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September 30, 2022

Farm to Table 2022: A night of fun, farming and community

By Brooke Lopez, Reporter

The weather was nearly perfect on the evening of Thursday, September 22nd, when the Los Banos Downtown Association (LBDA) held their annual Farm to Table dinner and auction. Overlooking downtown Los Banos, around 200 people gathered at the Henry Miller Plaza to celebrate our downtown community, farmers, agriculture - and the 2022 Agricultural Leader of the Year, Mr. Patrick "Pat" Gallichio.

According to City Councilman, and one of LBDA's Board of Directors, Brett Jones, "The Farm to Table event helps support our city in two ways. First, it brings community members together to recognize and support prominent farmers that have made a direct impact on our community. Second, a fund-raising event like Farm to Table helps

provide much needed support for operations, planning and economic development for our downtown."

Jones went on to say, "The question that I get asked from time to time is, 'Why are downtowns so important?' It's simple, downtowns are the heartbeat of any city, and a thriving downtown means we have a strong economy throughout our community."

It was a sold-out event, according to Farm to Table committee members, Penny Glick, and Valerie Stapleton.

"We sold out within the first month. We were still receiving phone calls right before the event," Stapleton said.

The evening was filled with organizational support, a community musician and local catering. FFA students from Pacheco and Los Banos High School served the delicious, three

course meal that was prepared by In Good Taste Catering Co./ Bernie Medeiros.

Live entertainment was provided by guitarist and singer, Scotty Rich. Both live and silent auctions were led by Supervisor Scott Silveira. Auction items included: honey baskets, donated by Gene and Christine Brandi; metal rooster, donated by Christine Kinsley; prime rib roast, donated by Los Banos Abattoir Co.; The Famous German Chocolate Cake, donated by Carolyn Butts and a child's tractor, donated by David Santos. Sipsy's Handcrafted Bevs on Wheels provided beverages.

The highlights of the evening included a \$1000 donation from LBDA to both Los Banos High School FFA and Pacheco High School FFA and celebrating Patrick Gallichio as he was awarded Agricultural Leader of the



Pat and Tara Gallichio celebrate into the night—Photo by Brooke Lopez

year.

After a heartfelt introduction from Paul Parreira, and a compelling speech by Gallichio, in which he honored the community, his fellow farmers, co-workers, employees, his

See FARM p.6

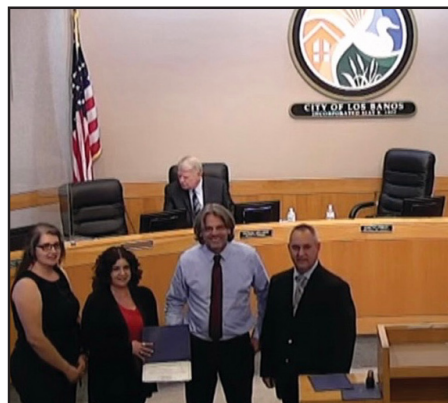
Los Banos council considers new locations for homeless encampment

By Justin Collins, Reporter

During their regular meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, the Los Banos City Council approved budget items totaling almost \$2.2 million and heard a presentation from Police Chief Gary Brizzee on possible new locations for the homeless encampment. Only four council members were in attendance with Mayor Pro Tem Kenneth Lambert leading the meeting, following the resignation of former Mayor Tom Faria. During City Council Member Reports toward the end of the meeting, District 3 Councilman Brett Jones requested that a discussion, nomination and vote to appoint the next mayor be placed on the October 5th council meeting. As acting mayor, Lambert can place the item on the agenda.

Recognitions

The meeting began with several members of the community being recognized for achievement. The retirements of the city's Administrative Coordinator Mary Lou Gilardi and Fire Captain Roger Hughes were recognized for their service to the city. Police Officer Josiah Mardirosian was recognized as employee of the month for August. The city's finance department staff were recognized for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting



Award winning finance team 8 years in a row.

for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. This is the eighth year in a row that the finance department has won this award. Dutch Bros. Coffee was also recognized for donating part of its proceeds one day to raise money for local recreational sports.

Public Comments

A local resident who lives in the mobile home park near Home Depot, complained about the homeless encampment near the mobile home park. She stated that the homeless started a fire which produced so much smoke that she could not breath and had to spend 3 hours in the E.R. She wrote a poem entitled "Nazi Reign", expressing the sentiment that she believes the city only looks out for the interests of those with money and that people like

See Homeless p.6

Mayor Tom Faria resigns

LLamas supports appointing candidate Llanez to vacant mayor's position

By Allen D. Payton


In a letter to the Los Banos interim city manager on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, Tom Faria resigned his position as mayor. Interim City Manager Greg Wellman issued a press release announcing Faria's resignation. "After nearly 16 years of service to the City of Los Banos (14 years as a City Council Member and 2 years as Mayor), Mayor Manuel Thomas Faria III has submitted his leaving office notice due to the fact that he will no

longer be a resident of Los Banos, effective September 17, 2022," Wellman



Mayor Faria wrote. "Mayor Faria, by his dedication and commitment to his duties and the community of Los Banos, has greatly contributed to the govern-

See Mayor p.4



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Education Code Sections 5090-5095, the Los Banos Unified Board of Education is seeking interested persons from Trustee Area #6 who may wish to be appointed to serve as a member of the Los Banos Unified Board of Education until December 2024.

To be eligible, an applicant must be a registered voter, reside in Trustee Area #6, and not be a Los Banos Unified School District employee. A map of the trustee area will be made available with the application. Trustee area maps are also on the District website at www.losbanosusd.org.

Interested persons can obtain an application form from the Los Banos Unified School District Office located at 1717 So. 11th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635. **The deadline for submitting completed applications is 12:00 noon, Friday Oct 21, 2022.**

LBUSD met all of its financial obligations; The Boys and Girls Club/LEAP collaboration is a success for youth

Joe Barcellos wins Sue Kamiyama Leadership Award By Brooke Lopez, Reporter

On the evening of September 8th, the Los Banos Unified School District Board (LBUSD) met for their monthly meeting. Some highlights included announcement of a new student representative, FFA awards, ribbon cuttings, LEAP/Boys and Girls Club collaboration, and budget updates. A new student representative from Pacheco High, Kathrine Twomey, was introduced. Twomey's report included Pacheco's Annual Freshman Night of Welcome, and the FFA National Convention where "graduates Christopher Jimenez and Joshua Simas will be receiving the prestigious American FFA degree", Twomey stated. During the Los Banos Teachers Association (LBTA) report, Andrea Clarke offered her appreciation to the board members that interviewed with LBTA. Clarke also announced that the

LBTA has endorsed Dayna Valadao for District 7. Superintendent Dr. Mark Marshall's report opened with thanking staff and employees for keeping students safe through the excessive heat waves Los Banos experienced. "I want the public to know that we have very specific protocols in these situations and they were very well executed". During board reports, Board President Anthony Parreira announced Los Banos High School Athletic Director Joe Barcellos was awarded the Sue Kamiyama Leadership Award.

During new business, LEAP reported on their successful collaboration with The Boys and Girls Club. Zach Cruz, the Program Supervisor for LEAP, and See Lee, the CEO of The Boys and Girls Club announced that they are "effectively going to be providing a year-round program." Lee thanked Dr. Marshall and Zach for "bringing this opportunity to the Boys and Girls Club." Lee also

mentioned their three and half week summer reading program that was held. The goal was "to provide additional support to the school system, as well as the community."

Director of Fiscal Services, Alejandra Garibay, reported the LBUSD budget summary. Garibay reported, "LBUSD met all of its financial obligations with the support of one-time federal funds, state funds and the increase in COLA for 2021-22. LBUSD has not fully recovered its enrollment decline; Pension Contributions and Health Benefits continue to increase; Special Education and transportation costs continue to increase each year." The report was then unanimously adopted by the board.

According to the LBUSD website, the next board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

Oktoberfest is Saturday, October 15th

Oktoberfest is the world's largest Volksfest, featuring a beer festival and a carnival and has been an important part of Bavarian culture, having been held since the year 1810. But you don't have to go to Munich, we have one of

our own here in Los Banos. Join us for our Oktoberfest Fund-raiser, when the OLF Parents Club transforms our school campus into a German-inspired beer garden with beer and wine tasting booths and sausage buffet. An always fun and filling night out! Must be 21 or older to attend.
Tickets Now On Sale
Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$75 at

the door. To purchase, contact any OLF family or:
Crystal Guintini, 209-675-4181
Kriston Nunes, 209-678-7930
Sponsorship Opportunities
Oktoberfest is a great event to promote local businesses.
To learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Bo Halpin at 209-761-7614.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Fatima School Campus

Beer and Sausage Tasting

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Tickets
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OLF Parents Club

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Hometown Heroes Honored at Pumpkin Patch Quilt Show

By Alexis E. Abbott, Correspondent

Stitches, seams, and batting...oh my. All these lovely things came together September 10th - September 11th (2022) at the Los Banos Arts Pumpkin Patch Quilt Show. This year was the 14th show and featured anywhere from 100-150 quilts and 20 different vendors as well as a special bed turning event. Members from all around the community showed up to enjoy the raffle, the Quilter's Guild. The event started off with a highlight which was the Hometown Heroes presentation held on Saturday (September 10th) wherein 13 Los Banos Veterans and first responders were honored. Each honoree received a beautiful handmade quilt sewn by a Quilting Guild member along with a reading of their personal history serving our country and community. These special quilts will be on display in front of the Ted Falasco Arts Center. Among the honored were six veterans, and seven first

Fire Captain Roger Hughes, Retired Fire Engineer Frank Minor, CHP Officer Enrique Alvarez, Alan Cotta - US Army, Linda Higby - US Navy, Thomas Higby - US Navy, Craig Higgins - US Navy, Ray McCauley - US Navy and US Air Force, William Winch - US Army. After the Hometown Heroes presentation, the event kicked off. Between women from the St. Joseph Catholic Church Altars Society, who volunteered to run the cafe and cook lunch, and the FFA Students who came to be servers and help with moving tables and chairs, the LBAC Quilting Guild were far from short on help running the event. "It was the most wonderful group of students, both boys and girls. They were professionally dressed in white shirts and black pants. Teachers came on Saturday and Sunday and they had rotating groups of students coming all day long. We hope they come back again. They were so sweet and did such a wonderful job!" - Cathy Between the 200 planned tickets and the actual turnout, the Quilters Guild had lots of friendly faces to talk to. "We had a very nice turnout!" Cathy exclaimed when recalling the event, "Approximately 211 paid guests came on the two days! The vendors were excited and they all did well." While the event was running, there was also a raffle held that included themed baskets: Halloween, Fall, Christmas, garden, and a little purse with gift cards. After expenses, the event brought in almost \$5,900 to go towards the quilters guild with \$1,740 coming from the tickets purchased for the raffle baskets. Event attendees could also purchase locally grown, fresh pumpkins that were acquired from Fagundes Farms in Los Banos. The variety of beautiful pumpkins really helped set the mood for the Fall season that is rapidly approaching. "This was a wonderful community event!

We are fortunate that we are supported by so many members of the community and that we had such a wonderful turnout of local people. We were pleased with the success of the show." said Cathy.



Former Fire Chief Mason Hurley — Photo by Michael Cosenza

Los Banos Art Council Quilters Guild is an organization that began in the early 1990's and is going strong today in 2022 with 60 members! Membership is \$25/year and includes: Monthly meetings are on the second Monday at 7:00 pm at the Ted Falasco Center for the Arts (1105 5th St, Los Banos, CA 93635). Weekly meetings every Wednesday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Mel Soares Art Studio (1125 5th St.) where members gather to work on their current projects. Guests are always welcome. The ability to be a vendor at quilting shows hosted by the organization. Reach out to the organization at <https://losbanosarts.org/quilt-group> today to join them at the seams with some quilting fun. The next meeting will be held on 10 October 2022.



PAL Director Noah Jones— Photo by Michael Cosenza

responders: Nora Ramirez, Officer/PAL Director Noah Jones, Lt. Commander, Ray Reyna, Retired, Fire Chief Mason Hurley,



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OCTOBER 6TH, 2022

6:00-7:00PM



THE SHAUNESSY VILLAGE SUBDIVISION IS RECEIVING A NEW PARK ON DE ANZA RD. THIS PARK INCLUDES A BASIN SPACE AND ENJOYS ACCESS TO THE COLLEGE GREENS NEIGHBORHOOD.

THE CITY OF LOS BANOS WILL BE COMPLETING DESIGN FOR THE PARK AND WILL BE HOSTING A PUBLIC MEETING ON OCTOBER 6TH, 2022 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER (645 7TH ST.) AT 6:00PM

HELP US BY
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IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND QUESTIONS TO:
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Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month Observed through Oct. 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed annually from September 15 to October 15. It is a time to appreciate and celebrate the colorful cultures, rich histories, and diversity of the American Latino community and contributions of Hispanic-Americans — specifically, those whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Learn more at <https://nationaltoday.com/hispanic-heritage-month/>



NOW is the time to travel the world with Gomes Travel Planners

By Gomes Travel Planners

Traveling the world teaches about the people and what makes us who we are today. Los Banos is a melting pot of the world. Families moved here from Italy, the Basque regions of Spain/ France, Portugal (Azores), Mexico, and many places. These places are an extension of our families. And with many of the restrictions from the pandemic lifted, it is time to start traveling again.

Gomes Travel Planners Dream Vacations has been in business since November 2001, with over 20 years of experience as a Travel Planner. Gomes Travel Planners recently opened a storefront downtown to offer clients a place to visit and plan their dream vacation. With the recent addition of a new group travel consultant, Maria Fagundes Bettis, it was time to encourage fellow travelers to come in and meet other like-minded travelers.



Owner, Margaret Gomes with Laurie Miller and Maria Fagundes Bettis

As an experienced travel professional fluent in Portuguese, Maria brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table.

The first meeting of the Local Los Banos Travel Club kicked off on September 16, 2022, at the old Bank of Los Banos building at 848 6th Street. The guest speaker for the first meeting was Laurie Miller from Collette Tours,

who spoke about the featured destinations of Portugal and the Azores Islands. Gomes Travel Planners thought it would be a great way to highlight the land and its people, with so many who live in our community who have roots from Portugal and the Azores. Laurie gave a presentation on forthcoming trips offered by Gomes Travel Planners and Collette for June

2023. Anyone interested in learning more about the upcoming trips can visit www.GomesTravelPlanners.com website or call (209) 826-2584.

Gomes Travel Planners Dream Vacations will hold another monthly meeting on October 21, 2022, at the Old Bank of Los Banos, 848 6th Street at 1:00 pm. The next meeting will feature the destinations of Alaska and Hawaii. 2023 is going to be the year that the Northern Lights are going to be spectacular! If you have seen the Northern Lights, we invite you to come to share your experience with other fellow travelers. Bring pictures if you have them. The meetings are all about the love of travel, sharing, and enjoying each other company.

Gomes Travel Planners is an independently owned Dream Vacations franchise, a division of CruiseOne, Inc., owned by WTH (World Travel Holdings). SOT CA 2006278-40

Mayor from p.1

mental process of the City of Los Banos and we offer him our sincere gratitude and appreciation for his many years of service.”

In his letter Faria wrote about his time on the council and provided a list of his accomplishments while in office.

“Good afternoon, Mr. Wellman, I am writing to inform you that as of tomorrow, Saturday, September 17, I will no longer be a resident of Los Banos, so I will be unable to hold the office of Mayor. It has been an honor to serve my city for 16 years, first as a council member, and, as for the last two years, as Mayor. My goal was always to make Los Banos the best place possible for families to live and to thrive.” He went

on to recount the various challenges and successes that he as Mayor, The Council and the city faced. “For all my time as councilmember and mayor, we always strived to keep our own money at home, balance our growth, and, through community engagement, to solve our own problems.”

Asked about the resignation at about 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Mayor Pro Tem Ken Lambert said, “I just heard about that 35-to-45 minutes ago from the city manager formally informing me. I called the city attorney to confirm it and he did,” he added. “Once, he’s no longer a resident that means he vacates his seat,” Lambert explained. “I’ll meet with the city manager on Tuesday to get filled in where we go from here.” As acting

mayor, Lambert said he would serve until the new mayor is seated, following the November election. Asked if he would consider appointing Paul Llanez, the only candidate running for mayor, to the position, Lambert said, “I’m going to run that by the city manager and the city attorney when I meet with them on Tuesday. I don’t know if we can appoint if we don’t have enough votes.” An appointment requires the votes of three council members out of the four remaining. Asked if he knows where the mayor moved, Lambert said he doesn’t. “I’ve heard Tracy, Patterson, Chowchilla.” When reached for comment, Llanez said, “I just want to wish Tom the best in his retirement and the next chapter of his life for him and his family.” Asked if he

would be open to being appointed mayor at the first council meeting in October, he said, “If the opportunity presents itself, I would relish the opportunity to get in there early and get to work.”

The next day, District 2 Councilman Refugio Llamas said, “The sooner we can get Mr. Llanez seated the better. Citizens deserve to know the council is working on their behalf and their government is operating. The sooner we can get to the next stage the better for all. We need someone there, right away. Any pressing issues like public safety, fire, water, these are all long-term issues which must be addressed in order to ensure the well-being of our citizens.”

Asked about hiring a permanent city **See Mayor p.6**

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2:00 pm - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION
2:15 - FOOD & DRINK & ARTS & CRAFT DEMOS!

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Pacheco Panthers take the win on Friday night lights 29-23

By Michael Cosenza, Sports Reporter

Pacheco hosted the Lathrop Spartans on Friday, September 23rd. The game was a back and forth contest, as on the first kickoff of the game the Spartans took it to the house for the first touchdown. The Panthers responded on the very next drive with a touchdown by Abel Bravo tying the game at 7-7. By halftime it was 17-14 with Pacheco missing a field goal with only minutes left to have a potentially tied game. The Panthers came

out strong in the second half finishing the game, 29-23. Another solid performance by a Pacheco team who seem to give no excuses to clutch the wins. Bravo once again led the team in total yards and a touchdown added by number 15, Abraham Fernandez. Pacheco is on a nice two game winning streak with a 3-2 record. Let's see if the Panthers can secure the win at home against Davis on September 30th (tonight) at 7pm and advance their record 4-2.



Daniel Scott with a touchdown —Photo by Michael Cosenza

Tigers, Panthers Volleyball Crosstown Rivalry Heats Up

By Grant Jones, Sports Reporter

On Thursday, September 22nd, the Los Banos Tigers and Pacheco Panthers Girls Varsity Volleyball teams played their first matchup of the season. The Crosstown Clash took place at Pacheco High, and resulted in a 3-0 win for the Panthers. The Tigers were unable to hold up through either of the 3 sets as the Panthers held a lead, dominating on the court. The game began with a quick blowout set. Pacheco played very well, not allowing LB to compete. Pacheco held the lead, with LB unable to dig themselves out of the hole. The set ended with a Pacheco win, 25-8. Tigers came out in set 2 with a quick 9-3 lead, off to a hot start with valuable volleys. Tigers energy is visibly better through this set, with the lead continuing to 15-11. Then Pacheco comes in strong, closes the gap, the score goes to 17-17. This trend continues, and the second set ends with a Panther win, 25-20. Pacheco continued to dominate, with a quick 13-4 lead in the

final set. Tigers attempts for a comeback were pounced by Panthers. The third set ends it 25-9, a win for Pacheco. The Pacheco Panthers are sporting a great 9-5 record

Kameryn Cortinas. All three players had outstanding performances in Thursday's game, leading their team to the win. The Panthers are looking to continue this great gameplay throughout the rest of the season and into the playoffs.



Pacheco vs Tigers volleyball match. The third set ended it 25-9, a win for Pacheco. Photo by Grant Jones

Across town, the Los Banos Tigers have had a slow start, with a 4-8 record. With 7 games left in the regular season, one of which being a rematch against their crosstown rival, the Tigers have plenty of time to turn their season and record around. The team is led by captains Emma Baker and Camila Curutchague, both in their senior season. They've led their team well, and can definitely lead them to more victories as we've seen in past seasons.

The rematch for this season's Crosstown Clash is set to take place on October 18th, this time in Tiger territory.

The question is, will the Pacheco Panthers be victorious again, or will the Los Banos Tigers come back for vengeance?

through this point in the season. The team is fueled by leadership from seniors Abi Pikas, Es'ence Walker, and

be victorious again, or will the Los Banos Tigers come back for vengeance?




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Dinner at 7pm
Live Silent Auction at 8pm
No host Bar

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Thank you for your support!

Catering provided by Badass Catering and Cali-Q BBQ





New buildings in Los Banos to house medical and dental offices, restaurants

By Allen D. Payton

According to City of Los Banos Community and Economic Development Director Stacy Souza-Elms, development will be occurring in the future on the northeast corner of E. Pacheco Blvd. and Ward Road. It will consist of a two-story medical-dental office building operated by Camarena Health and a 12-pump gasoline service station with convenience market and attached drive-thru window, and a dog park developed by

Legacy Realty Development. Another building will house a new location for Rare Earth Coffee, plus a Day & Night Markets convenience store and a Cali Chix restaurant. Asked when they expect to open, Trevor Beal, Vice President for Clovis-based Beal Properties, Inc. which owns all three brands said, "we're going through the permitting process, now. Hopefully, I would love to say, next summer but probably next fall."

About the three businesses he

shared, "We have our convenience store, Day & Night Market going there, plus, Cali Chix, a new fried chicken-style restaurant." "My dad and I started Rare Earth Coffee in 2014. We've been in the convenience store markets for decades," he continued. "We own the Johnny Quik Food Stores in Fresno and the Central Valley. Day & Night Markets is a new name." "Cali Chix is brand new. The first one will open in Lemoore in about another 60 days," Beal added.

In addition, Souza-Elms shared the site plan for a new Ono Hawaiian BBQ location has been approved for the Stonecreek Plaza on W. Pacheco Blvd., where the Target shopping Center and AAA Auto Insurance are located. This location will have a drive thru to take orders and an outdoor patio. In addition to the restaurant, the developer of the building has proposed a second commercial structure, but a tenant has not been identified at this time.

FARM from p.1

daughter and his beautiful wife, Tara, a few more words were captured from the honored guest, "It's humbling - I didn't expect it! I don't wanna think I'm the best farmer," Gallichio humbly replied when asked how he felt about winning farmer of the year. When asked what words of wisdom he had for future farmers he said, "Have a passion for what you wanna do and remember that it's a necessity that we feed and clothe the world." Gallichio credits much of his success to Aldo and Virginia Sansoni and Fred and Mary Petroni for "giving me this opportunity 48 years ago."

This beautiful event was sponsored by David Santos Farming, The Morning Star Packing Company, The Pentagon Company dba Delta Farms, Sutter Health Hospital Los Banos, RPAC, Young's Air Conditioning, Mechanics Bank, Realtor Naomi Townsend, Cordeiro Custom Remodeling & Repair, Carlucci Transport, A-Bar AG Enterprises and A Plus Plumbing LLC.

Los Banos Downtown Association's next event is the Masquerade Casino Night. It will be held on October 22, 2022. Tickets available at 907 6th Street or by calling (209) 710-9022.

Homeless from p.1

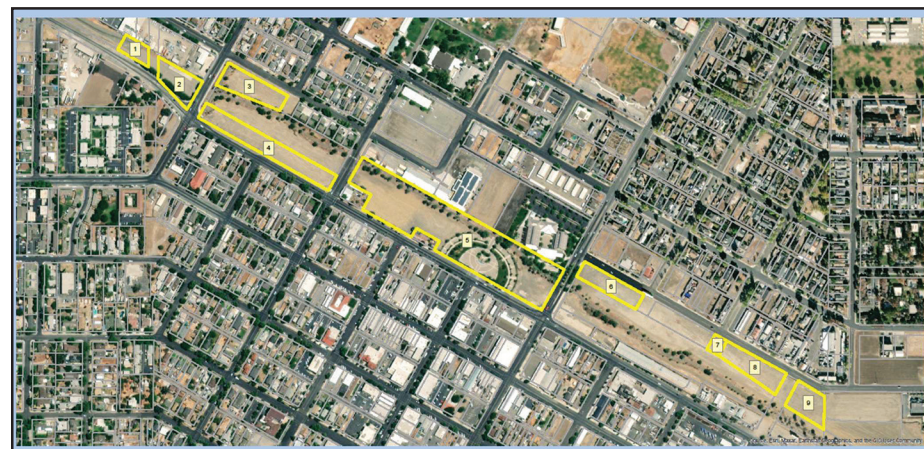
her who live in a mobile home park are often ignored. Another resident sent a written comment also complaining about the homeless near the park, and how they recently destroyed a fence and that residents find used needles and other items around the area.

Homeless Encampment Relocation Options

The encampment in question was the subject of a presentation by Police Chief Gary Brizzee outlining the problems surrounding the matter and discussion by the council. Several long-term solutions were proposed such as Project Home Key and permanent shelter, but the focus during the meeting was on an immediate, temporary solution. Brizzee said the city needs to move the encampment to a property that the city owns and is zoned for residential use. After eliminating all of the unqualified parcels, the remaining areas were all in the downtown area. Councilman Jones asserted that the solution lies in more personal and better enforcement of the city's codes.

Approval of \$2.2 Million for City Projects

On the consent agenda several budget items were approved unanimously totaling over \$2.1 million. They



Possible locations for new homeless encampment along the Rail Trail. Source: Chief Brizzee's presentation

include \$585,731.27 for a contract with McElvany Inc. for the Community Center Parking Lot Improvement Project, \$1,454,905 for a contract with Mid Cal Pipeline & Utilities, Inc. for the replacement of the fairgrounds area waterline from a six-inch to an eight-inch line and \$19,000 for the purchase of scoreboards at Colorado Ballpark.

District 4 Councilwoman Deborah Lewis tried to eliminate the \$64,973 for a contract with AD ART, Inc. for the construction of a new digital welcome sign, but the motion died without a second. Jones then moved approval, District 1 Councilman Refugio Llamas seconded the motion, and they were

joined by Lambert in voting to approve the funds for the sign.

Downtown Archway Project Moves Forward

Additionally, Community and Economic Development Director Stacy Souza-Elms reported that an agreement has been reached between O'Reilly Auto Enterprises LLC and the city regarding the location of the downtown archway. Construction of the archway was approved at a previous meeting which would be built across 6th Street on the north side of Pacheco Blvd. but the agreement was one of the obstacles delaying it from proceeding. **Allen D. Payton contributed to this report.**

Mayor from p.4

manager before the election he said, "Our term expires on x-date. You should always do your duty up until it ends." His opponent in this year's election, Doug Begonia, Jr. said about Faria's resignation, "I grew up with him as my teacher. I think he left us in limbo, as did the other two council members. We had a good city manager. They left us with an interim city manager." In light of the possible appointment of Llanez

as mayor, Begonia was asked if he still wants the council to wait to hire a permanent city manager, he said, "I would like to stand by my position to wait until after the election. That would give me the opportunity to help make the decision, if I win."

At the end of the Sept. 20th council meeting District 3 Councilman Brett Jones requested that the appointment of a new mayor be placed on the Oct. 5th council meeting

agenda.

When asked about it on Thursday, Sept. 22, Lambert said he had discussed the appointment of the next mayor with the city attorney and interim city manager. "It's already going on the agenda for Oct. 5th," the Mayor Pro Tem said. "Once the request was made, they took it from there. It will come up for a discussion, nomination, then a vote."

Los Banos native, daughter of Los Banos Drug Store founder, Diane Wolfsen passes at 82

It is with a sad heart but a sense of peace that we share of the passing of Diane Margaret Meyer Wolfsen age 82 on Friday, September 30th after a multi-year battle with Parkinson's. Diane was a loving wife, caring mother and grandmother, and exceptionally civic minded volunteer for all things Santa Cruz. Her boundless energy and positivity will be greatly missed by her family and community.

Diane was born in Los Banos, CA and shared stories of growing up and getting her first job at the Los Banos Drug Store which her father founded. She attended the University of California, Berkeley for two years before taking a break to get married in 1961. Education was always a top priority for Diane and she returned to the University of California, Santa Cruz and graduated with Honors in Economics in 1990.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents Harry Edwin Meyer and Alyce Ellen Hayes Meyer. She is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Larry, their three children Lawrence (wife Sarah), Taylor, and Ann (husband Pete Montgomery), and five grandchildren: Zoe and Sasha Wolfsen and Grace, Meredith, and John "JT" Montgomery.

Her zest for planning elaborate family dinners and holidays, complete with thematic tablescapes, will be dearly missed by her family.

Outside of raising her family, Diane was committed to making the world a better place through her countless volunteer efforts. She was involved in P.E.O., Omega Nu, Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, UCSC Foundation, Rainbow Girls, Daughters of the American Revolution, and pretty much any activity in which one of her children was a participant (Santa Cruz Gymnastics, SCHS Band Boosters, Boy and Girl Scouts of America).

Not only did Diane participate and dedicate several years to these organizations, she held leadership roles, oftentimes President, in most of them.

Volunteer efforts aside, the lifelong friendships she made through many of these organizations were the greatest gift of her participation.

In addition to Diane's charitable work, she had an endless thirst for knowledge. She spent over 40 years researching her family's genealogy; tracing the family lineage all the way back to the signing of the Magna Carta. In addition, she spent years working towards and achieving the status of Life Master Bridge Player competing in several different bridge clubs throughout the county.

One of the happiest roles Diane played in her lifetime was co-pilot to husband Larry Wolfsen. Together, they traveled to all 50 states, almost all of them in Larry's airplane. Bi-annual gatherings in Sunriver, OR with the grandchildren and her "Yes, let's go!" travel attitude will be missed by her

entire family.

The absence of Diane's quick wit, party planning abilities, and "Let's celebrate the little things" attitude will be felt by all who knew her. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Omega Nu Scholarship Fund or the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County. Friends and family are invited to a Celebration of Life on October 14th, 2:00 pm at Hollins House in Santa Cruz.



Diane Wolfsen
Feb. 10, 1940 - Sept. 30, 2022

Los Banos school district, community mourn passing of Trustee Margaret Benton

by Tisha Blackwood-Freitas

September 14th was indeed a sad day for the community of Los Banos as Superintendent Dr. Mark Marshall announced the passing of Margaret "Marg" Benton, District 6 Board Member. In a letter to staff, Marshall wrote,

"Dear Los Banos Unified School District (LBUSD) Employees: We are deeply saddened to inform you that we were notified of the passing of Board Member, Margaret Benton. Ms. Benton

has served on the Los Banos Unified School District Board of Trustees since 2016. As she was very active in supporting the students and staff members of Los Banos Unified School District, this is a tremendous loss to our school community. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Respectfully, Mark E. Marshall, Ed.D.

Proud Superintendent of Los Banos Unified School District"

A celebration of life was held for Marg on September 24th.



Margaret "Marg" Benton— photo SOURCE: LBUSD

Still Unsolved!
Please don't forget!
It's been 16 years
since Bill & Lena
were murdered in
their home on
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in Merced.



Bill and Lena Chapman

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for information
leading to
the arrest and
conviction of
the individual(s)
responsible for the
murders. Please
call the tip line
with any leads or
information at
(209) 385-4725

AVISO PÚBLICO

De conformidad con las Secciones 5090-5095 del Código de Educación, la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Los Banos está buscando personas interesadas del Área de Fideicomisarios # 6 que deseen ser nombradas para servir como miembros de la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Los Banos hasta diciembre de 2024.

Para ser elegible, el solicitante debe ser un votante registrado, residir en el Área de Fideicomisarios # 6 y no ser un empleado del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Los Banos. Un mapa del área del fideicomisario estará disponible con la aplicación. Los mapas del área de los fideicomisarios también se encuentran en el sitio web del Distrito en www.losbanosusd.org.

Las personas interesadas pueden obtener un formulario de solicitud en la Oficina del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Los Banos ubicada en 1717 So. 11th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635. La fecha límite para enviar las solicitudes completas es

el viernes, 21 de octubre de 2022 a las 12:00 del mediodía.

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