



Pomona Mayor Sandoval touts his leadership, city council candidates list their qualifications in city's only candidate's forum

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, speaking in his opening statement last week at what apparently was the only Pomona City Council candidate's forum before the Nov. 3 election, told the audience that "Pomona has tremendous assets and it has challenges," adding that "the hallmark of my leadership has been bringing people together."

"I think the key is what type of leadership is this community looking for and I believe that I have exemplified that type of leadership over the past four years," he said. "For example, shortly after I was elected mayor, the community made it very clear that they were tired of being the dumping

ground of the region and we wanted to make sure that we limited the number of waste recycling businesses."

"Shortly after I was elected, we banned all new waste and recycling businesses because as I said, we are not going to be the dumping ground for the region," he said, adding that the city then brought together a group of community leaders focusing on the environment and ways to look at existing issues and reduce the city's carbon footprint.



Mayor Tim Sandoval

"(This would include) affordable housing, bike lanes, sidewalks that are more walkable and also ... more trees in our community," he said.

Sandoval said the city received a planning grant to focus on these areas and is working on that today.

"On housing, we just didn't talk about housing, we did it and we approved a number of affordable housing developments including across the street from our police station that will result in 50 additional units," Sandoval added.

"I am absolutely committed to make sure that as we develop the downtown that it be inclusive of our working-class residents," he said.

He also pointed out that additional "market rate" housing is being built in the area of Bonita and Garey Avenues "as a result of some of the efforts to bring the Gold Line to the City of Pomona," along with additional homes being completed near the Target shopping center.

"We've made strides in economic development," he said. "As I said, I chair the Foothill Gold Line Construction

Authority and we were able to get the dollars to bring the Gold Line to Pomona when in fact we were short several million dollars and we fought and came together as a community and we brought those dollars."

"We've also improved on our homelessness situation but there's more work to be done," he said. "But by building a Hope for Home (year-round homeless shelter) we have created a place where people can get their lives back together."

He also said he has created faith and trust in government and has been accessible and open "and that to me really reflects my leadership."

The forum was co-sponsored

by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Pomona Owners Association. Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares and DPOA Executive Director Lorena Parker moderated the on-line "virtual" event.

And, while a total of 14 candidates are running for three city council districts and the mayor's office, only five showed up for the forum.

The reasons were a little complicated – first, organizers required that participants had to be on record signing the city's pledge to conduct an ethical campaign, and only four of the 14 had signed by kickoff time. District 6 Challenger Debra Martin was able to get all that worked out and was added to the list near the end of the forum to at least get her opening comments on the table.

And back in the mayor's race, Jesus Villagomez Campos was there – he was visible in the video as technicians tried to get his audio connected but that never happened.

Manzanares said nearly 100 viewers were on the call before the forum was posted on the Chamber's web site for additional viewing. In addition, a live Facebook

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Former Pomona Councilmember John Nolte receives Latino Roundtable's annual 'Community Star Award'

Former Pomona City Councilmember and Board member of the Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley John Nolte, a community attorney who has served on the Roundtable's Community Development Committee for nearly 10 years, was awarded the organization's "Community Star Award" last month at the 16th annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast.

The award is presented each year to recognize individuals who



John Nolte

Latino Roundtable... pg. 6

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Moving forward together for an equitable and inclusive community - A Message from Tri-City Mental Health

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals and families across our community have endured multiple waves of sickness, insecurity, joblessness, racial trauma and challenges to mental health. These impacts have been felt across a spectrum of communities: Black/African Americans, Latinos, Indigenous Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, LGBTQ+ communities, youth, older adults, and people with disabilities. Our mental health is important - and right now even the most resilient among us are struggling for peace of mind.



Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ+ communities face mounting barriers to accessing mental health care, including racism, inequities, stigma and lack of resources. Mental health conditions do not discriminate and no one should feel alone in their journey. So, what can we do to promote healing, advance equity, and improve mental health services for everyone?

Join our Advisory Councils and help support the well-being of your community!

Tri-City's Advisory Councils advocate for the mental health needs of diverse communities in Pomona, La Verne and Claremont by engaging and empowering members to share their voices, experiences and needs to be considered by Tri-City Mental Health. Members consist of clients, consumers, families, advocates, community members and local organizations. Our mission is to help elevate voices, to listen and better understand, and to ensure people from all communities receive the support and resources needed to truly thrive.

- **African American Family Wellness** – Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 10:30 am
- **¡Adelante! Latino and Hispanic Wellness** - Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm
- **LGBTQ+ Wellness** - Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am

To join an upcoming Advisory Council virtual meeting or for more information on how to become a member, please contact our Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee at cidc@tricitymhs.org.

Why YOU should VOTE for Victoria Hahn, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Division 6:

Why does a vote for Victoria Hahn matter? Water is one of two elements needed to live. It's important to me that policy surrounding something so valuable NOT be governed strongly by one political party or another. We ALL need water, so all points must be analyzed decisions which are made based upon personal research and values. My Priorities.

Experience:

- 25+ years of experience in the water industry and local government.
- The ONLY candidate involved in the projects benefiting Pomona including the Pedley-Mills Plant for delivery of emergency water to the city.
- I value regional relationship building and will explore opportunities to connect the dots between the other local agencies serving our Pomona voters.
- I am ready to serve on day one!

Integrity / Transparency:

- I support public access and democracy of the water agency processes and will encourage expansion of open data and ease of access to the agency's public records.
- I will work with member agencies to identify what Three Valleys can provide to help educate the constituents.
- I will encourage continuing the Three Valleys board meetings via a virtual format once the pandemic ends, and I will explore opportunities for the audio of the proceedings to be available online within 24 hours.

Fiscally Conservative:

- FUNDS belong to taxpayers FIRST!
- Carefully consider benefit to district when submitting stipends for reimbursement.
- Complete project due diligence to ensure the best services are provided for the funds invested.

Thank you for your support. Please VOTE for Victoria Hahn on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Division 6. For more information, please visit www.hahn4waterboard.com

Paid for by Hahn for Water Board 2020, Committee ID No. Pending.

¿Por qué es importante votar por Victoria Hahn? El agua es uno de los dos elementos necesarios para vivir. Para mí es importante que la política que rodea a algo tan importante no sea gobernada fuertemente por un partido político u otro. Todos necesitamos agua, por lo que se deben analizar todos los puntos, decisiones tomadas en base a investigaciones y valores personales. Mis prioridades.

Experiencia:

- 25 años de experiencia en la industria del agua y el gobierno local.
- El único candidato involucrado en los proyectos que benefician a Pomona, incluida la Planta Pedley-Mills para el suministro de agua de emergencia a Pomona.
- Valoro la construcción de relaciones regionales y exploraré oportunidades para conectar los puntos entre las otras agencias locales que sirven a nuestros votantes de Pomona.
- ¡Estoy listo para servir el primer día!

Integridad / Transparencia:

- Apoyo el acceso público y la democracia de los procesos de las agencias de agua y fomentará la expansión de los datos abiertos y la facilidad de acceso a los registros públicos de las agencias.
- Trabajaré con la agencia miembro para identificar lo que Tres Valle puede proporcionar para ayudar a educar a los constituyentes.
- Animaré a que continúen las reuniones de la junta directiva de los Tres Valles a través de un formato virtual una vez que termine la pandemia, y explorar oportunidades para que el audio de los premios esté disponible en el sitio web dentro de las 24 horas.

Fiscalmente conservador:

- Los fondos pertenecen primero a los contribuyentes.
- Considere cuidadosamente el beneficio para el distrito al enviar estipendios para reembolso.
- Completar la diligencia debida del proyecto para garantizar que se brinden los mejores servicios para los fondos invertidos.

Gracias por tu apoyo. Vote por Victoria Hahn, Distrito de Agua Municipal de Tres Valles, División 6. Para obtener más información, visite www.hahn4waterboard.com

Pagado por Hahn for Water Board 2020, número de identificación del comité pendiente.



Vote YES on Measure PM
The Pomona Regulate Cannabis Act of 2018
The “People’s Measure”

10,000 Pomona residents signed to place Measure PM on the 2018 ballot. The City delayed putting the measure on the ballot in 2018 in order to create their own law, which is influenced by Unions and Corporate Cannabis businesses with Out-of-State ties.

Yes on Measure PM explicitly protects our schools, daycare centers and youth activity locations by prohibiting cannabis businesses from operating near them, as prescribed by State law. There will not be dispensaries on every corner or in every neighborhood.

La Medida PM protege a nuestros niños al prohibir que los negocios de cannabis operen cerca de ellos.

Yes on Measure PM tracks cannabis activity from seed to sell as part of the State’s mandatory Track and Trace program.

La Medida PM rastrea actividad del cannabis desde su semilla hasta su comercio como parte de la ley Estatal.

Yes on Measure PM creates a low-cost, transparent permitting process that enables our local citizens to participate in the cannabis industry as legislated by State law.

La Medida PM crea un proceso transparente y de bajo costo que permite a nuestros ciudadanos locales a participar en la industria del cannabis.

Yes on Measure PM funds enforcement which will crack down on illegal cannabis operations in the City.

La Medida PM sufraga implementaciones para combatir las operaciones ilegales del cannabis en la Ciudad.

Under Measure PM the application permit is \$250. However, Measure PM does not mandate that the person requesting the application will receive a permit to operate a cannabis business nor does it limit any other fees associated with opening a new business within the City.

Under Measure PM there are no costs associated with hiring a third-party consultant, which ranges in the thousands of dollars. Under Measure PM no third-party consultant is needed because the permit process is entirely performed in accordance with State law.

Vote Yes on Measure PM
The People’s Measure

Paid for by Eunice R Russell Fmr. Commissioner on Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees, 2010 Charter Review Commissioner and Co-Chair, Community Life Commissioner and Recipient of Pomona’s highest service award the Pomona Goddess.

Vote NO on MEASURE PO
Commercial Cannabis Permit Program Overlay District
“Pomona’s Current Cannabis Law”
Stop Backdoor Deals and Union Control

VOTE NO ON PO

Fact: Measure PO is the Current Cannabis Law in Pomona not merely a cannabis permit program as described in the voting material.

La Medida PO es la Legislación Actual del Cannabis en Pomona.

Fact: As the current law, Measure PO has failed to adequately address the illegal cannabis operations in Pomona.

La Medida PO ha fracasado en abordar adecuadamente las operaciones ilegales del cannabis en Pomona.

Fact: Measure PO gives Unions and Corporate Applicants with Out-of-State ties control over Manufacturing, Distribution and Retail in the City of Pomona.

La Medida PO otorga a los Sindicatos y a los Solicitantes Corporativos con vínculos Fuera-del-Estado que asumen el control del cannabis.

Fact: Although the ballot measure erroneously suggests that the cannabis application process will happen sometime in the future, the application process has already occurred and just awaiting award of the permits pending the outcome of the 2020 election.

El proceso de solicitud ya se ha presentado y solamente espera la otorgación de permisos.

Fact: Under Measure PO only Union Affiliated Applicants could receive the maximum score to be awarded toward a cannabis permit which gave an unfair advantage to Union Affiliated Applicants.

Bajo la Medida PO únicamente los Solicitantes de Sindicatos Afiliados podrían recibir la puntuación máxima hacia un permiso de cannabis.

Fact: The public meetings described in Measure PO have already been held for the commercial cannabis applicants. The public meetings did not provide adequate information to give the public a clear perspective and compare what each applicant would bring to the city and it is not clear how the public input was applied to the application scoring process.

Las sesiones públicas detalladas en la Medida PO ya se han llevado a cabo para los solicitantes de la comercialización del cannabis

Fact: Under Measure PO, the current law, only Union Affiliated Applicants reached Phase Three of the cannabis application process and are currently eligible to receive the first cannabis licenses to be issued in the City of Pomona should Measure PO pass.

Bajo la legislación vigente de la Medida PO, solamente los Solicitantes de Sindicatos Afiliados son elegibles de recibir las primeras licencias para ser emitidas.

Fact: The third-party consultant, HDL Consulting, is at the center of controversy in several lawsuits, both actual and potential, against cities, including Pomona, where they administered the application process. (See San Bernardino Sun March 1, 2019, San Bernardino sued over commercial cannabis licensing process, and Pasadena Star News January 21, 2020, Pasadena councilman demands overhaul of cannabis process.)

Stop Backdoor Deals and Union Control

VOTE NO ON PO

Paid for by Eunice R Russell Fmr. Commissioner Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees, 2010 Charter Review Commissioner and Co-Chair, Community Life Commissioner and Recipient of Pomona’s highest service award the Pomona Goddess.

Pomona Rotary awarded grant, partners with Urban Mission for five-week give-away program

Pomona Rotary Club members have partnered with Pomona's Urban Mission Community Partners on a five-week food give-away project that is providing boxes of groceries each week to 50 local families facing economic hardships resulting from the pandemic under a \$5,000 COVID disaster grant from the Rotary International Foundation.

The grant award was received based on Pomona being identified as one of the most severely impacted areas in Southern California from the COVID-19 virus.

Pomona Rotary also was able to demonstrate they could effectively coordinate with other non-profits on the project.

The way the project works, Rotarians are meeting with Urban Mission volunteers each week to assemble the boxes and then load the boxes into their own vehicles for distribution.

Rev. Nora Jacob, acting executive director of Urban Mission and the group's restorative justice director, told La Nueva Voz the food distribution program was launched by Urban Mission in May and has grown to its cur-



Pomona Rotarians Darren Krohn, at left, and Jill Dolan, at rear, accompanied by volunteers from Pomona's Urban Mission Community Partners, fill boxes last month at one of five weekly food give-aways funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Rotary International Foundation. Volunteers each week delivered the completed boxes to 50 local families facing COVID-related hardships.

rent level "which is magnificent."

She said Rev. Stephen Yorba Patten, the community wellness director at Urban Mission, runs their "market box" program and coordinates with the Rotarians. She and Patten also help coordinate the volunteers in the program.

"The Rotarians became involved because that's what they do, they serve, they heard about

our program, they had done smaller projects with us before and so they got involved," she said.

And on the grant from Rotary International Foundation?

"We've upped our game for that," she said.

She said the grant funds were used to purchase groceries and toiletries, including toilet paper, hand soap, shampoo, hand wipes



Rotarian Lorraine Canales, at left, and Pomona Rotary President Ron Vera go over logistics before drivers head out to deliver groceries and supplies in the weekly give-away by Pomona Rotary and Pomona's Urban Mission Community Partners.

and more.

And, she added, Rev. Patten coordinates the list of recipients based on telephone requests and a list of names provided by Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado.

Students from Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences also are participating in the program doing "community engagement" work and learning about food distribution programs.

Rotarians David Speidel, Lorraine Canales and Daryl Beans were instrumental in securing the foundation grant working with Ron Vera, this year's club president.

Pomona Rotary also has been providing assistance to homeless individuals and families on a monthly basis by serving meals at shelters in the area.



Pomona Rotarian Jill Dolan places a can of Campbell's roasted red pepper soup in each box as she helps get ready for the weekly give-away distribution.

Pomona Rotary will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next April and meets each Tuesday at noon.

The club has provided nearly \$1 million in charitable contributions to Pomona since 1945.

Sherlock's Haunted Escape offers

'escape room' alternative for Halloween

Interested in a Halloween experience like Disneyland's Haunted Mansion but with COVID-friendly protections due to the pandemic?

Try the Exodus Escape Room, an immersive experience that not only lets you be the detective but also allows you to escape from reality.

Sherlock's Haunted Escape lets you help Sherlock solve those strange things that have been hap-

pening – but only through Oct. 31!

The 60-minute, adrenaline-fueled experience is ideal for families, friends, companies and parties with rooms appropriate for all ages and experience levels. Locations are available in Anaheim Hills, Rancho Cucamonga, Monterey Bay and Rowland Heights.

Recommended capacity is four to eight guests.

For information, visit exodus-escaperoom.com.

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OPINION

Advierte enfermera de diálisis que la Proposición 23 pondría pacientes en riesgo de muerte

Por: Angel Guerrero

La enfermera Krystal Salcedo advierte directamente que “la Proposición 23 es un riesgo para la vida de mis pacientes”.

Salcedo trabaja en un centro de diálisis en Carmel Mountain en el condado de San Diego, donde atiende a centenares de pacientes cada semana.

Dice que la Proposición 23 es un intento sindical que desconoce que los centros de diálisis deben cumplir con altos estándares de atención al público.

Los centros “están permanentemente regulados por el gobierno federal y el gobierno de California”, ambos tienen como requisito operativo que un médico se responsabilice de los tratamientos.

Lo que la proposición 23 exige es que en cada uno de los cerca de 600 centros en el estado haya un médico presente permanentemente mientras se lleven a cabo las terapias, esto es entre 12 y 14 horas diarias.

Dada la escasez de médicos en el estado, la enfermera Salcedo dice temer que muchos centros de diálisis no puedan pagar la presencia constante de médicos y tengan que cerrar sus puertas.

Habría menos centros de diálisis en operaciones, más costosos, porque el pago del médico pasaría a los pacientes, y el cúmulo de trabajo para los centros que logren permanecer abierto

sería mayor, pues no solo tendrían que absorber a los pacientes que quedaron fuera de los centros cerrados, sino a la creciente demanda de servicios.

En California se calcula que ahora hay unos 80,000 pacientes de diálisis, y “sabemos que la demanda crece en un 5 por ciento anual”, explicó la enfermera registrada.

La Proposición 23 dice que lo que quiere es que haya un servicio de calidad para los pacientes, pero eso lo dice un sindicato. Sin embargo “la atención a los pacientes en los centros de diálisis de California tiene estándares más elevados que los de promedio nacional”, indicó la enfermera que a diario atiende a los pacientes.

Los médicos que quiere imponer el sindicato a través de la Proposición 23 llegarían adicionales a los médicos que ya son responsables de esos centros, a las enfermeras de apoyo y a los técnicos que son quienes directamente hacen la terapia de diálisis.

Esto, de acuerdo con Salcedo, quiere decir que los médicos podrían estar hasta 14 horas diarias sin hacer nada.

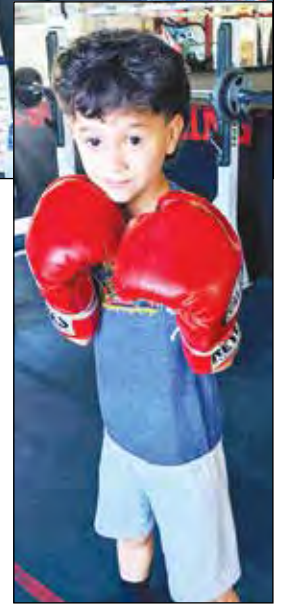
Sin embargo, su presencia innecesaria llevaría a cerrar centros de diálisis y esto pondría en riesgo la vida de los pacientes.

En California hay pacientes que requieren de hasta tres diálisis a la semana.

Pacientes en riesgo... pag. 8



Photos by Renee Barbee
TRAINING FOR THE 2021 OLYMPICS IN TOKYO -- Four boxers who train at the non-profit Gangs 2 Grace Youth Foundation's gym in Pomona pose for the La Nueva Voz camera last month. Pictured, from left, are Brian Oliva, 19, who is going to the national championships in Shreveport in December in the 125 pound weight class; Damian Mercado, 8, who will weigh in at 50 pounds in Shreveport; Tito Mercado, 19, who weighs in at 138 pounds; and Daniel Mercado, 16, fighting at 132 pounds. Tito, who currently ranks number one in the U.S. in his weight class, is preparing for Nicaragua next month where he hopes to qualify for the Nicaragua national team and participate in the Olympics in 2021 in Tokyo. Tito is a 20-time U.S. national champion and Daniel is a two-time national champion. The gym, located at 637 W. Holt Ave., Pomona, is open to the public, both children and adults, for both competition training and fitness conditioning. For more information, contact coordinator Neto Mercado at g2youthboxing@gmail.com.



WE DON'T CARE WHAT ANYBODY SAYS -- THIS KID IS TOUGH!
 -- Damian Mercado, only 8 years old, has been boxing since he was 3. And he is training with the big guys as everybody gets ready for the 2020 USA National Boxing Championships in December in Shreveport, Louisiana, where Damian will make his debut amateur fight.



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Paid for by Rodriguez for Assembly 2020 - FPCC # 1414249

Latino Roundtable... from pg. 1

work behind the scenes with the Roundtable.

This year's recognition breakfast was conducted for the first time as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also postponed from its original March date until September because of the pandemic.

Nolte, currently a candidate for Pomona City Council in District 1, moved to Pomona in 2004 af-

ter graduating from UCLA Law School, working with a public interest legal project to sue slumlords on behalf of tenants who were sick, injured and abused by horrendous conditions in their homes.

After volunteering at the Pomona Day Labor Center, where he learned Spanish, he was asked to serve on the center's board, according to his biography in the breakfast program notes.

He served as board president for six years and continues to serve on the board today.

Nolte has continued to advocate against the pollution of low-income neighborhoods, has worked toward achieving more humane and effective policing and has championed low-income housing projects.

As a practicing attorney, he has represented students with disabilities in special education disputes.

In accepting the award, Nolte said it was Roundtable President Jose Calderon who was influential in his decision to move to Pomona with his family.

"Cesar Chavez said it's how we use our lives that determines the kind of people we are," Nolte said. "We can't choose the circumstances we live in but we can choose how to use our lives."

He called on the group to follow the example of Chavez, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others who serve the poor, the oppressed, the undocumented, the homeless, the tenants and the refugees.

"Let's make time to fight, to teach, to organize, to push the moral arc towards justice," Nolte

said. "When we do, our lives will shine."

Teresa Romero

Also honored was Teresa Romero, who became the first Latina and first immigrant woman to become president of a national union in the U.S. when she became the third president of the United Farm Workers in December 2018.

"We have always known that farmworkers are essential and

now the federal government has also recognized this workforce is essential," Romero said. "However, it is still not treated as such."

She said she works with a great team of people whose "commitment to improving their life has no limits."

And she thanked the farmworkers for continuing to work under difficult conditions "to put food at our table."

Jeanette Royston

Honoree Jeanette Royston, who initiated and reactivated the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Pomona branch in 2013 and is serving her third term as president, also was the catalyst and founder of the National Council of Negro Women, Pomona Valley Section, in 1985.

"We have been there together, Jeanette, on those streets," Calderon said in a reference to numerous demonstrations through the years.

Calderon said Royston has been instrumental in developing the branch into a collaborative organization with the Roundtable and with coalitions around the state.

"I am so grateful to be a part of this," Royston said. "I am so thankful that the Latino Roundtable will continue to be on the front

lines for justice holding up Cesar Chavez' legacy."

Mario and Cecilia Suarez

Francisco Suarez accepted an award on behalf of his parents, Mario and Cecilia Suarez, who were honored posthumously.

"They would be amazed at the progress of the gente (people) in the last several years," he said.

He called his mother a role model and an advocate for women and children and "an inspiration to us all."

The two were educators who had a "resounding resilience for their culture."

They became the first Latino teaching married couple in the Cal State University system.

Cecilia became a "trail blazer" in bilingual education, according to the Roundtable's program notes, and taught elementary school for many years when her expertise of early childhood education brought her to Cal Poly University Pomona where she became director of early childhood education.

Mario was a professor of ethnic studies, Spanish and English at Cal Poly for 20 years until his retirement in 1990. He also taught at Pitzer College in Claremont and was the first to use the word Chicano in a major publication in his short story "El Hoyo," which was published in the Arizona Quarterly in 1947.

After his death, his "Chicano Sketches," an anthology of 19 of his short stories, was published and proceeds from the book partially helped fund a scholarship awarded each year at Cal Poly.

He insisted that the only way "Chicanos" could get ahead was through education.

Mike Suarez, Francisco's brother and a Roundtable board member, said his father was "looking down with a big smile for this award."

"He was a lifelong activist from recruiting Chicanos for Cal Poly in Delano or marching with his family at the Chicano morato-

rium," he said. "It was always for the betterment of the Latino community."

'Working to build and create a better society'

Calderon said the event itself, as an on-line program, was a testament to the group's tenacity and its ability to overcome all obsta-



Mario Suarez



Cecilia Suarez

cles "to continue the commitment to the Roundtable, the legacy that Cesar Chavez and so many others left us, and we've learned to continue on regardless of the obstacles."

"Today is an example of learning new ways to stay connected, to not let them stop us from organizing and especially at this critical time when we need to get out the vote, when we need to support the census," he said, using the new technology in a new movement "working to build and create a better society."

Roundtable for their work.

"The Latinx community makes up about half of Los Angeles County's population," Solis said. "And organizations like the Latino / Latina Roundtable serve to elevate the unique challenges Latinos living in the San Gabriel Valley face every day, especially in today's environment."

"You do the important work of strengthening our communities, encouraging civic engagement and supporting our young people," she said.

Latino Roundtable... pg. 22



Jeanette Royston

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Pomona candidates forum... from pg. 1

feed courtesy of Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz received another 260 views and five shares as of deadline day for this issue of La Nueva Voz.

John Nolte

Former Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte (2012 to 2016) said he was “running for Pomona City Council because I’m excited about the rare opportunity we have right now to make real fundamental progressive changes in our city and our region.”

“Progressive policies for me are policies that put people over profit by building wealth that stays in the community, they protect families against displacement by ensuring they can afford to stay in Pomona, and progressive policies insist that the best way to increase peace, health, happiness and prosperity for everyone is to make our first priority improving the lives of essential workers and the oppressed,” he said.

Nolte said Sandoval and his team have made “important progress” bringing together “forward

thinking leaders from different sectors, business, residents, city departments, congregations of faith, non-profits, health care facilities and educational institutions to envision and begin creating a Pomona that will be more beautiful, prosperous and desir-



John Nolte

able in the coming years.”

“They are building on the general and corridor specific plans that I helped develop and enact when I was on the council,” he said. “They have advanced plans to bring the Metro L line light rail to Pomona, they have added a fantastic downtown specific plan and they are making progress towards igniting downtown as the city’s

economic engine.”

He said he can bring his experience to the team to help leverage the strength “of cross sector leadership and bring in the investment in new housing and new enterprise that is critical to meet the city’s desperate need for revenue to fund infrastructure reconstruction and beautification, recreational facilities, youth programs and other high quality social services and cultural events.”

“Meanwhile, as Pomona improves, it is becoming more expensive, culturally unstable, and inhospitable to tenants and lower income residents who have invested their lives in Pomona’s promise,” he said.

And, he added, as that happens, Pomona’s “backbone heart and soul” (Pomona’s youth, the undocumented, low-income families and others) have been “awakened and energized to demand that the system be changed to meet their needs, improve their quality of life and secure their future.”

“I will stand with these movements and at the place where

they clash with the forces of justification, I will do all that I can to ensure that the necessary and



Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole

inevitable development that will increase beauty and prosperity is balanced with policies that ensure housing stability and affordability, preserve diversity and culture, and encourage projects that build wealth, health and happiness for Pomona’s current low-income residents,” he said.

Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole

Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole told viewers she was born and raised in Pomona and has been a lifelong resident. She served until her retirement as a nurse for Pomona Unified School District for

25 years. She also has operated a paralegal business for the past 15 years.

“I’ve been an advocate, an activist and a catalyst for positive change in District 4 and my city as a whole all of my adult life,” she said. “I believe in delivering results and not speeches.”

She said she has accomplished much during her term and has been personally involved in recruiting and establishing new businesses for District 4. And she said she also serves on the Tri-City Mental Health board and is on the human trafficking ad hoc committee.

“I work closely with the HEART (Homeless Encampment Action Response Team) team ... to maintain law and order in a clean, healthy environment for the city and District 4,” she said, adding that this is a “very challenging issue.”

“But we are working together to come up with a remedy to keep District 4, the city as a whole, and parks safe,” she said, “for our families to enjoy.”

“Listening to the concerns of the community is vital to keep the

Pomona candidates forum... pg. 12

St. Madeleine Catholic School

To Educate and Empower Our Future Catholic Leaders

PARENTS!

Rank the Following Influencers in Your Child’s Life

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|
| ■ Instagram | ■ Social Media | ■ Youtube |
| ■ T.V. | ■ Name Brands | ■ Internet |
| ■ Facebook | ■ Materialism | ■ Texting |
| ■ Sexting | ■ Video Games | ■ Peers |
| ■ Bible | ■ God | ■ Jesus |

Do Their Choices ALARM You?

Scholarships Available!

PK3 (3Years Old/Potty Trained), TK4, Kindergarten, 1st through 5th Grade

PADRES!

Clasifique a Los Sigüientes Influyentes en La Vida de Su Hijo

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| ■ Compañeros | ■ Redes Sociales | ■ Youtube |
| ■ Televisión | ■ Nombre de Marcas | ■ Internet |
| ■ Facebook | ■ Materialismo | ■ Mensajes de Texto |
| ■ Sexteo Inapropiados | ■ Video Juegos | ■ Instagram |
| ■ Biblia | ■ Dios | ■ Jesús |

¿Le ALARMA sus Selecciones?

Becas Disponibles!

PK3 (3 Años de Edad/Entrenado Para ir Al Baño), TK4, Jardín de Infantes, 1er a 5to Grado

Karena Owen chosen posthumously for Pomona's 'Teacher of the Year'

Mrs. Karena Owen, who has taught at Madison, Pueblo, Washington and Cortez, was named Pomona Unified's "teacher of the year" for 2020 – 2021 at a school board meeting last month in an unusual set of circumstances – she was being honored posthumously following her death last April after a four-year battle with cancer.

Assistant Supt. of Educational Services Lilia Fuentes told school board members a teacher is honored each year for "remarkable work," and educators selected for this honor "have shown exemplary dedication, compelling classroom practices, positive accomplishments and professional commitment."

"They serve as standard-bearers for the teaching profession and their 72,000 vclassroom colleagues countywide," she added.

"Upon first seeing or meeting Mrs. Owen you instantly were impacted by her smile and positivity," Fuentes said. "As you can imagine, this had the greatest effect on her students. She approached teaching with the same passion she did sports."

"This year's selection of Teacher

of the Year is special but also difficult because of Karena Owen's passing on April 24, 2020, after a courageous four-year battle with cancer," Fuentes said. "Our most sincere condolences go out to her husband, son and daughter and the Cortez Magnet family. We know just how important she was to everyone in her life."

While at Cortez Magnet School, she took on many roles such as sports coach, technology teacher leader, Jump Rope for Heart promoter and Math Field Day coordinator.

"She excelled in everything she did," Fuentes said. "Her background and accolades are many and evidence of her exceptional life."

A gifted athlete, Owen "loved the way sports could transcend



Karena Owen
'Teacher of the Year'

boundaries and inspire us to work together for a common goal," Fuentes said.

One of the greatest athletes to ever graduate from Port Angeles High School, she was the league "most valuable player" in basketball and soccer and was the greatest thrower in the history of the school where she still holds records in shot put and javelin.

In 2019, she was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame.

Owen attended the University of Hawaii on a basketball scholarship, led the team in scoring and was team captain in her senior year.

As a teacher, her well-rounded skill set made her an exceptional athletic coach, student council adviser and Math Field Day coordinator.

"Ms. Owen was the best – she

never doubted us," said Micah Hwang, one of her students. "She gave us lots of confidence and taught us well – so well that we won the sixth grade competition two years ago."

Despite battling cancer over the past few years, she remained dedicated to her classroom and students, Fuentes said. She would miss an occasional day for treatment and come back to teaching without skipping a beat, she added.

"Karena once wrote that she had the absolute joy of teaching every day and there was nothing like helping young people succeed," Fuentes said. "It was not unusual to have students, teachers and parents send her messages, texts or videos as she sat in chemotherapy over the last four academic years. Karena encouraged people to never give up."

The Karena Greeny Owen Memorial Scholarship for female student athletes in Port Angeles, Washington, has been established through the Port Angeles Education Foundation. Donations in her name can be made by mail to P.O. Box 787, Port Angeles, Washington 98362, or on-line at www.PA-EF.org.

"Even though she has passed, her work still lives on," said Pomona Unified Board President Adrienne Konigar-Macklin.

Owen was nominated by her fellow teacher and friend, Mrs. Elizabeth Soto, Fuentes said.

Each year a teacher is nominated by another teacher and selected by members of Associated Pomona Teachers (the teachers' union) and site administrators.

The school board adjourned its meeting in Owen's honor.

Pacientes en riesgo... de la pág. 5

La Proposición 23 es un nuevo intento del mismo sindicato a otra proposición que ya había presentado con la misma intención en el 2018 y que fracasó con 20 puntos porcentuales por las mismas razones.

En contra de la Proposición 23 se han manifestado todas las asociaciones de médicos, enfermeras, centros de salud y de hospitales en California, incluidas las asociaciones latinas de acceso a los servicios de salud.

Elect Manuel Baca / Elija a Manuel Baca

Mt. SAC Governing Board Area 7 / Área 7 de la Junta de Gobierno de Mt. SAC
website: Trusteebaca.com

Under Manuel Baca's trustee leadership, Mt. SAC has:

- Ensured access and success support for all students, especially Dreamers, first generation, and low-income
- Remained a successful model for community colleges throughout the state
- Maintained a healthy and stable budget
- Built facilities to meet the instructional & environmental needs of the 21st Century
- Provided strong Community Education & Adult non-credit programs and courses
- Established & strengthened Dual Enrollment programs with Pomona USD & Walnut USD high schools
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, adhered strictly to LA County Health and CDC guidelines to ensure student, faculty, and staff safety.

Bajo el liderazgo fiduciario de Manuel Baca, Mt. SAC:

- Tiene acceso garantizado y apoyo para el éxito de todos los estudiantes, especialmente los Dreamers, primera generación y de bajos ingresos.
- Siguió siendo un modelo exitoso para los colegios comunitarios en todo el estado.
- Mantuvo un presupuesto saludable y estable
- Construyó instalaciones para satisfacer las necesidades ambientales y de instrucción del siglo XXI.
- Proporcionó sólidos programas y cursos de educación comunitaria y adultos sin crédito.
- Estableció y fortaleció programas de inscripción dual con las escuelas secundarias Pomona USD y Walnut USD.
- Durante la pandemia de Covid-19, se adhirió estrictamente a las pautas de salud del condado de Los Ángeles y de los CDC para garantizar la seguridad de los estudiantes, los profesores y el personal.



VOTE
Nov 3

MT. SAN ANTONIO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Governing Board
Member, Trustee Area 7
Vote For ONE



MANUEL BACA

Governing Board Member, Mt. Sac,
Trustee Area No. 7

VOTA



Si la propuesta 21 parece familiar, es porque casi el 60% de los votantes de California la rechazaron en 2018.

La Proposición 21 no protege a los californianos trabajadores de bajos ingresos.

- Permite a los propietarios aumentar la renta a nuestras familias de bajos ingresos hasta un 15% y no hace nada para evitar desalojos o solventar la falta de vivienda a los más vulnerables.
- En la recesión actual, este aumento masivo de la renta dará lugar a desalojos masivos en todo California.

No soluciona el problema real.

- Revoca partes de la ley de California que protege a los propietarios de viviendas familiares y no tiene ningún plan para construir viviendas para personas de bajos o medianos ingresos.

La Prop 21 perjudicará a los propietarios de viviendas Latinos y de otras minorías que trabajaron arduamente para comprar una casa familiar.

- La Prop 21 penaliza a propietarios Latinos al devaluar su propiedad y evitar que alquilen sus casas a un precio justo.



Pagado por No on Prop 21: Californians for Responsible Housing, a coalition of seniors, veterans, affordable housing advocates, labor & social justice organizations, sponsored by California Apartment Association.

Fundado principalmente por
Essex Property Trust and Affiliated Entities
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Detalles de financiación en www.fppc.ca.gov.



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 AL MES. 36 MESES



Excluye opciones agregadas por el concesionario. Todos los vehículos: \$3499 Inicial por arrendamiento de 36 meses más impuesto. \$0 Depósito de Seguridad Excluye 1er pago, impuestos, Cobros del DMV, Cobros ACQ MSRP (incluye destino, excluye impuesto, licencia, cobros de Título, registro, cobros de documentos, opciones, seguro y similares). Arrendamiento es de Plazo Cerrado debe tomar entrega nueva de menudeo en vehículo del Almacén del concesionario. Disponible para arrendatarios bien calificados aprobados por Honda Financial Services. No todos los arrendatarios calificarán. Tasas más altas de arrendamiento aplican para arrendatarios con calificaciones de crédito más bajas. Arrendatario es responsable por el mantenimiento, uso y desgaste excesivo y .15¢ por milla en exceso de 12 Mil Millas por año para vehículos con el MSRP menos de \$30,000, y .20¢ por milla en exceso de 12 Mil Millas por año para vehículos con el MSRP de \$30,000 o más. Oferta válida 11/02/2020. Vaya al concesionario para detalles completos.



Foothill Gold Line

Notice of Availability

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2B (Azusa to Montclair)

Notice is hereby given of the availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed Project Modifications to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2B (Project), also known as the Foothill Gold Line light rail project from Glendora to Montclair.

Proposed Project Modifications

The Construction Authority is considering modifications to the Project to construct surface parking lots (instead of enclosed parking structures, as previously approved) at the Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, and Pomona Stations. Constructing surface lots would reduce the number of available parking spaces. To accommodate the reconfigured parking conditions, the Authority proposes increasing the property size of the Glendora and San Dimas Station parking facilities, and a property location change at the Pomona Station parking facility. No changes are proposed for the location or property size of the parking facility at the La Verne Station. Changed vehicle and pedestrian access and new or relocated turnabouts are also proposed. Additional changes are proposed that will result in a reduction of parking at the Claremont Station. Two Claremont options will be considered wherein reduced parking is accommodated either fully in a parking structure or via parking surface lot combined with leasing of additional parking spaces from available locations within 1/4 mile of the Claremont Station. Provision for parking structure or surface lot at the Claremont Station will occur within previously approved location and footprint. In response to these proposed changes, a SEIR has been prepared to evaluate the potential for significant impacts that may result from the potential changes at the five stations. Multiple scenarios that include interim and full build terminus station conditions have been evaluated.

The proposed changes do not alter the scope of the Project as previously approved by the Construction Authority. The Draft SEIR has concluded construction of the Project Modifications would not have new or more severe significant impacts or require new mitigation measures.

45-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD:

September 25, 2020 - November 9, 2020

The Draft SEIR is being made available for public review for a 45-day comment period. Public comments on the Draft SEIR will be received during this period. The Draft SEIR, along with other project information, is available for review and download online at the Construction Authority's website at www.foothillgoldline.org. Hard copies or CD versions of the document can be made available upon written request to the Construction Authority and mailed to recipients for the cost of printing and shipping. A hard copy of the document will also be available for public review at the Construction Authority's office and can be accessed by requesting an appointment with Lisa Levy Buch at the address and e-mail below. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, viewing of the document in person will only be available by pre-arranged appointment.

Please submit comments on the Draft SEIR in writing to the address or email address below by close of the comment period. All submitted comments concerning the Draft SEIR must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 9, 2020.

Ms. Lisa Levy Buch, Chief Communications Officer
 Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority
 406 East Huntington Drive, Suite 202
 Monrovia, CA 91016-3633
 Phone: (626) 471-9050
 Email: LLevyBuch@foothillgoldline.org

Questions: (626) 471-9050 Learn More: www.foothillgoldline.org

New York 'not-for-profit,' with beginnings in the fashion industry, visits Pomona Valley Hospital to recognize front-line workers

An estimated 500 hospital and fire department employees were recognized for their work – caring for COVID-19 patients and others or putting out Southern California wildfires – when representatives of a New York not-for-profit visited Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center last month.

“We are wanting to say thank you and especially here in California and we know out in this area, it’s still a (COVID) hot spot,” said Leslie Gallin of the group From Fashion with Love. “So, we’re here to help.”

The outdoor event originally had been scheduled for earlier in the month but was bumped over a couple of weeks because smoke from the fires filled the parking lot site of the give-away.

In fact, Gallin said that was why the Los Angeles County firefighters from Pomona squad 182 were added to the list of invitees.

“We’re here to support them as well – all front-line workers,” she said. “We’re just thrilled to be here and have the support from the community.”

Hospital workers arrived on a staggered schedule as their shifts ended for the day.

And they received bags filled

“When Elyse noticed that the nurses and the front-line people were working so hard without anybody saying thank you or paying attention, we decided that she formed ‘From Fashion with Love,’” Gallin said.

Joining the group for the event were both State Sen. Connie Leyva and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.

Leyva recognized the health care workers for “literally putting their lives on the line every single day to make sure that patients stay safe, recover from COVID and get to live their life.”

“I’ve always known that nurses are a vital part of our society and the medical world,” she said, adding that after she had her twins and experienced nurses who were “so amazing,” she thought about going back to college and changing her major and doing something different.

“They have heart and soul and compassion and right now during COVID I don’t think we can thank you enough,” she said.



Darlene Scaffiddi



Leslie Gallin of “From Fashion with Love,” at right, hands out gift bags last month to front line workers at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, many of whom have been helping with the ongoing flow of COVID-19 patients during the pandemic.

“The more we work together, the better we are at handling situations and problems not only in our community but throughout the state,” he added.

Darlene Scaffiddi, the hospital’s chief of nursing, thanked From Fashion with Love on behalf of the hospital.

“This has been a labor of love for all of our staff, it’s been a very difficult time for patients and their families and our staff,” she said. “The team that you’re going to see come in here, these are the real heroes. They have really endured a lot. And I’m glad that you guys have been able to do a small token for them and we can celebrate them.”

Kroll herself said in an advance news release that her non-profit originally conducted six similar events in New York at the New Yorker Hotel/Marriott Marquis/Omni Park Central, along with another event at Sofitel Los Angeles.

“I have access to fashion,” Kroll said. “Why not provide nurses,

our heroes,” she added. “Every day, we witness nurses who step up to take care of the sickest, regardless of personal risk.”

“They worry about their patients, not themselves,” she said. “Yet they put themselves out there continuously hoping to rescue those attacked by the world’s silent predator.”

“Proudly I stand with fashion and the brands who are willing to



State Sen. Connie Leyva

help our heroes by donating product so that our nurses can feel just a little more human when they leave their shift,” she said.

From Fashion with Love is a division of a sponsor foundation that has applied for charitable status. For product donations, e-mail jfemohr@gmail.com or visit the web site at fromfashionwithlove.org.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, at left, an emergency medical technician (EMT) for more than 30 years, swaps stories with the guys from Los Angeles County Fire Station 182 who were recognized at the hospital’s “From Fashion with Love” program last month. Rodriguez told La Nueva Voz he worked with one of the firefighters for years in Rowland Heights.

with clothing items like jeans, shorts, t-shirts, gift certificates, “cozies” (a blanket-like garment that reportedly had its start on the television program “Shark Tank”), yoga mats and more.

Gallin, who was accompanied by a team of volunteers at the event, told La Nueva Voz the non-profit was founded by Elyse Kroll, founder and former CEO of ENK International, one of the most exclusive apparel and fashion trade show producers in the country.

Rodriguez thanked From Fashion with Love for “everything you’ve done to partner with our nurses to remind them how important it is during this difficult time working in pandemic and being out there on the front lines caring for the patients and their families.”

He thanked the group for the opportunity “to give thanks to show them that we care and that really at the end of the day that we’re all in this together.”

who have chosen to be on the front line of this country’s COVID pandemic, with gift bags of clean, fresh clothing and/or footwear that they can get into after a gut-wrenching day or night in the hospital.”

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Pomona candidates forum... from pg. 7

City of Pomona vibrant and that is what I have done for the last four years and I will continue to do so when I become reelected," she said.

"My vision is to bring more housing that is affordable and businesses where residents have a better selection of stores to visit and shop," she said. "Family oriented business is needed for Pomona and family-based recreation is essential."

"My mission is to continue improving the City of Pomona and preparing it for the future while retaining its heritage," she said.

Chara Swodeck

Chara Swodeck is challenging Cole for her seat on the council.

"I'm a wife, a mother, a business owner, I've been in the city for 18 years, going on, and I have been a community collaborator, you can call it a leader, for several of those years looking at the problems that we might have in our city and finding long-term sustainable solutions that last well beyond myself in a specific position," she said.

"I am a supporter of dreams, of goals and milestones and more importantly the conditions of satisfaction towards those milestones," she said.

Swodeck said she grew up in Pasadena after living in Los Angeles in her early years.

In 2003 she moved to Pomona and once her daughter started preschool, she became engaged in the community.

"We recognized that our involvement in our community school right down the street two blocks from our home was vital, and in doing so, we spoke with our other parents at the school, we spoke with the teachers, we spoke with neighboring businesses to ensure that our little school actually was prosperous," she said, chang-

Mammograms \$50 for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is again offering \$50 screening mammograms during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month through Oct. 31.

A hospital spokesperson said all COVID-19 guidelines are being followed at its four imaging cen-

ing the school from something that the kids had to attend to something that they wanted to attend.

That led to her involvement with the PTA and she slowly started finding "access points" in the school district, with the community and with other leaders in the city.

"I would like to bring those ac-



Chara Swodeck

cess points to our general public," she said. "I believe that is what a councilmember should be doing, as a servant of the community, is showing where our access points are, empowering the community ... to actually get the things accomplished that they would like to get accomplished, to be part of the room when we are making decisions."

"I say it all the time, imagine the possibilities," she said.

"Pomona has a lot of resources – our city, our ideas, the programs, all these relationships that we have, we have so many resources and we can scale our accomplishments according to those resources," Swodeck said.

She said she has supported businesses in Downtown Pomona and was involved in starting the Downtown Pomona Day several years ago and continuing it, and she has "taken over the LA County Fair" with her Girl Scouts.

"I know what it is to have an idea and creating milestones and seeing those ideas to reality," she said. "I know what it is to collaborate and work with the community,

ters and encouraged women not to postpone because of the pandemic.

In addition, the hospital is now using the new SmartCurve breast stabilization system for a more comfortable mammogram.

Call (909) 469- 9395 to schedule an appointment.

work with staff and building those relationships and I believe we can do that in this position."

Debra Martin

Former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin is trying to grab her seat back after four years from incumbent Robert Torres over in District 6.

"Growing up in Pomona Valley, I chose to get married, purchased my first home and raised my four children in Pomona," she said. "As your current historic commissioner and former city councilmember, I have a wealth of experience and dedication to help Pomona grow."

"It is important to me that your voice is heard and that the decisions I make will be in the best interest of all Pomona," she added. "As an active member of the community for many years, a successful business owner and artist, my vision is to create safer streets and cleaner ones, revitalize our parks, work side by side with Pomona schools and develop more youth programs."

"I will protect and preserve the culture, art and history of Pomona," she said. "I will continue

to work for affordable housing, increase local businesses, create good jobs and work collaboratively with our state and local leaders to resolve the on-going homeless



Debra Martin

population."

She also said she will work with the mayor and councilmembers to ensure positive leadership, and she will continue to be accessible and responsive to all calls and e-mails

Library partners with In-N-Out for new reading club

The Pomona Public Library has partnered with In-N-Out to introduce a new "Cover to Cover" reading club for children ages 4 to 12.

Sign-ups are in person noon to 5

from residents.

"I will do my best to resolve their issues," she said. "I love Pomona and together we can strengthen our community."

No questions were taken from the viewing audience in the 90-minute forum. Questions were submitted in advance.

The entire event was recorded and posted on the Chamber web site at www.pomonachamber.org.

In all, five candidates are seeking election to mayor, three candidates are going after City Council District

1, two are seeking election to City Council District 4 and four candidates are running for City Council District 6.

Candidates are listed on the Nov. 3 ballot in next month's general election.

p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, by phone at (909) 620-2043 or by e-mail at library@ci.pomona.ca.us.

Kids must read five books to receive a free burger certificate (offer is good through Nov. 14).

Advocacy from a parent who knows

LORENA

GONZALEZ

"I am a mother who wants nothing more than the safest schools and a quality and equitable education for our children."

"Soy madre y no hay nada mas importante para mi que proveer una educacion de calidad y escuelas seguras para nuestros estudiantes."

-Lorena

"Lorena understands. As a mother of three children, all students of Pomona Unified School District, Lorena knows the importance of good relationships between parents, schools and community. She truly wants to work to improve education and create better opportunities for our students, but she needs your vote."

"Lorena lo entiende bien. Como madre de tres hijos, todos estudiantes del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona, Lorena entiende lo importante que son relaciones entre padres, escuelas y comunidad. Ella de verdad quiere trabajar para mejorar y aumentar las oportunidades educativas para nuestros estudiantes, pero necesita el voto de usted."

-Endorsed by Cristina Carrizosa
former Pomona Councilwoman and retired educator

Supported by Parents, Students, Educators, Community Leaders,
Community Members, Veterans, Nurses, Union Members,
Social Workers, PUSD Alumni, & Working Class Families

for PUSD SCHOOL BOARD 2020

PAID FOR BY LORENA GONZALEZ FOR PUSD BOARD 2020 - ID# 1429053

Get to know Lorena

- ★ 20+ Years Serving Pomona
- ★ Active Mother of 3 PUSD students
- ★ PUSD Community Service Award
- ★ Serves on Ganessa's School Site Council
- ★ Cal Poly BS Business Administration
- ★ Experienced Board Member
- ★ Fiscally Responsible
- ★ **HONEST AND ETHICAL**

Neighborhood Services Department Development of the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan **Your Voice Counts! / ¡Tu Voz Cuenta!**



All residents are invited to join a Community Needs meeting to share your thoughts on the most important community needs. These meetings will assist in identifying the City's needs and funding priorities for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for housing, human services, public infrastructure and community development activities for low/moderate-income persons.



Join us at one of the following Community Needs webinars at <https://zoom.us/join>

or by phone at 1-669-900-9128.

❖ Use the unique Webinar ID to sign in.

Oct 27, 2020	Community Life Commission - Citizen Participation Kick Off	
Oct 28, 2020	Community Needs Online Survey Available on City Website	(www.ci.pomona.ca.us)
Oct 28, 2020	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com	Web ID: 956 3239 4081
Oct 29, 2020	Notice of Funds Available/ Request for Proposals Release	
Nov 10, 2020	Request for Proposal Workshop @ 9:30 AM via Zoom.com	Web ID: 940 6952 5532
Nov 18, 2020	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com	Web ID: 961 3700 4736
Dec 09, 2020	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com	Web ID: 996 3900 7796
Jan 13, 2021	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com	Web ID: 989 8237 9448
Jan 14, 2021	Proposals Due	
Jan 30, 2021	Survey Responses Due	

Please call (909) 620-2001 if you need more information.

Todos los residentes están invitados a una reunión para compartir sus opiniones sobre las necesidades más importantes de la comunidad. Estas reuniones ayudarán a identificar las necesidades de la ciudad y las prioridades de financiamiento para los programas de Subvención para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG), Inversión en Viviendas (HOME) y fondos de Subvención para Resolución de Emergencias (ESG) de viviendas, servicios humanos, infraestructura pública y actividades de desarrollo comunitario para personas de bajos/moderados ingresos.

28 de oct. 2020	Inicio de la participación comunitaria con la "Community Life Commission!"	
28 de oct. 2020	Encuesta sobre la comunidad estará disponible en la página de internet de la ciudad (www.ci.pomona.ca.us)	(www.ci.pomona.ca.us)
28 de oct. 2020	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM a través Zoom.com	Código de encuentro: 956 3239 4081
29 de oct. 2020	Lanzamiento de Solicitud de Propuestas	
10 de nov. 2020	Taller para la Solicitud de Propuestas @ 9:30 AM a través Zoom.com	Código de encuentro: 940 6952 5532
18 de nov. 2020	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM a través de Zoom.com	Código de encuentro: 961 3700 4736
09 de dic. 2020	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM a través de Zoom.com	Código de encuentro: 996 3900 7796
13 de enero. 2021	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM a través de Zoom.com	Código de encuentro: 989 8237 9448
14 de enero. 2021	Fecha límite para entregar las propuestas	
30 de enero. 2021	Fecha límite para entregar las encuestas	

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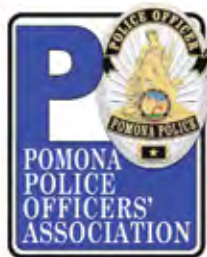
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Simons Middle School holds food give-away, attendance awards, pumpkins and then some!

It was more than a food give-away at Simons Middle School in Pomona this month – and all because one staff member came up with an idea to recognize the kids for good attendance in these difficult COVID times with students going to school on their computers, and it just grew from there.

And cars were lined up all the way back to Towne Avenue and around the corner on Franklin Avenue in South Pomona.

First in line were the free breakfasts and lunches in bags provided to all Pomona Unified School District students each morning at no charge, courtesy of the dedicated staff of the school district's food services department (Simons is one of several schools serving the meals every morning Monday through Friday).

everyone wearing face masks.

And the staff of Simons provided students with gift bags, award certificates, gift cards, pumpkins donated by Cal Poly University Pomona, and new textbooks.

(Staff at the school wanted to give special thanks to Little Caesars Pizza on Rio Rancho Drive, El Merendero restaurant on Garey Avenue, and the Cal Poly Pumpkin Patch for their donations to help support the student recognition.)

Last in the line was a box filled with grocery items – plus a gallon of milk thrown in for good measure – all courtesy of Pastor Aaron Levy and members of the Abundant Living Family Church in Pomona who were on hand to provide free groceries to 200 families.

needs, support the students, and now their attendance improved, we want to recognize those,” Layton told La Nueva Voz.

The school also has a number of “college and career ready” Lexile (framework for listening – a means of measuring students’ listening ability and finding books at the right level) students scoring well above the middle school level.

“We want to recognize those, our top readers,” Layton said.

“Stephanie Lopez started it, and then everyone in the front office, it just became a total team effort, and then it started to spread to the staff and then everyone wanted to participate and recognize our students,” he added. “It’s great to see the smiles, you know what’s behind the masks. That’s what it’s about.”

Then there’s that “Roddy’s Readers” concept, all based on a book club that meets every Monday.

“We get to have those relationships,” he said.

The book club was an outgrowth of COVID – because of the pandemic, during spring classes and



Pomona’s Simons Middle School Principal Roddy Layton, at left, and Stephanie Lopez, an attendance clerk at Simons, show off some of the books for members of the “Roddy’s Readers” book club. The book give-away was only part of a huge give-away and recognition event at Simons this month to help keep spirits up during the on-going COVID “distance learning” environment.

over the summer, students did not have access to reading books with schools and the Pomona Public Library closed.

So voila! Layton came up with the idea of the book club where

members share their love of reading.

Layton met with all students during the textbook distribution and offered each one the opportunity

Simons give-away pg. 18



A Simons Middle School student has his picture taken for perfect attendance with school mascot Simon Spartan during this month’s recognition and awards drive-through event at the school.

On that whole attendance recognition idea, students were getting special certificates and goodies – and photos with the school mascot (a Spartan, of course!) standing in a frame in front of a backdrop – for perfect attendance, most improved attendance, college and career ready, “Top Ten Readers” in school, and even students who are in Roddy’s Readers, an after-school voluntary book club named after, yep, Simons Principal Roddy Layton.

In all, 150 students received special recognitions.

Families could drive through or walk up and full COVID safety protocols were in place with ev-

There are several “back stories” here.

First, Stephanie Lopez, an attendance clerk at Simons, had the idea on attendance awards – it just seemed like students were working from home, didn’t have an opportunity to see each other – or see their teachers – and this was a good way to make it a little easier to deal with that whole COVID thing.

Layton said in addition to everything else, some of his students had trouble with Wi-Fi, maybe needed a mobile hot spot or something that prevented them from having perfect attendance.

“So, we were able to fix those



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Courtesy photos

A community project called Ready by Five and Beyond and the Pomona Unified School District partnered with members of the Pomona Leadership Network in August and September to provide 700 tote bags filled with backpacks, books, toy balls, water bottles, crayons, and COVID and U.S. Census resource information to some 1,711 families who are connected to the school district and part of the district's child development programs. The effort was designed to help parents remain engaged in their child's learning. In addition to the distribution effort, volunteers talked to families to identify their needs and ways they prefer to be supported. They also made parents aware of various community groups -- particularly in the area of early childhood programs in Pomona -- to strengthen their leadership abilities and their opportunities to engage in civic affairs, and to help them get access to the services they need. "Through this approach we will raise awareness about the importance of early childhood . . . and encourage (parents) to be involved in creating change for families with children under the age of 5," a spokesperson said in an e-mail news release. The dA Center for the Arts in Downtown Pomona was a "critical partner" in the program and helped provide resources to make it possible. The dA also agreed to provide "virtual" arts programming for kids under 5 in October and November in partnership with the school district's child development programs, and to provide a "space for parents to access the arts outside of the school environment." Pictured are volunteers at two of the five schools selected for the distribution program preparing the tote bags to be given away. The Ready by Five and Beyond program focuses on children who are 5 years old and younger and their families.



Simons give-away... from pg. 17

nity to join the reading club.

The idea was that each month students would be provided with a book to read and on Mondays they could have discussions.

Layton said he was surprised to learn that the students were completing the books in less than a week.

The reading books are brand new and are meant for the students to keep, Layton said.

And no surprise here, the staff misses the kids at school as much as or more than the kids miss the school.

"Yesterday ... we went to Cal Poly together to pick up the pumpkins that were donated from Cal Poly Pomona, everyone wanted to be a part of this, and it's nice, we're trying to make sure we keep it safe, obviously we're trying to make it as safe as possible, but at the same time recognize our students who are doing well and support our community," Layton said.

La Nueva Voz learned in an interview with Pastor Levy that those food drive boxes had a story of their own.

"When we launched Abundant Living Family Church, we first started having our services here at Simons Middle School," Levy said. "So now we're in escrow to buy a building but we love this community so I reached out to the principal, found out what he was doing and see how we could serve the students and serve the families, so we're just going to do



An unidentified pumpkin lover "kind of" poses for La Nueva Voz with her pumpkin at this month's recognition event at Pomona's Simons Middle School. But she was still keeping an eye on her mom who was right next to her to make sure it was OK.

a continued collaboration on just serving the community."

And he said it will be on an ongoing basis.

This month's food give-away was the second time during the pandemic that the church came down to Simons with a refrigerated truck loaded with boxes of food.

"During the pandemic, the community needs resources but they also need smiles, so we're just out here with a smiling face serving it, and it gives people an opportunity to do something bigger than themselves," Levy added.

The groceries come from the church food pantry located on a second church campus in Rancho



A Simons Middle School student has her official school photo taken recognizing her accomplishments as a "Simons Star Reader" during this month's awards event at the school. In addition to reading, she also looks like she's pretty good at juggling books, her certificate, a "goodie bag" and a pumpkin all at the same time, as well.



Pomona Unified School District food services workers hand out free breakfasts and lunches for the kids during this month's combination awards and food distribution event at Simons Middle School in Pomona.

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Pomona's Jacqueline Elizalde challenges incumbent Tim Sandoval for Mayor's seat

Pomona resident Jacqueline Elizalde has announced her candidacy for Mayor of Pomona because of what she says has been “four years of broken promises” and “a decline in the most vulnerable districts along with our businesses.”

Elizalde, who described herself as a mother, wife, homeowner and public servant, said she is the only woman challenging Mayor Tim Sandoval for the seat.

“Unfortunately, since 1888, Pomona has only been represented by two women as Mayor,” she said, something she believes “needs to change.”

“It is my hope to empower and encourage more diversity and have residents of our community running for office,” Elizalde said in a prepared statement.

“I felt the need to step up and be the strong voice Pomona desperately needs,” she added. “My

service for the community has been consistent and strong but it won't end after November 3rd.”

“Although a public servant, most of my volunteer work was



Jacqueline Elizalde

never fulfilled as a paid service but instead as someone committed to her community,” she said, adding that she has served as a Pomona Commissioner for seven years and has served in the Pomona

Unified School District PTA, Elementary Booster Club, California State Delegate and labor advocate for Pomona's working class.

As Mayor, she said she would ensure safe neighborhoods, aggressively address human trafficking and homelessness, and improve neighborhoods, broken roads and sidewalks.

In addition, Elizalde said she would revitalize the city with businesses and bring better economic opportunities to Pomona, along with an open and transparent government.

A mother of five with four grandchildren, she lives in Southwest Pomona with her husband and younger children and works for the County of San Bernardino Department of Human Social Services.

And she said her “movement” creates opportunities for peace, love, diversity and a promising transparent government that benefits all of Pomona.

For more information, visit her web site at www.votejacqueline.com.

AROUND TOWN

Free four-year scholarship courtesy of the solar panel company and the recipient's dad's on the school board (and other interesting items)

By Jeff Schenkel

La Nueva Voz readers have probably noticed those solar panels installed in recent years at Ganesha High School, Diamond Ranch High School and Cortez Mathematics and Science Magnet School.

It turns out the contractor on that project arranged to give two “full-ride” four-year scholarships at the University of Michigan to Pomona Unified School District and it appears only one was actually awarded – to the son of Pomona Unified School Board member Frank Guzman.

Frank Guzman, Jr., who in fairness had an impressive 4.72 grade point average when he graduated from Diamond Ranch High School in 2016, now has completed his work at Michigan after majoring in political science and is going on to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, MA. La Nueva Voz has learned from a variety of sources – including Frank Junior's own Facebook

page.

According to a source who preferred not to be named, there were a couple of dozen contenders on the list of applicants.

Another source, who also preferred not to be named, told La Nueva Voz the contractor on the solar panels job, a Michigan graduate himself, was on a committee that helped determine where scholarships to the university would be awarded.

In all, La Nueva Voz talked to three confidential sources, two inside the school district and one outside – all three with varying degrees of raised eyebrows on this subject (one was actually surprised Frank Junior received the scholarship award) – and conducted a telephone interview with PUSD Assistant Supt. Fernando Meza in connection with this story.

La Nueva Voz reached out to Guzman by e-mail for a comment on his son's scholarship award,

Scholarship... pg. 23

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School district's new 'Little Free Library' honoring the program's coordinator in Pomona gets an 'Oh my gosh' reaction

Pomona's own David McElwain (although he actually lives in La Verne) has been credited with bringing those "Little Free Libraries" to Pomona. They have popped up everywhere – front yards in neighborhoods, parks, even in front of some of the city's community centers.

Last month, Pomona Unified School District unveiled a special "Little Free Library" that was permanently installed in front of the school district's administrative headquarters – complete with a plaque honoring McElwain for all he did to promote books and reading for kids and adults alike.

The gesture, of course, was kept as a surprise for McElwain who was on the virtual presentation in a ZOOM conference.

McElwain, who recently retired from his position at the Los Angeles County Office of Education GAIN office in Pomona due to illness, told the group he thought he was asked to attend a planning meeting for the libraries.

"(Dr. Ron Hansen and Pomona Unified School Board member Dr. Robert Perlman) wanted to build a little library and have it dedicated to you," Pomona Unified Supt. Rich-

ard Martinez told McElwain in the special on-line conference. "So this little library sits in front of our district office . . . to celebrate the man who brought the little library to Pomona."

"You celebrate education, you celebrate literacy, I can tell you're the Renaissance man because . . . you're the man that has been working with preschoolers over the years, 30 years, you've worked with adults preparing them for the work force, you've worked with all levels, and then you brought in all of us . . . all the agencies," he added. "We wanted to celebrate you and recognize you for bringing something special that's so critical, especially during a pandemic, where libraries are closed, it is so good that kids could go to a local little library, free library in their neighborhood and pick a book."

"I want to thank you for not only thinking of the adults but thinking of the children," Martinez said. "You have given a lifetime, a whole career to ensure that our people are ready to make a difference in the world."

State Sen. Connie Leyva told McElwain that as someone who



Photo by Amy McElwain
David McElwain stops by Pomona Unified School District headquarters to have a look at the district's new "Little Free Library," one of Pomona's best so far, following "virtual" ceremonies to dedicate it in his honor. The plaque reads "Presented to David McElwain in appreciation of your service and leadership in promoting Pomona Little Free Libraries, September 2020."

also loves books and loves libraries, she "could not appreciate you more."

"You have a heart for the City of Pomona and the community (and) you don't just think about yourself . . . but you really embody what we need in all of our communities," she added. "I'm just so proud of you and proud of what you've brought

to the city."

"Literacy as Richard said is so incredibly important," Leyva said. "More communities would be better off if we had more Davids in them."

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, also on the call, told McElwain he has "meant so much to the City of Pomona."

He emphasized how critical reading is to the success of children, borrowing a quote to add that education is the most reliable vehicle out of poverty.

"And a huge part of that is just being able to read and have access to books," Sandoval said. "As you well know, a lot of our families sometimes don't have access to books."

He thanked McElwain on behalf of the city.

"You've given so much of your life to this community," he said.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez also thanked McElwain.

"I'm really excited to see the outcome here, the community support around it, I think we need more things like this in our community to show people that we care, we're offering different ways of education tools by having libraries like yourself putting these out in our community," he said.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis reminded the group that McElwain was her neighbor when he headed the GAIN office next door to her Pomona field office.

"You've been so helpful to me
Little Free Libraries... pg. 22

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Robert Carder for Mt SAC Trustee for 2020 ID# 1430738

SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

We have all heard that “cleanliness is next to godliness.” Given our current pandemic and stay-at-home status, our prescribed practices on personal hygiene, housekeeping, and sanitation are highly effective, when followed. Maintaining cleanliness and sanitation will keep us safe and healthy and most importantly – alive. I have expounded about work health and safety rules, government regulations, and compliance to prevent injury and illness prior to our COVID-19 experience. Good safety and health practices were also linked to off-the-job experience. Personal awareness, responsibility, and prevention is constant no matter where we are and what we are doing. Now everyone knows of these terms and practices: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), surgical masks, N-95 disposable masks, and effective handwashing. Previously, all of this was common in industries such as manufacturing, construction, health care, and food processing. Presently, these protective devices and practices are now well known and in use by most of us. I often tell my students that there are two ways to learn safety and health: 1) education, and 2) personal experience: accidents and exposure to illness and injury. In 2020, as important and timely as this education is, it is unfortunate that some of us are learning these lessons the hard way, through personal experience.

Throughout the centuries, disease, human health and survival were linked to sanitation, hygiene, clean water, and in the 19th century, a discovery of germs. The challenge for us, then and now, is relating cause with effect, and preventing the contact and infection. In Babylon approximately 4000 B.C., humans developed the first wastewater removal systems. In the city of Mohenjo-Daro near the Indus River (present day Pakistan), latrines were connected to the city’s sewage piping system in 3000 B.C. Then the Roman civilization in 100 B.C. connected sewage systems in Rome and separated sewage from grey water (now from baths, sinks, washing machines, and other appliances) which was then dumped into the Tiber River. People began to see the consequences of exposure to waste and the benefit of separation and removal. (We Are Water Foundation <https://www.wewater.org/en/sewage-the-trace-of-our->

history_281141)

The germ theory was first identified in relationship to disease transmission and hygiene by Ignaz Semmelweis who associated Puerperal Fever with exposure to infected cadavers, Louis Pasteur who linked microorganism to disease, Florence Nightingale, a British nurse who promoted handwashing to prevent infection, and Joseph Lister who used antiseptic carbolic acid when performing surgeries. These individuals along with others deduced that handwashing was an important disease prevention measure. This occurred as Big Soap in America, namely Procter & Gamble, Colgate Palmolive, and other businesses began an extensive marketing drive for their products, initially for use on laundry. At the time, soaps for body care were made by other companies that promoted soap for attaining beauty focused on middle- and upper-class consumers. Concurrently, while public health officials promoted personal cleanliness for health on a smaller scale, soap companies connected through mass-circulation newspapers and then magazines, radio and TV to magnify their messages about soap’s benefits from the late-19th century through the middle of the 20th century. This is how personal hygiene gained importance and public use. (<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a31982721/history-washing-hands/>)

Little Free Libraries... from pg. 21

In the last six years that I’ve been serving (on the) Board of Supervisors, you welcomed us to Pomona . . . we’re neighbors, and I want to thank you for everything you’ve done,” she said. “And I’m a big advocate for libraries.”

She explained that she remembers going to the library in the third grade.

“I think that’s what got me motivated about how important learning was at an early age,” she said, adding that she wants a “Little Free Library” in front of her South El Monte office.

“I want to thank you again for everything you’ve done . . . especially in the time of the pandemic when kids can’t even go to school right now and they do need to have learning,” she said, especially the English language learners.

“Oh, my gosh,” McElwain said

Cleanliness

com/science/a31982721/history-washing-hands/)

The Centers for Disease Control recommend the public follow these guidelines to stop the spread of germs:

1. Wet your hands in running water and apply soap. Neither the temperature of the water nor the type of soap you use (antibacterial or otherwise) impacts how many microbes are removed.

2. Lather the soap by rubbing your hands together. The friction will increase the number of microbes removed.

3. Scrub for at least 20 seconds, or the approximate amount of time it takes to hum the “Happy Birthday” song twice.

4. Rinse your hands completely in clean, running water. Studies have not shown that using a paper towel to turn off the faucet improves health, according to the CDC.

5. Dry your hands either on a clean towel or by air drying them.

Cleanliness, sanitation, and hygiene gained from best practices and utilization of effective infrastructure systems is prevalent in America, Europe, and most of the developed world. Unfortunately, countries in Africa, South Asia, and other third world areas do not have these systems in place which include indoor plumbing, potable drinking water, sewers, wastewater treatment, and

when the computer screen flashed a picture of the new little library. The school district’s marquee flashed the wording “Education Center Dedication PUSD Little Library for David McElwain” during the day.

“It’s been a wonderful experience for me,” McElwain told the group.

The school district’s little library, built in the Spanish style of the old California missions, was constructed by Hensen.

McElwain took advantage of the opportunity to “sell” Sandoval and Rodriguez on the idea of placing a “Little Free Library” in front of their homes.

The worldwide “Little Free Library” program, based on the “take a book, leave a book” concept, was founded in 2009 and today has libraries in all 50 states and more than 70 countries. Some 36 million free books are exchanged each year.

waste disposal facilities. Since we have this infrastructure, we need to take full advantage of it along with the COVID-19 safety and health protocols to survive this pandemic. The inconvenience of wearing a mask, hand washing, and separating ourselves are a small price to pay to stay healthy for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Editor’s Note: Jose Bermudez, a safety professional for nearly 40 years, has worked as a consultant

Latino Roundtable... from pg. 6

Calderon introduced State Sen. Connie Leyva as “someone who has been there in our common efforts to improve our schools, our environment, our communities.”

Leyva congratulated all of the honorees and the scholarship recipients, who she called “our future leaders.”

“Thank you all for participating and for what you do every day,” she said.

Scholarship recipients

Fabian Pavon, a Roundtable board member, introduced the scholarship recipients, six students in the community he said who “are showing us that service to others and utilizing your education for change is the way to go.”

He said the social justice scholarships are given to students “who have created opportunities for change in their community and who show great promise as activists and leaders.”

Winners were Emely Andreo

and a regional safety and health manager for colleges, hospitals and an environmental engineering consulting firm, working for companies such as General Electric, Waste Management, Inc. and Quaker Oats. He received the designation of Certified Safety Professional from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. His column is presented as a public service. He can be contacted at jsbrmdz8@gmail.com.

of Pomona’s Garey High School, who is attending Cal Poly University Pomona; Josue Garcia, Cal Poly; Prisila Lua of Garey High School, who is attending Cal State University San Bernardino; Francisco Villagomez, University of La Verne; Fernanda Frausto, of Pomona’s Ganesha High School, UC Berkeley; and Pedro Gonzalez of Mt. SAC, who is transferring to UC Santa Barbara.

The annual breakfast and fundraiser brings together community members and honors Cesar Chavez’ legacy of service to others.

The Roundtable is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting educational programs to advance leadership, communication, effective civil participation, and a proactive voice. It is committed to continuing support in building multi-racial coalitions, in service to others and in building spaces of equality and justice.

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Pomona Charter Review Commission seeks citizen input on charter updates

Editor's Note: *There's an election going on, plus there's that COVID-19 pandemic matter, and there's Black Lives Matter. But in the middle of all of that, a little group is hard at work taking a careful look at something that only happens once every 10 years – the City of Pomona's Charter Review Commission is looking at the city charter. This group is reviewing what needs to be tweaked in the official document that determines exactly how the wheels of city government remain smoothly in motion. And, while you are at it, members can use some help if you want to get involved and provide your own input on what members should be discussing.*

**By John Clifford
Vice Chair, Pomona Charter
Review Commission**

Pomona is one of 121 cities in the state of California which is a Charter city. All the other 321 cities are what is referred to as General Law cities. The charter is the authorizing law governing the municipal affairs of the city. Pomona has the advantage of setting many of its own rules as opposed to general law cities which must abide by standards set by state law. That means that they can set their own municipal code, determine the form of government they want, have and manage city-owned utilities, set the number of council seats, conduct and set their own elections, set their own standards (within some state law) as to hiring and contracting, and a wide variety of other "municipal affairs."

Pomona became a charter city in 1911. In 1964, the city wrote the current charter which was last amended in 1998. That last amendment included the establishment of a "Charter Review Commission" to be seated every 10 years in years ending in zero. The commission is tasked with doing a complete review of the charter and creating amendment(s) to be placed on the next municipal ballot. They have a 12-month period in which to complete their work. The first such commission was formed in 2010 and the ballot amendment presented to the voters was rejected in 2012.

The current charter review commission (CRC) was formed in January 2020 and consists of Derek Engdahl, chair; John Clifford, vice chair; Efrain Escobedo, Ed Jimenez, Dean Rudenauer, Eunice Russell,

and Ann Tomkins (one appointed by each councilperson and the chair by the mayor). They began meeting in January but in March the current emergency caused them to stop meeting until after June. As a result, the city council has extended their one-year term to June 30, 2021.

To accomplish their tasks, the commission decided to divide the charter into subject areas and created subcommittees to tackle each area. The subcommittees are: Elections, Redistricting, Campaign Finance, Positions, Commissions, Enforcement, Transparency, and Technical Cleanup. Each subcommittee holds their own meetings to do research into their areas and to come up with proposals and draft language to be discussed at full commission meetings. No decisions are made at subcommittee meetings and they are not subject to Brown Act so are not open public meetings. However, full commission meetings, where decisions are made, are open to the public and the public is given ample opportunity to weigh in on the issues presented. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. During the state of emergency, meetings are held via Zoom. Agendas are posted on the city web site a few days prior to each meeting.

In addition to regular meetings, they also have plans for special Town Hall Study Sessions to solicit input from the public. The first such Town Hall was held on Sept. 10 to discuss the possibility of adding a Police Commission to the charter as an amendment. That meeting was attended by more than 35 members of the general public and elicited a wide range of suggestions on whether we need a Police Commission and, if so, how it should be formulated and what its function and composition should be.

Subcommittees are currently looking at:

Elections: The return of primary elections to the city, term limits for council and mayor, and other such items.

Redistricting: This subcommittee has already come back with a recommendation to create a citizen's redistricting commission, similar to what is done by the state, to take the drawing of district lines out of the hands of the city council/politicians.

Campaign Finance: Pomona currently has very strict limits on how much individuals can donate

to council and mayor campaigns, when a recusal is triggered, and what happens with "leftover" funds after a campaign. For example, San Bernardino just announced that they are looking at lifting all limits on campaign contributions in their charter and the state (thus General Law cities) has a limit of \$2,700.

Positions: The subcommittee is looking at the charter-mandated positions within the city: city manager, city attorney, city clerk, finance director, city treasurer, and police chief to determine if any of them should be elected positions, should city attorney be brought in-house, how these positions are filled, and if we need others.

Commission: Here's where the establishment of a Police Commission is being looked at as well as how the city's commissions system works, the criteria for commissions, how commissioners are selected and dealing with commission terms and rules.

Enforcement: Looks at how we might enforce the provisions provided in the charter.

Transparency: This subcommittee is studying where in the charter we might wish to add transparency and sunshine provisions to enhance information for the citizens.

Technical Cleanup: This is a catch all for fixing areas of the charter which have typographical/grammar errors or where state law has superseded provisions previously enacted.

For more information, e-mail John Clifford at john.l.clifford49@gmail.com.

offering him an opportunity to respond to concerns that his role as a PUSD board member could cause the appearance of impropriety or, specifically, improper influence in the scholarship selection process.

After all, it could have been anything from simply "insider information" on one end to "pay to play" on the other.

In what he called an "official statement" in an e-mail response, he essentially blamed it all on election-year politics and "opponents and other community leaders ... trying very hard to unseat me."

He said the solar company "started their initial conversations with PUSD in 2013 (and) my son graduated in 2016."

"They were a recommendation of the superintendent and his cabinet," he said. "I nor any board members have ever brought vendors that we like, we rely on our superintendent and his team for such."

He added that the company offered scholarships to several PUSD students annually and "also did the same thing in neighboring districts."

And, he pointed out, "they have

a process and students must vie for the scholarships."

"My son was one of over 20 applicants from PUSD, they looked at their academic achievements, community involvement and SAT/ACT scores," Guzman said. "My son was at the top of his class, very involved and performed well on his SAT/ACT. He earned his own spot."

"This has in no way influenced my decision," he said. "I always strive to do what's right for PUSD."

Guzman, of course, currently is seeking reelection to the PUSD board in a race that will be decided in the Nov. 3 election.

School district officials maintained that as far as they were aware, the scholarship was awarded just like any other scholarship after the district promoted its availability to all eligible students.

Meza now heads up the district's maintenance and operations division but was in charge of pupil and community services at the time the scholarship became available. Pupil and community services normally oversees the entire process

Scholarship... pg. 24

Sowing Seeds continues food pantry at Fairplex

Sowing Seeds for Life will continue its food pantry at Fairplex (enter at Gate 17) into December with events scheduled for Nov. 4, Nov. 18 and a holiday pantry Dec. 9.

Hours are 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. while supplies last.

Volunteers are needed and asked to be on site by 7 a.m. for a mandatory safety meeting.

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of handling scholarships offered to district students.

He told La Nueva Voz the solar panels were installed under a power purchase agreement with PFMG Solar in Huntington Beach in which the district ends up paying the utility cost of solar and part of the construction cost.

Meza said the district “noticed” the scholarships to any student who might be eligible to apply and be interested in being accepted to the University of Michigan.

And, after e-mails were sent out

and announcements were made at the schools through counselors and others, students applied for the scholarships.

Meza said, of course, the district did not issue the scholarships and the entire matter was “handled apart from the district.”

He explained that counselors typically are involved in the scholarship process and counselors fall under the supervision of the director of the pupil and community services division.

Grade point averages and Scho-

Scholarship ... from pg. 23

lastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores reportedly were, in fact, part of the decision-making process on the scholarship award. It was not clear if family income was part of the criteria. The university’s chief spokesperson was given an opportunity by telephone to research the issue and comment but did not respond by press time.

In other school district news

While we’re on the subject of Pomona Unified, Brad Chapman, President of Alliance Building Solutions, Inc., an energy services provider, made

a presentation at a recent school board meeting on a districtwide “design build” energy efficiency program the school district is considering.

ABS, according to Chapman, has been “walking school sites” and making evaluations over the past year and has come up with a proposal that can save the district \$23.7 million – and that’s just in phase one of a three-phase project proposal.

The way it works, Chapman’s company would bring financing to the project that would be paid back

through the savings, calculated by lower energy costs for things like air conditioning and lighting.

No actual capital or bond funding would be required from the school district or, as ABS calls it, the project is a “budget neutral project.”

The company charges 12 percent of the project savings for overhead and another 7 percent for profit.

Board member Jason Rothman asked how much of that phase one savings would go to ABS and learned they would receive \$1.2

Scholarship... pg. 26

Drive-through Pomona Christmas Parade theme is ‘Dashing thru Downtown’

The 12th annual Pomona Christmas Parade in Downtown Pomona will go on in December, but it will be a drive-through “Dashing Thru Downtown” parade, according to a spokesperson for the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, sponsor of the event.

The parade is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, in Downtown Pomona.

The spokesperson said the parade committee, which consists of local

community members, has been hard at work to make the parade a COVID-compliant family-friendly event.

“Stationary” floats and parade entries will be in place while the community drives by to celebrate the holiday season.

Applications (\$25 fee) are being accepted at admin@downtownpomona.org or (909) 469-1121.

For more information, visit the web site at downtownpomona.org.

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Scholarship... from pg. 24

million in profit. La Nueva Voz calculated 7 percent of \$23.7 million at \$1.7 million or, if 12 percent of the total was deducted before the 7 percent was taken out of the balance, \$1.5 million.

La Nueva Voz didn't think that was too bad on the face of it, but wondered – even if no public funds were involved, certainly some public savings were – if other companies in the same business would require smaller fees since, when actually spending money on large contracts, school districts generally seek competitive bids.

The way the numbers worked out were phase one project cost would be \$6.4 million and project savings to the district would be \$23.7 million. Phase two would cost \$6.4 million with project savings of \$5.9 million. And phase three would cost \$5.7 million with resulting project savings coming in at \$17 million.

If the district ends up keeping ABS around for all three phases, the cost – again to be paid out of the savings – would be \$18.5 million with project savings for all three phases totaling \$46.6 million – numbers that start adding up to fairly significant levels to be pulling out that 12 percent for overhead and 7 percent for profit, all without a need for competitive bids.

It turned out Board member Guzman had the same idea and asked staff to bring in a couple of additional bids at a future meeting to get a better understanding of what the going rate is in the industry for pulling fees out of revenue that otherwise would remain in Pomona.

Assistant Supt. Meza told La Nueva Voz after the meeting that California school districts can hire companies without competitive bidding on projects costing \$60,000 or less, but they must use either an informal or formal bidding procedure on projects costing \$200,000 or less.

Over \$200,000 in costs, he said it depends on how the project is financed and, in this case, of course, there is no money out of pocket.

But there's more – there's an exception for vendors for energy conservation projects – it

doesn't have to go to the lowest bidder.

Even so, what happens to the proceeds depends on the financing. If municipal bonds are used, districts pay the liability back out of the savings. Money the district is saving can't be used for anything else because they have to pay back the liability.

If there is cash on hand, the savings would go back into the general fund and could be used for other purposes.

And Meza said he is not aware of any restrictions in either process on what the contractor makes since the contractor is not charging the district.

He also pointed out that the district would not be required to get additional bids in cases like this one. (Meza did say Pomona Unified had been in the process of getting other bids but had not talked to other companies prior to the ABS presentation.)

Still reading? Bottom line is we'll just have to see what comes back.

Disturbing the peace at Walgreens

In other news, La Nueva Voz stopped in to make a quick purchase at Walgreens on Holt Avenue this month after spotting two Pomona police cruisers outside. We ran into our old friend Sgt. Vince Terrell and another officer talking to store staff members.

Terrell said hello and we asked what was going on. It turns out a customer who didn't like to be told she had to wear a mask became agitated and started throwing things around.

Store management decided not to press charges.

Terrell told La Nueva Voz the upset subject even pulled down a newspaper rack located at the entrance to the store between the two front doors.

At that point, La Nueva Voz told Terrell we had a stack of newspapers on that rack.

"Then you're a victim, too," Terrell said with a smile and we agreed.

La Nueva Voz decided not to press charges as well, especially since a store team member had already been nice enough to pick up the copies of last month's issue and place them back on the rack.

We just hope folks think twice about those newspaper racks from now on!



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ETIWANDA HIGH SCHOOL GRAD WINS PEARLS OF SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP -- Jada Hanson, who graduated from Etiwanda High School in May, was awarded the first-ever “renewable” scholarship from PEARLS of Service, a non-profit organization established two years ago by members of the Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Hanson graduated with a 4.1 grade point average and ranked 86 in her class of 858. She was accepted by several schools but chose the University of Riverside where she plans to major in neuroscience. She will receive \$1,000 per year for four years through the PEARLS scholarship, as long as she remains enrolled full-time, remains a degree-seeking student, continues to meet the award criteria and follow the procedure for renewal. The scholarship application will be posted on www.epsilonetaomega.org for future applicants. It will also be available through high school career counselors. Another scholarship opportunity from PEARLS of Service is the “On the Spot Scholarship” which is given three times a year. Two are based on a “personal statement essay” of 250-300 words submitted 10 days before sorority events in September or December. The third is presented during a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “Sunday Supper” the group holds each year in January. Last month’s “On the Spot” winners were Taelen Cobb and Armando Akapo Nwagbo, both seniors at Pomona High School; Thaj Stevens-Nguyen, Jessica Jones and Tamyra Taylor, seniors at Pomona’s Garey High School, and L’Mio Edwards, a ninth-grader at Diamond Bar High School. Pictured, from left, are Renita Hanson (Jada’s mom), scholarship recipient Jada Hanson, and Mattie Johnson, executive director of PEARLS of Service. Endy Farrow, a director of PEARLS of Service, recruited applicants and coordinated the scholarship opportunities. “PEARLS” is an acronym for “Promoting Education and Reassuring Loyal Services.”

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Our Facilities and Maintenance team has employed a number of measures to ensure that the school is a healthy environment for students and staff including:

- EPA approved products are used to disinfect all surfaces;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required for staff while working around other people. This includes acrylic shields for those who have contact with parents, students, and community members;
- Hand sanitizer dispensers and soap dispensers have been installed throughout our 3 campuses;
- Classroom desks and tables are being placed 6 feet apart to ensure safe social distancing;
- Signage has been installed to help ensure proper social distancing when students return to campus.

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