

# Brea Historical Society Announces to the Brea City Council Publication of a New Book

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The Brea Historical Society, which was founded by a group of Brea residents in 1971 and is a non-profit 501(c)(3), is dedicated to the preservation and promulgation of Brea's rich culture and history including its surrounding areas.



The Brea Historical Society operates the Brea Museum and Heritage Center, a registered historical landmark located at 125 West Elm Street in Brea, which exhibits numerous rare, unique and interesting pictures, history, exhibits, tours, demos, artifacts and much more that educate the community, preserve history and provide a public benefit good to society.



On December 6, 2011, the Brea Historical Society attended the Brea City Council meeting and present were John Bickel—President, Robert Schwarz—Vice-President, Dennis Jimenez—Treasurer, Scott A. Neal—Board Member, Dale Worrell—Board Member, and Veta Schlimgen, Ph.D.—Executive Director; Tim Harvey—Board Member was attending another community outreach meeting in Brea.



**Brea City Council – Dec. 6, 2011**

This was a great City of Brea Council meeting! The Brea Historical Society had the opportunity to speak to the Mayor and Honorable City Council about the Brea Museum & Cultural Center, upcoming events, membership, our new Executive Director as well as announce the publication of our new pictorial book entitled "Brea, Then and Now".

The screenshot shows the 'City of Brea' website with the 'City Council Regular Meeting' agenda for Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at 7:00 PM. The agenda includes items such as 'CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL - Council', 'PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Boy Scout Troop 801', 'INVOCATION - Pastor Dave Rader, Brea Baptist Church', and '1. PRESENTATIONS: Orange County Human Relations Council Annual Report'. The page also lists council members: Roy Moore (Mayor), Dean Schweitzer (Mayor Pro Tem), Ron Garcia (Council Member), Brett Murdoch (Council Member), and Merry Simonsen (Council Member).

For those who did not attend the meeting, the public may view the video of the Brea City Council Meeting on local Brea Channel 3 or via the World Wide Web at [http://brea.granicus.com/ASX.php?view\\_id=3&clip\\_id=627&sn=brea.granicus.com](http://brea.granicus.com/ASX.php?view_id=3&clip_id=627&sn=brea.granicus.com). Please take a moment and check out the video of the meeting.

The first presenter on behalf of the Brea Historical Society for the public comment section of the meeting was John Bickel—President of the Brea Historical Society. He addressed the Brea City Council and commented as follows:



“Good evening Mayor, City Council & Staff. This is Brea Historical night tonight, I think. Here tonight just to bring up a few things that the Brea Historical Society and Museum have been working on this year. First, I’d like to start to introduce our Board members that are here tonight: Robert Schwarz, Dale Worrell, Scott Neal, and Dennis Jimenez; missing tonight is Tim Harvey. Early in the year we had the opportunity and as part of the requirement of our agreement with the city and museum was to hire a part-time/full-time type of a Director. We were able to do that this year: we hired a local woman from Fullerton—her name is Veta Schlimgen and she is here with us tonight; she may want to say some words. It was good timing for us with the new storage unit that was being built where we place our materials, papers, photos, artifacts, that she was able to have a program to log, catalog, and archive things correctly into the storage building so now we know where things are located. She is doing some grant writing for us. A little about her history: [And she may come up to speak a little] She is a graduate of the University of Oregon, Ph.D. in History and she also, I believe, has a Masters in Museum Studies; we are on the right track with her, we are very fortunate to have her and we look forward to continuing her employment with us. A couple of things, Tim Harvey took on the role to put on a pictorial history of Brea, that book is in publication today. We were hoping to make it available for the holidays; it would make a nice Christmas gift. I believe Scott Neal will say a little more about that. On March 10, 2012, we are planning a casino night. We will have more information on that soon. We are hoping to have the Public support on that event. Membership drive: we are always looking for members. I know that a lot of people are probably not aware that the Brea Historical Society exists. We have had quite a lot of visitors that have come by. There are various levels of membership. Museum hours today are Thursday 2:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in dropping by we are usually there. During the holidays, we are closed. I believe that is it. Thank you!”



The next presenter on behalf of the Brea Historical Society for the public comment section of the meeting was Scott A. Neal—Board Member of the Brea Historical Society. He addressed the Brea City Council and commented as follows:

**Scott A. Neal**


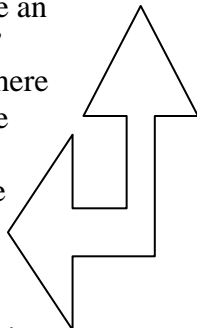


**Board Member**

“Hello Mayor! Hello City Council! My name is Scott Neal with the Brea Historical Society. I wanted to give you a glimpse of what the book is going to look like once printed. This is the preliminary copy. It is a pictorial book of the history of Brea. What is so neat about this is it has and it is basically entitled Brea, Then and Now. So, the idea was to show the old pictures of Brea; for example, we have a couple of nice pictures that are in the book as well. Then, what we do is we will show you a current picture of the different items as well so we can show you then and now. We start out with the indigenous tribes of the “Tongva” that inhabited the area, we go to the Spanish era, the Mexican era, and then we head into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we talk about the establishment of Brea, oil, we talk about education, the war service of our veterans, then we get into the modern day commerce, oil, opportunities and what not. This will be as John mentioned on sale around Christmas probably a little after. But, we’re hoping that the community will like it and we are very proud of it. Thank you very much!”






 Mayor Pro Tem Don Schweitzer asked a follow-up question to Scott Neal about the Brea pictorial history book: “Scott, isn’t there an opportunity for pre-purchase?” Scott Neal replied: “Yes, yes there is. Veta do you want to provide them with the detailed contact information for purchase of the book?”
 

The last presenter on behalf of the Brea Historical Society for the public comment section of the meeting was Veta Schlimgen, Ph.D.—Executive Director of the Brea Historical Society. She addressed the Brea City Council and commented as follows:



“Good evening! My name is Veta Schlingen and I want to thank John for that very generous introduction. You had asked about the pictorial history that the Brea Historical Society is publishing. They are in charge of that, I as Director of the Museum work more on the day-to-day operations. But, I can tell you that the Brea pictorial history is available for pre-order, pre-purchase for \$25, we will arrange for delivery or pickup within Brea. There is an additional fee for shipping outside Brea. It is really, I think, a wonderful volume, a wonderful visual biography of the City of Brea: I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to look at it this evening or come to the museum; we’ll have a draft copy at the Museum for anyone interested in learning more about the book. I also wanted to express my thanks to the Brea Historical Society for this wonderful opportunity directing your local history museum. This museum really does actually have a spectacular collection that documents the history of this city from its founding in the 19 teens up to the present. It tells a very unique story of Brea and how it fits into the larger history of State of California and the United States. For anyone who hasn’t visited the Brea Museum & Heritage Center, I encourage all of you to do so; you can come within the hours that John mentioned or by appointment. Thank you!”





Additional comments were made by Pastor David Rader, who is a Board Member of the Brea Chamber of Commerce and an interjection by Councilmember Ron Garcia, their recordings were as follows:



[Comment] “The other great thing about the book and those old pictures is that you’ll see a shot from the 30s of Councilmen Garcia when he was just a little bit younger.” [Interjection] “Yes, I’m on my horse...” [Comment] “Yes, you can smile Ron, I’m just kidding. I’m here tonight to say; actually, it kind of ties into what already was said. I’m going to be serving as the President of the Chamber this next year. We just had an opportunity last Friday to see; first of all, in 2013, we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> year as a chamber. The Chamber was formed in 1913 by a group of business people that were coming together. So, it will be an exciting year. I think we will be coming over to borrow pictures and things from you guys [Brea Historical Society].”

Final comments on the Brea pictorial history book were made by the Mayor Pro Tem Don Schweitzer, which were recorded as follows:



**Mayor Pro Tem Don Schweitzer &  
Founder of the Brea Historical Society**

“Also, a little more about the book. They talked about the Christmas or the Tim Harvey book for the Museum and City of Brea. I would encourage everybody to get their orders in as soon as possible. I think that they are printing 1,500 books. I’ve already purchased about 1,000. So, there are not many left; you better get your order in. You can go to their website: [www.breamuseum.org](http://www.breamuseum.org) and you can probably order a book right there.”



The Brea Historical Society is accepting pre-orders of its new pictorial history book *Brea, Then and Now*. Also, that night at the conclusion of the Brea City Council meeting, 6 copies of the book were sold as pre-orders by two of the Councilmembers: Marty Simonoff and Ron Garcia. There are a limited number of copies; therefore, please order now! Reminisce down memory lane as you explore both the familiar and unfamiliar places and faces from Brea’s distant past and most recent history.

You will journey into the past some 10,000 years ago when the local indigenous tribe the “Tongva” inhabited the ethnographic area of Brea. Next, you will travel to the Spanish era when California was first discovered by Juan Cabrillo in 1542 and when Portola walked through Brea in 1769 along ‘El Camino Real’, to the Mexican era when Brea was part of “Alta California” under Mexico through the Rancho periods of the Ontiveros family and later Abel Stearns to the modern day era of the 1900s, 1910s, 1920s, two world wars and several others, oil, oranges, opportunity, education, commerce, until today the 2010s.

Furthermore, it is the only pictorial book of Brea in existence. Visit the museum to preview the book today. Each hard cover copy of this limited edition book is \$25.00. Checks should be

made payable to the Brea Historical Society and mailed along with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail to the Brea Museum & Heritage Center. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92822-9764. Books can also be purchased on-line through paypal at the Brea Museum & Heritage Center website: [www.breamuseum.org](http://www.breamuseum.org) under the “Shop” tab.



**Brea, Then and Now. Authored by Tim Harvey & published by the Brea Historical Society, this exciting new book is a pictorial history of Brea from the ancient & colonial times to the present day era illustrating a rare collection of photographs of the people, workers, city, industry, school, churches, and much more! On sale now at the Brea Museum or submit your order by mail. New Edition - \$25.00, including tax.**

*(Add \$5.00 for shipping & handling mail orders.)*



For more information please contact the Brea Historical Society at 714-256-2283 or by e-mail: [breamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:breamuseum@gmail.com). Also, you may visit us on the Internet at [www.breamuseum.org](http://www.breamuseum.org). You are welcome to visit the Brea Museum & Heritage Center located at 125 West Elm Street, Brea, CA 92821. Museum hours are Thursday 2:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (to the public) or by appointment.