



HUGH NGUYEN

Orange County Clerk-Recorder

County Administration South
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WELCOME

Newsletter - October 2024

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

NEWS



Hundreds Benefit from Apostille Services Offered by Clerk Recorder Hugh Nguyen in Partnership with the State California Secretary of State

(Santa Ana, Calif.) Hundreds of people turned out for the one-day apostille service offered by Orange County Clerk Recorder Hugh Nguyen in partnership with the California Secretary of State.

Customers began arriving early to line up to get their apostille at the Clerk-Recorder's office in Santa Ana. Services were offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

By 3pm that day, the California Secretary of State's staff supported by the Clerk Recorder's Office team had processed **over a thousand apostilles**. Additionally, we were able to proudly serve a total of 522 customers and issue 1203 apostilles.

“The first time we offered apostille services last May we served almost 500 people. This time we tried to speed up the service,” said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. **“I am excited to provide our county residents convenient access to apostille services on-the-spot without needing to travel to Los Angeles or mail their requests to Sacramento through this special partnership with the California Secretary of State. This saves our customers time and money.”**

What is an Apostille?

- An Apostille is a certificate that authenticates California public officials' signatures on documents intended for use outside of the United States.
- Documents requiring an apostille include birth certificates, marriage certificates, single status certificates, educational records, and more.
- Typically, individuals seeking in-person apostille services must travel to the California Secretary of State's offices in Los Angeles or Sacramento, or they may mail their request to the Sacramento office.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact Billy Le at 714-834-2248



Celebrate Love Again: Orange County Introduces First Ever Renewal of Vows Ceremonies for Married Couples

(Orange County, CA) Following popular requests, married couples now have a special way to celebrate their anniversaries as Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen introduces renewal of vows ceremonies, a first in Orange County's history. Beginning on October 19, 2024, married couples can reaffirm their vows at the Old Orange County Courthouse, the North County branch office in Anaheim, or the South County branch office in Laguna Hills. For a ceremony fee of just \$28, couples can enjoy a memorable celebration and receive a complimentary souvenir certificate as a keepsake of the special day.

This service offers a wonderful opportunity for couples to celebrate milestone anniversaries, whether it's their 5th or 50th, or to share a heartfelt moment with loved ones, including children and grandchildren. At no additional cost, couples can also livestream their ceremony via Zoom, allowing friends and family, regardless of distance, to join the celebration.

Though symbolic with no legal significance, the ceremony offers a meaningful way for couples to reaffirm their commitment to each other. Whether celebrating a milestone anniversary, recreating a ceremony delayed by the pandemic, or simply looking for a unique way to honor their love, this renewal of vows promises an intimate and unforgettable experience.

"Getting married is an incredible milestone, and I believe couples deserve more than one celebration over the years," said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. "I am excited to provide renewal of vows ceremonies for the first time in our department's history and help married couples add another beautiful and memorable moment to their love story."

There are no residency restrictions, and couples from anywhere are welcome to participate. To schedule a renewal of vows marriage ceremony at one of our department's three beautiful locations, visit [OCRecorder.com](https://www.ocrecorder.com) and click on the "Renewal of Vows Ceremonies for Married Couples" link on the homepage. Walk-ins are always welcome.

For questions, call (714) 834-2500 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For media inquiries, contact Billy Le at (714) 834-2248.

NEWS

Our Special Saturday Opening on October 19 had a spectacular turnout. Our priority with Special Saturday Openings is to make our services more accessible and convenient.

We issued 170 marriage licenses and performed 134 ceremonies while over 1,200 guests joined us for this special event. Thank you to everyone who visited us for passport and marriage services. We are happy to serve you. Congratulations to all the lovebirds who said "I do!" We warmly wish the newlyweds a lifetime of love and endless happiness.

Thank you to my staff across our Santa Ana, Anaheim, and Laguna Hills offices for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Their outstanding work allows us to serve each guest efficiently, while still ensuring the highest quality of customer service.

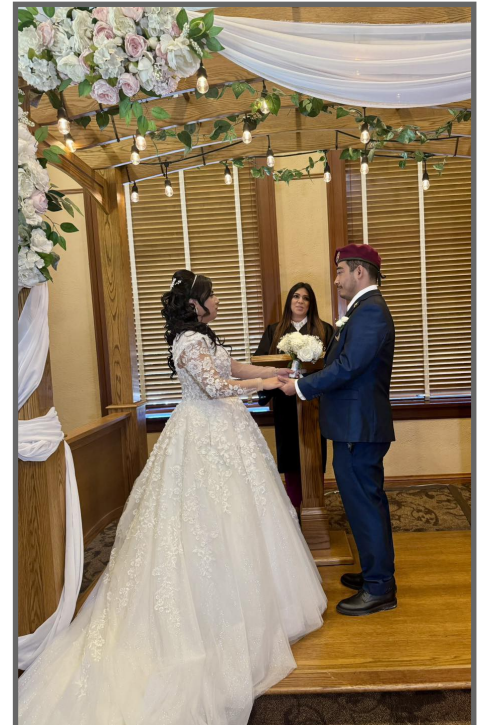


NEWS

Couples and visitors at our office inside the Old Orange County Courthouse were greeted by our special guest, beloved TV host of Mañana Latina on Vision Latina Network, Melissa Martinez!

We were overjoyed to have Melissa join us and bring her personal touch and upbeat energy to each ceremony. Melissa's presence helped make the special occasion extra memorable for our couples and their loved ones.

I would like to warmly thank Melissa Martinez for being our special guest officiant for the day and helping couples on their big day!



NEWS

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hosts Annual Trick-or-Treat Event for Local Pre-School

On Halloween, my department and I were proud to welcome the children "Hands Together" pre-school in Santa Ana to the County Administration South Building for our yearly trick-or-treating event. A tradition of over a decade. In their most festive and creative Halloween costumes, 80 children visited our building for this fun event.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the Orange County agencies at the County Administration South Building and all my Clerk-Recorder staff for their participation and their efforts in making this day exciting and fun for the children. Thank you to the staff, parents, and teachers of Hands Together for coordinating with us to make this event possible.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



On October 1, my team was invited by Anaheim Marketplace to lead an informational workshop with information about our Apostille Pop-Up Shop on October 9. It was also a great opportunity for us to answer questions about passport services, vital records, and more.

We were grateful to meet everyone at this event and look forward to assisting you at our offices soon!



On October 4, my team and I had a wonderful time connecting with attendees at the 17th Annual Orange County Senior Summit by Supervisor Foley and CalOptima Health in Aliso Viejo. We were proud to be part of this event to support our seniors!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to learn about our department's services. It is our pleasure to share information on topics such as real estate fraud prevention, obtaining property records from our department, and more.



On October 18, my team was present at the 16th Annual Alzheimer's Latino Conference in Santa Ana. The event was free for all to attend and included helpful presentations and resources for the senior community.

We were happy to participate and to support our seniors and their families. We provided lots of information about our Clerk-Recorder services such as passport services, vital records, property records, and more. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth to say hello!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



On October 25, I was honored to present a Certificate of Recognition to the De La Rosa family and team for their dedicated efforts to break the Guinness World Record with the world's largest Mazapán!

Thank you for choosing Orange County to share and delight the public with the incredible flavor of this iconic Mexican treat, Mazapán de la Rosa. Your commitment and passion are truly inspiring, and we're proud to celebrate this milestone with you.



On October 25, I was thrilled to join and celebrate the latest class of food entrepreneurs.

Congratulations to all the incredible graduates of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Eats program! The 4th Street Market in downtown Santa Ana was filled with excitement and creativity as these talented individuals showcased their unique culinary creations.

A big thank you to the SBDC for capturing these memorable moments! Wishing each of these new business owners great success as they bring bold, original flavors to Orange County. Keep shining!



On October 30, my team and I were honored to visit and celebrate Mariscos Perlas del Mar Restaurant & Seafood on their 18th anniversary. For 18 years, Mariscos Perlas Del Mar has set the bar high for excellence, while also generously supporting local clubs, organizations, and community events, making a meaningful difference in our community.

Thank you for enriching our civic and cultural life. Here's to many more successful years ahead!

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Orange County Clerk-Recorder *Employee of the Month*



Congratulations!

Dat

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 Dat Thomas as Employee of the Month for October.

Dat is our department's Finance Manager and has become a great asset to our team. Since joining the department, Dat has adapted to her role seamlessly, demonstrating remarkable leadership, expertise, and professionalism. Her analytical skills and attention to detail ensure our department maintains an exceptional auditing standard. She handles department fee studies and cost reports with great care. Her recent completion of the Five-Year Strategic Financial Plan helps our department navigate budget changes while still maintaining fiscal responsibility.

As our Finance Manager, Dat fosters a collaborative environment with her accounting team and leads with great example. Her strong work ethic reflects positively on the productivity of the accounting team. Her friendliness and warm demeanor make her a pleasure to work with, and she can always be counted on to support her colleagues.

We are thankful to work with Dat and are proud to have her on our team. Her hard work and dedication significantly contribute to our department's success.

Please join me in congratulating Dat on this well-deserved recognition!

OCRecorder.com

HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

On Halloween, our team celebrated in full festive spirit! If you visited us, you may have been helped by a wizard, witch, knight, superhero, ghost or even a movie character!

I hope everyone had a safe, spooky, and memorable Halloween!



CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

We received the following reviews from customers who recently visited our North County branch office in Anaheim. Thank you Paulina, Rafael and Anna for always providing A+ service!

Paulina North County

1. Please rate our service in the following areas.

	Outstanding	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Promptness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courtesy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How would you rate our overall service?
(Please circle your selection)

A+ Outstanding Good Average Fair Poor

3. Date of your visit: October 28, 2024

4. Reason for your visit?
Get Death Certificate

5. How long did you wait in line? 5 minutes

6. Do you have any suggestions to improve our services?
Your service is beyond compare, but I wish other offices will be like yours!

Please provide the following (optional) information.

North County

1. Please rate our service in the following areas.

	Outstanding	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Promptness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courtesy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How would you rate our overall service?
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding Good Average Fair Poor

3. Date of your visit: 10/18/2024

4. Reason for your visit?
Passport

5. How long did you wait in line? 5 minutes

6. Do you have any suggestions to improve our services?
Excellent

Rafael was amazing

Super power women

North County

1. Please rate our service in the following areas.

	Outstanding	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Promptness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courtesy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How would you rate our overall service?
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding Good Average Fair Poor

3. Date of your visit: 10-9-24

4. Reason for your visit?
change name

5. How long did you wait in line? 5 minutes

6. Do you have any suggestions to improve our services?
ANA is very proffes services

CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

Our South County branch office in Laguna Hills received the following comment cards. Thank you Rene, Irania and Hazel for always going above and beyond!

Rene + Irania South County

1. Please rate our service in the following areas.

	Outstanding	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Promptness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courtesy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How would you rate our overall service?
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding Good Average Fair Poor

3. Date of your visit: 10/16/24 *plus 3 prior visits*

4. Reason for your visit?
Title Transfer

5. How long did you wait in line? 0 minutes

6. Do you have any suggestions to improve our services?
NO perfect

Hazel South County

1. Please rate our service in the following areas.

	Outstanding	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Promptness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courtesy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How would you rate our overall service?
(Please circle your selection)

Outstanding Good Average Fair Poor

3. In what ways were our Saturday services beneficial to you?

4. Reason for your visit?
Passports Date: 10/25/24

5. How did you hear about our Saturday services?

6. How can we improve our services?
NO improvement needed. Hazel 2 went out of her way, above & beyond ~~to~~ to help us today 10+ service!

Please provide the following (optional) information.

The following online review was from a customer who visited the County Service Center in Santa Ana. I am proud of my staff for always providing exceptional service!

★★★★★ 10/8/24

If metered parking isn't available, there's a parking lot on Broadway near Civic Center. The tall white square/rectangular glass building entrance is close by in the middle of the 2 adjacent parking lots. You go to the info desk inside the front door and check in and wait until someone call your name. I literally sat down for 1 minute before it was my turn. I was in and out in 10min. I think parking is free the first 30min.

OCTOBER IN O.C. HISTORY



Rare interior views of the Orange County Courthouse as it appeared around 1902 – a year after opening. Aside from the Sheriff's office, which was housed in the County Jail next door, all county offices were located within the Courthouse.

- Oct. 1, 1901** County staff first moved into the newly completed Orange County Courthouse, which immediately opened for business.
- Oct. 1, 1945** Angel and Baseball Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew was born in Panama.
- Oct. 7, 1890** The first Orange County Fair opened in Santa Ana.
- Oct. 7, 1920** Harriett M. Wieder, the first woman to serve on the Orange County Board of Supervisors (1979-1995), was born in Toronto.
- Oct. 30, 1775** Construction of Mission San Juan Capistrano began at its original location, farther inland than its current site. Significant further construction was delayed until 1776.

Historical facts provided by Assistant Archivist Chris Jepsen.

Photo: Courtesy of the Orange County Archives.

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

OUT AND ABOUT



One of my staff took this photo while visiting Santa Catalina Island.

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

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

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[@ocrecorder](https://www.instagram.com/ocrecorder)

