, where TOU rates are not applied to all ratepayers, solar and non-solar, such as in Southern California Edison territory, and, second, where a consumer in such a territory wishes to install a solar energy system that is too small to cover all of their peak energy needs. Need-less-to-say, solar power is an obvious solution to California's energy and environmental problems and all barriers to solar power must be immediately removed, including this one. We urge the state legislature and the governor to immediately fix this limited but problematic glitch and,

meanwhile, urge most Californians to continue to invest in solar power as a way to save money and the environment. By and large, solar power remains an excellent way for individuals and businesses to save money and save the environment.

*Bernadette Del Chiaro  
Clean Energy Advocate  
Environment California  
[www.environmentcalifornia.org](http://www.environmentcalifornia.org)  
Sacramento, CA*

## Solar subsidies follow up

The energy audit requirement is another way CSI, a.k.a. The Million Solar Roofs program, shines on the corporate sector. In order to verify that businesses that use rebates in acquiring solar power are not then wasting their green power, CSI monitors efficiency with the energy audit, essentially another set of paperwork. Retrofit installers, however, who are installing solar panels on energy savvy clientele, wonder why they need to police their customers this way and why they need to incur the expense that goes with it.

There is some good news for the retrofit industry on the time of use rate requirement. The rate structure, which forces all new solar customers to buy their electricity on a rate structure that makes energy more expensive during the day and cheaper at night, another "efficiency" measure that is pricing prospective solar customers out of the market, may become an optional feature. The Public Utilities Commission meets the first week of June and will decide upon this important change.

*Lisa Wells  
OC Voice*

## Letter misses the point

Ms. Heckmans' response to the boycott [Letters, May 2007] totally misses the point. Ralphs had a loyal local customer base and blatantly spit in their eye, in effect saying "we are bigger than you and we will decide what happens in your neighborhood. It is of no concern to us that we leave behind a corner shopping center desperately in need of updating. We will leave that store vacant, run down and not allow anyone in there who might take one penny from our profits, no matter who it hurts, because we can!". This attitude not only damages their image, it has a major financial impact on those small store occupants within the center that rely on the foot traffic of a larger core store to attract business. This center has been in need of a face lift for a long time. The surrounding homeowners deserve better. To ever say a boycott damages the "little guy who works for Ralphs" is a selfish misguided myopic view of the truth. **BOYCOTT RALPHS!**

*S. Southwick  
Huntington Beach, CA*

# Medical Marijuana

From Page 1

should be taking them down to the federal station. It's a drain on resources. The police know that," Elford explained.

## Dissent

Councilmember Debbie Cook, the lone dissenter in the March 7 vote, agrees. "I wasn't interested in expending city resources. That was the main reason. I think we've lost the war on drugs, and I don't think we should ostracize certain drugs if they're a benefit to (patients). It's a strange thing," Cook said.

Strange indeed. Get pulled over with a prescription for OxyContin, the addictive painkiller connected to 464 deaths in 2001 alone—and whose manufacturers, a mere four days after the Council's vote, pleaded guilty to lying about its dangerous side-effects—and you'll drive away unscathed; have an ounce of physician approved cannabis, traced to exactly one death during the same year, and you'll at best be ticketed, at worst arrested, and likely subject to the scare tactics of local authorities.

"They'll tell you that 'the doctors are no

good. We're not going to drop the charges," says Kandice Hawes, President of the O.C. chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, or NORML. "They put up all of these barriers so that patients just give up," Hawes said.

David Lucas, who has had his medical marijuana confiscated twice, once in Huntington Beach, seems to have already given up. "They said the (doctor's letter) was no good. I don't think I'll ever get it back," he says. "I definitely felt I was being harassed."

## Unpleasant encounters

Hawes says that she receives one to two calls each week from worried patients who have had unpleasant encounters with the police. "There've been a lot in Huntington Beach," she says.

Lieutenant Craig Juninger of the HBPD begs to differ. "I don't think we've made a lot of (arrests)," he says; but admits that his department chucks state for federal law in the case of medical marijuana. "We're cur-

See **CANNABIS**, Page 4

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# CC Wetlands Investigation

*'Substantial' photographic evidence cited*

From Page 1

Douglas stated.

Douglas went on to say that the commission historically has not allowed a company to illegally fill a wetland and then benefit from that action with an approval of their development plans. Adding, "We certainly saw this today."

Commissioner Sara Wan said of the Wintersburg Pond, "I don't understand how this can not be a wetland, (even if you use Shea's standard) under our criteria it is a wetland, it's clearly a wetland."

Commissioner Mary K. Shallenberger agreed, "It's clear as a bell to me that Wintersburg Pond is a wetland."

Shallenberger added, referring specifically to the presented photographic evidence, that she was convinced by the historical slides shown, which began in 1970 and went up to the present, that showed two alleged fills. There were also a series of images that showed that natural water inundation of this area throughout the years, giving support to the claim that this area is a wetland.

"Given what I've seen today, it's on the record, we're just not doing the best job we can and this is our only opportunity to do it," Shallenberger said concerning the enforcement of laws that protect sensitive habitats in the coastal area.

## The Bulldozers

Shallenberger was referring to the presentations by Marc Sturdivant and Jan Vandersloot, Bolsa Chica Land Trust board members.

Vandersloot showed a photo of a bulldozer on the Shea Homes property in April 1998. He said, "Shea started directing its crews to start moving the earth. This is not typical farming practice; these are low pressure ground moving machines that are meant to work in wetlands areas. They do that because otherwise they would sink into the wetlands."

With some passion Vandersloot added, "And now you're debating whether or not the Wintersburg Pond wetland exists? You can't let a developer get away with this, you can't let them cover up the land and then say the wetland does not exist!"

Vandersloot also said that the commission should not be discussing how many wetlands exist on the property until these alleged illegal fills are removed.

Some of the fills on the property, which need to be removed in order to expose the wetland mud underneath them, actually predate Shea Homes. The first illegal fill occurred in 1976, according to photos shown by Sturdivant.

Smokey's Stables was apparently responsible then for illegally filling during their



PHOTOGRAPH BY RUDY RAMOS

**WETLANDS PONDING AREA:** This is one of three areas in the Upper Bolsa Chica region that Parkside Estates opponents say constitutes a true wetland area.

expansion from 1981 to 1990. A small area was allowed by the CCC to be filled, but the restoration of the larger, illegally filled sections was never completed.

The photos were taken by nearby resident and amateur wildlife photographer, Mark Bixby, who has carefully catalogued life forms, including human, in the Bolsa Chica area for years with detailed photographs that may have been persuasive to the Coastal Commission but have been a thorn in the side of Shea Homes.

Laer Pearce, a spokesperson for Shea Homes, says that the Wintersburg Pond is not a wetland. "It flunks on all three counts of what a wetland is," Pearce claims.

He also said that there is "no truth at all" to the photographic evidence. "If the hearing had been fair we could've presented the information that rebutted their information," said Pearce, not explaining how the hearing had not been fair to their party.

Pearce stated that instead of filling wetland areas, Shea Homes' bulldozers were farming the land; that their machines were plowing an agricultural field.

Pearce also said they were very concerned about the flood risk in that area and said their development would protect many residents.

## Flood Risk

Metzler, V.P. of Planning and Development for Shea Homes described the flood risk during his presentation. He said that the newly created tidal basin adjacent to the Bolsa Chica Wetland holds water that is seven feet higher in elevation than the homes north of or adjacent to the Shea owned property.

"A ten year storm, which would nearly fill the channel along with a high tide event, would cause failure sending water ... across our field and into the surrounding neighborhoods flooding 800 homes," Metzler said.

There's an old road that holds the water back, but it's not enough to avert disaster during bad storm conditions.

Unless Shea Homes, or some other entity, builds the levee, Metzler claims, existing homes in the area will remain under a flood risk.

In fact, the Shea Homes property is located on an historical flood plain, currently mitigated, at least in part, by a storm channel. Even with the storm channel the CCC staff says the property is still susceptible to flooding, especially during high tides and large storms. The property is also a historical section of the Bolsa Chica wetland, separated and dried somewhat by

**Pearce stated that instead of filling wetland areas, Shea Homes' bulldozers were farming the land; that their machines were plowing an agricultural field.**

the storm channel.

Shea Home's proposed development would include a levee which would possibly prevent a flood disaster from occurring. They are only building it though because it is required by the CCC land use plan. In total they would allocate \$15 million toward storm drain and pump station improvements: installing a new sewer system, water treatment and construction of the levee.

Another flood mitigation effort Shea Homes has proposed is to raise the home site above sea level with additional fill and then channel the runoff into their treatment system. This method would theoretically mitigate flooding, but it is not recommended by the CCC.

## Protected Raptors

Another surprising bit information came from Peter Bloom, a raptor expert. Bloom said the White-tailed Kite is a fully protected species and it is living on the Shea Homes property. The protected species list for the property also includes: the Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle and California Condor. Significantly, the Kite's habitat happens to include the two eucalyptus groves that the CCC staff recommends should each have at least a 100 meter buffer around.

To find out how Shea Homes will defend itself against illegal filling allegations, and what sort of findings will surface for the commission in the meantime, will have to wait until the scheduled July CCC meeting.

Until then the CCC staff will look into the facts and circumstances of illegal fill, According to Sarah Christie, a CCC spokesperson.

An enforcement case has been opened and the chain of events concerning the alleged illegal filling is being examined, Christie said. By July, the investigation may not be finished, but, "There's no way we're going to recommend a zoning change to build on illegal fill," she explained. She also said that even if there is a permit issued on Shea Homes' plan, or any other alternate plan they present, the prior violation allegations will still need to be addressed.

The CCC's Local Coastal Plan Amendment states: "In summary, the Parkside Estates is not suitable for residential development without fairly extensive mitigation measures, especially for the liquefaction and flood hazards. Shea Homes' planned method of remediation involves extensive landform alteration in the form of adding fill to raise the site above Base Flood Elevation. Although this is not a generally recommended method of mitigating a flooding hazard due to the effects it can have on adjacent areas, the planned drainage system improvements more than mitigate for these effects."

# Cannabis

From Page 3

rently following the federal rules. We will confiscate the marijuana even if they have a card. Less than an ounce can get you a citation," Juninger said.

Marla James, Huntington Beach resident and five-year medical cannabis patient, provides a cogent testimony to the paradoxical vilification of the drug. James, who became addicted to OxyContin after losing part of her leg and lower abdomen to flesh-eating bacteria, asserts that it was her cannabis prescription that helped wean her from the far more insidious, yet federally blessed pharmaceutical.

"Getting off (OxyContin) was worse than the flesh-eating bacteria," she said. "I had to go down by 15 milligrams per day—they had me up to 180—and I'd wake

up every morning throwing up. The medical marijuana really helped with that."

Although she has not had any run-ins with authorities, she worries that such an encounter might not be too far off in the future. "There's always the worry that you could be stopped en route (from the dispensary). Then you get your medicine confiscated," James explained.

Like any other legally prescribed medicine in the U.S., marijuana is not exempt from high price tags. An ounce can cost anywhere from \$65 to \$80, depending upon the medical condition; and although home cultivation offers a cheaper and legal alternative, fear keeps patients like James from growing their own. "It's much cheaper when you (do)," she says, "but not safer. Federal law trumps the state law. You (also) have to worry about stealing," she said.

One would like to add, possibly, "from law enforcement."

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# History You Want to Repeat

## *The Diego Sepulveda Adobe Estancia of Costa Mesa*

By **JOHN EARL**  
OC Voice Editor

*Rating: Highly recommended for history buffs, bike riders and picnickers or anyone who ever wondered what that adobe building above the river is about.*

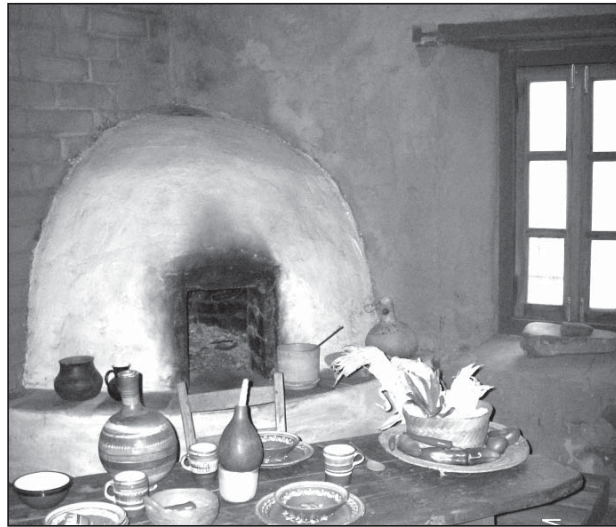
The Diego Sepulveda Adobe Estancia sits at the top of Adams and Mesa Verde avenues in Costa Mesa's beautiful 10-acre Estancia Park. It was constructed on a mesa rich with archeological wonders—including the discovery of a mastodon skeleton in the 1960s—and a breathtaking view of the Santa Ana River basin and Huntington Beach all the way down to the ocean.

The adobe was built between 1817 and 1823, and only San Juan Capistrano Mission, founded in 1776, is an older building still standing in Orange County. An historical entry, in a mission journal from 1820, mentions the need for a way-station, or "estancia" in Spanish, for mission workers herding cattle.

This way-station was strategically located, in part, to protect mission territory from indigenous freedom fighters, such as the Achachemen, more commonly known as the Juaneños, who were struggling at the time to maintain control of their land. The Estancia was also used to keep a lookout for the infamous French pirate, Hippolyte de Bouchard, who was ravaging Spanish settlements along the California coast around that time—and who had viciously sacked the Capistrano mission in 1818.

Back then, and well into the 20th Century, the Santa Ana River used to periodically overflow its banks up to the mesa area where Adams and Mesa Verde avenues now meet. This made it so that people would sometimes even had to use rowboats to get around just outside the Estancia.

Less than half of the original walls of the building are still standing, but the missing sections have been carefully restored in the original style, using the original construction methods to ensure authenticity, according to Costa Mesa Historical Society volunteer, Katharine Bequette. One can



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EARL

**200 YEARS OLD:** This is the oldest room in the Diego Sepulveda Adobe Estancia. The beehive oven would have actually been placed outdoors. Note the period items on the table.

easily tell the difference though, because of the original walls are lumpy and rounded in shape of the old bricks compared to the perfect rectangles of the restored bricks.

The original owner of the Estancia was Don Jose Diego Sepulveda, born in 1813 in San Pedro. He was one of the heirs to the Palos Verde Rancho located then in what is now San Bernardino County. He was also a former mayor of Los Angeles when he took ownership of the adobe in about 1868.

Although the land area that contains the adobe was originally under the jurisdiction of the Mission San Juan Capistrano, it was located within the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana, which had been awarded to a Spanish soldier, Jose Antonio Yorba, and his nephew, Juan Pablo Peralta, in 1810 by the King of Spain.

Their heirs split the land into two parts in

1868. After several years of drought, which killed many cattle and caused severe finan-

cial loss to the land holders, according to Bequette, the land changed from Spanish to American owners.

In 1940 the Segerstrom family bought the modest adobe, at that time covered by wood to protect its walls, which had survived through 120 years of rain and earthquakes.

The Segerstroms farmed the local area and were the largest supplier of lima beans to the U.S. military during World War II. Much later, they would create the South Coast Plaza Mall, which might well be the nation's number-one historical monument to conspicuous consumption and antithesis to the once tranquil and peaceful land that existed under it before the arrival of European invaders.

In 1963 the Segerstroms gave the Estancia, and five acres surrounding it, to the city of Costa Mesa. Later, the city bought five more acres nearby in order to create Estancia Park. As a stipulation of sale, the city agreed to restore the barely standing adobe to its original state, which it did with the help of city money, donations and historical restoration grants. The adobe was officially dedicated as a museum on August 28, 1966.

A main room and three adjoining rooms inside the adobe serve as a museum that contains artifacts depicting life in that area during different time periods. Window seals in all of the rooms reveal the huge thickness of the building, constructed to protect against bad weather.

The oldest room has a dirt floor, a beehive oven (which would actually have been used outdoors), colorful wooden and pottery gourds to hold food, and stone "metates" for grinding corn by hand—all useful items for life in the early 1800s.

Another room depicts life in the mid 19th century, with an elegantly dressed housewife sitting at a small wooden table covered by a fancy period tea set and various pastries, as if ready for a leisurely tea party with the neighbors, something that Bequette says in reality would have been quite unlikely.

"In her dreams, this is what she would have liked to have. But the men who worked the land had to have three square

See **DIEGO SEPULVEDA ADOBE**, Page 6

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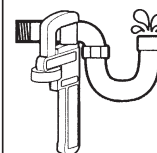
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## Green Party of Orange County

Meets the first Sunday of every month, 2 - 4 p.m.  
Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Rd., Irvine

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# Relay for Life

*Putting cancer awareness on track*

By **DAVID L. M. PRESTON**  
OC Voice Entertainment Editor

**C**ancer is not entertaining. To its victims, the families and loved ones of those afflicted or to the quality of life of society cancer is a scourge, a fiscal and emotional drain, and a challenge that we will eventually overcome. If we work together.

You may have noticed around town, in random spots, purple ribbons appearing. These are the symbols for Relay For Life. Organized by the American Cancer Society, the Relay is a bonding, memorial and fundraising event to honor those that been lost to cancer, those that battle it now and to help find a permanent cure. The "Paint Our Town Purple" campaign is to help raise awareness about this event and its purposes.

There are over 4,800 Relays held nationwide (and it is, literally, a track relay) each year. This year the Huntington Beach Relay for Life will be held on June 9 and 10 at the Huntington Beach High School, 1905 Main Street. The planned distance they'll cover is just over 14 miles.

But this Relay isn't the only one in Orange County. There are Relays scattered throughout the year in some 26 different neighborhoods throughout the county. Some have already taken place and others are planned for months from now. They vary in distances and fundraising goals, but not in purpose.

Volunteers have been training, walking and running, and fundraising for these celebratory and goal-oriented runs.

The goal of a Relay for Life, is to run, walk and otherwise move around a track (in this case the HB High School's) overnight without stop. One member of a "team" switches off with another (the relay) so that there is



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID L. M. PRESTON

**PAINT OUR TOWN:** A "Purple" ribbon decorates a local tree. The ribbons are tied about town by volunteers in order to raise awareness of the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" events, taking place throughout Orange County, including one in HB.

always someone on the track.

The Relay event opens with a first lap by

survivors of cancer. A luminaria, honoring those that have both have and haven't sur-

vived their fight again cancer, takes place after dark. People camp and support each other throughout the night.

The event is indicative of what can be accomplished, socially, by a group of people with a common cause. The goal, of all the chapters in Orange County, is to raise a total of \$1.7 million this year for cancer care and research. (The HB Relay group, running next weekend, has at the time this writing, has already raised over \$17,000.)

Communal effort, the everyday people working together, make that largest difference. Come out to support, watch, remember and enjoy the Relay for Life events in Orange County. It is not too late to donate or volunteer for the Huntington Beach Relay. Visit the Relay for Life website listed below and find your local chapter page for information to help; or you can simply donate online.

Other local Relays, in addition to the June 9 one in Huntington Beach, include: Irvine, at 9 a.m. June 2 at, 5500 Irvine Center Drive; Walnut, at 9 a.m. June 23, 400 Pierre Road; Mission Viejo, 10 a.m. June 23, 28000 Marguerite Parkway; and Garden Grove, at 10 a.m. July 21, at 11271 Stanford Ave.

To find other Relays in Orange County or elsewhere visit: [www.relayforlife.org/relay/](http://www.relayforlife.org/relay/). Click on "Find Relay Events", and then click on "Search by City and State."

For additional information in dealing with cancer, the resources provided by the American Cancer Society, visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), or call 1-800-ACS-2345. The local Orange County chapter of the American Cancer Society is located at 1940 E. Deere Ave. #100, Santa Ana, CA 92705; or call (949) 261-9446.

## Diego Sepulveda Adobe

From Page 5

meals a day, so this idea of sitting down was probably only something she dreamt of," Bequette explained.

The Diego Sepulveda Estancia museum (California historical landmark No. 227) is lovingly maintained by the Costa Mesa Historical Society and is located at Estancia Park on 1900 Adams Ave, in Costa Mesa.

It is open for public viewing and guided tours on the first and third Saturday of each month from 12 noon to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

For additional information call (949) 631-5918 or write to the Costa Mesa Historical Society, P.O. Box 1764, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1764. You can also visit online at [www.costamesahistory.org](http://www.costamesahistory.org) for more information about the adobe and other Costa Mesa historical landmarks.

## PROFILE

# Who's on Stage?

*Ohhh, Danny Boy*

By **ERIKKA INNES**  
Special to the OC Voice

**S**till young, Maika started his musical career early. Growing up in Huntington Beach, by the time he was 13-years-old he was already a gifted singer. Later, at 20, he picked up a guitar for the first time, and at 21 he wrote his first song. Now, at just 24-years-old, Maika is the complete package—singer, songwriter and talented guitarist.

One of the most striking aspects of his music is how expressive it is. It takes guts for a musician to name a song "Euphoria," a particularly difficult emotion to honestly express and believably deliver in a song. However, if one takes a listen to this piece, available online at his Myspace page, and you'll find yourself pleasantly surprised. Maika, seemingly effortlessly, conveys the



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ERIKKA INNES

sincere sense of euphoria and even intimacy you feel when you first fall in love.

When he's not melting girls' hearts with his sweet, vulnerable lyrics and melodic voice, Maika is using his music to poke gentle fun at himself. His song "Bad Habits" is an upbeat swing number in which he lists off his favorite bad habits. The song is an infectious toe-tapper.

If you'd like to find out more about this brilliant, homegrown local musician (he has recently been performing at Aloha Grill in Huntington Beach), or to find a time and place of one of his shows, check out his Myspace page at [www.myspace.com/dannyboymusic](http://www.myspace.com/dannyboymusic). The page offers samples of his beautiful music, including both "Euphoria" and "Bad Habits".

*Erikka Innes is a standup comedian and humor writer. Her web-site is [www.erikkainnes.com](http://www.erikkainnes.com).*

# RESTAURANT GUIDE

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



## Good Mood Food

*Café is true to it's name*

By DAVID L. M. PRESTON  
OC Voice Entertainment Editor

**H**ealth food too often has the reputation of being dull and uninteresting, but good food is good food whether it is drenched in clarified butter or a fresh leafy-green organic sprouts. To the average eater taste is bottom line.

Good Mood Food Café, located in a nondescript but tidy strip-mall at 5930 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach, isn't just another vegetarian themed diner, but an experience of truly artistic tastes. Not a meat product in sight, and only the rare occurrence of a non-vegan options, like mozzarella, makes this cute, exotically decorated restaurant a haven for healthy food.

And despite any reactionary qualms to the uninforming, the taste of this healthy food is outstanding; even to a non-vegetarian's palate. The Green Power Soup (\$4.50), conventionally served cold—though if you ask they will warm any dish for you and I had my bowl warmed—was an excellent starter with a lemon undertone complementing the pureed kale, collard greens, cucumber, spinach, apples and parsley. Served with pure sesame seed crackers to dip with it was a nice starter.

Ursula, Good Mood's chef-gourmand, has created a thick burger, appropriately named "Ursula's Nutburger" (\$6.90) that had a thick, rich patty made out of almond cheese, nuts and vegetables; and piled on top were caramelized onions, field greens and wonderful avocados. You can choose a variety of "breads", to hold the pile together (I had the remarkably wonderful vegetable crisp. It didn't look as if it could hold the sandwich together, being so thin, but it was flexible and pleasantly chewy and did the job. This burger sans meat protein exceeded expectations and dispelled lingering doubts.

The Pizza Roma (\$3.90, for two pieces), with almond cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, caramelized

onions and avocados again topping. The fruity snap of the condensed tomato flavor ricocheted perfectly with the creamy-cheesy-almond and onions. An excellent contrast and one I highly recommend.

Good Mood Food Café also has a wide range of teas (most from the "Art of Tea" brand) and other drinks, including coffees, though the espressos come with a warning in the menu that caffeine is a treat "in moderation" only. I attempted the Vatalites Lemon Ginger tea (\$2.50) and was pleased but not overly impressed; but such is one trial.

Smoothies and fruit drinks are also offered, and the Lemon Ginger Blast Cocktail (\$4.50, nonalcoholic) was refreshingly accurate in its description. Sharp lemon sour with a ginger snikt-snikt to the top of the mouth and the back of the throat was a nice cool drink to carry out.

The Good Mood Food Café can seat about 30, and includes a small couch for tea sippers and such, and had very friendly service. The cost is reasonable, the menu is extensive, and the food sampled was flavorful and fresh. The menu is wide and varied: a large selection of teas, sandwiches, order-your-own ingredients salads and even "guilt free desserts" like Berry Pan Pic and a Chocolate Brownie made from raw chocolate, are available. The menu provided on their website is just the tip of the possibilities.

Good food that's healthy food will leave one in a good mood. Yes, there is truth in advertising occasionally. Good Mood Food Café is definitely a place worth visiting, and not just for your health.

### Good Mood Food Café

5930 Warner Ave., Huntington Beach

(714) 377-2028

[www.goodmoodfood.com/cafe.html](http://www.goodmoodfood.com/cafe.html)

### Frank's Philadelphia Sandwiches

Frank's hoagies here are piled high with steak, cheese, mushrooms, peppers, onions, pizza sauce, you name it. An 8-inch goes for \$6, a 10-inch goes for \$7.50 and the

foot-long is \$9. Try the Works, a regular cheese steak with peppers and mushrooms. Awesome. (ML) 2244 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa (949) 722-8725

### Kura Sushi

Sushi as fresh as can be. Prices vary by plate color, with five different colors, priced from \$1.25-\$3.25. There are entrees such as chicken teriyaki also offered. The candy tuna roll, salmon skin hand roll and crunchy rolls are good. Defi-

nately sit close to where the belt is loaded. (ML) 212 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa (949) 631-3200

### Mentatsu

This little hole in the wall Japanese ramen house is one of the best kept secrets of the noodle world. With only a handful of tables and bar stools, service is quick. Shoyu Ramen (Soy Sauce flavor) or the Chashumen (Ramen with Pork) are great. At around \$6 a bowl. Is also open late, usually around 1 a.m. (ML) 688 Baker Street #7, Costa Mesa (714) 979-2755

### Beachberries

The real thing: Frozen yogurt that tastes like yogurt. The best toppings are available: fresh berries, mango, pineapple, coconut. Take home containers for \$4.95. Beachberries is a local take-off on the wildly successful Pinkberries Frozen Yogurt in West Hollywood. Beachberries is located on PCH in the Pierside Pavilion. (JS) 300 Pacific Coast Highway #107-B, Huntington Beach (714) 960-7988

### Smokin' Mo's

Smokin' Mo's is Good Old Southern BBQ. Recipes are from some of the best recipes from some of the South's legendary BBQ places. Remember the ribs and sandwiches. Make sure to get lots of extra sauce: Original, Hot, Philthy Phil's and Sweet Carolina's. They also have great coleslaw, smoky BBQ beans and killer garlic fries. (JS) 301 Main St. #107, Huntington Beach (714) 374-3033

### La Fiesta Grill

Rich, hearty, and delicious home style Mexican food for almost 20 years. Favorites include the Chimichangas Delux, Chile Relleno and vegetarian burritos; the whole menu is great and reasonably priced. Eat in or take out. (JE) 418 17th St., Huntington Beach (714) 969-7689

### Bodhi Tree Vegetarian Cafe

All food at this Vietnamese/Chinese style vegetarian café is made without any animal products. Enjoy a huge assortment of creative seafood, meat and poultry dishes, sandwiches, soups and delicious appetizers made from soy bean, bean curd and assorted vegetables, and don't forget the best fresh fruit smoothies ever. (JE) 501 Main St., Huntington Beach (714) 969-9500

### El Chinaco

Great Mexican and El Salvadoran food and libations, and the famous Minuteman tacos, served at moderate prices. (JE) 2063 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa (949) 722-8632.

### De Simone Bakery and Delicatessen

Great sandwiches. Definitely try the Cuban, Meatball, Pastrami and Italian. The bread and other ingredients are all fresh. The macaroni salad is incredible and the service is great. Most sandwiches come in 4-, 8- and 16-inch sizes. The 8-inch versions are \$5. Bit bang for your buck. (ML) 6850 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach (714) 847-0922

### Fuji's Burger

An unorthodox burger joint that offers the unique as well as good ole cheeseburgers. But Fuji's keeps em coming back with their amazing juicy teriyaki burger topped with a luscious teriyaki sauce. Also offers the more traditional Japanese plate and bowl dishes, including the mainstays of chicken and beef teriyaki. (ML) 15885 Gothard St., Huntington Beach (714) 891-6066

### Coach's Mediterranean Grill

This Mediterranean restaurant is a jewel in downtown HB. Probably one of the top five Mediterranean restaurants in Orange County, this restaurant is a must-try for Mediterranean first-timers. You'll find big portions, great taste and friendly service. Try a Gyro Bowl, the Dinner for Two, or a Kebab plate. The ambience is laid-back and cozy. (ML) 200 Main St., #105, Huntington Beach (714) 969-2233

### Sugar Shack

This HB hotspot has been around for more than 30 years. Specializing in breakfast and home cooked classics like meatloaf and turkey dinners. The hash browns are excellent, and the Wednesday Turkey Dinner special is worth the trip. The friendly service and great food is complimented by reasonable prices. (ML) 213 Main St., Huntington Beach (714) 536-0355

### Anjin

Anjin's Japanese BBQ may be pricey, but well worth the investment. A grill-it-yourself place that offers prime cuts of beef. Order the marbled rib eye, short rib or tenderloin. The service is very attentive. Teriyaki and sesame ginger sauces are available. Expect to pay around \$20 per person. (ML) 3033 Bristol St., Costa Mesa (714) 979-6700

### Taco Mesa

This is an area taco Mecca. The carne asada is tender and juicy and the pork oozes with flavor. Quality Mexican food in a relaxed setting. An outdoor heated patio is available, with a view of 19th Street. Starts at around \$2 per taco. (ML) 647 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa (949) 642-0629

## So Real, Mom Works There

By ROBERT CRONK  
Special to the OC Voice

**A**round here there seems to be a Mexican restaurant on almost every corner. The owners always claim to have authentic cuisine; often touting their places as "homemade just like Mom's." I can't tell you whether

they're actually telling the truth or not, but when you taste the food there's a thought that circles through your mind: "Mom wouldn't have cooked like this."

This brings me to Normita's Surf City Tacos. Located at 815 Indianapolis Avenue, the corner of Indianapolis Avenue and Beach Boulevard, in Huntington Beach, it is not easy to find in this jewel. Known to locals, and those that love and value and the real thing, this small, mostly takeout, is definitely for real.

How real? Well, "Mom" works there.

A mother and daughter team prepares the best Fish Taco you'll ever find, bar none. This place is not famous, not a chain but only a small hidden jewel.

The owner Norma Galvan, the "Mom" in the above scenario, is a native Californian. Raised by parents that were part of what California was in the early days; a true product of the home-down California culture. Home cooking? You bet. Galvan's pleasant, warm and friendly greeting is always there; which you'll see when you visit yourself.

Take the time to stop by on a sunny day, possibly for lunch, and experi-

ence the flow of hometown folk while savoring your homemade food at one of the outside tables. Watch the faces. Those faces will tell you the truth about Normita's: it's truly one of a kind.

Editor's note: The OC Voice is, in addition to its own food critics, soliciting reader's reviews of local restaurants. We are calling this feature our "Reader's Raves". If you'd like to contribute e-mail [admin@ocvoice.com](mailto:admin@ocvoice.com) for additional information or with a suggestion of a noteworthy eating establishment.

# JUNE CALENDAR

## ART EVENTS

**Art A-Faire.** Art and crafts fair held every Friday in June, and also on the weekends of June 16-17 and June 23-24; at the Pier Plaza at the entrance of Huntington Beach Pier in Huntington Beach. Features booths of crafts, artworks and other finds. For more information: [www.hbartfaire.com](http://www.hbartfaire.com).

**Artist, Warren Head.** Exhibition of paintings and other artworks by Warren Head; June 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and more; at Grace Lane Gallery, 2930 Grace Lane, Ste. F, Costa Mesa. Call for times: (714) 545-1773. Visit: [www.gracelaneartgallery.com](http://www.gracelaneartgallery.com).

**ACE Projects—PlayTech.** Interactive installations and new media works by members of the Arts Computation Engineering program at UC Irvine. In the Orange Lounge: A New Space in South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bristol, Costa Mesa; June 15 to 22; Call (949) 759-1122 for times and information. Visit: [www.southcoastplaza.com](http://www.southcoastplaza.com).

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

**"Carmina Burana."** Presented by the Pacific Symphony; 8 p.m. June 7 to 9; and 3 p.m., June 10, in the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$20 to \$150. Featuring Carl Orff's masterpiece, with Carl St. Clair as conductor and the voices of the Pacific Chorale under the direction of John Alexander. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit [www.ocpac.org](http://www.ocpac.org).

**Nexus performs "Bolero" and "Music for Pieces of Wood."** Presented by the Pacific Symphony, 8 p.m., June 2, in the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$22 to \$150. Featuring the percussion ensemble Nexus with the Pacific Symphony, led by Carl St. Clair. Ravel's classic, Bolero and Reich's "Music for Pieces of Wood" and more are on the program. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit [www.ocpac.org](http://www.ocpac.org).

## COMEDY

**California's Funniest Female competition.** The final of California's Funniest Female comedy competition will be held at 8:30 p.m., June 2, at Martini Blues, 5874 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach. Cost: \$20 cover and a \$10 food/drink minimum. Call (714) 840-2129 for information or visit [www.funniestfemale.com](http://www.funniestfemale.com).

## DJ/CLUBS

**"Versatile", DJ Cocoe.** Mixing funk and hip hop; 10 p.m. June 1 and 8, Memphis Soul

Cafe, 2920 Bristol St., Costa Mesa. Call (714) 432-7685 for information.

**Club Canes, with DJ Dime.** At 9 p.m. June 1 and 8, Hurricanes Bar and Grill, 200 Main St., Ste. 201, Huntington Beach. Call (714) 374-0500 for information.

**"Thunderkiss", DJ-ing with Scotty B.** Metal-rock theme. At 9 p.m. every Wednesday in June at Detroit Bar, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. Call (949) 642-0600.

**"Bristol Sessions", DJs Danny Love and Lil Brandon.** Electronica. At 9 p.m. every Friday in June at Detroit Bar, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. Call (949) 642-0600.

**Friction.** At 9 p.m. every Thursday in June at The Shark Club, gay-friendly establishment, 841 Baker St., Costa Mesa. Call (714) 751-6428.

## EVENTS

**Classic Car Show.** Held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 2 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 3; at Huntington Beach Central Park, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Saturday: Hot Rods and Woodies; Sunday: Cadillac, LaSalle, Alfa Romeo; and Harley-Davidson and Suzuki motorcycles. Musical performances and more. Cost: \$10 for spectators per day; \$15 for two-day ticket; Seniors 62 and older, \$8; children younger than 12 are free when accompanied by an adult. For information: [www.hbconcours.org](http://www.hbconcours.org).

**Saturday Car Cruisers.** From 6 to 8:30 a.m. Local car aficionados share their classic and restored vehicles every Saturday in June, at the corner of Adams Avenue and Magnolia Avenue in Huntington Beach. Cost: Free.

## FARMER'S MARKET / SWAP MEET

**Swap Meet.** Orange County Fair & Expo Center; at 7 a.m. every Sunday in May; located at 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa. Phone (949) 723-6660 or visit [www.ocmarketplace.com](http://www.ocmarketplace.com) for information; or (714) 740-2000 and [www.ocfair.com](http://www.ocfair.com).

**Farmers Market.** At 3 p.m. every Wednesday at the intersection of Third and Bush streets in Santa Ana. Call (714) 542-9392 or visit [www.grainproject.org](http://www.grainproject.org) for additional information.

**Golden West College Swap Meet.** Held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every weekend in June in the Golden West College parking lot, 15744 Golden West Street, Huntington Beach. Cost: Free Admission. For information call: (714) 898-7927.

**Antique Collectible Market.** Monthly outdoor antique



## CHICK SATIRE 'CHICAGO' STYLE

Chicago: deep dish pizza, Al Capone, the Sears Tower, political corruption. The third largest (by population) city in the United States has an allure that woefully unappreciated by those that have never been down its windy streets. And "Chicago" the Musical has a similar charisma, pulling at the qualities of sensual pizzazz but with a darker underbelly. The emotional conflict that crackles between Velma Kelly, a vaudevillian, and Roxie Hart, a chorus girl—both unique anti-heroines with schemes, lovers and murders to their names—is one of the touchstones of theater, not just musical theater. Set during prohibition (the 1920s) "Chicago" still has a resonance that has made it a hit since 1975. Exploring topics of criminality and fame simply gives the satirical depth to a show that contains excellent music and athletically sexual choreography that can be thoroughly enjoyed simply from a spectacle standpoint.

—David L. M. Preston

**"Chicago" Broadway musical.** Orange County Performing Arts Center presents the razzle-dazzle multiple award-winning musical, with the music of John Kander and Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse choreography; June 26 to July 1: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday; and at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday; in Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$20 to \$70. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit [www.ocpac.org](http://www.ocpac.org).

market held from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 16, in a parking lot at Ocean View High School, 17071 Gothard St., Huntington Beach. Cost: free parking. For information call: (714) 893-1518.

## JAZZ/POP

**Gershwin Greats with Maureen McGovern.** Orange County's Pacific Symphony presents Pops in the Renee & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, 8 p.m. June 14, 15, and 16. Cost: \$30 to \$150. Presents greats from the Gershwin songbook as well as the orchestra favorite "Rhapsody in Blue". Call (714) 556-2787 or visit [www.ocpac.org](http://www.ocpac.org).

## KIDS

**Bella Terra Kids Klub.** Program for parents and children under 5-years-of-age. From 11 to 11:45 a.m. every

Monday in June at Bella Terra, just outside Century Theatres, 7777 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach. Cost: Free. For more information call (714) 897-2534 or visit [www.bellaterra-hb.com](http://www.bellaterra-hb.com).

**"Jambo Watoto" by the Boxtales Theater Company.** Family Series in Samueli Theater, presented by the Orange County Performing Arts Center, an homage to the cultures of Africa using storytelling, world theater, masks and music. At 7 p.m. June 1; 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. June 2; and at 1 p.m. June 3; in Samueli Theater, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$14 to \$19. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit [www.ocpac.org](http://www.ocpac.org).

## MUSEUMS

**Newland House Museum.** Tour a historic Victorian home;

open from noon to 4 p.m.; located at, 19820 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach. Cost: \$2. For information call: (714) 962-5777.

**Surfing Museum.** Surf memorabilia and history, in all formats; at 411 Olive Ave., Huntington Beach. Sponsored museum events include "Surfin' Sundays", surf music bands and greats performed outside, held this month on June 3 (call for times) at Pier Plaza, Huntington Beach; and from 1 to 3 p.m., June 10 (with special guest Eddie Bertrand), in the museum parking lot. Call (714) 960-3483 or visit [www.surfingmuseum.org](http://www.surfingmuseum.org) for times and additional information.

## MUSICAL THEATER

**"All Shook Up" Broadway musical.** Orange County Performing Arts Center presents a hot-rod comedic musical featuring the music of Elvis; June 1 to July 10 in Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$20 to \$70. Call for times: (714) 556-2787 or visit [www.ocpac.org](http://www.ocpac.org).

**"Chicago" Broadway musical.** Orange County Performing Arts Center presents the razzle-dazzle multiple award-winning musical, with the music of John Kander and Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse choreography; June 26 to July 1: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday; and at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday; in Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$20 to \$70. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit [www.ocpac.org](http://www.ocpac.org).

## NATURE

**Shipley Nature Center.** Open 18-acre nature area with trails and more; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call for details and special events: (714) 842-4772.

**Wetlands Viewing.** From 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., June 14; at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Pacific Coast Highway between Warner and Seapoint. No bicycles or pets permitted on the trails. Cost: Free. Call (714) 846-1001 for additional information.

**Bolsa Chica Wetlands and Mesa Tour.** From 10 a.m. to noon, June 17, at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Pacific Coast Highway east side of highway between Warner and Seapoint. Cost: Free. Call (714) 846-1001 for additional information.

**Amigos de Bolsa Chica.** Tours of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserves wetlands. From 9 to 10:30 a.m. June 2. Meet on the bridge at the parking lot across from Bolsa Chica State

Beach entrance located on Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach. Enter parking from northbound lane between Seapoint and Warner. For additional information call (714) 840-1575 or visit [amigosdebolsachica.org](http://amigosdebolsachica.org).

## POLITICAL

**Weekly Peace Vigil:** "No War in Iraq, Surf City-Style." At 7 p.m. every Sunday in June. Non-violent protest on the Huntington Beach Pier, intersection at Main Street and Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach. Bring a candle or sign with a peaceful message.

**Peace Demonstration.** At 11 a.m. every Saturday in June. Non-violent vigil and protest opposing the War against Terrorism. At the Main Beach, Ocean Ave., Laguna Beach. Call (949) 499-3190 for more information.

**"Standing Up for Justice and Peace."** At 5 p.m. every Friday in June. A non-violent protest against war. At the intersection of Bristol and Anton, Costa Mesa, near the South Coast Plaza.

## SURFING

**Huntington Beach ProAm Surf Series Surfing Competition.** From 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 2 and 3, at Huntington Beach Pier, 315 Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach. For more information visit [hbsurfseries.com](http://hbsurfseries.com) or call (714) 964-9976.

**Surfrider Foundation Celebrity Surf Jam.** Professionals compete for the Surfrider title. From 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 8 through 10, at the Huntington Beach Pier, Huntington Beach. Public welcome to watch. For information call (949) 492-8170 or visit [www.surfrider.org](http://www.surfrider.org).

**The Notion Anti-Apparel 2007 Pro-Am Surf Series.** Surfing competition; starts at 7 a.m. June 30; at Pacific Coast Highway at Golden West St. in Huntington Beach. Cost of compete: \$50 for ages 17 and younger; and \$75 for pros. For information call (949) 722-6334 or (714) 814-7129. Visit: [notionclothing.com](http://notionclothing.com).

## THEATER

**"And Then There Was Nun."** Huntington Beach Playhouse presents; running from June 28 to July 15 at the Huntington Beach Playhouse, Central Library Theater, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Cost: \$20. Visit [www.hbph.com](http://www.hbph.com) or call (714) 375-0696 for more information and for specific times.

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# Rohrabacher at War

*Rendering democracy in the homeland*

By JOHN EARL  
OC Voice Editor

**M**istakes are made during war, says Dana Rohrabacher, the Republican congressman serving Huntington Beach and Costa Mesa.

But he doesn't care if "one or two," or 50, people are falsely imprisoned and tortured without legal recourse by the government, as long as the purpose is to protect America and its allies from another 9-11.

"We're at war, and we've got to make sure that we do not let go 50 terrorists, who will go out and plant a bomb in London and kill 20,000 people, in order to protect that one person who we arrested accidentally," Rohrabacher said.

But he left out what should be the fine print for President George Bush's "war on terror." Warning, the arbitrary imprisonment and torture of detainees weaken national security and kill democracy.

Rohrabacher's comments were made in the context of his role as a member of the House Committee on Trans Atlantic Relations during its April 17 hearing on "extraordinary rendition," the Bush administration's program of kidnapping suspected terrorists to detention centers, like the American base at Guantánamo, Cuba, where they are tortured and held in isolation for years without legal recourse.

**Against the law**

Carried out largely in secret by the CIA, FBI and U.S. armed forces, those practices are condemned by Amnesty International and the Red Cross as violations of international and United States law, including the Bill of Rights.

Since January of 2002, Guantánamo has detained 775 prisoners representing 45 nationalities, including children as young as 13-years-old. As of late 2006, 385 prisoners remained locked up inside its walls, including four children, according to Amnesty International in a recent report.

Guantánamo's prisoners have been kept in mesh cages like kennel dogs, or in long-term isolation inside dungeon-like rooms devoid of windows or natural light, according to Amnesty International.

A secret Red Cross report revealed by the "New York Times" ("Red Cross Finds Detainee Abuse in Guantánamo," Nov. 30, 2004) described psychological and physical abuse heaped upon prisoners at Guantánamo, as well as "humiliating acts, solitary confinement, temperature extremes, [and] use of forced positions." It called the prison's conditions "an intentional system of cruel, unusual treatment and a form of torture."

The children detained at Guantánamo are given the same abuse meted out to adults, although international law mandates that they receive special protection ("Age is not a determining factor in detention," said the US Department of Defense in 2004).

**Torture and Suicide**

That abuse is so bad that over 40 prisoners have attempted suicide in the past five years, Amnesty International reported. Three of them, including one 17-year-old, were successful.

The allegations of torture at Guantánamo are remarkably similar to torture inflicted upon detainees at American prison facilities in Afghanistan and Abu Ghraib, Iraq. Those cases have been confirmed by videos and photos, military insiders and official inquiries.

**Black Sites, Tarnished Image**

Similar conditions have been reported at covert CIA prisons, called black sites, where some victims of rendition are held. Others are transported to countries where



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EARL

**MAN OF WAR:** Dana Rohrabacher says that he doesn't care if 50 innocent people are falsely tortured in the war on terror even, apparently, if it means killing American democracy.

torture of detainees is the norm.

Hundreds of people have been targeted by the U.S. for extraordinary rendition, say human rights groups, but government secrecy makes it difficult to get accurate figures.

Not a single detainee picked up through extraordinary rendition or held at Guantánamo has been tried or convicted in an American court of law, even after years of confinement. It's the kind of situation that one would expect to exist in a dictatorship, not a free and democratic society.

Julianne Smith, director of the Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS), told

**'I hope it's your families that suffer the consequences [of not catching terrorists], the congressman cursed in return.'**

the congressional panel, led by William Delahunt (D-MA), that America's declining public image in Europe, due to the Bush administration's disregard for human rights and international law, threatens its ability to work with its most important allies to stop terrorism. "[T]here are already signs that negative public opinion is making it more difficult for political leaders in Europe to cooperate with the U.S.," she warned.

**Rohrabacher's Reality**

Rohrabacher had different concerns, however. An audible moan from a shocked and awed audience floated across the hearing room when he said "mistakes" of false imprisonment and torture were an "unfortunate consequence" of the war on terror.

"I hope it's your families that suffer the consequences [of not catching terrorists]," the congressman cursed in return.

So much for the traditional American jurisprudence of "innocent until proven guilty." Guess our society should throw out the old Benjamin Franklin adage, "That it is better one hundred guilty Persons should

escape than that one innocent Person should suffer."

Rohrabacher claimed that his views reflected the needs of the "real world," but his theory of jurisprudence, which assumes that the accused are guilty until proven innocent, has done far greater harm than good throughout history.

It brought execution to hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children during the European witch-hunts of the 15th and 16th centuries, for example, when torture was used to force alleged witches to confess their crimes against Christianity and name accomplices.

But the real goal of the accusers, despite their seemingly single-minded fanaticism and paranoia in protecting the one true faith, wasn't to seek truth but to consolidate their power by eliminating their fantastical enemies and plundering their

fortunes. Any witch hunt is based on a big lie from which many other lies grow in order to sustain it, but that lie can sprout from a single kernel of truth.

**Based on Lies**

Terrorists did fly through the air on Sept. 11, 2001 and crash into the World Trade Center, killing 3,000 people.

But Bush's claim that Iraqis were in league with Bin Laden and had hidden "weapons of mass destruction," that directly threatened the American homeland, were lies that grew from the ashes of Ground Zero.

As a cruel result of that lie, over 3,000 more Americans, along with at least tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians, including women and children, have died in the

President's seemingly endless war.

**Geneva Conventions and the War Crimes Act of 1966**

Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions expressly prohibits the kinds of torture alleged at Guantánamo and other U.S. prison sites, but there have been no prosecutions of high level U.S. personnel under anti-torture law or the War Crimes Act, despite the U.S. military's own documented evidence of violations.

The Geneva Conventions held after World War II codified international laws to protect POWs and civilians from inhumane treatment during wartime.

Article 3 provides the minimum human rights standards that must be upheld in armed conflicts regarding all noncombatants, i.e., anyone who is effectively out of the fight, either through surrender, imprisonment or injury.

**Habeas Corpus**

It also requires that sentences, including execution, only be carried out after due process of law through with "all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples," including the right of *habeas corpus*.

*Habeas corpus* is the right of every imprisoned person or their designated agent to appear before a judge to determine whether they can be lawfully detained or not. *Habeas corpus* is guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution in the 6th Amendment. It implies a fair and speedy trial, safeguards against wrongful prosecution and arbitrary detention by tyrants and is considered the legal foundation of any free and democratic society.

The 1966 War Crimes Act put teeth into America's adherence to the Geneva Convention by holding high ranking government officials, including CIA and the president, accountable for war crimes through fines, imprisonment or execution.

**Hamdam v. Rumsfeld**

Fearing that top Bush administration officials could be subjected to war crimes prosecution under a future president, Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez urged President Bush to unilaterally declare that Article 3 does not apply to the treatment of suspected Taliban or Al-Qaeda captives, who would be tried by military tribunal (instead of a regular court) without the right of *habeas corpus*.

That attempt to escape accountability and kill *habeas corpus* was rebuffed by U.S. Supreme Court decision (*Hamdam v. Rumsfeld*) in 2006 that stated that the President must abide by the rules of the Geneva Conventions, including Article 3, and that all detainees must be tried in a regular court of law.

**Military Commissions Act**

But despite that rebuke, the Supreme Court allowed Congress the option to change the law and give the president everything he wanted, and that's exactly what happened with overwhelming passage of the Military Commissions Act (MCA) in October, 2007.

For the purpose of prosecuting enemy combatants, the MCA replaces courts with military commissions whose procedures are determined by the president and are, no matter how arbitrary, beyond appeal of a any other court. It also makes virtually every kind of torture that the Bush administration was responsible for since 9-11, or will be responsible for in the future both legal and beyond judicial review in a civilian court.

That means that the Bush administration can prosecute others—without providing them due process of law—but are

See **ROHRBACHER**, Page 10

# Rohrabacher: Torturing Democracy

*Congressman wants your habeas corpse*

From Page 9

immune from prosecution for their own war crimes.

## Habeas Corpse

But most important, however, is realizing that MCA means the end of *habeas corpus*. For any citizen, according to officials of the Bush administration.

A less informed interpretation is that the loss of *habeas corpus* in the MCA applies only to non-citizens, but the more legally astute note that two text passages within it—and a different reading by the Bush administration indicates that—it could apply to citizens as well, as journalist Robert Parry (“Still No Habeas Rights for You,” Feb. 3, 2007) and others have pointed out.

Indeed, the MCA states that “Any person is punishable as a principal under this chapter who commits an offense punishable by this chapter, or aids, abets, counsels, commands, or procures its commission” (emphasis added).

Another passage says that “any person who breaches his allegiance” to the United States by aiding its enemies shall be subject to punishment by a (extra-judicial) military commission (emphasis added). Breaching “allegiance,” Parry reasons, would certainly refer to a U.S. citizen.

But U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez has an even more worrisome view of *habeas corpus*, a precedent of definition manipulation reminiscent of his work on allowing torture. Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, last January, Gonzalez said, “There is no expressed grant of habeas in the Constitution; there’s [only] a prohibition against taking it away.”

## Western Jihad

Dr. Michael Scheuer, the Georgetown University professor and best selling author, who created America’s first extraordinary rendition program for the CIA (under President Clinton) and ran its first Bin Laden unit from 1996-99, inspired our representative Rohrabacher with his own westernized version of Jihad, which he expressed angrily throughout and, at times, with a lip-smacking disregard for the fundamental human rights of his past victims.

When asked about Al Qaeda suspects rendered during the Clinton administration, Scheuer admitted that the conditions they faced in foreign prisons “probably weren’t up to U.S. standards,” but that didn’t bother him.

“This is a matter of no concern, as the rendition program’s goal was to protect America and the rendered (alleged) fighters



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**KILLING HABEAS CORPUS:** President Bush signs Military Commissions Act last October with overwhelming bi-partisan support from Congress.

delivered to the Middle Eastern governments are now either dead or in places from which they can not harm America,” Scheuer said, with his face muscles noticeably twitching, erratically.

“Mission accomplished, as the saying goes,” he added, with a triumphant air.

Did the legal analysis of CIA lawyers conclude that the seized suspects were “unlawful enemy combatants,” asked Chairman Delahunt, during the hearing in April.

“I neither know nor care sir,” Scheuer defiantly answered, “That’s not under my concern. My concern is to identify enemies to America.”

But what about those eventually determined to be innocent, Delahunt asked.

Even the CIA admitted to investigating 36 cases based on “erroneous rendition,” caused by flawed evidence, including mixing up names of terrorists with non terrorists.

“Mistakes are made, sir,” Scheuer smugly replied.

“It’s just a mistake,” Delahunt echoed with indignant resignation.

“Yes, they’re not Americans. (Laughing) I really don’t care.”

“They’re not Americans. You really don’t care,” Delahunt mocked.

Scheuer looked straight ahead without answering.

“That’s very interesting,” Delahunt said softly.

“I never got paid, sir, to be a citizen of the world. I get paid to protect...”

Before Scheuer could finish, a disdainful Delahunt shot back that as a representative of the American people he must respect the Constitution and “that America has justifiably a certain claim to moral authority—and we do care.”

## Rohrabacher Doesn’t Care

Rohrabacher, however, expressed his great respect for Scheuer and sought common ground with him: “You made the point that these terrorists rot in prison. You don’t care,” Rohrabacher said.

“I don’t, sir. No,” Scheuer responded.

“Thank you. I don’t either,” Rohrabacher concluded, smiling ear to ear.

Then he cited the execution of Nazi war criminals after World War II and lamented that “Today, our European friends, who are criticizing us, oppose the death penalty” and that when America imprisons “absolute terrorists” it is “scrutinized and called to task about our treatment of these people.”

Besides, asked Rohrabacher, “Is it not true Guantánamo (base) has been inspected by Amnesty International and a plethora of human rights organizations, and [was] not found to be inhumane in its conditions?”

Julianne Smith deftly chose not to confront Rohrabacher’s willful ignorance of the condemnation of human rights violations at Guantánamo by Amnesty International and the Red Cross, but she made it clear that statements by U.S. officials that they don’t care are “hypocritical” and tarnish America’s image abroad.

“We need European help in Iraq,” Smith said, “but it’s very hard... to go to Europe hat in hand to say please do more with the United States, when we have folks also on this side of the Atlantic saying ‘And, oh by the way, we don’t care how people are treated when they are interrogated.’”

## Dangerous Apathy

Apathy may be a greater enemy to American democracy than hypocrisy.

Over 65 percent of Americans oppose the war in Iraq, but where are the masses of them demanding the impeachment of the president. A leader whose actions have led to the death of thousands of innocent people; actions based on lies about weapons of mass destruction.

It is not a stretch to state that what the president, and his administration, with the help of Republicans and many Democrats in Congress, is doing to the Constitution parallels what Bin Laden did to the World Trade Center.

In his classic 1987 PBS television documentary, “Secret Government: The Constitution in Crisis,” Bill Moyers warned that “Once we decide that anything goes, anything can come home to haunt us.”

Moyer’s documentary was a classic and prophetic history lesson about how America’s many illegal wars against sovereign (and often democratic) nations have chipped away at its own democracy.

“But,” he said, “we don’t seem to learn from the lessons of history.”

Let’s listen to the lesson and do something. Write to Rohrabacher and the president and express your opposition to these constitutionally questionable practices. And push for a repeal of the Military Commissions Act and impeachment and prosecution of all those involved in our government that have broken their vow to “Uphold the Constitution of the United States.”

Honorable Dana Rohrabacher

101 Main Street, Suite 380

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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and

2300 Rayburn House Office Building

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Phone: (202) 225-2415

# How Seniors Can Make A Difference

By ANNE HOGAN-SHERESHEVSKY  
OC Voice Columnist

Volunteers may not be paid, but they are priceless. And it doesn’t matter what age you are, volunteering can make a positive difference in your and other people’s lives. Bored? Get out and do something: volunteer! Seniors too.

Thanks to the Program Director of the Orange County RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), Beth Bloomfield, we are privileged to learn many interesting facts and figures about senior volunteers in Orange County.

First, a bit of historical background to clarify our points. Some 30-plus years ago, the Volunteer Center Orange County (VCO) launched its local chapter of the national RSVP Program to meet the needs of the growing population of people ages 55 and older, who were searching for a way to continue to make a difference in

their community. Since that time thousands have enrolled in RSVP in Orange County and have contributed millions of hours of hands-on service over the years.

Bloomfield, and her staff of volunteers, recently shared the following volunteering figures for 2006. There is much to admire.

Total number of hours served by the O.C. volunteers in 2006: 190,617.

Number of Orange County RSVP members who served volunteer hours: 1,038.

Average age of these O.C. volunteers: 74-years-young.

Number of O.C. RSVP members aged 100 and older who served hours in 2006. (For example, Costa Mesa pianist Genevra Gustafson is 101): 6.

Percent of O.C. RSVP members are male: 45 percent. (This is a high percentage in the nonprofit sector).

Number of O.C. RSVP volunteers are

serving with 17 different law enforcement agencies: 430.

Percent of law enforcement agencies, that utilize RSVP volunteers, that agreed in a recent survey that “our community is safer due to the services provided by RSVP volunteers.”: 94.1 percent.

These many volunteers served at over 70 different nonprofit and governmental agencies, and offered over 190-thousand hours of service last year.

Volunteering is a fun, feel-good way to get out into the community and to give something back. People get back more than they give in the time they spend. To ponder on this here are some famous quotes about giving:

“Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It’s what you do for others.” —Danny Thomas

“Charity begins at home, but should not end there.” —Scottish proverb



And a last thought: “To the world you may be one person... but to one person you may be the world.”

To get more information about the O.C. RSVP and volunteering opportunities, call (714) 953-5757, x 115.

# Community Colleges

## Measure C progress

By **KATRINA FOLEY**  
Guest Columnist

In November 2002, voters in the Coast Community College District approved Measure C, a \$370 million general obligation bond measure to fund facilities improvements at the District's three colleges - Coastline, Golden West and Orange Coast. To date, more than \$200 million has been spent on construction projects. As the chair of the Measure C Citizens' Oversight Committee, I am proud to represent our community in ensuring that funds allocated to campus projects are used to benefit students and our communities.

As promised, the District has adhered to the requirements of Proposition 39 and none of the bond funds pay for administrator salaries or operating expenses. Financial and performance audits are conducted and the Measure C Citizens' Oversight Committee reviews all expenditures quarterly.

In Costa Mesa, at Orange Coast College, last summer the campus celebrated the opening of Watson Hall which had been declared seismically unsound and is now a centralized home to student services. In 2004, OCC added 500 more student parking spaces, upgraded utilities and infrastructure, including underground lines for storm water, fire prevention and reclaimed water. OCC also remodeled its 50-year-old LeBarb Stadium, making it accessible for handicapped fans and installing a state of the art artificial surface called FieldTurf. The new field is environmentally friendly, accommodates both football and soccer, and is used by OCC, GWC and local high schools. OCC also completed a brand new artificial-surface soccer facility located north of the stadium. A new state-of-the-art fitness center and the Early Childhood Education Lab classroom addition are all completed. Also open is the new Doyle Arts Pavilion and Student Café which received a \$2.2 million contribution from the OCC foundation. Construction is now underway on a new Library and Learning Resource Center as well as renovation to the Robert B. More Theatre Arts and Music Complex.

In Huntington Beach, at Golden West College, already completed is a new computer lab, and a spacious new Student Center with wireless computer connections with plenty of room for study groups, student programming and events. The athletic track was resurfaced and repairs made to the Cosmetology Facility and Student Success Center. Structural repairs to falling concrete have made the campus safer. GWC also has many projects under construction, including a major renovation of the swimming pool and locker room facilities. These improvements will provide a competitive pool as well opportunities for public/private program partnerships with local hospitals and adaptive physical education programs. Other major projects underway include a new Health Science Center, and improved Learning Resource Center.

In Newport Beach, the OCC School of Sailing and Seamanship saw upgrades to the seawall and ramp. In design is an expansion of the sailing center so that Newport-Mesa will continue to host the most successful sailing school on the West Coast.

In Westminster, Coastline Community



College opened its newest learning center. The Le-Jao Center is home to state-of-the-art classrooms and science labs as well as the Student Success Center, which provides tutoring, basic skills, and curriculum support. This \$12 million project built across from Westminster City Hall is the first community college campus ever built in Westminster. The Center compliments the larger Westminster Cultural Center project. Coastline also renovated its security systems and has underway a South District Learning Center.

All campuses are positioning their sites for the future. They continue to upgrade classrooms, labs and utilities. Throughout the District, Measure C has funded technology infrastructure improvements, and a new technology enterprise program that will provide online services to students including registration, class management, campus email communication, financial aid and up-to-the-minute class schedules.

Most importantly, each campus continues to work toward the goals set within their master plans and strives to ensure that each dollar of Measure C funding is spent in support of their overall mission to provide quality, affordable and accessible education to all Californians. District and Campus administrators, working together with campus groups, continue to assess and evaluate each project to ensure a positive impact on students and added value to the greater community. Within each project, energy savings and efficiency materials and appliances are carefully considered. Most all of the projects will result in an overall utility and long-term maintenance cost savings. Given the overall improvement to the facilities, it is likely employee performance will improve.

In 2002, the Coast Community College District asked voters to help them build for the future and, in exchange, they would provide the residents with access to high-quality educational opportunities right in their own backyard. I am happy to say, they are keeping that promise and more. On behalf of the Citizens' Oversight Committee, I invite you to learn more about Measure C and its benefits by visiting [www.cccd.edu/measurec](http://www.cccd.edu/measurec) or by contacting the Coast Community College District at (714) 438-4600.

*Katrina Foley is Chair of the Measure C Oversight Committee for Coast Community College District and a member of the Costa Mesa City Council.*

The Orange Coast Voice welcomes submissions to Community Voices by residents of Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach. All submissions should be well researched with a maximum of 800 words and accompanied by your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Send to [admin@ocvoice.com](mailto:admin@ocvoice.com).

# London vs. Surf City

By **JOE SHAW**  
OC Voice Columnist

A trip to Europe and the success of Surf City Nights has changed the way I look at Main Street.

So has the Program for Public Spaces (PPS), [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org), which has been a great resource for me as I set myself to the task of looking at European cities through Huntington Beach eyes.

I wanted to make sure that I visited as many of the places listed by the PPS as great public spaces as I could, while at the same time having a rewarding vacation.

I'm going to tell you about the places I visited that made me think most of Huntington Beach and what we're doing in our city to make better public spaces, create more family friendly events for residents and a more exciting destination for our visitors.

### London

I started in London, which I've never visited before, and in addition to St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower Bridge and the British Museum, I wanted to make sure I visited some of the public street markets that take place throughout London on the weekends, to get a comparison to our own new Tuesday night market.

The Portobello Road Market is a farmer's market and then some! It is one of the top ten tourist attractions in London and bills itself as the world's largest antique market; it stretches down the narrow confines of Portobello Road for more than a mile. Each side of the street is also lined with permanent shops.

It seemed as there were tens of thousands of people attending the fair that day, to see and buy antiques, produce; there were fishmongers, cheesemongers, clothing and craft vendors, just a little of everything. Even though it was London, I couldn't help but think that it didn't hold a candle to our naturally sunny Main Street.

Our wider street is much more accessible and comfortable for pedestrians, who don't have to worry about the threat of pickpockets that both street signs and policemen passing out brochures, warn you about in London.

Yet to reach the scope of Portobello Road Market, Surf City Nights will need to expand into neighboring streets, start offering a wider range of vendors selling a wider variety of wares and more traditional street fair food. It's plausible that our Tuesday night fair could grow to become a tourist draw in itself.

Surf City Nights has the potential to provide many community benefits. The PPS says that "truly successful public markets become catalysts and centers of entire districts where a variety of places to shop, stroll and be entertained are found." That's precisely our goals for Main Street.

### Barcelona

The Ramblas in Barcelona, Spain, also provides a showcase for many of the winning aspects of farmer's markets. While not a farmer's market, the Ramblas—a mile long pedestrian walkway down the middle of the street in the heart of old Barcelona—has countless outdoor cafés, artists, performers and vendors; including something that surprised me: a multitude of vendors selling animals such as birds, fish and turtles as pets.

The Ramblas is also known for its street performers, who don bizarre costumes, strike poses and come alive when coins are deposited into their tills. I think our performers, who have actually more talent as singers and dancers, have the performers at Ramblas beat. The Ramblas highlighted



for me how important performance and entertainment are in creating a dynamic destination.

### Sitges

And lastly, though it's not market related, Sitges, Spain, just south of Barcelona, resembles Huntington Beach in many ways. Both are suburban beach communities in proximity to a major metropolitan area, both fill up with tourists on the weekends and in the summer. I took a look at how Sitges' public spaces were made for pedestrians.

Sitges' tourist area streets, for the most part, are pedestrian only, but trucks and cars do navigate many of the narrow streets, often sharing them with pedestrians. Sitges has marked and blocked off the portions of the streets meant for pedestrians and bicycles and it is certainly something that we could do on Main Street if we eliminated some of the parking areas.

As our city's Economic Development Department revisits the downtown specific plan, we should look at such solutions. But in Sitges, like Huntington Beach, some streets just can't be blocked off and pedestrians and motorists must sometimes co-exist. As I sat in my hotel, I watched pedestrians cross the semi-busy street that fronts the beach in Sitges. (Roughly the same amount of traffic that we



Portobello Road Market

have on Main Street, perhaps more.)

The thing I noticed is that it worked just fine. Motorists were very mindful of the people in the crosswalks and everything seemed to blend together as part of the urban cityscape. This street in Sitges can't be blocked off because it provides access to the beachfront hotels and businesses.

We will have to look at our own Main Street very carefully, and judge just how important automobile traffic is to our businesses, while at the same time looking at ways to help motorists and pedestrians cope with each others' presence, if we decide if vehicular traffic is necessary.

### Eye-opening

This experience of really looking at what makes successful cities work has been eye-opening for me, in that I see that our humble burg already has much of what it needs to be successful. It's important for us to take a look outside our provincial boundaries and see what works in other places, to peer outside our normal frame of reference once in a while to gain inspiration for making our city a better place.

One thing's for sure, we already have what it takes to compete with other world class cities.

*Joe Shaw authors his own blog, "Greetings from Downtown Huntington Beach" at <http://hbdowntown.typepad.com/> and writes for the blog, Orange Juice, at <http://o-juice.blogspot.com/>.*

# Save Our Children

*S.O.Y. helps build healthy communities*

By JOHN EARL  
OC Voice Editor

Back in 1993 the largely Latino neighborhood surrounding Rea Elementary on Hamilton Ave., in Costa Mesa's often controversial Westside, was known more for escalating gang violence than for producing scholars.

But that began to change that same year when a group of concerned mothers got together to try to save their children's future by forming Save Our Youth (SOY), a one stop violence prevention center that operates out of the school, along side of the Boys and Girls Club the Head Start programs.

"There used to be lots of gang bangers hanging out around here," says Trevor Murphy, who became SOY's second director in 2003. The neighborhood has changed a lot for the better in the past 14 years, he adds.

Judging from its program and track record, SOY has played an important role in the neighborhood's progress.

"Our overall mission is to prevent youth violence and nurture our teen community to make positive decisions in life," says the group's mission statement, posted on its web site (<http://www.save-our-youth.org/>).

SOY keeps children off the streets and focused on building a better future for themselves and the city by offering a variety of after school programs to children in grades 7 - 12 in the Newport Mesa School District.

Programs offered include health and physical fitness, female empowerment (SOY girls), sports, recreational and



PHOTOGRAPH BY RUDY RAMOS

**BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES:** Participants in Save Our Youth pose outside Costa Mesa City Hall after attending a May 1st. city council meeting to ask for public funding.

educational field trips, music and tutoring, not to mention SOY's prestigious scholarship program.

Although SOY operates out of the school, everything is voluntary. "It's a very fluid methodology that we use," Murphy explains, adding, "The main thing with teens is, if you force them to do something, then they tend to dig their heels in. So they're coming on a voluntary basis."

And come they do. On one recent

visit this writer was unable to get into the administrative offices to conduct and interview because a large overflow crowd of enthusiastic students were flowing out the door of the main room, waiting to get started with whatever activities they had planned for that day.

"We take these kids from junior high school through high school and we sort of guide them on the right path through various programs," Murphy explains.

One sign of SOY's success is the number of graduating high school students it helps send to college every year, Murphy says.

"The scholarship program is one of our flagship programs," Murphy brags, adding, "We give over \$100,000 a year in scholarships."

Students are awarded the scholarships monthly on a merit basis. The amount of money that is set aside each month for each student is matched when they graduate from high school. Currently, says Murphy, there are over 150 students who are involved in the scholarship program.

"This year we have over 25 seniors graduating from the scholarship program, and most of them are going to four-year colleges," Murphy proudly brags.

On Tuesday, June 12, SOY will hold a banquet to honor seniors who have completed the scholarship program. Over \$45,000 in scholarships will be awarded to the students at that time. "Practically every one of our seniors are the first [person] in their families to go to college," Murphy said.

For more information about the time and location of the awards ceremony, call (949) 548-8501.

Save Our Youth is a non-profit charitable organization. All donations are tax-exempt.

Save Our Youth/SOY Center  
661 Hamilton Street  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

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