



Winner of Nineteen LA Press Club Awards from 2012-2021.

Help Turkey and Syria Earthquake Victims

Syrian American Medical Society Foundation

sams-usa.net

Center for Disaster Philanthropy

disasterphilanthropy.org

Plan International Inc.

plan-international.org

Direct Relief

directrelief.org

Serving Cerritos and ten other surrounding communities • March 10, 2023 • Vol. 37, No. 1 • LOSCERRITOSNEWS.NET

## Metro Lawyers Slam Cerritos' Lawsuit to Delay the Light Rail from Artesia to Downtown L.A.

By Brian Hews

A public records request by Los Cerritos Community News in January of this year revealed that Cerritos Mayor pro tem Bruce Barrows, who was appointed and not elected, was the catalyst behind a lawsuit filed by Cerritos against Metro that would unnecessarily delay the construction of the much-needed West Santa Ana Branch Light Rail Line (WSAB) that will run from Artesia to Union Station.

Barrows and Cerritos alleged a California Public Records Act violation due to Metro's non-response for documents related

to the construction of Cerritos' preferred underground "cut and cover" station.

It was yet another contemptible maneuver by Barrows directed at the WSAB; when he was mayor of Cerritos a few years ago, he suddenly pulled the city from the Eco-Rapid Transit Joint Powers Authority, a twelve-city member JPA that works in concert with Metro to build the WSAB, with all twelve cities on the proposed rail line. Barrows also told the JPA they could not build a station in Cerritos.

When Barrows, who has never owned a business, was

[See METRO page 1]



## ABC EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE \$61,359 IN GRANTS.

**FUNDING** a record \$61,359 in mini-grants to support classrooms and programs across ABCUSD. Pictured here is the team from Carmenita MS accepting \$10,000 to fund the school's production and managerial arts Career Technical Education pathway with members of the Foundation's board.

## L.A. County Housing Services Offers \$40k in Grants to Build ADU's

By Fatima Drrani

Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles County, a nonprofit 'community,' announced it is awarding \$40,000 grants to families who want to build Accessory Dwelling Units.

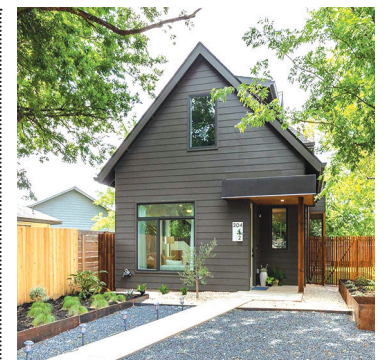
NHS is partnering with CalHFA to create a rehabilitation program to allow southern California families affordable financing options for ADUs and home improvements.

ADU is a legal term for a

secondary house or apartment that shares the building lot of a larger primary home. The unit cannot be bought or sold separately, but they are often used to provide additional income through rent or to house a family member. For example, an elderly parent could live in a small unit and avoid having to move to an assisted living facility.

To access the ADU grant funds, CalHFA requires borrower information, proof of income, property information and addi-

[See DWELLING page 8]



NHS is partnering with CalHFA to allow southern California families affordable financing options for ADUs and home improvements.

## Cerritos Council Discusses Accessibility, Residents Concerned About Gold's Gym Opening

Implemented in 2022, the program has been developing accessibility for disabled people with the goal of creating open space recreation facilities.

By Fatima Durrani

The Cerritos City Council held its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23 where they discussed its ongoing plans to implement resources to remove barriers for those with disabilities along with ongoing low-income housing plans.

Implemented in 2022, the program has been developing accessibility for disabled people with the goal of creating open space recreation facilities. More than 69,000 square feet of rubberized surface materials have been installed in 17 city parks to give disabled people playground access.

Safety protocols have also been an ongoing development by the city. Partnering with the ABCUSD, the city has provided students with protocols such as active shooting drills, 26 more crossing guards and programs on crime towards the youth with the help of the Cerritos Sheriff's Department.

At public comment, Cerritos residents expressed concern regarding their negative experiences in the city and how, even though people have complained, the city council hasn't taken action.

Jerry Jenson, a Cerritos resident for more than 50 years, expressed his concern for existing tenants and access to parking for

customers regarding the opening of Gold's Gym inside the South Street Plaza at South St. and Carmenita in Cerritos. Jenson said he doesn't know how current businesses will survive with this.

"Small businesses are just as important as large ones to our community and city," Jenson

[See CERRITOS page 9]

## Vietnam Veterans 'Wall That Heals' Exhibit Coming to Hawaiian Gardens

By Brian Hews

A 75-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC will be coming to Hawaiian Gardens and Fedde Middle School March 23-26, 2023.

The Wall That Heals consists of two components; The Wall replica and a mobile Education Center.

"The memorial wall is a

somber reminder. Each name on the wall represents the ultimate sacrifice of the men and women who did what our country asked of them," said Mayor Teresa Del Rio. "There is a saying that a man does not die until he is forgotten. The Vietnam Memorial Wall That Heals is a monument to ensure we will never forget."

The wall was unveiled in 1996, since then, The Wall That Heals has been displayed at near-

ly 700 communities throughout the nation.

Students from across the ABC Unified School District will visit The Wall, learning more about this significant time in our nation's history. The Wall provides an extracurricular opportunity for students who are in history classes.

"I'm so glad to see The Wall here in our school district," said Board of Education President

Brad Beach. "The Wall is more than a memorial, but a reminder of the high cost of war, while paying homage to the brave men and women who gave their finest measure of courage."

The Wall That Heals exhibit was on the road for more than 13,000 miles and visited 26 communities from coast to coast during its 2021 season.

The Wall was escorted by

[See WALL page 11]



**THE SEMI-TRUCK** that carries the Wall That Heals Education Center coming to Hawaiian Gardens in March 2023. It is a huge honor for the city; the 2023 exhibit will visit only 32 cities in the United States.