

# Petty Politics Once Again Roils the Cerritos Mayoral Transition

OP/ED by Brian Hews

Chuong Vo did not want to be mayor; Naresh Solanki took the mayoral seat for two years straight; Barrows, who was appointed not elected, is now mayor; yet the top vote-getter in 2020, Frank Yokoyama, serving on the City Council for seven years still languishes, never getting to sit in the Cerritos Mayor's Chair.

Cerritos residents, these are your cur-

rent Republicans playing musical chairs on the council; Mayor Bruce Barrows (for the fifth time), Mayor pro tem Naresh Solanki (for the third time), and a Torrance cop, sworn to uphold the law and protect residents, Chuong Vo, who is cashing \$20,000 in checks annually from Cerritos for health coverage he already has, instead of declining the cash.

With their recent actions, "Current Republicans" has even changed, with the

Republicans likely violating the Political Reform Act to keep power by a blatant self-serving action, moving the Cerritos election from April 2024 to 2025, giving themselves five years on the council, and unnecessarily wasting hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

Frank Yokoyama and Lynda Johnson voted against the move, and give Johnson credit, that move probably cost her the Mayor pro tem seat that Solanki was

handed.... again, and likely any future nominations.

LCCN has twice asked Cerritos City Attorney Bill Ihrke, copying all councilmembers and the city clerk in the email, to furnish a counter-statement to LCCN's argument that the City Council is violating the Act by extending the term.

LCCN's argument centered around

[See **PETTY POLITICS** page 4]



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### ABC Unified School District Hires New Superintendent

By Brian Hews

After a lengthy and thorough search, the ABC Unified School District has decided that it is best to look within the school district hiring longtime ABCUSD Administrator Dr. Gina Zietlow as the next Superintendent.



Dr. Gina Zietlow

Dr. Zietlow brings 29 years of experience in ABCUSD in various capacities. The final decision is pending Board approval at the May 2nd meeting, but the choice is expected to be unanimous.

In a statement, the Board consulted Leadership Associates to conduct a nationwide search, and "Dr. Zietlow stood

out regarding furthering ABCUSD students' safety, mental health supports, and academic achievement."

Dr. Gina Zietlow earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Biola University, a Master of Arts in Instruction from Biola University, and a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from the University of La Verne. She was an English teacher, cheer advisor, and activities director for many years before becoming the assistant principal and then principal at Gahr High School, where she was named the Secondary Principal of the Year in California by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the State Secondary Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), and the ACSA Region 14 Secondary Principal of the Year. She has spent the past seven years in Human Resources, with the last six years as Assistant Superintendent.

### California Bill Would Ban Harmful Chemicals From Candy, Cereals and Other Processed Foods

The California Assembly's Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Tuesday approved a first-in-the-nation bill to ban five harmful chemicals from candy, cereals, and other processed food. That approval followed the Assembly's Health Committee's "do pass" recommendation earlier this month.

The bill, AB 418, sponsored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, would end the use of brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, propylparaben, Red Dye No. 3 and titanium dioxide in popular food products sold in the state. Any food manufactured elsewhere but placed for sale in California will have to comply with the regulation.

The chemicals have been linked to

serious health problems, such as a higher risk of cancer, nervous system damage, and hyperactivity.

European regulators have already banned all five substances from use in food, with the narrow exception of Red No. 3 in candied cherries. Given the

[See **CHEMICALS** page 5]

### Apply For Your Share of Facebook's \$725 Million Settlement

By Clare Duffy

Facebook users who had an active account at any point between May 2007 and December 2022 can now apply to receive a piece of parent company Meta's \$725 million settlement related to the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Meta in December agreed to the payment to settle a longstanding class action lawsuit accusing it of allowing Cambridge Analytica and other third parties to access private user information and misleading users about its privacy practices.

[See **FACEBOOK** page 13]

### Cerritos Sheriff's Captain Leaving Station

LCCN has learned that Captain Minh Dinh will be leaving the Cerritos Station. Dinh is being promoted to the rank of Commander. His promotion and transfer is effective Sunday, April 23, 2023. His replacement has not been determined at this time.

~LCCN Staff



### 1ST ANNUAL JOE ESQUIVEL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

THE FIRST EVER Joe Esquivel Coach of the Year award was presented to four deserving honorees at the 2023 Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame event.

By Brian Hews

The first annual Joe Esquivel Award was given to four deserving area coaches: Mayfair High School Wrestling Coach Ibee Atalla; Lakewood High School Football Coach Justin Utupo; Saint Joseph High School Soccer Coach Isaac Ayala and Artesia High Boys Basketball Coach Jeff Myles,

Maywood's Atalla led the Monsoons to league and CIF championships, their

tenth consecutive league title and fourth CIF championship in the past seven years. Ibee cares deeply about the growth and development of every single one of his wrestlers, and gives every bit of himself back to his teams.

Lakewood's Utupo guided the Lancers through a rocky season start of 1-4 to finish the season 8-4, leading them all the way to the CIF finals, where they hosted their first

[See **ESQUIVEL AWARD** page 13]

### FDA Approves Covid-19 Booster for 65+ and Immunocompromised

By Helen Branswell

People ages 65 and older and those who are immunocompromised will be allowed to receive an additional dose of Covid-19 vaccine this spring if they wish, the Food and Drug Administration announced Tuesday.

In authorizing another dose for people in these demographics, the agency is following in the footsteps of Canada and the United Kingdom, which earlier announced that older adults, adults who live in care facilities, and people who are immunocompromised would have access to an additional booster of vaccine this spring. In the U.K., adults 75 and older are eligible; in Canada, adults must be 80 or older to receive an extra dose.

The new booster guidance was part of a basket of changes the FDA announced to Covid vaccine policy, the aim of which is to simplify the extraordinarily complex existing Covid vaccine recommendations.

"At this stage of the pandemic, data support simplifying the use of the

authorized mRNA bivalent Covid-19 vaccines and the agency believes that this approach will help encourage future vaccination," Peter Marks, director of FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, said in a statement. "Evidence is now available that most of the U.S. population 5 years of age and older has antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, either from vaccination or infection that can serve as a foundation for the protection provided by the bivalent vaccines."

People 65 and older should only get another shot if at least four months have elapsed since their most recent booster, according to the recommendation. For people who are immunocompromised, the suggested interval between shots is two months. The agency said immunocompromised people could get additional doses after that "at the discretion of, and at intervals determined by, their health care provider."

Marks said the decision to defer the length of the interval between boosters

[See **COVID** page 13]

# CHUONG VO'S ACHIEVEMENTS AS '22-'23 CERRITOS MAYOR

Popular Farmers Market Returns to Smith Park

**.....But Vo did vote to give himself an extra year on the City Council, unprecedented in local politics.**

**Let your voice be heard! Come to the April 27 City Council Meeting or e-mail [city\\_clerk@cerritos.us](mailto:city_clerk@cerritos.us) with your comment!**

An op/ed by Los Cerritos Community Newspaper.

### Blanket Drive For Turkish Earthquake Victims at Tracy High



STUDENTS from the Tracy High Peace and Red Cross clubs with the blankets they collected and two special guests who informed the students about the disaster and heavy toll on the people in Turkey. Pictured are Nurittin Celik, back row right in blue shirt, a Turkish American from Cerritos and Venezia Van Schuerbeck, right of Nurittin. Heather Calderon, green shirt on left, represented the Red Cross sponsorship and Pat Alviso, flashing the peace sign, is the Peace Club sponsor.

### Soroptimist International of Artesia – Cerritos Celebrates Earth Day 2023

By Norma Williamson, SIAC President

Soroptimist International of Artesia – Cerritos (SIAC) is participating in the family-friendly Earth Day event on Sunday, April 23rd, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. sponsored by Cerritos Towne Center at its beautiful Fountain Plaza directly in front of Edwards Cinema.

Children will be able to win two complimentary tickets to the Fleet Science Center at Balboa Park in San Diego. The total value of these two FREE tickets is close to \$50. In addition, children can get a chance to win a children’s ocean-themed backpack and thermos by carefully coloring one or two pages (coloring pages and crayons provided) during the event and submitting them for one or two FREE raffle tickets. Ticket drawings will occur at 1:00 and at 2:00 p.m. Winner MUST be present.

By listening to a brief presentation, children and their families will learn about the dangers of ocean litter to marine life and the fishing industry. Guests will receive a small complimentary car litter bag with the printed slogan: “Keep Our Seas, Litter Free”. Did you know that 80% of marine litter/pollution comes from land sources via catch basins stenciled with the words: “No Dumping, Drains to Ocean”? Too often, this slogan painted on public sidewalks adjacent to catch basins is ignored by the public.

Soroptimist International of Artesia – Cerritos, 50 members strong and celebrating its 50th Anniversary, is part of a global network of organizations dedicated to empowering women and girls through education and helping to support them to achieve economic prosperity. Come learn about our work supporting women and girls. Did you know that half the labor force of the fishing industry are women who are too often unseen and underpaid? SIAC wants to highlight the importance of healthy oceans which provide employment opportunities to women in the fishing industry and feeds billions of people worldwide. On the other side of the FREE auto litter bag is printed the logo of Soroptimist and its tagline: “Investing in Dreams.”

Members of SIAC will be picking up litter on Towne Center Drive to bring attention to this growing problem of ocean trash. It has been estimated that by the year 2050, more plastic trash will be in

the oceans than fish. California’s litter and pollution travel via circulating ocean currents and end up in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which contains floating trash debris and is twice the size of Texas. There are five giant garbage gyres worldwide: the North Atlantic Gyre, the South Atlantic Gyre, the North Pacific Gyre, the South Pacific Gyre, and the Indian Ocean Gyre. Let’s all do our part to keep oceans healthy and litter free! Come visit Cerritos Towne Center, Fountain Plaza on Earth Day, April 23rd, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Thank you to our sponsors for helping make SIAC Earth Day Information Table possible: Fleet Science Center, Cerritos Target and Cerritos Home Depot.

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### Cerritos Election Town Hall Well-Attended

By Linda Hernandez

More than fifty interested citizens attended the City Election Dates Town Hall Meeting at Shadow Park hosted by Councilmember Lynda Johnson. Frank Yokoyama was in Sacramento but he sent in a supportive statement. Both Republicans and Democrats present were upset by the proposed change in City Election dates from 2024 to 2025, which would extend all Council Members' terms, pay and benefits by 11 months. Nobody there was in favor of the move. 30 Cerritos residents attended and spoke. Consensus at was reached that, at the very least, there should be a committee studying alternative dates and educating residents on the reasons for two election dates: CA primary and city election. All wanted to vote at consolidated elections. Councilmember Johnson mentioned that Whittier, a Charter City is in the same situation as Cerritos. They have chosen to have March and April 2024 elections, trust their citizens and spending to educate them.

All Cerritos Residents are strongly encouraged to attend a Fight for Democracy Rally from 6-7 pm in the Sierra Room at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts before the next City Council Meeting there on April 27. The Council Chambers is closed for refurbishing.

**Dear Editor:**

After having attended the April 18 Townhall Meeting hosted by Councilmember Lynda Johnson, where both Republicans, Democrats and "no party preference" voters were equally outraged at the total disregard displayed by the 3 Republican City Council Members towards their Cerritos constituents in their vote to move the municipal elections originally scheduled for April 2024 to March 2025, I am more convinced than ever that this is cronyism at its best - favoritism shown to old friends without regard to their qualifications; especially when we hear the rampant city-wide rumors that a school board member's term of office ends in 2024 and wants to run for city council in 2025.

Cronyism is again clearly at play when the Republican councilmembers once again refuse to vote for Democrat Councilmember Frank Yokoyama for Cerritos Mayor who is extremely qualified (graduated from UC Berkeley Business School and Harvard Law School; served on the Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) of Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) since 2020, etc.) and even more importantly, he was the number one vote getter in the 2022 city election. This is not just a personal affront

### PETTY POLITICS

from page 1

the taking cash instead of health coverage from Cerritos, also known as cash-in-lieu, not a common practice by any reputable City Council members not named Vo.

An answer was sent in yesterday by Ihrke, "The exemption from the definition of "income" in the Political Reform Act for salaries, reimbursements, and payments made for social security, disability, and other similar benefits from a local public agency, such as the City, allows all Councilmembers, regardless of whether they are in favor or against a decision, to participate and vote on a decision that may affect those salaries, reimbursements, and payments of benefits that all Councilmembers receive as part of their service on the Council."

If that is true, this is why we had the city of Bell fiasco, as long as you have three votes, according to the Cerritos City Attorney you can give yourself any kind of money under the exemption of income.

Mr. Ihrke was then posed this question from LCCN for comment, "Vo is cashing health checks by declining the health coverage, he is declining the "benefit" but accepting the cash which places him in a conflict of interest position." No answer from Ihrke as of press time.

But it gets worse Cerritos residents. Rumor has it the vote to move the election was concocted so current ABC Trustee Brad Beach can finish his term - without resigning as ABC Trustee and looking bad - and run for Cerritos City

to Councilmember Yokoyama but a "slap in the face" to every Cerritos resident who voted for him.

**Norma Williamson, Cerritos Resident**

**Dear Editor:**

I see no advantage in the City Council moving the current election date of April 9, 2024 to March 4, 2025. Both are stand-alone elections, costing Cerritos at least \$100,000 more than participating in a consolidated election. There's an additional \$15,000 that will be allotted to notify the voters of the date change. If our current election date is a problem being too close to the California primary election (March 5, 2024), Cerritos should consult with Whittier who will have their election as planned on April 9, 2024.

At the April 10, 2023 Council meeting, Councilman Frank Yokoyama did not vote for the change and spoke about a November 2024 election date. I support his endorsement of changing the current election date from April 9, 2024 to November 5, 2024 that would result in a consolidation with the California statewide general election. The Councilman said that we would get a higher voter turnout and save money. I also support his belief that a Councilperson's term should only be 4 years, but if extending the election date to

Council in 2025.

Yet another Republican Clone in the shape of Bruce Barrows and the Cerritos neo-con Optimists Club who run this city while hiding behind a service club that does nothing. (LCCN has asked for press releases and events and has received nothing from the club.)

LCCN asked Mr. Beach for comment and he answered by completely avoiding the question.

Nothing can be done about the Mayor and Mayor pro tem situation, but Cerritos residents can speak truth to power and attend the April 27 Cerritos City Council meeting, letting them know how you feel about the illegal election move.

Residents can also write the California Attorney's General office asking officials to look into the actions of the Three Amigos, Barrows, Solanki and Vo; many city officials have told LCCN the move is also a California Voting Rights Act violation.

Meanwhile, petty, political Cerritos will continue; the rightful candidate for City Manager, Cerritos resident Torrey Contreras, a man Art Gallucci-trained for 30 years, is being passed over by the Three Amigos in favor of someone whom they will undoubtedly have under their control, costing the city tens of thousands for the search.

The Cerritos lawsuit against the Metro light-rail was extended to May, delaying a much-needed transportation line from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles.

Among all this, the City Council will likely get another year.

November 2024 results in a 7 month extension of some Councilmen's terms, Cerritos will ultimately benefit with higher voter turnout and taxpayers' savings.

The City Council should act on behalf of its residents and not on behalf of themselves. If you have any opinion about the election date change, please attend the next meeting on Thursday, April 27 @ 7 p.m. or email before April 27: [city\\_clerk@cerritos.us](mailto:city_clerk@cerritos.us). Identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email.

**Jill Nishida, Cerritos**

**Dear Editor:**

I strongly oppose changing the date of the April 2024 Cerritos City Council election to March 2025. To do so would give the three incumbents, in particular, an additional 11 months in office without having to run for election. The election should be consolidated with the March 2024 state primary as that would still give them a full 48 months in office as well as saving the city quite a lot of money. Putting it in April is ridiculous. It is much more cost effective and would guarantee a larger voter turnout by having it in March 2024. This is an abuse of power and a change for which there is no justification.

**Celia Spitzer, Cerritos**

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# Emergency Sewer Repair Shuts Down Streets in Cerritos



MAP SHOWING streets that will be intermittently closed during the sewer repair.

A water main shutoff for sewer repairs caused sediment to stir up, resulting in brown water at some homes in Cerritos the city indicates the water is safe.

The area to be repaired requires intermittent shut down of the intersection of 195th Street and Gridley Road for approximately three weeks. During shutdowns, traffic will be impacted as follows:

- Eastbound 195th Street will be closed at Studebaker Road.
- Westbound 195th Street will be closed west of Lusk Avenue.
- Northbound on Gridley Road will be restricted to local residents north of Bertha Avenue. Other drivers will be detoured east on Bertha Avenue.
- Southbound on Gridley Road will be closed south of Eloise Street.

The LACSD has expressed appreciation for the public's patience as its crews work 24/7 to get this intersection reopened. Updates will be posted at <https://www.lacsd.org/about-us/emergency-sewer-repair-cerritos>. Residents can also con-

tact LACSD at [info@lacsd.org](mailto:info@lacsd.org) or (562) 908-4288, ext. 2303 with questions or concerns.

The City has shut off a water main during the LACSD sewer system repairs. The shut off has caused sediment to be stirred up in the water lines. This has resulted in brown water at some homes. The water is safe to drink and the brown color is from sediment. If you observe brown water coming from the taps in your home, take the following steps:

1. Wait 30 minutes.
2. Turn on the hose at the front of your home and run it for one minute.
3. Check if the water coming from the hose is clear, or if it is still brown. (If it is clear, the water in your home will also be clear.)
4. If the water is still brown, wait 30 minutes and repeat the above process until the water runs clear.

For more information about the City's water, please call the Public Works Department at (562) 916-1220.

## CHEMICALS from page 1

size of California's economy, A.B. 418 would set an important precedent for improving the safety of many processed foods.

Skittles and many other brands have already made changes to their recipes in the European Union, the United Kingdom, and other nations where these chemicals are banned.

Most of the chemicals added to food and food packaging to enhance flavor or appearance, or to preserve freshness, are likely safe to eat. But supporters say the five food chemicals covered by A.B. 418 have been linked to a number of serious health concerns. They were banned by the EU after it launched a comprehensive re-evaluation of the safety of all food additives in 2008.

Children have lower tolerance levels than adults to chemical exposure, and their developing bodies make them especially vulnerable.

Consumers consistently rank food chemical concerns ahead of other food safety issues. But additives are not adequately regulated by the FDA, due in large part to the lack of financial support from Congress for food chemical review.

"In the absence of federal leadership, it's up to states like California to keep us safe from dangerous chemicals in candy, cookies, and other foods our families enjoy," said Asm. Gabriel.



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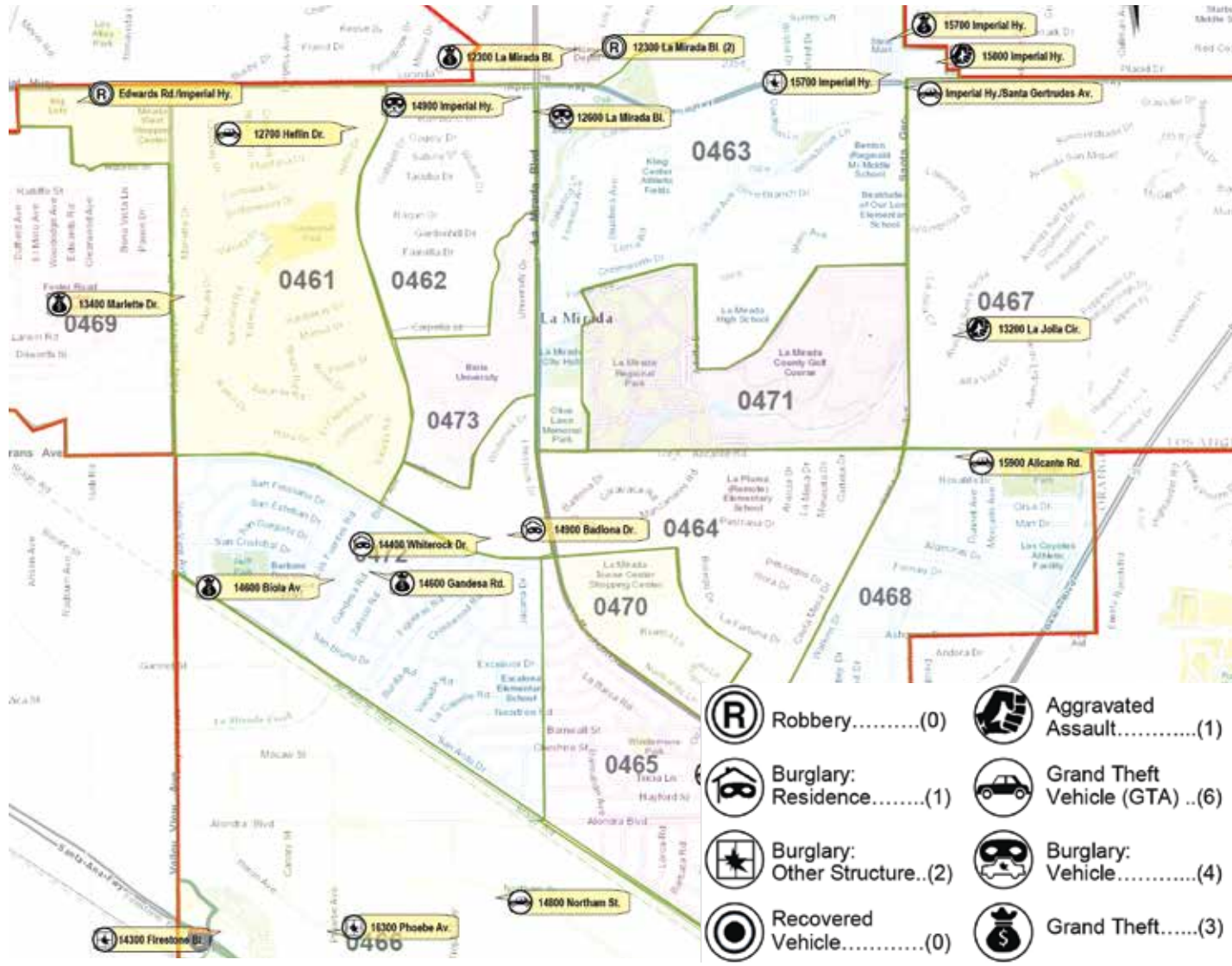
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April 22, 2023

# La Mirada Crime Map April 10-16, 2023



## Crime Summary La Mirada

Apr. 10-Apr. 16, 2023

### Notable Arrests

• Six suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations. • One suspect was arrested for grand theft auto.

### Robbery

• Keys were reported stolen during an early morning robbery in the area of Edwards Rd and Imperial Hwy. A victim suffered minor injuries from the incident. The case is still under investigation.

• Two robberies were reported on the 12300 block of La Mirada Blvd. These incidents are still under investigation.

### Aggravated Assault

• An assault was reported on the 15800 block of Imperial Hwy. This incident is still currently under investigation.

• An assault on a peace officer occurred on the 13200 block of La Jolla Cir. One suspect was arrested, and no injuries were reported from the incident. Residential Burglary

• A burglary was reported on the 14400 block of Whiterock Dr. Entry was made into the garage and the exact loss is yet to be determined.

• A bicycle was stolen during a residential burglary on the 14900 block of Badlona Dr.

### Other Structure Burglary

• An early morning burglary occurred on the 14300 block of Firestone Blvd. Four suspects stole alcohol from the location.

• A cash register was stolen during a burglary on the 15700 block of Imperial Hwy.

• A burglary was reported on the 16300 block of Phoebe Ave.

### Vehicle Burglary

• A window smash vehicle burglary was reported on the 12600 block of La Mirada Blvd.

• A vehicle burglary occurred on the 14900 block of Imperial Hwy.

### Grand Theft

• An evening theft occurred on the 15700 block of Imperial Hwy. • An afternoon theft of tools occurred on the 12300 block of La Mirada Blvd. • A catalytic converter theft occurred on the 14600 block of Biola Ave.

• A theft of a catalytic converter was reported on the 14600 block of Gandesa Rd.

• An early morning catalytic converter theft occurred on the 13400 block of Marlette Dr.

### Grand Theft Auto

• A SUV was reported stolen on the 15900 block of Alicante Rd.

• A sedan was stolen from the area of Imperial Hwy and Santa Gertrudes Ave.

• A pickup truck was reported stolen on the 12700 block of Heflin Dr.

• A sedan was stolen on the 15500 block of Mottley Dr.

• A pickup truck was reported stolen on the 14800 block of Northam St.

## Bellflower Restaurant Hit by Thieves Twice in One Month

BELLFLOWER, Calif. - A new taqueria in Bellflower located just off the 91 freeway on Lakewood Blvd. has been targeted by thieves twice, forcing the small business to enact expensive security measures to protect the restaurant.

Tacos la Rueda opened one month ago on March 17. The first burglary happened in the early morning hours on March 27. Surveillance video showed two thieves breaking into the store and looking around, but the owner, Alan Cejudo, said that time, the thieves did not take anything.

The second burglary happened on Monday, April 17.

The Bellflower taqueria was burglarized on March 27, then again on April 17. It's unknown at this time if the perpetrators are the same in both incidents.

"The second time they opened the safe with a hammer so they took some money from there and then the tips from the employees and [it cost money] then to replace the door," said Cejudo.

Cejudo said he's unsure if the burglaries are connected. "It kind of looked like the same

people but who knows. There's so much going on right now," said Cejudo.

Cejudo ordered a roll-up door after the first burglary, but it took a couple of weeks to build the doors. The doors were installed Tuesday following the second robbery.

"That that was the best solution I could do, so they won't come in. It's a lot of money we put in a business. It's so hard for us to do all this remodeling and a lot of work and what else could we do," said Cejudo. "It's a business. We gotta keep going. We have to produce. It's the American dream."

Cejudo said he has been dreaming about opening the restaurant since he was a child.

"It was a dream for me doing it since I was young, [using] mom and pop's recipes and here we are. With a lot of hard work, we got to do this beautiful restaurant," said Cejudo.

The two burglaries and the newly installed security measures cost the business more than \$10,000.

"It's just getting crazier now for us business owners, but we gotta keep going," Cejudo said. "We gotta feed the community and take care of the employees for their families."

Cejudo is asking the community to come to their restaurant to help support them following the break ins.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is investigating the case.



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## Local Foundation Helps the Needy and Needs Donations



**HELPERS:** Tito Rodriguez (left) and HJ Chong started the Local Hearts Foundation in 2018 to help low-income families and the under served. Photo by Christine Nader.

By Christine Nader

Francisco “Tito” Rodriguez and HJ Chong, founders of Local Hearts Foundation, continue to impact the lives of area residents.

The non-profit organization was founded by the two in 2018 focusing on providing during upcoming holidays and events.

From providing hygiene and clothing to women’s shelters, to giving out 1,000 Dodger tickets, Local Hearts is focused helping everyone they can.

The friendship between Chong and Rodriguez began after Chong returned from a music business trip.

“I came back and a mutual friend called me and asked if I could do a video for his friend, that’s how I met Tito.”

Chong explains that after they met, Rodriguez called him later and asked if he’d like to give away items, Chong agreed.

“One thing led to another,” Chong said, “and we saw the demand that was needed in the community and then we just kept going and going, gathering items and giving them away to the needy.”

During the pandemic, Local Hearts provided help to first responders as well as trying to slow the spread of COVID-19 in low-income communities.

With a donation of a million face masks from supporters and organizations, Local Hearts distributed supplies safely with permission from area cities. Then the volunteers began stepping up.

“The people that were once in line are now volunteers for the foundation,” Chong explained. “About 65% of our volunteers are people that we once served.”

As for the future, Rodriguez and Chong are consistent in planning event after event for the community.

Their next event is a Back to School event for students where they will distribute backpacks and school supplies to less fortunate in the month of August.

“I was one of those kids,” Rodriguez finishes off. “To be able to do that [provide], bring that joy, I’ll do whatever it takes.” For more information on upcoming events or provide a donation, visit <https://www.localheartsfoundation.org/>

## Volunteer Day in Lakewood Helps Disabled & Seniors



**CLEANUP:** On April 15, teams of community volunteers fanned out to locations throughout Lakewood to lend a hand to neighbors in need. “On behalf of the City Council and residents of Lakewood, I want to thank everyone who helped out on this year’s Volunteer Day,” said Mayor Steve Croft. “The volunteer spirit in Lakewood is a big part of what makes us a strong, caring community.” Those helped by the volunteers included disabled, senior and other Lakewood neighbors who because of physical or economic hardship were unable to take care of the difficult circumstances their property faced.

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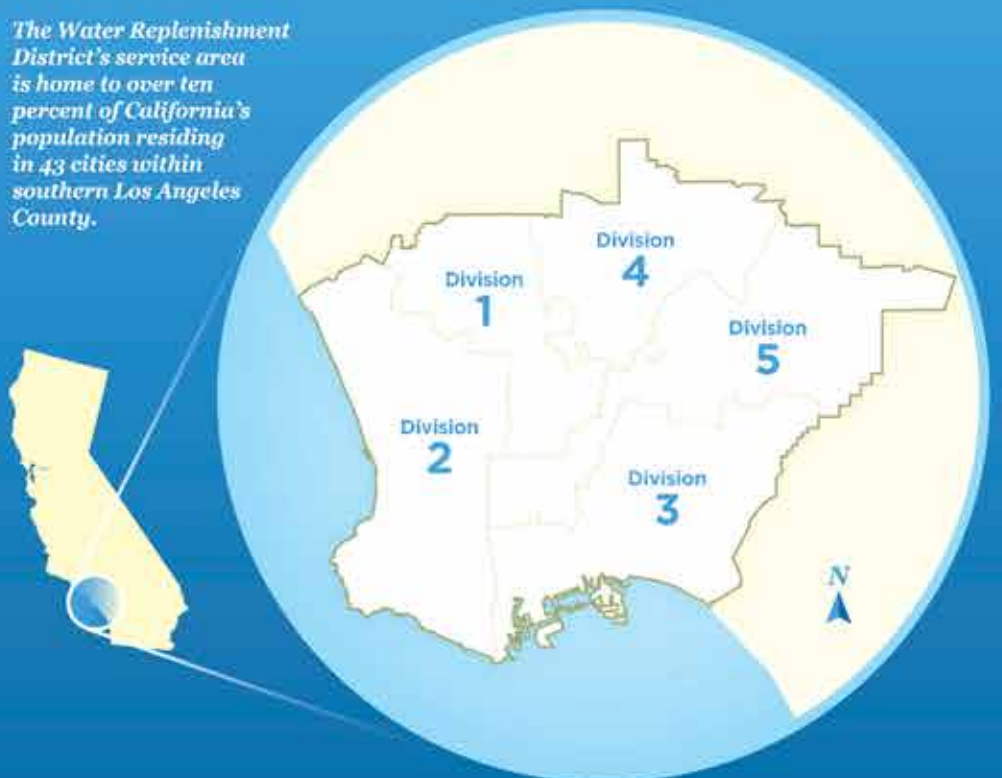


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## GATEWAY LEAGUE SOFTBALL

# La Mirada Blows Out Gahr With Monster Sixth Inning, Moves Closer to First Gateway League Title

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

When last we saw the La Mirada High softball team on Mar. 6, it was hoping to eliminate Warren High from Gateway League title consideration, putting those plans on hold with a 3-1 win. This past Tuesday, the Matadores succeeded in knocking out another team from winning the league crown.

Clinging to a 3-2 lead after five innings. La Mirada sent 11 to the plate in the top of the sixth, scored half a dozen runs and routed Gahr High 10-2, improving to 15-7 overall, 5-1 in the circuit and sweeping the season-series with the Gladiators, which saw its mark drop to 9-10-2, 2-4.

"During the game, we were hitting the ball hard," said La Mirada head coach Brent Tuttle. "We hit some shots and their center fielder was good; she made some great plays. Honestly, it was a matter of time. But as far as eliminating teams for a league title, honestly our goal, and people can say whatever they want to say, is not to win a league title when we first started off. In a league like this, our goal is to win five games. Once you get to the five games, then you can reassess your goals because now you know you're in the playoffs. Now, we can look back at winning a title."

The Matadores took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first when sophomore right fielder Angelina Ratzlaff singled to right to bring in sophomore third baseman Angelyna Conde. But the Gladiators, who have won just once in the last seven games, tied the game in their half of the frame on ju-

nior center fielder Natalia Hill's home run over the left field fence.

La Mirada would regain the lead for good in the fourth inning when Ratzlaff singled to left with one out, advanced to third on a double from senior first baseman Natalie Craig and scored on a base hit to right field from sophomore second baseman Alyssa Avila. On the next pitch, junior left fielder Amber Valdez plated Craig with a base hit to right. All four hits came on a combined seven pitches thrown by junior Marley Cortez.

The Gladiators cut into their deficit in the bottom of the fourth when junior catcher Alyssa Aguilar doubled to right field and came home when junior shortstop Rio Mendez singled. The hosts had a chance to at least tie the contest as, with one out, senior second baseman Hayley Olivas was hit by a pitch and went to third after the single from Mendez, plus an error.

"I liked the way we battled back," said Gahr head coach Rey Sanchez. "We kept it tight early on, Marley threw some great pitches early, got a little tired and some pitches got flat, and they made us pay."

But La Mirada sophomore pitcher Montserrat Reyes-Cardenas struck out the next two batters. She would retire nine of the next 10 batters she faced, only walking Olivas with two outs in the sixth and ended the game with 10 strikeouts opposite one walk. She also scattered five hits.

"Montse is just tough," said Tuttle. "She'll give up a double because she supplies the power. She'll give up a home run once in a while. But she doesn't let it bother her and usually, she'll get out of those situations most of the time. Today, she got

out of almost every jam.

"She's a tough kid and nothing really gets to her," he continued. "She wants the ball and if she had her way, she would try to strikeout everybody."

The Matadores would flex their muscles in the sixth as, with one out, Ratzlaff reached on an error and Craig and Avila singled to load the bases. Freshman pinch hitter Danni Lopez singled to the left field fence and sophomore Angelie Kennedy singled as well to make it 8-2. A walk to Reyes-Cardenas loaded the bases again and a fielder's choice from sophomore shortstop Amanda Urbina made it 9-2.

"She threw some extra pitches early on in the game that...endurance-wise, we have to be careful with her," said Sanchez of Cortez. "We know she can really throw four to five quality [innings]. We usually try to piece it together. We asked her to stretch it a little bit more and she ran out of gas a little bit, and they put the ball in play hard and found some holes. Credit to them; they got key hits when they needed them."

"Going into this game, we knew she wanted the ball," Sanchez later said. "I know she wanted the ball. Typically, what we would do is may start somebody else and then bring Marley in to close games. She had a good outing against them when we brought her in in the first game."

The last La Mirada run came in the sixth when Craig homered on the first pitch she saw from freshman Olina Burgueno. The Matadores collected 14 hits, the eighth time they have reached double digits in that category. Avila and Craig each had three hits while Conde, Kennedy and Ratzlaff all had a pair of hits and every starter

reached base safely.

La Mirada, which had not played since Apr. 6, hosted Mayfair High on Apr. 20 and will travel to Norco High, ranked seventh in the nation, on Saturday before ending the regular season on Thursday against Downey High.

"After playing this weird schedule with all the rain and the [makeup] games, the 12 days off was good," said Tuttle. "Now, we play three games this week and one game next week and...it's going to be a Division 1 playoff game [against Norco] and when you have a kid like Montse and you have the bats we have, there's only 27 teams in Division 1 and [the CIF-Southern Section] is talking about doing a 16-team bracket. It could be a four-team tournament; that's all it is. If you get hot, right now, when we want to be playing our best softball, that's what we tell our girls. When we play in April, we're playing our best softball."

La Mirada became the first league team to sweep an opponent while Gahr, which began the league slate with two straight wins, having scored 24 runs in those games, has lost four straight in the circuit, outscored 27-8 in those contests. The Gladiators visited Downey on Apr. 20 and will host Warren on Tuesday and Paramount High on Wednesday.

"Two of those games were against La Mirada," said Sanchez. "So, we faced a very good pitcher in Montse. She's tough; she's definitely a quality pitcher and she made good pitches when she needed to. She got some key strikeouts when she needed to. We could have executed a little bit better and put the ball in play a little bit better than we did."

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

# Cerritos Softball Answering All the Questions, Moves Closer to Another 605 League Title

By Loren Kopff

Coming out of Spring Break, the Cerritos High softball team was playing back to back games against the top and bottom of the 605 League. This past Tuesday, the Dons hooked up with John Glenn High in a battle of the last two undefeated teams in the league and easily won 14-1. The next day, the Dons trounced an improving Whitney High program that 24 hours earlier won its first league game since 2019.

As the final score showed the defending league champions breezing to a 13-0 victory, it's clear to say the Dons are showing that even with the graduation of six players from a team which went 15-3, they are still the queens of the circuit as they have not lost a league contest since 2019.

"The last two years it's kind of been on auto pilot," said Cerritos head coach Todd Denhart. "We graduated eight, 10, 11 kids, some of them pretty darn good. They're playing college softball right now. There were some question marks; we needed some of those younger kids that have been here for the last two years and played different roles or didn't play at all...we needed them to step up. Going into the season, I didn't know if they were going to or not. And we've had some kids step up."

A trio of pitchers combined to allow one hit and strikeout nine batters while the offense pounded out 13 hits. Cerritos (11-2, 6-0) scored just once in the bottom of the first inning, then exploded for six in the second, four in the third and two more in the fourth. Senior center fielder Camille Lara and sophomore shortstop Katherine Villegas each went two for three with Lara scoring three times while junior third baseman Toafaoalii Pua went three for four and drove in three runs. Even freshman second baseman Ava Ceron had a solid day batting in the ninth spot, collecting a pair of hits, scoring twice and driv-

ing in two runs. She also pitched two innings, facing seven batters and yielding the lone hit.

"She's been in the starting lineup since she was a freshman, but it was never really all on her," said Denhart of Pua. "She was hitting in the bottom of the lineup with no pressure, and she did a good job. This year was her time to step up. The league coaches know who she is; she's got three intentional walks in the last couple of games and in the last three weeks, has dialed it in and is swinging the bat really well."

Freshman Danielle Baca worked two perfect innings, throwing 23 pitches and striking out five of the six batters she faced before Ceron replaced her. With one out in the fourth, sophomore third baseman Monicka Manni broke up the perfect game with a single to right field.

For Whitney, Stephanie Machado came in as the head coach last season and the Wildcats went 1-14. Slightly better than the 0-13 campaign the previous season. But it has been pleasantly different in 2023 as the team won its first three games, then went 1-6 before knocking off Oxford Academy 9-3 this past Tuesday.

"One of the biggest things we've been working on is the skill is there, but kind of like with Artesia, one error leads to more errors," Machado said. "We've been working really hard staying in the moment."

"Number one, she's doing a good job over there," said Denhart. "They were better last year; they're better this year. She has them going in the right direction."

In a blowout game like the one against Cerritos, Machado said she wanted to get a lot of the girls, who don't play a lot, more game action. Manni pitched against Oxford Academy, so senior Bianca Contreras started in the circle. Even in the fifth inning, the Wildcats (5-7, 1-6) loaded the bases when sophomore first baseman Chiugo Anyama reached on a walk, stole a pair of bases, Contreras reached

on an error and second baseman Kristen Sutton was walked.

"I was happy today we had some girls get on base," said Machado. "Last year, we had a lot of three ups, three downs. I didn't want to leave them on base, but I was still proud they got on base."

Cerritos faces Whitney again, this time on the road, on Friday before closing out the final week of the regular season with home games against Artesia High on Monday and Oxford Academy on Tuesday. Denhart said he won't know if or when the second game against Glenn will be played until after the results of Friday's league action. According to the CIF-Southern Section calendar, the last allowable league contest is Thursday, the same day as the league's third place tiebreaker contest.

Whitney will host Oxford Academy on Monday before closing the regular season against Pioneer High.

In other softball action, Artesia was upset by Pioneer 5-3 this past Tuesday, but bounced back to defeat the Titans 801 this past Wednesday, improving to 10-6, 4-3. The Pioneers, who are in third place in the 605 League, will host Oxford Academy on Friday, go to St. Joseph High on Saturday and will conclude the regular season on Tuesday at home against John Glenn.

Glenn (12-1-1, 6-1) will host Pioneer on Friday while Norwalk High all but clinched the Mid-Cities League, with a 13-0 win over Paramount High this past Tuesday, sweeping the Pirates this season and improving to 14-5, 7-0. Norwalk hosted Bellflower High on Apr. 20 and will entertain Dominguez High on Tuesday before going to Lynwood High on Thursday.

Valley Christian High eased past Maranatha High 15-5 this past Monday and improved to 5-3, 3-1 in the Olympic League. The Defenders hosted Whittier Christian on Apr. 20 and will visit the Heralds on Friday before ending the regular season with a home

and home series against Heritage Christian on Monday and Wednesday, the latter being at home.

### BASEBALL

Artesia dropped a tough 4-3 decision to second place Oxford Academy this past Tuesday to fall to 8-11, 2-3. The two will meet on Friday at Artesia, then the Pioneers will host V.C. on Saturday, go to Glenn on Tuesday and host the Eagles on Thursday.

Cerritos (15-8) was edged by Kennedy High 4-3 last Saturday and will host Fullerton High on Saturday before going to Long Beach Poly on Monday. Then the Dons will face Oxford Academy for the league title on Tuesday and Thursday with the second game at home.

For the first time all season, Gahr High has lost two in a row, as the Gladiators were blanked by Oaks Christian High 3-0 this past Monday and fell to Warren High 3-1 this past Tuesday. Gahr (18-4-1, 7-1 in the Gateway League) went to Bellflower High on Apr. 20 and will visit Hart High on Saturday before facing La Mirada High on Tuesday, Thursday and next Friday which will decide the league title. Tuesday's game will be at Gahr before the scene shifts to Glenn for the next two games.

Glenn picked up its first league win, a 6-5 conquest at Pioneer this past Tuesday to improve to 5-9, 1-4. The Eagles will host Pioneer on Friday while Norwalk defeated Paramount High 5-1 to move to 17-4, 11-0 in the Mid-Cities League. The Lancers go to Mayfair High on Friday with a chance to win the league. Those two will meet again on Wednesday before the Lancers travel to Lynwood on Thursday.

V.C. lost to Whittier Christian 4-3 this past Tuesday to fall to 5-11, 3-6 as the Defenders will host the Heralds on Friday, go to Heritage Christian on Tuesday, visit St. Anthony High on Wednesday and host Heritage Christian on Thursday.

## BORAS BASEBALL CLASSIC

# La Mirada Starts Fast, Puts Away Norco Early to Win Consolation Championship of Four-Day Event

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

SANTA ANA-In the first game of the 11th annual Boras Baseball Classic on Apr. 11, a series of defensive blunders in one inning led to La Mirada High falling to Huntington Beach High 6-0. But the Matadores bounced back over the next three games, allowed four runs in 22 innings, and captured the consolation championship of the prestigious tournament with an 8-1 win over Norco High last Friday night at Rod Dedeaux Baseball Stadium.

With so much talk on the defense this season, especially in the past few weeks, the best catch of the night was a line drive foul ball snared by head coach Jimmy Zurn near the third base coach's box late in the game.

"I have to show my guys I used to be able to play this game at one time pretty well," he chuckled after the game. "Hey, if I can make plays, you can make plays."

But against the Cougars, it was more about the offense as the Matadores did most of the damage in the first two innings, then got stellar pitching from seniors Pablo Hidalgo and Jeremiah Sotelo.

"We obviously were disappointed with the way we played on Tuesday," said Zurn. "Like I told our guys, great teams respond. We were very uncharacteristic in the one inning which led to the one big inning against Huntington Beach and great teams respond, and they did that. It's tough to do. Thinking about the magnitude of this tournament; how great the teams are in this tournament...what that group just accomplished is very difficult to do. Four games in four days, losing your first and winning three straight against three big time D1 teams is very challenging."

With one out in the top of the first inning, Jacob Brown walked sophomore shortstop Aiden Aguayo, who then stole second. A base hit from sophomore first baseman Maverek Russell plated Aguayo and on an 0-2 pitch, senior designated hitter Benjamin Kim singled to right. That

was followed by a two-out, three-run home run from sophomore center fielder Travis Friend. The four runs marked the third time this season that the Matadores had scored at least four runs in the first inning. They accomplished that feat in the second game of the season against Dana Hills High on Feb. 18, an 11-1 win, and again on Mar. 20 against Douglas (NV) High in a 9-4 victory



in a Lions Tournament contest.

"It's very difficult to score runs in the competition we play," said Zurn. "At La Mirada, we're playing the best teams that we can find to play. And that's always been our motto. It's not like we're facing slouch arms. But it definitely took some pressure off. Obviously getting the three-run home run in the first from Travis and Mav follows that up with a bomb in the second, and it let us relax and just play. It was nice not have to be in a super tight game today."

But La Mirada wasn't done as in the next inning, again with one out, sophomore catcher Jacob Celiz was safe on an error and after a groundout from senior second baseman Aiden Haller, made it 5-0 on Aguayo's double to the right field gap. On the next pitch, Russell sent a long distance hit over the right field fence to expand the

lead. The exit velocity on the home run was 96 miles per hour.

That would be more than enough for Sotelo, who was making his first start of the season and had entered the game having pitched four innings and yielding four hits. After a perfect bottom of the first, Sotelo gave up base hits to Logan Ortega and Ty Walton in the second and walked Ste-

left at third base with two outs in the fifth and seventh innings respectively.

"I think that's when, for us, we kind of felt, 'okay, we got through it,'" said Zurn after the bottom of the second. "Even if [Sotelo] went 1-2-3 that inning, he was going two innings. That was our plan because we want to utilize him...we have four games next week with a lot of rain make-ups. The kids deserve two days off and I'm excited to get back on Monday."

The final run of the game came in the fourth when Trent Schlim walked Celiz, who was replaced by junior pinch runner Harrison Park. After a strikeout, Aguayo singled to left to bring home Park. Aguayo went two for two and reached base three times while Russell went three for three and drove in three runs. Friend, Kim and senior pinch hitter Jonah Rouwenhorst would all pick up the other hits La Mirada would get.

"They're both sophomores and they're both going to UCLA for a reason," said Zurn of Aguayo and Russell. "They're as talented of kids that we've ever had here, and I'm blessed as a coach to get them for two more years after this. They're just super high end and high character kids. They're team leaders; they do things the right way."

The Matadores would fall to Tesoro High this past Monday to see their record go to 15-6 and will continue to be busy over the final two weeks of the regular season. This past Wednesday, La Mirada hosted Downey High in a Gateway League contest before going to Warren High on Apr. 20 and Bellflower High on Friday. If La Mirada, 6-0 in league, can win those three league contests, it will set up a blockbuster final week of the season as it will face Gahr High, also undefeated in league play, on Tuesday, Thursday and Apr. 29.

"Those teams are tough," said Zurn. "It's my responsibility; it's our entire team's responsibility not to overlook anybody. Our league is very difficult, so we will be ready for Wednesday."

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## ATTORNEY

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Donating your vehicle? Get more! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Plus a \$200 restaurant voucher and a 2-night/3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations. Call Heritage for the Blind to donate your vehicle today. CALL 1-844-491-2884 (Cal-SCAN)

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**COVID** from page 1

for immunocompromised people to their health care providers is a reflection of the fact that there is a wide variety of conditions that trigger an immunocompromised state, making a one-size-fits-all approach impractical.

“Leaving this open to potentially a recommendation from [the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices] or to societies that care for transplant patients, etc., we will hopefully allow individualization of the vaccination as appropriate for the degree of immunocompromise in different individuals,” he said during a press briefing.

The changes announced by the FDA made no reference to whether people who have recently had Covid should wait for a period before getting another booster. Current CDC guidance suggests that people who have recently had Covid “may” consider waiting three months before getting another booster.

The FDA issued what is known as a “permissive” recommendation, one that applies only to the bivalent vaccines made by Moderna and the Pfizer-BioNTech partnership. It is not trying to push everyone aged 65 and older and all people who are immunocompromised to get another jab this spring; rather the agency is saying people within those demographics who want another dose may get one. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, must sign off on the recommendation before it goes into effect; she

is expected to do so.

The ACIP, which advises the CDC on vaccination policy, meets Wednesday to discuss the changes the FDA has announced. But the meeting’s agenda shows that no votes will be taken, indicating that while the agency wants to hear the committee’s views, the decision will be Wolensky’s alone.

The Canadian recommendation is also a permissive one, worded as “may.” The U.K.’s Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization said adults in the designated demographics “should” get an additional jab. The Canadian recommendation also included people who are 65 and older who are not known to have experienced a Covid infection.

A study published last week in the New England Journal of Medicine suggested that people who got a bivalent booster last fall got additional protection against developing severe illness or death if they contracted Covid, but that the benefit waned over time. And extra protection against any infection was fleeting.

“Our results showed that the effectiveness of boosters declined to a low level after five months. In addition, older adults and people who are immunocompromised have much higher risks of hospitalization and death than young and healthy people. Thus, it would be sensible for those people to get a spring booster,” lead author Danyu Lin, a biostatistician at the University of North Carolina’s Gillings School of Global Public Health, told STAT. (Lin spells his

given name Dan-yu when he publishes in the scientific literature.)

People looking for an additional booster should be able to get the vaccine at their local pharmacy — if the pharmacy still stocks Covid vaccine. The Biden administration announced Friday that even though the Covid public health emergency will expire on May 11, it is retaining an emergency power that allows pharmacists to vaccinate against Covid until at least the end of 2024.

A number of changes to the vaccination regimens for the messenger RNA vaccines made by Moderna and by the Pfizer and BioNTech partnership are going into effect, the FDA said.

Rather than using monovalent vaccine — which contains only the original strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus — for the primary series and updated vaccine containing two strains, known as a bivalent, for booster doses, going forward anyone who gets a Covid shot in the U.S. will get the bivalent vaccine.

The sole exceptions will be people who opt not to get the Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines, choosing instead one made by Novavax or Johnson & Johnson. Neither company has made a bivalent vaccine to date.

In fact, it seems likely the J&J vaccine, which has barely been used in the U.S., will soon disappear from this market. The vaccine was relegated to a sort of second-tier status — the FDA said last year that it should only be used if people refuse to get or cannot take the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines — because of a rare

but sometimes fatal clotting side effect. The J&J vaccine will likely no longer be available in the U.S. after May, when existing government supplies expire. The company has slashed production of the vaccine, the Wall Street Journal reported earlier this year.

Another change in the new guidance relates to the number of doses people should get to be considered fully vaccinated going forward. A single dose of bivalent vaccine is recommended for the primary series; after that, booster doses may be obtained when they are recommended by the FDA and CDC.

The FDA statement suggested the move to a single-dose primary series for people who haven’t yet been vaccinated is viable because most people in the United States now have antibodies to the SARS-2 virus, even if they have never been vaccinated, because of previous infections.

“The immune response after one dose of vaccine among participants with evidence of prior infection was comparable to the immune response after two doses among participants without evidence of prior infection,” the statement said.

There is an exception involving young children. Children ages 6 months to 5 years who have never been vaccinated and who are receiving the Moderna vaccine should get two doses. For children who are 6 months to 4 years old who have never been vaccinated and are receiving the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, three doses are recommended.

*Ms. Branswell writes for STAT.*

**FACEBOOK** from page 1

The legal battle began four years ago, following an international outcry from the company’s disclosure that the private information of as many as 87 million Facebook users was obtained by Cambridge Analytica, a data analytics firm that worked with the Trump campaign.

The California judge overseeing the case granted preliminary approval of the settlement late last month, and Facebook users can now apply for a cash payment as part of a settlement.

The claim form — which requires a few personal details and information about a user’s Facebook account — can be filled out online or printed and submitted by mail. The form takes only a

few minutes to complete and must be submitted by August 25 to be included as part of the settlement.

Any Facebook user who had an active account sometime between May 24, 2007, and December 22, 2022, is eligible to be part of the settlement class, including those who have since deleted their accounts.

It’s not yet clear how much each settlement payment will be. The fund will be distributed to class members who submit valid claims based on how long they had an active Facebook account during the relevant period, according to a frequently asked questions page on the settlement site.

A final settlement approval hearing is set for September 7. Settlement payments will be distributed after the court’s approval, assuming there are no

appeals.

Meta did not admit wrongdoing as part of the settlement. Facebook has made changes in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica incident, including restricting third-party access to user data and improving communications to users about how their data is collected and shared.

“We pursued a settlement as it’s in the best interest of our community and shareholders,” Meta spokesperson Dina Luce said in a statement following the December settlement agreement. “Over the last three years we revamped our approach to privacy and implemented a comprehensive privacy program. We look forward to continuing to build services people love and trust with privacy at the forefront.”

**ESQUIVEL AWARD** from page 1

CIF football final in school history.

St. Joseph’s Ayala guided the Jesters soccer team to the CIF state division four championship, and he was named the division four coach of the year. Isaac is also invested in his players’ academic performance, reflected in the fact that the Jesters on his team had an unbelievable team GPA of 3.78.

Under the tutelage of Artesia High’s Myles, the Pioneers had their most wins, 26, and secured their first league title since 2007, advancing to the first round of the state tournament.

The Joe Esquivel Coach of the Year award was created to recognize those coaches whose passion and dedication sets them apart, and whose tireless effort helps to guide and shape the futures of young athletes in our community.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ES-TATE OF:  
 ALICE YU RAI HUANG  
 CASE NO. 23STPB03976  
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be inter-ested in the WILL or estate, or both of ALICE YU RAI HUANG.  
 A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JUDY AOE in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JUDY AOE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
 THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Es-tates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtain-ing court approval. Before taking certain very im-portant actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
 A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 05/18/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objec-tions or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
 IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative ap-pointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in sec-tion 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
 YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as pro-vided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
 Attorney for Petitioner  
 DANIEL C. HALES, ESQ. - SBN 146564,  
 CITADEL LAW CORPORATION  
 2372 MORSE AVENUE  
 IRVINE CA 92614  
 BSC 223218  
 4/21, 4/28, 5/5/23  
 CNS-3691730#  
 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

**NOTICE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 23-941**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA, CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF SPECIAL TAXES IN A COMMUNITY FACILITEIS DISTRICT, INCLUDING CERTAIN ANNEXATION TERRITORY IDENTIFIED AS ANNEXATION NO. 1, INTO CITY OF ARTESIA COMMUNITY FACILTIES DISTRICT NO. 2017-1 (SERVICES)**

Notice is hereby given that on April 10, 2023, the City Council of the City of Artesia adopted Ordinance No. 23-941 authorizing the levy of special taxes in a community facilities district, including certain annexation territory identified as Annexation No. 1, into City of Artesia, Community Facilities District No. 2017-1 (Services). The following is a summary of the proposed Ordinance:

- The City Council of the City of Artesia has conducted proceedings to annex territory into City of Artesia, Community Facilities District No. 2017-1 (Services) (the “District”).
- By passing Ordinance No. 23-941, the City Council of the City of Artesia authorizes and levies the special tax within the District, including the annexed territory.
- The special tax revenue shall be used to pay for the costs of public services, the payment of the costs of the City in administering the District, and the costs of collecting and administering the special tax.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council by the following vote:

Ayes: Ramoso, Trevino, Taj, Lima, Manalo  
 Noes: None  
 Absent: None  
 Abstain: None

Please note that the above is a simply a summary of the Ordinance. To obtain a full understanding of the Ordinance it should be read in its entirety. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is posted in the City Clerk’s office at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California 90701.

Date: April 21, 2023  
 Jennifer Alderete  
 Acting City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 4/21/23



13th Annual

# GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
 KERRY G. EDQUIST  
 CASE NO. 23STPB03330  
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of KERRY G. EDQUIST.  
 A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by KEVIN B. EDQUIST in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
 THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that KEVIN B. EDQUIST be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
 THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
 A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 05/02/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 79 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
 IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
 Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
 YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
 Attorney for Petitioner  
 KAREN A. STEVENSON - SBN 143385  
 LAW OFFICE OF KAREN A. STEVENSON  
 13122 STERN AVE  
 LA MIRADA CA 90638  
 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/23  
 CNS-3686174#  
 LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: **10753 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703 on 05/02/2023 at 11:00 AM.**  
 Ronald Monis-Mattress, bed frames, couches, office tables, chairs, coffee table, other furnitures  
 Kamelah Thompson-1bdrm // queen size // dresser // boxes  
 Elvis Quintanar- Household items  
 Katrina Crawford-Chair clothing and a bed  
 Marco Nunez-Furniture, Couch, loveseat, boxes, chairs Heather Toomes-Household items  
 Jeffrey Pierce-1 BR, two couches, weight bench, fridge, tables  
 Tanya Fuller- A 9FT INDOOR GLASS WATERFALL, FRIDGE, WASHER, DRYER, STOVE, 3 PIECE PATIO SET, AND A TWIN MATTRESS  
 Anthony Barresi-Household items  
 Maven of Books, Shameka Lathom-Accessories  
 Debra Empleo-Perez-China, bed set, table and chairs, house hold items Donald Brown, Brown Donald-Household Goods  
 Robert Del Torto-3 bedroom fully furnished Aaron Scruggs-Boxes, clothing  
 Marcella Barraza-Misc furniture Nichole Weston-T.V., furniture, totes Leslie Wade-Boxes, bikes, garden tools

The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 4/14 and 4/21/23

**ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 NOTICE CALLING FOR BIDS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but no later than **11:00 AM on the 5th day of May 2023** sealed bids for:

Bid # ABC – 1619 Medical Supplies

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA., 90703 and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above stated time and place.

Bids and specifications may be obtained from the Purchasing Department at the above address on April 28, 2023 or later.

Los Cerritos News April 21, 2023  
April 28, 2023

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 4/21 and 4/28/23

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
 LOUIS J. COROSU  
 CASE NO. 23STPB03267  
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of LOUIS J. COROSU.  
 A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by LOUIS SCIARROTTA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
 THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that LOUIS SCIARROTTA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
 THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
 THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
 A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 04/28/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 4 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
 IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
 Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
 YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
 Attorney for Petitioner  
 MICHELYN R. MILLER - SBN 210355,  
 PATTERSON LAW FIRM, APC  
 1800 E. IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, SUITE 110  
 BREA CA 92821  
 BSC 223119  
 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/23  
 CNS-3685441#  
 LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

**NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS**  
 CITYWIDE WAYFINDING VEHICULAR DIRECTIONAL SIGNS PROJECT, PROJECT NO. 2023-03MISC

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CITY OF COMMERCE, referred to as "CITY", invites sealed bids for CIVIC CENTER LANDSCAPE RENOVATION AND DEMONSTRATION GARDEN PROJECT and will receive on **PlanetBids**, up to the hour of **2:00 PM, May 16, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud online. Late submittals will not be considered. It is the bidder's responsibility to upload the bid proposal file by the due date to City's portal on PlanetBids.

Electronic files of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents are available for download on the City's portal on PlanetBids.

The work shall be done from 7:00AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday, unless traffic lane closure is required on a major arterial, in that case work shall be done from 9:00pm to 6:00am Monday thru Friday. The work shall consist of furnishing all labor, materials, tools, equipment as shown in the PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.

The work shall be completed within 90 working days after the City's Notice to Proceed.

Estimated cost is in the range of \$290,000.

Contractor shall have a valid Class A, OR, Class C45 California Contractor License for this project.

This project is subject to the requirements of SB 854. No prime contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal and may be awarded for a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

If there are any questions regarding this project, please upload all questions to City's portal on PlanetBids.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 4/20 and 4/27/23

**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**  
**L-605 HOT SPOT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROSEMEAD BOULEVARD AND BEVERLY BOULEVARD – BLOCK WALL**  
**Project number: 21276**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Pico Rivera, California ("City") invites Bids for the Project. Bids will be received electronically only through Planet Bids system (<https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/41481/portal-home>). A bid received after the time set for the bid opening shall not be considered. Bidders are required to submit (upload) all items listed in the BIDDER'S CHECKLIST including acknowledgement of all addendums. Bids will be received prior to **2:00 p.m. on May 17, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened on the City's approved electronic procurement platform.

All Bids must be made on the forms furnished by the City. Bids must remain valid and shall not be subject to withdrawal for 90 calendar days after the Bid opening date.

**SUBMISSION OF BIDS.** All Bidders are required to enter and submit their bid pricing electronically via Planet Bids' Bid Schedule Tab. In addition, an electronic copy of the Bid Proposal Package must be uploaded to the Planet Bids system.

**SCOPE OF WORK.** The Project includes, without limitation, furnishing all necessary labor, materials, equipment and other incidental and appurtenant work necessary to satisfactorily complete the Project, as more specifically described in the Contract Documents. The Contract Documents consist of the Contract, the Notice Inviting Bids, Instructions to Bidders, Bid Proposal (including documentation accompanying the Bid Proposal and any post-Bid Proposal documentation submitted before the Notice of Award), the Bonds, permits from regulatory agencies with jurisdiction, General Provisions, Special Provisions, Plans, Standard Plans, Standard Specifications, Reference Specifications, Addenda, Change Orders, and Supplemental Agreements.

This Work will be performed in strict conformance with the Contract Documents, permits from regulatory agencies with jurisdiction, and applicable regulations. The quantity of Work to be performed and materials to be furnished are approximations only, being given as a basis for the comparison of Bids. Actual quantities of work to be performed may vary at the discretion of the City Engineer. Time for completion of the Work is **twenty-five (25) total Working Days** from the date specified in the Notice to Proceed and shall be inclusive of the procurement time to furnish and install all materials associated with this project.

**OBTAINING BID DOCUMENTS.** Bidders may download free electronic copies of the Plans, Specifications, and other Contract Documents online by visiting <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/41481/portal-home> Hard copies of the Contract Documents are not available.

**LICENSES.** Each Bidder shall possess either of a valid Class "A" Contractor's license or a Class "C29" license issued by the California State Contractors License Board necessary for the performance of all Work to be performed at the time of the Bid submission, unless this Project has any federal funding, in which case the successful Bidder must possess such a license at the time of Contract award. The successful Contractor must also possess a current City business license.

**MATERIALS SUBSTITUTIONS AND OTHER QUESTIONS.** Bidders are required to post their questions or equivalent material or substitution request of construction materials to the City Project Manager online by visiting <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/41481/portal-home>. Materials substitutions or questions will be accepted until **4:00 pm on or before Friday, May 5, 2023**. Any questions or equivalent material or substitution request of construction materials submitted after May 5, 2023, will not be answered. Questions and answers and/or any responses to material substitution request will be issued by May 10, 2023, as an addendum. Any addenda and/or supplemental information, as applicable will be posted online and available at <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/41481/portal-home>. It is the Bidder's responsibility to check online for any addenda that are released. Any changes or corrections to the original Bid Documents or any other information that will affect the completion of the award will be disseminated and posted on the City's website. Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda documentation (if any) with the submitted bid proposal. Contractor shall not be allowed to make substitution or equal and/or equivalent request of construction material after May 5, 2023.

**CITY PROJECT MANAGER CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name: Kenner Guerrero  
 Contact Number: 562-801-4351  
 E-mail address: [kguerrero@pico-rivera.org](mailto:kguerrero@pico-rivera.org)

By: Noe Negrete 4/19/2023  
 Public Works Director Date

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 4/21/23

**CITY OF LA MIRADA  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
 PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT FOR  
 RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL REFUSE SERVICES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the La Mirada City Council will conduct a public hearing in order to allow comments from local residents and businesses regarding adjustment of the franchise fee for residential and commercial refuse rates and service. The City will review and discuss proposed adjustments in the City's refuse rate schedule.

Said hearing will be held on June 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California, 90638. All interested persons are invited to attend and public testimony will be heard at that time.

Additional information on refuse rates and services can be obtained by calling the City's Recycling Coordinator at (562) 902-2372.

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, individuals in need of special assistance at the public hearing should contact the City Clerk at (562) 943-0131, extension 2309 three days prior to the date of the hearing.

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk

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# Earth Day 2023

Every April 22nd , Earth Day engages global support to advance sustainable actions towards climate change and an equitable, green economy. The City of Pico Rivera understands our roll to guide the call for transformation through bold, creative, and innovative solutions. It takes community partnership for action at all levels.

We proclaimed the City's commitment to Earth Day, everyday! Our work is constant and intentional to help our environment. We recycle bottles with water refill stations; we reuse water for irrigation of our green spaces; we reduce emissions by walking or riding our bike instead of driving; and we face new undertakings with great energy and enthusiasm.

Continued progress is shown through our City-wide initiatives:

- Climate Action Plan
- Backyard Compost Bins Giveaway
- Food Recovery and Donation
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Installation
- Solar+ Storage Solutions for Residential Properties

			<b>GROW THE EARTH'S CANOPY</b>
<b>END PLASTIC POLLUTION</b>			
			<b>BUILD A GREEN ECONOMY</b>
<b>SUPPORT CLIMATE LITERACY</b>			
			<b>RESTORE OUR EARTH</b>
<b>SWITCH TO SUSTAINABLE FASHION</b>			