



HUGH NGUYEN

Orange County Clerk-Recorder

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

WELCOME

Newsletter - March 2022

Thank you for your interest in the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department's newsletter. We will be bringing you periodic updates on the latest news, information and events affecting the department. I am honored and privileged to serve as your County Clerk-Recorder. Please contact my office at (714) 834-2500 or visit us at OCRecorder.com for more information about the department and the services provided to the public.

Sincerely,

*Hugh Nguyen
County Clerk-Recorder*

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Visit us at OCRECORDER.COM



ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

CALL CENTER

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

(714) 834 - 2500



ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER CELEBRATED THREE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH COUNTY BRANCH OFFICE IN ANAHEIM

Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen celebrated the three-year anniversary of the opening of his department's North County Branch Office in Anaheim. The office opened in March of 2019 and has grown busier day by day in serving the needs of residents from north Orange County. The office was decorated for the occasion and light refreshments and snacks were available from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The North County Branch Office is located inside the Wells Fargo Building at 222 N. Harbor Blvd., Ste. 110, Anaheim, CA 92805. Free parking is available in the Wells Fargo parking garage which enters on Broadway or street side in the free 90-minute parking zones.

"I am amazed at how well the public has responded to this office," said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. "The last couple of years have been tough due to the pandemic but our office has been fully open to serve the residents of our county," he added.

During 2021, the North County office issued 9,726 marriage licenses, performed 3,371 marriage ceremonies, issued 44,175 copies of vital records, filed 2,821 fictitious business name statements, issued 1,602 official records copies, accepted 1,726 passport applications, and staff took 1,096 passport photos.

The department's North County Branch Office opened in 2019 after shutting down the previous location in Fullerton. The Anaheim office added passport services, expanded document recording services, and features two marriage ceremony rooms. The office has dedicated free parking in the Wells Fargo Building parking lot and is located close to Interstate 5 and State Route 91 for easy access. The office is also located near many enticing restaurants and food venues such as the Anaheim Packing District and Center Street Promenade.

For more information about the department's various convenient locations, please visit OCRecorder.com or call the information line at (714) 834-2500. The department's information line is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays.



CLERK-RECORDER REDUCES PASSPORT PHOTOS FEE

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen is pleased to announce that he reduced the cost of passport photos from \$10 to \$7 effective Wednesday, March 9, 2022. This will provide a cost savings to the public obtaining passport services from the department without affecting the department's ability to recover costs for providing these services. This fee reduction was possible due to Clerk-Recorder Nguyen's continued efforts to reduce expenses by adopting technology that helps increase efficiency throughout the department. The department currently offers passport services at its North County branch office in Anaheim and at the County Service Center located inside the County Administration South building in Santa Ana.

"With the cost of everything on the rise, I am pleased to be able to offer the public our services at a lower price", said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. "I would like to thank the Orange County Board of Supervisors for their support in my efforts to reduce costs to the public," he added.

The reduced fee means that the Clerk-Recorder Department offers the cheapest passport photos in Orange County compared to many major, local retailers. This is the second time Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen has been able to reduce passport photo fees since taking office. He was successful, in 2017, with getting the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution that reduced the cost of passport photos from \$15 to \$10. In 2019, he began updating the department's passport photo printers and related equipment making it possible for the department to produce the photos faster and cheaper than ever before.

In 2021, the department processed 3,406 passport photos and accepted 5,160 passport applications. Before the pandemic in 2019, the department processed 6,736 passport photos and accepted 10,740 passport applications. During a normal year, the department processes an average of 6,000 passport photos and accepts an average of 10,000 passport applications.

To learn more about passport services available at the Clerk-Recorder Department, please visit OCRecorder.com or contact the information line at (714) 834-2500. The information line is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, except holidays.



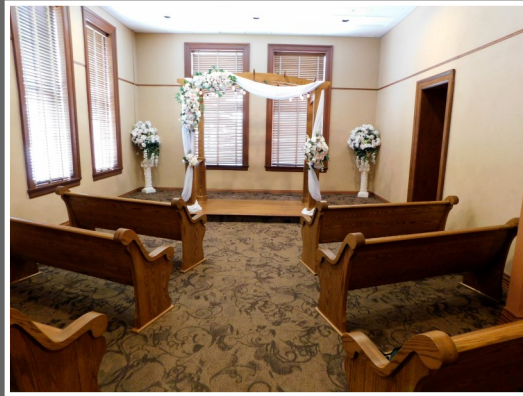
DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND! CLERK-RECORDER HOSTS PASSPORT DAY

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen hosted a special weekend Passport Day on Saturday, April 2, 2022, at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. With people now feeling safe to travel and the upcoming travel season closing in, the time to apply for your passport is now! Due to increasing demand appointments are highly recommended for passport services. All applicants must bring a completed and unsigned passport application prior to visiting the office. To complete an online application and/or to make an appointment for passport services, please visit [OCRecorder.com](https://ocrecorder.com).

“Now that people are feeling safe to travel again, demand for passport services is on the rise,” said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. “Passport Day was the perfect day for busy individuals and families to obtain these important services without having to miss work and to avoid travel delays,” he added.

Clerk-Recorder Passport Days are geared towards individuals and families who can't make it to our offices during normal operating hours due to work, school, or other time constraints. These special openings make the passport process easier for parents, as both parents must be present to obtain passports for children younger than 16 years of age. Currently, processing service times at the federal level can take up to 11 weeks total from the day an application is submitted at our offices so please plan according to your travel needs. Only new passport applications can be accepted by our office. No renewal applications.

To stay informed about future Passport Day events or to learn more about the services offered at the Clerk-Recorder Department, please visit [OCRecorder.com](https://ocrecorder.com) or call the department's information line at (714) 834-2500. The information line is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, except holidays.



WEDDING VOWS TO ECHO AGAIN THROUGHOUT CLERK-RECORDER'S MARRIAGE CEREMONY ROOMS

Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen is proud to announce the reopening of all marriage ceremony rooms at his department's offices effective Thursday, March 24, 2022. After being closed for the past two years due to the pandemic, the Clerk-Recorder Department will resume civil marriage ceremonies inside ceremony rooms located at its office locations in Anaheim, Laguna Hills and at the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana. The department is also increasing the number of guests allowed to attend the ceremonies from one to five guests. Demand is expected to increase, so appointments are highly recommended. For those interested in having a civil marriage ceremony performed at one of the department's beautiful ceremony rooms, please visit [OCRecorder.com](https://www.ocrecorder.com) to complete a marriage license application and/or to make an appointment.

"I am looking forward to seeing couples exchange vows, in the company of their loved ones, inside one of our beautiful ceremony rooms," said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. "My department has been waiting for this day and believe me, so has the public," he added. "It will be great to see couples taking full advantage of all the available and convenient marriage venues."

The ceremony rooms have been closed since March 2020 when state mandated office closures took effect. Currently the department performs marriage ceremonies at the point of service and has also been limiting the number of guests that may be present during the ceremony to one. The reopening of the ceremony rooms will be a welcomed change for all. The department is excited to welcome back couples and their loved ones as they come together to celebrate their special occasion.

The Orange County Clerk-Recorder has the lowest costs for a marriage license and a civil ceremony in the state. In Orange County, couples can obtain a public marriage license for \$61 and a confidential marriage license for \$66. Couples can have a civil ceremony performed in one of the department's ceremony rooms for an additional \$28. They can also prepay \$17 for a certified copy of their marriage certificate.

For more detailed information about marriage services or to learn more about the services offered at the Clerk-Recorder Department, please visit [OCRecorder.com](https://www.ocrecorder.com) or contact the department's information line at (714) 834-2500. The information line is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, except holidays.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of March:

My outreach staff joined the Laguna Beach community and other dignitaries to congratulate Sueños Laguna Beach on their ribbon cutting. I wish them great success in providing unique Latin fusion cuisine and cocktails while featuring a menu of homemade items that include fresh ingredients and dishes.



I had the honor of joining Randy's Donut team at their event and sending our congratulations on their ribbon cutting in the City of Santa Ana. Thank you for filing your fictitious business name at our office in Orange County. I wish you continued success as the most recognized donut shop in the world since 1952.



On March 24, my outreach team was able to join loanDepot to congratulate them on their grand opening event in the City of Fountain Valley, California. I wish them great success while providing mortgage solutions powered by technology and unrivaled customer service to the residents living throughout the County of Orange.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of March:

On March 25, my team joined the Orange County SBDC team and local officials to congratulate The Blessed Braid on their grand opening event in the City of Irvine. I wish them the very best while baking fantastic Challah along with providing delicious kosher baked options to the residents living throughout Orange County to satisfy any sweet tooth.



On March 26, my outreach staff was able to join four new businesses in the City of Garden Grove to congratulate them on their special day. Congratulations to JAR Insurance Services, Total Elite Insurance and Financial Services, Five Rooster and World Financial Group and World System Builder. I wish you all the best.

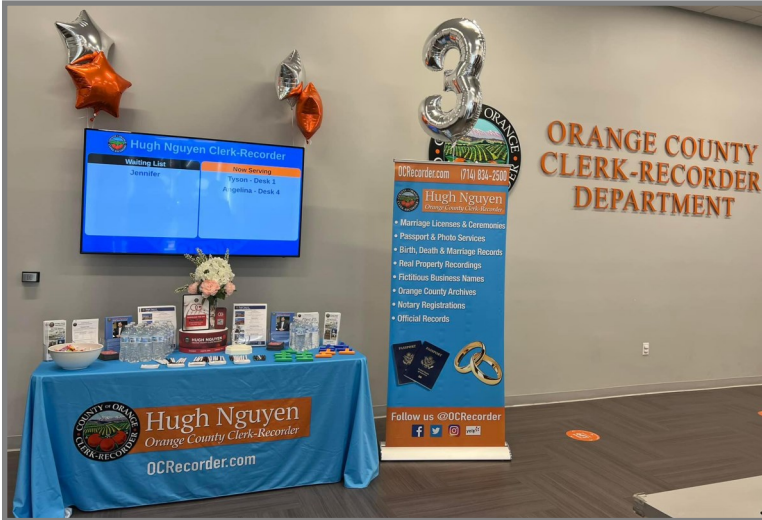


On Saturday, my office joined various scout leaders and parents within the community at this year's Lien Doan Chi Lang Foundation Gold Award & Eagle Scout Rank Court-of-Honor ceremony. Congratulations to the 11 eagle scout and gold award recipients, and to the foundation on their first inaugural female class of Eagle Scouts and having the first Vietnamese American Scout to earn both the Eagle rank and Gold Award.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of March:



On March 1, we celebrated our Anaheim Branch Office's third anniversary. I want to thank all of my staff for doing such a wonderful job and making the Anaheim office efficient while serving the residents throughout the County of Orange. Thank you to all the customers who dropped by for some light refreshments and giveaways. Our North County branch office is always here ready to serve you.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of March:



I was very excited to officially reopen our wedding ceremony rooms after a 2-year closure due to the pandemic. Congratulations to all the couples who were married on this momentous day!



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Orange County Clerk-Recorder

Employee of the Month



Congratulations!
Richard Haro

Dedicated to Providing Excellent Customer Service

Each month we recognize an employee who goes above and beyond their normal duties and offers excellent service to our customers. The Employee of the Month receives a certificate of recognition, has their name placed on a recognition plaque and may dress casual during their month of recognition.

It gives me great pleasure to announce Richard Haro as Employee of the Month for March.

Richard takes a mentorship role with his fellow staff members and has become a respected member of our team. When a supervisor is busy or unavailable, staff look to Richard for guidance and direction due to his extensive knowledge and experience. He is always willing to help his co-workers and does it with a smile and kindness. Whether it is showing a new staff member how to request change from finance or assisting a seasoned staff member on registering a process server, he can be counted on for sound advice. Richard always provides positive feedback and works well with supervisors. He takes pride in his customer service and sets a great example for the rest of the staff to follow.

Richard starts and ends each day with a smile and a positive attitude. He treats every customer with dignity and respect. His demeanor at work is always cheerful regardless of the workload or when dealing with difficult customers. He arrives to work every day before his start time to ensure that he is prepared to assist the public as soon as the doors open for business. His supervisors appreciate his dedication and hard work, day after day. Richard's outstanding work ethic and customer service are assets to the department and a great example for all to follow. We are thankful to have him on our team.

Please join me in congratulating Richard on his achievement!

OCRecorder.com

CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

Our main office in Santa Ana received the following review.
Thank you for your commitment to customer service!

Diana J. Rodriguez

★★★★★ 2 days ago

I went in to get my birth certificate. My experience was amazing! I was in and out within 10 minutes. All the workers I interacted with were so kind and were really helpful!!
100/10

Our Passport Services unit inside the County Service Center in Santa Ana received the following review. Thank you for your fantastic customer service!



Christine N.

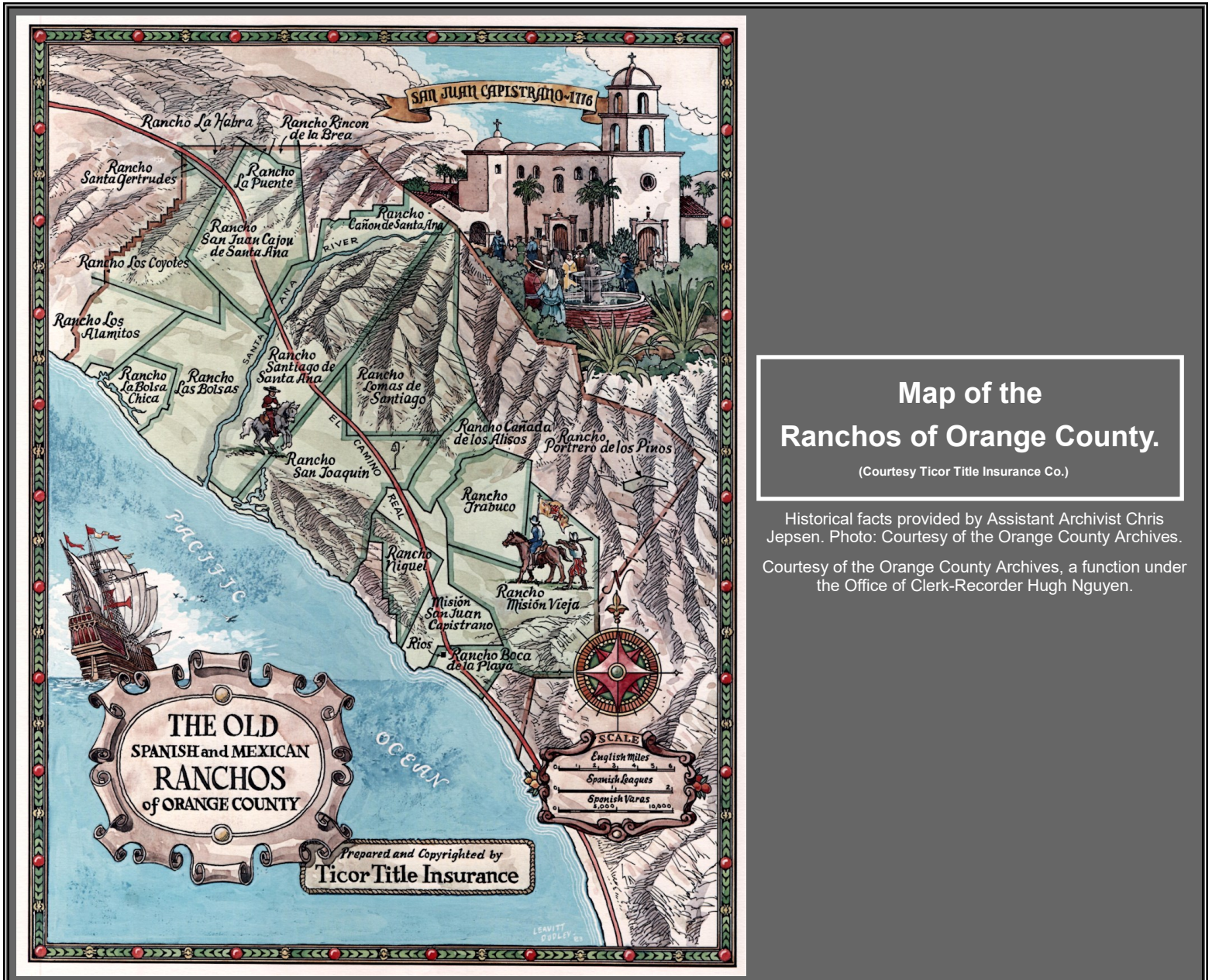
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★★★★★ 3/30/22



This is a fantastic place! Everyone was kind and fast! I got my birth certificate and passport done in 20 minutes! Would highly recommend this place! Forget about usps!

MARCH IN O.C. HISTORY



Map of the Ranchos of Orange County.

(Courtesy Ticor Title Insurance Co.)

Historical facts provided by Assistant Archivist Chris Jepsen. Photo: Courtesy of the Orange County Archives.

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

Mar. 3, 1851

The Public Land Commission was appointed. They would play a central role in "truing up" Californios' property rights (established under the Mexican government), but the process often forced rancho owners into paying large legal fees.

March 8, 1992

Christian Nelson, resident of Laguna Hills and inventor of the Eskimo Pie, died at age 99.

Mar. 10, 1840

California's first supreme court, the Tribunal de Justicia, was formed.

March 18, 1967

Pirates of the Caribbean opened to the public at Disneyland. Its official grand opening followed on April 19th.

Mar. 26, 1825

California became a territory of the Mexican Republic. It remained so for only 23 years.

OUT AND ABOUT



One of my staff took this photo while visiting Snow Valley in Running Springs, CA.

Visit our webpage at: OCRecorder.com

For more information about
the Orange County Archives visit:
OCArchives.com

Follow us on social media
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