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Senior center groundbreaking set for Dec. 8



By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Community Redevelopment Agency presents its Christmas gift to the Hub City on Thursday, Dec. 8, when it holds a groundbreaking ceremony for the long-awaited senior activity center and parking structure.

It takes place at 2 p.m. on the corner of North Tamarind Avenue and East Palmer Street.

The 30,000-square-foot senior activity center will feature meeting rooms, banquet halls, office space and a kitchen to accommodate users. It also features a computer lab, exercise room and other amenities to meet the entertainment and recreational needs of Compton's senior residents.

The two-level parking structure will have ap-

proximately 330 parking spaces.

"Over 160 spaces are dedicated to the MTA Park and Ride," Deputy CRA Director Michael Antwine said. "The rest of the facility is for the senior center and ancillary uses in the development. The infrastructure is going to be parking-meter ready, but it will be up to the City Council if they want to implement that."

The project, scheduled for completion in 2013, has a \$24 million price tag.

"This brings two economic benefits to Compton right away," Antwine said. "Local residents are going to be hired to work on these projects. In addition, approximately 50 people per day will be on site, and they are going to shop. Our local businesses will need staff to handle the in-

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Bulletin photo by Chris Frost

Student Support Specialty Dean Diana Winton calls the student garden the cornerstone of the healthy eating and living philosophy at Walton Middle School.

Community Cares plans holiday garden giveaway

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Community Care Walton Middle School garden celebrates the holidays and the spirit of giving on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 9 until 11 a.m. as the group will be distributing harvested vegetables to the families of students and local residents.

The goal of Community Care is to help improve and enhance the physical appearance of Compton through youth entrepreneurial projects created, organized and managed by youth in the Hub City.

"We are planning a big holiday celebration," Community Care founder Benjamin Holifield said. "Students, parents and residents

will enjoy fresh vegetables at Christmas dinner, grown in the garden throughout the fall. We are also adding an orchard and recently planted avocado, tangerine, orange and lemon trees."

Approximately 250 trees will outline the garden once it is completed.

"We have around 150 students participating in the garden right now," Walton Middle School Student Support Specialty Dean Diana Winton said. "A student government committee to work with Mr. and Mrs. Holifield is being planned. I understand why it is so important."

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Compton suspends HOME program

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Compton has suspended its HOME Program for 90 days, while it devises an action plan to resolve administrative issues from the 1990s.

The program provides assistance to prospective homeowners in the form of a silent second mortgage with no interest, repayable only if the homeowner violates the loan's terms and conditions.

"This action is a constructive step toward improving the city's current status with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is now considered high risk," interim City Manager Lamont Ewell said. "During this time, the HOME Program can be reviewed in its entirety. This includes the First Time Home Buyer Program, Residential Rehabilitation Program and the Community Housing Development Organization Program. In addition, we can collect all supporting documentation for the \$2.4 million from prior expenditures related to the Office of the Inspector General audit."

The \$2.4 million, used for projects built during the late 1990s, are being reviewed because of incomplete paperwork.

"This issue did not happen during our watch," CRA Director Dr. Kofi Sefa-Boakye said. "We are taking corrective actions to eliminate these problems."

All of the questioned projects exist, he said, and the CRA challenges every issue.

Ewell plans to engage a HOME program consultant who is an expert in the field, to assist in reviewing the files and collecting the proper support documentation.

The city must also address two properties with \$193,420 in arrears because the homeowners were not eligible to receive benefits from the HOME Program. Deputy CRA Director Michael Antwine attributed this arrearage to foreclosures that did not cover the cost of the loan when resold.

"HUD officials do not have a precedent for recov-

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DOUBLE CHALLENGE FOR CCCD BOUNDARY PLAN

Lawsuit settlement requires ethnic balance

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton Community College District is dealing with two issues in its plan to revise its boundaries. The district is forming a Redistrict Review Committee to provide

input on the four proposed maps that would increase the number of trustee areas to five, with each area having one vote on the board.

State law requires that boundaries of community college districts be reviewed every 10 years in order to keep the individual trustee areas population balanced. The review is underway now, and four options for redistricting have been presented.

The Compton district is also required by the terms of a legal settlement requiring the trustee areas to be ethnically balanced, with residents

voting only for their area.

Alex Landeros and Luis Landeros filed a lawsuit in June against the Compton Community College District for "ongoing and systemic violation of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001."

The lawsuit stated that because the trustee areas currently utilized by the district in its elections are not population-balanced they violate the districting principles of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution and the California Education Code.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit said the district's election methods prevent Latino residents from electing candidates of their choice or influencing the outcome of the district's elections.

The suit alleged that the trustee areas currently used by the district in its elections are not population balanced. Of the four current voting areas, one includes the city of Compton, which elects two trustees on an at-large basis. The three remaining trustees are selected from single-mem-

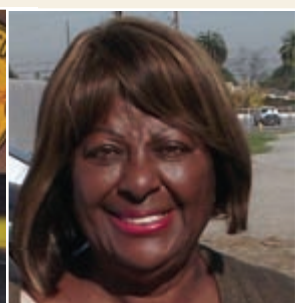
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Council approves holiday security at Gateway Center 5A

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PEOPLE WILL TALK ... ABOUT HOLIDAY MOVIES

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BOUNDARY

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ber areas. The Compton district is made up of seven cities with large Hispanic populations.

The remaining areas are Paramount, Lynwood and Carson, which also includes West Rancho Dominguez and Willowbrook, which each have one vote.

The suit aimed to create five, single-member areas, with each representing a population reflective of the 2010 census. The trustee from each area will be elected by residents of that area.

The lawsuit was settled for \$40,000 in attorney fees and an agreement that the CCCD would change its boundaries to reflect the ethnic balance as well as the population balance required by the state.

But because of the lawsuit, the election previously scheduled for November 2011 was cancelled and set for November 2013. Meanwhile the district will change its boundaries to reflect both population and ethnicity.

A public hearing was held on Nov. 15. At that time, CEO Keith Curry established a Redistricting Committee that will gather community input regarding the proposed redistricting plans and present the information to Special Trustee Thomas Henry.

get involved in this important decision," said Curry. "I know everyone won't be happy with the solution, but my job is to give the community the opportunity for involvement."

In addition to the mandates to balance the trustee areas, the district is committed to keeping neighborhoods intact within each voting area and to conform as much as possible to major thoroughfares in the community.

"The Redistricting Committee will give its input to Special Trustee Thomas Henry regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each proposed map," Curry said. "Only community members can give insight as to the makeup of each neighborhood and the concerns of residents."

In January the special trustee will approve the names of individuals selected to the Redistricting Committee at the monthly board meeting. The committee will hold its first meeting to develop an outreach and information plan.

Another public hearing will be held in March during the board meeting. The Redistricting Committee will hold a meeting and forward the strengths and weakness of each of the proposed maps to the special trustee in April.

Henry will hold a third public hearing during the board meeting in May. He will adopt, by resolution of ordinance, the new trustee election areas. He will also submit a waiver for amending trustee elections to the Board of Governors for its July 2012 meeting.

In July the district expects to receive approval of its new boundaries from the Board of Governors. Then in September the new boundaries will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Recorder's office.

In November 2012 the new Compton Community College District Trustee areas will be effective for the upcoming elections.

The public is encourage to apply for membership on the committee. The deadline for applications is Dec. 16. "I hope that everyone will

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HOME

Continued from Page 1A

ering money lost when a foreclosed property is worth less than the mortgage," Antwine said. "This is a black eye for the city, and no public agency has ever been asked to repay HUD for a foreclosed property in this economy."

Sefa-Boakye said the CRA submitted additional data for one of the properties in question, and they are waiting for a reply.

"HUD sent no formal report yet about these concerns," Antwine said. "Once the CRA receives the report, we have one year to address the issues. The 'OIG report is a recommendation to HUD."

If HUD rules against the city, the money will come from the CRA, and not the general fund.

"This does not come out of the city's pocket," Sefa-Boakye said.

Residents who are already in the process of receiving assistance through the various HOME programs will not be affected.

"The Alameda Court development is not going to be hurt by this action," Antwine said. "That project utilizes state money to assist medium-income buyers to make a purchase. This temporarily suspends money for the low income purchaser, and has only a minimum effect on the city."

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program, utilizing federal dollars to rehabilitate and resale foreclosed properties, will also not be affected.

For more information about the CRA's HOME program call 310-605-5511.



Thank you, Compton, Carson and Willowbrook voters!

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your vote in the Compton School Board election. It is an honor and a privilege to have been re-elected as your representative of the Board of Education.

Also, I wish to thank all the great churches, unions, public servants and community leaders for their endorsements of my candidacy. Most of all, I would like to give a great big thank you to all the volunteers, family members and friends, who helped me spread my message of hope and inspiration on behalf of the students of our great District.

I am renewing my vow to the children, parents and teachers of the District to continue being a strong advocate and fighter for better education, so that every child is given the academic tools he or she needs and deserves in order to succeed in life.

Sincerely,

Micah Ali
Compton School Board Member

www.MicahAli.com

Re-Elect Ali Compton School Board 2011 - I.D.# 1293081 - 849 W. Stockwell St. - Compton, CA 90222

MICAH ALI Re-elected to the School Board on Tue. Nov. 8, 2011

Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker December 7, 2011

ACROSS

- 1 Word in some university names
- 6 31-Across, at a sushi restaurant
- 11 Physics unit
- 14 Ancient Greek poet associated with a dolphin
- 15 Addition conclusion
- 16 Abbreviation on a TV remote
- 17 The end-all neat freak portrayer of classic TV
- 19 Poetic homage
- 20 Teaches
- 21 Become conscious
- 23 Long ___ and far away ...
- 24 Bible distributor
- 25 The end-all "The Big Sleep" star
- 31 Elongated fish
- 32 ___ - Croatian (Slavic language)
- 33 Lollipop portions
- 37 Fat measure
- 39 Artillery outburst
- 41 Lessen, to the Bard
- 42 Submarine sensing system
- 44 Zigs or zags
- 46 It'll float your boat

- 11 Arouse, as feelings
- 12 Riding and roping event
- 13 Space traveler of 1962 and 1998
- 18 Does penance
- 22 Speak off-the-cuff
- 25 Trio for grand pianos
- 26 Word with "dynamic" or "space"
- 27 ___ Bator
- 28 Atlanta pro
- 29 Better equipped
- 30 Crave, biblically
- 34 Cuban's house
- 35 "Hooked on Classics" co.
- 36 Animal that honks horns
- 38 Waterlogged ground

- 40 Severe test
- 43 Gershwin musical adapted by Cole Porter
- 45 Mill associated with gold discovery
- 48 Ship's petty officers
- 49 Expressed out loud
- 50 Land of Pago Pago: American ___
- 51 Shepard and King
- 52 Shows wild instability
- 55 Liver production
- 56 Fashion mag
- 57 Othello heavy
- 58 Thunder sound
- 59 Word after "who," "what" or "where"
- 62 Natural bird-watcher

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

1	T	A	P	E	5	G	R	E	8	A	10	R	A	V	13	E
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12/7 THE GANG'S ALL HERE By Jill Pepper

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Classifieds

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