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 City Management Community"

May 2026

Volume No. 20 | Issue No. 08

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Number 46, piloted by **Leilyn and Koa Ha** on Koa's 9th birthday at Knott's Berry Farm. 46 is most famously associated with motorcycle racer **Valentino Rossi**, who won 9 world championships. Five-time Yankee World Series champion pitcher **Andy Pettitte** wore 46 during his 15 seasons with the team. **Tom Cruise's** character **Cole Trickle** drove No. 46 in the 1990 film *Days of Thunder*. Koa and Lei Lei's grandpa wore No. 46 on his senior high school football jersey.

California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco

This May 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of [Nevada City](#), [Newark](#), [Newman](#), [Newport Beach](#), and [Norco](#).

City executives in this issue include the city manager for [Nevada City](#) **Carrie Wright**. **David J. Benoun** is the city manager in [Newark](#), **Michael Holland** is the City Manager in [Newman](#), **Seimone Jurjis** is the City Manager in the city of [Newport Beach](#), and **Lisette Free** is the City Manager for the city of [Norco](#).

Please find the Trackdown Management website at: www.trackdownmanagement.net. You may access all Trackdown issues of the newsletter there.

[Continue on Page 3]

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- Mike Sedell**, Retired Simi Valley City Manager
- Larry F. Pennell**, Retired City Manager, Wasco
- Kevin O'Rourke**, KOLGS; Retired City Manager
- Glenn Southard**, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont
- Joe Tanner**, Retired Vallejo City Manager
- Guy Huffaker**, Retired Porterville City Manager
- Vern Lawson**, Retired, City of Lancaster
- Robert T. "Bob" Dickey**, Retired South Gate DPW
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- Mark Scott**, Interim City Manager
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Contributor Roster:

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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 City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco



Nevada City is the county seat of Nevada County, California. It is estimated that the first European Americans settled in Nevada City in 1849, during the California Gold Rush. The town was called Deer Creek Dry Diggins, and

Caldwell's Upper Store. The Gold Tunnel on the north side of Deer Creek was the first mine excavated in 1850. The town of Nevada was incorporated in April 1856. The word "City" was added in 1864 to stop the confusion with the State of Nevada. **Carrie J. Wright** is the current city manager, and **Dan Foss** is the Chief of Police. The Nevada City Planning Director is **Jessica Hankins**. The Parks and Recreation Manager is **Dawn Zydonis**. The Finance Supervisor is **Brittnie Neundorfer**, and **Shane Kinne** is the Public Works Superintendent.

The City Attorney is **Dean J. Pucci** of Jones Mayer, and also serves as City Attorney for Bishop and Pismo Beach. Dean is the son of **Rick F. Pucci**, former Bishop city administrator and former member of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors.



Carrie J. Wright, city manager served in the Economic Development Department in the city of Stockton from July 2019 to 2025. When she left Stockton, she was the Director of Economic Development. She took the Chief

Strategy Officer position with Sage Strategies, a Sacramento-based consulting firm in the private sector in April 2025, Carrie returned to city government in March 2026 as the city manager for Nevada City. Carrie began her working career as a small business owner after graduating from college. She also worked for the California State Fair (Cal Expo), and the UC Davis Alumni Association. Carrie earned a BA from the University of California, Davis. Carrie succeeded Nevada City Interim City Manager **Joan Phillippe**, who took over after the resignation of former city manager **Sean Grayson**.

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Former city managers **Bill Crowe**, **Jack Simpson** and **Lloyd de Llamas**, who is also a co-founder of **HdL Companies** with the late former Commerce city administrator **Robert Hinderliter**. The picture was taken at a "Proof of Life" lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. The next "Proof of Life" program lunch is planned for **Thursday, June 25, 2026**. Please save the date and prepare to RSVP your attendance to:
www.trackdownmanagement.net



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California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco

Former city manager who worked in Nevada City include **Gene Albaugh**. Gene served as the Nevada County first County Executive Officer until 1992. Gene retired as the city manager in Nevada City in 2011. In 2007 Gene served as the Interim Chief Finance Office for the city of Folsom.

Berl P. Robinson Jr., a long-time city manager, served Nevada City, and **David Brennan** was the city manager from 2011 to 2014, when he retired.

Mark Prestwich, who has retired from the city of Hemet, served Nevada City from 2014 to 2017. Mark began his career as a Staff Analyst for the League of California Cities (1995-1997). After working on the staffs of Napa and Sacramento, Mark went to Nevada City as city manager. He served as City Manager in St. Helena (2017-2022) and Palos Verdes Estates (2022-2023) before he was hired by his home city of Hemet.

Catrina Olson was named city manager for Nevada City in 2018, and she moved on in 2021. Catrina served as Deputy Finance Director for the city of Grass Valley. **Joan Phillipe** served two a stints as Interim City Manager in 2021-2022, and 2025-2026. **Sean Grayson** served as city manager from 2022 until September 2025. Sean previously served as the Rialto Fire Chief (2014-2022). He started his career as a firefighter in 1994. Sean and his wife Vanessa have seven children. He graduated from Nevada Union High School, where he was the valedictorian.



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Gonzalo Vazquez and **Gregory Korduner** met by chance recently at the Cypress Costco store.



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California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco



Newark, California is in Alameda County, surrounded by the city of Fremont. The three cities of Newark, Fremont and Union City make up the Tri-City Area. Newark is named after Newark Castle, which is in Port Glasgow, Scotland. In 1878 The Pacific Land Investment Company purchased the land that was subdivided to form the town of Newark. In 1953, in fear of being annexed by the city of Hayward, incorporation plans were pursued. The Fremont incorporation moved forward, but in September 1955 Newark incorporated prior to the completion of the Fremont action. Newark is at the edge of Silicon Valley. The former Leslie Salt, now Cargill Salt, operates a large salt refinery in Newark. The 2020 population is 47,529. **David J. Benoun** is city manager, **Lenka Hovorka** is the Assistant City Manager, and **Laurie Gebhard** is the Assistant to the City Manager. The Community Development Director is **Steven M. Turner**, and the Finance Director is **Krysten Lee**. **Brittney Frye** is the Newark Human Resources Director, and the City Clerk is **Neetu Salwan**. **Diana Cangco** is the Principal Civil Engineer for the city of Newark. The city employs 114 individuals.



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Michael Colantuono is Managing Shareholder, and currently is City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley. Michael is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and he is a leading expert in local government legal issues.

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



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California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco



City of Newark resident and city manager **David J. Benoun** served as the city's City Attorney from April 2012 to December 2018, when he was appointed City Manager. As of January 2026, David was the second longest-serving city manager in Alameda County. David earned a BA in political science from the University of California, Berkeley and a JD, Law from the University of San Francisco School of Law.



Assistant City Manager **Lenka Hovorka** began her public service with the City of Newark in 1997. She worked a variety of positions in the Recreation and Community Services Department, Human Resources Department, and the Public Works Department, where she was a Senior Administrative Analyst. In 2014 she took a senior position with the City of Redwood City in their Human Resources Department. She also worked as the administrative Services Director for Menlo Park. She earned a BS from San Diego State University.



Jack Simpson and former city manager and **Brandywine Homes** founder **James Barisic**. These two were Interns for the City of Paramount in 1965.



Jonathan Royas, Santa Paula, President
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California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco

Legendary **John H. Nail** served as the city manager for the city of Newark from May 1956 until December 1964, and **Bruce A. Altman** was city manager from April 1, 1965, to July 1968. John was Newark's first city manager following incorporation. He also served as the city manager in Monterey (1970-1986) where he retired in 1986. He also served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Berkeley. John passed away in 1978. The City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities established the "John H. Nail Memorial Award" in 1978 to honor John's integrity and dedication. The award is presented annually to a deserving municipal assistant or city manager. **Colette Curtis**, Assistant to the Town Manager in Paradise was the 2025 winner, and **Randy Murphy**, Solvang City Manager got the award in 2026.

Richard Wayne Turnlund served as Newark city manager from January 1969 until September 1989, when he retired. Wayne passed away on January 21, 2015, from Parkinson's disease. Wayne was born in Minneapolis on March 17, 1933. He earned a BA and Masters degree from the University of Minnesota. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1957 and completed active service as a First Lieutenant. He was hired as the first city manager for the city of Roseville, Minnesota in 1961. Following retirement Wayne worked 20 years as a watercolor artist living on Ocean Beach in San Francisco. His wife, **Dr. Judith Turnlund** preceded him in passing in 2009. Following Judy's death, Wayne moved to Los Gatos close to his children and 9 grandchildren.

The next three city managers for Newark were **Paul H.B. Tong** (1988-1996); **Alberto T. "Al" Huevo** (1997-2005); and **John D. Becker** (2006-2018). John retired in December 2018. He currently serves as a member of the Newark Planning Commission. John is a past President of the Newark Rotary Club. John is known as an excellent competitive runner. He has completed in numerous marathons, including the Boston Marathon and the Kona-qualifying Ironman triathlon.



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The family of Atascadero city manager **Jim Lewis** on a tour of the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky in April 2026.



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco



Newman was founded in 1888 by Jewish immigrant **Simon Newman**. Newman is an agricultural community in the San Joaquin Valley in Stanislaus County. When the Southern Pacific Railroad

extended its line through Newman, Simon donated 320 acres for a depot. This caused the neighboring community of Hills Ferry to shut down and most residents and some buildings moved to Newman. The city incorporated in June 1908. Its 2020 population is 12,351. The County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has required the city to adopt an agricultural land preservation strategy. **Michael Holland** is the Newman city manager, and **Mike Maier** is the City Clerk. The Finance Director is **Lewis Humphries** and **Thomas Spankowski** is the Public Works Director. **Alicia J. Mendoza** is the Recreation Director and Community Liaison. The Chief of Police is **Randy Richardson**, and the Fire Chief is **Keith Bowen**.



Newman City Manager **Michael E. Holland** previously worked as the Community Development Director and Assistant Planner for Newman prior to his 2013 appointment to the city manager position. In addition to his managerial duties, Michael also serves as the Newman City Clerk.



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California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco



Newport Beach is in Orange County nestled along the Pacific Coast. In 1870 the areas Anglo-American population grew following a State sale of one-acre plots of land for \$1. A steamer safely docked in the upper bay and the “Newport” was coined for the new harbor, and a wharf was built in 1888. In 1905, the Pacific Electric Railway established a connecting line to the area, increased local development. The city of Newport Beach incorporated in September 1906. The city's 2020 population is 85,239. **Seimone Jurjis** is the current city manager and **Tara Finnigan** is the assistant city manager. **Aaron Harp** is the city attorney and **Lena Shumway** is the city clerk. The Newport Beach Community Development Director is **Jaime Murillo**, and **Jason Al-Imam** is the Administrative Services Director. The Chief of Police is **David Miner** and the Fire Chief is **Jeff Boyles**. The Public Works Director is **Dave Webb**, and the Recreation & Senior Services Director is **Sean Levin**.



Newport Beach city manager **Seimone Jurjis** was appointed City Manager in December 2025 to succeed City Manager **Grace Leung**, who retired. He joined the Newport Beach city staff in June 2011 as the Chief Building Official, and in July 2015 he was assigned the position of Assistant Director of Community Development in addition to the Chief Building Official duties. Seimone became the Community Development Director in August 2017. In July 2023, the Assistant City Manager duties were added to his responsibilities. Seimone worked as a consultant with **Willdan** from 1993 to 1997, and that year he joined the West Hollywood as a Plan Check Engineer. In January 2000 he became the Building Official and City Engineer for the city of El Segundo. He was promoted to Director of Planning and Building & Safety in January 2003. He left El Segundo in 2006 to take a private sector Chief Operating Officer position. Seimone earned a BS in civil engineering from California State University, Fullerton.



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Anthony Gonsalves, President of the firm, is a long time Member of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) Board of Trustees.

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California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco

Newport Beach has had a number of city managers who are/were recognized as highly professional. **Robert "Bob" Shelton**, who passed away in 2016 at the age of 93, served as the Newport Beach city manager from 1956 to 1961. He was appointed to the city council in 1965, and he was elected the following year. His service expired in 1970 after one term. In 1980, Bob was named Citizen of the Year by the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Robert "Bob" Wynn served as the Newport Beach city manager for 20 years, from 1971 until 1991. He previously served as the first city manager for Imperial Beach (1957-1968), and as Coronado city manager (1968-1971). Bob earned a BA and MPA from San Diego State University. Bob was honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce in 1978. Bob passed away in 2013 at the age of 82 following a fall at his home.

Kevin J. Murphy served as a highly popular Newport Beach city manager from 1992 to 1998. Kevin went on to serve as the Chief Operating Officer for PARS. Before his time in Newport Beach, Kevin was the Alhambra city manager for 9 years. Kevin passed away July 21, 2011, following a battle with cancer. **Homer Bludau** was city manager from 1999 until his retirement in 2009, and **David Kiff** served as city manager from 2009 until 2018 after working as Assistant City Manager. In 2018 **Grace Leung** was appointed city manager. Grace served as city manager until she retired in December 2025.



Youth activities promote positive growth; both physically and mentally.

California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco



Norco is found off Interstate 15 southerly of the city of Eastvale in Riverside County. The people of Norco pride themselves as being a “horse community,” and the city is known in some circles as “Horsetown, USA.” The city is marked with corrals, farms, hitching posts, riding trails and ranches. The city’s name “Norco” is a combination of letter that spell “North Corona.” The name comes from the North Corona Land Company. The area was developed in the 1920s by **Rex B. Clark** as a rural community of independent farmers. Rex named the community “Norco.” His dream to keep the area rural got a boost by Orange County zoning out equestrians. Horse people flocked to Norco where rural efforts were protected. Horse ranchers and chicken farmers united to reject all efforts to “citify” Norco. Norco incorporated in December 1964. Its 2020 population is 26,316. **Lisette Free** is serving as the Interim City Manager, covering the position following the exit of city manager **Lori Sassoon**. Lisette is the Director of Finance. **Chad Blais** is the Director of Public Works, and City Clerk is **Dana Roa**.

Never to be Forgotten

Those who attended “Proof of Life” lunches, who have passed away. These city managers should be remembered.

- Darrell Essex**
- Bob Williams**
- William “Bill” Holt**
- Lauren Wasserman**
- Ray Harris**
- Frank G. Tripepi**
- Howard Chambers**
- Mary Strenn**
- Keene Wilson**
- Joe Goeden**
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The late **Mary Strenn** at a POL lunch.



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Lisette Free is the current Interim City Manager for the City of Norco...“Horsetown USA.” Lisette began her working career as an Audit Manager for a private advisory accounting firm in Cleveland, Ohio. In July 2007, she went to work for the County of Orange as a Senior Internal Auditor. After working in that position for more than 5 years, Lisette was promoted the Audit Manager in October 2012, with offices in Santa Ana. She joined the Norco city staff in June 2017 as Accounting Manager. Lisette was selected to serve as Interim city manager in December 2024. She earned a BS in accounting from, Azusa Pacific University. She is a Certified Public Accountant.

“Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present”

---**Jim Rohn**



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California City Executives in Cities from Nevada City to Norco


Norco has been blessed with some highly professional city managers. Historically, prior to incorporation in 1964, **Rex “Scripps” Clark** served as the “town manager” between 1921 and 1928. He was the son of Norco founder, **Rex B. Clark** and **Grace Scripps**, the daughter of newspaper executive **James E. Scripps**.

Simon W. Melendez served as Norco city manager from 1969 until 1976. He was in office when Norco city hall was dedicated in July 1972. He previously served as Assistant City Administrator for San Gabriel in 1962. After leaving Norco, he transitioned to the private sector as a general contractor.

John W. Donlevy (senior) served as the Norco city manager for about 3 years, leaving the post in 1986. He also served as the city manager in the cities of Pico Rivera, Downey, Foster City and Galt. John passed away in 1992 at the age of 51.

Other Norco city manager include **Jeff Allred**, who described Norco as a “butterfly with iron wings”; **Beth Groves** served from 2009 until 2013; **Andy Okoro**, joined the city staff in 2003 and served as Deputy City Manager, retired 2022; and **Lori Sassoon** (2022-2024). Lori previously was Villa Park city manager (2009-2012). She currently works as the Chief Talent Officer for the city of Corona. In 1990 she started her public service career as an Intern in the city of Walnut.





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More than forty years ago, 33 cities joined forces to address their shared risks. They formed the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority to fill an immediate need and to develop a long-term strategy for mitigating the growing risks of their public agencies.

The Authority is governed by elected officials from its member agencies. An Executive Committee, elected by members and guided by the California JPIA’s mission to provide innovative risk management solutions, provides strategic oversight while a professional staff of experienced risk mitigation experts facilitate day-to-day management and execute on key priorities and programs.

Members of the California JPIA have committed their agencies to risk management best practices—including policy implementation, staff training, and operational guidance—that support proactive efforts to mitigate risk. Not merely an insurance solution, the California JPIA’s holistic model positions its member agencies to control costs and remain fiscally strong.

Today, more than 100 public agencies have partnered with the California JPIA to address their risks and implement best practices. Member agencies vary from small, single-purpose entities to cities to special districts. Though diverse in their missions, each member is committed to the implementation of risk management practices and the overall financial health of the pool.



California Joint Powers Insurance Authority

8081 Moody Street, La Palma, CA 90623
(800) 229-2343 | (562) 467-8700

Core Values

Integrity: We hold ourselves to the highest ethical and professional standards. We pledge to fulfill our duties and deliver on our commitments.

Excellence: We pursue distinction with passion. We proactively assess our performance and strive to continuously improve programs, services, and work product.

Innovation: We foster creativity as we explore opportunities and meet challenges.

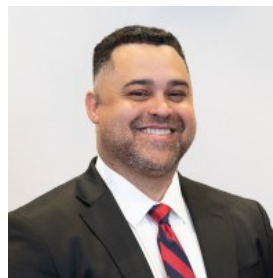
Teamwork: We pursue productive relationships through communication, collaboration, understanding, and respect.

Philosophy

The California JPIA’s philosophy is rooted in its mission to provide innovative risk management solutions, and it is demonstrated through the Authority’s many different programs and services. These solutions comprise the Authority’s strategic approach to risk management, called LossCAP, that enables members to access expertise in insurance, claims, training, litigation, contracts, governmental entity exposures, and loss control.

One of the enduring principles of the LossCAP program is its emphasis on relationships. Such high-level relationships exhibit trust, knowledge, and dependability in the routine interaction between the Authority and its members. This has allowed the Authority to develop meaningful and productive partnerships with members. The Authority relies on regional risk managers who have primary responsibility for these relationships.

Since the beginning, the California JPIA has placed a strong emphasis on meeting the needs of its members. Over the years, the Executive Committee has pledged resources that have enhanced programs and services that fulfill a commitment to unparalleled risk management solutions and services.



Alexander Smith,
Chief Executive Officer,
562-467-8727

CJPIA Staff Team...800-229-2343

Letters and Notes from Readers:



Went deep into the closet today cleaning out the "too many of everything". Found this which made me think how wonderful the League of California Cities was in training "electeds" and carrying the banner for city's. If I recall correctly the 100-year anniversary was held concurrent with the Annual Conference in Long Beach. Champagne flowed into specially customized flutes. It was a time for reflection and celebration. I will always be thankful to and proud of my association with the League. I think it was also the last Annual Conference for **Don Benninghoven**-a great leader with a deep understanding of cities.

---**Jim Marshall**, Retired Merced City Manager

Note: Jim worked in National City, Duarte and Ceres as Director of Planning prior to serving as Ceres city manager (1978-1992) and Merced city manager (April 1992-2008).

I am an avid reader of the newsletter and find it very helpful. I have been in public service full time since 1982 and became a City Manager in 1992, so it is wonderful that "Trackdown peers and retired city managers" honor their tenures and achievements.

This issue which included a paragraph at the end highlighting the LocalGov250 excluded me as a California recipient - **one of only two active California City Managers to be recognized**. Your attention to this would be greatly appreciated with my last name beginning with a Z I'm used to being called or listed last.

---**Chris Zapata**, Sausalito city manager

Note: We sincerely apologize for our oversight. It was not intentional. We wish you continued success.

Another great job, Trackdown (in reference to the Special April 2026 issue). It's interesting and fun to learn the new Managers and hear about old friends. I talked with **Mike Parness** on his birthday, and he is doing great. He brought a lot to the profession. Seeing the picture of **Howard Chambers** and **Anthony Gonsalves** brings back great memories. I am not sure I made it to legendary, but I loved the work and profession. Thanks for keeping us updated.

---**Wade McKinney**, Retired City Manager and past-President of CCMF.

Note: Many concur with our "legendary" decree.



In honor of "Horsetown, USA", the city of Norco. This is **Leilyn Ha** of Lakewood.

It is my hope this finds you, Susan and the entire Simpson clan doing well. Lots of rumors flying about my health. Just wanted to set the record straight. I fell recently while doing swimming pool maintenance at my home. Fell into the pool. Unfortunately, I had drained the water out. Fell about 4-5 feet. Struck my head above my right eye. Luckily no broken facial bones, but the face looks like the "flying purple people eater" we heard in song years ago. Also, no skull fracture or brain issues. I also broke my right hip in 2 places, right pelvis, a bone in my right wrist and right elbow. The hip/pelvis has been surgically repaired. The arm has been in a cast for 2 1/2 weeks, while the doctor determines if I need surgery. Should find out next week. Spent 10 days in a hospital. Now home since March 6. Doing PT 2x a day at home on my own. Also, going to professional PT 2x a week. Life goes on! Appreciate you Bossman and all you did for me more than you will ever know. Stay well Jack.

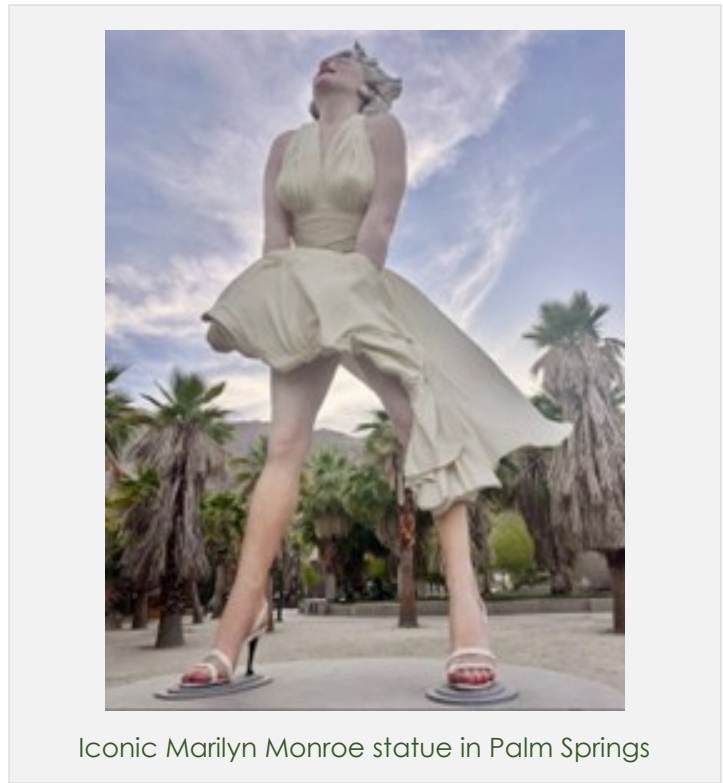
---**Rich Pierce**, Retired Parks and Recreation Director, Bellflower (3-12-2026)



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** Los Angeles County Sheriff **Peter J. Pitchess** and Superior Court Judge **Vince Dalsimer**.

Some considerations and thoughts, just for edification and "remember whens":

As of April 2026, the Billboard Hot 100 lists the number one song in America as "Choosin' Texas" by **Ella Langley**. Ella also has the No. 4 song: "Be Her." **Olivia Dean's** "Man I Need" is number two. Actor **Billy Bob Thornton** is a proud Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, dad. His daughter **Bella Thornton** is a student there. He apparently is loving living along California's Central Coast. Billy Bob has described himself as a "helicopter parent" and lives 12 minutes from the campus so his daughter can easily visit home. Billy Bob, 70, is the lead character on the television program, "Landman". Bella is studying entomology. **Kelsey Plum** is the top player for the Los Angeles Sparks WNBA team for season 2025-2026. Kelsey is a point guard and in the 2025 season she averaged 19.5 points and 5.7 assists per game. Kelsey played at the University of Washington (UW) and was named the 2017 National Player of the Year. **Frankie Muniz**, the star actor of the new *Malcom in the Middle*, *Life's Still Unfair*, is a NASCAR trucks racing driver. He currently balances a full-time racing career in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and acting. Artemis II's crew included commander **Reid Wiseman**, pilot **Victor Glover**, **Christina Koch** and **Jeremy Hanssen**. Their historic travel to the vicinity of the Moon is the first Moon visit in more than 50 years. The Orion spacecraft's flyby took the craft approximately 4,600 miles beyond the far side of the Moon. A recovery team aboard the *USS John P. Murtha* assisted the space crew following its splash down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego. It has been reported that actor **Morgan Freeman** has a 124-acre ranch in Mississippi that he has made into a bee sanctuary. He has brought in about two dozen hives from Arkansas with bees to roam his fields of lavender and clover. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that this will help address the pollinators number's reductions in the U.S. *Michael's Café on Date Palm Drive* in Cathedral City has well established good service, food and atmosphere. This restaurant is a hidden gem in the Coachella Valley with historical décor that includes many pictures of **Marilyn Monroe** and other celebrities of her era. Hot Plate Productions is a production company established by American actress **Kathryn Morris**, best known for her starring role in the CBS series *Cold Case*.



Iconic Marilyn Monroe statue in Palm Springs



Picking Up the Pieces: Riverside city manager **Mike Futrell** was selected to be the new Pasadena city manager starting in May 2026. However, Mike has decided to stay as the Riverside city manager, where he has served since January 2023. Previously, he was the South San Francisco city manager from 2014 until he joined Riverside. Mike is a retired Captain with the

United States Navy, where he served for 26 years. He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal during his deployment to Iraq. South Pasadena city manager **Todd Hileman** was awarded an upgraded compensation package in recognition of his professional performance during his first year as city manager. He is being praised for cleaning up city finances and for building a "fantastic" culture among the city staff. Todd served as Palm Desert city manager from March 2021 to March 2025 before joining South Pasadena. He earned a BS from Arizona State University and an MPA from Northern Illinois University. **Gerry Beaudin** is the new city manager for the city of Alameda, appointed in April 2026. He will officially begin his new position at the end of June. Gerry is currently serving as the city manager for the city of Pleasanton. He started that job in 2022. He succeeds city manager **Jennifer Ott**, who left the city to become the Hayward city manager in late 2025. **Adam Politzer** served as Interim City Manager during the recruitment process. Gerry also served as the Alameda Assistant City Manager from 2019 to 2022. He earned a BA in geography from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and an MS in planning from the University of Toronto.



Archive picture of **Frank Tripepi**, **Greg Korduner** and **Raul Romero**.



More Pieces Picked Up: Michael Jasso

was hired in Sacramento as Assistant City Manager in 2018, one of four Assistant City Managers. Michael came to California from Chicago, where he led the Bureau of Economic Development for Cook County, Illinois. Former

Sacramento city manager **Howard Chan** hired Michael. Effective April 20, 2026, Michael is no longer employed by Sacramento. He earned a BA from Princeton University and an MBA from The University of Texas, Austin. Vacaville city manager Ms. **Savita Chaudhary** was appointed city manager in May 2025 and started the job in June. Savita previously served as the Assistant City Manager for the city of Fairfield. Previous to Fairfield she was a division manager in Vacaville. She succeeded city manager **Aaron Busch**, who retired in May 2025. Savita earned a BS in mathematics and an MS in statistics from Delhi University, India. She also earned an MPA from Golden Gate University. **Linda Haines**, former Director of Building & Safety for the City of Downey, operates Haines Code Consulting. The Lakewood resident previously worked for the cities of Fullerton (February 1975-December 1990) and Cypress (January 1991-November 1997). She went to Downey in 1997 and led the Building & Safety Department for nearly 29 years. Linda is a past President of Soroptimist International of Downey (2023-2024). Compton city manager **Willie Hopkins** was placed on administrative leave on an April 7, 2026, vote. There have been claims of credit card misuse, lack of transparency and existing administrative turmoil. Assistant City Manager **Triphenia Simmons** resigned on December 31, 2025. Willie was appointed city manager in late 2023. He previously served as the Barstow city manager. **Jim McCann** is the new interim city manager for the City of St. Helena following the departure of former city manager, **Anil Comelo**. Jim served as the Calistoga city manager from 1999 to 2010 and Mill Valley from 2010 to 2019. Jim is a 40-year resident of the Napa Valley. Prior to becoming a city manager, Jim worked in planning departments for about 15 years. **Tony Winney** is the Interim City Manager for the City of Lemon Grove, following the departure of long-time City Manager **Lydia Romero**. Tony previously worked as Deputy City Manager in Rancho Cucamonga, and he was Assistant City Manager in Coronado and National City. He began his career working positions in Vista, La Mesa and Poway. Tony earned a BA and MPA from San Diego State University. Tony served as the President of Cal-ICMA (2020-2021). City Manager **Wendy Kaserman** began her Santee tenure October 23, 2025. She previously worked as the Assistant City Manager for the city of Poway (2016-2025). Before becoming the Assistant City Manager, Wendy was the Poway Director of Administrative Services. She served as the Assistant to the City Manager and as Fiscal Services Manager for San Marcos from 2013 to 2016. Wendy started her public service career as an Intern for the City of Casa Grande, Arizona, after which she worked for the League of



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Arizona Cities and Towns. Before moving to San Marcos, she was a Management Analyst for the Town of Queen Creek, Arizona. Wendy earned a BA from Arizona State University and an MPA from the University of Arizona. **Hue Quach** is the new Assistant City Manager for the City of Chino Hills. He previously worked in Arcadia for 15 years, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena. He also worked in finance for Norwalk and Bellflower. He earned a BS and MPA from California State University, Los Angeles.



SHORTS: *Former Hawaiian Gardens city administrator (1995-1997), **Leonard Chaidez**, who also served as Mayor and Council Member in Hawaiian Gardens, lives in Sugarloaf, an unincorporated community near Big Bear City. *Weed city manager **Tim Rundel** has been working to produce a sitcom about life

in the City of Weed, he describes as the "insanities and inanities" of small-town governance. ***Wes Wolf** of **Wolf & Company** was spotted at Tommy Bahama's on El Paseo in Palm Desert having lunch with **Susan Simpson** and **Jack Simpson** of Trackdown Management on April 21. *The Arcata city council, where **Merritt Perry** is city manager, took action to approve a water rate increase and welcome "Weed Lounges." ***Jackie Robinson Day** was celebrated on Wednesday, April 15 by all of the teams of Major League Baseball (MLB). ***Ken Nordhoff**, a Principal with **HdL Companies**, is a former city manager in San Rafael and Walnut Creek, and he was a recipient of the prestigious John H. Nail Award. *Retired city manager **Raymond B. Taylor**, who earned a BA and Master's from California State University, Chico, served the cities of Westlake Village, Malibu and Rolling Hills Estates and after retiring in August 2018 he worked interim assignments for the cities of Beverly Hills and Calabasas. ***Brian Stuart Goodell**, a **UCLA** alumnus and a two-time Olympic swimming champion and world record holder in the late 1970s, is an elected Mayor and Council Member for the city of Mission Viejo. ***Sam Escobar**, who previously served as the city manager for the City of Orange Cove (2011-2017), where **Dario Dominguez** has been the Interim City Manager since April 2025 following the termination of City Manager **Daniel Parra**, has been re-hired by the city. ***Win Westfall**, who worked as city engineer for seven California cities, served as the National President for The American Public Works Association (APWA) in 1997. ***HdL Companies** Principal **Bret Plumlee** is a former city manager for the cities of Los Alamitos and La Puente. *Best wishes to **Rich Pierce** for a swift and full recovery from his "pool maintenance" injuries.***