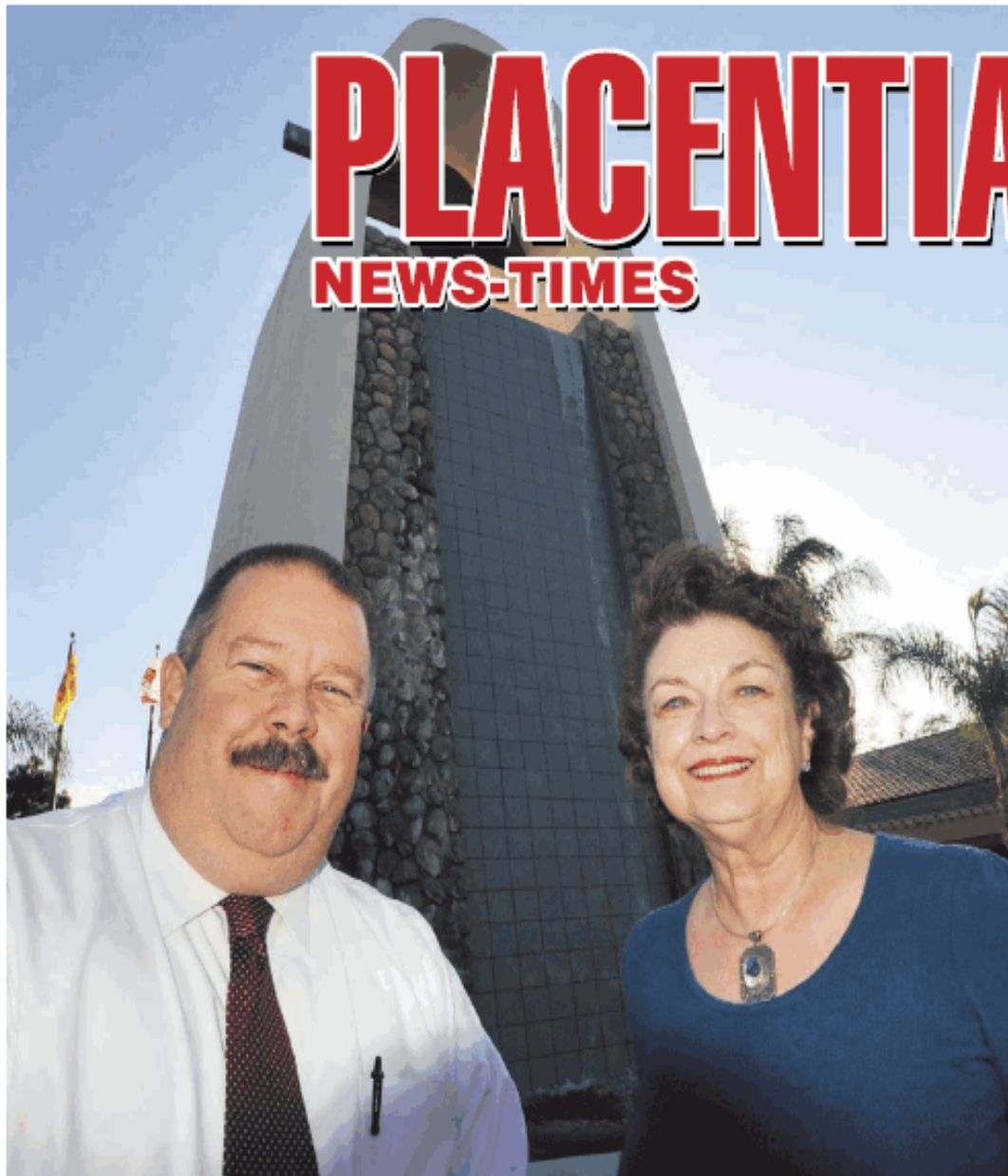




# Placentia Rotarian makes front page!!

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 2009 • AN ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATION • FREE

PNT



Placentia Police Department Capt. Ward Smith and Jeanette Gardner, who volunteer with the Bradford House, share the 2008 Placentia Citizen of the Year Award honor. > ROD VEAL/STAFF

## TOP CITIZENS

TWO RESIDENTS ARE HONORED FOR THEIR COMMITMENT AS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS. PAGE 3

### INSIDE

DRUG DEALER  
SENTENCED  
TO PRISON  
CITY 4

WHAT A DAY:  
INAUGURATION  
TEACHES LESSON  
PEOPLE 7

LOCAL ATHLETES  
MAKE THEIR  
COLLEGE CHOICES  
SPORTS 10



[www.ocregister.com/  
placentia for local news](http://www.ocregister.com/placentia)

Text PEPPIZZA to 555777 for FREE offer

**\$10.99**

EXTRA LARGE CHEESE PIZZA  
each additional topping \$1.75

732 N. Rose Drive, Placentia  
714.572.2100

Not valid with lunch specials or any other offers. Expires 2/5/09



## WARD SMITH



Ward Smith is a true "home-grown quantity," to use his own words. The Placentia police captain was raised in the local school system, and he's been giving back ever since. Smith, a Class of '77 El Dorado High School graduate, was nominated for the Citizen of the Year award by the Rotary Club, even though the Rotary is only the beginning of his community contributions. First off, he spends his life working to preserve the public safety for the city's residents, as a longtime cop with the Placentia Police Department. "Public safety – the policing profession – is a community-based service," Smith said. "But it is a service based around quality of life issues." He is board member with the Boys & Girls Club, where he says he someday hopes to volunteer at more after he retires. "I'm very passionate about that," he said. "It's the roof over the head of some of these kids to not go home to an unsupervised house or an unchallenging environment." Smith said he talked with Councilman Jeremy Yamaguchi, the 2007 winner, afterward last week's awards ceremony, and asked if anything about what you do changes. He said Yamaguchi replied: "You just keep doing what you're doing."

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 2009

PLACENTIA NEWS-TIMES COVER STORY 13

# City names citizens of the year

BY ERIC NEFF  
STAFF WRITER

**W**hether its public safety, city history or keeping kids in a positive environment, this year's Citizens of the Year have found multiple

ways to be local public servants. Placentia Police Department Capt. Ward Smith and Placentia Historical Committee member Jeanette Gardner were named the Citizens of the Year for 2009 at a Jan. 22 breakfast hosted by

the Placentia Chamber of Commerce at Alta Vista Country Club. About 100 guests, including many former winners of the award, looked on as the two were chosen from a list of eight nominees that also included Rosalina

Davis, Gae Wood, Kathi Baldwin, Jeanne Christensen, Rupa Lathiya and Lee Burchfield. Both honorees said they were humbled to be chosen from a list of such distinguished nominees.



**Jeanette Gardner**

Jeanette Gardner has made contributions to the community that have more staying power than most. As a devoted historian of the city of Placentia, Gardner compiled the photos that later became the illustrative art behind "Early Placentia," the history book she did with Lawrence De Graaf. She said she felt great satisfaction her name will always appear on the book that is now one of the handbooks for Placentia's history. "I consider that a great gift to the community," she said. Gardner was nominated by the Placentia Historical Committee. She is also a volunteer with the Bradford House. She said in all the honors she has received for service over the years – she has also been a longtime volunteer with disabled children – that this one is the "crowning glory." "It feels very good," he said. "It really is quite an honor." She said the combination of the competition and the selection by a committee of outsiders from around the county contributed to her being "in such shock" over her selection.



**Ward Smith**

Ward Smith is a true "home-grown quantity," to use his own words. The Placentia police captain was raised in the local school system, and he's been giving back ever since. Smith, a Class of '77 El Dorado High School graduate, was nominated for the Citizen of the Year award by the Rotary Club, even though the Rotary is only the beginning of his community contributions. First off, he spends his life working to preserve the public safety for the city's residents, as a longtime cop with the Placentia Police Department. "Public safety – the policing profession – is a community-based service," Smith said. "But it is a service based around quality of life issues." He is board member with the Boys & Girls Club, where he says he someday hopes to volunteer at more after he retires. "I'm very passionate about that," he said. "It's the roof over the head of some of these kids to not go home to an unsupervised house or an unchallenging environment." Smith said he talked with Councilman Jeremy Yamaguchi, the 2007 winner, afterward last week's awards ceremony, and asked if anything about what you do changes. He said Yamaguchi replied: "You just keep doing what you're doing."