



## POLB Project Keeps on Trucking

This November, Rasmussen will complete work on the Harbor Scenic Drive project for the Port of Long Beach.

The nearly \$6 million project, run by Project Manager Tom Morrison and Project Engineer Jesse Gonzalez, involved many traffic pattern changes and challenges with truck traffic leading in and out of the Port.

To accommodate the trucks and keep commerce moving in and out of the area, the Port required at least three lanes in each direction to remain open at all times. This meant that concrete paving along Pier J Way had to be completed in sections, rather than doing it all at once.

With nearly a dozen phases of construction, traffic patterns changed at several intervals since the project began in October 2017. This called for night and weekend work to move K-rail and closed traffic lanes without impacting Port traffic.



Another large aspect of the job was a new roadway drainage system. "The existing system needed an upgrade," Gonzalez said. "The RCP below ground had been crushed or broken in places, and was blocking the storm drainage."

Along the curb and gutter, Rasmussen's team excavated out and placed a new bioswale drainage system, installed catch basins, and added rocks and landscaping. The concrete crew cut drainage inlets within the curb to allow for soil runoff. A PCC median was added to deter trucks from making illegal left turns around traffic gridlock.

"Grading Foreman Armando Gonzalez was instrumental in completing each phase of the project," Jesse Gonzalez said. "The Port loves his work, and

**See PORT, page 2**

The last phase of the Harbor Scenic Drive project at the Port of Long Beach involves the removal and replacement of asphalt concrete at Pier J Way and Pier J Avenue.



## Founder's Day Celebrates Employees' Years of Service

Games, prizes, live music and a pie-eating contest were among the highlights of a warm August evening as Rasmussen employees past and present came out to a carnival-themed Founder's Day party.

The event is held every other year to commemorate the founding of C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. by Carl Rasmussen in 1964.

Retiree Fidel Valdivia joined Charlie Rasmussen as he presented Ramiro Gamboa with a retirement jacket honoring his 35 years of service at Rasmussen.

This year's party was attended by more than 200 people, and awards were handed out to those employees marking milestone years of service.

Several of the company's All-Star Retirees attended the event as well, including former safety director Dean Pultz, form truck driver Freddy Carrillo and concrete superintendents Miguel Serrano and Fidel Valdivia.

Valdivia joined Charlie Rasmussen as he

**See FOUNDERS, page 3**

### What's Inside...

- From the Desk of ... 2
- Company News ... 2
- Family Ties ... 3
- Focus on Safety ... 4

### Coming Soon

- October
- Rasmussen's annual Food Drive benefitting the SCV Food Pantry is taking place all month long. Bring your donations for a chance to see a Kings game from a suite at Staples Center.

- December 6
- Save the date for our next Foreman's Dinner to be held at the Backwoods Inn.

### Find us online



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[www.carasmussen.com](http://www.carasmussen.com)

From the Desk of ...

**Adam  
Rasmussen**



## Gas Tax Fueling our Company's Success

The past year has been one of our busiest and most successful, but as 2018 comes to a close, I'm already looking ahead to 2019. Our Estimating Department is anticipating a busy push over the next few months, in both the public and private sectors.

This exciting time of economic growth in the public market is being fueled largely by the passage of last year's Senate Bill No. 1 (SB1), otherwise known as the gas tax.

SB1 added a tax of 12 cents per gallon of regular gas — which works out to about \$9.50 more each month for the average motorist. However, those who use diesel tax are paying the bulk of SB1. Initially, a diesel tax of 20 cents per gallon was collected. Beginning last November, that went up another 4 percent.

With the help of Prop. 69 passed overwhelmingly in June, all of the funds raised from the gas tax go directly back into our infrastructure: from roads to bridges to highways to public transit and rail systems.

Chances are that, as a Rasmussen employee, you've worked on a project that has been funded by this bill. Just to name a few: Job 1808, the Sierra Highway Pavement Rehabilitation Project; Job 1801, the Highway 126 Storm Water Mitigation Project; or Job 1810, Highway 33 Paving Improvements.

SB1 will fund our industry with more than \$53 billion during the next 10 years. Yes! TEN years of work!

I like the idea of ten years of work.

However, a measure on this November's ballot could put an end to all of that work. Proposition 6 seeks to repeal SB1 and eliminate this gas tax.

I get it: Gas is expensive. It would be nice to pay less at the pump. But for me, personally, I'd rather pay \$9.50 a month more each month for gas than a few hundred the next time I lose a tire going over a pothole.

Plus, if you do the math, the majority SB1 funds are coming from drivers who buy diesel fuel. It makes sense, since large diesel trucks do more damage to freeways and roads than your SUV or sedan. This bill requires them to pay more to keep our freeways safe.

I think we can all agree that our roads, highways and bridges are in desperate need of repairs and upgrades. I know we're the best company to take on this extra work. I encourage everyone to vote NO on Prop. 6.

## Company News

- Congratulations to **Scott Morse** on the birth of his second baby boy in April.
- Wishing **Jaquie Ciraulo** all the best as she gets ready to tie the knot in November!
- September saw some big milestones at Rasmussen: Assistant Asset Manager **Chris Quillen** celebrated his 15th work anniversary, and Estimating Coordinator **Danielle Tellez** marked her 5th year of being a part of the Rasmussen team.
- A big welcome to our newest co-workers: Laborer Foreman **Samuel Clemente**, and Accounts Payable Specialist **Jacqueline Lemus**.

Got news to share? E-mail it to [sklein@carasmussen.com](mailto:sklein@carasmussen.com)

## PORT, from page 1

even requested him back when we had to hit an important milestone. Armando and his crew are hard workers and get the job done, no matter what."

The last phase of the project involves the removal and replacement of existing asphalt concrete along Pier J Way. Concrete superintendent Greg Zuniga and his crew put in long hours and poured about 4,000 CY of PCC to complete this portion of the work.

It is the most challenging part of the job, to date, as it has required a redesign of the engineer's traffic plan.

"Per the original design, trucks couldn't exit the terminal here without hitting a sign," Gonzalez said. "We had to modify the design to allow them to drive through without interference."

Despite the redesign, the job is on track to finish 12 days ahead of the CPM schedule.



Drainage inlets were created to allow for soil runoff from the bioswale system constructed along Pier J Way.



**C. A. RASMUSSEN, INC.**

The Tracks Newsletter is a publication of C. A. Rasmussen, Inc.

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# Family Ties

## Oscar and Ines Guevara

When Oscar Guevara started working for C. A. Rasmussen, Inc., his daughter Ines wasn't even a thought in his mind.

He was still single, then. It was March 1990. He would marry his wife, Cecilia, a year later. He barely spoke any English.

Oscar began his Rasmussen career working as a messenger, back when the corporate office was still located in Simi Valley. After proving himself to be a solid worker, he was placed in the filing room, with hundreds of boxes of closed job files. He would have to locate files when they were needed, provide them to the corporate office, and file them again when they were done. The filing room had one computer.

He had to teach himself how to use it, and made mistakes often.

"There was one more thing that made my job hard," he said. "At that time, I didn't speak English. So you can think about how I was doing my job, when sometimes, I just didn't understand what they were telling me. But somehow, I figured it out."

Soon, Oscar was put to work registering the company's vehicles with the DMV. As the years went by, and he started to learn more English, Oscar's role in the company began to grow. He was given more responsibilities, and ultimately became in charge of maintenance and upkeep of the entire fleet.

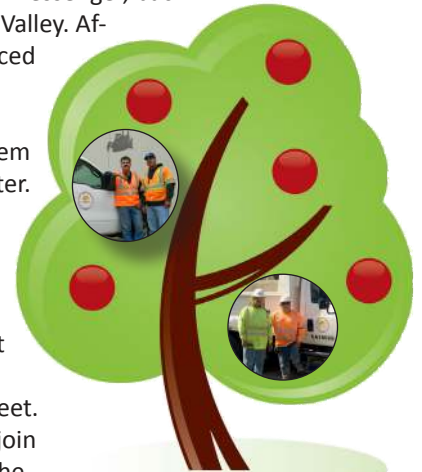
It would be about 25 years after Oscar got his start at Rasmussen that his daughter Ines would join the team. She started assisting in the Estimating Department after she graduated high school.

She also helped Oscar for a time working at the Station, before

temporarily becoming the front desk receptionist. Before long she ended up in her current position in Accounts Payable.

There isn't often much interaction between the two within the workplace. "Sometimes there is, and we'll discuss it at home, over dinner, which my mom doesn't like," Ines said.

Ines said that, in a sense she has felt like a part of the Rasmussen team since she was a child. "I have pictures of myself sitting on top of a dozer in the Simi yard when I was 2 years old," Ines said. "I also took one with Charlie's bear, and took another one 20 years later. Rasmussen's always been part of the story for me."



This is the third in a series of stories profiling the many families who work together at C. A. Rasmussen, Inc.



### FOUNDERS, from page 1

honored Ramiro Gamboa, who retired earlier this year after 35 years of work at C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. Gamboa received a retirement jacket and his 35-year belt buckle.

Entertainment was provided by local band Bar Worthington, who rocked classic rock jams late into the night when just the very last guests were left.

Employees and their children enjoyed face-painting, classic carnival games, and a 70-foot-long obstacle course.

Among the prizes raffled off were Six



Rasmussen employees had fun in the photo booth at the Carnival-themed Founder's Day. From left: Ramiro Gamboa, Freddy Carrillo, Fidel Valdivia, Alfredo Martinon, Miguel Serrano, Juan Rocha, Greg Zuniga, and Roberto Alvarado; Greg Zuniga and Vanesa Gomez; Marcelino "Chipito" Flores, Fidel Valdivia, Freddy Carrillo, Miguel Serrano, and Ramiro Gamboa; and event planners Jaquie Ciraulo and Adam Rasmussen.

Flags Magic Mountain passes, Mammoth Mountain lift tickets and seats to

see the Los Angeles Rams play a home game at the Coliseum.

# Focus on Safety

with Brandon Tapia



## One Year — Zero Lost Time Accidents!

On August 17, C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. reached a major milestone: One year of work with ZERO lost time accidents.

Of course, I'd like to think that, as safety manager, I had something to do with it. But I've only been looking after the company's safety since February. The truth is that a lot of work has been put in by a lot of people to make sure that Rasmussen remains one of the safest heavy civil contractors in Southern California.

Now that we've reached this goal, I want to set a new one: No Incidents, No Injuries.

I'm raising the bar pretty high, I know. Our field crews are exceptional enough that I'm confident they can handle it.

Here are a few ways that we can work together to achieve our No Incident, No Injuries goal.

**Attend daily Safety Toolbox Talks.** Make sure you are attending these safety briefings each morning. And foremen, make sure you're going into detail about what precautions employees need to be taking.

**Look out for each other.** This should go without saying. It's important to pay attention not only to what you're doing, but also look at what everyone around you is doing. Make sure your co-workers are taking safety as seriously as you are. A lot

of our work is in the public right-of-way. This also means looking out for John Doe who's driving and texting near a closed traffic lane.

**Send me your safety nominations.** These are great ways to reward employees for putting safety first. They are also learning opportunities for the rest of the company.

**Read near-miss reports and safety incidents, and learn from them.** These should also be considered learning opportunities. If we come dangerously close to an incident on one job site, the information provided in these reports will help you avoid the same danger on your job site.

**Perform daily job site safety inspections.**

Foremen, you are on the front lines of defending our employees from incidents. These daily inspections are your best weapon for preventing an incident that could have been avoided.

**Treat your rig as if it were your own.** While operating any piece of company-owned equipment or a company vehicle, be as cautious as you'd be if you were its owner. Watch your surroundings, avoid utility strikes, and don't do anything without direction from your foreman. Also, keep it clean! Don't throw trash on the floor or allow dirt to obstruct your visibility.



Congratulations to our third-quarter Safety Award winners, dispatcher Ken Schaeffer and operator Angel Salazar.

Ken was nominated for looking into extra precautions and thinking about fall protection safety prior to sending a worker up on an aerial lift for the first time. His ability to think ahead about safety earned him a check for \$500.

Our second place Safety Award winner for the third quarter is Angel, who was nominated after alerting a co-worker to oncoming traffic that had driven onto a closed job site. Angel received a check for \$100 for his quick-thinking, which saved lives and helped to avoid any injuries in what could have been a very serious incident.



Attention ALL  
Rasmussen employees!

**Wanted: Safety Award  
Nominations**

Now is the time to submit your nominations for Safety Awards. If you see a fellow employee going above and beyond to create a safe work environment, let us know. Safety Award winners can receive up to \$500. Remember, you can receive a prize just for nominating someone! All employees are eligible, whether you work in the office or a job site. Send your nomination to [safety@carasmussen.com](mailto:safety@carasmussen.com).