

Central Basin Director Who Resigned Attends Meeting and Casts Illegal Vote to Remove President

Directors Juan Garza and Martha Camacho voted to add agenda item illegally. Thomas Bekele who resigned in May then voted with them.

By Brian Hews

Once again an appointed-not-elected Director at Central Basin Municipal Water has violated Government Code, wreaking more appointed-Director havoc at the Commerce-based water agency.

At last Monday's Central Basin regular board meeting, Thomas Bekele Director of Public Works at the city of Signal Hill, who had verbally resigned during the May 20 CB meeting saying to CB Director Leticia Vasquez that "yes this was my last meeting" attended the meeting as a Director

to cast a critical vote that would favor another appointed director, Juan Garza and elected VP Martha Camacho.

Los Cerritos Community News had reported that Bekele had resigned weeks ago after posting the video; Bekele never contacted LCCN to refute his resignation, yet there he was at Monday's meeting, asserting he was "in transition" and could vote as a Director.

President Art Chacon and Director Vasquez immediately called on Bekele to leave, with Vasquez stating, "We have a board member here who resigned May 20, giving a verbal resignation on that date while submitting a written resignation to you [general counsel] Mr. Ponto."

Ponto, who is attempting to keep Bekele on the board to save

[See VOTE, page 12]



TROUBLE IN SANTA FE SPRINGS HOA

RESIDENTS of the Villages HOA in Santa Fe Springs have seen dirty election tactics, withholding of beautification funds and a potential \$1 million dollar lawsuit because of current board officers.

HOA Residents Outraged Over Board 'Harassment and Intimidation'

The HOA officers withheld \$11,000 for painting mailboxes, the lawsuit cost a reported \$64,000.

By Brian Hews

Residents of a home owners association in Santa Fe Springs have approached LCCN and described The Villages HOA as a living hell, pointing to a Facebook page, The Villages at Heritage Springs HOA, as proof.

The administrator, Michael Huerta, writes that he and his wife sold their home in 2020 and "got out of hell" when they saw their community become a hotbed of vicious lies and blatant acts of harassment.

Huerta blames it all on John Park and his wife Jennifer Yoon.

During their tenure, the couple allegedly went door to door in the community spreading gossip and conspiracy theories about

existing HOA residents to win their HOA Board seats.

"Park's & Yoon's crusade for control was achieved by them creating a cult-like group within the community that united families at HOA parties mostly with young children", recalls Huerta. "Many in the community would refer to them as a "cult."

Huerta said other than social media, Park and Yoon would face no other open opposition. "Because I don't live in the Villages anymore, I can't be intimidated."

Another former resident Vera Mendoza attended one of the early "family park parties" the Yoon's would throw and claims she overheard adults spreading stories that the former Master HOA President was a pedophile who they claimed was "watching small children on the pool security cameras from the comforts of his home."

The intimidation worked, within a year, both Park and Yoon were elected to the Master HOA Board of Directors with their

sights set on obtaining a 3rd seat and control of the HOA.

During elections, a website was anonymously created, a move usually done by corrupt elected officials, to further slander opponents, some resulting in alleged unwarranted acts of aggression against those who openly opposed Park & Yoon.

One Board Member was allegedly awakened twice within one year by a vehicle ramming through his garage door destroying the door and causing damage to the parked cars. No suspects were identified.

Another stated people were screaming taunts from vehicles in front of former Board Members homes during the early morning hours.

Personal confrontations within the property started occurring with more frequently. When residents called detectives, the investigation was stymied when officials from the HOA claimed

[See HOA, page 5]

L.A. County Will Launch Program to Eliminate Low-Income Residents' Medical Debt

By Brian Hews

This week, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal by Supervisor Janice Hahn and co-authored by

gram will use \$5 million to eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars of debt.

"No one should be driven into poverty because they got sick. But medical debt remains a huge



THE PILOT PROGRAM authored by Janice Hahn and Holly Mitchell will use \$5 million to eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars of debt.

Supervisor Holly Mitchell which identifies funding to launch a pilot program to eliminate medical debt for some struggling LA County residents. The pilot pro-

blem in this country, and it can be devastating for families and their financial well-being," said Hahn who has championed

[See DEBT, page 12]

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Area City's Fourth of July Celebrations

Cerritos

Thursday, July 4 - 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Fireworks: 9 p.m.
Cerritos Civic Center

Cerritos invites the community to the 51st annual Let Freedom Ring Celebration on Thursday, July 4 in recognition of Independence Day from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Cerritos Civic Center. Games, rides, entertainment and fireworks display! For more information, please call (562) 916-1254.

Artesia

Artesia Park
Thursday, July 4, 2024

This year's event will start at 3pm, with fun family games, and will con-

tinue with a live musical performance by SOTO Band at 6pm. The fireworks show will begin promptly at 9pm

Guests are encouraged to arrive early and bring a lawn chair, blanket and picnics. Dogs may attend but must remain on leashes. Alcohol is not allowed. Park benches are first come first serve, but someone must be present to reserve a space.

Hawaiian Gardens

July 3- 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Fedde Sports Complex
21301 Elaine Ave

Live music, Fireworks show at 9 p.m., and Food Trucks.

Norwalk

Tuesday, July 2 - 4 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fireworks: 9 p.m.
Civic Center Lawn

There will be a kids' zone, food trucks, and live music, Bruno and the Hooligans Tribute Band. Please call 562-929-5702 or norwalk.org/fun for more info.

Lakewood

Saturday, June 29, 5-9:30
Fireworks: 9 p.m.

The Block Party will stretch from the Civic Center parking lot (at Hardwick Street) southbound along Clark Avenue to Del Amo Boulevard.

Join Lakewood for family fun, a rockin' good time, and a big, professional fireworks show at Clark Avenue and the Lakewood Civic Center on Saturday, June 29.

The Lakewood Civic Center Block Party begins at 4 p.m. with the Family Fun Zone activity area for kids and families, and the "On the Block Food Court" with a wide variety of food booths and food trucks.

Live entertainment from The MVP's starts at 5 p.m.

- Family Fun Zone 4 to 9 p.m.
- On the Block Food Court 4 to 8 p.m.
- Live entertainment 5 to 9 p.m.
- Fireworks show 9:15 p.m.

La Mirada

July 3- 4:00 PM - 9:30 PM
La Mirada Regional Park

The Independence Celebration returns to La Mirada Regional Park on Wednesday, July 3, from 4 to 9:30 p.m. Live musical performances, food vendors, a patriotic program, and spectacular fireworks display.

Parking information:

Parking will be available at La Mirada Regional Park. Overflow parking will be available at La Mirada Civic Center, the stadium parking lot at La Mirada High School and Biola University (entrance off La Mirada Boulevard). The City will provide free shuttle service from Biola University beginning 3 p.m. Shuttle service will stop approximately 45 minutes after the event.

Overnight parking and camping will not be permitted at La Mirada Regional Park. Vehicles may be cited or towed.

For more information contact the La Mirada at 562-943-7277.

ing to calls and tips about illegal fireworks, and issuing citations with fines that can rise to \$2,000 or more.

Lakewood continues to devote substantial resources to combat illegal fireworks. Public safety personnel have been responding to calls about illegal fireworks use even before now, but for the July 3-4 time period Lakewood is paying for extra patrols in neighborhoods.

Lakewood's Special Assignment Officer Deputies have also been undertaking undercover operations to arrest those involved in the sale of illegal fireworks.

The problem of illegal fireworks use has grown in recent years throughout California and the nation. It is not a Lakewood-specific problem. It doesn't matter whether a community allows or disallows 'safe-and-sane' legal fireworks. The problem of illegal fireworks is the same in both types of communities.

As a reminder, property owners can be cited if illegal fireworks are used by others on their property. And if illegal fireworks are used on a block with a neighborhood block party, then that block will be prohibited from having a block party again for two years.

If you see illegal fireworks currently in use, call the Lakewood Sheriff's Station at 562-623-3500 so Deputies can respond right away.

Fireworks prohibited in Cerritos

As Independence Day approaches, residents are reminded that fireworks – including the "safe and sane" varieties sold in neighboring cities – are not allowed in Cerritos.

Cerritos Sheriff's deputies will strictly enforce the law, which has helped protect thousands of residents from injuries and property damage.

Lakewood to Increase Number of Sheriff's Beginning July 3

An increased number of Deputy Sheriffs and Public Safety Officers will be on the streets of Lakewood starting July 3 looking for illegal fireworks use, respond-

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Goodbye to La Mirada, my childhood home

By Mark Orwoll

The Orwolls are leaving La Mirada. Maybe you don't know us, but it's still a pretty big deal, at least to us. Three generations of our family have lived in our place on Elmbrook Drive since August 1955. There aren't many people who have been in the same house in La Mirada longer. And now, for practical reasons, we've sold the family home.

Mom died a few years back. Her husband, Fred, my stepfather, passed away last year. My sister, my brother and I have all made our own lives elsewhere. So we put the old place up for sale.

I was only 18 months old when my mom and dad moved from a tiny apartment in South Gate into our new La Mirada three-bedroom. It was the only home I knew for the next 18 years. My sister, Vicki, was born there a couple of years later, then came Bob, then Matt (RIP). As the only girl, Vicki got to have her own bedroom, while we boys had to share.

We could change channels on the TV in the living room only by using pliers, because we broke the channel changer during our many fights over which program to watch. There was a man in the 1950s and early '60s who would go house to house with a camera and Shetland pony and take pictures of the kids on horseback. We still have some of those photos.

At a certain point, Dad realized we needed more room. I don't know if they won a sweepstakes or just took out a big loan, but eventually my folks decided to add on to the back of the house, including

a den with a fireplace and a huge bedroom suite. But even though our house got bigger, we weren't big shots. Oil still leaked from our worn-out 1953 Chevy Bel Air, leaving big stains on the driveway.

Sidewalks were added to our street in 1963, and that meant we could skateboard. I dismantled a pair of Vicki's roller skates (with metal wheels) and nailed them to a 2-foot-long piece of wood. Southern Californians invented skateboarding as we know it sometime in the decade or so prior, and we La Mirada kids were there, part of it all, as it grew more and more popular, building jump ramps from warped plywood and listening to the Beach Boys.

At 6:30 every morning, my job was to run out to the driveway and bring The Times to my dad at the kitchen table. That's where I learned to love the literary sporting insights of Jim Murray and the folksy humor of Jack Smith. It's also where I learned to like coffee, reading the news with my old man.

From our house we could walk to school at Escalona Elementary. McNally Intermediate was a little bit farther, but you could still hoof it (although a bike was easier). And Neff High was less than 15 minutes on foot.

As teenagers my friends and I surfed. We hitchhiked up and down Beach Boulevard. We smoked weed in Neff Park, Windermere Park or any park, really, as long as we had an exit strategy in case the cops showed up.

We lived just a block from the shopping mall and the triple-scoop ice cream cones for 15 cents at Thrifty and sodas and hot dogs at the counter of J.J. Newberry. My family got "fancy" goods at Ohrbach's, and at Allied Arts Vicki took dance and I learned guitar. We all swooned at the two-wheelers at Spence's Bikes and bought penny candy at the Karmel Korn shop.



LA MIRADANS: from left to right the writer Mark Orwoll, his brother Bob, and his sister Vickie in front of their family home in La Mirada in the early 1960s. Photo courtesy Mark Orwoll.

Back then in La Mirada you could go anywhere as a kid — it was a safe place, friendly. On our block we would often hear some neighbor shout their kids' names from the front porch at 7 p.m. Streetlights were on. Dinner was on the table. Time to come inside.

A lot of people leave their hometowns and never want to look back. Not me. After I went off to college, then to San Diego, San Francisco and New York, I loved coming home to La Mirada.

After my parents became empty-nesters, our house continued to host plenty of gatherings and eventually visits from fun, noisy grandchildren. My brother and his family remained in town for many years and my sister's family moved to Riverside. And although the house didn't

change much, La Mirada did. The shopping mall is now half the size; much of its land has been taken over by a housing development. Our old high school, Neff, was razed and replaced by a warehouse. And the town is more upscale. Yet, I always feel like I am entering a time warp when I come back.

But being sad that the Orwoll family would no longer be La Mirada residents wasn't a good enough reason to keep the house after my stepfather died. And after it was on the market for just a few weeks, someone made a solid offer.

I almost wish they hadn't. Mark Orwoll is a writer who lives in New York's Lower Hudson Valley. But he's still a La Miradan at heart. His article originally appeared in the L.A. Times.

Hawaiian Gardens Golf Tournament-Fundraiser

In celebration of the City of Hawaiian Gardens' 60th anniversary, the city announced that this year's Golf Tournament, which will be held on October 21, 2024, will be held at Old Ranch Country Club, located at 3901 Lampson Ave, Seal Beach.

This community event is dedicated to supporting the Hawaiian Gardens Youth Non-profit Organization.

Mayor Victor Farfan urged the community to participate in the fundraising effort, stating, "Your support is crucial in providing the necessary resources for our youth programs. Together, we can significantly impact the lives of our young residents. Please join us for a day of fun and philanthropy at our golf tournament."

Sponsorship Opportunities:
Diamond Sponsor - \$5,000

Tournament entry for 8 players.

Advertisement throughout the event venue, course, and dining banquet ceremony.

Social media advertisement.

Award recognition at the dining banquet ceremony.

Gold Sponsor - \$2,500

Tournament entry for 4 players.

Advertisement throughout the event venue, course, and dining banquet ceremony.

Award recognition at the dining banquet ceremony.

Silver Sponsor - \$1,000

Tournament entry for 2 players.

Advertisement at the dining banquet ceremony.



Award recognition at the dining banquet ceremony.

Tee/Green Sponsor - \$250

Tournament entry for 1 player (tournament play, cart, picture, goodie bag, and lunch).

Advertisement in the program.

Sign displayed at the banquet.

Award at the ceremony.

Key Dates:

Early Bird Deadline: Friday, August 30, 2024

Entry Deadline: Monday, September 30, 2024

Luncheon Banquet Admission Only: \$50

Event Highlights:

18 holes of golf at a private country club

Appetizers and lunch provided

Course games, activities, and giveaways

Raffles and contests

Contests and Events: Team Prizes

Longest Drive (Cash Prize)

Closest to the Pin (Cash Prize)

Hole-in-One Prizes

Those interested in sponsorships or playing can use the secure online payment option.

To become a sponsor or register for the tournament, please visit: bit.ly/HGGOLF24

Checks can be made payable to the City of Hawaiian Gardens and mailed to:

City of Hawaiian Gardens
Attention: Golf Committee
21815 Pioneer Blvd.

Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716

For more information, please contact the City of Hawaiian Gardens at (562) 420-2641 ext. 229. Join us in making a difference for our youth while enjoying a day of golf and camaraderie.

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Crime Summary

June 17-June 23, 2024

Cerritos, Bellflower, Lakewood

Robbery
300 Blk Los Cerritos Ctr, Cerritos, 90703
6/21/2024 @ 12:10 PM

Assault
16300 Blk Pioneer Blvd, Norwalk, 90650
6/21/2024 @ 2:35 AM

Theft / Larceny
200 Blk Los Cerritos Ctr, Cerritos, 90703
6/20/2024 @ 7:30 PM

Theft / Larceny
300 Blk Los Cerritos Ctr, Cerritos, 90703
6/20/2024 @ 5:45 PM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
17900 Blk Studebaker Rd, Cerritos,
6/20/2024 @ 10:30 AM

Burglary
10200 Blk Artesia Blvd, Bellflower, 90706
6/20/2024 @ 12:05 AM

Robbery
9800 Blk Alondra Blvd, Bellflower,
6/19/2024 @ 9:00 PM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
18600 Blk Gridley Rd, Cerritos, 90703
6/19/2024 @ 8:30 PM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
5900 Blk Whitewood Ave, Lakewood,
90712
6/19/2024 @ 7:00 PM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
6000 Blk Graywood Ave, Lakewood,
90712
6/19/2024 @ 7:00 PM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
6100 Blk Premiere Ave, Lakewood,
90712
6/19/2024 @ 7:00 PM

Assault
10800 Blk Alondra Blvd, Cerritos, 90703
6/19/2024 @ 12:14 PM

Assault
9800 Blk Alondra Blvd, Bellflower,
6/19/2024 @ 7:45 AM

Motor Vehicle Theft
10700 Blk Artesia Blvd, Cerritos,
6/19/2024 @ 6:58 AM

Motor Vehicle Theft
10700 Blk Artesia Blvd, Cerritos, 90703
6/19/2024 @ 6:58 AM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
15300 Blk Lakewood Blvd, Bellflower,
90706
6/19/2024 @ 4:50 AM

Theft / Larceny
Artesia Blvd & Studebaker Rd, Cerritos,
6/19/2024 @ 2:00 AM

Assault
15400 Blk Studebaker Rd, Norwalk,
90650
6/18/2024 @ 11:12 PM

Theft / Larceny
400 Blk Los Cerritos Ctr, Cerritos, 90703
6/18/2024 @ 2:17 PM

Motor Vehicle Theft
8800 Blk Artesia Blvd, Bellflower, 90706
6/18/2024 @ 12:00 PM

Burglary
300 Blk Los Cerritos Ctr, Cerritos, 90703
6/18/2024 @ 10:27 AM

Theft / Larceny
South St, Cerritos, 90703
6/17/2024 @ 9:10 PM

Theft / Larceny
9800 Blk Flower St, Bellflower, 90706
6/17/2024 @ 3:02 PM

Motor Vehicle Theft
15700 Blk Leahy Ave, Bellflower,
6/17/2024 @ 2:46 PM

Burglary
16800 Blk Outrigger Cir, Cerritos,
6/17/2024 @ 12:00 PM

Burglary
6200 Blk Bellflower Blvd, Lakewood,
6/17/2024 @ 3:40 AM

Burglary
16600 Blk Downey Ave, Paramount,
90723
6/16/2024 @ 11:00 AM

Motor Vehicle Theft
15100 Blk Roseton Ave, Norwalk, 90650
6/16/2024 @ 1:00 AM

Motor Vehicle Theft
9700 Blk Maplewood St, Bellflower,
90706
6/15/2024 @ 10:00 PM

Theft / Larceny
8600 Blk Alondra Blvd, Paramount,
90723
6/15/2024 @ 8:41 PM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
9400 Blk Van Ruitten St, Bellflower,
6/15/2024 @ 1:44 AM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
10200 Blk Beach St, Bellflower,
6/14/2024 @ 10:00 PM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
5500 Blk Premiere Ave, Lakewood,
6/14/2024 @ 9:00 PM

Theft / Larceny
9600 Blk Beverly St, Bellflower, 90706
6/14/2024 @ 2:50 PM

Vehicle Break-In / Theft
9400 Blk Los Angeles, Bellflower,
6/14/2024 @ 6:18 AM

Burglary
6100 Blk Pepperwood Ave, Lakewood,
90712
6/13/2024 @ 2:30 PM

Theft / Larceny
8800 Blk Paseo, Paramount, 90723
6/12/2024 @ 11:35 PM

Theft / Larceny
14500 Blk Cerritos Ave, Bellflower,
6/12/2024 @ 3:22 PM

Theft / Larceny
6000 Blk Adenmoor Ave, Lakewood,
90713
6/12/2024 @ 1:15 PM

Theft / Larceny

200 Blk Los Cerritos Ctr, Cerritos, 90703
6/10/2024 @ 7:45 PM

Theft / Larceny
200 Blk Los Cerritos Ctr, Cerritos, 90703
6/10/2024 @ 7:00 PM

Theft / Larceny
Flower St & Virginia Ave, Bellflower,
90706

La Mirada

Notable Arrests

- Twelve suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations.

Robbery

- An afternoon robbery occurred on the 13700 block of Valley View Ave. No injuries were sustained during the incident.

Other Structure Burglary

- Tools were reported stolen during an overnight burglary on the 14500 block of Alondra Blvd.
- An early morning theft was reported on the 15100 block of Northam St.

Vehicle Burglary

- A window smash vehicle burglary was reported on the 12800 block of Biola Ave.


Grand Theft

- An electric bicycle was stolen on the 13500 block of Bona Vista Ln.
- An afternoon theft was reported on the 14300 block of Firestone Blvd.
- An afternoon theft occurred on the 15700 block of Valley View Ave.
- An overnight theft was reported on the 14500 block of Alondra Blvd.

Grand Theft Auto

- A sedan was reported stolen on the 14800 block of Dunnet Ave.
- A vehicle theft occurred on the 15600 block of Gaymont Dr.
- An attempt was made to steal a sedan on the 16100 block of Rosecrans Ave.

Are you Prepared?
Do your kids and family a favor, Preplan today!



Artesia Cemetery is your local community cemetery conveniently located in Cerritos. Our prices and services are unmatched. Spaces are still available.

For more information, Please call or visit:
562-865-6300 or www.ArtesiaCemetery.com

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HOA from page 1

requested video was lost due to video malfunction.

In 2022, Park seized the last remaining seat by defeating a veteran 10-year Board Member by a single vote. The next year, the same person tried to run again but was "left off the ballot."

Robert Olide, another longtime homeowner also claimed that he submitted his name for election but also was also left off the ballot.

Park ran unopposed with an ally Jeanette Lizarraga but she was outed as a flaky Board Member who did not attend meetings by Huerta; Lizarraga eventually resigned. The seat has remained vacant six months.

Park's reign was beginning to show cracks as the pressure mounted from social media and from a growing group of frustrated homeowners; then came the lawsuits.

Park & the HOA were served with two lawsuits brought by the two sub-associations in the HOA, Jasmine and Camelia, alleging that Park refused to paint their mailboxes in retribution for their Board opposition.

According to Joseph Huizar, VP of the Jasmine HOA, "Park's refusal ended up uniting the two sub associations against the Master HOA."

In April, the two sub-association's lawsuits went to mediation and the Master HOA [Park] agreed to pay the \$11,000 it would cost to paint the Jasmine & Camelia mailboxes.

However, Park's retribution scheme ended up costing the three HOA's over \$68,000 in legal fees. Making matters worse, Park and his Board declined to tender the lawsuit to their insurance company causing an outrage among residents.

According to Huizar, "this whole matter should have been immediately tendered to the HOA's insurance carrier where the matter would have been dealt with professionally and economically for both parties."

"It makes absolutely zero sense that over \$68,000 of our owner's dues were thrown away for a \$11,000 dispute. People need to take note of the irresponsibility of John Park, Desmond Blackburn, Wil Sung, Son Nguyen and former member Maribel Diaz for creating this mess."

But that lawsuit was only the beginning, according to Huerta and his Facebook site, a larger legal crisis caused by Park and his HOA Board is winding its way through the courts.

In an act of pure vengeance and retaliation, Park and his board repeated their mistakes by refusing to tender to insurance a lawsuit that claims a former HOA Board Member misappropriated over \$192,000 in funds.

According to the lawsuit filed in Nor-

walk Superior Court, the HOA served notice of the alleged \$192,000 theft just days after the former board member filed to run for a seat on the Master Board. He was given only ten days to appear at a 9 a.m. hearing of the Master Board which landed on a Sunday.

The homeowner emailed the HOA legal counsel stating he was unavailable on that date, with counsel writing back that in lieu of appearing he could respond in writing to the "charges against him."

The astonished homeowner emailed back stating "what charges" and that "not a shred of evidence has been provided to him to respond to the charges against him."

The lawsuit states that the attorney responded by saying "thanks for your response" and that "your response to the charges will be provided to the Board to aid them in making their decision."

Three days later, the homeowner received a letter from the HOA's attorney that John Park, Desmond Blackburn, Wil Sung and Son Nguyen had found him guilty as charged and that his account had been assessed \$192,201.34 plus attorney fees. The fees would become delinquent in 30 days and foreclosure proceedings would commence.

According to Huerta, "months passed before any form of evidence was provided by the HOA and then all that was provided were pages with legitimate HOA expenditures on it between the years 2017-2019 totaling &107,726.70."

Huerta added, "residents of the Villag-

es would be shocked to learn that when the HOA was asked why their so-called evidence list totaling \$107,726.70 didn't match the \$192,201.34 that they assessed against the former Board Member, the HOA's surprising response was "we believe he stole more"."

According to court documents received by LCCN, the former Board Member was successful in obtaining a temporary restraining order, and then a full restraining order ensuring the HOA cannot foreclose on this owner's home until a trial is held in January 2025.

In the meantime, the HOA is assessing the owner nearly \$2,000 per month in late fees.

The ruling delivered on April 23 in Dept. C at the Norwalk Courthouse rendered a devastating blow to the HOA's case with the Judge writing:

HERE, IT IS UNREFUTED THAT PLAINTIFF (the homeowner) WAS NOT GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD IN PERSON PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BEING RENDERED AGAINST PLAINTIFF.

ACCORDINGLY, IN LIGHT OF THE COMPETENT EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY THE PARTIES, THE COURT CONCLUDED THAT PLAINTIFFS HAVE DEMONSTRATED A REASONABLE PROBABILITY THAT PLAINTIFFS WILL SUCCEED ON THEIR CLAIM AT TRIAL.

According to HOA financial documents found on Huerta's Facebook page, John Park's refusal to tender yet another

claim to insurance is costing the HOA tens of thousands.

Financial ledgers show that from November 2023-March 2024, the HOA has spent nearly \$43,000 in mediation and that the hearing in April cost over \$10,000.

Another longtime resident Esteban Aguilar, who's wife JoAnn once served on the Master Board before John Park seized control in 2020, says homeowners have had enough, "it appears that John Park's days are numbered."

A Recall Petition was served on the board during the HOA's annual Yard Sale on April 27.

Aguilar, a signer on the petition says the recall is largely based on John Park, Desmond Blackburn, Wil Sung and Son Nguyen's breach of fiduciary duty resulting in two lawsuits and the HOA's failure to tender those actions to insurance.

The HOA announced the recall election will take place on September 23, 2024.

In the meantime, homeowners are concerned about the financial ramifications of the lawsuit filed by the former HOA Board Member, who wasn't given his due process after the allegation of misappropriation of funds were made.

Aguilar says he's worried that without insurance coverage, a jury verdict could reach nearly \$1 million dollars which would in effect bankrupt the entire HOA.

Huerta added, "Wouldn't it be something if the HOA eventually foreclosed on those people's homes for reimbursement for their egregious and cruel actions?"



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Cerritos College Foundation's New Automotive Technology Technician Excellence Award

Staff Report

The Cerritos College Foundation presented the newly established Automotive Technology Technician Excellence Award to Eric Lopez on June 11.

Cerritos College's Auto Technology Program provides students with hands-on technical skills. It is a nationally authorized training site for GM, Ford, Chrysler, and import vehicles. The college also hosts an Advanced Transportation and Logistics program, one of 10 centers in California. The program advances the workforce in the rapidly developing, tech-

nology-driven transportation and energy industries while improving the environment and stimulating the economy.

Eric, currently participating in an apprenticeship at Simpson Cadillac Buick GMC, is a dedicated and successful student who balances his work and military training as a reserve Marine while still excelling in class.

Eric received a 190-piece tool set valued at nearly \$3,000.

The endowed award was established this year by Dr. Jim Lancaster, vice chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development at the Los Angeles Community College District and alumnus of the Cerritos College Automotive Technology Program, to recognize an outstanding automotive technology student at Cerritos College annually.

Over 30 years ago, Dr. Lancaster didn't have a career plan when he started



THE CERRITOS COLLEGE FOUNDATION presented the award to Eric Lopez on June 11. Eric received a 190-piece tool set valued at nearly \$3,000.

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college.

At a friend's suggestion, he enrolled in the Cerritos College General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program (ASEP).

After completing the program, Dr. Lancaster became a master Chevrolet technician, lifting himself out of poverty. He later pursued higher education and

eventually became an instructor, dean, vice president, and vice chancellor.

This year, Dr. Lancaster returned to the automotive program to establish an endowed award recognizing the top student in the program. "I want to encourage students to pursue leadership roles in the automotive industry with this award," he said.

Cerritos Closures for Independence Day

In observance of Independence Day, Cerritos City Hall, the City Clerk/Treasurer's Office, Cerritos Library, Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park, the Community Gymnasiums at Cerritos and Whitney high schools and the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4.

Cerritos Park East, Heritage Park and Liberty Park will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Cerritos Iron-Wood Nine Golf Course driving range will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Cerritos Sports Complex will be open from 2 to 8 p.m. and the Cerritos Olympic Swim and Fitness Center will be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Former Mayor of Santa Tecla, El Salvador Visits La Mirada



LA MIRADA MAYOR JOHN LEWIS (left) with Jose Domingo Chavez Aguilar, the former Mayor of Santa Tecla, El Salvador.

Staff Report

Jose Domingo Chavez Aguilar, of Santa Tecla, El Salvador, recently visited La Mirada with several members of his family.

He last visited La Mirada in 1973 when he was Mayor of Santa Tecla, which had just established a Sister City program with La Mirada.

Interestingly, the street named Avenida Santa Tecla in the La Mirada Landmark Adult Community located east of Santa Gertrudes Avenue was named in honor of the Sister City.

Mr. Aguilar was hosted by La Mirada Mayor John Lewis, who showed Mr. Aguilar and his guests around the Civic Center.

A highlight of the tour was visiting Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center, especially Buccaneer Bay which is open for the summer.

Mr. Aguilar brought with him a photo album from his initial visit to La Mirada some 51 years ago. He enjoyed reminiscing about playing pick-up basketball games at Biola University and meeting with the City Council at City Hall.

“It was a wonderful walk down memory lane,” says Mayor John Lewis. “Mr. Aguilar and his family were delightful guests. It was a real pleasure to meet with them.”

In addition to Santa Tecla, La Mirada also has a Sister City program with Isehara, Japan.

New Businesses Open in La Mirada With More Coming

Staff Report

Several establishments have recently opened or are currently in development in La Mirada. **Ribs & Co.**, a Korean Barbeque restaurant located at 15252 Rosecrans Avenue, opened in March. Ribs & Co. is an authentic all you can eat Korean barbeque restaurant featuring premium cut meats and an unforgettable experience.

Also, opened in March is **Krunch Burger**, located at 11523 La Mirada Boulevard. This new burger hot spot features a simple menu of burgers, fries and shakes.

A drive-thru **Dutch Bros. Coffee** is planned at 14840 Beach Boulevard.

A new drive-thru car wash facility andrenovated service station, E-gas, will be located at 15754 Imperial Highway.

84 Lumber, located at 14447 N. FirestoneBoulevard, and **Golf Plus** located on La Mirada Boulevard, are expected to open this year.

Two state-of-the-art logistics facilities in the industrial area are also in the works.

“It is great to see new businesses investing in La Mirada,” says Economic Development Manager Alison Moore.

“Supporting local businesses helps to keep the economy strong and reduces vacancies in shopping centers.”

Visit these new businesses and explore all they have to offer. For more information, call (562) 943-0131.

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Interested applicants are encouraged to apply for these positions ahead of the event by visiting EdJoin.org/nlmusd or by scanning the QR code next to each job title. Online applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. PT, on July 9, 2024. Qualified applicants will be invited to the event for in-person panel interviews.


Walk-ins are welcome for assistance in application submission. Will be required to create an EdJoin account and have any applicable materials for the position.

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Invite a Variety of Pollinators to Your Garden

By Melinda Myers

It's a great time to celebrate all the pollinators that play an important role in producing food, fiber, medicine, and more that we rely on. When you think of pollinators, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds are likely the first that come to mind. But moths, wasps, beetles, flies, bats, and some other birds also help pollinate our gardens. More than 80% of all flowering plant species, including 180,000 different species and more than 1,200 crops, rely on them for pollination.

Like honeybees and Monarch butterflies, many of these pollinators are struggling and their populations dwindling due to pesticides and loss of habitat. Gardeners can make a difference by creating pollinator gardens filled with their favorite plants.

When designing a garden select plants with different shapes, colors, and bloom times. You'll attract a wide array of pollinators and provide them with a constant supply of nectar and pollen.

Include bright white, yellow, blue, and ultraviolet-colored flowers to attract the bees. Add some tubular flowers with a spur or landing pad for the butterflies. They are especially fond of purple and red blossoms.

Don't be in a hurry to squash those beetles you find meandering over your plants. Many do not harm the plant but rather move pollen as they travel throughout your garden.

These generalists visit a variety of plants, but most often can be found pollinating large strongly scented flowers like Canadian ginger, magnolia, paw paws,

and yellow pond lilies.

They can be annoying, but flies are also busy pollinating your flowers. They are generalists, like beetles, and tend to pollinate small flowers with shallow, funnel-like, or complex trap-like flowers.

You're likely to see them on annuals, bulbs, goldenrod, skunk cabbage, paw paws, and members of the carrot family.

It may be difficult to welcome the often dreaded and feared wasps and hornets to your garden. However, most are solitary, not all sting and some are predators or parasitoids that help manage garden pests.

Besides helping with mosquito control, bats pollinate over 500 species of night-blooming flowers around the world. They prefer those with a musty or rotten odor of mostly tropical and some varieties of desert plants.

Most of us enjoy watching hummingbirds visit our gardens and feeders.

Hummingbirds are the primary bird pollinators in North America, carrying pollen on their beaks and feathers.

They prefer brightly colored scarlet, orange, red, and white tubular flowers. Baltimore orioles are accidental pollinators spreading pollen as they feed on flower nectar while white-winged doves pollinate and spread saguaro cactus seeds.

Be sure to include milkweed, herbs, trees, shrubs, and grasses with foliage that caterpillars and others feed upon.

Use native plants including trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses whenever possible. These plants have evolved with pollinators and provide the greatest benefit. Make sure the native plants you select are suited to the growing conditions and



A MONARCH CATERPILLAR on an *Asclepias tuberosa* plant.

available space.

Don't overlook cultivated plants that also attract and support pollinators. Many have flowers or foliage that benefit a variety of pollinators. Watch for bees visiting thyme, borage, and calamint flowers; hummingbirds sipping on salvia, cuphea, and verbena blossoms; and swallowtail caterpillars munching on dill, fennel, and parsley leaves.

Once you create a pollinator-friendly environment, give them time to discover your pollinator paradise. It may take time but once the word gets out you will be enjoying lots of pollinators and the many benefits they provide.

For more information watch Melinda Myers' Underappreciated Pollinators webinar recording and download the hand-out (MelindaMyers.com).

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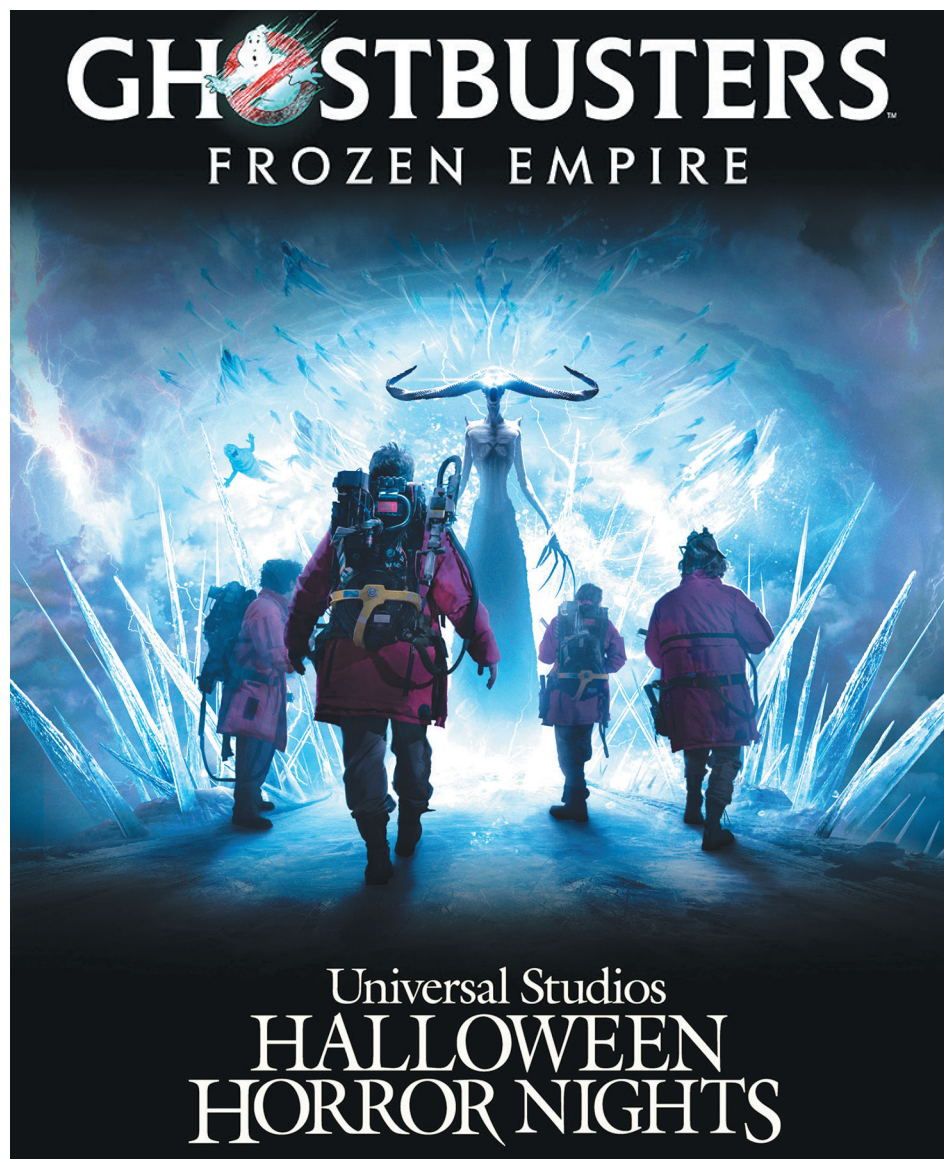
If there's something strange in your neighborhood..... or something weird... An ancient artifact unleashes an evil force that threatens to destroy the world in all-new haunted houses, inspired by Sony Pictures' latest film, "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire," debuting at Universal Studios Hollywood on Thursday, September 5.

The all-new "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire" haunted houses at Universal Studios Hollywood (and Universal Orlando Resort Aug. 30) bring the latest installment of the global Ghostbusters franchise to life.

The iconic ghosts, creatures and characters from the classic series will be in authentic haunted houses that capture the horror and humor for which the films are known.

GFE will transport fans of the film franchise to New York City where the Spengler family teams up with the original Ghostbusters, who are now at the helm of a top-secret research lab, for their ghost-busting enterprise.

With the discovery of an old relic that has set free the vengeful spirit of Garraka, who threatens to freeze everyone to death, Ghostbusters new and old must join forces to protect their city and save the world from a second Ice Age.



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As guests venture through the haunted houses, they will find themselves in the sinister world of the supernatural, from Ray's Occult Books shop to the Ghostbuster's new high-tech lab and containment facility to the dank New York City sewer system.

Fans will embark on this petrifying journey alongside the Ghost-

busters, encountering iconic ghosts who slime and nefarious villains who are out for revenge – all while trying to escape an army of gashly creatures bent on cracking bones and turning their veins into rivers of ice.

As they navigate their way through freezing and frightening conditions, the Ghostbusters will need

their wit and humor to defend the city they love from a terror too chilling to believe.

A variety of Halloween Horror Nights ticket options for Universal Studios Hollywood are now available, including General Admission, Universal Express, After 2 P.M. Day/Night, the Early Access Ticket, which provides access to select haunted houses beginning at 5:30 p.m. (subject to change).

In advance of the scheduled 7:00 p.m. event opening time, the premium R.I.P. Tour and popular passes, Frequent Fear Pass and Ultimate Fear Pass, which enable guests to experience the scares again and again. To purchase tickets go to:

bit.ly/CNUSH24

Additional details, including new haunted houses coming to both Universal Studios Hollywood and Universal Orlando Resort, will be revealed soon.

Sony Pictures' Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire is directed by Gil Kenan and written by Kenan & Jason Reitman, based on the 1984 film "Ghostbusters," an Ivan Reitman film written by Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis.



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Eckart, Zhang, Two Others to Represent Their Countries in Triple Crown International Challenge

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

Every summer, one of the largest and premier travel

was. I [played] baseball for two years, so I think that's one of the biggest reasons why [I wanted to do this]."

Zhang found out about the



VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH pitcher Rachel Zhang, shown in late March against Village Christian High, will be representing Team Chinese Taipei at the Triple Crown International Challenge.

softball showcase tournaments is the Triple Crown Sports Colorado Fourth of July Sparkler and Fireworks Tournament held throughout the Denver area. But days before that event is the Triple Crown International Challenge, now in its fourth straight year, with all games played at the Christopher Fields Complex in Westminster CO.

Four area players will be representing their respective countries, including recent La Mirada High graduate Rebecca Eckart and up and coming Valley Christian High star Rachel Zhang. Eckart, along with recent wNorwalk High graduate Jailynn Banda and Cerritos High's Katherine Villegas are on the 18-Under Team Mexico while Zhang will be representing Team Chinese Taipei, entering the TCIC for the first time.

Last summer, the TCIC had 20 18-U teams and nine 16-U teams while this year's event will feature 21 18-U teams and eight 16-U teams.

"I just wanted to represent my culture and where I came from," said Zhang. "I've also seen there's very little Asian athletes in softball. So, for all of us to come together and play together would be really cool.

"I feel like the parents who usually come from China... there's no such thing as softball in China," she continued. "When my mom came here, she didn't know what softball

TCIC through social media, either Facebook or Instagram. She emailed the proper personnel, introduced herself and asked if she could join the team. Zhang, who plays for the (Rialto) Orange County Batbusters-Mora travel team, had to send videos of her pitching and hitting and just like that, she was accepted on team.

Among the criteria for wanting to represent a country in the TCIC is one of your parents or grandparents had to have been born in that country. Zhang's mother and father immigrated from China in the early 2000s and attended the University of Maryland. Zhang has been to China several times and all her ancestors are from China.

"I think the International Challenge is going to be really fun," said Zhang. "I can't wait to see. I've already met a few of my teammates because we recognize each other [through travel softball]."

Zhang said she recently went to a camp for college and a catcher and shortstop approached her and asked if she was Rachel Zhang.

Zhang has been playing softball since she was 11 or 12 years old. She recalls her parents wanted Zhang and her brother to be in the sun more, so they put the two of them in baseball. While Zhang was playing the male-dominated sport, she would wonder why there weren't too many girls playing the sport. She remem-

bers a parent telling her that her daughter plays softball and that she should try it out.

"I'm just trying to play the best competition that I can," said Zhang. "Playing in 16-U, I just want to prove myself and I need to see people who are better than me in order to kind of imitate what they are doing so I can get better. That's why I decided to play 18-U."

Zhang shined in her freshman season at V.C., going 12-6 in the circle and striking out 103 batters in just over 107 innings as the Defenders won the CIF-Southern Section Division V championship. She played in 20 games, starting 16 of them as the Defenders went 19-7. Offensively, Zhang batted .343 with 24 hits, scored 14 runs and drove in 13 runs. In 70 at-bats, she struck out just six times.

"I thought it was going to happen," said Zhang of winning a CIF championship. "When I was in eighth grade, I knew they were in Division 5 and thought it must be easy to win. But it wasn't easy to win. But I did have that motivation to win a championship. I did not think we were going to win it this early [in my high school career]. I thought maybe when I was a sophomore we were going to win it. But I'm glad we surprised [some people]."

Since the end of her high school season, the Batbusters have gone 11-6-2 and Zhang has not slowed down a bit, batting .429 in 10 games played with nine hits. She has scored half a dozen times, has four RBI and has been walked five times.

"I just want to be able to play to the best of my ability [in Colorado]," said Zhang. "I know things might not go my way, especially with the change in environment. But I want to be able to give it my all and I want to meet new friends. I just want to meet new people and be able to showcase my skills."

Like many travel players, Zhang said she would like to return to the TCIC next summer and possibly in future summers, adding that "it's really cool actually having a platform to represent who we really are".

Team Chinese Taipei will play Team Philippines and Team Dominican Republic in consecutive games on Friday morning, then play Team Canada on Saturday morning for its three pool play games before moving on to the playoff portion of the tournament.

One of those players making a return to the TCIC is Eckart, the HMG-Community News Player of the Year. Last summer, Team Mexico won all three games in pool play action by a combined score of 19-7, defeated Team USA in the playoffs before losing to Team

Cuba, 8-5. Both of Eckart's grandparents on her mother's side are from Mexico.

"It was a lot of fun," said Eckart. "I enjoyed making

up of people from all over," said Eckart.

Eckart, who will be taking her talents to the University of Notre Dame, led La Mirada in



RECENT LA MIRADA HIGH graduate Rebecca Eckart, a University of Notre Dame committ, is returning to the Triple Crown International Challenge this weekend to represent Team Mexico.

new friends and being able to know people who kind of had the same upbringing and background as me. Also, it was really fun to be able to play for my culture and heritage.

"Going into Colorado and having these big tournaments [which] can be make or break and really matter [for your travel team], it's nice to just kind of play games for fun," she continued. "It's still good competition. Of course, you still want to win. But it's nice to have a little less pressure on you, compared to the rest of the weekend. All that fun is the reason why I wanted to come back and do it again."

Once last year's TCIC had been completed, Eckart and some of the girls who were there knew they wanted to come back this summer and try to win it. Team Mexico finished in a tie for fifth place with Team Ireland, Team Israel and Team Japan. Early last October, Eckart sent a text message to the coach to let him know she was interested in coming back this summer and he put her on the roster.

One of Eckart's favorite moments from last summer's International Challenge was when music was played before the games and the players were dancing, soon to be joined by the umpires.

"It will be good to make more friends of people who live near me and to have friends who are close by considering that this team is made

almost every category this past season. She batted .402 and had 33 hits, five doubles, five home runs and 20 RBI. She also struck out five times in 82 at-bats.

Eckart plays for the (Huntington Beach) Firecrackers Select-Rico/Brashear, which will compete in The Alliance Fastpitch Championship Series July 21-28 in Westfield and Kokomo, IN, roughly 90 minutes away from where she will be attending college.

"It's going to be a lot of fun and it will probably go by quick," said Eckart. "It's going to be really fun to play against a lot of competitive teams and to play with really good teammates. I'm also going to be playing in an all-star game in Indiana."

Team Mexico will open pool play action on Friday afternoon against Team Israel followed by a contest against Team Netherlands. On Saturday afternoon, Team Mexico will wrap up pool play against Team Germany.

In last year's TCIC, 2023 Cerritos graduate Camille Lara (St. Mary's College) played on Team Philippines, Gahr High recent graduate Natalia Hill (University of Nebraska) played on Team Spain, Gahr recent graduate Rio Mendez (University of Utah) played on Team Puerto Rico and recent Norwalk High graduate Kendall Nakano (Biola University) played on Team Japan.

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VOTE from page 1

his own job, has stated “he did not sign Bekele’s letter.”

Yet an LCCN article showed that on a Central Basin meeting document, Ponto wrote that “Bekele had resigned.”

Bekele spoke up after Vasquez saying, “I’d like to make a statement on me not being a board member. Just to clarify, I did inform legal counsel [Ponto] that I will be stepping down and I will be here during the transition. There are emails that not everyone has seen stating I will be here until my ending date.”

After Bekele resigned May 20, under Asm. Cristina Garcia’s bill passed a few years ago, ballots to appoint the new director are mandated to be sent out the next day, which the CB Board Secretary finalized on May 21. That action ended Bekele’s term and declared the seat open.

Some cities in Bekele’s district had already sent their nominations to the CB Board Secretary by last Monday’s meeting. The ballots will be open sixty days from May 21.

“The election process has started,” said Vasquez, “we sent out ballots we will wait until Mr. Bekele dismisses himself. You clearly stated this will be my last meeting on May 20 in addition to sending a letter to the counsel. By attending you have violated the law.”

Another appointed Director Juan Garza, who has been fighting to keep Bekele on the board to have a majority, then spoke up. “The claims being made would be the same as one council member saying to another you are no longer a member. It’s been cleared by legal counsel [Ponto] that Bekele resigned, but he made it clear when he was replaced. Why would he resign, it makes no sense.”

Ponto finally spoke, evidently ready to handle the objections to Bekele’s attendance, citing a 1924 law that stated the resignation must be in writing with a date. “There is no date,” Ponto proclaimed.

Vasquez snapped back, “I am glad you are acting as Mr. Bekele’s personal attorney Mr. Ponto.”

Understanding the legal exposure, President Chacon called the L.A. County Sheriff’s to remove Bekele from the CB Board room if he did not leave.

Chacon called a recess and left the room to speak to the sheriffs, that’s when Garza started what would be a thirty-minute melee calling on Ponto to act while Chacon was gone.

Garza said, “Chacon is gone, we should continue the meeting, VP Camacho can run the meeting.” Ponto tried to rule that the Camacho can now conduct the meeting going back and forth with Vasquez arguing “Chacon’s not here.”

Garza joined in parroting Ponto and attacking Vasquez, “Chacon’s not here, I move we let Camacho call the meeting to order.”

Under pressure from Camacho, Garza and Ponto, the Board Secretary was forced to call the meeting to order without Chacon.

Off-camera, an officer came into the room with Camacho yelling, “Director Bekele, for your safety, please sit down, don’t go outside. We all know what can happen.”

Garza and Ponto could then be heard trying to keep Bekele in the room to vote saying several times “that’s not the sheriff.”

Bekele stated a couple of times, “I am being told to leave.” Camacho told him to sit down and called the meeting to order, that’s when President Chacon re-entered the room.

Like he had tried before, an angry vocal Garza motioned to illegally add a walk-on item to the CB meeting agenda calling to remove Chacon as president because “he was not there.”

Chacon interrupted, and Ponto brazen-

ly yelled at him, “You are not hearing me speak.”

Chacon kept trying to object, but Garza would not stop yelling, finally calling for the illegal vote..... under no objection from Ponto.

The Brown Act clearly defines that any “walk-on” item cannot be voted on unless the following strict circumstances are met:

1. That the agenda item came to the attention of staff and/or the Board of directors after the agenda was posted;

2. and there is a need to take immediate action.

Following that, the Board must state for the record that both circumstances were met followed by a 4/5ths majority vote to place the item on the agenda; no such actions were taken.

None of the circumstances were met nor was a vote taken; violating the Brown Act, Garza called for a vote with Camacho seconding.

Making matters worse for those involved, the Brown Act states the group needed five votes but Ponto told them they only needed four votes.

A vote was called with Camacho, Garza and Bekele, showing he was all in the illegal move and solidly behind Garza voting yes. Chacon and Vasquez voted no with Crawford abstaining.

Another illegal vote, attempted by Garza and Camacho with Ponto doing nothing to stop the move, failed.

This was not Ponto’s first foray into allowing illegal public agency votes.

LCCN published an investigative article last week outlining how Ponto was jumping from different public agency roles from 2023 to ’24, like Leonard DiCaprio in the Steven Spielberg movie Catch Me If You Can.

And when Ponto was hired by an agency, Brown Act and Government Code violations soon followed.

Illegal Vote 1:

In Feb. 2019, the Adelanto City Council, with Ponto as its attorney, placed City Manager Jessie Flores on paid administrative leave pending the results of an internal investigation.

The move was done in closed session with a non-agendized vote, as reported by the Victorville Daily Press.

Ponto later informed the public that the Flores item was an emergency walk-on, requiring immediate action without notice. Ponto did not provide a reason for the council’s decision regarding Flores.

The VDP criticized Ponto’s actions, and two council members informed the VDP that they had no knowledge the vote on Flores’ was scheduled for a closed session.

Flores was eventually rehired in an open session. In contrast to when Ponto placed Flores on leave in a closed session, he did not announce that the discussion to reinstate Flores was an emergency walk-on item.

Illegal Vote 2:

The Flores vote was exactly the scenario Ponto used to hire Central Basin’s current GM Elaine Jeng, who, in emails obtained by LCCN, has made it very clear will not abide by chain-of-command rules, already making decisions that are clearly under Board purview.

At a May 2024 Central Basin Special Meeting, Ponto allowed Directors Juan Garza and Martha Camacho Rodriguez to walk on a non-agendized item to hire Jeng.

Just like Adelanto, and Monday’s Garza motion to remove Chacon, Ponto defended his decision by calling it an emergency walk on item; this time Garza had enough votes and they hired Jeng.

In addition to the Brown Act violations, Ponto’s maneuvers at Adelanto and Central Basin violated Government Code 54956 which states, “any action to approve the contract of a local agency executive [Jeng] must be taken at a regular board meeting and cannot be approved at a special meeting of the board.”

Illegal Vote to Hire Ponto:

Prior to becoming Central Basin’s attorney in December 2023, Ponto was already putting a lot of miles on his car as California City’s attorney; “Cal City” is near Mojave City about 120 miles north of Los Angeles off the 14 freeway.

Like Adelanto, Ponto’s hiring at Cal City occurred under a cloud. Ponto had “been asked to leave” from his position at Los Angeles-based Olivarez Madruga so he moved to Burke, Williams, Sorensen – taking his paying clients with him – and was then hired by the Cal City’s City Council.

The Cal City’s Council vote to hire Ponto was finalized in a special meeting violating the Brown Act. The Mojave Desert News wrote, “an executive position selected to the city attorney must be approved by the City Council in open session at a regular meeting.”

According to the Mojave Desert News, one councilmember said she felt the city was being used as a bargaining chip for the revenue coming with Ponto and that the move was due to the Ponto changing from Olivarez to Burke.

Just a few weeks later, in January 2024, Ponto was appointed as interim City Manager for Cal City when City Manager Michele Martinez resigned citing “concerns for her safety due to threats from outside influencers.”

Similar to the Cal City Council, Ponto was hired in December 2023 under a cloud at Central Basin. After a new board majority led by the now-retired Michael Gualtieri and current Director Juan Garza inexplicably fired Bob Baker, who had guided the agency competently, they hired Ponto.

Illegal vote 4:

Just weeks later, like he did at Adelanto, Ponto sanctioned an illegal vote to place then-GM Rojas on leave. Under Central Basin’s Administrative Code, the vote required a 4/5ths majority of the board and 6 out of 7 votes under Rojas’ personal employment contract; neither vote number was met.

Yet, just like he did with the hiring of Jeng, Ponto ruled the vote numbers were lawful, allowed the vote, and placed Rojas on leave. Then-President Michael Gualtieri then immediately led the charge to appoint Ponto as Central Basin General Manager.

At that time, Ponto was City Manager, General Manager and General Counsel at three different public agencies.

DEBT from page 1

efforts to address medical debt for LA County residents. “Luckily for us, we have an opportunity to make a difference. We can purchase medical debt for cents on the dollar and eliminate this burden for tens of thousands of people for a small fraction of what they collectively owe. I think we have a moral obligation to seize this opportunity to help these LA County families.”

Medical debt is often bundled and sold at steep discounts to companies who profit off of collecting on that debt. Since 2014, the nonprofit Undue Medical Debt has leveraged donations to purchase medical debts much like a collection company would, but instead of trying to collect on the debt, they cancel the debt entirely. On average, \$1 can purchase and eliminate \$100 of medical debt.

Under Hahn and Mitchell’s proposal, LA County will partner with Undue Medical Debt to launch a medical debt elimination pilot program specifically targeting lower income LA County residents. The Department of Public Health estimates that with the up to \$5 million identified today for the pilot program, LA County could eliminate \$500 million of medical debt for 150,000 lower-income residents.

“I’m proud that the County is taking steps to help remove the weight of med-

ical debt that strains countless families’ finances, stability, and health. This initial investment of \$5 million towards eliminating crippling medical debt will significantly help our most vulnerable residents, many of whom have chronic illnesses and are struggling to pay huge out-of-pocket expenses,” said Supervisor Mitchell, representing the Second District. “I want to thank the Department of Public Health for collaborating with community and hospital partners to implement this pilot program. I look forward to its transformative impact on our communities.”

In addition to identifying funding, the approved motion allows the Department of Public Health to enter into an agreement with Undue Medical Debt to design and execute the pilot program. Details regarding the pilot program, partnerships with the hospital association and other key stakeholders, and the timeline will be worked out and announced in the coming months. Once the medical debt pilot program is completed, the Department of Public Health will report back to the Board on its effectiveness and potential scalability.

“I want to express my gratitude to the Board of Supervisors for their commitment to this important initiative,” Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “By launching this pilot program to eliminate medical debt for an estimated 150,000 residents and working in partnership with community organizations, health care providers, and health plans to prevent continued accumulation of debt, Los Angeles County is seeking to advance equity and compassion for those who are in need of care. This effort is about more than alleviating financial stress—it is about removing barriers to health that disproportionately affect residents in many communities.”

Medical debt exceeds \$2.9 billion for LA County residents, impacting one in ten adults in 2022 and disproportionately affecting families with children, lower-income, Latino, Black, American Indian, and Pacific Islander residents, and people with chronic health conditions. Medical debt has been shown to impede patients’ ability to access necessary healthcare and treatment, creating a cycle of health and financial hardship which affects employment stability, housing security, and overall quality of life.

This pilot program is part of a larger strategy being developed by Los Angeles County to reduce the burden of medical debt. Last October, the Board approved a motion by Hahn and Mitchell directing County Departments to take initial action, research existing strategies, and report back with recommendations for further policies that can reduce medical debt in Los Angeles County. In response to this motion, County Departments began working with the Medical Debt Coalition on potential strategies to prevent and reduce medical debt for LA County residents.



Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, 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 07/10/2024 at 11:00 a.m.
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Avante Craig
Michael Brunelle
Raymond Vasquez
Hillary Heath
Russell Michael
Aliya yousufi
Recquel Thurman
Enoch Chamberlain
Steven Jaramillo
Collections Sites LLC
Velia Archuleta
Susan Wright
Karla Munoz
David Canchola
Sanden Eck
Paul Kiefer
 The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageexpress.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 LCCN 6/28/24

Notice of Self Storage Sale
 Please take notice US Storage Centers – Cerritos located at 16015 Piuma Ave. Cerritos, CA 90703 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageexpress.com on 7/18/2024 at 10:00AM. Brogan Kaleigh Klewein; Hyacinth Lashaye Thompson; Marilyn P Huladek; Rosio Isabel Cruz; Alicia Shonte Fabian; Sasha Monique Castanon; Alfredo Tostado. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.
 Published at LCCN 6/28/24

Notice of Self Storage Sale
 Please take notice US Storage Centers - Commerce – Olympic located at 5415 E. Olympic Blvd. Commerce CA 90022 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageexpress.com on 7/18/2024 at 10:00AM. Jose Manuel Mendoza; Israel Garcia Garcia; Griselda Coral Fuentes; Araceli Gonza-lez; Claudia Judith Rodriguez; Marlyn Hernandez; Francisco Torres; Clemente Gutierrez; Menece Lo-renzo Antonio; Michelle Cash; Anthony Romeo Diaz; Jose Luis Gonzalez; Jorge Felix Calzada Ortega (2 units); Israel Navarro; Maria Isabel Gutierrez. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply
 Published at LCCN 6/28/24

CITY OF LA MIRADA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LACDA)
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM BUDGET AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program proposed budget amendment will be presented to the La Mirada City Council for consideration at its regular meeting on July 23, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, La Mirada City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California. A budget amendment is necessary to increase the CDBG funding by \$318,045. A portion of these funds are currently left from Neff Estate Historical Site Restoration Project Phase Two, along with the funds from Foster Park Code Enforcement Program which has expired. In addition, \$21,000 from the CDBG-funded Senior Services Program from fiscal year 2023-2024 will be reallocated to be used for the Housing Rehabilitation Program. The city currently has a waiting list for the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

All persons wishing to comment, object, or otherwise be heard at the public hearing will be given an opportunity to appear and be heard at the time, date and place of the public hearing. In addition, interested people may submit written comments to the City Clerk at City Hall prior to the public hearing. For additional information, contact Housing Technician I Norma Stein at (562) 943-0131.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a City meeting or other services offered by the City, contact the City Clerk's office at (562) 943-0131. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or time when services are needed will assist City staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting or service.

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk
 Published at La Mirada Lamplighter June 28, 2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File Number 2024116335
 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: POODLE DESIGNS LEATHERCRAFT, 19410 CROSSDALE AVE., CERRITOS, CA. 90703, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. REGISTERED OWNER: DAI SERVICES LLC 19410 CROSSDALE AVE., CERRITOS, CA. 90703, INCORPORATED IN CALIFORNIA. THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED AS A LIMITED LIABILITY. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: N/A. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /S/ DAI SERVICES LLC MANAGING MEMBER DEANNA ALLEN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 5/30/24. In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). LCCN 6/14, 6/21, 6/28, 7/5/24

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IS No. CA-24-986542-BF Order No.: FIN-24002677 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/20/2016. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **Jenny Huisook Park, a widow** Recorded: 10/27/2016 as Instrument No. 20161327353 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES COUNTY, California; Date of Sale: 7/25/2024 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: **At the Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650, in the Vineyard Ballroom** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$163,936.82** The purported property address is: **15137 LAS FLORES AVE, LA MIRADA, CA 90638-1451** Assessor's Parcel No.: **8034-017-014** **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **800-280-2832** for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-24-986542-BF**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call **800-280-2832**, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-24-986542-BF** to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION . TS No.: CA-24-986542-BF IDSPub #0202786 6/21/2024 6/28/2024 7/5/2024**

CITY OF LA MIRADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2023-07
NEIGHBORHOOD SLURRY SEAL AREA 5

Notice is hereby given that the City of La Mirada, California invites sealed bids for the furnishing of all labor, materials, equipment, and services for Capital Improvement Project No. 2023-07. Project Documents are available online from American Reprographics Company (ARC) at https://customer.e-arc.com/arcEOC/PWELL_Main.asp?mem=29. Bidders may obtain free copies of the Plans, Specifications and other Contract Documents online. Work includes roadway slurry seal including providing traffic control, crack sealing, weed abatement, Type II Latex Slurry Seal, and installation of pavement striping and markings in the City of La Mirada. Sealed bids shall be delivered to the City Clerk at or before 11 a.m. on July 30, 2024. Bids must be submitted on the blank forms, prepared and furnished for that purpose and included in the Plans and Specifications. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or delete portions of any or all bids, or waive any informality or irregularity in the bid or the bid procedures.

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk
 Published at La Mirada Lamplighter June 28 and July 5, 2024

CITY OF LA MIRADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2023-08
SLURRY SEAL OF IMPERIAL HIGHWAY FROM WICKER DRIVE TO EAST CITY LIMITS, AND ARTESIA BOULEVARD FROM VALLEY VIEW AVENUE TO KNOTT AVENUE

Notice is hereby given that the City of La Mirada, California invites sealed bids for the furnishing of all labor, materials, equipment, and services for Capital Improvement Project No. 2023-08. Project Documents are available online from American Reprographics Company (ARC) at https://customer.e-arc.com/arcEOC/PWELL_Main.asp?mem=29. Bidders may obtain free copies of the Plans, Specifications and other Contract Documents online. Work includes roadway slurry seal including providing traffic control, crack sealing, weed abatement, Type II Latex Slurry Seal, and installation of pavement striping and markings in the City of La Mirada. Sealed bids shall be delivered to the City Clerk at or before 11:15 a.m. on July 30, 2024. Bids must be submitted on the blank forms, prepared and furnished for that purpose and included in the Plans and Specifications. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or delete portions of any or all bids, or waive any informality or irregularity in the bid or the bid procedures.

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk
 Published at La Mirada Lamplighter June 28 and July 5, 2024

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY
 Notice is given pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Mission Hills Self Storage 15241 Rinaldi St., Mission Hills, CA 91345 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on www.storageexpress.com (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday July 16th, 2024, at 9:00AM.

NAME	UNIT
COCHRAN, KEVIN	G123
GARDNER, DELVONDRE BERNARD	C225
GUERRA, JOSEPH	H137
GUERRA, JOSEPH	H149

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures' Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Rosa-California 3112562
 Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.
 Published at LCCN 06/28/24 & 07/05/2024

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY
 Notice is given pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Norwalk Self Storage at 11564 E. Firestone Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on www.storageexpress.com (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday, July 16th, 2024, at 9:00AM.

NAME	UNIT #
HERNANDEZ, LAURA YESSENIA	A118
HOSANG, BRANDON STEVEN	B328
JONES, CHARLES JERMAINE	B485
PADILLA, MIGUEL	B780
SMALLEY, DAISHAWN LEE	B212

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures' Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Rosa-California #3112562
 Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party. Publication Dates: 06/28/24 & 07/05/2024
 Published at LCCN 06/28/24 & 07/05/2024

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY
 Notice is given pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Cherry Carson RV Storage Inc. at 4160 Cherry Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on www.storageexpress.com (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday, July 16th, 2024, at 9:00AM.

NAME	UNIT #
ANGERMAYER, CHRISTOPHER LEE L	089
ANGERMAYER, CHRISTOPHER LEE L	090
ANGERMAYER, CHRISTOPHER LEE L	092
ANGERMAYER, CHRISTOPHER LEE L	121

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures' Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Rosa-California 3112562
 Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.
 Publication Dates: 06/28/24 AND 07/05/24
 Published at LCCN 06/28/24 & 07/05/2024



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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than 11:00 AM on the 18th day of July 2024 sealed bids for:

Bid # ABC-1659 – Paper Products for Nutrition Services

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 office of 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. Debarred vendors shall be disqualified. Federal Requirements shall apply.

Los Cerritos News

June 21, 2024
June 28, 2024

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/21 and 6/28/24

**SUMMONS
CASE NUMBER
24NWCP00165**

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – NORWALK COURTHOUSE

CITY OF PICO RIVERA, a California Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff and Petitioner vs.

PICO WATER DISTRICT, a public agency/special district; and ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER CONCERNING PICO WATER DISTRICT'S ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 65 INCREASING WATER RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2024; and
DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants and Respondents.

TO ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a civil complaint has been filed by the CITY OF PICO RIVERA, a Municipal corporation, in the above-referenced matter for the purposes of invalidating Ordinance No. 65 adopted by PICO WATER DISTRICT on February 15, 2024, increasing water rates by 110% over the next five years. Persons who contest the legality or validity of this matter will not be subject to punitive action, such as wage garnishment or seizure of their real or personal property.

RESPONSE DATE

Publication of the required Summons under CCP § 861.1. is expected to commence on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, and expected to be completed by Wednesday, July 3, 2024. You may contest the legality or validity of this matter by appearing before the judge assigned to this matter and filing a written answer to the complaint no later than ten (10) days after the completion of publication. As such, pursuant to CCP § 861.1, a response is due no later than, **Monday, July 15, 2024.**

CASE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 861.1, CITY OF PICO RIVERA ("Plaintiff") hereby provides a detailed summary of the matter that the Plaintiff seeks to invalidate (or "reverse validation") pursuant to Section 53759 of the Government Code. On February 15, 2024, the Board of Directors ("Board") for Pico Water District ("District") approved Ordinance No. 65, Ordinance of Pico Water District Adopting Increased Rates and Charges ushering in a 110% water rate increase over the span of the next five years. Approved by the majority of the Board, Ordinance No. 65 was adopted in violation of Article XIII C and Article XIII D of the California Constitution, also known as Proposition 218, which requires (among other things), proof that the revenues derived from the fee or charge not exceed the funds required to provide the property related services, and that revenues derived from the fee or charge will not be used for any purpose other than that for which the fee or charge was imposed. The District has failed to prove that the fee increase does not exceed the funds required to provide the service. Rather, the main purpose behind Ordinance No. 65 is the District's desire to increase its reserve targets as recommend by a 2023 water rate study conducted by the consulting firm, Water Resources Economics, LLC. The District disputes the City's position and contends that it did not violate Proposition 218.

Attorneys for Plaintiff and Petitioner,
CITY OF PICO RIVERA
Arnold M. Alvarez-Glasman (SBN 80095)
Gloria V. Ramirez (SBN 316993)
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gramirez@agclawfirm.com

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/13, 6/20 and 6/27/24

CITY OF BELLFLOWER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER DIRECTING SUBMITTAL OF DELINQUENT SOLID WASTE BILLINGS TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR COLLECTION WITH THE ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held by the Bellflower City Council to consider directing submittal of all solid waste billings delinquent for 30 days or more to the County of Los Angeles for collection with the annual property tax assessment. The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 7 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California.

Testimony will be heard for and against directing submittal of delinquent solid waste billings to the County of Los Angeles for collection with the annual property tax assessment. Also, any person interested may make written protest or objection. Such written protest or objection shall be signed by the person protesting or objecting and delivered to the City Clerk before the end of the subject public hearing. Timely received written testimony will be submitted as evidence for the Public Hearing. Oral testimony may be presented at the appropriate time during the Public Hearing.

Copies of the staff report, the proposed resolution, and attachments may be inspected by the public in the Public Works Department, City Maintenance Yard, 9944 Flora Vista Street, Bellflower, California. Questions should be directed to Melanie Paz, Management Analyst II, at (562) 804-1424, ext. 2283.

If you wish to challenge this matter in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence timely delivered to the City Clerk for submission at the Public Hearing.

By order of the City Council of the City of Bellflower, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

MAYRA OCHIQUI, CITY CLERK

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/14 and 6/28/24

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
AVERILL PERRY AKA AVERILL DEAN PERRY AKA AVERILL D. PERRY
CASE NO. 24STPB04764**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of AVERILL PERRY AKA AVERILL DEAN PERRY AKA AVERILL D. PERRY. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ESPERANZA ELENA PERRY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ESPERANZA ELENA PERRY 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: 07/30/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 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
RICHARD T. LEBHERZ - SBN 316037
KAMINSKI LAW GROUP, APC
140 DIAMOND CREEK PLACE, STE. 165
ROSEVILLE CA 95747
Telephone (916) 540-7618
6/14, 6/21, 6/28/24
CNS-3820515#
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2024108286

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:ARTESIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH, 12054 183RD ST., ARTESIA CA 90701, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. ORGANIZATION NUMBER 0126840. REGISTERED OWNER: INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL, 1132 GLENDALE BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90026, INCORPORATED IN CALIFORNIA. THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED AS A CORPORATION. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: 1/1928. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /S/ INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL. PRESIDENT: JARROD D. KULA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on /20/24. In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the of notice of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). LCCN 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28/24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING/PROPOSED ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Cerritos City Council** will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on **Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** on the following matter: **Recommendation by the Cerritos Planning Commission, on a vote of 4-0, to approve the following: Review and consideration to waive full reading of and introduce AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS AMENDING CHAPTER 22.94 – ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM OF THE CERRITOS MUNICIPAL CODE, CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF A PUBLIC PLACE AND AMENDING VALUE THRESHOLDS FOR THE DONATION OF, PLACEMENT OF, OR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ART INSTALLATION IN THE CITY OF CERRITOS, HEREIN REFERENCED AS DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT 2024-2.* Review and consideration to waive full reading of and adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS AMENDING THE CITY OF CERRITOS MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES IN-LIEU FEE. *Pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b) (5) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this administrative activity is not a "project" under CEQA, and even if it were, the proposed amendment is exempt from CEQA review. City Attorney Summary: "Current City law, Chapter 22.94 of the Cerritos Municipal Code, establishes and governs the City's Art in Public Places Program. Among other provisions, the Program prescribes the type of art work that qualifies for compliance, including sculptures, paintings, and ceramics, as well as their placement in public places to further the intent of public viewing and appreciation. The Program also provides options for compliance by development projects subject to the Program, including by placement or donation of art meeting a threshold value, or payment of an in-lieu fee based on a threshold value. Generally, the Program applies to a development project with a building valuation greater than \$250,000, and requires a contribution of 1% of total project building valuation not to exceed \$450,000. The proposed ordinance would amend Chapter 22.94 to clarify that a public place for qualifying art works includes interior areas on public property which are accessible to the public during normal operating hours. The proposed ordinance also would adjust the current maximum developer contribution amount based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the date of Program inception, and allow for future annual adjustments of that maximum developer contribution based on CPI." This public hearing will be conducted in person in the Cerritos City Council Chamber, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703. The public hearing will also air live on Cerritos TV3 and will be streamed over the City of Cerritos website at www.cerritos.us. A copy of the related agenda report will be available for download from the website on the Friday prior to the public hearing. Public comments can be provided during the meeting or via email to city_clerk@cerritos.us or by hard copy to the Office of the City Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email or hard copy document. All written correspondence received by the 3:00 p.m. deadline will be distributed to the legislative body prior to the meeting and retained with the official meeting record. If you challenge the above-mentioned item and related actions in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence emailed to the Office of the City Clerk by the submission deadline, prior to the public hearing. Any person interested in this matter may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (562) 916-1248 for additional information and/or appear at the hearing in person or by agent and be heard. /s/ Vida Barone, City Clerk**

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/28/24

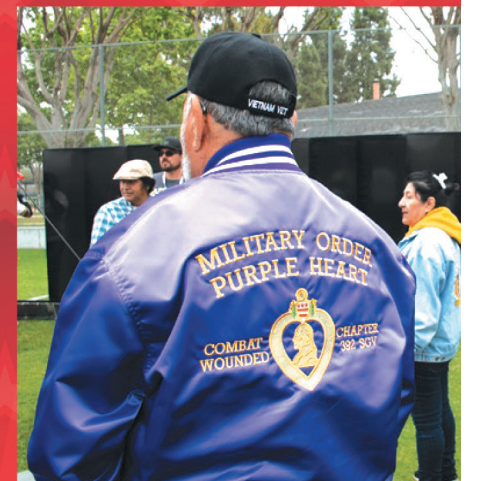
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★ MOBILE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL ★

Last month, the City was fortunate to have the privilege and opportunity to host the Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall (AV Wall). The AV Wall is a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. The wall is inscribed with over 58,000 names of fallen soldiers who fought in Vietnam. The Wall also includes the names of 27 fallen soldiers who were from Pico Rivera. Over the 90-hour period that the AV Wall was accessible, hundreds of visitors from near and far visited at all hours of the night to reflect and remember those that were lost during the Vietnam War.

Below are a few pictures from the Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall at Smith Park.



Thank you to Point Man Antelope Valley, the guardians of The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, our Parks and Recreation Staff, and all of our Volunteers for making this event possible.



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*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit www.ibo.org

 562.800.0249

 www.auracademy.org

 admission@auracademy.org

 Building 2, 1600 E Hill St., Signal Hill CA 90755

