



Cerritos Lights City Christmas Tree



City Councilmembers Jim Edwards, Frank Yokoyama, Mayor Grace Hu, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Pulido and Naresh Solanki welcome Santa Claus to the stage at the Christmas Tree Lighting event on Nov. 20.

Cerritos College to Host Community Forum on Updates to Car Lot

Cerritos College will host its second community forum to update residents on its efforts to change the Cerritos College lot located at 166th Street and Studebaker Road on Dec. 12, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Cerritos College Teleconference Room (LC 155).

On Sept. 18, the Cerritos City Council approved the College's Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for four years. The TUP authorizes the College to

convert the property on 166th Street and Studebaker Road into an automobile storage facility.

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees passed a resolution on Sept. 6 to address issues raised by residents and the city, including dust and light mitigation, hours of operation, loading of vehicles, security, and landscaping.

The College continues to work closely with the City of

Cerritos to meet the requirements outlined in the TUP.

Campus Map: www.cerritos.edu/guide. Parking passes are available in parking Lot 2 (off Alondra Boulevard) or Lot 10 (off 166th Street) for \$2.00. Email the President's Office (awittig@cerritos.edu) for a free parking permit.

CONTACT: For more information, contact the President's Office at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2204.

Protect Citrus Trees from Fatal HLB Disease

The City of Cerritos is asking residents to take precautions to protect any citrus trees they may own from a fatal disease known as Huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening disease.

HLB is not harmful to humans or animals, but it kills citrus trees. There is no cure for the disease and once in-

fect, trees must be removed to prevent the disease from spreading.

Symptoms of the disease include leaf mottling, yellow shoots, twig dieback and small, hard fruit with a bitter taste. While researchers are looking for a cure to HLB, currently the best way to protect against the disease is to stop Asian citrus psyllids, the insects that can spread the disease from tree to tree as they feed.

The Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program, an initiative funded by California citrus growers and administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, recommends the following actions:

- Do not transport citrus

trees out of your local area.

- Only purchase citrus trees from local, reputable nurseries.

- Never bring citrus trees or plant cuttings into California from other states or countries.

- Cooperate with agriculture officials working throughout the state to stop the pest and disease.

- Inspect citrus trees regularly for signs of the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB. A complete description of symptoms is available at californiacitrusdisease.org.

- Report symptoms by calling (800) 491-1899 and

See **Protect Citrus Trees** Page 11

Cerritos LED Lighting Demonstration on Display at Cerritos Sports Complex

The City of Cerritos will make a street lighting demonstration available at the Cerritos Sports Complex Friday, Dec. 15 through Monday, Jan. 15. The display will be located in the area southeast of the Cerritos Sports Complex building.

Signs will be posted to indicate the display area and to identify different lighting options. The community is invited to view the display and vote on a preferred lighting option to replace current residential streetlights throughout the city.

The city is exploring replacing High Pressure Sodium Vapor (HPSV) streetlights that currently exist in all residential tracts and arterial streets with newer Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology.

The options available vary in color temperature and light levels. Conversion to the new LED technology will result in

a savings to the city due to reduced energy usage.

The majority of the costs to convert the streetlights will be covered by Southern California Edison through an incentive program offered by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The public will be able to submit votes at City Hall by completing a form and placing it in a suggestion box. Voting can also be completed through an online survey that will be made available on the City's website at cerritos.us.

The community may have an additional opportunity to view the demonstration and vote in early spring, when a similar display may be set up in a residential area yet to be determined. Upon conclusion of the public input period, the findings will be presented to the City Council for further direction.

Cristina Garcia Presents Pride #58 Award to Ziba Beauty



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (center) presents Sumita Batra, CEO of Ziba Beauty in Artesia, a Pride #58 Award, as Shaila Patankar, President of the Artesia Chamber, looks on.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

INSIDE

New ABC School
Board Members
Installed
Page 2

Orchard Hardware Receives
Business Recognition
Page 3



Hawaiian Gardens
Tree Lighting Ceremony
Page 6



GATEWAY GUARDIAN Newspaper, Inc.

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 4948
Cerritos, CA 90703-4948
www.gatewayguardiannews.com

Dedicated to providing a local community newspaper that serves the needs of the community and promotes goodwill throughout the Gateway region.

Our mission is to celebrate diversity, encourage critical thinking, and promote success among merchants, residents and local governments.

This mission will be accomplished through the partnership of neighborhoods, businesses and professional organizations that are dedicated to integrity.

Melinda Kimsey
Publisher/Owner
(562) 522-8776
mkimsey007@verizon.net

Jerry Bernstein
Editor Emeritus
(562) 650-0437
tbull73@gmail.com

Janet Beach
Managing Editor
Design Editor
(562) 256-5167
jbeach22@verizon.net

The Gateway Guardian is published bi-weekly. Contents of the newspaper may not be reproduced without the written permission from the Publisher. All submissions for publication become the property of the Gateway Guardian and will not be returned. The paper does not guarantee submissions will be published. All submissions are subject to editing to conform to space limitations.

The Gateway Guardian is grateful for the following guest writers who have submitted articles and have contributed to the success of the newspaper: Edna Ethington, Richard Guiss, Dr. Bob Hughlett, Selene Lee, Councilman Tony Lima, Dan Nino and Ernie Nishi.

Ad deadline is the Friday before publication date. Camera-ready copy is accepted or custom ads may be designed by the staff.

Declared a legally adjudicated newspaper of general circulation on June 7, 2016, in the County of Los Angeles by Court Case BS-159353



Gahr Crowned California State Band Champions

Congratulations to the Gahr Marching Gladiators on an incredible and unforgettable season performing their 2017 field show production, "CONSPIRACY THEORY."

After earning 1st place recently in Division 5A Semi-Finals, Gahr competed last weekend at the California State Band Championship Finals.

Gahr High School won 1st place in the Division 5A Finals with a score of 93.600, and won all the caption awards: High Music Performance,

High Visual Performance, High Music Effect, High Visual Effect, High Percussion, and High Auxiliary! Drum major and trombonist, Jan Carlo Balagtas, earned the Outstanding Soloist Award and a \$500 scholarship.

Gahr High School was among 12 schools who advanced to the evening Open Class Finals, and the Marching Gladiators finished the season winning 1st place with a score of 95.600 and were once again crowned the California State

Band Champions in their division.

This marks the fourth consecutive year that Gahr High School has had the honor of being named the California State Band Champion.

This achievement is the result of the hard work and collective efforts of students, instructors, alumni, parents, and community. This would not be possible without the dedication of the Gahr Band Boosters and their commitment to the students.

Nishii, Rios Join ABC School Board, Yoo Elected Board President



Soo Yoo (Trustee Area 2), who is beginning her second term on the ABC School Board, welcomes new Board members, Ernie Nishii (Trustee Area 3) and Dr. Olga Rios (Trustee Area 6). All three took the oath of office at the Dec. 5 meeting. Yoo was elected President of the School Board, and Leticia Mendoza (right) was elected Vice President. Dr. Rios was selected to be the Clerk for the upcoming year. Following the election of new officers, a reception was held in their honor.

ABC
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

16700 Norwalk Blvd.
Cerritos, CA 90703

**Next School
Board Meeting**

January 16
7 p.m.

Cerritos College Named Finalist For Prestigious Bellwether Award

Cerritos College is one of 10 community colleges in the nation selected as a finalist for the 2018 Bellwether Award. The College's California Promise Program Cerritos Complete was among the top 10 finalists in the Planning, Governance & Finance category.

The annual honor is given to colleges with outstanding and innovative programs or practices. "We are thrilled to be recognized as a finalist for the prestigious Bellwether Award," said Dr. Jose Fierro, president/superintendent, Cerritos College.

Cerritos Complete began as a pilot through the College's K-16 Bridge program in 2015 with a cohort of 262 students. Cerritos Complete was officially established as the College's California Promise Program in 2016 with more than 1,500 student participants from the College's local high schools, to date.

THANK YOU



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I would like to take this time to humbly thank each and every one of you for your trust and support throughout the past four years as I served on ABCUSD Board. It has been one of my greatest honors to serve as your Board Member. I enjoyed visiting schools, engaging with awesome educators, and solving problems. There were many difficult decisions to make along the way, which was quite stressful. However, I have come to really appreciate my calling as School Board Member.

Furthermore, I am humbled and grateful again for the opportunity to serve another term. As I represent Trustee Area 2, I pledge to continue to work with my utmost diligence and passion to help make the schools in ABC School District grow stronger and better. I will strive to ensure that every student's education at ABC matters.

I urge my supporters to keep active and involved and to continue to engage with the community of the ABCUSD and all our elected officials to help make the schools in the ABCUSD the best, both in California and in the Nation. We need to ensure that our schools will always place great value on each individual child who walks through the doors of our schools.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you again for all your support. And as always, if there is ever any way I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me. My door and my heart will always be open to you.

Soo Yoo
ABC School Board Member
Trustee Area 2

GATEWAY GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER, INC. MAJOR DROP SITES:

Pick up your copy of the paper at one of the following locations.

ABC School District Office
ABC Adult School
Artesia City Hall & Library
Cerritos Chamber Office
Cerritos City Hall & Library
Cerritos Liberty Park

Cerritos Park East/Swim Center
Cerritos Senior Center
Hawaiian Gardens City Hall
Hawaiian Gardens Library
Off Street Cafe
Prescott Hardware

And many more!



Concept design of the proposed single family homes on the northeast corner of Artesia Boulevard and Shoemaker Road in Cerritos by MLC Holdings, Inc. located in Newport Beach. Plans called for construction of 29 detached homes on the 2.53 acre site.

Housing Project at Artesia and Shoemaker Denied by Planning Commission in 4-1 vote

By Jerry Bernstein

Plans to tear down four existing two-story office buildings on the northeast corner of Artesia Boulevard and Shoemaker Boulevard and replace them with 29 two-story single family homes was denied by the Cerritos Planning Commission in a 4-1 vote at its Nov. 15 meeting.

Voting no on the project were Commission Chairperson Tatiana Yokoyama Bui, Vice Chair Jennifer Hong, and members Deepak “DJ” Jhaveri, and James Giordano. Planning Commissioner Larry Sagert voted in favor of the project.

Reasons cited by the commission majority included den-

sity concerns over the number of homes to be constructed on the site. They also questioned the lack of parking spaces, suggesting the number of homes should be reduced. They also said they did not feel the development was compatible with the neighborhood. They also voiced concern about the Shoemaker entrance to the development.

An MLC spokesman told the commissioners it was uneconomical to reduce the number of homes proposed for the project. He said the company had constructed similar projects and had no complaints. The homes will sell for approximately \$800,000 each.

Residents living adjacent to the proposed development

sighted loss of privacy, stating when the developer removes the trees along the perimeter of the property, the new homes will look directly into their backyards.

Other concerns included the gated entrance into the development from Shoemaker Avenue by cars going south on the artery. They also asked where the residents would park their cars since most families have three or four cars, saying a two-car garage was not sufficient.

A spokesman for the company said it was not economical for the company to reduce the number of homes. He also explained there was additional outside parking within the confines of the development for residents. He said his company

See Housing Project Page 6

Cypress Senior Chorus to Perform at Cerritos Library

The Cypress Senior Chorus will sing songs of the season in the Cerritos Library’s Skyline Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8. The performance will feature such favorites as “Deck the Halls,” “Gesu Bambino” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” as well as some beautiful new pieces in celebration of Hanukkah and Christmas.

Your spirits will be lifted by the beautiful choral sounds of this class from the North Orange County community Education/Life Skills Advancement Program.

Director Lee Lassetter is a local music educator, organist and music therapist. The choir is comprised of older, retired adults who love to share their joy of singing with our community.

For more information about the concerts, please call the Cerritos Library at (562) 916-1342.

Orchard Supply Hardware Chosen for Business Recognition Program



Orchard Supply Hardware was selected for Cerritos’ Business Recognition Program, which showcases local businesses that foster pride in the City’s community and economy. Store manager Tony Pearson accepted the honor.

Orchard Supply Hardware was established in 1931. The Cerritos location, which opened in 2015 at 13233 South Street, employs more than 80 full-time and part-time workers.

The Cerritos hardware and garden retailer takes part in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, work-

ing with local organizations to better the community. In conjunction with the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department and the Cerritos Sheriff’s Station, the Cerritos Orchard employees raised funds to support 999 for Kids, which provides children with sports wheelchairs, special-education classes and medically oriented toys and games.

The Cerritos store also donated materials to a local Eagle Scout who wanted to beautify a church in the City. The store has also contributed materials to the Cerritos Library for arts-and-crafts activities.

COMMUNITY calendar

Mark Your Calendars
UPCOMING EVENTS



ARTESIA:

City Holiday Program

Dec. 21 • 5 -9 p.m. AJ Padelford Park & North Artesia Community Center
Posadas Procession lead by Manos Unidas volunteers at 5 pm. Following the procession, there will be food and entertainment at the park. Santa will be present to visit with children (bring your camera) and pass out presents to youth and families who preregistered with Project Joy. Families who register for holiday meal boxes will also be able to collect the boxes at the event.



CERRITOS

Santa’s Holiday Island - “Elves in Training”

Saturday, Dec. 9 • Noon – 3:30 p.m. Heritage Park
Enjoy crafts, music, and caroling. Don’t forget to bring a camera! Families are encouraged to bring two canned goods or a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to local food charities and holiday gift programs.

Hawaiian Gardens Council Approves Ordinance Governing City Trees

By Jerry Bernstein

The Hawaiian Gardens City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance governing the management of city trees within the public right-of-way.

Director of Community Development Joseph Colombo said the objective of the ordinance was to establish policies, standards, and regulations that are absent from the City Municipal Code, but are necessary to ensure that city owned trees are removed, installed and maintained in a safe and healthy condition.

Earlier this year, the city received complaints regarding the Liquid Amber parkway trees along 224th Street related to the general decaying conditions of the trees and damage to the adjacent sidewalks.

Responding to the complaints, the city allocated \$45,000 for the removal of the trees. However, at a meeting of the Capital Improvements Program Committee, it was determined immediate removal of the trees may not be the

ideal approach since the Liquid Amber species includes a large portion of the tree canopy on 224th Street, and removal of all the trees may present an environmental and aesthetic impact to the neighborhood.

Currently the Department of Public Works trims and maintain commercial boulevards trees annually and residential parkway trees semi-annually on a needed basis.

In other business, the council approved the renaming of a section of 215th Street in honor of the late Dr. Irving Moskowitz. Colombo said Dr. Moskowitz was a major supporter of Hawaiian Gardens for close to 50 years.

He began his philanthropic efforts in 1968 when he created the Irving Moskowitz Foundation, which is based in Hawaiian Gardens and largely focuses on helping the Hawaiian Gardens community. The Foundation provided the dollars to fund a variety of programs in the city, including, but not limited to the Hawai-

See Hawaiian Gardens Page 6



Shopping Days Till Christmas

Christmas Shopping On A Budget – 10 Tips

1. Set a budget in advance – and stick to it.
2. Prioritize your gift list.
3. Avoid impulse buys.
4. Give the gift of charity.
5. Find hidden Amazon discounts.
6. Eliminate superfluous expenses.
7. Check out Fiver.com.
8. Make your own Christmas gifts.
9. Give a group gift.
10. Plan for next year by taking advantage of post-holiday sales.

Remember: It doesn’t take a present under the tree to say “I love you.”

For more details, visit <http://www.ibtimes.com>

Take a Moment to Remember Pearl Harbor



By Melinda Kimsey

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to ask everyone to take a moment of silence and remembrance for the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice on Dec. 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor. As these warriors fade into time, we must never forget their sacrifice and remember that because of them, we live in a free land. Freedom is never really free; it comes at a very high price.

As usual, much is happening in our community and it's all good! I would like to give a big shout out to our favorite gardening and hardware store, Orchard, for receiving the Business Recognition Award from the City of Cerritos. Besides having lots of really cool stuff, they have the nicest people

working there to help you out!

Also, I would like to congratulate the newest and returning ABC School District Board members; Soo Yoo, Olga Rios, and Ernie Nishi. I know they will be great representatives and work with our parents, administrators, teachers, and students.

And, I would like to congratulate the Gahr High School Band on its recent award winning performance. I received lots of messages on all of the great things that the other schools are doing, including the MUN program at Tetzalaff Middle School. All of the staff at the schools are the best of all of the school districts and we thank them for all that they do!

Our LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn has a very exciting and interesting update on all of the great events that are taking place in her district. Also, I went to a Pride #58 award at Heritage Park, where Ziba Beauty in the City of Artesia received that honor from Assemblymember, Christina Garcia. She is definitely a person that likes to get to know her constituents and is always ready and willing to speak with the residents about their concerns.

Cerritos College is having another forum to discuss the upcoming changes to the lot on 166th Street and Studebaker Road. Be sure to check out the story for the date and time; please try to attend the forum for first-hand information about this important change to the area.

Also, be sure to attend the Grand Opening of the new Artesia Library on Dec. 8 at 3:30 p.m. There has been a lot of excitement and anticipation about the new library, and this is going to be a really fun event.

It is this time of year that the Marine's Toy Drive is in full force. There are so many children who need toys at Christmas time, and I know the Marines are doing a great service to those children. There are many drop-off sites, so please give some toys to a sweet, needy child.

I would like to thank Dr. Bob for taking us on his trip to southern charm during his vacation to Florida.

Also, a very big thank you to Dan Nino for his warm and touching retrospect on what we are thankful for during this time of year.

As always, Happy Trails!

Why Did Cerritos Planning Commission Turn Down Housing Proposal?



By Jerry Bernstein

My FRIEND FROM FRUITCAKE, FLORIDA walked into my office the other morning, sat down and said, "I read in the Gateway Guardian that the Cerritos Planning Commission voted no on the proposed 29 home development on the northeast corner of Artesia Boulevard and Shoemaker Avenue."

That's correct," I replied. "The majority on the council felt that 29 homes were too many for the size of the property which is 5.5 acres. The commission also expressed concern about the number of vehicles that pass through the intersection of Artesia Boulevard and Shoemaker Avenue during the morning and evening rush hours and the fact the entrance to the site on Shoemaker Avenue is just a few yards from the intersection."

"In addition, residents whose property adjoins the site voiced concern about the loss of privacy they will lose since some of the homes will overlook their backyards."

"Interesting," he replied. "Twenty-nine homes? Where would the family cars park? Most families have three or more cars."

"The project included 58 garage parking spaces and 28 open parking spaces for a total

of 56 spaces," I explained."

"That's good," he said. "But I'm still a little concerned about the number of houses in the project." He paused for a moment. "Do you think the developer would construct fewer homes on the property?"

"I don't think so," I answered. "The commission had suggested that, but the company spokesman said no. This is a new concept for Cerritos. It's not a condominium, but it has some of the features like a Homeowners Association," I said.

"I wondered about that," My FRIEND FROM FRUITCAKE, FLORIDA said. "I understand the homes will have no yards."

"The landscape plan," I explained, "provides landscaping throughout the project, including the perimeter parkways and the interior community common areas that will include five common area parcels which will be owned by and maintained by the homeowner's association."

"You know," he said, "back in Fruitcake our council would look carefully at the planning commission recommendation, do additional research and hold a town meeting to discuss it with the residents. The concept is different from anything we have, and for that matter, Cerritos. It might work, but we would go over it with a fine-tooth comb." Changing the subject, he asked, "What's happening in Artesia?"

"We don't want to go there," I said. Let's concentrate on Cerritos."

My FRIEND FROM FRUITCAKE, FLORIDA didn't say anything for a minute. "Okay," he finally said.

What's Happening in Cerritos?



By Brad Beach

The Cerritos calendars have finally arrived at our homes, and they are beautiful. I especially like all of the contact numbers in the back. Hang it up with pride or give it to a family member to enjoy the spectacular photos of our city.

I took my in-laws to the "Merry-achi Christmas" special at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts last Saturday. I had forgotten how beautiful the center is and was proud to live in Cerritos as I walked through the building.

It was an amazing performance by Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez and their 20th year performing at the CCPA. One of the singers said that this is his favorite venue. Catch it next year if you can. You can still buy tickets for the Dave Koz 20th Anniversary tour at the CCPA on Dec. 22 or 23 at 8 p.m.

The homeless problem seems to be increasing in our city and throughout all of LA County. There is a woman who stands on the corner near

our housing tract for hours with all of her luggage and I tried to help her, but she doesn't appear to want any. I was saddened to see that the shelter proposal in Norwalk is dead for the moment. I hope the 0.25 percent sales tax increase starts helping the homeless population soon.

There is a new phone scam where people are calling and saying that something is wrong with your Apple iPhone. I'm assuming they will then try to get your password to access your phone. Please don't fall for this or any other scam during this holiday season.

The Greater LA County Vector Control District is in our area, and they may need access to your backyard. They are checking for standing water in which these aggressive mosquitos breed. You can help by checking your property for any pots or anything else with standing water.

I came across an accident on 183rd and Town Center Drive on my way to the CCPA. There are apparently a lot of accidents at this intersection and many others throughout the city. The holiday season is an especially dangerous time of year as DUI's typically increase. Don't drink and drive and take UBER or a taxi if necessary.

Speaking about cars, the Astor museum memorabilia is on sale, and you only need one

million dollars to put a bid in on the collection. It is truly an amazing compilation of cars and radio equipment, and I hope it finds a good home.

The city is putting up different brightness LED lights at the Cerritos Sports Complex from Dec. 15 through Jan. 15 for residents to look at them. You can then give input to the city at a future meeting.

A developer is attempting to build a seven-story building at Gridley and 186th Street in Artesia. It will be mixed use and contain mostly condominiums. I would like to attend that council meeting on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. and hear the arguments on both sides.

This Saturday, Dec. 9 is the Santa's Holiday Island at Heritage Park from noon to 3:30 p.m. I have gone in the past, and it is a great time for kids. For you seniors in the community I highly recommend taking your grandchildren. They will have a great time.

The city and U.S. Marine Corps are sponsoring a "Toys for Tots" drive this year, and you can donate items at the Cerritos Library, Liberty Park, CPE, Senior Center, Sheriff's Station or City Hall through Dec. 15.

The Optimist Club is also delivering food and toys to needy families in surrounding neighborhoods, and I want to commend them for their hard work. Be safe, Cerritos.



- Letters must be no more than 200 words, typed and double spaced or sent electronically.
- Letters must be signed by the author and must include the author's address and phone number.
- Opinions expressed in letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Gateway Guardian staff.
- The editors reserve the right to refuse or edit editorial content, without notice, for length, grammar, clarity or libelous statements.



City of Cerritos Honors 1st CEB Meritorious Marine from Camp Pendleton on Dec. 2



(l to r) Mary Ann Tierheimer, George Ray, Connie Edwards, PFC Michael Sandoval, Marlene Rofe (Host), L/Cpl. Alex Arenas, Cerritos Councilmember Jim Edwards, Chris Tierheimer, Janet Beach, and Dorothy Owen (President of the 1st CEB Adoption Committee).

L/Cpl. Alexander Arenas, a member of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion (1st CEB), was honored by the City of Cerritos on Dec. 2 at the Sheraton Hotel. Councilmember Jim Edwards presented him with a proclamation to honor him for his service. His host for the weekend was Marlene Rofe.

L/Cpl. Arenas and his guest, PFC Michael Sandoval, spent the weekend in Cerritos with lodging and meals complements of our sponsors: Sheraton Hotel and restaurants Grille 91, Mimi's, TGI Friday, Wood Ranch BBQ & Grill, STACKED, and the Macaroni Grill.

The City of Cerritos provided tickets to a performance of Merry-Achi Xmas, at the Cerritos Center. In addition, L/Cpl Arenas was offered free bowling at the AMF Cerritos Lanes.

Alexander Arenas was in a Navy Junior Reserve Officer

Training program (NJROTC) in high school for four years, preparing himself for military service. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in May 2016 as a 'contract' Private First Class (PFC), due to his completion of the NJROTC program.

He completed recruit training at MCRD San Diego in March 2017, followed by the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, California and Combat Engineering Equipment Operator at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Upon completion of all his training, PFC Arenas reported to his first command, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion (1st CEB), Engineer Support Company, Heavy Equipment Platoon as a Heavy Equipment Operator.

A few months after joining the 1st CEB, he was promoted to Lance Corporal, due to his

prior military knowledge, experience, and display of competence in his Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) as a Heavy Equipment Operator. One month later, L/Cpl Arenas received his first major recognition by winning the 1st CEB Marine of the Quarter award.

L/Cpl Arenas is an outstanding Heavy Equipment Operator that has trained many hours on the equipment assigned to him as well as training others. He sets an exemplary example as a role model for his peer and junior Marines to follow.

In his short time with the 1st CEB, L/Cpl Arenas has distinguished himself through his dedication, exemplary work ethics, high standards, and performance in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



TOY DRIVE

Cerritos resident Mickey Christiason shows off his Woodie at the Outlets of San Clemente last Saturday, where he and several Marines passed out flyers for the Dec. 9 Toy Drive, sponsored by So Cal Woodie Club, Cars n Coffee and Marine Corps League-Detachment 022! "We had three woodies, two owned by Marine Corps Veterans on display. I would like to acknowledge the Bn FRO SSgt Diaz and all the Marines who assisted," said Christiason.

Women's Caucus Releases Statement About Assemblyman Dababneh Allegations

Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens, chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus and Senator Connie M. Leyva (D-Chino, Vice Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus) released the following statement regarding today's sexual assault allegations against Assemblyman Dababneh:

"As members of the Legislative Women's Caucus, we are very disturbed by allegations against Assemblymem-

ber Matt Dababneh and take them seriously."

"We implore the Assembly Leadership to facilitate an independent, thorough and transparent investigation of these complaints. Findings must also be made public to assure transparency. If the investigation finds that these allegations are likely true, there must be swift and transparent consequences for this type of behavior.

"Victims have shown in-

credible courage in coming forward and we are grateful for their fortitude in the face of retaliation and blame. We must create an environment that addresses the needs of victims who exist today and one that produces no more victims in the future. However, a long-term culture change should include a bi-cameral and bipartisan process to address the pervasive assault, harassment and retaliation culture in the Capitol community."

LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR
JANICE HAHN
representing the 4th district



Wishing you peace, love, and joy this holiday season.

GRAND PARK TREE LIGHTING

This week, I stood shoulder to shoulder with my fellow County Supervisors and cheered on my two adorable grandkids as they helped light Grand Park's beautiful Christmas tree.

Watching my grandkids carry on a tradition my dad Kenny Hahn started when he was a County Supervisor is a memory I will cherish forever.

Another one of my favorite holiday traditions takes place on Dec. 24 when LA County opens up the beautiful Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for an evening of FREE holiday music for all!

My dad started the tradition many years ago and it never fails to bring on the holiday cheer. Hope to see you there!



Installing sanitary bathrooms & handwashing stations in our homeless encampments

This week, my fellow County Supervisors and I voted to install mobile restrooms and handwashing stations in our homeless encampments in the riverbeds.

Providing our homeless neighbors with sanitary restrooms while we work to con-

nect them with permanent housing and resources (job training, mental health treatment, and more) is key to slowing the spread of Hepatitis A while treating our homeless neighbors with the basic human dignity and respect they deserve.



Connecting skilled women with great jobs: encouraging Metro's contractors to hire women and create inclusive workplaces.

As we spend billions of dollars to vastly improve our county's transportation infrastructure, everyone should have equal access to the good-paying, middle-class jobs these massive projects create.

I coauthored a motion this week which instructs Metro to

publish quarterly report cards that will track which contractors hire women for upcoming projects and which ones don't.

From now on, Metro will reward and encourage the companies that hire women and promote diverse and inclusive workplaces.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

www.gatewayguardiannews.com

READ THE PAPER ONLINE!

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Held in Hawaiian Gardens



Councilman Reynaldo Rodriguez, Mayor Hank Trimble, Speaker of the State Assembly Anthony Rendon, Miss Hawaiian Gardens Yvonne Gonzales and Princess Maricela Nonat, Councilmembers Mariana Rios and Myra Maravilla and newly elected ABC School Board member Dr. Olga Rios with Santa Claus and children.



Children wait in line to visit with Santa Claus at the Tree Lighting ceremony in Hawaiian Gardens.

By Jerry Bernstein

Hawaiian Gardens held its annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 2 featuring musical entertainment, fireworks, and a special appearance by Santa Claus.

There were gifts for the youngsters, visits with Santa Claus and a real snow playground outside for those youngsters who have never made a snowman.

The entrance to the C. Robert Lee Center was filled with families and their children eagerly waiting for the city's Christmas Tree to be lit. In the background, the Fedde

Middle School Band provided Christmas Music while carolers prepared to sing Christmas songs.

Festivities began at 5 p.m. when Mayor Hank Trimble introduced members of the City Council, guests and, of course, Santa Claus.

Inside the C. Robert Lee Center, the gymnasium had been turned into a Christmas wonderland where Santa Claus greeted the children, the younger ones sitting on his lap, some shy and many telling him what they wanted for Christmas.

Music was provided by the Chris Barber Band.



Santa Claus' elves show off their cute costumes.



Volunteers take a break from serving hot chocolate.

Cypress Choraliers Celebrate La Palma-Cerritos AAUW's 45th Anniversary



At the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW's 45th Anniversary Celebration on Nov. 16, members of the Cypress Choraliers holding Certificates of Recognition awarded to them by Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva. Director Mary Wissink is standing in the back row on the left.

By Edna Ethington

About 45 members and guests came to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the La Palma-Cerritos American Association of University Women (AAUW) at the Skyline Room of the Cerritos Library on Nov. 16.

The evening began with a presentation to Acting President, Gail Ross. She received a Certificate of Recognition of the AAUW's 45th Anniversary by Chad Overly, a representative of Cristina Garcia, member of the California 58th Assembly District. Members and guests were invited to enjoy some cupcakes decorated festively for the occasion.

The Cypress Choraliers then provided the entertainment for the evening. They came colorfully dressed in Christmas colors of red and

green, and many wore Santa hats.

As part of their program, they sang the familiar song, "White Christmas" and invited members and guests to join along. They also distributed tambourines so that the audience could participate by playing the tambourines while they sang a Hannukah song, the "Feast of Lights."

The audience applauded their performance as they enthusiastically moved and tossed their boas while singing the song, "Santa Baby."

At the conclusion of Choraliers' musical performance, Director Mary Wissink presented another Certificate of Recognition of the AAUW's 45th Anniversary to Gail Ross. This certificate was awarded by Sharon Quirk-Silva, Assemblymember from California's 65th Assembly District.

The Choraliers were surprised because Wissink also awarded Certificates of Recognition from Assemblymember Quirk-Silva to all the members of the Cypress Choraliers for their participation in the AAUW's 45th Anniversary Celebration.

President Ross thanked Wissink for presenting the certificates from Assemblymember Quirk-Silva.

Persons interested in having the Choraliers perform in the Spring and later in 2018 should contact Mary Wissink at 714-6095023.

The next meeting of the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW will be a Holiday Potluck Party on Saturday, Dec. 9 at the home of Carol and Bob Marsh, 5092 Cadiz Circle, La Palma starting at 7 p.m. Members are asked to contact Carol at 714-995-6141 to RSVP.

Kids Can Get in Touch with Santa This Holiday Season

Besides writing a holiday letter to Santa, children also have the opportunity to email and chat with him.

To receive a phone call from the North Pole, register by Monday, Dec. 11. Four to five year olds (registration number 266567) must be available to chat with Santa on Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Six to seven year olds (registration number 266568) must be available on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Eight to nine year olds (registration number 266569) must be available to receive calls from the North Pole on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information or

to register, call Heritage Park at (562) 916-8570.

Children ages 11 and younger may also email Santa through Friday, Dec. 15. A link to email Santa will be posted on cerritos.us beginning Monday, Nov. 27.

Letters to Santa must be received by the Recreation Services Division on or before Friday, Dec. 15. Letters should be addressed to: Santa Claus, North Pole, P.O. Box 3130, Cerritos, 90703. To receive a response from Santa, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

For more information about contacting Santa, call (562) 916-1254.

Housing Project

From Page 3

had been in negotiations with the owners of the property for about a year.

The Tenants in the existing office complex were previously given notice to vacate the complex by February 2018 when the buildings are slated to be torn down. "You know as well I do," said one resident, "there will be left turns into the development by cars travelling south on Shoemaker unless a concrete planter is installed."

Hawaiian Gardens

From Page 3

ian Gardens Food Bank, Cinco De Mayo Carnival, Hawaiian Gardens Public Safety/and Police Foundation.

Colombo said the segment of 215th Street under consideration is bordered by Fedde Middle School, casino parking lot and a hospital. The west end of 215th Street, between Pioneer Boulevard and the easterly edge of Bloomfield Park is a shared street with the City of Lakewood. He said there are two 215th Street intersections from Pioneer that would require street name changes.

He said Lakewood has informed them it is not inter-

The meeting lasted four and one-half hours. More than 20 residents attended the meeting in opposition to the project, most agreeing there were too many homes for the size of the site.

The four-existing two-story office building were originally built in 1980 and remodeled in 1999. The building is clustered at the center of the site and are surrounded by 159 existing parking spaces and landscaping.

ested in changing the name in its part of the street. Colombo told the council Hawaiian Gardens would have to fund all the street sign changes. Three of the four street names are in Lakewood. Estimated cost of changing the signs is \$10,000.

The council also approved a request by the Hawaiian Gardens Casino for a final certificate of occupancy for use of the entire building and property at 11871 Carson Street, based on completion of the improvements and the casino's compliance with the relevant documents and municipal code.