

The Cerritos News

Cerritos Measure C placed on March 3, 2020 ballot

The City of Cerritos is committed to maintaining the essential services that protect local quality of life and property values. Top priorities include neighborhood safety patrols; keeping roads, parks and drinking water systems in good condition; and supporting youth and senior programs. These services ensure the community continues to be a great place to live, conduct business and raise a family.

Providing these services and programs is becoming more difficult due to financial challenges. Eight years of State of California takeaways totaling \$132 million in local taxpayer dollars have left the City of Cerritos with \$61 million in deferred maintenance. Additionally, the City has had to use reserve funds to maintain basic services.

While the City has diligently cut and deferred spending to make ends meet, it cannot continue to do so without either significantly affecting services or putting at risk the City's ability to quickly respond to an emergency or economic downturn.

In response to these State takeaways, the Cerritos City Council has placed Measure C, a ¾ cent local sales tax measure, on the March 3, 2020 ballot. Cerritos voters will decide whether the tax is the best strategy for the City or whether further service reductions and deferred infrastructure maintenance is preferable.

If approved by Cerritos voters in March, Measure C will provide an estimated \$11.4 million annually in local funds to maintain local services including:

- Public safety services, including Sheriff's deputies and neighborhood patrols
- Youth and senior programs
- Street and tree maintenance
- Parks and park facilities
- Cerritos Library
- Cerritos Senior Center
- Drinking water and storm water systems

To maintain fiscal prudence and transparency, Measure C has been crafted with strict accountability requirements, including public disclosure of spending and reports to the community. Not a single penny of Measure C funds could be taken by the County of Los Angeles or the State, insuring that these funds remain in the City.

The City encourages the community to educate itself and participate in the important upcoming local election.

For more information on Measure C, visit cerritos.us.

The Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters has made changes to the local ballots this year. To obtain information about the new ballot format and voting system, visit cerritos.us. ■

Prepare to vote in upcoming Cerritos General Municipal Election

The upcoming Cerritos General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. For information about the election, visit cerritos.us and click on the election banners or link.

Voter registration forms are available at Cerritos City Hall, the Cerritos Library, staffed City parks, the Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park and at the Office of the City Clerk/Elections Official.

Questions about the election should be directed to the Office of the City Clerk/Elections Official at (562) 916-1248 or election2020@cerritos.us. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, and the office is located on the first floor of Cerritos City Hall. ■

Annual Festival of Friendship is February 1

Celebrate Cerritos' rich cultural diversity at the City's annual Festival of Friendship on Saturday, February 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Los Cerritos Center. The City of Cerritos and the Let Freedom Ring Committee, in conjunction with the Los Cerritos Center, are presenting the event.

The Festival of Friendship will feature a variety of cultural entertainment on stages throughout the mall. Local groups will perform an assortment of cultural songs and dances.

Special commemorative gifts will be distributed at each stage. For more information, call the City's Recreation Services Division at (562) 916-1254. ■

Pine Tree Reforestation Program approved

The Cerritos City Council recently adopted the Pine Tree Reforestation Program for Residential Parkways. The program allocates the use of \$341,000 to contract and complete the removal of approximately 50 residential parkway pine trees for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Residents who wish to have their parkway pine tree considered for removal should complete and submit a Pine Tree Reforestation Program Removal Application Form. Forms are available at the Public Works counter in the City Hall lobby and online at cerritos.us. All applications must be completed and submitted in-person at the Public Works counter, and will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-existing requests for tree removal will not be considered for this program.

The program will continue through the remainder of the fiscal year until all allocated funds have been depleted. The City Council may choose to continue the program annually through the allocation of additional funding. ■

City to introduce new online water billing payment portal

The City of Cerritos will introduce a new online water billing payment portal in the first quarter of 2020. The new portal will be available through the City's website and will offer Cerritos residential and business water customers enhanced services when paying their water utility bills.

The new portal will allow customers to make a one-time payment or set up automatic payments. Payments can be made from an eCheck, debit card or credit cards, including American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Customers will also be able to view their 12-month payment history. Bill statements will become available as part of the payment history starting with the first bill paid through the new system.

Customers can also request paperless billing with the new system. When this option is selected, the portal will email a PDF of the bill summary to the customer.

Customers who have selected paperless billing can choose to receive their bill statements via an email message or text message. The system also allows customers to request email reminders of upcoming payment due dates.

Customers who own multiple properties in the City can add all of their City water utility accounts to the portal.

To create an account in the portal, customers must enter an email address, account address, 16-digit customer number (including leading zeroes and without the dash), password and answers to security questions. Customers should make note of their password and answers to security questions; resetting one's password will require customers to call the Water Billing Division. A kiosk will be available in City Hall where staff will provide assistance to customers with setting up their accounts.

Customers will still be able to make payments at the Water Billing counter in City Hall. Credit card payments can also be made over the phone using a new interactive voice recognition system.

Customers who are already signed up for automatic payments from their checking accounts will continue to be billed as usual; no action is required. If they would like the option to view their payment history, they should sign up through the new portal.

For more information about the new water billing portal, please call the Water Billing Division at (562) 916-1235. ■

Soroptimist benefit to be held February 29

The 28th Annual Monte Carlo Night fundraiser sponsored by Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos will be held on Saturday, February 29 at 6 p.m. at the Centre at Sycamore Plaza located at 5000 Clark Avenue in Lakewood. The theme of the event is "The Great Gatsby." Proceeds from the evening will fund scholarships for college women, career training for high school girls, donations to

community organizations such as Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence and the Community Family Guidance Center, and other Soroptimist programs.

The event will include casino-type games, a buffet dinner and opportunity drawings. Tickets are \$75 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Sandy Fikse at (562) 618-8731. ■

Calendar of Events

- January 24 • **Filipino Seniors of Cerritos**, 1 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on January 31, February 7, 14, 21 and 28. Contact Mayette Centeno at (562) 860-6802.
- January 25 • **Recreation Services Youth Baseball** registration, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sports Complex. Also on January 29, 4-8 p.m. and February 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Cerritos Tennis Club**, 7 a.m.-noon, Cerritos High School tennis courts, members only. Also on January 26, February 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 and 29. 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 February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- January 27 • **City Council** meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers.
- **Cerritos Gadabouts**, 9 a.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on February 10, 17 and 24. Contact Virginia Harmon at (562) 863-4455.
- January 28 • **Property Preservation Commission** meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers. Also on February 25.
- **Iron-Wood Women's Golf Club** plays, 7:30 a.m., Cerritos Iron-Wood Nine Golf Course. Also on February 4, 11, 18 and 25. 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 February 4, 11, 18 and 25. 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 February 4, 11, 18 and 25. The public is invited to attend. Contact Soledad Almarinez at (562) 865-2922 for more information.
 - **Da' Hawaii Senior Club**, 6-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on February 13, 1:30-4:30 p.m. and February 25, 6-9 p.m. Contact Myrna Matsuno at (310) 538-2148.
 - **The "Original" Happy Seniors of Cerritos**, 6:30-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on February 4, 11, 18 and 25. Contact Victoria Ilano at (562) 862-2842.
 - **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 February 11 and 25. Call (562) 865-8101 for an appointment.
- January 29 • **Lunchtime Leaders**, noon, SELACO Workforce Investment Board, 10900 E. 183rd Street, 3rd Floor, Cerritos. Visitors welcome. Also on February 5, 12, 19 and 26. Contact Larry Lee at (562) 484-5035.
- **Cerritos Tennis Club**, 6-10 p.m., Cerritos High School tennis courts, members only. Also on February 5, 12, 19 and 26. Contact Allen at (562) 926-9551.
 - **Toastmasters International Club 3828: Eclectic Dialectics**, 7:30 p.m., The Grove at Cerritos, 11000 New Falcon Way, Cerritos. Also on February 5, 12, 19 and 26. Contact Jimmy Chan at (562) 565-7676 or Dan Nino at (562) 508-8099.
- January 30 • **Cerritos (Mid-City) Korean-American Senior Citizens Association**, 9 a.m.-noon, Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. Contact Kyo Kim at (562) 900-9382.
- **Cerritos Indo-American Seniors**, 5-8 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. 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 February 6, 13, 20 and 27. Contact Emma Chupinghong at (562) 400-1075.
 - **Formosa Senior Association**, 6:30-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Also on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. Contact Jerry Lee at (714) 821-1988.
- February 1 • **Festival of Friendship**, noon, Cultural Entertainment, Los Cerritos Center.
- February 3 • **Rotary Club of Cerritos**, noon, Peking Wok, 11203 183rd Street. Also on February 17. Contact Sharun Carlson at (562) 404-1993.
- February 4 • **Soulful Seniors of Cerritos**, 6-9 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Contact Louida Shaw at (562) 412-7448.
- **ABC Unified School District Board** meeting, 7 p.m., 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos. Also on February 18.
- February 5 • **Planning Commission** meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers.
- **Friends of the 1st CEB**, 6 p.m., Liberty Park. Contact Chuck Sooter at (562) 860-8174.
- February 6 • **Parks and Recreation Commission** meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers.
- **Cerritos Optimist Club**, 7 a.m., Off Street Café, 11020 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos. Also on February 13 and 27. Contact Gary McHatton at (562) 883-5821.
 - **Bellflower Unified School District Board** meeting, 7:30 p.m., 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower.
- February 8 • **La Palma-Cerritos American Association of University Women**, 11:30 a.m., Mimi's Cafe, 12727 Towne Center Drive, Cerritos. Contact Faith Herschler at (714) 821-4067.
- February 9 • **'Ahahui '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.
- February 11 • **Economic Development Commission** meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers.
- **Cerritos Republican Club**, 7 p.m., Cerritos Park East Malibu Room. Contact Becky Lingad at (562) 243-2135, or visit the website at cerritos-republican.org.
- February 12 • **Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos**, 6 p.m., Macaroni Grill, 12875 Towne Center Drive, Cerritos. Also on February 26. Contact Sowmya Ananthanarayanan at (562) 716-2601.
- **Cerritos Rod & Gun Club**, 7 p.m., Heritage Park. Contact Jay Miller at (562) 926-8521.
- February 13 • **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.
- February 17 • **Presidents' Day**
- **City Hall, City Clerk's Office, Library, Senior Center and CCPA Ticket Office closed**
 - **Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club**, 7 p.m., Mimi's Cafe, 12727 Towne Center Drive, Cerritos. Contact Elaine Duvali at (562) 924-3583 or hhdemocrats@gmail.com.
- February 20 • **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.
- February 27 • **City Council** meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers.
- February 29 • **Cerritos Resident Talent Show** auditions, noon-4 p.m., Cerritos Park East. Also on March 1.
- **Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos Monte Carlo** fundraiser, 6 p.m., Centre at Sycamore Plaza, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood. Contact Sandy Fikse at (562) 618-8731.

January 2020						
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City to observe Presidents' Day

Cerritos City Hall, the City Clerk's Office, Cerritos Library, Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park and the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Office will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents' Day. All park facilities will maintain regular hours. Trash collection schedules will not be affected. The City's street sweeping parking ordinance will not be enforced from February 17 through 21. ■

February is full of fun and flair at the CCPA

Don't miss an exciting February lineup at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA)!

Ballet Folclórico Nacional de México kicks off the month with a colorful show that brings to life the essence, tradition and heritage of Mexico on Saturday, February 1 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$50.

Acclaimed composer Rob Kapilow returns with another rousing "What Makes It Great?" program: "DVOŘÁK – Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 81." He will be accompanied by young artists from the Colburn School on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$55. This show is sponsored by George & Bev Ray/LeFiell.

At the center of every circus rests a 42-foot ring full of thrills, laughs and excitement. "Cirque Mechanics: 42FT – A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels" dares us to leap into the circus ring and experience the timelessness of this evolving art form. Check out the action on Friday, February 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$40.

The 3-D Theatricals Broadway Performance Partner musical "Kinky Boots" tells the tale of Charlie Price, who is struggling to save his family factory from closure, and Lola the entertainer who tries to help him with wild ideas. The unlikely pair learn valuable lessons about compassion and accepting each other's differences. The show features lyrics and music by Cyndi Lauper and book by Harvey Fierstein at 8 p.m. on Friday, February 14, 21 and 28; 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 15; 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 16, 23 and March 1; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, February 22 and 29; and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 27. Tickets start at \$25.

Visit cerritoscenter.com to purchase tickets and select your seats or call (562) 916-8500. ■

United States Census 2020 begins in March

The U.S. Census Bureau will conduct its next census count beginning in late March. The U.S. Constitution mandates that the federal government conduct a population count of all individuals residing in the United States every 10 years. Data obtained by the U.S. Census Bureau is used to determine the distribution of Congressional seats to states; make planning decisions related to the allocation of resources for community services and infrastructure; distribute more than \$675 billion annually in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments and serve as the nation's primary demographic resource.

Census count questionnaires and information will be mailed to the general public beginning in March. Residents will be able to submit their Census responses by mail, online or by telephone. U.S. Census Bureau representatives will canvass the community in an effort to follow-up with residents who have not responded to the U.S. Census questionnaires. During these door-to-door visits, Census representatives will be equipped with devices that can digitally accept Census responses.

For more information about the U.S. Census 2020, visit cerritos.us or 2020census.gov. ■

February 2020						
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