



## Downtown Pomona's Second Street becomes pedestrian mall – for first time since 1977!

Possibly patterned after the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica or even The Grove in Los Angeles, Downtown Pomona this month blocked all vehicular traffic and opened its signature Second Street to pedestrians, bicyclists and skateboarders as the veritable core of Pomona's central city area became the Downtown Pomona Public Square.

Made possible by a series of "k-rail" installations and "road closed" and "do not enter" signs, the "Public Square" concept will provide a new outdoor walking, dining and shopping experience – at least until the end of the year, according to Lorena Parker, executive director

of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association.

Of course, if you have been around Pomona for a while, you know the concept is not new – the entire Second Street corridor was transformed into a pedestrian mall years ago.

In fact, it opened in 1962, according to the non-profit Los Angeles Conservancy, and was hailed as one of the first pedestrian malls in the United States. It was even designed by Pomona artist Millard Sheets and recognized as a blueprint for urban revitalization.

The mall was nine blocks long, anchored on the east end by upscale department store Buffum's (now



**FIRST CUSTOMERS ON THE FIRST DAY!** -- Downtown Pomona's Second Street was turned into a pedestrian mall known as "Downtown Pomona Public Square" this month with businesses moving things outside, and the first restaurant to receive a city permit and get set up on the street was Metro Ale House. And the La Nueva Voz camera was there to grab a shot of the first customers at the first table on the first day. Pictured, clockwise from front left, are Gabriela Quintero, of Ontario; Megan Van Asch, of Pomona; server Daniel Batz; Eddie Rodamaker, of Upland; and Karlos Santiago, of Ontario.

COVID-19 pandemic was a motivating factor for the change.

"There are several other communities around this whole Los Angeles area that have tried to increase their space outdoors because there's a lot of things that we can't do indoors," she explained. "So therefore the city has decided to go ahead and give us the opportunity to close these streets down on Second Street between Main and Garey, and then a second segment between Garey and Gibbs, to allow businesses an opportunity to come out onto the sidewalk."

"And also, just as importantly, it's going to allow the community to have this open space," she added, as she encouraged everyone to "come on down."

"Ride your bikes, walk along the new promenade that we have here as of today, it's actually kind of exciting," she said.

Parker said the entire concept is exciting, adding that the artists (from Pomona's art colony and beyond) were expected to be out on Second Saturday – and they were.

She encouraged everyone to come down "and really support our businesses because we are all in this together."

In addition to lots of artists in the area on Second Saturday, La Nueva Voz interviewed Parker halfway through the first day (Sept. 9) of the new "Downtown Pomona Public Square" concept and learned the

the blue-tiled building that is part of Western University of Health Sciences), and included mosaics, fountains, sculptures by Sheets and other artists, and other elements, many of them remaining today.

It was reopened to automobiles in 1977 as the make-up of the downtown area began to change.

### "Takin' it to the Streets"

But back to the future, the DPOA is again "Takin' it to the Streets," in the words of The Doobie Brothers song of 1976. La Nueva Voz interviewed Parker halfway through the first day (Sept. 9) of the new "Downtown Pomona Public Square" concept and learned the

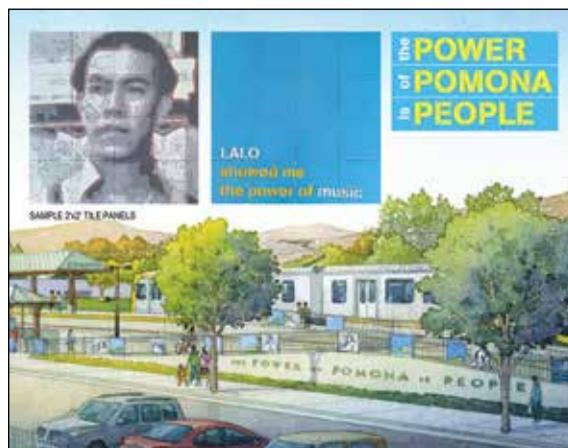
## Foothill Gold Line issues public call for Pomona residents to be featured in future Pomona station artwork

How many times in your life do you have an opportunity to memorialize a friend or family member – or even a historical figure in Pomona you are simply aware of – for all to remember?

Well, that's exactly what the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority is offering for a special collection of memorial tiles at the future Pomona Gold Line station where the best 56 nominations of Pomona residents – past and present – will be installed on the wall.

But there's more! Nominations that don't make it up on the wall still will be part of the project – they'll be included on a special web site and, possibly, Station artwork... pg. 5

**POMONA'S 'HALL OF GRATITUDE'** -- Pictured is a rendering of the future Pomona Gold Line light rail station with a special collection of memorial tiles installed on railings and walls. The enlarged inset shows what the two-foot by two-foot tiles will look like. Residents can nominate people to be considered for the wall by going on line at [www.pomonapeoplepower.com](http://www.pomonapeoplepower.com).



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## Building Resilient Individuals, Families and Communities: It Takes Us All

A Message from Tri-City Mental Health

Amidst a global pandemic, young children and families are experiencing unparalleled levels of stress. The stress caused by the COVID-19 emergency, physical distancing measures, and the resulting distress due to lost wages, unemployment, and school closures are taking an intense toll on our health and well-being.

There are now decades of science helping us understand how adversity and toxic stress can impact health and what interventions and protective factors can help prevent and mitigate the damage. Research has shown that when a person experiences stressful life events in childhood, such as parental separation or divorce, physical abuse and emotional trauma, their body may make more or less stress hormones than is healthy. This can lead to an increased risk of health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke and cancer, and mental health concerns across the lifespan.

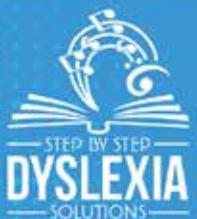
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are common and affect all of us. But early detection, early intervention and trauma-informed care can improve outcomes. This is how the statewide ACEs Aware initiative can help, and it requires all of us.

Through the ACEs Aware initiative, Tri-City will help elevate awareness of ACEs, trauma and resilience to build stronger and more equitable communities. We are offering free ACEs Aware trainings to Medi-Cal providers, community organizations and members who are interested in learning more about the health risks associated with ACEs, screening tools and trauma-informed care. We aim to give providers the information and tools they need to care for their patients during these uncertain times, and offer resources to provide education and support to families in need. Together, we can help ensure individuals and families in our community are ACEs Aware and thriving.

Contact [aces@tricitymhs.org](mailto:aces@tricitymhs.org) for free ACEs Aware trainings and see how you can join the movement to build a resilient and trauma-informed community.

[www.tricitymhs.org](http://www.tricitymhs.org) | [www.acesaware.org](http://www.acesaware.org)





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**CARDS FOR COURAGE** -- A volunteer for "Cards for Courage" presents a box of hand-drawn "thank you" appreciation cards to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center recently to thank nurses, physicians and other healthcare workers who have been working at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Maryland-based non-profit initially worked to provide emotional support to hospital patients but temporarily changed the focus during COVID. Pictured, from left, are volunteer Elaine Chiao and Leigh Cornell, the hospital's vice president of administration. Cards for Courage made similar deliveries to the UCLA Medical Center in Westwood, Kaiser Permanente Irvine Medical Center and others, reaching more than 9,000 healthcare workers with the help of nearly 700 volunteers in 28 states and five countries.



# NEARLY 60% OF RECENT COVID-19 CASES ARE AMONG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-49

For protection, wear a mask outside of your home. Maintain 6 feet of distance among others. Avoid crowds.

To get tested at no cost, visit [covid19.lacounty.gov/testing](https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing).

**#TheRisksReal**



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# el PODER de POMONA es la GENTE

El Arte Público para la Futura Estación Línea Dorada de Pomona

## RINDAN HONOR A LAS PERSONAS QUE TE DIERON A TI EL PODER

Envíanos una foto y una historia de alguien de Pomona que haya marcado la diferencia.

Visiten [PomonaPeoplePower.com](http://PomonaPeoplePower.com)

¿Quién ha sido una inspiración para ti? ¿A quien le debes toda tu gratitud? ¿Quién cambió tu vida? Ellos podrían ser conocidos por muchos, o solamente por ti. Otras ciudades tienen un salón de la fama. La futura estación Línea Dorada de Pomona tendrá un salón de gratitud. Los Pomonenses que serán honrados serán seleccionados de aquellos entregados por TI a través de este llamado a todos los residentes de Pomona.

Las palabras expresando el poder de estas personas serán mostradas junto con sus fotos. Un ejemplo podría ser: "Norma me enseñó el poder del amor." El trabajo artístico será fabricado en azulejo de cerámica barnizado, ocupando el proceso de tilografía. Pares de personas y los comentarios serán incluidos en los pasamanos y en otros lugares alrededor de la futura estación.

Este proyecto está diseñado para unirnos con nuestro pasado y nuestro futuro generando una fuente renovable del poder de personas para un cambio positivo. El poder transformador del orgullo comunitario puede desencadenar milagros.



**NORMA**  
showed me  
the power of love

# the POWER of POMONA is PEOPLE

Public Artwork for the Future Pomona Gold Line Station • Stephen Farley, Artist

## HONOR THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE YOU POWER

Send us a photo & story of someone from Pomona who made a difference

Visit [PomonaPeoplePower.com](http://PomonaPeoplePower.com)

Who inspired you? For whom are you grateful? Who changed your life? They could be known to many, or just to you. Other cities have a hall of fame. The future Pomona Gold Line station will have a hall of gratitude. The Pomonans to be honored will be selected from those submitted by YOU through this public call to all Pomona residents.

Words expressing the power of these people will be exhibited alongside their photos. An example could be: "Norma showed me the power of love". The artwork will be fabricated on glazed ceramic tile, using the Tilography process. Pairs of people and statements will be included on railings and other locations around the future station.

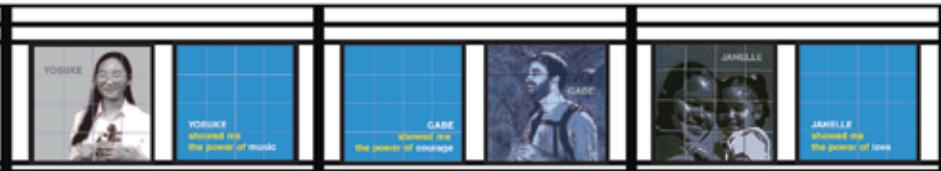
This project is designed to connect us to our past and our future, generating a renewable source of people power for positive change. The transformative power of community pride can unleash miracles.

Help us make this happen by submitting your hero to be included in this project.



Go online **before Oct. 31** to  
[PomonaPeoplePower.com](http://PomonaPeoplePower.com)

Foothill Gold Line • [FoothillGoldLine.org](http://FoothillGoldLine.org)



VOTE TO RE-ELECT

# MAYOR TIM SANDOVAL

CITY OF POMONA 2020

- Secured funding to extend Metro Gold Line Light Rail to Pomona as Chair of the Construction Authority**  
*Aseguró los fondos necesarios para extender el tren ligero Metro Gold Line a Pomona, como presidente de la Autoridad de Construcción*
- Convened community leaders to form Pomona's COVID-19 Action Committee and provide much needed assistance to residents and businesses**  
*Convocó a líderes comunitarios para formar el Comité de Acción COVID-19 de Pomona para brindar la asistencia necesaria a los residentes y negocios de la ciudad*
- Attracted millions of dollars of investment in commercial, hotel, and housing development**  
*Atrajo millones de dólares de inversión en Pomona para desarrollo comercial, hotelero y habitacional*
- Obtained funding for essential public improvements, including expanded bike lanes and the new Phil and Nell Soto Park**  
*Consiguió fondos para mejoras públicas esenciales, como carriles ampliados para bicicletas y el nuevo parque Phil y Nell Soto*
- Revived and participates in Pomona Beautiful, a grass-roots revitalization effort to clean up our city**  
*Restableció y participa en Pomona Beautiful, un esfuerzo comunitario de revitalización para limpiar nuestra ciudad*



Call or Text me at (909) 907-9358

[TimSandoval.com](http://TimSandoval.com)

Paid for by Sandoval for Mayor 2020 I.D. #1380664  
297 Lincoln Ave, Pomona CA 91767

## Scholarships available to Latinx high school students

Colgate-Palmolive in partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation's "Youth Awards" is continuing its annual scholarship program "Haz La U" ("Make the U") to provide financial aid to Latinx high school students.

The program is offered in tandem with Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

The educational grant will provide a total of 100 scholarships worth \$1,000 each based on academics, volunteerism, and leadership.

Applications are open now at Colgate.com/HazLaU or HHFYouthAwards.com and can be submitted until Dec. 6.




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2. Aumentar las oportunidades laborales con una cartera de proyectos de universidad comunitaria a carrera
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1. Toma el Censo en línea en [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)
2. Por teléfono en el 844-330-2020
3. Envía tu formulario por correo

Desde hace más de 130 años, en Southern California Edison hemos colaborado con entidades comunitarias no lucrativas y personas locales destacadas para el beneficio de nuestras comunidades.



## Station artwork... from pg. 1

even in a book.

You have to act quickly – deadline is Oct. 31. And it is as easy as going to the web site and filling out a form.

Stephen Farley, the Tucson-based artist in charge of the project, said he hopes to receive hundreds to choose from for the new “Hall of Gratitude.”

“Other cities have a hall of fame, but the future Pomona Gold Line light rail station will have a hall of gratitude,” Farley said. “Who inspired you? For whom are you grateful? Who changed your life? This art project is designed to connect us to our past and our future, generating a renewable source of people power for positive change.”

Farley told La Nueva Voz he has actually been working on this project – just for the Pomona train station – since 2005. He has coordinated similar public transit system projects in areas like Phoenix and Salt Lake City. His first public art project was in 1997 in downtown Tucson, and he has worked on murals in Broward County, Florida, and San Jose.

But because he grew up in the Pomona Valley, he was “thrilled

to have the opportunity to go back there.”

One thing he has learned working with participants on his advisory committee panel helping guide the project is that some residents “feel like people living in Pomona have an inferiority complex.”

This project, he added, provides a way to honor the people of the area for what they’ve done for their families and their communities and why “this is an incredibly special place to live.”

Work was slowed down by COVID-19, Farley explained, since things like open houses, an art walk and others were canceled – all part of a big public “call” for nominations.

Plus, that call for nominations had to wait until the lawyers completed the legal “releases” that will have to be signed.

And the roll-out for nominations? That was originally scheduled for March, just when the pandemic started rearing its head.

### ‘Hall of gratitude’ photos as ‘social distancing’ activity

Now, he said, it’s the perfect social distancing activity – pick a person, take a picture with a cell

phone and submit the photo on line with a brief description of why the nominee should be included in the “wall.”

With the help of the committee, the framework of the project has already been created.

Then how does the project work?

The advisory committee hopes to receive nominations who are considered “unsung heroes,” or people who made a difference in the lives of those nominating them.

Each nominee selected gets a two-foot by two-foot glazed ceramic tile portrait, using the “tolography” process, that will be mounted alongside a brief description of why they were nominated and how they made a difference in someone’s life.

The tiles will be mounted on railings and other locations around the future station.

Theme of the project is “The Power of Pomona is People.”

And the description can be as simple as “Tony had an impact on my life because he taught me the power of ...”

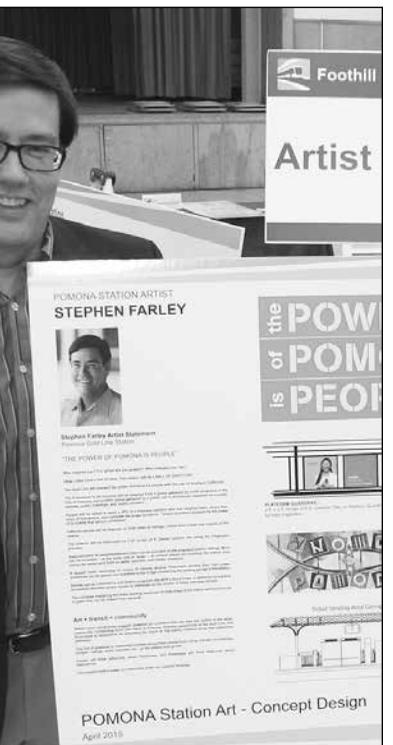
The idea is that everybody in

Pomona can see somebody they can identify with, Farley said.

“It will be a very diverse group of people, all different kinds, all different backgrounds,” he said.

“People who are traveling through Pomona . . . will think about Pomona in a whole different way as this incredible place where people look out for each other, help each other, care about each other – it’s a people-focused community,” Farley said.

The idea is to keep travelers from viewing Pomona as just another stop along the way. Instead, the “wall” will show people what the community is about and will



Artist Stephen Farley

encourage people to get off the light rail train and explore the region.

### And the good news?

No selections have been made yet – the entire selection process is wide open to the public.

Station artwork... pg. 6

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## Pomona's Second Street... from pg. 1

va Voz saw bicyclists, an electric scooter and a couple of skateboarders using the new space on opening day.

And yes, the space will be there every day.

### Part of city's 'Activate Pomona' program

"This is part of the city's 'Activate Pomona' program so that's part of why we're able to close down this street," Parker said.

Applications for activating public or private property in Pomona are available on the city's web site. Permits are free and the process takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Parker said it helps if businesses already have their site plan prepared, along with a certificate of insurance naming the City of Pomona as an additional insured.

(The city's "Activate Pomona" program also is available to businesses throughout the city to help in the economic recovery from CO-

### Need interns for your business paid by the county?

Pomona Valley America's Job Center is looking for businesses in need of free interns paid by Los Angeles County.

The program, Youth@Work, builds on the "earn and learn" model by pairing paid work experience with a comprehensive and strategic set of employment, training and support services provided through a network of America's Job Centers of California.

The goal of the program is to provide youth with a menu of multilevel services that offer access to work experience, work readiness, personal enrichment training, academic and career counseling, and advanced career services.

Virtual employment opportunities may be explored as well.

Businesses must provide their federal employer identification number, complete a worksite agreement, set clear objectives and expectations for the position, validate internship hours, and evaluate the intern and provide regular feedback.

For more information, contact Irma Martinez at (909) 326-4785 or by e-mail at [imartinez@mcs-careergroup.com](mailto:imartinez@mcs-careergroup.com), or Michael Thomas at (909) 326-4786 or by e-mail at [mthomas@mcs-careergroup.com](mailto:mthomas@mcs-careergroup.com).

VID restrictions.)

"We're also planning to the extent that we can some other activities – we're going to be sprucing up the place a little bit, adding some additional . . . chalk art on the sidewalk and things like that to really activate it," Parker said. "(And) we're collaborating with the artists to come and paint (the k-rail barricades) so Second Street is going to eventually turn into a canvas."

She said the idea is to make the space "a warm and inviting environment."

Parker has been working with business owners to get their per-

mits. In one case, for example, she was helping El Merendero Restaurant y Panaderia complete their site plan for their application to move tables out into the parking lot next door at Second Street and Garey Avenue.

And those tables were out there in time for Second Saturday.

Up the street on Second east of Garey, Metro Ale House & Grill was ready to go with green outdoor carpeting on the



Downtown Pomona Owners Association Executive Director Lorena Parker is interviewed in a live-streamed Facebook video by Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz this month on the first day Downtown Pomona's Second Street was closed to traffic and turned into a pedestrian mall. "K-rail" barricades and "road closed" signs can be seen on both sides of Garey Avenue at rear.

sidewalk – with plenty of room for social distancing – on opening day.

Other restaurants were in the process of making arrangements to participate, as were Pomona's "Antique Row" businesses and others.

### 'Win-win' for businesses and the community

Parker acknowledged the concept is "something different," but that it was important to give it a try.

"Let's try to get the community on board, let's get people an open space alternative that doesn't already exist like this in the City of Pomona . . . and if we can get the community behind us on this . . .

it's going to be a win for the businesses (and) it will be a win for the community," she said.

"We're trying to create some life out there through visuals, through art," Parker said. "One thing that has been maybe not talked about that much is not everybody has a backyard, not everybody has open space, so what we're trying to do here . . . is create open space."

And she invited everyone to come on down even if only to take a walk and stroll through Downtown Pomona, all in a safe, pedestrian-friendly environment.

Just like in 1962.



Adam Tapia, of Pomona's Public Works Department, places reflectors and other last-minute touches on the "K-rail" barricades at Garey Avenue and Second Street in Downtown Pomona this month on the first day Second Street was converted to a pedestrian mall with restaurants and other businesses moving things outside on the street.

### Nominations needed to honor the 'everyday hero' in Pomona

Farley said the advisory committee throughout the brainstorming process came out very strongly in favor of the concept of honoring the "everyday hero" – so much so that members wanted to call the project a "hall of gratitude" instead of a "hall of fame."

The other good news is that the tiles will last for decades and decades to come, Farley said – they won't fade, and they are resistant to graffiti.

And they'll look great.

"This is just a really great way of immortalizing people you believe are worth immortalizing," he said.

So to nominate that special person of today, or someone out of the pages of the history of Pomona or the Pomona Valley like a founder or someone from a pioneer family, go to [www.pomonapeoplepower.com](http://www.pomonapeoplepower.com) and fill out the form.

Farley said it is better to send

nominations in sooner rather than later.

"It's just a once in a lifetime opportunity to honor somebody that made a real difference in your life," Farley said.

And, he added, it will make a big difference to the people being honored, the people "doing the honoring," and the people of Pomona in general.

The future Pomona Gold Line station will be part of the 9.1-mile, four-station Foothill Gold Line light rail extension from Glendora to Pomona.

The artwork campaign is part of the public artwork plan developed by Farley – who was selected by Pomona's Station Design and Art Review Committee – in an effort to highlight Pomona residents who served as inspirations in the community.

Final selections will be announced by mid-2023.

The first segment of the Gold Line – from Union Station in Los

## Station artwork... from pg. 5

Angeles to Pasadena – was completed in 2003, and the Pasadena to Azusa segment was completed

in 2015.

The line is expected to be completed to Pomona in 2025.

## La Nueva Voz

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Printed on recycled newsprint (25 percent recycled content) using soy-based inks.

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## Cal Poly's 'STEAM Academy' comes to Pomona high schools as promised!

Two years ago they said in La Nueva Voz that a free six-week summer mentoring program at Cal Poly University Pomona – designed to encourage high school students to select engineering as a major in college – would come to students in Pomona high schools.

This summer the expansion into Pomona happened. And the kids loved it.

Cal Poly's STEAM Academy (science, engineering, art and math) wrapped up its third summer season in July.

The back story, according to Pomona Community Life Commissioner Donna Houston, is that her son, Melvin, a Pomona resident who at the time attended Diamond Bar high School, approached Dr. Angela Shih, a Cal Poly professor and chair of the mechanical engineering department, looking for an internship.

He needed an internship going into his senior year of high school. It turned out Cal Poly didn't have a mentoring program in place at the time, although Shih told him she was planning on starting one.

The Academy became her passion, according to Houston.

Shih brought in two people to make the project a reality – Cal Poly Professor of Visual Communication Design Sarah Meyer and Houston, who became the community liaison for the fledgling academy, a role she remains devoted to today.

They obtained funding through Cal Poly President Soraya Coley who was able to arrange for a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Shih named Houston's son, Melvin, an ambassador. Melvin came back this year as a mentor and his younger brother Ryan attended the academy this summer.

This year's summer program, presented virtually using ZOOM technology, got under way on June 8. Sadly, Shih passed away on June 6 – after battling health issues for years – only two days before the third year of the program began.

Houston told La Nueva Voz Shih had been working on the program as recently as a few weeks before this year's session began.

"This is going to be her legacy," Houston said. "This was her crown-

ing glory, this kept her motivated."

"This academy kept me alive and going," Houston quoted Shih as saying.

And she continued to make it her mission in life despite her continuing medical issues.

"She was an excellent, strong role model for young women," Houston said, "to see a woman in engineering or management."

Shih, who earned a doctor's degree from Caltech, "was a shining example for young women," Houston said.

"The value of this program is that it meets the needs of so many students pursuing a STEAM education and internship," Houston said. "This goes beyond schools and is now a community endeavor – it keeps the students active and learning during the summer and it gets them prepared for college."

She said it gives students the opportunity to work with professors, Cal Poly's industrial partners and others working in the STEAM field who come in and speak.

Students are exposed to today's cutting-edge technology and its social impact, learn about leading theories, and experience design thinking and creation first hand.

"This is a great opportunity for them to enhance their education and assist them in where they are going to college," Houston said, adding that a number of graduates of the program have enrolled in Cal Poly because of the experience.

About 60 students participated this summer, most from Pomona and Diamond Bar. The first year's program in 2018 attracted only 14 students from Diamond Bar High School (nearly 150 have participated in the program to date).

Pomona Unified School District board members and staff went to work two years ago to shift the program to include students from Pomona high schools – a move Coley supported as well.

Program coordinators opened things up this summer – in an effort to attract students who were attending summer school – by offering an optional "Academy 2.0" version in which participants could participate in the curriculum and listen to the

speakers without having to complete the entire 150-hour internship requirement of the main program, Houston said.

And when it was time to offer the program to students at Pomona's Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design, Pomona Unified School Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman and Houston visited the school to present the program to students there.

Evelyn Aguilar, one of those Fremont students, said she decided to enroll in the academy because she was looking for an opportunity as a female and a person interested in the STEAM field.

"I would say what I enjoyed best was being able to be in contact with faculty members and speakers and learn from their experiences," Aguilar said, although she would have preferred "in-person experience" over the ZOOM approach.

She added she liked the fact that Cal Poly was there as a local university that placed an emphasis on the field of engineering.

Her plans call for pursuing studies in engineering with an emphasis on biomedical engineering.

Olivia Drew, a graduate of the first year STEAM Academy program, came back this year as an ambassador.

"Dr. Shih was one of the few teachers I could say whole-heartedly cared about every student she taught," Drew said. "She was nothing but good and kind, both in and out of a teaching environment. Words cannot describe how dearly she will be missed."

STEAM academy... pg. 20



Evelyn Aguilar



Dr. Angela Shih

## Need a Medicare health plan?

### Avoid these five common mistakes!

With the annual Medicare enrollment window opening on Oct. 7, many prospective health plan members may be overwhelmed with Medicare Advantage plan options as they struggle to figure out which one will best meet their needs.

Pomona's not-for-profit Inter Valley Health Plan urges anyone considering changing health plans or enrolling for the first time to avoid making these five common mistakes:

#### Mistake #1: Only focusing on cost

You will want to check cost for premiums, prescriptions, copays, etc., but also think about the tools and resources providers have for members such as classes, preventative health education, the plan's reputation and more.

#### Mistake #3: Not checking who is in your healthcare provider network

Switching Medicare plans could mean losing your personal doctor as each healthcare plan uses a network of doctors and hospitals. Make sure the health care professional you want to see is in your plan's network.

#### Mistake #3: Assuming the health plan has your best interest in mind

Before making a change, take a look at the Medicare Advantage

plan and how it operates. Do they offer personal service? Check reviews from members to learn the plan's reputation and make sure they put their members first.

#### Mistake #4: Assuming all Medicare plans offer one-size-fits-all coverage

Coverage in various health plans varies. What works for your neighbor's health needs may not

be the best fit for you. Consider all that you need covered including prescription drugs, hospital visits, vision care, urgent care and more.

#### Mistake #5: Skimping on quality customer service

During times of illness or to sustain health care management, you will want a health plan that has optimal customer service. You want to be able to talk to a real person who can help in finding a solution to whatever challenge you are facing.

For more information, contact an Inter Valley Health Plan Medicare specialist at (800) 500-7018 or visit [www.IVHP.com](http://www.IVHP.com).



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## 'No Going Back LA' released as a 'roadmap' to address racial disparities in Southern California revealed by COVID pandemic

A virtual public launch event this month – by a committee that reads like a “Who’s Who” of Los Angeles – unveiled “No Going Back LA,” a report and “roadmap for transformation” to address racial disparities in Southern California revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report, representing five months of work, was released by the Committee for Greater LA, chaired by Pomona’s Fairplex



Miguel Santana

President and CEO Miguel Santana and including representatives of USC’s Equity Research Institute and UCLA’s Luskin School of Public Affairs.

Santana, in his opening comments, said the report represents “not only understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on our community but processing it together in our respective communities, in our businesses and our own families.”

“Our purpose as originated by our philanthropy who funded this effort was to understand the impact of COVID-19 in Los Angeles as a region,” he said. “And we did so by bringing in the voices of the community and in partnering with our academic partners at UCLA and USC.”

“In the middle of this work, together we acted in outrage over the murder of George Floyd,” Santana said. “It was yet another reminder of how the African-American community has experienced injustices since the initiation of this country.”

He said because of that event, the committee decided it would continue in its work and “continue to advocate for data driven systemic change.”

Fred Ali, President and CEO of the Weingart Foundation, said the original “inquiry into how COVID-19 was impacting almost marginalized communities” now has become a “movement for building a more equitable and just Los Angeles.”

Ali added that he represents a group of 10 Los Angeles-based foundations who came together during the pandemic to form what became the Committee for Greater LA.

“This resulted in a convening of a diverse group committee of community, civic, non-profit, labor and business leaders with the goal of identifying systemic issues emerging from the crisis and offering up a blueprint for a more equitable and inclusive Los Angeles,” he said.

Ali said the work of the various foundations made it clear Los Angeles was becoming increasingly inequitable and unjust.

“We feared the real possibility of the acceleration of disparate impact centered on income and race as a result of the pandemic,” he said.

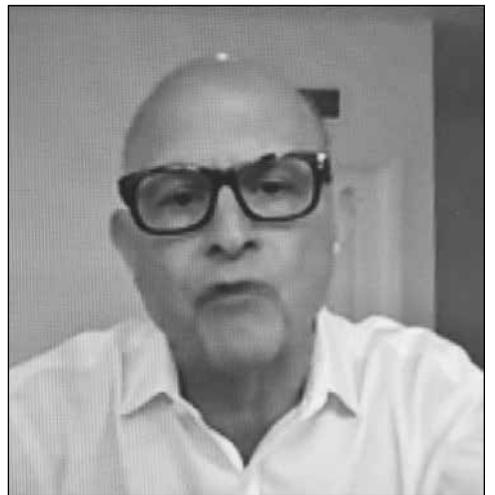
And, he said, the work over the past five months by the group’s academic partners made it clear this is the case.

“The report we are releasing today documents the effects of a long history of systemic and structural racism that has resulted in the disparate impacts we see impacting low income and marginalized communities of color,” Ali said. “We cannot allow this to continue. If one person in our community is held back, we are all held back.”

The report covers a wide range of policy areas including housing, homelessness, youth development and education, health and mental health and the non-profit sector.

Ali echoed Santana’s comment that the committee has “enthusiastically decided to continue our work” and envisions “broadening our composition and moving forward with an organizational framework that will use an adaptive and flexible approach that can support and amplify existing efforts.”

He cited homelessness as an example, adding that there is a need to advocate for a more effective and accountable regional



Fred Ali

system for addressing homelessness.

“We can no longer be constrained by what’s not working,” he said. “Together we need to create a better Los Angeles that works for all of our residents.”

He said the report is a “mandate for action that is intended to endorse, amplify and support the on-going work of an emerging movement of advocates, young people,

**No going back... pg. 18**

# VOTA



**Si la propuesta 21 parece familiar, es porque casi el 60% de los votantes de California la rechazaron en 2018.**

## **La Proposición 21 no protege a los californianos trabajadores de bajos ingresos.**

- Permite a los propietarios aumentar la renta a nuestras familias de bajos ingresos hasta un 15% y no hace nada para evitar desalojos o solventar la falta de vivienda a los más vulnerables.
- En la recesión actual, este aumento masivo de la renta dará lugar a desalojos masivos en todo California.

## **No soluciona el problema real.**

- Revoca partes de la ley de California que protege a los propietarios de viviendas familiares y no tiene ningún plan para construir viviendas para personas de bajos o medianos ingresos.

## **La Prop 21 perjudicará a los propietarios de viviendas Latinos y de otras minorías que trabajaron arduamente para comprar una casa familiar.**

- La Prop 21 penaliza a propietarios Latinos al devaluar su propiedad y evitar que alquilen sus casas a un precio justo.



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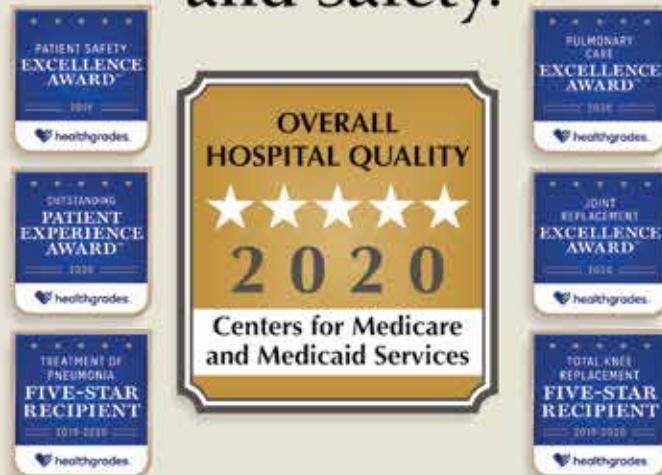
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**COOLING IT** -- Volunteers with ASEZ (Saving the Earth from A to Z), a global group of university students from the World Mission Society Church of God, drop off a free fan for a Pomona resident this month on a Sunday when temperatures were approaching 100 degrees. Some 36 students assembled at Pomona City Hall before heading out in the community as part of "Keep Cool, Pomona," an on-going initiative that helps families in need of heat relief. The program was established by the Pomona COVID-19 Action Committee and invites qualified seniors and low-income families to sign up for the fans as an alternative to going to community cooling centers. To apply for a fan, text (909) 630-3378 or complete a form on line at bit.ly/keepcool2. To donate to the program, e-mail pomonabasicneedscommittee@gmail.com.

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## Manuel Baca for Mt. SAC Board

MANUEL BACA, PhD, is on the Governing Board of Mt. SAC where he has served as its president. In addition, Trustee Baca served a six-year term as member and president (2013-15) of the California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors. A former Marine, he is a veteran's advocate, having founded the Annual Vets Symposium which brings together veterans' service providers, governmental and private, from throughout California. Baca served on the CCC System's Strategic Planning Committee and the Student Success Task Force (SB 1456 legislation).

Locally, Baca has worked with numerous civic organizations throughout the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. He founded, as principal donor, the Kepler Scholarship Program which provides mentorships and awards scholarships to Mt. SAC students majoring in the sciences and teacher education. Kepler includes outreach to students attending Pomona USD and Walnut Valley USD. Baca has served as Executive Board Chair of the Foundation for the California Community Colleges which, among other programs and efforts, has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships to low-income students.

Currently, Baca's highest priority is ensuring a safe campus learning environment for all students and staff. He continues his advocacy work in support of gender equity, educational access, and social justice.



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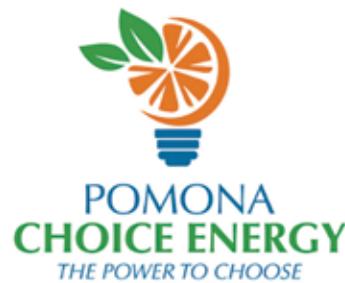


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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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[PomonaChoiceEnergy.org](http://PomonaChoiceEnergy.org)

#### What is Pomona Choice Energy?

Pomona Choice Energy (PCE) is the all-new, locally-managed, not-for-profit power program created by the City of Pomona, specifically for our community. This clean and modern power provider will be available exclusively to residents and businesses within Pomona currently being served by Southern California Edison (SCE). PCE will provide power to residential customers starting on October 1, 2020 (Phase 1), and small and medium commercial businesses in June 2021 (Phase 2). The program will begin serving residential net energy metering customers in October 2021. PCE offers the same reliable delivery system, billing, and support you have always received from SCE. Only the source of your power changes with PCE as we purchase energy on your behalf. In addition, there will be NO registration or sign up process.

#### ¿Que es Pomona Choice Energy?

*Pomona Choice Energy es el nuevo programa de energía, sin fines de lucro, administrado localmente, y creado por la ciudad de Pomona, específicamente para nuestra comunidad. Si usted es un cliente actual de Southern California Edison (SCE) en Pomona, este proveedor de energía limpio y moderno estará disponible para usted a partir del 1ro de octubre, 2020 (Fase 1); y a las pequeñas y medianas empresas comerciales en junio del 2021 (Fase 2). Pomona Choice Energy proporcionará el mismo sistema de entrega confiable, facturación y soporte de SCE (nada cambia en "su parte"). Solo la fuente de su energía cambia con PCE cuando compramos energía en su nombre. No habrá registro o proceso de registro.*

#### What are the benefits to the City of Pomona?

The program's goal is to give customers a discount on their SCE bill for energy production. At the launch of Pomona Choice Energy our rates will be the same, The program will be re-evaluated sometime in mid-2021. If the program is doing well, City council can opt to give discounts at a public hearing.

#### ¿Cuáles son los beneficios para la ciudad de Pomona?

*El Objetivo del programa es dar a los clientes un descuento en su factura SCE para la producción de energía. En el lanzamiento de Pomona Choice Energy, nuestras tarifas serán las mismas. El programa se volverá a evaluar a mediados de 2021. Si el programa está funcionando bien, el Ayuntamiento puede optar por ofrecer descuentos en una audiencia pública.*

#### How is Pomona Choice Energy-funded?

The program will be funded by revenues generated through the program, NOT the general fund. Any excess revenues collected in the future will go back into the community over and above the cost of purchasing power and operating the programs.

#### ¿Cómo se financia Pomona Choice Energy?

*El programa se financiará con los ingresos generados a través del programa, NO con el fondo general. Cualquier exceso de ingresos obtenidos en el futuro, más allá de los costes de adquisición de energía y operación de los programas, volverán a la comunidad.*

#### Why am I automatically "Opted In"?

One of the aspects of the State's Community Choice Aggregation legislation requires programs like Pomona Choice Energy to operate as an "opt-out" program, so the City is merely complying with State law.

#### ¿Por qué estoy automáticamente "optar en"?

*Uno de los aspectos de la legislación de agregación de opciones comunitarias del estado requiere que programas como Pomona Choice Energy operen como un programa de "optar por no participar", por lo que la ciudad simplemente está cumpliendo con la ley estatal.*

#### Who does the billing? Can I keep my SCE benefits?

Customers enrolled in Pomona Choice Energy will continue to receive their CARE, FERA, and Medical Baseline discount within their SCE delivery charges; there is no need to reapply with Pomona Choice Energy. All SCE programs that customers may be enrolled in will be unaffected.

#### ¿Quién hace la facturación? ¿Puedo conservar mis beneficios de SCE?

*Los clientes inscritos en Pomona Choice Energy seguirán recibiendo su descuento de CARE, FERA y Medical Baseline dentro de sus cargos de entrega de SCE. No es necesario volver a aplicar con Pomona Choice Energy. Todos los programas de SCE en los que los clientes puedan estar inscritos no se verán afectados.*

#### THE POMONA CHOICE ENERGY RESIDENTIAL RATE:

Schedule is available at [www.pomonachoiceenergy.org/billing-rates/residential-rates/](http://www.pomonachoiceenergy.org/billing-rates/residential-rates/). SCE has hundreds of rates and because of this and to reduce confusion, only rates used by Pomona residents are shown. Friendly Customer Service Reps are available to assist you!  
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El horario está disponible en [www.pomonachoiceenergy.org/billing-rates/residential-rates/](http://www.pomonachoiceenergy.org/billing-rates/residential-rates/). SCE tiene cientos de tarifas y debido a esto y para reducir la confusión, solo se muestran las tarifas utilizadas por los residentes de Pomona. Los representantes de servicio al cliente están disponibles para ayudarlo! Lunes a viernes | 8 a.m. a 5 p.m Llame al (909) 620-2079 Visite [PomonaChoiceEnergy.org](http://PomonaChoiceEnergy.org)



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**Desiree Ramos, Class of 2020**

Desiree plans to attend college. She continues to work and take care of her kids.

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**Nathan Cordova, Clase de 2020**

Nathan now works at SGVCC doing environmental projects. He has been certified in chainsaw and tree planting. He plans to enroll in college and continue to pursue a trade.

*Nathan trabaja en SGVCC haciendo proyectos ambientales. Ha sido certificado en motosierra y plantación de árboles. Planea inscribirse en la universidad y dedicarse a un oficio.*

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## DPOA adapts to COVID finding creative ways to improve Downtown Pomona

The Downtown Pomona Owners Association has adapted to COVID-19 and is working to find creative ways to improve Downtown Pomona despite the pandemic.

“We have accepted our new normal, we’ll not let that deter us and we’ll continue to move for-

ward,” DPOA Executive Director Lorena Parker said in a video presented at the organization’s virtual annual property owners and board meeting last month.

The DPOA, which has managed and maintained the Downtown Pomona business improvement district for the past 16 years,

is funded by its property owners to provide services “to create a vibrant downtown,” Parker said.

“Through these past few months, our focus has changed but our resolve remains more committed than ever to exist in any way we can to get through this pandemic,” she added.

downtown “to make downtown a safer environment for all of us.”

In addition, DPOA has installed cameras throughout the downtown area that are viewed both at the DPOA office and at the Pomona Police Department.

A four-man maintenance team removes graffiti, pressure washes sidewalks, runs a “sweeper” truck, cleans up parking lots, waters the planters and picks up trash.

Parker said just over the past year, the team pressure washed 104,880 feet of sidewalk alone.

And a marketing campaign prior to COVID supported professional retail galleries, cultural art and entertainment venues, resulting in monthly art walks, a collectors’ street fair and the DPOA’s signature annual holiday parade.

One last event was held in Downtown Pomona – a Lunar

New Year’s festival – before everything came to a halt in March, Parker said.

When COVID restrictions went into effect, DPOA immediately produced curbside pick-up signage making it possible for businesses to comply with government mandates.

“We’ve had to adapt to our new normal, we’ve had to put our creative thinking hats on as we shift from traditional marketing to COVID-friendly marketing strategies,” she said in the video.

As a part of that effort, she said DPOA has just launched a collaborative team including local merchants working on COVID-friendly initiatives “to help keep our local businesses afloat.”

In addition, last month the DPOA advocated to the city to pass an “Activate Pomona” initiative that would allow businesses to set up outside their businesses. The program now is in effect.

The DPOA notified businesses of the program and plans to “continue to reach out to them and encourage and assist them in any way we can.”

Parker said that while the traditional parade is on hold, this year DPOA is “actively working on a drive-through parade as a COVID-friendly alternative.”

They also will be working closely with merchants and planning other activities through the entire holiday season.

“We are truly determined not to let our current situation dampen our holiday spirit,” Parker said.

Parker also reported that the DPOA board last July welcomed Jeff Keating as its new board president. Keating, a DPOA board member for the past 10 years, is chief of staff and executive director, public affairs and marketing, for Pomona’s Western

DPOA... pg. 17

**Salvador A. Armijo**  
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## Conductores por aplicaciones necesitan mantener la flexibilidad de horarios de trabajo

Ángel Guerrero

Rafael Arellano es un joven padre de familia que desde antes que llegara la pandemia a California ha conservado varios trabajos para evitar quedar desempleado y proveer a sus tres hijos todavía pequeños.

“Algunos días a la semana trabajo en construcción, otros consigo trabajo como electricista”, platica Arellano, quien actualmente atiende clases en el colegio para conseguir la licencia estatal como electricista profesional.

En los momentos en que no trabaja en alguno de esos trabajos, Rafael Arellano emplea su propio auto para ofrecer servicios de transporte mediante la plataforma de aplicación de Lyft.

“Es el trabajo que me ayuda a que me alcance lo que gano”, comenta el joven residente de Compton, en el área sur de Los Ángeles.

Desde que llegó la pandemia su familia ha extremado precauciones, y Rafael prefiere mantener la flexibilidad como conductor porque en cualquier momento puede regresar a casa para atender eventualidades de sus hijos de 9, 7 y 6 años de edad.

De acuerdo con el padre de hijos pequeños, conductor, electricista, estudiante, esposo y constructor, por su ritmo de vida, tener un solo trabajo sería insuficiente económicamente y le restaría la libertad o flexibilidad que necesita.

“Además de que, si perdiera ese único empleo, no podría seguir estudiando ni dando a mis hijos lo que necesitan”, además de su atención.

Por eso su trabajo como conductor de plataforma digital le resulta clave para mantener cierta estabilidad durante la pandemia, pero quisiera contar con beneficios como el acceso a los servicios de salud, saber que cuenta con atención médica en caso de emergencia o contar con ingresos regulares.

En esto, Rafael Arellano no está solo en California. Por lo menos 100.000 conductores y dirigentes de organizaciones como Lulac y representantes de comerciantes, restauranteros y pequeñas empresas latinas en el estado apoyan una iniciativa que beneficiaría la calidad de vida de innumerables conductores.

En las boletas electorales, la Proposición 22 busca otorgar a los conductores de plataformas como Lyft, Uber, Uber Eats, Instacar, DoorDash, y Postmates, entre otros, sin convertir a los choferes en empleados de firmas, lo que terminaría con la flexibilidad de horario que ahora necesitan.

En encuestas, la mayoría de miles de conductores consultados prefiere la flexibilidad, porque trabaja mientras cuida de los niños o de seres queridos que envejecen, son estudiantes que necesitan trabajar con horarios escolares, y jubilados que necesitan ingresos adicionales, así como miembros de familias trabajadoras que necesitan complementar sus ingresos.

Arellano dice estar entusiasmado con la propuesta porque ofrece servicios de salud para los conductores que manejan un mínimo de 15 horas semanales, pero además tendría seguro en caso de accidente o invalidez por el trabajo.

El Grupo de Investigación de Berkeley asegura que la proposición salvaría cientos de miles de empleos.

Pero dirigentes estatales de la Liga Unida de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos (Lulac) y de la Cámara Negra de Comercio de California, entre otros, destacan que esos empleos que salvará la 22 son precisamente de latinos y de afroamericanos y también de asiáticos americanos, las mismas comunidades de color que más ha impactado la pandemia.

“Esa proposición si nos conviene en muchos sentidos”, de acuerdo con Arellano, “además nos garantizaría que el salario que recibamos será igual al mínimo de California, más un 20 o 30 por ciento adicional”.

Dijo que mientras consigue su licencia estatal de electricista, conducir por plataforma digital y conservar su flexibilidad con ayuda de la proposición 22 se convierte en la mejor opción.



Rafael Arellano

## Non-profit group looking for nine Pomona students for free literacy skills tutoring

A non-profit tutoring organization for dyslexic children is looking for nine Pomona students to participate in a no-cost series of reading sessions.

Dr. Marianne Cintron, founder of Step by Step Dyslexia Solutions and an educator for the past 21 years, said the group's mission is to help dyslexic children "develop literacy skills, realize their full potential and positively give back to their communities."

"What I have developed is a reading program that has nine steps . . . it's multi-sensory . . . systematic, structured and sequential," she told La Nueva Voz. "Students have made one to three-year gains in only six weeks with our program."

She said the reason it is so "nice" is her team has developed a music "app."

"Music plays in the students' left ear while (exercises) play in the right ear," she said. "And

that has a profound impact on the brain."

In fact, Cintron said her doctoral research was based on just that – "the benefits of music when played with phonics to help children learn to read."

"What we are offering are six weeks of intervention for nine Pomona students," she said. "We received a grant in Pomona, so we already have three tutors trained."

The students must be in grades two through four, although they already are working on a list for fifth grade students if parents want to call and get on the list.

Because of the COVID pandemic, she said, students are limited to on-line intervention two days a week.

For parents who prefer one on one tutoring, the organization has partnered with the dA Center for the Arts in Downtown Pomona, a sponsor of the program, where up to five students at a time will be



Dr. Marianne Cintron

allowed to come in using social distancing.

Prior to COVID, over the past 15 years, Cintron has been seeing students in her private office or her tutors have been working with children at their homes.

One student goes to her home twice a week and participates using a ZOOM conference for the intervention.

Cintron, who is a member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, said she first became involved in

dyslexia while working on her second master's degree in special education at Azusa Pacific University.

At that time, one of her professors suggested she join the International Dyslexia Association. Today she serves as a board member of the Tri-County branch.

She knew she needed to communicate the message that "there's a faster way to help our students break the code, start learning how to read."

Her group also does fee-based tutoring in which parents enroll their children for anywhere from six weeks to a year, although many continue for 25 to 30 sessions.

"We just want to get the children over the hump so that those that are in special ed will start learning and be able to exit special ed, and then those first through fourth graders who don't know how to read, we can get reading . . . on a level with their peers," she said.

Cintron said there are students both in and out of special ed who

have dyslexia.

What does she have planned after Pomona?

Cintron said she is already recruiting teachers and students in Claremont, Fontana, Covina and West Covina where she hopes to identify sponsorships to continue her work in those areas.

"Every child has a right to read," she said. "Let's give them that opportunity to do their best."

She added that children who are not reading by fourth grade are at risk of dropping out of high school and going to prison.

"And we're finding that children who struggle with reading have low self-esteem," she said, along with bad behavior and just don't want to go to school.

"Dyslexic children are very bright but how do we know how bright they are if they don't get to realize their full potential (by learning to read)," she said.

For more information, contact Step by Step Dyslexia Solutions at (909) 787-2103, visit the web site at [www.stepbystepdyslexiasolutions.com](http://www.stepbystepdyslexiasolutions.com) or e-mail [mcintron@stepbystepdyslexiasolutions.com](mailto:mcintron@stepbystepdyslexiasolutions.com).

## DPOA... from pg. 14

University of Health Sciences.

And Parker herself came on board this year to replace long-time DPOA Executive Director Larry Egan, who retired. Parker has worked with business improvement districts for the past

20 years.

The DPOA's \$1,064,000 annual budget includes 35 percent for maintenance, 34 percent for security, 18 percent for marketing and 13 percent for administration.

## Community volunteer Lorena Gonzalez enters school board race as a 'mother who knows'

Pomona community volunteer and parent advocate for students Lorena Gonzalez, who has announced her candidacy for Pomona Unified School District Board, said she is running "because I want to ensure that we have a representative for our students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators who understands what is going on in our schools."

"First and foremost, I am a mother who knows," she said. "I want an honest, ethical and respectful leader willing to listen and have dialogue with everyone without judgement."

Gonzalez, who said she grew up in poverty and had "my own share of childhood trauma more than once" was able to overcome it.

"I truly understand what many of these families are dealing with," she said, adding that she became a first-generation college attendee and graduate while both of her



Lorena Gonzalez

immigrant parents were "doing their best to keep shelter over our heads."

She said she was working three jobs at one point trying to pay bills and keep food on the table.

"From my experience, I understand, and I want a compassionate leader in that seat," Gonzalez said. "My drive is the children. I want more for them by providing ways to improve the roadmap for a better

Gonzalez... pg. 18



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## No going back... from pg. 8

community based and civic leaders calling specifically for systemic change.”

“Our mantra is our purpose – ‘No Going Back LA,’ he said.

The report’s executive summary said that since the onset of the pandemic, families across Los Angeles County have endured multiple waves of sickness, insecurity, joblessness, learning loss, and challenges to mental health.

“These impacts have been felt across Angelenos of all spectrums including communities of color: Black Angelenos, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as well as women, LGBTQIA communities, the young, seniors, and people with disabilities,” the report stated.

It also cited inequities in deaths and cases of COVID, along with unevenly distributed economic costs.

“Nearly half of Black workers have filed for unemployment, well above the 27 percent figure for white workers,” it continued.

“In many ways, COVID is the disease that has revealed our social illnesses of anti-Black racism,

### Pomona hotel tally shows COVID cases in Pomona continue to decline

The occupancy rate at Pomona’s Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, a statistic of COVID-19 patients La Nueva Voz is using to show how COVID is doing in Pomona, remained low this month closing out the period on this newspaper’s deadline day of only 92 after reaching an all-time peak of 162 on July 31.

Even so, under its “medical shelter group rooms agreement” contract with Los Angeles County for the period July 1 through Dec. 31, the hotel continues to receive \$120 per night for each of its 244 rooms, which works out to \$897,920 per month, plus an additional sum of \$89,792 per month for the 10 percent City of Pomona Transient Occupancy Tax.

La Nueva Voz received a copy of the contract from the Office of County Counsel after submitting a California Public Records Act request.

The original contract – for the term March 23 through May 31 – required payment of \$179 per night per room plus the 10 percent Transient Occupancy Tax. The total \$3,013,644 was required in advance on March 23 with the city hotel tax of \$301,364 due two days later on March 25.

The fee for the June 1 through June 30 option was \$1.2 million.

The nine-page contract includes a

precarious employment, sharp racial gaps in wealth and digital access, unaffordable housing, growing homelessness, unresponsive government, and so much more,” the report said.

It proposed addressing anti-Black racism, building an economy that prioritizes those who have been left behind, supporting the health of communities and individuals living with the trauma of systemic neglect and creating housing for all.

It called for insuring access, mobility and voice for immigrants, regardless of status, supporting education access for all children, celebrating and supporting youth leadership, and strengthening the non-profit sector as a key part of civil society.

And it called for building community power, holding systems accountable and aligning business, community, philanthropy and government for equity.

“We cannot go back to a past that never really worked – we must move forward together for an equitable and inclusive Los Angeles,” the report said.

hotel indemnification agreement.

According to the contract, food services were to be arranged through a third-party provider. Guests were not permitted to charge items to the room.

The county is required under miscellaneous provisions to work within guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to “ensure that the facility (hotel) is free of the COVID-19 virus prior to returning the facility to the LA County Fair Association.

And the county is required to provide “appropriate public relations support” during the term of the agreement and for 45 days at the conclusion of the agreement “directed towards restoring the public’s perception and confidence regarding the safety of attending events and staying overnight in the hotel.”

#### Tracking past 30 days of hotel occupancy

Beginning on Monday, Aug. 24 (the first business day after last month’s La Nueva Voz deadline), occupancy of the hotel was 126 – the highest level for the past 30 days. Aug. 25 dipped to 117 but on Aug. 26, only 104 people stayed in the hotel.

For the remainder of the month – up until this month’s deadline day on

future.”

She said her priority is to be “present, visible and approachable” to be both responsive and a resource.

And she said she believes the school district needs more resources for families in areas of mental health and anti-bullying programs, and it needs fiscally responsible leaders along with a safe and healthy campus for students, teachers, and staff.

“I believe in vocational training and alternative paths for students to gain skills and training they can apply right out of high school,” she said, as something they can put to use while they pursue their degree or that they can fall back on if needed during a pandemic when people are losing their jobs.

She is also calling for addressing the needs of foster youth and high-risk youth, providing them a stable educational environment and mentors.

And, she said, the school district’s special education students as well as their teachers need more support.

Gonzalez said in light of students Sept. 18 – numbers went up to 108 on Aug. 27, down to 102 on Aug. 31, back up to 111 on Sept. 4 but remained in the 90s until deadline day (with the exception of 100 on Sept. 11 and 101 on Sept. 26).

The month closed out on deadline day at 92 – the lowest all month (there were also 92 occupants on Sept. 15).

The hotel is used by the county to house COVID-19 patients not severe enough for hospitalization – or others exposed to COVID who need to be in quarantine.

La Nueva Voz continues to believe that using the occupancy rate as an index of how COVID is doing in Pomona is as good as any other available figures.

The Pomona location – the county’s first temporary location to open its doors when it began accepting patients on March 25 – continues to house more COVID patients than any other facility in the county’s system of temporary locations.

A spokesperson for Fairplex told La Nueva Voz that Fairplex believes “the county places individuals nearest to their residences.”

Guests have included everything from first responders to members of the region’s homeless population and

COVID cases declining... pg. 23

## Gonzalez... from pg. 17

and community members calling for ethnic studies requirements, the district needs to explore that possibility.

She wants to take advantage of local historic sites by making them part of the curriculum, and she wants to “enhance and grow our arts programs with theater production in all of our schools.”

Gonzalez, a graduate of Pomona’s Ganesha High School and Cal Poly University Pomona, has served as treasurer and member of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley for more than 20 years, she has volunteered with both the city and the Pomona Police Department, she has been a founding member of the Pomona Kite Festival since 2014, and she received

### Pomona City Council candidate Chara Swodeck calls for support for businesses, beautifying the Holt corridor, and creating opportunities for neighbors to build ‘community’

Community volunteer and consultant Chara Swodeck, who is challenging incumbent Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole for a seat on the Pomona City Council representing District 4, has been “working to engage our Pomona families, connect the dots, design events and create impactful experiences and programs.”

Swodeck has been an active behind-the-scenes leader creating and promoting a business development campaign during the several years she has lived in Downtown Pomona.

She and her family have been residents of Pomona for more than 17 years. They have lived in District 4 for 11 years.

During that time, she has advocated for youth and education in her role as troop leader for seven years in Pomona Girl Scouts and, more recently, as service unit manager over 17 Pomona troops.

“My community efforts have been focused towards the forward movement, safety and successful development of our neighborhoods, businesses and culture – something we create collectively,” Swodeck said in a prepared statement. “I have learned how important it is to cultivate trust, build bridges and effectively utilize resources, and how much community really does change everything.”

She has held several leadership positions within Pomona PTAs, including president over 23 PTAs in Pomona. And she has served as

Pomona Unified’s community service award in 2015.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Cal Poly, she went to work for corporate America as an operations manager, working at locations in Texas and the Los Angeles area managing multi-million-dollar budgets and developing teams of employees for leadership roles within the company.

She has served the school district as a student, active parent, advisor and volunteer for 30 years and has lived in Pomona since the age of 12.

She served as the 1997 Miss Pomona and, to this day, still is asked to appear at events wearing her crown.



Chara Swodeck

board member of the Child Development Center at Pomona’s Fairplex.

She developed and organized the annual superhero-themed Pomona’s Children’s Festival, a free event for the children of Pomona to help grow partnerships with schools, city staff and families.

Along with her experience collaborating with city departments and organizations, Swodeck believes she can bring a broader vision for sustainable long-term success and effective solutions for District 4.

She believes the city must “embrace public art in District 4 to beautify blighted areas, change the optics of forgotten spaces and celebrate our cultural diversity.”

And on the environmental side, she believes it is important to find “more opportunities for urban farming, community gardens, tree planting and other means of sustainable beautification, especially on vacant properties.”

Swodeck... pg. 20

## American Legion Post 30 joins City of Pomona for 9/11 remembrance

Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold was 15 years old and in high school, still learning what terrorism was on Sept. 11, 2001.

The disastrous attack on American soil caused him to become "eager to join the ranks of the military and defend freedom and democracy."

He did just that and entered the military in 2004 because of the 9/11 attack he called a "pivotal point for our lives."

He retired from the military in 2019.

"It (the military) helped me to be the individual I am today," he said from the Pomona City Council chambers this month during a virtual 9/11 remembrance of those

"In the intervening decades, we have proven that our resiliency as a nation is forevermore," he added. "Those who have perpetrated this tragic loss of life failed in their plan to bring this country down to its knees."

"We remain today a beacon for all of love, liberty and cherished freedom," Arnold said, adding that in post-9/11, "more than 3.7 million service members have been involved in the war on terrorism."

"As we remember the victims, heroes and families, we remain resilient and resolute in renewing our commitment to the principles that we have preserved our way of life," he said.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Deputy Pomona Police Chief Christian Hsu

who lost their lives, organized by Post 30 in conjunction with the City of Pomona.

"This is a time of remembering, resiliency and renewal for those who have witnessed the heart-rending collapse of the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the fireball of American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon (and the shock of this event," he said.



Los Angeles County Assistant Fire Chief Jim Robinson

referred to 9/11 as a "very tragic day in our country's history" when in America something "tragic and life altering was happening before our eyes."

"Over 3,000 people were lost that day but it doesn't fully account for the families that had to endure the pain of losing a family member, a father, a mother, son, a daughter," Sandoval said. "Fami-



Pomona's Post 30 American Legion Commander Roberto Arnold speaks this month during a virtual 9/11 remembrance of those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. Pictured at rear is the Post 30 Honor Guard, led by Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, at far left. The observance was live-streamed from the Pomona City Council Chambers.

lies were shattered."

He said a "coming together" of first responders, churches, universities and everyday people came out of the tragic event.

"This was the spirit of this country after 9/11," he said. "As we remember the people who lost their lives that day, I have no doubt they would want us to remind ourselves of that spirit – people coming together."

Pomona's Deputy Police Chief Christian Hsu said in addition to the lives lost in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania, "many other lives were lost who came and answered the call."

He said 23 New York police officers lost their lives, along with an additional 27 officers with New York's Port Authority police department.

And, he said, since 9/11, some 241 law enforcement deaths have been attributed to causes related to the tragic event.

"What 9/11 also brought about

was a call to service and having people serve in the military, in the medical field, to serve in communities, to serve as police officers," he added.

Los Angeles County Assistant Fire Chief Jim Robinson of the county's East Operations Bureau said 343 firefighters were among those Americans who died tragically that day.

"These heroes were doing the work to protect and save others in the World Trade Center," he said. "They truly lived the same first in, last out, but sadly they never made it out."

"We vowed never to forget their lives and acts of heroism in their final moments," he said. "In the 19 years since 9/11, we have become much more vigilant about terrorism and ways to prevent it."

"Today, firefighters and law enforcement officers are much more equipped on all forms of terrorism," he added.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

The entire observance in the council chambers was presented against a backdrop of Post 30's traditional honor guard, led by Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff.

### Assistance League fundraiser goes virtual with a 48-hour scavenger "haunt"

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley's annual fall fundraiser has gone virtual with "The Great ALPV Scavenger Haunt" set for next month featuring 48 hours of extreme family fun.

The Halloween-themed scavenger hunt will start at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, and wrap up at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25.

Teams of up to five people will compete to rack up points by completing more than 50 missions from home and within their own neighborhood using the "GooseChase" mobile app.

Each team registration is \$40 with more than \$1,000 in Amazon gift cards up for grabs.

The first-place team wins a \$300 card, sec-

ond place a \$200 card and third place will receive a \$100 gift card. In addition, 20 extra \$25 gift cards will be randomly given away during the event.

The Assistance League also is hosting a pumpkin carving contest. Entry fee is \$10 per pumpkin and judging will be in four categories – scariest, funniest, most unique and best decorated (non-carved).

Winners in each category will receive a \$125 Amazon gift card.

Participants do not need to enter the Scavenger Haunt in order to enter a pumpkin in the contest.

Scavenger "haunt"... pg. 20

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## Gloria Ramirez Marquez

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Your heart and soul will be alive

forever with the family and many friends that you left behind. But I rejoice in knowing that one day we will all meet again.

Family and friendship is all we will ever really have to hold onto, whether we are close or far away. Now, you are where we all hope to be one day – in the arms of Jesus our Lord.

We will miss you more than you can imagine. We love you like you were our own family. It's hard having to let you go, mi amiga. But you are, after all, stepping in faith into God's hands. His plans are far better than ours.



Gloria R. Marquez

Heaven is the ultimate goal! ¿Que no?

I will miss our times together, our chats, lunches, conferences and many years of friendship. I guess I'm going to be shedding a lot of tears for a while. But I wish you the best of everything in this new begin-

ning and newest chapter in your life after life. God bless you, Gloria.

Thank you for being the woman who gave me my first job at PUSD in 1975 and for always believing in me. I love you mucho. Besitos.

My condolences to all her familia and Andy.

Susie Ybarra-Perales

## Swodeck... from pg. 18

She added that businesses will be better supported with a strategic plan and partnerships to highlight and bring new awareness to all they have to offer our community.

"Beautifying and elevating the businesses along the Holt corridor will help shape the success of the northeast side of Pomona," she said.

"We must strategically fill vacant spaces, hold absentee property owners accountable and clean this main corridor through Pomona," Swodeck said.

She said it is also important to create more opportunities for neighbors "to build community and communication with each other."

And, as "a seasoned architect's daughter," she has seen a wide range of examples of "adaptive reuse of historic buildings being a viable option" as long as it is understood "it requires taking into consideration

the preservation of aesthetics and culture of the community."

She said by introducing specific activities and programs she plans to "help activate our public green spaces, discourage unlawful loitering and deter crime."

Swodeck believes Pomona should "reinvest into new work to eliminate human trafficking and find better solutions for mental and physical health, sustainable living solutions, and opportunities for our unhoused community working to get back on their feet."

"Our city is in need of increased economic development and with it, we must find the balance to ensure we are not displacing our residents and creating additional housing challenges," she said.

During the pandemic, she said her "team" has been working to create solutions in rent relief and policy to help tenants, landlords and homeowners through this difficult time.

For more information, visit the web site at [VoteChara.com](http://VoteChara.com).

## STEAM academy... from pg. 7

Drew said she was the only student artist in the pilot STEAM Academy.

And Houston's son, Ryan, said he enjoyed the role models and the motivation and said the program "encouraged us to dream and to achieve big."

Houston said the program will continue next summer.

"That's our commitment – to keep this going and growing it and expanding it," she said, adding that with technology like Zoom conferencing, "we can really reach out."

And, in fact, they are reaching out – organizers already are working on expanding internationally into China and Kenya.

It turns out Shih had a contact in China and Houston has met teachers from Kenya who come to Cal Poly and visit schools in the Walnut Valley Unified School District each year.

"We're going to reach out to connect to them," she said, adding that she even plans to travel to Kenya "to finish up what we started to do" and get students in Kenya on line next year.

She said organizations already have committed funding to provide laptops and wi-fi.

And what happened to academy ambassador Melvin Houston after all of this? Today he is happily studying as a second-year Cal Poly electrical and computer engineering student.

## Casa Colina hosts night at the drive-in movies

A night at the drive-in, a benefit supporting Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, will feature "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" (rated PG) – in the parking lot at Pomona's Fairplex (enter at Gate 17) – with gates opening at 6 p.m. for showtime at 7 Saturday, Oct. 24.

Proceeds will support the hospital's children's services center, outdoor adventures and Padua Village residential program.

Masks and social distancing will be required while away from your vehicle. A snack box will be provided with every vehicle entry.

General admission is \$150 per vehicle.

For information, call (909) 596-7733, ext. 2237.

## Scavenger "haunt"... from pg. 19

Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, and winners will be announced on Halloween.

Information and registration for both events is on the web site at [www.ALPV.org](http://www.ALPV.org).

The non-profit Assistance League, serving the community since 1946, operates three major programs funded largely through its fundraising efforts – "Operation School Bell," providing new cloth-

ing to school aged children; a dental center, providing emergency and maintenance care to children; and "assault survivor kits," in which the Assistance League provides new clothing, toiletries and other items to women and children who have been victims of assault (the kits are provided by the Assistance League and distributed by Project Sister Family Services, which offers services in the area of sexual assault and child abuse).



# LORENA GONZALEZ

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# ¡VOTE NO!

## A LA PROPOSICIÓN 23

[NoProp23.com/espanol](http://NoProp23.com/espanol)

**Miles de pacientes que dependen de diálisis para sobrevivir se oponen ya que agregaría requisitos innecesarios y costosos**

- Reducirá peligrosamente el acceso al cuidado de diálisis que impactará a más de 80,000 Californianos que dependen de diálisis para mantenerse con vida.

**Nuevas regulaciones burocráticas cerrarán cientos de clínicas y aumentarán los costos de atención médica por \$320 millones cada año**

- Al menos 300 clínicas serían críticamente afectadas, resultando en recortes, cierre de clínicas, y reducción de acceso al cuidado de diálisis a los pacientes más necesitados.

**Desplaza a doctores y empeora la escasez de médicos en California**

- La Asociación Médica de California se opone ya que sacará a miles de médicos de hospitales y clínicas donde se necesitan, y los colocará en trabajos burocráticos.

**Obligará a las clínicas de diálisis a reducir servicios y cerrar, y enviará a miles de pacientes enfermos a la sala de emergencia**

- Los médicos de sala de emergencias se oponen porque reducirá la capacidad para lidiar con el coronavirus y crearía tiempos de espera más largos para otras emergencias.

# VOTE NO A LA PROPOSICIÓN 23

Anuncio pagado por NO a la 23 - Detenga la Propuesta Peligrosa y Costosa de Diálisis, una coalición de proveedores de diálisis, enfermeras, médicos y pacientes.

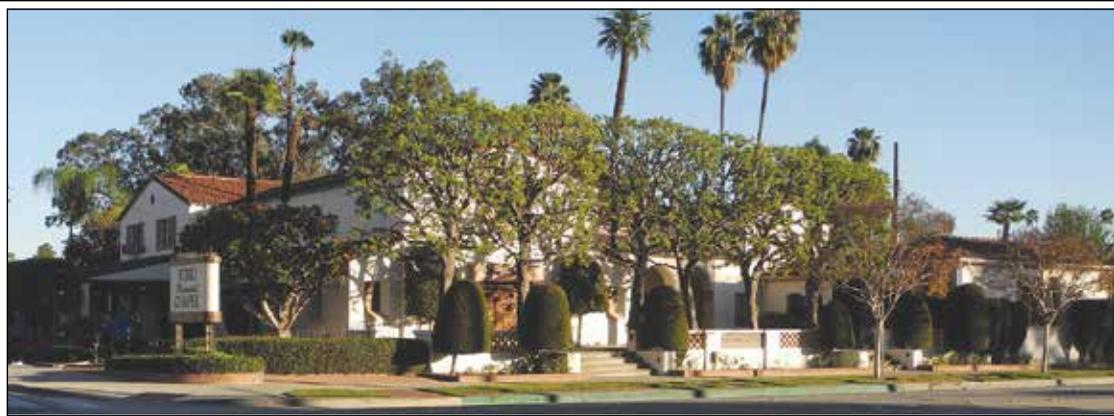
Los principales financiadores del Comité son

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## Pomona library offers new 'take-out' service through 'Library-to-Go'

Move over, In-N-Out and McDonald's.

Now, thanks to COVID-19, the Pomona Public Library is offering take-out through its new "Pomona

at the door from noon to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays each week.

Pomona public works staffers went to work fabricating a walk-



'LIBRARY-TO-GO' -- The new Pomona Public 'Library-to-Go' walk-up service, which opened last month, allows patrons to pick up books and materials at the library's front door in a COVID-friendly environment and proves there is now no reason not to use the library. Pictured, from left, are Pomona resident Nancy Clark and Library Circulation Supervisor Martha Ramos. Clark told La Nueva Voz she normally comes to the library about once a month.

Public Library-to-Go" walk-up service which got under way last month.

The program allows patrons to reserve library materials for pickup

up "window" at the library's front door, complete with a plastic protective shield and official library signage.

Library-to Go... pg. 23

# ALL BUSINESSES OPEN



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## WALK - DINE - SHOP

## Library-to-Go... from pg. 22

They even have voter registration cards and, if you are lucky, they still have several copies of the latest La Nueva Voz on the walk-up table.

The first day was Monday, Aug. 24, and library officials reported a total of 52 items were checked out that day, one new account was created, and a replacement library card was issued.

La Nueva Voz stopped by on a Thursday in week three of the program, and Anita Torres, library services manager, said 61 items were checked out that day and staff made four new library cards, so the program seems to be catching on.

Staff members also are handing out coloring pages, bookmarks and restaurant coupons to kids who pick up books at the door.

Patrons can request a book by name or by category or can ask librarians what they have to meet their needs.

More services might be coming up in the near future, such as computer printing services “to go” allowing people to print out documents from their own computers or devices.

Torres said while libraries actually are allowed to open at 25 percent of capacity, it is difficult in Pomona because of the large space and such a small staff.

But with the “Library-to-Go” program, she added, there’s just no reason not to use the library.

“PPL (Pomona Public Library) to go is just the beginning,” she said, adding that virtual storytelling is in the works – something that will happen “live” and will be posted on the city’s YouTube channel for two weeks.

Plus September is “National Library Card Sign-up Month” so take your I.D. card and proof of Los Angeles County residency to the library and enter the drawing for a free prize while you’re at it (Torres said she wasn’t announcing yet exactly what that prize would be).

To request materials to go, call (909) 620-2043, e-mail library@ci.pomona.ca.us, or access your account at www.pomonalibrary.org to place a request or ask a library staff member a question.

The program is expected to continue until health directives allow for the safe reopening of the library.

others with no other place to go during treatment or self-quarantine.

Fairplex officials continue to report that first responders use the hotel for sheltering.

“According to the County Office of Emergency Management, the personal backgrounds of the individuals quarantining in any of the medical

shelters are not publicly disclosed,” the Fairplex spokesperson said.

However, two sources who preferred not to be named – a public employee and an elected official – confirmed in conversations with La Nueva Voz that homeless individuals were, in fact, being housed in the hotel on a regular basis.

According to official Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center COVID-19 update figures, Pomona has reported a total of 5,290 confirmed cases of COVID-19 which have resulted in 120 deaths to date, compared to 4,700 cases and 92 deaths reported in last month’s La Nueva Voz.

## COVID cases declining... from pg. 18

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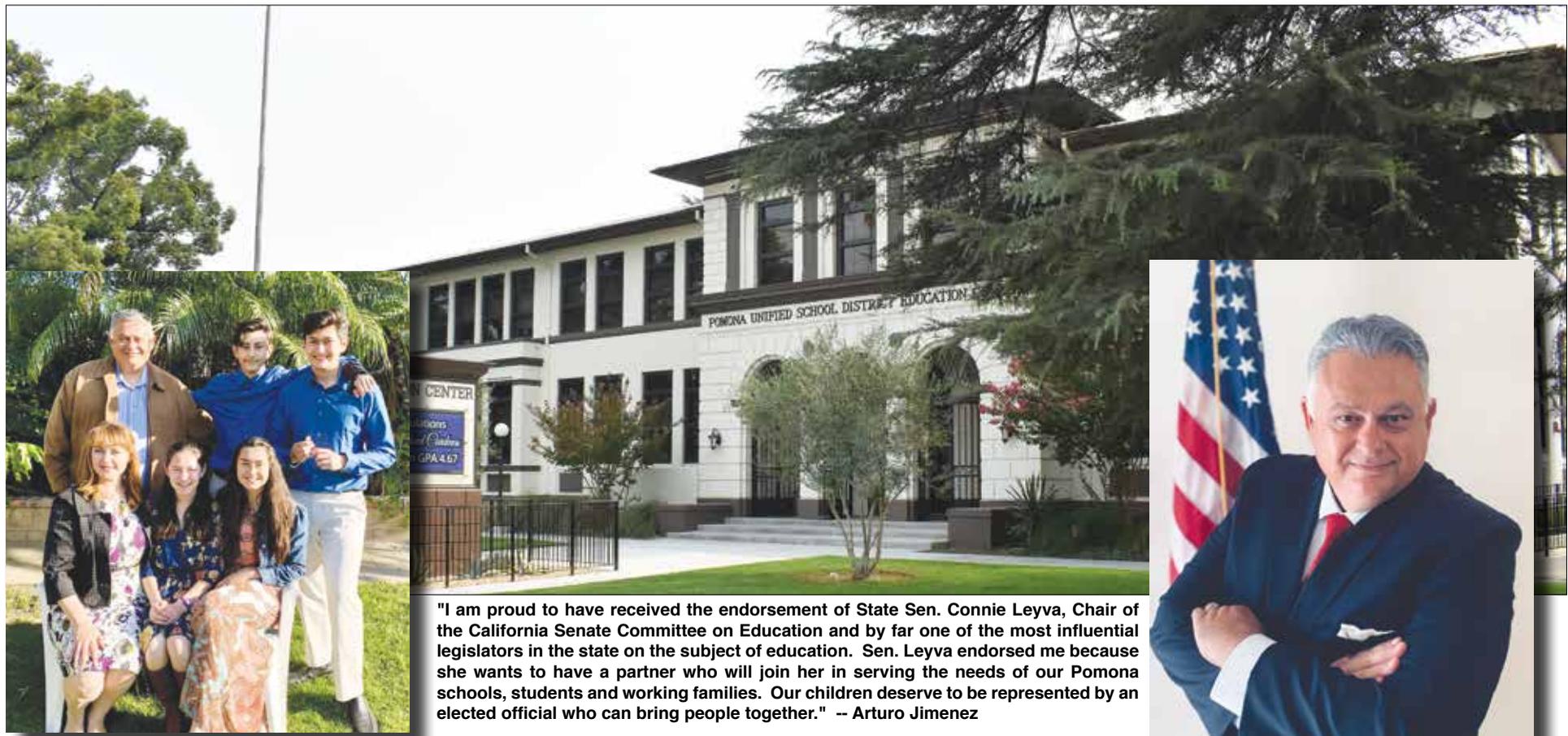
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"I am proud to have received the endorsement of State Sen. Connie Leyva, Chair of the California Senate Committee on Education and by far one of the most influential legislators in the state on the subject of education. Sen. Leyva endorsed me because she wants to have a partner who will join her in serving the needs of our Pomona schools, students and working families. Our children deserve to be represented by an elected official who can bring people together." -- Arturo Jimenez

## Vote November 3 for Pomona leader and businessman **Arturo Jimenez** for Pomona Unified School District Board

### As your representative I will work to ensure the following:

- Safer Schools / Fiscal Accountability
- Prepare Students for 21st-Century Jobs
- Improved Academic Achievement
- Anti-Bullying Programs
- Mental Health Services
- Decrease Dropout Rates
- Innovative Educational Programs
- Improved Communication with Parents and Families
- Increased Computer and Internet Accessibility
- College Community Collaborations
- Drug and Gang Interventions
- Increased Funding for Art / Music

### Como su representante, yo trabajaré para asegurar lo siguiente:

- Escuelas Seguras / Responsabilidad Fiscal
- Preparar los Estudiantes para Trabajos del Siglo 21
- Mejorar el Éxito Académico
- Programas Contra el Acoso
- Servicios de Salud Mental
- Reducir el Abandono Escolar
- Programas Innovadoras de la Educación
- Mejorar la Comunicación con los Padres y las Familias
- Incrementar la Disponibilidad de Computadoras e Internet
- Colaboraciones con Colegios Comunitarios
- Intervención para Eliminar las Pandillas y las Drogas
- Incrementar los Fondos para el Arte / Música

***"As your school board member, I will ensure that our school district is responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of our communities."***

***"As owner of a technical college in Downtown Pomona, I understand the importance of providing opportunities to students as they explore and pursue college and career paths. And as a parent of three children in Pomona Unified School District schools and a fourth who graduated from the Pomona Unified system and currently is attending Cal Poly University Pomona, I know the amazing capabilities of our public school system. But I am running because, as we all know, our schools face many challenges. We have more work to do together. I have served Pomona as a Planning Commissioner for more than nine years. With your support, I will represent you on the school board to make PUSD a school district that truly works for everyone!"***

***"I believe the residents of Pomona are entitled to greater transparency at PUSD than has ever before been possible."***

### Arturo Jimenez has been endorsed by:

State Sen. Connie Leyva • Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez • Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval  
Mt. SAC Board Member Laura Santos • Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado  
Three Valleys Water District Director Carlos Goytia • UFCW Local 1428 President Mark Ramos  
Past Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa • Past Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin  
Dolores Huerta • L.A. County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

**For more information or to become involved, contact Arturo Jimenez for Pomona School Board 2020 by e-mail at [arturo@votearturo.com](mailto:arturo@votearturo.com), call (909) 938-5061 or visit the web site at [votearturo.com](http://votearturo.com).**