

# The Cerritos News

## COVID-19 Information

The City of Cerritos is monitoring daily the status of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and is following all recommendations from County, State and Federal public health officials. For the latest City updates as they occur, please visit the City's website at [cerritos.us](http://cerritos.us).

The City will continue to update residents and the community through its website, email blasts, on Cerritos TV3 and "The Cerritos News." To sign up to receive City email blasts, click the "E-News" red envelope link on the homepage of the City's website at [cerritos.us](http://cerritos.us).

## Library News and Lifelong Enrichment Newsletters

The April 2020 issues of the "Cerritos Library News" and "Cerritos Lifelong Enrichment" will not be published. The newsletters are on hiatus pending the scheduling of upcoming services, programs and events.

## Public Health Resources

- **County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health**  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov)
- **California Department of Health**  
[cdph.ca.gov](http://cdph.ca.gov)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)
- **World Health Organization**  
[who.int](http://who.int)

As recommended by public health officials, please stay home if you feel sick, wash your hands frequently and practice social distancing.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKS

**If you see something,  
say something.**

**(562) 860-0044**



## Improvements approved for Cerritos Swim & Fitness Center

The Cerritos City Council recently added amendments to a \$101,824 contract with IDS Group, Inc. for improvements at the Cerritos Swim & Fitness Center.

In 2018, the City contracted with IDS Group to assess the facility, including its operating systems and equipment. A review found that the boiler needs to be replaced, along with the aging roof, which leaks. The assessment also determined that the two movable bulkheads, which act as partitions to separate the pool into multiple sections for various activities, were rusty and needed upgrades.

The City Council made amendments to the contract with IDS Group, approving \$36,830 for the development of construction documents and project management services for the boiler replacement; \$58,194 for development of construction documents and project management services pertaining to the roof; and \$6,800 for the development of performance specifications for the bulkhead replacements. Construction bids for these items will be solicited at a later date. ■

## City adopts ordinance to mitigate truck traffic noise

The Cerritos City Council recently adopted an ordinance to amend Chapter 10.18 of the Cerritos Municipal Code relating to the establishment of truck routes. The amendment de-classifies both Bloomfield Avenue, between Alondra Boulevard and Artesia Boulevard, and Shoemaker Avenue, between Alondra Boulevard and 166th Street, as designated truck routes.

The intent of the newly amended ordinance is to reduce excessive traffic noise and safety issues caused by trucks travelling near residential neighborhoods in the city. The ordinance is now in effect. ■

## Plans for new grocery store approved

The Cerritos City Council recently approved plans for a new grocery store to be built in the vacant space that previously housed Toys R Us.

The property owners of the space on 11340 South Street – Porto Bella Apartment Company, LP, and SAS Family Trust – submitted the request to convert the existing building into a grocery store. While the store has not been named, the property owners maintain that it is a national retailer with widespread recognition that will incorporate state-of-the-art technology.

The site was developed in 1972 for Toys R Us, which vacated the property in 2018 after filing for bankruptcy. The proposed project includes remodeling the building interior and exterior and removing a second-floor mezzanine storage area. Comprehensive site and landscape improvements will also be implemented.

The work is expected to be completed by the fall. ■

## Sunshine and Westgate parks to get upgrades

The Cerritos City Council awarded a \$338,826 contract to Land Forms Landscape Construction of Irvine to perform upgrades to Sunshine Park and Westgate Park.

The project includes installing wheelchair accessible ramps at both locations. Existing playground equipment will be removed from both parks and new structures installed. The work also includes removing existing rubberized playground surfacing, removing and reconstructing concrete walkways and relocating irrigation lines. The project also covers work under the Citywide Playground Roll Coat Protection Program, which provides for the maintenance and installation of a binder coat on playground surfacing at City parks.

The work is expected to be completed in April. ■

## Contract awarded for Del Amo bridge project

The Cerritos City Council awarded a contract in the amount of \$3,420,800 to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for design of the Del Amo Boulevard bridge replacement and signal enhancements project.

The Del Amo bridge over Coyote Creek is a two-lane bridge that was constructed in 1965. The bridge carries more than 21,000 vehicles per day and serves as a significant east-west corridor linking Orange and Los Angeles counties. The bridge is shared by the cities of Cerritos, Lakewood, La Palma and Cypress. The upcoming project seeks to improve regional connectivity for vehicles traveling across County lines.

The cities of La Palma and Cypress will be responsible for \$1,300,000 of the design cost, which has been secured from the Orange County Transportation Authority. The cities of Cerritos and La Palma will be responsible for the balance, which has been secured through an application of Measure M funds from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. ■

## America's Tire remodel approved

The Cerritos City Council has approved plans for an interior and exterior remodel of America's Tire on 11524 South Street.

Founded in 1960, the company is one of the largest tire and wheel retailers in the United States with more than 900 locations. The Cerritos site, developed in 1971, is currently vacant.

Plans to update the facility's exterior include a new paint color scheme and enhanced building materials, including simulated wood siding in a grey-blue color, decorative champagne-colored metal panels and a stucco panel system in an antique white and colonial revival stone color.

The parking area will be repaired, slurry-sealed and re-stripped to meet current handicap parking-space requirements. The parking lot will feature new LED lights for better illumination.

The proposal also calls for updated landscaping consisting of new trees, shrubs and groundcover. ■

# City Council Recap

City Council/Successor Agency meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at City Hall. For details, call the City Clerk's Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at (562) 916-1248.

## January 9, 2020

- Awarded a contract to Land Forms Landscape Construction in the amount of \$338,826 (Base Bid plus Alternate #3) for Sunshine Park and Westgate Park improvements and citywide playground roll coat protection program, Project Nos. 20108, 20109, 20111, 20112, and 20101, Bid No. 1393-19.
- Waived full reading of and adopted Resolution No. 2020-1, a resolution of the City of Cerritos approving Precise Plan 66-5(2019) Amendment, a proposal by Chuze Fitness on behalf of the property owners to change the use of an existing commercial building from a department store use to a health studio use, remodel the building interior and add a new second-floor mezzanine to support the fitness use, paint the building exterior and perform related site and landscape improvements at 10727 South Street, Cerritos, California, 90703. The subject property is zoned neighborhood commercial (CN) (APN 7038-007-005).
- Waived full reading of and adopted Resolution No. 2020-2, a resolution of the City of Cerritos approving Precise Plan 72-24(2019) Amendment, a proposal by the property owners to change the use of an existing commercial building from a toy department store use to a grocery food store use, remodel the building interior and remove a second-floor mezzanine storage area, remodel the building exterior and perform related site and landscape improvements at 11340 South Street, Cerritos, California, 90703. The subject property is zoned regional commercial (CR) (APN 7049-001-020).
- Banned the use of Roundup products by City staff for use in public places.
- Received and filed the Fiscal Year 2018-19 City of Cerritos Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- Approved the request by the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce for use of the City Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to conduct a candidates forum relating to the March 3, 2020 Cerritos General Municipal Election and waived associated City costs.
- Directed the City Manager to place an informational report during Presentations on Measure C on the next City Council meeting agenda.
- Directed the City Manager to place an item on an upcoming City Council meeting agenda regarding removing Shoemaker Avenue from City truck routes.

## January 27, 2020

- Waived full reading of and adopted Resolution No. 2020-3, a resolution of the City of Cerritos approving precise Plan 71-27(2019) Amendment, a proposal by America's Tire on behalf of the property owners to remodel the interior and exterior of the existing tire store building and perform related site and landscape improvements at 11524 South Street, Cerritos, California, 90703. The subject property is zoned regional commercial (CR) (APN 7039-021-022).
- Amended the contract to IDS Group, Inc. in the amount of \$36,830 for developing construction documents and performing project management services for the boiler replacement at the Cerritos Swim & Fitness Center; and

- Amended the contract to IDS Group, Inc. in the amount of \$58,194 for developing construction documents and performing project management services for the roof improvements at the Cerritos Swim & Fitness Center; and
- Amended the contract to IDS Group, Inc. in the amount of \$6,800 for developing performance specifications for the bulkhead replacement at the Cerritos Swim & Fitness Center; and
- Authorized the City Manager or his designee to execute any contract modifications that may be necessary to complete the specified scope of work.
- Rejected the sole bid received for the replacement of the fire alarm system at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts; and
- Found that, due to the unique nature of the facility and scheduling complexities involved in completing the proposed work, and the high degree of specialized and technical skill required to complete the work, it is in the best interest of the City to dispense with competitive bidding; and
- Authorized the City Manager or his designee to negotiate with contractors in the open market a proposal to replace the fire alarm system at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts pursuant to the design and specifications.
- Directed staff to proceed with an application for Los Angeles County Measure W funding for a regional storm-water capture project at the Cerritos Sports Complex; and report back to the City Council for further direction if and when funding is allocated for the project.
- Directed staff to present an ordinance to the City Council de-classifying Shoemaker Avenue, between Alondra Boulevard and 166th Street, as a designated truck route.
- Directed the City Manager to place an informational item on the next agenda related to the City Council benefits package.

## February 13, 2020

- Waived full reading of and introduced Ordinance No. 1031, an ordinance of the City of Cerritos amending Chapter 10.18 of the Cerritos Municipal Code to de-classify a segment of Shoemaker Avenue as a designated truck route.
- Directed the City Clerk/Treasurer to commence the biennial review of the City's Conflict of Interest Codes pursuant to the California Political Reform Act of 1974 by notifying each City agency (City, Successor Agency and Financing Authority) to begin reviewing each of their codes; report back to the City Council with a notice of anticipated changes no later than the final City Council/Successor Agency meeting of September, 2020; and present any proposed changes to the codes for review and adoption no later than the final City Council/Successor Agency meeting of December, 2020.
- Awarded an annual contract for the supply of compressed liquid chlorine, Bid No. 1395-20, to JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. of Torrance, California and rejected all other bids; and
- Authorized the City Manager or his designee to execute any contract-related change orders required to ensure the supply and delivery of compressed liquid chlorine for the provision of safe drinking water.
- Directed staff to conduct a study on the potential ban of straws and single-use plastics.
- The meeting was adjourned in memory of Fred Humphrey.

## City saves drinking water by irrigating with recycled water

Committed to the preservation of the environment and conservation of water, the City of Cerritos has taken steps to conserve natural resources through a recycled-water distribution system. Cerritos irrigates more than 200 acres of City-owned property – including most parks, parkways, decorative fountains and medians – with recycled water.

The use of recycled water saves about 815 million gallons of potable drinking water annually and is billed monthly at about half the cost of drinking water. In addition to being used on City-owned property, the recycled water is used to irrigate schools, a county park, a City of Lakewood park, cemeteries, freeway landscaping and some privately owned landscaped areas. Originating from industries, businesses and homes, the waste water is treated by a three-stage process by the Sanitation District before being used for irrigation.

For more information about the City's recycled water system or water conservation, call the Water Division at (562) 916-1223. ■

## Long Beach Animal Care Services handles animal control

The City of Cerritos contracts with Long Beach Animal Care Services for animal control services. The agency provides the following services to the community:

- Dog licensing;
- Investigating cruelty to animal complaints;
- Picking up and impounding stray dogs upon request;
- Maintaining and operating a public animal shelter to service the City of Cerritos; and
- Enforcing all animal control regulations adopted by the City of Cerritos.

Residents can also call the City's Community Safety Division to report animal problems. City staff will then forward the information to Long Beach Animal Care Services.

The City of Cerritos handles barking dog investigations. Residents with a barking dog concern should contact the Cerritos Community Safety Division at (562) 916-1266. Matters relating to stray dogs, vicious dogs, deceased dogs, animal bites, etc. are the responsibility of Long Beach Animal Care Services.

For more information, contact Long Beach Animal Care Services at (562) 570-7387. Please note that the Long Beach facility is closed on Monday and Tuesday. Any inquiries on those days should be made to the City's Community Safety Division. ■

## Chuze Fitness coming to Cerritos

The Cerritos City Council recently approved plans for a Chuze Fitness health studio.

The health center will take over the vacant space at 10727 South Street that formerly housed TJ Maxx before the department store relocated to the Plaza 183 shopping center in 2015.

Chuze Fitness will remodel the interior and add a second-floor mezzanine level to the existing one-story building. The exterior of the building will be painted in a gray tone color scheme and the surrounding landscape will be upgraded.

The work is expected to be completed by next year. ■

## Earthquake preparedness tips offered

April is Earthquake Preparedness Month, and the City of Cerritos offers residents the following earthquake-preparedness tips from the California Emergency Management Agency.

After a major emergency, there is a good chance that traditional emergency response teams will be too busy to take care of you and your family. You need to prepare your home and neighborhood.

### Prepare now

- Stock up on at least a three-day supply of food, water, clothes, medical supplies and necessary equipment for everyone in the family.
- Make sure everyone knows where to find the supplies.
- Decide where and when to reunite with family when disaster strikes.
- Choose a person outside the immediate area to contact if family members are separated. Long distance phone service will likely be restored sooner than local service. Do not use the phone immediately after a major emergency.
- Know school and daycare policies. Make plans to have your children picked up if you are unable to get to them.

- For a non-English-speaking family member, prepare an emergency card (written in English) with the person's identification, address and special needs (medication and allergies). The person should keep the card with him or her at all times.
- Conduct earthquake drills – duck, cover and hold – every six months with the family.
- Practice stop, drop and roll drills for fire, as well as emergency exit drills in the house regularly.
- Know the safest place in each room because it will be difficult to move from one room to another during an earthquake or explosion.
- Locate the shutoff valves for water, gas and electricity. Learn how to shut off the valves before an emergency. Do not shut off utility valves unless directed to do so by the utility company.
- Make copies of vital records and keep them in a safe deposit box in another city or state. Store the originals in a safe place.
- Establish all the possible ways to exit the house. Keep those areas clear.
- Know the locations of the nearest fire and Sheriff's stations.

- Take photos and/or videos of your valuables. Make copies and keep them with a friend or relative in another city or state.
- Include the babysitter and other household help in your plans.
- Keep an extra pair of eyeglasses and house and car keys on hand.
- Keep extra cash and change on hand. If electricity is out, ATM machines do not work.

### During an earthquake

- Stay away from heavy furniture, appliances, large glass panes, shelves holding objects and large decorative masonry, brick or plaster such as fireplaces.
- Keep hallways clear. They are usually some of the safest places to be during an earthquake or explosion.
- Stay away from kitchens and garages, which tend to be the most dangerous places because of the many items kept there.

For more information, visit [safercerritos.com](http://safercerritos.com) and click on Emergency Preparedness under the Featured Links section. ■

## Free tax preparation offered for qualifying households

The Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation is offering free tax preparation for taxpayers who meet the following qualifications for 2019: total income less than \$56,000; interest income less than \$10,000;

fewer than five stock transactions; self-employment expenses less than \$5,000; and no rental income.

Tax preparation will be offered through Saturday, April 11 at the Norwalk Social Service Center at 11929 Alondra Boulevard and 14618 Carmenita Road in

Norwalk. Assistance for English, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese speakers is available. To make an appointment, call (562) 929-5961 (Spanish/English) or (877) 889-8244 (Chinese/English). ■

## Short-term rentals banned in Cerritos

Residents are reminded that the City of Cerritos prohibits short-term rentals.

Short-term rentals refer to leasing or renting a residential dwelling unit (in whole or in part) for 31 days or fewer. The most common types of short-term rentals are vacation rentals and home-sharing rentals, which are both prohibited. City-approved and permitted hotels located in commercially zoned areas are not considered short-term rentals under the ordinance.

The ban strives to protect residential neighborhoods from the noise, nuisances, added traffic and other adverse factors that can arise with short-term rentals. Appropriate measures will be taken against those who violate the City ordinance. ■

While Los Angeles County Vector Control reports that Cerritos has one of the lowest numbers of pest complaints, outdoor animals such as rats, opossums and raccoons are occasionally seen within the city. To help residents better understand these animals and minimize their exposure to the pests and fleas they carry, the City offers the following facts and tips.

Outdoor pests can be found in many residential areas where natural foliage provides them with an ideal place to live and make their homes. Fruit, avocado and nut trees provide an excellent source of food. If a rodent is seeking shelter, it can easily enter a home by climbing adjacent trees, gnawing through wood siding and partitions or crawling through even the smallest holes or vents. Rodents live in burrows or holes in the earth, and also above ground. They will hide in attics, basements or other buildings on your property, in addition to piles of trash or wood. Trees and dense shrubbery also act as nesting sites.

## Minimize attraction of outdoor pests

Practice safe flea control and do not allow pets to roam freely where they can come into contact with infected fleas. When purchasing pesticides to treat yards and homes, use only materials which state "fleas" on the label and follow all label directions carefully.

### Signs to look for

Signs that outdoor pests may be nesting on your property include:

- Seeing them – in trees or on wires and fences. Rats are usually less than a foot long and are dark gray, black or brown in color. Opossums are typically the size of a house cat and have coarse, gray hair, a white snout and a long pointed muzzle with many teeth. Opossums are most active at night, usually scavenging for food.
- Droppings – found most often around the animal's nesting sites, runways or feeding areas.
- Noise – thumping, scraping or squealing in walls or attics.

*Continued on page 4*

# TV3 Schedule: April

Please note that programming is subject to change due to the current COVID-19 crisis

## City Council and Commission Meetings

### Cerritos City Council Meetings

7 p.m. on Thursday, April 9 (live), rebroadcasts: 7 p.m. on Friday, April 10 and 9 a.m. on Monday, April 13  
7 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 (live), rebroadcasts: 7 p.m. on Friday, April 24 and 9 a.m. on Monday, April 27

## Program Highlights

*The Mighty Clouds of Joy in Concert at the CCPA*  
7 p.m. on Sunday, April 12

*The Four Italian Tenors in Concert at the CCPA*  
6 p.m. on Saturday, April 18 and 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 25

For Cerritos TV3 schedule and streaming video, visit: [cerritos.us/RESIDENTS/tv3.php](http://cerritos.us/RESIDENTS/tv3.php)

# Calendar of Events

**DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 CRISIS, PLEASE CHECK WITH THE INDIVIDUAL GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS BELOW TO CONFIRM UPCOMING MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES.**

- | April 2020 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|            |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5          | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12         | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19         | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26         | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |
- April 1
    - **Lunchtime Leaders**, noon, SELACO Workforce Development Board, 10900 E. 183rd Street, 3rd Floor, Cerritos. Visitors welcome. Also on April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Contact Larry Lee at (562) 484-5035.
    - **Cerritos Tennis Club**, 6-10 p.m., Cerritos High School tennis courts, members only. Also on April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Contact Allen at (562) 926-9551.
    - **Friends of the 1st CEB**, 6 p.m., Liberty Park. Contact Chuck Sooter at (562) 860-8174.
    - **Toastmasters International Club 3828: Eclectic Dialectics**, 7:30 p.m., The Grove at Cerritos, 11000 New Falcon Way, Cerritos. Also on April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Contact Jimmy Chan at (562) 565-7676 or Dan Nino at (562) 508-8099.
  - April 2
    - **Cerritos Optimist Club**, 7 a.m., Off Street Café, 11020 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos. Also on April 9 and 23. Contact Gary McHatton at (562) 883-5821.
    - **Cerritos (Mid-City) Korean-American Senior Citizens Association**, 9 a.m.-noon, Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 9, 16, 23 and 30. Contact Kyo Kim at (562) 900-9382.
    - **Cerritos Indo-American Seniors**, 4-7 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 9, 16, 23 and 30. Contact Arvind Patel at (562) 322-0085.
    - **Happy Seniors of Cerritos Association**, 6-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 9, 16, 23 and 30. Contact Emma Chupinghong at (562) 400-1075.
    - **Formosa Senior Association**, 6:30-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 9, 16, 23 and 30. Contact Jerry Lee at (714) 821-1988.
    - **Bellflower Unified School District Board** meeting, 7:30 p.m., 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower.
  - April 3
    - **Filipino Seniors of Cerritos**, 1 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 10, 17 and 24. Contact Mayette Centeno at (562) 860-6802.
  - April 4
    - **Cerritos Tennis Club**, 7 a.m.-noon, Cerritos High School tennis courts, members only. Also on April 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26. Contact Allen at (562) 926-9551.
    - **Cerritos Certified Farmers' Market**, 8 a.m.-noon, northwest parking lot of the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Also on April 11, 18 and 25.
    - **La Palma-Cerritos American Association of University Women**, 9:30 a.m., Cerritos College Automotive Building, 1110 Alondra Boulevard, Norwalk. For more information, contact Carol Marsh at (714) 995-6141. Also April 16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Cerritos Park East. For more information, contact Karen Cox at (562) 519-0596.
  - April 5
    - **Community Center hours change to 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.**
  - April 6
    - **Rotary Club of Cerritos**, noon, Peking Wok, 11203 183rd Street. Also on April 20. Contact Sharun Carlson at (562) 404-1993.
  - April 7
    - **Iron-Wood Women's Golf Club** plays, 7:30 a.m., Cerritos Iron-Wood Nine Golf Course. Also on April 14, 21 and 28. Contact Sharon Hamel at (562) 598-6165.
    - **Cerritos Chinese-American Senior Citizens Association**, 2-5 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 14, 21 and 28. Contact LiWen Wu Shao at (562) 233-9485.
    - **Classic Estates Toastmaster Club**, 6 p.m., Century 21 Classic Estates, 13217 South Street, Cerritos. Also on April 14, 21 and 28. The public is invited to attend. Contact Soledad Almarinez at (562) 865-2922 for more information.
    - **The "Original" Happy Seniors of Cerritos**, 6:30-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 14, 21 and 28. Contact Victoria Ilano at (562) 862-2842.
  - April 8
    - **ABC Unified School District Board** meeting, 7 p.m., 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos.
    - **Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos**, 6 p.m., Macaroni Grill, 12875 Towne Center Drive, Cerritos. Also on April 22. Contact Sowmya Ananthanarayanan at (562) 716-2601.
  - April 9
    - **Cerritos Rod & Gun Club**, 7 p.m., Heritage Park. Contact Jay Miller at (562) 926-8521.
    - **City Council** meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers.
    - **Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos**, 11 a.m., Cerritos Park East. Contact Gail Grossman at (562) 926-8487 or Delores Eveland at (562) 618-5438.
    - **Da' Hawaii Senior Club**, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 28, 6-9 p.m. Contact Myrna Matsuno at (310) 538-2148.
    - **Soulful Seniors of Cerritos**, 6-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Contact Louida Shaw at (562) 412-7448.
  - April 12
    - **Library closed**
    - **'Ahaui 'O Lili'uokalani Hawaiian Civic Club of Southern California**, 10 a.m., John Jensen residence. Contact John Jensen at (562) 926-2286 for more information.
  - April 13
    - **Cerritos Gadabouts**, 9 a.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 20 and 27. Contact Virginia Harmon at (562) 863-4455.
  - April 14
    - **Volunteer attorneys** provide free basic legal advice and referrals for Cerritos residents, 7-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on April 28. Call (562) 865-8101 for an appointment.
  - April 16
    - **Cerritos Optimist Club**, 7 p.m. Café n' Stuff, 9306 E. Firestone Blvd., Downey. Contact Gary McHatton at (562) 883-5821.
    - **Philippine Society of Southeast Los Angeles**, 7 p.m., Liberty Park. Contact Nimfa Castro at (562) 822-3633.
  - April 20
    - **Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club**, 7 p.m., Mimi's Cafe, 12727 Towne Center Drive, Cerritos. Contact Elaine Duvali at (562) 924-3583 or hhhdemocrats@gmail.com.
  - April 23
    - **City Council** meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers.
  - April 24
    - **64th Anniversary of the City's Incorporation**
  - April 28
    - **Volunteer attorneys** provide free basic legal advice and referrals for Cerritos residents, 7-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Call (562) 865-8101 for an appointment.

## Minimize attraction of outdoor pests

Continued from page 3

- **Damage** – gnaw marks on fruit or branches. Also, inspect for chewed wood, cloth, paper or bags.
- **Smudges** – black marks on exposed runway surfaces made when a rat rubs its dirty fur against a structure.
- **Tracks** – five-toed and up to one inch in length.

### Getting rid of them

Aside from unnerving residents, outdoor pests can become nuisances by chewing through wiring, rummaging through garbage and carrying disease. A qualified exterminator can take care of rat problems, or the pests can be trapped with poison or other bait. Do not attempt to capture and relocate animals to other areas. This practice violates California Fish and Game laws, spreads disease and is considered inhumane.

If you catch an opossum in your yard that has not been trapped, do not corner it or attempt to pick it up. Instead, try to scare it away with a flashlight or loud noise. Opossums often play dead when startled. Leave it alone and it will eventually scurry away.

### Tips to minimize exposure

The following tips can help keep outdoor pests away from your home:

- Keep ivy, shrubs and other ground cover trimmed back.
- Don't leave anything in your yard overnight that could serve as food or water for rats and opossums, including pet food, water dishes or birdseed.
- Pick up pet droppings regularly from your yard.
- Use plastic garbage bags and close the lid tightly on outdoor trash cans.
- Seal or cover all possible entrance holes in your home measuring one-quarter inch or more in size.
- Keep any woodpiles at least 18 inches above the ground.
- Pick up any fruits and vegetables that have fallen from backyard trees or plants.
- Consider removing fruit trees or plants that attract outdoor animals.
- When cleaning nesting areas, spray the area with disinfectant and wear protective equipment such as a particle mask or respirator, goggles and gloves.

If you need help with rodent problems, call the Los Angeles County Environmental Health Division at (626) 430-5450. For problems with insects such as mosquitos, call the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656. ■

## The Cerritos News

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(562) 916-1320



Mayor Naresh Solanki  
Mayor Pro Tem Frank Aurelio Yokoyama  
Councilmember Jim Edwards  
Councilmember Grace Hu  
Councilmember Mark E. Pulido

### City Contacts

City Hall ..... (562) 860-0311  
Graffiti Removal ..... (562) 916-1233  
Community Development.... (562) 916-1201  
Public Works ..... (562) 916-1220  
Recreation Services..... (562) 916-1254  
CCPA ..... (562) 916-8510  
Cerritos Library ..... (562) 916-1350  
Cerritos Senior Center ..... (562) 916-8550  
Cerritos Sheriff's Station ..... (562) 860-0044  
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