

VERSARUS SAID. Tuesday's dialogue among

ice Kurnerford said the new charter should keep intact ordinances already in place,

between Ramos and Ruth-ardford over whether the lan-guage should be "checks and

"Looking at the November election, we'll have a greater voter turnout," she said.

## MEADOWBROOK TOWERS

# Fair offers a way out

### Assistance: Displaced residents in San Bernardino presented with options

By Ryan Hagen  
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**SAN BERNARDINO** » A resource fair Tuesday was an answer for Meadowbrook Towers residents, who said they felt disrespected and even endangered by orders for them to leave so that renovations can take place.

Charities and government agencies gave information on other housing opportunities and assistance for qualified residents who said they didn't know how they'd be able to find and afford a new place by their Oct. 31 move-out date.

"I saw the voices of desperation, need," Councilwoman Virginia Marquez said, referring to residents who asked for the city's help. "But you know what? I responded. It is my hope, it is my goal, that all of you will find housing options."

It wasn't the response many had hoped for — a cancellation of the notice to vacate or direct financial aid — but the majority of those who attended the event said they were hopeful afterward.

"I'm still worried about those in wheelchairs, with cancer, especially needy people," said resident Bill Sandefur. "I'll be OK, though, and I think most of us are much better than we are. When people feel they're listened to, it changes things. I think the community has come together over this."

Sandefur said he was concerned about 12 residents out of the roughly 65 who were given a notice to vacate.

It was nice to be listened to, but that wasn't enough, said 6-year resident Stephanie Walker.

"I still don't know how I'm going to get a new place to live," said Walker, who uses a wheelchair. "Transportation is a big issue, so I can only really live in San Bernardino, and I don't have much money."

Walker said she has been paying \$500 a month, which is in line with several of the San Bernardino properties available



The Housing Authority of San Bernardino held a resource fair Tuesday at Meadowbrook Park and Towers apartments. LANDAZO CARTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

to people at her income level, according to paper work she got at the resource fair.

Numbers for attendance and how many people were able to get the necessary assistance would be available today, Marquez said.

Another fair is planned for 6 p.m. next Wednesday in the Towers lobby to follow up and allow those who worked during the afternoon to attend.

The event was hosted by Marquez and the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County, led by Dan Nackerman.

"What I don't want to do is promise anyone housing, because we already have 32,000 on our waiting list, but we're familiar with the bureaucracy and how to get through this," Nackerman told attendees. "I am convinced the new owners are genuine and you will get to like them compared to the old ones."

Affordable Housing Management, based in Memphis, Tenn., took over the property in late August.

"We're glad people are getting the help they need," said president Keith Acton, who says residents must leave so that studio apartments can be turned into one-bedroom apartments as part of a revitalization process.

The city had long pushed for such changes and had little power to assist directly with the fallout from it. Mayor Pat Morris told a crowd of more than 30 residents who brought their concerns to

Monday's City Council meeting.

"As you know based upon your residency there, the Towers have serious issues with regard to quality of life," Morris said. "The new owners intend to remedy those with a whole new set of investments in that tower."

Eddie Jones of the Los Angeles Civil Rights Association spoke to Morris after the meeting and said he was encouraged by the city's response.

"This is a first step, but we're going to get these people what they need," said Jones, who's been working as a spokesman for the soon-to-be-displaced residents.

Mayoral candidate Richard Castro attended and said he wasn't satisfied by the time it had taken for the city to respond or what he says is inattention from most officials.

"This is like a flood or a hurricane, because it's driving people out of their homes, and so it shouldn't just be one ward that responds — it should be the whole city, all the neighbors," Castro said.

Marquez, who is running for reelection, represents the 1st Ward, where Meadowbrook is located.

6th Ward Councilman Rikke Van Johnson, who is also running for mayor, arrived after Castro said that, and other city officials have looked into other options.

# Paramedics teach life-saving techniques at City Hall

SAN BERNARDINO

By Melissa Pinion-Whitt  
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**SAN BERNARDINO** » It involves dummies and a lot of chest compressions, but it isn't the hours-long CPR training many would expect. San Bernardino firefighters trained about 60 city employees in City Hall's basement on Hands-Only CPR on Tuesday, something they plan to offer to the rest of the community.

"Studies have shown that just doing compressions and keeping the blood flowing to vital organs works to save the patient," said San Bernardino City Fire Battalion Chief Nathan Cook.

Typical CPR certification classes last several hours, but for Hands Only, the class takes 30 minutes. Employees watched instructional videos, received information from firefighters and took to the mat to learn chest compressions on dummies. There is no mouth-to-mouth



Lisa Sherrick, administrative analyst for San Bernardino community development, left, and Holly Carille, a council office employee, learn hands-only CPR at City Hall on Tuesday. MELISSA PINION-WHITT STAFF

breathing in the training.

"It's helpful," said Lisa Sherrick, an administrative analyst for San Bernardino's community development.

Sherrick said she was CPR-certified about five years ago and remembers the class being much longer, but with 30-minute ses-

sions, firefighters can reach many more people. The idea is to make as many people prepared for emergency situations as possible, without the fear of performing mouth-to-mouth on a stranger. If someone performs chest compressions continuously until paramedics arrive, the survivability rate increases from 7 to about 35 percent, Cook said.

Emergency Medical Services Coordinator Bernie Horak. Participants don't receive CPR certification upon completion of the class, but they still should be able to help save lives. "Anything you do is going to help their chances," Horak said. Groups, businesses or individuals hoping to receive the training may call San Bernardino City Fire Department administration, 909-384-6286.

## SBSUN.COM Gallery details work of Gabriel Acosta

View photographs taken by late Sun photographer Gabriel Acosta, who died last weekend. His work covered more than two decades photographing the lives, people and times of the Inland Empire.



**BANNING**  
**Rep. Cook feted at Republican event**  
Rep. Paul Cook will be honored Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. by the San Geronimo Pass Republican Federated at the Elegant Affair, 182 W. Ramsay St., Banning. The cost is \$20. Reservation are required at 951-769-0957 or 951-206-6705.

**REDLANDS**  
**Pancake breakfast to aid Asistencia**  
A pancake breakfast will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. Sept. 28 at the Asistencia, 25930 Barton Road, by the Redlands Service Club Council. Cost is \$5. INFORMATION: 908-793-0508 OR 909-533-9151

**SAN BERNARDINO**  
**Hispanic Heritage art exhibit opens**  
San Bernardino County Hispanic Employee Alliance hosts Hispanic Heritage Month Art Exhibit through Nov. 29 at the County Government Center, 365 N. Arrowhead Ave., weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.