



Community Newsletter

Representing California's 38th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives

Napolitano, Officials Tour Completed Gold Line

On July 3, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Supervisor Gloria Molina and Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood toured the newly constructed Metro Gold Line extension. The six-mile line, opening before the end of the year, will connect downtown Los Angeles to East Los Angeles, including stops at Union Station, Maravilla, the East L.A. Civic Center and Atlantic Boulevard. "This is a model for America," Sec. LaHood said. "I congratulate the two congresswomen that are with me today for their leadership in making sure that the funding was available." The budget for the project was \$898 million, with \$520 million secured as funding from the federal government. Planning is already underway to extend the Gold Line further east into Montebello and other communities in east Los Angeles County. Officials have not yet decided which communities will be served. Two community meetings are being held: one in the Camino Conference Room at the Montebello Golf Course on Oct. 20 at 6 p.m., and another at the Pio Pico Women's Club at 9214 Mines Ave. in Pico Rivera on Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Planning Manager Tham Nguyen at nguyentha@metro.net.



Supervisor Gloria Molina, Rep. Grace Napolitano, Sec. of U.S. Transportation Dept. Ray LaHood, and Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, right, tour the new Metro line

Sunburst Academy Continues to Shine

Sunburst Academy, the completely free military academy and accredited school organized by the National Guard, has continued to add new cadets to its rolls – its first class in 2008 had 47 graduates, and this year's cycle is expected to graduate 135. Many cadets are high school drop-outs, and the Academy's combination of quality education and military discipline has helped many students get back on track. The academy accepts both boys and girls, and enrollment is completely free, with tuition, room and board, books, meals, and uniforms provided at no cost to the family.

Sunburst Youth Academy recently added a newly remodeled building to its campus, continuing a trend of steady growth since 2008. The new 26,000 square foot building now open at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos provides residential, medical and office facilities for the Academy's growing roster of cadets.

"This building is a tremendous asset to Sunburst because it allows us to house all of our cadets under one roof, with full security, state-of-the-art facilities, and staff close at hand for maximum communication in taking care of the cadets," said Academy Director LTC Chad Vogelsang.

For more information about Sunburst Youth Academy, call 877-463-1921, or SPC Rafael Cervantes at 562-441-1319 para Español.



Rep. Napolitano meets with COL James Gabrielli, LTC Chad Vogelsang, Cadet Lysett Villagrana, Cadet Ruben Ramos, Cadet Art Cabral, and SFC Michael Scott, right, in her Washington, DC office

U.S. Census: Be Counted!

- U.S. Census workers will be sending out mailers and knocking on doors in 2010 with census questions
 - **Be sure to answer** -- a low count would mean cuts to our schools, social programs, and city budgets until the next census in 2020
 - The questions take less than 10 minutes
 - Your answers **will not be shared** with any other government departments or law enforcement agencies
 - Everybody must do their part and be counted!
- For jobs with the US Census, call 866-861-2010**

Get a Boost in the Job Market

If you meet any of these requirements then an employer who hires you will qualify for a \$9,000 tax credit:

- * You receive or qualify for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- * You are a veteran receiving food stamps or on disability out of the service less than a year OR have been unemployed for six months out of the last year
- * You are an ex-felon who has been out of prison for less than a year
- * You qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- * You qualify for food stamps and are between the ages of 18 and 40 on the hiring date
- * You are a Ticket Holder with an individual work plan from an Employment Network or belong to a vocational rehabilitation program
- * You are a recipient of long-term family assistance

When you apply, let the employer know that they will qualify for a Work Opportunity Tax Credit if they hire you. For more information, look up your local Employment Development Department at www.edd.ca.gov/Office_Locator or call (562) 929-9107.

Employment Fair

Meet with Employers & Get Job Finding Tips

Special resources and free medical screenings available for veterans

- The City of Pico Rivera
- Norwalk EDD
- Casa Colina
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Local businesses and employers



Saturday, October 24th 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
El Rancho High School, 6501 S. Passons Blvd Pico Rivera

Hosted by Rep. Napolitano - to learn more about the event and participating employers, call our district office at (562) 801-2134

Napolitano Supports New Education Benefits

Pell Grants for College Students

Pell Grants help lower-income students pay for college. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the maximum grant per student is now \$5,350 and does not have to be repaid. Grants are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, so interested students should apply early. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and talk to your school counselor about filling out a FAFSA form and applying for a Pell Grant.

New GI Bill for Vets

The new Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect August 1 and will give veterans new ways to pay for college. The new bill provides funding to veterans based on how much time they have served since Sept. 11, 2001. The old Montgomery Bill is still available, but many veterans will receive more money under the new Post-9/11 Bill. To learn about your options and find out which program is best for you, go to www.newgibill.com.

Head Start for Children

Head Start provides improvements to the education, health, and nutrition of low-income children. The American Recovery and Reinvestment act provided an additional \$2.1 billion to Head Start, expanding early education to cover 124,000 more children, improving child nutrition and creating 50,000 new early education jobs. To learn more call 1-866-763-6481 or visit www.acf.hhs.gov.

Update on Health Reform

Over the Summer: Many different versions of health insurance reform made their way through the House and Senate. Members of Congress went back home in August to work in their districts without finishing the debate.

What's Happening Now: Congress is back in session. Here is some of what is being considered for health insurance reform:

- Denying coverage to patients based on pre-existing conditions will not be allowed
- Affordable oral, hearing, and vision care will be guaranteed for children
- No co-pays or deductibles will be charged for preventive care
- Health decisions will be made between patients and doctors, not insurance companies
- You have the freedom to choose a new plan or keep the one you have now
- Increased coverage for mental health care

How Will It Be Paid For: President Obama has said that health insurance reform will not add to the national deficit. Lawmakers are debating different ways of paying for reform: raising taxes on families that make \$1 million or more, taxing products that later lead to medical problems, and making current federal programs more efficient.

Rep. Grace Napolitano: Napolitano believes that our current system is not adequately serving the needs of the people of the 38th District. She has not put her support behind any single piece of legislation, but she does believe that only a health care plan with a public option will be able to meet the needs of all of her constituents. A public option is a health care option provided by the government that any American can sign up for, one option that people could choose alongside all of the private plans that we currently have now.

Learn More: Much that is being said about health insurance reform is not true. Be careful about believing extreme claims being made about the health care legislation being considered. For reliable information, visit our website and click on "Health Insurance Reform Information" on the upper right, or go to www.napolitano.house.gov/healthcare.shtml, where you can check the facts and read an introductory document given to members of Congress. You can also visit www.healthreform.gov or www.energycommerce.house.gov for a list of resources.

Mental Health in Schools Act

Rep. Grace Napolitano has introduced H.R. 2531, the Mental Health in Schools Act. This bill will establish mental health programs in selected elementary and secondary schools and train teachers and staff to help children with mental health issues. Mental health programs have a strong record of preventing suicide, substance abuse, depression and helping children and families overcome mental problems. Healthy minds are as important as healthy bodies, and these programs are critical for our children's happiness and success.

Veterans with PTSD and TBI

Many veterans that served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from PTSD or TBI. PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) is an anxiety disorder that can occur after a person has been through a dangerous experience where they felt that they had no control. Symptoms include difficulty sleeping, feeling on-edge, drinking or drug problems, anxiety, and emotional outbursts. TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) occurs after injury to the brain and can cause headaches and dizziness as well as any of the symptoms of PTSD. If you know a veteran who may be suffering from PTSD or TBI, contact Veterans Affairs at (802) 296-6300, www.va.ptsd.gov, or talk to Allen Acevedo in our district office at 562-801-2134 for help with treatment.

Sotomayor Sworn In



On August 8, 2009 Justice Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the first Latina U.S. Supreme Court Justice in history. The child of immigrants, Sotomayor began her life in a Bronx housing project before becoming one of the most qualified and brilliant judicial candidates in recent memory. "Her achievement is an inspiration to all Americans," Rep. Napolitano said.

Recent Legislation in Wash, DC

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - Bill that provides a boost of stimulus funding to many areas of the U.S. economy to increase productivity and create new jobs. Status: signed into law.

Enhancing Small Business Innovation Act - Adds funding to programs in the Small Business Administration that aid entrepreneurs and increases assistance to minorities, veterans, and other groups that were not taking full advantage of the programs before.

Status: passed by the House and Senate.

"Cash for Clunkers" Program - Gives car buyers vouchers worth up to \$4,500 for exchanging an old vehicle for a newer, more fuel-efficient one. Status: program now over with more than 690,000 auto sales nationwide.

First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit - Gives out an \$8,000 tax credit to first time homebuyers. Status: signed into law as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act - Invests in new energy technologies and creates a "cap-and-trade" system for controlling harmful emissions. Status: passed by the House, waiting for the Senate.

The America's Affordable Health Choices Act - Seeks to overhaul the health care system to provide affordable coverage. Status: passed three House committees and one Senate committee, legislation not yet complete and ready for vote.

Napolitano Welcomes Water Projects, Jobs

On July 1, \$132,334,693 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds were released to 26 water recycling projects throughout California, including: **\$14 million** for the Regional Recycled Water Program in the Inland Valley, **\$5.6 million** for the Southeast Water Reliability Project in Pico Rivera and Montebello, and **\$4.8 million** for the City of Industry project in the Upper San Gabriel Valley.

Rep. Napolitano also recently secured funding for several other water projects for 2010: **\$4 million** to contain and clean up groundwater contamination in the San Gabriel and Central Groundwater Basins, **\$550,000** to improve water system efficiency and safety in the South Montebello Irrigation District, and **\$300,000** to allow the Whittier Narrows Dam to provide water to 2,200 more households. These appropriated funds were passed in the House but still have to be approved by the Senate before they can be sent to California.

“The projects funded with this money will help stabilize our water supply and create good-paying, long-term jobs,” Napolitano



Spreading grounds at Rio Hondo where treated water is put back underground said. “With more water being recycled here and less being pumped in from the Delta, we can reduce the use of costly imported water, keep our water jobs local and secure the future water supply our communities need.”

Congresswoman Napolitano is the Chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power and is also a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Water Subcommittee.

Stimulus Funds

Here are a few local projects recently funded with stimulus money:

- \$500,000 to rebuild Clark Avenue in the City of Industry
- \$278,442 to upgrade traffic signals throughout East Los Angeles
- \$2,418,331 to resurface bike trails throughout Los Angeles County
- \$3,000,340 to resurface streets in Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights
- \$5,600,000 to build a waterline between Pico Rivera and Rio Hondo
- \$1,300,000 to rebuild Hacienda Blvd. and Glendora Ave. in La Puente
- \$166,800 to upgrade lighting and energy efficiency in La Puente
- \$1,925,000 to improve sidewalks and streets in Montebello
- \$749,000 to rebuild and improve Whittier Blvd. in Montebello
- \$235,486 for a Gang and Narcotic Abatement Detective in Norwalk
- \$2,086,000 to resurface and repair Studebaker Rd. in Norwalk
- \$1,340,249 to purchase and redevelop foreclosed homes in Norwalk
- \$633,782 to prevent homelessness and house the needy in Norwalk
- \$1,960,000 to upgrade Beverly Blvd. and provide new lighting in Pico Rivera
- \$579,400 to increase city energy efficiency and create a solar lighting demonstration in Pico Rivera
- \$3,530,825 to purchase and redevelop foreclosed homes in Pomona
- \$2,999,243 to remove lead-based paint from older buildings in Pomona
- \$1,164,766 to prevent homelessness and house the needy in Pomona
- \$1,400,000 to replace streetlights with efficient LEDs in Pomona
- \$62,000 to hire a probation officer for Santa Fe Springs
- \$528,000 to resurface Marquardt St. in Santa Fe Springs

2009 Women of the Year

On Saturday, May 16th at the Town Center Hall in Santa Fe Springs, Rep. Grace F. Napolitano honored thirty-one women as the 2009 “Women of the Year” for their extraordinary volunteer service and contributions to the community: **Sally Acosta**, Beverly Hospital Guild * **Libby Blumberg**, Pio Pico Women’s Club * **Marie Carrion**, Allen House * **Carol Chang**, Buddha’s Light Hsi Lai School * **Su-Chien Chang**, Los Altos Elementary School * **Jessica Chen**, Fo Guang Shan Hsi Lai Temple * **Mary Jane Coleman**, Norwalk Presbyterian Church * **Monica Colmenero**, Eastmont Community Center * **Virginia Conway**, Bixby Elementary * **Margaret Flores**, Southern Youth Correctional Center & Clinic * **Goharik “Go” Gabriel**, Beverly Hospital Foundation * **Aurelia Garcia**, VIP Senior Citizens of Montebello Inc. * **Anita Garcia**, City of Santa Fe Springs * **Margaret Ann Garcia**, Iglesia Jesus Es Amor * **Maria Grimaldo**, Norwalk Lions Club * **Ana Marie Lenoue**, Soroptimist International of Montebello * **Jennifer Lopez**, Bassett Park * **Debra Martin**, City of Pomona, Mayor’s Office * **Frances Martinez**, Happy Years Senior Club * **Ana Mascareñas**, East L.A. Residents Association * **Emma Missirian**, Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral * **Annette Rodriguez**, Soroptimist International of Santa Fe Springs * **Nilda Salonga**, Steinmetz Senior Center * **Dawn Schaller**, City of Pomona, District 5 * **Sheri Schmidt**, City of Pico Rivera * **Kathleen Solorio**, Garfield High JROTC * **Frances Valenzuela**, Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol & Drug Abuse * **Stella Vasquez**, Silver Years Club * **Eroica “Ro” Woodruff**, Pomona Police Department * **Angela Yanez**, Committee on Senior Affairs of Montebello * **Yolanda Zamora**, California Elementary School

President Visits Pomona



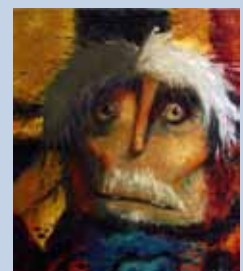
Rep. Napolitano (left) toured the Edison International Vehicle Electrics Plant and spoke to the students of Village Academy with President Barack Obama (center, back) on March 19th

2009 Congressional Art Competition Winners



1st - Nataly Moreno, “Maria in Wonderland”

2nd - Antonio Dominguez, “Sitting”



3rd - Estefania Gomez, “Grandpa”

SCAM ALERT: Do not give out any personal information or send money to people who say you qualify for bailout funds or federal grants! No state, county or federal programs charge fees or contact people who have not applied. To learn more, go to www.mymoney.gov/scams.shtml

To see larger images and learn about the contest, go to www.napolitano.house.gov

Interview with a Congressional Intern

Former intern Allison Ko sat down with our press secretary to talk about her internship experience in Washington, DC.

What was it like to intern with Rep. Napolitano's office?

Allison Ko: I interned for the Congresswoman's office last summer, and the experience was nothing like what I expected. I have always been involved in my local community, but interning let me do a lot of hands-on work with the staff regarding the different issues which directly affect our community.

How did interning prepare you for the future?

Interning really opened my eyes to the world of government and politics, and I wanted to become even more involved. A few months after the internship, the Congresswoman sponsored me for a position as a U.S. House of Representatives Page in Washington, D.C. As a page, I was able to connect what I learned as an intern with the things that occurred on the House Floor. I returned from Washington, D.C. in June, and I am looking forward to continuing to work for my community.

What advice would you have for young people considering an internship?

An internship is only as memorable and rewarding as you make it, so it's important that you find one which suits your interests. To apply for an internship in Congresswoman Napolitano's office, send a resume and cover letter to either the Washington, DC or Santa Fe Springs office addresses at the bottom of this page.



Rep. Napolitano speaks with intern Allison Ko in front of the Congresswoman's Washington Office

Job Training Resources

A recession can be a good time for unemployed people to pick up new skills to make themselves more marketable. Below are some good ways to gain experience.

Apprenticeships with the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee - (323) 221-5881 or www.njatc.org. This apprenticeship program run by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) provides on-the-job training and classroom instruction to high school graduates interested in developing careers in the electrical industry.

Green Building with LA CAUSA - (323) 887-2500 or www.lacausainc.org. LA CAUSA's Community Green Building Initiative teaches young people to use green building techniques as they rehabilitate homes owned by low-income families. Skills learned include the use of recycled building materials, low-toxic building and cleaning products as well as making energy saving modifications. These valuable green-building skills are currently in high demand. Program is mainly for young adults.

National Tooling and Machining Association Training Centers of Southern California - (562) 921-3722 or www.trainingcenters.org. Since 1968, the NTMA Training Centers of Southern California have trained more than 10,000 men and women for a career in the machining, tooling and manufacturing industry. They offer both classroom instruction with computer lab experience and real world shop floor experience with state-of-the-art equipment.

Clip-and-Save

Important Phone Numbers

Social Security 800-772-1213
Federal Immunization Information 800-232-2522
USCIS (Immigration) 800-375-5283
IRS (Federal Tax Issues) 800-829-1040
Small Business Administration 800-827-5722
Veterans' Benefits 800-827-1000
Veterans' Hospital (Loma Linda) (909) 825-7084
CA Housing Finance Agency 916-322-3991
CA Workers Compensation 213-576-7389
CA Veterans 800-952-5626
CA Social Services 916-651-8848
CA Occupational Safety and Health 213-576-7451
LA Board of Supervisors 213-974-1401
LA Mental Health Hotline 800-854-7771
LA Health Services Information 800-427-8700
Rep. Napolitano's District Office 562-801-2134
Washington, DC Office 202-225-5256
www.napolitano.house.gov

Constituent Services Guide

Academy Nominations: High school students interested in an appointment to a military academy and in need of a sponsor should contact our office by the end of November.

Flags: You can purchase an American Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, even on a specific day or holiday given one month's notice.

Immigration/Naturalization: We can help with visas, work permits, legal residency and naturalization.

IRS: We can help you with difficult tax problems and obtain copies of old tax returns needed when dealing with the IRS.

Military: We can help active personnel request hardship discharge, extension of leave, or compassionate reassignment.

Passports: Our office can speed up the passport process.

Presidential Greetings: To receive a greeting from the President for

a special event, send a request at least one month in advance.

Seniors: We can help with questions about Medicare, Social Security, benefits, disability, and Supplemental Security Income.

Small Business: We can help you obtain SBA loans, government contract opportunities, seminars and information.

Veterans: We can answer questions about VA hospitals, pensions, benefits, education, home loans and military records.

Tours: We can help you plan your visit to the Capitol. Call us as soon as you can, at least six weeks before. Due to high demand, call

six months before if you would like a tour of the White House.

Workers' Comp: We can help federal employees or individuals with benefits from the Office of Workers' Compensation Program with their claims.

Updates from Congress

Contact us:

Capitol Office

1610 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
tel.: (202) 225-5256
fax: (202) 225-0027

District Office

11627 E. Telegraph Rd. #100
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
tel.: (562) 801-2134
fax: (562) 949-9144

Online

www.napolitano.house.gov

N

M.C.
PRSRT STD