

11. Please list below (and on the subsequent page if necessary) the following:
- education completed (list only degrees, certificates or diplomas received)
  - specific courses completed toward the MLIS degree
  - work-related experience (10 points maximum)
  - community and/or volunteer experience (10 points maximum)
  - any of the following special skills or abilities: bilingual or multilingual language skills, children's/young adult services skills, technical/technology skills or abilities, and indicate your experience in utilizing these skills. (10 points maximum).
- (Limit your response to these two pages.)

**Education**

- Bachelor of Science, Human Services

**Work-related Experience**

- Placentia Library District Circulation Supervisor
- Orange County Children's Foundation
- Paragon Center
- English Language and Literacy Intensive (ELLI) Program Assistant

**Community/Volunteer Experience**

- Volunteer in Probation (VIP), County of Orange Probation Department
- Advanced Via Individual Determination (AVID) Tutor
- Fullerton Mobile Family Resource Center Intern

**Special Skill/Abilities**

- Bilingual- Spanish speaker, writer, and reader. Help Spanish-speaking patrons at the Library. Translate during events, school visits and translate documents and flyers.
- Excel- spreadsheets for monthly reports and staff schedules.
- Word Perfect- to make flyers, signs, and documents.
- Internet- search the web to obtain information for myself and Library patrons.

12. List any training sessions, workshops, or courses you have attended in the last five years. List the title of the training event, the sponsor, and the date or year of attendance. (Do not include those courses taken toward your undergraduate degree.)

- Advanced Via Individual Determination (AVID) Tutor Training, Fullerton High School, 2002
- Volunteer in Probation (VIP) Training, County of Orange Probation Department, 2003
- Tutor Training, Placentia Library District, State Department, 2003
- First Time Supervisor Training, SkillPath Seminars, 2003
- Getting the Most From Microsoft Excel, Compu Master, 2004
- Putting Excel to Work in the Library, Infopeople, 2004
- Word Favorites: Mail Merge, Labels, Tables and More, MLS Workshop, 2004

**CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF EDUCATION PROGRAM  
STUDENT APPLICATION FORM**

(Handwritten applications will not be accepted.)

Please check one:

- I am a past recipient continuing my studies.  
 I am a new applicant.

1. Name: Wendy Goodson


2. Library Mailing Address: 411 E Chapman Ave Placentia, CA 92870

Email address: administration@placentialibrary.org

Telephone number: (714) 528-1925 ext.202

3. Please complete and sign the statement below.

To the best of my knowledge, the information I have presented in this application is accurate. Also, I have been employed by my present employer for at least one year, or, I have been employed at my current library for less than one year but was employed by another California public library up to the time at which I took my present job, and have attached evidence of employment with my prior employer during the past year.

  
Signature

3-1-01  
Date

4. Employer: Placentia Library District

If applicable, list branch:

Employment at this library began on (month/year):

5. I am working: (check one)

X Full Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part Time

6. If you are working part-time, please list the approximate number of hours worked per week: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Please check the library school program you are currently attending. Please note this information is used to calculate your award.

San Jose State University:

San Jose Campus/No. CA Program

Southern California Program

      
  X    
    

University of California, Los Angeles

Out-of-State: (List the name of the library school and phone number.)

\_\_\_\_\_

8. List the library courses for which you *anticipate* you will be seeking tuition reimbursement, and the number of units per course. Any courses taken outside of the library school are **not** eligible for reimbursement although they may be applied toward the credits needed for your degree or certificate.  
(*The information you provide on the number of courses and unites to be taken must be as accurate as possible since it is used in determining potential award amounts.*)

**COURSE # AND TITLE:** **# OF UNITS:**

*Summer Session 2005:*

1. LIBR 200 Information and Society 3

2. LIBR 204 Information Organizations and Management 3

3.

COURSE # AND TITLE: # OF UNITS

*Fall Session 2005:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. LIBR 202 Information Retrieval                    | 3 |
| 2. LIBR 2004 Beginning Cataloging and Classification | 3 |
| 3.   |   |
| 4.   |   |

*(Winter Inter-Session 2006, if applicable)*

- 1.

*Spring Session 2006:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. LIBR 210 Reference and Information Services | 3 |
| 2. LIBR 283 Marketing                          | 3 |
| 3.   |   |
| 4.   |   |

9. Estimated semester/quarter and year of graduation: Spring 2007

10. On the following page, please write an essay/statement describing your interest and commitment to public library work. **NOTE:** You must use the form appearing on page 5. Your essay must fit on the one page form and be typewritten using at minimum a 12-point typeface. Failure to follow these instructions will result in disqualification of your application. Since your essay undergoes a "blind review", make sure your name does not appear anywhere on the essay.

Please attach your recommendation letters immediately after this page.

## 10. ESSAY DESCRIBING YOUR INTEREST AND COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC LIBRARY WORK

My interest in public library work reaches beyond working the Reference Desk. There are complex facets of library administration and library public services that directly affect how we service our loyal patrons ranging from Youth Services to Literacy Programs to Local and State Governance that affect library funding. My commitment to library work is to absorb as much information and obtain as many resources both tangible and non-tangible and improve processes enabling our library to provide high quality professional and paraprofessional staff, updated technology and facilities and continuous stellar customer service so our patrons can read, study, receive internet access, benefit from tutoring, attend information seminars, listen to story-times, and even receive assistance with processing their American Citizenship applications.

When I began my career at the Placentia Library District several years ago as Administrative Assistant, I did not know how it would affect the direction my career would take. With an incredible mentor, Library Director Elizabeth D. Minter, I was able to shine in my position and establish an unmistakable camaraderie with the Library Board of Trustees, fellow employees and library patrons. I felt in my element and was not intimidated by challenges that came across my desk. When I began employment in 1999, Placentia Library was still slowly recovering from the Orange County bankruptcy of the early 1990s. With limited staff and growing circulation, the workload continued to grow consistently over the years. My administration skills continued to expand as I was exposed to library operations, finance, and human resources. In 1999, the Library was only open Sundays through Thursdays, which was a result of the bankruptcy and then in September of 2004, the library opened to include Saturdays as well. The reaction of the patrons was pure elation and there is nothing more satisfying than a patron overwhelmingly thankful for assisting him/her who is on a deadline and successful in finding materials for a book report or college thesis and recommending other useful tools to make the project more manageable.

The library attracts all walks of life and the growing diversity among the population is more reason to be excited about informing those patrons just what is available to them at the library in addition to checking out books. My bilingual skills in Spanish have given me an advantage to communicate and inform limited English and non-English speakers about the library's services. I do translations for the library materials whenever necessary. My bilingual skills help alleviate the stresses of some patrons apprehensions about coming to the library to get the service they deserve. And once that patron is reassured with my communication skills, I let him/her know that our Literacy Department offers patrons help with their English skills.

In 2002, I was offered another management opportunity at a local college district assuming similar duties to what I do at Placentia Library. I made a career decision and left the Library to experience this opportunity. I am grateful I did because I realized just how great the library impacted me, and what a wonderful institution the library really is. The ingenuity and community of the library has no contender. I returned to the library in 2004 to join my fellow colleagues, trustees, patrons, and friends in making a difference in the lives of each other who strive to improve themselves and see the value of the library. At the end of each and every day, I know that I make a difference at Placentia Library District.

11. Please list below (and on the subsequent page if necessary) the following:
- education completed (list only degrees, certificates or diplomas received)
  - specific courses completed toward the MLIS degree
  - work-related experience (10 points maximum)
  - community and/or volunteer experience (10 points maximum)
  - any of the following special skills or abilities: bilingual or multilingual language skills, children's/young adult services skills, technical/technology skills or abilities, and indicate your experience in utilizing these skills. (10 points maximum).
- (Limit your response to these two pages.)

Education

- Bachelors-Social Science, Washington State University

Work-related Experience

- Placentia Library District Administration -- five years
  - Library operations, human resources, risk management, purchasing
- North Orange County Community College District – two years
  - Information Services operations, finance, human resources, special projects, acquisitions
- Department of Defense (active-duty & civilian) – fifteen years
  - Office operations, special projects

Community/Volunteer Experience

- Magnolia School District -- Volunteer aide, Special Education
- California Youth Soccer Assn – Volunteer program coordinator

Special Skill/Abilities

- Bilingual- English/Spanish, reader, writer & spoken. Translations for library materials and patron visits/workshops.
- Reference/Children's Desk experience.
- Proficient in MS Office, Quickbooks, Paylink, and internet.

12. List any training sessions, workshops, or courses you have attended in the last five years. List the title of the training event, the sponsor, and the date or year of attendance. (Do not include those courses taken toward your undergraduate degree.)

- Build A Binder-Financial Management, California Special Districts Association, 2004
- Special District Board Secretary Training, California Special Districts Association, 2004
- Staying in Compliance, California Special Districts Association, 2004
- Research Methods, California State University Long Beach, 2003
- Event Management, California State University Long Beach, 2003
- Facility Management, California State University Long Beach, 2003
- Enlightened Leadership, North Orange County Community College District, 2002
- California Community College Leadership Institute, Claremont College, 2002
- Personnel Management, California State University, Fullerton 2002
- Local Government, California State University, Fullerton 2002
- Government Finance Manager Workshop, Orange County Auditor, 2001



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**PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**TO:** Library Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director *EDM*

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Issues and a Review of the Status of the State Budget and State Library Budget

**DATE:** March 21, 2005

**BACKGROUND**

The recent Legislative Alerts from the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and the Legislative Priorities for 2005 adopted by the California Library Association (CLA) Legislative Committee are contained in Agenda Item 23.

The CLA Legislative Day will be on April 20, 2005. The flyer and Fact Sheet on the Public Library Fund is Attachment A. The Board should determine if any Trustees or Staff will participate and authorize the registration and travel expenses.

The CSDA Government Affairs Days are scheduled for April 16-17, 2005. The flyer is not yet available. Several newspaper articles addressing areas of interest to the CSDA legislative issues are Attachment B. The Board should determine if any Trustees or Staff will participate and authorize the registration and travel expenses.

Placentia Library will be hosting State Librarian Susan Hildreth for a Santiago Library System Council Meeting on April 4. She has been invited to the meeting to get to meet the Library Directors and to discuss some of the statewide public library issues that have caused us concern. This is public meeting and visitors are welcome to observe and participate in the public comment section of the Agenda.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Action to be determined by the Library Board of Trustees.



## Library Legislative Day 2005

April 20, 2005

Sacramento Convention Center

### SPONSORED BY:

California Library Association

California School Library Association

California Association of Library Trustees And Commissioners


### Who Should Attend?

All library staff, advisory board members, commissioners, trustees, friends and library supporters who care about California's libraries should participate in this year's program.


### Why Should I Attend?

- To learn effective legislative advocacy techniques
- To show legislators that all types of libraries are supported by their constituents and to make our presence felt in Sacramento
- To tell our story -- how academic, public, school and special libraries have improved the lives of Californians and why continued support is imperative during this tough economy
- To thank legislators for current and past support of libraries

### Register Today!

- Online Registration
-  Fill-In Form (84k)

### Position Papers

-  PLF Fact Sheet (111k)

*Additional position papers for 2005 will be added shortly.*

### Where, When and How Much Is It?

This year's program is scheduled to begin at 8:00 am at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. You will be briefed on the issues by CLA and CSLA lobbyists prior to your legislative visits. The fee for the day is \$25, and includes all materials. Lunch is on your own.

### How Do I Register?

You may complete the registration form above and mail it to the California Library Association. Or you may register online to receive immediate confirmation.

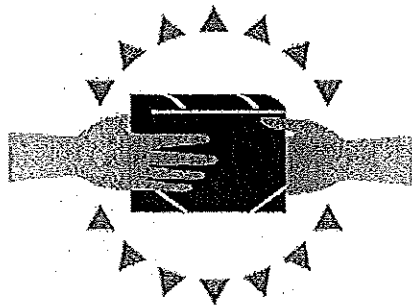
### How Do I Make Appointments With Legislators?

All appointments are made in advance by a Legislative Contact. Click here to sign up to participate in the visit scheduled by the Legislative Contact. Professional courtesy requires that our Legislative Contacts, who set up the appointments, let the legislators know how many and who are attending the meetings. (If you do not see an appointment set with your legislator, check back regularly, as this page will be updated daily as new appointments are made.) Please note that signing up for the legislative visit is not the same as registering for the event.

### Where can I stay?

There are a number of hotels in downtown Sacramento within easy walking distance of the legislature and the Convention Center. Visit the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau website for hotel information.





# CLA FACTS

## California Library Association

717 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95814

916-447-8541

[info@cla-net.org](mailto:info@cla-net.org)

[www.cla-net.org](http://www.cla-net.org)

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## **PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

### **GOAL**

Full funding for the Public Library Foundation (PLF) program is a continuing goal of the California Library Association (CLA). In this current fiscal climate, CLA is seeking to preserve the PLF funding level for public libraries as it is in the current fiscal year at 14,400,000, and avoid additional cuts to the PLF allocation in the 2004-05 state budget.

### **BACKGROUND**

The legislation authorizing the PFL became effective July 1, 1983. Although passed by the legislature, the state's share of PLF has never been fully funded.

As an item in the state budget, the PLF allocation is subject to the extensive budget negotiation process. The resulting fluctuations in the annual allocations are reflected in PLF's funding history. The allocations for the past seven years are listed below:

1998/99 \$38,870,000  
1999/2000 \$56,870,000  
2000/01 \$56,870,000  
2001/02 \$52,970,000  
2002/03 \$31,500,000  
2003/04 \$15,800,000  
2004/05 \$14,400,000

The 2005/06 PLF allocation of \$12.2 million, as proposed in the Governor's January Budget, reflects a 78% cut to this program from the funding level of FY 2000/01.

### **LEGISLATURE'S POLICY**

In passing the measure creating the Public Library Foundation program, the California Legislature found and declared that "it is in the interest of the people and of the State that

there be a general diffusion of information and knowledge through the continued operation of free public libraries.” The legislature further declared that “the public library is a supplement to the formal system of free public education...and a resource for continuing education and re-education beyond the years of formal education and as such deserves adequate financial support from government at all levels.”

## ACTION REQUESTED

The California Library Association would like to thank the members of the legislature for their on-going support of the Public Library Foundation program. The Association respectfully requests that the legislature maintains the current funding level of PLF at \$14,400,000 for FY 2005/06.

## RECENT FUNDING REDUCTIONS TO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

2000-01	Public Library Foundation	\$56,870,000
2001-02	January Budget (\$2,092,000 COLA)	\$58,962,000
2001-02	Governor's Cuts(\$2.1 million COLA cut – May Revise) (\$3.9 million cut in July)	\$52,970,000
2002-03	Governor's January Budget (\$11.158 million cut)	\$41,812,000
2002-03	Governor's May Revise Cuts and Conference Committee Action	\$31,500,000
2003-04	Governor's Budget	\$15,800,000
2004-05	Governor's January Budget Proposal Committee Action	\$14,400,000
2005-06	Governor's January Budget Proposal	\$12,200,000

**Cuts since 2000/01:** \$56,870,000 - \$12,200,000 = 44,670,000

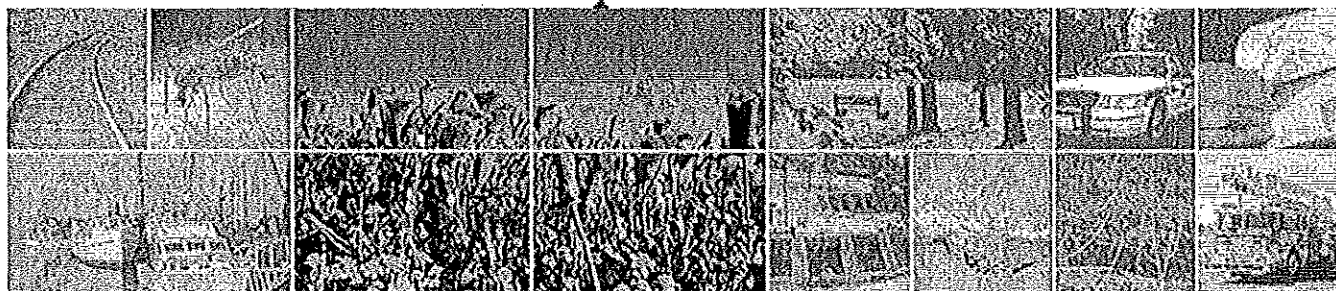
**\$44,670,000 = 78% cut to Public Library Foundation**

\$56,870,000

March, 2005



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March 18, 2005

Welcome, Placentia  
Library District  
Report Your Outreach  
Progress

### Ambitious initiative effort is on

By Gary Delsohn, Sacramento Bee Capitol Bureau

A business group raising millions to back Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed overhaul of state Wednesday endorsed a budget control initiative that has been criticized as too weak and a gubernatorial grab.

The group, known as Citizens to Save California, also said it will spend whatever it takes to put merit teachers - a proposal it balked on earlier - on a special election ballot later this year.

Members of the group also said they've created a new committee to raise money for an initiative that requires public employee labor unions to get prior written approval from their members before using direct political campaigns.

Neither Schwarzenegger nor the business committee has endorsed the "employee consent" measure, sources close to the governor said it's an idea he supports.

The committee's move sets the stage for a fast-paced four to six weeks as paid petition circulators hit the state in search of millions of signatures to qualify as many as 10 ballot measures - including some by Schwarzenegger's Democratic rivals. Elections officials said petition signatures need to be submitted to meet deadlines for a November special election.

Even as Schwarzenegger was telling reporters at a public appearance in Sacramento that he wasn't endorsing the committee, his political team had already put out a statement from the Republican applauding much of what the committee announced.

Schwarzenegger said the "Live Within Our Means Act," which would give a governor broad new power to unilaterally slash the state's budget, "will implement needed reforms to our budget process and put a stop to runaway spending that places unneeded burdens on taxpayers."

The merit pay proposal, which committee members earlier said they did not endorse because other measures were more likely to pass muster with voters, was vital to improve California public schools, according to the governor's statement.

The California Teachers Association has come out strongly against the merit pay idea and is fighting the spending proposal because it would allow the governor to cut funding for schools under Proposition 13, a voter-passed initiative that earmarks 40 percent of state funding for education.

"It would gut Proposition 98 as we know it today," David Sanchez, vice president of the CTA, said. "I not going to bring in quality teachers into the profession or do anything to help educate our kids."

While Schwarzenegger was applauding the committee's actions, his Democratic opponents were qu the move.

"They seem like the gang that couldn't shoot straight," Gale Kaufman, political consultant to Democr Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, said in an interview.

"They announce one day they're for one thing and announce another day they're for something else. line for me is this is clearly not reform voters care about because if it was, they wouldn't have to stop again."

Kaufman is part of a Democrat-labor coalition also circulating petitions and collecting signatures to p number of its own initiatives on an election ballot, including one for cheaper prescription drugs and a "Car Buyers' Bill of Rights."

Some of those Democrats have said the budget control measure is a gubernatorial power grab beca allow Schwarzenegger and future governors to make spending cuts in a fiscal crisis without consulti Legislature.

The measure backed by the business committee and Schwarzenegger differs from the automatic ac board cuts he proposed in his January State of the State speech, and even some Republicans are s won't work.

The endorsed proposal seeks to level out some of the wild swings in revenue and spending that hav multibillion-dollar deficits in recent years and helped lead to the historic recall of former Gov. Gray Di proposed constitutional amendment would limit annual spending increases to an average of state re growth over a three-year-period.

"I'm disappointed," said state Sen. John Campbell, R-Irvine, who backed a stricter spending control i to inflation and population growth. His idea was rejected by the committee as too far-reaching.

"It won't do anything," Campbell said of the budget measure endorsed by Schwarzenegger and the c "Unfortunately the way this thing is drafted, it will not limit us to spending only money we have. It will spend money we don't have, and that's a problem."

The proposal was drafted by two members of the Citizens to Save California Committee: Allan Zarer president of the California Chamber of Commerce, and Bill Hauck, president of the California Busine Roundtable.

"We spent a lot of time with this act," Joel Fox, co-chairman of the business committee, said at a pre conference. "We did economic modeling, we talked to economists, we talked to legislators and other thought this could control the spending problem without putting the squeeze on some other importan the budget, like higher education."

With the committee's announcement Wednesday, it now is actively backing and financing signature-four Schwarzenegger-proposed initiatives. It earlier had come out in favor of instituting 401(k)-style f new state workers and the "concept" of using independent judges to draw legislative and congressio lines.

Fox said Wednesday that Citizens to Save California was specifically backing an initiative sponsorec Ted Costa that uses retired judges to draw the lines. But some of its members created a separate cc raise money for that initiative.



"There are some donors that would like to support the governor's agenda and the CSC (Citizens to Save California) who have some concerns about the redistricting and dealing with members of Congress who have different opinions," Fox said.

Fox was referring to opposition from some Republican members of California's congressional delegation opposed to the redistricting measure, which Schwarzenegger has already endorsed.

The business committee has also been circulating petitions for an initiative that would require public teachers to be on the job five years instead of two before they could qualify for tenure.

Members of the committee endorsed another initiative for a special election ballot important to business. The "Two-Thirds Vote Preservation Act of 2005" would effectively undercut a 1997 California Supreme decision that said regulatory fees aimed at correcting adverse health effects are not taxes, and don't require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

Kaufman's group is already collecting signatures for a countermeasure that would require initiatives: "Two Thirds Vote" act to likewise be approved by two-thirds of voters.

As Schwarzenegger held a campaign fund-raiser in Century City on Wednesday, as many as 1,200 principally from organized labor - marched outside to protest his agenda.

#### Initiatives at a glance

Endorsed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and funded by Citizens to Save California:

- Merit pay for teachers - Base teacher pay on performance.
- Teacher tenure - Lengthen time required for tenure.
- Pension overhaul - Institute 401(k)-style pensions for new government employees.
- Spending control - Allow governor to make unilateral cuts.

Endorsed by Citizens to Save California but funded by others:

- Redistricting - Set up a panel of retired judges to draw congressional and legislative district lines.
- Two-thirds vote preservation - Require two-thirds legislative vote for fee increases.
- Employee consent - Require public employee unions to obtain written approval from employees to political campaigns.

Endorsed by Democrats and labor

- Cheaper prescription drugs - Require drug companies participating in Medi-Cal to offer discounts to consumers.
- Car buyers' bill of rights - Let buyers cancel purchases more easily.
- Voter requirement - Democratic counter to the two-thirds vote preservation initiative.

The Bee's Gary Delsohn can be reached at (916) 326-5545 or [gdelsohn@sacbee.com](mailto:gdelsohn@sacbee.com).



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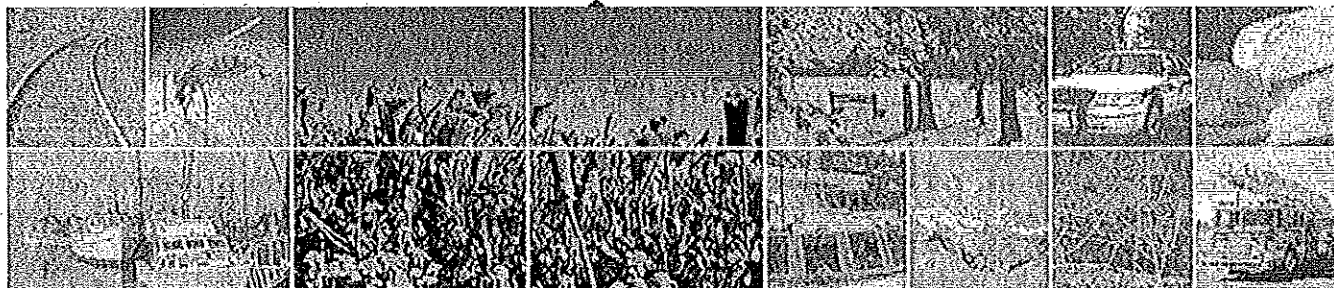
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March 18, 2005

Welcome, Placentia  
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### Budget stance diluted

Governor endorses a weaker version of his previous proposal.

By JIM HINCH, in the Orange County Register

SACRAMENTO -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday backed a ballot initiative that would fewer spending cuts than the reform measure he proposed during his State of the State speech in J apparent softening of his views on a key element of his reform agenda.

The "California Live Within Our Means Act," drafted by members of a business-backed political com would let the state budget increase in line with past revenue growth.

Though billed as a solution to California's chronic overspending, the measure's formulas, if enacted ago, would have let lawmakers spend more than they actually spent in four of the last five years, acc state budget data.

In January, Schwarzenegger backed a proposal that would have limited state spending to available enabled the governor to make across- the-board cuts when the Legislature failed to adopt a balance

That measure would have prevented the state's current fiscal crisis by forcing lawmakers to raise tax spending to keep each year's budget in line with available revenue.

The proposal still exists as a bill in the Legislature. But by endorsing the ballot measure, Schwarzen effectively abandoning his earlier idea, since Democratic lawmakers are unlikely to agree to more th the initiative.

The change is the latest apparent shift in Schwarzenegger's evolving proposals for balancing the bu his campaign, Schwarzenegger promised to press for a strict spending cap. He ended up crafting an Proposition 58, a measure that largely restated existing laws requiring balanced budgets.

Last summer, he abandoned nearly all of the major budget cuts he had proposed months earlier, an signed a budget that relied mostly on borrowing to close a spending gap.

Schwarzenegger's aides said the governor remains committed to fiscal reform.

"The governor has a proposal in the Legislature, and he's sincere" about it, said Finance Director To in an interview Wednesday.

"If the legislative process is not going anywhere, you have to have Plan B. Maybe that will create an

the Legislature to come out to play. Among the (ballot measure) options out there, (Schwarzenegger the one that was most effective, which had two components: Is it good about the problem, and does of support? Will it have the support to get signatures and get on the ballot and win?"

Proponents of a more strict spending cap said such considerations leave Schwarzenegger backing a measure that will do nothing to cure the state's fiscal ills.

The measure "is either ineffective, inoperable or both," said Sen. John Campbell, R-Irvine, who is pro ballot measure that would tie state spending to inflation and population growth regardless of how much it comes in. "It is not a real control on spending which will prevent future deficits."

Sen. Campbell said he urged Schwarzenegger to back his measure when he ran into the governor in the hallway a month ago. But Schwarzenegger told him he was concerned because the measure would limit governments' ability to levy fees on businesses.

Schwarzenegger also said the measure's "limit was too tight," Sen. Campbell said.

The governor's aides said the ballot measure he backs is in some ways more strict than his January proposal allows the governor to make midyear cuts when revenues dip, and eliminates the state's obligation to pay money borrowed from schools in bad budget years. The January proposal would prevent borrowing in the future.

The timing of Schwarzenegger's announcement Wednesday fueled controversy over his relationship with a committee that is raising money to promote his initiatives. The group, Citizens to Save California, announced at a news conference that it was backing the measure, and before the conference was over, reporters were receiving e-mails from Schwarzenegger political advisers saying the governor would support the measure well.

The governor is supposed to maintain some distance from the committee to avoid breaking campaign laws. If the governor controls the committee, contributions to it are capped at \$22,300 per person; if the committee can collect unlimited contributions – and the governor has helped it do just that, bringing in donations of more than \$1 million in recent weeks.

After Schwarzenegger's announcement Wednesday, Citizens to Save California members quickly stopped not taking orders from the governor.

CONTACT US: (916) 449-6687 or [jhinch@ocregister.com](mailto:jhinch@ocregister.com).

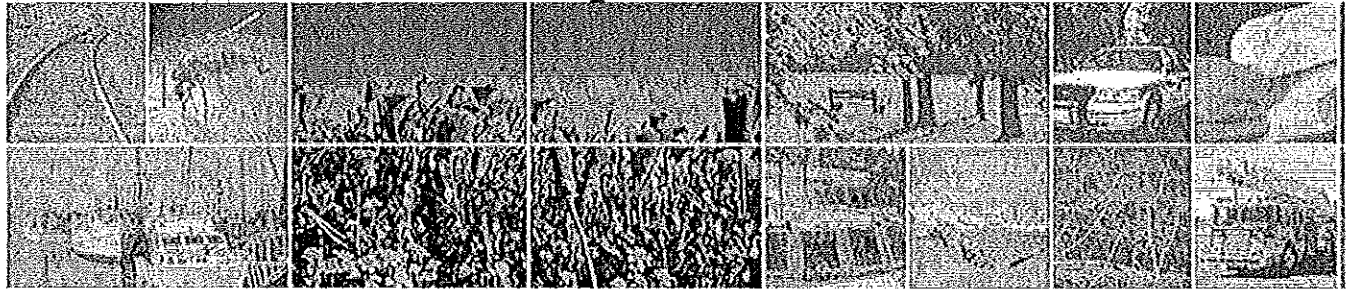
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# Member's Section

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March 18, 2005

Welcome, Placentia  
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## Retirement board rejects governor's pension overhaul

By Daniel J. Chacón, SD UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

San Diego County's retirement board voted unanimously yesterday to oppose the governor's ballot r overhaul public pensions, saying it would cost county government \$349 million.

The county eventually would recover the costs to move into a different pension plan, but it wouldn't s money over the long run, according to an actuarial report by The Segal Co. of San Francisco.

"We're doing just fine, thank you," said Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister, chairman of the San County Employees Retirement Association board. "This system will flourish and continue to do well. reason to fix something that's not broken."

An initiative by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would change the pensions of all public employees hire 2007. Instead of the traditional defined benefit plan, which provides retirees a lifetime monthly allowe on such factors and years of service, new public employees would be directed to a defined contribut similar to a 401(k) offered in the private sector.

Proponents say that existing benefits are excessive and that defined contribution plans give employe contribution rates to budget effectively.

Supervisor Dianne Jacob, a member of the retirement board, said the governor's proposal doesn't m for the county.

"I think it's very, very wrong to paint all public pension funds with one paintbrush," Jacob said.

"Instead of punishing all public pension systems in California, what the state should do is focus on th funds and fix those funds, and allow the funds that are financially sound and healthy . . . the flexibility within the current defined-benefit system."

The county's \$5.2 billion pension system, which has nearly 33,000 members, about half current emp half retirees, has an unfunded liability of \$1.2 billion. Under the governor's plan, the county's unfunde would be paid off by 2025.

But by adding the cost of death and disability benefits, which would be provided to employees throug insurance policy paid by the county, the difference between the two plans is the same.

"So why change?" Jacob said.

Union representatives and others agreed.

Among those who spoke against the governor's proposal were representatives of the Deputy Sheriff Association of San Diego County, the Peace Officers Research Association of California and the San Diego Employees International Union Local 2028, the county's largest union.

One of the biggest complaints from the opponents is that defined contribution plans don't offer death benefits.

"A police officer and firefighter knows that if they put themselves in harm's way, at the very minimum or wife or husband or child will get half of their pay tax free for the rest of their life," said James Duffy of the deputy sheriffs association.

Others said the county would have a hard time recruiting and retaining quality employees, and employer contributions would probably go up.

Daniel Chacon: (619) 542-4581; daniel.chacon@uniontrib.com.

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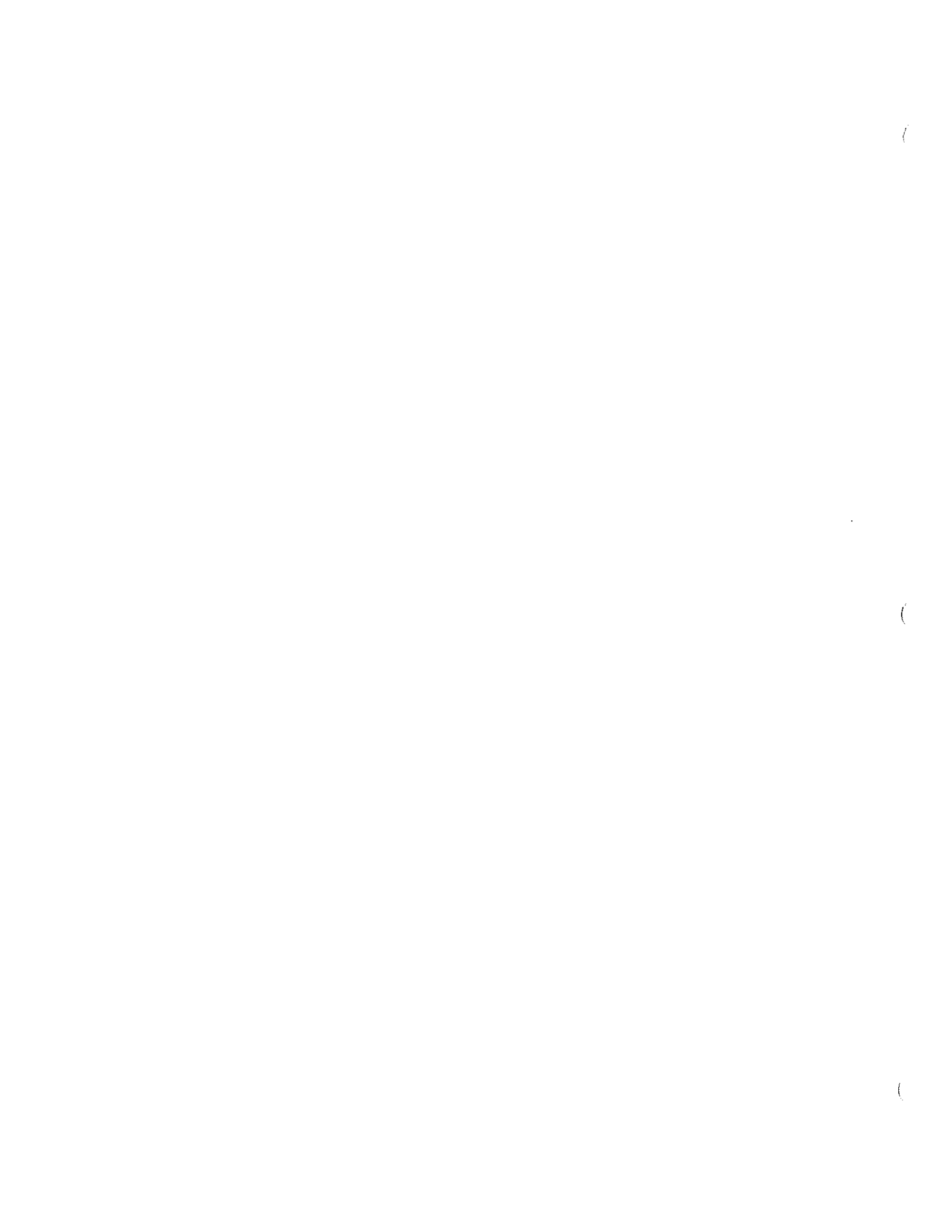
## PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**TO:** Library Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director *EDM*  
**SUBJECT:** Strategic Planning  
**DATE:** March 21, 2005

Several of the consultants I contacted have not yet been able to prepare their proposals for facilitating and writing the Strategic Plan. I have been asking them to base their proposals on the July 14-16 time period.

Additional information will be available at the April 18 Library Board Meeting.





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**PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**TO:** Library Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director *EDM*

**SUBJECT:** District's Personnel Insurance Broker Stormy Waldeck will review the District's medical, dental, vision and life insurance coverages for staff

**DATE:** March 21, 2005

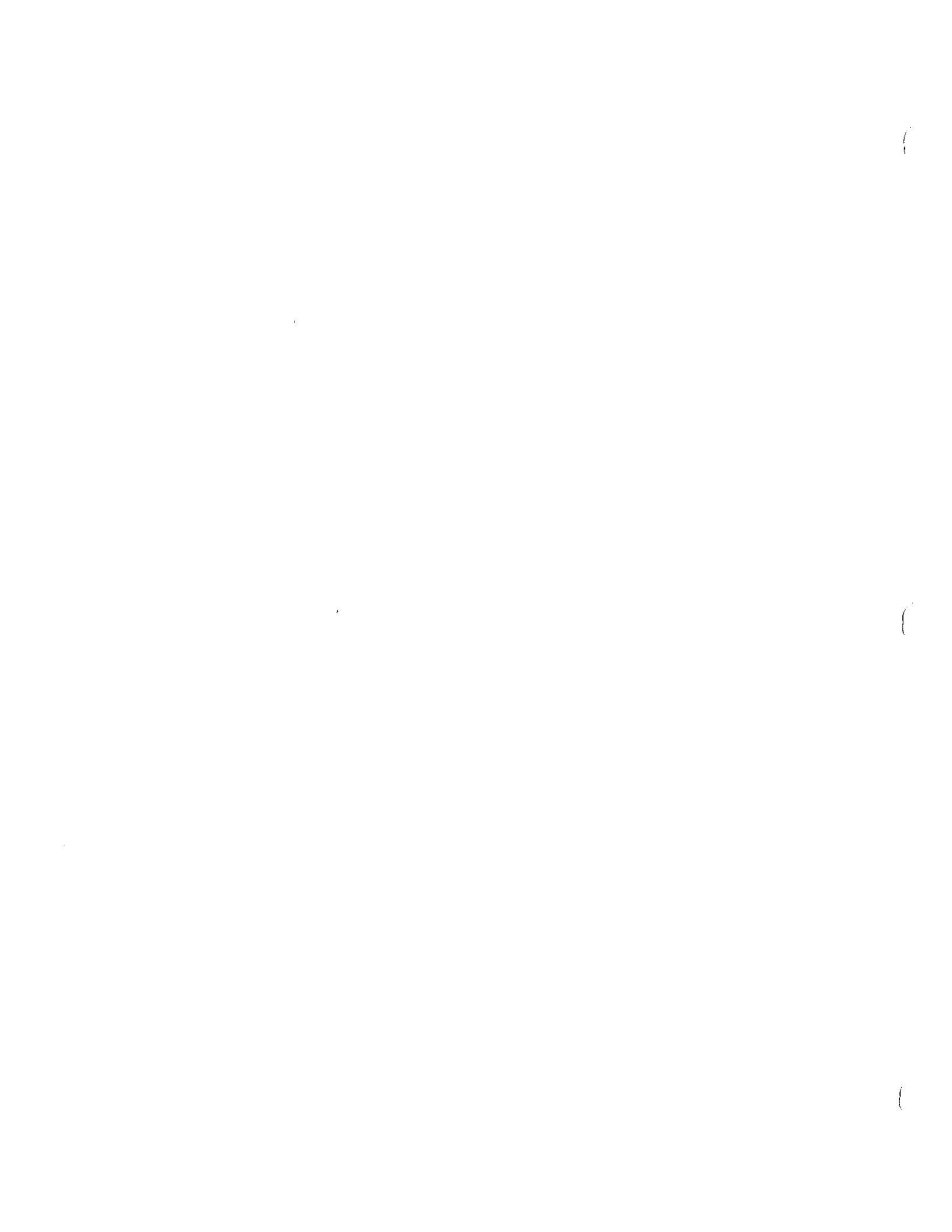
**BACKGROUND**

Stormy Waldeck, the District's Employee Insurance Broker, will be present to review the District's medical plan coverage and renewal options for 2005-2006.

Mr. Waldeck will also review the District's dental, vision and life insurance benefits and discuss an alternative to the short term disability insurance program offered by the State of California (SDI).

**RECOMMENDATION**

Action to be determined by the Library Board of Trustees.



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**PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**TO:** Library Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director *EDM*  
**SUBJECT:** Set Board of Trustee meeting dates for May and June.  
**DATE:** March 21, 2005

**BACKGROUND**

Several of the Trustees indicated that they would like to change the Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting dates for the months of May and June because they will not be in Placentia on those dates.

If at all possible the meeting dates should be set to fall after the adopted meeting dates to avoid having to meet special notice requirements.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Set meeting dates for the May and June meetings that fall after the published dates for the meetings.



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**PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**TO:** Library Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director *EDM*

**SUBJECT:** Reserve Policy

**DATE:** March 21, 2005

**BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on February 22, 2005 the Library Board of Trustees requested that the Library Director prepare a reserve policy to meet the requirements of the California Legislature.

I have consulted with staff at the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Palos Verdes Library District and the Buena Park Library District.

The following is a list of all of Placentia Library District's Fund and the Library Director's recommendations for reserves. The Board may revise or adopt these recommendations and the Library Director will prepare a policy document for the April Library Board Meeting.

Placentia Library District Reserve Policy Analysis					
Fund	Description	Balance 02/28/05	In Reserve 02/28/05	Recommendation	Goal
702	Major Equip & Structure	121,457	0	Emergency	1,500,000
703	Automation Replacement	10,274	0	System upgrades	250,000
706	Bond Redemption	163,859	0	Future debt retirement	250,000
707	Operating General Fund	709,481	0	75% of current operating budget	1,291,807
708	Sick Leave Payoff	10,025	0	Current staff liabilities	75,000
Payroll	Payroll Emergency	43,661	43,661	3 payroll transfers	94,539

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Set Reserve goals for each of Placentia Library District's funds.
2. Authorize the Library Director to prepare a Reserve Policy.

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## PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**TO:** Library Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director *EDM*

**SUBJECT:** Preview of Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget

**DATE:** March 21, 2005

### BACKGROUND

#### Revenue

- Property tax projections from the Orange County Auditor are not yet available. I will be estimating a 4% growth since there is very little new construction in Placentia.
- Passport revenue will remain fairly even. The loss in Passport volume will probably be made up with the photo revenue. So far this year we are experiencing a 10% loss in Passport volume because of the addition of 4 Post Office agencies within 2 to 3 miles.
- Notary Service will probably begin mid-summer so it will not be factored in to the revenue flow for next year.
- State Library revenue will be decreasing <sup>→ 10%</sup> yet again. It is really important to lobby as heavily as possible for both Public Library Fund and Transaction Based Reimbursements.
- I propose that the grant writing contract be continued if it has produced a minimum of \$25,000 by May 31, 2005.

#### Expenditures

- The amount for the staff COLA adjustment will not be available until mid-April so the personnel estimate will be available at either the April or May Library Board Meeting.
- I propose that the first priority of any growth in the budget be used to increase the public service hours to include Thursday evenings and Fridays from 9 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. This will complete the restoration of public service hours to 1992 levels.
- I propose that the second priority of any growth in the budget be used for a wage, salary and benefits study so that the personnel budget may be allocated in a way more competitive with the other libraries and local government agencies in Orange County. Any changes as a result of the study would be implemented in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget.
- I propose that the third priority of any growth in the budget be used for additional staff for the public service desks so that coverage may be increased during peak hours.

~~Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director~~

- 📖 I propose that the fourth priority of any growth in the budget be used for RFID conversion.
- 📖 I propose that the fifth priority of any growth in the budget be used for self-service check-out units.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Action to be determined by the Library Board of Trustees



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## PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**TO:** Library Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director  
**SUBJECT:** Library Director's Report  
**DATE:** March 21, 2005

Activities Report:

- Feb 22 Library Board Meeting
- Feb 24 Attended the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast with a program on goal setting and sales.
- Feb 25 Attended the dedication of Melrose Elementary School. The program included participation by current students and introduction of graduates and staff from the schools previously on that site. Jim Roberts also attended since there is an ELLI program on the Melrose campus.
- Feb 26 Served as Saturday Manager at the Library.
- Mar 1 Attended the Board of Directors Meeting for the Independent Special Districts of Orange County. The main topic discussed was adding two independent special districts to the LAFCO budget allocation formula – the Orange County Vector Control District and the Orange County Cemetery District.
- Mar 5 Author's Luncheon. The final report will be presented to the Friends at its April Board Meeting. Tips exceeded \$5,000.
- Mar 7 Met with representative of McMurray-Stern (library shelving contractor), Pat Irot, Eleanor Rankin and Nancy Lone-Tollefson to discuss new shelving options and configurations for the hallway outside the bookstore.
- Attended the Friends Board of Directors Meeting. The Friends awarded \$4,000 for Children's Programming for the upcoming year.
- Mar 9 & 10 Vacation Days scheduled
- Mar 10 Special Library Board Meeting
- Mar 12 Met with President Shkoler and Trustee Wood to discuss the proposed employment contract.

Mar 15-18 Attended State Librarian's meeting with the public library directors in Sacramento. I am very please to have a State Librarian that is so knowledgeable about the history and structure of public library services in the state. Dr. Hildreth is far more of the mold of Gary Strong than Kevin Starr. Susan Hildreth is an individual that hundreds of us in the field have used as a personal resource for advice and opinion for many years and she has a huge body of support among the professional public librarians in California.

Alameda County Librarian Linda Wood, former director of the Riverside City/County Library System before its demise, gave an excellent presentation on the different types of public libraries in California: City (general law and charter); Counties (dependent district and general fund), Independent Special District (elected trustee and school board), and joint powers authorities. Katherine Gould and I were surprised to find out that there are 13 libraries classified as independent special districts although one of them does not actually operate because it contracts for services with a county library. We had always counted 11 so have added Susanville Library District to our list – it was formed after 1993 and has no dedicated allocation of local property tax.

Paul Smith, legal counsel to the State Librarian, gave a presentation of California Library Laws and reminded us that we need to be constantly vigilant with legislation to make sure that inadvertent changes aren't made to our enabling laws.

Deputy State Librarian Cameron Robertson gave a review of the history and allocation formula for the Public Library Fund. It is unique in the United States in that its purpose is for the general support of public libraries, the simplicity of the application process, and that it is totally uncategorical. The only absolutes are the maintenance of effort requirements and the deadline for filing.

Library Construction Manager Richard Hall gave an overview of the Bond Act project and the plans for the June 2006 Bond Act funds if it is passed. This may be good timing for Placentia's renovation project if we can be positioned to raise the local match in time for the application process. This is a topic to discuss in the Strategic Planning sessions.

Diane Matsuda, Executive Director of the new California Cultural and Historical Endowment, created in 2002, told us about their new program focusing on threads of California Culture and encouraged local libraries to apply for grants to participate in their programs.

Library Development Services Bureau Manager Tom Anderson coordinated a presentation on the activities of his department. They explained the new application requirements for Library Services and Technology Act (Federal LSTA) grants. They also talked about the Local History Digital Resources Program wherein 20 public libraries will receive grants of \$6,000 to submit 200 local historical photographs to a statewide digitization project being managed by the University of California. Local staff will receive extensive training on this technology as part of the project and everyone's pictures will be part of the statewide photographic database. (I had previously asked Jim Roberts to have our Placentia History Room staff prepare an application to participate in this project despite an initial negative response from the

History Room Committee. I believe that the training alone is worth the investment of the participation and the visibility with the rest of the state will be invaluable.) They also made a presentation on the Public Library Staff Education Program to which Placentia is submitting two applications this week. (This program provides reimbursement for public library staff attending a MLS program at one of the ALA accredited graduate school programs in California – either San Jose State or UCLA.)

Staff spent considerable time trying to justify the existence of the Library of California as a successor to the California Library Services Act. It is pretty clear, however, that the Library of California will never be funded as it was developed. We are highly concerned about the future of even the basic reimbursement programs in the State and what will happen to the current pattern of interlibrary cooperation if these programs are cut any deeper. The level of use is at historical highs and the level of support, when adjusted for inflation, is at historical lows and this does not bode well for continued participation by local communities. The afternoon session ended with a review of the components of the Literacy program by Literacy Consultants Carla Lehn and Valerie Reinke.

The evening lecture by Gary Kurutz, Curator of Special Collections at the State Library and Executive Director of the California Library Foundation, presented the "Treasures of the State Library." This humorous lecture was an unexpected delight and I am recommending him to the Friends of Placentia Library as a speaker for a future Annual Meeting.

Danis Kreimeier, Yorba Linda Library Director and President of the California Library Association (CLA) and Mark Smith, Chair of the CLA Legislative Committee reported on CLA legislative activities at the State and Federal levels. The CLA Conference will be held in Pasadena November 4-7 and the Legislative Day will be held in Sacramento on April 20. The areas being monitored on the State level include:

1. Passage of the public library construction bond referendum approved for the June 2006 election (campaign cost is estimated to be no less than \$250,000).
2. Public Library Fund appropriation (has been reduced from \$56.8 million to \$14.4 million in the last two years and is proposed by the Governor for \$12.2 million for next year, one of the biggest percentage reductions in the State cutbacks in the past several years).
3. State Library Budget.
4. Transaction Based Reimbursements (interlibrary loan and direct loan reimbursement funding that provides the backbone to statewide borrowing for the public and is critical to the continued existence of that program)
5. California Library Services Act (the local public library systems, ours is Santiago Library System).
6. California Library Literacy Services

7. Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (still attempting to have public libraries exempted from the shifts)
8. California Library Teleconnect Fund

The areas being monitored for Federal Legislation are:

1. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Last year \$205 million, California received \$16 million, the largest single state allocation. LSTA will need to be re-authorized in two years.
2. E-Rate. Reauthorized last year but being tinkered with all the time. Needs lots of attention.
3. Copyright. Maintaining the fair use provisions established with the first copyright law in the early 1800's is becoming increasingly under attack from the publishing and music industries.
4. Intellectual freedom and privacy issues. The main focus here is the Patriot Act which is in the process of being re-authorized.

State Library staff member Rush Brandis reviewed the provisions of the E-Rate and California Teleconnect Programs. He reviewed the application process for the Federal E-Rate program. (Julie Shook has been working on this for Placentia Library District for several years now but it has not been completed or filed.) This is a \$2.5 billion program with \$11million coming to California, \$900,000 of which has gone to libraries (the balance to k-12 schools). The formula is that schools get 90% and libraries get 10%. The application for the current year has passed. The California Teleconnect fund was an attempt to accomplish the same end with a simpler process. Most public libraries, including Placentia Library District, participate in this program of telephone and data communication discounts. Beginning in January 2006 only libraries that are on the E-Rate program will be eligible to receive the CA Teleconnect reimbursement. This will have a major impact on Placentia's telephone budget.

Infopeople Manager Holly Hinman explained the statewide public library training program funded by the State Library. It assesses and prioritizes public library training needs and develops programs in a variety of formats that are offered throughout the State. Infopeople now has 105 trainers offering 181 workshop topics. Last year they conducted 250 sessions for over 4,000 librarians, staff members from all levels, volunteers and trustees. Each workshop is offered in at least five locations. Infopeople has also been a pioneer in offering on-line courses with 12 offered in the last year. The most recent innovation was the first in a series of sessions featuring interactive meetings with the State Librarian that was held last week (the next will be on August 3). Infopeople is also offering several "boot camps", multi-session programs on basic public library services using both on-line and classroom components.

Karen Schneider provided an orientation to the Librarians' Index to the internet. This project began in the early 1990's and is California's own digital library. It is a

critical reference tool for all of the public libraries in the State and staff is available to do local training in the library. It currently covers 16,000 high quality web sites. The staff locates, reviews and organizes these sites for public library use.

Ask Now Director Sue Barb reviewed the history of the 24/7 reference service and explained how it now fits in to the OCLC program. Placentia is a member of Ask Now and it provides access to online reference services when our library is closed. Our commitment is providing four hours per week where we will be "on duty" to answer questions from other locations. Reference Librarian Mary Strazdas is responsible for Placentia's participation in Ask Now.

John Jewell and Dean Mischynski explained the operation of the State Library Services Bureau and the California Research Bureau. These men operate the actual "library" portion of the State Library with services to the blind and physically handicapped, the general public, state agencies and legislators. The California Research Bureau was initiated by Governor Wilson who wanted it modeled on the Congressional Research Bureau which he had used when he was a U. S. Senator.

Additional programs were presented on the Statistics and Annual Reports, the California Preservation Program, CALIFA (discounted purchasing) and the California Rural Initiative.

#### Staff Meetings:

- Mar 2 Reviewed changes in Passport fees and other Passport issues.
- Mar 16 Jim Roberts conducted this meeting since I was at the State Librarian's meeting in Sacramento. I asked Jim to use this time to review the operation of the Library's sound system with the Program Committee staff so that it can be used independently by any staff member conducting a public meeting.

#### Lunch with staff members:

Feb 24 Ed Strystik

This completes the first round of this project with the exception of two make-up lunches to schedule for cancellations.

#### Staff/Volunteer welfare issues:


Nothing to report. Everyone is back to work and healthy.

#### Special Projects

Author's Luncheon: Because of the absence of the Development Director for the two weeks preceding the Author's Luncheon and her half-time status the week of the event I spent a considerable amount of time working on Friends membership processing and Author's Luncheon preparations including ticket organizing and program design and preparation. Friends President Rankin and Foundation President Lasley both helped with several of the tasks. I had anticipated

having help from one of the work study students but that happened on only two occasions for no more than two hours each time.

Coordinated transition to new Passport fees. On March 8 the Passport fees changed. Revised information sheets and fee calculation sheets/customer receipts had to be prepared and sent to the printer. Because of the absence of the Development Director during this period I took care of preparing the new documents and Wendy Goodson and Yesenia Gomez coordinated the arrangements with the printer. All of the existing application forms (approximately 2,500) needed to have the fee information corrected by hand – the Circulation Desk staff and Book Store volunteers assisted with this. Once the price change was announced in the news media there was an increase in the number of applications processed for the weekend before the change. From 1-5PM on March 6 and 9AM to 8:30 PM on March 7 100 applications were processed. This is our largest number ever for a single report period. The staff, especially the lead Passport Agents, Manny Perez and Shawn Robison, handled the transition and work “bubble” very professionally. The Circulation Desk staff was especially good at assisting screening documents and coordinating photographs.

TO: Elizabeth Minter, Library Director  
 FROM: Jim Roberts, Public Services Manager   
 DATE: March 21, 2005

**SUBJECT: Program Committee Report for the month of February.**

DEPARTMENT	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
<i>ADULT SERVICES</i>	2	21
<b><u>TYD Total</u></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>94</b>

***CHILDREN'S SERVICES***

Wed. PM Story Times	0	0
Thurs. AM Story Times	4	176
3-4 year-old music times	4	169
5-6 year-old music times	4	118
Lapsits	4	200
Class Visits	7	195
Valentine craft	1	17
Read to Dogs event	1	25
<b>TOTAL FOR JANUARY</b>	<b><u>25</u></b>	<b><u>900</u></b>
<b>YTD TOTAL</b>	<b><u>130</u></b>	<b><u>5,268</u></b>

***LITERACY SERVICES***

*Feb* 2004-05 FY 2004-05 YTD

Total Tutors	186	273
Total Students	295	311
Total Hours	1,622	10,075

For more detailed literacy statistics, see Agenda Item 40, pages 2 of 3 and 3 of 3.





To: Elizabeth Minter, Library Director

From: Caroline Gurkweitz, Children's Librarian

Date: for Board Meeting March 21, 2005

**Subject: February 2005 Activities in the Children's Department**

<b>TYPE OF PROGRAM</b>	<b>NUMER OF PROGRAMS</b>	<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>
Lap Sit 2 years and under	4	200
Story Time (a.m.) 3 - 6 year olds	4	176
Music Time 3 - 4 year olds	4	169
Music Time 5 - 6 year olds	4	118
Class Visits	7	195
Read to the Dogs event	1	25
Valentine Craft	1	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>900</b>



TO: Elizabeth Minter, Library Director

FROM: Jim Roberts, Public Services Manager

DATE: March 21, 2005

**SUBJECT: Placentia Library Literacy Services (PLLS) Activities Report for the month of February.**

**Tutor Training.** The Literacy Coordinator conducted a regular workshops in February and six tutors were trained, two teens and four adults. All new tutors are presently matched or are being matched. The next tutor training is scheduled for March 6, 2005.

**Families for Literacy (FFL) Program Status.** There was no FFL programming in January.

**Placentia Rotary Reading Enrichment Program (PRREP).** Recruitment for PRREP continued in February. We presently have more than 80 PRREP volunteers from both El Dorado High School and Valencia High School who are trained and matched or pending match.

**Reach Out and Read On Hold.** PLLS's partnership St. Judes Medical Center and the Reach Out and Read Program, a pediatric-based literacy program, remains on hold. Our long time volunteer for this outreach, Diane Martlaro, had to stop earlier this year, and our other volunteer, Pettey Peterson, has also had to stop. We want to thank both of these volunteers for there many volunteer hours. We will continue to try to recruit volunteers to continue this partnership.

**English Language and Literacy Intensive (ELLI) Program Update.** ELLI got started again this year in late September. We now have ELLI active this school year at three elementary schools: Melrose, Ruby Drive, and Tynes. We are staffing all sites with Federal Work Study staff and volunteers, and we have a total of fifteen ELLI staff assigned to the schools.

**Grant Update.** Our grant writers, Machoskie & Associates submitted several letters of inquiry to possible grantors in January.

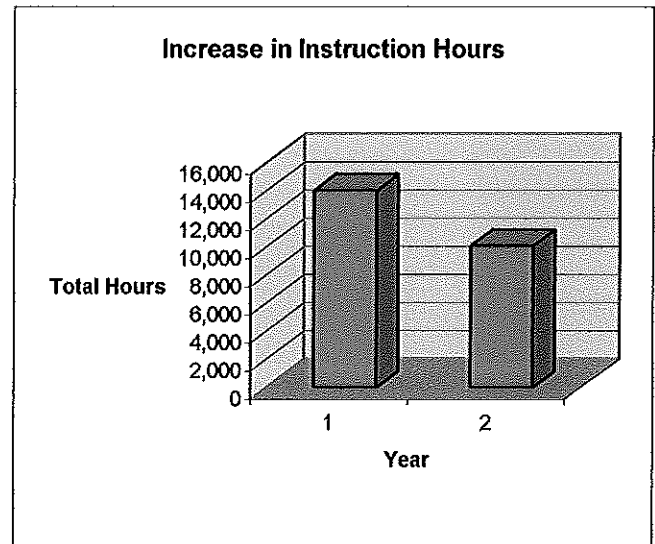
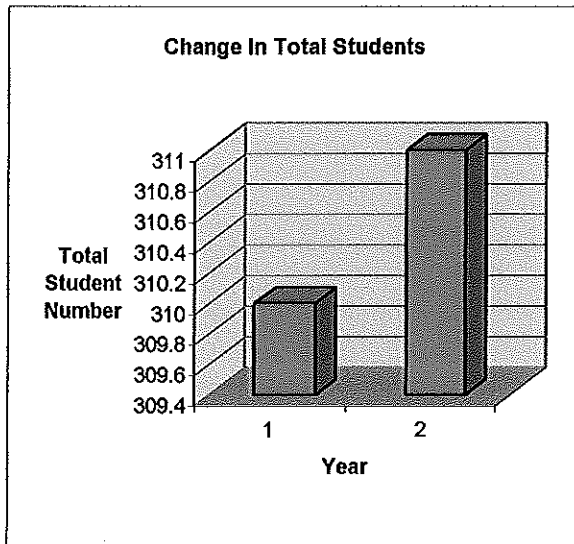
**Classes now going at Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC) and Vita-Herb.** Classes started at WTLC on December 14, and at Vita-Herb in Placentia on January 5. Grace Lopez, a new intern from the University of Phoenix, will teach the first eight sessions at WTLC. She will teach two one-hour classes from 6-8 PM. We have ten students at WTLC and fourteen at Vita-Herb, for a total of twenty-four students.

**Literacy statistics.** See Agenda Item40, Pages 2 of 3, and 3 of 3.

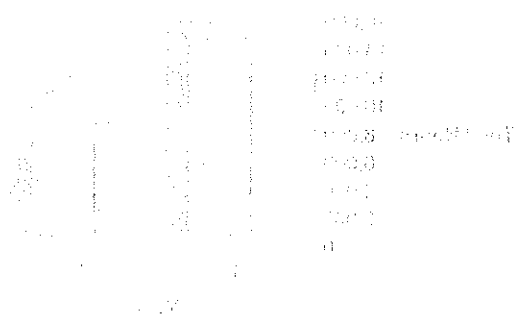
## Placenta Library Literacy Services

Report of Growth and Progress

	Feb 03-04	Feb 04-05	YTD 03-04	YTD 04-05
<b>Tutors</b>				
Adult	92	98	148	158
Teen	66	88	98	115
Hours Instruction	1,472	1,622	14,003	10,075
Other Volunteer Hours	48	48	538	768
Total Hours	1,520	1,670	14,541	10,843
<b>Training Workshops</b>				
Workshops Held	3	1	16	21
Tutors Trained	24	6	142	166
<b>Students</b>				
With Adult Tutors	138	137	182	143
With Teen Tutors	130	134	128	130
In Groups	0	24	0	28
Total Active Students	268	295	310	311
<b>Families for Literacy</b>				
Family Students	50	6	74	10
Family Tutors	25	6	27	10
Hours of Instruction	80	80	1,534	480
<b>ELLI Program</b>				
K-6th Grade Students	176	45	176	45
Tutors for K-6th Grade	14	15	17	15
Hours of Instruction	450	450	1,824	2,304
<b>Total Tutors</b>	158	186	246	273
<b>Total Students</b>	268	295	310	311
<b>Total Instruction Hours</b>	1,472	1,622	14,003	10,075



Graph of the function  $f(x) = 2x^2 - 12x + 18$



Graph of the function  $f(x) = 2x^2 - 12x + 18$



TO: Elizabeth Minter, Library Director  
FROM: Mary Strazdas, Librarian  
DATE: March 2, 2005  
SUBJECT: **Reference and Adult Services report for February, 2005**

- There was one Program Committee meeting during the month.
- Michael Kramer presented the first of three adult poetry workshops February 26; the second and third will occur in March and April.
- Mary Strazdas attended a Ready Reference Workshop on February 9.
- Money and income taxes are the topics of a library display.
- FAFSA materials are available in the library for people interested in funding college educations.
- Another display includes books by the authors for the 2005 Author's Luncheon (Thom Racina) and the Friends' Meeting (Denise Hamilton.)
- A "teaser" display for *California Connected* is in the trough. The book discussions will occur in April.

REFERENCE DESK STATISTICS

Month: Reference Desk Statistics February 2005

Date	Phone Ref ?s	Desk Ref ?s	Email Ref ?s	Ready Ref	Instruction	Computer Use	Ref Books: In Lib Use	Patron Database
1	18	66	0	2	3	133	0	11
2	13	69	0	6	1	125	2	11
3	4	44	0	0	1	107	1	9
4								
5	9	63	0	0	0	80	0	5
6	4	37	0	3	0	60	0	3
7	14	78	0	0	0	136	0	13
8	9	108	0	2	3	132	0	12
9	11	97	0	2	5	132	0	9
10	7	59	0	2	0	101	0	12
11								
12	13	62	0	0	0	112	0	4
13	0	96	0	2	0	55	0	11
14	2	86	0	1	0	108	0	7
15	10	79	0	0	0	125	0	7
16	13	70	0	0	0	139	0	13
17	2	47	0	1	0	87	0	3
18								
19	1	85	0	0	0	64	0	5
20								
21								
22	21	101	0	1	0	131	0	16
23	14	115	0	3	2	141	0	11
24	3	76	1	2	1	133	2	13
25								
26	12	78	0	1	0	99	0	7
27	1	77	0	1	0	70	0	2
28	9	125	0	4	3	148	2	18
29								
30								
31								
TOTAL	190	1718	1	33	19	2418	7	202



TO: Elizabeth Minter, Library Director  
FROM: Gary Bell, Librarian *GB*  
DATE: March 21, 2005  
SUBJECT: **History Room report for February**

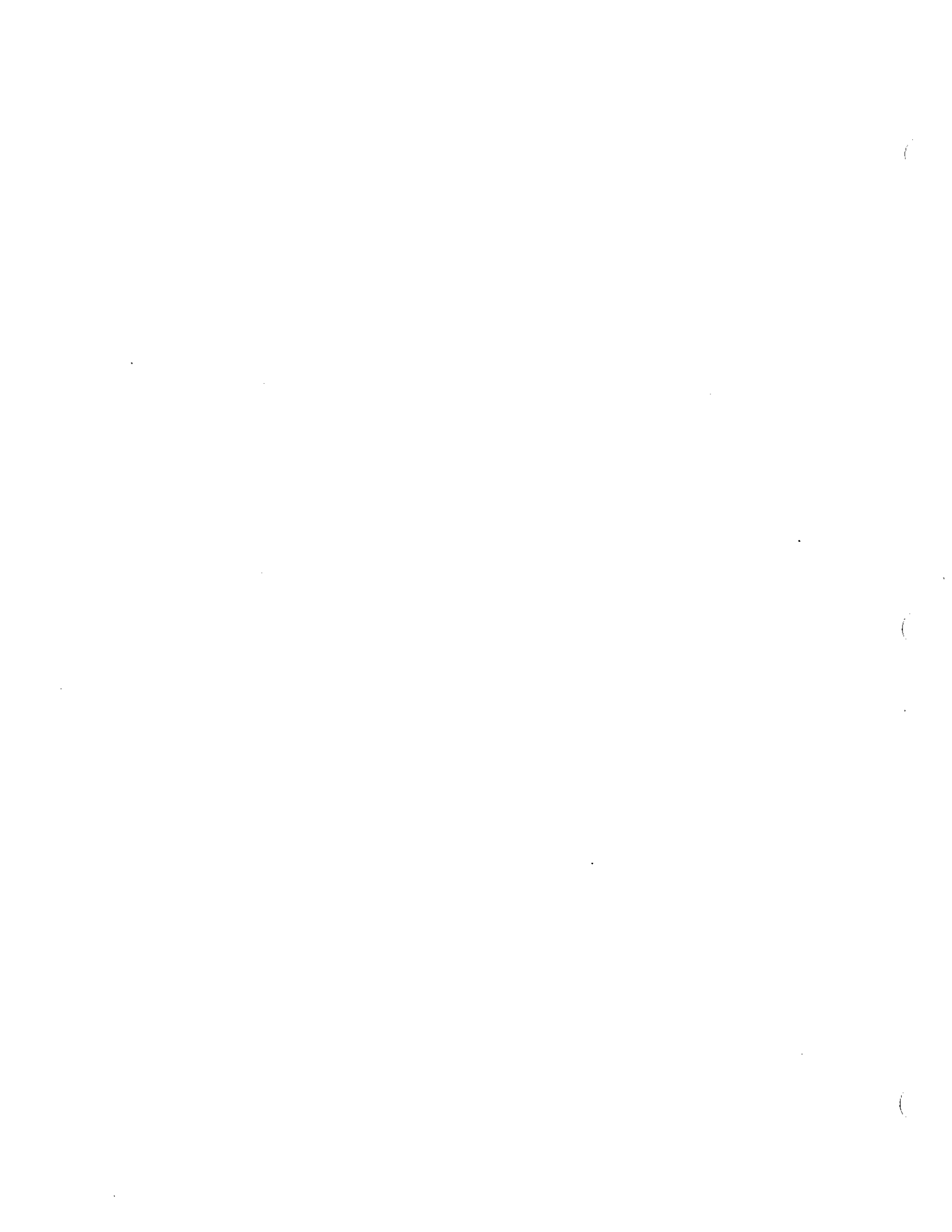
Attended California State Library conference in Burbank in early February to obtain grant for opening a Reference Library at HIS House (Homeless Intervention Shelter).

Hosted an event on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for Fire in the Morning exhibit-Mexican Americans in Orange County. Key speaker was Yolanda Alvarez of the Orange County Mexican American Historical Society. This event was video taped for History Room Archive. Read House of Bernardo Yorba (poem by Patricia Adler) for opening of meeting.

Historical inquiries included a reporter from the O. C. Weekly preparing front page article on the 1938 flood.

Several volumes added and ordered for local history collection.

Promoted local history resources at Chamber of Commerce luncheon.



To: Elizabeth Minter, Library Director

From: Jim Roberts, Public Services Manager *JR*

Date: March 21, 2005

**SUBJECT: Placentia Library Web Site Development Report for the month of February.**

In February, the Placentia Library District had 43,129 "hits" on the Web Site, an average of 1,393 a day. The following are our year to date statistics of the most hits:

Pages Visited	Jan -05	Feb-05				
Borrowers	202	230				
Friends	129	114				
District	162	187				
Kids	277	216				
Foundation	106	193				
History Room	249	96				
Literacy/CLC Logo	154	154				
Passports	704	376				
Poet Laureate	514	154				
Total Views Most Hits	2,497	1,624				

Total Most Hits YTD      16,372      17,996



TO: Elizabeth Minter, Library Director  
FROM: Julie Shook, Technical Services Manager  
DATE: March 21, 2005  
SUBJECT: **Technology Report for February 2005**




Norton spam-blocking software was installed on all Library computers.

Caroline's hard drive had to be wiped because of a nasty spyware/adware infestation.



TO: Elizabeth Minter, Library Director

FROM: Laranne Millonzi, Development Director and Volunteer Coordinator 

DATE: March 21, 2005

**SUBJECT: Publicity materials produced for January & February 2005**

**Information on the Placentia Library cable channel #24, updated January 2005:**

*Note: Animation added to slides*

1. Welcome to Placentia Library, address, website & telephone number
2. Library Board of Trustees
3. Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule
4. Library Hours
5. President's Day Closures
6. Library Departments
7. 2005 Author's Luncheon
8. Friends of Placentia Library Used Bookstore
9. Bookstore Volunteers Needed
10. Special Back Room Book Sale Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Hours and Dates
11. Dr. Charles Frazee on Ireland and Scotland
12. Library Hours
13. President's Day Closures
14. Drop-in Homework Help
15. Adult Poetry Workshop Series
16. Literacy Services Logo
17. Literacy Program Tutors Needed
18. Eastern Baltic Program
19. Placentia Historical Afghan Sale
20. Library Hours
21. President's Day Closures
22. Telephone Renewal Instructions
23. Wi Fi Here Now
24. 2005 Author's Luncheon
25. Apply for your passport at Placentia Library
26. Passport Hours
27. Now Doing Passport Photos
28. Library Hours
29. President's Day Closures
30. Placentia's Newest Local History For Children & Adults
31. Lapsit Storyhours
32. Story Times, ages 3-6
33. Music Times, ages 3-4
34. Music Times, ages 5-6
35. Story Time at Home, *Tumblebook Library*
36. Library Hours
37. President's Day Closures
38. [www.placentialibrary.org](http://www.placentialibrary.org), 24/7 Reference, the Library Catalog
39. [www.placentialibrary.org](http://www.placentialibrary.org), Online Resources
40. Placentia History Room Hours
41. Placentia History Room Displays

42. Placentia History Room Collections
43. Placentia History Room Archival Resources
44. 2005 Author's Luncheon
45. Holiday Closures

**General Newspaper articles published:**

1. Placentia addressing crossing concerns
2. Ways to get involved in your city
3. A few new sparkles are spotted around town
4. Altrusa club inspired by a youth's literacy program
5. Fund-raiser on the move for H.I.S. House
6. Southwest to connect with ATA flights from Chicago
7. Volunteer committees
8. Council takes over rail project
9. Placentia City Council scales back OnTrac
10. City official may direct OnTrac
11. Placentia area welcomes back school
12. Placentia celebrates first fruit of rail project
13. Placentia derails head of OnTrac
14. Placentia fire sends 2 to hospital
15. Placentia has a better idea
16. City takes OnTrac reins
17. Hirings and promotions
18. Community pride follows El Dorado to Rose Parade

**Library Newspaper articles published:**


1. Recipes, customs to be shared at library (2)
2. Armchair travelers show at library
3. Community happenings
4. Read to dogs
5. Exhibit focuses on Mexican Americans (2)
6. Historic display
7. Poetry workshop (2)
8. Ireland and Scotland trip featured (2)
9. Leger Grindon
10. Story times

**Flyers and Notices:**

1. *Notations*
2. Foundation thank you cards and ID cards are sent out
3. Adopt-a-Chair Campaign postcards
4. Email request forms
5. Friends membership thank you letters are sent out with membership cards
6. Second Sunday book sale flyer
7. Thom Racina bulletin board
8. Poetry Workshop I Flyer
9. Poetry Workshop II Flyer
10. President's Day closure flyers
11. Leger Grindon Flyers



**Welcome to Placentia Library District**



411 East Chapman Avenue  
Placentia, CA 92870-6198  
714-528-1906 Ext. 210  
[www.placentialibrary.org](http://www.placentialibrary.org)

**Placentia Library  
Board of Trustees**

Al Shkoler, President  
Betty Escobosa  
Richard DeVecchio, Ed.D  
Jean Turner  
Gaeten Wood

**Placentia Library  
Board of Trustees**

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:  
Tuesday, Feb 22 at 6:30 P.M.  
Monday, Mar 21 at 6:30 P.M.  
Monday, Apr 18 at 6:30 P.M.  
Monday, May 16 at 6:30 P.M.



**Placentia Library Hours**

Sunday	1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Monday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Tuesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Wednesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Thursday	9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**LIBRARY CLOSED**

Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
&  
Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

for  
**President's Day**





**Placentia Library  
528-1906**



Renewals Ext.# 6  
Adult Services Ext.# 209  
Children Services Ext.# 212  
Literacy Ext.# 213  
Passport Information Ext.# 265  
Volunteer Information Ext. #201  
[www.placentialibrary.org](http://www.placentialibrary.org)

**2005 Authors Luncheon**  
Saturday, March 5, Alta Vista Country Club

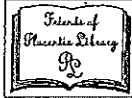
Featuring



**Thom Racina**  
TV Writer & Author  
Tickets go on sale January 31<sup>st</sup>

**USED BOOKSTORE**



☐ Staffed entirely by Volunteers  
☐ Located in the Library lobby

**GREAT BARGAINS!!**

**Friends of  
Placentia Library**

**Bookstore Volunteers Needed!**

Sundays 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.  
Mondays 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.  
Tuesdays 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.  
Saturdays 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
Substitutes needed for additional hours

*Please call Laranne at 528-1925, Ext. 201 for information*


**SPECIAL BACKROOM SALE**  
**BARGAINS! BARGAINS! BARGAINS!**

When: Second Sunday of each month  
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.  
Upcoming Sales: Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 15

Where: BACKROOM where Friends sort and price donations - ENTER through delivery entrance from parking lot


What: Everything in stock

Why: To provide money to support Library needs while providing quality reading materials at low cost



Program by  
**Dr. Charles Frazee**

**"Ireland & Scotland"**



- ❖ Monday, Mar 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 P.M.
- ❖ Placentia Library Meeting Room
- ❖ Program is free
- ❖ Refreshments will be served



**Placentia Library Hours**

Sunday	1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Monday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Tuesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Wednesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Thursday	9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.


**LIBRARY CLOSED**

Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
&  
Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

for  
**President's Day**

**Drop-In Homework Help @ Placentia Library!**




P.A.S.S.  
**Placentia Achieves School Success**

- ❑ For students in the 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade,
- ❑ a place to get personal assistance with homework,
- ❑ Mondays & Tuesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M.,
- ❑ sign in sheet in the literacy area,
- ❑ students must bring homework, including textbooks,
- ❑ limited to 20 students each evening.

For more information, please contact  
Toby at 714-948-9408 ext. 213 or Jim at ext. 212.


**Adult Poetry Workshop Series**

Michael Kramer



"From the Mundane to the Sublime:  
How to Take the Stuff of Ordinary Lives and Make it Poetry"

**Saturday, February 26, 1 - 4 P.M.**



Call Literacy Coordinator Jim Roberts  
if you or someone you know needs help in reading or speaking English.

☎ 524- 8408 Ext. 213

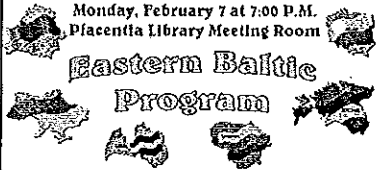
**Placentia Library Literacy Services**

- Volunteer tutors needed!
- Attend one 3 hour training workshop
- Training workshops are held at the Library on the first Sunday of the month 1:30 - 4:30 P.M.
- The next scheduled workshops are:  
Feb 6<sup>th</sup> & Mar 6<sup>th</sup> & Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>

For more information and to sign up call 524-8408, Ext 213

Monday, February 7 at 7:00 P.M.  
Placentia Library Meeting Room

**Eastern Baltic Program**



Leger Grindon will show the slides he took on his trip to the eastern Baltic countries in the early summer of 2002. He is retired from the insurance claims industry and enjoys traveling in his spare time.

Mr. Grindon will speak about Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine.

**Placentia Historical Afghans**



Green X Cranberry X Blue

On Sale Now at the Circulation Desk - \$53.00

*Proceeds support the Placentia History Room*

**Placentia Library Hours**

Sunday	1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Monday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Tuesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Wednesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Thursday	9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**LIBRARY CLOSED**

Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
&  
Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

for

**President's Day**

Renew your books  
by phone  
Using Telecirc

"Please enter your library card number, followed by the # sign"

**714-765-1775**  
*24 hours a day / 7 days a week*


- Renew books
- Find out which titles you have checked out
- Find out which items you have on hold
- Find out which titles you have overdue
- Find out if you have any fines

**WIT IT HERE NOW!**

**BRING YOUR PASSPORT!**

**2005 Authors Luncheon**  
Saturday, March 5, Alta Vista Country Club


Featuring



**Thom Racina**  
TV Writer & Author


Tickets go on sale January 31<sup>st</sup>

**PLACENTIA LIBRARY**



**Passport Application Acceptance Agency**

*Passport Services Available at the Library*



Passport hours at the Library are:

Sunday	1:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Monday	9:00 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Tuesday	9:00 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Wednesday	9:00 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Thursday	9:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Placentia Library is an official U.S. Department of State  
Passport Acceptance Agency.  
For Passport Information,  
call 818-1996 Ext. 255 or visit the Library Web site www.placentialibrary.org

**NOW DOING PASSPORT PHOTOS!**

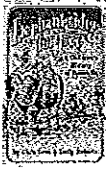
**2 PHOTOS FOR \$10**

**Placentia Library Hours**

Sunday	1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Monday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Tuesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Wednesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Thursday	9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**LIBRARY CLOSED**  
**Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**&**  
**Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**  
 for  
**President's Day**

**Placentia's Newest Local History**  
**For Children & Adults**





Available At The  
 Library Circulation Desk  
**\$12.93 (including tax)**

*Great Gift Idea  
 For Young & Old*

**Lapsit Story Times**  
*Presented by Lin Baesler*  
 Ages newborn to 2 years


**Thursday Mornings**  
**10:00 - 10:20 A.M.**

in the  
**Childrens Area**





Sponsored by the  
 Gordon & Diane Shaw Endowment  
*No pre-registration required - no charge*

**Story Times**  
**For Children**  
**Ages 3 - 6**




**Thursday Mornings**  
**10:30 - 11:00 A.M.**




*Presented by Lin Baesler*  
*No pre-registration required - no charge*

**Music Times**  
**For Children**  
**Ages 3 - 4**




**Tuesday Evenings**  
**6:00 - 6:30 P.M.**




*Featuring Lin Baesler*  
*No pre-registration required - no charge*

**Music Times**  
**For Children**  
**Ages 5 - 6**



**Tuesday Evenings**  
**6:30 - 7:00 P.M.**



*Featuring Lin Baesler*  
*No pre-registration required - no charge*

**Story Time at Home**  
 Use the *Tumblebook Library*  
 at  
[www.placentialibrary.org](http://www.placentialibrary.org)

Click on: Just for Kids  
 Click on the Tumblebooks icon

An on-line collection of animated, talking picture books

**Placentia Library Hours**

Sunday	1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Monday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Tuesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Wednesday	9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Thursday	9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

# NEIGHBORS

## Community pride follows El Dorado to Rose Parade

332  
For many weeks, the marquee in front of El Dorado High School reminded all those who passed that the school's band would march in the 2005 Tournament of Roses Parade.



**ELEANORE RANKIN**  
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

As the first Orange County high school band to achieve

this honor in 20 years, and with its 223 participants in the line-up, it's doubtful anyone in this city missed watching this historical and exciting event along with millions of others.

It was a culmination of countless hours of dedicated practice. To all who worked so hard to get there, we say thanks and congratulations. You deserved it and we're proud of you!

We are also proud of the following six Placentia youths who graduated from Azusa Pacific University last month.

They are: Kathleen Jane Adams, who graduated with a Master of Arts in Education-Teaching; Daniel L. Elliot, who graduated with a

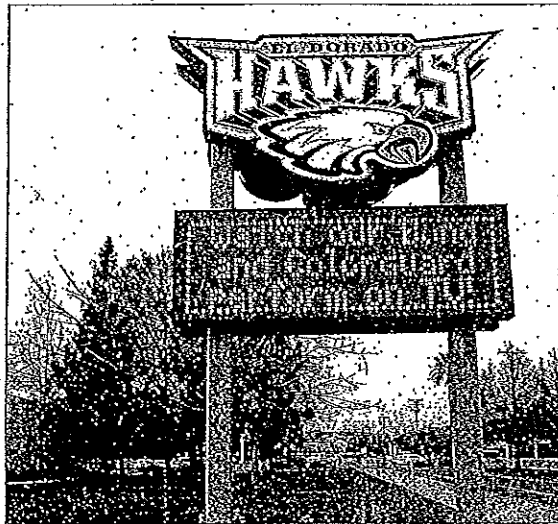


PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEANORE RANKIN

**EL DORADO HIGH SCHOOL** Marching Band seeks community support before its big appearance in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

Master of Arts in Educational Technology; Alexis Jeanne Onishi, who graduated with a Master of Arts in Education-Teaching; Michelle E. Shelton, who graduated with a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology; Linda Ann Smith, who graduated with a Master of Arts in Education-Teaching; and Ronald W. Weston, who graduated with a Master of Arts in Edu-

cation-School Administration. Congratulations to all!

"Becoming a New You" is the theme of the Women's Connection luncheon Monday at the Alta Vista Country Club, 777 E. Alta Vista St. Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch starts at 11:30.

Beth Williams will provide

SEE NEIGHBOR • PAGE 12

Eleanore Rankin has lived and volunteered in Placentia for more than 20 years. She would like to hear your community news about families, clubs and business. Call her at (714) 524-8337 or fax information to (714) 524-8680.

# NEIGHBOR

FROM PAGE 10

musical entertainment, and presenter Karen O'Connor, an award-winning author, will reveal the secret of a grateful heart. Lunch is \$12, payable at the door. To reserve a place, call Henri Bragagnolo at (714) 528-8393.

\*\*\*

According to Pat Blake, president of Welcome Wagon of North Orange County, the club will meet Wednesday, at Gregory's Restaurant, inside the Embassy Suites, 3100 E. Frontera St., Anaheim.

Social hour begins at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon. Cost of lunch is \$15, payable in ad-

vanced. Make reservations at a must. Call Ellen Rowland at (714) 281-9240 to make reservation and for more information concerning pre-payment.

\*\*\*

With the holidays behind us, the Placentia Chamber of Commerce has resumed its weekly networking luncheons at Rasmussen's Restaurant, 909 E. Yorba Linda Blvd.

The next meeting is Wednesday, in the restaurant's banquet room. It is open to all area business and no advance reservation is necessary. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch.

\*\*\*

Emerald Isle on the Green, Placentia's new apartment complex for seniors 55 and

older located at 661 N. Rose Drive, welcomed its first move-ins last month and has been rapidly gaining occupancy and leasing momentum.

I recently met with two residents who told me how much they enjoy the beauty and amenities. Alice Powell, who preceded Dione Gornley's occupancy by just a few days, showed me the various apartment layouts and told me they look forward to management's plans to offer weekly movies and twice-weekly afternoon fitness chats.

Other planned social activities will be added to the mix as the number of residents increases. Among the special rooms in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEANORE RANKIN

**ALICE POWELL** and Dione Gornley compare notes on various apartment layouts at the newly opened Emerald Isle on the Green senior apartment complex.

8,300-square-foot club house is a library, card room, bil-

iards room, fitness center, and computer/business center. A multi-purpose room with a state-of-the-art kitchen dominates the club house, which also houses the leasing and administrative offices.



Management held its inaugural event last month, hosting the Placentia Library Foundation's donor reception with 135 people in attendance. Emerald Isle will next host the Placentia Chamber of Commerce's mixer Jan. 13.

**LIBRARY CLOSED**

Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
&  
Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

for

**President's Day**

[www.placentialibrary.org](http://www.placentialibrary.org)

**24/7 Reference**  
There are times you need help, but can't make it to the library. Live, real-time help from a librarian is available, 24 hours a day. (no library card number needed)

**The Library Catalog**  
You can look up what books are available at the Placentia Library, as well as Yorba Linda Library, and all of the Anaheim Library branches. (no library card number needed)


Additionally, you can reserve books, check on your library account, and renew your books. (library card number needed)

[www.placentialibrary.org](http://www.placentialibrary.org)

Online Resources  
*(To access, you must have your library card number available)*

- LearnATest
- Newspapers
- Facts On File
- NoveList
- General Reference Center/Magazine Index
- Business & Company Resource Center
- Health & Wellness Resource Center

**Placentia History Room**




Staffed and Managed  
by Volunteers

**Hours**  
Monday & Tuesday &  
Wednesday  
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.  
*Other hours by special arrangement*

**Placentia History Room**

Displays currently featuring

- 📖 Local school annuals
- 📖 Travelling historical photographs of local schools
- 📖 Books by local authors



**Placentia History Room**

Historical Collections Include


- 📖 Bancroft's historical series
- 📖 Local oral histories
- 📖 California historical fiction
- 📖 Complete collection of Women's Round Table Scrapbooks
- 📖 Local citrus label collection
- 📖 Spanish made cannonball – possibly from the 1769 Portola Expedition
- 📖 Adobe brick from Oniveras Adobe built in 1832

**Placentia History Room**



Archival Resources Include

- 📖 West Alameda Yacht Club membership
- 📖 Assorted Spanish Yorba Linda scrap and papers
- 📖 Articles on international student visit to Placentia, Italy
- 📖 West Placentia Little League
- 📖 International Kiwanis papers and scrapbook (1965-1970)
- 📖 Virginia Carpenter photograph collection
- 📖 Placentia Courier negative collection
- 📖 Historic photograph collection
- 📖 Newspaper clippings, newsletters, postcards, maps of local historic interest

**2005 Authors Luncheon**  
Saturday, March 5, Alta Vista Country Club  
Featuring



**Thom Racina**  
TV Writer & Author  
Tickets go on sale January 31<sup>st</sup>






**LIBRARY CLOSED**

Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
&  
Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

for

**President's Day**

**pacific clippings**

placencia, calif. 92711  
1 1 7 8 9

Placencia News  
Weekly JAN 13 2005

**THE HEART OF THE MATTER:**

# Ways to get involved in your city

**TO OUR READERS:**  
The Placencia News-Times this week introduces a new column by former Mayor Judy Dickinson, who will write about community issues once a month.



**JUDY DICKINSON**  
HEART OF THE MATTER

enough interested candidates. Are people just too busy? Do they not care about Placencia's future? Or do they simply not realize the importance of these positions? Now that the focus in the

community is off the election, there should be a large number of citizens with time on their hands. Why not direct these energies into something that can truly make a difference?

The process is very simple. First, there is a notice in the newspaper listing vacancies and asking interested individuals to pick up an application.

Then, after returning those applications to the City

Clerk, applicants will receive individual appointments to interview with the council. These interviews are non-threatening and last only 10-15 minutes.

Usually, the council asks fairly generic questions, e.g. why the applicant wants to be appointed, how he or she can make a difference and what qualities the applicant believes he or she will bring to the position?

Every attempt is made to

place qualified applicants onto the committee or commission of their choice.

The important thing to remember is that if you do not succeed the first time, you should make sure to try again. Something as simple as serving one of these panels can make a major difference to our city and citizens.

Here is a list of Placencia's committees and commissions:

- Advisory Committee on the Disabled - seven members  
6 p.m., fourth Thursday of each month. Ensures that current and future city facilities are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Assists, when asked, all businesses and civic organizations in meeting ADA requirements. Prepares annual updates on the status of City bus stops as they pertain to the disabled. Promotes community awareness of the ADA, including employment potential of physically challenged individuals. Cultural Arts Commission - nine members  
7 p.m., second Thursday of each month. Commissioners are compensated \$25 per month. Serves as an advisory group to the City Council on

## MATTER

FROM PAGE 10

cultural art matters. Provides a leadership role in several of Placencia's special events, including the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Photography Contest and Concerts in the Park.

- Heritage Committee - nine members  
7 p.m., second Wednesday of each month. Nine individuals comprise the Executive Committee. Volunteers wishing to serve on sub-committees are appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Board. This committee plans and executes the yearly Heritage Days Celebration and related activities.
- Historical Committee - nine members  
7 p.m., second Thursday of every other month. Serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council on matters related to historical structures and sites in Placencia.
- Planning Commission - seven members  
7:30 p.m., second Tuesday of each month. Commissioners are compensated \$50 per month. Makes recommendations concerning proposed public works and the potential clearance and rebuilding of blighted or substandard areas within the city. Deals with issues concerning zoning ordinances, makes recommendations to the City Council concerning the adoption, amendment or repeal of the General Plan for the city's

to City parks and recreational programs. Assists in the development of plans for seasonal recreational activities. Establishes rules and regulations for the use of City parks and recreation facilities.

- Senior Advisory Committee - nine members  
6 p.m., second Wednesday of each month.  
Acts as a liaison to enrich and enhance the lives of the seniors in the City. Identifies barriers, forms partnerships with the community, and acts as a public forum for issues affecting seniors.
- Traffic Safety Commission - eight members, one high school student  
7 p.m., third Monday of each month. Commissioners are compensated \$25 per month. Considers traffic safety matters submitted by City Council, staff or public, and recommends courses of action. Manages matters relating to regulation of vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Members familiarize themselves with traffic safety principles and practices through attendance at seminars and training sessions.
- Veterans Advisory Committee - 12 members  
7:30 p.m., first Monday of each even-numbered month.  
Advises the City Council concerning veterans' affairs and recommends courses of action where appropriate. Responsible for the Veterans Day Program and activities. Committee members need not be veterans to serve on this committee.

\*\*\*

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

# Placentia addressing crossing concerns

The financially strapped city is spending millions to improve rail and road safety.

Placentia, where train traffic from the port has been a major issue and is expected to double in the next 10 years, is spending millions to separate trains and cars to improve safety and eliminate traffic congestion and noise along 5 miles of track that cut through the community.

Short-term safety measures are planned at eight railroad crossings. Medians and new gates will block drivers who try to beat oncoming trains by crossing

to the opposite side of the street and cutting across the tracks. Cars also will wait farther away from the tracks. Early-warning signals will flash along the roadway to indicate a train's approach.

Officials are working out how the financially strapped city will be able to pay for the construction of the safety measures - so far all the materials have been ordered with the money Placentia had available, said spokesman Matt Reynolds.

If kept on schedule, construction could start in the spring. Construction is expected to take 60 days.

The city also has begun a long-term project to eliminate 11 rail crossings.

This month, an underpass opened on Melrose Street. Next, the city will close Bradford Street to through traffic. The city will consider several options for the remaining nine intersections, including

more underpasses and dropping a few miles of track into a trench below street level.

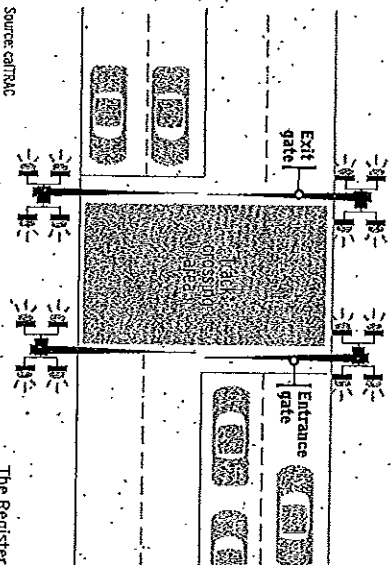
The project could cost up to \$543 million. Placentia is hoping for \$239 million from a federal transportation bill and \$15.1 million from the state - money the city has sought for a couple of years.

## MORE ONLINE

Video of drivers improperly crossing train tracks  
[www.ocregister.com/community/placentia\\_news\\_times/rail/index.shtml](http://www.ocregister.com/community/placentia_news_times/rail/index.shtml)

## Optimizing safety

The Orange County Transportation Authority is recommending quad gates for 18 of the 64 street-level railroad crossings in the county. The barriers help prevent motorists from swerving around crossing arms.





**pacific clippings**  
 P M B 1 1 7 8 9  
 santa ana, calif. 92711

Placentia News  
 Weekly JAN 20 2005

# A few new sparkles are spotted around town

Christmas is over, but the radiance of the season lives on with three of our calladies are wearing ourling sparklers on their an-



**ELEANORE RANKIN**  
 NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS  
 California Edison Co.  
 Our third generation recipient is Milly Muzzy. She was spr-

ector Carol Gallo, spurred a brilliant dia-

rounded by well-wishers at the Fullerton Civic Light Opera's membership tea, which was attended by city members and the FCLC board. Millie's fiancé is Bill Heaton, who serves on the city's Cultural Arts Commission and is vice president of advancement at the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton. Millie is director of development, College of the Arts at Cal State Fullerton and



**LIBRARY STAFF** Members Estella Winek, from left, and Wendy Goodson admire Laranne Millonzi's new engagement ring.

serves on our city's Recreation and Parks Commission. We add our good wishes to the trio of ladies whose smiles these days nearly

**SEE NEIGHBOR • PAGE 14**

The lucky guys Mark Remling, who is a professional artist at Coast Air-rush in Anaheim. At the Placentia Chamber of Commerce, Executive Di-

# NEIGHBOR

FROM PAGE 13

brilliance of their diamonds  
\* \* \*  
Earlier this month, John Barnes, Placentia resident and head coach at Los Alamitos High School, called to let me know his son Jimmy age 17, would be playing last Saturday in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Jimmy, who attended Brookhaven Elementary and Tuftree Middle Schools, was chosen by the bowl committee to play in this game that

puts the best high school performers in the United States. He attends Los Alamitos High, where his dad has coached for 26 years. Jimmy was one of three quarterbacks playing for the Best of the West against those selected from schools in the East.

Father and son left a week before the scheduled game to practice at the Alamedome in San Antonio, where the game took place. NBC televised it live and the West won "big time" 35-3.

Congratulations to both dad and son for having made this remarkable touchdown!

**From Jane Thatcher, publicity chairman for the Pat Nixon Republican Women's Federated,** comes news of the group's first dinner meeting of the year at the Alta Vista Country Club at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 28.

**Dr. Ronald Rietveld** will be the featured speaker, a professor of history at CSUR since 1969. Rietveld has made a lifetime career of researching and speaking on President Abraham Lincoln. His topic for the evening will be "Abraham Lincoln Really Was a Republican!" He has been a student of Lincoln since the age of 14, when in 1952 he discovered the last photograph taken of Lincoln in the Nicolay papers of the Illinois State Historical Library.

The professor lectures and writes extensively on Lincoln and the American Civil War and is serving as a member

## NEIGHBOR

FROM PAGE 13

of the Historic Cal Adams and Central Teams on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill. He also serves as an advisor to the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which is organizing the 200th celebration of Lincoln's birthday in 2009.

Rietveld is a captivating and knowledgeable speaker who will offer a fascinating inside look at the 16th president and the Democratic Party. Call 924-8887 or fax (714) 524-8660.

to claim Lincoln as their own.

The women club members, their guests and the general public are invited to attend and celebrate Lincoln's Feb. 12 birthday. Cost of the dinner is \$20 per person and reservations are requested by Friday, Feb. 24, 2009. Payment may be made at the door.

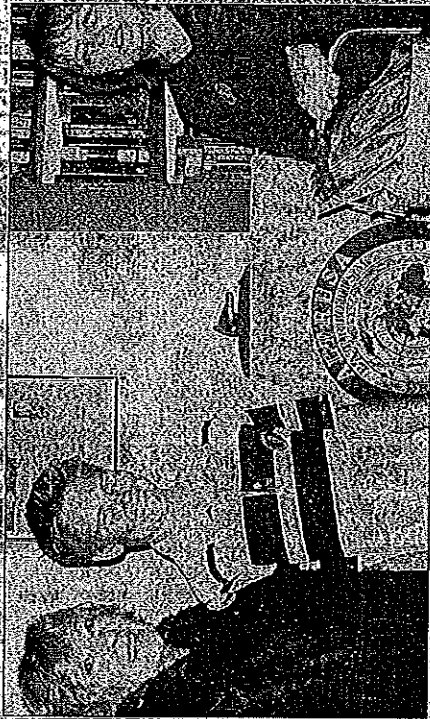
Eleanor Rankin has lived and volunteered in Placentia for more than 20 years. She would like to hear your community news about families, clubs, and business. Reach her at (714) 924-8887 or fax (714) 524-8660.

# Altrusa club inspired by a youth's literacy program

**A**t a recent meeting of the Palmetto Club of Placentia, Linda Held, Altrusa de Palma members were inspired to learn from a year-old Bram Whitling project about his Beanie-Bra Bookies literacy project.



**ELEANOR RANKIN NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**



**KAY PFAFFLE**, left, Bram Whitling Center and Patricia Deizer, Altrusa president with books she club donated.

Books collected and deployed to an inner-city child.

inspired by an American soldier. The soldier's goal was to find and videotape the names of both the book and video are then mailed to the viceman's child. This way the children can read along with their father's soldier.

They were together in the photo when he adopted literacy as a public. Some how we could have a literacy project almost died.

Amazingly, he lived. During his recuperation period, his doctor told him he should think about something special for him to do.

enced such a miraculous cure. For two years, he tried to find that "something special" as a "pay it forward" gesture, but nothing surfaced that drew his interest.

Later, he read President George W. Bush wanted to see America respond to the Sept. 11 terrorists' acts with acts of kindness and urged students to start service projects at their schools as a tribute to those who had lost their lives that day.

So Brant had two people challenging him to do something special — his doctor and the president. However,

SEE RANKIN PAGE 15

While we're on the subject of literacy, here's a reminder to all avid readers: The Friends of Placentia Library will sponsor an Author's Lunch March 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the Alta Vista Country Club.

The featured author will be Thom Racina whose novels are as interesting as his life. A born storyteller, Racina captivates audiences with his own personal stories. He is the author of thrillers, The Great Los Angeles Blizzard, Snow Angel, Secret Week, and The Madman's Diary. Never Forget, and Deadly Games.

In the 19 years between Buzzard and Snow Angel, Racina gave the world more than 4,000 broadcast hours of the soaps "General Hospital," "Days of our Lives," "Another World," "Santa Barbara," "Generations," and "Search for Tomorrow." He sides with the little guy, much acclaimed nighttime series "Family."

He received five Emmy nominations, one specifically for "L.A. Law" and a nomination for "General Hospital." He is known to be the single most respected actor in soap opera. He made soap opera history as a character actor when he will keep the attention of readers for their seats, winning the award for best-hand actor in his and the scenes he's been in. Former Miss Placentia and Miss California Stephanie

he'll know the one to which the book will be. One day, while camping on his bookshelves, he looked at all of the books and decided to read them. He then went to his neighborhood bookstore and found the book had no space in the store. He then went to the bookstore and found no space in the store. He then went to the bookstore and found no space in the store.

Frank adopted a new literacy project with the motto "one being the most important." He and his wife, Beanie, have a program called "Beanie's Literacy Project" where they present books to children.

Beanie's Literacy Project is a program where they present books to children. They have a list of books that they have read and they are looking for more books to read.

Beanie's Literacy Project is a program where they present books to children. They have a list of books that they have read and they are looking for more books to read. If you're interested in participating in this project, check the Web site [www.readallover.org](http://www.readallover.org) for more information.

# RANKIN

FROM

# RANKIN

FROM PAGE

The family summed in its assessment that this was a heart-warming experience and one they will long remember.

The California Federation of Women's Club will be hosted by the local Orange District when it holds its board meeting at the Holiday Inn in Buena Park, Feb. 24-26. Jill Botha and I, representing the Orange District, will be part of the delegation planning a reception for the visiting state VIPs. The meeting is open to the public and anyone wanting more information about the program is invited to call me at (714) 524-8337.

Eleanor Rankin has the latest news about families, clubs and business. Call her at (714) 524-8337 or fax information to (714) 524-8660.

# pacific clippings

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Placentia News

Weekly JAN - 6 2005

## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### TODAY

Story times for ages 3 to 6 are held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Placentia Library, 411 E. Chapman Ave. Free. Call (714) 528-1906, Ext. 212.

### SUNDAY

Teen Mass is held at 5 p.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church's Main Sanctuary, 717 N. Bradford Ave. Call (714) 528-1487.

Used book sale sponsored by the Friends of Placentia Library, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the library, 411 E. Chapman Ave. The group will sell used hard cover volumes and paperback books on a variety of subjects at a discount price. Call (714) 528-1906, 528-1925, Ext. 201.

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Placentia News

Weekly JAN - 6 2005

## Fund-raiser on the move for HIS House

You can walk, run or ride a bike to raise money for the Homeless Intervention Shelter from 8 to 11 a.m. Jan. 15 at Tri-City Park, 2301 N. Kraemer Blvd.

Participants in the Punch Out Homelessness Walkathon are asked to gather pledges of at least \$20 for the number of loops they make around the lake.

Registration forms are due by Wednesday Sign-up, and pledge sheets are available at the Placentia Library, 411 E. Chapman Ave. or HIS House, 907 N. Bradford Ave. Send forms to HIS House, P.O. Box 1293, Placentia, CA 92871.

Information: Jean Dunne (714) 579-3824 or jafd@worldnet.att.net.

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The Register Daily

JAN 14 2005

## Southwest to connect with ATA flights from Chicago

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southwest Airlines will sell seats on ATA Airlines flights to Hawaii and other U.S. locations starting next month, the carrier said Thursday.

All connections between the two airlines would be made at Chicago's Midway Airport, making travel to the islands inconvenient for West Coast customers, Southwest CEO Gary Kelly said. His airline would consider adding connecting cities in the West, mentioning Las Vegas as a possibility.

The airlines will start selling seats on each other's flights Sunday under a so-called code-sharing agreement. The code share flights are to begin Feb. 4.

On Southwest's side, Honolulu, other MIA destinations that will be linked with some Southwest flights through Chicago are New York's LaGuardia Airport, New York's JFK, Boston, Reagan National Airport outside Washington, D.C., Fort Myers, Sarasota and St. Petersburg, Fla., Minneapolis, Denver and San Francisco.

The deal does not allow use of frequent-flier rewards on the other airline. For example, members of Southwest's Rapid Rewards program won't be able to use those credits on ATA flights to Honolulu.

Kelly said the deal could mean \$30 million to \$50 million in revenue for each airline.

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The Register Daily

JAN 18 2005

## PLACENTIA

### Volunteer committees

The City Council is accepting applications to fill 13 vacancies on volunteer city committees.

Applicants must be Placentia residents, but they do not need previous experience in city government. Pick up application forms from the city clerk's office at 401 E. Chapman Ave. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Feb. 10. Information: (714) 993-8231.

Afsha Bawany

(714) 704-3796  
abawany@ccregister.com

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Placentia News

Weekly JAN 20 2005

## Recipes, customs to be shared at library

Share your family recipes and customs from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 12 at the Placentia Library's Meeting Room.

The free event is open to families with preschool children and will include book reading, craft projects and food.

Information: librarian Toby Silberfarb (714) 524-8408, Ext. 213.

Agenda Item 45

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The Register Daily

JAN 26 2005

## PLACENTIA

### Council takes over rail project

The Placentia City Council agreed Tuesday to take over direct oversight of the city's financially faltering rail project.

City staff was directed to map out a plan for all five council members to sit on OnTrac's board. Two council members currently sit on the board, which oversees a team of contractors working to eliminate all crossings.

"We need to go overboard in making sure every single contractor is brought before the City Council," Councilman Chris Lowe said.

The decision came at a review of OnTrac spending \$527 million since 1997.

The council received a presentation on different ways to manage the project. The council is expected to discuss the oversight change again Feb. 1.

Amy Taxin

(714) 704-3771

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Placentia News

Weekly JAN 20 2005

## SATURDAY

Read to dogs at 10 a.m. in the Placentia Library Children's Department, 411 E. Chapman Ave. These are therapy dogs trained by the Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs Inc. to give support in nursing homes, hospitals and psychiatric wards. Also, same time and place Monday. Call (714) 528-1925 Ext. 212.

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The Register  
Daily FEB 23 2005

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Placentia News  
Weekly FEB 17 2005

### Exhibit focuses on Mexican Americans

A new display of photographs called "Dream the Vision" which depicts the lives of Mexican Americans in Orange County from the early 1900s through World War II.

The exhibit was created by Yolanda Morales Alvarez, president of the Orange County Mexican American Historical Society. The pictures are on display throughout the library and will be on view indefinitely.

The library is at 411 E. Chapman Ave. It is open from 11:05 p.m. Sundays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Information: (714) 928-1025.

# Placentia City Council scales back OnTrac

## Panel seeks new bids for rail project, has cut lobbyist in effort to curb spending

BY AMY TAXIN  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

PLACENTIA City leaders Tuesday stepped up efforts to curb spending on their strapped rail project, ordering new bids for management and dropping a lobbyist.

The City Council, acting in its new role as the OnTrac agency board, approved a \$1.6 million budget for the next four months.

The budget primarily funds the \$8.7 million Quiet Zone project, a temporary effort to improve safety at rail crossings.

A larger, potentially \$543 million project is aimed at eliminating the rail crossings, but it has all but stalled for lack of funding.

OnTrac Executive Director Chris Becker and a staff member will keep their jobs through June, but the city will seek new bids for the jobs in the meantime.

Becker's consulting company earned \$1.7 million from July 2000 to October 2004. As of October, he had deferred about \$80,000 of that income to help ease the city's cash flow problems.

Eileen Brown, who provides

support services through a contract with the Los Angeles Economic Development Commission, was paid about \$400,000 from November 2000 to November 2004.

Council members reviewed OnTrac spending line by line for more than two hours Tuesday.

**"I'm just in the position that the city just can't afford it."**

CONNIE UNDERHILL  
PLACENTIA  
COUNCILWOMAN

day to find ways to scale back spending.

They focused on the role played by Brown and the effectiveness of federal lobbyist Smith, Esposito and Lyerly.

Brown and the Smith, Esposito and Lyerly firm both cost \$8,000 a month.

The lobbyist services were dropped until money comes through in a long-awaited federal transportation bill.

"I'm just in the position that the city just can't afford it," Councilwoman Connie Underhill said.

Becker said the city is

smart to seek to put out a request for proposals for the management services that he and Brown provide.

"They're doing the right thing," said Becker, whose firm will receive \$57,600 for the next four months.

"There will be a real harm done to what's out there in the industry and I think they'll see what they have with this team is not actually that off the mark."

Underhill had pushed to also cut state lobbyists and slash Becker's pay.

"If we only have money for the Quiet Zone, that's probably the only thing we need to have Becker working on," she said.

The Quiet Zone budget relies on \$3 million in grant money approved last week by the Orange County Transportation Authority.

Council members also voted to hold OnTrac meetings at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month as part of their regular council sessions.

They will pay themselves \$120 for each OnTrac meeting.

Mayor Scott Brady and Councilman Russ Rice voted against receiving the payment.

CONTACT THE WRITER:  
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ataxin@ocregister.com

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The Register  
Daily **MAR 1 - 2005**

**GOVERNMENT**

**City official may direct OnTrac**

Placentia's OnTrac board of directors today will consider appointing Public Works Director Travis Hopkins as the agency's executive director.

The current director, consultant Chris Becker would continue to serve as project manager while Hopkins would act as a liaison between the city and the agency.

OnTrac manages Placentia's potentially \$543 million effort to eliminate 11 rail crossings, a project staffed entirely by consultants.

"Hopefully (Hopkins) will understand the project and be more intimate with it," Mayor Scott Brady said. "Let's set up a command structure so that public works and city staff are still involved in it on a daily basis."

**- Afsha Bawany**  
(714) 704-3796

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Placentia News  
Weekly **FEB 17 2005**

**Poetry workshop held at library**

The Placentia Library will host a poetry workshop for adults from 4 to 7 p.m. Feb. 26. Michael Kramer will present "From the Mundane to the Sublime: How to Take the Stuff of Ordinary Lives and Make it Poetic."

Kramer has been publishing poetry for 36 years. The workshop will be held in the meeting room of the Placentia Library, 411 E. Chapman Ave. Free and open to the public. Information: (714) 524-8408.

**Ireland and Scotland trip featured**

Dr. Charles Trzeta will present a slide show on his trips to Ireland and Scotland from 7 to 8:30 p.m. March 14 at the Placentia Library, 411 E. Chapman Ave.

Refreshments are provided. Free and open to the public. Information: (714) 524-8408.

Agenda Item 45  
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The Register  
Daily **FEB 19 2005**

**Historic display:** "Fire in the Morning," a traveling photo exhibit of Mexican-American history in Orange County, is on display at the Placentia Public Library, 411 E. Chapman Ave., Placentia, at Kraemer Boulevard. For information, call (714) 528-4906, Ext. 209. A reception is planned for 7 p.m. Tuesday.

**- Ron Gonzales**  
(714) 796-4313

rgonzales@ocregister.com

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The Register  
Daily **FEB 26 2005**

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Placentia News  
Weekly **FEB 24 2005**

**SATURDAY 3/27**

Poetry Workshop for adults from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Placentia Library, 411 E. Chapman Ave. Michael Kramer will present "From the Mundane to the Sublime: How to Take the Stuff of Ordinary Lives and Make it Poetic." Kramer has published poetry for 36 years. Free and open to the public. Call (714) 524-8408.

**Placentia area welcomes back school**

New Melrose Elementary fills hole left when last campus in city's La Jolla neighborhood shut down in 1977.

**By AFSHA BAWANY**  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

PLACENTIA • Robert Sanchez watched his son, Bobby, 8, with pride and just a little bit of envy during this week's celebration for the new Melrose Elementary School.

"He has all the new resources, computers and library," said Robert Sanchez, 37. "I think it's neat. I see some of the guys I grew up with and I see their kids." Melrose Elementary

opened in September, but the library and some classrooms weren't finished until December.

Celebrations were held Thursday and Friday to mark the return of a campus to the La Jolla neighborhood 30 years after the last one closed.

The school is built on the site of La Jolla Elementary, later known as McFadden Elementary.

McFadden's closure in 1977 — because of declining enrollment — left a hole in the south

Placentia community, said Amelia Sanchez, 58, Bobby's grandmother.

"They took the school from our neighborhood," said Sanchez, who attended McFadden.

When school officials closed McFadden, the Sanchez family took to the streets to protest the decision.

Robert Sanchez was 8 then — the same age as his son now — when he learned he would be bused four miles to Rio Vista Elementary in Anaheim.

His grandfather, uncle and aunts all attended the local school.

"I was happy I was going to walk to school," he said. "We

live over the bridge. It would be walking distance."

Melrose draws its student body mostly from Rio Vista and Tynes elementary schools.

The proximity of the school — less than a mile from the La Jolla neighborhood — means parents can be more involved in their children's education, Principal Vivian Cuesta said.

"Not only is there a sense of community, there is a sense of ownership," said Cuesta, 52. "It's their neighborhood and their school."

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
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abawany@ocregister.com

# Placentia celebrates first fruit of rail project

New underpass lauded, but effects of budget cuts unclear for the rest of improvements.

BY HEATHER McREA and  
AMY TAXIN

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

330  
PLACENTIA • A red Ford convertible cruised down Melrose Street on Tuesday — the first car to cross beneath a trail ridge on Placentia's newly opened underpass.

The street is the first of 11 at-grade crossings Placentia hopes to eliminate in a \$543-million project to improve traffic safety.

But despite the celebratory opening, ongoing state financial troubles might hurt the city's chances of getting \$15.1 million this year to help cover project costs, including the underpass.

David Brewer, chief deputy director of the California Transportation Commission, said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to divert as taxes from transportation jeopardizes two pots of money Placentia hopes to tap.

Brewer said the state will focus spending on maintenance, not new projects. There isn't going to be money



**DEBUT:** William Lindsay of Placentia lines up Tuesday to be the first vehicle to pass under the railway on Melrose Street.

for this project, he said. But City Administrator Robert Dominguez didn't lose heart after a recent meeting with officials in Sacramento. "We're optimistic. If it doesn't come, we'll still be able to survive," he said.

The city is hoping state funding will help reimburse costs incurred to finish the Melrose underpass. Residents lauded the underpass for easing traffic.

"We've been here through all the dust, all the digging, all the pounding," said Ernie Molina, president of AmeriColor Corp. on Melrose Street. "This was a major under-

taking for the city of Placentia. It's taken 2 1/2 years and it's come out beautiful."

Placentia officials approved an \$8.3-million budget in August to fund railroad projects through February, in hopes that state funds would arrive or at least have a delivery date.

The city will hold a study session on railroad project financing at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Staff writer Afsha Bawany contributed to this report.

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
(714) 704-3777 or  
afaxin@ocregister.com

## Exhibit focuses on Mexican Americans

The Placentia Library has a new display of photographs called "Fire in the Morning," which depicts the lives of Mexican Americans in Orange County from the early 1900s through World War II.

The exhibit was created by Yolanda Morelos Alvarez, president of the Orange County Mexican American Historical Society. The pictures are in display cases throughout the library and will be on view indefinitely.

The library is at 411 E. Chapman Ave. It is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Information: (714) 528-1925.

## Ireland and Scotland trip featured

Charles Frazee will present a slide show of his trip to Ireland and Scotland from 7 to

8:30 p.m. March 14 at the Placentia Library, 411 E. Chapman Ave.

Refreshments and snacks provided. Free and open to the public.

Information: (714) 524-8408.



# Placentia derails head of OnTrac

The city's head of Public Works will oversee day-to-day operations as council seeks closer control of project.

BY AFSHA BAWANY  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

PLACENTIA • City leaders on Tuesday stripped OnTrac Executive Director Chris Becker of his title and put the city's public works director in charge of day-to-day oversight of Placentia's estimated \$543 million effort to eliminate 11 rail crossings.

Becker, who has held the director's title since the agency's formation in 2000, will work with his replacement, Public Works chief Travis Hopkins, to monitor the project's contracts and finances and to pursue new funding until July.

That's when the city will seek competing bids from outside contractors for managing the financially struggling program that has been slammed by some City Council members and community members for spending money it didn't have.

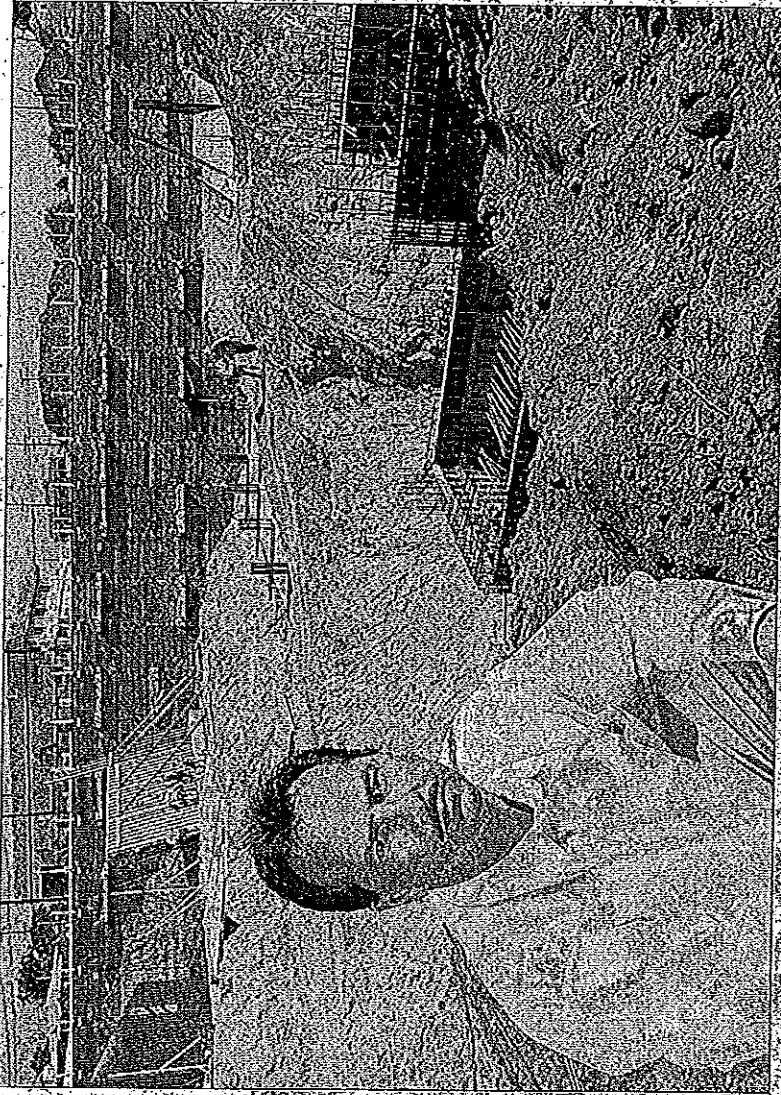
Officials said the move should send a signal to the community and other government agencies that the project — once run entirely by consultants and overseen by a three-member board — is firmly under the city's control.

"I think it's another step in the right direction, joining accountability and management oversight back to the city where I think it belonged," said Councilman Russ Rice, who had campaigned to claim the title.

Becker did not return calls seeking comment. Last month, he was named to the City Council to oversee the 3-year-old agency. Last week, about a federal lobbyist's contract on his part.

Mayor Scott Brady said the transition plan would enable Hopkins to gain expertise in the project through the city's selection of a new project manager.

Bids for the project manager posts were expected in May. Becker is expected to be the city's public works director when he becomes OnTrac's executive director. He held both posts for a



**POWER SHIFT:** Chris Becker was stripped of his title as executive director of Placentia's OnTrac rail agency. He is staying on board as project manager at least until July.

while reimbursing the city for his public works salary.

His hiring is under investigation by the Orange County District Attorney's office for a possible conflict of interest.

Becker's job stands as an issue during the November election, when Rice and Councilwoman Connie Underhill campaigned for his removal.

Underhill said OnTrac was mismanaged and blamed the city's lack of control.

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The Register  
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**THREE ALARMS:** Sixty firefighters from three departments were called in to halt a blaze in downtown Placentia on Tuesday.

# Placentia fire sends 2 to hospital

## Blaze displaces residents of six downtown apartments

By ERIC CARPENTER and CINDY CARCAMO

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

PLACENTIA: As flames crept close to her downtown apartment Tuesday afternoon, Julia Navarro didn't even have time to grab her purse.

"I just put the shoes on my baby and we ran out," Navarro said of her 4-year-old son, Rael. "I could feel the heat. And that was from somebody who lived next door to the building, that actually burned."

The size and scope of the fire that hit one of the older buildings in the city's historic district looked far worse than the final damage.

In all, it took 60 firefighters from three fire departments about 35 minutes to knock down a three-alarm apart-

ment fire at 126 Santa Fe Street. The fire sent two residents to the hospital with smoke inhalation, and left residents of six apartments without homes.

The injured, neither of whom were identified, were a woman, 70, and her grandson, in his 20s, said Capt. Steven Miller, spokesman for the Orange County Fire Authority. Both were taken to Placentia's Linda Hospital.

Miller said the cause of the fire is under investigation. Flames initially were reported from a second-story apartment window above a T-shirt warehouse at 127 p.m. Within minutes, at least four windows in the mixed-use building had shattered from the heat. The building, constructed before World War II, includes an attic, something that Miller said could have helped the fire spread easily to other struc-

tures. "They did an awesome job of pinching it off and may have been able to save the main structure," Miller said, referring to firefighters from Placentia, Fullerton and Anaheim.

A damage estimate was not immediately available. Jose Zepeda, who owns the neighboring historic Stradley

building, constructed in 1910, hurried to the scene as the fire was still burning after receiving a call from the local fire chief. "My first concern, of course, was that everybody got out safely," Zepeda said. "And I'm glad to see there wasn't more damage."

Red Cross officials said they had been contacted by nine people who needed shelter. It's unclear how many, if any, might lose their home permanently.

Residents of 10 other apartments were temporarily forced out of their homes. But, by late evening, they were allowed to return.

Navarro, part of that group, considered her self lucky. "What's important is that my son is safe."

CONTACT THE WRITER: (714) 796-7829 or ccarcamo@ocregister.com

**"My first concern, of course, was that everybody got out safely. And I'm glad to see there wasn't more damage."**

JOSE ZEPEDA  
DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORING  
HISTORIC STRADLEY  
BUILDING BUILT IN 1910

Flames initially were reported from a second-story apartment window above a T-shirt warehouse at 127 p.m. Within minutes, at least four windows in the mixed-use building had shattered from the heat. The building, constructed before World War II, includes an attic, something that Miller said could have helped the fire spread easily to other structures.

READER REBUTTAL: REDEVELOPMENT

# Placentia has a better idea



SCOTT B. BRADY  
MAYOR OF  
PLACENTIA

The Register's editorial page recently took aim at a topic - redevelopment - that is so popular it has spawned a book by one of your editorial writers [Steven Greenhut's "Abuse of Power"]. Sadly, the Register's own news reporting contradicts every assertion made in your recent editorial "A tale of three cities' redevelopment schemes" [Opinion, Feb. 2] about redevelopment in Placentia.

Here are the facts:

Placentia's city government gave up our redevelopment agency's ability to use eminent domain. We have been brutally honest with our residents: We will only use eminent domain (as a city, not a redevelopment agency) to build a train station for direct public use and only if we cannot acquire property through private deals first.

We have pledged no city funds toward private development near our downtown, and most importantly, we have no plans - let me repeat, none - to alter the character of the buildings and businesses actually in the downtown area. In fact, residents and our developer agreed to focus south of downtown.

We took these positions for a host of reasons:

First, our residents believe correctly that downtown is unique and should be respected. We have no plans to emulate Brea or other cities and "recreate" a downtown. We have a downtown that's looking out for itself without the government pushing through its vision. Second, we have signed an agreement

with a master developer to master-plan a transit-oriented development and surrounding areas on land south of the tracks from downtown. But the deal depends on a significant caveat we expect your paper would support: If the developer can't privately acquire the land, if the developer can't, then the city loses nothing and the developer shoulders this risk. Third, we made the turn in this direction because residents echoed many of the Register's and others' concerns regarding blanket city uses of eminent domain and public funds for redevelopment.

Placentia's vision is simple: We will support privately funded redevelopment south of the tracks as an economic engine to revitalize our Old Town/downtown area, which will be directed by owners and merchants in this area.

I appreciate informed opinions. I'd invite the editorial writer to attend our council meetings and talk to the commu-

nity and our proposed developer to gain the whole story. Your news staff has done so and chronicled recently the distinct differences between Yorba Linda's and Placentia's redevelopment plans. One is government-run, the other is not.

Most importantly, because of resident input and business and community involvement, our council has dramatically changed directions regarding redevelopment. We think it's a direction residents and businesses support.

Grouping Placentia with Costa Mesa and Yorba Linda is dishonest; your editorial was more rhetoric than observed fact.

I hope you'll revisit this in the future and consider our unique approach to protecting downtown Placentia and helping our city prosper.

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR'S NOTE:** As a point of clarification, Mayor Brady is correct that

the city has removed eminent domain powers from its redevelopment plan. However, those powers can be restored through a vote of the redevelopment agency. Although Placentia officials insist that their plan is different from the heavyhanded plans of neighboring cities, we have watched enough redevelopment plans in other cities to remain skeptical.

We stand by our belief that Placentia's residents have rea-

son to fear for their property rights as the city's redevelopment plan moves forward, but we certainly hope that our skepticism is unfounded.



Mayor Scott B. Brady: Placentia city officials have no plans to alter the character of the buildings and businesses actually in the downtown area.

RAILROAD CROSSING

TRACKS

END CONSTRUCTION

Your Tax Dollars  
-----  
**AT WORK**

\$16 Million

MELROSE STREET GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT  
PROJECT FUNDED BY  
State of California  
Traffic Congestion Relief Program

Caltrans

OnTrac

The Register  
Daily  
FEB 2 - 2005

pacific clippings  
p m b 1 1 7 8 9  
santa ana, calif. 92711

BRUCE CHAMBERS, THE REGISTER  
**DEALING WITH THE NOISE:** A freight train rolls through downtown Placentia at the Bradford Avenue crossing.

# City takes OnTrac reins

By AFSHA BAWANY  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

PLACENTIA City Council members Tuesday took control of a 5-year-old rail agency that has been accused by critics of mishandling its finances. The action means OnTrac decisions will be made by the council, instead of a rotating board of two council members and the city administrator.

"This is a major step forward and I'm pleased we're doing it," said Councilwoman Annie Underhill, a vocal critic of how OnTrac was run. OnTrac manages Placentia's potentially \$543 million effort to eliminate 11 rail crossings - a project stalled entirely by consultants.

The agency has been criticized for spending money faster than it was received, forcing the city to plunder its coffers and borrow millions of dollars.

Placentia's City Council will directly control the rail agency that has been criticized over its money management.

So far the project has cost \$52.7 million - \$12.9 million out of the city's pocket, \$16.2 million in borrowing and \$23.6 million in grant funds.

An Orange County Register investigation revealed in October that the project spent \$500,000 to \$1.1 million more on contract management costs than other publicly run rail projects in California and Nevada.

The City Council will handle OnTrac business during regular sessions, much as it handles its role as the Redevelopment Agency board.

The new OnTrac board also has three open positions so other cities may join.

Councilman Norman Eckenrode said the need for railroad safety is greater than ever since the Glendale train

collision that killed 11 people.

"If we don't do anything here for the next couple of years, there will be another accident," he said.

"It's important we keep this in the forefront."

OnTrac's budget for March through June 30 will come to the council for review Feb. 15. The budget is expected to identify sources of money to keep the effort going while Placentia awaits state and federal funding.

Mayor Scott Brady said the city's Quiet Zone project - an interim effort to boost safety at rail crossings - is about \$3 million short.

"We're still out there as a group asking for state and federal funds," he said.

Brady and city staff will meet Monday with county Su-

pervisor Chris Norby to ask for the Orange County Transportation Agency's aid in getting those funds.

"This isn't a Placentia problem. This is a north Orange County problem," Brady said.

Placentia ran into problems with the project after the state froze previously approved grant funding.

City Administrator Robert Dominguez said the \$15.1 million in frozen state money could be delayed for another year or two.

The city is also under consideration for federal transportation funding. That money could arrive in fall, Dominguez said.

The city in January completed its first major effort in the project, an underpass on Melrose Street allowing cars to dip beneath the tracks.

Next, the city will work to close Bradford Avenue to vehicle traffic, leaving nine crossings to address.

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2005  
MINUTES

I. Call to Order: 5:00 P.M.

Members Attending: Esther Guzman  
Katie Matas  
Caroline Gurkweitz

Members Absent: Wendy Goodson

III. Old Business

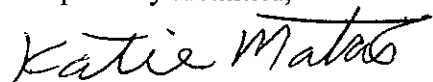
1. The fire extinguishers were checked by Katie Matas on February 28, 2005.

IV. New Business

1. Hand sanitizer was placed at each of the public service desks where staff cannot easily wash their hands.

The next meeting will be March 23, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Matas

### Safety Training Courses Completed by Placentia Library Staff

Safety Courses	# of courses taken to date
General First Aid	10
Office Safety	9
Sexual Harrassment	11
Workplace Violence	3
Ethnic Diversification	5
Workplace Stress	4
Health & Welness	6
Diet & Nutrition	6
Computer Security	0
Back Injury	2
Slips/Trips/Falls	4
Hearing Conservation	1
Eye Safety	3
CPR Academic	6
Drug Free Workplace	1
Alcohol Free Workplace	5
Electrical Safety	1
General Office Ergonomics	2
Disaster Preparedness	3
Fire Extinguisher	2
Fire Prevention	0
Driving Safety	5
Building Evacuation	4
First Responders to Terrorist Incidents	0
<b>TOTAL COURSES TAKEN</b>	<b>93</b>

Staff who have completed the 3 core + 8 electives:

Phyllis Humple  
Shawn Robison

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**PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**TO:** Library Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Minter, Library Director  
**SUBJECT:** Library Director's Goals  
**DATE:** March 21, 2005

At a meeting with President Shkoler and Trustee Wood on March 12, 2005 I was asked to prepare some goals for the Library Director for the next performance period. I was given no direction on the number or scope of the goals to be recommended.

Potential Goals are:

1. Completing the Strategic Planning Process
2. Recommending updates/revisions for the Placentia Library District Policy Manual
3. Implementing public service programs funded by the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget
4. Continue existing and develop new collaborative opportunities for the Library
5. Beginning the Notary Service
6. Completing the new web site

17  
18



## Elizabeth Minter

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**From:** gneill@csga.net  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2005 9:53 AM  
**To:** eminter@placentalibrary.org  
**Subject:** CSGA Legislative Update - March 21, 2005

### SB 393 & AB 1234

Senate Bill 393, introduced by Senator Deborah Ortiz, and Assembly Bill 1234, introduced by Simón Salinas, are both measures that would affect special district governance, but they have significant differences. It is because of their differences that CSGA has taken an "Oppose unless amended" position on SB 393 and a "Support" position on AB 1234. The CSGA Board of Directors has repeatedly expressed its support for encouraging good governance among all public agencies and officials.

SB 393 is a variation on Ortiz's special district reform legislation from last year, SB 1272, which died in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The defeat of last year's bill was due in large part to the huge number of letters, calls and visits that special districts made last year illustrating the negative effects the bill would have on local communities. It is important for districts to send letters again this year, not only opposing the excessively burdensome and restrictive provisions of SB 393, but also supporting the reasonable good governance measures contained in AB 1234.

Senator Ortiz's bill as introduced would "establish a new program to review and report on financial and compliance audits of special districts." Special districts would be audited in line with an audit guide to be prepared by the State Controller, of which one required component would be for the auditor to specifically test transactions "considered high risk for abuse." Also, the Controller is to conduct an audit quality control review for each special district every three years, or more often under certain circumstances. The bill would also add a Chapter to the Government Code that would do all of the following:

- Require all special district governing officials to receive training in ethical standards in the first year of service and every two years thereafter;
- Require each district to offer the training each year through any of a variety of methods, including conferences, seminars, online or videotape;
- Require the ethics training to include information on 1) conflict of interest, 2) campaign contributions and 3) use of public resources;
- Direct county auditors to investigate "improper governmental activity" and report it to the chief administrative officer of the district (e.g. GM), the DA or the city council, as appropriate;
- Implement special district-specific whistleblower protections;
- Cap board member compensation at \$150 for each day of service, not to exceed six days per month, or not to exceed ten days per month if the district's annual total general purpose expenditures are over \$100,000,000 (if a district's enabling codes specify a smaller amount, then it's that smaller amount; also, districts whose enabling codes authorize, and who currently provide, a salary are unaffected);
- Allow a majority of any district's board to increase board member compensation by the California Consumer Price Index (inflation), not to exceed 5%;
- Require all districts authorized to reimburse board members for incurred expenses to use IRS guidelines, except that reimbursement amounts are not to exceed those permitted for state workers;
- Prohibit districts from providing life insurance or health and welfare benefits to new board members except on a self-pay basis;
- Prohibit districts from providing retirement benefits to new board members;
- Direct districts to use any savings generated by the bill to offset costs created by the bill;
- Require boards to meet with their auditor in an open session;
- Require districts to switch auditors every six years, unless waived by the State Controller;
- Repeal the sections of the water code that spell out how to increase board member compensation (many districts' enabling codes point to this section);
- State that the bill does not require reimbursement for costs incurred due to the bill's provisions.

Assembly Member Salinas's bill would apply to cities and counties as well as special districts, and was drafted with the input of representatives from each. The bill as it will soon be amended would do all of the following:



- Permit board member compensation for attendance at a board meeting, an advisory body meeting, and a conference (this bullet point and the next apply only to districts already authorized to pay compensation, and again salaried agency are unaffected);
- Permit board member compensation for other occurrences if the board has publicly adopted a written policy authorizing compensation for other types of occasions;
- Permit local agencies to reimburse members of their legislative bodies for official expenses (none of the following reimbursement provisions would supersede any other laws establishing reimbursement rates);
- Require agencies that reimburse to publicly adopt a written policy on reimbursement with certain required elements (if no travel policy adopted, the agency is to use IRS rates for reimbursement), if the travel is in connection to a conference then the agency is to use the hotel's group rate if it's available at time of booking;
- Require all reimbursed expenses to be filed on expense report forms;
- Require members to provide brief reports on meetings attended at the agencies expense at a regular meeting;
- Require board members and any employees the board designates to receive training in ethical standards within a year and then once every two years;
- Require each district to offer the training each year, through any of a variety of methods, including but not limited to conferences, seminars, or online courses;
- Require the ethics training to include information on 1) conflict of interest, 2) campaign contributions and 3) use of public resources;
- Provide that costs incurred due to the bill's provisions are to be reimbursed by the state if the Commission on State Mandates determines it is appropriate.

You can find the text of either bill by clicking on 'Bill Information' at [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov). SB 393 is set to be heard in the Senate Local Government Committee on April 6, so it is important to send your letter expressing your concerns about it as soon as possible, but no later than March 30. This will ensure that your letter is mentioned in the committee analysis of the bill. You should address your letter to Senator Ortiz, your Senator and each of the Senators on the Local Government Committee (listed at the end of this communication). Likewise, although AB 1234 has not yet been set for a hearing, we would encourage you to send your letter of support to Assembly Member Salinas, your Assembly Member and each of the Members on the Local Government Committee (also listed below).

#### **Government Affairs Day - Save the date!**

On May 16-17, special district officials and officers will descend on Sacramento as part of CSDA's Government Affairs Day to make sure all state legislators are aware of the issues that matter to all special districts this year. A number of high-profile speakers have been invited, and Daniel Weintraub, the syndicated Sacramento Bee political columnist, and Simón Salinas, Assembly Local Government Committee Chair and author of AB 1234, have already confirmed. Also, several breakout sessions will review topics such as public pension reform, special district reform and ERAF III. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar, as you will not want to miss this informative event.

#### **Legislative Updates available by email for all member agencies' officials and employees**

If anyone else at your agency would like to receive these updates by email, or if you would like to stop receiving these updates, let us know by calling toll-free 877/924-CSDA or by emailing [gneill@csda.net](mailto:gneill@csda.net). Also, past Legislative Updates are available in the 'Legislation & Action' section of the CSDA members' website.

CSDA...keeping special districts informed!

1112 I Street, Suite 200 \* Sacramento, CA 95814  
 (916) 442-7887 \* (916) 442-7889 fax  
 (877) 924-CSDA \* [www.csda.net](http://www.csda.net)

Deborah Ortiz  
 Fax 916/323-2263

Senate Local Government Committee:

3/21/2005



Christine Kehoe, Chair  
Fax 916/327-2188

Dave Cox, Vice Chair  
Fax 916/324-2680

Dick Ackerman  
Fax 916/445-9754

Mike Machado  
Fax 916/323-2304

Tom McClintock  
Fax 916/324-7544

Nell Soto  
Fax 916/445-0128

Tom Torlakson  
Fax 916/445-2527

Assembly Committee on Local Government:

Simon Salinas, Chair  
Fax 916/319-2128

Bill Emmerson, Vice Chair  
Fax 916/319-2163

Hector De La Torre  
Fax 916/319-2150

Guy Houston  
Fax 916/319-2115

Sally Lieber  
Fax 916/319-2122

Joe Nation  
Fax 916/319-2106

Lois Wolk  
Fax 916/319-2108

