

*"Providing thread to help stitch together the fabric of the city management community."*

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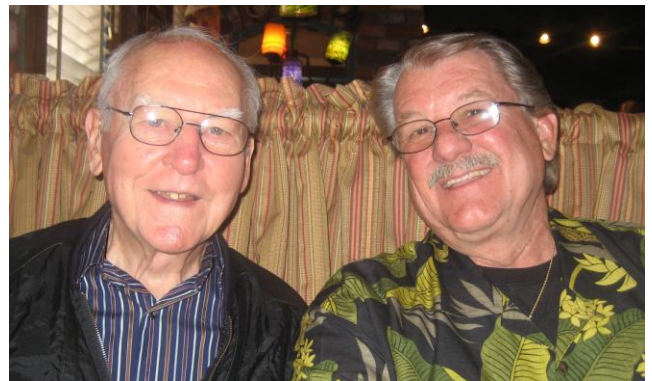
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# SPECIAL EDITION!

## Either Side of May Day 2008

In an attempt to add to our historical chronology objective, we have pieced together the following text regarding events that occurred in April and May, 2008. We apologize in advance to anyone we may have inadvertently left out of this writing who should have been included.

We acknowledge and applaud the city managers and their staffs for the many extra “outside-the-office” hours they devote to their normal course of business. Many people do not understand that city management is not a 9 to 5 vocation, but requires a commitment to get the job done regardless of how much time it takes. There are no time-clocks for city managers. (Continued on Page 2)



**Retired City Manager Robert L. Williams**

Retired City Manager Bob Williams turned 88-years old in April. He was the first manager in 3 cities: Needles, Tracy, and Eureka. He was also city manager in Santa Fe Springs and Pico Rivera, and held “Interim” CM posts in: Paramount, Norco, Signal Hill (twice), Santa Paula, and Commerce. He was also the Interim City Treasurer in Los Angeles. Bob began his career on the Montebello staff in 1950. He has a 35-year ICMA Service Award, and is the recipient of a prestigious 1974 ICMA Management Innovation Award. Retired LASD Commander John Hammargren and Jack Simpson recently met Bob for lunch in Whittier.

## Either Side of May Day 2008

### California City Management Foundation:

Members of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) Board met in Napa on April 17 & 18. **Steve Heaney** of *Stone & Youngberg* hosted the Thursday evening dinner meeting at the Bayleaf Restaurant prior to the Friday morning meeting. **Dr. Bill Mathis** provided the wonderful "Napa ambience."

Dedicated to fostering the Council-Manager Plan and the well-being of California City Managers, the Board is a leadership gathering of representative City Managers, Assistant City Managers and Corporate associates. The highly professional Vista City Manager **Rita Geldert** is the CCMF Board of Trustees President. Atascadero City Manager **Wade G. McKinney** is Vice President and *Piper Jaffray* Managing Director **Mark Curran** is the Secretary/Treasurer.

Other members of the current Board of Trustees include: Laguna Hills City Manager **Bruce Channing**; Rancho Cucamonga Assistant City Manager **Pamela S. Easter**; Vacaville Assistant City Manager **Laura Kuhn**; Mountain View City Manager **Kevin Duggan**; the owner of *Mathis & Associates*, **Dr. R. William Mathis, Ph.D.**; Retired Fairfield City Manager **Kevin O'Rourke**; Municipal Government Attorney-at-law **Darold Pieper**; **Anthony D. Gonslaves** of the Professional Legislative Representation firm, *Joe A. Gonsalves & Son*; **Steve Heaney** of *Stone & Youngberg*; Santa Rosa City Manager **Jeff Kolin**; Half Moon Bay City Manager **Marcia Raines**; retired City Manager **Jack A. Simpson** of *Trackdown Management Services*; and Indio City Manager **Glenn Southard**. Retired El Cajon City Manager and former CCMF Board Member **Bill Garrett** serves as the CCMF Executive Director.

### Trackdown Posse

We are pleased to acknowledge the Trackdown Management Services Posse, a group of individuals who support our City Manager Newsletter. Thank you to each of you for the support:

**Gregory Korduner**, Huntington Park  
**Howard Chambers**, Lakewood  
**Mike Egan**, Bellflower  
**Ernie Garcia**, Norwalk  
**Joe Tanner**, Vallejo  
**Bob Gutierrez**, Moreno Valley  
**Dave Carmany**, Seal Beach  
**Maria Dadian**, Artesia  
**Linda Lowry**, Pomona  
**Ken Bayless**, Greater L.A. Vector Control District  
**Jeff Stewart**, "In Transition"  
**Kevin O'Rourke**, Fairfield (Retired)  
**Tom Odum**, Lomita  
**George Rodericks**, Belvedere  
**June Catalano**, Pleasant Hill  
**Nelson Oliva**, Hercules  
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**Bill Crowe**, El Segundo  
**Gerald W. Forde**, McFarland  
**Steve R. Thatcher**, SRT Associates  
**Ernesto Marquez**, Hawaiian Gardens  
**Gary K. & Mary Jo Sloan**, La Mirada (Retired)  
**Bob & Nadean Dickey**, South Gate  
**Deborah Lopez**, Pico Rivera

Please let us know if you would like to join this distinguished group and we will send you an official Statement for processing.



Pictured are Evelyn Gonsalves and CCMF Board Member Anthony D. Gonsalves of the Joe A. Gonsalves & Son Professional Legislative Representation firm on either side of Susan Simpson of Trackdown Management Services.

Every California City Manager should be a member of the  
[California City Management Foundation](http://www.cacitymanagers.org)



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

## Either Side of May Day 2008

(CCMF continued) Members of the Board meet quarterly to discuss program development and participation aimed at the group's primary mission to be California's "...premier advocacy organization for City Managers and the Council-Manager form of government."

CCMF contributes to League of California Cities' and other conference and training programs and curriculum by providing sessions and session speakers with an eye toward developing, protecting and encouraging the professionals who practice city management in California.

Every City Manager and primary assistant in California should be a member of the California City Management Foundation. Go to the CCMF web site for contact information and to take a look at what is available:  
<http://www.cacitymanagers.org>

Current City Managers, retired city managers and city managers in "transition" are encouraged join CCMF as a member.



<http://www.styo.com/>



Currently, annual individual membership costs \$400 annually. A \$150 membership is available for "retired" city managers. Additionally, those serving California cities in senior assistant capacities, and who are designated by their City Manager to be qualified for membership in the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities are eligible for CCMF membership. Also, corporate/private sector memberships are available at \$1,000 annually. All memberships are on a fiscal year basis (July 1 - June 30).

## PiperJaffray®

<http://www.piperjaffray.com>

### California Contract Cities Association's April Meeting in Artesia:

"An Evening in India" was presented by the City of Artesia for the April Board of Directors and Annual Election meeting of the *California Contract Cities Association* (CCCA) on Wednesday, April 23. The event was held at the Tirupathi Bhimas Restaurant at 18792 Pioneer Boulevard in Artesia. CCCA Immediate Past President **Jeffrey Prang** of West Hollywood (also Assistant City Manager in Pico Rivera) presided over presentations at the meeting being made to CCCA President **Sally Zuniga Flowers**, Artesia Mayor.





## Either Side of May Day 2008

(CCCA meeting continued) Among others at the table where I sat were: Signal Hill Mayor **Ellen Ward**; Huntington Park Mayor **John R. Noguez**; former City Manager **Wesley Wolf** of *Wolf and Company, Inc.*; and Hercules City Manager **Nelson Oliva**. Ellen, Wes and Nelson and I worked together at various times during my municipal career.

There was an official quorum at the meeting to allow the election of officers for the coming year, and Rolling Hills Estates' Mayor **Frank Zerunyan** was elected President for the next term of office.

Orchids to Artesia City Manager **Maria Dadian** and her staff for an outstanding event. Among the others we chatted with at the meeting's reception include: El Segundo Assistant City Manager **Bill Crowe**, former Cudahy Mayor and Council Member and Past CCCA President **Fred Guido** of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, South El Monte Assistant City Manager **Jennifer E. Vasquez**, CCCA Executive Director **Sam Olivito** and his wife **Sharon** and their outstanding staff member **Maria Montez**, good friends **Richard Fierro** and **Greg Nordbak** of Consolidated Disposal Services (**Greg Nordbak** also services on the Whittier City Council), Rolling Hills Estates City Manager **Doug Prichard**, and Huntington Park City Manager **Gregory Korduner** and his wife **Karen**, a teacher in the Downey Unified School District. Norwalk's City Manager **Ernie Garcia** was also there, as was Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District General Manager **Ken Bayless** and his lady **Jackie Siegel**. **Erin Stibal** of Los Angeles County Supervisor **Don Knabe's** office was also present, and Commerce City Administrator **Jorge Rifa** was in the crowd too.



<http://www.hdlcompanies.com/>



**Signal Hill Vice Mayor Ellen Ward and Hawaiian Gardens Council Member Betty Schultze at the April CCCA meeting in the City of Artesia.**

### 2008 Legislative Appreciation Dinner:

Among the Joe A. Gonsalves & Son clients are 53 California cities. Each year in November the client city city managers are invited to an event planning meeting for the Annual Joe A. Gonsalves & Son Client Cities Legislative Appreciation Dinner. The 2008 event was held April 29 at the Sterling Hotel in Sacramento.

Even leaving home at "0-dark-30" to catch an early morning LAX Southwestern flight to Sacramento will not find the 105 Freeway without traffic congestion. However, since our usual drive to the State Capitol ceased to make economic sense with gasoline prices topping \$4.00 per gallon on the I-5, we braved the traffic and flew.



<http://www.kosmont.com/>

Listen to Country Singer Casey Simpson:  
[www.myspace.com/caseysimpsonmusic](http://www.myspace.com/caseysimpsonmusic)

## Either Side of May Day 2008

(Leg. Dinner continued) While collecting luggage in Sacramento, Santa Fe Springs City Manager **Fred Latham**, Mayor **Gus Velasco** and Council Member **Joe Serrano** appeared pursuing the same task. They graciously offered transportation to the hotel in their rental car.

A block of rooms had been set aside for the group at the Sacramento Hyatt Regency so that is where we found lodging. After introducing Hyatt Bellman **Rusty** to Paramount Assistant City Manager **John Moreno**, and while standing in the lobby chatting with **Rusty**, an Oakland A's fan who has worked for the Hyatt for more than 20-years, **Rusty** moved away from me to greet another hotel guest. I turned to allow my eye to follow **Rusty**, and caught him shaking hands with Country Singer Legend **Merle Haggard**. Hey! Being the Country Music Fan that I am, I am very impressed. Apparently, Merle is one of the City of Redding's more famous residents.

After checking in and hanging up my clothes, I walked to the office of the *Joe A. Gonsalves & Son*. On the way, I stopped by the local See's Candy store to get some peanut brittle and nuts & chews for the office folks. When I arrived at the office the conference room was buzzing behind a closed door, providing me with an opportunity to sit and chat with Palm Desert City Manager **Carlos Ortega** before he and **Anthony Gonsalves** went off to a meeting regarding pending energy conservation legislation at the Capitol.

Returning to the hotel, I chanced upon **Paul Gonsalves** on the sidewalk across the street from the Capitol. As the late Senator **Ken Maddy** said, "The are like alumni. They are everywhere. They are the 'Gonsalvi'."

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the various delegations of the *Joe A. Gonsalves & Son's* client cities gathered in a Committee Room in the State Capitol to hear the Leadership of the Legislature discuss the current issues that will or may affect California local government. Of course, budget concerns were a reoccurring theme.

The logo for Wolf & Company Inc. is written in a stylized, cursive script font. The word 'Wolf' is larger and more prominent, followed by '&' and 'Company Inc.' in a smaller, similar script.

<http://www.wolfhousing.com/>

City Managers who attended the 2008 *Joe A. Gonsalves & Son* Client Cities' Legislative Appreciation Program, included: **Alan Kapanicas**, Beaumont; **Mike Egan**, Bellflower; **Doug Labelle's** Assistant City Manager **John Mura**, Chino Hills; **Kerry Miller**, Folsom; **Nelson Oliva**, Hercules; **Gregory Korduner**, Huntington Park; **Bob Griego**, Irwindale; **Bruce Channing** and Assistant City Manager **Don White**, Laguna Hills; **Howard Chambers** and Assistant City Manager **Sandy Ruyle** and Assistant to the City Manager **Lisa Novotny**, Lakewood; **Robert Gutierrez**, Moreno Valley; **Ernie Garcia**, Norwalk; **Carlos Ortega**, Palm Desert; **Linda Benedetti-Leal**, Paramount; **Jack Lam**, Rancho Cucamonga; **Kurt Starman**, Redding; **Fred Latham**, Santa Fe Springs; **Dave Anderson**, Saratoga; **Mike Sedell**, Simi Valley; **Joe Tanner**, Vallejo; Assistant City Manager **Jon Roberts**, Victorville; **Andy Pasmant**, West Covina; and **Steve Jepsen**, Yuba City. Also there was California Contract Cities Association Executive Director **Sam Olivito**.



<http://www.bobmurrayassoc.com/>



California Contract Cities Association Executive Director Sam Olivito and Vallejo City Manager Joe Tanner chat at the "Gonsalvi" Legislative Appreciation event.

## Either Side of May Day 2008

(Leg. Dinner continued) It was my good fortune to sit at a table with representatives of four communities during the evening program. The table included: Santa Fe Springs City Manager **Fred Latham** and Council Member **Joe Serrano**; Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia**, Mayor **Michael Mendez** and Council Member **Rick Ramirez**; Huntington Park City Manager **Gregory Korduner**; Cerritos Mayor Pro Tem **Bruce W. Barrows** and Council Member **Dr. Joseph Cho, Ph.D.**

Legislators who attended the evening program at the Sterling Hotel included Senators: **Dave Cogdill, Lou Correa, Bob Dutton, Alan Lowenthal, Abel Maldonado, Bob Margett, Alex Padilla, Gloria Romero, George Runner, Jack Scott, Mark Ridley Thomas, Tom Torlakson, and Pat Wiggins.** Assembly Members who attended include: **Joel Anderson, Jim Beall, John Benoit, Tom Berryhill, Paul Cook, Hector De La Torre, Mark DeSaulnier, Bill Emerson, Warren Furutani, Martin Garrick, Edward Hernandez, Bob Huff, Betty Karnette, Rick Keene, Doug LaMalfa, John Laird, Tony Mendoza, George Plescia, Anthony Portantino, Curren D. Price, Jr., Sandre Swanson, and Mike Villines.** Also in attendance was State Controller **John Chiang.**

Colantuono  
& Levin, PC

[www.CLLAW.US](http://www.CLLAW.US)

President and CEO **Dr. Tom Brisbin, Ph.D.** and the good folks of *Willdan* hosted the *Joe A. Gonsalves & Son* Client Cities' Legislative Appreciation Dinner. 7th District Senator **Tom Torlakson** was the Master of Ceremonies, and Senator **Jack Scott** of the 21st District delivered the Invocation, while Assembly Member **Betty Karnette**, a veteran legislator, now of the 54th District led the Salute to the Flag.

Congratulations to the Gonsalves Team and their client cities for an outstanding event. The Gonsalves Team includes: **Anthony D. Gonsalves, Jason A. Gonsalves, Paul A. Gonsalves, Darlene Jagers, Sasha M. Land, and Kris K. Bull.**

Following the conclusion of the program and a quiet and enjoyable nightcap with *Bellflower's* **Mike Egan** and Mayor Pro Tem **Ray Smith**, it was hit the sack time in preparation for a flight home the next day. The good folks of Santa Fe Springs again were on the same flight and graciously picked me up for the ride to the Sacramento airport. Thank you **Fred Latham!**

### Women Leading Government (WLG)

An Initiative of the Cal-ICMA Coaching Program

Organized by women public managers, WLG is designed to assist female managers in their career development.

Please check out the WLG website:

<http://www.womenleadinggovernment.org/>

"Don't compromise yourself. You are all  
you've got."

—Janis Joplin



<http://caltrust.org/>

Contact Lyle Defenbaugh about CalTRUST investment opportunities for cities. [Lyle.Defenbaugh@wachoviaps.com](mailto:Lyle.Defenbaugh@wachoviaps.com)

## Either Side of May Day 2008

### CCCA City Managers/Administrators

#### Committee Meeting:

Committee Chair **Maria Dadian**, Artesia City Manager, presided at this "May Day" committee meeting. The featured presentation at the meeting was by County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Assistant Division Head of the Watershed Management Division **Hector J. Bordas**. Hector has a BS in Biology from the University of Southern California and a BS in Civil Engineering from California State University, Long Beach. His presentation focused on a proposed countywide parcel fee for storm water mitigation.

Those wishing to contact Hector regarding the countywide parcel fee proposal may find him at: [hbordas@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:hbordas@dpw.lacounty.gov)

He may also be reached at telephone number: 626-260-2544.



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**Norwalk City Manager Ernie Garcia and Mayor Mike Mendez at the Joe A. Gonsalves & Son event.**

One of the first items of business at the meeting was to elect Rolling Hills Estates City Manager **Doug Prichard** California Contract Cities Association City Managers'/Administrators' Committee Chair for the next year. *Congratulations Doug!*

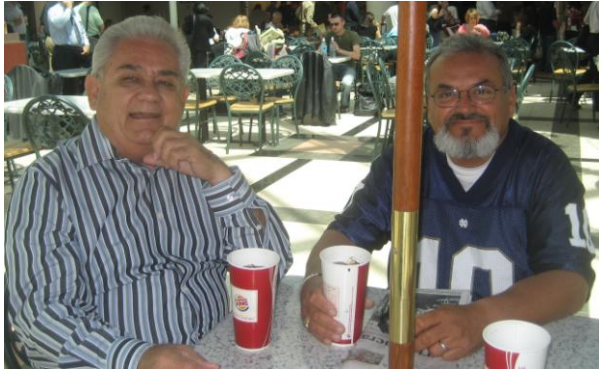
Among the City Managers at the meeting were: **Mark Alexander** of La Cañada Flintridge, **Pat West** of Long Beach, **Mike Egan** of Bellflower, **Bob Griego** of Irwindale, **Doug Prichard** of Rolling Hills Estates, **Roger Haley** of Lynwood, and **Anton "Tony" Dahlerbruch** of Rolling Hills. CCCA Executive Director **Sam Olivito** was in attendance too, as was League of California Cities representatives **Jennifer Quan** and **Kristine Guerrero**. Former City Managers **Frank G. Tripepi** and **Katie Wilson**, both currently with *Willdan Financial Services* (formerly *MuniFinancial*) were both in attendance too. [www.muni.com](http://www.muni.com)

Since this chronology is done basically from memory, we undoubtedly omitted some folks. Please know that the only reason we may have omitted a name is because we either just plain forgot or we do not know the person to begin with. We apologize in advance for any of our transgressions, and hope that you will stick with us.

**Urban Futures Inc.**

<http://www.urbanfuturesinc.com/>





Santa Fe Springs Mayor Gustavo R. Velasco and Council Member Joseph D. Serrano, Sr. at the Sacramento Airport awaiting a flight to LAX.



Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham waiting with his City Council Members in the Sacramento Airport.



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**Joe A. Gonsalves & Son Client Cities:**

Arcadia, Banning, Beaumont, Bellflower, Camarillo, Carlsbad, Cerritos, Chino, Chino Hills, Colton, Commerce, Concord, Culver City, Diamond Bar, Elk Grove, Fillmore, Folsom, Fontana, Hawaiian Gardens, Hercules, Huntington Park, Industry, Irwindale, La Mirada, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Lakewood, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Moreno Valley, Norwalk, Palm Desert, Palmdale, Paramount, Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, Redding, Rosemead, Roseville, Santa Fe Springs, Saratoga, Simi Valley, South Gate, South Lake Tahoe, Thousand Oaks, Vallejo, Vernon, Victorville, Vista, West Covina, West Sacramento, Yuba City, and Yucca Valley.



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Photo from the Past: This 1974 picture shows then-Bellflower City Administrator Peter B. Feenstra with guitar, Judge J. Kimball Walker, Paramount Mayor Rich DeBie, LASD Undersheriff Ted Von Minden, Jack A. Simpson (before mustache), Los Angeles County Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess and Judge Vince Dalsimer.



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During the year we provide information on each of our Sponsors as a service to them. We were about to focus on **American Homeland Solutions** (AHS) when its' parent company...Willdan...announced an organizational change.



For more than 40 years, Willdan has been dedicated to providing reliable engineering, planning and other consulting services. Willdan has earned a reputation as a problem solver across a wide range of service disciplines and client interests. Willdan invests significant effort and time to understand the issues and concerns of government agencies—especially the concerns of local governments. The Willdan operating divisions offer a broad scope of expertise that brings uniquely integrated qualifications to serve the needs of cities, counties, special districts, and State and federal agencies.

Founded by William Stookey and Dan Heil as a civil engineering firm, Willdan evolved into a professional service provider offering a broad array of services through its subsidiary companies: MuniFinancial, Arroyo Geotechnical and American Homeland Solutions. Under the leadership of **President & CEO Dr. Tom Brisbin, Ph.D.**, the new organization unites these companies under the Willan banner, returning the company to the single name with which it was founded in 1964.

**Willdan Homeland Solutions** (formerly *American Homeland Solutions*) headed up by former Irvine Police Commander **Vic Thies**, specializes in a broad range of public safety and homeland security consulting services—including training, planning and hazard mitigation, exercise planning and implementation, and management services and personnel investigations. WHS is staffed with highly experienced and credible law enforcement, fire, and related public safety professionals whose credentials were earned in the field. The company serves cities, counties, and related municipal service agencies such as utility and water companies, as well as, providing a variety of services to port and transportation authorities, tribal governments, schools, and large business enterprises with a need for homeland security-related services. Telephone toll free: 877-818-5621.

**Willdan Geotechnical** (formerly *Arroyo Geotechnical*) offers geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, and construction material testing and inspection services. The company maintains a full-service soil testing laboratory certified by the City of Los Angeles and the California Department of Transportation. Services are provided to public agencies for capital improvement projects, and to private developers for major civil and commercial/ industrial projects, or as third-party reviews. The company's President & CEO is **Ross Khiabani**, telephone no. 714-634-3318.

**Willdan Resource Solutions**—Willdan's newest operating division—provides environmental consulting, construction, remediation, and engineering services. The company's experienced team includes many technical disciplines and programs such as human health and ecological risk assessment, toxicology, chemistry, geochemistry, geology, hydrology, hydrogeology, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, environmental planning, hazardous materials and waste management, surface/storm water management, and environmental compliance. The President & CEO is **Joe Dauchy**, who can be reached at telephone no. 714-940-6300.

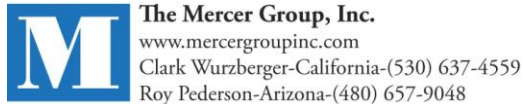
**Willdan Financial Services** (formerly *MuniFinancial*), headed up by retired city manager **Frank G. Tripepi**, specializes in providing revenue generation, enhancement, and administration services to public agencies. This operating company serves more than 800 clients that include cities, counties, state agencies, port authorities, housing agencies, special districts, and school districts in more than 35 states. As a client support service the company conducts year-round workshops and on-site training to assist clients in keeping current with the latest financial management developments and issues.

**Willdan Engineering** offers a full complement of engineering services under the leadership of **Dave Hunt**, including city and special district engineering, civil and structural, building and safety, water and wastewater, and traffic and transportation; as well as landscape architecture, public works and infrastructure design, construction management, and municipal planning services. The company serves clients throughout California and the western United States, specializing in solutions tailored to the unique needs of municipalities and other local government agencies. Services range from full-time, in-house staffing to interim or part-time assistance on a project-by-project basis.

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Thank you!**



<http://www.kndinc.com/index.htm>



<http://www.kndinc.com/index.htm>

**Picking Up the Pieces:** Thank you **Jim Barisic** of *Brandywine Homes*. Effective July 1 Ridgecrest City Manager **Harvey M. Rose** will retire after 41-years in city and university management. Assistant City Manager **Michael Avery** has been appointed to the City Manager position effective the same day (July 1, 2008). Well-liked Menlo Park Assistant City Manager **Audrey Seymour Ramberg** resigned after 7-years in the position to spend more time with her newly adopted daughter; City Manager **Glen Rojas** said that her departure is a big loss to the city. In January **Lindy Coe-Juell** was appointed Assistant to the City Manager in Manhattan Beach. City Manager **Geoff Dolan** did some reorganizing to fill the gaps following the departure of former Deputy City Manager **Sherilyn Lombos**. **Mark Delin** has been named to replace Del Mar Assistant City Manager **Joe Hoefgen**, who resigned last June to become City Manager in Palos Verdes Estates. **Laura S. Gill** is the new Elk Grove City Manager leaving her current job as CAO in El Dorado County. She replaces **John Danielson**, who left in April and is now in the new City of Wildomar. Vietnam veteran **Chuck Comstock**, 60, will retire August 31 as the City Manager in Scotts Valley after 17 years. Retired municipal manager "Potter" **Sanford Groves** recently showed his work in Santa Fe, New Mexico with about 20 other potters, and did quite well. Former La Habra Heights City Manager & Dana Point Administrative Services Director **Sheryl Boell** currently works for CH2MHILL OMI on assignment in Johns Creek, Georgia.

**Mark Curran**, Treasurer of the California City Management Foundation: Mark is a managing director and member of the public finance group at Piper Jaffray. He has instructed at Northern California universities, and is closely involved with the California Redevelopment Association.

## Sign of the times:



**Five-year old Grandson Tyler Pouncéy on the beach and talking on a cell phone, April, 2008.**

For the first time in 40 years, we will miss the Annual Conference of the *California Contract Cities Association*, May 29-June 1, as our Granddaughter **Brittney Sugar** is graduating from high school during that time in Rancho Cordova. Assistant City Manager **Lisa Hildabrand**, who has been serving as Interim City Manager, has been appointed Carlsbad City Manager, ending an 8 month search. She joined the city staff in 1991 as the Finance Director. Former Bellflower Mayor Judge **J. Kimball Walker** passed away on April 17, 2008. Assistant City Manager **Charles "Butch" Hull**, 55, is the Blythe Acting City Manager following City Manager **Lester B. Nelson, Jr.**'s retirement. Hull has worked for the city nearly 35 years, starting emptying trash cans, reading meters and patching potholes. Visalia Assistant City Manager **Carol Cairns**, 60, will retire July 4 after a 36-year career, and serving with six different Visalia city managers. Moraga Town Manager **Philip Vince** has been appointed to replace Martinez City Manager **Don Blubaugh**, who retires at the end of the month.

**Michael G. Colantuono** of *Colantuono & Levin, PC* is advising **cities interested in recovering the excess charges counties are charging for property tax administration**. Cities can estimate what is at stake by comparing their property tax administration fees for 2005-06 to those of 2006-07, with most of the substantial increase attributable to the excess charges on the "triple-flip" property tax dollars. Those interested in the issue may call Michael at 213-533-4155. A large Bay Area City estimates its stake at \$1 million per year, and a small inland general law city with a \$12 million general fund estimates its stake at \$30,000 per year.