



Here is **Larry F. Pennell** exploring the shallows of the Dead Sea in his white socks on a vacation trip with his wife Denise. Larry retired after serving as City Manager in Wasco (1994-2007). Larry previously was City Manager for Benicia (1973-1979) and Galt (1987-1988), and he was the Chief Administrative Officer in Modoc County (1991-1993). Larry has worked some Interim city manager assignments since retirement, including Fillmore, McFarland, and St. Helena. Larry received a 30-year ICMA Service Award in 2006.

Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Siskiyou County, located along the Oregon border, incorporated in 1852. It was created from parts of Shasta and Klamath Counties. Part of the county's area was given to Modoc County in 1855. The county seat is Yreka. In April 2020, the estimated population of Siskiyou County was 44,076. **Angela Davis** is the CAO. Angela previously served as Assistant CAO in Shasta County. **Tonya Dowse** has been the Executive Director of the Siskiyou Economic Development Council since 2005.

Dorris begins the alphabetical listing of Siskiyou County cities and continues with Dunsmuir, Etna, Fort Jones, Montague, Mount Shasta, Tulelake, Weed and Yreka.

Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Dorris was named in 1907 by the Southern Pacific Railroad for **Presley A. and Carlos J. Dorris**. The brother raised livestock in the Shasta area in the 1860s before moving to Dorris' Bridge on the Pit River, which was renamed Alturas in 1876. Dorris is home to what was once the tallest flagpole west of the Mississippi, and is still the tallest west of the Rockies. It is 200 feet tall and flies a flag 30 feet tall by 60 feet wide. It was surpassed in 2002 by a larger 300 foot pole in Laredo, Texas and in 2014 by a 400 foot pole in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The lumber trade continues in Dorris by the Dorris Lumber and Moulding Co. established in 1924. The city incorporated in December 1908. The City's 2020 population is set at 860. The Dorris elected City Clerk is **Betty Sammis** and the elected City Treasurer is **Pam Bay**.



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Roxanne Diaz is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).
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California Major League Baseball teams are getting ready for the 2023 season at spring training. This picture was taken by **Gonzalo Vazquez** formerly of Cypress.



The Big Bear Alpine Zoo is a rehabilitation facility offering injured, orphaned and imprinted wild animals a safe haven; temporarily while they heal or permanently if that are unable to survive in the wild on their own. <https://bigbearzoo.org/>



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Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Dunsmuir is located on the upper Sacramento River. Dunsmuir is a popular destination for tourists. The 1820s saw the first European-Americans come to the area on their way to hunt and trap along the Siskiyou Trail. The California Gold Rush brought increased traffic along the trail and led to the first settlers at Upper Soda Springs in north Dunsmuir in the early 1850s. The modern town of Dunsmuir developed from the Central Pacific Railroad completing a line to the area. In 1888 Alexander Dunsmuir came to the area and, as the story goes, offered to donate a fountain to the town if it was renamed in Dunsmuir. In City was incorporated in August 1909. Its 2020 population is set at 1,707. **Dustin Rief** is the City Manager and **Wendy Perkins** is an Administrative Assistant and Deputy City Clerk. **Blake Michaelsen** is the Finance Director. The elected City Treasurer in **Mario Rubino**.

Dunsmuir City Manager **Dustin Rief** was discharged from the U. S. Army as a Staff Sergeant in January 2007 after nearly 11-years. After working in the private sector (2007-2011) he took an internship in public works for the City of Omaha, Nebraska in May 2012. He was hired full-time as a public works specialist in March 2013. In June 2015, Dustin became the City Administrator and City Clerk for the City of Clarion, Iowa. He served as City Administrator for Orono, Minnesota starting in August 2017, and he left that job in 2021 to become the City Manager in Scottsbluff, Nebraska (2021-2022). Dustin became the Dunsmuir City Manager in August 2022. He earned a BA and an MPA from the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

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Ray Harris, Ret. County Official, & Hawaiian Gardens CM
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Thanks to former City Manager **Ron Molendyk** for passing along some awesome pictures showing the Southern California mountains after the recent storms. This shows Huntington Beach Pier in the foreground. Ron is a continuing participant of the "Proof of Life" lunch program. The snow topped mountains behind the pier are a most rare sight.

Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Etna was originally named "Rough and Ready." Etna began in 1853 with the construction of a saw-mill. It was named the Rough and Ready Mill. The name was changed by statute in 1874 to Etna for the local flour mill. The city incorporated in March 1878. Its 2020 population is 678. **Pamela Eastlick** is the City Clerk and **Jenny Bennett** is the Assistant City Clerk.

Pamela Eastlick served as the City Clerk in Etna between February 2001 and May 2015 before becoming the City of Dunsmuir Finance Director (November 2015-March 2018) and then with the Finance Department in the City of Weed in 2019. Pam was laid off in April 2020 due to COVID 19. After holding three other positions, including being self-employed for about 5-years, Pam returned to the City of Etna at City Clerk in September 2022.



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Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Fort Jones is a city in the Scott Valley. It is a registered California Historical Landmark. The town was originally named Scottsburg in the 1850s and was later changed to Scottsville. In 1852 the town was renamed again as Wheelock, in honor of **O.C. Wheelock**. In 1854 a post office was established and named Ottitewa, the Indian name for the Scott River. Local residents successfully petitioned the post office to change the name to Fort Jones. Fort Jones was incorporated in March 1872. The 2020 population of Fort Jones is 695. **Karl Drexel** served as the City Administrator starting in August 2018 on a consultant agreement with his firm KD Management Services. The Interim City Administrator **Adam Cox** is a Managing Partner of the Sectaris management consultant firm. **Rachel Agron** is the City Clerk.

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Montague was named for the Chief Engineer for the Central Pacific Railroad when the Southern Pacific Railroad built a rail extension from Dunsmuir to state line in 1886-1887. The Station was named for **S.S. Montague**. The city was incorporated in January 1909. The 2020 population is 1,226. **David Dunn** is the Interim City Administrator and **Jessie Monday** is the Interim City Clerk. Dave is the Public Works Supervisor. **Crystal Rivera** is the contact person for Park and Recreation.



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Our good friend **Pamela Newcomb** has announced her well-earned retirement. Trackdown wishes her well for a long and enjoyable retirement. We appreciate her longtime support of the City Manager Newsletter.

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Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Mount Shasta is located in the Shasta Cascade area of Northern California. The city is located less than 9-miles away for its volcano namesake: Mt. Shasta. The city is a base for trout fishing, rock climbing and mountain area exploring. Early Euro-American trappers and hunters visited the area beginning in the 1820s. The local post office opened in 1870 with the name Bervale. After 1886 it became Sisson, for a local businessman. The city of Mount Shasta was incorporated in May 1905 and the name was finalized in November 1925. The 2020 population is 3,223. **Todd Juhasz** is the City Manager. The Police Chief is **Robert Gibson** and the Fire Chief is **Johnathan Duncan**. The Finance Director is **Muriel Terrell**.

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–**Bob Moawad**

Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County



After serving in the United State Air Force for more than 7-years (1984-1991), Mount Shasta City Manager **Todd Juhasz** took a Management Intern post with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1998 in the

Washington D.C. area. He then took a Planner position with Westchester County, New York. He spent some time on the private sector side, and he served as a Manhattan Borough Commissioner in New York City (2002-2005). He was the Director of Design for the New York City Department of Transportation (2005-2007). Todd went to Portland, Oregon as a Development Manager for the Portland Development Commission (2007-2010), and then worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation as a capital projects planner (2010-2013). Todd went to work for the City of Beaverton, Oregon in December 2013 as the Transportation Division Manager (2013-2019). He worked in the private sector in 2019 before being appointed City Manager in Dunsmuir (August 2019-November 2021). Todd started his tenure as Mt. Shasta City Manager in November 2021. He earned a BS in chemistry and microbiology from the University at Buffalo, an MLA in landscape architecture from the State University of New York, and an MPA from Syracuse University.



The next "Proof of Life" lunch is Thursday, March 30 at the Northwood's Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. Pictured is **Greg Korduner, Jack Simpson & Doug Dunlap**. For a headcount please RSVP to: jack@trackdownmanagement.net

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Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Mount Shasta Finance Director **Muriel Howarth Terrell** joined the city staff in 2013. Muriel is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She has represented the city with the Small Cities Organized Rick Effort (SCORE).

David Torres is the City of Mount Shasta Public Works Supervisor. David started as an Inspector with the private engineering firm of Kennedy/Jenks in 2009. In June 2010 he joined another private firm where he worked for a little more than 6-years. David joined the Mount Shasta city staff in June 2016 as the Public Works Supervisor. David earned a BA in construction management from California State University, Chico.



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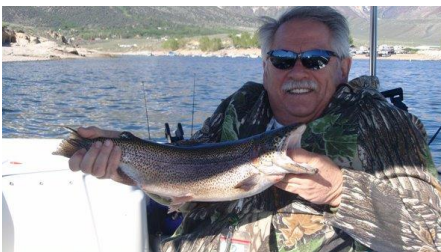


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One of the late **Frank G. Triepel's** favorite activities was trout fishing on Opening Day. After retiring as a city manager he was an executive with **Willdan**.

Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Tulelake is named for the nearby Tule Lake. More than 100 lots were sold in Tulelake at a public auction in April 1931. Today there are more than 400 housing units in the town. Two WW II internment camps were located near Tulelake. Camp Tulelake was an Italian and German prisoner-of-war camp, and the Tule Lake War Relocation Center was a Japanese internment camps. The Tule Lake camp housed nearly 18,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese foreign residents. Tulelake incorporated in March 1937. The 2020 population is set at 902. **Penny Velador** is the Tulelake Mayor.

Jenny Coelho is the City Hall Administrator in Tulelake. She joined the city staff as City Administrative Clerk in August 2012. Jenny has been City Hall Administrator since July 2017. She earned a BA in agricultural economics from Oregon State University.



<https://www.calcities.org/education-and-events/event/2023/09/20/default-calendar/annual-conference-and-expo>



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Here are a couple more snow in the background pictures. The first shows Belmont Shore in Long Beach with Second Street in the foreground and the local snow-covered mountains in the background. On the right is a view of the snow topped mountains taken from a Rancho Mirage neighborhood. Some areas have been digging out from under a thick blanket of snow. Mammoth Mountain recorded 672 inches at the summit and 528 inches at the lodge.



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Jim L. Barisic, former Artesia City Manager who also worked in Cerritos and Paramount, and is a Viet Nam veteran, founded **Brandywine** in 1994.

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Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Weed gets its name from **Abner Weed**, the founder of a local lumber mill. In 1897 Abner spent \$400 to buy the Siskiyou Lumber and Mercatile Mill and 280 acres that is now the City of Weed. In the 1940s Weed had the world's largest sawmill. Weed did not incorporate until January 1961. Its 2020 population is set at 2,862. **Tim Rundel** is the Weed City Manager and **Sandra Duchi** is the City Clerk. The Weed Finance Director is **Anna Guzman**, and **Chris Davis** is the Public Works Supervisor.

Tim Rundel served as Assistant City Manager in the City of Yukon from August 2001 to April 2007. Tim was the Human Resources Director for the Midwest City, Oklahoma starting in April 2007, and he worked as City Manager in Claremore, Oklahoma starting in September 2010. Tim returned to Midwest City in December 2010 to serve as Assistant City Manager. In May 2014 Tim was hired to serve as the Auburn, California City Manager. He returned to Oklahoma in October 2016 to be the Durant city manager. After working as a consultant in 2019-2020, Tim became the Weed City Manager in March 2020. Tim earned a BA in speech from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and an MPA from the University of Oklahoma.



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Matt Knabe, Managing Partner



City of Norwalk Veterans' Memorial

Cities and Towns of Siskiyou County

Yreka has a colorful history. The city is the county seat of Siskiyou County. In March 1851, a mule train packer named **Abraham Thompson** discovered gold while traveling the Siskiyou Trail. It is said that by April there were 2,000 prospectors and miners flooding the area looking to make it rich. By June 1851 there was a "boomtown" born. The name comes from either an Indian word for "mountain" or, as Mark Twain tells it, the name "Bakery" on a sign drying in the sun bled threw the fabric backwards with the "b" hanging so it wasn't seen, "Yreka." Folks liked it and the name stuck. The city incorporated in April 1857. The 2020 population is set at 7,807. **Jason Ledbetter** is the City Manager and **Shella Rhetta Hogan** is the Assistant City Manager, City Treasurer and Acting City Clerk.



Jason Ledbetter was the Executive Director of the Siskiyou County General Services Department before he started as the **Yreka** City Manager in January 2022. Jason replaced retired City Manager **Stephen Baker** and took over from Interim City Manager **Randy**

Johnsen. Jason spent 10-years as a winemaker in the Napa Valley and Washington State after graduation from the University of California, Davis. He earned a master's degree from the University of California, Riverside.

Former Interim City Manager **Randy Johnsen**, who began his public service career with the City of Lakewood, was the first City Manager in the City of interim assignments since his retirement, including Interim City Manager in the City of Colusa. He is musically inclined and has performed with a country music group. Randy earned a BA from Occidental College and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



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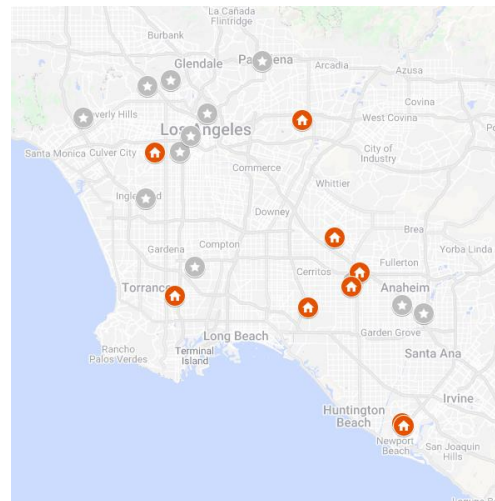
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Blossom Walk, Compton



Jasmine Walk, Buena Park



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Picking Up the Pieces: Congratulations to retired City Manager **Dr. Frank Benest!** Frank, who retired as the Palo Alto City Manager in August 2008, was recognized at the 2023 League of California Cities City Managers' Department meeting for the publication of the 100th issue of ICMA Career Compass. The 100th article

appeared in the January 2023 issue of *PM Magazine*. Frank previously served as City Manager in Brea (1989-2000) and Colton (1986-1989). He currently serves as an ICMA Senior Advisor for the Next Generation Initiative, and he operates Frank Benest Consulting. Santa Clarita



City Manager **Ken Striplin**, President of the California City Management Foundation, announced the recipients of the group's 2023 awards at the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities meeting in Carlsbad last month. The 2023 City Manager of the Year is Sacramento City Manager **Howard Chan**, and the 2023 Corporate Sponsor of the Year is **Climatec**, who is also a sponsor of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown.



Here's a group of early morning hikers from the Rancho Mirage community.

It was reported that Hollister City Manager **Brett Miller** has left office and Assistant City Manager **David Mirrione** closed out a recent meeting in the City Manager's seat. It is unknown at this time whether Brett was dismissed or if he resigned. After working as a Management Analyst in Butte County (2005-2009), Brett joined the Hollister city staff as an Accounting Manager in February 2009. He has worked himself up in the organization and served as Administrative Services Director and Assistant City Manager (2014-2019). Brett became the Hollister Interim City Manager in November 2019 and began his city manager tenure in September 2020. Atascadero City Manager **Rachelle Rickard** will retire in July after serving 10-years as City Manager. She began her professional career with positions at two different audit firms. She first joined the city staff in 1997 as an accountant. In 1998, Rachelle was promoted to serve as the Director of Administrative Services. She was appointed Atascadero City Manager starting in July 2013, following City Manager **Wade G. McKinney**, who left to become city manager in Indian Wells. Rachelle earned a BS from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Garden Grove named **Lisa L. Kim** to be the city's new City Manager. Born in Hong Kong and raised in London, England Lisa has been serving as the Garden Grove Assistant City Manager and Community and Economic Development Director. She has worked for Garden Grove since 2016. Lisa previously worked in community and economic development with the cities of Pomona, West Covina and Orange. Lisa worked for the City of Orange for 16-years and left there in March 2016 when she was serving as the Economic Development Manager. She earned a BA in urban and regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from Brandman University. Lisa is a past President of the Planning Directors Association of Orange County (PDAOC).

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

--**Winston Churchill**



More Pieces Picked Up: Port Hueneme Interim City Manager is Community Development Director **Tony Stewart**. Tony will serve in the position until a replacement is found for former City Manager **Brad "Brick" Conners**. Brick's

employment agreement expired on February 16. Tony joined the Port Hueneme city staff as City Manager in February 2020. Prior to Port Hueneme Brick was a parenting and leadership consultant, teacher and speaker. He earned a BS from the United States Naval Academy, an MBA from California Lutheran University and an MA in national security & strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College. He served in the United States Navy starting in December 1995 after graduating from the academy. When he separated from the Navy he was the Commanding Officer for Naval Base Ventura County (2005-2009). Milpitas City Manager **Steven G. McHarris** has become the third Milpitas City Manager in to be dismissed since 2017. It is reported that morale at city hall is an all-time high under Steve's leadership. Steve was the Community & Economic Development Director for the City of Soledad starting in December 2008. In 2012 he went to work in the Planning & Neighborhood Services Department in Milpitas. He went to the City of San José in May 2015 as the Planning Official. Steve returned to Milpitas in June 2018 as Deputy City Manager and in June 2019 he started as the Milpitas City Manager. Steve earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton. He completed the Senior Executives in State & Local Government program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education. Long Beach City Manager **Tom Modica** has worked for the city since 2002 when he started as a Management Assistant. He worked in several positions and was appointed Assistant City Manager in 2014. Tom was appointed Acting City Manager in September 2019 following the retirement of City Manager **Pat West**. Tom became City Manager in April 2020. He earned an MPA from the University of Arizona. Tom has participated at the Southern California "Proof of Life" program. **Sara Lillevand**, the City Administrator in the City of Piedmont starting in July 2019, has announced that she will retire in the Spring of 2023. She will have worked 4-years as City Administrator and 5-years as the Piedmont Recreation Director. Prior to joining the city staff, Sara served 23-years in intercollegiate athletics as a basketball coach, kinesiology instructor and athletic administrator. She served at California State University, East Bay. Sara will remain in her position as Piedmont City Administrator until a successor takes office. Antioch Assistant City Manager **Rosanna Bayon Moore** has been selected to be Sara's successor. Rosanna came to Antioch in

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September 2020 after working 9-years as City Manager for the City of Brawley. She will start in Piedmont April 6. Santa Clara has hired San Bruno City Manager **Jovan D. Grogan** as their next city manager. He worked for the cities of Berkeley and Concord before becoming the San Bruno City Manager in 2018. He earned a BS and a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University. Since February 2023, former **Tripepi Smith** Business Analyst **Claire Torza** is a new Education Project Manager for the Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRIP). Claire earned a BA in philosophy, politics and economics from Claremont McKenna College, and she attended classes abroad at the University of Melbourne in Melbourne, Australia. Claire is an example of the high-quality individuals on the **Tripepi Smith** professional team. Good people are in demand. We will miss working with Claire but wish her well in her new adventure. **Brian King** and **Pete Carmichael** were named Assistant City Managers for the City of Irvine. City Manager **Oliver C. Chi** made the appointments. Brian is the former Deputy Director of Human Resources and Pete is a former Great Park Executive Director. The two new Assistant City Managers join Assistant City Manager **Michelle Grefenberg**. Brian has been with the Irvine city staff for 26-years. Pete joined the city staff 8-years ago. Michelle is an 18-year veteran with the Irvine city staff. Merced City Manager **Stephanie Dietz** announced that she will resign effective in November of this year. Stephanie will leave after nearly seven years of service. Bob Murray & Associates have been retained to conduct an executive search for a new city manager. Stephanie was appointed Assistant City Manager in November 2016. She previously served for 10-years on the Merced County staff as a Management Analyst and three years with UC Merced. Stephanie came to the city with then City Manager **Steve Carrigan**.

"Bad attitudes will ruin your team."

--Terry Bradshaw



Still More Pieces Picked Up: Merced City Manager **Stephanie Dietz** announced that she will resign effect in November of this year. Stephanie will leave after nearly seven years of service. Bob Murray & Associates have been retained to conduct an executive search for a new city manager. Stephanie was appointed

Assistant City Manager in November 2016. She previously served for 10-years on the Merced County staff as a Management Analyst and three years with UC Merced. Stephanie came to the city with then City Manager **Steve Carrigan**. With more than 20-years of experience in government relations, technology, communications, technology and marketing, **Tripepi Smith** President **Ryder Todd Smith** continues to invest in the understanding and improvement of local government. Ryder is the current President of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government. The Institute and the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) are conducting an in-depth study of California city management. A survey has been sent to every California city manager. Please contribution to this effort to learn more about the city management community by participating. Starting in January 2022, **Maraskeshia Smith** began her tenure as the City Manager for the City of Santa Rosa. She worked for the City of Cincinnati, Ohio for more than 9-years before leaving her Director of Public Services position to become Assistant City Administrator in Oakland in July 2018. After Maraskeshia served nearly two years as Deputy City Manager in the City of Stockton (May 2020-December 2021), she took the Santa Rosa City Manager position. She earned a BS from the University of Kentucky and an MBA from Eastern Kentucky University. Former Whittier City Manager **Keith Abbott** passed in May 2020 at age 96. Keith was born November 7, 1923 in St. George. Keith served in the United States Navy and was stationed in the South Pacific from April 1943 to November 1945. He survived the sinking of the US Monaghan during a typhoon off the coast of the Philippines in December 1944. After living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Keith moved to La Mirada in 1955 and began working for the City of Whittier as City Controller in November 1956. He became the Assistant City Manager in 1965 and then worked as the Whittier City Manager from 1967 until he retired in 1980. Keith was a mentor to many who became city managers and municipal department heads. Keith enjoyed playing golf and travelling.

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value."

—Albert Einstein

Pleasanton's first City Manager was the late **Jim Fales**, who was a roommate at the University of California, Berkeley (Cal) with retired city manager **Lou Shepard**. Jim is a past President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities (1973-1974) during the time he was city manager for the City of Redwood City. While Jim was an Administrative Assistant in Berkeley in 1959 he served as President of MMANC. He became City Manager in Pleasanton in 1969. He left there for Redwood City and then became the Richmond City Manager in 1982. He retired in 1988. Jim passed away after a short illness in March 1994.

SHORTS: *Congratulations to Chief **Anthony Marrone** on his appointment to be the next Los Angeles County Fire Chief. ***Anil Comelo**, St. Helena City Manager since July 2022, earned a BA & MPA from California State University, East Bay. *Jurupa Valley founding City Manager **Stephen Harding**, a past participant of the "Proof of Life" program, is an instructor in political history at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of California, Riverside. ***Melanie Franceschini** is a Management Analyst in the City Manager's office in Newport Beach, and she is a former Aquatics Manager for the City of Irvine, where she started as a City Council Intern, after serving a year and eight months as an intern in the Newport Beach City Manager's Office. *Before **Sara Lillevand** served as Recreation Director and then City Administrator in the City of Piedmont, she was an intercollegiate basketball coach. *This year marked the 150th since the incorporation of the City of Napa, where **Steve Potter** serves as City Manager, and the 100th year the city has owned the municipal water system. *After working for Oceanside since April 1989, starting as a Lifeguard, Chief of Police **Fred Armijo** plans to retire on April 1, 2023. *City of Norco Mayor Pro Tem **Ted Hoffman**, a U. S. Army veteran and retired Riverside County Sheriff's Department Sergeant, passed away on Wednesday, February 22 at age 70. ***Jennifer Vaughn** and **Saara Lampwalla** of **Tripepi Smith** recently attended the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference. *El Cajon City Manager **Graham Mitchell** since May 2017 previously served as City Manager in the cities of Farmersville, Lemon Grove and Escondido, and is a part-time faculty member at San Diego State University. *Calimesa City Manager **Will Kolbow**, who previously served in the cities of Orange, San Bernardino, and Rancho Cucamonga, earned an MPA from California State University, Dominguez Hills. ***UCLA** alumnus **Roy Pederson**, who served in public management for nearly 35-years (1964-1998), and served as ICMA President, considers himself a "Student at Life." ***Karena McGee Shackelford** became the Fremont City Manager in October 2021. ***

