

GARDEN GROVE
CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

During your campaign effort, we will no doubt be contacted by the news media and various community organizations in an effort to obtain information of interest to the general public. Based upon previous elections, the following is a list of very general questions we may be asked. It would be helpful if you would complete this information sheet.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT COMPLETION IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY AND INCLUSION IN THE CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACKET SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A REQUIREMENT OF FILING.

Candidate Name: Steve Jones
(as it will appear on the ballot)

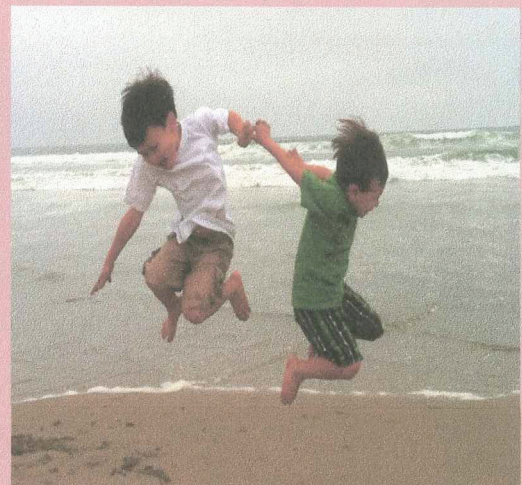
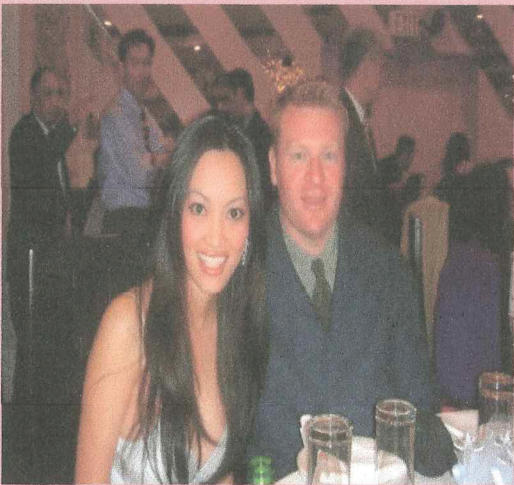
Running for: Mayor
 Mayor Council Member District No.

Contact address: 11542 Montclair Drive, 66 92841

Contact phone number: (714) 813-0752

Business affiliation: Olympia Capital Corporation

Additional comments:
Please see attached.



Bio

Steve Jones is currently Mayor Pro Tem and has served as an elected Councilmember for the City of Garden Grove since 2007. He spent eight years prior on the Planning Commission, with three terms as Chair. He studied abroad at Kings College, Cambridge University, England and then went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from USC in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Marketing. He later returned to USC and earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with a dual emphasis in Finance and Real Estate Development, graduating with a 3.9 GPA and receiving honors for high scholastic achievement. Steve is President of **Olympia Capital Corporation**, specializing in real estate investment, development, asset management, and equity capital syndication. In addition to being a founding Board Member and Vice President of the Association of California Cities, Steve also serves on the Boards of Directors for the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), Acacia Adult Day Services, as Past President of the Garden Grove Community Foundation (GGCF), and is currently President of the Town & Country Estates POA and Treasurer of the Monterey Villas HOA. Steve is happily married to his wife, Manivone, and has two boys, named Jaden and Ashton, ages nine and seven, respectively.

Jones wants to 're-brand GG'

Steve Jones
Office sought: Garden Grove City Councilmember

City of residence:

Garden Grove

Age: 44

Occupation: Asset Manager

Family: Wife, Manivone, and two sons, Jaden (age 6) and Ashton (age 4)

Education: MBA in Finance from USC (2002), Bachelors Degree in Business/Marketing from USC (1992), study abroad program at Cambridge University, England (1988)

Public Service: Appointed to City Council in 2007 when Janet Nguyen became our County Supervisor, elected to City Council in 2008, served eight years prior on the Planning Commission

Why do I want to run for this office?

I have a vision for re-branding Garden Grove by preserving everything special about our "small town feel" while leading us into the future as the large city we have become. I championed the completion of a dog park,

skate park, splash pad, and added exercise equipment in our parks.

These amenities are bringing new family formations to Garden Grove. I have been re-positioning our industrial areas, once vibrant with aerospace/defense operations but now being underutilized, into bio-tech and life science uses that create higher paying jobs in our city. Retailers like Trader Joe's say they need to see higher household income levels, more college degrees, and higher median home prices before they will locate in town. My re-branding vision will make Garden Grove "Trader Joe's Ready" within 10 years.

What do you think are the major issues facing your city and what would you do about them?

Garden Grove is a city that knows how to do more with less. The economic downturn has forced us to cut costs, implement furloughs, offer early retirement packages, and proactively address pension reform in order to maintain a



STEVE JONES
GG city councilman

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balanced budget. We are already beginning to see "green shoots" towards economic recovery as existing businesses are expanding, new business are being formed, and construction permits are being issued. Left to our own devices, the city is doing well. The biggest challenge facing the city is the State of California's budget deficit, which makes local agencies a target for takings of our hard-earned funds. The current city council has fought against the state and recently received approvals for several critical redevelopment projects, including the 600-room waterpark hotel.

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

How far would you go to honor your spouse? Garden Grove councilman Steve Jones became a monk.

By DEEPA BHARATH
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

GARDEN GROVE It's 5 a.m. and Steve Jones is getting ready to go out.

Normally, at that hour he would be sound asleep in his cozy bed – in his Garden Grove home.

But right now, the 39-year-old city councilman and real estate financier is in a remote Laotian village, housed in a centuries-old Buddhist temple and leading the life of a monk. His head is shaved. His body is draped in ochre robes.



He carries a silver begging bowl in his hands. His face is serious. He's walking down a narrow pathway in single file with other monks from the temple down to the village of Pafang. His friend, Roderic Stoddard, who stuck with Jones since their days at Rancho Alamitos High School, follows in similar fashion. Both men feel as if they are on a mission.

"It's such a raw experience when you're actually sent out to beg for food," Stoddard says.

It is the moment both men realize that there is no looking back now.

They walk up to stations in the village where they hope someone will bring them food. If they get food, they'll eat that day.

People stream into the stations that morning. They want to see the "American monks." They want to ask them questions.

Why are they in that little Laotian village? What are they doing in a Buddhist temple? And why do they want to live as monks?

But Jones has no questions about the sacrifice he has made. His mind is as calm and as clear as the Mekong River that flows through the picturesque plain swathed in fertile soil and lush rice fields.

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When he got engaged to Manivone, Jones was elated. The youngest of eight, her parents were Laotian immigrants who had escaped from Pafang by boat and fled the country during a time of internal strife and violence.

Manivone was only 3 years old when she came with her family to the United States. She has never been back since.

Jones was particular that the wedding followed both the American and the Laotian tradition. He held extensive meetings with Manivone's family, planning the 600-person wedding.

It was during one of these discussions that Manivone's older sister came up with the question. "Well, you know that if you have to marry Mani, you need to go to Laos and be a monk at a Buddhist temple, shave your head and cleanse your sins?"

Jones did not know that. But he soon realized the family was having some fun at his expense.

"I was just kidding," his sister-in-law said reassuringly. "You don't have to that."

Jones paused for a few seconds.

"Yes I do," he replied to his shocked in-laws.

Six months after his wedding, Jones set out to fulfill his promise. His mother-in-law made arrangements with the abbot of the temple in Pafang so Jones could live a monk's life there for a week. But before they left Manivone got pregnant and couldn't join her husband.

That's when Jones called Stoddard.

"We were two of a kind," Jones said. "I knew he would never give up this chance to be part of a very unique and rare experience."

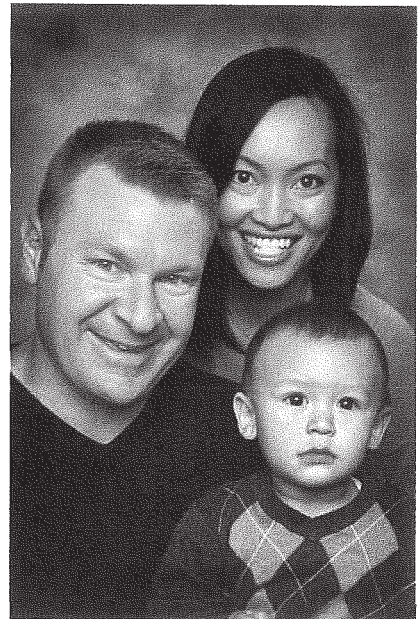
He was of course right about his friend.

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Jones was struck by the beauty of the Laotian countryside.

He watched children frolicking in the Mekong River and the little streams that crisscrossed the village. Farmers were plowing the rice fields. People were sitting by the river with their fishing rods grilling and eating their catch in real time.

When Jones arrived with his mother-in-law and some of his wife's siblings, he got a hearty welcome. He and Stoddard spent one day getting oriented. But the very next day, they were whisked off to begin their lives as monks in the Buddhist temple, which does not normally permit anyone who is not Laotian to live there.



Their heads were shaved. They were given their robes, several yards long, which had to be folded, tucked and wrapped around many times.

The monks ate only two meals during the day – a light breakfast and a heavier early lunch.

They participated in several prayers and rituals during the day and even learned a few chants that were in an ancient language. The entire temple vibrated when the monks chanted.

Some of the larger silver goblets at the altar of the golden Buddha reminded Jones, a hockey fan, of the Stanley Cup.

But he tried to focus on the rituals, the prayers. Sitting on the hard, marble floor with both legs to the side while his hands were folded in prayer was probably the toughest challenge.

He and his friend slouched sometimes and were immediately chastised by the older monks to sit properly, much to the amusement of the teenaged novices, who giggled helplessly.

For Stoddard, the robes were a constant source of apprehension.

"The last thing I wanted was for the robes to fall off when I was outside and the villagers shocked at the sight of a naked white man," he said with a laugh.

They also spent several hours in the afternoon in solitude, the silence punctuated only by the growling of their empty stomachs.

Within a couple of days, the eager foreigners found little projects to do in the temple. They helped clean the temple and put new fixtures in the classrooms where the monks studied.

When the week was done and it was time to leave, the men were ordained as monks and then asked to "resign" the next day.

"I don't think I've ever felt that free," Jones said.

Suddenly, he had the liberty to be able to eat what he wanted, do what he wanted and go where he wanted. Suddenly these choices seemed precious.

What was his first meal as a former monk?

Jones found a McDonald's in neighboring Thailand as soon as they got out. A cheeseburger never tasted better.

But now that Jones is home, sitting on the dais in Council Chambers, discussing the mortgage market and researching the coolest cell phones, he misses the serenity of Laos.

"That week was so special," he says. "It was nothing like anything I'd ever experienced in my life."

When things get crazy in City Hall or at work, his mind can wander back to Pafang – the temple, the river and the green fields.



"It's my happy place," he says.

Jones says the experience has also brought him closer to his wife and her family.

They were not only impressed with his commitment to this experience, but also the seriousness of his approach, his wife said.

"I was shocked and proud that he did it," Manivone says.

Her family was at first skeptical if Jones would survive in the temple. They loved him right from the start, but had to wonder if he would really understand.

"But he did it and it means a lot to our family," she said. "After this, he wasn't just a son-in-law. He is the son."

Contact the writer: 714-445-6685 or dbharath@ocregister.com



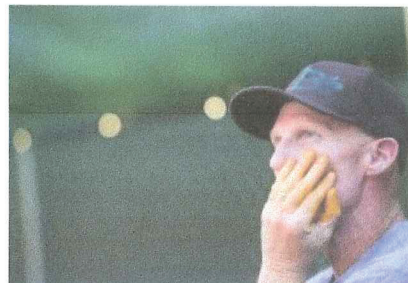
Ex-QB Todd Marinovich continues his comeback with Garden Grove mural

City wanted an artist to paint a mural showing the city's revival. Who better than former NFL pro Todd Marinovich?



Todd Marinovich, the former Orange County high school, USC and NFL quarterback whose career was derailed by drug addiction, paints a mural on the side of the Gem Theatre in Garden Grove on Friday.

KEVIN SULLIVAN , STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





By **MARCIA C. SMITH**

STAFF COLUMNIST

masmith@ocregister.com

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GARDEN GROVE – This city of 175,000 people wants an image overhaul, a Hail Mary pass that’ll tell the world about its agricultural roots, through the generations, and still touch down into today.

Garden Grove seeks a new identity as a vibrant, multicultural mecca that’s renewed, revitalized, thriving, even ... edgy.

So, with that in mind, there’s this wall spanning the south side of the Gem Theatre at Main Street and Acacia Parkway, in the heart of downtown. The wall used to be burnt orange; blah.

City Councilman Steve Jones saw this wall as a reclamation project, a potential billboard for all things that Garden Grove wants to tell residents and visitors.

“But we needed an artist who’d capture what the city wants to be,” Jones said before rattling off adjectives like “exciting,” “edgy” and “reborn.”

Jones, a USC graduate, sought out that artist.

Todd Marinovich is a former USC and NFL quarterback with deep ties to Orange County. His harrowing (and very public) battle with drug addiction, and his resulting police docket, has made him someone a lot of public figures wouldn’t touch with a 10-foot paint roller.

“Exactly!” Jones gushed.

“Can you think of anyone more symbolic of comebacks?”

This wall, like this column, isn’t about the past. It’s about the present and future of a city, and Marinovich, who has reinvented himself as an artist.

We'll skip over Marinovich's controversial, cautionary-tale past as the "Robo QB" bred for football achievement by a controlling father; a guy pushed to the limits before getting lost in demons and drugs.

We won't even ask Marinovich, now 45 and living in Oceanside with his wife and two children, ages 5 and 3, whether he's clean.

Nobody asked before the city commissioned the \$20,000 mural that has consumed Marinovich's attention for three weeks. It will be unveiled Oct. 12 as part of a grand community event, "Re:Imagine Garden Grove – A Downtown Open Streets Event."

Until then, both Marinovich and the 25-by-30-foot mural he's painting will be surrounded and shielded by green tarps and two-story-high chain-link fencing.

Floodlights and a generator on loan from the city's police department illuminate the wall, allowing Marinovich to work late into the night.

On Friday, an electric lift from the city's public works department carried Marinovich 20 feet high on his concrete canvas. He was alone with his art; tall, sun-soaked and shirtless.

His black board shorts clung low and loosely to his hips. A blue T-shirt wrapped around his tightly shorn strawberry blond hair. His arms are slender but still cut, shaking and stretching spray paint cans toward the wall for the hiss and splash of bright color.

"Hello," he said from his elevated perch, sounding somewhat reluctant to have a journalist come by and stir up the old, tired trouble he'd rather cover up with paint.

He descended to street level, patted himself dry with a towel, guzzled a bottled water and lit a cigarette.

"I got chills when they asked me to do this project," said Marinovich, who has no personal tie to the city. "I have some ideas about where I want this mural to go, but I'm mostly letting the art flow."

People drop by all the time, cops mainly, and former fans. They ask him about football; they want photos with him or autographs from him.

Football was another life. Marinovich doesn't throw the ball other than with his children. He doesn't watch college or NFL games; the sport provides him little joy.

“I’m into this,” he said, looking at the giant, still-mostly-blank wall with the image of tree roots extending from the top and digging into the center.

These roots, literal representations of the city’s agricultural heritage, and symbols of the families who’ve lived here for generations, are powerfully rendered. They’re mottled, hundreds of sprayed, brushed and layered strips. They’re as sinewy as muscles. And they evoke a kinetic energy of sorts, as the colors – red, brown, beige, purple, orange, yellow, cooling white – bleed into one another.

No section of Marinovich’s mural is complete. He restrains his impulses to add more color, more motion, more emotion. He checks himself constantly, painting and repainting and pausing, careful not to overwork any one segment. Still, he knows he can always take out the white roller and start over at any time and in any place.

“That’s the beauty of art,” he said. “You can control it.”

Because this is a community project, Marinovich has invited local elementary students to come and paint on the largest piece he has ever attempted. He has incorporated their scribbles, doodles and handprints in the lower sections into the mural, corralling their abstractions into two reptilian creatures.

“Being able to add art to the art just pushes this piece into another direction,” he said, grabbing two spray-paint cans and heading back to work.

He walked to the wall and dotted sections with hot pink. Then he dipped a sponge into a quart of yellow acrylic paint and began dabbing impressions along the bottom right.

Marinovich is making something new out of something old. He has done this for himself, becoming the artist.

A reclamation project doing a reclamation project, Marinovich puts up a wall as the heart of a city seeks its own comeback.

Contact the writer: masmith@ocregister.com

GG foundation introduces prez

Officers also appointed to committee with mission to enrich Garden Grove

The Garden Grove Community Foundation (GGCF) begins the year with a new president and board of directors.

This year's president is Steve Jones, Garden Grove city councilman. Jones is a longtime member of the foundation and former vice president.

"Despite these very challenging economic times, it is our goal to continue providing the same high level of programs and activities that enhance the quality of life for the Garden Grove community," said Jones.

Jones officially assumed his new title at the organization's first board meeting of the year on Jan. 14. Other incoming foundation board officers are: Vice President Jeremy Harris, executive director and CEO for the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce; Secretary Liz Polisar, community leader; and Treasurer Jane Oglesby, community leader and arts enthusiast.

Jones takes over leadership of the foundation from 2011-2012 President Richard Porras, executive director of external affairs for AT&T.

In 2012, the foundation con-



Courtesy photo

Steve Jones

tinued its mission to enrich the community of Garden Grove with programs and events that offered entertainment, enhancement and something for the entire family.

Over 15,000 music lovers attended the Summer Concert Series, held at Eastgate Park, which has become one of the most popular foundation events. Over 2,500 concert-goers came out to the final concert and enjoyed entertainment by the popular Journey tribute band DSB.

The six-week concert series will be back at Eastgate Park on

Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. starting July 11.

Other successful events included the annual Food For Thought Luncheon, along with the Golf Tournament co-sponsored by the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce. It is expected that the ninth annual tournament, scheduled for May 8 at Willowick Golf Course, will be another sell-out event.

Established in 1998, the foundation is a non-profit 501c(3) organization dedicated to providing leadership and resources to enhance community life in Garden Grove.

The foundation often partners with other local civic and community groups that promote a similar mission, in order to assist them in their financial endeavors. If you are interested in supporting the foundation to ensure that these successful programs continue, tax-deductible donations can be automatically added to your water bill as a pre-designated line item.

For more information, visit the foundation website at <http://www.ggcf.com> or contact the foundation office at 714-741-5280.