

Orangevale View

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A YEAR-END MESSAGE OF THANKS AND HOLIDAY WISHES

As we come to the close of another year, we want to take a moment to say thank you. To our readers, neighbors, contributors, and supporters, we are truly grateful for the trust you place in The Orangevale View.

This year, like the ones before it, has been filled with stories that matter. Stories about the people who live here, the students and athletes who make us proud, the businesses that serve our community, and the milestones that mark life in Orangevale. It's a privilege to share those moments, and it's something we never take for granted.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited to enter our 19th year of serving Orangevale. Our commitment remains the same. We will continue to focus on sharing local stories, highlighting community achievements, covering local sports, and recognizing the moments big and small that make Orangevale such a special place to call home.

None of this would be possible without the advertisers and supporters who believe in the value of a local newspaper. Because of them, The Orangevale View continues to arrive in your mailbox twice each month. Their support helps keep local news alive and ensures that our community stays connected.

We also want to thank our readers for opening the paper, sharing it with a neighbor, and letting us know when a story resonates. Your feedback, encouragement, and continued readership are what keep us going.

From our families to yours, we wish you a joyful holiday season filled with peace, warmth, and time spent with those you love. We look forward to continuing this journey with you in the new year.

With sincere gratitude and best wishes,

Lisa Montes
Editor, The Orangevale View

Brad Tatum
Publisher, The Orangevale View



"Pictured left to right: Tom Sievers, Kim Baker, Rob Crislip, Todd Williams, and Josh Aguirre give a thumbs-up to the hard work and generosity of the Andrew Carnegie Middle School students after delivering 1,000 toys at the Rally4Kids event on Sunday."

CARNEGIE TEACHERS DELIVER 1,000 TOYS TO SHRINERS CHILDREN'S NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Andrew Carnegie Middle School proudly announced the successful delivery of 1,000 brand-new toys to Shriners Children's Northern California as part of the annual Rally4Kids charitable event this weekend. The collection effort was led by Mrs. Kim Baker's AVID students, with generous support from families, staff, and the wider school community. The donation will help bring comfort and joy to children receiving specialized care throughout the holiday season and beyond.

Teachers Mrs. Baker and Mr. Robert Crislip personally delivered the toys to the hospital with the escort of the Ghostbusters of the Ecto Fleet Alliance, West Coast, a community car club that provided a convoy of themed vehicles to make the occasion even more memorable for Shriners' patients and families. "We are incredibly proud of our Carnegie Scots," the school shared. "This achievement reflects the compassion, service, and community spirit our students demonstrate every day." Andrew Carnegie Middle School remains committed to fostering student leadership and meaningful involvement in local service initiatives.



IT'S BACK!
POLAR PLUNGE.

see page 18

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ABOUT THE VIEW



ABOUT THE ORANGEVALE VIEW

The "Orangevale View" – the ultimate, award-winning community newspaper – serves Orangevale and surrounding areas, including Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights, and Folsom, CA. With a present estimated readership of more than 37,000, this FREE paper grows with every issue. It is delivered twice a month to at least 15,000 residents' homes and to more than 100 high traffic locations.

The views and opinions printed within are not necessarily those of Publisher Brad Tatum or the Orangevale View staff. Rather, the views and opinions expressed are those of each individual contributor.

SUBMISSION POLICIES:

Submissions from you, our readers, are always welcome, for this is YOUR newspaper. We await school, church, or sports team materials, anniversaries, births, special occasions, memorials, or other items of interest. Donations are encouraged and accepted for anniversaries, births, and other special milestones and announcements. Publication is at the discretion of the Orangevale View staff.

Requirements are simple:

(1) Acknowledge that either you are the author or you have permission to publish from the original author;

(2) Articles should not exceed 300 words. We like Community Calendar items of 45 words or less.

(3) Format: Microsoft Word format with photos at least 300 dpi JPEG or PDF.

Please use this format so we do not have to send your work back to you for corrections.

(4) The View does not verify the accuracy of your submissions, and in some cases, dates and information are subject to change. (5) Please email submissions, to YOUR newspaper. The email address is editor@ovview.com. It is you, our

contributors, readers and advertisers who make the Orangevale View a newspaper you want to read.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

HOLIDAY BREAK

DEC 20 - JAN 4

JANUARY 2026

JAN 7 • Public Deadline

JAN 16 • OUT TO PUBLIC

JAN 21 • Public Deadline

JAN 30 • OUT TO PUBLIC



Cozy Creators will meet on the second Saturday of each month from 1-5 pm in the Orangevale Library to crochet and knit hats and lap blankets for Roseville Cancer Center patients. Yarn donations at the meeting are welcome. Email 5starcozy-creators@gmail.com for more information.

Polar Bear Plunge- Thursday, January 1st Check in begins at 12:30pm | Plunge is at 1:00pm SHARP Jump into the new year with a quick plunge into the 48-degree water at Orangevale Community Pool, or take a trip down the slide if you dare. Cost is \$5 per person

The Orangevale History Project monthly meetings have been changed to the First Tuesday of the month at the Orangevale Library at 6 pm. Next meeting is January 6th featuring Larry Fritz on the History of Citrus Heights.

OV Community Open House 2026 Sat, Jan 24 | Orangevale Grange 9-11 am |The annual OV Community Open House brings together the entire community for a chance to browse and connect with every service club and community organization. Find out how you can become more involved this year! FREE and all are invited, and will also have a chance to WIN the Epic Raffle Basket



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OV CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering & Engaging Readers With Their Community

MORE THAN BUSINESS: HOW LOCAL LEADERS BUILD COMMUNITY AND EVERYONE RISES

What happens when businesses do more than open their doors, and customers do more than transactions? When they open their hands, hearts, and time to the communities around them?

When writing, I begin with questions like these, but the answers come from those I meet. Their stories. Their actions. Their hearts. This month, three business owners in Orangevale and Fair Oaks reminded me how deeply character drives success. Not just personal success—but collective success. And how beautiful that is. I heard stories of students mentored, hope sustained, strength in consistency, values passed through family, and what happens when customers and community become family.

Cynthia Ellering, owner of Orangevale Dairy Queen, didn't plan to retire into a career of youth development. But after leaving court reporting, and the family downsized locations to their original DQ store, their investment in local schools became the foundation of something bigger.

"If we invest in them, they invest in us," Cynthia told me. "It's reciprocated. That's the goal!"

That investment includes student fundraisers, job opportunities and collaborative events. "About 70% of our hires come from Casa. We recruit there. They leave for college, return in summer, and balance hours around school activities," says Ellering. "We've always had a relationship like that."

Community grew as her students brought ideas - car washes, walkathons, movie nights, football celebrations. Ellering finds ways to say "yes", even when ice cream isn't the answer. "We'd talk through the goal, find

creative solutions." DQ's parking lot became a place where youth gained confidence and families felt seen.

That same spirit fuels Katie Yont, who opened her Allstate Insurance agency in Fair Oaks in 2019. New to Fair Oaks, she dove into everything she could: food banks, Rotary, Helping Hands of Orangevale Fair Oaks, and the Chamber of Commerce. "These groups really are like family to me," she shared. That family showed up when she ran for Honorary Mayor, raising record funds for Rotary grants.

For Yonts, community involvement isn't a marketing strategy—it's a lifestyle rooted in gratitude, inspired by her late father, a firefighter who modeled service above self. That service shows up in the small things: making Valentines for seniors, hosting nonprofit events in her office, being present when people need help.

Dustin Buck, of Buck Wealth Management, echoes that blend of gratitude, purpose, and deep community roots. A Fair Oaks native, Buck began his career young, driven by a desire to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both community leaders who lived the Rotary motto: Service above Self. "If I wanted to see

change," he said, "I needed to be part of it."

His early days were spent head-down, working hard, volunteering, and listening. Through the Fair Oaks Chamber and Rotary, Buck found not only platforms for impact, but lifelong mentors and mentees. Today, he serves as an ambassador to new Chamber members, helping guide others the way he was once guided. Though he never planned it, community involvement naturally became a business advantage. "People want to work with someone they know is invested," he says. "We haven't advertised in 10 years. It all comes from relationships."

These stories reveal a shared truth: when we lead with service, connection follows. Katie, Dustin, and Cynthia didn't wait to be asked. They showed up, paid attention, and looked for ways to say yes. They didn't do it for business—but their businesses grew. They did it because it felt right. Because it mattered.

So what can we learn from them? Start small. Pick one cause that moves you. Join one club. Attend one meeting. Say yes once. Then again. Mentor one person. Lift someone up.

Because seeking to serve first, sets off a powerful cycle. As community becomes family, they return that service back and collectively all grow. As Buck states "What I didn't realize was that it really came back to me 10 fold more. Now, I can help the next generation."

Our future is shaped by what we give today. As these leaders show us, you don't have to choose between business success and doing good. You simply choose authentic connection and service.

You lift me, and I lift thee, and we'll ascend together.

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer community advocate working to inform, empower and engage readers to connect and build healthy, thriving community. Connect with Patsy at PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com



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PUBLIC & CAPRI MARKETS

By Kay Barnes and Hilda Hawkins

The Capri Market on the corner of Hazel Avenue and Greenback Lane had been a landmark in Orangevale for over 30 years. It was preceded at this location by the Public Market. Both owned by Willie Woo and his sons. People who lived or grew up in Orangevale remember shopping there and have a variety of memories.

Willie Woo had been born on July 4, 1882, in Honolulu, Hawaii but went to Hong Kong to establish his family. He came to California in the middle 1930s finally settling in Orangevale in 1939, Willie took a job at the Public Market at the front corner of a paved narrow two lane Greenback Lane and a dirt road Hazel Avenue. In photographs it appears around a car or two widths that could go between the market and the trees. He purchased the market from Cliff Lloyd on five acres in 1942 and paid off the mortgage in 1944. At the corner of the market close to Hazel Avenue was the Hancock Gas Station.

His children came to join him over the years from 1946 to 1950. They lived above the market in a large seven bedroom, two baths with a large kitchen and living area

apartment. He had six sons and one daughter. In order of birth: Henry, Harry, Clarence, Leroy, Betty, Grant, Frank, and Albert. The sons Clarence, Frank and daughter Betty were coming to San Francisco in 1950 due to his impending death and had arrived on a Friday but did not clear customs until Monday. He passed away during the weekend. A cousin in San Francisco took conservatorship of Betty and she stayed with them in San Francisco. She married a man there she had known in Hong Kong.

The youngest Woo sons, Frank, and Albert attended Orangevale Elementary School even in their teenage years. Willie insisted they went to learn English. These large teens had to try fit into those tiny desks. Mrs. Sadie Cable was the teacher. The wives said sometimes another student would be sent with them outside to teach them words. They would point to trees or sky and ask them to repeat. Albert, the youngest, is the only one who graduated from high school. He was Student Body President at San Juan High Class of 1956. Frank completed the eighth grade. After high school Albert joined the service.

When Willie Woo passed away, he had made his mark as one of the favorite merchants in Orangevale. In the Public Market he allowed his

customers to run a tab for their groceries. He talked to all the children and often giving them a treat. He was known as "Grandpa Woo." The brothers continued to operate the store after his death ranging in age from their mid 20s to 16 years old. In 1957, the store was too small to be successful and the products were stacked from floor to ceiling. They decided it either needed to be torn down or replaced. The brothers' decision was to build on the five acres. Grant was the brother who had the vision and managed the planning and building. In 1960 Capri Market, a state of the art, was opened. People would come from all over the area to shop there. The brothers divided the responsibilities for the store. Harry was one of the butchers, Leroy and Frank were the handyman. Clarence handled the liquor; Grant was the businessman of the group and became Manager with Albert as the Assistant Manager. All of them worked six days a week.

Henry suffered serious injuries in an auto accident in 1962. He was in a coma for six months. His brothers contributed to his care during and after his recovery. He would come in and work when his health allowed. In 1985 he sold his shares to the others as his health declined. Both the Public Market and Capri were generous in support of a number of Orangevale organizations with donations or letting them host a Bake Sale in front of the store. (Remember those?)

The wives joined them as cashiers in the store only taking time out to have their children. The wives were the representatives of the store at public functions. They would ask the men to participate but their reply was always, "I have to work at

the store." The children were often at the store with either their parents or visiting with their uncles. Often given a small toy for the day to play with or you could find them sleeping on a bag of dog food in the back or playing with cousins. They had three long term employees Joe Dixon, Lupe Maladondo and Jessica Maladondo.

Other businesses occupied the mall space adjoining the store. Over the years the stores varied but included Capri 5 & 10 with an entrance to the store and was owned by Clarence and his wife, Lorelee. She managed the store with dedicated employees. The Capri Café developed from the donut shop, a barber shop on the Hazel side, Swanson Cleaners, an insurance company, shoe repair, Ming Music Store, florist, Orangevale Library, laundromat, Capri Rexall Pharmacy, Martial Arts, and a thrift store. These businesses were not all there at one time but leased over the years.

By 1985, the brothers saw a need again to refurnish or close. Over the years they had Americanized and took a vote of all. The vote was close and some retired. A couple kept it open until 1987 to sell all the merchandise in the store. In the 1990's they rented space to an Oak Furniture store. It was a popular place for residents to buy furniture. They were there for about ten years. The next action was a ten year lease with the option to purchase negotiated with Evergreen Property which was representing Walmart. The sale was finalized in 2021.

After closing, the brothers took separate paths: Henry, Leroy, and Grant, retired; Clarence and Harry opened Chopsticks Restaurant on Sunrise, which was

sold to employees, Frank opened a yogurt shop in Roseville ran by his son and retired; and Albert bought three 7-11 stores. All Willie's children have all passed, four within the last couple of years.

The grandsons shared this information too. Vacations for them were not one family but always with the families of Grant, Frank and Albert. They never had a babysitter, if no one to care for them at home then they went to the store with their fathers.

Pow Wow Days used the far side of their lot for five years for the carnival area before moving across the street to the Cable property. Their competition across the street was Safeway which closed, then Van's Market and closed and then leased to Wonder Bread.

The surviving wives and children have great memories of the store and adventures.

NOTICE

The Orangevale History Project monthly meetings have been changed to the First Tuesday of the month at the Orangevale Library at 6 pm. Next meeting is January 6th featuring Larry Fritz on the History of Citrus Heights.

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Christmas Cards vs. Christmas Letters

By Jathan Good

Do you still write a Christmas letter each year? Or just send a postcard with a family photo and a cheerful “Happy Holidays From Us” in a font designed to look like you took the time to handwrite the note? Many of us don’t bother with physical mail anymore. I remember receiving my first Christmas email years ago that served as a friend’s formal holiday greeting. I appreciated his reason for skipping paper: “No trees were harmed in the sending of this email, though some electrons may have been seriously inconvenienced.”

But these points of connection—these times of reflection, when we remember our friends, read about their lives, and look back on our own year—are important. When I reflect on the past 12 months and decide what’s worth

sharing, I turn to my online photo albums. I find my favorite pictures always include meaningful moments with others and adventures beyond the ordinary: times of deep relationships and times when life felt FULL.

My favorite Bible verse is John 10:10, where Jesus explains why He came to Earth. It’s not a traditional Christmas passage, but as we celebrate His birth, it’s important to remember why God sent His Son. Jesus said, “I have come so that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness.”

If you’re looking for a full and “abundant” life, follow Jesus. He has more for you! He is the source of life and joy! If you’re looking for friendship and connection, join us at Sunrise Community Church: 8321 Greenback Lane, Fair Oaks. Our Christmas Eve services are at 3:30 or 5:00pm on the 24th.



CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES ON CLARISSA DRIVE

The public is invited to enjoy the 5th annual Christmas Eve Luminaries on Orangevale’s Clarissa Drive. Each year the Clarissa Drive neighborhood sets out lovely luminary candles and lights them at dusk. The luminaries will glow for about four hours. Luminaries have grown and spread from a tradition in the Southwest to a celebration enjoyed by neighborhoods across the United States. While the practice initially was started to shed light during the Winter Solstice, modern-day celebrations often use luminaries as a symbol of hope and peace. The Clarissa residents also invite all visitors to stop halfway down the street at our neighborhood corner firepit for friendly conversation, music and “good holiday vibes”

Submitted by Beverly Manville

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This is the perfect holiday cake from my friend and retired Coleman Elementary teacher, Mary Thomas. This recipe is originally from her grandmother, and it is over 100 years old. She would make it for the kids in the family who did not care for fruit cake.

If you would like to share a favorite recipe or kitchen tip, please send a copy to Suzanne Feblowitz at the Orangevale View (editor@ovview.com). Be sure to include your phone number or email with your recipe in case we need to contact you. If you wish to remain anonymous, just let us know and we will omit your name.

GUM DROP FRUIT CAKE

4 cups flour
 1 tsp cinnamon
 ¼ tsp cloves
 ¼ tsp nutmeg
 ¼ tsp salt

 12 oz. golden raisins
 2 lbs. gumdrops, cut in quar-

ters (no black)
 1 cup walnuts, chopped

 1 cup butter
 2 cups sugar
 2 eggs, well beaten
 1 ½ cups applesauce
 1 tsp vanilla
 1 tsp baking soda dissolved in 1 TBSP hot water

Preheat oven 300 to 325 degrees. Sift dry ingredients together, using part to dredge raisins and gumdrops. Cream butter and sugar. Add well-beaten eggs. Add alternatively portions of flour mixture and applesauce to creamed mixture. Stir in soda and vanilla, then raisins, gumdrops and nuts. Spray small loaf pans with Pam or other non-stick spray and bake for 1 hour. Store in tightly covered container. This cake will improve with age.

Notes from Mary: Use scissors to cut up gumdrops. Use small disposable aluminum pans so you can give them as gifts.



BEST OF ORANGEVALE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF COMMUNITY PRIDE

For the past decade, Best of Orangevale has been shining a spotlight on what makes this community special. The Best of Orangevale 2025, event marks its 10th Anniversary, celebrating not just local businesses, but the people who show up every day to make Orangevale a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Best of Orangevale recognizes a wide range of honorees. That includes community leaders, teachers, principals, coaches, volunteers, youth, and the Citizen of the Year, along with outstanding local businesses. It's a reminder that a strong town isn't built by one group alone. It's built by neighbors, mentors, and small businesses working together.

Nominations opened on December 16 and will remain open through January 9, 2026. Voting begins January 1 and runs through January 31, 2026. Once nominations close, the community is encouraged to rally behind their favorites. Family, friends, co-workers, and customers can all take part in the voting process.

Voting is managed through VoterFly, a platform created

by local small business owner Ryan Griffin. VoterFly is designed to keep the competition fair, transparent, and easy to use. The system evaluates voting patterns to help prevent abuse and ensures that results reflect genuine community support. Its user-friendly design also makes it simple for voters to participate without frustration.

There is one important rule voters should know. Each voter must vote in a minimum of three categories. "I know some folks don't understand the reason behind this qualification," said Lisa Montes, organizer of Best of Orangevale and editor of The Orangevale View. "But it is in place for a couple of reasons. It helps avoid category stuffing and helps promote other local businesses. I tell nominees, share the love. Tell your voters to vote for you and recommend two other nominees you do business with or special person you would recommend."

Eligibility is straightforward and focused on keeping the awards truly local. Business nominations are accepted for businesses located in Orangevale, as well as Orangevale Chamber members doing business in Orangevale. Individual nominees must live, work, or attend school in Orangevale.

The Best of Orangevale website plays an important role beyond the awards themselves. With over 200,000 views last year, the site is designed to stay active long after the event ends. It serves as a local digital directory and resource for anyone looking to find services and products within Orangevale. Think of it as the modern version of the old-school yellow pages, always right at your fingertips. This is why it's especially important for businesses to claim their profile and add complete, up-to-date details so the community can easily find and connect with them.

The celebration will culminate in a Red Carpet, Oscar-themed awards banquet on February 6 at the Orangevale Recreation and Park District. Attendees can expect a glamorous evening worthy of the milestone. As part of the celebration, guests will also have the opportunity to win a trip for two to Mexico, adding a little extra excitement to an already memorable night.

Best of Orangevale was launched 10 years ago by The Orangevale View with a simple goal: support the community and showcase the businesses and individuals who help it thrive. That mission remains unchanged. The ongoing partnership with the Orangevale Chamber is an important part of the event, as the Chamber's mission closely aligns with the purpose behind Best of Orangevale.

At its heart, Best of Orangevale is about recognition, connection, and pride. It's about pausing to say thank you to the people and businesses that make Orangevale feel like home, and inviting the entire community to be part of that celebration. To learn more, submit nominations, or vote, visit bestoforangevale.com.



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Allison Krepich

CASA ROBLE STUDENTS SHOW UP STRONG AT THE CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

Casa Roble had a strong presence at the California International Marathon in early December, with student-athletes stepping outside their comfort zones and taking on one of the most demanding races around.

A big shout-out goes to Casa Roble senior Allison Krepich, who tackled the full marathon and absolutely crushed it. Allison isn't a track or cross-country runner . . . she's a standout from the Casa swim team and water polo program who decided to take on a new challenge and delivered an impressive performance from start to finish.

Casa Roble was also represented in the CIM Relay, where seniors Wilson Pollock and Corbin Faircloth from the Rams cross country team teamed up to take on the course. Each ran half of the marathon, finishing together with an impressive time of 3:07:39.

Congratulations to Allison, Wilson, and Corbin, and to all Casa Roble athletes who represented the Rams at the California International Marathon. Another reminder that the Casa Rams continue to raise the bar, on campus and beyond.

Article and Photo by MaryAnne Povey



Photo provide by Erin Pollock -Wilson Pollock and Corbin Faircloth



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Nominations

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This year's Orangevale Procession of Lights was the biggest and brightest yet.

With record participation and more decorated entries than ever before, the streets of OV lit up with holiday cheer as families lined the route to take it all in.

From start to finish, the procession was filled with creative displays, glowing lights, and holiday community spirit.

The parade was streamed live in front of the Orangevale Water Company, allowing even more neighbors to join in and enjoy the festivities from home.

Following the procession, many families kept the celebration going to Dairy Queen to see Santa for photos, enjoy treats, and check out decorations brought by a local car club.

Donations collected through-

out the evening helped support local teens in need, adding a meaningful layer to an already special night.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated — organizers, volunteers, sponsors, and every group who entered the procession. Special thanks to Kathleen and Jason Massae for creating and sponsoring Santa's

sleigh, helping bring extra holiday magic to the event. The Orangevale Procession of Lights continues to grow each year, and this one set a new bar. Thank you, Orangevale, for lighting up the night and making this tradition shine

Photos by Heidi Lettau Photography



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PLACER SPCA SEEKS LOCAL HEROES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Roseville, CA — Placer SPCA is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Hero Awards, to be presented at the Guardian Angel Gala on Friday, March 6, 2026. Each year, these awards honor people, animals, businesses, and organizations that have gone above and beyond to demonstrate the strength of the human-animal bond.

Below are a couple past honorees recognized at the annual Guardian Angel Gala:

•Dr. Tino Leuhman – After more than 100 rabbits were rescued from a Roseville home, Dr. Tino Leuhman, an emergency veterinarian from San Mateo, volunteered her services to assist Placer SPCA with spay and neuter surgeries. She made the 250-mile roundtrip on her weekend off, extended her stay for additional procedures, and returned home to work a graveyard shift, demonstrating remarkable dedication to animal welfare. Dr. Leuhman practices at North Peninsula Veterinary Emergency Care and actively supports exotic, small pocket pet, and bird rescue groups in the Bay Area.

•K-9 Axel – In 2024, Placer County Sheriff's K9 Axel was instrumental in a Granite Bay traffic stop that uncovered seven pounds of cocaine, leading to the suspect's arrest for possession and transportation for sale. Throughout 2024, Axel contributed to

public safety with over 150 deployments, including 30+ suspect surrenders and 50+ arrests involving narcotics detection, stolen vehicle recoveries, and felony apprehensions.

If you know an animal that has made a meaningful impact on people, or a person who has made a difference for animals, please submit a nomination for the Hero Awards by January 25, 2026.

The Guardian Angel Gala is Placer SPCA's premier fundraising celebration held at Sun City Roseville's Timber Creek Ballroom honoring the incredible bond between people and pets. Guests will enjoy an elegant evening filled with delicious food, lively entertainment, inspiring stories, and exciting auctions, all in support of Placer County's most vulnerable companion animals. To learn more about this year's Guardian Angel Gala, visit placerspca.org/guardian-angel-gala.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about the benefits of becoming a sponsor, please contact our Fund Development Department at (916) 872-6162 or email funddevelopment@placerspca.org. All proceeds from the event benefit vulnerable animals in need at Placer SPCA.

About Placer SPCA

Founded in 1973, the Placer SPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of companion animals and supporting the human-animal bond. Today, we are the largest and most comprehensive nonprofit animal welfare provider in Placer County. In 2018 the Placer SPCA opened a best in animal welfare practices Adoption & Education Center and can house up to 4,000 animals annually. In early 2026, Placer SPCA will celebrate the opening of the new 8,800 square foot Veterinary and Foster Care Center, elevating our care for the medical needs of shelter and community animals. The Placer SPCA continues to grow and provide many innovative programs to enhance animal well-being and improve adoptability, such as: environmental enrichment and socialization strategies, behavior modification counseling and training, foster care, and mobile adoption. We also work closely with the community to provide adoption counseling, pet retention services, spay/neuter assistance and education, pet lost and found, humane education, collaborative rescue efforts, and volunteer opportunities.



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Another Spectacular Gathering at the 20th Annual Orangevale Christmas Tree Lighting

By MaryAnne Povey

The 20th Annual Orangevale Christmas Tree Lighting, hosted by OV Parks, drew a record crowd and brought the community together for an evening full of holiday cheer, music, and tradition.

It was a foggy Friday night in December as families gathered to celebrate the season and enjoy one of Orangevale's most cherished events.

Buddy the Elf returned as the evening's energetic host, joined by OV Parks Administrator Becky Herz, introducing performances by local choirs

that filled the night with festive songs and holiday spirit. Adding to the fun, a surprise saxophone performance delighted the crowd and set the stage for the night's big moment.

Santa Claus made his highly anticipated appearance, greeting children and spreading smiles as he asked what he could do to make their Christmas even better.

The evening culminated with the lighting of the community Christmas tree. As the crowd counted down together, Santa waved his magical

candy cane and the towering tree burst to life in a brilliant display of lights, drawing cheers and capturing the joy



of the season. The Casa/Pasteur Band played festive Christmas carols to wrap up the night.

The event was made possible through the generous support of the Orangevale Women's Club, Orangevale Grange, Orangevale Fair Oaks Food Bank, the Orangevale History Project, SCAN, Nothing Bundt Cake, the Orangevale Chamber of Commerce, Moore's Garage, Orangevale Live, and EasyStumps. Their continued support helped ensure a memorable night for the entire community.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Photos by Cathy Kurtz



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POLAR BEAR PLUNGE – NOW SUPPORTING NEW NON-PROFIT

by OVparks District Administrator Becky Herz

The Annual Polar Bear Plunge – a cold dip into the Orangevale Community Pool – will be taking place again on Thursday January 1, 2026, at 1:00pm. The event will have all the community's favorite amenities: experienced lifeguards, water below 50 degrees, an option to ride-the-slide, and warm soup and hot chocolate after the plunge, and "I survived the plunge" commemorative buttons. But this year, the Plunge also has something new: a great cause!

OVparks and the Orangevale Fair Oaks Community Foundation (OVFOCF) have partnered up to create a new non-profit program: the OV Parks Fund. This special program of the OVFOCF has a mission to provide recreation-program scholarships to community youth and support park improvements. The OV Parks Fund is dedicated to creating long-term investments in our community through help-



ing kids access recreation programs, improving our local parks, and supporting health, wellness, and belonging.

The OV Parks Fund became official in November 2025, and the Polar Bear Plunge will be its first fundraiser. Here is what you need to know:

Participation is still only \$5: The participation fee is still small to encourage everyone to splash into a new year with their



friends in the Orangevale community.

New Sponsored Plunger option: Plungers who want to provide extra support to the OV Parks Fund are encouraged to become fundraising sponsors and help collect donations for this great cause.

100% Support to the OV Parks Fund: All funds raised through both registration and donation will go to support OV Parks Fund, and will be dedicated to providing financial support for youth to participate in recreation programs.

Let's work together to make sure cost never prevents a child from joining the camps, classes, and recreation programs that help make Orangevale a strong community. Learn more about donation and/or becoming a sponsored plunger here: <https://cf-ovfo.givingfuel.com/crowd/polar-bear-plunge-2026-ov-parks>

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So out into the fray of the horde of mad shoppers -
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An Amazon Drone coming down in the clear.
The whirl of its' rotor as the landing gear docks-
Its' cargo-claw clunked and it delivered a box.
I'd heard of this drone, though it was but a rumor -
That arial drones would fly TO the consumer.-
All types of items and products and things -
Reducing by half the goods Santa would bring.
And then as I listened out there in the cold -
I could hear the transmissions of trucks as they rolled.
By hundreds and thousands the deliveries surge-
The climax crescendo of quenching the urge.
To each stop and each station the trains and the trucks-
Bring thousands of products making millions of bucks.
"On FedEx! On Postal! And on DHL! -
Away with you BlueDart there's more stuff to sell!"
"On ZipMent on Central and on UPS -
It's a retail bonanza! The Christmas Eve press!"
This went on for hours before it would end -
'Til late Christmas eve when there'd be no time to send.
And then...
it was over....And everything stopped.-
In a matter of minutes every strip mall and shop.
Lay barren, deserted and void of its' fare-
The twilight of magic before St. Nick would be there.
So lonely I stood 'midst the malls overan-
A thought came to my head...how all this began.
Then suddenly.....an epiphany!
All the buying and shopping and giving made sense - '
Could it be we feel guilty and need recompence?
I thought about the tale of the first gift to the world
Of Joe and a baby and Mary his girl
A baby was born so that we might renew -
Not a small thing to put on Amazon review-
The events of the evening must've threw me a twist-
Because I was suddenly home, with family amidst.
My Christmas thoughts turned from this Christmas
dream -
It's clear that this Christmas has deeper meaning.
And then from above though faint and afar -
I glimpsed a bright twinkle from a far away star.
And I swore that I thought I could hear a voice say -
"Merry Christmas to All... God Bless and Good Day".
MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY ONE AND ALL
© Michael Marinoble
December 23, 2016



Orangevale Recreation & Park
District
6826 Hazel Avenue
Orangevale, CA 95662
Office Hours:

Monday-Friday - 8:30am-4:30pm
Phone Number: (916) 988-4373

Reminder: The office will be closed from December 22nd to January 4th. We will reopen on Monday, January 5th at 8:30 AM and will be happy to assist you then!

Top of Tree

The top of a tree looks like
it's giving the middle finger.
Maybe that tree could be
thought of as a clinker,
and maybe the way it looks
could be thought of as a
zinger.
That tree got flocked up;
it's like it's saying "Flock
you".
The spirit of that tree
feels honest and true.

National Giving Month
or Month of Giving (Decem-
ber)
and Christmas trees
that are flocked in December
remind me of these thoughts
(in this poem: they're re-
membered).
A tree can send a message
and plant a seed of poetry.
That tree's gesture: uncen-
sored,
shameless, and
free...

-Z.F. Thrimelj

Upcoming Event:

Polar Bear Plunge- Thursday,
January 1st Check in begins at
12:30pm | Plunge is at 1:00pm
SHARP Jump into the new
year with a quick plunge into
the 48-degree water at Oran-
gevale Community Pool, or take
a trip down the slide if you dare.
Cost is \$5 per person to support
our new non-profit: the Oran-
gevale Parks Fund! All money
raised will go to provide youth
with financial assistance to par-
ticipate in OVparks recreational
programs. Location: Oran-
gevale Community Pool

Save The Date! Ties and Tiaras
is BACK! Saturday, February
28th- 6:00-8:00pm Dinner, DJ,
Photo ops, and Fun! Bring your
special kiddo and dance the
night away. Location: Oran-
gevale Community Center

Upcoming Winter Programs:
Kidz Korner Preschool: Orange

Blossoms - Tuesday & Thursday
| 9am-11:30am | Ages 3-5 Jan
20-Mar 19 ~ Re-Enroll By Dec
29th Little Sprouts - Wednes-
days | 9am-11:30am | Ages 4-5
Jan 21-Mar 18 ~ Re-Enroll By
Dec 29th

Youth Programs: Baby Ballet
(Ages: Walking- 3y) Mondays At
9:00am Pre-Ballet (Ages 3-6y)
Mondays At 9:30am Zumbi-
ni (Ages 2 Months- 4years)
Wednesdays At 10:00am Win-
ter Youth Basketball (2nd- 6th
Grade)

Adventure Crew Day Camp
(Ages 5-12) Feb 16th - 20th

Keep an eye out—our New Win-
ter Activity Guide is coming
soon!

Follow us on Instagram, Face-
book, and TikTok or subscribe to
our E-Newsletter for the latest
updates & more program infor-
mation! @ovparks

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ORANGEVALE VIEW DECEMBER 19, 2025