



Volume 2	Maywood CA Chamber of Commerce	March, 2015
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## Second Issue

**“What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve” Napoleon Hill**

### EXIDE Shut Down

The L.A. Times reports that Exide Technologies and the Federal government have reached a deal that will shut down a battery recycling plant in Vernon, CA. This is great news for the people of neighboring Maywood, who can now rest assured that air quality will improve in the upcoming days, greatly reducing the amount of lead and arsenic, which are cancer-causing contaminants. The deal states that Exide will avoid criminal prosecution in exchange of shutting down its plant in Vernon, CA.

Just weeks prior to that, the Maywood CA Chamber of Commerce encouraged residents to participate in an important meeting. Air Quality Management District, which has jurisdiction in Southern California, met in the Long Beach City Hall to listen to concerns from residents of areas affected by Exide, and also to hear what the company has to say regarding a proposal to require it to reduce lead emissions.

MCCC thanks everyone who participated in the event, and hopes that Maywood residents can now relish the victory that they have, knowing that the air and water quality of our community will improve.

### CODELA Preschool

Most people spend much of their childhood and adolescence in school. It is a period of time that strongly determines a person’s career options later on in life. CODELA, which stands for Coalición de Latinos Americanos, is a private preschool that serves low income families in Maywood by providing healthy meals, active play, and engaging educational activities to young children, all the while staying in touch with the community at large. With the goal of making children comfortable and successful in the scholastic world, CODELA takes the initiative in providing a preschool experience that is memorable and useful to all involved. Their Maywood branch is located within Iglesia Betania exclusively for reasons of space; CODELA is secular in instruction; respectful of and neutral to all religious beliefs. For more information, visit the Maywood CA Chamber of Commerce section of [hanabuk.com](http://hanabuk.com), where you can find an interview with the leaders of the school: Carlos Ruvalcaba, Martina Diaz, and Ana Popper.

### Aguirre Interview

*The following is an excerpt of an interview of Felipe Aguirre, former Mayor of Maywood and head of the MCCC. We ask him about the events that had led to his 2008-2009 term as Mayor of Maywood:* I got involved in Maywood politics, under PUMAS (Padres Unidos de Maywood) because a lot of people would come to my office and said that their vehicles were towed. I helped people fill out their forms to get their cars back. It was difficult to recover them, because they were impounded and put in a 30 day hold. They had to pay a towing company lots of money to get their cars back. The Maywood PD would target the undocumented specifically. We helped people get attorneys to recover their vehicles. We tried to get the city council to change their policy, so we made an alliance with Santa Rosa De Lima Catholic Church. We kept petitioning the city council to stop targeting the undocumented. When we noticed that we weren’t getting results, I ran for council member and I won in November of 2005. Once you are a member of the Council, it is up to the Council itself to decide who becomes mayor. There is a new mayor every year. The council members later on nominated me for the 2008 to 2009 term.

## Maywood CA Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

### Querubina Insurance Services

Querubina Insurance Services, located in 4509 Slauson Ave, by Atlantic, is a business that adds to our city's vibrant life. Querubina Wuence herself, owner of the insurance business and active promoter of the Manuel Aguilar Foundation, agreed to an interview with us so that she may share the wisdom of her journey from civil war refugee to proud business owner:

**What is it that you like most about having a business here in Maywood?** *I like to help people. I see much need in our community. People are struggling financially, and people also require knowledge. I appreciate the chance to do what I can to help others. I'm grateful to God for putting me in this path. I'm very happy that my business is able to employ others, and that it has provided for my children.*

**What advice would you give others who want to start an insurance business?** *I would tell them that it is important to have perseverance and a goal. Once you have that, you have what it takes to do the work required to succeed in that field. I recommend that people go to school and then take the tests that the state requires. I took classes from Primerica Financial Services, and then took state tests, such as the Fire and Casualty Test.*

Querubina also spoke to me about the Manuel Aguilar Foundation. Manuel Aguilar was her father, a person who was very active in assisting youth in their scholastic efforts and in expanding the community in his native El Salvador. He was kidnapped during the Salvadoran Civil War of the 80's, and has since become an officially recognized local hero. Her hometown dedicated the 7th of August to his memory. The foundation is an effort to continue her father's efforts to assist the community. The Manuel Aguilar Foundation provides medicine for the elderly in El Salvador, as well as basic food items for the very poor. It also provides scholarships, but due to insufficient funding, it can only sponsor three children as of now. In order to raise funds, Querubina hosts get-togethers in her house, where people eat, enjoy themselves, and donate whatever they can. She also has a bank account dedicated to that foundation. If anyone is interested in helping Querubina raise funds, the following is the bank number where donations may be accepted. Bank of America 32502976 Querubina may be contacted at (323) 771-7071

### Saint Patrick's Battalion

Saint Patrick's Day is the day most of us see as an excuse to consume alcohol or to pinch those unfortunate souls who forgot to wear green. Beyond that, however, is a chance to appreciate the history of the very land we live on. There was a time when these lands were ruled by Mexican law. The process of making them American involved a controversial war between the United States and Mexico. Irish immigrants, who were Catholic and victims of oppression under British rule, were drafted to join the Army to invade Mexico. Some of them questioned the legitimacy of the war, and after an act of courage, or some might say, foolhardy rashness, they switch sides and fought for the Mexican state.

