



## City of Cerritos Honors Veterans

By Janet Beach

Before the Cerritos Veterans Day ceremony began on Nov. 11, beautiful music filled the air with the voices of the All-American Boys Chorus singing patriotic songs.

After the invocation by Pastor Dr. Bill Hundley, the Southeast Academy Military and Law Enforcement High School presented the colors. Then Boy Scout Troop 693 led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Boys Chorus sang the National Anthem.

A personalized tribute and thank you to all of the veterans in attendance was made by Councilmember Jim Edwards, who read the names and branch of military service as each one stood to be recognized.

When the Boys Chorus sang the "Armed Forces Medley," the veterans again stood when the song for their branch of service was sung.

The City Council presented a special proclamation to the

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Mayor Grace Hu and Mayor Pro Tem Mark Pulido are joined by Councilmembers Frank Yokoyama, Naresh Solanki and Jim Edwards as they place a wreath at the Cerritos Veterans Memorial on Nov. 11.



U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Chris Haar (center) and fellow 1st CEB Marines from Camp Pendleton, along with Cerritos Sheriff's Station Captain Joe Nuñez and Lt. Ed Wells, attended the Cerritos Veterans Day ceremony.

## Recall Succeeds in Forcing Artesia City Council to Remove Pioneer Median

By N. Soto

Since May, a group of concerned citizens fed up with traffic caused by the "Pioneer Promenade" median and alarmed by significant delays in emergency response times, launched a recall against the last three Artesia Mayors: Ali Taj, Miguel Canales and Victor Manalo.

With a 3 - 2 council vote in October to remove the median, recall proponents are claiming victory and holding off on delivering the recall pe-

titions to the city clerk.

"We've always had the best for Artesia at heart," said Dorothy Kane, lead proponent of the recall. "Since we got what everyone wanted, restoration of Pioneer Boulevard, we won't make the city spend money on a special election. We'll wait until the regular election to make needed changes at city hall."

The recall had until Nov. 22 to deliver 1,867 signatures for each of Taj, Canales and Manalo. If they had delivered the signatures, a special elec-

tion would have been held sometime in April.

"We realized that we made our point and are willing to wait for November 2018," added Kane.

A new level of activism has taken hold in Artesia as a result of the recall, says Brandon Madrid, another recall proponent. "We're not going anywhere. We will hold Taj, Canales and Manalo accountable for removing the median, and the entire city council," said Madrid. "Just because they voted to remove it doesn't let them off the hook."

It was recall proponents who discovered that the city failed to receive "sign off" from the LA County Fire Department for restricting traffic lanes on Pioneer. Both Mayor Taj and Councilman Manalo sent letters to residents stating

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## State Senator Tony Mendoza Subject of 3rd Inappropriate Conduct Allegation

mayorsam.blogspot.com

State Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) was a no show at a Veteran's Day event in the City of Downey after a second woman (former Intern) came forward with allegations of inappropriate conduct.

One of the tell-tale signs when an embattled elected official switches into crisis mode, is the dodging of confirmed public appearances and for Sen. Mendoza, the crisis is now.

The new allegations by a then 19-year-old intern, mirrored the more recent complaints of a a early-twenties, Post-Graduate Fellow, who was assigned to State Senator Mendoza's Sacramento Office.

According to an article in the *Sacramento Bee*, the woman, Jennifer Kwart, came forward with her account hours after the *Bee* published a story Thursday about a Senate investigation of allegations that Mendoza on at least two occasions invited a 23-year-old fellow to his home to review her résumé for an open job in his office earlier this year.

Kwart said her encounter with Mendoza occurred when

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she was a 19-year-old intern in his Norwalk district office in 2008, when Mendoza was 36 and in the state Assembly, and involved a trip to the California Democratic Party's state convention in San Jose that year.

Kwart said Mendoza invited her to lunch with him and to help him run errands on Fridays he spent in the Norwalk office. Since it was her first job, she said she didn't think it was strange at the time.

Kwart said she was invited to attend the 2008 California Democratic Party convention free of charge in San Jose in late March. She accepted the offer but was surprised when

## Proposed Gridley Road Project Opposed by Residents

By Jerry Bernstein

Artesia residents appeared before the City Council at its Nov. 13 meeting, voicing opposition to plans for a permit to construct a seven-story, mixed-use development located at 18600 Gridley Road in the proposed Artesia LIVE II Specific Plan Zone.

However, council members said they had not received a recommendation from the Planning Commission recommending approval or disapproval of the proposed project.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing at its Oct.17 meeting about an

application submitted at it previous meeting by Artesia LIVE II Development, LLC. It included a tentative Parcel Map to subdivide one parcel located at 18600 Gridley Road into 130 residential condominium lots and an application for a Conditional Use Permit to construct specialty retail and restaurants with a seven-story, mixed use development.

Councilmembers said until a recommendation is sent to the council and the members have sufficient information, they could not comment on the matter.

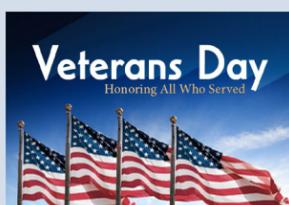
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## GATEWAY GUARDIAN Newspaper, Inc.

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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.

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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



## Dr. Mary Sieu Honored as State ACSA Superintendent of the Year

On Nov. 3, Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent of ABC Unified School District, was honored as State ACSA Superintendent of the Year at the President's Award Ceremony held at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, CA.

The Awards Ceremony was held in conjunction with the ACSA Leadership Summit held Nov. 2-4, 2017 in San Jose. Dr. Sieu was joined by her son, daughter-in-law, sister, brother-in-law and District staff from ABCUSD.

Dr. Sieu was ACSA Region XIV Superintendent of

the Year. Her application was forwarded to the State ACSA Committee who voted unanimously to honor her as the 2017 Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Sieu said, "I'm humbled and honored to be recognized for this highest honor as Superintendent of the Year. It's heartwarming to share this honor with my family and friends from ABC who have been instrumental in my career journey.

"More importantly, it's been a privilege to serve the diverse students and families in ABC Unified School District."

## Olympia Chen Retires After 20 Years on ABC School Board



Members of the ABC Management Association (ABCMA) congratulate Olympia Chen (center) on her retirement from the ABC School Board and thank her for her 20 years of service. They are donating books in her honor to all schools in the ABC Unified School District, and every book will have her name in it. She received many other accolades and thank you's from current and former board members, as well as community leaders and parents at the Nov. 7 School Board meeting.

**ABC**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

16700 Norwalk Blvd.  
Cerritos, CA 90703

**Next School  
Board Meeting**

December 5  
7 p.m.

## Speakers Wanted for April TEDx Conference

TEDx is returning to Cerritos College on April 3, 2018. The College hosted its first TEDx conference in March 2017 that featured dynamic faculty and community speakers.

TEDx is independently run and is designed to encourage new ideas. TEDx at Cerritos College is currently seeking speakers with "ideas worth sharing" around the theme Strength in Diversity.

Cerritos College is guided by its core value of celebrating diversity in people, philosophies, cultures, beliefs, programs and learning envi-

ronments. Online applications will be accepted until Jan. 1, 2018, and speakers will be notified on Feb. 1, 2018.

For more information, requirements, and application, visit the Tedx Cerritos College web page, Presenter's Application or contact Monique Valencia - [mvalencia@cerritos.edu](mailto:mvalencia@cerritos.edu).

TED Talks began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages.

## Cerritos College Aims to Increase Student Access and Success with Open Educational Resources

Cerritos College recently hosted the Student Success Conference – Open Educational Resources (OER). The conference brought together faculty members from California community colleges across the southland to discuss the possibilities of OER to enhance student learning.

Free access to textbooks and open licensed resources reduces financial barriers that many first-generation students face. Nearly 55 percent of Cerritos College students are the first in their families to attend college.

The conference focused on key concepts, including: the high-cost of textbooks, open licensed resources, and z-degrees. A z-degree is an innovative, zero-cost textbook program that can be completed using only open educational resources.

Cerritos College is a leading innovator in OER. The College developed an OER pilot project in its business department in 2008 to reduce textbook cost for students.

The College successfully expanded its online coursework to over 4,000 students at a savings of nearly \$500,000. More than half of the students taking courses in the business department save an average of about \$150 per course in over 77 classes.

In 2016, The College received the Online Learning Consortium's Digital Learning Innovation Award, and the Campus Technology magazine selected the project as a Campus Technology Innovator in 2012. The College's goal is to expand its online resources to save students over \$1 million in the coming semesters.

## Artesia Library Bookmark Winners Recognized by Artesia City Council



Winners in the Artesia Library Bookmark Contest were recognized by the Artesia City Council at its Nov. 13 meeting. Students in eight age categories competed. Winners included: Omkar Siddeswar, K-2, Mary Bragg Elementary School; Niharika Prabhu, 3-5, Cerritos Elementary School; Aakriti Shukla, 6-8, Mary Bragg Elementary School; and Christine Joy Gavin, 9-12, Gahr High School.

## 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!



**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:**

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

**READ THE PAPER ONLINE!**

## ABC Board Member Lynda Johnson Thanks Supporters, Says Farewell



By Lynda Johnson

I would like to congratulate Ernie Nishii as the newly-elected ABC School Board Member in Trustee Area 3.

I would like to thank the ABC Community for placing their trust in me to represent them as their Board member.

In the last six years, I have had the opportunity to learn so much about our District, our policies, our budget and our facilities.

I have had the privilege to speak and vote on policies that affect our parents, teachers and community stakeholders on key issues in our District.

I am blessed to have had the experience of being involved in the community for the past 25 years... as a youth sports coach, a PTA mother, a School Board member and currently as the Field Deputy to Supervisor Janice Hahn... which means my service to

this community will continue as I represent Supervisor Hahn in the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood and Paramount and to work closely with her in creating policies that affect the residents of Los Angeles County.

Again, thank you to the parents, students, community leaders and stakeholders of ABC for this opportunity to be your School Board member since 2011.

## City of Cerritos Commits to Improved Tree Trimming Maintenance



By Mayor Grace Hu

The City of Cerritos has approximately 28,000 trees in its urban forest. Of this total, approximately 25,000 trees are located in medians and parkways, with the remaining trees located in parks or at other City facilities. Mature, well-maintained trees enhance the value of homes and neighborhoods. They help moderate temperatures, lower energy costs and provide oxygen.

Several years ago, the economic downturn resulted in Citywide budget cuts. However, since March 2016, the Cerritos City Council has committed to an increase in tree trimming maintenance. Between March and June 2016, 1,607 trees were trimmed by the City's contractor, Golden West Arborists. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, 6,980 trees were trimmed by the City's contractor and 1,500 trees were trimmed by City staff, re-

sulting in a total of 8,480 trees trimmed. This fiscal year, the City Council approved a budget of \$950,000 for tree trimming. So far 1,936 trees have been trimmed by the City's contractor and 408 trees have been trimmed by City staff, for a total of 2,344 trees trimmed.

The City is comprised of 20 tree trimming districts of roughly the same geographical size. The City follows standard tree trimming guidelines provided by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), which recommend that, in general, trees be trimmed on average every four years. ISA standards also dictate that no more than 25 percent of a tree be removed during trimming. Severe overpruning is prohibited.

In October, the Cerritos City Council approved additional tree trimming services to facilitate the Citywide tree trimming project. A contract was awarded to Great Scott Tree Service for \$350,000 to cover tree trimming in three districts through June 2018. This will result in the trimming of approximately 2,590 trees in the current fiscal year.

An additional \$204,795 was awarded to Great Scott Tree Service for the removal of 369 residential trees. These trees are in need of removal due to various reasons. Staff removes approximately 300 trees annually that are determined to be hazardous. The City's Municipal Code dictates

that staff can only remove trees for health and safety purposes. In 2014, the City Council approved a modification to the City's Tree Removal Policy, which allows for tree removal if a parkway tree has caused significant damage to private property as supported by an approved claim. The policy also allows residents to pay for parkway tree trimming and/or tree removal by contracting directly with a tree maintenance company that meets City-specified qualifications.

The City's comprehensive tree management program, which has been allocated \$1,504,795 in fiscal year 2017-2018, includes trimming, removal, replacement, disease management and the identification of problematic trees in urban settings. Our overall goal is to encourage a park-like community through the development of landscaped public areas and open spaces, and to preserve and protect our trees to provide valuable benefits to our community.

Updated tree trimming district maps that track the progress of the City's tree trimming project are available on the City's website at [cerritos.us](http://cerritos.us). Click on the "Residents" bar on the left-hand side, then select "Public Works" and "Tree Trimming." For more information on street-tree care or the City's tree ordinance, call the Public Works Department at (562) 916-1220.

## COMMUNITY calendar



ARTESIA:

### Holiday Tree Lighting

Friday, Nov. 29 • 5:30 p.m.



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

### Toy Drive

Now through Dec. 20 • C. Robert Lee Activity Center  
Attention Basketball, Raquetball & Zumba Participants:  
If you donate a new un-wrapped toy \$5 - \$10 value, you will receive a voucher for the month of January 2018.

## City of Cerritos Receives CPRS Healthy Play Initiative Funding

The City of Cerritos has been selected as a funding recipient of the 2017 California Park and Recreation Society's (CPRS) State-Wide Healthy Play Initiative. The initiative was created as a partnership between CPRS and GameTime, a leading manufacturer of commercial playgrounds, custom play spaces and outdoor fitness equipment.

As part of the initiative, GameTime made a commitment of up to \$2 million in matching funds for CPRS agencies that submitted applications for assistance with the development of playground spaces that encourage best practice designs for active behavior.

The City of Cerritos was one of 24 funding recipients selected this year. The specific funding award will be determined once a playground design is completed, and will not exceed the \$60,000 allotment for Loma Park playground equipment identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2017-2018.

The City of Cerritos will use the funding to install an enhanced playground structure at

Loma Park. The new structure will promote physical fitness and socialization and incorporate six key elements into the design: balancing, spinning, brachiating, sliding, climbing and swinging.

"We are honored to receive this valuable funding that will allow us to make improvements to one of our community parks," stated Cerritos Mayor Grace Hu. "By selecting the City of Cerritos as a funding recipient, CPRS is recognizing our continual efforts to enrich the lives of our children and to contribute to building communities through play."

Each of the playgrounds funded by the initiative will be designated as National Demonstration Sites for data collection, which will be used to highlight best practices and outcomes achieved.

Founded in 1946, CPRS is a nonprofit, professional and public interest organization with more than 4,000 members statewide. Its mission is to be the best source of resources, tools, advocacy and events to strengthen California's public parks and recreation industry.



## Shopping Days Till Christmas

### Christmas Shopping On A Budget – 9 Tips

1. Make a Shopping List
2. Set a Spending Limit
3. Pay in Cash
4. Shop by Yourself
5. 'Tis the Season to Give, Not Buy for Yourself
6. Shop for Sales at Discount Stores
7. Don't Go Crazy on Kids
8. Wrap a Lot
9. Buy A Combined Gift

For more details, visit [scottalanturner.com](http://scottalanturner.com)

## Just How Did Thanksgiving Come About?



By Melinda Kimsey

Greetings Friends and Family,

Although most of us have a good idea how Thanksgiving started, I wanted to look deeper to see what I could find. So, I did a bit of research and this is what I found.

Thanksgiving is a particularly American holiday. The word evokes images of football, family reunions, roasted turkey with stuffing, pumpkin pie and, of course, the Pilgrims and Wampanoag, the acknowledged founders of the feast.

Giving thanks for the Creator's gifts had always been a part of Wampanoag daily life. From ancient times, Native People of North America have held ceremonies to give thanks for successful harvests, for the hope of a good growing season in the early spring, and

for other good fortune such as the birth of a child. Giving thanks was, and still is, the primary reason for ceremonies or celebrations.

As with Native traditions in America, celebrations - complete with merrymaking and feasting - in England and throughout Europe after a successful crop are as ancient as the harvest-time itself.

In 1621, when their labors were rewarded with a bountiful harvest after a year of sickness and scarcity, the Pilgrims gave thanks to God and celebrated His bounty in the Harvest Home tradition with feasting and sport (recreation). To these people of strong Christian faith, this was not merely a revel; it was also a joyous outpouring of gratitude. So, on that happy note, let's talk about what is ahead of us.

Yes, its official! The Christmas season is upon us. This edition comes out before Black Friday, and I wish you great success in finding all of the super special prices on the gifts of your choice as you shop till you drop.

The Cerritos Chamber is having a lot of fun activities, including a holiday lunch and a holiday mixer. Remember,

you don't have to own a business to join the Chamber; you can join as a civic member and participate in all of the activities that the Chamber supports.

The Chamber recently sponsored the Turkey Bowl at Cerritos Lanes, and it was very successful. They had lots of prizes, a great free buffet courtesy of some of the local restaurants, so be sure to look for some photos of the teams in the paper.

One of the favorite events the Chamber sponsors is the Toy Drive every year for children in the area. You can always stop by the Chamber office and drop off a few toys for those kids who won't have anything under the tree. This really ties into the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas because we have so much to be thankful for.

I tend to look at what I have lost and forget how much I have. This is probably a fairly common human natural tendency, especially for us who tend to look back. On the other hand we know that we gain much happiness when we give to others. We know that it really is better to give than to receive.

As always, Happy Trails!

## What's Happening in Cerritos?



By Brad Beach

We really do have a lot to be thankful about for living in this city, and I want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. I hope you enjoyed time with your families and some delicious food. The City Council brought back the city calendars, and we should all be receiving them soon.

I'd like to congratulate Olympia Chen for her 20 years of service to the ABC Unified School District Board of Trustees and Lynda Johnson for her six years of service. The students appreciate everything you have done for them.

The Cerritos City Council will consider moving their election to March or November in even years since voter turnout has been so low in the city. This will align us with the State primary or general elections and is mandated by SB 415.

The Cerritos Planning Commission recently voted down the housing development

idea at the corner of Shoemaker and Artesia by a vote of 4-1. The developer can come back before the Commission at their Dec. 6 meeting with new plans.

Many residents spoke at the public safety Town Hall meeting several weeks ago and to the Community Safety Committee after the continued negative effects of Propositions 47 and 57 on our city.

Property crime is increasing at alarming rates, and we, unfortunately, have the distinction of having one of the highest crime rates in the County and State.

The Committee is preparing a letter to Council about how to proceed. I would love to see Cerritos take a position to overturn these propositions and maybe other cities would follow throughout the State. There is a current petition to repeal Proposition 47 at [petitions.moveon.org](http://petitions.moveon.org).

Numerous video cameras are showing criminals checking our vehicle door handles while we sleep. Please keep your cars locked and don't leave any valuables inside. You can light up the front of your house with LED motion lights and add security cameras to help law enforcement. Be vigilant as packages are being delivered during the holidays. We can all help watch out for each other.

There was street racing in and around the Home Depot parking lot recently on Alondra. Please be careful and call the sheriff if you ever see this type of activity. There was a woman who got robbed in the parking lot of Ralph's grocery store on South street. The thug jumped on a westbound bus, and deputies took him into custody a short time later. Make sure to be observant when walking to your car and have your hands empty.

Someone on social media complained of loud noise from a neighbor early in the morning so I thought I'd share the city's municipal code section 9.66.020. Leaf blowers can't be used before 8 a.m. during the week, 9 a.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. on Sundays and must cease at 5 p.m. on all days.

I'm sad to see America's Tire Company leave Artesia because I always bought my tires there, but they have stores close by in Norwalk and at the Long Beach Town Center.

Active shooter training will be provided by Sgt. Harding from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at the Shadow Park Clubhouse on Friday, Dec. 1 from 9-11 a.m. It will teach you what to do if you are ever at work or in public and someone starts shooting.

Be safe, Cerritos!

## Life Is Like a Tightrope; Keep Looking Behind You or You Will Fall



By Jerry Bernstein

VAL LYNDY, DEFENDER OF ALL THAT IS TRUE, asked if I would like to have breakfast with her. I said that would be nice. She said she would be by my office in 10 minutes.

I took her to one of my favorite restaurants in Los Alamitos. "What's on your mind?" I asked after we had ordered breakfast.

"Several things," she said. "First of all what is all this fuss about the Tot Lot program at Cerritos Park East.

"I don't know much," I said. According to the Tot Lot parents, the youngsters can no longer use the California Room at Cerritos Park East. They have used it many times when they have had an indoor program for the kids and when the weather was too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer."

"You know," she replied, "over the years, when the Tot Lot Program at Cerritos Park East had problems, they were always able to work them out. When issues arose, they were resolved because of the positive relationship they had with the Recreation Department. Now they're banished from using a room at the park?"

"VAL LYNDER," I said, "I know as much as you do,

but I'm sure it's just a misunderstanding."

VAL LYNDER, DEFENDER OF ALL THAT IS TRUE looked at me. "You better be right," she said. "What did the City Council say when the parents brought the matter to them?"

"Not much," I answered.

"Well," she replied after a few minutes, "First it's the Water Aerobics Class for Seniors, and now it's the Tot Lot. What is going on?" she asked in an exasperated tone.

"As soon as I find out," I said, "I'll let you know."

Just as quickly, she asked what was going on in the city of Artesia. Are they going to build a casino in Artesia?"

"According to the Mayor," I replied, "No. At the Nov. 13 council meeting, the question came up and he replied no. He explained it would have to first be approved by the state before the city could act on it, and to his knowledge, neither has been done."

VAL LYNDER, DEFENDER OF ALL THAT IS TRUE didn't say a word. I quickly interjected and said the woman who had asked replied that she had been to two meetings where she was told otherwise."

"Who do you believe?" she asked.

"At this point, I have to lean toward the Mayor," I said.

"I have a few more subjects I'd like to discuss with you, but they can wait."

As we walked out, I could see she had more questions to ask. Her purple poker-dotted umbrella was tapping hard on the floor as we exited the restaurant.



- 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.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.**

LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
**JANICE HAHN**  
representing the 4th district



Honoring our veterans

I had the honor this week of thanking LA County's Veteran of the Year George Ciampa for his service to our country both on and off the battlefield.

A US Veteran who served in World War II, George represents the best of what America has to offer. A resident of Torrance, George is a dedicated father and a talented documentary filmmaker.

Let's recognize not only the incredible courage and dedication of our veterans but also our duty as citizens to help our heroes succeed once they return home.

If you are a veteran looking for employment, consider checking out LA County's VIP Program, a paid full-time internship which provides on-the-job training and work experience.

**Regulating Polluters & Improving Public Health**

If LA County's Department of Public Health can close down restaurants which are unsanitary and dangerous, it should also have the authority to shut down industrial facilities which emit dangerous chemicals into the air we breathe.

ous chemicals into the air we breathe.

This week, I co-authored a motion which aims to strengthen the Department of Public Health's ability to protect us from dangerous emissions.

**Improving our Youth Diversion Programs**

"Want a better juvenile justice system? Keep kids out of it in the first place"- LA Times

When it comes to setting up our young people on the road to success, I've always believed that an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure. This week, my colleague Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and I coauthored a motion which will increase the County's investment in youth diversion programs which are proven to be more effective and less expensive than incarcerations.

thored a motion which will increase the County's investment in youth diversion programs which are proven to be more effective and less expensive than incarcerations.

Read more about LA County's unprecedented investment in Youth Diversion Programs on my website: [www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/janice-hahn](http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/janice-hahn)

**Business Owner Blasts Artesia City Council**

By Ron Ektarian  
Hi Waste Disposal Company  
Statement read at the Nov. 13  
Artesia Council Meeting

I am here before the council of Artesia because a great and unjust problem exists. For many years, I have spent not only endless hours, tens of thousands of dollars and have had millions of dollars in lost potential income of not only my money but my wife and children's money to renew my business license that was originally paid for and given to me in 1982.

In doing so, I not only represent myself but also every tenant, landlord, property owner, business employee and every person that lives, shops and spends money in Artesia.

Over 12 years ago, I was threatened to shut my business

in 30 days or face prosecution (proof in hand). That same year my attorney was lied to by city staff that the city does not maintain records (proof in hand).

In 2011, the city served a search warrant on me at my place of business and to obtain this warrant lied to the judge (proof in hand). I, without a doubt, can also prove collusion between the city manager, city planner, and the city's attorneys with the help of an unlicensed environmental contractor to find violations that do not exist (see proof at right).

I have endured malicious prosecution, blatant abuse of power, unrelenting persecution and have been personally threatened for over 12 years. I have been denied due process as per Artesia Municipal Code.

**The Rise of Ernie Nishii in ABCUSD**

From My Point of View



By Dan E. Nino

The result of the recent ABC School Board election in Trustee Area 3 is baffling, yet not surprising. I have myriad of theories that make it easy to discern why newcomer candidate H. Ernie Nishii emerged as the victor.

Although, I don't reside or vote in Trustee Area 3, I was rooting for either Lynda Johnson or Armin Reyes who are my two long-time, good friends.

A community leader, however, who is also a good friend to both candidates said that although all are qualified, he preferred Lynda as more deserving because she is already on the ground as field deputy of a county supervisor and will be "shooting two birds with one stone."

Ernie Nishii, a practicing lawyer as a candidate was a full-time campaigner with no campaign consultant. Nishi, of Japanese descent, had a grassroots campaign. He went around his neighborhood and knocked on everybody's door introducing himself sometimes three times on one household, according to my sources in his area.

He didn't have political and bigtime endorsers. As he put it, the voters are his endorsers. He connected well with the voters on his relentless door-to-door campaigning.

Here are several analysis that I can offer why he won:

1. When you have two candidates of the same cultural backgrounds, it will spell disaster. The community will certainly be divided. This was proven many times in the past in any localities whether in the U.S. or overseas. As one Philippine Senate President put it,

"Politics is addition and not subtraction."

The two candidates - Armin Reyes who has served for 16 years and incumbent Lynda Johnson, who was on the Board for the past six years - could have avoided this debacle with a compromise. At the start, it was a Kamikaze and political suicide.

If the two had a falling out, they should have buried the hatchet if they planned to run for the same post again someday. I don't even want to perceive it as a case of proverbial "crab mentality" because this is a bad connotation.

2. Los Cerritos Community News Brian Hews, publisher and editor-in-chief, relentlessly bedeviled and tormented Lynda Johnson throughout the campaign.

I wonder why Hews is obsessed with attacking Lynda, harassing and exposing even the most trivial things of her campaign and career. There must be some deeper reason behind his obsession.

Perhaps it was because Lynda didn't advertise in Hews' newspaper. Instead, she pitched her ads in the Gateway Guardian published by Melinda Kimsey, a sworn nemesis of Brian Hews? Or is it because Hews believes that the Gateway Guardian rivals his Los Cerritos Community News and is trying and put his newspaper away.

3. Lynda's fellow Board members didn't support her because they have an ax to grind. Lynda didn't support the \$195 million bond measure put forward a couple of years ago? As a result, some members of the Board, did not vote for Lynda when she was next in line to become the next president of the ABCUSD Board of Trustees.

4. I hear that Armin Reyes' pre-occupation with his job as union representative and as an Army reservist, might distract him from fulfilling his duties as a member of the School Board. The community didn't forget his run many years ago. Following his election he was deployed to the Middle East.

He even declined the nomination to become its president because of his other duties.

5. In this election, endorsements didn't carry much weight. Both Lynda and Armin were endorsed by heavyweights but to no avail. Armin was endorsed by two Filipino-American Cerritos Council members: Mayor Pro-tem Mark Pulido and Councilman Frank Yokoyama, State Treasurer John Chiang, former and current ABC School Board members, the Holy Family Knights of Columbus, as well as Los Cerritos Community News.

On the other hand, Lynda, a Field Deputy, LA County Board of Supervisors 4th District, was endorsed by former LA County Supervisor Don Knabe and current LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Nishii, on the other hand, made use of his link with the PTA parents where his young daughter goes to school.

6. When I attended the first debate hosted by the Cerritos Republican Party at the Cerritos Library attended by Johnson, Soo Yoo and Daniel Fierro (Reyes was absent then), I was surprised that although a rookie politician, Nishii made sense in his answers. His lawyerly instinct, probity, courtroom skills came to the fore. With confidence, he maintained his grace under pressure.

Nishii is the legal counsel of Granada Park Homeowners Assn. on Bloomfield Ave. where I reside. He attended organization meetings for exposure and name recognition like our Toastmasters Club a few times where he observed the way we conducted our meetings at the Grove Cerritos.

Politics is also once defined as an art to make impossible possible. Politics is hard to fathom. I'm reminded of former Secretary General of the United Nations when he addressed the Philippine Congress many years ago, "We have no permanent friends. We only have permanent interests."

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# Hawaiian Gardens Celebrates Veterans Day



Former Mayor and a member of the Army Reserve, Mike Gomez, holds Certificate of Appreciation presented by members of the Hawaiian Gardens City Council at the city's Veterans Day observance. (l-r) Councilmembers Reynaldo Rodriguez, Myra Maraval, Mayor Pro Tem Barry Bruce, Mariana Rios and Mayor Hank Trimble.



Left - Special Guest Speaker was State Assemblyman Anthony Rendon, 63rd District. Right - Poly High School ROTC presents the colors at the Hawaiian Gardens Veterans Day ceremony.



By Jerry Bernstein

On Nov. 11, the City of Hawaiian Gardens honored the nation's veterans in a moving ceremony.

Councilmember Reynaldo Rodriguez reflected that most every young adult living in Hawaiian Gardens during World War II was drafted; some did not come back alive.

"Many of you here today were in the service at the same time," he said, "and you show up every year. We had some good times and we had some bad times. For instance, during basic training we were told

to kiss our rifle or something. Now we laugh at it, but at the time it was kind of scary."

"I see some fellow medics in the audience. I was also a medic. This year we lost one of us. Every year we lose one or more of our comrades, many to Agent Orange.

"Recently an accident occurred at Camp Pendleton where during a training exercise, 50 Marines were injured. One of the Marines grew up in Hawaiian Gardens, Lance Corporal Israel Lopez. I would like to recognize him. This Wednesday, Nov. 13, he is going to be deployed to South

Korea."

The guest speaker was Mike Gomez, a member of the United States Marines Reserve who reminisced about his time in the Marines during World War II. "We did what we had to do, defend our country," he said.

Mayor Hank Trimble said, "To all our men and woman who have served in the Armed Forces, we want to thank you for serving our nation. Your service has made America the greatest nation on earth. The understanding that liberty is

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# Artesia Thanks Veterans at Ceremony



Artesia City Councilmembers – Miguel Canales, Mayor Ali Taj, Mayor Pro Tem Sally Flowers and Tony Lima – place a wreath at the Veterans Memorial during the city's Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 9.



Guest speakers at the Artesia Veterans Day ceremony were Navy Captain Mark Chung and Major Luke Gyax, California Army National Guard 224th Sustainment Brigade.

ication to duty and integrity. I believe this applies to veterans of all conflicts.

"They were ordinary people who responded in extraordinary ways in extreme times. They rose to the nation's call because they wanted to protect our country, our freedoms and our way of life."

Guest speaker Capt. Mark Chung said he has spent the last 25 years as a U.S. Navy medical officer and as a surgeon for the U.S. Marine Corps.

"Every day should be Veterans Day," he said, "by honoring our national colors on the flag of our country. Shake hands of veterans and thank them for their service."

"Give generously to the USO, the American Legion, Disabled American Vets or any organization that supports veterans." He also suggested giving to the Red Cross.



Solomon Vidamo, US Army World War II veteran 1939-1945 (deceased) was honored with a brick for the Artesia Veterans walkway. His widow, Concepcion Vidamo and son James received the brick from Mayor Ali Taj and City Councilmembers Miguel Canales and Tony Lima.

By Janet Beach

At the beginning of the Veterans Day Ceremony in Artesia, city councilmembers presented a memorial brick to the Vidamo family in remembrance of World War veteran, Solomon Vidamo.

This was followed by the presentation of colors by the

Southeast Academy, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem.

Guest speaker Major Luke Gyax, who has been in the Army for 28 years, asked all veterans to stand and be recognized. He said, "All servicemen and women share these qualities: courage, pride, determination, selflessness, ded-

# Veterans Day in Cerritos

From Page 1



The All American Boys Chorus performs on Veterans Day in Cerritos.



The All American Boys Chorus performs on Veterans Day in Cerritos.



Speaker - Steven T. Kuykendall

1st CEB Adoption Committee on its 10th anniversary. The City of Cerritos "adopted" the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion (CEB) on Nov. 11, 2007, and since then, the committee, led by President Chuck Sooter and then President Dorothy Owen, has been leading efforts to support the Marines and their families.

The guest speaker was President/CEO Steven T. Kuykendall of the Fisher House Southern California, Inc. He began by saying, "Happy 242nd birthday to all the Marines here," as he pointed to the seven 1st CEB Maines in the front row.

He went on to explain the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day and said that today we honor those who have served or are currently serving. He said that for

more than 45 years there has not been a draft.

"Today, those who volunteer are making a decision that will change their lives forever, and they are in their late teens and early 20s.

"They serve whether we have a war or not. But they were just as valuable to this nation. Most people can't find a few days to serve jury duty or to get to the polls to vote, and yet these young men and women will put their lives in danger to give you the privilege to do that.

"We seek our best to serve, and they return the favor by standing in the gap between this nation and the dangerous world. And then they come home and become these productive citizens and become leaders.

"Today we thank the men and women who have served this nation, and in the words of General James Conway, 'We celebrate the magnificent men and women who selflessly continue to go into harm's way to protect this great nation.'"

The program concluded with a flag folding ceremony, placing of the wreaths, playing of TAPS, dancing by the Na Kapunawahine O'Cerritos to "God Bless America, followed by the benediction.



Please join LA County Library & Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn for the

**Grand Opening of Artesia Library**  
**Friday, December 8th at 3:30 pm**  
**18801 Elaine Ave. Artesia, CA 90701**

Outdoor ceremony begins at 3:30 with ribbon cutting, library entrance, and special programming to follow.

For more information, please contact (562) 868-0770.