



HUGH NGUYEN
ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER
12 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, ROOM 101, SANTA ANA, CA 92701 (714) 834-2500

WELCOME

Newsletter - September 2017

Thank you for your interest in the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department's newsletter. We will be bringing you periodic updates on the latest news, information and events affecting the department. I am honored and privileged to serve as your County Clerk-Recorder. Please contact my office at (714) 834-2500 or visit us at ocrecorder.com for more information about the department or the services provided to the public.

Sincerely,
Hugh Nguyen
County Clerk-Recorder

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Mark Your Calendars:

- October 21, 2017 - Special Saturday Opening
- November 18, 2017 - Special Saturday Opening
- November 23-24, 2017 - Thanksgiving Holiday (office closed)

SPECIAL NOTICES/ALERTS

For those visiting the Civic Center Plaza in Santa Ana, please note that as of July 26, 2017, the Hall of Administration parking lot is permanently closed. Visit us at OCRecorder.com or click [here](#) for alternate parking options.

The elevator located in the Old County Courthouse is undergoing maintenance and will not be operable starting October 30, 2017 to December 14, 2017. Therefore, access to Marriage and Passport Services on the 2nd floor of the Old County Courthouse during this time period will be limited. For more information, please visit us at:

OCRecorder.com

NEWS



We are getting
better, faster, more accessible

CLERK-RECORDER WELCOMES FALL SEASON WITH ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPECIAL SATURDAY OPENING

This past Saturday opening, Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen started the fall season with one of the busiest Saturday openings of the year. The department experienced a surge in demand for services during the department's September Saturday opening. Staff issued 166 marriage licenses, performed 115 marriage ceremonies and over 800 guests came to witness their friends and family getting married. Customers also purchased 93 marriage certificates to top off a great day.

Orange County has one of the lowest costs for a marriage license and marriage ceremony in the state. Couples can obtain a public marriage license for \$61 and a confidential marriage license for \$66. A civil marriage ceremony can be performed for an additional \$28. This makes Orange County one of the best options for couples to get married adding to the popularity of the department's Special Saturday Openings.

"Demand continues to be strong for our Saturday hours," Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen said. "I am glad to offer these special Saturdays and am looking forward to serving the public through the end of the year."

The department encourages the public to plan now and take advantage of the Clerk-Recorder's special Saturday hours on October 21, 2017 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana and the department's branch offices in downtown Fullerton and Laguna Hills Civic Center.

With fall season upon us, demand for services is expected to be high. The Old County Courthouse will be offering marriage licenses, civil wedding ceremonies and passport application services only. Copies of property records and birth, death and marriage certificates will be available at the Laguna Hills and Fullerton branch offices, as well as obtaining marriage licenses and civil wedding ceremonies. Please note that the department's South County branch office in Laguna Hills is now offering passport services. **Free parking will be available at all three locations.**

To save time, marriage license and passport applications can be completed online at OCRecorder.com. As an added convenience, passport photos are available for \$10.

Appointments for civil marriage ceremonies and passport applications are recommended. To make an appointment or for more detailed information about the services available at the Clerk-Recorder Department, please visit: OCRecorder.com

NEWS



Colleen helps a customer with a passport application during one of our Saturday openings.

SATURDAY HOURS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 21

The Clerk-Recorder Department will once again open its doors to the public on October 21, 2017 for its once-a-month Saturday hours. The department's branch offices in Fullerton and Laguna Hills as well as the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana, will be open from 10 am to 3 pm. Customers will be able to obtain marriage licenses, have marriage ceremonies performed, submit passport applications, purchase passport photos and obtain vital and official records.

The Orange County Archives will also be open from 10 am to 3 pm. The Archives are located in the basement of the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana. For more information, please visit us at:

OCRecorder.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of September:



Congratulations to Miguel Jr's in Huntington Beach on their grand opening. I had my staff present them with a certificate of recognition to mark the special occasion. I wish them the best.



My office supported the grand opening of La Belle Cuisine in the City of Brea. I had my staff present them with a certificate of recognition to mark the event and wished them great success.



My office reached out to All About the Bride & E Patisserie Café and congratulated them on their grand opening. I had staff present them with a certificate of recognition and wished them great success.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of September:



I joined the community at a fundraising concert held by the Viet Love Foundation to help out hurricane victims in Houston Texas. There was a great turnout and it was a pleasure to see the community get together for a good cause.



I was honored to attend the statue unveiling ceremony honoring Emperor Quang Trung in the City of Garden Grove. I would like to congratulate the Emperor Quang Trung Statue Committee for making the project a success.



My office hosted an informational booth at the 7th Annual Orange County Asian Business Expo which was held at the Great Wolf Lodge Southern California in the City of Garden Grove. My staff and I had a great time informing the community about the services available to them at the department's convenient locations throughout the County.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of September:



I had staff present a certificate of recognition to Granted Records in honor their grand opening and wished them the best of luck and many years of success.



I was proud to support the grand opening of A.J. Oster, West in the City of Yorba Linda. I had staff congratulate them on their achievement and wished them the best.



My office hosted an informational booth at the Multi-Chamber Business Expo which was held in the City of Fountain Valley and was spearheaded by the Asian American Business Women Association. My staff had a great time informing the business community about the services available to them at our offices.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of September:



It was a great pleasure to attend the ground-breaking ceremony for Building 16 at the Orange County Civic Center in the City of Santa Ana. My office looks forward to serving the public at the new facility.



I had staff attend the grand opening of Servpro of Westminster to show our support for their venture.

I had staff congratulate them on their achievement and wished them the best in serving the residents of Orange County.



I spoke at the Anaheim Caravan Meeting and was given the opportunity to address its members and let them know about the services available to them at our convenient Fullerton North County Branch Office

Reaching Deeper into Taxpayers' Wallets

Senate Bill 2 would require county recorders to collect a \$75 fee—with a few exceptions—on every real estate instrument, paper, or notice required by law, which translates to a 930% increase in recording for the affected documents.



By **Michelle Steele**
Orange County Board
Of Supervisors Chairwoman



Hugh Nguyen
Orange County
Clerk-Recorder

The lack of affordable housing is an ever-increasing problem for us here in California. Unfortunately, this problem will only be made worse by Sen. Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, and others in Sacramento who have chosen to reach further into hard-working taxpayer's wallets instead of addressing the real cause of the high cost of housing.

Senate Bill 2 will require county recorders to collect a \$75 fee – with a few exceptions – on every real estate instrument, paper, or notice required by law due and payable at the time of recording. This translates into a 930 percent increase in recording fees for affected documents.

To understand the effect this will have consider when a senior citizen's spouse dies, the grieving spouse must record several legal papers with the county recorder to help him or her to deal with bank accounts, trusts, ownership of their home, and other financial affairs requiring these documents to be recorded. The cost in taxes to a grieving senior before SB2 is approximately \$36. After the passage of SB2, their costs jump to \$261.

Sacramento claims to be pushing this bill forward in an effort to help those vulnerable individuals afford housing, but what about the hardworking Californian's who will now be hurt? A low-income homeowner who is looking to refinance will see his previous fee of \$102 jump to \$327. The homeowner working to try and avoid losing their home to foreclosure, through a modification of a loan would have previously paid \$43 and now will be forced to pay \$268 in an attempt to keep their home.

Why does the Legislature say they need SB2? They claim it is to pay for the construction of affordable housing in California. The proponents of SB2 claim the bill will increase recording fees by upwards of \$700 million dollars. Achieving affordable housing for all Californians is a commendable goal. However, according to a report issued by the California Legislative Analyst's office last year – greater subsidies, such as those proposed in SB2 – won't fix the problem.

Instead, Sen. Atkins and the rest of Sacramento should be looking at lasting effective reforms by overhauling the California Environmental Quality Act or reforming the tax code to incentivize residential development. Construction labor is more expensive in California metro areas than in the rest of the country by about 20 percent. Not to mention that the building codes and standards in California are some of the most comprehensive and strict in the nation demanding homeowners to pay more for the increased materials and labor requirements.



Photo: www.istockphoto.com/LZF

Achieving affordable housing for all Californians is a commendable goal; however, according to a report issued by the California Legislative Analyst's office last year, greater subsidies, such as those proposed in SB 2, won't fix the problem.

Even Gov. Brown has proposed streamlining the costs of building and permitting of new affordable housing in California. SB2 is just a quick fix for politicians to feel like they've helped to address this increasingly worrisome issue, but it will not work to resolve the greater problem of the ridiculous costs of building a house in this state. Until these issues are addressed any revenue raised from SB2 won't even begin to properly address the issues of providing affordable housing to Californians.

Another problem that this bill doesn't address is a common theme in Sacramento – the money doesn't always end up where it should. Supporters of SB2 argue that these new taxes are needed to replace funding that was eliminated when the Legislature abolished redevelopment agencies in 2012. But, an audit of state-administered housing fees in California last year found that the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Acts of 2002 and 2006, which provided nearly \$5 billion in bonds for financing affordable housing for low- to moderate-income Californians, were often administered without the Housing and Community Development Department knowing if the funds were used properly or if they went to the targeted populations.

Instead of hurting hardworking taxpayers to fund a flawed system providing affordable housing, Sacramento should put in the work to address the real issue of overregulation and high construction costs.

This opinion piece by Orange County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Michelle Steel and Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen was published on page 11 in the Local Section of the Orange County Register on July 14, 2017.

Michelle Steele was elected in 2014 to the Orange County Board of Supervisors, where she represents the Second District and currently serves as chairwoman. Previously, she was vice chair of the State Board of Equalization.

Hugh Nguyen was elected in April 2013 by the Orange County Board of Supervisors from a pool of nearly 900 applicants to fill the vacant clerk-recorder position. In June 2014, he was elected to a four-year term in that office.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

**EMPLOYEE
OF THE
MONTH**

**LUZ
SUAZO**

Each month we are recognizing an employee who goes above and beyond their normal duties and offers excellent service to our customers. The Employee of the Month receives a certificate, has their name placed on a recognition plaque, uses the special designated parking space and may dress casual during their month of recognition.

It is my pleasure to announce Luz Suazo as the Employee of the Month for September.

Luz demonstrates great enthusiasm in her work and with her co-workers. She is hardworking and extremely organized. She has taken on many challenging tasks in the course of her duties and has achieved spectacular results. Luz is resourceful and can be counted on when help is needed with resolving software problems for both SECURE and the Clerk-Recorder examining system. Recently, Luz completed and documented over 60 tasks ranging from simple communication to complex software testing.

Her collaboration in testing of the system and utilizing her document examining experience helps with identifying any issues to improve software features. The qualities that Luz possesses make her an asset to this department.

Please join me in congratulating Luz on her achievement!

CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING . . .

In this section we will share what customers are saying about us. We strive to provide the best customer experience each and every time a customer visits our offices.

Central - Room 106

Daniel

1. Please rate our service in the following areas.

	Outstanding	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Promptness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courtesy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How would you rate our overall service? *(9)*
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding Good Average Fair Poor

3. Date of your visit: 9/21/17

4. Reason for your visit?
Birth Cert

5. How long did you wait in line? 0 minutes

6. Do you have any suggestions to improve our services?
You guys are the best govt Dept BY FAR!!

We received this comment card from a customer who visited our Central Office location in Santa Ana, Room 106 Clerk Services. We would like to thank Daniel for helping us be the best.

SEPTEMBER IN O.C. HISTORY



On September 29, 1776, after an abandoned first attempt in 1775, Franciscan Friar Junipero Serra received permission to establish Mission San Juan Capistrano.

- September 2, 1973** Big Thunder Mountain Railroad opened at Disney.
- September 9, 1850** California became the 31st state the signing of a bill by President Millard Fillmore.
- September 17, 1984** Reggie Jackson hit his 500th homerun at Ange Stadium.
- September 23, 1924** Laguna Beach Constable and Deputy Sheriff Howard Cox was ambushed and shot by bootleggers, but survived.

*This section brought to you courtesy of the Orange County Archives, a function under the Office of Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen.
Historical facts provided by Assistant Archivist Chris Jepsen
Photo Credit: Californiabeaches.com*

www.ocarchives.com

OUT AND ABOUT

This section will feature photos taken by department employees while they were out and about to help close our newsletter on a good visual note.



A staff member took this photo of a monument commemorating the fight for the right for women to vote while on a trip to Memphis, Tennessee.

Visit our webpage at: www.ocrecorder.com

Follow us on social media

[@ocrecorder](https://www.instagram.com/ocrecorder)

For more about the Orange County Archives visit:
www.ocarchives.com

