Supervisors Fernando Armenta (left) and Dave Potter (right) share smiles and the resolutions honoring their years of public service.

County Says Goodbye to Armenta, Potter

Two long-serving county supervisors were honored by constituents, the community and county staff this week as they leave elected office.
Supervisors Fernando Armenta and Dave Potter attended their last regular Board of Supervisors meeting this week and received hours of well-wishes and ‘thank yous’ for their years of service.

Each of the retiring Board members was given state and local proclamations, followed by dozens of speakers who told tales of collaborative projects, successful programs – evidence that the time in office for these two gentlemen has been well spent indeed.

How do these longtime public servants feel about their time in office, their accomplishments, greatest challenges and what lays ahead? Listen to a special interview with each supervisor, now airing on the county government channel (MGTV Comcast Cable Channel 28) and also posted on MGTV’s YouTube channel.
NMC Honored for In-Hospital Prevention Efforts

Natividad Medical Center (NMC) has been recognized by the Collaborative Alliance for Nursing Outcomes (CALNOC) with two 2016 Awards for Performance Excellence.

CALNOC, the leading provider of research on nursing sensitive indicators, honored NMC for its work to reduce injury falls and hospital-acquired pressure ulcers.

Over the last year, NMC reduced injury falls by 67 percent, from 1.18 falls to 0.38 falls per 1,000 patient days.

To reduce patient fall risk, the hospital adopted safety bed enclosures (allowing patients to be secure, but not physically tied to beds) and installed beds only six inches off the floor. Additionally, NMC secured walkers and instituted additional staff support in its acute rehab unit.

Across the organization, supervisors and nurses huddle daily to discuss issues and successes. All fall incidences are shared with patients and visitors.

“This recognition from CALNOC is a testament to our staff’s accountability and commitment to patient safety,” said Sue Saunders, RN, MPA, and NMC’s Director of Nursing Education. “By establishing a new model and system for caring for patients, we were able to decrease injury falls by 67 percent and we’ve had no serious injury falls in 2016.”

This is the third year in a row NMC received an award for preventing hospital-acquired pressure ulcers (HAPUs). Over the last year, NMC has reduced HAPUs by 50 percent. NMC also found no hospital acquired pressure ulcers above a stage two, and therefore received a zero percent prevalence rate by CALNOC.

A pressure ulcer, an injury to the skin or underlying tissue caused by pressure, friction and moisture, often occurs when patients have limited mobility and can’t change positions in bed on their own. Hospitals must pay special attention when pressure ulcers occur to provide quick treatment to reduce damage to skin and muscles, pain, infection and other problems.

NMC was selected for these awards from among 250 eligible CALNOC hospitals. Congratulations to the hospital and staff.
Holiday Snapshots from Around the County

The holidays bring out the giving spirit, camaraderie and fun in county departments. Here are snapshots from holiday activities in departments around the county.

Many offices are collecting for those in need this season such as gifts for foster children, the food bank, animal shelters and more. There are holiday gatherings and festive contests that make it feel like a special time of year. Thanks to the departments who shared their photos.

The giving spirit in full swing. Employee holiday collections underway for (l-r) Sheriff’s Teddy Bears (Auditor & Ag Commission), Project Santa gifts for foster children, food and blankets for local animal shelters.

Child Support Services got into the holiday spirit with a gathering this week. That is Shelly Gales, Lead Child Support Officer (far left) with the microphone, keeping things lively and helping with prize drawings. There was fun and of course some great holiday food.
At the Department of Social Services’ King City office, employees got into the spirit with a door decorating contest!

In the Health Department’s Public Health Nursing Unit, there weren’t doors to work with so the entire workspace became a holiday canvas. Their workspace decorating contest included a pretty awesome ‘Candy Bar.’
The Clerk of the Board’s annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest produced some amazing creations, from Hogwarts and the Christmas Vacation house to a sweet version of the East/West Wing renovation. Assistant CAO Manny Gonzalez won a special prize for his literal interpretation of “ginger bread house” (above).