

The Norwalk Patriot

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Call him Dodger Bob

■ From the Colosseum to Chavez Ravine, Bob Arthur may be the biggest Dodgers fan in Norwalk.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

NORWALK – October 11, 2023 was a night of utter disaster for baseball fans in Los Angeles. After 100 wins and leading the National League West for the tenth time in 11 years, the Dodgers had been swept out of the playoffs in the first round.

But back in California at his Norwalk home, Bob Arthur was setting a calendar countdown. Actually, he was setting several.

There were 122 days until pitchers and catchers reported for Spring Training, and 135 days before the first spring training game. Opening Day was 162 days away.

Most importantly, it would be 170 days before Arthur would be back at Dodger Stadium for the home opener.

“Yeah, I can’t wait,” he chuckled.

Arthur has been a life-long fan of Dodger baseball, first finding his allegiance at the age of 6 while listening to the 1955 World Series with his grandfather. The then still Brooklyn Dodgers were taking on the New York Yankees.

“I don’t remember as a little boy if I had a ball and bat, I know I’m sure I had a ball, whatever it was. But I knew absolutely nothing about baseball,” said Arthur. “My grandfather is sitting on his front porch, and he’s listening to the Dodgers / Yankees World Series on the radio...I’m sitting on the front porch with my grandfather, and he’s telling me about baseball. Just a deer-in-the-headlights kind of thing; I knew nothing.

“So, he goes into his house and he gets a pad of paper and a pencil, and he starts drawing the diamond. He says, ‘pitcher, catcher, first, second, third’; marks the paper on this, numbers the positions. And then he starts explaining each play – single, walk, strike, whatever it was – and he’s drawing the figures on this pad of paper. And he taught me the game of baseball, using the pad of paper and a pencil.”

Arthur’s grandfather was a Dodger fan, so he followed suit. Since then, the now 75-year-old has never wavered.

“That was ‘55, and just three years later the Dodgers are playing here in LA,” said Arthur. “I do remember the huge public welcoming of a major league team. I mean, my grandfather had taken me to see the Hollywood Stars, and the Angels; the Padres played here in the old Pacific Coast League. He had taken me to baseball games, so I knew more about it, what it was. But the Dodgers coming to Los Angeles, and the Giants going to San Francisco, and that rivalry of those two teams, from Flatbush to the Polo Grounds, it just was one of those things.”

Luckily for Arthur, his father – a salesman – worked for a company which bought season tickets (then at the Coliseum) to entertain clients, and Arthur would get to go “every once in a while.”

“In ‘58, I was 9 years old, and I’ll never forget it,” said Arthur. “Everybody in the stands, I had never seen anything of such magnitude, and the thrill of watching baseball players play a game...I was in little boy heaven.”

One game sticks out in particular, while watching pregame warmups.

“I remember my grandfather taking me to one game, and Willie McCovey was walking off the field going back into the locker room,” said Arthur. “Here’s McCovey walking off the field, my memory tells me there couldn’t have been 100 people in the stands. My grandfather yells out, ‘Hey Willie, how about a ball for my grandson.’ He looked up, looked in the direction, and he just [said], ‘Sorry, I don’t have a ball.’ He held up his hand and his glove.

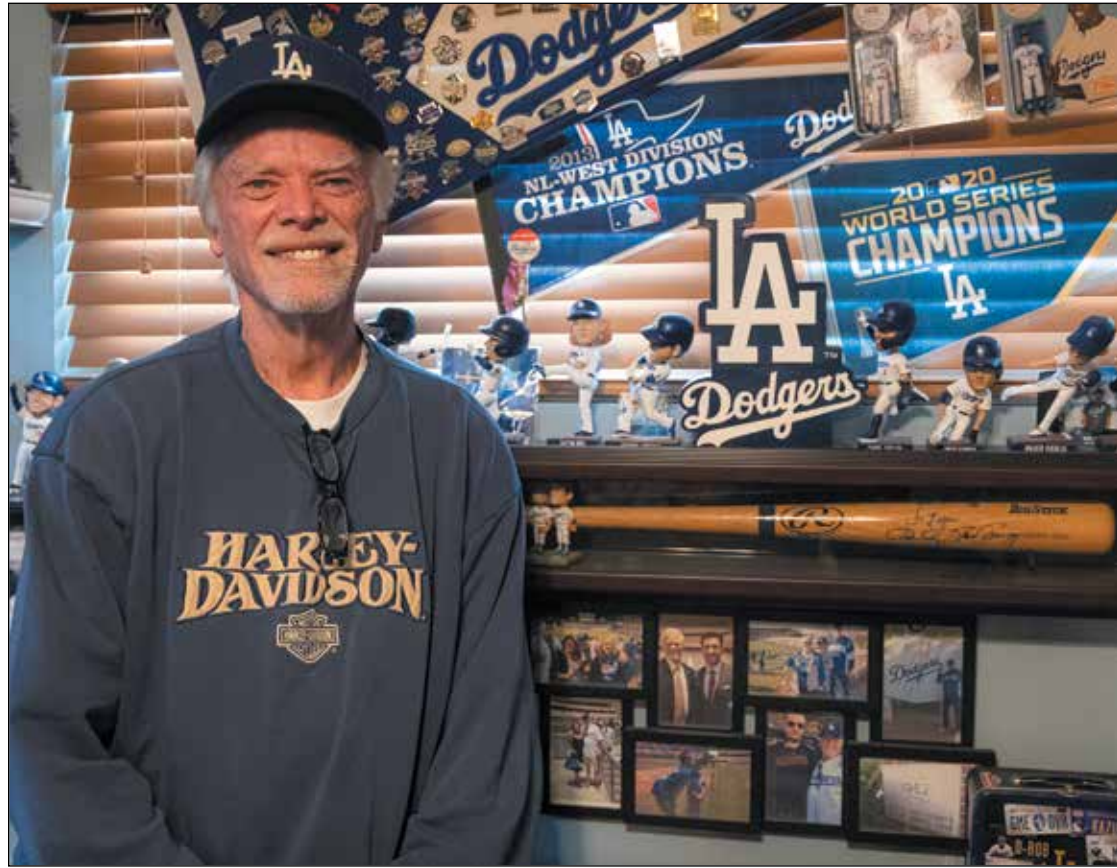
“Somewhere early in the game, an usher came over and says, ‘Young man, here: an autographed baseball of the San Francisco Giants. Willie Mayes. Willie McCovey. Juan Marichal. All these players from either 58 or 59, I don’t remember. An incredible baseball; all these autographs.”

Arthur has since amassed quite a collection of his own of autographed baseballs, photos, autographs, bobble heads, and other memorabilia, primarily of the Dodgers.

But the San Francisco Giants ball from all those years ago?

“We as kids in our neighborhood, we were religiously about playing baseball in the street,” said Arthur. “We played baseball in the street with that ball all summer long. We literally wore the cover off of it, wrapped it in electrical tape, and played more baseball. I was the king of the neighborhood because I had a real major league baseball. Gospel truth, true sandlot story.”

Arthur continued to go to games “sporadically” throughout the late 50’s and early 60’s. Though many of the stats and results have faded from memory over time, the players remain vivid.



Bob Arthur stands in front of his collection of Dodgers memorabilia. He has watched and listened to the Dodgers since 1955. Photo by Alex Dominguez

“I remember Drysdale, the Wally Moons and the moonshots, and the Larry Sherrys, and the Davis Brothers,” said Arthur. “I remember it a lot. Frank Howard, Duke Snider is one of my all-time favorite ballplayers. Yeah, I remember those guys. I remember it vividly, being there and who they were.”

As Arthur got older and his father approached retirement around 1991, the fate of the company Dodger tickets came into question.

“My father had explained that his replacement taking over all his duties and responsibilities was going to be based out of Portland, so who’s going to entertain their clients here in LA,” said Arthur.

That’s when he came up with an idea.

“The next day, I wrote a business plan and gave it to my dad,” said Arthur. “I would manage his company’s season tickets for them. I would distribute them to their clients, I would take them to the games if that’s what the company wanted me to do. Entertain them in the Stadium Club, wine them, dine them, whatever they needed, and for that I wanted a 10-game share of their season tickets. And oh, by the way, I’d pay for the 10 games. Well, they accepted the offer.”

When time came for renewal the next season, Arthur was offered 20 games. Then half. Then came the next hurdle.

“The fourth year, they said, ‘We’re probably not going to renew the tickets,’” said Arthur.

Now a business owner himself, Arthur tried to get the seats transferred over under his company. The Dodgers, unfortunately, had an ironclad policy against doing so.

But his ticket representative gave him a suggestion.

“He says, ‘You didn’t hear this from me, get your father’s company to write a letter making you the official point of contact between all business between their company and the Los Angeles Dodgers. You will get the invoices, you will get the tickets, you will get every communication sent to whatever address you want.’”

It worked.

“That next season, here comes that Federal Express package for 82 home games,” said Arthur.

To this day, the tickets are still listed under his father’s former company, though now he has 10 partners who buy into the seats, each divvying up every home game amongst themselves.

He estimates that he’s been to “thousands” of games; If you have a favorite moment in Dodger history, he may have been there.

“Watching [Sandy] Kofax pitch his perfect game, what was that? ‘73, ‘64, I can’t remember,” said Arthur. “There was one night, a weekday night, and the Dodgers were trailing three runs going into the bottom of the ninth. You could see the taillights leaving the stadium, and fans still listening to Vin Scully on a transistor radio.

“Dodgers come up. I can’t tell you who the first batter was, I don’t remember, but Nomar Garciaparra was batting fourth. First batter, homerun. Second batter, home run. Third batter, home run. Vin Scully is saying, ‘You wouldn’t believe the cars that are coming back into the stadium.’ Garciaparra comes up, homerun. That was just an incredible win.”

With Spring Training in full swing, Arthur is excited – as many fans are – about the Dodgers upcoming season; especially considering their bombshell offseason, where they signed Shohei Ohtani, Yoshinobu Yamamoto, and acquired Tyler Glasnow.

Still, he remains cautiously optimistic.

“I love the game of baseball. I love the Dodgers. I love the team that they have formed,” said Arthur. “They played well yesterday; everybody, no injuries. They played exceptionally well yesterday. That doesn’t mean that when ‘play ball’ comes tomorrow for 12:05 in the afternoon, that by the end of the ninth inning that’s going to be the same thing. There’s always that unknown.

“Look at what happened to Dustin May. He played the first season. I saw him, I was at that game when he stepped off the mound, and the arm is dangling. Then he had his surgery and came back, and is reinjured again. There’s no guarantees about baseball. Next man up.”

He continued:

“Being the optimist, you hope everything comes through. You hope it’s a successful season. You hope that it’s a World Series trophy coming to Dodger Stadium, but there’s so much information about the team that we don’t know as fans.”

But one thing is for certain: When Opening Day rolls around on March 8, Arthur will be ready, and it will once again be time for Dodger Baseball.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 71°

Saturday 72°

Sunday 68°

ON THIS DAY

1817:

The New York Stock Exchange was formally created; it became one of the world’s largest marketplaces for securities and other exchange-traded investments.

1841:

U.S. Supreme Court justice and legal historian Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., who advocated judicial restraint, arguing that speech could be limited only if it was a “clear and present danger,” was born in Boston.

1917:

The U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the rule of cloture.

1950:

Volkswagen began production of its iconic Type 2 bus.

1970:

After leaving The Supremes two months earlier, Diana Ross performed her first solo show.



1971:

Joe Frazier retained his world heavyweight championship by winning a 15-round decision over former champion Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden.

1979:

Philips demonstrated the compact disc publicly for the first time.

1996:

“Fargo,” the film starring William H. Macy and Steve Buscemi, was released in theaters; it was named by the American Film Institute one of the 100 greatest films in American history.

1999:

Joe DiMaggio, who was one of the best all-around baseball players in the history of the game, died.

2003:

50 Cent’s first single, “In Da Club,” topped the Hot 100 for the first of nine weeks.

2014:

During a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, Malaysia Airlines flight 370 disappeared, prompting a massive search effort that was finally called off in early 2017.

BIRTHDAYS

Journalist **LESTER HOLT** (65), basketball analyst **KENNY SMITH** (59), “Dawson’s Creek” star **JAMES VAN DER BEEK** (48), actor **FREDDIE PRINZ JR.** (48), tattoo artist **KAT VON D** (42) and wrestler **CHAD GABLE** (38).

Gascón overturns Downey murder conviction

■ Two men were exonerated of the 2000 killing of a teen in Downey.

By Eric Pierce
Editor

DOWNEY - Two men who were convicted for a 2000 killing in Downey were exonerated by District Attorney George Gascón on Wednesday, who said the men were wrongfully convicted.

The Downey Police Department disagreed with the decision.

Ronald Velasquez Jr. and Abraham Villalobos were convicted in 2001 for the shooting death of 15-year-old Michael Roybal, who was

shot as he opened the door of an apartment he was visiting on Deming Street in Downey, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Despite initially saying she could not see the perpetrators, a witness to the shooting positively identified Velasquez and Villalobos during the trial.

Velasquez was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 50 years to life in prison. Villalobos was convicted of second-degree murder as an abettor to the crime, and was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison.

Villalobos was paroled in 2015, but according to the Loyola Law School's Project for the Innocent, he

was immediately deported to Mexico and has been unable to return to see his family in Los Angeles.

According to prosecutors, Velasquez filed a conviction-review request with the District Attorney's Office in 2021, and new evidence pointed to a man named Sergio Torres as the gunman.

Torres was killed in a drive-by shooting in October 2001, prosecutors said.

In court Wednesday, Velasquez and Villalobos were both declared factually innocent, and Velasquez was released from custody.

"Our commitment to seeking the truth is unwavering," Gascón said in a

statement. "The exoneration of these two men serves as a reminder of the importance of accountability within our own office and throughout the justice system."

Velasquez's attorney, John Hanusz, called the exoneration a long time coming.

"Ronald Velasquez Jr. and his family worked tirelessly for more than 20 years to demonstrate his innocence, and their pleas for justice fell on deaf ears -- until today," Hanusz said in a statement. "Mr. Velasquez Jr.'s exoneration also would not have been possible but for the pro bono work of private investigator Dana Orent."

The Downey Police

Department released a statement saying it did not agree with the DA's findings.

"The Downey Police Department did not participate in the [DA's] investigation," the statement read. "The City of Downey and the Downey Police Department disagree with the outcome of the...investigation and are disappointed in the District Attorney's decision."

"This case was prosecuted before a jury, which rightfully convicted both Velasquez and Villalobos of murder based on the substantial amount of evidence presented. Any 'new' evidence that was reviewed by the [DA] does not support a reversal of this outcome."

Additionally, the convictions themselves were repeatedly affirmed on appeal by the state courts as well.

"The Downey Police Department continues to maintain community safety as its top priority, and carries its duties with the highest integrity and accountability standards. The [Conviction Integrity Unit] investigation and decision by the District Attorney was not in any respect due to the Downey Police Department's handling of the case."

Porter calls Senate primary election 'rigged'

■ After losing Tuesday, Rep. Katie Porter said the election is rigged by outside donors.

By City News Service

While Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff and Republican former Dodger Steve Garvey prepare for a November runoff election after topping a crowded field of candidates looking to claim the U.S. Senate seat previously held by the late Dianne Feinstein, Katie Porter is catching flack Thursday for saying the system to select candidates is rigged.

Porter, a member of Congress representing Irvine who finished third in the primary election, posted on social media Wednesday that

donors supporting Schiff used their money to rig the election.

"Thank you to everyone who supported our campaign and voted to shake up the status quo in Washington. Because of you, we had the establishment running scared -- withstanding 3 to 1 in TV spending and an onslaught of billionaires spending millions to rig this election," Porter said in a post after the race was called.

According to still-unofficial results from Tuesday's primary election, Schiff, D-Burbank, led the way among the more than two dozen candidates seeking the seat, earning 33.2% of the vote. Garvey was only about 30,000 votes behind, earning

32.4% of the tally.

Porter, D-Irvine, was a distant third at 13.8%, and Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Oakland, placed fourth at just 7.4%.

Porter issued a statement Thursday to address criticism for saying the primary election was rigged.

"'Rigged' means manipulated by dishonest means," Porter said in a statement.

"That is dishonest means to manipulate the outcome. I said 'rigged by billionaires' and our politics are -- in fact -- manipulated by big dark money. Defending democracy means calling that out," Porter said.

She made it clear she did not claim the vote count or the

election process was rigged. Rather the donors funding candidates are using their money in inappropriate ways. She said the state election process is "beyond reproach."

Many pundits were anticipating a Schiff-Garvey runoff, with most believing it could result in an easy Schiff victory in heavily Democratic California as they fight for a full six-year term in the Senate.

Schiff and Garvey will actually appear twice on the November ballot, with both also seeking to fill out the remainder of Feinstein's term, which ends in January.

Schiff claimed victory at a Hollywood rally Tuesday night.

"It looks like we're going to the general, ladies and gentlemen," Schiff said. "So a little over a year ago we kicked off this campaign and I won't say it wasn't without its bumps along the way. I seem to recall, although it's a little hazy, within hours of our

announcement a certain Kevin McCarthy kicked me off the Intelligence Committee. ... And then at the urging and badgering of Donald Trump, the Republicans censured me for holding him accountable. ... And then Trump would attack me after rally after rally."

"... But you had my back every step of the way, every step of the way. You helped us build the biggest grassroots campaign for Senate in California history and I cannot thank you enough."

Things were notably calmer in Palm Desert, where Garvey hailed his advance to the November runoff. He compared the election results to "what it's like to hit a walk-off home run."

"Your vote was your shared belief with me that California is no longer the heartbeat of America --- but now just a murmur," Garvey said. "That we have challenges to face up to --- like closing the border. And responsibilities to live up

to ---like helping the homeless off the streets with a pathway back to their dignity. And that if we do those things and more --- that our best days will be ahead of us. With California once again being the heartbeat of America. As we celebrate tonight --- I want you to know that we haven't come this far, to only go this far.

"When I stepped on the field for the Dodgers and Padres, I didn't play for Democrats, Republicans or Independents --- I played for all the fans. And now I'm running for all of the people."

Porter conceded defeat during a gathering with supporters in Long Beach, saying she remains convinced that voters want to see change in Washington.

"You want leaders who demand better from both parties, leaders who want progress not partisanship, officials whose bottom line is people, not profits," she said. "That is why we were able to turn heads in this campaign and make the people in power listen and run scared. Let's be honest, I think all of us can agree that our government isn't working well for us, for families, for Californians, for workers, for consumers. So many of those in power are too interested in helping other powerful people instead of paying attention to the needs of everyday people. Too many are more interested in being an elected official than in actually doing anything to fix the problems that everyday people face."

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The AP course that America's kids need

Women's contributions to U.S. history are being undermined in our classrooms.

By Elena Sheppard

Elena Sheppard is a culture writer who focuses on books, fashion, theater and history. Her first book, "The Eternal Forest: A Memoir of the Cuban Diaspora," is forthcoming from St. Martin's Press.

It wasn't until I got to college that I learned much of anything about women in US history. I had sort of learned about the first ladies (but really just because I'd learned about their husbands) and I'd learned about Betsy Ross (whose legacy as the one to sew the first American flag fits right into historic narratives about women's work). But while sitting in a first-year college lecture about women's roles throughout our nation's growth, I remember feeling stunned that I hadn't heard most of these names before: Dorothea Dix and her 19th century work to fundamentally change the medical field; Lucy Delaney, the formerly enslaved activist and memoirist; even Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 19th century leader of the women's rights movement, who occupied only a pullout blurb in my high school textbook.

This gap in my education — and in many American students' educations — is one with serious repercussions. If during the foundational years of our education, we are perpetuating a male-centric past, our male-centric present begins to feel inevitable. On a policy level, women's rights are currently being eroded across the United States and women are still fighting for equal pay for equal work. Were we taught in school how fundamental women's history is to understanding American history, we would not find ourselves in a position where American kids grow up to be American adults with a spotty understanding of women's contributions and women's stories. If, while in school, we are taught that the most important histories are about men and written by men, it only makes sense that we then grow up to believe (subconsciously or not) that men's experiences are the most important ones, too.

A 2017 report by the National Women's History Museum

researched K-12 educational standards in social studies classes nationwide, examining how curricula addressed women and their stories. "All history projects require choices. Including a person or event excludes another. Women often don't make the cut," the writers explained. "The most recent study, published in 2016, found that women continue to make up a small percentage of figures in US history textbooks, including illustrations and sidebars."

The 2017 report also found that when women are included, it's often as an addendum. "Women are frequently included in lists of marginalized groups as a reminder to teachers that when covering a broad topic, they should also include the experiences of women among others," their report reads.

Seven years later, not much has improved. To combat that, two high school history teachers have started a national campaign to incorporate more women's history into high school classrooms via Advanced Placement (AP) classes. Kristen Kelly and Serene Williams are petitioning the College Board — the entity in charge of AP exams and the suite of SAT tests — to create an AP US Women's History Course. Their argument, as laid out on their website, is that women's history is not sufficiently taught. In response to a request for comment by The 19th last year, the College Board did not make anyone available for interview, but did release a statement about their criteria for course assessment: "Key to that process is colleges and universities' willingness to award college credit and placement to students who achieve qualifying AP exam scores," a spokesperson told The 19th. "Additionally, we evaluate new courses to determine if there is significant demand for the course in high schools. Finally, the launch of the course must also serve the Advanced Placement program's mission to expand access to a broader student population."

Were the College Board to stand behind the importance of this subject matter, that would go a long way toward bringing it into non-AP classrooms as well. AP classes and exams are used by both students and college admissions as a marker of academic seriousness and rigor; were women's history given its own AP course, that subject matter's importance and depth would be underscored. Of course, it should not only be AP students who are given the opportunity to learn this history. But creating an AP curriculum around it would shine a national spotlight on its importance, hopefully

encouraging other learning environments to follow suit.

In a Ms. Magazine article, Kelly and Williams point out that in AP US Government & Politics, and even with the 2022 overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, of the 14 Supreme Court cases required to be taught, none of them have to do with women's equality. Of the course's core texts, none are written by women. In AP US History, women's suffrage, for example, is taught as just one of many movements encapsulated in the Progressive Era. The end result is a general devaluing of women's histories, stories and contributions. If we are teaching our students that women are a sidebar to men, is it any wonder if that's what they grow up to believe?

There is a precedent for this kind of change from the College Board. This coming school year will mark the launch of the AP African American Studies course, introduced after similar backlash highlighted the underrepresentation of the subject matter in the nation's high school classrooms. The course has faced substantial controversy, with the coursework being revised and many scholars left unsatisfied with the final course offering, saying it doesn't go far enough into structural racism or critical race theory.

On the other hand, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has vowed to ban the course from his state's classrooms on the grounds that it is promoting a political agenda. Other states — including Arkansas, Virginia, North Dakota and Mississippi — quickly decided that they too would need to review the AP offerings to make sure that they don't violate state restrictions on the teaching of race. It's a safe assumption that a women's studies AP course would face similar controversy and scrutiny, particularly with the inclusion of women's reproductive rights. But by not teaching students we are doing them a disservice, especially as yet another generation grows up with this educational gap.

Women are not sidebars. But by undermining and undervaluing their contributions and histories, that is exactly what we're teaching our students. Women's stories should be fully integrated in our national narrative, and we should be teaching our students as much. Women deserve more, high schoolers deserve more, all of us deserve more. And it's our responsibility to help make it so.

Time to end our obsession with Oprah

Oprah spent four decades as the face of this country's struggles with weight loss.

By Elena Sheppard

Elena Sheppard is a culture writer who focuses on books, fashion, theater and history. Her first book, "The Eternal Forest: A Memoir of the Cuban Diaspora," is forthcoming from St. Martin's Press.

This week, Oprah Winfrey announced that she would be stepping away from the board of the Weight Watchers (WW) brand and divesting her 10% share in the company. Many will remember when Oprah began her partnership with WW nearly 10 years ago. At the time, the company was struggling to make new profits and Oprah's Midas touch took the company and its stock to new levels.

Who can forget Oprah's famous "I. Love. Bread." commercial? With taglines such as: "Eat bread. Lose weight. Whaaatttt?" She too, had me at bread. I can recall joining WW shortly after the birth of my second child during the early years of Oprah's partnership. For decades, America has followed Oprah through every major weight loss trend, and this was no exception.

During the height of Oprah's daytime talk show, viewers tuned in five days a week to learn about "how to live their best lives." Oprah illustrated the many ways one achieved wellness, and for better or worse the theme of weight loss dominated her 25-year run. In 1988, she infamously rolled out 67 pounds of animal fat in a red wagon to illustrate the weight she lost from a 30-day liquid only diet. She later deeply regretted such a stunt, calling it a "Big, big, big, big, big, big mistake!"

In 1994, Oprah ran her first marathon to celebrate her 40th birthday. Her time during the Marine Corp Marathon was 4:29:15, which became the benchmark to beat for any celebrity that wanted to best Oprah. She graced the cover of "Runner's World" in matching spandex coral colored sports bra and running shorts with the headline: "Oprah Did it, So Can You." In 2008, Oprah kicked off a vegan craze, where she and the entire staff at Harpo Studios, her production company, opted to eat vegan for a short time.

All throughout her professional life, Oprah's struggles with weight loss and gain have been iconic. But this year, Oprah also turned 70 years old, and the public still cannot relinquish its gaze on her body or health journey. During her red carpets events for the premiere of "The Color Purple," the internet became obsessed again with Oprah's small waistline and thinner figure. It raised questions about Oprah taking medical weight loss drugs such as Ozempic or Wegovy. Known for transparency, she shared she was indeed taking weight-loss medication. Perhaps she hoped that her own choices would remove the stigma that comes from medical intervention.

WW has also strategically launched a plan for its members to take advantage of weight loss drugs and even telehealth services to offer virtual prescriptions for patients when applicable. Oprah's departure from WW comes at an interesting moment in our weight obsessed culture.

What happens when our aspirations for "living our best lives" no longer requires 30-day liquid diets, marathons or going vegan? While many will certainly see this as a progressive change, I am not confident that Oprah's leaving WW is a mission accomplished moment. The solution to weight loss appears to be "take the shot" or "pop a pill." In various ways, it feels like the culture has punted on figuring out what "fat" actually is. Scientists still have no definitive answers about what makes someone fat; it is not

just what you eat or how much you eat. Most of America is convinced that fat or obese people are always unhealthy: not true. The public is also generally deceived into the idea that skinny people somehow can't be unwell. These ideas harm everyone.

With Oprah stepping down, many people will lose their measure or point of reference for what is ahead or behind the curve as it relates to their weight and health. Hollywood has taken its fixation with thinness to new levels. But celebrity voices are hardly needed anymore when social media influencers can stir the culture just as much with their medical weight loss journeys for all to see. The dopamine shot from dropping another few pounds is drowning out all of the canaries in the coal mine that call out the potentially harmful side effects of Ozempic and other similar drugs.

Oprah's departure will also have particular meaning for the Black community. As a result of her announcement, WW stock plunged 25% in value. Oprah stated that she will be donating the shares of her stock to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. While it may seem like a significant donation to the museum, the shares are only as valuable as the company, which just took a major hit. In order for the museum to see a boon, the company will have to continue to do well. One might also ask what it means for the nation's preeminent Black history museum to be economically tethered to a weight loss company.

Ultimately, Oprah can do whatever she wants with her money, her time and her talents. Stepping down is her prerogative. But perhaps, it's finally time that our culture also relinquishes its obsession with Oprah's body — and along with it, its anti-fat bias and attachments to seemingly quick-fix solutions to much bigger problems.



NORWALK SPRING FESTIVAL

Saturday • April 13, 2024
Front Street
between San Antonio Drive and Funston Avenue
2pm-7pm

Shopping

Beer Garden

Food Trucks

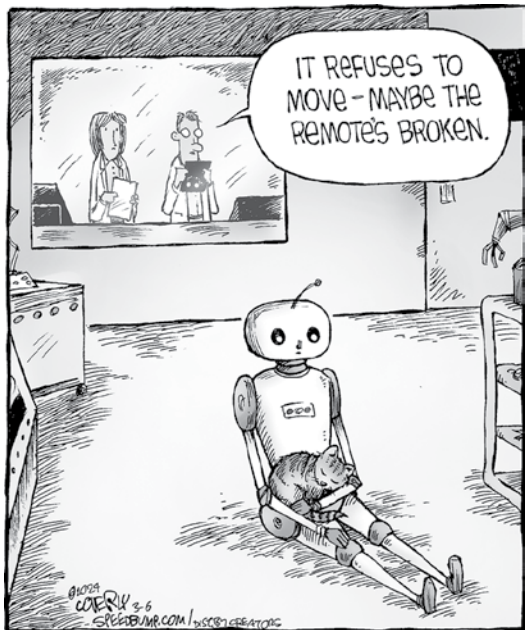
Kids Zone

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SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



Norwalk Community Calendar

MONDAYS

1st Mon., 6 pm - Public Safety meetings - Council Chambers
2nd Mon., 7 pm - Relay for Life meetings - Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant

TUESDAYS

9:00 a.m. - 1 pm - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall
1st & 3rd Tues., 6 pm - Toastmasters Meetings - Registrar Recorder/County Clerks Office
1st & 3rd Tues., 6 pm - City Council - Council Chambers
3rd Tues., 5:45 pm - Housing Authority - Council Chambers

WEDNESDAYS

1st & 3rd Wed., 7 pm - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant
2nd Wed., 10:30 am - Norwalk Woman's Club - Faith Church
2nd & 4th Wed., 1:30 pm - Alondra Senior Citizens - Social Services Center
2nd & 4th Wed., 6 pm - Soroptimist International - Via Zoom
2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 pm - Planning Commission - Council Chambers
4th Wed., 11:30 am - Coordinating Council - Arts & Sports Complex

THURSDAYS

7 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 924 - Norwalk United Methodist Church
2nd Thurs., 6 pm - 605 Kiwanis Club - Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant
2nd Thurs., 7 pm - American Legion Post No. 359 - 11986 Front St.
2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm - Golden Trowel - Norwalk Masonic Lodge

SATURDAYS

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall

SUNDAYS

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Food Pantry - 12201 Firestone Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Would you like an event listed in the community calendar?
E-mail news@thedownepatriot.com

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PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

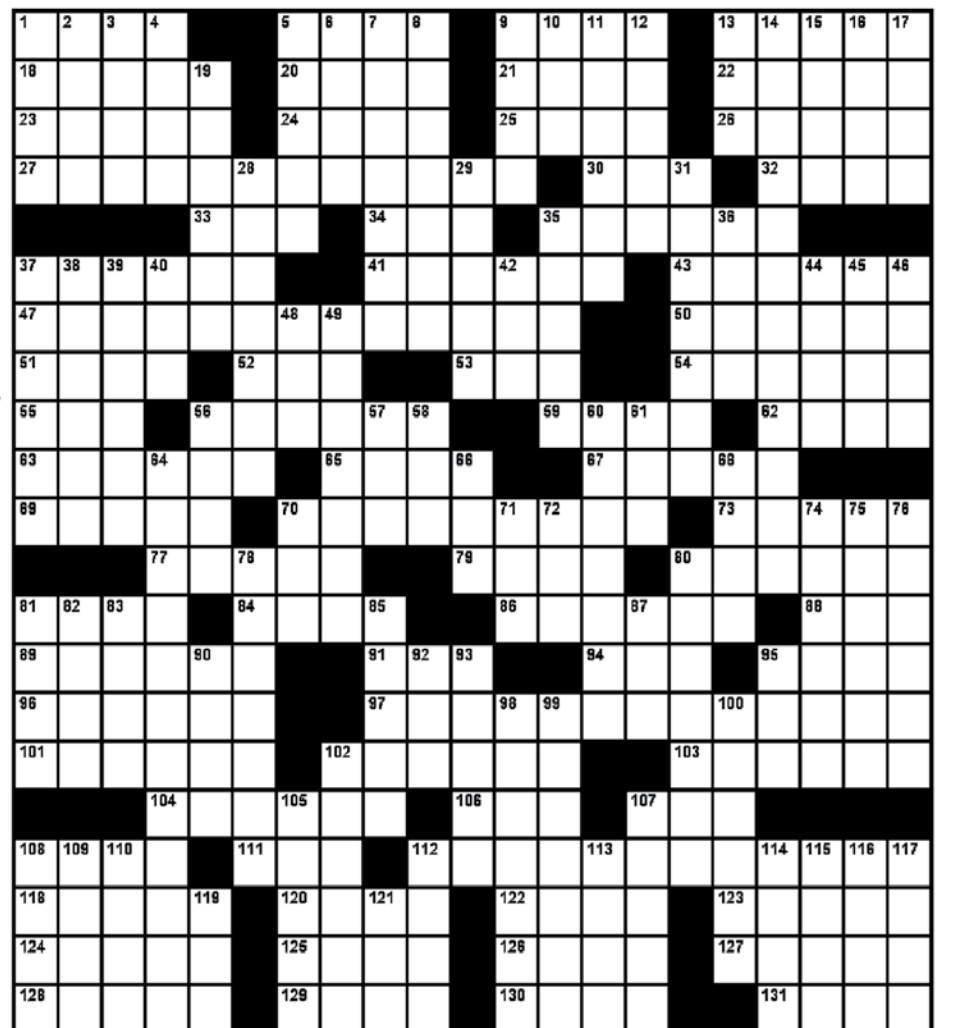
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
IT'LL HOLD WATER: Human-made and otherwise
by Mark McClain

You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at www.StanXwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Professional whistle blowers
 - 5 Short periods, for short
 - 9 Breakfast orders
 - 13 Look down on
 - 18 Blow up
 - 20 Botanical in shampoos
 - 21 Ranch youngster
 - 22 Broadcast portion
 - 23 '70s dance craze
 - 24 Roseanne's last name
 - 25 Double-reed instrument
 - 26 Locations
 - 27 George Clooney heist film
 - 30 Meadow comment
 - 32 Not occupied
 - 33 Occupational suffix
 - 34 Vietnam Veterans Memorial architect
 - 35 Taurus follower
 - 37 Andean mammal
 - 41 Andean mammals
 - 43 Shirker-worker's time
 - 47 Collapses
 - 50 Barrel slats
 - 51 "No need to wake me"
 - 52 Hole number
 - 53 One of several articles
 - 54 Manuscript sheets
 - 55 Extremely long time
 - 56 Places for hibachis
 - 59 District near Piccadilly
 - 62 Fails to be
 - 63 Schleppe
 - 65 More than
 - 67 Repair bill component
 - 69 Fearful feeling
 - 70 Painter's accessory
 - 73 Hoops announcer's cry
 - 77 Put a cap on
 - 79 Rueful comment
 - 80 Tahini ingredient
 - 81 Cookware brand
 - 84 Composer Stravinsky
 - 86 Seals' singing associate
 - 88 USMC authorities
 - 89 Divides up
 - 91 Sci-fi beings
 - 94 OPEC member
 - 95 Rhymester
 - 96 Papua New
 - 97 Pail-passing firefighters
 - 101 Confiscated
 - 102 State bordering Bavaria
 - 103 More silly
 - 104 Not afresco
 - 106 Itty-bitty
 - 107 Adverse
 - 108 Pork order
 - 111 Resort amenity
 - 112 Career barrier
 - 118 Stew server
 - 120 Comparable
 - 122 "Inside" info
 - 123 Zenith opposite
 - 124 Celestial hunter
 - 125 South American capital
 - 126 It holds water by
 - 127 Draw forth
 - 128 Pound fractions
 - 129 It holds water in winter
 - 130 Hideaways
 - 131 Large quantity
- DOWN**
- 1 Make more modern
 - 2 Country singer Church
 - 3 Melt together
 - 4 Shelter org.
 - 5 Duel tool
 - 6 Mideast flier
 - 7 Italian composer admired by Bach
 - 8 Excessively obedient
 - 9 MBA class
 - 10 Large quantity
 - 11 Spherical topography
 - 12 Geyser output
 - 13 European flier
 - 14 Last two teams of a soccer tourney
 - 15 Distinctive smell
 - 16 Formal observance
 - 17 15 Down detector
 - 19 Barbershop bottles
 - 28 Chair accessory
 - 29 Formally pass
 - 31 Aspires toward
 - 35 The atmosphere, essentially
 - 36 Alliance acronym
 - 37 Off the subject
 - 38 Prolific western author
 - 39 Sudden dive
 - 40 Italian peak
 - 42 "Not impressed"
 - 44 Hertz rival
 - 45 One of the 35 Down
 - 46 Sidekick, for short
 - 48 Feedbag bit
 - 49 Preceding
 - 56 Nail treatment
 - 57 ___lacto vegetarian
 - 58 Equinox mo.
 - 60 Withdraws
 - 61 "That's absurd!"
 - 64 Large food storage bag
 - 66 NBC former owner
 - 68 NBA nonhappenings
 - 70 Work with a trowel
 - 71 Inc. relative
 - 72 Regatta tool
 - 74 Polynesian tongue
 - 75 Slow down
 - 76 Home-building bird
 - 78 Gets sum things wrong
 - 80 With no germs
 - 81 Touches for an out
 - 82 Chimney channel
 - 83 Others: Lat.
 - 85 Concrete support rod
 - 87 Beatles-era "excellent"
 - 90 Prom queen, more than likely
 - 92 Prom wear
 - 93 Angry look
 - 95 Links org.
 - 98 Worked with dough
 - 99 Weedy lot, for instance
 - 100 Not unruly
 - 102 Become understood
 - 105 Autumn birthstones
 - 107 Frozen beverages
 - 108 Hoofbeat sound
 - 109 Jackrabbit, e.g.
 - 110 Norse Mars
 - 112 Chew like
 - 113 Chinchillas
 - 113 Go around
 - 114 Washrooms
 - 115 Object of worship
 - 116 NFL uniform supplier
 - 117 Expanded
 - 119 Compass reading
 - 121 Texter's view intro

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- 72 Regatta tool
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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords



Hahn beats Villanueva for third term

■ Janice Hahn collected 54.7% of Tuesday's vote, avoiding a runoff election against Alex Villanueva, according to unofficial results.

By City News Service

DOWNEY – Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn appeared to be heading for a third and final term Wednesday, narrowly maintaining enough of a margin to avoid a November runoff with former Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

Unofficial results from Tuesday's election showed Hahn with 54.7% of the vote, just over the 50% she needs to avoid the runoff. Villanueva was a distant second with 30.6%, followed by Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor John Cruikshank, who had 14.7%.

It was unclear how many ballots from District 4 still need to be tallied, and if there are enough to potentially bring Hahn below the 50% mark.

The District 4 seat represents more than 50 communities, including Downey, Long Beach, Pico Rivera, Torrance, Whittier, along with the unincorporated areas of East La Mirada, Santa Catalina Island, Westfield, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Harbor City, San Pedro and Wilmington.

Hahn was elected in 2016 and re-elected to another term in 2020. Previously, she served three terms on the Los Angeles City Council representing the 15th District before being elected to Congress in California's 36th and, later, 44th districts.

Hahn, 71, said her top priority is confronting the homelessness crisis. According to her campaign's website, "Hahn is leading the implementation of California's new Care Court in L.A. County, which is helping get unhoused people with severe mental health issues off our streets and into supervised care facilities to receive the treatment they need."

As a supervisor, Hahn has "created housing solutions across her district quickly and affordably using former motels and vacant government property," her campaign website states.

The campaign also touts her efforts to improve public safety and emergency response.

"She has invested in local police, firefighters and paramedics to reduce emergency response times and is working to increase the number of Metro police in stations and on trains to make LA Metro safer," Hahn's campaign said.

Hahn is also fighting to "reduce gun violence and keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals, including those accused of domestic violence."

During his term as sheriff, Villanueva often clashed with the Board of Supervisors. He was also accused of mishandling certain issues within his department, including the investigations into deputy gangs and refusing to enforce COVID 19 vaccine mandates -- criticisms he vocally rebuffed.

Villanueva, 61, served as sheriff from 2018 to 2022, when voters gave the job to former Long Beach Sheriff Robert Luna. Before being elected sheriff, Villanueva was a deputy sheriff for more than 30 years. He ran on a platform of restoring safety and security, and reducing the impact of homelessness on families and businesses.

"The Board of Supervisors has a responsibility to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the county," Villanueva said in September, when he announced his candidacy. "In that regard, they have failed absolutely miserably."

He also said he wanted to rebuild the sheriff's department "after it was gutted by the defunding movement." He also advocated repeal of Prop 47, which voters passed in November 2014. It classified retail theft under \$950 as a misdemeanor, not a felony.

Cruikshank, 57, said he wanted to tackle what he called the core four issues: public safety, infrastructure, homelessness and economic empowerment.

"We need to reopen our jails and start putting the bad guys back in them," Cruikshank said. He added that if the county D.A. is "soft on crime," then it is the "law-abiding citizens who suffer the consequences."

The supervisorial seats are nonpartisan. It's been 44 years since an incumbent county supervisor has lost a reelection bid.

The five board members govern a county with approximately 10 million residents. Supervisors are elected to serve four-year terms and can remain in office for up to 12 consecutive years.

Gascón bound for runoff against Hochman

■ Incumbent DA George Gascon and Nathan Hochman will battle in November.

By City News Service

DOWNEY – District Attorney George Gascón will be heading to a November runoff election in his bid to retain his position, likely squaring off against Nathan Hochman, a former U.S. assistant attorney general who was the Republican candidate for state attorney general in the 2022 general election.

With neither candidate earning more than 50% of the vote from Tuesday's primary election, the top two vote-getters advance to the November general election.

Gascón topped the field of 11 challengers, but updated results Wednesday showed him with just 22.1% of the vote. Hochman placed second with 17.7%, with the 10 other challengers splitting the remaining ballots. Jonathan Hatami, a child abuse prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office, placed third with 13.3%.

Hatami trails Hochman in the race by roughly 40,000 votes. According to the county Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office, roughly 355,000 ballots from the election still need to be counted.

Despite leading all vote-getters in a crowded field, Gascón's roughly 22% tally suggests he could face a struggle to win over voters in November who opted for any of the other candidates on Tuesday's ballot.

"Tonight, three-quarters of Angelenos rejected George Gascón and said enough is enough of playing politics with our communities' safety," Hochman wrote on social media Tuesday night. "The Golden Age of Criminals is coming to an end. In the general election, I look forward to unifying all those who want to restore safety in their communities, in their streets, parks, subways and neighborhoods. I look forward to restoring trust with prosecutors, a partnership with law enforcement and credibility with victims and the public."

Gascón said his opponents engaged in "fear-mongering" during the campaign.

"It was all based on personal attacks and hyperbole, so I'm looking forward to actually a general election where we'll have meaningful conversations around policy, disagreements in policy, and what the solution should be," Gascón told KTLA5 Tuesday.

Gascón was elected in 2020 over incumbent Jackie Lacey as he promised a wave of progressive changes. But he has been under fire since taking office by issuing a series of directives critics have blasted as being soft on crime. The directives included a rule against seeking the death penalty, a ban on transferring juvenile defendants to adult court and prohibitions on filing sentencing-enhancements in most cases.

"This campaign is not about me, this is a community movement," Gascón said last November, when he kicked off his reelection campaign. "This is about looking at the criminal justice system of the 21st Century not with a rear-view mirror but looking forward."

Also running for his job were three other members of Gascón's office: John McKinney, supervising district attorney; Maria Ramirez, the head deputy D.A.; and Eric Siddall, a violent crimes prosecutor.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges Debra Archuleta and Craig J. Mitchell were also on the ballot, along with David S. Milton, who retired as a Superior Court judge in 2014.

The other candidates were Jeff Chemerinsky, an assistant U.S. attorney; criminal defense attorney Dan Kapelovitz, and Lloyd "Bobcat" Masson, a cold case prosecutor in San Bernardino County.

Most of the opponents were challenging a number of Gascón's policies, with numerous candidates framing a narrative of out-of-control crime in Los Angeles, driven by lenient policies enabling criminals' release.

Hochman, a former U.S. assistant attorney general, offered voters what he described as a "blueprint for justice."

"I am shocked and disappointed at how our public safety has seriously worsened over the last three years under current D.A. George Gascón," Hochman stated on

his campaign website. "I am prepared to fight to restore it. My Blueprint for Justice outlines the changes I will make as your District Attorney to restore safety and justice to our county."

Hochman said that under Gascón's leadership, veteran prosecutors were stripped of their ability to file appropriate charges against violent, repeat offenders.

As for part of his blueprint, Hochman vows to "restore the purpose of the District Attorney's Office to fairly, effectively, and vigorously prosecute those who break laws in Los Angeles County based on the evidence and the law."

Hochman said he would also "restore the integrity and independence of the district attorney by not making decisions based on a party affiliation or political ideology but solely on the facts and the law."

His campaign points out that Hochman is running as an Independent.

"I believe the D.A. needs to be fiercely independent and have encouraged all other candidates to do the same," Hochman said.

Hatami, who was hired as a deputy D.A. in 2006, said he wants to restore public safety and make meaningful reforms in the office.

"As your district attorney, I will prioritize public safety by implementing comprehensive strategies to protect all of our communities from danger, prevent crime, maintain

peace, hold violent offenders accountable and establish a path to success for low-level offenders," Hatami said on his campaign's website.

Hatami also served in the nation's first Complex Child Abuse unit at the Hall of Justice in downtown Los Angeles, according to his campaign.

"I believe in reforms, rehabilitation and second chances," Hatami said. "However, we must first and always follow the law. We must balance reforms with public safety and protecting our most vulnerable."

Hatami vows to "bring transparency back to the people's office, hold wrongdoers accountable, and make real, meaningful reforms."

Most of the challengers in the race said they planned to reverse the sweeping policy changes Gascón enacted on his first day in office. Gascón, despite all the criticism, was able to fend off two recall attempts. During a debate with nine of the 11 challengers, Gascón defended his directives.

"We have seen crime coming down not only in our community, but we're seeing crime going down nationwide, at the same time that we have continued with the reform efforts," Gascón said. "We're showing that not only we cannot go back to the way that we did business, but actually the fact is our reforms are good for public safety."

Dream For All down payment program opens next month

The Dream For All Shared Appreciation Loan is a down payment assistance program for first-time homebuyers to be used in conjunction for down payment and/or closing costs. (We recommend to use it all towards down payment so that the borrower can avoid paying for mortgage insurance.)

How it works:

- Homebuyers receive a shared appreciation loan to help them reach a down payment of up to 20% of their home's purchase price.
- The homeowner pays back the original loan amount plus 20% of any appreciation in the value of the home.
- The program drawing is set to open April 3 and close April 29 of 2024.

Borrower requirements:

- Be a first-time generational home buyer. A first-generation homebuyer is defined as a homebuyer who has not been on title, held an ownership interest or have been named on a mortgage to a home (on permanent foundation and owned land) in the United States in the last 7 years, and;
- To the best of the homebuyer's knowledge whose parents (biological or adoptive) do not have any present ownership interest in a home in the United States or if deceased whose parents did not have any ownership interest at the time of death in a home in the United States, or;
- An individual who has at any time been placed in foster care or institutional care (type of out of home residential care for large groups of children by non-related

caregivers)

- Occupy the property as a primary residence
- Must complete two levels of homebuyer education counseling and obtain a certificate of completion through an eligible homebuyer counseling organization.
- Meet CalHFA income limits for this program.

Property Requirements:

- Be a single-family, one-unit residence (guest houses, granny units, and in-law quarters may be eligible)
- Manufactured housing is permitted
- Condominiums must meet the guidelines of the first mortgage

Benefits:

- Comparatively lower interest rate than another assistance program
- No private mortgage insurance (PMI) means lower monthly payments (if 20% is used towards down payment).
- Lower monthly payment due to a lower loan amount
- Increased buying power

The homeowner doesn't repay the loan until they sell, refinance for a second time, or transfer the property. The repayment will be the initial 20% down lent to buy the home and 20% of the shared equity that was made during the home ownership

For questions or more information, contact Chris Aziz at (562) 378-6781 or Chris.Aziz@CCM.com