

## Shared Stories: Here I Am, Ready or Not

*Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles by participants in a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Bonnie Mansell is the instructor for this free class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. Curated by Carol Kearns.*

*Mervin Chantland wore a body cast for eight years of his childhood as treatment for a severe case of tuberculosis diagnosed when he was two. His loving family found medical help in Iowa City, over 200 miles from their family farm, and every few months Mervin made the journey to have the cast replaced on his growing body.*

By Mervin Chantland

I was born December 13, 1934, on a small farm just outside Badger, Iowa, and was given the name Mervin Darwin Chantland. I was the ninth of Carl and Cora Chantland's 11 children. My claim to fame in my first year of life was related to be by my sister Jeanette. She said I walked at a younger age than any of the other children – in my crib at seven and one-half months and on my own at nine months.

Mom had been so lonesome for her life in Battle Lake, Minnesota, that Dad said she should go back and visit. My sisters offered to take care of me, only two years old at the time, but Mom said she wouldn't go without her baby. Jeanette tells the story of how she and the other girls went into town and bought me "the cutest coat and cap set" to wear on the trip. It was dark blue.

Dad took the two of us off by first driving us to Minneapolis where we took the train to Dalton, Minnesota to stay with Mom's relatives, the Fshaugs. All this time I had been fussing and crying that my hip hurt every time I walked.

Mom couldn't figure out why I was so fretful. This just wasn't like me. And Mom wasn't able to get very much rest as she tried everything she could think of to make me comfortable. From Dalton, we took the train to Duluth, and went from there to visit Mom's brothers and sisters in Mahtawa, Minnesota.

After our trip, when Dad came to pick up us, Mom said, "I never want to go back to Battle Lake again. It is not what it used to be." Mom was exhausted, and Jeanette says she believes Mom was pregnant with my sister Doris at the time.

"Walking at nine months!" That turned out to be pretty ironic, considering the rest of my story.

Dad took me to a doctor right away, determined to find out why I had seemed to be in such pain during the Minnesota trip. The doctor moved my leg and I cried out. An x-ray of my hip showed I had Tuberculosis (TB) of the hip bone.

I was taken for treatment to Iowa City University Hospital. Jeanette remembers that when they took me there and left me, I cried so loudly they could hear me from out in the street. Mom was so thankful to soon receive a letter from a nurse informing her that I had settled down all right and that they loved me very much.

When my mother was tested, she was found to have TB as well, so she had to leave her family and go to live in Oakdale Sanitarium near Iowa City. All of our family members were tested, checking to see if they reacted to a patch test on the arm. Older members were also given x-rays. They all turned out to be fine. Even Dad had escaped the infection, thank God.

All of our family members had to take cod liver oil – to make sure everyone remained healthy. Even all of the children who attended school with my brothers and sisters had to take the terrible-tasting stuff. According to Jeanette, this brought a lot of criticism on our family. My siblings were called "TB kids" and were teased and avoided in school.

That's how it was back then. TB was very contagious, could cause a lot of complications, and often required harsh treatment. My family stood it as best they could. They didn't have a choice.

When I finally came home from the hospital, I was in a body cast. This covered my entire right leg, went up under my arms, and then went down to my left knee. A bar was attached between my legs, to keep my legs separated and he hip stable. It was believed that I had contracted the TB from my mother, from having been a nursing baby.

With our mother away, it fell to Dad and Jeanette, the oldest girl at home, to take care of me on the farm. It was very hard on them. Since someone had to be up with me most of the time, Dad and Jeanette had to take urns every other night. I had to be carried everywhere, and the cast made me very heavy and clumsy to handle. I was basically a cheerful child, but I couldn't understand why I was suddenly not able to get down and play and walk around like I wanted. And it was hard for me to rest comfortably for very long at a time.

In nice weather I was placed on the cellar lid outside so I could lie there and watch the other kids play. They tried to include me and make my life as normal as possible. Being in a cast during the summer was really miserable. It was very hot; but to make things even worse, I would itch everywhere under the cast and couldn't scratch myself. Back in those days, the women wore corsets made with "stays" long, flat metal pieces that kept the garments stiff. Jeanette took one of the stays from a corset and slid it up and down inside my cast to attack the itchy spots. It's unbelievable how good that felt.

Eventually Dad decided that they couldn't continue to provide me with the constant care I needed. It was very hard on Dad and Jeanette to let me go, but they had become so worn down that they were afraid they were putting the health, and maybe even the lives, of all three of us in jeopardy. Jeanette still gets tears in her eyes when she ways she was afraid I was not going to live.

I was three years old when Dad hired Lou and Prof Knoll in Gilmore City, Iowa, to take me into their home and care for me. This was over 20 miles from our farm in Badger. Dad paid the Knolls \$39 a month for my care and took them meat, eggs, and milk from the farm to help out.

The above chapter has been reprinted with the author's permission from his book, "Can't: No Such Word."

## Double shooting on Molette Street leaves one dead, another wounded

NORWALK – L.A. County Sheriff's detectives are still investigating a double shooting in Norwalk that left one man dead and another one in serious condition early Sunday morning.

The shooting occurred in the 12000 block of Molette Street at 2:30 a.m., according to the Norwalk Sheriff's Station.

Upon arriving at the scene, deputies found two men lying in the street suffering from gunshot wounds to the upper torso, said Deputy Juanita Navarro-Suarez of the Sheriff's Information Bureau.

Both victims were rushed to an area hospital, where one was pronounced dead from multiple gunshot wounds and the other was listed in serious condition with a single gunshot wound, Navarro-Suarez said.

Detectives said no motive is known at this time.

Anyone with information on this shooting is asked to call the Sheriff's homicide bureau at (323) 890-5500.



Photo by William Odis Martin

## Norwalk's Christian Perez sees overlap in pursuing his faith and cross country

By William Odis Martin  
News Intern

NORWALK – Many athletes talk the talk when it comes to matters of faith, but often fewer walk the walk.

Norwalk native Christian Perez is an anomaly; he not only walks it -- he runs it.

Last year, the 19-year-old sophomore earned a scholarship to Biola University for his accomplishments as a cross country runner at Norwalk High School.

Perez graduated from Norwalk High School in 2015, where he competed in cross country, played soccer, and ran track for the Lancers. He quit soccer so he could really focus on cross country running.

Perez credits his family for igniting his love for the sport and thanks them for the support he needed to get to where he is today. He realizes what a blessing it is have that capability and gives all the praise to God.

His three older siblings all ran cross country. He followed in his older brother Eddie Perez's

footprints, who also had the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level.

The private Christian institution has an annual tuition of more than \$36,000, so the scholarship was a great blessing but Perez believes that it was God's will for him to get an education at Biola.

"I would like to give credit and thanks to God since he gave everything in my journey I have today at Biola," says Perez.

His deep devotion to God, along with his endless love for running and caring spirit has Perez geared toward a career in sports medicine with his Kinesiology degree.

Perez hopes to travel the world and improve the quality of life of the underprivileged youth of the world both spiritually and physically by spreading the love of the Lord and running.

When he is not training or studying for his 14 units worth of classes, he is hanging out with his roommates who are also on the cross country team. He also tries his best to visit family back home in Norwalk if he can.

He was part of the team that

set the school team record of (1:18:13). Perez was honored with Norwalk High School's Most Valuable Runner twice, in addition to, Most Inspirational and Rookie-of-the-Year.

Perez led the Lancers to three league championships including twice as a team captain and looks to continue his winning ways at the next level in his second year at Biola University.

"I want run the best of my ability and hopefully run faster than my PR last year of 25:40 and place higher in conference, hopefully in the top 10 since I finished 15th last year. I want finish my season strong and great at nationals," says Perez.

Next year, Biola University will be moving up to the NCAA Division II when they join the Pacific West Conference.

"This season is a very important season for the team. It's our last year in the NAIA and GSAC conference since we will begin our transition to NCAA division 2 and PAC west conference," says Perez.

"My goals for this season above all is to glorify God," says Perez. "To always give my best for my teammates and coach."

## NLMUSD eyes renaming former Excelsior High auditorium after retired all-city band director

By Raul Samaniego  
Contributor

NORWALK – At the Oct.10 meeting of the Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District Board of Education, a proposal from Board Member Darryl Adams to rename the Excelsior High School Auditorium was introduced.

Adams' recommendation was to rename the auditorium after former educator and Norwalk All City Band Director, Mr. Lee Mitchell.

With over 40 years commitment to students, families and people of the communities of Norwalk, La Mirada, Bellflower and surrounding areas, Mitchell stated in a 2015 interview as to his reasons for coming to the district.

"I just wanted to teach music," he said.

The process for renaming a school district facility is not a simple one. Many guidelines are in place.

Adams recited his reluctance to rename school properties, but in this case, he feels Mitchell is deserving of the honor and came forth with the proposal after contemplating the idea for several years.

The naming guidelines of school properties states, "Names proposed for district facilities or properties shall have significance for the

students who will attend the site, and should not cause confusion with the names of other sites in the district."

A proposal must be made in writing with a supporting statement. The guidelines also state:

"Facilities or properties of existing sites may be named after an employee of the NLMUSD provided

members must include: "Assistant Superintendent (Facilitator; Community representative(s); Parent representative(s); Teacher representative(s) Selected TANLA; Classified representative(s) selected by CSEA; Administrator representative(s) selected by NLMAA; Student representative(s); Other representative(s) as appropriate."

After these and other guidelines have been met, the suggestions will be returned to the Board for the final naming or renaming of the facility.

As stated in the guidelines, "The naming or renaming of a facility or properties is an important action. Except under unusual circumstances, a facility once named, shall not be renamed."

Currently, the name on the building is "Excelsior Union High School Auditorium."

The bronzed lettering was painted over during the last major refurbishment effort.

The auditorium is hosting religious services weekly and is available for special events, such as this past June's open house at the All-Class (Excelsior) picnic.

The Excelsior High School campus closed in 1982, but has been the site for the Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District Adult School for many years since.

Photo by Andrew Laverdiere



### Weekend at a Glance

Friday	92°	
Saturday	85°	
Sunday	81°	

### THINGS TO DO

#### DTLA Oktoberfest

**Saturday and Sunday - Pershing Square, 12 - 8 p.m.**

Experience a Beer Garden, along with sausages, pretzels, and live music.

#### Downey Symphony

**Saturday - Downey Theatre, 8 p.m.**

A special Downey Symphony concert celebrating Downey's 60th anniversary. World premiere by Lars Clutterham.

#### Open Mic Night

**Saturday - Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, 8 p.m.**

Local comedians, poets, and musicians are welcome to come perform.

#### Hot Wings & Craft Beer Fest

**Saturday - Santa Anita Park, 12:30 p.m.**

Taste a variety of different hot wing flavors paired with craft brews while the horses compete nearby. \$35

#### Downtown Walking Tour

**Saturday - Downtown Downey, 9 am**

A walking tour of historic downtown, led by the Downey Conservancy. Meet at Downey and Firestone.

### FROM OUR FACEBOOK

#### Norwalk Planning Commission approves 21-unit townhome complex

Serg McCarreiro: Parking already sucks as it is with everyone parking in the neighborhood across the street from the apartments -- this is only going to make it worse.

Adan Tellez: This is great for Norwalk. Newer developments with the right planning not only raises home property values but also increases interest in business development if done properly. This private community seems to have plenty of parking and wont effect current problems in bad planning in the apartment complexes,that try to fit as many people in a location, for maximum monthly profit. These are homes and won't sell if parking is a problem.

Jeff Blake: With all the shootings and murders in Norwalk. I wonder if the windows are bulletproof?

Join the conversation at: [Facebook.com/NorwalkPatriot](https://www.facebook.com/NorwalkPatriot)



# Pilot effort in Bellflower teaches students STEAM through arts and crafts

**BELLFLOWER** – Frank E Woodruff Elementary third-grader Amani Cobb slid the quarter-sized magnet along the back of the cardboard page, using its power to swiftly guide a paper clip on the front side through the twists of a brightly hued maze she designed in a special lesson meshing science, math and art.

“You go from the beginning through to the end,” Amani, 8 said. “Look at how it moves.”

At tables across the room, classmates raced their paper clips through a variety of crayon-crafted mazes – some using attraction, others repulsion – as they brought to life lessons on magnetism taught by Dramatic Results, a nonprofit agency that uses arts and crafts to provide gripping lessons on science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) to students in grades three through five.

Dramatic Results, which has worked with students at more than 40 public schools in California,

Alaska and Oregon since 1992, has started an informal trial of its program at Bellflower Unified’s Frank E Woodruff Elementary School funded through grants from the Ahmanson Foundation and Hitachi, Ltd.

“We are so excited to have the Dramatic Results team being piloted on campus,” Principal Beverly Swanson said. “Their lessons are full of energy and the students seem to really respond to their creative approach.”

If the pilot effort proves successful, District leaders may consider expanding the program to additional campuses, using the same pilot process.

Dramatic Results teaching artist Maryam Husain said students respond strongly to the combination of science and art lessons based on the California Standards for each grade level.

“The goal is to bring not only science standards but also to

incorporate arts as well,” Husain said. “We use multiple standards per lesson.”

The magnet lesson, for example, combined science lessons on attraction, repulsion and identifying a magnet’s “north” and “south” orientations with art lessons on use of color and lines.

For Woodruff’s fourth-graders, Dramatic Results is providing one of its most popular STEAM programs – “Math in a Basket” – in which students plan, design and create colorful reed baskets from scratch.

“We teach the art of basketry and basket weaving while utilizing math and engineering,” Husain said. “The students learn perimeter, surface area, volume, tools to use for accurately measuring certain objects, and then they create a basket.”

The program also teaches students about the cultural and functional history of basketry. The program even incorporates iPads to provide students an opportunity to experience 3D computer design effects.

Later this year, fifth-graders will get a chance to explore math concepts while learning the art of origami.

Dramatic Results, based in nearby Signal Hill, has won four Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education, one of only four groups in California to do so.

“We’re excited to be working with a group of the caliber of Dramatic Results,” Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs said. “It’s critical to be able to convey these important lessons in STEAM subjects to students at the elementary level, and their program provides a fun and engaging way to do so.”

## NORWALK SPORTS



Photo: Mary Vera

# PREVIEW: Norwalk Eagles faceoff against undefeated La Mirada Matadores tonight

By William Odis Martin, News Intern

**NORWALK** – The (5-3) Norwalk High Lancers have a bye this week giving coach Otis Harrison extra time to prepare for their conference match up with Artesia High School on Oct. 28.

The football game is scheduled to kickoff at 7 p.m. on Artesia’s home field. Last week Norwalk reigned over Cerritos High School 45-6 to improve to (2-2) on the season against rival Suburban League opponents.

At La Mirada High School, the (6-2) Matadors shutout the Bellflower High School football team last week in Bellflower 48-0.

It was La Mirada’s third shutout out of their current four game win streak. Tonight, the Matadors will host the Glenn Eagles who have had a hard time finding ways to win this season.

The Eagles have allowed opponents a combined 283 points, which the Matadors’ high powered offense will look to exploit. La Mirada is undefeated in Suburban League conference play and is atop the standings.

School Name	*W-L	*Pct. ▼	*PF	*PA	W-L	Pct.	PF	PA	Strk
La Mirada	4-0	1.000	238	15	6-2	0.750	302	125	5 W
Mayfair	3-0	1.000	111	45	4-3	0.571	158	192	3 W
Norwalk	2-2	0.500	116	108	5-3	0.625	207	140	1 W
Artesia	2-2	0.500	107	165	5-3	0.625	188	252	2 L
Bellflower	1-2	0.333	71	114	1-6	0.143	113	266	1 L
Glenn	0-3	0.000	70	130	1-6	0.143	145	283	6 L
Cerritos	0-3	0.000	19	155	2-4	0.333	84	237	3 L

\* Denotes league data.

# Free legal community fair Saturday in Norwalk

**NORWALK** – Assembly member Cristina Garcia will be co-hosting a community legal fair with the organization Ferias Legales this Saturday, Oct. 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the auditorium at the Norwalk-La Mirada (Excelsior) Adult School located at 15711 Pioneer Blvd. in Norwalk.

Volunteer attorneys will provide legal workshops and free consultations in different areas of law including employment, criminal, family law, personal injury, estate planning, civil, Mexican law, immigration, DACA, Citizenship, and others.

People are encouraged to bring any legal documentation that they would like reviewed. Ferias Legales is a community organization consisting of attorneys and community leaders which aims to provide free legal resources to the community.

“Ferias Legales has and continues to provide access to legal services to empower the community, especially by helping them know their rights,” said Downey attorney and board president Ricardo Perez.

For more information, email [info@feriaslegales.org](mailto:info@feriaslegales.org) or call (213) 536-1492.

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Does marijuana legalization equal criminalization?

Dear Editor:

Decriminalization of marijuana is already a reality in California. In 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed CA State Senate Bill 1449 into law, effectively reducing the charge of possession of up to one ounce of cannabis from a misdemeanor to an infraction. Similar to a traffic violation, this infraction carries a \$100 fine and requires no mandatory court appearance or criminal record notation.

However, many proponents of marijuana legalization argue that legalization is equal to decriminalization. Proponents also claim legalization will solve the social injustice issue that compared to their Caucasian counterparts, people of color are incarcerated at greater rates for the simple possession of marijuana.

Most voters may not realize that possession of marijuana has been decriminalized since Governor Schwarzenegger's law became effective on January 1, 2011. Additionally, in November 2014, Proposition 47 passed and further reduced nonviolent drug offenses from a felony charge to a misdemeanor. A careful analysis of current statistics shows that no one has been imprisoned for strictly possessing marijuana; possession cases that result in imprisonment typically include other charges, such as trafficking or weapons violations. In fact, those incarcerated solely for possession are usually parolees and probationers as a violation of the terms of their parole or probation.

Thus, decriminalization is already a reality in California. The proposed initiatives on the ballot still regard possession of more than an ounce a criminal offense and it would still be illegal for minors to use. So nothing in the legalization initiatives change how the law is enforced.

In addition, the legalization of marijuana will not solve racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Art Way, one of the biggest proponents of marijuana legalization and the Colorado Director for Drug Policy Alliance, stated, "Legalization is no panacea for the longtime issues that law enforcement had with the black and brown community," in response to Colorado's continued disparities in arrests and citations following legalization. Compared to Caucasians, African-Americans in Colorado are still more than twice as likely to be charged with public use of marijuana. African-Americans in Colorado are also more likely to be charged with illegal cultivation or possession of more than an ounce of marijuana.

Law enforcement reform is the answer. Not legalization.

Decriminalizing the use of marijuana has already established the foundation to address issues of social injustice. Moreover, drug abuse is a problem best handled with treatment, rather than incarceration. A shift in the culture of law enforcement and its view of drug use are necessary to further address these issues.

Legalization does not equal decriminalization for the simple fact that it does nothing to change what the law already has in place. Legalization does nothing but simply increase access in California of a substance that is still illegal to possess federally.

Maurina Cintron

Helpline Youth Counseling, Inc.

Donald Trump has taught us the danger of rewarding oppressive workplace behavior

By Jill Richardson

Last May, The New York Times reported on a pattern of Donald Trump's vulgar behavior with women. Trump refuted every last accusation.

It's only now that a video of Trump's inappropriate behavior in action has come to light that the nation believes he's the type of man that several women have alleged him to be.

Another recent article described how Donald Trump triggers victims of domestic abuse. I am a trauma survivor and an abuse victim, and I've been triggered by the GOP candidate myself.

Trump and my bully share the same playbook.

My bully, Alan Hutchison, was my supervisor at work. I was 25 and working at a medical software company, Epic Systems. He was my senior on a project at a hospital.

The project was ambitious, but I was more than competent at my job. I'd just gotten a stellar performance review.

Trump and my bully exhibited similar personality traits. The difference is that my tormentor, who was gay, had no interest in grabbing my genitals.

Within six months, shortly after I bought my first house, Alan got me fired.

During those months, he gave me conflicting orders to guarantee that I'd disobey one, or he'd instruct me to do things that were bad for our client, and pressure me when I refused. I would be in trouble either

way.

He forbid me to give clients the instruction manual for the software our company had sold them. He continued to add tasks to my workload, jeopardizing our ability to complete the project on time.

And sometimes, he just plain lied.

He had no qualms about harming the hospital in order to bully me.

I told my boss at work that Alan was bullying me, but he didn't believe me. By the time I tried to tell Human Resources, it was too late. They didn't believe me either.

And there was no incriminating video to prove my case.

I lost my job for "customer dissatisfaction." I lost my house and all of my savings with it.

The customers took me out to dinner a few weeks later. Their manager was furious when he found out I was let go. It took three people to replace me, they said.

Years later, a coworker on the project told me our company almost lost the entire account, and firing me was the start of their souring relationship with the client.

A decade later, I still have nightmares about my antagonist.

I think we have two lessons to learn from my experience and from the recent Trump tape.

First of all, victims of bullies often aren't believed. The bullies are smooth operators. They deny everything and choose their victims well. It can take a leaked

video before a bully is caught.

Second, it's not just bad to put a bully in charge at work — whether in the White House or any other job — because they're mean to their subordinates. It's also bad for the company — or, in this case, the country.

My bully put the work we were doing together in jeopardy in order to terrorize me. No company — or nation — can afford to have an employee sabotaging their project.

But workplace bullying is legal, and companies tend to promote bullies, not fire them.

My bully still holds his job. And although the odds aren't in his favor, Trump isn't out of the race just yet.

If Trump can give one gift to this nation, it's shining a light on these oppressors and the danger of tolerating them.

*OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is the author of Recipe for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It.*

An obvious choice for President

Dear Editor:

I am horrified that Donald Trump is running as a candidate for President of the United States.

His behavior is disgusting and embarrassing. He has no respect for anyone, he cares only about himself. He is a sexual predator who says that he can do anything to women because he is rich and famous. He is a pathological liar who denies global warming, unless it is convenient to raise the seawall for his golf course.

His hateful rhetoric towards anyone who dares to criticize him and his willingness to say or do anything to get his way puts him beyond being in a league with Fidel Castro or Hugo Chavez. There is only one other head of state he could be compared to: Adolf Hitler.

He degrades the United States around the world, making us look like a third-world dictatorship where the winner promises to put his opponents in jail. He is tearing this country apart and he makes me sick to my stomach every time I hear or see him.

Let's unite and vote on November 8 for the only decent, qualified candidate to lead this country: Hillary Clinton.

Anito Rivero  
Downey

Public has shrinking confidence in Congress, latest poll shows

The good news for Congress is that Americans understand that legislators in Washington have a tough job trying to make laws for a diverse and polarized nation. The bad news for Congress is that Americans still expect the national legislature to tackle that challenge, and most in the public believe Congress is failing to do the hard work necessary to bridge differences and achieve results.

That's the key finding of the latest survey of public attitudes about Congress conducted by the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. The annual survey is overseen by Edward G. Carmines, Distinguished Professor, Warner O. Chapman Professor of Political Science and Rudy Professor at IU.

"When we asked, 'How would you compare the polarization of members of Congress to the polarization among the American public?' 63 percent responded that they see the public as either just about as polarized as Congress, or even more polarized," Carmines said. "And when we asked, 'Would you say that most Americans typically agree on what Congress should do, or are there usually wide differences of opinion?' 83 percent said there are 'wide differences.'"

But while it's evident that Congress faces a high degree of difficulty, Americans still come down hard on the legislators for failing to find a way forward. To the question, 'Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?' 81 percent disapprove. When asked, 'Who do you think is more responsible for the policymaking gridlock in Washington?' almost two times as many people say Congress is the primary culprit than blame solely President Obama.

"Americans recognize there are a lot of diverse opinions in the country, and that those opinions are often reflected in Congress," said Carmines. "But they do expect Congress to make some progress. It's policymaking capacity is just not very evident. When Congress seems to be immobilized, playing politics so much of the time, unable to address the country's problems, there's a diffuse disappointment and even anger that attends to the institution. Congress doesn't seem to be operating in a way that reflects the interests of the American people."

What to do? In a word, the survey says, compromise. "Should members of Congress stand up for their principles no matter what, or compromise with their opponents in order to get something done?" the survey asked. Fifty-five percent of the public said, "Compromise to get something done."

Those polled acknowledge that on certain issues, finding common ground to make law is especially difficult: On abortion and gun control, for instance, less than half the public expected members of Congress to compromise. But by contrast, solid majorities said that compromise should be possible on national security (55 percent), immigration (57 percent), health care (59 percent), and taxes (63 percent).

"Americans recognize that trying to get agreement in Congress is not easy. It's very difficult. There are lots of different solutions, lots of different priorities. But they expect Congress to at least work at it, and not to simply exacerbate differences on major problems facing the country," Carmines said.

Longtime U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, now senior advisor to the IU Center on Representative Government, frames the challenge this way: "Can Congress develop a reputation as an institution that seeks out ways to find agreement — within each chamber, between the two chambers, and with the president?" If Congress fails to answer that call, the consequence is likely to be continued bottom-scraping ratings from the public.

More than three-fourths of those surveyed said that either special interests or personal self-interest are the main influences on members of Congress. Asked if "information from my members of Congress is trustworthy," 54 percent either somewhat disagreed, or strongly disagreed. To the question, "Do members of Congress listen and care about what people like you think?" 62 percent said, no, not most of the time.

Asked to grade Congress on a scale of A to F, the public slapped Congress with low marks on a series of performance measures: Grades of D on "keeping excessive partisanship in check" and "controlling the influence of special interest groups"; D-plus grades on "dealing with key issues facing the country" and "holding its members to high standards of ethical conduct" and "conducting its business in a careful, deliberate way."

Overall, says Carmines, "this is a pretty dim view of Congress. There is not a lot of confidence in our most representative institution."

San Gabriel River

Dear Editor:

Most Downey residents have never walked, run, or biked along the San Gabriel Bike Trail between Florence Avenue and Firestone Boulevard. For those that use the trail frequently as a mean of exercise, there is increased disappointment at the deterioration of the riverbed.

Over the past decade, small trees have now become large. While the trees provide shade and shelter for homeless encampments, the unfortunate by-product of the homeless is an excessive accumulation of trash and excrement left behind. The area described has now become unsightly.

Of greater concern in the potential impact of a major, prolonged rainstorm. The drought has lingered and the riverbed hasn't been "cleansed" by water flow in too many years. Unfortunately, the now massive accumulation of debris from further up river as well as the local riverbed garbage will be trapped in the overgrown trees. This situation will result in a slower flow of water potentially causing a rapid backup of water. A worse case scenario would be an overflow of the riverbed causing local areas to become flooded.

The Department of Public Works and the Army Corp of Engineers are responsible for river bed maintenance. Historically, large dump trucks would enter the riverbed and huge amounts of silt, sand and debris would be removed, resulting in the riverbed floor lowered to keep Downey and other communities from flooding during that predicted 100-year flood.

I'm sure the cost of cleaning the riverbed, just for this small section, is enormous. Mitigation grants could be written with a proposal to clear the trees and the lower the river bed. While costly, it could be cheaper than the potential flooding that could result in a major and prolonged rainstorm. We've seen that destruction in other parts of the United States (Hurricane Madeline just one current example) and I'm certain no one wishes that to happen to our City of Downey and other local communities.

Jim Weidner  
Downey

Norwalk concerns

Dear Editor:

How about a short column on what's "bugging" citizens? For example, having laws on the books no one ever intends on enforcing like the taking down of Christmas lights on private homes.

You can't drive down hardly any streets without seeing the fire hazards waving in your face -- looks tacky. If you live next door, you would burn too!

The fines collected could fill every pothole in Norwalk.

I recently had out-of-state company with kids. There was nowhere in Norwalk to take them so we went to Pirate Park in Bellflower and Wilderness Park in Downey; the kids had a great time. We need a go to destination in Norwalk instead of spending money on business cards.

Joan Mendell  
Norwalk

Roybal-Allard: Share your Hispanic heritage

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), the first Mexican-American woman elected to Congress and a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, released a video last week in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Below is a copy of Rep. Roybal-Allard's statement:

"Hello, I'm Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. Each year, from September 15th to October 15th, we gather as a nation to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by highlighting the many contributions our Latino communities have made to our country. These include enriching our arts and sciences, defending our country by bravely serving in our Armed Forces, creating millions of small businesses and jobs through our entrepreneurial spirit, and serving our communities as teachers, doctors, nurses, and law enforcement officers. These and many more contributions are cause for celebration, not only by Latinos, but by all Americans.

"Unfortunately, the full potential of Latinos to contribute to our nation is hampered by America's broken immigration system. That is why we must never give up our fight to pass a fair and comprehensive immigration bill.

"In the meantime, I am pleased that President Obama has taken some very positive steps. In 2012, the president used his executive authority to address weaknesses in our immigration system by initiating DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. This order has helped over 728,000 DREAMers to live without the fear of deportation.

"In 2014, the president worked to expand DACA, and to initiate DAPA, Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents. Disappointingly, the Supreme Court failed to clarify if DAPA and expanded DACA could proceed. Therefore, our fight continues for the millions of hardworking immigrants who contribute to our country while at the same time living in fear of being separated from their loved ones and of never having the opportunity to become a citizen in our country of freedom and hope.

"As we draw closer to the November election, let us also continue fighting to restore the Voting Rights Act. This act protects eligible Latino and minority voters from barriers to voting. As we approach a presidential election in which 14 states have, now, new discriminatory voting laws, we must ensure that no eligible American citizen is denied their right to be heard with their vote. I urge my Republican colleagues to work with congressional Democrats to restore the Voting Rights Act, and to develop legislation that will ensure Latinos and all Americans can fully enjoy America's freedom and opportunity.

"During this month of celebration, please share your Hispanic Heritage story by using the hashtag #HHM2016. ¡Gracias y feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana! Thank you, and happy Hispanic Heritage Month!"

The Norwalk Patriot

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LEGALS

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: NANCY J. RIVERA AKA NANCY JOANN KEAR

CASE NO. 16STPB04518 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of NANCY J. RIVERA AKA NANCY JOANN KEAR.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by STEVEN S. SUTHERLAND in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that STEVEN S. SUTHERLAND be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 10/28/16 at 8:30AM in Dept. 99 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 SIBYLLE GREBE LORENZO C. STOLLER CONOVER & GREBE, LLP 3424 W CARSON ST #320 TORRANCE CA 90503 10/7, 10/14, 10/21/16 CNS-2932621# THE NORWALK PATRIOT

The Norwalk Patriot 10/7/16, 10/14/16, 10/21/16

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ROBERT OTTO QUINTERO aka ROBERT O. QUINTERO

Case No. 16STPB04930 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERT OTTO QUINTERO aka ROBERT O. QUINTERO A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Angelita Quintero Toscano in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Angelita Quintero Toscano 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 on Nov. 8, 2016 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 99 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: ANDREA R PATTON ESQ SBN 204512 PRENOVOST NORWALKIN BERGH & DAWE 2122 N BROADWAY STE 200 SANTA ANA CA 92706-2614 CN930203 QUINTERO Oct 21,28, Nov 4, 2016

CN930203 The Norwalk Patriot 10/21/16, 10/28/16, 11/4/16

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JO ANNA D. BUCKINGHAM AKA JO ANNA DELORES BUCKINGHAM

CASE NO. 16STPB04847 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JO ANNA D. BUCKINGHAM AKA JO ANNA DELORES BUCKINGHAM.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by TIMOTHY BUCKINGHAM in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that TIMOTHY BUCKINGHAM 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: 11/07/16 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 KENNETH G. CAMPION - SBN 65380 A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 10419 BOGARDUS AVE #100 WHITTIER CA 90603-2643 10/14, 10/21, 10/28/16 CNS-2934214# THE NORWALK PATRIOT

The Norwalk Patriot 10/14/16, 10/21/16, 10/28/16

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ALFRED ROSCOE LANIER

Case No. 16STPB05148 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ALFRED ROSCOE LANIER A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by David McCullar in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that David McCullar 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 on Nov. 16, 2016 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 67 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: STACY L. OLSEN, ESQ. SBN 249661 FINLAY LAW GROUP APC 4685 MACARTHUR CT STE 421 NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660 CN930229 BSC214097 Oct 21,28, Nov 4, 2016

CN930229 The Norwalk Patriot 10/21/16, 10/28/16, 11/4/16

TRUSTEE SALES

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE Trustee Sale No: 128804-11 Loan No: 197-3521377 Title Order No: 95310510 APN 8053-024-013 WHEREAS, on 06/02/2005, a certain Deed of Trust was executed by BETTY M. BENNINGER, as trustor in favor of FINANCIAL FREEDOM SENIOR FUNDING CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF INDYMAC BANK, F.S.B. as beneficiary and ALLIANCE TITLE, CA as trustee, and was recorded on 06/09/2005 as Document No. 05 1335248, and WHEREAS, the Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and WHEREAS the beneficial interest in the Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment recorded 07/11/2016 in document no. 20160801857, of Official records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, CA, and WHEREAS a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Deed of Trust PURSUANT TO SECTION 9 (A)(i), OF THE LOAN DOCUMENTS "AN IMMEDIATE PAYMENT IN FULL. AS DEFINED, THE LENDER WILL REQUIRE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT IN FULL OF ALL OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AND ACCRUED INTEREST IF: A BORROWER DIES AND THE PROPERTY IS NOT THE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE OF AT LEAST ONE SURVIVING BORROWER," INCLUDING ALL FORECLOSURE FEES, ATTORNEY FEES AND ADVANCES TO SENIOR LIENS, INSURANCE, TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS. WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable; NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on 06/18/2014 as Instrument No. 2014-0630515, notice is hereby given that on 10/28/2016, at 10:00AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST Commonly known as: 11118 CRESTBROOK STREET, NORWALK, CA 90650 The sale will be held: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza,

400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid \$376,235.56. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his pro rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling \$37,623.56 [10% of the Secretary's bid] in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$37,623.56 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for a 15-day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee will be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due. If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based

upon a right of redemption, in the mortgage or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed. The amount that must be paid if the mortgage is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is \$376,209.83 as of 10/27/2016, plus all other amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement. Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below. DATE: 08/12/2016 FORECLOSURE COMMISSIONER: MORTGAGE LENDER SERVICES, INC. 11707 Fair Oaks Blvd., Ste 202 Fair Oaks, CA 95628 (916) 962-3453 Fax: (916) 962-1334 Sale Information Line: 916-939-0772 or www.nationwideposting.com TARA CAMPBELL, FORECLOSURE COMMISSIONER NPP0292729 To: NORWALK PATRIOT PUB: 10/07/2016, 10/14/2016, 10/21/2016

The Norwalk Patriot 10/7/16, 10/14/16, 10/21/16

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Friday, April 19, 2013 Vol. 7 No. 11 12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

Effective this week, Norwalk Business Call has changed its name to The Norwalk Patriot.

We believe this new name better reflects our values and chief responsibility as a community newspaper, which is to report Norwalk through honest, unbiased, independent journalism.

The new name also better aligns us with our sister publication, The Downey Patriot, which has enjoyed more than a decade of publication in Downey. We look forward to equal longevity in Norwalk.

We thank you for your support.

By Christian Brown Staff Writer

NORWALK -- School board members were all but in agreement Monday -- the Norwalk-La Brea Unified School District should investigate the possibility of placing a multi-million dollar bond measure on the ballot next year.

Hoping to generate funds for school renovations, system upgrades, and technological enhancements, the board of education unanimously approved a district-wide feasibility study to determine the cost of a facilities overhaul.

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**NORWALK** – The city of Norwalk Recreation and Park Services department celebrated the newest in a series of park playground equipment installations at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday.

The new playground design was selected as an homage to Zimmerman Park’s most popular recreation, the game of baseball. With a state of the art jungle gym, five slides, four swings and a host of climbing gear, youngsters will have no shortage of ways to stay active. In addition, the northeast entrance of the park now has two adult exercise equipment stations.

The equipment was funded with a \$300,000 grant through Prop A.



# Non-profit group planting 150 trees in Bellflower Saturday

**BELLFLOWER** – Invest from the Ground Up is planting 150 trees this Saturday at 9 a.m. in the city of Bellflower as part of a California initiative to reduce carbon by bringing trees to disadvantaged communities.

The city of Bellflower will join community volunteers at Simms Park, located at 16614 Clark Ave., to plant trees as a part of the California Initiative to Reduce Carbon and Limit Emissions (CIRCLE) program in reducing the carbon emissions to make the community a healthier environment to live in.

Trees have a direct effect on reducing heat island effect, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving energy, cleaning water and air, providing aesthetic and habitat value, which improves public health.

“I enjoy events like this, surrounded by volunteers and the community, collaborating together in making a difference for the environment. Today’s efforts will create a better tomorrow for the next generation of Bellflower residents. On behalf of the City Council, I commend the efforts of local volunteers and residents participating in CIRCLE program,” says Bellflower Mayor Dan Koops.

Funding for this project comes from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) Urban and Community Forestry Program Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grants. CIRCLE grant partners include the California Urban Forests Council, West Coast Arborists, Inc., and the Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture.

Invest from the Ground Up is planting 1,350 trees in nine cities across California, including Bellflower. The group’s CIRCLE program, the California Initiative to Reduce Carbon and Limit Emissions, will be planting trees in or near disadvantaged communities, as identified by the state’s CalEnviroScreen 2.0.

For more information or to volunteer, visit <http://investfromthegroundup.org/CIRCLE> or contact Penny Augustine at (562) 925-9003 or [paugustine@bellflower.org](mailto:paugustine@bellflower.org).



Photos courtesy city of Norwalk

# Los Nietos names parent volunteer to board of trustees

**WHITTIER** – The Los Nietos Board of Trustees has appointed Evelyn Avdalyan as its newest member, swearing her in Oct. 11 to replace former trustee Marisa B. Hernandez.

Avdalyan, a 15-year member of the Los Nietos community and active parent, was selected at an Oct. 4 Board meeting. She was among three finalists interviewed by Los Nietos trustees.

“We are pleased to welcome Evelyn to our Board,” Los Nietos Superintendent Jonathan Vasquez said. “Evelyn is a passionate member of our community who has long been dedicated to strengthening Los Nietos, and that will only continue in her new role.”

Hernandez stepped down Sept. 15 after moving out of the District boundaries; Avdalyan will complete the remainder of a four-year term that ends in November 2017.

“Marisa brought a great enthusiasm and spirit during her tenure, and we are truly thankful for all the great contributions she made in building an achievement culture,” Vasquez said.

Avdalyan has served on the Parent Teacher Club (PTC) at Aeolian Elementary, where her sixth-grade son attends.

The PTC consists of parents, teachers, staff and volunteers who facilitate communication between the community groups and support the school’s educators.

“Working alongside teachers has given me a unique perspective into the challenges our community faces in educating our kids,” Avdalyan said. “We all share the common goal of getting the best out of our children and I look forward to reaching that objective in collaboration with the Board, parents, our four schools and 1,700 students.”

Avdalyan credits her five years in the U.S. Air Force to helping her establish an exemplary work ethic. She works at a law firm and her familiarity with legal documents is a welcomed skillset to the Board.

“Evelyn has a lot of special attributes that will serve the Board well, and we’re excited to work with her,” Los Nietos Board Member Emilio Sosa said.

“She was already a valuable member of the Los Nietos family and now she has an even greater platform to benefit our District.”

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# Community health fair Saturday

**NORWALK** – Cerritos College’s Adult Education and Diversity Programs will host the annual Community Health Fair on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m..

The event will feature free health screenings including anemia, mammograms, cholesterol, glucose, osteoporosis, STD, blood pressure and BMI (body mass index), and free flu shots.

Booths offering legal information about immigration, criminal, civil and labor rights will also be available.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is offered in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate Binational Health Month. For more details about this event, call (562) 467-5098.