



La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



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**FREE
GRATIS**

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City of Pomona and 12 partners receive \$22 million in state grants for local climate-based projects

The City of Pomona and 12 other partnering local organizations this month received a check for \$22,125,000 in grants from the California Strategic Growth Council to fund an entire laundry list of local climate-based projects including street and urban forestry improvements, bike lanes, pedestrian improvements, transit access programs, solar installations, energy efficiency, housing and more.

Strategic Growth Council Executive Director Lynn von Koch-Liebert, speaking at a check presentation ceremony outside

the Pomona City Council chambers, called the program “a shining example of a community-led climate resiliency project that exemplifies California’s commitment to climate leadership.”

She added that the Pomona project was ranked number one of all of the applications received for the funding.

The local \$22 million grant was part of a total of \$98.1 million in funding recently approved by the state that will allow 11 disadvantaged, unincorporated and tribal communities to plan and implement projects that re-



GROUP PHOTO -- Participants in this month's \$22 million check presentation ceremony pose for cameras on the steps of Pomona City Hall.

Foothill Transit closes Downtown Pomona's ticket office after 25 years, sends riders to West Covina, claiming 'mitigation measures' compensate for noncompliance with federal guidelines

Foothill Transit officials know how to put together a pretty good media event when they are putting a new CNG bus fleet in service or opening a commuter parking structure, but they shut down the Pomona transit store last month without any fanfare at all – or without even formal board approval – despite the fact that their own report acknowledged the closure would negatively impact riders who are both low income and people of color.

In fairness, they posted a flyer on the window of the store, locat-

ed in the Pomona Transit Center, at 100 W. Commercial St. And, according to spokesperson Felicia Friesema, they also announced the closure in an e-mail “rider alert.”

La Nueva Voz reached out to Friesema after hearing of the closure from a senior citizen rider (and reader of La Nueva Voz) who was concerned that now he will have to travel to West Covina to purchase “fare product” (bus pass).

The rider said last minute flyers also were placed on each bus

for distribution shortly before the Dec. 29 closure.

After e-mailing Friesema nine paragraphs of questions, La Nueva Voz learned the transit stores were a discussion topic at a strategic planning workshop last January, but no formal action was taken. The board also toured the Pomona store in June.

“There was never any formal action by the executive board approving closure,” Friesema said. “It did not require board action, but we kept them informed and

Foothill Transit... pg. 2

duce greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health and the environment, and expand economic opportunity for residents, according to a Strategic Growth Council news release.

She told an estimated 100 participants at the news conference, covered exclusively by La Nueva Voz, that the grant program is set up to fund projects “that address public health, climate, mobility, resiliency and equity in historically underserved communities.”

The investment from the state is designed to build both social and physical infrastructure in communities “supporting resi-

dents to design, implement and lead projects that advance their vision for prosperity and health at the block level” – including both climate change and neighborhood challenges – all to help reach the state’s climate goals.

She said the program brings together a collaboration including city departments, communities and partners to execute a diverse set of projects.

“Now together these investments decrease the greenhouse gas emissions while contributing towards vibrant, healthy and equitable communities all across

\$22 million grant... pg. 4

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Tri-City Mental Health announces a grant opportunity for community wellbeing projects in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne

Community plays an essential role in fostering wellness for all individuals. Tri-City Mental Health (TCMH) would like to support communities and groups in the cities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne who are doing the vital work of maintaining and improving the wellbeing of their members. The Community Wellbeing Grant (CWB) is part of TCMH's Prevention and Early Intervention program and funded by the Mental Health Services Act. Through monetary grants and technical assistance, the CWB is designed to help communities across the three cities develop and implement community-driven projects to improve and sustain the mental wellbeing of their members. The CWB is for communities who work, serve and support children and transition-age youth ages 0 to 25. Communities and groups which are either compromised of youth or fund projects that directly benefit them are eligible to apply.

Qualifying applicants may receive a grant of up to \$10,000 to fund projects that enhance the wellbeing of their members. Awarded grantees have the opportunity to access community resources and ongoing support from TCMH staff to achieve project goals, and to network and share with other communities and organizations in the area.

How to apply:

Community members are invited to attend our upcoming Information Night and Bidder's Conference meetings. The Information Night will be held on February 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. This virtual event is open to groups and communities in the Tri-City area to learn more about the grant program and how it can support their community. Community organizations intending to apply for the 2024-25 grant are required to attend one Bidder's Conference meeting for application and selection details. Two virtual meetings are available for the public: February 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. or February 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

To register and learn more about the Community Wellbeing Grant, please visit bit.ly/tcmh-cwb, scan the QR code or contact Daisy Martinez, Community Capacity Organizer, at dmartinez@tricitymhs.org or (909) 326-4630.



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Foothill Transit... from pg. 1

(they) were aware of the facts leading up to the closure.”

“Post pandemic, we’ve seen some dramatic shifts in how customers connect with Foothill Transit,” Friesema added. “We see this in both ridership trends and how people purchase passes and find commuting information.”

“Walk-in traffic at the Pomo-

na transit store has significantly decreased as customers have switched to online pass purchases and trip planning,” she said. “These changes prompted a careful review of resources that ultimately led to the Pomona transit store closure.”

An annual update on Foothill’s transit stores showed a 160 per-

cent increase in mobile app sales, a “significant transition of in-person sales to online sales,” and a 47 percent decrease in walk-in traffic in Pomona.

According to Foothill figures in a Nov. 3, 2023, “Title VI” analysis, the Pomona store was the top producer in 2019 with \$1,032,924 in sales, down to \$740,280 in 2020



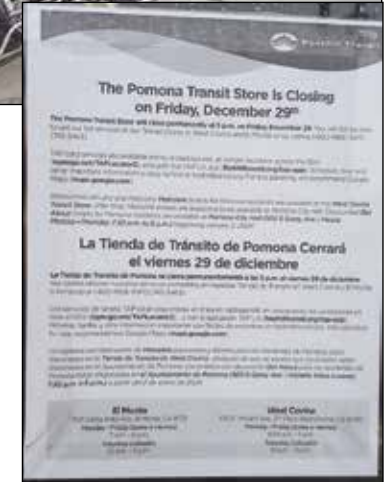
SHUTTING DOWN FOOHILL TRANSIT POMONA OFFICE -- Two copies of a notice are taped to the windows of the Foothill Transit Pomona transit store on Dec. 29 announcing the “permanent” closure of that office at 5 p.m. that same day. Pictured, at right, is a close up of the notice.

and bottoming out at \$25,848 in 2021, but back up to \$261,425 in 2022 and \$263,858 in 2023.

Foothill has two other local walk-in stores – one in El Monte and the other in West Covina, plus it also has an online capability and a mobile app.

The El Monte store reported \$972,100 in sales in 2019, \$662,356 in 2020, \$103,911 in 2021, \$255,172 in 2022 and \$367,003 in 2023.

But West Covina logged only \$561,009 in sales in 2019, \$423,083 in 2020, \$111,915 in 2021, \$254,584 in 2022 and \$221,715 in 2023, with the 2023 fiscal year ending up below both El Monte and Pomona.



Online sales dipped from \$443,922 in 2019 to \$226,835 in 2023, and the mobile app, launched in 2021, climbed from \$22,511 that year to \$307,541 in 2023.

Walk-in traffic at all three stores dipped during the same period, with El Monte down 47 percent to 26,524, Pomona down the same 47 percent to 21,979 and West Covina down a comparable

Foothill Transit... pg. 22

RE-ELECT
MAYOR TIM SANDOVAL
CITY OF POMONA
2024

- Secured millions of dollars in grants for roadway improvements, park improvements and facility renovation, including the re-designed Hamilton Park and planned improvements to Civic Center Park, the San Jose Creek Greenway, and Garey Avenue and Holt Avenue corridors.
- Attracted millions of dollars in investment in large and small businesses in the city, including Siemens Manufacturing, Impex Manufacturing and The Union on Garey (historic YMCA building).
- Developed Pomona’s Pro-Housing Plan to catalyze the construction of thousands of affordable and market-rate homes.
- Made shrewd management decisions to control spending, stabilize pension obligations, and build the city’s reserves to historic levels.
- Represents our interests in the region in leadership positions on numerous boards, including LA Metro and the Transportation Committee of the Southern California Association of Governments.
- Founded and participates in Pomona Beautiful, a grass-roots revitalization effort to clean up our city.



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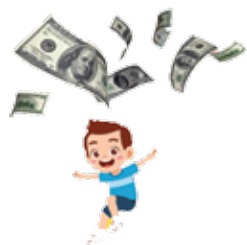
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YOUTH SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD 2024 HONOREES

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CAMILA GIRALDO-BORJAS OF POMONA HS
DONAVAN DENNIS-PLESANT OF POMONA HS



#PROUDTOBEPUSD

\$22 million in state grants... from pg. 1

the state,” she said, adding that the state expects to bring stakeholders from other parts of the state here to showcase the efforts.

“We want to help show other communities your vision” for their own grant applications, she said. “It is so clear that this plan was guided by social justice, collaboration and shared decision making.”

Metro (Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority) CEO Stephanie Wiggins said part of the project, the “Go Metro” pass, will enable young people and children to ride public transportation for free.

“It’s a program that will make L.A. County more accessible and affordable to thousands of Pomona residents,” she said. “The programs and services this funding provides will benefit the residents of Pomona for years to come.”

“And through this grant we will be providing more than 17,000 ‘Go’ passes for K through 12 students, over 14,000 monthly . . . low-income passes to people with lower income, and nearly



Laurel Rothschild
The Energy Coalition

6,000 free passes for our seniors and residents with disabilities,” Wiggins added.

“We will build on our efforts to drive equity in our programs and services and with these passes people can access Metro and Foothill Transit and dozens of other transit and mobility services for free, which is a big deal because transportation is the number two household expense in Southern California,” she said.

Wiggins cited statistics showing that Metro has had a 51 percent increase of students in the “Go” pass program and over

14 million boardings by low-income riders because of that program.

“Those numbers will only continue to grow,” she said, pointing out that funds for their programs were approved by Los Angeles County voters.

La Verne City Councilmember Tim Hepburn, president of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, called the project one that “envisions a community that is resilient in the face of climate change and also thriving in health, equity and economic vitality.”

“The new grant funding is a testament to the collaborative effort of all of our partners,” he added, pointing out that the workforce development and economic opportunities plan, another part of the package, “will provide

invaluable on the job training in green careers” like solar panel installation to e-bike building and EV charger installation.

“We are not just implementing projects but empowering our community members with skills and opportunities,” he said, with a “commitment to environmental stewardship.”

Laurel Rothschild, vice president of The Energy Coalition, said Pomona’s grant project, called ACTS, stands for “activated for community transformation and sustainability.”

“And that is exactly what this funding is going to do, it is going to activate this community,” she said. “This grant is truly a testament to all of the partners, this commitment to pioneering this project that drives real positive change in our community.”

“It’s a concrete step toward reshaping the future of communities and sustainability,” she added. “Through Pomona ACTS, this team of incredible community partners and energy experts will transform the surrounding neighborhoods into a model for the advanced sustainable communities of tomorrow.”

The Energy Coalition works with local governments and communities to promote energy efficiency action.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told the group that Pomona is predominantly made up of working people.

“And they should be able to have the same \$22 million grant... pg. 6



An electric bicycle, available through Active San Gabriel Valley’s part of the \$22 million program, was on display at the check presentation event.



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**Arturo Jimenez,
President**

Ganesha, Decker take top honors at Pomona Unified's Sarah Ross Science Fair

Anabelle Gonzalez, a student at Pomona's Ganesha High School, won first place prize in the senior division (grades 9-12) last week in the Pomona Unified School District's Sarah Ross Science Fair and Nahum Butag, a student at Decker Elementary School, won first place in the junior division (grades 6-8), according to school district officials.

The two will go on to compete in the Los Angeles County science fair in March.

The event was held at the Village Academy conference center.

Gonzalez created a project comparing a fuel cell windmill to a battery-operated windmill.

And Butag's project was titled "Which color absorbs the most light?"

Second place in the senior division went to Mark Wang of Diamond Ranch High School ("Stefan Boltzmann Law of Radiative Heat Transfer in Space Design") and third place went to Ariana Garcia and Ruby Perez of Ganesha High School ("Repurpose Peels and Reduce Waste").

The second place winner in the junior division was Nolan Anderson ("Healthy Habits") with third



FIRST PLACE JUNIOR DIVISION -- Nahum Butag won first place in the junior division of the PUSD Sarah Ross Science Fair. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Unified School Board President Arturo Jimenez, Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Nahum Butag, Board members Lorena Gonzalez and Patty Tye, and PUSD Supt. Darren Knowles.

place going to Austin Escandon ("Driving on the Color Spectrum"). Both are students at La Verne Science and Technology Charter.

A total of 81 students participated in the science fair, showcasing 60 projects from 15 schools in the school district.

The science fair was named in memory of Sarah Ross, who taught in Garey, Pomona and Ganesha High Schools and elsewhere in Pomona. Ross died in 2012 after she became ill following a visit to Africa.

The event is coordinated each year by a Promoting Academic Achievement committee.

Ross and Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman teamed up to create a science fair for students when they realized that the school district had not held a science fair in 12 years.

Perlman, who chairs Promoting Academic Achievement, said the science fair originally was created under Pomona's Youth and Family Master Plan.



FIRST PLACE SENIOR DIVISION -- Anabelle Gonzalez won first place in the senior division of last week's Pomona Unified School District Sarah Ross Science Fair. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Unified School Board President Arturo Jimenez, Board members Dr. Roberta Perlman and Lorena Gonzalez, Anabelle Gonzalez, Board member Patty Tye and PUSD Supt. Darren Knowles.

She said a total of \$1,000 in scholarships was divided up and presented to top winners.

FROM BIRDS TO PLANES -- And yes, apparently there are similarities between the wings of birds and wings of planes. But it took Matthew Raphael de Luna, a sixth grader at Pomona's Armstrong Elementary School, to take a deep dive and look into all of that. His "problem" was "How does the design of bird wings affect how they fly?" His hypothesis looked at a test of three different airplane designs based on the wing shapes of three birds to determine if that analysis would enable him to predict which will fly the farthest.

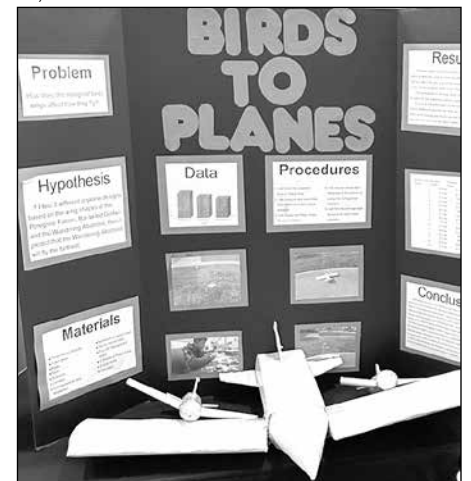


Photo by Renee Barbee

POMONA LIONS PRESENT MINI-GRANTS TO TEACHERS -- Members of the Pomona Lions Club presented a total of \$3,051 in mini-grants to 10 teachers working on eight projects during a check presentation ceremony Monday at Pomona's Washington Elementary School. The grants are offered each year to teachers in the Pomona Unified School District to supplement their instruction and tasks with books, equipment and supplies. The grants are reviewed by a "mini-grant committee" made up of former teachers. They can be for amounts up to \$300 for individuals or \$500 for groups. All grant applications received were funded this year, according to Lion Anne Henderson. Included were everything from language and math projects to a mobile lab table for biology class demonstrations. Pictured, back row from left, are Lion Anne Henderson, Pomona Unified School Board President Arturo Jimenez, Lion Jo Fulton, Armstrong Elementary teacher Monica Medina-Jimenez, Lion Mitch Stein, Cortez Math and Science Magnet School teacher Maria Sanchez, Kellogg teacher Manuela Echeverria, Washington Elementary teacher Laurdes Rodriguez, Golden Springs Elementary School teacher Carol Martinez, Lion Gil Smith and Lions President WendyAnn Stuard. Middle row, from left, are Armstrong teacher Debra Low and Ganesha High School teacher Anna Zirkle. Front row, from left, are Diamond Ranch teacher Vanessa Loera and Washington teacher Carol Alcala Hinostro. Another check for \$500 will be presented to Kellogg Polytechnic Elementary School teachers Jessica Lerma, Stephen Reynolds and Lizzette Rodriguez.

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\$22 million grant... from pg. 4

things that wealthier communities have,” Sandoval said. “They should be able to walk the streets and feel safe and have trees and shrubs and have bike lanes and have access to solar and to have access to this amazing urban farm called Lopez Urban Farm, to have programs, God’s Pantry that saves lives every single day, to have programs like Day One, all of these amazing organizations in the city came together to make this happen.”



La Verne Councilmember Tim Hepburn
San Gabriel Valley Council of Govts.

He said this “incredible team of people” was working for the City of Pomona “doing everything they can to improve the quality of life for our residents.”

Pomona Director of Public Works Rene Guerrero told La Nueva Voz after the event that the city’s portion of the funding will include \$1.5 million for the design of active transportation improvements – such as dedicated

bike lanes and Downtown Pomona “walkability” improvements, community “energy resilience” centers and more.

He said a consultant already is on board for an expected year-long planning project on Garey Avenue between Aliso Street (north of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center) to Monterey Avenue – a project expected to cost between \$8 and \$10 million.

In addition to the City of Pomona and Metro, partners involved in the project include the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, Day One, The Energy Coalition, Latina and Latino Roundtable, GRID Alternatives and CHERP (solar panels), Clean and Green Pomona, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, Lopez Urban Farm, and Active San Gabriel Valley (electric and conventional bicycles and bicycle programs).

Statewide, four implementation grants each for \$22,125,000 were awarded to the Pomona coalition, the City of Coachella, the San Diego Foundation and the City of Bakersfield.

Project development grants included \$4 million to Riverside County, \$1 million to Santa Barbara County, \$1 million to Mariposa County, and \$2.5 million to Mendocino County.



Lynn von Koch-Liebert
California Strategic Growth Council



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Stephanie Wiggins
Metro

Planning grants included \$300,000 grants to San Diego, Paramount and Tranquility Resource Conservation District in the San Joaquin Valley.

The California Strategic Growth Council is a state agency with a vision statement of creating healthy, thriving and resilient communities for all, according to its web site. Its mission is to coordinate and work collaboratively with public agencies, communities and stakeholders to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity and quality of life for all Californians.

Since 2016, the state has invested \$424 million in 37 communities through its Transformative Climate Communities Program which empowers communities most impacted by pollution to pursue their own goals and strategies to tackle local air pollution and emissions.

According to a news release,

this latest round of funding will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 36,647 metric tons, an amount equivalent to taking 8,155 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles

off the road for one year.

The Strategic Growth Council is a state body comprised of seven state agencies and three public members.

La Nueva Voz

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Pomona's Martin Luther King Project student honorees urged to gather special skills for their future

The six student honorees at this month's 42nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Project celebration in Pomona were told that their community is largely responsible for propelling them into the future but that they will need some special skills along the way.

Evangelist and motivational speaker Regina Brown, keynote speaker at the Sunday event the day before Martin Luther King Jr. day at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church, said some of them may return home to begin their careers after graduating from college to put their skills to work in the community in which they grew up.

And she told the students the community has supported them, nurtured them, helped them, loved them, taken care of them and steered them on.

"Now it's time to pack your bags and start your personal journey," Brown said.

She called up her assistant, volunteer Cori Moore, who had with her a small travel case.

"You young people are about to embark on a whole new journey," she said, "something new, something different. And you need to make sure that you have what you need to be successful."



ZENNIE CUMMINGS AWARD WINNER -- Rev. Natalie Shiras, a resident of Pilgrim Place in Claremont and a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Project board, received this year's Zennie Cummings Award for community service at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Project celebration in Pomona at Pilgrim Congregational Church. Pictured, from left, are Ron Bolding, executive director of Pilgrim Place, President and CEO of the former Inter Valley Health Plan and the 2019 keynote speaker at the MLK Project event, who presented the award; Shiras; MLK Project Board President Sherie Rodgers, and MLK Project Vice President/Treasurer and Past President Gayle Claiborne, who introduced the award presentation.

And her assistant placed cards representing each of those items one at a time – skills like assertiveness, responsibility, self-management, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, tolerance for ambiguity, diversity ease, the ability to follow directions and success skills.

"So, our bag's packed and we are ready to go," Brown said, reminding them to "remember your creator in the days of your youth" in an evangelistic reference to their spiritual life and well-being.

Brown also took a look back in history to the time of Martin Luther King Jr. to give reverence, as she called it, to those who have gone before them out of their belief in the "importance of fighting bigotry – those who gave much of themselves, their time, their money, and in some cases even their lives."

"They sacrificed peace for turmoil, they sacrificed comfort for intentional agitation in their communities, in their cities and their states because their choice to be treated as a whole human with rights and dignity was long overdue," she said.

"No longer would they simply go along to get along," Brown said. "Out of the 'we shall overcome' spirit was born a mighty man, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He led the boycotts, he helped form Southern Christian Leadership Conference (civil rights organization), he fought for mandatory equal voting rights in America for both Blacks and whites, he led lunch counter sit-ins, where he and others demand-

ed to be treated equal."

"He was the leader of the entire civil rights movement in the '60s that called for working out conflict with kindness and love as opposed to hate and violence," Brown said, and he "proved to the world that action without violence can be effective and suc-



STUDENTS HONORED BY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., PROJECT -- Recipients of this year's Youth Social Justice Award pose for a photo with Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project board members before this year's celebration. Students, front row, from left, are Donovan Dennis-Plesant and Camila Giraldo-Borjas, of Pomona High School; Maia Tumbokon of Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School; Jaylah Lee Ann Bonds, Chaffey College; Paige Hamring, Summit High School, and Zayvion Davis Jackson, Silverado High School. Board members, back row, from left, are Audrey Yarbrough, Chara Swodeck, President Sherie Rodgers, and Gayle Claiborne. Board members, middle row, from left, are Rev. Natalie Shiras, Cynthia Barnes-Slater, Jamie Lindsay, Renee Barbee and Rita Shaw. Not pictured are Board members Richard Nichols, Shannay Sampson and Dwayne Smith.



Regina Brown
Keynote speaker

cessful."

And, she added, because of this movement, segregation and discrimination based on skin color "is no longer legal – but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist."

This year's Zennie Cummings Award was presented to Rev. Natalie Shiras, a facilitator with the "Circle of Chairs Interracial and Intergenerational Dialogue on Race" with partners from Pilgrim Place, NAACP Pomona Valley Branch, National Council of Negro Women – Pomona Valley Branch, Pitzer College and others.

She serves on the board and as chaplain for the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project.

She is a resident of Pilgrim Place in Claremont, a retirement community for pastors, faith leaders and social justice workers.

The award was created to honor a group, company or individual who over the years has helped strengthen the role of social justice. Past award honorees include Webb Enterprises, Rev. Beth Bingham, Foothill Transit, City of Pomona, Pilgrim Congre-

gational Church, National Council of Negro Women Pomona Valley Section, Latino-Latina Roundtable, Church Women United and, last year, Pomona's La Nueva Voz.

Student honorees this year were Camila Giraldo-Borjas and Donovan Dennis-Plesant, Pomona High School; Jaylah Lee Ann Bonds, Chaffey College, Maia Tumbokon, Diamond Ranch High School, Paige Hamring, Summit High School in Fontana, and Zayvion Davis, Silverado High School in Victorville.

Selected students each year receive an award ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

The Pomona Inland Valley MLK Project, which has produced the "MLK, Jr., Celebration

MLK Day report shows California ranks near top of list for 'most racial progress'

In a "Martin Luther King Jr. Day" report, WalletHub has released its list of the 2024 states with the most racial progress, with, interestingly, Georgia, Texas and Mississippi ranking in the top three spots.

At the top of the list of states rated the most integrated states overall were Hawaii, Arizona and New Mexico.

California ranked number 12 on the list of states with the most racial progress and number 13 on

and Youth Social Justice Award Program" honoring King, works to recognize Inland Valley students who are actively making a difference in their community dismantling social injustice with their community and school participation.

The group's vision is to address the needs of local students striving to obtain their educational and community outreach goals in the spirit of Dr. King's vision of social justice reform.

As a non-profit, the group has helped more than 140 students and contributed financially with the "Youth Social Justice Award" through the years.

For more information or to donate to the organization, e-mail pivmlkproject@gmail.com or visit www.pivmlkproject.org.

the list of most integrated states overall.

According to the report, the District of Columbia has the lowest gap in homeownership rates between white people and Black people, and Connecticut has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970.

Hawaii has the lowest gap in median annual household incomes between white people and Black people. And Georgia has

Pomona hires Sacramento firm to form new 'East Holt' business improvement district

The City of Pomona effective last month hired Civitas Advisors, based in Sacramento, to form a new property and business improvement district (PBID) along the city's East Holt corridor in an effort to enhance economic development, maintenance and security for businesses in the area, according to Pomona Economic Development Director Kirk Pelser.

The concept will be similar to Pomona's existing PBID, Downtown Pomona Owners Association, which has operated as a non-profit organization contracting with the City of Pomona since 2004.

In fact, DPOA Executive Director Lorena Parker volunteered to La Nueva Voz recently that she was an employee of attorney John Lambeth, President and CEO of Civitas, for a five-year period earlier in her career.

The districts were made possible under a 1994 state law in which property owners in a designated area can vote to create and operate an organization and, essentially, authorize the city to levy a special tax on property owners in that designated area, or district, to fund the organization and its activities.

Pomona's DPOA assesses just over \$1 million a year from the property owners in its service area.

According to the city's request for proposals on the project, the consultant's work will include performing a preliminary benefits assessment for the target area, forming a stakeholder advisory committee, developing a budget and guiding the city through the legal process of required ordinances, a management plan, an engineer's report, a petition and the actual election ballot.

The cost of the project is not to exceed \$85,000, based on a fixed monthly fee of \$5,500 plus expenses for a 12-month period, according to the city's contract with Civitas.

Engineering costs are expected to be another \$6,000.



Photo by Debra Martin

NEW HOME FOR POMONA VALLEY PRIDE -- Members of Pomona Valley Pride cut the ribbon to officially open their new home in part of the old California Bank and Trust building across the street from Pomona City Hall. The group first was based in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pomona before moving to a storefront location on Thomas Street. The new location is at 235 W. Mission Blvd. Pictured along with Pomona Valley Pride Board members are, from left, Jacqueline Elizalde representing Congresswoman Norma Torres, Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Robles, and Tracy Evanson-Norwood, of Healed Women Heal, at center with the scissors is Pomona Valley Pride Center President, executive director and co-founder Frank Guzman, fifth from right is Pomona Pride Executive Board member Delana Martin-Marshall, and at far right is Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.

Compassion in an election year

By Don Martens, Member
Compassionate Pomona

Perhaps the most basic question for organized humanity is: relationship or competition?

Should humans organize themselves into communities for the benefit of all, or allow the strongest to thrive and profit, while the weaker ones live their miserable lives under the thumb of oppression? We of Compassionate Pomona subscribe to the benefit-of-all model and believe that model will create a more successful community. We are working toward that goal, and ask you to work toward it also.

One member of the community is the institution "the government." The government is the administrator of the relationship we call society. Its major goal is to ensure the success of the community. It does things the other individual members should not or cannot do.

In a benefit-of-all model, one

of the basic jobs of the government is to balance the relationships of each of the component members of society to prevent any of them from getting so powerful that they damage the community as a whole, or that they oppress the other members to the point that those oppressed lose the benefits of the relationship.

In the competition model, the government still has the goal of ensuring the success of the community, and it still balances the actions of each of the component members, except it is controlled by the strongest/wealthiest members and supports the oppression of the weaker members by those strongest/wealthiest members. Only when the weak provide profit to the wealthy do they have value.

In the competition model, corruption is an accepted norm. Sometimes the government leaders become so corrupt that it fails

Compassion... pg. 20

Racial report... from pg. 7

made the most progress in closing this gap since 1979.

Alaska has the lowest gap in unemployment rates, and Hawaii has the lowest gap in poverty rates. Wyoming has the lowest gap in bachelor's degree attainment.

Los Angeles County hate crimes

In a related report, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations released its annual analysis of hate crimes reported throughout Los Angeles County in 2022, finding that hate crimes in the county grew 18 percent

from 790 to 929, the second largest number in more than 20 years.

For the past eight years, hate crimes have been trending upward and since 2013 there has been a 143 percent increase.

The data showed that Blacks were the most frequent targets of reported hate crimes in the county and anti-Asian hate crimes reached the second highest total ever, with anti-immigrant hate crimes hitting a historic high along with growth in hate crimes targeting the LGBTQ+ and Jewish communities.

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Pictured last month at Walmart in Pomona are participants in the Pomona Optimist Club's annual Christmas shopping spree. From left are Optimist President Lorraine Canales, Pomona Police Lt. Manny Ramos, Pomona Optimist Past President and former Pacific Southeast District Governor M. Joyce Bakersmith, and Pomona Police Operations Division Captain Ryan Rodriguez.



A couple of "customers" at the Pomona Optimist Club's annual Christmas shopping spree have a couple of helpers making sure they find just the right jacket for winter. For the past 22 years, the local Optimist group has partnered with Pomona Unified School District, charter schools and parochial schools -- five elementary schools each year -- with teachers and administrators selecting the students based on economic need to get a chance to, well, go shopping at Walmart. Volunteers this year included police and fire explorers, Village Academy High School students, Pomona JROTC students, and even five Walmart team members. For more information, e-mail pomonaoptimistclub@gmail.com.



POMONA OPTIMISTS GROUP PHOTO -- Posing for a group photo at last month's annual Christmas shopping spree at Pomona's Walmart are Pomona Optimist members Ruby Jung, President Lorraine Canales, Sonia and Hugo Molina, Paulette Young, Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lusto (seated), a volunteer, and members Fernando Meza and Past President and Past District Gov. M. Joyce Bakersmith.



SANTA'S HELPERS -- Volunteer cadets from the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Pomona Police Department give a little back-up assistance to Santa (Pomona's favorite, John Forbing) as he takes orders from the kids at the Pomona Optimist Christmas shopping spree at Walmart.

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Got an idea for Cal Poly's 2025 Rose Parade float?

Submissions are now being accepted for the Cal Poly University Pomona and San Luis Obispo float entry in the 2025 Rose Parade.

Next year's theme is "Best Day Ever," and the competition is open to anyone on campus and in the community.

This will be Cal Poly's 76th entry.

Deadline to submit entries is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7.

The winner will have a choice between two tickets to the parade or a \$500 cash prize.

The theme celebrates life's best moments.

For more information, contact Cary Khatab at (909) 869-3204 or kkhatab@cpp.edu.

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for Pomona City Council

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Debra Martin está trabajando con la comunidad para ayudar a mejorar Seguridad y Calidad de Vida para Todos.

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Kwanzaa participants urged to maximize their ‘purpose’

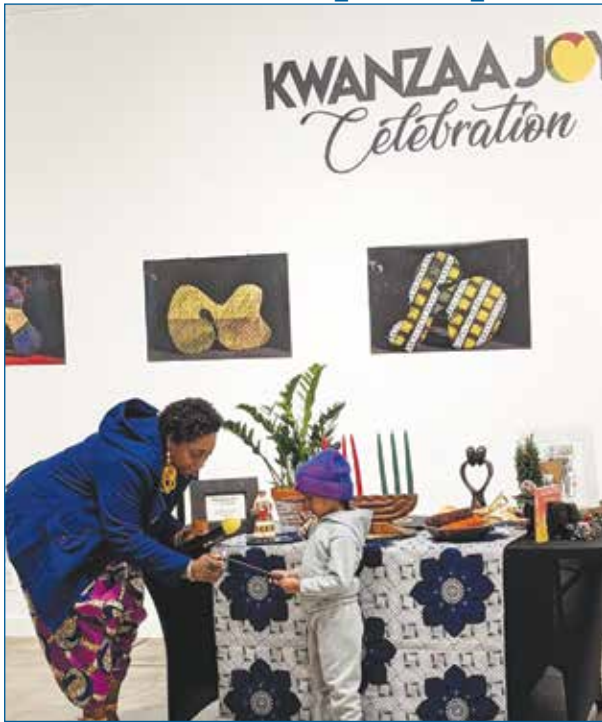
Kennedy Austin Foundation founder Ethel Gardner, one of seven speakers at last month’s Kwanzaa Joy Celebration at Pomona’s Fairplex, talked to nearly 100 audience members about purpose and destiny and encouraged each of them to be a beacon of light that people can follow – even though sometimes people don’t want to hear what you have to say.

“Purpose – we all have it, every single one of us,” she said at the five-hour event in the Millard Sheets Art Center, adding that

it is difficult – particularly during times of despair, depression, oppression or poverty.

She cited as an example her father who, when she was a child in Cleveland, Ohio, built a garden that would feed the entire community.

“People who didn’t have food, all they did was come and knock



CELEBRATING KWANZAA -- An unidentified young man, at left, volunteers to help Chara Swodeck light the candles to officially celebrate Kwanzaa. Swodeck is the founder of the Kwanzaa observance in Pomona. Above is speaker Ethel Gardner, speaking on “purpose,” one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

on the door,” Gardner said, “and he would point them to the garden.”

“You have a purpose – purpose is one of the things that we have to wrap our brain around,” she said.

“Make your mark upon this earth – do not keep it quiet,” Gardner said. “Say it loud – I’m here for a purpose and I’m not going to

leave this earth until I do it.”

Gardner’s Kennedy Austin Foundation is a family crisis intervention center serving Pomona, Claremont and La Verne. She created the organization at a time in her life, in her own words, “when I had nothing else to live for” – after her teenage son was killed in a traffic accident.

Purpose is one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa, along with unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, creativity and faith.

Pomona Historic Preservation Commissioner Chara Swodeck, founder of Pomona’s Kwanzaa observance, hosted the fourth an-

nual event which was first held in January 2020.

Kwanzaa is an annual week-long celebration of African-American culture that was first celebrated in 1966. It provides an opportunity for people of African heritage, regardless of religious background, to come together and show reverence for their Creator, to commemorate the past and to recommit to high ideals.

For more information, visit kwanzaajoy.com.

Please visit our web site at www.lanuevavoz.net to see the latest issue of **La Nueva Voz**, past issues and more!



Veronica Cabrera for Pomona Mayor

Veronica Cabrera is a realtor doing business and living in Pomona. Because of the city’s poor street condition, the uncontrolled homelessness problem, the tremendous need for REAL affordable housing and public housing assistance, and the mismanagement of city funds, Veronica decided to run for Mayor of Pomona in 2024.

Veronica compares the city’s efficiency and results to a functional family. If we have good, responsible parents (in general terms), we have good children. Similarly, if we have good government representatives, we have good citizens and an organized city.

For Veronica, the definition of insanity, politically speaking, is to continue voting for the same candidates, expecting different results. We all have the right to vote and run for office, yet there is a limit to showing the efficiency of the elected city representatives. If our trusted elected official fails to represent us in the people’s best interest, vote for a new person. If we don’t see potential in any candidates, we must act and offer ourselves as alternatives if necessary.

To learn more about Veronica, visit her website www.veronicacabrera.com.

Go to Veronica Cabrera Pomona on YouTube to see her City Council meeting interventions (Spanish/English).



Approved and paid for by Veronica Cabrera
Veronica Cabrera for Mayor 2024 I.D. #1465562



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Roundtable President Jose Calderon tells guests Pomona is celebrating 'growing culture building solidarity and compassion'

Pomona's Latino and Latina Roundtable President Jose Calderon welcomed about 150 guests to the organization's open house this month which he said was a celebration of "a growing culture in Pomona that is continuing with NAACP next door in building solidarity, compassion, productivity, equity and judgment."

Calderon, who has worked with the organization for the past 20 years, said the Roundtable is "using the best of our capacity to create concrete models of how we can use science, but this is 'people' science, to build multi-racial unity bringing together people of different backgrounds, genders, sexualities and racial histories in solving some of the . . . political and social problems that our communities are facing."

"With this space here, our Roundtable is more equipped now than ever to take on some of the issues of immigration, jobs, health, education and quality of life like never before," he added.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said the Roundtable's new home is "a tremendous sign of progress."



GROUP PHOTO -- Participants in this month's Latino and Latina Roundtable open house pose for a group shot at the end of the program with Roundtable President Jose Calderon seated front and center.



Jose Calderon
Roundtable President

"By working together . . . I think we're a lot further along because all of you . . . know what it means to work together as a community," Sandoval added. "We can take the funds that are coming in to city government and I can put them to use to uplift the lives of our most vulnerable community

(and) we all win but we could not have done it without the Latino and Latina Roundtable."

Roundtable Vice President Angela Sanbrano pointed out that the event was being held only two days before the birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

She said that day would be "a

good day to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and the on-going struggle for civil rights, equality, justice and to recommit ourselves to the struggle for social and racial justice."

Roundtable Executive Director Lina Mira called it "just an amazing day to just come together in

Roundtable... pg. 16

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State Sen. Rubio tells Pomona’s Project Resilience that human trafficking is one of world’s fastest growing criminal enterprises

State Sen. Susan Rubio told members, supporters and friends of Pomona’s Project Resilience last week that California has one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the country, and that trafficking is among the world’s fastest growing criminal enterprises estimated to be a \$150 billion per year global industry.

She added that at any given time there are 24.9 million human trafficking victims worldwide.

Speaking at a human trafficking awareness event sponsored by Project Resilience at the Metro Event Center in Downtown Pomona, she said she has been working hard to protect trafficking victims.

As an example, she said, one bill she worked on changed the law pertaining to anyone withholding necessities from a victim

or keeping the victim from going out of his or her home.

“Now that is against the law and victims can use that as supporting evidence in court to show that they are victims of domestic violence because we know that psychological trauma is just as harmful as physical assault,” Rubio said. “That is all in the books.”

She also said that experts know that domestic violence happens but that patterns of abuse start happening really early on. Rubio, a former teacher, said she saw students at the age of 13 and 14 already exhibiting the course

of control behavior.

“What I wanted to do when I became a state senator is to make sure that every child, every family, had access to the phone number to the domestic violence

hotline so I changed the law now to ensure that every school in the State of California from the seventh grade all the way to higher education has the domestic violence hotline on the back

of the I.D. card,” she said. “So if there’s a child out there or a family friend and you see something now you have access to that phone and don’t forget to call because our victims need you so bad.”

The national domestic violence hotline is (800) 799-7233.

Another bill, Senate Bill 376, grants the survivors of human trafficking the right to an advocate to help prevent them from being incarcerated or blamed for the crime. And Senate Bill 545 provides child sex trafficking victims who attack abusers the time to heal and prevents minors from being tried as adults. The bill became law this month.

And Senate Bill 14, which Rubio co-authored, makes sure human traffickers are held accountable. Prior to this measure, trafficking was not considered a

Project Resilience... pg. 22



SEN. RUBIO SPEAKS AT PROJECT RESILIENCE TRAFFICKING EVENT -- State Sen. Susan Rubio told nearly 100 attendees at last week’s Project Resilience human trafficking awareness event in Downtown Pomona that California has one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the country. Pictured, from left, are Project Resilience Board members Mia Parrish and Janelle Miller, Rubio, Project Resilience founder and CEO Stephanie Sepeda, and Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Robles, a Board member of Project Resilience.

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Roundtable... from pg. 14

our beautiful new space.”

“The only thing I have right now is gratitude in my heart,” she said.

The Roundtable shared space next door for the past six years with the NAACP Pomona Valley Branch in a partnership known as the “Solidarity Center.”

The group has expanded and grown with the community into a new office in Room 5 of the Village at Indian Hill, located at 1460 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.

Its signature 20th Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast is scheduled for 8 a.m. Friday, March 29, at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.

Membership in the Roundtable is as little as \$25 or \$10 for a student, retiree or low-income rate. For more information, visit the web site at latinolatinaroundtable.org.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

State health department issues warnings against use of the drug xylazine

As a response to the increase of xylazine in the illegal drug supply in the U.S., the California Department of Public Health has issued a letter to healthcare facilities and providers outlining the risks and warning signs of exposure, along with patient care recommendations.

“Xylazine is a powerful sedative commonly known as ‘tranq’ or ‘tranq dope’ and has been linked to an increasing number of overdose deaths nationwide,” department director and state public health officer Dr. Tomas Aragon said in a recent news release.

“While current data suggests that xylazine is relatively uncommon in California’s drug supply at this time we are taking steps to reach our local partners, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, and all Californians to

warn them of this evolving situation,” he added.

In a related action, Gov. Newsom recently announced new legislation to prevent the illicit use and trafficking of xylazine.

While Xylazine is a new and emerging issue in California, officials pointed out that the drug supply is unpredictable and they are concerned xylazine eventually may become more common here, with resulting increases in instances of fatal overdose, potentially dangerous periods of unconsciousness, and serious skin infections.

The drug is a powerful sedative intended for animals as a pain reliever and is not safe for humans. It can cause drowsiness, amnesia, serious skin wounds and slowed breathing and heart rate or dangerously low blood pressure.

Please visit our web site at www.lanuevavoz.net to see the latest issue of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!



Lina Mira
Roundtable Executive Director



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‘Celebration of life’ to be announced for Larry Egan

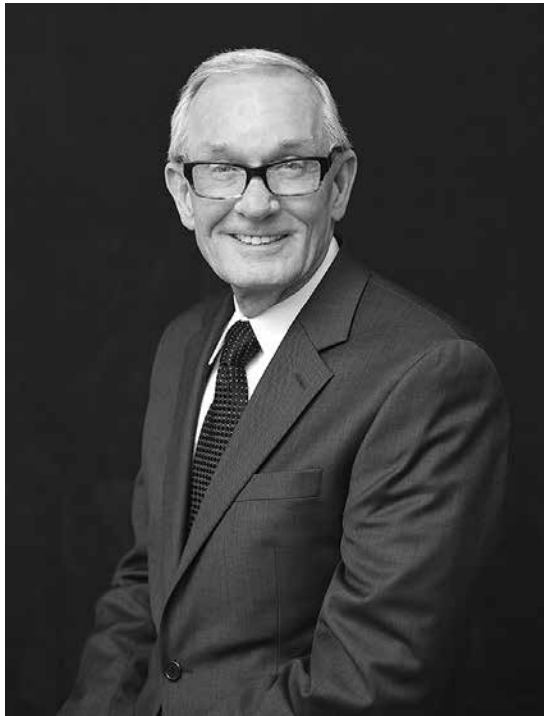
A celebration of life is expected to be announced in coming weeks for Lawrence D. (Larry) Egan, who died last month with his two daughters by his side at his home in Alta Loma. He was 80.

Larry, a native of Oklahoma City, OK, was the youngest of the seven children of Robert Egan and Leona Francis Egan.

After moving to California and attending high school, Larry enlisted with the U.S. Navy and served a term as a hospital corpsman. He began his long and varied career in sales, met and married Pamela Bush and the two moved to Alta Loma to raise their family.

He held sales and leadership positions at E & J Gallo Winery and Remy Martin, along with other companies in the beverage industry. Through the '90s, he worked as an entrepreneur, with ventures including S&S Concessions, his own concession business.

In 2007, he began serving as executive director of Pomona’s Downtown Pomona Owners Association, where his 13-year tenure enabled him to head many revitalization efforts for the City of Pomona.



Larry Egan

Included was the return of the Pomona Christmas Parade and the Downtown Trolley, two accomplishments he was particularly proud of.

He retired from the DPOA in 2020 and was credited with having been instrumental in the resurgence of Downtown Pomona and the city as a whole, leading to his moniker “Downtown Pops.”

Larry was preceded in death by his brothers and his wife of 49 years, Pamela S. Egan.

He is survived by his older sisters Maryanne Pearson

and Theresa Whitley of Oklahoma, his daughter Shannon Manns and son-in-law Kaibrick Manns, daughter Sally Egan Perdomo and son-in-law Oscar Perdomo, and his grandchildren Lawrence Manns, Kortney Manns, Khristopher Manns and Penelope Perdomo, along with many nieces, nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews.

He leaves behind an immense legacy, having touched the lives of countless friends, colleagues, and family throughout California and beyond.

Editor’s Note: Larry was serving as executive director of Pomona’s DPOA when La Nueva Voz started publishing 15 years ago. He was one of the very first to help us learn the ropes here. We always considered him a reliable and ethical news source, a true professional and a good friend. He will be missed.

State agency announces resources, new materials and a hotline to report acts of hate

Amid on-going reports of increased hate activity, the California Civil Rights Department this month highlighted new informational materials to help connect Californians with support through “California vs Hate,” the state’s anti-hate hotline and resource network.

The program provides a safe, anonymous option for victims and witnesses of hate to report and get assistance, including access to mental health, financial and legal services.

As part of the agency’s efforts to reach “historically underserved communities,” many of the materials shared through the program now are available in more than 20 languages.

“Hate does not belong in California,” Gov. Newsom said in a news release. “By expanding re-

sources and tools, the California Civil Rights Department is making our communities safer and promoting healing.”

The non-emergency incident reporting hotline is available at (833) 866-4283 or 833-8-NO-HATE from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday or on line at any time at CavsHate.org.

The program, unveiled by Newsom last year, is in direct response to the rise in reported hate crimes in California which, in recent years, have reached their highest levels since 2001, jumping more than 20 percent from 2021 to 2022.

In addition, California has seen an increase in preliminary reports of hate in the three months following the start of the conflict in the Middle East as compared to the prior three months, rising from 171 reports to 237.

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La Nueva Voz ‘Top of Page One’ stories for 2023

- January** New non-profit ‘Project Resilience,’ elected officials join forces against human trafficking and sex workers
- February** Nation’s former ‘top cop’ Bill Barr calls media ‘important to democracy’ but newspapers need to examine why they lost public trust
- March** Harriet Tubman statue unveiled in Lincoln Park
- April** Ion Puschila, Arturo Jimenez, others take top honors at Roundtable ‘Cesar Chavez Breakfast’
- May** LA County Fair ‘springs’ through the month of May
- June** Mayor reports ‘state of city’ is strong with reserves nearing \$60 million
- July** Pomona Chamber board members – including five new board members – installed, Derby Room named ‘Member of the Year’
- August** Mayor, Police Chief announce Pomona is cracking down on crime – compassionately!
- September** Hamilton Park revitalized for a new generation in the making
- October** Third annual ‘Kindness Carnival’ is bigger, better and kinder than ever!
- November** Pomona creates new ‘Office of Violence Prevention’ under \$5 million state grant
- December** Pomona city manager steps down after four years, receives \$600,000 in severance pay

Editor’s Note: Complete stories are in the La Nueva Voz archives at www.lanuevavoz.net under “Past Issues.”

Interested in who has been arrested by Pomona Police in Pomona?

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Solamente una página

Nota del editor: La Nueva Voz está agregando esta página con contenido en Español a petición e interés de los lectores. Un lector frecuente del Centro Comunitario del Parque Washington preguntó si este periódico pudiese incluir al menos "solamente una página" en Español. Entonces, buen amigo, aquí lo tienes. Esperamos que nuestros lectores nos den a saber lo que piensan.

La ciudad de Pomona y 12 socios reciben \$22 millones en subvenciones estatales para proyectos locales basados en el clima

La ciudad de Pomona y otras 12 organizaciones locales asociadas recibieron este mes un cheque por \$22,125,000 en subvenciones del Consejo de Crecimiento Estratégico de California para financiar una larga lista de proyectos locales basados en el clima, desde mejoras forestales urbanas y de calles, carriles para bicicletas, mejoras para peatones, programas de acceso al tránsito, instalaciones solares, eficiencia energética, vivienda y más.

La directora ejecutiva del Consejo de Crecimiento Estratégico, Lynn von Koch-Liebert, hablando en una ceremonia de presentación de cheques fuera de las cámaras del Concejo Municipal de Pomona, calificó el programa como "un ejemplo brillante de un proyecto de resiliencia climática liderado por la comunidad que ejemplifica el compromiso de California con el liderazgo climático".

Añadió que el proyecto Pomona ocupó el puesto número uno de todas las solicitudes recibidas para la financiación.

La subvención local de \$22 millones fue parte de un total de \$98.1 millones en financiamiento aprobado recientemente por el estado que permitirá a 11 comunidades tribales, no incorporadas y desfavorecidas planificar e implementar proyectos que reduzcan las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, mejoren la salud pública y el medio ambiente, y amplíen oportunidad económica para los residentes, según un comunicado de prensa del Strategic Growth Council.

Dijo a unos 100 participantes en la conferencia de prensa, cubierta exclusivamente por La Nueva Voz, que el programa de subvenciones está creado para financiar proyectos "que abordan la salud pública, el clima, la movilidad, la resiliencia y la equidad en comunidades históricamente desatendidas".

La inversión del estado está diseñada para construir infraestructura social y física en las comunidades "apoyando a los residentes a diseñar, implementar y liderar proyectos que promuevan

su visión de prosperidad y salud a nivel de cuadra" –incluidos tanto el cambio climático como los desafíos vecinales–, todo para ayudar a alcanzar los objetivos climáticos del estado.

Dijo que el programa reúne una colaboración que incluye departamentos de la ciudad, comunidades y socios para ejecutar un conjunto diverso de proyectos.

"Ahora, en conjunto, estas inversiones disminuyen las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero y al mismo tiempo contribuyen a comunidades vibrantes, saludables y equitativas en todo el estado", dijo, y agregó que el estado espera traer aquí a partes interesadas de otras partes del estado para mostrar los esfuerzos.

"Queremos ayudar a mostrar a otras comunidades su visión" para sus propias solicitudes de subvenciones, dijo. "Está muy claro que este plan estuvo guiado por la justicia social, la colaboración y la toma de decisiones compartida".

La directora ejecutiva de Metro (Autoridad de Transporte Metropolitano del Condado de Los Ángeles), Stephanie Wiggins, dijo que parte del proyecto, el pase "Go Metro", permitirá a jóvenes y niños viajar en transporte público de forma gratuita.

"Es un programa que hará que el condado de Los Ángeles sea más accesible y asequible para miles de residentes de Pomona", dijo. "Los programas y servicios que brinda esta financiación beneficiarán a los residentes de Pomona en los años venideros".

"Y a través de esta subvención proporcionaremos más de 17 000 pases 'Go' para estudiantes desde jardín de infantes hasta 12º, más de 14 000 mensuales. . . pases de bajos ingresos para personas con ingresos más bajos, y casi 6,000 pases gratuitos para nuestras personas mayores y residentes con discapacidades", añadió Wiggins.

"Aprovecharemos nuestros esfuerzos para impulsar la equidad en nuestros programas y servicios y con estos pases las personas pueden acceder a Metro y Foothill Transit y a docenas de otros servicios de transporte y movilidad de

forma gratuita, lo cual es muy importante porque el transporte es el segundo gasto de los hogares. en el sur de California", dijo.

Wiggins citó estadísticas que muestran que Metro ha tenido un aumento del 51 por ciento de estudiantes en el programa de pases "Go" y más de 14 millones de pasajeros de bajos ingresos han abordado a ese programa.

"Esas cifras seguirán creciendo", dijo, señalando que los fondos para sus programas fueron aprobados por los votantes del condado de Los Ángeles.

El concejal de la ciudad de La Verne, Tim Hepburn, presidente del Consejo de Gobiernos del Valle de San Gabriel, calificó el proyecto como uno que "imagina una comunidad que sea resiliente frente al cambio climático y que también prospere en salud, equidad y vitalidad económica".

"La nueva subvención es un testimonio del esfuerzo colaborativo de todos nuestros socios", añadió, señalando que el plan de desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y oportunidades económicas, otra parte del paquete, "proporcionará una lluvia

Foothill Transit cierra la taquilla del centro de Pomona después de 25 años y envía pasajeros a West Covina, alegando que las "medidas de mitigación" compensan el incumplimiento de las pautas federales

Los funcionarios de Foothill Transit saben cómo organizar un evento mediático bastante bueno cuando ponen en servicio una nueva flota de autobuses a GNV o abren una estructura de estacionamiento para pasajeros, pero cerraron la tienda de tránsito de Pomona el mes pasado sin ninguna fanfarria, o sin siquiera aprobación formal de la junta, a pesar de que su propio informe reconoció que el cierre afectaría negativamente a los pasajeros de bajos ingresos y de color.

Para ser justos, publicaron un volante en el escaparate de la tienda, ubicada en Pomona Transit Center, en 100 W. Commercial St. Y, según la portavoz Felicia Friesema, también anunciaron el cierre en un correo electrónico de "alerta de pasajero".

La Nueva Voz se acercó a Friesema después de enterarse del cierre por parte de un pasajero de la tercera edad (y lector de La

de carreras verdes en el trabajo de un valor inestimable". "como la instalación de paneles solares hasta la construcción de bicicletas eléctricas y la instalación de cargadores de vehículos eléctricos.

"No sólo estamos implementando proyectos, sino también capacitando a los miembros de nuestra comunidad con habilidades y oportunidades", dijo, con un "compromiso con la gestión ambiental".

Laurel Rothschild, vicepresidenta de The Energy Coalition, dijo que el proyecto de subvención de Pomona, llamado ACTS, significa "activado para la transformación y la sostenibilidad de la comunidad".

"Y eso es exactamente lo que hará esta financiación: activará a esta comunidad", dijo. "Esta subvención es verdaderamente un testimonio para todos los socios, este compromiso de ser pioneros en este proyecto que impulsa un cambio positivo real en nuestra comunidad".

"Es un paso concreto hacia la remodelación del futuro de las comunidades y la sostenibilidad",

Nueva Voz) a quien le preocupaba que ahora tendría que viajar a West Covina para comprar un "producto de tarifa" (pase de autobús).

El pasajero dijo que también se colocaron folletos de última hora en cada autobús para su distribución poco antes del cierre del 29 de diciembre.

Después de enviarle a Friesema nueve párrafos de preguntas por correo electrónico, La Nueva Voz se enteró de que las tiendas de tránsito fueron un tema de discusión en un taller de planificación estratégica en enero pasado, pero no se tomó ninguna acción formal. La junta también recorrió la tienda de Pomona en junio.

"Nunca hubo ninguna acción formal por parte de la junta ejecutiva que aprobara el cierre", dijo Friesema. "No requirió acción de la junta directiva, pero los mantuvimos informados y (ellos) estaban al tanto de los hechos que

añadió. "A través de Pomona ACTS, este equipo de increíbles socios comunitarios y expertos en energía transformará los vecindarios circundantes en un modelo para las comunidades avanzadas y alcanzables del mañana".

La Coalición Energética trabaja con gobiernos y comunidades locales para promover acciones de eficiencia energética.

El alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval, dijo al grupo que Pomona está formada predominantemente por gente trabajadora.

"Y deberían poder tener las mismas cosas que tienen las comunidades más ricas", dijo Sandoval. "Deberían poder caminar por las calles y sentirse seguros y tener árboles y arbustos y carriles para bicicletas y tener acceso a energía solar y tener acceso a esta increíble granja urbana llamada Lopez Urban Farm, tener programas, la Despensa de Dios que salva vidas cada día. En un solo día, para tener programas como el Día Uno, todas estas increíbles organizaciones de la ciudad se unieron para que esto sucediera".

\$22 millones... pág. 19

condujeron al cierre".

"Después de la pandemia, hemos visto algunos cambios dramáticos en la forma en que los clientes se conectan con Foothill Transit", agregó Friesema. "Vemos esto tanto en las tendencias del número de pasajeros como en la forma en que las personas compran pases y encuentran información sobre sus desplazamientos".

"El tráfico de personas sin cita previa en la tienda de transporte público de Pomona ha disminuido significativamente a medida que los clientes han pasado a comprar pases y planificar viajes en línea", dijo. "Estos cambios provocaron una revisión cuidadosa de los recursos que finalmente llevaron al cierre de la tienda de tránsito de Pomona".

Una actualización anual sobre las tiendas de transporte público de Foothill mostró un aumento del 160 por ciento en las ventas de

Foothill Transit... pág. 19

Foothill Transit... de la pág 18

aplicaciones móviles, una “transición significativa de las ventas en persona a las ventas en línea” y una disminución del 47 por ciento en el tráfico sin cita previa en Pomona.

Según las cifras de Foothill en un análisis del “Título VI” del 3 de noviembre de 2023, la tienda de Pomona fue el principal productor en 2019 con \$1,032,924 en ventas, hasta \$740,280 en 2020 y tocando fondo en \$25,848 en 2021, pero volvió a subir a \$261,425. en 2022 y \$263,858 en 2023.

Foothill tiene otras dos tiendas locales sin cita previa, una en El Monte y la otra en West Covina, además tiene capacidad en línea y una aplicación móvil.

La tienda de El Monte reportó \$972,100 en ventas en 2019, \$662,356 en 2020, \$103,911 en 2021, \$255,172 en 2022 y \$367,003 en 2023.

Pero West Covina registró solo \$561,009 en ventas en 2019, \$423,083 en 2020, \$111,915 en 2021, \$254,584 en 2022 y \$221,715 en 2023, y el año fiscal 2023 terminó por debajo de El Monte y Pomona.

Las ventas en línea cayeron de 443.922 dólares en 2019 a 226.835 dólares en 2023, y la aplicación móvil, lanzada en 2021, subió de 22.511 dólares ese año a 307.541 dólares en 2023.

El tráfico sin cita previa en las tres tiendas disminuyó durante el mismo período: El Monte bajó un 47 por ciento a 26,524, Pomona bajó el mismo 47 por ciento a 21,979 y West Covina bajó un 49 por ciento comparable, pero terminó con solo 9,161, menos de la mitad. de las personas sin cita previa de Pomona.

Y se espera que los ahorros de costos anuales esperados por el cierre de Pomona sean de solo \$40,000, según el informe del Título VI, una cantidad relativamente pequeña en una agencia con un presupuesto anual de \$229,5 millones en el año fiscal 2024.

La Administración Federal de Tránsito exige el análisis del “Título VI” (porque hay fondos federales involucrados) para evaluar cambios importantes en servicios y tarifas para determinar si estos cambios tienen un impacto dispar o una carga desproporcionada sobre las poblaciones que se identifican como personas negras, indígenas o de origen étnico, color o poblaciones con bajos ingresos.

El análisis del Título VI admitió (en la página 9, la última página al final del informe) que el cierre de Pomona tendría un “impacto dispar (desigual)” en las poblaciones negras, indígenas y de color tanto en un cuarto de milla como en un estudio de radio de milla y en poblaciones de bajos ingresos según el estudio de un cuarto de milla.

Sin embargo, el análisis afirmó que el impacto se mitigaría agregando horas de operación los fines de semana en la tienda de West Covina. El análisis también dijo que el número gratuito todavía estaría disponible para los clientes, junto con el acceso a un servicio de interpretación de terceros para comunicarse

con los clientes.

Los miembros de la junta en su reunión especial de noviembre de 2023 simplemente “recibieron y archivaron” el análisis del Título VI, y nuevamente no tomaron ninguna medida formal sobre la decisión de cerrar la tienda de Pomona, en esencia dejando la decisión en manos del personal.

La Nueva Voz contactó por correo electrónico al alcalde de City of Industry, Cory Moss, también presidente de la junta de cinco miembros de Foothill Transit, para solicitar comentarios, pero no se recibió respuesta antes de la fecha límite para este tema.

Las tiendas de transporte permiten a los clientes pasar y comprar pases mensuales, hacer preguntas sobre el servicio, planificar un viaje, obtener información sobre horarios o presentar quejas, según el informe del Título VI.

La tienda Pomona abrió en marzo de 1999. Friesema le dijo a La Nueva Voz que los empleados de la tienda no son empleados de Foothill Transit sino empleados contratados por Transdev Services, Inc. Un empleado de la tienda de Pomona le dijo a La Nueva Voz que todos esperaban ser transferidos a otra ubicación de Foothill.

Se vuelve un poco complicado con otros servicios ofrecidos anteriormente en la tienda de Pomona, pero generalmente los boletos de Metrolink están disponibles en la tienda de tránsito de West Covina y, a partir de marzo, en el Ayuntamiento de Pomona. Los boletos con descuento "Get About" para los residentes de Pomona también están disponibles en el Ayuntamiento de Pomona.

La tienda de tránsito de West Covina está ubicada en la sede de Foothill Transit, 100 S. Vincent Ave., segundo piso.

Se puede obtener información adicional para los pasajeros llamando al (800) RIDE-INFO.

Foothill Transit se financia con fondos de impuestos sobre las ventas estatales y locales, fondos federales de transporte e ingresos por tarifas, según el sitio web.

Fue creado en 1987 como una autoridad de poderes conjuntos luego del anuncio del Distrito de Tránsito Rápido del Sur de California de recortes de servicios y aumentos de tarifas que impactarían negativamente al Valle de San Gabriel, según información del sitio web. El servicio comenzó en 1988 con dos líneas de autobús de ruta fija anteriormente operadas por RTD. Actualmente opera 39 líneas.

La compañía mantiene una flota de 286 autobuses a GNC (gas natural comprimido), 19 eléctricos y 52 de pila de combustible, para un total de 357 autobuses.

Foothill registró 7,8 millones de embarques de pasajeros en el año fiscal 2023 y recibió ingresos por tarifas por un total de 7,8 millones de dólares.

Sus oficinas administrativas están en West Covina y las instalaciones de operaciones y mantenimiento están ubicadas en Arcadia y Pomona.

\$22 millones... de la pág 18

Dijo que este “increíble equipo de personas” estaba trabajando para la ciudad de Pomona “haciendo todo lo posible para mejorar la calidad de vida de nuestros residentes”.

El Director de Obras Públicas de Pomona, René Guerrero, dijo a La Nueva Voz después del evento que la parte de los fondos de la ciudad incluirá \$1.5 millones para el diseño de mejoras en el transporte activo, desde carriles exclusivos para bicicletas y mejoras en la “accesibilidad para peatones” del centro de Pomona, hasta la “resiliencia energética” de la comunidad, centros y más.

Dijo que un consultor ya está a bordo para un proyecto de planificación de un año de duración en Garey Avenue entre Aliso Street (al norte del Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center) hasta Monterey Avenue, un proyecto que se espera cueste entre \$8 y \$10 millones.

Además de la ciudad de Pomona y Metro, los socios involucrados en el proyecto incluyen el Consejo de Gobiernos del Valle de San Gabriel, Day One, The Energy Coalition, Latina and Latino Roundtable, GRID Alternatives y CHERP (paneles solares), Clean and Green Pomona, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, Lopez Urban Farm y Active San Gabriel Valley (bicicletas eléctricas y de convenciones y programas de bicicletas).

A nivel estatal, se otorgaron cuatro subvenciones de implementación por \$22,125,000 cada una a la coalición Pomona, la ciudad de Coachella, la Fundación San Diego y la ciudad de Bakersfield.

Las subvenciones para el desarrollo del

proyecto incluyeron \$4 millones para el condado de Riverside, \$1 millón para el condado de Santa Bárbara, \$1 millón para el condado de Mariposa y \$2,5 millones para el condado de Mendocino.

Las subvenciones de planificación incluyeron subvenciones de \$300,000 para San Diego, Paramount y Tranquility Resource Conservation District en el Valle de San Joaquín.

El Consejo de Crecimiento Estratégico de California es una agencia estatal con la visión de crear comunidades saludables, prósperas y resilientes para todos, según su sitio web. Su misión es coordinar y trabajar en colaboración con agencias públicas, comunidades y partes interesadas para lograr sostenibilidad, equidad, prosperidad económica y calidad de vida para todos los californianos.

Desde 2016, el estado ha invertido \$424 millones en 37 comunidades a través de su Programa de Comunidades Climáticas Transformadoras, que empodera a las comunidades más afectadas por la contaminación para que persigan sus propios objetivos y estrategias para abordar la contaminación del aire y las emisiones locales.

Según un comunicado de prensa, esta última ronda de financiación reducirá las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero en 36.647 toneladas métricas, una cantidad equivalente a sacar de circulación 8.155 vehículos de pasajeros propulsados por gasolina durante un año.

El Consejo de Crecimiento Estratégico es un organismo estatal compuesto por siete agencias estatales y tres miembros públicos.

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Don't let low vision keep you down

By Debra Ouellette, MS, OTR/L, BCPR, SCLV, FNAP

Outpatient Clinical Coordinator

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

Vision is one of the most important senses, and losing even a small portion of your field of vision can greatly impact your daily life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vision loss causes a substantial social and economic toll for millions of people, including significant suffering, disability, loss of productivity, and diminished quality of life.

"Low vision" is the term used to refer to a vision impairment that is not fully correctable by surgery, medications, contact lenses, or glasses. When someone's vision is impaired to a degree that they struggle with daily life tasks – things like reading, cooking, computer and smart phone use, or even recognizing faces – they may be medically diagnosed as having low vision.

There are many root causes of this debilitating condition. In the United States, the most common ones are age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, and diabetic retinopathy. In addition, individuals with traumatic

brain injury, optic nerve damage, multiple sclerosis, or those who have experienced a stroke may have low vision.

Thankfully, there are physicians and occupational therapists who specialize in low vision. Working closely with your primary care physician, these experts assess your functional needs and capabilities as well as any limitations that have been caused by your vision impairment, with a particular focus on reading, cooking, work, self-care, and any other common activities that have been affected by your vision loss. Your occupational therapist who specializes in low vision intervention can teach you how to use your remaining vision as functionally as possible. Simple modifications and/or



Debra Ouellette

technology including apps to assist with your daily tasks may be introduced. Training may include eccentric viewing for central vision loss; visual scanning for pe-

ripheral vision loss; environmental modifications and assistive devices, and assistive technology training with smartphones, tablets, computers and voice-activated devices to help you regain independence.

Do not let loss of vision keep you from enjoying a free, independent life. Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare offers a variety of innovative interventions and therapies to treat low vision resulting from stroke, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, macular degeneration, brain injury, and more. Our certified low vision specialists will create a customized treatment plan to help you maximize your remaining vision. Call 909/596-7733, ext. 3500 to learn more.

Compassion... from pg. 8

in its role of ensuring society's success. The relationship falls apart when its oppressed members find the courage to mutiny or they abandon the community by going elsewhere (do you see that happening anywhere in the world?).

The year 2024 is an election year. The founders of this country in their efforts to create a more perfect union put in place elections that allow the members of the community to choose their governmental leaders. The voters have the burden of making smart choices which require research as to who is the best candidate to form the society they desire.

So, it all comes back to the question of relationship or competition? Choose wisely!

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Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz (created by Joshua Swodeck)

Pomona council calls for ceasefire and peaceful resolution in Gaza/Israel conflict

At the end of a meeting that adjourned at 10:40 p.m. and included nearly 40 speakers on the subject, Pomona city councilmembers approved a resolution Monday night "calling for a various public testimony before the city council. City staff members revised the actual wording of the resolution on the spot at the request of city councilmembers to incorporate



OVERFLOW COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON GAZA RESOLUTION ISSUE -- The Pomona City Council Chambers were filled to capacity Monday night with overflow in the lobby and outside as councilmembers heard comments on a proposed resolution calling for ceasefire in the Gaza/Israeli conflict. A revised resolution passed 6-0 with one abstention. Some of the speakers in the audience carried signs that said "Save the Children of Gaza" and other slogans.

ceasefire and immediate peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis impacting Gaza and Israel."

The resolution was prompted both by the Oct. 7 military actions in the Middle East and recent pre-

stronger language than contained in the original document, as Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said, to "make a strong statement."

"The occupation of Gaza is no different than the Native Ameri-

Peaceful resolution... pg. 22

ATTENTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

If you are a Service Provider serving Pomona, please scan the QR Code and let us know what you are providing to our community. The City of Pomona will be launching a new resource web portal in the Spring for our community to easily access existing services and resources.



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Foothill Transit... from pg. 2

49 percent, but ending up with only 9,161, less than half of the Pomona walk-ins.

And the expected annual cost savings from the Pomona closure is expected to be only \$40,000, according to the Title VI report – a relatively small amount in an agency with an annual budget of \$229.5 million in the 2024 fiscal year.

The “Title VI” analysis is required by the Federal Transit Administration (because federal funds are involved) to evaluate major service and fare changes to determine whether these changes have a disparate impact or disproportionate burden on populations who identify as Black, Indigenous, people of color or populations with low incomes.

The Title VI analysis conceded (on page 9, the final page at the back of the report) that the Pomona closure would have a “disparate (unequal) impact” on Black, Indigenous and people of color populations in both a quarter mile and one mile radius study and on low-income populations based on the quarter mile study.

However, the analysis claimed that impact would be mitigated by adding weekend hours of operation at the West Covina store.

The analysis also said the toll-free number still would be available to customers, along with access to a third-party interpreting service to communicate with customers.

Board members at their special meeting in November 2023 simply “received and filed” the Title VI analysis, again taking no formal action on the decision to close the Pomona store, in essence leaving the decision up to staff.

La Nueva Voz reached out for comment by e-mail to City of Industry Mayor Cory Moss, also president of the five-member Foothill Transit board, but no response was received before deadline for this issue.

The transit stores allow customers to stop in and buy monthly passes, ask questions about service, plan a trip, get schedule information or file complaints, according to the Title VI report.

The Pomona store opened in March 1999.

Friesema told La Nueva Voz the store employees are not Foothill Transit employees but are contract employees with Transdev Services, Inc. One employee at the Pomona store told La Nueva Voz they all expected to be transferred to another Foothill location.

It gets a little complicated about other services previously offered at the Pomona store, but generally Metrolink tickets are available at the West Covina transit store and, beginning in March, at Pomona City Hall. Discounted “Get About” tickets for Pomona residents also are available at Pomona City Hall.

The West Covina transit store is located at Foothill Transit headquarters, 100 S. Vincent Ave., Second Floor.

Additional information for riders can be obtained by calling (800) RIDE-INFO.

Foothill Transit is funded with state and local sales tax funds, federal transportation funds and farebox revenues, according to the web site.

It was created in 1987 as a joint powers authority following the Southern California Rapid Transit District announcement of service cuts and fare increases that would negatively impact the San Gabriel Valley, according to web site information. Service began in 1988 with two fixed-route bus lines formerly operated by the RTD. It now operates 39 lines.

The company maintains a fleet of 286 CNG (compressed natural gas) buses, along with 19 electric and 52 fuel cell buses, for a total of 357 buses.

Foothill logged 7.8 million passenger boardings in fiscal year 2023 and received fare revenue totaling \$7.8 million.

Its administrative offices are in West Covina and operations and maintenance facilities are located in Arcadia and Pomona.

Peaceful resolution... from pg. 21

can occupation,” said Councilmember Nora Garcia.

For example, elements were added acknowledging the number of people killed to date, the fact that 1.9 million Palestinians have been displaced and the fact that 85 percent of the infrastructure has been destroyed.

“People should be able to live in peace – they have a right to exist,” Sandoval said.

The measure passed 6-0-1 on a motion by Sandoval with Councilmember Robert Torres abstaining. He said he would not be forced into a position but encouraged an overflowing council chambers – to advocate for their position.

In the resolution, councilmembers pointed out that the city has “a longstanding commitment to advocating for compassion, peace, social justice, safety and fostering a mutual respect and understanding for all people, regardless of religion, race or nationality.”

“The ongoing conflict in the Middle East that began on Oct. 7, 2023, has resulted in the tragic loss of many thousands of innocent civilian Israeli and Palestin-

ian lives, and increasing reports of anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, anti-Jewish and anti-Arab incidents,” it continued.

The “ongoing” language in the original resolution was revised to indicate that the conflict in the region has been continuing for many years.

The resolution pointed out that members of the Pomona community also have suffered from an alarming rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

“Pomona’s core value of engaged compassion recognizes that it is only through action and application of our values that we can promote true peace and stand against the perpetuation of violence by rejecting silence, apathy, and hopelessness,” the resolution added.

“The city council of the City of Pomona hereby unequivocally and without prejudice condemns terrorist acts; every form of avoidable, unnecessary, unlawful violence that results in the death, injury, displacement or mortal endangerment of innocent civilians, intolerance, racism and xenophobia,” the resolution continued.

Project Resilience... from pg. 15

serious felony.

“That means the consequences if you are (now) a repeat offender . . . you get what you deserve,” Rubio said.

“This is my passion, this is my world, and I will continue to keep fighting as long as I can,” said Rubio, who told the group she herself was a victim.

“We can continue to move the needle and make sure that our

victims are safe and that we can continue to protect and provide services and whatever our victims need,” she added.

Project Resilience was founded two years ago by Stephanie Sepeda, also a victim and now the group’s CEO, with the support of Total Restoration Ministries, a Pomona church.

For more information, visit project-resilience.org.

Traffic lanes – the narrower the better?

By Suzanne Potter
California News Service

Redrawing some California traffic lanes to make them narrower would make many city streets safer, according to a new study

from Johns Hopkins University.

Many U.S. street lanes are 11 to 12 feet wide, but researchers found that nine-foot lanes on streets where the speed limit is 30 to 35 have significantly fewer

crashes.

Professor Shima Hamidi, Bloomberg assistant professor and director, Center for Climate Smart Transportation, Johns Hopkins University and co-author of the study, said when the lanes are narrower, drivers tend to be more cautious – allowing them to catch any unexpected error and prevent a crash.

“When streets become wider, then it gives the drivers this false sense of safety that makes them drive faster. And that speed is really the main cause of crashes,” Hamidi explained.

Traffic deaths in California shot

Traffic lanes... pg. 23

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EARLY NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION AT PALOMARES PARK -- Seniors who participate in the lunch programs at Washington Park and Palomares Park have a special meal at Palomares to ring in the new year two days early and at lunch time. Pictured are party-goers dancing and posing for photos in front of a back drop, all made possible by Pomona's Parks and Recreation Department staff. Dancing? No problem. Music? Got it covered. Got wheelchair? Still no problem, we'll just make it work!

Traffic lanes... from pg. 22

up more than 7 percent and pedestrian fatalities increased more than 9 percent from 2020 to 2021. The study found that narrowing the lanes makes it possible to cheaply add bike lanes and sidewalks, which encourage people to drive less, which reduces congestion and carbon emissions.

Hamidi said until now, American urban planners have shied away from making lanes narrower for fear of increasing crashes, but

she hopes this new data, plus traffic studies from other parts of the world, will be reassuring.

"When you compare streets in American cities versus their European counterparts, you see that they are significantly wider. And we don't have that safety issue in European cities," Hamidi continued.

The study also found that narrowing street lanes does not increase congestion.

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