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# La Nueva Voz

The New Voice, a Bilingual (English/Spanish) Publication  
Pomona's only community newspaper!



Issue No. 101  
Thursday, December 28, 2017

## L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, breaking ground for Foothill Gold Line extension through Pomona, says project ultimately will produce 778,000 jobs

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti this month told an estimated 500 elected officials and supporters of the next 12.3-mile extension of the Foothill Gold Line that the \$1.5 billion six-station project to complete the "light rail" line from Glendora to Montclair ultimately will provide some 778,000 middle class jobs to the region.

Speaking at the ceremonial groundbreaking at Citrus College in Glendora for the project extension, which will stop at a new North Pomona station on its way to Montclair, Garcetti said the extension was the first proj-



**HEADING FOR POMONA** -- Officials break ground with an over-sized shovel this month for a 12.3-mile extension of the Foothill Gold Line that will stop in North Pomona on its way to Montclair. Officials pictured at the event at Citrus College include, at far left, Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa; at center, left to right, Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres, alternate Board member, Foothill Gold Line Joint Powers Authority; Congresswoman Norma Torres; Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who serves as board Chair of Metro, the agency that operates the Gold Line; Metro CEO Phillip Washington; Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian; Ontario Mayor Paul Leon (at rear), Board member of the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority; La Verne City Councilmember Robin Carder, Vice Chair of the Foothill Gold Line Joint Powers Authority Board; Congresswoman Judy Chu; and Claremont City Councilmember Sam Pedroza, Chair of the Foothill Gold Line Joint Powers Authority Board and Vice Chair of the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority Board; Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez (at right rear); and La Verne Mayor Don Kendrick and Claremont Mayor Corey Calayca, at right.

ect to break ground using funding from the Measure M transportation initiative, approved by Los Angeles County voters last year. (The portion of the project from Claremont to Montclair is being funded by San Bernardino County.)

"This isn't just about transportation," Garcetti said. "It's my dream, and I know the dream of

many of us here, to make sure we bring the middle class back and protect the middle class that we have here in L.A. County."

The mayor said the "California dream" is to be able to travel to see loved ones and to have jobs.

"We're putting these jobs right here in L.A., in this region, we're going to electrify our buses,

we're going to build the trains, we're going to make sure these tunnels get done, we're going to re-do two airports, we're going to make sure that we expand our port, those things that will keep the middle class here is what this is about today," Garcetti said.

"But the other thing today, this is really about people, about us getting to that job, us being able

to go on that date where we fall in love, us being able to make sure we get home to hold our daughters in our arms," he added. "Let's go all the way east, my friends."

Garcetti, who said he rode the Gold Line out to the groundbreaking, pointed out that the public has been "clamoring"

**Breaking ground... pg. 4**

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Page 11!

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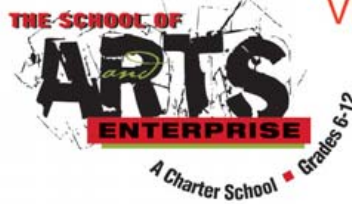
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## Breaking ground... from pg. 1

for this project and that “it really does take all the federal, the state, the local leaders” to “make this happen.”

“Republicans, Democrats, we are all stuck in traffic and there are certain things that unite us even these days which is a bad commute that we want to get rid of,” he said. And, he pointed out, “out here” in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley areas vot-



State Sen. Connie Leyva

ers overwhelmingly supported Measure M, which approved a half-cent sales tax increase.

Garcetti, who is Board Chair of Metro, the agency that operates the Gold Line, said that while he is the mayor of the City of Los Angeles, “this area matters as much to me as the area that I’m mayor of because people in my city work here and people who live here work in my city.”

“If we can’t stop getting past the borders that separate us . . . we wouldn’t move forward as a region,” he added.

“We have been so successful that Metro has doubled the number of trains running at rush hour just in the newest extension (from

Pasadena to Glendora, which opened last March),” Garcetti said, adding that mass transit in Los Angeles is “on time” more than 99 percent of the time.

Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority Board Chairman Doug Tessitor, a former mayor

of Glendora, credited Garcetti with having the vision that inspired the effort to get Measure M on the ballot.

Completion of the project is expected to take nine years including the re-working of rail lines, construction of the six stations, building 25 new grade overpasses and more.

The existing two segments of the Gold Line represent a total of 25 miles and 19 stations.

### Supervisor Hilda Solis

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, whose first supervisorial district includes the Gold Line cities of Pomona and Claremont, called the groundbreaking “a wonderful time for us to celebrate.”

She said once the regional connector in downtown Los Angeles is complete “you’ll be able to travel from Claremont to Long Beach on a one-seat ride.”

“This measure passed by over 70 percent of the voters in L.A. County,” Solis said.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, representing the fifth supervisorial district, joined her at the podium to present a special recognition from Los Angeles County to Gold Line Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian.



Los Angeles County Supervisors Kathryn Barger, at left, and Hilda Solis present a congratulatory certificate from Los Angeles County to Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian at Foothill Gold Line groundbreaking ceremonies.

“We are united in seeing this particular rail completed,” Solis said.

Both Solis and Barger, who between them represent four million Los Angeles County residents, are members of the Metro Board.

### Congressman Adam Schiff

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), known as the “father of the Foothill Gold Line,” was credited with creating the Gold Line Construction Authority when in 1998 the original rail line from Union Station in Los Angeles to Pasadena was put on hold.

“I’m looking forward to the day I can ride this line all the way to Ontario Airport,” Schiff said. He thanked Garcetti for his leadership in the passage of Measure M “without which there would be a dead end of this line.”

He added that the project is not only about getting people out of their cars but is about improving the quality of life, quality of air and the “tremendous economic benefit that this line brings in the form of many tens of hundreds of thousands of good paying jobs to our community.”

### Congresswoman Norma Torres

“We can’t wait to ride it to Ontario Airport,” Congresswoman Norma Torres agreed.

Her congressional district includes the Gold Line cities of Pomona and Montclair, as well as Ontario.

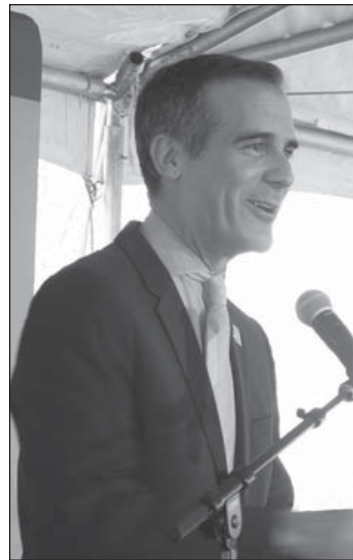
She told Garcetti they have “mutual constituents” they are serving together.

“While my constituents unfortunately are driving 40, 50, 60 miles one way to go to work in your city, all of this brings that congestion down and improves the quality of life that we all want to enjoy,” Torres said. “Reliable public transportation is today’s menu, it is what we are all working toward, it is our priority.”

“I encourage everyone here to continue to work together and see that the Gold Line not only reaches Montclair but also to the airport in Ontario,” she added.

### State Sen. Connie Leyva

State Sen. Connie Leyva, who said while she has served in Sacramento for only three years, is



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

“standing on the shoulders” of those who went before her and is happy to be a partner.

“When I was running I said, and I say to this day, we cannot continue to add lanes to freeways,” Leyva said. “It just does not work. We have to have public transportation.”

Leyva added that critics once said Southern California was too spread out to have an effective rail system, but she said that was all the more reason to have it.

### Duarte Mayor Pro Tem John Fasana

Long-time environmentalist

Mayor Pro Tem John Fasana of Duarte, who serves on the boards of both Metro and the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, said the “transportation revolution” is here.

“We see now that there is no doubt that people will use this system,” Fasana said. “The highway system that we have today, the road system we have today, is what it is and will be for the next hundred years. The rail tracks are the new arteries that are going to allow us to move forward.”

“We need other ways to get about this county,” he added. “We need solutions, we need creativity, we are tapped out on cars.”

He said he has seen the rail line result in changes in his own city “that I never thought I would see just in a few years.”

### Economic benefits

Construction alone of the “Glendora to Montclair” extension of the Gold Line is expected to generate more than \$2.6 billion in economic output, with \$1.6 billion in construction and professional services alone.

Construction is expected to provide nearly 17,000 jobs and

Breaking ground... pg. 6

## La Nueva Voz

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## New contractor for Pomona Valley America's Job Center in Pomona hopes to help divvy up anticipated 750,000 new jobs in L.A. County

The new operators of Pomona Valley America's Job Center of California invited their community partners in last month to get acquainted and said their data shows Los Angeles County will see up to 750,000 new jobs over the next five years – and they want to do something about it.

Otto Solozano, chief deputy of Los Angeles County's Work-

force Development, Aging and Community Services, told a group of 60 workforce professionals at their Pomona headquarters that there have been many changes in the way people communicate in the workforce system.

He said it is his agency's goal to make America's Job Center the "hub" of the workforce system, making it possible for all agencies to provide their own strengths in a streamlined system with his agency in the middle.

The Pomona office re-opened in October under the management of contractor Managed Career Solutions, Inc., on the heels of Goodwill Industries and, before Goodwill, the Los Angeles Urban League.



**Philip Starr**  
Managed Career Solutions

And the group is so committed to the task at hand that after only a month in Pomona officials are already looking for a larger facility.

Managed Career Solutions is in the business of supporting "individuals on their path to finding employment and attaining economic self-sufficiency."

Philip Starr is CEO of the new Pomona contractor.

Solozano said an estimated \$15 billion is expected to be spent over the next five years on airport construction alone, with a total of \$120 billion spent in the construction industry in the metropolitan area.

Participants at the event included jobs agencies, mental health organizations, representatives of area colleges and universities, the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, adult schools (including Pomona Unified School District's adult school) and vocational rehabilitation organizations.

America's Job Center is located at 264 E. Monterey Ave., Pomona. For information, contact (909) 242-7999.

## Cal Poly President Soraya Coley to keynote annual Martin Luther King celebration

Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley will be the keynote speaker at next month's 36th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in Pomona, speaking on the event theme "Difficult Times Makes Us a Stronger Community."

Coley, who believes that a quality education remains one of the few pathways to social and economic well-being in a global society, has dedicated her life to creating access and opportunity for those least likely to imagine what is truly possible.

The annual event, sponsored by the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project, is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 600 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

Six "Youth Social Justice Awards" will be given to students who have done outstanding community service in churches,

**Celebration... pg. 6**



**Otto Solozano**  
L.A. County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services

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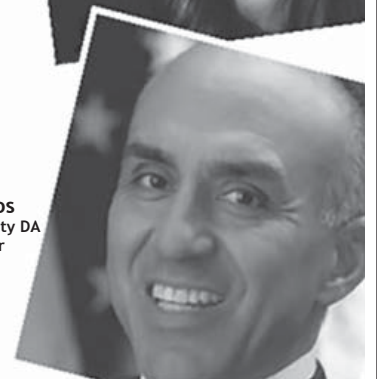
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**TREE LIGHTING AT THE HOSPITAL** -- It was the 19th lighting of the Christmas tree atop Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center this month as Santa arrived in a decorated hospital shuttle vehicle and

found he had a lot of helpers to flip the switch that turns on the lights for the 65-foot-tall tree on the hospital's six-floor tower. Carolers were on hand from Girl Scout Troop 15324 of Ontario to provide holiday music, Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar's G-Diva Productions dancers provided a sneak peek at their Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade routine, and hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum wished all a happy holiday season. And there were cookies, candy canes and hot cider and cocoa for all. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, City Councilmember Escobar, Santa, Yochum and City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Robert Torres.



## Celebration... from pg. 5

schools and their communities.

Entertainment will be provided by Inland Conservatory for the Performing Arts.

Organizations and individuals can apply to be a sponsor or

non-food vendor for the event.

Deadline is Jan. 5 with forms available at [www.pivmlk.org](http://www.pivmlk.org) or contact Gayle Claiborne, President of the MLK Project, at (951) 218-7820.



Photo courtesy of Diandra Jay,

### Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Photographer

**2017 EQUITY SYMPOSIUM** -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and State Sen. Connie Leyva, in partnership with "Generation Ready" and the Pomona Unified School District, presented the "2017 Equity Symposium" this month at the Village at Indian Hill Conference Center on the theme "Empowering Excellence through Equity." The event, to help educators adapt to diversity within their classrooms, provided training and support for school leaders and teachers to help them educate a stronger, more vibrant generation of students better prepared to meet life's challenges, according to organizers. Participants included parents, teachers and school district administrators throughout Los Angeles and San Bernardino County. Pictured at the event, from left, are Supervisor Solis, Pomona Unified School District Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

## Breaking ground... from pg. 4

more than \$1 billion in labor income, and nearly \$40 million in tax revenues.

Once the extension is providing passenger service, the extension is expected to generate more than \$52 million in economic output annually in Los Angeles County, is expected to produce \$17 million each year in labor income providing 277 on-going jobs, and is expected to provide nearly \$800,000 each year in tax revenues alone.

Economic projections were provided by an independent economic analysis prepared by Beacon Economics to quantify the \$1.5 billion public investment in the region.

Secondary economic benefits identified in the report include private investments in transit-oriented development near the six stations.

According to the study, the future extension already has spurred \$1 billion in private investments in residential and commercial development, in-

cluding nearly 1,200 residential units near the future Montclair station alone and one million square feet of commercial property.

An additional \$600 million in development is planned along the corridor, with more than 1,800 new residential units and 10,000 square feet of commercial space in the works within a half-mile radius of a future station.

### Construction timetable

The first three years of construction on the new extension will be used to relocate strategic utilities, conduct pre-construction activities, hire a design-build contractor and finalize project design.

Major construction will get under way in 2020.

The Gold Line segment will be built along the former Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe right-of-way and will share the roughly 100-foot-wide rail corridor with freight and, from Pomona east to Montclair, with Metrolink.

The different rail services will not share tracks or stations. The Gold Line will have its own two tracks, one eastbound and one westbound, with overhead electric lines to power the trains.



Congresswoman Norma Torres

Capacity of the system is 200 passengers per light rail car, trains will include two and three cars, and daily train traffic is expected to reach more than 200 Gold Line trains.

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## Isaiah's Rock volunteers assemble at Fairplex in final stages of major toy drive

Hundreds of volunteers converged on Pomona's Fairplex in Building 9 last week delivering and helping sort out toys, gift cards and food items and putting them in bags for holiday deliveries to families in need in the Chino Valley and Pomona area, all courtesy of Chino-based Isaiah's Rock Community Outreach Program, Fairplex and State Sen. Connie Leyva.

Isaiah's Rock was co-founded 30 years ago by Dave and Charleen King. And while Dave King died of cancer at the age of 77 in October, the toy drive effort was still able to go on as usual this year, thanks in part to the team effort with Fairplex and Leyva.

"A long time ago we went through some hard times ourselves, about 30 years ago, and when we moved . . . to the barrio we began to see people's needs and we thought, well, if we share what we have on our table, we won't have hungry neighbors," Charleen King

told La Nueva Voz at the event. "And we had very little and as we began to share the food that's on our table, God began to multiply it and it's grown and grown and then we started the toys and that's grown and here I am today 30 years later," she added.

Isaiah's Rock provides food and toys to thousands of families and individuals each year who are experiencing difficult times. And toys and food items filling an entire Fairplex exposition hall will go to 2,500 children and teens this holiday season.

King told La Nueva Voz she and her husband received an award from Leyva recently and she mentioned to the Senator she was in need of a larger location to assemble all the toys. A Fairplex spokesperson said Leyva reached out to Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana and arrangements were quickly made to donate the use of the hall.

Volunteers included every-



Photo by Renee Barbee

**HELPING OUT WITH THE TOY DRIVE** -- Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, at left, and State Sen. Connie Leyva help sort out toys at last week's toy drive organized by Chino-based Isaiah's Rock Community Outreach Program. Santana and Leyva partnered with Isaiah's Rock to help provide a larger staging area to accommodate the 30-year-old support agency's work. Toys will go to 2,500 kids.

thing from Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies to Fairplex employees to community volunteers.

For more information on

Isaiah's Rock Community Outreach Program, "like" the organization on Facebook, call (909) 628-0966 or e-mail dublin1923@aol.com.

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## Western University launches mobile eyecare unit

The Eye Care Institute at Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences officially placed in service this month a new mobile eyecare unit that will both provide practical training opportunities for students and deliver eyecare – and eventually medical care – to those in remote areas that in many instances need it the most.

The new 39-foot-long mobile unit, made possible by a donation from Molina Healthcare, has already been on the road traveling to health fairs in the Inland Empire and to consulates for both Mexico and Guatemala.

“Our goal is to be able to eliminate any barriers that would keep someone from being able to access care – so rather than having them come to us, we go to them,” said Dr. Elizabeth Hoppe, founding dean of Western University's College of Optometry.

Deborah Miller, Plan President of Molina Healthcare of California, said it is important to her company to partner with

the community.

“There are lots of barriers to care so working together we can take those barriers down and get people into care in non-traditional ways,” Miller said. “That evolution needs to happen.”

Dr. Raymond Maeda, associate dean of clinical affairs for the College of Optometry, said the new mobile unit can perform complete eye exams in three full eye exam “lanes,” one with its own imaging system.

He said another room is dedicated for future use to take along a primary care physician's assistant and a nurse practitioner to be able to provide general health care services beyond eye care.

And, he explained, the unit will be able to do everything a regular optometrist can do, typically using three interns and one faculty member each time the unit goes out – whether for a half day trip or a two-day event – perhaps to a health fair or to a nursing home or to visit the vision impaired with special



**NEW MOBILE EYECARE UNIT** -- Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences cut the ribbon this month for its new mobile eyecare unit, made possible by a donation from Molina Healthcare, that will both help provide more student training and help deliver much needed eyecare and healthcare services to those who need it most in remote areas. Pictured in front of the mobile unit, from left, are Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Lori Suddarth, Western University College of Optometry Director of Operations (holding the ribbon); Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez; Deborah Miller, Plan President, Molina Healthcare of California; College of Optometry Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs Dr. Raymond Maeda; Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Sandra Vaughan-Acton, Director of Real Estate Development for the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation; College of Optometry Founding Dean Dr. Elizabeth Hoppe; Ruthy Argumedo, Associate Vice President of Community Engagement for Molina Healthcare; Dr. Robert Gordon, College of Optometry Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and Professor (retired); Dr. Dan Wilson, President, Western University; Dr. Stevin Minie, Immediate Past President, California Optometric Association; and Dr. Diane Abraham, Western University Vice President for University Advancement.

needs in underserved communities.

He added that in its first two months of use, the mobile unit

already has handled several hundred patients.

“Even though more people today have insurance than ever before, something like more than 93 percent of the people in California . . . there are still access to care issues,” Miller said.

According to Miller, Molina Healthcare serves more than

750,000 people in California and was founded more than 30 years ago with the philosophy that that everyone deserves access to health care regardless of their economic means.

The company provides government-funded care for low-income people and operates in 13 states and Puerto Rico.

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**SANTA VISITS THE KIDS AT CASA COLINA** -- Dozens of children who are out-patients at the Children's Services Center at Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare celebrated an annual tradition last week at their Christmas party with everything from games, snacks and punch to pictures with Santa and the elves. Pomona Rotary Past President Beth Brooks said Rotary has sponsored the event for more than 30 years through the club's Avenues of Community Service programs. And Santa and Mrs. Claus (shhhh!! The Parnells from Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church) were a huge hit with the kids. The elves (two of them pictured and others helping next door in the party room) were volunteers from the Claremont High School baseball team and their coaches, and caroling at the event was provided by the kids from Pomona Catholic High School. And, of course, all the kids picked out their favorite toy to take home with them. Also supporting the event was Nongshim America, Inc., by providing donated toys, a few of their own elves and more.





**LA NUEVA VOZ CELEBRATING 100 ISSUES** -- Norma Martinez, at left, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, presents a congratulatory certificate from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, signed by Solis, to Renee Barbee, Vice President of Advertising Sales and Operations of La Nueva Voz, to "join in your celebration" of publishing the 100th issue last month of Pomona's only community newspaper. Martinez presented the certificate to La Nueva Voz during last week's retirement party for Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro at the NHRA Motorsports Museum at Pomona's Fairplex.

### Latino Art Museum hosts film festival

Pomona's Latino Art Museum will hold an Art Film Festival, sponsored by Logcinema, from 4 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, as the first festival dedicated to rewarding "best" films made not with a purely commercial purpose but with artistic or experimental intentions.

Screenings will be selected from 40 films from 18 countries. The museum is located at 281 S. Thomas St., Suite 105, Pomona. For information, visit [www.lamoa.net](http://www.lamoa.net).



**HAIL TO THE CHIEF!** -- Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro, at right, is presented with a "Goddess of Pomona" statue (Roman Goddess who was the keeper of fruit trees and orchards) by Pomona City Manager Linda Lowry at last week's retirement party for Capraro. The event was held at the NHRA Motorsports Museum at Pomona's Fairplex because of Capraro's interest in cars. Capraro stepped down last week after serving for 30 years with the Pomona Police Department. He was sworn in as chief in March 2014, taking over for Chief Dave Keetle, who served for five years as chief before Capraro. Keetle was on hand at last week's event along with several hundred police officers, police chiefs, SWAT team members, community leaders, family members, neighbors and friends. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Ginna Escobar, Rubio Gonzalez and Robert Torres, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Lowry and Capraro.

**ANNUAL SUPERVISOR SOLIS TOY GIVE-AWAY** -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis held her annual "Brunch with Santa and Toy Give-away" for kids from needy families this month, this time in Dalton Park in Azusa. More than 500 toys were distributed to the kids at the event which included Santa "treats," a petting zoo and folklorico dancers. Special guests included Azusa Mayor Joe Rocha, city councilmembers from other cities in Solis' first supervisorial district and even Solis' husband Sam Sayyad and Pomona's own former City Councilmember Debra Martin came out to help. Martin is serving as Solis' appointee as the Special Flood Control District Representative on the Pomona Oversight Board for the city's redevelopment agency's successor agency.



**FIRST EVER PONY UNITED YOUTH BASEBALL TOY GIVE-AWAY** -- Parents and board members of Pomona's Pony United Youth Baseball League, a league for kids up to age 13 that plays at JFK Park in Pomona, held its first ever Christmas toy give-away last week at Pomona's Cesar Chavez Park. Santa arrived on a Los Angeles County fire engine for the event and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval stopped by to lend a hand. Pictured at the event are parents, coaches and other supporters with organizer and league president Carlos Goytia, front left, league vice president Jorge Grajeda, back row, second from right, and Yesenia Miranda Meza, Cesar Chavez Park President and league board member, front row, third from left.

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# A La Nueva Voz special “pull out” section: The 2017 Pomona Christmas Parade Brought to you by Valley Vista Services Providing quality waste and recycling service for over 50 years



**OFFICIAL LA NUEVA VOZ NEWS VAN** -- For the first time this year, the La Nueva Voz news van appeared in the Pomona Christmas Parade, with Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz at the wheel and Virginia Madrigal, the “La Nueva Voz Community Volunteer of the Year,” riding “shotgun” and waving to the crowds. Posters on the doors of the van encouraged spectators to “Trust me, I’m a journalist!”

## Downtown Pomona Christmas parade biggest and best ever

The annual Downtown Pomona Christmas parade – described by many as the biggest and best parade ever – was presented to crowds estimated at a record 12,000 spectators this month as the Downtown Pomona Owners Association and the City of Pomona ushered in the holiday season.

Temperatures were comfortable in the mid-60s as a total of 107 parade entries rode, walked, danced and marched the mile-long parade route out on Second Street and back on Mission Boulevard.

It was Pomona’s third nighttime parade in recent history. Prior to 2015, the last time the parade was held at night was in 1967.

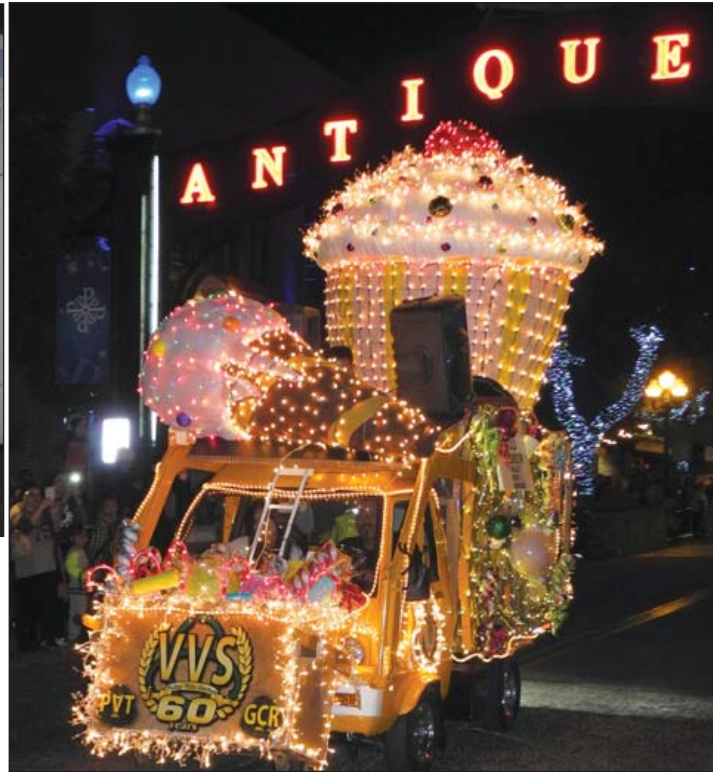
And the history of the parade itself is interesting – the parade returned to Downtown Pomona, where it all began, in 2009 after being held for 40 years along Holt Avenue.

The parade came off without a hitch – well, almost. One battery-powered golf cart ran out of power and had to be pushed most of the way (we’re not saying whose it was) and one brave little boy fell over on his bicycle in a group of bikes, got up and brushed himself off and started walking the parade route as his father took over the duty of riding the bicycle. There were a few tears involved, but the crowd of spectators at Garey Avenue and Second Street reassured the boy and told him it was okay.

For the first time, the official La Nueva Voz news van appeared in the parade, decorated with Christmas lights, a wreath, bows and signs on the doors that read “Trust Me, I’m a Journalist!”

Driving the van was Renee Barbee, Vice President of Advertising Sales and Operations for La Nueva Voz and a member of the parade committee for the second year. Riding shotgun with Barbee was long-time La Nueva Voz friend and community volunteer Virginia Madrigal, who was waving to the crowds and wishing all a Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad.

Madrigal was riding as the “La Nueva Voz



**VALLEY VISTA SERVICES** -- The Valley Vista Services entry in the Pomona Christmas Parade always seems to have more lights than anybody else! Oh, and that’s Valley Vista’s Jill Reiff riding “shotgun” in the mini-truck. Jill told us those are ice cream cones up on top but the theme of the entry was Candyland. She added that employees spent many hours designing and building two floats (to cover multiple events) and more than 50 percent of the floats were made from recycled material.



The men of the color guard of Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 lead the 2017 Pomona Christmas Parade. Post Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, at right, told La Nueva Voz before the parade that Post 30 was the first American Legion Post recognized by Congress.



Al Leyva accompanied his wife, State Sen. Connie Leyva, again this year in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Staff members from the Pomona office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis rode in the parade with District Director Norma Martinez, at left rear.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife, Michelle, rode in the parade this year with their grandson, Jacob Hernández.



Joseph Mladinov of Pomona’s Vehicle Parking Commission



Congresswoman Norma Torres rode in the Pomona Christmas Parade with her husband, Louis Torres.





# Special Valley Vista Services “pull out” section -- The 2017 Pomona Christmas Parade



Pomona City Councilmember  
Cristina Carrizosa



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Pomona City Councilmember  
Adriana Robledo

Pomona City Councilmember  
Rubio Gonzalez



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board Member John Mendoza rides in a classic automobile in the parade.



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board Member Carlos Goytia and his wife, Catalina Goytia, catch a ride in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres, Marisol Guerra and son Julien.

## Pomona Christmas Parade... from pg. 11

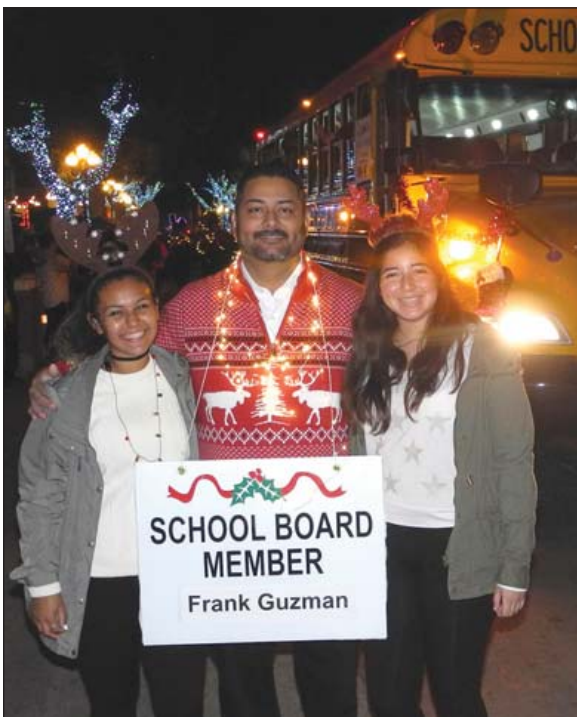
Community Volunteer of the Year.”

High school band competition awards went to Garey High School, first place; Diamond Ranch High School, second place; and Ganesha High School, third place. The band “sweepstakes” award went to Diamond Ranch High School. Judging was provided by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association.

Grand Marshal for the parade this year was Jenae Noonan, who was born and raised in Pomona and attended Decker Elementary School and Lorbeer Middle School. She played AYSO and helped Phillips Ranch Summer Team bring home the state championship in 1996. A Team USA member, she is a mixed martial arts national champion and represented the United States in the World Games in 2012 and 2016. She brought home the gold medal in 2016.

She has written two best-selling books, including her first children’s book “Dream Chaser,” released last year, which was number two on the best seller list behind Harry Potter.

“Play by play” announcer for the parade again this year was Nancy Matarrita, who brought the parade to life over the public address system along Second Street.



Walking just ahead of the Pomona Unified School District school bus in the parade was School Board Vice President Frank Guzman. Pictured, at right, is Guzman’s daughter, Arianna Guzman, and her friend, Associated Student Body President Belyn Peters. Both are seniors at Pomona’s Diamond Ranch High School.



The “father” of the Pomona Christmas Parade himself, Downtown Pomona Owners Association Executive Director Larry Egan, waves to the La Nueva Voz camera from inside the DPOA trolley. Egan is also the “father” of the DPOA trolley.



Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole rides in the parade with community volunteer Mike Suarez, a Board of Library Trustees Commissioner, waving in the background.



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Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Sandra Vaughan-Acton, Director of Real Estate Development for the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, and her husband Charles Acton, drive one of the two Chamber golf carts in the parade. Waving to the camera, at rear, is La Nueva Voz friend Dr. Enrique Medina, head of the Pomona Unified School District adult school, with his wife, Alma, and daughter, Maya.



Members of Pomona's Boy Scout Troop 101, the oldest Boy Scout troop west of the Mississippi River, were in good form marching in this year's parade.



Planning Commissioner Carolyn Hemming, President of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association



As one of his last official duties, Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro, wearing a necklace of blinking Christmas lights, walked the parade route with his wife, Judi, as usual, shaking hands with the kids and chatting with spectators along the way. Capraro retired last week after serving 30 years with the department.



Deputy Police Chief Mike Oliveri, now Interim Police Chief, walked the route of the Pomona Christmas Parade handing out holiday candies to the kids.



Retired Pomona Police Officer Walt Barkley and his wife Sylvia rode the parade route as usual in their old-fashioned police car.



Pomona Historical Preservation Commissioners Jim Gallivan and Alice Gomez wave to the La Nueva Voz camera in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



The Pomona High School Red Devils marching band



RIDING THE BIG YELLOW SCHOOL BUS -- Here's how to ride in a parade! This big yellow school bus was from Pomona Unified School District and had signs on each side wishing "Happy Holidays from the leadership of P.U.S.D." Pictured riding right up front are Supt. Richard Martinez, at left, and Dr. Leslie Barnes, Assistant Supt./CFO for Business Services, with other administrators and guests filling the rest of the bus. So, Happy Holidays from the Pomona Unified School District!

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And, bringing up the rear could it be? High atop a Pomona fire engine? Santa himself, played this year by Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Jeff Keating, Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Public Affairs at Western University of Health Sciences.



Diamond Ranch High School marching band



Associated Student Body members from Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise ride in the parade.



Garey High School marching band



Ganesha High School marching band



Ethel Gardner and volunteers with Pomona's Kennedy Austin Foundation



Members of Pomona's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce rode in this year's Pomona Christmas Parade.



Fairplex Community Advancement Manager and Pomona Chamber Board member Tammy Roush, at left, and Ron Vander Molen, a member of the Los Angeles County Fair Association and owner of Vander Molen Fine Art Gallery in Pasadena, ride on the Fairplex float in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Fairplex Senior Vice President Lucas Rivera rides on the Fairplex float with his wife, Rubi Pacheco-Rivera (taking a selfie), and his youngest son Kahlo Rivera.

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Dancers from Pomona's G-Diva Dance Studios, owned by Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar, are well lit with Christmas lights as they demonstrate their moves at various points in the parade. And pictured behind several of the smaller dancers is Escobar herself.



Pomona Rotary Past President Beth Brooks, at center, and President Victor Caceres, at rear, rode in the Pomona Rotary float wishing all a "Merry Christmas."



**GRAND MARSHAL** -- Pomona Christmas Parade Grand Marshal Jenae Noonan, at left, a Pomona native and a Team USA member in mixed martial arts who brought home the gold medal last year, rides in the Pomona Christmas Parade with her friend, Estrella van Kessel, visiting from Amsterdam, who was never expected to walk again but beat the odds. Noonan said she asked her to ride in the parade with her to celebrate her achievement.



## New youth training center to open at David & Margaret

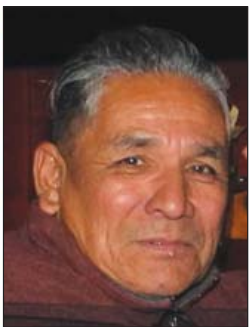
David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne will hold a grand opening of its Youth Workforce Training Center next month.

The event, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 1351 Palomares Ave., La Verne, on the agency's south campus.

The facility is designed to help foster children "age out" of the foster care system when they reach the age of 18.

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and  
New Year 2018*



*John Mendoza  
Division 6*

*Three Valleys Municipal Water District*



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Visite [ConserveEnergySoCal.com](http://ConserveEnergySoCal.com) para obtener más información sobre la conservación durante el clima frío.





Christmas Parade... from pg. 14

Pomona's own Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe of Native Americans walked the parade route reminding us about the annual "Pow Wow" scheduled for the last weekend in April in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park.



Students in the always popular Ballet Folklórico from Pomona's Lincoln Elementary School march and dance their way along the parade route.



Denny Mosier, at left, and Anne Henderson (nice glasses, Anne!) carry the banner for the Pomona Host Lions Club in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Miss Pomona 2017 Yazmin Torres, at center, rides in the Pomona Christmas Parade with her court, Princesses Marleni Munguia, at left, and Melanie Alva, at right.



NAACP Pomona Valley Branch President Jeanette Royston, at center, leads the local NAACP delegation in the parade.



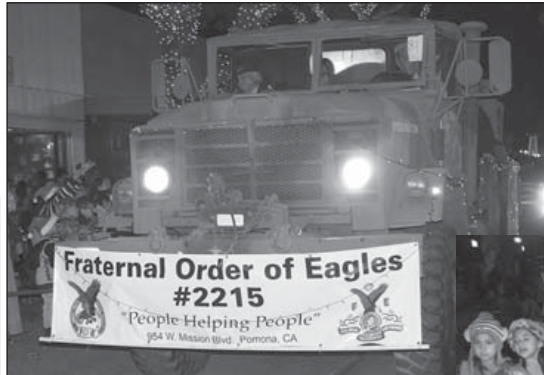
Kids wave to the camera from the Pomona Unified School District's Child Development float which is always well-decorated for the parade.



Participants in Pomona's Fist of Gold Youth Center youth boxing program ride in the parade in their boxing ring on wheels.



Team members in Pomona's Pony United Youth Baseball, based in Pomona's JFK Park, showed off their baseball jerseys as they walked the parade route.



The Pomona Eagles looked good in this year's parade.



Pomona Police Officer Jason Conley and Jax, a bloodhound who works on scent tracking assignments, represented the police department's K-9 Unit as they "sniffed" their way along the parade route.



The Girl Scouts of Pomona

Pomona Optimist "Students of the Month" from Pomona's Philadelphia Elementary School ride in the "Optimist Polar Express" wagon in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Pomona's LGBTQ+ delegation turned out for the parade.

Former City Councilmember Debra Martin marches with the LGBTQ+ group in the Pomona Christmas Parade. Martin currently is Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis' appointee as the Special Flood Control District Representative on the Pomona Oversight Board for the city redevelopment agency's successor agency.

Members of the Mt. San Antonio College Board of Trustees came to Pomona to ride in the Pomona Christmas Parade. Pictured, from left, are Rosanne Bader and Manuel Baca and, riding "shotgun," Laura Santos.

# Hope & Hurdles

By Evy Schuman



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** "Hope & Hurdles," an on-going feature appearing in La Nueva Voz, was created by artist Evy Schuman as an attempt to "poke fun" at the little things that trouble us all from time to time. Evy, who is also a published writer on the subject, created the cartoon series to show her work at a creative writing class she co-facilitates at Pomona's Tri-City Wellness Center.



## Community turns out for ribbon-cutting at new \$30 million Washington Elementary expansion set to open next week

Students at Pomona's Washington Elementary School will return to classes next week to go back to work in a brand new two-story school wing featuring the latest in technology, design, furnishings, energy efficiency and more.

Supt. Richard Martinez said the \$30 million construction package was the district's first major capital improvement project since Cortez (pre-K through 8) and Lopez (pre-K through 6) Elementary Schools were built about 10 years ago.

And the second phase of this huge two-phase project will get under way immediately as crews go to work with a total remodeling of the original school building, located in the heart of South Pomona at 975 E. 9th St. (at San Antonio Avenue). Phase two is expected to cost another \$5.7 million.

Thirteen of the portable classrooms already located on campus will continue to be used for classrooms during the remodel. The remaining two will be used to house a temporary library until the library is remodeled in the original building which was constructed in the 1960s.



Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Jill Reiff, of Valley Vista Services, gets a tour of a new classroom at Pomona's Washington Elementary School from fourth grade teacher Cesar Torres. Torres told La Nueva Voz everything is "high tech" now -- teachers will no longer use projectors but will wirelessly connect their laptops from the podium to connect with a large computerized "ViewSonic" monitor mounted on a "white" board. And every student at the school receives a Chromebook (you can just see the computer charging stations behind Reiff).

The remodel is expected to be completed by the time students return to school next fall. By that time, the portable classrooms will have been removed and the site transformed into a grass playground.

Pomona Unified School District Board Vice President Frank Guzman, told La Nueva Voz before this month's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new building that the project completion is particularly important to him for three reasons -- his trustee area includes Washington Elementary, he grew up nearby in South Pomona, and the new school facility will be boosting educational services to one of the district's lowest socio-economic areas in an era in which the district is trying to provide modern facilities districtwide.



The new building is really two two-story buildings with a combined 30,000 square feet adding 27 classrooms with Spanish architectural styling that are joined together and shaped in a "T" configuration immediately west of the original school building.

"Today marks a new beginning for Washington Elementary," Principal Alan Pantanini told an audience of several hundred parents, visiting Pomona Unified teachers and administrators, contractors and other guests.

"We have been afforded this amazing 21st century 360 degree flexible learning environment to continue our work ensuring all students have the tools and environment of borderless learning opportunities to help master content while producing, synthesizing and evaluating information from all content areas," Pantanini said.

Expansion... pg. 18



Pomona's Washington Elementary School students wave to the school photographer in a school photo holding up signs thanking the school board and the community for their new school addition following opening ceremonies at the school this month.

**OPENING NEW SCHOOL BUILDING AT WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY** -- Pomona Unified School District Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman and Board Vice President Frank Guzman cut the ribbon this month to officially open a new \$30 million addition to Pomona's Washington Elementary School. Pictured with the new school building in the background, from left, are Erick Figueroa, a resource teacher at Washington; the school's new mascot representing the Washington "Lobos;" Enriqueta Velazquez, President of Washington's "Parent Pack;" Board Vice President Guzman; District Supt. Richard Martinez; Board President Dr. Perlman; construction manager Dan Franco; Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa; Dr. Leslie Barnes, Pomona Unified Assistant Supt./CFO for Business Services; Washington Principal Alan Pantanini; Sonia Saavedra, President of Washington's English Language Advisory Committee; and Dr. Maria Franco-Madrigal, "Teacher on Assignment," essentially serving as Washington's Vice Principal.

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## Inter Valley Health Plan employees continue tradition of 'giving back'

About 40 of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan's employees went to work for a week once again both during the year and this holiday season doing what they have done for more than 30 years – giving back to the community by helping out with local non-profits serving the area.

Focus this year was on senior-based community agencies through in-kind donations, volunteerism and funding.

"Giving back is a large part of our DNA," said IVHP President and CEO Ron Bolding. "The communities we serve are our top priority and we are so thankful we have such wonderful organizations to partner with here in the Inland Empire to help those in need."

More than 40 non-profits were included this year, ranging from food bank and support group Inland Valley Hope Partners and the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley to Manna Ministries Food Bank in Yucaipa.

"We've been working with Inter Valley Health Plan for more than

a decade and we couldn't be more thankful for their support," said Wytke Visser, President and CEO of Inland Valley Hope Partners. "It's a joy to see their staff come in year after year for the Helping Hands program and do whatever necessary to lend a hand."

She said the volunteers help make "a real difference here in the community."

Holiday charity programs on the list included Inland Valley Hope Partners' "Adopt a Family Program," where Inter Valley Health Plan volunteers adopted a single grandmother raising four grandchildren with ages ranging from 2 to 16. Employees donated a total of 29 gifts for the family.

Employees also donated 20 pairs of shoes and socks to children within the Pomona Unified School District for the "Shoes That Fit" organization in Claremont.

"Inter Valley Health Plan is our neighbor and long time partner for the City of Claremont," said Anne Turner, Human Services Senior

**Giving back... pg. 19**

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## Expansion... from pg. 17

"Our students will not only demonstrate the three 'R's' but now have the means to demonstrate them using the three 'C's' – creativity, communication and collaboration – embarking on the new journey into digital literacy," he added.

Pantanini said students will continue building on their "STEAM" (science, technology, engineering, art and math) skills including robotics programs, computer coding, and even video production beginning with the school's own student-run news network "WNN."

"At Washington, we give hope, we share happiness and we provide our students possibilities and I thank you for making the power of 'now' a reality for all the little 'Lobos' (school mascot) in our pack," he said.

Supt. Martinez reminded the audience that several years ago he was invited to the White House by President Obama who told 100 superintendents from across the country that his dream was to get every child connected to the internet, explaining that technology available in the new addition will help make this possible.

"His interest was districts like ours in places where normally families cannot access internet or computers or technology," Martinez said. "I'm very proud that the . . . governing board of education had the foresight and

planned for you . . . first as one of the major schools . . . to benefit our children."

Speaking to the audience in both English and Spanish, Martinez said he was excited the district was able to bring this project to South Pomona.

"Our students deserve this," said Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman. "Our students need this new technology to be competi-



Washington Elementary School teacher Cesar Torres explained how his new classroom's computerized "ViewSonic" monitor can display anything that appears on his laptop. He also pointed out that the classroom features erasable "white" boards on all of the walls and "white" board tops on student work tables. Twenty-first century indeed! (Well, La Nueva Voz still remembers blackboards and chalk.)

tive in the world and to change our world, to change our community and our world."

"We worked hard to present you with the best learning environment for your students," she added.

Board Vice President Guzman said while Washington Elemen-

tary is located in his trustee area, the school board really works together to represent the district as a whole.

"We really see the students are our number one priority," said Guzman, who told the audience he is a former student of the school district and a lifelong member of the community.

"We are pleased to present you with a state-of-the-art learning environment that will enable

all of our children to soar beyond their wildest imagination," he added.

Pomona City Council member Cristina Carrizosa, whose district includes Washington Elementary, also speaking in both English and Spanish, said she was "very thankful to the board of education, to our superintendent, to Mr. Pantanini and to everyone that was involved in this magnificent construction."

But she said it is more than just the construction of the building – "It is what is going to happen . . . is that your children are going to be connected to the highest technology. Your kids are not going to be behind like most of us are."

Martinez thanked the parents, adding that "this could not have happened without you," since it was the residents who voted for Measure PS and Measure P making possible the bonds to provide funding.

"This is your building, this is your second home," he said.

The building features all LED lighting with "daylight harvesting" in which lighting automatically dims or brightens depending on the amount of available natural lighting, according to construction manager Dan Franco, of LCC3 Construction Services, Inc., of Rancho Cucamonga.

Even the air conditioning and heating is high efficiency and the building, all concrete construction, is well insulated to prevent heating and cooling loss.

The project took about a year to complete, Franco said.

## A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Pick up your free copy of La Nueva Voz at these locations and dozens more:

- Pomona City Hall lobby
- Pomona library
- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
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- Central Market, Towne Avenue and Phillips Boulevard, Pomona
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- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 954 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona





## Pomona officials join Supervisor Solis, county officials, at opening of new affordable housing complex

City and county officials joined with developers this month in Pomona to officially open Mosaic Gardens, a new 45-unit affordable housing complex with half of the units serving formerly homeless households.

The remainder of the low-income units will provide housing and services to families earning up to 60 percent of the area's median income.

"I think L.A. County is in a different place," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis. "We passed a big measure last year because people came out and voted to support eradicating homelessness... put people in houses (and) get them the care that they need."

"We were able to pass an initiative that's going to provide us with about \$355 million annually for 10 years that will help us begin to address this issue," she said.

And while some of that money will go for buildings as capital projects, the rest will go to services like mental health, substance abuse, education, training, "all the other things that it's going to take to get people back on their feet and make sure that they can be productive with their families... and get on with their lives," she added.

"Not every city is like Pomona," Solis said. "I can tell you that I can count on one hand how

many cities that I represent that are open to having housing for homeless or low income. Many still don't believe that it's possible, or that it's not for them, it's somebody else's problem."

"But I'm here to say that it's not somebody else's problem – these are our family members, these are our neighbors," she said.

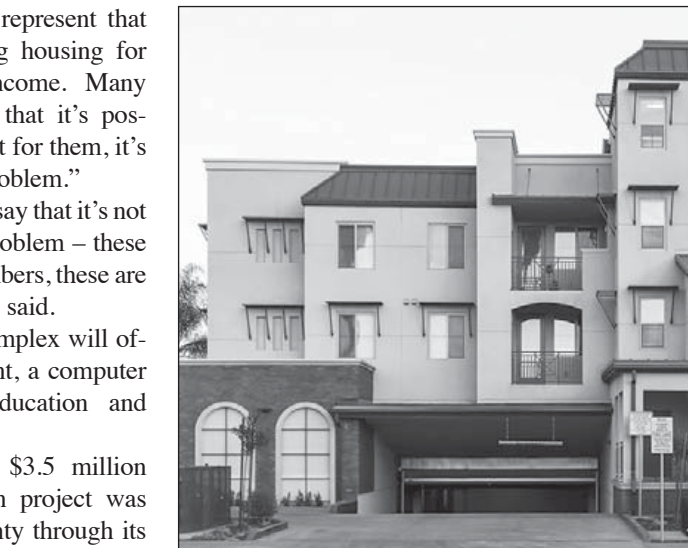
Solis said the complex will offer on-site treatment, a computer room, training, education and more.

She said about \$3.5 million of the \$19 million project was funded by the county through its Community Development Commission.

Solis pointed out that last year's homeless count showed there are more than 58,000 homeless people in Los Angeles County "so we have a great need." She said homelessness has almost doubled in the Latino population alone.

"We have to step up as a community," she said.

Rebecca Clark, President and CEO of LINC Housing Corp., developer of the project, said



Pictured is a view from the street of LINC Housing's new 45-unit affordable housing development in Pomona. The \$19 million project received \$3.5 million through the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission. The apartment complex, with occupancy already at about 65 percent, is located at 1680 S. Garey Ave., Pomona.



**NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX** -- Officials cut the ribbon to open Pomona's newest affordable housing complex to provide housing and services to a combination of formerly homeless households and low-income families. Pictured in the courtyard of the complex, from left, are Pomona City Councilmembers Cristina Carrizosa and Rubio Gonzalez; Monique King-Viehlend, acting executive director of the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission; LINC Housing Corp. President and CEO Rebecca Clark, developer of the project; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Suny Lay Chang, LINC Housing's Chief Operating Officer; former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, now Supervisor Solis' appointee as the Special Flood Control District Representative on the Pomona Oversight Board for the city's redevelopment agency's successor agency; and Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole.



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis speaks at grand opening ceremonies for new affordable housing complex in Pomona as some of the youngest new residents of the apartments play on playground equipment in the background.

### Giving back... from pg. 18

Program Director for Claremont. "Their involvement on a year-round basis has established a trust that has allowed for a greater level of involvement and more dynamic community offerings, specifically for our Human Services Senior Program."

Inter Valley Health Plan is a not-for-profit, federally qualified, HMO contracted with Medicare and dedicated to providing the best value in senior health care coverage. Founded more than 35 years ago, it is one of the oldest managed health care plans in Southern California and is entrusted by 25,000 individuals from Los Angeles to Orange County to Palm Springs and to Victorville.

It is headquartered in Pomona.

**ON SANTA'S KNEE** --- It is never too early to begin getting your holiday requests in to Santa. Just ask Hayden Mason, who is 15 months old. Hayden stopped by the Haynes Family of Programs in La Verne this month for the annual holiday lighting ceremony and community reception as 40,000 lights were switched on for the holidays at the Haynes campus. The lights are synchronized to music (tune in on your car radio) and will remain on every night through the holidays. Pictured with Hayden and Santa are grandparents Kathy Mason and Haynes Board member Bob Mason, President of R.H. Mason Insurance Managers. The Haynes Family of Programs provides specialized treatment and educational services to children with special needs relating to emotional development, autism, Asperger's Disorder, learning disabilities, neglect and abandonment. The campus is located at 233 West Baseline Road, La Verne, (909) 593-2581 or www.leroyhaynes.org.

occupancy is already at 65 percent with additional units filling up fast.

She added that her company knows how to do affordable housing but relies on its partners, including Los Angeles County, in areas of the environment, labor, education and health – all important ingredients of a healthy community.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told the group that Pomona has "too many people living on the street and it shouldn't be that way, particularly in one of the wealthiest countries in the world."

And Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa, who said she lives only a few blocks away from the project, said it is in an excellent location with a shopping center and excellent schools nearby.

Monique King-Viehlend, acting executive director of the county's Community Development Commission, said affordable housing is essential in Pomona where 22 percent of the population lives below the poverty level.

"Projects like these are right on time and very essential," she added.

Mosaic Gardens, built on just under a one-acre site, is located at 1680 S. Garey Ave., Pomona. It includes one, two and three bedroom homes, a community room, a courtyard with a "tot lot," underground parking and more.

It is expected to be a near "net zero" property, with the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created on-site.





**HEROES RECOGNIZED BY POMONA CHAMBER** -- Four public safety officers -- two police officers and two firemen -- were recognized by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month at the chamber's annual "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon at the Avalon at Fairplex. Honored were Pomona Police Officer Billy Dinh and Pomona Police Detective Deon Brown. Dinh leads the "HEART" program which is designed to provide services to the homeless population in Pomona, he has been a resident of Pomona since 1986 and he is a graduate of Pomona High School. Brown, who served for 11 years as a U.S. Marine and started his law enforcement career with the California Highway Patrol, came to Pomona and was assigned to the Downtown Pomona district and the FBI Safe Streets Gang Task Force before his promotion to detective where he now is assigned to the major crimes unit. Also honored were Los Angeles County Fire Station 182 Capt. Steve Bowie and Fire Station 185 Capt. Travis Wilson. Bowie is known for his dedication to exceptional service and training new recruits at the fire academy. Wilson is known for his hard work and for supporting and training newly promoted captains while they attend the captains academy. He also helps teach new recruits fire "behavior" at the fire academy. Pictured, from left, are Dinh, Brown, Bowie and Wilson.

**POLICE CHIEF GETS GIFT FROM SANTA** -- Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro, who retired this month after serving for 30 years with the police department, receives a special gift from Santa (also known as community volunteer and State Farm agent John Forbing) at this month's "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon at the Avalon at Fairplex. The two are fellow Rotarians, and the gift was actually from Pomona Rotary. Capraro was sworn into office as police chief in March 2014, taking over for Chief Dave Keettle who served for five years as chief before Capraro.



**MASTER OF CEREMONIES** -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Sandra Vaughan-Acton. Director of Real Estate Development for the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, serves as master of ceremonies at this month's annual "Holiday for Heroes" Pomona Chamber awards luncheon at the Avalon at Pomona's Fairplex. The chamber each year at its holiday party takes the opportunity to honor Pomona's public safety officers for their service.

## National conference on human trafficking and sexual exploitation to be held next month in Ontario

The National Women's Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation, Crittenton Services for Children & Families, and San Bernardino County will host the Southwest Conference Against Trafficking next month in Ontario as a major effort to share collaborative solutions in the fight against neglect, abuse and exploitation.

The event will be held from Thursday, Jan. 11, through Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Ontario Airport Hotel and Conference Center in Ontario.

The National Woman's Coalition, based in Vancouver, Washington, has held the event during Martin Luther King's birthday weekend each year since 2009 to reflect on Dr. King's dream of living in a world without slavery, said Michelle Bart, founder of the coalition.

"Modern day slavery is a worldwide epidemic and this conference is for anyone who shares the dream of a world without violence," she added.


More than 25 speakers are scheduled including representatives of law enforcement, men-  
**National conference... pg. 21**



**GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT** -- "Regulars" at the annual gift wrapping party at La Verne's Haynes Family of Programs Jay Kohler, at left, and his wife Ananda, of San Dimas, put their years of experience to good use as they stuff a bean bag chair into a holiday wrap gift bag. The two started by adopting a residential cottage at Haynes providing Christmas presents for the kids for several years and have been coming back to wrap gifts for the past three years. Ananda said once they learned about the services Haynes provides, they were touched and started telling people about it, adding that it was an "easy sell." Now they bring friends and family -- her mom, her sister, a niece, a friend and her friend's granddaughter and friends from work -- all from the Covina and San Dimas area. Jay said he went to school in San Dimas with a lot of kids from the Haynes facility. Members of the community donate gifts each year for the 36 boys living at Haynes and the 210 boys, girls and teens with autism and learning disabilities attending school on the campus. And volunteers come in each year for the two-hour gift wrapping party to wrap gifts and enjoy holiday treats. The Haynes Family of Programs serves more than 2,000 clients, family members and caregivers annually. For more information, visit the web site at [www.teroyhaynes.org](http://www.teroyhaynes.org).

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Members of Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar's G-Diva Productions dance studios perform their "parade medley," a sampling of what they had up their sleeve for the Pomona Christmas Parade, during this month's Pomona tree-lighting ceremony at City Hall.

**SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS** -- Even Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand this year at the tree-lighting ceremony at Pomona City Hall, portrayed as always by Pomona Police Department volunteer John Schmidt and Darlene Duenas, a city employee at Pomona's Palomares Senior Center. Both came back for "Holiday at the Plaza" in Shaun Diamond Plaza for the festivities before and after the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade.



Photo by Renee Barbee

**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** -- Members of the Pomona Optimist Club, celebrating 63 years of service to the community, presented awards to their "Students of the Month" for October and November at a dinner meeting last month at Mr. D's Diner in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Kevin Gaxiola-Elenes, fifth grade; Felix Gil, sixth grade; Optimist President Lorraine Canales; Katy Gaxiola-Elenes, third grade; and Melody Gil, second grade. All are students at Pomona's Philadelphia Elementary School.

### National conference... from pg. 20

tal health, survivors, elected officials, journalists and more.

Special guest performers include actress, singer and songwriter Gloria Loring and singer and songwriter Ken McMeans, both survivors of sexual abuse.

Presentations on Thursday will include prosecution, protection and prevention, portrait of an abusive relationship, understanding the impact of working with victims of abuse and exploitation, treating adolescent victims of human trafficking and more.

Friday's "Dinner and Dreams"

gala will feature the coalition's presentation of the National Journalism Impact award to this year's honoree, Rachel Dissell.

And the conference concludes on Saturday with the eighth annual San Bernardino County Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation Walk Against Trafficking.

Registration for this national conference is available at SW-CAT.org.

The conference was last held locally in 2014 at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.



**POMONA CITY HALL TREE LIGHTING** -- Several hundred residents were on hand this month for the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremonies at Pomona City Hall. Featured outdoors on the civic center plaza was a performance by the Pomona Youth Orchestra. Pictured immediately after the lighting placing the first presents under the tree just inside the front door to City Hall are, from left, Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, Mayor Tim Sandoval, and Councilmembers Cristina Carrizosa, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Robert Torres (with son Julien Torres, with his eye on the package) and Ginna Escobar. Not pictured is Councilmember Adriana Robledo, who was out of town at the time of the event.



Members of Pomona's Garey High School Viking Troopers Choir perform holiday music on the steps of Pomona City Hall during this month's tree-lighting activities.




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Limit one coupon per table per visit. Expires 1-31-18 LNV

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### County supervisors approve fine-free library cards for students

A motion co-authored by Los Angeles County Supervisors Hilda Solis and Janice Hahn and passed this month by the Board of Supervisors will provide students under age 17 access to library resources with their own fine-free library card.

“Our L.A. County libraries support the important work of our schools and provide free access to books, materials, online tools, homework help and even language classes,” Solis said. “It is important that every student in the county, regardless of economic status, be able to tap into these services.”

Students will be able to check out a maximum of three print items at a time and have full access to online resources.



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