

# Orange County NEWS

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Wednesday, March 16, 2022

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## HOLIDAY CRACKDOWN

This St. Patrick's Day (March 17), the Garden Grove Police Department will be on alert for suspected impaired drivers and reminds the community to celebrate the holiday responsibly.

Additional officers will be on patrol March 17 from 4 p.m. until 4 a.m. looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

"Have a game plan before you celebrate St. Patrick's Day," Police Chief Tom DaRé said. "Designate a sober driver or make other plans to get home safely."

During the 2019 St. Patrick's Day holiday period, nearly half of all traffic deaths throughout the country involved a drunk driver.

DaRé wants to warn the community that alcohol is not the only substance that can cause impairment. Marijuana, prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs and illegal drugs can all lead to a DUI.

If you ever see a suspected drunk driver on the road, call 911.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The City of Garden Grove, in partnership with Republic Services, will host a series of community cleanup days throughout the city in an effort to help residents properly dispose of bulky items for free.

## DE-CLUTTER!

Residents can dispose of unwanted household items, including bulky items and electronic waste, such as appliances, furniture, mattresses, televisions, printers and computers from 9 to 11 a.m. March 19 at 11551 Trask Ave. in Garden Grove.

This will be a self-service event in which residents will be unloading their own items. The Garden Grove Public Works Department will be onsite to help elderly and disabled individuals who may need assistance.

For more information, visit [ggcity.org/cleanup-days](http://ggcity.org/cleanup-days).

## INSIDE

—La Quinta High School students score high in state competition. See page 2.

—Can homelessness be fixed? Groups meet to tackle the issue. See page 3.

## It's BERRY good news!



After a two-year hiatus, the Strawberry Festival returns on May 27-30. Shown here are beauty queens riding in a parade in previous years.

## Strawberry Festival to return on May 27-30

Patrick "Pat" Catlin, who has been elected to serve a second continuing term as president of the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association for 2021-2022, announced last week that the theme of the 62nd Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival, to be held live during Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-30, will be "Celebrating Essential Workers."

"We are looking forward to presenting our festival live again this year in 2022," Catlin said. "The festival was on hiatus both in 2020 and 2021 during the worldwide health crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has never hap-

pened since the festival began in 1958. Being mindful of the general public's safety in attending our event this year, we will be installing cleansing stations throughout the festival grounds."

"With the addition of my son, Billy Catlin, joining me as my associate in the year ahead, and my mother, Sue Catlin, who is in charge of the VIP Breakfast, three generations of the Catlin family will be working on the 2022 Strawberry Festival concurrently," Catlin added. "My late father, Bill Catlin, also served as a volunteer for the Strawberry Festival for over 20 years. It is a

great honor and privilege to serve as the president of this wonderful organization."

Other 2022 Strawberry Festival Association officers elected include: Andrea Perez, president elect Community Services; Nominations Chair with Taylor Perez serving as Associate; George Skelton, Treasurer/Donations Committee with Suki Carter serving as Associate; and Christine Ball, Secretary/Immediate Past President from 2019-2020 with Robin Suarez serving as Associate.

For festival sponsorship opportunities, visit online at [www.strawberryfestival.org](http://www.strawberryfestival.org)

or contact Steve Moyer in public relations at 818-784-7027 or e-mail [moyerpr@earthlink.net](mailto:moyerpr@earthlink.net).

In the coming weeks, the 62nd annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival will announce its 2022 Celebrity Grand Marshal and 2022 Community Grand Marshal, who will be leading the festival's parade at 10 a.m. Saturday through the streets of Garden Grove.

The festival, held at the Village Green in downtown Garden Grove, features celebrity guests, rides, booths, prizes and, of course, strawberry shortcake and other foods.

## Businessman remembered for activism

Joseph Dibsy was devoted to community, church

By Loreen Berlin

Garden Grove and Buena Park businessman Joseph Francis "Joe" Dibsy, 83, has passed away.

Dibsy was active in both cities with "Sunshine Check Cashing" on Nelson Street in Garden Grove

and Western Avenue in Buena Park. His sons, Francois and Tony, still operate the Sunshine Check Cashing on Orangethorpe Avenue in Buena Park.

A service was held in his honor at St. Pius V Catholic Church in Buena Park and then friends and

family met in celebration of his life at Loma Vista Memorial Park in Fullerton and at the Golden Rose Mediterranean Restaurant in Buena Park.

"All of the good and great qualities Joe has given each of you, see **DIBSY**, page 3



Joseph Dibsy

Courtesy photo



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# Aztecs scholars score big



Courtesy photo

From left, La Quinta High students Emily Dang, Nathan Le and Jennifer Phung finished in the top 10 at the DECA State Conference.

## Five place in top 10 at state conference

La Quinta High School students Nathan Le and Jennifer Phung will head to Atlanta in April to show off their business expertise at the DECA International Career Development Conference.

The pair qualified for the international competition after placing in the top five at the DECA State Conference.

DECA is a Career Technical Student Organization that is co-curricular with the Career and Technical Education Business pathway offered at La Quinta High School.

During the state conference,

students presented business projects in various industry-sector competitions, took industry skill-level exams, attended leadership workshops, heard presentations from industry leaders and took advantage of a variety of networking opportunities.

La Quinta's DECA Club, under the leadership of teachers Jenine Rumble and Nick Ruzzi, had five students finish in the top 10 at the state level, competing against 1,200 students from nearly 40 schools from across California.

La Quinta's top 10 finishers include Le and Phung in the Travel

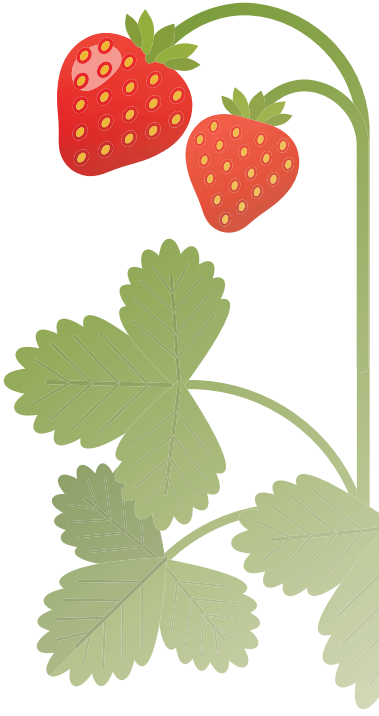
and Tourism category, Emily Dang and Aivy Van in the Quick Serve Restaurant Management category and Fendi Le in the Hotel and Lodging Management category.

During the international competition in Atlanta, Le and Phung will compete alongside 20,000 students from across the globe.

DECA aims to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges, with more than 225,000 members from across the globe.

File photos by Loreen Berlin

The Strawberry Festival features a parade, games, rides, prizes and plenty of strawberry shortcake.



Members of Garden Grove's City Council typically ride in the Strawberry Festival parade. At the very top is Mayor Steve Jones.



## Orange County NEWS

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