



County Administration South  
601 N. Ross Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 | (714) 834-2500

## WELCOME

Newsletter - January 2025

*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](http://OCRecorder.com) for more information about the department and the services provided to the public.*

*Sincerely,*

*Hugh Nguyen  
County Clerk-Recorder*

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Visit us at [OCREORDER.COM](http://OCREORDER.COM)



**ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**

**CALL CENTER**

**WE ARE HERE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS  
MONDAY TO FRIDAY: 8 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.**

**(714) 834 - 2500**



## **“LOVE IS IN THE AIR”: CLERK-RECORDER HUGH NGUYEN EXTENDS VALENTINE’S DAY HOURS**

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen will once again extend ceremony hours until 6 p.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025, at the Anaheim, Laguna Hills, and Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana for marriage services only. The extended hours aim to accommodate couples looking to tie the knot or renew their vows on the most romantic day of the year, Valentine’s Day.

Appointments are highly recommended to avoid delays; however, walk-ins will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Before arriving, couples must complete a marriage license application online at:

<https://ocweddings.ocrecorder.com>

*“With Valentine’s Day falling on a Friday this year, it may be one of our busiest days, and we want to ensure every couple has a beautiful, unforgettable experience as they begin or reaffirm their love story,” said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen.*

To help couples share their special day with loved ones both near and far, the department offers live-stream weddings. For married couples wishing to reaffirm their bond, renewal of vow ceremonies are also available, complete with a complimentary souvenir certificate as a keepsake of the special day.

Important reminders to ensure a smooth experience for couples.

- **Online Application:** Required for marriage licenses prior to arrival.
- **Identification:** Both parties must present valid government-issued photo ID.
- **Witness:** At least one witness is required for a public marriage license ceremony.
- **Payments:** Accepted forms include cash, credit/debit card, check, cashier’s check, or money order (payable to the Orange County Clerk-Recorder).

### **Marriage Services & Fees**

- **Public Marriage License:** \$61
- **Confidential Marriage License:** \$66
- **Civil Marriage Ceremony:** \$28
- **Renewal of Vow Ceremony:** \$28

For more information, call (714) 834-2500 or visit [OCRecorder.com](https://OCRecorder.com). The information line is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays. For media inquiries, please contact Billy Le at (714) 834-2248.



## **CLERK-RECORDER HUGH NGUYEN TO PERFORM FIRST RENEWAL OF VOW CEREMONY DURING 2025 TET PARADE IN WESTMINSTER**

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen, in collaboration with the City of Westminster, will perform the first-ever renewal of vow ceremony during the highly anticipated annual 2025 Westminster Tet Parade on Saturday, February 1, 2025. The parade begins at the intersection of Bolsa Ave. and Magnolia St. and will head eastbound on Bolsa Ave. The opening ceremony is scheduled at 8:30 a.m., followed by the parade at 9:30 a.m. For the first time in the event's history, one special couple will have the unique opportunity to renew their vows during the parade in front of thousands of attendees and viewers worldwide.

**“The Westminster Tet Parade and Lunar New Year celebrates unity, family, love, and new beginnings,” said Clerk-Recorder Nguyen. “It is the perfect occasion to honor these values, and I am thrilled to perform a renewal of vow ceremony for one couple to reaffirm their commitment to each other and celebrate their love in front of loved ones and the community.”**

The Westminster Tet Parade is the world's largest Tet Parade and has been held in the heart of Little Saigon for over 20 years. The event is a vibrant celebration of the Lunar New Year and the Vietnamese American community, complete with beautiful floats, lion dances, community organizations, and cultural performances. With the renewal of vow ceremony, Clerk-Recorder Nguyen will be bringing a special and heartfelt addition to the parade.

The renewal of vow ceremony offers a meaningful way for couples to reaffirm their commitment. Whether celebrating a milestone anniversary, recreating a ceremony delayed by the pandemic, or simply looking for a unique way to honor their love, this renewal of vow promises an intimate and unforgettable experience. Couples are welcome to have their children, parents, grandparents, or any loved ones join the special moment. Couples wishing to renew their vows at the Orange County Clerk-Recorder's three beautiful locations in Santa Ana, Laguna Hills, or Anaheim may book their appointment at:

<https://cr.ocgov.com/OCRenewalVows/>

For more information, call (714) 834-2500 or visit [OCRecorder.com](https://OCRecorder.com). The information line is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays. For media inquiries, please contact Billy Le at (714) 834-2248.



# NEWS



## CLERK-RECORDER ON WHEELS

Stay tuned for updates!



[OCRecorder.com](http://OCRecorder.com)



# NEWS

On January 24, a milestone was reached at the County Service Center in Santa Ana. On this day, the 500,000th customer of the County Service Center came to use our Clerk-Recorder passport services. I was proud to join Chair Doug Chaffee, Vice Chair Katrina Foley, and my fellow department heads as we welcomed our special 500,000th customer.

Congratulations to this lovely family for being our lucky customers of the day and receiving the County gift basket!





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## During the month of January:



On January 9, I congratulated the Green Olive in Santa Ana on their first anniversary on bringing vibrant flavors and delicious Mediterranean dishes to the community.

It was a pleasure to celebrate this milestone alongside their friendly team. Wishing them continued success as they serve up more special meals for everyone to enjoy!



On January 11, my team had a successful day at BrideCon in Anaheim and loved the opportunity to speak with attendees about an important step in their wedding planning - the marriage license.

A huge thank you to our incredible staff for doing a phenomenal job and representing our department with excellence!



On January 22, my team was at the annual New Business Reception hosted by the City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you to all the attendees including business owners and prospective business owners who visited our table to request information about fictitious business name filings, passport services, and our many other services. We had a fantastic time meeting everyone and answering your questions!



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## During the month of January:

On January 28, Advance Beauty College and organizers had a successful 2025 Tết Lunar New Year's Eve Celebration and the commemoration of 50 years of Vietnamese Americans in the United States!

It was a wonderful day celebrating the rich traditions of Vietnamese culture. My team and I had the honor of visiting local temples to greet the abbots and extend our New Year wishes, as well as joining the community in a festive celebration to welcome the Lunar New Year of the Snake 2025.

Thank you to all the organizers, sponsors, and community members who helped create an unforgettable atmosphere for this special occasion!





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## During the month of January:

On January 29, my team and I were happy to ring in the Lunar New Year in the heart of Little Saigon through fantastic community events including the Firecracker Celebration at Asian Garden Mall and the Tet Celebration with Người Việt/Saigon Nhỏ.

From the beautiful lion dance performances to the vibrant Lunar New Year decorations, I would like to warmly thank all organizers of each event for their incredible planning and dedication in uniting the community on this joyous occasion. It is such a pleasure to share in the joy and traditions of Lunar New Year. Thank you to Supervisor Janet Nguyen for joining me in making the day even more memorable.

Wishing everyone celebrating Lunar New Year a safe, healthy, and memorable holiday season!



Photo above is courtesy of County of Orange Board of Supervisors, First District, Janet Nguyen.





# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



## Orange County Clerk-Recorder *Employee of the Month*



**Congratulations!**  
***Janet***

**Dedicated to Providing Excellent Customer Service**

Each month we recognize 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 of recognition and has their name placed on a recognition plaque.

It gives me great pleasure to announce Janet Barajas as Employee of the Month for January.

Janet is part of our Document Examining unit and has established herself as an invaluable team member. Janet is reliable, organized, dedicated, and possesses exceptional customer service skills. Whether assisting customers in-person or handling phone inquiries, her warm demeanor and professionalism result in positive feedback from the public. Janet takes initiative in researching inquiries to ensure customers receive accurate and comprehensive information without providing legal assistance. She excels across all areas of responsibility including electronic recordings, mail recordings, and Restrictive Covenant Modifications. Janet consistently produces high quality work with accuracy and efficiency under significant workloads.

Janet is an outstanding team player and adapts to the changing needs of our department. She volunteers for our Special Saturday Openings and readily provides coverage to our satellite offices when requested. Additionally, Janet trained her colleagues on the Restrictive Covenant Modifications process with great attention to detail and patience. All her efforts contribute to our department's success, and supervisors praise her positive demeanor through all circumstances.

Our department appreciates Janet's dedication to excellence. It is a pleasure to work with her, and we are grateful to have her on our team.

Please join me in congratulating Janet on this achievement!

# CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

Our County Service Center in Santa Ana received the following Yelp review. Thank you to my wonderful staff for always going above and beyond and for providing friendly service!



1/22/25

...

Helpful and friendly service !  
Grateful to them during stressful business !  
There is a comfortable area to sit and gather paperwork or do something important before filing .  
All my questions were easily answered and I had quick access to ask .  
Thank you !!!

Andrea received the following comment cards at our North County branch office in Anaheim. Thank you Andrea for always exceeding our customers expectations.

North County

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?  
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding Good Average Fair Poor

3. Date of your visit: 1-2-25

4. Reason for your visit?  
MARRIAGE CERT.

5. How long did you wait in line? 2 minutes

6. Do you have any suggestions to improve our services?  
KEEP ANDREA K. !!

Andrea North County

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?  
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding Good Average Fair Poor

3. Date of your visit: 1/17/2025

4. Reason for your visit?  
Birth Certificate / Single Status

5. How long did you wait in line? 10 minutes

6. Do you have any suggestions to improve our services?  
Having just spent 3 hours at Los Angeles County for a marriage certificate copy, this was SUCH A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE! SOOO MUCH BETTER



# CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

Our South County branch office in Laguna Hills received the following comments cards. Thank you Nancy and Irania for providing efficient and amazing customer service. Keep up the good work!

South County

**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?**  
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding   Good   Average   Fair   Poor

**3. In what ways were our Saturday services beneficial to you?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Reason for your visit?**  
Passport      Date: 1.16.2025

**5. How did you hear about our Saturday services?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. How can we improve our services?**  
All is good. Nancy is amazing  
please hire more Nancy's

South County

Irania

**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?**  
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding   Good   Average   Fair   Poor

**3. In what ways were our Saturday services beneficial to you?**

Tuesday

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Reason for your visit?**  
Doc Recording      Date: Jan 21-25

**5. How did you hear about our Saturday services?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. How can we improve our services?**  
For US No Need

# CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

Supervisor Jorge at our South County branch office in Laguna Hills received the following comment cards. Thank you Jorge for setting a great example in providing outstanding service to our customers.

South County

*George*

**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?**  
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding   Good   Average   Fair   Poor

**3. In what ways were our Saturday services beneficial to you?**  
Good Customer  
Service 100%

**4. Reason for your visit?**  
Copy Birth Certificate   Date: 01/22/25

**5. How did you hear about our Saturday services?**  
walk in

**6. How can we improve our services?**  
Staff Very Friendly  
and very helpful  
love location Service

South County

*Jorge*

**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?**  
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding   Good   Average   Fair   Poor

**3. In what ways were our Saturday services beneficial to you?**  
N/A

**4. Reason for your visit?**  
BIRTH CERTIF.   Date: 1/23/25

**5. How did you hear about our Saturday services?**  
N/A

**6. How can we improve our services?**  
N/A



# JANUARY IN O.C. HISTORY



*The newly-constructed La Habra depot of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1923. Today, the building is part of the Children's Museum at La Habra. (Photo courtesy Orange County Archives)*

**Jan. 1, 1924**

The first indications of major typhoid epidemic were seen in Santa Ana. The source was an accidentally contaminated reservoir. This experience led the Santa Ana Health Dept to merge with the Orange County Health Dept. Over time, other cities also joined, creating a county-wide Health Dept by 1932.

**Jan. 14, 1946**

The FBI arrested 17-year-old David Martin, who'd been posing as a lieutenant at the Santa Ana Army Air Base for three months. Before he was caught, he'd flown a blimp and stolen \$3,600 worth of belongings from the officers he'd lived with.

**Jan. 20, 1925**

La Habra incorporated, becoming a city with a population of 2,000 to 3,000 people.

**Jan. 22, 1862**

The largest flood in Orange County's recorded history puts most of western Orange County (which was not yet Orange County) under water. The later 1860s were marked by terrible drought, delivering a one-two punch that decimated the local ranchos' cattle herds.

**Jan. 31, 1957**

Famed Olympic swimmer (and less-famed Huntington Beach mail carrier) Shirley Babashoff was born.

Historical facts provided by Assistant Archivist Chris Jepsen.

Photo: Courtesy of the Orange County Archives.

Courtesy of the Orange County Archives, a function under the Office of Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen.



# OUT AND ABOUT



One of my staff took this photo while visiting Nordkjosbotn, Norway  
to watch and experience the northern lights.

Visit our webpage at: [OCRecorder.com](https://OCRecorder.com)

For more information about  
the Orange County Archives visit:  
[OCArchives.com](https://OCArchives.com)

Follow us on social media  
[@ocreorder](https://www.instagram.com/ocreorder)

