

AROUND ALHAMBRA



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024 | GATEWAY TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

www.alhambrachamber.org



One of Alhambra's six Starbucks locations, on the corner of First and Main.
Photo Credit: Aurora C., via Yelp.

Third Places on the Rise in Alhambra

By Nancy Liu, Editor

When you're not at work or home, where do you go? That's the question third places are trying to answer. The term "third places" was coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg, who said that they encourage civic engagement and promote a sense of belonging in one's community. These are places like churches, cafes, bars, parks, boba shops, and so on.

Third places are the glue of any community, but the rise of social media, car dependency, and a lasting pandemic have made some people believe that third places are slowly disappearing. The lack of community spaces contributes to the growing "loneliness epidemic" that seeps into every corner of our lives — while the internet has made global communication possible at a scale former generations couldn't even imagine, it's rife with toxicity and can hardly replace the need for in-person interaction.

A recent study from Columbia Business School found that third places

can also promote entrepreneurship and economic growth. A group of researchers led by Columbia professor Jorge Guzman studied the effects of the entrance of a new Starbucks cafe on local entrepreneurship, finding that it could increase entrepreneurship by 2.3% to 11.8% in neighborhoods where there were no other cafes or similar third places already present. It shows the power of third places not only in creating community spaces, but also the economic benefits of building spaces that encourage people to build capital.

Anthony Rodriguez, Global Responsibility Lead at Starbucks, shared that the company is very intentional about opening new locations in underserved neighborhoods and encouraging its employees to be more involved in their own communities. Rodriguez previously worked on the Community Store Program team, which brings Starbucks cafes... *Third Places on the Rise in Alhambra, p3*



The Los Angeles County Office of Education recognized 16 outstanding educators as County Teachers of the Year.

AUSD Drama Teacher Page Phillips Takes Center Stage as Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year



Nadine Page Phillips was named Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year and honored at a luncheon at the Universal Hilton Hotel.

Nadine "Page" Phillips, Mark Keppel High School Drama Teacher and Visual and Performing Arts department chairperson, was among the 16 educators honored as 2024-2025 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year during the 43rd Annual Teacher of the Year Awards luncheon on September 20. The County Teachers of the Year represent the very best of the profession, setting the standard for their 73,000 colleagues countywide.

"Our teachers are the heart and soul of our schools," said Dr. Debra Duardo, L.A. County Superintendent of Schools. "Their passion for education, creativity in the classroom, and deep dedication to their students make an immeasurable impact. They remind us everyday why teaching is the foundation of a strong community."

Phillips and the other County honorees were chosen from a highly competitive pool of 69 teachers representing 65 school districts, who had already been named Teacher of the Year by their respective school districts. As part of the rigorous selection process, nominees submitted essays, lesson plans, and other materials, and were interviewed by judging panels

consisting of educational experts and past California Teachers of the Year. At all levels, selection of the Teachers of the Year seeks to spotlight teaching excellence and recognize exemplary dedication, innovative classroom practices, and significant contributions to the profession.

"Teaching is not just a profession for me. Honestly, it is a calling, it is a passion, and it is a lifelong commitment," reflected Phillips, who is a 25-year veteran teacher. "It is my goal as an educator that everyone leaves my classroom knowing they are valued and knowing their value."

It's a goal Phillips has been extremely successful at achieving. Her former student Evan Sakuma, now a Ph.D. candidate and instructor at UC Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, wrote glowingly about "Ms. P" (as he affectionately calls her) and stated that all of his accomplishments "can easily be traced back to the foundation Ms. P laid down for me. How lucky I am to have had Ms. P as a mirror that allowed me to see myself the way I wanted to, the way I NEEDED to. All students who have had the pleasure of working with her will no doubt have their own stories to tell of being transformed by her education."

Another former student, Amy Hughson, who is now an Alhambra Unified School District elementary drama teacher, wrote a letter of recommendation for her, stating that "Ms. Phillips taught me drama, but she also taught me the qualities of a good teacher: a good teacher is someone who shares their subject matter knowledge in engaging and meaningful; a good teacher is someone who creates a safe space for students to discover themselves and the world; a good teacher is someone who believes in you so much that you end up being believing in yourself. Ms. Phillips exhibits all these qualities and more." She concluded by describing Page Phillips in one simple word: "extraordinary."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- > Small Business Saturday Giveaway 5
- > Alhambra Firefighters Protect Us and California 7
- > Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony 12
- > Alhambra Holiday Gift Guide 14
- > Senior Health Tips for Winter 2024 20

ALHAMBRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
104 S. First Street
Alhambra, CA 91801

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #35
ALHAMBRA, CA

CAR-RT SORT

AROUND ALHAMBRA

Published by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, *Around Alhambra* is a monthly publication with a circulation of 34,000. *Around Alhambra* is mailed to every business and residence in the City of Alhambra and to all interested local, state, and county officials.

We welcome comments, press releases, and community interest stories and will make every effort to include all appropriate information.

Articles submitted to and printed in *Around Alhambra* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce or its Board of Directors.

Please e-mail submissions to AA@alhambrachamber.org

For advertising rates and other information, contact:
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 S. First St., Alhambra, CA 91801
Tel: 626-282-8481 Fax: 626-282-5596
www.alhambrachamber.org

Executive Committee

President:
Maria Gao, *Evike.com*
Immediate Past President:
Christopher T. Balmaseda, *TAP-LA*
Treasurer:
Kevin Houser, *The Alhambra*
President-Elect
Wing Ho, *TAG Design Works*

Board of Directors:
Pilar Almeida
Republic Services
Jaime Alvarez
Baja Cali
Jewelyn Co
Cokreeate
Melissa Demirci
Transtech
Rhiley Gomez
Wells Fargo
Raymond Ho
GE Property
Evelyn Ku
Alhambra Hospital Medical Center
Daniel Lin
New Century Automotive Group
Earl Miller Jr.
The Granada LA
Susan Pilcher
Wondries
Jeannette Soriano
Southern California Edison

Staff
C.E.O.:
John Bwarie
Editor:
Nancy Liu
Designer:
Chara Espaldon
Project Manager:
Kathleen Corral
Business and Community Investment Manager:
Anthony Lei
Community Relations Manager:
Hailee Reichwald
Community Coordinators:
Aidan Lysy
Emily Garcia

AROUND ALHAMBRA is not responsible nor liable for any claims or offerings, nor responsible for product availability that may be advertised. Opinions expressed in columns, letters, and guest editorials are those of the authors. All rights reserved. Reproductions in whole or in part without permission are prohibited.



Mayor's Corner

Dear Alhambra Neighbors,

This September, I took a personal trip to Granada, Spain to learn more about Alhambra's sister city. Our city shares so much connection with Granada — from our city name to our city logo. In 1874, 10-year-old Ruth Wilson convinced her father to name our city "Alhambra" after reading Washington Irving's book *Tales of the Alhambra* on the legends of the Alhambra Moorish palace in Granada, Spain.



Visiting Alhambra's palace in person was magnificent and brought me so much pride in our city's history. The Alhambra palace's arched windows and doorways are made of beautiful stone, hand carved with Islamic calligraphy from the Nasrid dynasty, and surrounded by sculpted stucco decorations and geometric tile mosaics. This architecture inspired our city's logo: an arched window similar to those in the Alhambra palace looking out onto our beautiful city in Alhambra, California. This trip was extra special as I prepare to end my time as Mayor come December 2024.

As my Mayorship comes to an end, I want to express my gratitude to our residents for their support and commitment over the last four years. Together we've passed historic legislation, programs, and projects, including:

Alhambra's first ever Dog Park, which will be built next to Almansor Golf Course Driving Range. Groundbreaking for the dog park is tentatively set for 2025.

Alhambra is also opening two additional 'pocket park' spaces, one at the corner of **Fremont and Hellman** and another at the **Joslyn Center**.

Alhambra's first ever Community Center, which will serve the entire community with health and fitness courses, classrooms for students to study in, open space for groups and organizations to gather and meet, and so much more. This center will be located at the Shorb Clinic at Shorb St and 6th St. The groundbreaking is tentatively set for 2025

At the beginning of this year, we approved **Alhambra's first ever Bike Plan** to create a safe bike network throughout the city for students, seniors and families. The City will be working to identify grant funding from local, state, and federal agencies to implement this plan in the years to come.

In an effort to **make our streets safer for bikers and pedestrians**, the Council approved **Alhambra's Pedestrian Safety Priority Zones** which identify eight dangerous areas throughout the city to be targeted with safety improvements in the next two years. The City Council has convinced Metro to move \$14.4 million of Measure R dollars into our local pedestrian safety plan, providing Alhambra with the resources necessary for these improvements.

Next year, Alhambra will complete its first ever **Sustainability Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide** after Councilmember Jeff Maloney and I partnered to secure \$675,000 from Congresswoman Judy Chu's office to support this plan. This plan now has a dedicated staff person to ensure its timely completion and implementation, so that **our residents may continue to enjoy clean air, clean water, and a clean environment for generations to come.**

We are currently working to develop **Alhambra's first ever Historic Preservation Ordinance that will protect the character and history of our beautiful city, while increasing local property values.** We are currently engaged in a democratic process for community



Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez
City of Alhambra

feedback, hosting multiple community meetings across the city where individuals are being surveyed for their thoughts on issues such as **reducing property taxes through the Mills Act or what process a homeowner should follow to identify their home as historic.** This ordinance is set to be created in Spring 2025 after robust community feedback.

Finally, at our most recent council meeting Alhambra approved a plan to **reduce the number of vacant storefronts throughout the City of Alhambra**, and to ensure business owners are maintaining properties that are vacant.

Each and every one of you has played a tremendous role in making our community excellent: by helping a neighbor who needed a hand, showing up to meetings to share concerns, or volunteering to keep Alhambra beautiful. Alhambra is my hometown, and I know the people that live here are what makes this city one of the best in the world. You all will always hold an extra special place in my heart. Thank you for the contributions you all have made to Alhambra. I look forward to continuing to serve you all in the years to come.

With gratitude always,
Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez

The Chamber View

Greeting the Season with Great Expectations

By John Bwarie

It's the most wonderful time of the year if YOU make it so! For many of our community members, the gift giving season is a time to express what others mean in our lives. It's time to wrap up small tokens of gratitude, large gestures of affection or respect, and finding the perfect gift to acknowledge the extra efforts of a colleague or perhaps your employees.

Who are you shopping for? Make a list and check it twice to make sure you don't miss any family, friends, neighbors, teachers, clients, co-workers, babysitters, and other special people in your life. Of course, you deserve something special, too, so remember to pick out the perfect gift from you to you (now's not the time to resist). When you're in Alhambra, a shopping trip must include stopping at some of our delicious eateries for a pick-me-up, and perhaps picking up a gift certificate or two for others while you're out and about.

Shopping local is a gift to the whole

community. Make your purchases at the retailers and e-tailers here in Alhambra so you contribute to our community's economic vibrancy. In this issue, you'll find our Holiday Gift Guide (page 14). Then, see the Small Business Saturday Passport (page 5) – when you can enter to win gift cards and other giveaways by visiting the featured retailers on November 30, from 10 am to Noon.

If you're planning corporate parties, consider in-office catering or dining out spots from the downloadable Alhambra Eats 2024 Restaurant Guide, available at AlhambraEats.com. You'll find 200+ restaurants that are perfect for any size group from two to 2,000. When you think about staying together as a community, there's nothing better than sharing a meal, going out for a favorite sweet treat, or bringing in something delicious from Alhambra's amazing selection of cuisines.

At the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, we work with local



John Bwarie
CEO
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

businesses large and small, non-profits, public and private schools, civic organizations, and community members to help grow our economy, our visibility, and our future. As the Chamber strives to make a positive difference on behalf of all of us, we appreciate how each of us has a role in making Alhambra a wonderful place to live and work.

Hope this season meets our greatest expectations, including a stronger, more connected, and vibrant community!

Third Places on the Rise in Alhambra

from Page 1

... to under-resourced communities to address social and economic challenges in those areas.

“The reason that entrepreneurship grows in these communities is that other people see that Starbucks is taking a chance, we’re going to go in there. Starbucks is also going to drive traffic and be an economic driver,” he explained.



Image courtesy of downtownalhambra.com

Rodriguez started working at the Starbucks on Atlantic and Valley as a barista fifteen years ago, so he’s a strong believer of the power of Starbucks to offer generational mobility. His work now revolves around encouraging Starbucks employees to get involved in the things that matter to them. In Alhambra, employees are encouraged to join cultural events like the Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival or the annual Pumpkin Run.

Having grown up in Alhambra, Rodriguez said that, “Starbucks changed my understanding of what responsibility to our community is. I grew up in this area and never felt a responsibility to the city or community until I came to Starbucks and saw this is what we do here, we’re community members and we have a responsibility.” He still lives here now with his partner and together they

enjoy local community spaces like the weekly Farmers Market, Alhambra Park, and the restaurants and shops along Main Street and throughout the city.

Main Street has become one of the biggest attractions in Alhambra. It’s a highly walkable area with free parking and a good mix of restaurants and shops, and has bounced back as a center of business after the pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic and quarantine did a number on our third places. Restaurants closed their dining rooms and many struggled to stay afloat with takeout-only service. Other physical shops had to close entirely — Axem Axe Throwing in nearby West Covina had to use its savings to pay rent while it wasn’t able to earn revenue for months. It took time for places that used to be popular gathering spots to put their tables and chairs back in place.

Alex Lin, founder of Reach Media and an Alhambra native, thinks that places like restaurants are more transactional now, with a greater focus on selling their goods and less on letting people linger and mingle. “There seems to be a trend where a lot of these shops and places that I used to go to when I was in high school, the environment used to be more inviting. I think Covid had a pretty big impact on closing up seating or closing their outlets,” he said.

In high school, Lin would walk up and down Main Street after school with his friends. They hung out in boba shops or at convenience stores like Big T Mini Mart, which is now closed. As an adult, Lin has found that there are fewer opportunities to maintain community relationships and that “it’s difficult to feel fully connected with your neighbors. There’s not that much of an

emphasis on getting to know other people or shops getting to know their customers.”

When meeting with friends, Lin said he looks outside of Alhambra for things to explore, like flea markets and shopping malls. “There aren’t too many activities for young people in their 20s aside from eating or drinking in Alhambra. For me, I like seeing new things and exploring new things, but here there’s not that much to explore,” he explained. He still likes to work from boba shops and other places, but has suffered from a lack of seating areas and available power outlets.



The lack of variety is one of Alhambra’s biggest challenges in finding third places. Joanna Vargas, who is part of the Downtown Alhambra Business Association (DABA) and founder of the Pumpkin Run, agrees with this sentiment. She sees a need for more versatile gathering spaces that appeal to diverse interests and age groups in Alhambra.

Like Lin, she said that locals may drive to nearby cities in search of these spaces instead, but it’s also improving here in Alhambra. Both Vargas and Lin mentioned their excitement for new businesses like Happy Humble Hub, a marketplace for small businesses that lends more variety to Main Street and which also organizes events like workshops, panels, and

stand up comedy shows that bring out the community.

When thinking about how Main Street has changed, Rodriguez also brought up safety concerns and said that “over the past few years, Alhambra has done a much better job of bringing in businesses that allow for healthy, safe congregating. Main Street has really turned into a safe place where people can go and gather.”

In addition to attracting new businesses, the City of Alhambra is instrumental in creating third places that cater to the whole community and are free to use, such as the public library and the city’s six parks. Along with the weekly Farmers Market organized by the city, DABA is opening the Main Street Market in January to bring the community together to support local small businesses, which will have crafts vendors, live music, and artists.

The City has several bigger projects in development, including a dog park and community center. The new community center will have at least 17,000 square feet of space to accommodate a variety of activities. It will have something for everyone, from after school programming to enrichment classes like pilates and arts, as well as an event and meeting area. These new additions to the community promise more opportunities for residents to get outside, meet their neighbors, and form deeper relationships with each other and with the city as a whole.

“I definitely don’t think it’s all bad,” Lin said of the state of third places in Alhambra. “I just do notice that third places are disappearing and for us to establish a strong community, we need those spaces.”

To keep up to date on the City’s projects, visit cityofalhambra.com. For more information about the Main Street Market, visit downtownalhambra.com.

Calendar of Events

<p>> Denny’s Game Room Grand Opening November 2 10 am - 2 pm Alhambra Denny’s, 369 W Main Street dennys.com</p> <p>> Nucleus 20th Anniversary Exhibition Opening Reception November 9 5 pm - 8 pm Gallery Nucleus, 210 East Main Street gallerynucleus.com</p>	<p>> Saint Therese School Fall Annual Rummage Sale November 9 & 10 8 am - 5 pm Saint Therese School, 1106 East Alhambra Road sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com</p> <p>> Veterans Day Ceremony November 11 10 am - 11:30 am Alhambra Park, 500 N Palm Avenue cityofalhambra.org</p>	<p>> Junko Mizuno Tarot Collection Part 2 Opening Reception November 23 5 pm - 8 pm Gallery Nucleus, 210 East Main Street gallerynucleus.com</p> <p>> 2025 Rose Queen & Court Luncheon December 3 11 am - 1 pm Almansor Court, 700 South Almansor Street alhambrachamber.org</p>	<p>> Alhambra Tree Lighting Ceremony December 6 5 pm - 9 pm Renaissance Plaza, 1 E. Main Street downtownalhambra.com</p> <p>> Main Street Market Sundays starting January 5 10 am - 2 pm Renaissance Plaza, 1 E. Main Street downtownalhambra.com</p> <p>To view more details about these events, visit AroundAlhambra.org/Calendar.</p>
--	---	---	--

2025 ALHAMBRA LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

PRESENTED BY:

New Century BMW

Driven For You®

SECURE YOUR VENDOR BOOTH BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE!

MAIN STREET, ALHAMBRA

WWW.ALHAMBRALUNARNEWYEAR.COM

SPONSORED BY:

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

HOSTED BY:

Your Next Company Retreat Might Have Axe Throwing

By Nancy Liu, Editor



In September 2018, Marc and Beverly Oanes were in Utah for a cousin's wedding. Having only been to Utah during the winter to go snowboarding, Beverly was looking for something else to do during their trip. That's how they found something that had only just begun to make its way to Southern California: axe throwing.

Once exclusive to lumberjack festivals and other outdoor fairs, axe throwing as a recreational activity only began to get popular in the mid-2000s. At the end of the night in 2018, the Oanes were inspired. Beverly said, "We had such a good time, my husband and I were looking at each other and said, 'Oh my god! We should open one in California!'"

By December, Axem Axe Throwing became an LLC. Axem was one of Los Angeles' first axe throwing venues, opened by the Oanes in 2019. It was the second axe throwing venue in Los Angeles County, and the third in Southern California.

Marc and Beverly both come from artistic backgrounds; Marc is a glassblower and Beverly is a former art teacher with a studio art degree. They came into the axe throwing business wanting to be more creative and unique.

"I wanted it [to be] our own," Beverly said. "A lot of axe places are kind of like bowling, where you have bowling leagues. There are axe throwing leagues, but our place is for having fun. It's a heavy axe or hatchet and you have knives too, so we wanted it to be comfortable and for people to have a good time and learn how to throw. You just want to go there to learn and hang out with friends or go on date night. It's supposed to be fun."

From the beginning, Axem wanted to take away the intimidating atmosphere of competitive axe throwing. The bays

are painted with bright colors and there's a photo wall with neon lights and a giant bulldog head. Each session includes a 15-minute training demo for beginners and the only rules are that participants must be 18 years or older and they must wear closed toe shoes.

The Oanes have moved all across the country: Las Vegas, Florida, Washington state. In the end, they found themselves back in California, where Beverly grew up in the San Gabriel Valley. Axem Axe Throwing is based in West Covina, but the Oanes fell in love with Alhambra unexpectedly.

Alhambra's charming Main Street was a big draw. "You actually want to hang out in your city. It's really homely, but not too far away from everything," Beverly explained. They settled down in Alhambra during Covid, while trying to keep Axem afloat amid the pandemic and quarantine.

Luckily, the community loved Axem Axe Throwing from the get go. "The first year, the innovativeness of having axe throwing sold itself. I already had visions of having more locations. Axe throwing was blowing up," Beverly said. The Oanes used their savings from 2019 to pay rent through quarantine, until they could open the store again — they wanted to stay independent, so they never got a loan or investor for the business. It's allowed them to keep Axem unique and

"In 2020, we still had a lot of support, people asking 'when are you going to open? When are you going to open?'" Beverly recalled. She attributes the community's support to their continued success until 2024. They've hosted corporate events for well-known companies like Southern California Edison and New Balance, in addition to private parties for birthdays and other celebrations, and it's opened the door to so much more for the couple.

"Starting this for me personally has opened the door to wanting to start different ventures," Beverly said. Whether that's expanding Axem to another location or pursuing something entirely different, she doesn't know yet. Whatever it is, it will still be artsy and fun, and something the couple can do together.

Visit Axem Axe Throwing at 420 N Azusa Ave Suite A, West Covina, Tuesday through Sunday. Wear a Halloween costume for a free add-on!



Installation view, *We Place Life at the Center*, on view at the Vincent Price Art Museum, Los Angeles, September 28- March 1, 2024. Photo by Paul Salvesson.

The Vincent Price Art Museum Brings Together Students, Community, and Fine Art

By Nancy Liu, Editor

Vincent Price might be a familiar name to Angelenos, with the famous actor's involvement and philanthropy in the area stretching back decades. The Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College is just one of his lasting legacies in the San Gabriel Valley, a 9,000 piece collection grown from the original 90 artworks Price and his wife, Mary, donated in 1957.

In September, the Vincent Price Art Museum opened its current exhibition *We Place Life at the Center / Situamos la vida en el centro*, featuring Los Angeles-based Colombian artist Carolina Caycedo. Inspired by Caycedo's work, which challenges us to consider our land stewardship amidst the unsustainable demand of natural resources under capitalism, the exhibition highlights the intersection of art and environmental justice. It features not only 35 artworks in various mediums produced by Caycedo, but also 30 more works from artists and environmental movements within Caycedo's network.

Several of the works were created for the project, which expands beyond the museum exhibit to a publication coming in 2025 and a series of educational programs done in partnership with ELAC. As part of ELAC, the Vincent Price Art Museum often works with departments and faculty at the college to involve students in the process of everything from creating art to curating an exhibit.

For *We Place Life at the Center / Situamos la vida en el centro*, Caycedo connected ELAC with an environmental group to offer a special six-week interdisciplinary course and travel program to Mexico City's Xochimilco, where students spent a week learning about sustainable water practices in Mexico.

The research, development, and implementation of the program started in 2021 and the exhibit will run until March 2025. During the exhibition's run, the Vincent Price Art Museum and ELAC have scheduled a slate of programs available to the public including artist talks, exhibition walk-throughs, film screenings, art and seed exchange workshops, student programs, and additional offsite events. In 2025, environmental leaders and community scientists will come together for a program led by Caycedo, organized together with the USC Wrigley Institute

for Environment and Sustainability, to "strengthen hemispheric solidarity action networks, mobilize political thought through art, and foster collaboration with local contingencies and partners," according to the Museum.

With six galleries, the museum is currently working on updates to its space to have an artist-in-residence exhibit and other permanent exhibits for the community. In addition to *We Place Life at the Center / Situamos la vida en el centro*, the permanent collection displays artworks from ancient civilizations in Central and South America. The permanent collection is grown from Vincent Price's original donation to the on-campus art gallery at ELAC.

With each exhibition, the Vincent Price Art Museum brings to life the original vision of Vincent Price: teaching students about art, and using art to teach students about the world. Hataya Tubtim, Interim Executive Director at the Vincent Price Art Museum Foundation, describes it as a "community-based museum."

"This museum belongs to all of the surrounding community members," she said, "Alhambra, Monterey Park, East Los Angeles. For many residents in the San Gabriel Valley, we're the closest art museum. And it's free!"

The museum works closely with ELAC to create more opportunities for students to learn about and get involved in the arts. Every year, it holds a student show in collaboration with the art department. Every other year, the student exhibition is open to students from all of the nine campuses in the LA County Community College District.

"Our exhibitions are really focused on uplifting local artists who reflect our communities," Tubtim shared. "East LA, Alhambra, Western SGV are primarily Asian American, and we have our Latinx communities, so our exhibitions really reflect that demographic makeup. We're uplifting students, community members, and artists. Simultaneously, we're showing the world how special our community is and how much impact we have on the world."

The museum is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday. For more information on the current exhibit and upcoming programs, visit vincentpriceartmuseum.org.



A visual rendition of the new Lantern Terrace apartment complex.

Accessible Housing Grows in Alhambra Thanks to Related California

By Nancy Liu, Editor

If you've driven down Chapel Avenue recently, you might've passed Lantern Terrace near the Main St intersection without knowing what it was. The

apartment complex, a 44-unit building with studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom units, is Alhambra's newest affordable housing project.

There are other affordable housing apartments in the city, and more in development. Lantern Terrace is entirely affordable housing and its first residents are moving in throughout the next few months. Related California, the company that built Lantern Terrace, screens applicants to ensure they meet the income

requirements — it defines low-income as 60% of the area's median income or less — and will choose the residents through a lottery system. Additionally, there will be a small commercial area on the ground floor, making it a mixed-use building.

Jennifer Ing-aram, Senior Project Manager... *continued on p9*

Clip Out this Passport and Go!

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

YOUR PASSPORT TO WIN

-No purchase necessary-

**November 30 • 10 AM - Noon
for
Small Business Saturday**

Visit these 6 local businesses and get your passport stamped at each place! Then, turn in your completed passport outside Gallery Nucleus to enter.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

**6 CHANCES to WIN GIFT CARDS
from local stores and other great
GIVEAWAYS!!!**

For more information, email:
hello@alhambrachamber.org



Alhambra Coin Center
254 E Main Street

STAMP



Happy Humble Hub
117 E Main Street

STAMP



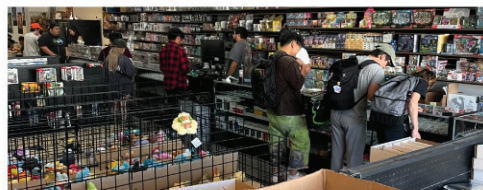
Main Street Attraction
218 W Main Street

STAMP



Nucleus Gallery
210 E Main Street

STAMP



ProjectCCG
39 S Garfield Avenue

STAMP



Str33t Records
111 W Main Street

STAMP

Clip Out this Passport and Go!



SPARK OF LOVE TOY DRIVE

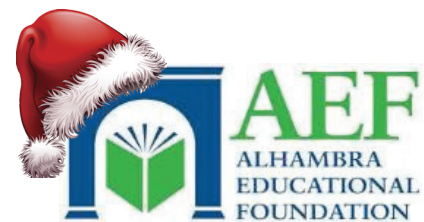


NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 24TH

PLEASE DONATE NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS, ELECTRONICS, OR SPORTS EQUIPMENT. DROP BOXES ARE LOCATED AT ALHAMBRA FIRE STATIONS, AUSD SCHOOLS, AND ALHAMBRA CITY BUILDINGS.



FOR ANY FURTHER
QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL
HBLAIS@ALHAMBRAFIRE.ORG
MBROWN@ALHAMBRAFIRE.ORG



The SGV Sound Studio Where Careers Are Made

By Glenn Barnett

A lot of young people grow up in Alhambra and then move away, but a few of us end up moving back to our hometown. One of these is Rick Collins, a 1988 graduate of Alhambra High School who, after graduation, went to Hollywood to pursue his career as a musician. Specializing as a bass guitarist he formed, recorded, and toured with Tongue, The Woolly Bandits, and Motobunny, to name a few. He also played with legendary Los Angeles 60's group The Seeds alongside original members Sky Saxon and Jan Savage.



Rick Collins in the SGV Sound studio.

Rick toured around the world and met some of the legends of the music business including Arthur Lee of Love, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Iggy Pop and Little Richard. When Rick was not touring, he resorted, as many struggling actors and musicians do, to working in construction. Part of his construction work was music related. Always the D.I.Y. guy, he learned to build soundproof rooms for recording and saved his income to buy recording gear, amps, and instruments, in hopes of one day starting his own studio.

His goal was to help aspiring musicians have a place to practice and record. He wanted to build a place that he would go to, a studio made by musicians for musicians. Best of all, he decided that Alhambra was the place to do it. In 2018, while still working

in construction, he moved back to Alhambra and, after years of searching, found a building at 2818 W. Main Street that was perfect for use as a recording studio. He sold his construction business and his next music-related job was as a studio owner & independent producer. Thus, 'SGV Sound Studio' (as in San Gabriel Valley) was born.

Soon, he had an analog and digital music studio on the eastside of Los Angeles and began using it for recording, mixing, and producing some of the area's best bands and solo artists. SGV Sound also records for television and film, most recently for "Hysteria" premiering on NBC's Peacock Oct 31. The studio space has become an outpost of creativity, hosting the SGV vinyl swap meets and live events, as well as making the space available to bands for rehearsals, music videos, and movie shoots.

Now with dozens of releases and a steady stream of clients, Rick has begun playing live again and is a vinyl DJ. He also launched and hosts a new podcast and YouTube channel called "Chattered" in which he interviews well-known and up-and-coming musicians, who also perform live in the studio. It can be found on all streaming podcast platforms and on the Chattered YouTube channel.



Rehearsal and recording studio at SGV Sound

If you are a musician looking for space to rehearse and record, call Rick at 626-940-5131, email him at sgvsound@gmail.com, or visit sgvsound.com.



We're Your Neighbor. How Can We Help?



CALL US AT
(323)-721-1243

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED FRANCHISE



Make Memories Instead of Waste

The holiday season is a time for joy, togetherness and giving. It's also a season with more shopping and waste, putting pressure on family budgets and recycling and trash carts. With a bit of creativity, you can make your holidays better for your wallet and the planet. Here are some ideas for reducing waste while also making holiday memories:

Gift-Giving

Homemade Gifts — Create personal gifts, like homemade baked goods or handcrafted art or jewelry. These items are thoughtful and special.

Experiences, Not Things — Instead of giving or asking for physical gifts, give or ask for the gift of experiences, such as movie tickets, a trip to the zoo or music lessons.

Reused and Recycled Products — If you choose to buy gifts, consider shopping at a secondhand store or looking for items made from reused or recycled materials.

Decorating and Party Planning

Natural Beauty — Embrace nature by using pinecones, twigs and dried flowers for decorations. These items can be placed

into your green cart for composting after the holiday season.

Reusable Decorations — When buying new decorations, look for items that can be used year after year, like LED lights, cloth banners and wooden ornaments. Reusing decorations reduces the need for disposables, and also enhances family traditions.

DIY (Do It Yourself) — Get crafty and create your decorations from materials you already have. For example, turn old jars into candle holders or transform fabric and thread scraps into mini ornaments.

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with loved ones. This year, focus on making memories rather than waste.

For tips on how to handle holiday trees and other waste, look for our winter *Recycling & Waste Newsletter* inside the next edition of *Around Alhambra*. To learn more about all the programs that Republic Services provides in Alhambra, visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/Alhambra-ca, call 800-299-4898, or email Alhambra@RepublicServices.com.

Transtech is honored to support the vibrant
City of Alhambra and its wonderful community!

TRANSTECH
Est. 1989

Your Projects | Our Passion
A Trusted Community Partner

Full Service Municipal Consulting
transtech.org

WE ♥ ALHAMBRA!



Make This Holiday Season Water-Wise with SGVMWD Rebates

By Mark Paulson, President, Board of Directors and Steve Placido, Vice President, Board of Directors; San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

As the holiday season approaches, it's a great time to not only enjoy festive celebrations but also to think about ways to make your home more water-efficient. The San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD) is offering rebate programs that can help you save water and money, making your home greener for the new year.

The holidays are a busy time and water usage can increase with extra guests, cooking, and cleaning. At a time when California is focusing on sustainable water management, reducing water consumption can make a real difference. By upgrading to more efficient appliances and outdoor systems, you can reduce your water footprint while enjoying lower utility bills.

Take Advantage of Our Rebates:

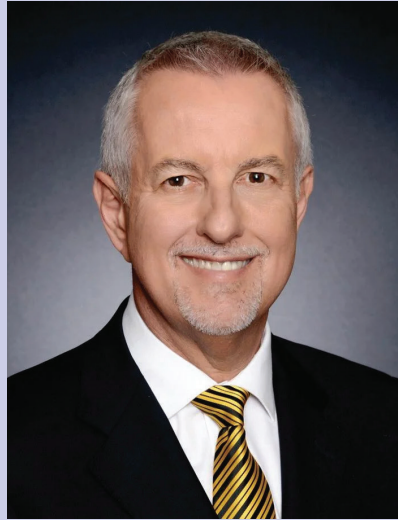
High-Efficiency Washing Machines — Save water with every load of laundry while reducing your energy bills. You can receive up to \$85 when you upgrade to a qualifying water-efficient model.

High-Efficiency Toilets — Replacing older toilets with newer, water-saving models can reduce your water consumption by thousands of gallons per year. Get up to \$40 back for each qualifying toilet.

Smart Irrigation Controllers — Ensure your outdoor plants get just the right amount of water with controllers that automatically adjust based on weather conditions. Get up to \$80 for qualifying models

Rain Barrels — Harvest and store rainwater to use in your garden, reducing your reliance on tap water. Get up to \$35 per barrel (up to four) when you purchase.

These upgrades can be simple but impactful ways to manage your water usage, both inside and outside your home. By taking advantage of these rebates, you're not just preparing your home for the holidays, but you're also investing in long-term savings that last throughout the year. With the new year just around the corner, there's no better time to start implementing



Mark Paulson
San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District
info@sgvmwd.com



Steve Placido
San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District
info@sgvmwd.com

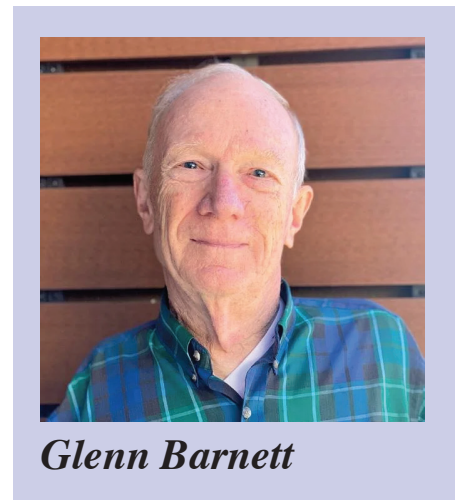
sustainable changes in your home. Visit our website at sgvmwd.com to learn more about how you can apply for rebates and start saving today. Let's make this holiday season a time for both celebration and conservation!

All Around the Town



Alhambra Firefighters Protect Us and California

By Glenn Barnett



The summer of 2024 was a particularly bad season for forest fires in California. Tens of thousands of acres burned and millions of dollars of property damage was inflicted. It could have been worse were it not for a cooperative agreement between all of California's firefighting companies coordinated by the California Office of Emergency Services. The agreement provides for city, county, and state fire departments to cooperate in fighting large fires across the state. A limit of 14 days is set for any one unit's participation before they are relieved by fresh teams. This assures that a few departments don't bear the burden of a long, drawn-out fire fight.

Alhambra's Fire Department is a participant in this agreement. This summer, Alhambra was represented at the Shelly Fire near Greenview in the Klamath National Forest close to the Oregon border. We also had a presence at the Park Fire, also near the Oregon border and, closer to home, the Line Fire in San Bernardino County. The Park Fire alone was the fourth worst fire in state history, burning more than 420,000 acres. For that fire, Alhambra Battalion Chief Mike Brown and firefighters from six other Southern California fire stations were dispatched to Chico, California.

Chief Brown became a Strike Team

Leader of a crew of 18 men. Joined by several other strike teams, they were responsible for protecting 150 homes and other buildings and aggressively attacking any fires that came close. Their base camp was at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds in Chico.

As they do at all of the fires, the Office of Emergency Services arranges these base camps to provide everything needed for visiting firefighters, men and women, for an assignment of 14 days or less.

There are sleeping trailers, showers, laundry facilities, a well-stocked dining area (called a mess hall), fuel lines for the fire engines and related equipment, mechanics (for these machines), and more. Battalion Chief Brown stayed for ten days before being relieved and returning home.

Alhambra's crew was on scene at the Shelly Fire with five other San Gabriel Valley units for nine days performing structure protection and attacking fires. Another Alhambra engine and crew were sent to assist with fighting the Line Fire. This deployment lasted for 36 hours during the worst of that conflagration.

Summer is a busy time for firefighters and we can be proud that the Alhambra Fire Department is on call here at home and around California.

COMMUNITY SPACE RENTAL
Party, Reception, Special Occasions



**TABLES, CHAIRS,
KITCHEN FACILITY,
SECURITY, CLEANUP**

CALL
(626) 576-9584
(626) 458-2723
24 N. STONEMAN
AVE. ALHAMBRA



Bethesda Repertory Theatre Brings Non-Profit Theater to Alhambra with *My Brother's Keeper*

By Nancy Liu, Editor



The company of Bethesda Repertory Theatre.

Bethesda Repertory Theatre, named after the *Angel of the Waters* fountain in New York's Central Park, is Alhambra's newest and only theater company.

The *Angel of the Waters* fountain is named for the Pool of Bethesda in the Bible, where Jesus heals a paralyzed man. The Bethesda Fountain commemorates the opening of the Croton Aqueduct, which brought fresh water to New York City in 1842 after New Yorkers had been suffering diseases from contaminated drinking water. The name evokes the healing waters of the Pool of Bethesda, which the theater hopes to carry on in its work.

Michael Gomez, Managing Director, and Andrew Galindo, Artistic Director, co-founded Bethesda Repertory Theatre in March of 2023. Both have a lifetime of experience and passion for theater and both

are also actors in the company, along with nine others.

"The reason we started Bethesda is because we wanted to champion new, fresh stories putting diversity at the forefront. We've seen a lot of theater in Los Angeles and felt that we could bring something that Los Angeles wasn't necessarily prioritizing. That's for people of color, stories of the LGBTQIA experience. People of various shapes and sizes," Gomez shared.

Theater had always been a safe and welcoming space for him. Gomez started doing theater when he was thirteen, and immediately felt that it was somewhere he could fit in and be his authentic self.

On October 19, the company ran a one-night special performance of *My Brother's Keeper*, the current production, with the hopes of fundraising for a full production next year.

Both *My Brother's Keeper* and Bethesda's first show, *Rhythm of Mourning* grapple with grief and healing after the loss of a sibling.

A semi-autobiographical play written by local playwright Abel Marquez, *My Brother's Keeper* follows a man learning about his late brother through reading his old letters and diaries. It's a story about brothers, about the queer experience in a very conservative Latino community, and about "the complicated and contradictory nature of being a queer person but also being a person of faith," said Gomez.

Plays like *My Brothers Keeper* that tell people's real, authentic stories are why Gomez and Galindo founded Bethesda. "Our job as storytellers, as people who are in power in terms of running a theater company, is to choose stories that tell the unmentionables," Galindo said.

Gomez added, "A lot of theater that we've seen in recent years has been very palatable, very commercial. Andrew and I have gone to the theater our whole lives and we've had experiences in the theater which is what made us want to become actors, where you leave the theater feeling changed. What drives us is moving people and telling stories where people feel seen, where they feel affected, and where they feel galvanized. That's the main focus: powerful storytelling that's also representative of our cultures and everyone we know."

That's what *My Brother's Keeper* does, and what Bethesda hopes to bring to the community. Gomez and Galindo opened Bethesda to bring theater to Alhambra and make it more accessible for people who might

not have had the opportunity to see live theater before. The theater industry caters to the rich, who have disposable income and the means to watch a live show. Bethesda is a non-profit theater company driven by the members' passion for the craft, which hopes to give that passion back to the community.

Galindo grew up in Alhambra and finds a special meaning in bringing live theater to the city. In fact, the theater that Bethesda operates from, Stomping Ground LA, is along the same street that his mother grew up on.

"Everybody should be able to experience art like this. That's a huge aspect of why we exist," he said. "To be a professional artist, it comes out of a calling, a need to do it, it's a service. The fact that you can change someone's life with the story that you tell is a very powerful thing. To create for the sake of creating, not for the sake of money, to be an artist is a very noble thing. It's a calling to a cause for change."

As a non-profit theater, they take a grassroots approach to fundraising, having done several crowdfunding campaigns on sites like Indiegogo and GoFundMe, and rely on donations to make sure their actors are paid fairly and get to continue sharing these important stories.

"There's something that is really incredible about getting a group of people together and finding people who not only want the art but need it," Galindo said.

For anyone else who needs it: Bethesda wants to work with you. Learn more about its mission, rehearsals, and upcoming holiday show at bethesdarep.com.

New Development Groups Bring More Housing to Alhambra

By Nancy Liu, Editor



The Foundwell Development Group Team at a new construction site.

When you think of real estate development, it's easy to imagine huge development companies building high-rise towers and million-dollar properties, but it can sometimes be a small family business instead. Along with Related California, Irvine-based Foundwell Development Group and Monterey Park-based Longo Realty have their eyes on Alhambra for new housing development projects.

Before starting Foundwell Development Group, William Yang was a project manager for another real estate development firm that had thousands of units under development in Southern California, but he wanted to try his hand at doing it on his own.

"I've always wanted to be an entrepreneur. My dad also started his own business, so I wanted to follow suit," Yang said. He's always been involved in real estate in some form — he started flipping houses as a side hustle after college, doing small projects on the side here and there.

He realized that those small projects could become big projects, so he started Foundwell as a full-service development firm focusing on residential real estate. As a full-service firm, Foundwell does design, investment, and manages its own construction.

"As a developer, you're always looking at new projects and new areas that you think have potential, such as the site that we've acquired in Alhambra that we think can benefit the whole community," said Yang. After the City updated the zoning codes to increase the density allowed in certain areas, Foundwell has identified areas of underutilized land in Alhambra where it intends to build more housing units.

Unlike the new Lantern Terrace complex, Foundwell's projects are mostly market rate housing, but have an affordable housing component with rent control, Yang explained. To fully address the housing crisis, both market rate and affordable housing options are necessary.

"In California, there's a housing shortage. There's definitely been a need for housing, with home prices going up and rent going up. A lot of that is the result of a lack of supply. I think that's a direct impact we can make in Alhambra," Yang said.

California's housing shortage isn't anything new. The California Statewide Housing Plan calls it a crisis "a half century in the making." It attributes the shortage to "decades of underproduction underscored by exclusionary policies," and highlights how the crisis disproportionately affects lower-income families and people of color.

The Statewide Housing Plan set a goal to build two-and-a-half million more housing units across the state over the current eight-year planning cycle, with at least one million of those homes meeting affordable housing needs. As a small development group, Foundwell is doing its part; Yang has a personal goal to build 500 units within the next five years.

With Longo Realty, Alex Lai anticipates building two- to three-hundred new housing units over the next five years, a marked increase from the one hundred units they've built over the last 30 years. Lai's family started Longo Realty as a real estate brokerage office in the 80s and they ventured into the construction industry in the 90s. Lai joined Longo in 2018 after working in finance and commercial real estate for ten years, but his first job was shoveling the dirt and sweeping the floors at the family business' construction sites.

Lai was born and raised in Monterey Park, so he grew up visiting Alhambra. Over the years, he watched Main Street

transform into the vibrant business corridor it is today, just one of the reasons Alhambra has become more attractive to developers. As the city changes its zoning codes to allow for more housing, it's easier and more appealing for developers to enter the city.

Longo Realty finished construction of a new condominium project in Monterey Park earlier this year that had been in the works for ten years, which has an element of affordable housing. "We saw the need for affordable housing way back in the early 2000s, but accumulating properties and applying just took such a long time. We were able to bring one of the first projects since 2008 to the City of Monterey Park."

Like Yang, Lai takes pride in seeing the fruits of his labor. "You get to watch the process of something going from dirt to a building. You're part of creating a great culture and great cities. We create opportunities and we hope to give people a brighter outlook on housing and affordable housing," he said.

At the end of the day, Foundwell and Longo are both doing essential work. Yang enjoys the challenge of leading his own development company, and that "maybe 20-30 years down the line, I can drive around and look at my past projects. There's something concrete about being in real estate."

Foundwell Development Group and Longo Realty are finalizing their plans for their new developments in Alhambra and plan to file within the upcoming weeks. For more information, visit their websites at foundwelldg.com and longodevelopment.com.

The Trick to Retiring Early? Financial Literacy

By Nancy Liu, Editor

Financial literacy is the most important thing they don't teach you about in school—until now. California recently passed a bill requiring all high schools to offer a personal finance course by the 2027-2028 school year. By 2030, taking this course will become a graduation requirement.

Credit card debt is on the rise, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Housing debts remain as most Americans' largest debt balances, but the report showed that credit card debt is reaching new heights as Americans now owe a record \$1.14 trillion on their credit cards.

There could be a myriad of reasons for this, like "revenge spending" coming out of the Covid pandemic, rising costs of living, inflation, or general financial illiteracy.

Luckily, there are people and organizations who are trying to change this. Rize Credit Union founded the Center for Financial Empowerment in 2005 to bring financial education to underserved and disadvantaged youth in local high schools.

This mission brought Kam Kalantari out of retirement. "I never thought I would come out of retirement, I took retirement really well for six years," he joked. He was able to retire early — at the age of 40 — thanks to some good investments he'd made in his career.

"I'm not smart, I'm not special," he said. "I'm an immigrant. My parents came with nothing, they had to give up

everything in their country to move to Brooklyn. They didn't know anything about finance, we weren't taught anything about it in school. Later in life, at 26, I learned about the power of investing and it worked out."



He volunteers his time with the Center for Financial Empowerment and works at Rize Credit Union as a Business Development Executive under the Community Development Department teaching financial literacy classes for employees at companies who understand the need for this knowledge. It's not just about retiring at 40, though.

The most important thing to Kalantari is teaching money management and budgeting. It's about taking care of both your current and future self. "You deserve care now, you work hard, and you deserve to have a glass of wine after work, but don't forget that your future self, who's going to have more responsibilities, needs some care now, too," he said. "Whatever income you're making, learn how to budget that really well

and get to a place where you have a healthy distribution of caring for yourself today, and today caring for yourself in the future."

Rize Credit Union was founded in 1952 and focuses not only on being a good credit union and community member, but also on empowering individuals to achieve financial security. As part of its non-profit work, in partnership with LA County, they helped youths in foster care as young as 13 open their first checking and savings accounts without an adult co-signer.

"We have three tenets: knowledge, access, and care," Rize CEO Jennifer Oliver said in an interview with ABC7. "The knowledge piece, we provide financial tools. We have access, actually giving them a bank account. But then the care is nurturing them along so they can have higher rates of success."

Every account holder at Rize is assigned a personal relationship manager, which Kalantari thinks is one of the things that reinforces Rize's mission and sets it apart. Though he adds, "All credit unions are amazing."

People turn to credit unions for better relationships, higher APYs, and lower interest rates on loans. However, there are drawbacks to being a smaller institution and some have specific membership requirements. It's a personal choice, but one that you can become more informed on. Rize Credit Union offers educational tools on its website, rizecu.com.

Accessible Housing Grows in Alhambra from page 4

...at Related California, said that the City of Alhambra owned the land and asked for proposals from development companies to build affordable housing there. Related California started in 1989 as an affordable housing developer exclusively, though it has since expanded into luxury housing development as well, and Ing-aram credits its extensive experience in affordable housing development as the reason why it was chosen by the City to carry out the Lantern Terrace project. It has offices in San Francisco, Santa Monica, DTLA, and Irvine, and does both affordable and market rate housing projects throughout the state, as well as in Portland, Oregon.

Lantern Terrace will also have a community room for residents to reserve for birthday parties or other private uses, as well as workshops, events, and holiday parties that a specially appointed community manager will organize.

"When we build these affordable housing projects, it's not just about the building itself," Ing-aram shared. "We also care about bettering the tenants' lives, so we also provide services for our tenants as well. We provide things like health and wellness classes, financial education classes to educate and help the tenants enhance their life skills."

Ing-aram said they received thousands of applications for the 43 available units (with the last one reserved for the property manager). "What that tells me is that there is a true need in Alhambra for affordable housing. The City understands that there's an affordable housing crisis, so they've focused a lot of their efforts on affordable housing in Alhambra. If there are more people who can afford to live and work in Alhambra, it's better for the city," she added.

For more information on Related California's projects, visit relatedcalifornia.com. To learn more about Lantern Terrace, visit lanternterraceapts.com.

THE NATION'S LARGEST AIRSOFT CONVENTION!



OCT. 19 2024

PURCHASE YOUR SACK OF CON-NESS ONLINE OR IN STORE

2801 W. MISSION ROAD ALHAMBRA, CA 91803

AIRSOFTVIKE AIRSOFTVIKE EVIKE.COM AIRSOFTVIKE



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT AIRSOFTCON.COM

IT'S ALL ABOUT SWAGG EXCLUSIVE 2024 AIRSOFTCON MERCH

AIRSOFT CELEBRITY MEET & GREET

SHOOTING COMPETITIONS

MEET +100 INDUSTRY VENDORS

HUGE SALES & DISCOUNTS

MINI RAFFLES & HUGE RAFFLE @ 2PM



+ AIRSOFT GAMEPLAY

+ COSTUME CONTEST

+ FOOD TRUCKS

Your Insurance

How Is Car Insurance Calculated?

By Regina Talbot
State Farm Insurance Agent,
Insurance License # 0G05807



Regina Talbot
Talbot Insurance Agency
regina@reginatalbot.com

How do car insurance companies determine rates?

Car insurance rates are generally determined by assessing the amount of risk being insured by the policy. Risk is calculated by using the probability of a particular event occurring and the potential impact of that event.

Probability: This refers to the likelihood of a specific event happening based on historical data.

Impact: This refers to the consequences or severity of the event if it were to occur.

By considering the probability and impact of certain events, car insurance companies can assess the amount of risk being insured and adjust their rates accordingly. Typically, higher risk = higher rates, and lower risk = lower rates.

Factors that affect car insurance rates include:

Age: Your age is important because it helps companies estimate how many accidents you could potentially have due to the strong correlation between driving age and accidents.

Location: Where you live can influence how often you'll be exposed to potential risks such as accidents, theft and vandalism.

Driving record: Your driving record is a significant factor because it can indicate how likely you are to engage in risky driving behavior.

Claims history: Your claims history is a notable factor because it can be a good indicator of your likelihood of having claims in the future.

How often you drive: The amount of

driving you do is a key factor because it affects your likelihood of being involved in an accident.

Vehicle: Your vehicle will determine the estimated cost of claims repair or replacement. Generally, the higher the cost, the higher your rates will be as a result.

Your policy coverages, limits and deductibles:

Coverage: Collision coverage helps pay to repair or replace your vehicle if it collides with another vehicle or object. Whereas comprehensive coverage helps pay to repair or replace your vehicle if it's damaged by something other than a collision, such as theft, fire or vandalism.

Limit: This is the maximum amount of money an insurance policy will pay for the covered losses or damages.

Deductible: This is the amount of money you pay out of pocket before an insurance company helps cover costs, up to the coverage limit.

We encourage you to learn more and discuss your unique needs with State Farm® agent Regina Talbot at (626) 357-3401.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Regina Talbot who is solely responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse the advice from this author or any other provider.

Good neighbor. Great auto rates.

Call me for a quote today



Talbot Insurance Agcy Inc
Regina Talbot, Agent

315 S. Primrose Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016-2858

Bus: 626-357-3401
regina@reginatalbot.com

Insurance License #0G05807



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
Richardson, TX

Tax Tips

Taxpayers Advocate

By Michael Aston, E.A.
Alhambra Tax Center

The Taxpayer Advocate Service is an independent organization within the IRS. Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) protects taxpayers' rights by striving to ensure that all taxpayers are treated fairly and know and understand their rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

Here's what all taxpayers should know about their rights and the role of the Taxpayer Advocate Service.

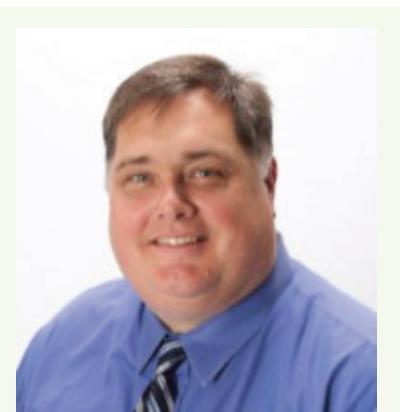
The Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights describes 10 basic rights that all taxpayers have when dealing with the IRS. The TAS Taxpayer Rights webpage (taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/get-help/taxpayer-rights/) can help taxpayers understand what these rights mean to them and how they apply. All taxpayers should know these rights.

What the Taxpayer Advocate Service can do for taxpayers

TAS can help taxpayers resolve problems that they haven't been able to resolve with the IRS on their own. The service is free. TAS helps all taxpayers and their representatives, including individuals, businesses, and exempt organizations. If taxpayers qualify for TAS help, an advocate will be with them at every turn and will do everything possible to assist throughout the process. Taxpayers can use the qualifier tool to determine if they are eligible for TAS assistance.

Taxpayers may be eligible for TAS help if their IRS problem is causing financial difficulty, they've tried and been unable to resolve their issue with the IRS, or they believe an IRS system, process, or procedure just isn't working as it should.



Michael Aston, E.A.
Alhambra Tax Center
michael@alhambrataxcenter.com

Taxpayers can request assistance by completing and submitting Form 911, Request for Taxpayer Advocate Service Assistance. Full instructions are on the TAS website.

TAS also handles large-scale problems that affect many taxpayers. Those who know about these broad issues can report them using the Systemic Advocacy Management System on IRS.gov. Taxpayers should not include any personal tax information when reporting these issues.

How to contact a local Taxpayer Advocate Service office

TAS has offices in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

There are several ways taxpayers can find their local TAS office phone number. The first option is to go to their website at taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov. Their toll-free number is 877-777-4778. The Los Angeles office number is 213-576-3140 and their general email is tas.ca.losangeles@irs.gov.

This information is from the IRS Tax Tip 2024-77.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Michael Aston, E.A., who is solely responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse the advice from this author or any other provider.

AROUND ALHAMBRA IS NOW ONLINE!

www.aroundalhambra.org

SCAN HERE

COMMERCIAL LEASING, MANAGEMENT and BROKERAGE

Serving Alhambra and San Gabriel Valley for the Past 30 Years.

STEPHEN CHAN
President
DRE# 00676562

(626) 458-9000

GE PROPERTY
佳富地產

RAYMOND HO
Vice President
DRE# 01868322

SEE OUR LISTINGS

WWW.GEPROPERTY.COM

407 W. VALLEY BLVD. SUITE 4, ALHAMBRA, CA 91803
DRE# 01514372



2024 Tech Trek Campers and Families

Young Women Scientists Present Tech Trek Science Camp Experiences

Eighth grade girls from Alhambra and surrounding school districts shared highlights of their valuable experiences from virtual and Whittier College residential camps at the annual Tech Trek Luncheon. Tech Trek coordinators Rozanne Child and Jane Krause met with the girls on Saturday, August 24, to help them prepare for their presentations at the September 21 Tech Trek luncheon meeting. The young scientists presented highlights of activities and experiments in the fields of Anatomy, Biology, Chemistry, Neurology and Robotics.

More than 50 family, friends, branch members, donors, teachers, and counselors who helped the girls complete applications listened captivated as the girls related their dissection of piglets (not living), handling of human organs (also not alive), and smashing strawberries to discover their DNA. Other students described how they created digital hats with gizmos and gadgets that lit up and twirled on command using hands-on learning of robotics and engineering principles.

The luncheon celebrated the girls' week-long study of STEM fields and was hosted by the branch's Tech Trek committees led by Lovey Sherman and Betty Morin at the First United Methodist Church of San Gabriel. Guests included: Cynthia Jarvis representing the Alhambra Day Nursery, a long-time Tech Trek donor; Gennie

Chung, teacher from Monterey Highlands Elementary in Monterey Park; Maria Avila, teacher from La Merced Intermediate; and Katy Chavez, teacher from Bell Gardens Intermediate in Montebello USD.

Selection of the 2024 Tech Trek campers began with teacher recommendations from Alhambra, Monterey Park, and Montebello schools based on students who exhibited talent and curiosity in STEM subjects and who earned a B-average in math and science classes. The girls completed applications and essays about how science can help our world. Finally, a team of Tech Trek committee members interviewed the girls individually. The chosen campers had many more forms to complete before entering camp.

Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Tech Trek Committees raised funds to cover seventeen residential camper scholarships of \$1200 each and five virtual camper scholarships of \$500 each. In addition to the many generous individual donors, the following community groups contributed to the Tech Trek Camper scholarships: Alhambra Day Nursery, Monterey Park Women's Club, East Side Optimist Club of Monterey Park, and Friends of Montebello Unified School District Foundation.

We welcome volunteers to help us continue this valuable mission. For more information, visit <https://alhsangab-ca.aauw.net>.

The 2004 Alhambra Historic Home Tour represented the beginning of the historic preservation movement here in Alhambra. (Photo courtesy of Alhambra Preservation Group)

Neighborhood Featured in 2004 Home Tour Identified As Potential Historic District

by Joyce Amaro
Alhambra Historical Society

Twenty years ago on November 7, 2004, Alhambra's historic preservation movement was born with Alhambra Historical Society and Alhambra Preservation Group co-hosting Alhambra's inaugural home tour in the northwest corner of Alhambra. Hundreds of people from all around Southern California visited Alhambra for its first-ever historic home tour. "As a home tour docent, I remember being incredibly proud of the opportunity to showcase Alhambra's beautiful homes," stated Chris Olson, Alhambra Historical Society's current president. "It was such a memorable day, watching all the tour-goers discover a few of Alhambra's Arts and Crafts gems," continued Olson.

The tour featured six Craftsman homes — four homes on Bushnell Avenue and two on Marguerita Avenue. Tour goers "oohed" and "aahed" as they strolled through early 20th Century homes with pristine original features like Douglas fir woodwork, quarter-sawn Oak floors, cozy brick fireplaces and warm art glass fixtures rivaling those found in Pasadena's better-known Bungalow Heaven. All throughout the day, tour goers remarked that they had no idea that Alhambra had such a large number of Arts and Crafts homes.

Not much has changed in that

picturesque neighborhood since 2004. The one thing that has changed, however, is that this beautiful neighborhood has been recognized as a potential historic district. This recognition came about in a historic resources survey conducted by the City of Alhambra in 2023, part of a three-phase historic preservation program being developed by Alhambra. Phase One included the writing of a historic context statement. Phase Two wrapped up in 2023 and included the implementation of a citywide historic resources survey. It was during the citywide survey that this northwestern Alhambra neighborhood was identified as a potential historic district — the La Marguerita-Souders Potential Historic District. Phase Three, which includes the drafting and adoption of a historic preservation ordinance, is just now beginning. All Alhambrans are encouraged to learn more about this ordinance and participate in the process of drafting a historic preservation ordinance.

To learn more about the draft historic preservation ordinance, please visit historicalalhambra.com and click on "Documents" in the upper righthand corner menu. To learn more about the Alhambra Historical Society, or to become a member, please visit alhambrahistoricalsociety.org.

DOWNTOWN ALHAMBRA BRINGS YOU
Monthly
MAIN STREET MARKET
MONTHLY ARTISAN POP-UP
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, SMALL BUSINESS & ARTISTRY!



FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH • 10 AM – 2 PM
RENAISSANCE PLAZA 1 E. MAIN ST. ALHAMBRA
DOWNTOWNALHAMBRA.COM




DOWNTOWN ALHAMBRA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
Alhambra Tree Lighting Ceremony



FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH | 5PM – 9PM
RENAISSANCE PLAZA: 1 E. MAIN ST. ALHAMBRA | SANTA ARRIVES AT 6PM

FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA | GAMES | LIVE MUSIC | LOCAL VENDORS
 GOODIES AND HOT DRINKS | BALLOONS | FACE PAINTING | DANCING

DOWNTOWNALHAMBRA.COM 

Downtown Alhambra Announces New Monthly Main Street Market

Downtown Alhambra Business Association will celebrate the Grand Opening of their first ever monthly Alhambra Main Street Market on Sunday, January 5th 2025. Main Street Market will be held every first Sunday of the month at the Renaissance Plaza at 1 E. Main St. Alhambra, on the corner of Main St. and Garfield Ave from 10am to 2pm. Alhambra's Main Street Market is a vibrant community hub where residents

and visitors alike can explore an array of high-quality products, handcrafted goods and specialty items. The event will include local vendors, music and art. If you would like a vendor booth, please email us at alhambramainstreetmarket@gmail.com. For more information about the event please visit downtownalhambra.com or visit Instagram at [@alhambramainstreetmarket](https://www.instagram.com/alhambramainstreetmarket).

Santa Arrives In Downtown Alhambra For The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Downtown Alhambra Business Association brings you free photos with Santa at their annual city Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 6 at the Renaissance Plaza at 1 E. Main St. Alhambra, on the corner of Main St. and Garfield Ave from 5 pm to 9 pm. Santa will arrive on the Alhambra Fire Truck at 5:30 pm down Main St.

Alhambra's Tree Lighting Ceremony features live music, free digital and printed photos with Santa, holiday munchies, face painting, arts and crafts and more activities for the entire family. For more information about the event please visit downtownalhambra.com or visit Instagram at [@downtownalhambra](https://www.instagram.com/downtownalhambra).

Around Alhambra accepts submissions! To submit an article, press release, or tip for consideration, email AA@alhambrachamber.org



'TIS THE SEASON
THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE, AND SO ARE THE TASTIEST MEALS AND UNBEATABLE DEALS

Visit us at Wendy's 1201 E. Valley Blvd Alhambra, CA 91801

2 FOR \$14 CLASSIC OR SPICY CHICKEN SANDWICH SMALL COMBOS

Valid only at Wendy's 1201 E. Valley Blvd
 Void if altered, copied or shown in digital format.
 Coupon only valid for one time use per person. Not valid with any other coupons or offers. Not valid for digital or delivery orders. Sales tax may apply.
 Expires: 12/31/24





Denny's
DENNY'S GAMEROOM NOW OPEN

25% OFF
MINIMUM \$30 PURCHASE

One coupon, per table, per visit. Not valid on national holidays, with the Everyday Value Slam®, Super Slam®, AARP or any other coupons or promotional offers. This offer can be redeemed only once by the original recipient. Coupon has no cash value. No change returned. Taxes and gratuity not included. Alcoholic beverages not included. Valid at participating restaurants for a limited time only. Selection and prices may vary. Photocopied and Internet printed or purchased coupons are not valid. No substitutions. Offer valid for dine in only. Not valid for online orders. Restrictions apply. © 2024 DFO, LLC. Offer ends 1.10.25.

© 2024 DFO, LLC. Printed in the U.S.A. At participating restaurants for a limited time only. Selection and prices may vary. Beverages not included. Offer valid for dine in only.



NOV-DEC 2024



Enjoy delicious, local cuisine!

The Alhambra Restaurant of the Week (ROTW) highlights the unique flavors of our community. Every week, we showcase a diverse culinary offering that represents the best of local dining in the City of Alhambra!

November 4 to November 10



Pop's Fresh Mediterranean is the newest venture from AWSOM owners, the Kazarian brothers Danny, Harout, and Garo. AWSOM is an Alhambra icon for sports fans and foodies alike and its success has helped the brothers achieve their dreams of following in their parents' footsteps and owning their own restaurant.

Visit them at 525 W Main St, Alhambra



November 11 to November 17



CHICHA San Chen recently opened its new location in Alhambra, serving high-quality, freshly brewed teas. CHICHA San Chen was established in 1998 in Taiwan and several of its teas have been recognized by the International Taste Institute, with its original green tea earning the highest honors of a three-star rating and the Crystal Taste Award.

Visit them at 30 W Main St, Alhambra



November 18 to November 24



Mikomi Sushi prides itself on using the freshest ingredients to craft traditional and innovative sushi. Whether you're a sushi lover or a newcomer, its warm atmosphere and exceptional flavors promise a memorable dining experience. Mikomi Sushi has a Happy Hour menu from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm every day.

Visit them at 2 S Garfield Ave., Alhambra



November 25 to December 1



Tony's Barbecue is a Filipino hidden treasure in Alhambra. Located inside the 99 Ranch Market, Tony's Barbecue is known for its mouth-watering skewers and affordable prices, as well as its bibingka, a Filipino coconut cake dessert. Stop by before your grocery run, or place a to-go order for the family.

Visit them at 345 E Main St #102, Alhambra



December 2 to December 8



Dolan's Uyghur Cuisine, named after an area in the Uyghur region, is SoCal's best Halal Asian fusion, featuring Uyghur, Uzbek, and Kazakh specialties. Enjoy hand-pulled noodles and juicy kebabs like you've never had before, brought from Central Asia and Uyghur's rich history connecting Central and East Asia.

Visit them at 742 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



December 9 to December 15



The Congee is a casual restaurant serving Chinese comfort food, including hot bowls of noodle soup and rice porridge. Congee is one of the most classic, simple, and filling Chinese dishes; great for breakfast, when you're sick, or just when you're craving a nice hot bowl of porridge.

Visit them at 19 Valley Blvd, Alhambra



December 16 to December 22



Sichuan Impression is one of Alhambra's very own Michelin Guide restaurants, with a menu highlighting Sichuan's famous numbing spice. Opened by Kelly Xiao and Lynn Liu, who come from hospitality and restaurateur families, Sichuan Impression celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

Visit them at 235 W Main St Ste B, Alhambra



December 30 to January 5



Dim Sum Dumpling House serves excellent dim sum, but also has a wide menu including delicious dumplings and noodles. A relatively new addition to Main Street, it has quickly become on the go-to spots for dim sum in Alhambra. A rare gem with all-day dim dum, it's always ready to satisfy your dim sum and dumpling cravings.

Visit them at 417 W Main St, Alhambra



Follow the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about these restaurants or visit alhambraeats.com.



Alhambra Holiday

GIFT GUIDE

To help you find the perfect gift for everyone on your list, *Around Alhambra* has rounded up the must-have items that you can find right here in our community!



1.

One Hour Axe Throwing Session Gift Card, Axem Axe Throwing, \$30



2.

Custom 3D Figurines CoKreate, prices may vary.

3.



Fishing Jackpot Bag (Bundle: One Bag) Evike, \$15

4.



X39 to elevate GHK-Cu Peptide LifeWave, \$149.95 for 30 day supply*



5.

Custom printed mugs, tumblers, and water bottles. Make Your Business Grow, Mugs, \$10; Water Bottles & Tumblers, \$20 separately



6.

16oz Housemade Chili Crisp Yang's Kitchen, \$21

This holiday season, discover the joy of shopping local for everyone on your list. Whether you're searching for entertainment, self-care, apparel, or something truly one-of-a-kind, our businesses have you covered.

This gift guide is just a starting point — only by exploring the city for yourself will you fully uncover all that Alhambra and SGV has to offer. By choosing to shop local, you will not only discover unique gifts but you'll also be supporting the businesses that make our community special!

- 1. Axem Axe Throwing: 420 N Azusa Ave, West Covina; axemllc.com
 - 2. CoKreate: 919 South Fremont Ave. cokreate.com
 - 3. Evike: 2801 W Mission Rd. evike.com
 - 4. LifeWave: 560 W. Main St. lifewave.com/nickie
 - 5. Make Your Business Grow: 626-293-6974; relyonangela@gmail.com
 - 6. Yang's Kitchen: 112 W Main St. yangskitchenla.com
- *\$50 off with subscription.

Local Sports News from AUSD High School

Submitted by Mike Koski, President
Alhambra High School Sports Hall of Fame Committee

99
OSCAR ANDABLO
Height: 6-1 Weight: 236
Yr.: *So Pos.: DE
High School/Hometown:
Alhambra / Alhambra

5
TJ DALEY
Height: 5-9 Weight: 150
Yr.: So Pos.: WR
High School/Hometown: San
Gabriel / Rosemead

23
IVAN CAN
Height: 5-9 Weight: 150
Yr.: Fr Pos.: DB
High School/Hometown: San
Gabriel / Rosemead

15
JOSH SOTO
Height: 5-10 Weight: 170
Yr.: *Fr Pos.: WR
High School/Hometown:
Alhambra / Alhambra

Former AUSD Athletes

Many former athletes from the three AUSD High Schools are continuing their athletic careers at local junior colleges. Alhambra's Josh Soto and Oscar Andablo are playing football at Pasadena City College along with San Gabriel's TJ Daley and Ivan Can and Mark Keppel's Jesus Cobos. Soto was a two-time All CIF wide receiver for the Moors while Daley and Can were on the San Gabriel 2022 team that won a CIF Southern Section Division 13 Championship and a CIF State Division 7-AA Regional Championship before losing in the State Finals. East Los Angeles College football team has two former Moors, Adan Duenas and Shawn Samaniego. Keppel's Diego Lazo is playing

on PCC Men's Soccer team.

JUCO Baseball will start their games in January and Alhambra will be well represented with at least five former Moors playing. Carlos Hernandez and Matt Garcia will be playing at PCC while Damian Chacon, Ethan Ayala, and Jackson Akers are at ELAC. All five of these former Moors were standouts at AHS and are expected to contribute at the JUCO level.

Current Football Season

The three local high school football teams have not fared well this season. San Gabriel and Alhambra have each won a game while Keppel is winless. They will play each other during the last three weeks of the season to determine the so-called "City Championship".

Local Girl Scout Tackles Rugby Development After Olympic Success

The Olympic Games have sparked a surge of interest in women's rugby, and Michaela Aston, a dedicated Alhambra Girl Scout, is capitalizing on this momentum. Michaela launched a Girl Scout Gold Award project to introduce children, especially young girls, to the sport. She wanted to do her best for other young ladies to keep them from being in the situation of not having a local team to play with.

Following Team USA's impressive performance in the Olympics, women's rugby has gained unprecedented attention. Michaela recognized an opportunity to empower local girls through the sport of rugby, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and self-confidence.

"I wanted to create a lasting impact in my community," Michaela explained. "I know from experience that rugby teaches valuable life skills like resilience, communication, and problem solving. I'm excited to share this with younger girls."

Michaela has already hosted two clinics in October for girls to introduce them to the sport. She will host another on Sunday, November 10 at Muir North Practice Field (723-799 W Montana St, Altadena, CA 91001) from 10-12 pm. There are plans for another three clinics before the end of the year.

Michaela's gold project provides free rugby clinics and equipment to her local club Pasadena RFC. As Michaela completes her Gold Award project, she reflects on the lasting impact it will have, "Rugby has changed my life, and I want to share



that experience with future generations of rugby players."

Michaela played rugby starting at the age of four years old with Pasadena-based youth co-ed teams, until she went into high school. Michaela, now a junior at Alhambra High School, has received a scholarship offer to play rugby in the Midwest. Additionally, Michaela was the quarterback on the inaugural season of Alhambra High School's Flag Football Team. She is the reigning Almont League Champion in the shot put, having won it in her sophomore year. Michaela has also competed in the United States Track & Field Junior Olympics in three of the last four years.

Any Girl Scout who attends any of Michaela's clinics will earn a free patch! Bring your whole troop! Siblings welcome.

Michaela's rugby clinics are free. To register, visit pasadenayouthrugby.com. For upcoming clinics and more information, see michaelaaston.com. To learn more about her project or support Michaela's initiative, contact michaelasgolgproject@gmail.com (yes, it is golg) or call 626-642-8865.



Ramona Students Explore Multimedia Careers at Chargers Career Pathways Panel

By Danielle Elsen, Ramona Convent English Teacher and Tiger Network Television (TNT) Moderator

Ramona students had the unique opportunity to attend a Career Pathways Panel, where they engaged with multimedia professionals from the Los Angeles Chargers organization. The event took place at The Bolt, the Chargers' state-of-the-art practice facility, and aimed to provide students with valuable insights into various media industry career paths, the essential skills required, and real-world experiences.

One highlight of the event was the panelists' diverse backgrounds. Each was of Hispanic descent, aligning with the Los Angeles Chargers' Latino Heritage Month celebration. Senior Cathryn C. realized the potential for sports in community development. She said, "Sports can connect a community throughout the workforce and it takes determination to make it happen."

The panel included experts in reporting, photography, human resources, and publicity, each sharing their unique professional journeys, challenges, and achievements.

Senior Caroline R. reflected on how impactful the panel was for her. "This insight was incredibly significant because it reinforced my desire to remain authentic in my journey," she said.

Throughout the event, students actively participated by asking insightful questions, leading to engaging discussions about

career choices, education requirements, and multimedia industry trends. Many found the real-life stories shared by the panelists relatable and inspiring, providing a clearer picture of what it takes to succeed in media-related fields.

The panel also provided a unique networking opportunity. Students were encouraged to connect with the professionals, gaining valuable contacts for future internships and job opportunities. Attendees left the event feeling motivated and better equipped to explore careers in multimedia, with a renewed sense of purpose and direction.

The Career Pathways Panel was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on students and providing them with the tools and inspiration they need to pursue their passion for multimedia careers.

Ramona, celebrating a legacy of 135 years of distinction, is a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for young women committed to excellence in education. Graduates are empowered, resilient, socially conscious leaders prepared to meet the challenges of life as contributive members of the global community.

Visit Ramona Convent Secondary School at 1701 W. Ramona Rd., call 626-282-4151, or visit ramonaconvent.org.



RAMONA

CONVENT SECONDARY SCHOOL

"A 'Ramona Girl' uses her voice to inspire change in her community and the world for the betterment of all humanity."







Ramona, a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for girls in grades 9 - 12, graduates empowered, resilient, socially conscious young women prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

DISCOVER RAMONA!
Campus Tours & Half-Day Visits
for prospective families



MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS AND FIRST RESPONDER/MILITARY GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE!

Admissions Application Deadline: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

To learn more, visit ramonaconvent.org

1701 West Ramona Road | Alhambra, CA 91803 | (626)282-4151

Emmaus Lutheran School Launches New Student Band Program

Exciting things are happening at Emmaus Lutheran School and

Preschool, where a brand-new band program is hitting all the right notes this year! Over 20 enthusiastic students have picked up instruments, including flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and drums, meeting twice a week to practice together.

The students have already mastered three fun songs — "Baby Shark," "Hot Cross Buns," and the iconic "Jaws" theme — and are gearing up to perform for chapel services. Some may even join a "pep band" to energize the crowd at school sports events this fall, where many of these talented

students also shine as volleyball and football players.

Emmaus offers a well-rounded education with a variety of extracurricular opportunities. In addition to band and sports, students take part in student government, learning leadership skills that complement their academic success. "At Emmaus, our students excel not only in the classroom but also in music, athletics, and service to others," shared a staff member.

The new band will make its first major public appearance at the school's beloved Christmas Extravaganza on December 8 at 2 pm in the church sanctuary. This festive event features

an uplifting worship service with handbell choirs, student dramas, and now the debut of the band! After the service, families can enjoy free activities, including crafts, pony rides, a petting zoo, and a bouncer for younger children.

Emmaus Lutheran School and Preschool offers a Christ-centered education for students from preschool through 8th grade, building a foundation of faith, knowledge, and character. To learn more, visit EmmausAlhambra.org or call 626-289-3664.

Come experience the joy of learning, music, and community at Emmaus Lutheran School — where students grow in heart, mind, and spirit!

CHRISTMAS

at Emmaus Lutheran Church & School

840 S. Almansor St. Alhambra
 (626) 289-3664 EmmausAlhambra.org

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA
DECEMBER 8 AT 2:00 PM
 Worship, living nativity, bouncer, crafts, petting zoo & pony rides!

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL
 December 18 at 9 am & 7 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
 English Candlelight Service 6:30 p.m.
 Chinese Worship 8:00 p.m.





ONEONTA MONTESSORI SCHOOL
 ALHAMBRA

ONEONTA MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Est. 1981

Advanced Montessori Curriculum
 Accredited Teachers
 Classes offered:
PE, Art, Music, STEAM, Mandarin, Spanish, Computer, Literacy, Tennis, Soccer, Dance, Hapkido

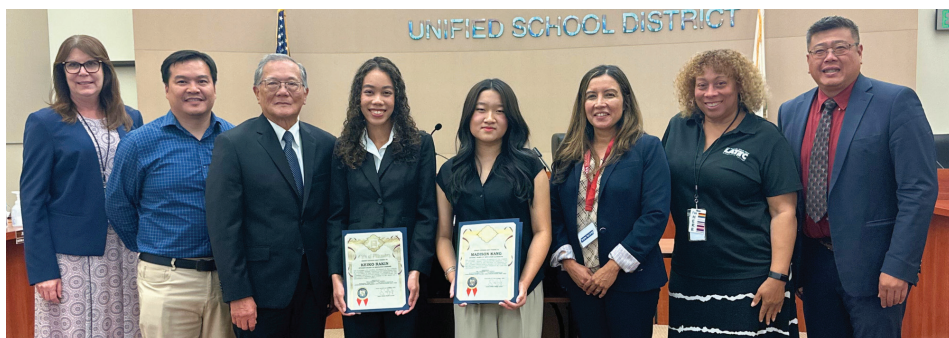


Preschool - 6th Grade
Open all year 6:30am - 6:00pm
Tours everyday 10:00am - 12:00pm
626-284-0840
2221 Poplar Blvd, Alhambra
www.oneontamontessori.com



17th Annual AUSD College Fair Draws Biggest Turnout Ever

The College & Career Preparation Team's 17th Annual College Fair, held at San Gabriel High School on September 25, drew a record-breaking crowd. With over 800 attendees, the event showcased representatives from 50 colleges and universities, offering students and their families invaluable opportunities to meet directly with admission representatives, ask questions, and explore a variety of higher education options. Due to the overwhelming turnout, the school had to open an overflow parking lot to accommodate the largest crowd in the event's history. The College Fair's growing popularity highlights the community's commitment to supporting students in their post-secondary educational journeys. To learn more about the College Fair and to view videos and more photos, read the College Fair Recap at: <https://tinyurl.com/CollegeFairRecap2025>. (Photos: Madeline Nguyen & Grant Sapcharoenlert)



Student Board Member Keiko Rakin and Alternate Madison Kang celebrated with friends, family, and district officials at a reception in their honor following their Oaths of Office. They are pictured here with Superintendent Dr. Denise R. Jaramillo and Board Members Fred Chang, Bob Gin, Kaysa Moreno, Dr. Marcia Wilson, and Ken Tang (holding certificates of congratulations presented by Alhambra Councilmembers Sasha Renée Pérez and Adele Andrade-Stadler).

Keiko Rakin is Alhambra Unified's Second Student Board Member

The Alhambra Unified School District welcomed its second-ever Student Board Member (SBM) on August 27 when Alhambra High School junior Keiko Rakin was officially sworn in at the beginning of the Board of Education Meeting. In her new role, Keiko leads the District's Student Advisory Council (SAC) as chairperson, representing the voices of nearly 15,000 students across AUSD. Joining Keiko in a new leadership role for her is Mark Keppel High School senior Madison Kang. Madison was sworn in as the SBM Alternate and serves as SAC's vice-chairperson.

After being sworn in, Keiko expressed her gratitude to her family and friends for their continuing support and to AUSD for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. "I could not imagine myself here if I look back a year ago," reflected Keiko. "I'm so excited to work with SAC this year and I know we'll accomplish great things. I promise to make a safe space for everyone to share their voice."

Board President Bob Gin congratulated Keiko and Madison on behalf of the Board of Education and shared his intention to have Keiko and Madison each experience leading a Board Meeting before their term is up to encourage them to continue their

civic engagement. He also reflected on last year's SAC and expressed his excitement to continue the positive work they started.

In addition to her SBM duties, Keiko is an active student leader at AHS, serving as president of the Creative Writers Crew and the library service club, as well as the vice president of the Film Study and Production Club. She is also captain of the cross country team and is a member of the speech and debate team. Keiko's dedication extends beyond her school campus. In the community, she has been a junior intern with the USC Shoah Foundation and is a graduate of Assemblymember Mike Fong's Young Leaders Program.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, the Board held a reception to celebrate Keiko, Madison, and the rest of SAC. Afterward, Keiko took her place on the dais for the remainder of the Board Meeting, where she listened intently and asked insightful questions as staff reports were presented to the Board. AUSD is thrilled to congratulate Keiko Rakin and Madison Kang and is excited to see them grow in their new leadership positions. We know they will make positive impacts on the District this year through their dedication, involvement, and leadership.



Yanelly Espinal challenges SGHS students to refocus from the appearance of material status to true wealth and financial security. (Photo: Grant Sapcharoenlert)



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and State Senator Anthony Portantino were on hand at the SGHS Mind Your Money tour stop. Both were strong advocates for the new legislation requiring a financial literacy class as a graduation requirement. (Photo: Grant Sapcharoenlert)

"Mind Your Money" Tour Inspires Financial Responsibility at San Gabriel High School

by Madison Kang, Mark Keppel High School Senior

Financial literacy influencer and author Yanelly Espinal visited San Gabriel High School on October 9 as a stop on her Mind Your Money book tour. Espinal incorporates pop culture and relatable conversations to make this topic engaging for youth who, like her, didn't grow up learning about money. Her tour coincided with the passage of California's new law, AB2927, requiring high schools to offer financial literacy classes by 2027-2028 and making it a graduation requirement by 2030-2031.

California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and State Senator Anthony Portantino introduced Espinal, stressing the importance of teaching personal finance. Thurmond was raised in an immigrant family with little financial exposure and praised the new law and Espinal's dedication to spreading financial literacy. Portantino highlighted the need for students to gain independence. Both officials thanked Timothy Ranzetta, founder of non-profit Next Gen Personal Finance, whose work plays a key role in educating today's youth.

Espinal shared her upbringing in Brooklyn to immigrant parents, where "money was something to be ashamed of." She talked about her parent's lack of understanding of finances, leaving her without guidance. Because of this, she accumulated over \$20,000 in debt and spent years thinking material items signaled wealth. With disciplined planning, however, she paid off her debt in just 18 months.

Espinal challenged the SGHS students to rethink wealth, asking, "How can you tell if someone is wealthy?" The audience's materialistic responses, focused on clothing, cars, and homes, allowed her to underscore a key point: wealth is not about

visible status, but financial security and money management.

This brought Espinal to emphasize the emotional aspect of money. "What does it mean to have money?" she asked, prompting students to think beyond surface-level perceptions of wealth. "Companies will try to get you to feel emotional," she explained, referring to the phrase "TikTok made me buy it" as a prime example of how online culture drives impulsive spending.

Students then participated in an interactive activity: imagining one person found \$20 and had to offer a partner some money. If the partner declined the amount offered, neither would keep anything. Most students decided to split the money evenly because it was the fairest option. She then asked if their opinions on money changed if the partner had just found \$5 on the floor. This exercise demonstrated the importance of understanding the value of money, especially when managing personal finances.

As California becomes the 26th state to mandate personal finance education, Espinal expressed excitement, thanking Next Gen Personal Finance for their role in this change. "Everyone should know what to do with their money," she said, emphasizing the need for financial literacy to avoid mistakes like hers.

Yanelly Espinal distributed copies of Mind Your Money to several lucky SGHS participants, but emphasized the purpose of her visit went beyond promoting her book; she wants it to be part of movement aimed at empowering youth with financial literacy, equipping them to navigate the complexities of managing money in today's digital world, and helping them make confident financial decisions to secure their financial future.



Isabella's friends, family, and community and district officials were on hand at the Tournament House in Pasadena to cheer her on during the September 30 Rose Court announcement. Isabella's success will inspire other Alhambra students to apply next year! (Photo: Grant Sapcharoenlert)

AHS Senior Shines as 2025 Rose Court Finalist

Alhambra High School senior Isabella "Bella" Jackson has made a lasting impression on the community as the first Alhambra resident to be named one of the Top 28 finalists for the Rose Parade's Rose Court. Hundreds of applicants from 49 Pasadena area schools participated in the process and were eventually narrowed down to the seven-member court.

This year marked the first time Alhambra residents were eligible to compete for a coveted spot on the iconic Rose Court, making Isabella's accomplishment even more significant. Becoming a Rose Court finalist is an impressive achievement, as the Tournament of Roses' Queen & Court

Committee selected the Top 28 based on a variety of criteria, including academic achievement, community involvement, school activities, public speaking skills, and youth leadership.

Even though she did not advance to the final Rose Court selection, Isabella's journey has inspired pride throughout the Alhambra Unified School District community. "I had an amazing experience trying out for the Rose Court and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity," reflects Isabella Jackson. "I hope to see other girls from Alhambra continue the tradition and try out in the years to come."



The joy was evident on the faces of AUSD's youngest students during Moor Field's County Fair.

A Day of Fun and Games at Moor Field's Annual County Fair

A favorite tradition at Moor Field is its much-anticipated annual County Fair, where students, families, and staff members gather for a day of fun, food, and festivities. This year, the Moor Field campus was buzzing with excitement on September 26 as attendees explored 16 different booths, each offering a unique game or activity for the children to enjoy.

In addition to the variety of booths, attendees enjoyed sweet treats like snow

cones and popcorn, adding to the festive atmosphere. The County Fair is always a highlight of the year, bringing the community together to celebrate school spirit and build connections.

Special thanks go to the dedicated Moor Field team and volunteers who put in countless hours to make this event a reality. Their hard work and creativity brought joy to all who attended and helped create memories that will last throughout the year.



Assemblymember Mike Fong Awards \$5,000 Grant to SGHS Drama Program

San Gabriel High School's drama program received a generous boost just in time for the opening night of their fall musical, *Alice by Heart*. On September 27, Assemblymember Mike Fong presented a \$5,000 grant, funded by the Barona Education Grant Program, to SGHS drama teacher Kelsey McNeilly to support the technical theater class' woodshop. The funds will enable the purchase of industry-level tools, which will enhance the department's ability to construct detailed sets and props, and to provide students with hands-on experience in carpentry, construction, and the art of stagecraft. (Photo: Grant Sapcharoenlert)

CLUE
HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

Nov. 21, 22 at 7PM
Nov. 23 at 11AM & 6PM
101 S. 2nd st. Alhambra
tickets available at ahstheater.com

AHS presents CLUE: A Night of Mystery and Comedy

Join Alhambra High School for an exciting evening of mystery and laughter as they present *Clue* on November 21, 22, and 23. Based on the popular board game and film, the hilarious whodunit will keep you guessing until the final reveal. Come support the talented cast and crew as they bring this comedy to life on stage. Don't miss it – get your tickets at ahstheater.com.

Around Alhambra accepts submissions!

To submit an article, press release, or tip for consideration, email AA@alhambrachamber.org



Asian American Association
\$1000 Scholarship

Open to ALL eligible Alhambra USD seniors of Asian descent
 One winner will be selected from each high school

Eligibility: All seniors of Asian descent who plan to enroll in a post-secondary institution in Fall 2025 are eligible for this scholarship.

ESSAY PROMPT: What are your future plans/career goals? How will this scholarship help you towards achieving your goals?

Due Date: Friday, December 20, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.
Notification of Recipient: by Friday, January 15, 2025

Apply at: <https://tinyurl.com/AAA2025Scholarship>



Apply now for the AAA's annual scholarships and/or make plans to join us at the Annual Scholarship Banquet on February 21st.

Kick Off the Year of the Snake: Apply for Scholarships & Join Us at the Annual Banquet Celebration

The Asian American Association (AAA) of Alhambra is now accepting applications for its annual scholarships, which support outstanding Alhambra Unified School District students in their educational endeavors. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to students from each AUSD high school. These scholarships are open to all AUSD seniors of Asian descent who plan to enroll in a post-secondary educational institution in fall of 2025. Students can submit applications at <https://tinyurl.com/AAA2025Scholarship> through Friday, December 20, 2024 at 11:59pm.

To raise funds for these scholarships (and additional scholarships for promoting AUSD eighth-graders), the AAA will host its highly-anticipated 35th Annual Scholarship Banquet on February 21, 2025 at NBC Restaurants in Monterey Park. This year's event promises to be a vibrant celebration of the Year of the Snake, featuring a 10-course meal, traditional lion

dancers, entertainment by our Mandarin dual immersion students, a spotlight on our scholarship recipients, and opportunity drawings for exciting prizes.

The banquet is not only an important fundraising event but also a community tradition that brings together families, local leaders, AUSD employees, and supporters of education. Attendees will enjoy an authentic Chinese banquet experience while celebrating the achievements of our young scholars.

Join us for an evening of delicious food, cultural performances, and the chance to win fantastic prizes, all while supporting the next generation of leaders in our community. Reserve your early bird tickets by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/AAA25RSVP>. Corporate sponsors ([www.tinyurl.com/AAACorporate25](https://tinyurl.com/AAACorporate25)) and prize donors (<https://tinyurl.com/AAALNYPPrizes2025>) are always welcome.



Global Conversations: AUSD Launches New Cultural Exchange Program with Taiwan

Alhambra Unified School District has joined with the Language Partner Program of the Taoyuan City Government Department of Education in Taiwan for a cultural exchange called the English Conversational Enhance Program (ECEP). Through ECEP, students from all three AUSD high schools (Alhambra High School, Mark Keppel High School, and San Gabriel High School) will connect with Taiwanese peers from Dayuan International Senior High School, Ping-Jen Senior High School, and Taoyuan Senior High School. Through a series of virtual meetings, the program helps Taiwanese students improve their English fluency in a friendly environment, while all student participants learn about another culture, expand global perspectives, and build international friendships. The first of six meetings was held in September with sophomores and Student Advisory Council members Leslie Chu and Angelina Yip taking on a leadership role by facilitating introductory icebreaker activities. We are looking forward to watching our students learn and grow from this experience and will share more about this program as it progresses further. (This screenshot features approximately two-thirds of the ECEP cultural exchange participants.)

Asian American Association 35th Annual Lunar New Year Banquet

Friday, 2/21/2025

NBC Seafood Restaurant
 404 S. Atlantic Blvd.
 Monterey Park, CA 91754

No-Host Bar 6PM ** Program/Dinner 6:45PM

Banquet Menu

- Special Combination Plate
- Chicken & Fish Maw Soup
- Honey Walnut Shrimp
- Reishi Mushroom w/ Vegetable
- Chinese Style Crispy Chicken
- Lobster w/Ginger & Scallion
- Fish Filet w/Vegetable
- Pork Rib w/ Salt & Pepper
- Yan Chow Fried Rice
- Tapioca Dessert

Program

Lion Dance Performance, Dual Immersion Singers, Multi-Course Dinner & Opportunity Drawings.

Proceeds from last year's fundraising banquet have been used for scholarships and student incentive programs in TK-12.

Early Bird Discount: \$60/Guest or \$550/Table for 10 Guests if reservation & payment is received by 1/8/2025

Regular Pricing: \$65/Guest or \$600/Table for 10 Guests if reservation & payment is received by 2/8/2025

After 2/8/2025 OR at the door: \$80/Guest (subject to availability)

Corporate Sponsorship: Visit www.tinyurl.com/AAACorporate25 for more info.

RSVP TODAY: www.tinyurl.com/AAA25RSVP

Payment Options: PayPal, Check or Cash →

Email: AAAofAlhambra@gmail.com

Contact AAA Board Members:

- President - Leann Huang
- Vice President - Jody Dowell
- Treasurer - Janice Liu
- Co-Secretaries - Nelly Chong & Lucy Tran



Sponsored by the Asian American Association – A Public Charity Organization 501(c)(3)
www.aaofalhambra.org




XIUSHAN LU




KENNETH SAN




KEVIN SAN




JADE TAN

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMI-FINALISTS

Xiushan Lu, Kenneth San, Kevin San, and Jade Tan will find out next spring if they will join more than 382,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

Four AUSD Seniors Named 2025 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has announced the names of the semifinalists in their 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program, including four from Alhambra Unified School District. These academically talented high school seniors now have an opportunity to compete for about 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring.

Less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, including the highest-scoring entrants in each state, are named semifinalists. AUSD's four National Merit Scholar semifinalists are: **Xiushan Lu** (Mark Keppel High School), **Kenneth San** and **Kevin San** (both from Alhambra High School), and **Jade Tan** (San Gabriel High School).

The process to become a National Merit Scholar started when they were juniors last year when they took the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. To move forward to the next step, each will need to complete an application and submit their SAT or ACT scores, an essay, and a letter of recommendation by a school official.

Congratulations to Xiushan, Kenneth, Kevin, and Jade on becoming National Merit Scholar semifinalists, and good luck to them as they move forward on their way to earning the prestigious National Merit Scholar designation.



SGHS Transforms *Alice By Heart* into a Daring Stage Experience

Audiences in San Gabriel High School's Little Theatre were transported into an immersive dreamlike atmosphere during their fall musical, *Alice by Heart*. This musical retelling of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was set amongst the rubble of the London Blitz of World War II, and explored the poignancy of first love, the transformative power of imagination, coming to terms with loss, and finding the courage to move forward. Filled with a talented cast, impressive staging, and innovative lighting, it was an outstanding launch to the fall high school production season. (Photos: Katelyn Aguiniga & Grant Sapcharoenlert)



AUSD Student Advisory Council will be easy to identify when they are wearing their SAC shirts at their monthly meetings as well as at various district and community activities, where they will represent their schools and the District. (Front row, left to right: Keiko Rakin, Madison Kang, Mia Morales, Leslie Chu, Angelina Yip, and Kevin Tang. Back, left to right: Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo, Justin Yu, Yingjie Liang, Emma Arroyo, Michelle Lim, Emma Huang, Jasmin Huang, and Board Members Bob Gin and Ken Tang.)

2024-2025 Student Advisory Council Represent Peers while Building Leadership Skills

Alhambra Unified School District's Student Advisory Council (SAC) members gather together at the District Office each month as they collaborate as a 12-member council and develop as young leaders. The meetings are led by Student Board Member (SBM) Keiko Rakin as chairperson and SBM Alternate Maison Kang as vice-chairperson.

At their September inaugural meeting, SAC opened their meeting with an icebreaker to reintroduce themselves to each other. Afterward, the students established their own meeting ground rules and goals for the year in order to ensure productive conversations and engagement throughout the school

year. Among the key topics discussed at this first meeting were ASB funding, student cell phone usage at school, and future presentations to the Board of Education. In preparation for these presentations, SAC will meet later this month for a working Saturday, and then will follow-up by conducting research and gathering input from their peers.

The current Council consists of six returning members and six new ones. As representatives of their high schools, these students are committed to amplifying student voices and ensuring AUSD's policies and protocols reflect the needs of its diverse student population.



ADOPT-A-CAMPER



In partnership with the Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD), we are fundraising to send every AUSD sixth grader to SCIENCE CAMP EVERY YEAR, starting April 2025. Science camp promotes teamwork, resilience, strong relationships with peers, and a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

It costs \$250 to cover all costs for one camper, but any amount would be greatly appreciated. Sponsorship levels are available as follows:

- **HELP US RAISE OUR 2025 GOAL OF \$250,000**
- **Cabin Sponsor (\$1,250 or above to sponsor FIVE+ campers)**
- **Lodge Sponsor: \$1,000 to sponsor FOUR campers**
- **Tent Sponsor: \$500 to sponsor TWO campers**
- **Camper Sponsor: \$250 to sponsor ONE camper**
- **Buddy Sponsor: Any donation up to \$249**

Donors of \$50 and above will receive a commemorative ornament as a small token of our appreciation.

Donations Accepted at www.aef4kids.com



DONATIONS MADE TO AEF ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. AFTER YOU DONATE ONLINE, YOU WILL RECEIVE A PAYPAL GIVING FUND TAX RECEIPT THROUGH EMAIL.

Alhambra Educational Foundation • 1603 Chestnut Street, Alhambra, CA 91803 • 626-943-3080 • www.AEF4Kids.com

Science Camp Countdown: Help Make it Happen!

Alhambra Educational Foundation has partnered with the Alhambra Unified School District to once again give every AUSD sixth grader the opportunity to attend science camp in spring. This immersive experience fosters teamwork, environmental stewardship, and hands-on scientific learning. To help ensure all students can attend, AEF has launched its 2024-2025 Adopt-a-Camper fundraiser campaign. We encourage families and community members to contribute to support the camp's success. For more details, including donation options and sponsorship opportunities, please review the accompanying graphic or visit aef4kids.com.



AUSD students had a chance to get up close and personal with the star of the Mobile Dairy Classroom — the cow!

AUSD Students Moo-ve to Learn with the Mobile Dairy Classroom

While some students may think milk comes from the store, AUSD students in grades TK-5 now know better — thanks to the Dairy Council of California's Mobile Dairy Classroom and its star, a live cow.

Since the 1930s, the Mobile Dairy Classroom has been educating children across the state, helping bridge the gap between students' understanding of agriculture and the food they eat. What began with a single dairy farmer in Venice, California, has expanded into a statewide program featuring six full-time dairy educators who visit hundreds of schools. The program teaches students how food

gets from the farm to the table — and, specifically, how milk goes from the cow to the container.

These free, outdoor assemblies feature a 35-foot trailer, a truck, an agricultural educator, and, of course, the cow. Younger students learn new vocabulary, cow anatomy, how milk reaches their refrigerators, and the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives. Older students dive deeper into topics like the cow's digestive system and the technology used in modern agriculture.

Students across AUSD were thrilled to meet the cow and discover fun facts about farming and agriculture firsthand.

Ask Dr. Dara, D.D.S.

Folic Acid: A Vital Nutrient for Oral Health

by Dr. Krasnodara Gashparova, DDS (also known as Dr. Dara)

Folic acid, one of the eight B vitamins, plays a crucial role in various bodily functions, including the health of your mouth and teeth. Here's a breakdown of its importance:

Cell Growth and Development:

Gum Tissue Health: Folic acid is essential for the growth and development of cells, including those that make up your gums.

Oral Tissue Repair: Folic acid helps in the repair of damaged oral tissues, such as those caused by injuries or infections.

Gum Disease Prevention: Folic acid has anti-inflammatory properties that can help reduce inflammation in the gums, a key factor in preventing gum disease.

Immune System Support:

Infection Fighting: A strong immune system is essential for fighting off oral infections. Folic acid plays a role in supporting the immune system, by helping in the production and maturation of white blood cells, which play a crucial role in defending the body against harmful bacteria in the mouth.

Healing: It promotes healing of inflamed tissues, reducing the risk of complications associated with gum disease.

Red Blood Cell Production:

Oxygen Delivery: Folic acid is involved in the production of red blood cells, which carry oxygen to your tissues. Adequate oxygen supply is vital for healthy gums and overall oral health.

Pregnancy and Oral Health:

Fetal Development: Folic acid is particularly important during pregnancy as it helps prevent birth defects of the brain and spinal cord.

Maternal Oral Health: It also supports the health of the mother's gums and teeth during pregnancy, which can be especially important due to hormonal changes.

Excellent Sources of Folic Acid

Natural Sources:

Leafy Greens: Spinach, kale, romaine lettuce, collard greens, and turnip greens are excellent sources.

Legumes: Lentils, chickpeas, black beans, and kidney beans are rich in folic acid.

Fruits: Oranges, grapefruit, strawberries, and cantaloupe contain significant amounts of folic acid.

Nuts and Seeds: Almonds, peanuts, and sunflower seeds are good options.

Whole Grains: Brown rice, quinoa, and whole-wheat bread provide folic acid.

Fortified Foods:

Grains: Many fortified grains like bread, pasta, and cereals are enriched with folic acid.

Breakfast Cereals: Many breakfast cereals, especially those marketed for women of childbearing age, are fortified. Note: While fortified foods can be a convenient way to increase folic acid intake, it's still important to consume a variety of natural sources for overall nutritional balance.

Supplements: The recommended daily intake of folic acid for adults is 400 micrograms (mcg). However, this can vary depending on individual circumstances, such as pregnancy or certain health conditions.

Pregnancy: During pregnancy, the recommended daily intake of folic acid increases to 600 mcg.

Breastfeeding: If you're breastfeeding, you'll need to continue taking folic acid. The recommended daily intake is 500 mcg.

Certain health conditions: If you have a specific health condition, your doctor may recommend a different dosage of folic acid.

In conclusion, folic acid is a vital nutrient for maintaining good oral health. By ensuring you get enough folic acid through your diet or supplements, you can help protect your gums, teeth, and



Dr. Dara, D.D.S.
Advanced Dentistry Alhambra
daradds@yahoo.com

overall oral health.

Furthermore, folic acid is often combined with other nutrients, such as vitamin C and vitamin B12, to enhance its benefits for gum health. This combination therapy can provide comprehensive support for preventing and managing gum disease.

While vitamins and nutrition are essential, it's important to note that it's not a substitute for proper dental hygiene. Regular brushing, flossing, and professional cleanings are still crucial for maintaining optimal oral health.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Dr. Krasnodara Gashparova, DDS who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse medical advice or any remedies recommended by this author or any other provider.



Senior Health Tips for Winter 2024: Embrace Wellness and Stay Active

As the vibrant hues of autumn unfold, it's a great time to focus on health and wellness. For seniors, the shift in seasons can bring both opportunities and challenges. Here are some practical health tips to help seniors thrive this fall from our teams at WelbeHealth.

Stay Active with Seasonal Activities

Fall offers a perfect backdrop for staying active. Consider low-impact exercises like walking in the park, raking leaves, or light gardening. These activities not only keep you moving but also allow you to enjoy the crisp, cool air and the beauty of the season. Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate activity most days of the week, as recommended by health experts.

Boost Your Immune System

With the colder weather approaching, it's essential to boost your immune system. Incorporate a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to ensure you get the necessary vitamins and minerals. Foods high in vitamin C, such as oranges, strawberries, and spinach, can help keep your immune system strong. Don't forget to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, even when the weather is cooler.

Get Your Flu Shot and Stay Up to

Date on Vaccinations

Fall is flu season, and it's crucial for seniors to stay up to date on vaccinations. The flu vaccine is particularly important for older adults, who are at higher risk of complications from the flu. Talk to your healthcare provider about getting your flu shot and check if you are due for any other vaccinations, such as pneumonia or shingles.

Prevent Falls

Fall prevention is vital as the season changes. Ensure your home is safe by removing tripping hazards, such as loose rugs or clutter. Use night lights in hallways and bathrooms, and consider installing grab bars in the bathroom if needed. Wear non-slip shoes both indoors and outdoors to reduce the risk of falls. If you use a cane or walker, make sure it is in good condition and adjusted to the correct height.

Keep Your Skin Healthy

As the weather cools, the air becomes drier, which can lead to dry skin. Use a good moisturizer daily to keep your skin hydrated. Pay attention to areas that are often exposed, like your hands and face. Remember to continue using sunscreen,

GET READY FOR ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD OCT 15TH TO DEC 7TH

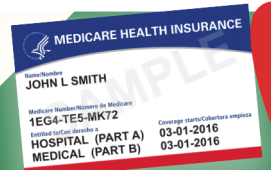
- 1 Will my current prescription medications still be covered by my current plan next year?
- 2 Will my doctors still be in network with my current plan for next year?
- 3 What will my Maximum Out of Pocket be for next year?
- 4 What are my allowances for dental, vision and OTC for next year?

CELL 323.854.2868



I speak Mandarin and Cantonese

Katherine Yu Simms
Medicare Insurance Agent
License #OM21975



as UV rays can still be strong in the fall, especially when spending time outdoors.

Maintain Social Connections

Social connections are vital for mental health and wellbeing. Fall is a great time to reconnect with family and friends as the weather is cooler. Whether it's attending community events, joining a local club, or simply catching up with a neighbor, staying socially active can improve your mood and overall health.

Monitor Your Health

Regular check-ups with your healthcare provider are essential, especially as you age. Keep track of your medications and ensure that you understand how and when to take them. If you notice any new symptoms or changes in your health, don't hesitate to contact your doctor. Early intervention can often prevent small issues from becoming significant problems.

Embrace a Balanced Diet

As the season changes, so do the available fresh produce options. Incorporate fall favorites like pumpkins, squash, and apples into your meals. These foods are not only delicious but also packed with nutrients that can support your overall health. Eating a balanced diet rich in fiber, lean proteins, and healthy fats can help maintain your energy levels and keep your body functioning optimally.

Engage in Mental Wellness Activities

Fall can be a time of reflection and renewal. Engage in activities that stimulate your mind, such as reading, puzzles, or learning a new skill. Mental wellness is just as important as physical health, and staying mentally active can help you feel more engaged and fulfilled.

Contact GheyCell Ofelia Flores, Outreach and Enrollment Specialist, at (626) 596-2746 to learn more about WelbeHealth's program.

Your Insurance

The Inflation Reduction Act and Medicare

By Katherine Yu Simms

For the first time, beginning in 2025, the drug law, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, requires all Medicare prescription drug plans (Medicare Part D plans) including both standalone Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans with prescription drug coverage to offer enrollees the option to pay out of pocket prescription drug costs in the form of capped monthly installment payments instead of all at once at the pharmacy. Here are some details of what to expect for the upcoming year:

Out-of-pocket drug spending cap: In 2025, enrollees will have a \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs. After reaching this cap, enrollees will pay nothing for Medicare covered Part D drugs for the rest of the plan year.

Coverage phases: There will be three Part D coverage phases: deductible, initial coverage, and catastrophic.

Cost sharing: In the initial coverage phase, enrollees will pay 25% of costs, and manufacturers will provide a 10% price discount. In the catastrophic coverage phase, plans will pay 60% of costs, and manufacturers will provide a 20% price discount.

Monthly installment payments: Enrollees will be able to pay out-of-pocket costs in capped monthly installments instead of all at once at the pharmacy.

Insulin: Insulin will be available at \$35 per month per covered prescription. Vaccines: Recommended adult vaccines will be available without cost-sharing.



Katherine Yu Simms
Medicare Insurance Agent
lovemygoldenyears@gmail.com

Low-income subsidy program: The low-income subsidy program (LIS or "Extra Help") will be expanded to 150% of the federal poverty level.

If you need assistance in evaluating your current plan, please reach out to me for a free consultation as I'm here to help you navigate and find the most appropriate plan which fits your needs.

Only some plans are available in your area. Any information provided is limited to plans offered in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all your options.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Katherine Yu Simms who is solely responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse the advice from this author or any other provider.

Alhambradental.com
牙齒鬆了 不用拔 我可以幫您保住
節省時間、還省錢

馬上打給趙醫生, 我們說國、粵語

626-308-9104



牙齒保住了, 不用拔(只需要一次治療)
These examples show how Dr. John Chao saved a hopelessly loose tooth in ONE EASY COMFORTABLE VISIT and at a fraction of the cost of implants!

(Individual Results Vary)



趙企安醫生
John Chao, D.D.S.

Research Assoc. Prof., Post-Grad Periodontics
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Adjunct Asst. Prof., Behavior Science, USC
畢業于USC
美國紐約州立大學牙週病研究教授(SUNY)



Alhambra Dental
100 South First Street
Alhambra, CA 91801
營業時間: 週一至週五 9am-5pm
Alhambradental.com



ADVANCED DENTISTRY
of ALHAMBRA

Healthy Teeth & Bright Smiles for the Whole Family!



- Implants
- Invisalign & Braces
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Wisdom Teeth Removal
- Dental Emergencies
- Laser Dentistry

FREE CONSULTATION

(626)289-6131

NO INTEREST PAYMENT PLANS

70 S Palm Ave Alhambra 91801

www.DaraDDS.com

A NEW SMILE IN ONLY ONE VISIT

- Precise Fit
- Natural look
- Comfortable process
- No temporaries



Confused By Medicare?

Don't look for answers by yourself.
Trusted partners can make Medicare stress free!



With multiple plan types & hundreds of coverage options available, how do you know which is right for you?

Get the answers you need to make an educated decision:

- What does Medicare cover and cost?
- How can I enhance my Medicare coverage?
- Are prescription drugs covered in all plans?
- Which doctors and specialists can I visit?

Let us help! Call today for a no obligation, no cost appointment.

Michelle Lim (Lic: 0F58538)

Cell: (626) 215-9917

Office: (626) 281-2828

33 E. Valley Blvd, #216, Alhambra, CA 91801

Disclaimer: We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all your options.

From the Desk of Brett Meredith



Atherton Announces New CEO

Atherton — a dynamic, non-profit Christian senior living community located in Alhambra — has named Brett Meredith President/CEO, effective October 1. Brett succeeds Rev. J. Craig Statton, who retired on September 30, after serving 10 years in

the role.

Brett has vast non-profit experience, having formerly served as the CEO of the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama and spent over 17 years with the Salvation Army in various roles, including

State Director for Business in Texas and Executive Director.

After a national search that included key candidates interviewing with the Board of Trustees, community members, and leadership, we are thrilled to have found a perfect fit for Atherton. Brett's executive-level experience spans operations, finance, and compliance. His strategic vision and leadership skills make him the ideal candidate to lead Atherton into the future for growth, modernization, and advancement.

He readily embraces Atherton's vision of an active, vibrant, neighborly community that encourages aging in a Christ-centered environment and whole-person health and

wellness.

The newly appointed CEO shared his thoughts on his new role: "Atherton embodies a profound culture of kindness, compassion, and a lasting commitment to serving in the spirit of Christ. I am confident that the organization is well positioned to continue its legacy of excellence.

"Atherton's' team-centered philosophy aligns perfectly with my own values," said Brett. "I am eager to collaborate with the Board, leadership team, residents, employees, and the broader community to further enhance Atherton as a leading senior living provider."

For more information, visit abh.org.

PLAN YOUR FUTURE WITH PEACE OF MIND

For over 109 years, Atherton has been shaped by the desires and needs of seniors and has provided the care which has allowed them to flourish during this season of their lives.

Our full-service Life Plan Community offers a variety of options from Independent Living to Skilled Nursing on a 15-acre campus located in the heart of Alhambra.

We are committed to helping our residents continue their lives of independence at Atherton, with their safety and wellness as a priority.



Wellness • Independence • Safety



INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING
SKILLED NURSING | REHABILITATION SERVICES



Call **1.800.340.4178**
or visit **www.abh.org**

214 S Atlantic Blvd, Alhambra, CA 91801



Atherton Baptist Homes is open to people of all faiths. RCFE #197802543 Certificate of Authority #322. Atherton Baptist Homes does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, disability, religion or national origin



We service foreign and domestic gasoline, hybrid and electric cars and light trucks

(626)872-0705 www.josgarage.com

120 E. Valley Blvd, Alhambra (Kerechuk Building)

FREE
MAINTENANCE
INSPECTION

10% OFF
ON YOUR NEXT VISIT
*UP TO \$50 OFF

Present this coupon (expires 12/31/2024)



Open 7 days a week
626-282-5666



Full Service Polish Dept.

\$23.99

Expires 12-31-2024

FULL SERVICE WASH

\$2 OFF

Expires 12-31-2024

ANY CAR WASH PACKAGE

Alhambra Car Wash

704 W. Main Street, Alhambra, CA 91801



Real Estate Disclosures and “Caveat Emptor”

by Gary Frueholz

Not long ago the Latin term “caveat emptor” or “buyer beware” was the rule of practice that real estate buyers faced. Issues relating to the condition of the property, hazardous materials present in the property, encroachments, easements, and many other topics were solely the responsibility of the buyer to determine. Sellers and their agents were not obligated to tell or disclose what they knew about such matters.

But in 1984, the case of Easton v. Strassburger helped change the principle of “caveat emptor” in real estate. Resulting from this case, sellers and agents were now required to disclose what they knew of the property they were selling. Also contributing to this movement to support buyers’ rights was that buyer representation by their own agent came into force during this period.

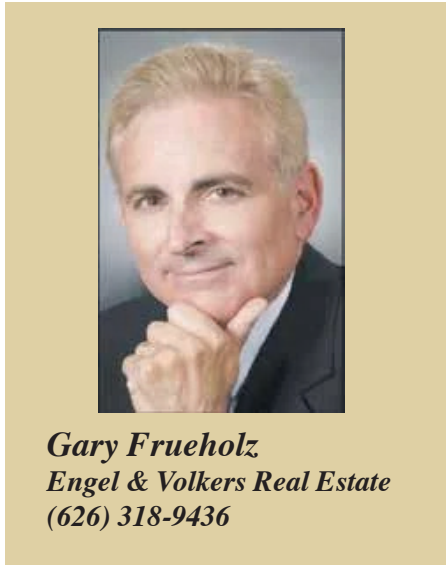
Real estate was not the only perpetrator of “caveat emptor.” Just look at how advertising for pharmaceuticals has changed during the last few decades. Side effects and polypharmacy conditions now must be presented in television commercials. There has been a growing movement in our culture to protect and make buyers more informed.

Easton v. Strassburger was a landmark California real estate court case. Easton purchased a large home on a sizable multi acre property located on a hillside. The listing agent and seller were aware of a history of land movement, corrective action to limit the soil shifting, and presence of fill soil. Initially these facts were not disclosed. The buyer sued and in spite of the practice of buyer beware, Easton was awarded nearly \$200,000 by the court. But more importantly, the landscape of disclosure responsibilities for sellers and real estate agents was redefined.

Consequently, this case not only led to both buyer and seller agents having to disclose what they knew concerning a property, but also what they should have known. Real estate agents assumed the responsibility of having to disclose facts that reasonable due diligence would have disclosed.

Easton v. Strassburger led to a series of new disclosure forms being required in California. Forms such as the Transfer Disclosure Statement (TDS), Agent Visual Inspection Disclosure (AVID), were enacted through court action and state legislation. Resulting from this case and its new perspective, more disclosure forms over the subsequent decades to inform buyers would be added.

The California General Assembly established the Transfer Disclosure Statement (TDS) in 1985 to require sellers of residential real estate to provide buyers with a completed TDS during the contract contingency period. California created one of the strongest disclosure



Gary Frueholz
Engel & Volkers Real Estate
(626) 318-9436

laws in the country. The mandatory Transfer Disclosure Statement (TDS) requires residential real estate sellers to make thorough and detailed disclosures before a sale is finalized. Among other things, a seller is required to disclose the following: any malfunctions or defects on the property; the presence of chemicals on the property; common neighborhood disturbances, including traffic issues; the existence of easements or encroachments; flooding issues, drainage problems, and other environmental impacts; and any outstanding legal claims against the property.

Many states soon followed California’s new law and now in all U.S. states, residential property sellers are required to make certain disclosures to buyers.

Another form, the Agent Visual Inspection Disclosure (AVID), was created to require both seller and buyer agents to conduct a reasonable and competent visual inspection of the property. It is used in conjunction with the Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement (TDS) in California. The AVID is not a replacement for the TDS, but rather a form that can be used to supplement the TDS.

Additional disclosure forms to inform and protect buyers have been added following the TDS and AVID. Some of these forms are the Natural Hazard Disclosure (NHD) Statement, Lead-based Paint Disclosure, Seller Property Questionnaire (SPQ), Mello-Roos Bonds and Taxes, Smoke Detector Compliance Statement, and Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA) Statement. Home inspection and pest control reports are not required, but generally are performed to compliment these other disclosures.

Buyers of real estate no longer face “caveat emptor” or “buyer beware” due to court decisions and legislation. And with this, buyers can make more reasoned and informed decisions concerning their real estate purchases.

Gary Frueholz is a realtor with Engel & Volkers Real Estate, a past member of the Alhambra Planning Commission, a Certified Senior Real Estate Specialist, Certified International Property Specialist, and can be reached at 626-318-9436.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Gary Frueholz, who is solely responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse the advice from this author or any other provider.



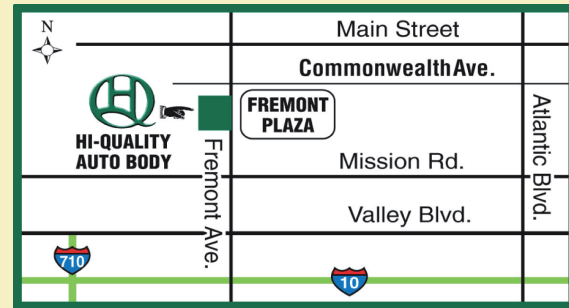
Hi-Quality Auto Body

Fixed Once - Fixed Right
REPAIRS GUARANTEED!

Lifetime Guarantee • Customer Waiting Area
AAA APPROVED AUTO REPAIR FACILITY

Certified Collision Repair for

*Nissan *Infiniti *Hyundai *Kia *Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge-RAM *Fiat



723 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803

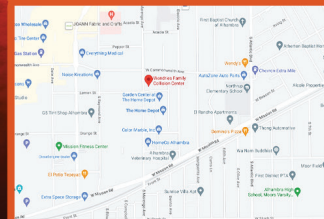
Tel: 626-457-9114

www.hiqualityautobody.com



JOIN OUR TEAM

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



LOCATION
**328 S MARENGO AVE,
ALHAMBRA, CA 91803**

WWW.WONDRIESCC.COM | APPOINTMENT: (626) 414-1900

SoCal | exp GROUP REALTY

BROKERED BY

205 S. Chapel #A, Alhambra, CA, 91801 | DRE #01878227

Under Contract



165 Olivera Lane, Sierra Madre

4 beds | 4 baths | house | 3,449 sf

Coming Soon



Fleming Street, Pomona

4 beds | 3 baths | house | 2,584 sf

Coming Soon



Balboa Blvd, Newport Beach

7 beds | 4 baths | house | 3,322 sf

Just Sold



\$1,032,000

1778 Laurel Dr, Monterey park

3 beds | 2 baths | house | 1,628 sf

Just Sold



\$1,535,000

11541 Laurelcrest Dr, Studio City

2 beds | 2 baths | house | 1,345 sf

Just Sold



\$588,000

402 N Alhambra #G, Alhambra

2 beds | 1 baths | condo | 934 sf

Just Sold



\$1,032,000

209 La France #C, Alhambra

4 beds | 3 baths | condo | 2,024 sf

Just Sold



\$1,581,000

1204 Orange Grove, S. Pasadena

2 beds | 1 baths | house | 1,466 sf

Just Sold



\$800,000

762 Divina Vista St, Monterey Park

2 beds | 2 baths | house | 1,082 sf

FREE
consultation

WE SIMPLIFY THE BUYING,
SELLING AND INVESTING
PROCESS

Let us take care of it

CALL US TODAY



CLARENCE YEUNG

Broker | DRE# 01897557

626-696-0115

clarencechiyeung@gmail.com



JIMMY TRAM

Broker | DRE# 02151694

626-320-2382

jimmy.tram@outlook.com