

**Political primer:  
Whom to  
contact**

**Los Baños  
City Council**

Tommy Jones  
Mayor  
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Joe Sousa  
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Elizabeth Stone  
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Mike Villalta  
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Los Baños, CA  
93635  
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**Planning  
Commission**

Norm Donovan  
Steve Hammond  
Jose Manzo  
Ann McCauley  
Tom Mello

Shirley  
Napolitano

Erasmo Viveros  
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**Los Baños  
Unified  
School  
District**

Steve Tietjen,  
Superintendent

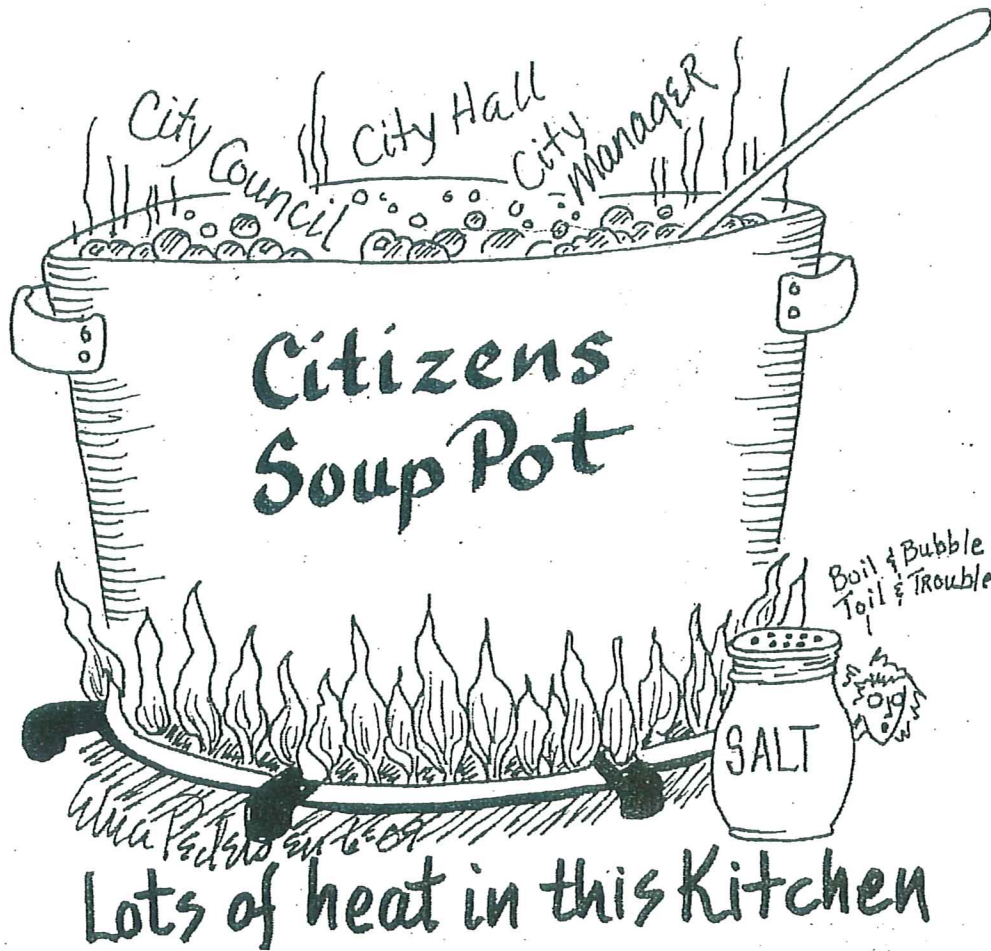
**Board of  
Trustees**

Aaron Barcellos,  
Dennis Areias  
Don Goin

Colleen Menefee  
Henry Smith  
Andrée Soares  
Jack Vasquez  
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**Merced  
County  
Board of  
Supervisors**

John Pedrozo,  
District I



**OUR VIEW**

**Mayor owed an apology**

That Eugene Forte, the publisher of a local newspaper, should stand at a televised public meeting and call the mayor of Los Baños the "N" word is abominable.

The word is beyond disparaging, beyond reprehensible. It is the ugliest, most hurtful word in the English language and holds the full measure of the hatred and bigotry of which this country has been trying to rid itself for generations.

What is even more disturbing than Forte shouting the word in public is that not a soul attending Wednesday's meeting, including the other



**GENE LIEB**

members of the City Council, stood at the podium and specifically condemned it. Does that mean everyone agreed with Forte's remark? Were they intimidated by Forte's demeanor? What reason could they have for not publically objecting?

It doesn't matter what one may think of mayor Jones'

politics or of him as a person. No one deserves to be called such a name - no one.

Sure, Forte has the right to use such a word but he should be ashamed of himself for doing so. No matter what he thinks of Tommy Jones or the status of his lawsuit against him, he owes the mayor a public apology. So do the rest of us who said nothing to condemn the outburst.

Mr. Mayor, please accept our apology.

Gene Lieb is publisher of the Los Baños Enterprise. He can be reached by phone at (209) 826-3831 or by e-mail at publisher@losbanosenterprise.com

**Avo  
50 y**

It all began last March when I had an unfamiliar voice on my answering machine. "Are you the Spevak who graduated from St. John the Baptist School in Winfield, 1959?"

I was startled. I tried to listen. "This George Lane. If you that John Spevak, I one of your St. John classmates."

I recognized George's name. That didn't trigger a great memory, because there were only 27 in that class. But would he be calling I don't think I had heard his voice in the last century.

"I've been thinking about a reunion of our class," George continued in his voice message "because it's been 50 years since our graduation." Suddenly I felt old. Even though it was only eighth grade, I didn't see myself as someone old enough for a 50th reunion of a kind.

"If you're not the Spevak, I apologize for this message," George's voice continued. "Even you are, could you give me a call?" A phone number followed.

For several reasons some of which are little vague in my mind I was intrigued, partly to serendipity. During this past year, after retired from my full-time job, I have been teaching a class part-time at Los Baños campus Merced College, a class for older adults called "Writing Your Life Stories."

One of our assign...