

Celebrating Black History Month

Lee Mitchell Jr. reflects on music, civil rights and the history of Norwalk

By Raul Samaneigo Contributor

NORWALK – “That’s a whole other interview.” Those were the words when I asked Mr. Lee Mitchell Jr. to tell me about how the civil rights movement affected him during my first interview with him at his home in 2015.

For several afternoons in December of last year, Mr. Mitchell and I sat at his dining room table talking about periods of growing up, our introduction to music and what brought our two families together in the summer of 1974 at the south Norwalk campus of Excelsior Union High School.

As had happened a year before in interviews for an autumn 2015 article regarding his being honored as the Grand Marshall of the Arturo Sanchez Halloween Parade, Mr. Mitchell opened his house and hospitality to me for a more in depth conversation.

This time, he gave his permission to use anything discussed in our conversation in an exclusive article regarding one of the area’s favorite son’s journey to Norwalk cumulating as the director of many endeavors for the children, youth and residents of the Norwalk family of communities.

Those communities of influence and admiration crossed city as well as cultural boundaries throughout the southeast areas of Los Angeles County.

This would include not only Norwalk, but also the touching of lives in Bellflower, Artesia, Cerritos, Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada and crossing the international borders of Mexico, Canada and the European continent.

Our conversation regarding his beginnings near the focal point of the Nation’s Civil Right’s movements was a subject he quietly shared with me and one which I will never forget.

The discipline he received by his lay-preacher father, Lee Mitchell Sr., was evident as we sat and conversed for hours.

Many times I reminded Mr. Mitchell Jr. that we are a product of the people we’ve met and the life experiences we have had.

His responding chuckle combined with his infectious smile was always welcomed.

With today’s technology time machine, I was able to get a glimpse of a time nearly 60 years ago both here in Norwalk and a City in the South called Little Rock Arkansas.

With my imagination, I was standing at attention in my Excelsior High School black and green band uniform on 1958’s Philander-Smith College’s parade ground.

Mr. Mitchell’s major in college was music, but his lifetime of instruction seemingly made him a natural as an introductions to: discipline, commitment, communication,

international relations, political science, business, economics, interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution, family and community relations -- and I am sure many more.

In addition to working with students, Mitchell teamed or met with community leaders, city council, PTA and congressional members, state representatives, veterans, charities and a future president.

As reported before, his list of students who passed through his classes or programs, include: doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians, lay persons, FBI agents, band directors, fire fighters, law personnel, a judge, a college professor, others and even a journalist.

NORWALK, circa 1959

Having been formed two years earlier when voters in the southeast suburb of Los Angeles County agreed to incorporate as a new city, Norwalk California officially became an entity with a population at 35,000 and growing.

In the 2010 United States Census, the population was listed at approximately, 108,000.

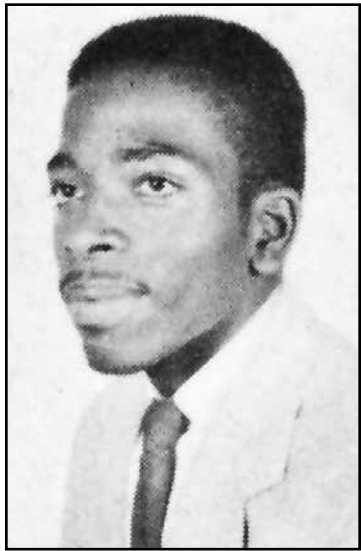


Photo | Philander Smith College

The area was slowly transforming from a mostly farm and dairy region into one of a modern suburban look.

In a town 500 miles east of Austin, a young exceptional 19-year-old drummer, was beginning his Junior year at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

He was transferring from Philander-Smith College near Little Rock on his continuing educational journey which would lead him also to the Keystone City now known as Norwalk.

His name, Lee Mitchell Jr., a resident of Conway, Arkansas had become a “Marching Golden Lion” at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

This is part one in a series following the journey of Lee Mitchell, Jr., who spent 40 years at the helm of the Norwalk All-City Youth Band, which helped stay violence and racial tensions during the 1970s and 80s.

Norwalk Coordinating Council hosting candidates forum on Feb. 9

NORWALK – The Norwalk Coordinating Council will host a candidates forum for all those running for Norwalk City Council next Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.

On March 7, Norwalk residents decide who fills two, four-year terms on the council, but also a single, two-year term to replace former Councilman Marcel Rodarte, who resigned last June.

According to City Clerk Theresa Devoy, Harvey Cardenas, Jamie Armenta, Esperanza Free, Tony Ayala, Marcel Mercado, Candy Martinez, Debbie Martinez, Enrique Aranda, and Norwalk Planning Commissioner Jennifer Perez are all official candidates qualified to run for the two, four-year terms.

The three candidates vying for Rodarte’s seat include Alberto Uribe, Ken Menchaca, and current Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School board member Margarita L. Rios.

Both Mayor Mike Mendez and Vice Mayor Cheri Kelley opted not to run for reelection, leaving the vacancies on the dais.

The NCC will host the candidates forum inside the council chambers at City Hall. For more information, call (562) 888-1936 or visit www.nconline.us. – **Christian Brown, city editor**



La Mirada’s Ryan Vargas breaks NASCAR records at 16-years-old

By William Odis Martin Contributor

LA MIRADA – Most 16-year-olds are bugging their parents to let them use the car to practice their driving skills in vacant parking lots, but La Mirada High School’s Ryan Vargas holds official track records for the fastest time at four race tracks.

His drives cars with 400 horsepower to the tires, at speeds as high as 140 miles per hour.

What started off as a dream, has quickly become a reality for Vargas who was named NASCAR’s 2016 Wendell Scott Trailblazer Award recipient.

The amatuer racing phenom manages to juggle his AP and Honors classes while maintaining his strict workout routine.

He credits his dad, John Vargas, for his inextinguishable work ethic, his competitive drive, and believing in him enough to invest into his career in order to

make this all possible.

John had hopes of retiring in a few years after a long career as an iron worker, but he jokes that he won’t be retiring anytime soon because of how expensive it is to maintain a race team and car.

Together, the Vargas family have made an instant impact in the sport and community in the four short years that they have been competing.

“A few years ago, when we first got into racing, we didn’t know much about the cars. In fact, we didn’t know much about racing,” said Ryan Vargas.

His dad has dedicated his nights and weekends to his son’s passion. John mastered working on the Bandoleros, the mini race cars that Ryan used to drive when he first got into the sport, earning himself the title “The Bandolero Guru” for consistently putting the fastest cars on the track.

The father and son have a stronger connection today than

they did before Ryan got into the sport because they spend countless hours together under the hood perfecting their race car for the weekend races. But first they travel to the racetracks that are usually a few hours drive, both ways.

It sounds like a lot of work and an expensive hobby but you can see that it is effort and funds well spent when you get the chance to sit down with the Vargas family.

Everyone in the family is a special member of the race team and share in the glory of Ryan’s accomplishments. Their faces light up and their passion become contagious.

Ryan’s humble mindset and hard work ethic, both on and off the racetrack, is what sets him apart from the pack.

He knows how much his family has sacrificed in order for him to chase his dream, so he holds himself accountable for the success of the team.



New River Elementary third-grade teacher Linda Fox uses a microphone as part of an audio enhancement system that projects her voice clearly to all of her students.

and I’m not losing my voice by the end of the day.”

New River Elementary Principal David Hoffman installed the new technology to boost students’ confidence in the classroom and increase participation in lessons and discussions.

“The audio enhancement systems give our students a chance to become more involved in their classrooms,” Hoffman said.

“Our teachers are also assured that the lesson can be heard clearly by each student.”

New River is the first school in Norwalk-La Mirada Unified to install the audio enhancement equipment.

“Norwalk-La Mirada Unified is focused on bringing new technologies into the classrooms that will boost student success,” Superintendent Hasmik Danielian said.

“New River’s innovative audio equipment will enhance student learning in the classroom while strengthening their confidence.”

Weekend at a Glance

Friday62°

Saturday65°

Sunday64°

THINGS TO DO

Chinese New Year Festival
Saturday - Chinatown, 12-8 pm
Culture, food and fun for all ages. 118th annual Golden Dragon Parade from 1-3 p.m.

Surf City Marathon
Sunday - Huntington Beach Pier, 6 am
Run the full marathon or optional half-marathon. Live bands performing along the route.

Juicy J
Saturday - Hollywood Palladium, 7 pm
The Grammy Award-nominated hip-hop artist performs live with Project Pat and Belly.

David Bowie Exhibit
Saturday - Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, 10 am to 5 pm
A collection of 27 images of the late rocker David Bowie from his 1997 visit to Mexico.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Meet the three Norwalk candidates hoping to replace Marcel Rodarte

Nichole Golightly: Margarita L. Rios is the candidate for me. She is open, honest and compassionate.

Jessica Botello: Ken Menchaca has my vote! He talks the talk and walks the walk. Great guy.

Adriana Vazquez: Well, let’s have them speak as to what they can offer Norwalk by taking public questions.

Nancy Sandoval: What have they done for the city of Norwalk?

Robert Welder: Norwalk needs to clean house too!

Araceli Lopez: I vote for the community volunteer.

Daniel Owens: I don’t live in Norwalk anymore but as an educator I worked with both Margarita L. Rios and Ken Menchaca and they both are wonderful people who have worked hard to better the youth of Norwalk.

Cindy Gamboa-Carrillo: Ken M, has my vote.

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

Shared Stories: Our Dog, Hachi

Nobuyo Avery regularly took care of animals during her childhood in Manchuria. But she never had a pet until she came to the U.S. 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

By Nobuyo Avery

Before talking about a pet, I must confess why I am afraid of all animals, including dogs, cats, birds, or any creature.

In elementary school days, all students had assignments to take care of chickens or rabbits. I disliked these duties because I could not stand the smell of the animals and the feeling of the skin or furs. Nor could I stand the chickens attacking me.

At home we never had a pet like a dog or a cat because our parents did not like them. We never learned to appreciate them like most of the people. Our parents raised chickens for eggs, but I managed to be excluded from the duties of feeding them or caring for them.

Adding to this was an incident in our neighborhood when I was eight or so. We were told not to step outside due to a stray dog wandering in the residential area. We were told that the dog had rabies and a child who was bitten had to be carried to a hospital.

Another time I was walking to a store and a barking little dog was chasing me furiously. It was only the size of a small Chihuahua, but I was so scared of the constant high pitch yelping and those mean-looking teeth. I was holding on to the mail post waiting for a rescue. I was afraid of dogs and I did not like them.

My husband, on the other hand, loves dogs, as he grew up with a dog or two as pets. But he was not a cat lover. Our children seemed to love having pets. We went through having fish, hamsters, a cat, and birds while they were young. Unfortunately they never kept their promise to keep the cages or aquariums clean, nor did they feed the animals.

When our oldest son asked to have a puppy for a Christmas gift, I hesitated, but everyone in the family agreed that it was a good idea. I was a minority.

For some reason the first pet we bought from the pet shop died after a few months, and we did not have one until our neighbor, Mrs. Moore, gave us a puppy, a mixture of German shepherd and St. Bernard.

I gave the dog the name Hachi. It was the only name I knew and it was the name of a famous faithful Japanese dog. His statue is at a train station in Tokyo where he waited for his master's return from work every evening, whether it was raining or snowing. He even waited at the station after his master's death. With my limited knowledge of dogs, I thought he was a German shepherd.

Our Hachi became the children's best friend. Our daughter Elizabeth called him her best boyfriend, played and walked to the nearby park. Cliff taught him to do tricks and made him to be obedient to his commands.

Hachi was always playing with one of the children. They ran together, played games, chasing each other, and more. He did attack strangers but never harmed me at all, though I was a bit scared to touch him.

Guests who had to make sure the dog food was sufficient and that the yard would be cleaned after his mess? Having a dog in my own house, my fear of dogs diminished somewhat.

We never forgot the sad evening on the fourth of July when we came home from church and found him almost breathless. The vet told us that he had twisted his intestine and there was nothing he could do at that stage. Poor Hachi died at the age of ten while all of us wept over the poor dog.

I was outside after the fourth of July washing and cleaning spinach from our garden and experienced how awful it was to be out in the yard where the smoke and smells from the fireworks filled the air. I thought about poor Hachi and his sufferings.

He was so scared that he was looking for a hiding place in the backyard. If only we had come home early or left him indoors that night, we could have saved our favorite and fun-loving best friend.

Norwalk Library announces February schedule of events

NORWALK – Norwalk Library's adult coloring club, Color Us Happy, is welcoming new members for its weekly gathering every Thursday in February from 1-2 p.m.

Supplies will be available, but members are welcome to bring their own.

Norwalk Library invites residents to also participate in Adults Create on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2-3 p.m. as attendees will make Valentine's Day bouquets made from candy kisses. All materials will be provided.

The library is inviting the community to join a Beginning Smart Gardening Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about backyard composting, water-wise gardening, worm composting, and grasscycling.

Compost bins will be available for purchase, by cash or check, at a discounted price after the workshop. The program is provided by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

Each program is free and open to adults. The Norwalk Library is located at 12350 Imperial Highway.

For additional information, please call (562) 868-0775 or visit the County Library website at colapublib.org.

Norwalk Senior Center offering tour of historic Kellogg House in March

NORWALK – The Norwalk Senior Center is inviting residents 50 and older to join a tour of the Kellogg estate on March 8.

Located on the Cal Poly Pomona campus, the Kellogg house was constructed in 1926 as the West Coast retreat for breakfast cereal magnate W. K. Kellogg.

The ranch-style home, complete with fine architectural detail and original furnishings, played host to celebrities like President Ronald Reagan, Walt Disney, Rudy Valentino and Charles Lindbergh, but also served as lodging for the Army during World War II.

Tour participants will depart from the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex parking lot, located at 13000 Clarkdale Ave., at 9 a.m., and return at 5:30 p.m.

Transportation, admission to the estate, and a buffet lunch are provided for \$20 per person. Space is limited.

Registration for Norwalk residents opens on Feb. 7 at 9 a.m. Open registration starts Feb. 14. For registration information, call the senior center at (562) 929-5580.

FAR Bazaar 2017



Photos | William Odis Martin

NORWALK – Cerritos College converted its old Fine Arts building into a full-fledged art bazaar last weekend, giving the more than 300 artists from over 50 SoCal art collectives free reign to let their creativity spill onto the walls, through the halls, and even tear them down.

The massive event organized by FAR, the Foundation for Art Resources, which is a Los Angeles based nonprofit art advocacy group celebrating their 40th anniversary.

Musicians of all sorts, pop-up restaurants serving up eclectic fusion dishes, performance artists of all varieties, art professors and students from all over the greater Los Angeles area converged over the weekend in the old 30,000 square foot building that is now set to be demolished.

The new Fine Arts building will continue to present "On Board" which opened last Saturday night. This show features the works of some of the iconic founders of the organization until March 10. The organization is comprised of all volunteers and has no permanent brick and mortar facility.

Its nomadic aesthetic blends naturally with the style of alternative art space festivals that they throw annually at different locations. – William Odis Martin, contributor



Bellflower Unified superintendent lays out ambitious readiness goals in 2017 State of the District address

BELLFLOWER – Bellflower Unified is raising student performance and collecting accolades while expanding programs designed to boost student readiness for college and careers, Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs told more than 100 District administrators, community leaders and area legislators on Jan. 27 during his first mid-year State of the District address involving community stakeholders.

“We are here to make great things happen for our students,” Jacobs said during the Bellflower High School event. “This is a celebration of what we’ve accomplished and a promise of what is yet to come.”

The address was attended by Board of Education President Dr. Sue ElHessen, Board member Jerry Cleveland, Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, Bellflower Mayor Dan Koops, Bellflower Councilman Juan Garza, Cerritos College Trustee Marisa Perez, Cerritos College President/ Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Cpt. Allen M. Castellano and representatives of U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard and U.S. Rep. Linda Sanchez.

Jacobs got the entire crowd clapping to Kool & the Gang’s “Celebration” during his high-energy presentation on the District’s significant achievements, including seven 2016 California Gold Ribbons, a 2015 California School Boards Association Golden Bell and a 2016-18 PTA National Partnership Award.

In addition, the District’s performance on state English language arts and math tests – already strong – rose in 2016, showing significant improvement



Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs highlights the successes of 2016. Photo | BUSD

at every grade level and outperforming neighboring school districts.

“As a leader of BUSD, you should feel extremely proud of what you have accomplished,” Jacobs said. “Over the last 5 ½ years, you have taken many of our practices and you have transformed them to create an even higher quality of education for all of our students.”

Jacobs offered a litany of successes:

- Bellflower High School and Mayfair Middle School civics programs received Awards of Excellence – the state’s highest honor – in 2016 and 2015, respectively.
- Somerset High School was named a Model Continuation School in 2016 – its sixth such honor.

- Graduation completion rates reached 99 percent at Bellflower High and 97 percent at Mayfair High.

- English learner reclassification as English proficient students reached its highest level in five years.

- Classroom technology expanded to include 7,669 devices, with one for every three students.

- Students raised state test scores significantly at every grade level.

- A discipline system has reduced suspension days from 3,245.9 in 2014-15 to 483 in 2015-16.

- The District earned fiscal independence from the Los Angeles County Office of Education

- Early childhood programs

have been expanded to include Spanish language dual immersion.

- An independent studies program for homeschooling families expanded into ninth and 10th grades.

- New counselors are assisting at the high schools

- Ten new teachers on special assignment help in English and math instruction.

- A partnership with Cerritos College allows students to earn college credits while in high school.

- A partnership with Lynwood Unified has doubled the number of career technical education classes.

Jacobs said those achievements are just the beginning. The district is already busy on plans to build new athletic fields at Bellflower High and a state-of-the-art building for science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics at Mayfair High, enhance athletic fields at Mayfair High, expand elementary dual-language immersion to a second school and expand college partnerships.

“When you look at where are today and where we have been, our students are much better off than they were 5 ½ years ago,” Jacobs said.

“We still have challenges before us and we still have hills to climb. But we’re going to continue with this laser focus, and there’s no doubt that our district will maintain the Standard of Excellence, and Nothing Less. Working collaboratively with all stakeholders, we will continue to make great things happen.”

Lynwood board of education votes to make campuses ‘safe havens’

LYNWOOD – Lynwood Unified’s Board of Education has unanimously adopted a district resolution that pledges to shield identifying information about students, families and employees.

“The safety and security of our students is a top priority for this District, and the education process cannot be successfully conducted if our students and staff are worried about the futures of themselves and their families,” LUSD Superintendent Paul Gothold said in a statement. “This is the least we can do to ensure their path to college and career goes uninterrupted.”

According to a press release, Lynwood Unified’s board of education decided to declare all district schools as safe haven campuses after receiving numerous reports from students, families and staff who were concerned about deportation. The concerns grew out of rhetoric during the recent presidential election targeting immigrants and Muslims.

Lynwood Unified said it would increase partnerships with local organizations and submit a letter to the president affirming that the district “will continue celebrating and upholding the core ideals of the community.”

Teachers, staff and administrators have already begun training to implement the policy, which includes not inquiring about a student’s residency status, religious background or sexual orientation.

“It is our commitment to let everyone in Lynwood Unified and our community know that we care for them and are here for them,” LUSD Board President Alma-Delia Renteria said. “We are standing up for what’s right, and our students and their families deserve to know that they will be kept safe as they pursue their right to obtain the best education possible in Lynwood.”

HAMILTON: A speech everyone needs to read now



Photo | Pete Souza

By Lee H. Hamilton

As a country, we make a habit of looking forward, not backward. But I'm going to ask you to turn your attention back a few weeks, to Barack Obama's Jan. 10 farewell address to the American people.

I've been reading presidential farewell speeches for many years. Most of them give good advice. This speech, however, was exceptional. It can be read with benefit by Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals — because it says a lot of things that we need to hear about our system and our country. I hope that for some time to come, this speech will be a topic of conversation in classrooms, at church socials, and around the table at local service clubs.

Why? To begin with, the speech is filled with confidence in ordinary people and respect for what workaday Americans can accomplish. This is a founding value of our country — both a promise and a call to civic arms. Our rights, the former President notes, "have never been self-executing." Instead, our system is built around the belief "that We, the People, through the instrument of our democracy, can form a more perfect union."

The responsibility for making this a better country, in other words, lies with each of us. "Show up, dive in, stay at it," he says. "And more often than not, your faith in America and in Americans will be confirmed."

At the same time, throughout the speech, Mr. Obama makes it clear that it's challenging to make representative democracy work. As a nation, he argues, we have enormous potential — but we cannot take our success for granted. If we don't "create opportunity for all people," he warns, "the

disaffection and division that has stalled our progress will only sharpen in years to come."

Indeed, our democracy is being severely tested right now, in part by a disintegrating sense of common ground among Americans of different racial, ethnic, and class background, and in part by the growing ease with which people can retreat into "bubbles" — both geographic and ideological — in which we see only people we identify with and hear only information that already fits our preconceived notions.

This makes the underpinnings of a successful representative democracy — the search for common ground, the willingness to negotiate, the freedom to compromise — difficult if not impossible to pursue.

Yet what may be most striking about the farewell address is that it is filled with hope, and with a clear optimism that we can overcome division and temporary steps backward. Not that this will be easy, Mr. Obama notes. Restoring a sense of common purpose will require a change both in hearts and in beliefs. "We all have to start with the premise that each of our fellow citizens loves this country just as much as we do; that they value hard work and family just like we do; that their children are just as curious and hopeful and worthy of love as our own," he says.

Furthermore, he recognizes that while politics is a battle of ideas, "without some common baseline of facts, without a willingness to admit new information and concede that your opponent might be making a fair point, and that science and reason matter, then we're going to keep talking past each other." These are challenges, but they're hardly insurmountable — especially if we learn to put ourselves in others' shoes.

As you read this speech, it's hard to avoid a sense of the basic strength of our country. There's a celebration of the peaceful transfer of power, a straightforward discussion of race and ways to surmount the burdens that racial discord have imposed on our society, a magnanimity toward ideological adversaries, an underlying sense of inclusiveness and decency. These are wise words from a mature politician who clearly has confidence in the nation's ability to forge ahead and meet its challenges.

I understand that a lot of people in this country don't agree with former President Obama on many things. But set aside the person who wrote it for a moment: this speech is instructive for all of us on what this country is all about and how we can make it better.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



President Trump's remarks on Black History Month

The following is a transcript of remarks made by President Donald Trump at the White House Wednesday to commemorate Black History Month:

Well, the election, it came out really well. Next time we'll triple the number or quadruple it. We want to get it over 51, right? At least 51.

Well this is Black History Month, so this is our little breakfast, our little get-together. Hi Lynn, how are you? Just a few notes. During this month, we honor the tremendous history of African-Americans throughout our country. Throughout the world, if you really think about it, right? And their story is one of unimaginable sacrifice, hard work, and faith in America. I've gotten a real glimpse—during the campaign, I'd go around with Ben to a lot of different places I wasn't so familiar with. They're incredible people. And I want to thank Ben Carson, who's gonna be heading up HUD. That's a big job. That's a job that's not only housing, but it's mind and spirit. Right, Ben? And you understand, nobody's gonna be better than Ben.

Last month, we celebrated the life of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., whose incredible example is unique in American history. You read all about Dr. Martin Luther King a week ago when somebody said I took the statue out of my office. It turned out that that was fake news. Fake news. The statue is cherished, it's one of the favorite things in the—and we have some good ones. We have Lincoln, and we have Jefferson, and we have Dr. Martin Luther King. But they said the statue, the bust of Martin Luther King, was taken out of the office. And it was never even touched. So I think it was a disgrace, but that's the way the press is. Very unfortunate.

I am very proud now that we have a museum on the National Mall where people can learn about Reverend King, so many other things. Frederick Douglass is an example of somebody who's done an amazing job and is being recognized more and more, I noticed. Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and millions more black Americans who made America what it is today. Big impact.

I'm proud to honor this heritage and will be honoring it more and more. The folks at the table in almost all cases have been great friends and supporters. Darrell—I met Darrell when he was defending me on television. And the people that were on the other side of the argument didn't have a chance, right? And Paris has done an amazing job in a very hostile CNN community. He's all by himself. You'll have seven people, and Paris. And I'll take Paris over the seven. But I don't watch CNN, so I don't get to see you as much as I used to. I don't like watching fake news. But Fox has treated me very nice. Wherever Fox is, thank you.

We're gonna need better schools and we need them soon. We need more jobs, we need better wages, a lot better wages. We're gonna work very hard on the inner city. Ben is gonna be doing that, big league. That's one of the big things that you're gonna be looking at. We need safer communities and we're going to do that with law enforcement. We're gonna make it safe. We're gonna make it much better than it is right now. Right now it's terrible, and I saw you talking about it the other night, Paris, on something else that was really—you did a fantastic job the other night on a very unrelated show.

I'm ready to do my part, and I will say this: We're gonna work together. This is a great group, this is a group that's been so special to me. You really helped me a lot. If you remember I wasn't going to do well with the African-American community, and after they heard me speaking and talking about the inner city and lots of other things, we ended up getting—and I won't go into details—but we ended up getting substantially more than other candidates who had run in the past years. And now we're gonna take that to new levels. I want to thank my television star over here—Omarosa's actually a very nice person, nobody knows that. I don't want to destroy her reputation but she's a very good person, and she's been helpful right from the beginning of the campaign, and I appreciate it. I really do. Very special.

So I want to thank everybody for being here.

Don't play into Trump's hands on the Muslim ban

By Dina El-Rifai

I'm a Muslim woman and a social justice advocate.

I'm terrified, heartbroken, and outraged by Donald Trump's "Muslim ban." As I watched administrative chaos and rapidly organized protests unfold at airports all over America, I was overwhelmed with messages from friends fearing they'd never be able to see their loved ones again.

Though the executive order doesn't use these exact words, this is no doubt a Muslim ban.

It's not just that the countries Trump wants to prohibit immigration from — Libya, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Sudan, and Somalia — are majority-Muslim. It's that religious minorities (i.e. anyone who isn't Muslim) from those countries will be prioritized for entry into the U.S.

Refugees, immigrants, and Muslims are human beings — regardless of their age, status, skills, or nation of origin. Many Americans realize this, which is why thousands have turned up at protests to speak out against the ban.

But while they mean well, non-Muslim opponents of the ban still have to be careful not to repeat dangerous stereotypes when pushing back against this extreme action.

For instance, you may have heard that Trump's order left off the Muslim-majority countries where President Trump has business deals — some of which, like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, happen to be where



individuals who've carried out violent attacks hailed from.

All of that's true, of course, and there's value in pointing out Trump's unprecedented conflicts of interest.

But in reality, Muslims in these countries are the primary victims of extremist violence there. And suggesting that Trump should ban those countries too only encourages broadening the Muslim ban, not ending it.

Another common argument I've heard is that Muslim refugees and immigrants strengthen national security by acting as police informants and joining the military, and that this ban could break the bonds of trust that enable those partnerships.

It's true that Muslims are leading providers of tips to law enforcement agencies investigating "terrorism." But it's not like all Muslims are somehow connected to or aware of extremist plots. We're ordinary people, and we shouldn't have to be "useful" to law enforcement to deserve fundamental rights.

The narrative link between Islam and violence is used to justify military intervention abroad, which in turn is used to justify suspicion of Muslims at home. Muslims are seen as potential "terrorists," to the point that the word is popularly linked with Islam — despite repeated horrific acts committed by white men in the U.S. in the name of Christianity or white nationalism.

This stereotyping feeds into increased hate crimes and harassment, as well as profiling and government surveillance of Muslims.

Sadly, Donald Trump isn't the first president to make things worse for Muslims.

The Obama administration's wars were often justified through the demonization and dehumanization of Muslims. So were its expansion of the drone program, unwarranted surveillance, militarization of our borders and policing, and record-breaking numbers of deportations.

Trump's latest action is reminiscent of past immigration bans, and the implications of where we could go from here are terrifying. Scary precedents include the ban on immigration from Asia and the great national shame of Japanese internment.

Only by acknowledging the history of these systems and policies — systems that existed long before Trump took office — can we understand how to resist them today.

Trump's Muslim ban has already been widely applied, and we can't ignore the threat of it growing. I, and so many Muslims, recognize this undeniable possibility. We're not safe. We're targets here and abroad.

So I'd ask this of my friends and neighbors: Don't reinforce ideas that paint us as inherently violent and undermine our humanity. Reach out to us, support us, uplift our voices and humanity.

Dina El-Rifai is a Policy Fellow at the American Friends Service Committee.

Letters to the Editor

Have an opinion you'd like to share? Letters to the editor for this newspaper can be mailed to 12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650, or e-mailed to christian@thenorwalkpatriot.com.

Please keep letters as brief as possible and include your full name and address.

The Norwalk Patriot

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Linda Sánchez praises legislation to overturn 'unconstitutional travel ban'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Linda Sánchez (CA-38), vice chair of the House Democratic Caucus, on Monday released the following statement on legislation authored by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) to rescind President Donald Trump's travel ban executive order:

"We are better than this. Banning Muslim immigrants and refugees does not make our country safer. In fact, it does the exact opposite by playing into the hands of America's enemies.

"I am proud to stand with House Democrats to introduce legislation which will overturn the President's unconstitutional Muslim ban. Now we need courageous Republicans to stand up and speak out against these hateful anti-refugee, anti-immigrant executive orders. I implore my Republican colleagues to join with Democrats and wipe away this shameful stain on our country. Now is not the time to stay silent and hope for the best. If we fail to change course, history will not be kind to those who stood by and did nothing."

L.A. County's civilian oversight commission is an answer to challenging criminal justice issues

By L.A. County Sheriff Jim McDonnell

As Sheriff, I was an early and vocal supporter of a Civilian Oversight Commission for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. I firmly believe we need and want another bridge to the communities we serve.

The Civilian Oversight Commission will allow the people of L.A. County to participate in the process as we seek resolution to some of the most challenging criminal justice issues of our time.

This includes those who feel wronged or violated by law enforcement. But this also includes those whose lives have been saved by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Our Department is very large and the responsibilities are extremely diverse. Our deputies made contact with more than two million people last year and responded to thousands of calls for service.

Members of the Civilian Oversight Commission are key advisors and will bring much needed, and welcomed, outside expertise and points of view. The public's trust in the LASD will be stronger and more effective and our Department will be viewed with greater trust with the additional layer of accountability from this Commission.

I am confident, ours can be a partnership that becomes a national model that shows citizens and the police can put party politics and special interests aside and roll-up their sleeves, speak with respect and get the job done.

We already work with independent oversight. The LASD has accomplished a lot of good work with the Office of the Inspector General with whom we have a strong and open working relationship.

I look forward to working with an exceptional group of professionals who make-up the Civilian Oversight Commission.

2017 State of Small Business Luncheon

California State Senator Tony Mendoza of the 32nd District hosted a 2017 State of Small Business Luncheon where he brought together speakers from many areas that have an impact on our businesses here in California. The event started with a welcome by Senator Mendoza who then turned the podium over to Jesse Torres, Deputy Director/Go-Biz which is the California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development. Jesse shared with the attendees that California small businesses are 13 percent of all the small businesses in the United States and that there are 3.7 million small businesses in California. Our state is third in terms of start up activity for new business out of the 50 states and our small businesses have a 48 percent survival rate through the first five years as a business. After sharing this information Jesse shared a little about what the Go Biz office can do to help business. They provide advocacy, agency coordination, business assistance and information gathering and dissemination. They have provided the Small Business Development Center with over 1.5 million dollars to expand business consulting, which is a free service to any business. And they are rolling out a new program called “California Made.” This program offers tax credits for business that qualify under their guidelines which can be found by visiting <http://bit.ly/2eypwgO>.

Next on the agenda was Dominic Forrest from the department of Industrial Relations Labor Task Force. This is also another department from the State of California and they deal with issues such as the underground economy and the impact it has on small businesses. They are part of the Labor Enforcement Task Force, or LETF. The Labor Enforcement Task Force, under the direction of the Department of Industrial Relations, is a coalition of California State government enforcement agencies that work together and in partnership with local agencies to combat the underground economy. In this joint effort, information and resources are shared to ensure employees are paid properly and have safe work conditions and honest, law-abiding businesses have the opportunity for healthy competition. LETF is committed to outreach and education and has produced information for workers and employers to ensure they know their rights and responsibilities.

Joel Ayala, Chief Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Consumer & Business Affairs was our third speaker and he shared some of the changes that are coming for Los Angeles County with regard to small businesses. Each County department now has a Small Business Advocate working for them who will help the County increase the number of small businesses that they partner with. They have raised price preferences from 8 percent to 15 percent and have raised their dollar amount from \$80,000.00 to \$150,000.00 in order to give small businesses more opportunities. There will also be community business liasions in every district to provide support to businesses that want to become a vendor for the county. Their Small Business Services operates the Los Angeles County Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) which provides counseling services, workshops, and training to small businesses on selling goods and services as well as certifying your business with the County, the State, and the Federal Government. To find out more about these county programs visit their website at www.dcba.lacounty.gov.

Our last speaker was Saul Ramos of the Small Business Administration (SBA). Saul was able to share how the SBA provides many resources for small business. From access to capital, federal contracting and business counseling, the SBA has many free resources. They partner with the Small Business Development Center, Women’s Business Centers and SCORE Chapters to bring resources to the business owners. They don’t lend money to businesses but they offer a guaranty program to banks that do commercial loans and with SBA funding their partners can provide lending of up to \$50,000.00 to micro businesses. The three “C’s” of the SBA are Contracting, Counseling and access to Capital. If you would like more information about the SBA you can email them at lado@sba.gov or visit their website at www.sba.gov/ca/la.



Pictured here are (left to right) Jesse Torres, Deputy Director/Go-Biz, Joel Ayala, Chief Deputy Director Los Angeles County Consumer & Business Affairs, Downey Chamber CEO Michael Calvert, State Senator Tony Mendoza, Dominic Forrest, Department of Industrial Relations Labor Task Force and Saul Ramos, Small Business Administration.



Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

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FEBRUARY 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Norwalk Chambers vision is to create value for our members and we do this through a number of avenues. Each month we host a “Creating Connections” Lunch at one of our member restaurants. In January over 35 local businesses and community organizations attended our lunch at Agave Junction Cantina. Thank you to Michelle and Bryan Glidewell for welcoming us to your business. Our next “Creating Connections” lunch will be at So-Cal Pizza on February 28th from 11:45am to 1pm. I hope you can attend and continue to grow your business through networking.

We will keep on providing many networking and educational events for you, our members throughout the coming year. We aim to be the connector of choice for our membership and the new businesses in the community. As the connector for our members we have developed a new benefit for you on our website. You are now able to have all of your Social Media links placed on your page on the Norwalk Chamber website along with a description of your business. . At the Chamber we understand how important it is to provide these types of opportunities for business growth

February 23rd, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm we will be hosting a “City Council Candidates Meet & Greet” at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex. This event will be focused on the Business Community here in Norwalk and how the candidates for City Council will support economic development and business growth. You will hear briefly from each candidate that attends and then be able to meet them personally.

I also want to extend an invitation to you all to let our Norwalk Chamber know how we can continue to provide the highest level of service to support your business. We will be reaching out to our members through a phone survey in the upcoming month to speak with you and find out what the Chamber can do to continue to help your business.

If you like what the Norwalk Chamber is doing, spread the word and let other business and community leaders know. We appreciate your membership and welcome your referrals.

Wishing you the very best and continued success in your business,

Sincerely,

Francellita Aguilar
Republic Services
2016-17 President
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

NORWALK CHAMBER
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**Norwalk
Chamber of Commerce**

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info@norwalkchamber.com

Facebook:

http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM

**PRESIDENT
FRANCELLA AGUILAR**

**EDITOR, NCBC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CAREN SPILSBURY**

**PUBLICATION SPONSOR
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**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

**February 8th
Women in Business Luncheon**
Frantone's Restaurant
10808 Alondra Blvd.
Cost \$20.00

**February 14th
Mayor's Prayer Breakfast**
Doubletree Hotel
6:30am
Contact: Pastor Arthur
McKibben
310-809-7679
\$20 donation

**Tuesday, February 21st
Ribbon Cutting**
State Farm Insurance
Valente Quintero
11405 Firestone Blvd. Suite G
12 noon to 1pm

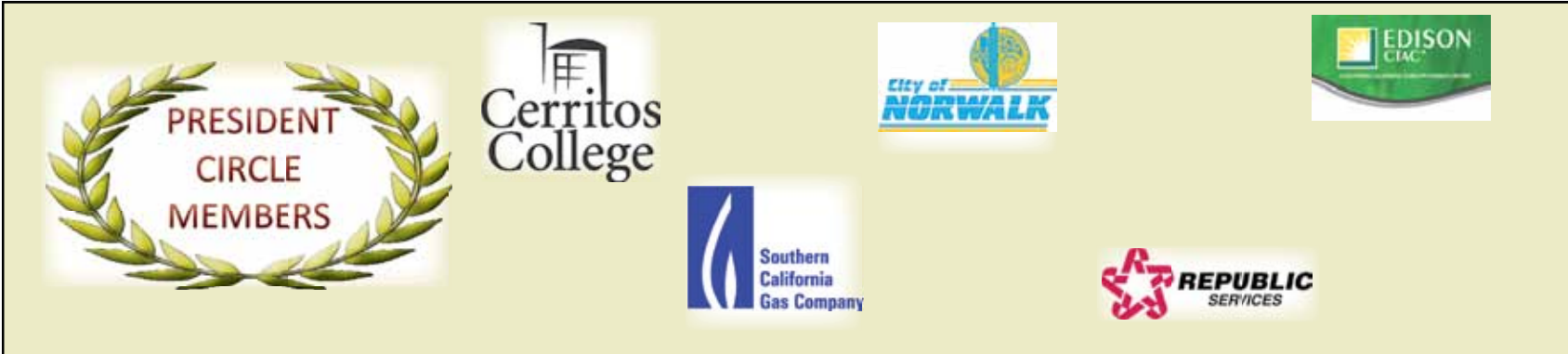
**February 22nd
Norwalk Education Alliance**
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex
13200 Clarkdale Ave.
Norwalk CA
Mock Interviews

**February 28th
Creating Connections Luncheon**
So-Cal Pizza
11:45am to 1pm
12253 Imperial Hwy
Norwalk CA

**March 3rd
State of the City Luncheon**
DoubleTree Hotel
13111 Sycamore Drive
Norwalk CA
Contact: Gordon Stefenhagen
562-400-8188

**Follow
Us On
Facebook!**

www.facebook.com/NorwalkChamber



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Renewing Members

The following companies and individuals renewed their membership with the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the services we provide are made possible by their support.

**42 Years
Norwalk Business Services**
Richard Cavish
562-863-4808
rcavish@norwalkbusinessservice.com

**39 Years
Union Bank**
Jose Carlos
562-863-3060
jose.carlos@unionbank.com

**34 Years
Best Western Hotel**
Allan Chi
562-863-4808
www.bestwestern.com

**27 Years
St. John of God Church**
Pastor Edward J Dober
562-863-5721
www.stjohnparish.org

**25 Years
Reinforcing Iron Workers**
Hart Keeble
562-868-1251
hart@ironworkers416.org

**24 Years
Premier Wheels & Tires**
Garcia Family
562-926-0048
wheelpro1@gmail.com

**21 Years
Norwalk Vacuum & Sewing**
Bill & Dora Sanning
562-864-7781
invoicenwkvacsew@dslextrema.co

**16 Years
Teacher's Association of Norwalk La
Mirada**
Clay Walker
562-868-6251

**12 Years
CareMore Medical Group**
562-622-2900
www.caremore.com

**10 Years
Mid Cities Credit Union**
Bessie Griffin
310-638-5147
www.mcscu.org

**Susan Arthur
Community Member**
sa92849@aol.com

**8 Years
Pat's 605 Cyclery**
Ron Patterson
562-864-0740
www.pats605cyclery.com

**7 Years
China Bowl Express & Young Hawaiian
BBQ**
Anthony & Leanne Sou
562-462-1661
Anthony0473@gmail.com

**4 Years
Fit Nation Gym**
Sam, Art & Junior
(562) 991-5504
fitnation2014@gmail.com

**2 Years
Money Mart**
Eric Sanchez
562-868-3288
www.moneymart.com

Bellflower Dental
Marisela Vasquez
562-925-3765
www.bellflowerdentalgroup.com

New Members

Steven M. Sweat, APC
12631 E. Imperial Hwy #104
Santa Fe Springs CA 90670
562-270-3120
ssweatlaw@hotmail.com

Women in Business

The Women in Business Council met for a workshop and luncheon at Frantone's Restaurant on January 11th where the topic for the workshop was "Creating a Vision Board." Monica Nunez of the Women in Business Council shared with those that attended valuable tips for making the vision board and for implementing the use of it throughout the year. A vision board is similar to setting goals and objectives for your business with a little of your personality thrown in. Utilizing pictures, words and quotes on a large poster board which you keep in your office or place of business to motivate you during the upcoming year is the basis for a vision board. As with any motivational tool, your vision board is only as useful as your allow it to be. So attendees were encouraged to look at it daily and make changes or additions to your board as the year progresses.

Our February Women in Business Luncheon will feature Mark Mikelat of Building Aspirations who will share with the group "How to Drive New Business with Social Media." This takes place on Wednesday, February 8th at Frantone's and all women business owners, managers and community leaders are invited to attend.



Attending the January Women in Business are Ambassador Lupe Hernandez, Workshop Leader Monica Nunez, Mayra Ramos, Event Coordinator at the Downey Chamber and Marisela Vasquez of Bellflower Dental Group.



Norwalk Chamber Board Member Trisha Gutierrez shares her Vision Board with the Women in Business Attendees.

HELP WANTED

**Hiring Dental Receptionist P/T
(M/W/ F - 9 A.M.-6P.M.)
Contact: Dr. Douglas Nguyen
(714-225-6311)
Norwalk Dental Associates
13828 Pioner Blvd.
Norwalk ,CA 90650
Fax resume to:
(562) 863-2434**

- **Creating a Strong Local Economy**
- **Promoting the Community**

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce urges you to spend your money locally to support the business community and protect jobs. Local sales tax dollars support basic city services...

- When you shop in Norwalk, you are paying for:**
- **Public Safety Services**
 - **Street Repairs**
 - **Recreation Programs**

And Much More

MEMBERSHIP ROUND UP

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Downey Chamber and the Pico Rivera Chamber for a multi chamber mixer at “The Green Olive Restaurant” at the Downey Landing. Networking with more than one Chamber is always beneficial for our members so we were very excited to see many Norwalk Chamber members and even City of Norwalk Parks & Recreation staff attend this mixer. Well over 40 people attended and were able to sample Mediterranean food from this new restaurant while enjoying the outdoor patio.

Our next event was our Creating Connections Luncheon hosted by Bryan and Michelle Glidewell of Agave Junction Cantina. Taco Tuesday was the perfect time to come together with other business and community leaders for lunch and networking! Over 35 members and guests attended this luncheon where they were able to celebrate two of our newest Norwalk Chamber Members receiving their new member plaques. 1st Stryke Pest Control and Forest Lawn were both on hand to be recognized and meet many other Chamber members. Look for our upcoming February Creating Connections at So-Cal Pizza on Tuesday, February 28th and join in to network your business in 2017!



Norwalk Chamber Members Chante Wise of Thinkers for Autism and Kori of CAPC, Inc. are networking with a Downey Chamber Member.



Former Cerritos College Trustee, Bob Arthur with his son Robert Arthur and Bryan and Michelle Glidewell, owners of Agave Junction Cantina.



Making new connections are Eric Rivas, City of Norwalk, Allison Franco, City of Norwalk and Holly Noble of Mary Kay Cosmetics.



Norwalk Chamber President Francella Aguilar of Republic Services presents a renewal plaque to Agave Junction Cantina owners Bryan and Michelle Glidewell.



Creating Connections at Agave Junction Cantina are Steve and Louie of Helpline Youth Counseling and Marilee Stefenhagen of the Norwalk Soroptimist Club.



Enjoying the networking are Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company and Haig Kartounian of Southern California Edison.



Chante Wise of Thinkers 4 Autism is making a new connection with Haig Kartounian from SCE.



Norwalk Chamber members are pictured here at the Green Olive Multi Chamber Networking Mixer.



Robert DeHaseth of 1st Stryke Pest & Termite Solutions receives his new member plaque from Chamber President Francella Aguilar.



Enjoying a great lunch and networking event are (l to r) Owner Bryan Glidewell, Owner Michelle Glidewell, Little Lake City School Board Clerk, Dora Sandoval, Retired Cerritos College Trustee, Bob Arthur, Norwalk Chamber Past President, Susan Arthur and Marilee Stefenhagen, Norwalk Soroptimist Club.



President Francella presents a new member plaque to Mike Motlagh of Forest Lawn.

ASK THE EXPERT

THE PATH ACT WILL AFFECT MILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS IN 2017

Congress has passed the PATH ACT which establishes new rules regarding release of certain refunds as well as made permanent many tax provisions in favor of taxpayers. The good news first: Several provisions that were set to expire have been extended, modified or made permanent including the Child Tax Credit, Education Credits and increase of the Earned Income Credit for families with 3 (or more) children. The Educator Expense deduction and the deduction of State and local general sales tax have been made permanent. The Congress extended tax-free distributions from IRA plans for charitable purposes. Extension and modification of bonus depreciation for business owners allowing a business a bonus depreciation for new business property up to 50% of the cost.

Congress though made changes that will affect those expecting a refund for the Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credit, Additional Child Tax Credit and the American Opportunity Credit requiring them to wait until February 15th to have their refund released. You should still file as early as possible to ensure your refund will be released on the first day. The PATH act requires us to keep proof of supporting documentation for these claimed credits including but not limited to school records, medical records, child care provider statements and Form 1098-T from the educational institution to substantiate the claimed credit.

H&R Block is responding to this anticipated delay in release of the above type of credits by offering a no-interest/no finance charge loan that is repaid through your tax refund. Beginning January 9th and for a limited time our customers may simply apply with our Tax Pros and receive loans in the amounts of either \$500, \$750, or \$1,250 within 24 hours and funded on the award-winning Emerald Prepaid Mastercard subject to approval. An incredible new product that can **only** be processed in our tax office and not available online.

John Alba, EA/CAA is a Master Tax Advisor and Enrolled Agent. Mr. Alba is a Franchisee Owner of the H&R Block office located at **11825 Alondra Blvd in Norwalk. Telephone 562-868-3518.**

Named Franchisee Champion for 2016 at the H&R Block national convention in Orlando.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Pictured with State Senator Tony Mendoza are Chamber Executive Directors Scott Smith, Cerritos, Julian Balderas, Pico Rivera, Caren Spilsbury Norwalk and Michael Calvert, Downey.

As the newly appointed Executive Director for the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, I have been busy attending meetings and events along with getting prepared to help lead the Norwalk Chamber into a bright future. Our Chamber has been built and strengthened by dedicated Board Members, Ambassadors and staff over the last ten years, and my hope is to develop new and innovative avenues to promote a strong business economy here in Norwalk while continuing our successful programs and initiatives.

One item that the Norwalk Chamber provides for our members is being a conduit of information from various agencies. Whether they are government, private or nonprofit there are many resources that provide valuable information to the local business to help create a prosperous economic situation for them.

Keeping on top of legislature that could affect our businesses is another member benefit provided by the Chamber. We partner with other local Chambers to be a voice in the legislative process locally, statewide and federally. Through our participation in the Regional Chamber Alliance and the Gateway Chamber Alliance we are able to provide information to our members and other local businesses about legislation that is under consideration by our elected officials that may have an impact both positive and negative on business. This January the Regional Chamber Alliance met and heard from Cody Farzad about the “Ban the Box” legislation. Ban the Box is a slang name for the new legislation in some cities and states that could eventually affect all employers. Ban the Box is the name of an international campaign by civil rights groups and advocates for ex-offenders, aimed at persuading employers to remove from their hiring applications the check box that asks if applicants have a criminal record.

The information provided at this meeting was educational and geared towards being prepared if this type of legislation is adopted either in Los Angeles County or the State of California. As an employer you will need to keep informed on this particular issue as it will affect the complete hiring process that you use. Background checks, pre adverse action and creating new employment policies could all be a part of the future for local businesses. The most important thing that you can do at this time is to be sure that you are compliant with Federal, State and County laws surrounding the Ban the Box campaign.

Sincerely,

Caren Spilsbury
Executive Director/Editor
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

LABOR LAW CORNER

Our company provides a paid time off (PTO) policy to meet the paid sick leave requirement. The company plans to cap the PTO accrual at 48 hours, pursuant to the paid sick leave cap requirements. Is this cap OK?

In most cases, employers will be unable to use the sick leave cap for PTO. A valid cap on vacation/PTO accruals is different than a sick leave cap and depends on the total amount of vacation/PTO time an employee is allowed to accrue or earn in a year.

Once you establish a PTO plan that provides time off for any purpose, including vacation and sick leave, the plan is treated the same as vested vacation pursuant to Labor Code 227.3.

Capping Vacation, PTO

Vacation/PTO vests as it is earned, and a “use-it-or-lose-it” policy, in which employees lose earned vacation that is not taken by a specific time, is prohibited (except for a limited opt-out provision applying to collective bargaining agreements and vacation plans subject to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act).

However, a cap limiting the amount of vacation/PTO that accrues may be established, but the rules regarding this type of cap are different than the cap allowed by the mandated paid sick leave law.

To be in compliance, an employer must merge the two laws and make sure its policy meets the stricter requirements found in both regulations. Establishing a cap on earnings is optional for either sick leave or vacation/PTO.

State Guidelines

If an employer chooses to place a cap on the PTO earnings, follow the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) guidelines. The DLSE Enforcement Manual at Section 15.1.4.1 states:

“DLSE has repeatedly found that vacation policies which provide that all vacation must be taken in the year it is earned (or in a very limited period following the accrual period) are unfair and will not be enforced by the Division. (See the detailed discussions of these issues at O.L. [Opinion Letter] 1991.01.07 and 1993.08.18).”

‘Reasonable Cap’ Criteria

Any policy instituting a cap on accrued vacation/PTO must provide a reasonable time in which to use already earned vacation. In the interest of meeting the “reasonable cap” criteria, employers often cap accrual at 1.5 or 2 times the annual earning rate.

For example, if an employee earns 40 hours annually, the policy could establish a cap at 60 or 80 hours.

As you can see, this requirement would not allow capping the vacation/ PTO earnings at the amount accrued in one year as is allowed in the sick leave law.

Before instituting a cap, review the DLSE opinion letters and visit HRCalifornia.com for guidance.

The Labor Law Helpline is a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/ OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at www.hrcalifornia.com

SAVE THE DATE

Norwalk City Council Candidates Meet & Greet

No Cost to Attend Refreshments Provided

Join Us And Meet the Candidates

February 23, 2017
5:30 pm–7:30 pm
13200 Clarkdale Ave, Norwalk
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex

www.norwalkchamber.com

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UNLIMITED LONG DISTANCE BUSINESS PHONE
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LEGAL

TRUSTEE SALES

T.S. No. 16-44514 APN: 8022-032-017

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/5/2005. 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 a 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 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. 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.

Trustor: **RICHARD ALVARADO, A SINGLE MAN**
Duly Appointed Trustee: **LAW OFFICES OF LES ZIEVE**, Deed recorded 4/15/2005 as Instrument No. 05 0877088 in book, page. The subject Deed of Trust was modified by Loan Modification Agreement recorded as Instrument 20071437910 and recorded on 6/14/2007 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: **2/16/2017** at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: Vineyard Ballroom, Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650

Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$341,573.30**
Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt owed.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: **12241 LONGWORTH AVENUE NORWALK, California 90650**
Described as follows:
As more fully described on said Deed of Trust.

A.P.N.#.: **8022-032-017**
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$500,841.28 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. 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 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

or visit this Internet Web site www.auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 16-44514. 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 Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

Dated: **1/19/2017**
LAW OFFICES OF LES ZIEVE, as Trustee
30 Corporate Park, Suite 450
Irvine, CA 92606
For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920
For Sale Information: (800) 280-2832
www.auction.com

Christine O'Brien, Trustee Sale Officer

THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. EPP 21207 1/20, 1/27, 2/3/17

The Norwalk Patriot
1/20/17, 1/27/17, 2/3/17

APN: 8056-018-028 TS No: CA08001444-16-1 TO No: 160161321 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED February 4, 2005. 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 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On February 27, 2017 at 09:00 AM, near the fountain located in the Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on February 11, 2005 as Instrument No. 05 0323459, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by MYRNA GALVAN, A SINGLE WOMAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. as nominee for THE MORTGAGE STORE FINANCIAL, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 12245 ROSECRANS AVENUE, NORWALK, CA 90650 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$500,841.28 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. 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 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.

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 In Source Logic at 702-659-7766 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address listed below for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08001444-16-1. 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 Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: January 24, 2017 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08001444-16-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 866-660-4288 Myron Ravelo, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.insourcelogic.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: In Source Logic AT 702-659-7766 Trustee Corps may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. ISL Number 27507, Pub Dates: 02/03/2017, 02/10/2017, 02/17/2017, NORWALK PATRIOT

The Norwalk Patriot
2/3/17, 2/10/17, 2/17/17

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. : 00000006308258 Title Order No.: 730-1610325-70 FHIA/VA Order No.: 197-417485 9 ATTENTION RECORDER THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHED SUMMARY APPLIES ONLY TO COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR, NOT TO THIS RECORDED ORIGINAL NOTICE. NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST. DATED 08/26/2009. 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. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 09/09/2009 as Instrument No. 20091375980 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, State of CALIFORNIA, EXECUTED BY: MIGUEL TOPEITE, A WIDOWER, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/ CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 03/09/2017 TIME OF SALE: 9:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: DOUBLETREE HOTEL LOS ANGELES-NORWALK, 13111 SYCAMORE DRIVE, NORWALK, CA 90650. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 11820 DALWOOD AVE, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90650 APN#: 8022-009-009 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said 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 said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is

\$235,790.67. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. 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 Web site www.auction.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 00000006308258. 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 Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM, LLC 800-280-2832 www.auction.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP as Trustee 20955 Patridge Road, Suite 300 Diamond Bar, CA 91765 (866) 796-1824 Date: 01/27/2017, 02/03/2017, 02/10/2017, 02/17/2017, 02/24/2017, 02/27/2017, 02/28/2017, 03/06/2017, 03/13/2017, 03/20/2017, 03/27/2017, 03/28/2017, 04/03/2017, 04/10/2017, 04/17/2017, 04/24/2017, 04/30/2017, 05/07/2017, 05/14/2017, 05/21/2017, 05/28/2017, 06/04/2017, 06/11/2017, 06/18/2017, 06/25/2017, 07/02/2017, 07/09/2017, 07/16/2017, 07/23/2017, 07/30/2017, 08/06/2017, 08/13/2017, 08/20/2017, 08/27/2017, 09/03/2017, 09/10/2017, 09/17/2017, 09/24/2017, 09/30/2017, 10/07/2017, 10/14/2017, 10/21/2017, 10/28/2017, 11/04/2017, 11/11/2017, 11/18/2017, 11/25/2017, 12/02/2017, 12/09/2017, 12/16/2017, 12/23/2017, 12/30/2017, 01/06/2018, 01/13/2018, 01/20/2018, 01/27/2018, 02/03/2018, 02/10/2018, 02/17/2018, 02/24/2018, 03/03/2018, 03/10/2018, 03/17/2018, 03/24/2018, 03/31/2018, 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A member of Soroptimist International of Whittier leads a group discussion on role models during the Dream It, Be It female empowerment program for girls at Frontier High School on Jan. 26.

At Frontier High, an effort to place teenage girls with positive female role models

WHITTIER – The Soroptimist International of Whittier recently launched its Dream It, Be It career development and female empowerment program for a group of girls at Frontier High School, providing the Whittier Union teens access to professional role models, career education and the resources needed to reach their full potential.

Over a six-week period, the women's social and economic empowerment club will work in partnership with 10th-, 11th- and 12th-graders in small groups and explore topics such as career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, overcoming obstacles to success and how to move forward after setbacks or failures.

This is the second year Frontier is participating in the program. “The ladies were very nice and positive and told us about how they overcame so many obstacles in life,” said Leslie Castaneda, a junior who participated in the program last year and is one of about 20 girls who joined the first session on Jan. 26. “I hope to learn how to inspire others and be a positive influence on others like they have been on me.”

The Dream It, Be It global program – which targets girls in secondary schools who face economic, social or personal obstacles to their success – supplements the Soroptimists’ long-running Live Your Dream program, which ensures women and girls have increased access to education and career opportunities.

Acting as mentors, members of the Whittier chapter of Soroptimist International, who have achieved personal and professional success despite harrowing circumstances, will provide students guidance.

“Our biggest goal is to let these girls know that there is no obstacle they can’t overcome, and we hope our personal stories show them that,” said Dr. Wendy Kreider, who is leading the program this year. “I’m really excited we can do this for them when they’re already dealing with so many hardships. Hopefully we can provide them sparks of inspiration and information.”

Members of Frontier’s student chapter of the organization, called S-Club, heavily recruited peers to be part of the program, which will go over a set curriculum of topics and hands-on activities.

“Our students often face barriers in their lives that prevent them from wanting to or believing that they can pursue their personal and professional goals,” Frontier High School Principal Margie Moriarty said.

Analysis: Downey’s new-look City Council shows signs of promise after first month

By Lawrence Christon
Contributor

DOWNEY – We’ve grown so accustomed to rancor and even loathing between parties and factions of the federal government that we’re in danger of forgetting that the democratic process can’t work without people of different minds getting together to hash out decisions in the name of fairness and the greater good.

It was a pleasant surprise therefore to see the city council in action last week, which worked hard to check off the items of a busy to-do list without the farcical exchanges and gasbag monologues that often characterized meetings prior to the newly elected lineup, as though those sessions were some kind of late night talk show with lame jokes.

There were clearly no hard feelings, for example, between Sean Ashton and the rest of the council, particularly Alex Saab, who had tried to ace Ashton out of his rightful place in the mayor pro tem cycle of appointment—an action that drew heated protest from the Downey community. Saab’s implication was that Ashton wasn’t up to the task, that something was wrong with him somehow. Indeed Ashton rarely uttered a peep at earlier sessions I attended. But now he spoke up freely and intelligently, as if he understood the need to pull his own weight. And for his part, the chastened Saab acted an adult: no grudges, let’s move on.

Another pleasant surprise was how well Rick Rodriguez and Blanca Pacheco took to water as both political novices and newly elected council members. You’d think it would take months for them to grow into their roles within the complexities of city government, but a local orientation as well as a boot camp session in Sacramento did the trick.

The earliest part of council meetings routinely consists of each member giving the public a



Mayor Fernando Vasquez speaks at last week’s City Council meeting. Courtesy photo

report on what they’ve been up to; that is, after everyone dutifully asserts how great a city Downey is, a seeming mandatory postscript to The Pledge of Allegiance. The next requirement is to take separate developments and groups and assert how great they are (boosterism is an essential part of council function; everyone does it). The new playground at Independence Park, and Downey’s Girl Scout troops, earned Pacheco’s nod. Her role with Gangs Out of Downey, and her report that there are no street gangs in the city, are genuinely noteworthy.

For his part, Rodriguez (“It was just awesome to see how great our city is”) praised the Keep Downey Beautiful program, and announced the volunteer cleanup campaign that will muster at the Metro Rail station on February 18th.

Saab preceded everyone by praising the Downey Police Department (an excellent department by any measure but also the object of required superlatives); mentioning the Independence Park playground and the Downey Historical Society; asking for volunteers for that evening’s homeless count (a county-wide action); extending an invitation to the January 28 Downey Symphony performance and art show at the Downey Theatre; and singling out Jim Rodriguez of the Planning Commission for acknowledgment.

Ashton (playground, historical society) mentioned Downey’s participation in the Independent City Association and its recommendations for public safety; the projected new rail link (2029) between Artesia to South Downey; and among other announcements, the need for barriers around the iconic Bob’s Big Boy to keep drunken drivers from crashing into it, as happened earlier in the month.

Not to be outdone, Mayor Fernando Vasquez hit the city/police exacta (“The cohesiveness and support we have from our community is second to none; 90% support our police”) while praising local fire and police effort to minimize the flood damage from the recent rainstorms. He reported that the Florence Avenue overpass construction is 37% complete; cited an excellence award for our city manager, Gilbert Livas; and mentioned Downey’s inclusion as one of only a hundred cities in a nationwide Bloomberg initiative aimed at finding ways to make local governments more effective.

The awards, proclamations and acknowledgement segment followed. Healthy Heart Award. New police hires. Planning Commission. Rose Float Association. Used oil recycled artwork awards to elementary schoolkids citywide. The auditorium was packed with cops, their friends and families, kids and their families, Rose Float people, photographers and selfie-takers with council members who drifted down from the dais and into the audience. By the time it got down to city business, the place had cleared out and was nearly deserted.

Now the work began, some



From left: Mayor Pro Tem Sean Ashton, Councilman Rick Rodriguez, new planning commissioner Dr. Steve Dominguez, Mayor Fernando Vasquez, Councilmember Blanca Pacheco and Councilmember Alex Saab.

of it involving minutiae, like the building code update on electrical, mechanical and plumbing designed to meet green building standards; and later, how to switch Downey’s 2200 streetlights to LED lighting, which would save the city \$74,000, while many of the light poles are in bad shape and their owner, Southern California Edison is, as Ashton observed, “not cooperative.”

Much of the evening was spent in earnest discussion of what to do about the homeless problem, which is clearly vexing, both nationally and to temperate Los Angeles County, which counts over 46,000 indigents. Rick Rodriguez mentioned the 90 Downey churches, as well as service clubs and nonprofit organizations, which are trying to deal with homeless needs. Vasquez wondered aloud about how to get them jobs. Livas came closest to the core of the issue when he said, “Our biggest problem is getting them to accept help.”

That’s because it’s basically a mental health issue that has somehow morphed into a social problem. No one seemed to recall that, before the Reagan administration shut down mental hospitals and clinics as a cost-cutting initiative during the 1980s, you didn’t see so many people living in the streets and under freeway overpasses. Vagrancy laws were enforced. Clinical treatment, including medication and residency, was widely available. But somehow, with the closings and the question of civil rights, and especially cutbacks in social programs, people in need were abandoned (up until a few months ago, I saw a middle-aged woman living in Furman Park, in her Lexus).

To watch the city council grapple with this intractable issue was to witness an exercise in humanity, which is no small thing. They worked hard into the night. And the discussion about committee meetings during the day, requiring council members have to leave their regular jobs, underscored Saab’s earlier statement, “You have no idea how much personal sacrifice this requires.”

Late in the evening, Rodriguez announced that he was cancelling his security firm’s contract with the city. No one asked him to. The

subject never came up. But he decided on his own to avoid any conflict of interest issue (this has not been true of everyone in the council’s history, then and now).

It was then you saw what a promising team this group is already turning out to be, and how important good chemistry is with people who make policy. There are larger concerns they may not be equipped to handle, but Rodriguez’s good will seems contagious, an intangible that informs everyone in the room and may well take them farther than one would expect.

Cerritos College set to open new mathematics and fine arts buildings

NORWALK – Cerritos College will celebrate the grand opening of the new Mathematics/Computer Information Science (CIS) and Fine Arts Buildings with a ceremony on Feb. 15 at 4 p.m.

The Math/CIS Building is a \$23-million project funded by Measure CC bond dollars and is located in the area previously occupied by the Technology Building. The 33,000-square-foot facility’s first floor supports math faculty, math classrooms, and a study center. The second floor features computer information labs, classrooms, and a study center.

The new Fine Arts Building is a \$33.5-million project funded by Measure G bond dollars. The facility is a two-story building with approximately 55,000 square feet.

The first floor features high-tech equipment such as 3D design/jewelry, printmaking, ceramics, film, and an art gallery. The second floor includes painting/drawing, computer graphics, photography, and mass communication.

On Feb. 15, the Mathematics/Computer Information Sciences lobby is also being dedicated in honor of James D. Woolever, who has taught thousands of students for the past 53 years in the Cerritos College Computer Information Sciences Department.

The event is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

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Downey space center pays tribute to Apollo 1 tragedy



DOWNEY – Columbia Memorial Space Center paid respect to the Apollo 1 tragedy with a plaque installation on Jan. 28.

The CMSC’s newest memorial installation came a day after the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 1 tragedy that claimed the lives of NASA Astronauts Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee; it was also the 31st anniversary of the Challenger explosion, to the day. The Columbia disaster anniversary followed shortly after on Feb. 1.

Saturday saw the museum play host to a handful of experts with ties to the space exploration and engineering programs, as well as NASA astronaut John Olivas. The day’s events began with a few words from CMSC Director Ben Dickow, before the unveiling of the Apollo 1 tribute plaque.

“Today we honor three crews lost in humanity’s ongoing progress to explore and to learn more,” said Dickow. “...Yesterday was the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 1 disaster. It was NASA’s first real hiccup, and it has a particular poignancy to Downey. Actually, all of the disasters do...”

Columbia Memorial is located on the grounds formerly occupied by the NASA site where the Apollo shuttles were designed and built. Many of the astronauts also trained in the area.

“The engineers here in Downey had close relationships with the astronauts, especially Apollo 1...” said Dickow. “When that disaster happened, the Downey crew flew immediately out to Florida and started doing forensic analysis, but they were also doing – basically – analysis on their friends.”

According to astronaut Olivas, all three of the disasters were crucial to the continuation of space exploration.

“By definition, astronauts know that there’s an inherent risk associated with space flight,” said Olivas. “If they (the disasters) had never happened, it’d probably have meant that we weren’t doing our job and we weren’t trying to push the envelope of technology. From the earliest days of exploration, loss of human life has always been part of that learning cycle. The only reason we are where we are today is because we’ve had to suffer and endure tremendous loss and tremendous learning events.”

The installation of the plaque now makes Downey’s space museum a triple memorial, adding to the already established Challenger Learning Center and the museum itself, which acts as the official national memorial to the Columbia disaster. – **Alex Dominguez, staff writer**

CERRITOS COLLEGE
TALON MARKS

Cerritos College Board of trustees discusses Educational Master Plan – and its effects on student achievement

By Lizette Sainz

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Board of Trustees meeting began moving through the agenda items at a fast pace.

The board had no comments from the public, or reports and comments from constituent groups during the time allotted for comments from the audience.

That was to be expected as there were no more than eight people in the audience at the start of the meeting, and three of those were there to present the Cerritos College Master Plan Update, and two others who were there to receive the Perez-Medrano Scholarship.

The meeting took place Wednesday, Jan. 25, where The Perez-Medrano Scholarship was established and given by Cerritos College Board of Trustee member Marisa Perez.

Perez said, “I established the scholarship in 2012 when I got elected to the Board of Trustees in memory of my father who passed away literally two months before I became a college trustee. He was very supportive of me as a female engineer, and me deciding to study in a STEM field. When I got on the board I knew I wanted to do something to support women who have a similar journey [to] the one I had.”

The scholarship recipients for this year were Jessica Haro and Alejandra Robles. They were selected after filling out the Cerritos

College Scholarship Foundation application, and going through an interview with Perez.

During the first board of trustee meeting, Perez had a dispute with fellow board member John Paul Drayer that included allegations of harassment from both board members.

Perez said, “I think it’s not just the two of us [herself and Drayer]. There are differences of opinion among many of us [board members]. I think one of the things our board policy is that we need to treat each other with mutual trust and respect even though there are different opinions here... diversity is good, diversity of opinions is good too, it’s just being respectful to others which I think it’s something we all can work on.”

Drayer did not attend this board meeting.

The fast pace came to halt and the following hour and 40 minutes of the meeting was spent listening to a 92-slide PowerPoint update on the Cerritos College Master Plan.

The data for the presentation was partially compiled from over 1,000 surveys completed by Cerritos College students.

Student Trustee Karen Patron said, “I like the number of students that participated in the survey I wish there were more, and I’m glad that there are students active in criticizing the college so that we [the college] can become better. Really I think it’s necessary for the students [to be included] in the plan

because we only know the struggle”

She also encourages students to participate in the upcoming Cerritos College Educational Master Plan Charrette happening Friday, Feb. 10 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Student Center.

“I hope students go to that because that’s really where there [are] going to be multiple students and multiple perspectives to advocate for our [students] struggles so it’s really important that we’re there representing ourselves,” Patron said.

Board Vice President Carmen Avalos saw the data as something that is, “going to offer a lot of variations in terms of content data... to make better decisions that will definitely affect our students.

“...These types of plans are very detailed so I think it was broad enough where we get to see the big picture, and defined enough were we’re able to see [what] we are going to need.”

“I talked a little bit about that [during the board meeting] in terms of [promoting] eight week or nine week classes, to be able to move [students] faster. So maybe we limit the total courses for those nine weeks, no more than two or three classes to make it manageable and be able to look at chunking a two-year plan for students.

“I’m excited about those opportunities in terms of what I see in the near future for students. [...] There’s a bunch of clay we need to work through...make a product

that will be buyable, sustainable and then truly impact what we want to see which is students being successful at a quicker rate,” Avalos said.

Perez believes the data presented showed, “a good snapshot of what our strengths are and what our opportunities are.

“I’m looking forward to hearing everybody’s thoughts at the Charrette on Friday, Feb. 10 I think that’s going to be another good opportunity to hear from our students, our faculty, our staff and community members.

“The thing that was most interesting to me was ‘how do we tie the classes that we teach here at Cerritos with what the industry wants?’ I think that thinking at the very big picture, that’s what we’re all hoping to get; a good paying job. That is why we’re all going to college: either we want to transfer to a university, we want to get a certificate or we want to upgrade our skills... I think that’s what is most interesting to me and I’ll definitely be more aware to that as we discuss things as a board. How do we support programs that will get our students good paying jobs?” Perez finished.

This story was originally published in Talon Marks, the student-ran newspaper at Cerritos College. To read the original version, visit www.talonmarks.com/news/2017/01/31/board-of-trustees-discuss-educational-master-plan-which-affects-all-students.

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Cerritos Sheriff’s deputies arrest L.A. man after home burglary

CERRITOS – Deputies at the Cerritos Sheriff’s Station arrested a man last Friday after he reportedly broke into a home in the 11900 block of Elaine Avenue in Cerritos.

A neighbor called the Cerritos station after witnessing two males breaking into the rear sliding glass door of the residence.

The Skynight helicopter which patrols the cities of Cerritos and Lakewood was overhead in seconds and spotted the two men jumping the backyard fences of neighboring houses. The Skynight crew broadcast the suspects’ location to deputies on the ground, who quickly set up a containment.

With the assistance of a police canine, deputies discovered one of the men, Dext Cruikshank, a 20-year-old resident of Los Angeles, hiding in a dog house in the backyard of a nearby residence. He was in possession of an undisclosed amount of cash that was stolen from the residence on Elaine Avenue.

Cruikshank was arrested for residential burglary and held on \$50,000 bail. The second suspect evaded capture and is still at large.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Cerritos Station at (562) 860-0044.

Off-duty police officer shoots burglary suspects in Downey

DOWNEY – An off-duty Los Angeles Police Department officer was involved in a shooting incident early Monday morning when he confronted two burglary suspects at his residence.

According to a press release posted by the Downey Police Department, the incident occurred on the 7800 block of Borson Street at around 1:00 a.m.

The off-duty officer was assaulted and discharged his weapon during the encounter.

Both suspects sustained gunshot wounds and were taken to local hospitals for treatment. The officer involved was also treated for minor injuries at a local hospital. – Alex Dominguez, staff writer



LOS ANGELES – Open call auditions for the next season of “America’s Got Talent” will be held Feb. 11 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Interested performers should first register online at AGTauditions.com. Performers can begin lining up starting at 6 a.m.

Norwalk Planning Commission reviews progress report on city’s housing needs

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

NORWALK – Norwalk city staff presented the Planning commission with its annual General Plan and Housing Element Progress Report last Wednesday evening.

The General Plan contains ten elements, which are land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, community design, educational and cultural resources and utility infrastructure.

The 2013-2021 Housing element was adopted in January of 2014 in order to adequately address the issues related to current and future housing opportunities and to meet the requirements of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

According to this year’s report, 2016 saw intersection and local street improvements, as well as improvements in public transportation.

Within the housing element, 31 new market rate dwelling units were entitled for construction on various sites, previously not identified as underutilized parcels of land.

These projects had been approved by the commission and are scheduled to be constructed

within the planning period.

The City also approved an ordinance to allow for single-room occupancy housing within the city.

Several other housing programs were also implemented or continuously implemented throughout 2016.

Norwalk Housing Authority also issued approximately 90 Housing Vouchers to new applicants from a waiting list and an average of 684 households were assisted with their rent per month.

Federally funded Community Block Grant Program rehabilitated 50 properties as of December 31, 2016 in order to benefit low and moderate-income households in order to prevent or eliminate slums or blight within the community.

Commissioner Scott Collins praised City staff for the accomplishments of 2016.

“I want to applaud staff for their efforts throughout the year,” said Collins.

Alternative Medicine: Karma

By Marcela Arrieta

Karma is not real! But contrary to belief it’s as real as oxygen and gravity. According to Wikipedia, karma is the spiritual principle of cause and effect where intent and actions of an individual (cause) influence the future of that individual (effect).

Let’s try an experiment: Imagine in your hands a beautifully crafted boomerang. It’s color your favorite. The patterns and curves right on point. You’re at a park surrounded by luscious trees stretching to the heavens. The grass is oh so green and fluffy. Birds fill the sky with song as the sun shines upon you.

You throw your boomerang into the picturesque landscape. You can see from afar how it glides, gently cutting through the air as it folds and makes its way back to you with a greater force than what you launched it with. Doesn’t this feel so perfect and gratifying? Something that you love so much keeps coming back to you over and over.

Now, let’s change the scenery. You still have a boomerang only this one isn’t your favorite color. The curves are a bit uneven. Its pattern not what you like. The park you decided to go to has no trees or grass. A gloomy day outdoors with no birds chirping high above.

And there it goes, your boomerang into the unflattering landscape with its unfavorable shape and colors. You see it swerve and curve back to you. Stay in this moment for a few seconds.

Take in this scenery and compare it to the first panorama. Doesn’t this feel perfect or gratifying? Why is it that something you dislike so much keeps coming back to you over and over!

Let’s put all of this jibber jabber into simplified terms. The boomerang represents our thoughts, words and actions. Whatever boomerang we choose to sling is exactly what we are putting out into our existence. When the boomerang curves its way back to us is perfectly embodied as the representation of Karma.

What we choose to sling out in thoughts, words or actions will come back to us multiplied whether we believe in this or not.

Karma is not just of the eastern traditions. It has been written and spoken of throughout time. And even in science community!

“Newton’s third law is: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The statement means that in every interaction, there is a pair of forces acting on the two interacting objects. The size of the forces on the first object equals the size of the force on the second object. “

“The Golden Rule: So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12”

Have a question regarding this article or maybe you’d like to suggest a topic? Write to me at: m_arrieta@yahoo.com. Next article we will talk about The Emotional Body.

Marcela A. Arrieta is an alternative modality practitioner with over five years of experience in this field. She is also an entrepreneur who resides in Downey.

Local church hosts ‘stop the violence’ community breakfast at Hermasillo Park

NORWALK – A local pastor has coordinated a “Stop the Violence” breakfast for this Saturday.

This isn’t the first time that Pastor Ed Rodriguez of Miracle Worship Center has taken action in response to what many feel is an increase in violence within the community. In the past, he’s held rallies and other events to bring attention to the cause.

His latest attempt comes in the form of a free community breakfast at Hermasillo Park this upcoming weekend.

“We talk about being a community together and loving the community...,” said Rodriguez. “...and at the same time, promote no violence.”

The breakfast will be held in the recreation room at 10 a.m. It is free and open to the whole community. – Alex Dominguez, staff writer

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