



Pomona's \$10 million homeless center, already operating for a year, holds grand opening marking completion of final phase

Pomona's \$10 million "Hope for Home" year-round homeless services center and shelter, which was serving as a model for other cities long before it was even operational, held its official grand opening ceremony this month, culminating a four-year process that included conceptualization, planning and construction.

But Volunteers of America Los Angeles, operators of the four-acre facility, didn't wait for the ribbon cutting – they opened the doors to a huge tent-like structure that sleeps 200 a year ago, almost to the day and just in time for last win-

ter's cold weather. And the administrative offices, soon to be the home of a reception area, medical and mental health facilities, job support services and more, were still vacant at the time of this month's opening, although employees were spotted hanging framed pictures on the walls before the ceremonies began.

All of that soon was about to change at the location at 1400 E. Mission Blvd., literally on the east end of town and on the other side of the tracks on the site of what formerly was a dispatch center for Yellow Cab.



RIBBON CUTTING FOR POMONA'S \$10 MILLION HOMELESS CENTER -- Officials cut the ceremonial ribbon as Pomona's \$10 million, four-acre homeless center -- that took four years to complete from concept to the final structure -- opens the doors to its administration office and services center as the last part of the campus to be ready for occupancy. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Police Sgt. Anthony Catanese, who oversees the police department's homeless services operations; Pomona City Councilmembers Rubio Gonzalez and Victor Preciado; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Benita DeFrank, Pomona's neighborhood services director who spearheaded efforts to build the center; Volunteers of America program manager Reggie Clark, operator of the new facility; Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Steve Lustro; and Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri.

one understands the totality of what taking homelessness means," Solis added. "I salute you. You're really the heroes. You're a beacon of hope now" for doing something about the homeless crisis.

"We're the largest county in the entire country and here is a wonderful shining example of how people coming together...

Pomona councilmembers hire new 'approachable' city manager looking forward to 'doing some great things'

Members of the Pomona City Council unanimously voted to hire James Makshanoff as their new city manager last week and Makshanoff immediately told councilmembers he plans to make his office "approachable" and that he looks forward to coming back next month "and doing some great things."

Makshanoff, whose approved employment agreement calls for an annual salary of \$275,000, will go to work for the city on Jan. 21.



James Makshanoff . . .
... new Pomona city manager

His selec- New city manager... pg. 5

Groundbreaking for the initial phase of the project was held in May of last year.

"This is not an easy issue to deal with," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis. "The challenge of homelessness is one that has I think gone up in terms of priority for the entire country. Our president is even talking about it."

She said Los Angeles County

put Measure H (homeless initiative) on the ballot to provide funding in what she called "just one small step" and "this (homeless facility) is the fruit of that labor."

"I really want to thank the City of Pomona . . . because not every-

er... cities, stakeholders, clergy... educators, everyone can make a difference in people's lives beginning one step at a time and we did it working together," Solis said.

"I'm just delighted to be a part of

Homeless center... pg. 4

See the special Valley Vista Services La Nueva Voz 2019 Pomona Christmas Parade "pull-out" section, beginning on Page 9!

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Walking towards mental wellness . . . A message from Tri-City Mental Health



Last month, we talked about tips for coping with holiday stress. Building on that, what kind of strategies can you create to cope with things that trigger sadness, nervousness, or a desire to use drugs or alcohol? Here are some ideas for things to have in place when you need to get re-centered during holiday stress time. And they are all free!

- **Spend time with healthy people.** Most of us have friends or families who can support our growth. We find them at our civic organizations, churches, temples, or even at an Alcoholics Anonymous program. Call our Tri-City Navigators for ideas on supportive groups.
- **Spend time with nature.** A lot of people find the earth to be peaceful and supportive. It supports your whole body and doesn't criticize! Many research studies have touted the benefits of being outside. Noticing the birds, winds, green spaces can go far to release the anxiety, stress, and sadness the holiday season can trigger.
- **Spend time with yourself.** Take time out. Breathe. Meditate. Pray. Unplug from stressful social media. More people than you can imagine spend the holidays alone.
- **Honor those who have gone before you.** When families have loved ones who have passed on, society's pressure to be happy during the holidays can be difficult. You have permission to grieve. Share stories of your loved one. Cook their favorite meal or look at old photos together. Dios de los Muertos doesn't have to be the only day for honoring our ancestors.

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La Nueva Voz honored as Tri-City's 'Outstanding Community Partner'

La Nueva Voz was named Tri-City Mental Health's "Outstanding Community Partner" this month at the organization's annual holiday and employee recognition party in Claremont's Taylor Hall.

Tri-City Executive Director Toni Navarro told more than 200 employees and mental health commissioners the award, presented this year for the 10th time, is given to a community partner who has demonstrated support of the mission of Tri-City.

La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel and Vice President of Advertising and Operations Renee Barbee were recognized at the luncheon event.

Schenkel's relationship with Tri-City began when he was retained by then-Executive Director Jess Duff and Director of Mental Health Services Act and Ethnic Services Rimmi Hundal as a public relations consultant in 2007. Schenkel and Barbee "brought back" the old La Voz newspaper in 2009 and have been partnering with Tri-City to publish its news stories, photos and advertising messages over the past 10 years.

Schenkel told the group when

he was hired as a consultant, former Tri-City employee and La Nueva Voz friend Gilbert Saldate suggested he include La Voz newspaper in Pomona on his news release distribution list. Schenkel told Saldate that in his 24 years (at the time) in public relations, he had not become aware of La Voz among all the news media outlets he dealt with regionally, nationally and internationally.

La Voz ceased publication less than two years after that meeting and took on a new life as La Nueva Voz with both Schenkel and Barbee at the helm – something that would not have been possible had it not been for that first meeting with Tri-City.

Barbee, who now sits on four boards and a half dozen committees in Pomona and Claremont, was instrumental in putting the newly recreated newspaper together 10 years ago and



SERVING THE STAFF -- Tri-City Director of Mental Health Services Act and Ethnic Services Rimmi Hundal, at right, serves lunch to the staff at this month's annual Tri-City employee holiday and recognition luncheon. Even Executive Director Toni Navarro had an apron on and was helping out on the buffet line at the event.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER -- Pomona's La Nueva Voz newspaper was named Tri-City Mental Health's "Outstanding Community Partner" this month at an annual employee holiday and recognition luncheon in Claremont. Pictured, from left, are La Nueva Voz Vice President of Advertising and Operations Renee Barbee, Tri-City Executive Director Toni Navarro, and La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel.

continues to direct its operations on a daily basis today.

"The entire gang at Tri-City has made Renee and me feel like family," Schenkel said. "We want all of you to remember this – what

you do every day is important to this community."

"This award really belongs to you – we're just the messenger," he added. "We thank you for this recognition but more than that, we thank you for allowing us to be a part of what you are accomplishing."

Carrie Kennedy, supervisor for full-service partnership in Tri-City's children's department, was named employee of the year at the event. Other employees were recognized for reaching five, 10 and 15-year milestones with the organization.

Tri-City, which operates a total of five locations including three in Pomona, provides mental health services to residents of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne.

Please visit our web site at www.lanuevavoz.net to see the latest issue of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!



Light Rail is coming to Pomona!



Foothill Gold Line

The Foothill Gold Line from Glendora to Montclair will extend Metro Gold Line service to the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair. The project is mostly funded by LA County's Measure M and state funds (including SB1). Work began in late 2017. With the design-builder now hired, major construction will start in 2020 and may be completed in two phases.

Sign up for construction updates: www.foothillgoldline.org

Services held for Eugene F. Moses, former Mayor of Azusa and Publisher of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner, who died last month at age of 86

By Jayam Rutnam

Services were held this month for Eugene “Gene” F. Moses, former Mayor of Azusa and publisher of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner newspaper, who died last month at the age of 86.

Moses died in the intensive care unit of Foothill Presbyterian Hospital after battling congestive heart failure for the past two years.

Gene leaves behind his wife Illuminada (Inday), who has always been by his side. They were married for 25 years. He also leaves behind his son Michael who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, and his brother Roger who lives in Northern California. He was predeceased by brothers Jim and Eddie.

Gene was born in Newcastle, Pennsylvania in 1933. His parents moved the family to Southern California where he attended grade school through high school in Pasadena. He was captain of the football team at Elliot Junior High. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Navy and served in the Korean War. He was given an honorable discharge from the Navy.

Gene was an entrepreneur establishing many businesses that included a vending machine company, steakhouse (Alhambra), ghost town, bait and tackle shop and a newspaper.

Gene’s prize was the Canyon City Ghost Town built in Azusa, which was very popular at the time. He welcomed class field trips to educate children on the history of the old west. He also owned a bait and tackle store in Azusa, which was a meeting place for politicians and friends. His enthusiasm and motivation led him to be the entrepreneur he became.

Gene was also elected to the Azusa City Council in 1978. He ran for Mayor of the City of Azusa in 1982 and served in that position for an unprecedented 12 years.

During Gene’s business and political career, he was honored and awarded by various organi-



Eugene Moses

zations including Citizen of the Year, Governor’s Award, Outstanding Community Award and many others.

He was published in Personalities of America, Mayors of the World, Personalities in North America, Who’s Who in the West, Biography of the Year, Who’s Who in California and Who’s Who in Society.

In 1997, he founded the San Gabriel Valley Examiner, which continues publishing each week as a popular local newspaper serving the San Gabriel Valley. He owned and operated the newspaper as publisher and editor. His wife Inday was Assistant Editor and Marc Pijuan, Inday’s son, has always been instrumental in producing the newspaper.

Gene will be remembered as an entrepreneur, innovator, loyal friend, and a true, proud patriot of Eugene Moses... pg. 8



Photo by Renee Barbee

CAL POLY STUDENT VOLUNTEER GROUP DONATES SOCKS, BLANKETS TO COMMUNITY CENTER -- Student volunteers from Cal Poly University Pomona who are members of ASEZ (“Saving the Earth from A to Z”) donated more than 2,000 socks and blankets to Victor Treatment Centers in Pomona this month following a month-long collection drive on campus. Donations were received from Cal Poly students and faculty, as well as from Cal Poly President Dr. Soraya Coley and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. Victor Treatment provides services including mental health “wraparound,” transitional aged foster care youth, and community outreach programs, along with full foster care and adoption services. Pictured dropping off the donated socks and blankets at Victor Treatment are some of the ASEZ student volunteers. ASEZ is a World Mission Society Church of God university student volunteer group. Members of the group last month joined Sandoval and Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez in a clean-up project along Pomona’s Holt Avenue, collecting a total of 100 bags of trash.

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Homeless center... from pg. 1

that.”

She said the Pomona facility will “bring hope and shine a light on the entire County of Los Angeles so with your help we’re going to do more.”

As an example, Solis said the county recently opened another winter facility in the unincorporated area of Bassett.

She said the last homeless count in Los Angeles County showed there were 549 homeless youths under the age of 24, 258 military veterans, 778 people over the age of 55, 1,578 women, and 1,151 individuals with physical or developmental disabilities.

“They are part of our families, they are part of our communities... they are our humanity and they are a part of us,” Solis said.

‘Where people can get their lives back’

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval asked the nearly 200 people in attendance to look around and think about what the homeless services center “means for people who often find themselves in the most difficult of situations and there’s a place called Hope for Homes where people can get their lives

back.”

He said it could be argued that homelessness is the “greatest crisis we face as a society,” adding that “all of you know how incredibly wealthy this country is and yet we have homeless people.”

“And so Pomona, through a collective effort, through a community effort, said we’re not going to stand idly by – we’re going to do everything that we can to access all of the resources . . . to provide a place where people could get their lives back,” Sandoval said.

“It’s more than just a shelter,” he added. “There’s a lot of love here, there’s a lot of heart here,

and there’s a commitment to not just managing homelessness but ending homelessness, not just in Pomona but all over this region.”

He said homelessness in Pomona went down by 11 percent in the last count.

Volunteers of America program manager Reggie Clark told Solis that “I believe that



The huge tent-like structure housing sleeping quarters, a dining area and other facilities has been open for business for the past year at 1400 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona, on the site of a former Yellow Cab dispatching center.



Bunks are made up and ready to go inside “Hope for Home,” Pomona’s homeless services center and shelter. While administrative offices just opened this month, the sleeping quarters have been in use for the past year.

you believe in what we’re doing, and I thank you so much.”

Outside ‘partners’ help with specialized issues

He said the facility is allowing outside “partners” to come in and deal with issues his organization is not equipped to handle.

Those partners include Tri City Mental Health for wellness counseling, Prototypes for substance abuse issues, East Valley Com-

munity Health Center to operate a medical clinic on site, and Goodwill of Southern California to help participants find employment.

Clark thanked Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri for the “amazing” relationship that has been forged with Volunteers of America.

“They have come together, brought people to the site, and

Homeless center... pg. 8

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New city manager... from pg. 1

tion came following a nationwide executive recruitment search conducted by Ralph Anderson and Associates that attracted more than 30 applicants.

Of those, four were invited in for interviews.

Makshanoff has served as the city manager for the City of San Clemente since 2014. Prior to that, he worked as the Deputy Public Works Director and Assistant City Manager for the City of

this position approachable . . . to the council, to the staff, to the community and that we all work together and pull in the same direction to make the City of Pomona continue to grow and be a great city here in Southern California," he added.

He said he looks forward to coming back next month "working with all of you and doing some great things."

In a recent city news release,

and related development will be invaluable to the city as we prepare the construction of the Gold Line to Pomona."

"I'm thrilled to become the next city manager for Pomona," Makshanoff said. "I look forward to working together with the residents and community in general, as well as the council members and staff, to ensure Pomona remains an exceptional place to live, work and conduct business."

City Manager Linda Lowry is scheduled to retire on Dec. 30.

Deputy City Manager Mark Gluba will serve as acting city manager until Makshanoff comes on board in late January.

Sandoval proposed holding a "meet and greet" to introduce the new city manager to the community in February.



HONORING A VETERAN -- Daniel Guevara, currently the chaplain service officer for Pomona's American Legion Post 30, was honored for his military service by the Pomona City Council at a meeting this month. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval presented Guevara with a certificate of recognition for his service in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1971 on both a heavy cruiser and a submarine tender. In addition to his work with Pomona's American Legion post, he volunteers with the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fundraiser, and Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. Pictured is Guevara receiving his certificate from the mayor.



GODDESS OF POMONA -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the Pomona City Council last week presented a ceremonial Goddess of Pomona statue to Pomona City Manager Linda Lowry, who is retiring effective Dec. 30 after serving for 14 years. Pictured, from left, are City Councilmember Nora Garcia, Sandoval and Lowry.

Azusa from 2005 to 2012 and as city manager from 2012 to 2014.

He has also worked in various capacities in both Downey and Covina.

Makshanoff told councilmembers it is "a great honor to be here and become your next city manager."

"It's my expectation to make

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval called Makshanoff "a great addition to the City of Pomona Team."

"He has demonstrated integrity, a willingness to listen, and the ability to get things done," Sandoval said. "His experience while at the City of Azusa with the construction of the Gold Line



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Expert care with a personal touch

Pomona's Denny Mosier to chair Phillips Ranch Assessment District Oversight Committee

Phillips Ranch resident Denny Mosier, this year's president of the Pomona Host Lions Club and a former Pomona Planning Commissioner, has been elected chair of the Phillips Ranch Assessment District Oversight Committee. Eric Trypucko has been elected vice chair.

The two were elected unanimously in a 6-0 vote at the committee's first meeting this month.

The committee advises city staff and the Pomona City Council concerning the assessment-funded landscaping and lighting services. It also provides staff with information concerning contractor performance within the district.

A total of seven committee members are appointed by the city council. Mosier was appointed by Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, and Trypucko was appointed by Councilmember Steve Lustro.

The committee meets quarterly at Pomona City Hall. Mosier will serve for a one-year term.

Denny Mosier... pg. 13

David Judah Oliver named Pomona's first poet laureate

Fulfilling what a Pomona City Hall press release called a city tradition "dating back to ancient Greece," the city's Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees has selected David Judah Oliver as the city's first-ever "poet laureate" for a two-year term.

Representatives of the library board and the city's cultural arts commission were on hand at a city council meeting this month to introduce their pick.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval commended him on the "tremendous artistic talents requisite in achieving this honor" as he presented Oliver with a certificate of recognition.

He said the city looks forward to his valuable contributions to the community through education and advancement of the poetic arts.

The project got under way three years ago when the Pomona Public Library Foundation reached out to the cultural arts commission to propose the idea. The library board and the cultural arts commission eventually sought funding from the foundation to cover expenses, and the library



CITY COUNCIL HONORS POMONA'S FIRST POET LAUREATE -- David Judah Oliver thanks members of the Pomona City Council for honoring him as the City of Pomona's first-ever poet laureate. He will serve a two-year term beginning next month working to advance the poetic arts. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmembers Victor Preciado, Robert Torres, Rubio Gonzalez, Nora Garcia, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Steve Lustro, Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona Public Library Foundation President John Clifford, Oliver, Pomona Cultural Arts Commission Chairman Joshua Swodeck and Library Board Member Renee Barbee.

board agreed to oversee the program.

According to the news release, cities, states and nations around the world have begun to reinstate the tradition of honoring a local poet to increase community connection to the art of poetry.

Pomona itself has been a poetry "hub" for years, with numerous gatherings, open mics and "poetry centric" events hosted locally.

The city council voted to establish the program in August, and a library board committee went to work looking for a poet who was

"active in the community, who could represent the fullness of Pomona, and who had a vision and plan for bringing poetry into public spaces."


Oliver has published two books of poetry and is the co-host and founder of the LionLike Mind-State Poetry and Art series, hosting events at Pomona's Fairplex and other locations.

He was a member of the Los Angeles Slam Team and coached the Empire MindState Poetry Slam Team of Pomona, winning second in the nation.

As an entrepreneur, he owned and operated Machine Pomona Art Gallery, he serves as an art consultant for the Ontario-Montclair School District, and he has taught poetry at every level of education from kindergarten to college.

He has also worked as an art instructor for the Prison Education Program.

His term as poet laureate begins next month and he will receive an annual honorarium of \$1,000 for his efforts, provided by the library foundation.




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Homeless center... from pg. 4

the participants come into the site happy, being escorted by the PD," Clark said, all because the police department has been "engaging, building rapport out there, relationships with these folks and they understand they have their best interests at heart."

Clark said he has been working with the homeless population in Pomona since 2006. He previously operated a winter shelter at the city's old armory building in the civic center.

"It's amazing what the City of Pomona does for its homeless," Clark said, adding that no other city does this.

Bringing resources 'to those most in need'

Benita DeFrank, Pomona's neighborhood services director who spearheaded efforts to build the center, called the opening "a day for the community of Pomona to celebrate what can happen when we work together and we bring resources to those most in need in our community."

She said the concept was an outgrowth of a community summit on homelessness in 2015.

"Doing nothing was not an op-

tion anymore," she said, and a strategic plan was developed over a nine-month period.

The completed campus, she said, now is "providing interim housing and access to services, solving homelessness one person at a time."

"It doesn't happen overnight, but it does happen when people turn dreams into reality," she added.

The facility is the only year-round shelter in the East San Gabriel Valley.

DeFrank was expected to provide Pomona City Councilmembers with an update on that \$10 million cost figure next month, although \$3.9 million dollars came from Los Angeles County through



A view from the street shows the front of Pomona's new homeless services center administration and services building.



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis

Measure H funding, and another \$6 million for the purchase of the property and phase one design and build development came from proceeds in a "low to moderate" housing bond left over from the city's redevelopment agency.

In addition, Pomona already has been awarded an annual \$1.4 million in Measure H funds for the center's operating budget.

Plus, in a related action, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez last year was able to provide a \$4 million state budget allocation to the City of Pomona to support Pomona police officers working with the homeless, boosting existing efforts at the time by 400 percent.

New program offers free Lyft rides from Metrolink stations to Ontario Airport

Metrolink riders traveling to Ontario International Airport now have a new mobility option with sponsored Lyft rides from four Metrolink stations and Omnitrans transit centers through a partnership with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority.

Alan Wapner, president of the Ontario International Airport Authority and a board member of both Metrolink and the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, described the partnership as an important next step in making sure the airport meets the needs of one of the fastest grow-

ing population and economic centers in the U.S.

"A big part of what sets Ontario International Airport apart is its access and convenience, and as an airport authority, we are committed to exploring all options that allow us to maintain that competitive edge, increase commuter and transit options and grow the right way," he said in a recent news release.

The program covers up to \$35 off each Lyft ride connecting the airport with one of the Metrolink stations at Montclair, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga and Ontario-East.

Eugene Moses... from pg. 3

America. In the words of his good friend for many years, Jan Qualkenbush, "Gene was as honest as they come. It was his honesty that made him successful."

Services were held this month at Oakdale Memorial Park Cemetery in Glendora.

Editor's Note: Gene Moses was a good friend of La Nueva Voz publisher Jeff Schenkel going back to the 1980s and Gene's time on the Azusa City Council when Schenkel served as a public relations consultant. The two continued to collaborate in business through the years and La Nueva Voz has always been happy to be able to refer business to the San Gabriel Valley Examiner. "Jan Qualkenbush (Jan's Towing) is right - Gene was known for his honesty and his integrity, both in business and in politics," Schenkel said. "He will be missed."

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority is funding the \$396,000 pilot program to increase public transportation ridership servicing the airport.

"Local control of the Ontario International Airport has spurred significant, positive change for one of our county's greatest assets," said transportation authority President Darcy McNaboe. "To enthusiastically support this change, we are creating a pilot program that helps connect transit to the airport. The information we gather from this program will help us develop future connections that will erase congestion, improve communities, and continue to make San Bernardino County great."

The Montclair, Upland and Rancho Cucamonga stations are on the San Bernardino line, while the Ontario-East station is part of Metrolink's Riverside line.

Fifty-two Metrolink trains make stops Monday through Friday at the stations where the free Lyft service is offered. Customers also have weekend options on the San Bernardino line where 20 trains stop at the stations on Saturday and six on Sunday.

"Through this partnership, travelers and workers alike have a convenient, reliable transportation option to get to and from the Ontario International Airport without needing to own or rent a car or worry about parking," said Bakari Brock, senior director of city partnerships at Lyft.

Free Lyft rides... pg. 19

Music



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A La Nueva Voz special “pull out” section: The 2019 Pomona Christmas Parade Brought to you by Valley Vista Services Providing quality waste and recycling service for over 50 years

‘Once Upon a Christmas Parade’ succeeds in getting out the community to mark the start of the holiday season

An estimated 3,000 people, half a dozen horses and a couple of dogs on a leash walked, marched, performed, rode or pedaled their way down Second Street and on through Downtown Pomona for the 11th annual Pomona Christmas Parade this month, presented by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association.

And several thousand spectators, as is the tradition, lined the streets to watch as Pomona’s finest service clubs, elected officials, marching bands, scouting organizations, Native Americans and more went on display to wave to, chat with, hand out candy to, sing to or just provide some old-fashioned marching band music for the always receptive crowd.

This year’s parade was particularly notable because DPOA Executive Director Larry Egan, who was instrumental in bringing the parade back to Downtown Pomona in 2009, served as grand marshal.

Egan plans to retire at the end of the year.

The parade, a nighttime event every year since 2015, was a success as always and, for just about two hours or a little more, it seemed the entire community was transformed into an old-fashioned winter wonderland out of the pages of the type of Americana we once knew as children.

As an added plus, it all happened under clear skies, although it cooled down quite a bit as the sun went down and the winds picked up.

Fittingly, the parade theme this year was “Once Upon a Christmas Parade.”

It has only rained on the parade twice in the last 11 years – in 2009 and 2013.

Congratulations, Larry, on serving as grand marshal and for everything you’ve accomplished for Downtown Pomona over the last 12 years.



Valley Vista Services has outdone itself again, creating an entire old-fashioned holiday street scene -- with its own old-fashioned street lights -- on the back of a flatbed truck. And from the front, you can see those street lights and holiday lights coming a couple of blocks away! Look up in the side view right behind the cab and you’ll see Jill Reiff of Valley Vista Services waving to the crowd with her husband Chris Reiff right beside her. Thanks for your continuing support, Valley Vista Services, and Merry Christmas!



Parade master of ceremonies Stephanie Benjamin presents a special grand marshal’s award to retiring Downtown Pomona Owners Association Executive Director Larry Egan who was instrumental in bringing back the parade to Downtown Pomona 11 years ago.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval gives his holiday greeting to the crowd in front of the parade announcer’s booth as his wife, Criselda, at right, looks on.



Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez and his wife Lorena wave to the crowd in the parade.



Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri, handing out candy canes to the kids, walks the parade route out in front of the Pomona Police Department vehicles riding in the parade.



Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole



Parade master of ceremonies Stephanie Benjamin, at left, introduces Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, at right, to parade spectators. Garcia rode in the parade with an entire pickup truck filled with her appointed city commissioners.



Pomona Beautiful President Pete Garcia leads his community organization of volunteers in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado shows off his t-shirt as he walks the parade route with members of Pomona Valley Runners, presenters (with Day One) of the Pomona 5k and 10k run.



Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres rides in the parade with Marisol Guerra and their son Julien.



Special Valley Vista Services “pull out” section -- The 2019 Pomona Christmas Parade



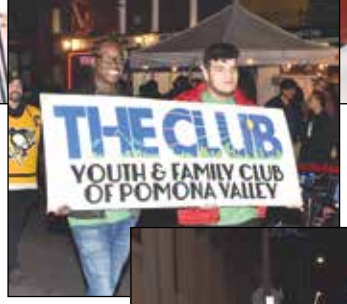
Members of the Diamond Ranch High School marching band looked -- and sounded -- in good form in the parade.



Even a group of alumni musicians from Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School marched -- and performed -- in the parade.



The 2019 Miss Pomona court finalists -- Destiny Gomez, Evelyn Casas and Stephanie Pinedo -- wave to the crowd in the parade.



The Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley turned out for the Pomona Christmas Parade -- some walking the route and others riding just behind in, well, that little parade-sized Foothill Transit bus.



Pomona Christmas Parade committee members walked the parade route with lead volunteer coordinator Chara Swodeck second from right.



Representatives of Boy Scout Troop and Pack 101, Pomona's only scout troop and the oldest troop west of the Mississippi River, carry the banner at the front of the Pomona Christmas Parade. The troop is 109 years old.



Representatives of the many “arts” programs supported by Pomona's DA Center for the Arts in Downtown Pomona walked in the parade.



Pomona Cultural Arts Commission Chairman Joshua Swodeck, at rear, and Cultural Arts Commissioner Andy Quinones pose for the La Nueva Voz camera on the commission float. Oh, and that's San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps Executive Director Norma Quinones (and their kids) catching a ride on the float, as well.



The Garey High School marching band, under the direction of Anthony Bonner, always look good in a parade. Some of the members up front are even smiling and waving for the La Nueva Voz camera. (You just have to stay out of the way of those slide trombones!)



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Representatives of Pomona's Eagles rode in the parade in, well, whatever that thing is.



Cars and car clubs, as always, were an important part of the parade.



Members of the Ganesha High School marching band march and perform their way down Second Street in the Pomona Christmas Parade.

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President Minerva Hernandez and fellow members produced a beautiful holiday-themed float for the Pomona Christmas Parade.



The only equestrian entry in this year's parade, and the only one in a while, for that matter, was Escaramuza Las Palomas De Rancho Jimenez, of La Puente. The side saddle equestrian team, which includes girls and women between the ages of 5 and 45, has performed in statewide and national competition.

Marching up front as always in the Pomona Christmas Parade were the members of Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Color Guard, led by Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, pictured front row at right.



Members of Pomona's Kennedy Austin Foundation pose mid-parade for the La Nueva Voz camera with founder Ethel Gardener pictured fourth from right. The foundation provides the community with a wellness and crisis intervention center.



Pomona Public Library Foundation President John Clifford, at right, also a member of the Library Board of Trustees, rides in the library commission convertible to introduce to the community the city's new "poet laureate," selected by library foundation, Board of Trustees members and Cultural Arts Commission members to represent the city for the next two years. The poet laureate, David Judah Oliver, pictured at back left, will work in the city to advance the poetic arts. Pictured driving her red convertible is former Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz, long a supporter of the library.



Pomona's Girl Scouts and their Brownie Scout friends -- 60 of them all together from Pomona all the way out to Ontario -- looked good walking the entire parade route. Spokesperson Chara Swodeck told parade organizers there are now 15 local troops "and growing" in Pomona and surrounding communities building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

Kids -- and in this case kids dressed just for the Pomona Christmas Parade -- are really what parades are all about.



Pomona's favorite cop Walt Barkley rides down the parade route in his old-time police car that he calls "PD Oldie" -- just to remind us of how things used to be. Merry Christmas, Walt, and who's your friend looking out the back window?



Tammy Roush, director of engagement at Pomona's Fairplex, waves to the crowd from the Fairplex float in the parade.



This year's Pomona Host Lions Club President Denny Mosier, at right, helps carry the club banner in the parade. Pictured at left is his girlfriend Mara Lundquist, a friend of the Lions Club, and, at center, Andie Morris, a Pomona Host Lions Club board member in charge of membership activation and retention, and visitation to other Lions Clubs.

There's only one Santa in the Pomona Christmas Parade, he always comes at the end, and he always rides atop a Los Angeles County fire engine (from one of the Pomona fire stations). And, as always, he kept the crowd's attention all the way to the end of the parade and did a good job of waving to spectators and wishing them a Merry Christmas! A special thanks goes to Jeff Keating of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences for helping Santa do his job this month in Pomona's parade.



Hard at work at the parade announcer's booth are, from left, master of ceremonies Stephanie Benjamin, of RE/MAX Real Estate Team Marin in Diamond Bar, who flew in from Oregon to announce the parade, community volunteer Deborah Clifford, who was on the table microphone, and parade committee member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz who recorded a Facebook "live" video and worked with the announcers to identify parade entries as they went by. Good job, ladies, and thanks for the hard work.




Thank you, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12034, Band of Brothers, for coming in from La Verne to march in the Pomona Christmas Parade!



Members of Pomona's branch of the NAACP carried the banner in the parade to promote their membership campaign.

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State Sen. Connie Leyva waved and chatted with the crowd along the Pomona Christmas Parade route.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife Michelle pose for the La Nueva Voz camera from the back of a convertible in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Congresswoman Norma Torres waves to the crowd as she rides the route in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Now hang on a second here -- this float has a propane patio heater (the La Nueva Voz photographer could have used that thing down at the corner), there's a barber chair in there, they brought out all their kids and it was all put together by Pomona Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Leo Arredondo (and his entire team), owner of Pomona's Upper Cuts Barber Shop, 681 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona. That's Leo standing at far right. Call for appointments (recommended) at (909) 706-1909.

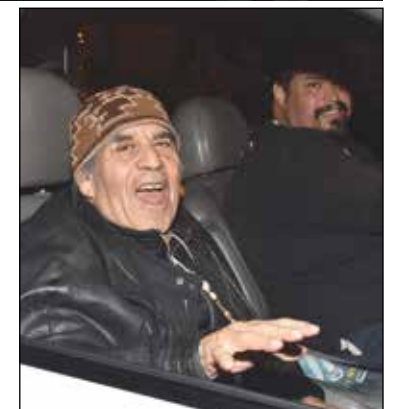


Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia (representing South Pomona) and his wife, Catalina, at right, walked the parade route behind his truck so they could greet spectators personally. Pictured, at left, is parade master of ceremonies Stephanie Benjamin who came out to wish Carlos and Cat a Merry Christmas.



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member John Mendoza, representing North Pomona, rides the parade route in a convertible with his grandson Robert. Merry Christmas, Director Mendoza and Robert!

Tri-City Mental Health's staff is growing and its participation in the Pomona Christmas Parade grew more this year than ever before. Pictured is the Tri-City float (those green ribbons stress the importance of "Eliminating the Stigma" and spreading awareness of mental illness), Tri-City Executive Director Toni Navarro (front at center) with her candy cane drill team, and, walking behind the float with a group of some 60 employees and clients, Tri-City Wellness Center manager Gamaliel Polanco, at right, with two of his four kids, Jason, 10, and Emelie, 16.



Pomona's own Native American tribal chief and community leader Tony Cerda, head of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, rode in the Pomona Christmas Parade as members of his tribe marched out front carrying a banner to promote the annual Ohlone "Big Time" Gathering and Pow Wow, to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, always the last weekend in April, in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park.



Members of the Pomona Optimist Club made a big impression in the Pomona Christmas Parade -- they had elves and a banner out front, holiday lights everywhere, and Optimist Fernando Meza driving the truck. Pictured riding in the float are, from left, Optimists Hugo and Sonia Molina, Rebecca Santana, Debra Martin and President Lorraine Canales.



Parade master of ceremonies Stephanie Benjamin, at left, steps out from the announcer's booth to say hello to Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman.



Pomona Unified School District Board member Frank Guzman, at right, Board Chair of the new Pomona Pride Center, helps hold up the banner as the group walks the parade route down Second Street. And a Pomona Pride Center member rides the parade route in the back of a very small car (we think that's a Mini Cooper under all those holiday lights.) The new center, located at Pomona's St. Paul's Episcopal Church, supports the LGBTQ community in Pomona and surrounding areas.



Wow! Members of the Pomona High School Red Devils marching band were in good form this year making their way down Second Street in the Pomona Christmas Parade. Pomona Christmas Parade... pg. 19

Send your news tips to: reneebarbee7@gmail.com

SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

In Southern California, driving in any season can be demanding due to traffic, local geography, driver experience, road surface condition, road construction and time of day. It can be more of a challenge in winter because all existing hazardous conditions are magnified by rain, fog, snow, ice, ability to brake, condition of vehicle, visibility, and other drivers. We will review how one can drive safely by planning, preparing and using safe driving practices to counteract existing winter driving conditions and unsafe driving by others.

In winter, a driver must account for extra travel time and plan accordingly. In addition to routinely scheduled maintenance, at beginning of trip: check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check antifreeze. Clear wind shield and windows before leaving the driveway or parking lot. The driver will assure that every glass surface is clear and transparent by using a snowbrush, an ice scraper or a towel. Side-view mirrors and all lights should be brushed and cleared as well. Since it is winter, the driver will need just as much, if not more, visibility in poor conditions because of increased stopping distances and other drivers that fail to adapt to the slick road surface. The smart driver takes it a step further, though, and clears off the snow and ice from vehicle and dew from windows. Failing to do so could result in the snow left on the roof either sliding down and blocking the windshield as driver is slowing down or flying off onto someone else's windshield, causing them to crash into driver's vehicle. Uncleared windshield and windows greatly reduce visibility and prevent driver from seeing pedestrians and objects that may be in the way. Lastly, before beginning travel, driver must be familiar with the maps or directions, and let others know the route and travel schedule: departure and projected

Denny Mosier... from pg. 7

A special district was created when Pomona's Phillips Ranch was developed to charge residents annually on their property tax bills rather than require the City

arrival times. This is very important in case of an emergency and if there is a delay along the way. Although snow and ice are not common in Southern California, these conditions must be considered when traveling away from the region.

The following is from State Farm and OSHA:

• **Before starting your drive: Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.** Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag. Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.

• **Heavy rain:** Do not slam the brakes or suddenly correct steering. When vehicle begins hydroplaning, ease off the gas pedal and steer straight until vehicle is again controlled.

• **Dense fog:** Use fog lights. If vehicle has front fog lights, they can assist in road illumination and increase vehicle visibility to other drivers. Some vehicles have rear fog lights, which help those behind you see your vehicle from farther away. Keep headlights on low beam (high-beams just reflect off the fog and don't illuminate the road ahead), and hug the

Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri to retire after two years and eight months on the job

Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri, officially sworn in as chief in April 2018, this month announced his plans to retire in October.

He assumed the position of chief in February 2018 but his actual swearing in was delayed because of the fatal shooting in March of Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas.

Olivieri announced his plans before the Pomona City Council took action on hiring a new city manager.

"My tentative plan has been to retire next year, and I have decided to make that official," he said. "I felt it appropriate to finalize my decision before a new city manager was selected, so that he or she didn't question the reason for my decision had I waited a few months after the person was

of Pomona to pay for landscaping and lighting services.

The committee will go out to bid for a new landscape contract next July 1.

Winter driving safety

right edge of the road. If you need to pull over, move far away from traffic and turn off your lights. Other drivers might see taillights and think you're in the traffic lane, which can lead to them going off the road.

• **Icy conditions:** Sharp turns or corrections must not be made, and avoid slamming on the brakes – it could cause skidding. When approaching a hill, wait for the front vehicle to reach the top before ascending. Drive steadily up the hill but avoid going too fast – that could cause you to swerve.

• **Snowy weather or on snow-covered roads:** Don't pass snowplows or sanding trucks – they are likely trying to clear the road ahead. Approach intersections slowly, and brake gently to avoid skidding. If you slide, turn your steering wheel in the direction your vehicle is sliding.

• **Always carry chains.** Make sure they are the proper size for your tires and are in working order. You might want to take along chain repair links. Chains must be installed on the drive wheels. Make sure you know if your vehicle is front or rear wheel drive.

on the job."

"I will retire after a long and wonderful journey in this profession," Olivieri added.

The chief made his plans public in posts this month on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. It was shared on the La Nueva Voz Facebook site.

"Back in 1984, I joined Chino PD as a police explorer at age 15," he said, "(and) then (served as) a dispatcher for Ontario PD until I was old enough to become a cop."

He said in 1990, at the age of 21, he was hired to serve "in my dream job" as a Pomona police officer.

"Though my early career plans never included being a police chief, over three decades of service that is what ended up happening and I realize how blessed I am," Olivieri said. "This retirement will come after 36 years of law enforcement service and over 30 years as a Pomona cop."

"It is time to look forward to my next chapter," he said. "I will work hard over the next several

• **Stopped or Stalled?** Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

And in all winter weather settings, avoid using cruise control, drive slower than usual, and leave plenty of stopping distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you. Although snow and ice may not usually apply to Southern California, we need to consider these conditions when driving to Lake Arrowhead, Big Bear Lake, and further north through the mountain passes.

Important items (from Travelers Insurance) to consider and carry in vehicle include an emergency blanket, first aid kit, reflective triangles, flashlight, water and snacks, an ice scraper, sand and salt and jumper cables.

Also suggested are necessary medications, matches, a snow shovel and a tool kit.

To keep current on changing road conditions, Caltrans recommends that you check road conditions often. Caltrans op-

erates the Caltrans Highway Information Network (CHIN), that can be reached at telephone **800.427.7623** for up-to-the-minute information in California and Western Nevada (Lake Tahoe/Reno Area). The network is updated as conditions change and is voice-activated for safety and convenience.

months to help ensure a successful transition is made to the next leader entrusted to lead this fine organization."

He added he was excited about his decision.

Olivieri told La Nueva Voz during a Pomona City Council meeting the day of his announcement that his wife questioned his decision since he loved what he was doing.

He said he told her that was the point, that he preferred to go out at the top of his game rather than wait until problems develop.

However, some residents and business owners in the community voiced concerns to La Nueva Voz several months ago when word began to leak out on the street, referring in at least one instance to the "game" they are playing "rolling over" the chief's position, apparently for purposes of boosting retirement pay.

When asked by La Nueva Voz about his reaction to that, Olivieri said "it is what it is" and that any change in the rules of retirement would have to come from the city

erates the Caltrans Highway Information Network (CHIN), that can be reached at telephone **800.427.7623** for up-to-the-minute information in California and Western Nevada (Lake Tahoe/Reno Area). The network is updated as conditions change and is voice-activated for safety and convenience.

Planning and preparation are critical for safe driving. Being cautious and driving defensively also are very important when on the road in winter whether driving is for work or off the job. Have a happy new year.

Editor's Note: Jose Bermudez, a safety professional for nearly 40 years, has worked as a consultant and a regional safety and health manager for colleges, hospitals and an environmental engineering consulting firm, working for companies such as General Electric, Waste Management, Inc. and Quaker Oats. He received the designation of Certified Safety Professional from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. His column is presented as a public service. He can be contacted at jsbrmdz8@gmail.com.

council.

Several hundred police chiefs, police officers, other emergency responders and members of the community were on hand a year and eight months ago in a swearing in reception for Olivieri at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Hotel.

Olivieri is a graduate of the Rio Hondo Reserve Officer Academy and the Rio Hondo Police Academy, he has an associate degree in administration of justice from Rio Hondo College and he holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice management from Union Institute and University, based in Cincinnati.

More recently, he became a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, where he worked closely for several months with then-FBI Director James Comey.

In Pomona, Olivieri has served on patrol, on the major crimes task force, as a SWAT officer and a traffic officer, and has held ranks of corporal, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief and chief.



GRADUATION DAY AT THE HISPANIC CHAMBER -- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley President Minerva Hernandez, of Minerva's Flowers in Pomona, kicks off the program and welcomes graduates and guests to ceremonies this month in Downtown Pomona for 57 new and existing business owners who have completed a 16-week business administration academy. The program, offered twice each year and held at Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences, is conducted in Spanish and includes everything from creating a business plan, developing a structure and a vision, legal advice, business administration, contracting with corporations, accounting and more. Business participants received a special certification upon graduation after completing 16 weeks of attending a five-hour session once each week. About half of the business owners in the chamber's sixth graduating class were from Pomona with the others coming from neighboring communities. Pictured with Hernandez, at left, is Andres Uribe, who served as "DJ" and master of ceremonies for the event.

Volunteers needed for annual homeless count in Pomona

The City of Pomona is looking for volunteers to help next month in the latest Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count in which each year more than 100 volunteers pitch in to help provide an accurate count.

A registration event for volunteers is scheduled for 7 to 11 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Ganessa Community Center, 1575 N. White Ave., Pomona.

Volunteers can register on line at www.theycountwillyou.org.



CLASS PHOTO -- Graduates of a 16-week business administration academy offered by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley pose for a group photo after receiving their certificates of completion at graduation ceremonies in Downtown Pomona this month. Chamber President Minerva Hernandez is seated in front of the group.

LINING UP FOR A PHOTO -- There's something about those photo backdrops that just make people want to line up for a picture. And there were a lot of cell phones being passed around to take those pictures at this month's graduation ceremonies for the latest business administration academy presented by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley.





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Pomona Mayor Sandoval, La Verne Councilmember Carder re-elected board chair, vice chair of Gold Line Construction Authority

Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority board members voted unanimously this month to re-elect Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval to serve as board chair and La Verne City Councilmember Robin Carder as board vice chair for a second one-year term for each at a time that Gold Line construction is already under way bringing the light rail project closer to both La Verne and Pomona.

The action by the nine-member board comes on the heels of a construction contract signing on the steps of Pomona City Hall in October that started the clock on a \$2.1 billion, 12.3-mile extension of the project from Glendora to Montclair.

“Thank you to our colleagues on the board for their continued trust in us,” Sandoval said. “We have a tremendous task ahead as we extend the Foothill Gold Line into more cities in the San Gabriel Valley, and we will work hard to ensure that another successful project is delivered on time and on budget.”

The current contract includes \$806 million for the first nine miles of the project from Glen-

dora to Pomona, with a two-year contract option to complete the full project to Montclair for a total contract amount of \$1.2 billion if additional funds are secured for the Pomona to Montclair segment by October 2021.

A remaining project cost of about \$900 million, after the construction project is turned over to Metro for operation, would pay for adding actual trains and paying for administration and construction of parking structures and the like, according to a construction authority spokesman, bringing the entire project cost to \$2.1 billion.

New stations will be added to the Metro Gold Line system under the extension project in the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair, although it may be built in phases if funding is not secured in time to initiate the contract option.

The Glendora to Pomona segment is expected to be completed in 2025, and the entire project to Montclair by 2028 if the contract option is initiated.

“The contract option provides a tremendous opportunity for our region by offering potential fund-



FOOTHILL GOLD LINE BOARD -- Members of the Foothill Gold Line Board pose for a photo at their swearing-in ceremony earlier this year. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval this month was re-elected to chair the board for a second year, and La Verne City Councilmember Robin Carder was re-elected to serve as vice chair. Pictured, from left, are Gold Line Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian and Board members Pasadena City Councilmember Gene Masuda, Los Angeles representative Melchor Iloin, Sandoval, Carder, Duarte City Councilmember and Metro Board member John Fasana, Ontario Mayor Paul Leon, and South Pasadena representative Dan Evans. Not pictured is Ontario City Councilmember Alan Wapner. The governor’s appointee position currently is vacant.

ing partners a firm, fixed bid price, not an estimate, to complete this project in the next few years,” Sandoval said. “We will continue to press forward and work with our partners and elected officials at all levels to seek the funding needed to complete the line to Claremont and Montclair and bring the train to all of the cities that have been planning for its arrival for de-

acades.”
It is estimated that during construction alone, the project will create as many as 16,000 jobs and up to \$2.6 billion in economic output for the region, as well as up to \$1 billion in labor income and potentially \$40 million in tax revenue.

Once completed, the line is estimated to add more than 18,300 rid-

ers to the Metro system every day.

The construction authority was created by the state legislature in 1998 to plan, design and build the Metro Gold Line light rail system from Union Station in Los Angeles to Montclair. The first segment from Union Station to Pasadena was completed in 2003 and the Pasadena to Azusa segment was completed in 2015.

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you a joyful holiday season.

-Senator Connie M. Leyva

Military, service personnel admitted free to LA Open LPGA tourney in April

Military and service personnel along with their families will be admitted free in April to the Hugel-Air Premia LA Open, described by promoters as a world-class women's professional golf event.

The LPGA tournament is scheduled for April 20 through April 26 at the Wilshire Country

Club in Los Angeles.

A special hospitality area will be provided for all military and service personnel who will enjoy great golf views, comfortable seating and complimentary food and water.

Military identification is required and family members must be accompanied by service personnel.

Included are veterans, firefighters, police and EMS, retired or still active.

Promoters also are looking for volunteers. To register, visit www.la-open.com/volunteer. Cost of the volunteer package is \$55.

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21ST ANNUAL HOSPITAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, Santa and Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center President and CEO Rich Yochum teamed up this month to throw the switch at the hospital's 21st annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony, lighting the tree atop the hospital's main six-floor tower. Included before the tree lighting were photos of the kids with Santa, cookies, candy canes, hot coffee, cider and cocoa and more. Visitors signed holiday cards for patients in the hospital as Pomona's Garey High School Symphonic Band performed holiday tunes.

Officials flipped the switch to light up the tree again this year at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. The tree will light up the sky above Pomona every night through the holidays. New this year -- count the light bulbs in the tree and e-mail your answer to La Nueva Voz with a special prize for whoever comes closest.

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KWANZAA WEEK IN POMONA -- Members of the Pomona City Council last week proclaimed the week of Dec. 26 through Jan. 1 as "Kwanzaa" in Pomona, calling on residents to celebrate the holiday and reflect on its seven principles promoting "unity within the family and community, self-awareness, faith and responsibility to the future of our people and our culture." Kwanzaa provides an opportunity for people of African heritage, regardless of religious background, to come together and show reverence for their Creator, to commemorate the past and to recommit to high ideals. Pictured, from left, with members of the Pomona City Council are Jonathan Hall, of J & D Food Company in Costa Mesa, community volunteer Chara Swodeck, and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. Hall and Swodeck are producing a Kwanzaa Joy Celebration, scheduled for Dec. 29 at The Farm at Fairplex. For more information for vendors, marketing opportunities and sponsorships, visit the web site at kwanzaajoy.com/kwanzaa-joy-celebration/. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.



WELCOMING NEW FOOD BANK TO POMONA -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon last month to officially open the new headquarters location of God Provides Ministry, Inc., which operates Pomona Valley Food Bank, described as a Native American food bank. Director Alan Espinoza, who said the food bank has operated in South El Monte for the past 26 years, explained his organization is not the type where families line up for food but, instead, actually provides food at discounted prices to those non-profit give-away organizations. And Espinoza, who is a pastor in the faith-based operation, means business -- he said his full-time food bank handles 10 to 14 million pounds of food each year now and hopes to get up to 20 million pounds. In addition, he has signed a five-year lease in Pomona, and he is negotiating an additional five-year option, so he plans to be around for a while. "I think it's going to be a huge benefit to organizations and also institutions and local churches and pantries for the community," he added. The food bank serves groups regionally, nationally and even internationally, selling at discounted rates and sometimes giving the food away -- all without government funding. And, since he said they are working at a "blessing level," they ask for a blessing in the form of contributions from businesses and corporations. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Alan Espinoza, his wife Bell Espinoza, who serves as president of Pomona Valley Food Bank, their daughter Kathy, and chamber ambassadors Roberto Arnold, of Alpha Prime Logistics consulting, Jo Ann Camelat, of Kaleo Real Estate in La Verne, Leo Arredondo, owner of Pomona's Upper Cuts Barber Shop, and Milton Drake, of Proactive Work Health Services in Pomona. The facility is located at 284 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.



DISHING OUT THE DEVILED EGGS -- Mary Edgington, president of the American Legion Post 30 Auxiliary and one of the bartenders at the post, prepares the deviled eggs for the annual American Legion Thanksgiving feast.



THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE LEGION -- Bob Radcliff, second vice commander at Pomona's American Legion Post 30 and one of La Nueva Voz' favorite veterans, carves the turkey in preparation for the post's annual Thanksgiving dinner. Members provide a free turkey dinner every year for special guests and any military veteran who wants to come.



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NEW 'UNHIP HIPPIE BOUTIQUE' -- Finally! Now we're talking about an era that La Nueva Voz knows something about! And if you want to have a look at a very cute shop in Downtown Pomona, we encourage you to stop in and take a look. Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting this month for the Unhip Hippie Boutique. And the clothes and accessories really looked like they were right out of the 1960s (if you weren't around then, give us a call and we'll tell you about it some time.) Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Michael Thomas, of Pomona Valley America's Job Center of California, Daniel Enz, representing Congresswoman Norma Torres, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Chamber Ambassador Jo Ann Camelat of Kaleo Real Estate in La Verne, Chamber Executive Board member Jeff Keating of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences, Unhip Hippie owner Lorena Renero, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Lorena's husband Erick Renero and their kids, and Chamber Ambassador Milton Drake, of Proactive Work Health Services in Pomona. The shop is located at 147 E. 2nd St., (909) 622-0220 or (626) 678-6732 or info@unhiphippie.com. You can visit the web site at www.unhiphippie.com.



The youth and children's group at Prince of Peace Church donated and distributed food bags last month to children and their families at Rose Villa Mobile Home Park in Pomona. This would not have taken place without the support from community members and representatives of Chaffey High School in Ontario who donated 15 turkeys. Children at the mobilehome park enjoyed a night of fun activities that included a Thanksgiving dinner, music and games thanks to the generosity of church members who were available to help. Prince of Peace Church is located at 895 E. 7th St., Pomona.

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A lighted train atop Pomona City Hall was one of City Manager Linda Lowry's favorite displays at the tree-lighting ceremony this month.

After an official "count down" for the technical crew, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval -- accompanied by members of the Pomona City Council -- orders the city's Christmas tree and holiday lights turned on for the season during a break in a council meeting this month.



**Free Lyft rides...
from pg. 8**

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Eligible trips take place during transit operation hours of 3:30 a.m. to midnight.

Latest book in ‘African American Warrant Officer’ series available for purchase

The book “African American Women Warrant Officers – The New Trailblazers,” the latest book in the African American Warrant Officer series by Pomona author, historian and veteran Farrell Chiles, is now available at Booklocker.com.

Autographed copies are avail-



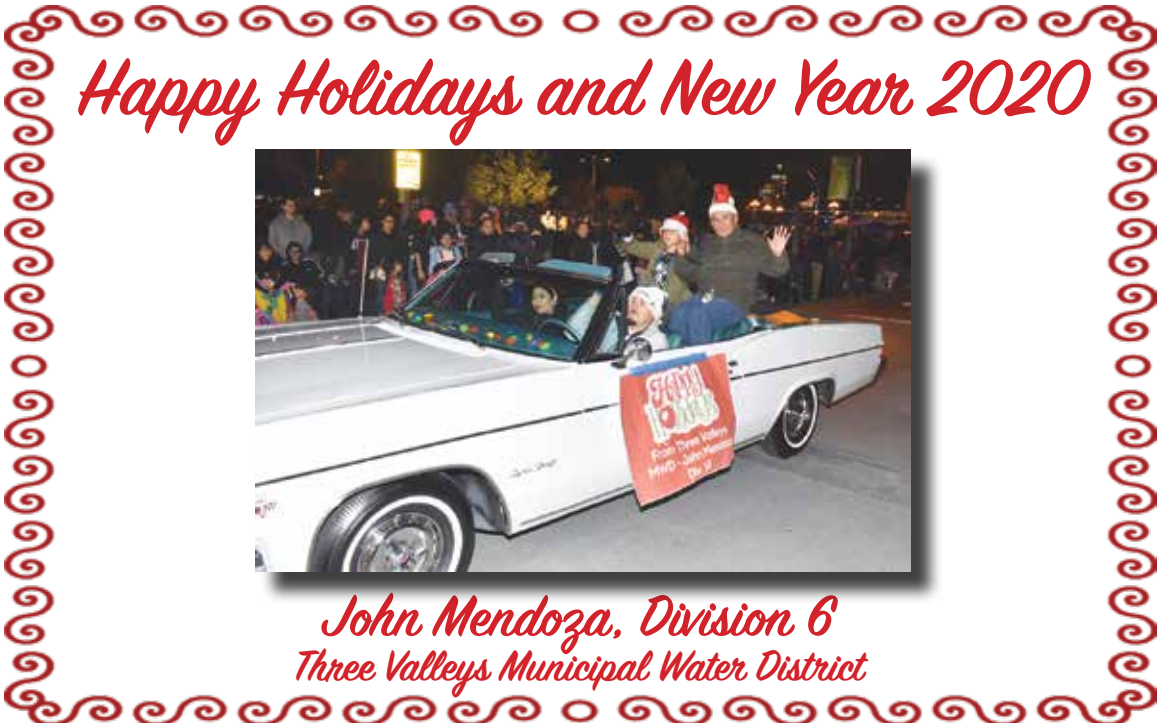
Photo by Renee Barbee
Hard at work in the Holiday at the Plaza before the parade, as always, were Santa and Mrs. Claus (community volunteers John Schmidt and Darlene Duenas) and, of course, a few elves just to help out.



Eva Thiel-Maiz, a caseworker for Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis assigned to the Pomona field office, waves to the crowd as her classic car drives down Second Street in the Pomona Christmas Parade. The car carried representatives of the supervisor’s staff. Merry Christmas, Supervisor Solis and staff!



Members of the Mt. San Antonio College Board of Trustees came out as always to ride in the Pomona Christmas Parade. Pictured, from left, are Laura Santos (at the wheel), Rosanne Bader and Manuel Baca.



Happy Holidays and New Year 2020



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EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT -- Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Patrick Fraser and Fire Fighter Paramedic Franklin Kaihewalu were honored for their service to the Pomona community at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon. Pictured is Fraser. Kaihewalu was unable to attend the event.



POMONA POLICE DETECTIVES HONORED -- Pomona Police Detectives Daniel Watkins and Joseph Dolgovin were honored at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Holiday for Heroes" event for their work in the department's major crimes unit in gang violence suppression and homicide investigation. Pictured, from left, are Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Watkins, Chamber Board Chairman Dr. Enrique Medina, Dolgovin, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, and Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Victor Preciado.

SITTING ON SANTA'S KNEE -- Jeff Schenkel and Renee Barbee take an opportunity to sit on Santa's knee and get their Christmas lists all taken care of at this month's Pomona Chamber "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon. Pictured, from left, are Barbee, Santa (State Farm agent John Forbing) and Schenkel. (Hey, gotta take an opportunity when you can, right?)



HONORING ONE OF THE CHAMBER'S VETERANS -- U.S. Army Sgt. Roberto Arnold, founder of Alpha Prime Consulting, a firm that helps small businesses develop, was honored for his military service at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon. Arnold served in the military for more than 15 years including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Pictured, from left, are Frank Montes of Fontana, who introduced Arnold; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, and Arnold. Montes is the past president of the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

KICKING OFF CHAMBER'S 'HOLIDAY FOR HEROES' LUNCHEON -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Dr. Enrique Medina, head of the Pomona Unified School District adult school, welcomes about 200 chamber members and guests this month to the annual "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon honoring Pomona's public safety officers and military veterans. The event was held at Fuego Cocina Y Cantina in Downtown Pomona.



They might not have known how when they got there but these kids were experts on decorating Christmas cookies by the time they left the plaza in the Pomona Civic Center where volunteers were helping out with crafts for the kids during the annual Santa Cop program this month.



Pomona volunteer Virginia Madrigal, center, who has participated in the Santa Cop and related programs for a very long time (is it OK to say that, Virginia?), poses for the La Nueva Voz camera with two friends also working the registration desk at the event.



Three happy gift recipients show off their new Christmas presents as the photographer snaps their picture with Santa in the lobby of City Hall during this month's annual Santa Cop gift give-away.



Donated gifts were starting to fill up the back of a Pomona Police Department SWAT vehicle during this month's second annual "fill a cruiser" event in Pomona's Target shopping center -- including, of course, two gifts that Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz just had to buy in Target so she could stuff something in the back of the truck. Pictured, from left, are Corporal Ernesto Rios of the police department's crime prevention unit, Crime Prevention Specialist Norma Macy, and Barbee.



SO THIS IS HOW IT WORKS! -- Four Pomona kids had it all figured out at this month's annual Pomona Police Department Santa Cop 2019. Pictured with the kids after walking them around to make their gift selections is Pomona Police Officer Cynthia Jimenez. Among those spotted at the event were Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Nora Garcia and Victor Preciado.

We're not sure, but it looks like Corporal Ernesto Rios, head of the Pomona Police Department's crime prevention unit, might be discussing the structural integrity of the roof at Pomona City Hall, particularly as it relates to possible issues involving having Santa, a fully loaded sleigh, a team of reindeer, etc., landing on top.

The conversation occurred as kids and their parents from throughout Pomona visited City Hall this month for the annual Santa Cop program. Businesses, organizations and individuals each year contribute presents or provide financial support to provide holiday gifts for all. Collection boxes were placed in participating businesses again this year and police officers conducted their second annual "fill a cruiser" gift collection in the Target shopping center. Volunteers from the community and the police department staff the actual give-away to make sure everybody goes away with an age-appropriate gift, along with a donut or two from Krispy Kreme and a piece of pizza from Pomona Pizza Company.

