



**Hugh Nguyen**  
Orange County Clerk-Recorder



County Administration South  
601 N Ross St, Santa Ana, CA 92701

714-834-2500

## WELCOME

Newsletter - February 2026

*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**

# NEWS

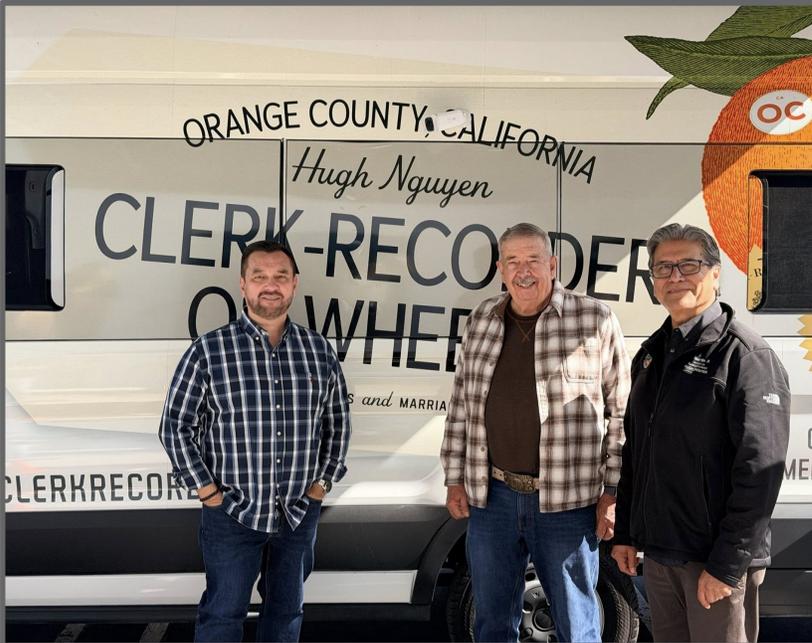
On February 6, our OC Clerk-Recorder staff showed their Super Bowl team spirit sporting gear from their favorite teams!



# NEWS

On February 7, my staff and I were invited to provide passport services at Northgate Market's Corporate Office and I was personally welcomed by founder Miguel Gonzalez and his team. I gave them a tour of the Clerk-Recorder on Wheels van, shared my appreciation for the collaboration, and thanked our staff for the excellent work they do to serve the community.

If you'd like Clerk-Recorder on Wheels to visit your school, organization, or community event, please submit a request through our online form at [ocrecorder.com](https://ocrecorder.com).



# NEWS

On February 9, I was truly honored to be a guest speaker today at the UC Irvine School of Law and to spend time with such an engaged group of students.

As your County Clerk-Recorder, I'm always happy for the opportunity to educate students on the important services our offices provide for the 3.2 million residents of Orange County, especially how we work to protect homeowners and alert them against real estate fraud through our mailed courtesy notices.

Thank you to Professor Trevor Reed for the invitation and warm welcome, and thank you to the students for your thoughtful questions and energy.

Wishing all the UC Irvine School of Law students the very best as they continue their studies and pursue great endeavors ahead.



# NEWS

I was thrilled to welcome a special guest officiant, a familiar face from Fox 11 Good Day LA, Bob DeCastro. Bob stepped into our South County Branch Office in Laguna Hills to help some lovely couples say "I do!"

On February 13, I deputized Bob and introduced him to our excited couples. Bringing warmth, professionalism, and laughter, our special guest, Bob helped create unforgettable moments as each couple tied the knot.

I warmly extend my sincerest gratitude to Bob and the Fox 11 Good Day LA team for joining us this morning. Your presence made the moment extra special for couples and their loved ones.

Congratulations to all the newlyweds! We wish you a lifetime of joy, happiness, and love.



# NEWS

Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at the OC Clerk-Recorder's Office!

As your Clerk-Recorder, I am so proud of our team for opening our doors on a Special Saturday to accommodate couples choosing to say "I do" on the most romantic day of the year. Valentine's Day is always one of our busiest and most joyful days, and we were honored to help so many couples begin their next chapter together.

I want to recognize our incredible staff for their hard work, flexibility, and dedication. It takes a true team effort to make a day like this run smoothly, and their commitment to serving our community shines in every ceremony.

A heartfelt thank you to Chair Doug Chaffee and Vice Chair Katrina Foley of the OC Board of Supervisors for taking the time to officiate ceremonies for our couples. Your willingness to take part in these ceremonies made the day even more meaningful for the couples and their families.

Thank you to Wild Wing of the Anaheim Ducks for bringing joy, fun energy, and laughter to our couples on this big day.



# NEWS

Over the past few days, my team and I have had the honor of joining Lunar New Year celebrations across Orange County, including right here in our vibrant Little Saigon community.

From the stunning áo dài and energetic lion dances to the warm smiles and family gatherings, every event has been a beautiful reminder of the culture, resilience, and contributions that make Little Saigon so special. I'm truly grateful for the chance to celebrate alongside our community.

As we welcome the Year of the Horse, I wish you and your loved ones a year filled with health, happiness, prosperity, and new beginnings. May your work go well, your homes stay peaceful, and your dreams keep moving forward with strength and confidence.

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới!



# NEWS

Clerk-Recorder on Wheels was a hit at the 2026 Santi Showcase.

Our mobile unit event was a fantastic success thanks to YOU! From quick services to friendly faces, we loved bringing our government services including vital records, fictitious business names, and official records right to your neighborhood.





**Hugh Nguyen**  
Orange County Clerk-Recorder

# Passport Day

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026**  
**9AM - 3PM**



## SERVICES OFFERED

- ✓ NEW U.S. PASSPORT BOOKS/CARDS
- ✓ PASSPORT PHOTOS AT \$7

Only **NEW** passport applications accepted

**OLD ORANGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
211 W SANTA ANA BLVD  
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

**APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED & WALK-INS ACCEPTED**

**BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT**

**OCRECORDER.COM**



# NEWS

I'm truly honored to be nominated by the Orange County Business Council for the Leadership in Public Service category of the 2026 Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Awards, and for our office to also be nominated in the Economic Development category.

Putting the community first means modernizing services and expanding access — from electronic recording advancements and Special Saturday openings to Apostille Pop-Up Shops, livestream wedding ceremonies, and our mobile unit, Clerk-Recorder on Wheels.

These recognitions reflect the dedication of our entire Clerk-Recorder team. Thank you to every staff member who goes the extra mile to serve our residents with professionalism and care.

Congratulations to all of the award winners and to the newly sworn-in Board of Directors. Wishing everyone a successful year ahead serving our community.



ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL

15th Annual TURNING RED TAPE INTO Red Carpet AWARDS

## NOMINEES

CATEGORY: LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE



**DONALD P. WAGNER, ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**

Supervisor Donald Wagner led opposition to the South Coast Air Quality Management District's proposed rules 111 and 1121, which would have imposed costly mandates such as new all-electric furnaces and water heaters, panel upgrades and more on homes and businesses. His coalition-building and advocacy helped delay, reshape and ultimately reject the rules, protecting Orange County businesses from incurring tens of millions of dollars in added compliance costs.



**HUGH NGUYEN, ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen has made his office a national leader in electronic recording and government-to-government submissions, modernizing vital records, marriage, passport and business services. Through initiatives like CRBot, mobile services, Special Passport Days, Apostille Pop-Up Shops and virtual weddings, he has expanded access, streamlined transactions and partnered with community and government groups to deliver efficient, customer-service-driven public services.



**ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) led the Coastal Rail Resiliency Initiative to protect a critical seven-mile section of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor, preventing service disruptions, safeguarding thousands of jobs and supporting over \$1 billion in annual freight. Through streamlined environmental permitting, coordinated multi-agency efforts and \$300 million in funding, OCTA delivered emergency and long-term stabilization projects that strengthened regional mobility and set a new standard for infrastructure resilience and regional leadership in the county.



15th Annual TURNING RED TAPE INTO Red Carpet AWARDS

## NOMINEES

CATEGORY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**OC WASTE & RECYCLING**  
*Regional Organics Program*

OC Waste & Recycling's Regional Organics Program transforms organic waste into free compost and mulch, helping cities meet state mandates, providing businesses with no-cost resources and promoting environmental sustainability. Since its launch in June 2025, the program has generated over \$1.6 million in savings for recipients and reduced an estimated 15,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, strengthening Orange County's economy, communities and supporting the state's climate goals.



**OFFICE OF ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**  
**HUGH NGUYEN**  
*Clerk-Recorder on Wheels: Orange County's Mobile Clerk-Recorder Services*

Clerk-Recorder on Wheels (CROW) is a mobile unit that provides vital and property records, accepts new passport applications, offers marriage services and processes Fictitious Business Name registrations in neighborhoods and, when needed, disaster-impacted areas across Orange County. Partnering with many organizations, government agencies and local elected officials' offices, CROW completed 581 transactions and supported 1,010 customer interactions at 18 events in 10 cities during 2025.



**OFFICE OF ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**  
**HUGH NGUYEN**  
*CRBot: 24/7 Clerk-Recorder Customer Support*

CRBot is a 24/7 virtual assistant that provides instant, plain-language answers about Clerk-Recorder services on OCRecorder.com, helping residents complete tasks on their own or connect with a live agent when needed. In its first year, it assisted 7,187 users in areas such as recording documents, marriage licenses and ceremonies, passport requirements, fees, step-by-step instructions and more and helped reduce Recorder Unit call volume by about 5 percent.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**During the month of February:**



My team and I were pleased to congratulate Villa Roma Argentine-Italian Restaurant on their 20th anniversary. On this incredible milestone, I want to recognize the owners, Chef Leo and Teresa Razo, for their unwavering support of the community and nonprofit organizations through generous meal donations and fundraising events.

I wish Villa Roma continued success and many more years as a beloved spot for all to enjoy.

Celebrating 20 years of Villa Roma Argentine-Italian Cuisine!



My staff was pleased to celebrate La Michoacana de San Juan SJC on their one year anniversary.

We presented this ice cream shop with a certificate of recognition on their special milestone.

This business serves the community with exceptional customer service and provides fresh, high quality treats including handcrafted popsicles, ice cream, Mexican snacks, and more.

We wish La Michoacana de San Juan SJC continuous success and growth for many years to come. Congratulations!

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**During the month of February:**



Supporting our senior community with resources and information to stay vigilant against fraud is essential. My team and I were proud to participate in this year's Elder Fraud Prevention Event at the Brookhurst Community Center in Anaheim. We were on-site to provide guidance on our services, answer questions, and share practical tips on property fraud prevention.

Our office also offers Property Fraud Prevention Courtesy Notices as a free, proactive way to help safeguard your property. No sign-up is needed.

Thank you to OC Board of Supervisors Chair Doug Chaffee for his leadership, and to the San Diego Seniors Community Foundation for partnering to support the safety and well-being of our senior community through this important event.



Who is ready to say "I DO"? Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table at the California Bridal & Wedding Expo in Costa Mesa on February 28th.

The turnout was incredible! Our team was thrilled to speak with so many couples and their loved ones on our marriage license, civil ceremony, passport services, and more!

Wishing all the couples the best as they plan their big day!

Our team looks forward to supporting you on your big day with marriage license and civil ceremony services very soon.

**OCRecorder.com**

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



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



# Congratulations!

## **Marisol**

**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.

I am pleased to announce Marisol Velasquez as Employee of the Month for February.

Marisol is a highly valued member of our Recorder Operations, and we greatly appreciate her outstanding dedication, exceptional customer service, and strong work ethic. Whether assisting customers over the phone or face-to-face, Marisol approaches each interaction with patience, professionalism, and a genuine willingness to help the public. She remains composed when handling complex situations and demonstrates excellent problem-solving skills. Her attention to detail and thoroughness ensure that documents are reviewed accurately and processed correctly.

Each day, Marisol arrives early, prepared, and ready to begin her work with a positive attitude. She can be relied on to complete her tasks efficiently and on time. After completing her tasks, she proactively seeks additional ways to support the Recorder Operations team. Her initiative and exceptional teamwork have made a meaningful impact on our department.

We are grateful for the dedication, enthusiasm, and excellence Marisol brings to her role. Her work has strengthened our team and enhances the quality of service we provide to the public.

Please join me in congratulating Marisol on this well-deserved achievement!

# CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

We received the following Yelp reviews for our County Administration South Office in Santa Ana. Thank you to my amazing staff for their efficient and professional customer service!

★★★★★ 2/20/26

Orange County Clerk-Recorder is hands down the best county or government facility I have ever been to.

Coming from New Jersey, I have never seen such a new, well run, and efficient establishment like this. The service was excellent both times I visited. I came once to get my daughter's birth certificate and another time for her passport, and both experiences were incredibly smooth.

The process was organized, efficient, and handled professionally from start to finish. It is rare to say this about a government office, but this place truly exceeded expectations.

★★★★★ 2/13/26 Updated review

Excellent customer service. The experience could be summed up as organized, quick, and painless as my wait time is never more than a few minutes before I am called to approach the counter. The place is clean with ample seating. Once at the counter, it takes just another few minutes to have my papers processed and then returned to me. The clerks are always friendly, professional and work quickly to send me on my way. Indeed, if I happen to overlook something, they are quick to let me know so that I can address it right there on the spot. Very helpful. I go to all of the county recorders in Southern California and this one is the best experience. Basically, I am in and out in minutes. No wasted time! Parking is close by and ample (and usually empty). Just park and walk in.

We received the following Yelp reviews for our North County Office in Anaheim. Thank you to my staff for being helpful and friendly to our customers.

★★★★★ 3 weeks ago

A great location very convenient. I've had to come here a few times & the place is very well organized. Usually in & out of there in 5-15 minutes depending on service needed. The employees are always very helpful & friendly.

★★★★★ 7 days ago

Friendly staff, organized and clean office

**OCRecorder.com**

# CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

Our South County Office in Laguna Hills received the following Customer Comment Card for Document Examiner Toby. Thank you Toby for your outstanding customer service!

 **TOBY**  
**OC CLERK-RECORDER SURVEY**

Your Name: ABED [Redacted]  
Date: Feb-17-2026 Phone: [Redacted]

What office location did you visit?  
Anaheim Santa Ana Old Courthouse Laguna Hills

1. Reason for your visit  
DOCUMENT RECORDING

2. How would you rate our overall service  
Outstanding Average Needs Improvement

God Bless You  
APPRECIATE Good SERVICE

We received the following Customer Comment Cards for our Document Examining Team in Santa Ana. Thank you Leticia and Giselle for the great service! Keep up the good work!

 **Giselle Contreras**  
**OC CLERK-RECORDER SURVEY**

Your Name: Jamal [Redacted]  
Date: 02-17-26 Phone: [Redacted]

What office location did you visit?  
Anaheim Santa Ana Old Courthouse Laguna Hills

1. Reason for your visit  
Recording a Title

2. How would you rate our overall service  
Outstanding Average Needs Improvement

3. Do you have any additional suggestions?  
Keep up. The Good service

Thank you for your feedback!

**Window 11** **Leticia Siller**  
 **OC CLERK-RECORDER SURVEY**

Your Name: STEVE [Redacted]  
Date: 2-9-26 Phone: [Redacted]

What office location did you visit?  
Anaheim Santa Ana Old Courthouse Laguna Hills

1. Reason for your visit  
update D

2. How would you rate our overall service  
Outstanding Average Needs Improvement

# CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

We received the following Customer Comment Cards for our County Administration South office in Santa Ana. Thank you Claudia and Shalani for your quick and helpful service!

 **OC CLERK-RECORDER SURVEY**

Your Name: Asiny

Date: 2/23/26 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

What office location did you visit?  
Anaheim  Santa Ana  Old Courthouse  Laguna Hills

1. Reason for your visit  
Birth Cert.

2. How would you rate our overall service  
 Outstanding  Average  Needs Improvement  
Claudia was quick, professional and very polite!!

3. Do you have any additional suggestions?  
N/A

Thank you for your feedback!

 **OC CLERK-RECORDER SURVEY**

Your Name: Shalani P. Nicki

Date: 2/17/26 Pho \_\_\_\_\_

What office location did you visit?  
Anaheim   Santa Ana  Old Courthouse  Laguna Hills

1. Reason for your visit  
Death Certificate

2. How would you rate our overall service  
 Outstanding  Average  Needs Improvement  
Great Service - Very Helpful!

3. Do you have any additional suggestions?

Thank you for your feedback!

# FEBRUARY IN O.C. HISTORY



*Trabuco Mesa, on the old Rancho Trabuco, circa 1920. (Photo courtesy O.C. Archives)*

**Feb. 7, 1936**

Famed evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson speaks at Foursquare Gospel Church in Santa Ana.

**Feb. 9, 1956**

With support from the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce, the Tourist & Convention Committee (a.k.a. Tourism Bureau) is formed to promote Orange County as the west coast's top tourism destination.

**Feb. 16, 1841**

The Mexican government grants the Rancho Trabuco to Santiago Arguello who would soon sell it to Juan Forster. Today's O'Neill and Riley Parks, Las Flores, Wagon Wheel, and parts of the communities of Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo, and Ladera Ranch are on the old Rancho Trabuco.

**Feb. 17, 1909**

The City of Huntington Beach incorporates. Ed Manning serves as the first mayor.

**Feb. 25, 1942**

The first aviation cadets arrive for training at Santa Ana Army Air Base in what is now Costa Mesa.

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 our staff took this photo during a recent visit to Mountain High in Wrightwood, CA for a quick snow mountain getaway.

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

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

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

