

June 3, 2022

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<b>JUNE 12</b>	— MI BANDA EL MEXICANO DE CASIMIRO ZAMUDIO

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## Businesses, residents, church honored by city council

By Allen Payton

At the beginning of the Los Banos City Council meeting, on Wednesday, June 1 the mayor and council honored and recognized several individuals, State Farm and Bethel Community Church by approving proclamations and certifications of recognition.

"This is one of the best parts of my job," Faria said as he stepped away from the dais to make the presentations.

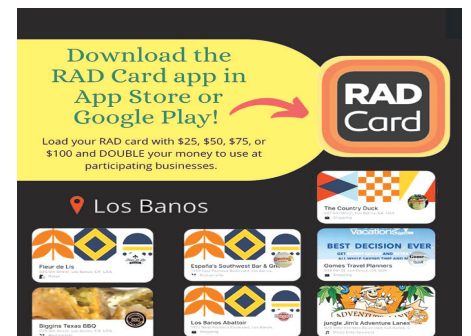
A "Proclamation Recognizing State Farm Day for the company celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2022 and Joe Gutierrez, a State Farm Agent in Los Banos since 1988 was presented to Gutierrez.

Another "Proclamation Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Golden Valley Health Centers" was presented

by the mayor.

Certificates of Recognition were presented to "Jeri Blevins for Being Named as an Outstanding Volunteer by the Merced County Board of Supervisors" and "Bethel Community Church for Being Named as an Outstanding Volunteer Organization by Merced County Board of Supervisors.

Following the presentations, County Supervisor Scott Silveira spoke about those who were honored by the supervisors and during the council meeting. He recognized, "Pastor Hammond at Bethel Community Church for their work during the pandemic. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors I want to congratulate them."




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## Soroptimist Club awards scholarships to Pacheco High grad

By Los Banos Soroptimist Club

Abigail, President of our S club at Pacheco High was awarded many scholarships which will help her as she goes to college to study in the medical field. Our Los Banos Soroptimist club sponsors the S club at Pacheco high and we wish Abigail a very bright future ahead.

Pictured with Abigail is Hillary Conway, our wonderful S club school advisor. Our club S club advisor, Deborah Todd was out of town that evening.

For more information about Soroptimist International of Los Banos 117212 Chartered 1962 call (209) 617-9624 or visit <http://losbanosoroptimist.com/>

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From left to right, Commander Justin Melden, Sergeant Juan Soriano, Chief Gary Brizze and Officer Vincenzo Greco and his guest. Photo: LBPB

## Vincenzo Greco is 2022 Los Banos Police Officer of the Year

By Allen Payton

Vincenzo Greco was honored by the Los Banos City Council during their meeting, Wednesday night, June 1 for being named the 2022 Los Banos Police Officer of the Year.

A certificate was presented to him by Mayor Tom Farias, "In recognition of your enforcement proactivity, and genuine drive to remain engaged with our community and for being named as 2022 Officer of the Year by the Los Banos Police Department."

Greco, along with 11 other officers from throughout the county, was honored during the annual Merced County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards ceremony and banquet at the Merced Elks Lodge on May 4, 2022.

According to a May 5 post on the department's Facebook page, "Officer

Greco is a proud Los Banos graduate of LBHS and after obtaining his Associates Degree he attended the Fresno Police Academy (Class 159). Officer Greco is currently attending Stanislaus State University working toward completing his Bachelor of Science Degree."

The department also shared that Greco "has made a big impact in Los Banos already in his young career" and he is "not only extremely proactive with his enforcement activities, he balances it out with genuine drive to remain engaged with our community. Officer Greco is one of our Police Explorer mentors and has worked tirelessly on recruiting efforts for LBPB. We are proud of Vinny and look forward to his bright future with LBPB!"

## Elizabeth Martinez is the Los Banos Police Department's 2021 Dispatcher of the Year

By Allen Payton

During a ceremony on May 26 at the Merced Elks Lodge, Elizabeth Martinez was honored as the Los Banos Police Department's 2021 Dispatcher of the Year.

According to a post on the department's Facebook page that day, "LBPB celebrates Elizabeth Martinez, our 2021 Dispatcher of the Year! LBPB staff along with agencies from Merced County joined together today to honor the 2021 Dispatcher of the Year recipients."

Elizabeth Martinez has been with the Department since 2018 and during her time has made a great impact in the Communications Center. She is one of our dedicated Dispatchers that answers 9-1-1 emergency calls, business lines, dispatches Police and Fire units, and completes timely entries into state databases. Elizabeth is well deserving of this recognition as she is one of our training officers, participates in several community



2021 Dispatcher of the Year Elizabeth Martinez with her plaque. Photo: LBPB

events, and is always willing to pitch in to help the Department and the community."

"Congratulations and thank you for your service!" the department added.

## New Los Banos Police Station Under Construction



Aerial view rendering of new Los Banos Police station. Source: LBPB

By Allen Payton

Following a ceremonial ground breaking on Thursday, May 19, 2022, the new Los Banos Police station is now under construction with completion expected next year.

On May 18 the Los Banos Police Department posted on their Facebook page about the new police station, "We at LBPB cannot express our excitement and appreciation for this project...we love our current home and have countless memories here, but it is time to move to a state of the art facility worthy of serving the residents of our community!"

"Look for a grand opening event next year!" they added.



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# Avoid contact with water at San Luis Reservoir due to blue-green algae bloom



A drone view of San Luis Reservoir on August 10, 2021. Source: DWR

By Maggie Macias, Information Officer, Department of Water

## Boating, fishing allowed but no swimming, don't let pets drink the water

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is urging the public to avoid contact with water at San Luis Reservoir in Merced County until further notice due to blue-green algae (cyanobacteria).

Boating is allowed, but swimming and other water-contact recreation and sporting activities are not considered safe due to potential adverse health effects. For more information on warning level advisories, go to Harmful Algal Bloom website under Advisory Signs at water.

ca.gov/What-We-Do/Recreation/Algal-Blooms.

Advisories are based on the potential health risks from algae. Exposure to toxic blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, can cause eye irritation, allergic skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold- and flu-like symptoms.

Pets can be especially susceptible because they tend to drink while in the water and lick their fur afterwards. Keep pets away from the water.

Bloom conditions can change rapidly, and wind and waves may move or concentrate the bloom into different regions of the reservoir.

The algal bloom can accumulate into mats, scum, or form foam at the surface and along the shoreline, and range in

color from blue, green, white, or brown.

State guidelines on cyanobacteria and harmful algal blooms recommend the following precautions be taken in waters impacted by blue-green algae:

- Do not let pets and livestock drink the water, swim through algal blooms, scum, or mats, or lick their fur after going in the water. Rinse pets in clean water to remove algae from fur.

- Avoid wading, swimming, or jet or water skiing in water containing algae blooms, scum, or mats.

- Do not drink, cook, or wash dishes with untreated surface water from these areas under any

circumstances. Common water purification techniques such as camping filters, tablets, and boiling do not remove toxins.

- Do not eat shellfish from this water. For fish caught here, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking.

- Get medical treatment immediately if you think that you, a family member, friend, pet, or livestock might have been poisoned by blue-green algae toxins. Be sure to alert medical professionals to the possible contact with blue-green algae. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.

**WARNING**

**Toxins from algae in this water can harm people and kill animals**

 <b>No swimming.</b>	 <b>Do not</b> let pets or other animals go into or drink the water, or go near the scum.
 <b>Stay away</b> from scum, and cloudy or discolored water.	 <b>Do not</b> eat shellfish from this water.
 <b>Do not</b> use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.	 For fish caught here, <b>throw away guts and clean fillets</b> with tap water or bottled water before cooking.

**For people, the toxins can cause:**

- Skin rashes, eye irritation
- Diarrhea, vomiting

**For animals, the toxins can cause:**

- Diarrhea, vomiting
- Convulsions and death

**Call your doctor or veterinarian** if you or your pet get sick after going in the water.  
 For more information on harmful algae, go to <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html>  
**For local information, contact:**

## Council approves 5% and 10% increases to Landscape & Lighting District Assessments

By Allen D. Payton

During their meeting Wednesday, June 1, the Los Banos City Council unanimously voted to increase the annual Landscape & Lighting District Assessments for two districts by 5% and the other 16 districts by 10%.

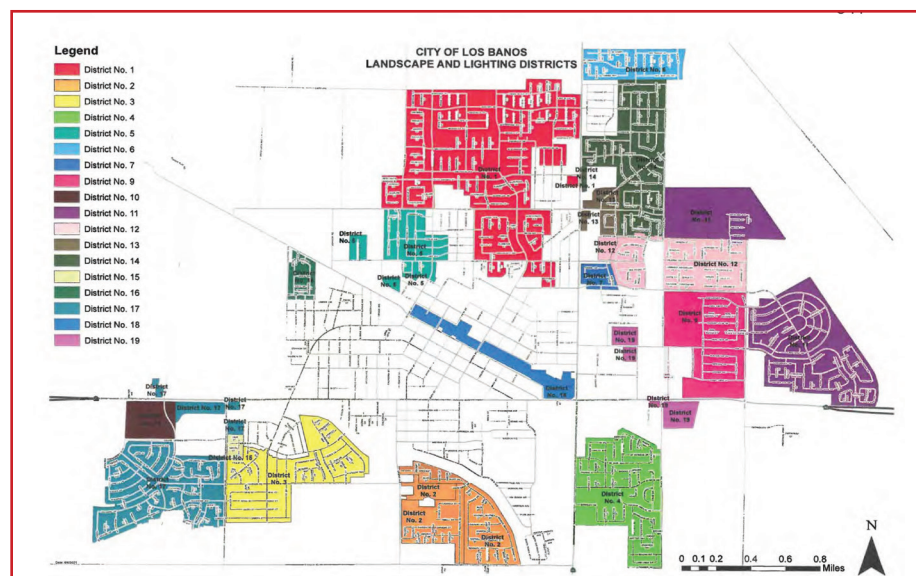
According to the staff report the City currently administers 18 Landscaping and Lighting Districts which provides for the maintenance of certain improvements within each

of the districts. The fiscal health of the districts has continually improved over the last 12 years. Fifteen districts maintained a negative fund balance in FY 2009-2010.

However, the ending balance for FY 2022-2023 is estimated to have only two districts with a negative fund balance. This transformation affords staff the ability to plan and schedule the repair and replacement of the infrastructure in the parks and rights-of-way.

Due to existing deficits and/or planned capital improvements, Districts 11 a, 11 b, 11 c, and 12 were increased the maximum 5%, and Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17a, 17c, 18 and 19 were increased by the maximum of 10%.

No member of the public spoke on the item. Without council discussion, District 4 Councilmember Deborah Lewis moved to approve the assessments, District 3 Councilmember Brett Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.



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## Council, from p. 1

Measure H funding,” Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Joe Heim responded.

The annual budget is expected to be adopted following a public hearing at the council’s meeting on June 15, before the new fiscal year begins July 1.

Council Adopts Military Equipment Use Policy

Following a second presentation by Police Operations Commander Justin Melden, the council adopted a Military Equipment Use policy in response to AB 481 which was signed into law, last year. The first presentation was at the meeting on May 18. The council was required to adopt the policy, “prior to the law enforcement agency funding, acquiring, or using military equipment,” according to the staff report.

“Every law enforcement agency in the state of California is required to present on this topic,” Melden stated. “More than anything, this presentation is to meet a new legal requirement to continue the use of equipment we’ve been using, in some cases, for decades.”

Without anyone speaking during the public hearing on the item or discussion by council, District 4 Councilmember Deborah Lewis moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Llamas and it passed unanimously.

“Very good. We need that equipment. Fighting crime, it really is a war, and you really have to be equipped to fight because some of them, they are very well equipped, themselves,” Mayor Tom Faria added.

Approve \$25,000 to Cover Costs of November City Elections

As part of the Consent Calendar, the council adopted of a resolution calling and giving notice of the November 8, 2022 City of Los Banos Municipal Election and approved spending \$25,000 to cover the costs.

The positions up for election this fall will be:

Mayor “at-large” for a full term of two years, Council Member for District 2 for a full term of four years, Council Member for District 3 for a full term of four years, City Clerk “at-large” for a full term of four years; and City Treasurer “at-large” for a full term of four years.



The Quail Meadows at Stonecreek V subdivision will be located south of W. Pacheco Blvd. and west of Dock Avenue.  
Source: City of Los Banos

## Council approves development agreement for 271 more homes

By Allen D. Payton

During their meeting on June 1, the city council approved a Development Agreement with Anderson Homes for approximately 271 single-family detached residential lots on 70.5 acres. The project is located south of W. Pacheco Boulevard, west of Dock Avenue, and east of the city limit line.

According to the staff report, on May 18, 2022, the council approved the Final Development Plan #2021-01 for Quail Meadows at Stonecreek V.

No member of the public spoke during the public hearing, nor were there discussion or questions by council. District 3 Councilmember Brett Jones moved to approve the development agreement, it was seconded by District 4 Councilmember Deborah Lewis, and the motion passed unanimously.



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