

The Road

Well Traveled



In these challenging economic times, many of us are concerned about the future. But often we are so busy worrying about tomorrow that we don't take time to enjoy today.

We've heard that life is a journey. And despite my automotive roots, I've often thought of life as similar to a journey on a train. Out the windows we drink in the passing scenes of children waving at a crossing, cattle grazing in distant fields, row upon row of houses, beaches, rolling hillsides, and city skylines.

But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. At a certain time, we will pull into the station. Once we get there, our dreams will come true, and the pieces of our lives will fit together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. Restlessly, we pace the aisles, damning the minutes – waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.

- When we reach the station, that will be it!
- When I'm 18!
- When I buy my new sports car...
- When I get that promotion...
- When I've put my last kid through college...
- When I've paid off my mortgage...

- When the economy finally turns around and my stocks are worth something again...
- When I reach retirement...

... I WILL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

Sooner or later, though, we realize the true joy of life is in the trip. So, we need to relish the moment! This moment! It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad. It is the regret for yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who rob us of today.

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles.

Instead, spend more time with your family.

- Take a walk every day.
- Go barefoot more often.
- Eat more ice cream.
- Swim more rivers, watch more sunsets.
- Laugh more, cry more.

Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough.

Party with a Purpose

The **McKenna Claire Foundation** continues to make a meaningful impact in the fight against pediatric brain cancer through community involvement, awareness, and research funding. The organization has dedicated itself to supporting groundbreaking research and giving hope to families facing childhood cancer.

On May 9, the foundation hosted its "Party With a Purpose" event at the Waterfront Beach Resort in Huntington Beach. The annual gala featured a "British Invasion" theme filled with dinner, dancing, auctions, and community support, all focused on raising money for pediatric cancer research. Guests came together not only for a memorable evening, but to help fund life-saving advancements for children battling brain cancer.

Over the years, the McKenna Claire Foundation has helped fund important pediatric cancer research initiatives and partnered with organizations dedicated to finding better treatments and cures. Through events like Party With a Purpose, the foundation continues to shine a light on pediatric brain cancer while bringing the community together to make a lasting difference.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Jack Van Nieulande**, Sales Representative at **Toyota of Orange**, and son of **Derrick Van Nieuland**, **General Manager** of **Freeway Honda**. On June 6 Jack graduates from the Santa Ana College Fire Academy. Pictured here with his graduating class, Jack has also earned his Firefighter 1 Certification.



Manufacturers Award

2025 was a banner year for our dealerships, winning top honors and awards from all our manufacturers. That is great news for each of our stores. But it is even more impressive when you compile all the awards achieved for the year. As a team we won a total of **30** prestigious manufacturer awards. These honors underscore the strength of our organization and the commitment our associates bring to delivering exceptional service to our customers. Congratulations to the following dealerships for being recognized as the best of the best.

Toyota of Orange Toyota President's Award
Toyota Board of Governors
Circle of Excellence

Toyota of Riverside Toyota President's Award
Toyota Board of Governors
Circle of Excellence

Toyota of H.B. Toyota President's Award
Toyota President's Cabinet
Toyota Board of Governors
Circle of Excellence

Claremont Toyota Toyota President's Award
Toyota Board of Governors
Circle of Excellence

Right Toyota Toyota President's Award
Toyota President's Cabinet
Toyota Board of Governors
Circle of Excellence

Toyota of Las Vegas Toyota Board of Governors
Circle of Excellence

Right Honda Honda President's Award Elite
Honda Finance Council of Excellence
Honda Sales Circle of Excellence

Gardena Honda Honda President's Award
Honda Finance Council of Excellence

Freeway Honda Honda Finance Council of Excellence

Weir Canyon Honda Honda Finance Council of Excellence

Weir Canyon Acura Acura Financial Services Council of Excellence

Mazda of Orange Mazda President's Award
Mazda Drivers of Excellence

Toyota of Puerto Vallarta Kodawari

Swinging for a Cause

South Bay Toyota recently showed its support for the community by sponsoring a special event at Topgolf in El Segundo benefiting Olive Crest. The event brought together community leaders, supporters, and advocates to help raise awareness for Olive Crest's mission of preventing child abuse and homelessness.

Olive Crest is dedicated to strengthening families and providing children with safe, stable environments through programs such as foster care and adoption services, family support programs, mental health services, counseling, and educational resources for both youth and parents. Their ongoing efforts continue to make a meaningful impact on countless families throughout the community.

The evening at Topgolf provided guests with an opportunity to connect, support an important cause, and help further Olive Crest's mission of transforming the lives of children and families in need.

Pictured from left to right: **Jesus Castrejon**, **John Liddi**, **Jaris Kaido**, **Matt Leinart** (Honorary Chair), **Donald Verleur** (CEO of Olive Crest), **Ryan Clements**, **Julian Rusinek**, and **Anna Aiello**.



Pinewood Derby



Contest Winners!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our latest **Trivia Challenge!** We were impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm you all showed. Every participant received a \$25 gift card!

Don't forget to enter this newsletter contest for another chance to win a gift card!

The annual Ocean View School District Pinewood Derby Finals rolled into **Toyota of Huntington Beach** on Friday, April 3rd, bringing together students, families, and community leaders for an exciting evening of friendly competition and celebration.

A total of 45 students participated in the event, showcasing their creativity and craftsmanship. To make the day even more special, pizza was provided for all the kids and families.

At the end of the races, four outstanding winners were recognized with special gifts and medals for their achievements. Every participant received a medal along with a Toyota goodie bag filled with fun surprises, ensuring each child left feeling celebrated for their hard work and participation.

Several special guests from throughout the community, including representatives from the Huntington Beach Police Department, Huntington Beach Mayor Casey McKeon, the Orange County Superintendent, local principals, school district representatives, and proud parents who came out to support the students.

The Pinewood Derby Finals once again proved to be a memorable event that highlighted community involvement, teamwork, and the importance of encouraging youth achievement.



Congratulations to our winners:

- **Kyle Gutierrez – THB**
- **Lorenza Cardenas – THB**
- **Hai Nguyen – THB**
- **Brian Mai – TOO**
- **Xavier Grundaum – TOR**

Operation Easter Basket

Once again, the Easter Bunny recruited extra volunteers this year to help meet the **Wilson Automotive** challenge of creating 1,000 Easter baskets for underprivileged children. Associates, their families, and even community members generously donated their time and talents to make this project a success.

Each basket was filled with Easter goodies, including a stuffed bunny, chocolate bunny, books, hygiene items, coloring books and crayons, small toys, and plenty of sweet treats.

The time and effort involved in shopping for, assembling, and distributing these baskets was tremendous, but the smiles on the children's faces made every moment worthwhile.

Some of the organizations that benefited from this project include:

- 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit
- Assistance League
- Cambridge Elementary School
- Casa Teresa
- Oak View Elementary School
- Olive Crest
- Orange Emblem Club
- Orangewood Foundation
- Patriots for Pendleton

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all the employees and families who helped make Operation Easter Basket such a phenomenal success.



Passionate About Purses

For over 30 years Toyota of Riverside has partnered with Olivecrest in transforming the lives of more than 175,000 children and families. Every year in the U.S. there are 4 million reports of child abuse. Olivecrest's mission is to help "prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening, equipping and restoring children and families in crisis – one life at a time."

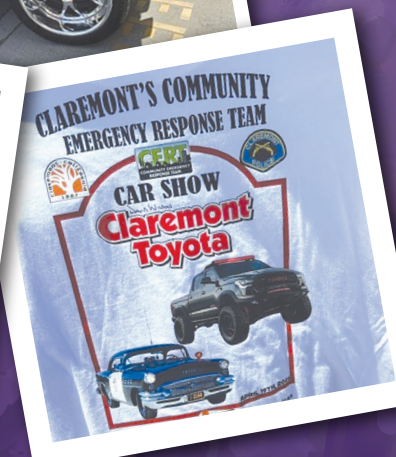
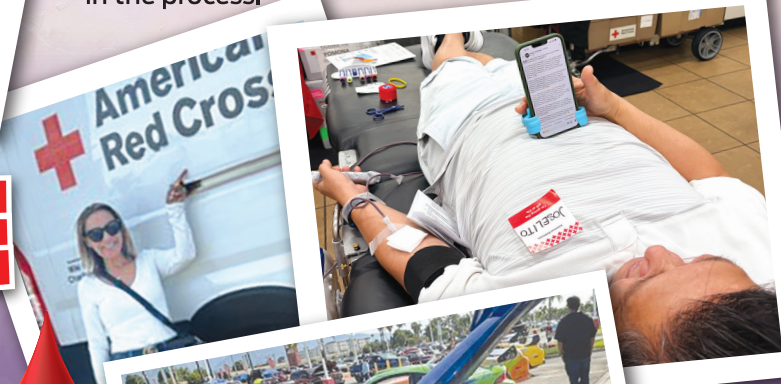
On May 3, **Audra Whitham, Business Manager of Toyota of Riverside**, her team of remarkable women, and Olivecrest teamed up once again for the annual "Pick A Purse" party. Over 300 women descended on March Field Air Museum for an afternoon of lunch, shopping, drawings, and of course the big event. Beyond the fun and excitement of each guest picking out a designer handbag to take home is a strong sense of the purpose of this event. Testimonials from young men and women whose lives have been changed by Olivecrest brought tears to many eyes.

The next big event for the Olivecrest/Toyota of Riverside partnership will be their annual Concert Under the Stars on September 25. For more information on either of these events go to **www.olivecrest.org**. Join us for a night of food and wine pairings from local restaurants and wineries, along with amazing live musical entertainment. You could help change a child's life – and have a lot of fun in the process.

THE GIFT OF LIFE

For the first time ever, **Claremont Toyota** incorporated a blood drive into their annual car show. While fundraising events at our dealerships are a huge part of our culture, this event created an even deeper impact by giving community members the opportunity to help save lives directly through blood donation. According to national Red Cross statistics just one blood donation can help save up to three lives; and someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds. These donations are critical for accident victims, cancer patients, surgical procedures, and individuals battling chronic illnesses.

The overwhelming support and participation of the drive demonstrated the true power of community-involved giving. It is also a clear example of how creative community participation can have an impact far greater than simply writing a check - and reminds us that even small acts of generosity can have lifesaving results.



SPOTLIGHT

Wilson Automotive takes great pride in our many loyal, long-term associates. We have been featuring individuals who have chosen to build a career with our organization. We have even created a questionnaire to help us get to know your outstanding associates better. Please contact Samantha at samanthazavala@dwwco.com for a copy of the questionnaire or to submit an exceptional associate from your dealership.

Cheri Urias

South Bay Toyota
29 Years



When did you begin working at your dealership – and what is your role there? I was first hired in 1997 as the accounts payable/receivable clerk. Over time I learned nearly every position in the office. Eventually I was given the opportunity to work as a finance assistant and found that I loved that role. After a two-month hiatus in 2001, I returned to South Bay as Customer Relations Manager/Finance Assistant.

Passion at Work: What is your favorite part of your job? My favorite part of my job is the people – both my coworkers and our customers. Many of my co-workers have been here even longer than I have, and many of our customers have returned to South Bay for many years. That sense of connection, loyalty and family is what makes this place so special to me,

Beyond the Dealership: Do you have a hobby, talent or interest outside of work that you would like to share? Without a doubt, my greatest joy outside my job is my family. I have a son (32), two daughters (both 27), and my youngest son who is 15. Family time is precious to us.

Fun Fact: Tell us one fun or surprising fact about yourself (something coworkers might not know). My fun fact is Michael! I am surrounded by Michaels! My dad's name is Michael, I also have two younger brothers, an uncle, and a cousin named Michael. Finally, my husband and my youngest son are also Michaels.

Words to Live By: Do you have a favorite quote, motto or piece of advice you would like to share? I wish I had a favorite quote or something profound to share here – but I really don't. I try to love well, embrace life as it comes, and be present in every moment. For me, life is about connection, compassion and making the most of the time we have with the people we care about.

Summer Rhyming Contest

Summer is here, and we're bringing the fun with another exciting newsletter contest! From beach days to backyard barbecues, summer is all about fun and we want to keep that excitement going throughout the workplace as well.

The first 10 submissions will have a chance to win a gift card! We always enjoy seeing everyone get involved. Good luck!

Please submit your entries to:
samanthazavala@dwwco.com.

Directions: Read each clue carefully. Think of a two-part answer that matches the clue. The two parts should rhyme with each other.

1. Cookout with reindeer on the grill
2. Movement of water in the sea
3. Fearless water rolling to shore
4. Place to learn how to swim
5. Slithering creature in the water
6. Journey on a large boat
7. Shiny look from sun protection
8. Criminal who steals fruit
9. March with a citrus drink
10. Sky-colored paddle boat
11. Something unpleasant in warm weather
12. Lethargic summer flower
13. Marine animal exoskeleton lodging
14. Open-air investigation
15. Frozen dessert fantasy

CARIBOU

BARBECUE

Toyota of Orange
Orange, CA

Toyota of Riverside
Riverside, CA

Toyota of Huntington Beach
Huntington Beach, CA

South Coast Toyota
Costa Mesa, CA

South Bay Toyota
Gardena, CA

Right Toyota
Scottsdale, AZ

Toyota Puerto Vallarta
Puerto Vallarta, MX

Toyota of Las Vegas
Las Vegas, NV

Claremont Toyota
Claremont, CA

Right Honda
Scottsdale, AZ

Freeway Honda
Santa Ana, CA

Gardena Honda
Gardena, CA

Weir Canyon Honda
Anaheim, CA

Weir Canyon Acura
Anaheim, CA

Villa Ford of Orange
Orange, CA

Mazda of Orange
Orange, CA

Rockledge Securities
Orange, CA