

AROUND ALHAMBRA



JULY / AUGUST 2024 | GATEWAY TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

www.alhambrachamber.org



Image courtesy of facebook.com/cityofalhambra

Alhambra Welcomes Sasha Renée Pérez for Second Term as Mayor

By Nancy Liu

The Alhambra City Council swore in Sasha Renée Pérez as mayor for her second term on June 24. Katherine Lee was sworn in as vice mayor and outgoing mayor Ross Maza resumed his role as Councilmember, now heading the Department of Supplies.

Pérez made history in her first term as she set several milestones after being elected to the city council. At 28 years old, Pérez became the youngest woman mayor in San Gabriel Valley history and the youngest Latina mayor in California to lead a mid-size city. She also became the first openly LGBTQ-identifying person and the first renter to be sworn in on the council. She was elected in 2020 and immediately started her first term

as mayor at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In her first session as mayor this year, Pérez led the city council in ratifying June 2024 as Immigrant Heritage Month in Alhambra, in recognition of the culture created by immigrants in Alhambra. Later on in the session, the council also approved the motion to develop a permanent dog park in the city following the success of the “Paw-Pup Dog Park,” which was open for two months last fall next to the Alhambra Golf Course and received an outpouring of support from Alhambra residents.

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One of the highlights of the South Korean educator exchange program was a visit to Gyeongbok Palace, where the team donned traditional hanbok clothing.

Inaugural AUSD Delegation Launches South Korean Educators Exchange Adventure

Summer usually marks a time for teachers to slow down their pace and decompress after a year of hard work and dedication. But for 12 Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) educators, the pressure accelerated as they closed out the school year, gathered travel documents, prepared lessons, packed, and headed across the globe for an enriching educator exchange program in South Korea in conjunction with Edupeoples and subsidized by ministries of education. The whirlwind adventure enabled them to be immersed in the vibrant culture of South Korea while fostering a deep exchange of educational practices and ideas.

The delegation, comprised of AUSD educators Larry Ambriz, Ralph Hernandez, Monica Hinojos, Stephanie Johnston, May May Lee, Huey Lien, Calvin Ly, Janice Phan, Page Phillips, I Tran, Marine Wei, and Susie Young, took off the day after Memorial Day to embark on a journey that involved teaching lessons at local schools, professional dialogues with

South Korean counterparts, attending the international Glocal Education Fair, and exploring important historical and cultural landmarks. Some of the AUSD educators had never met each other before, or only knew each other by name. But by the end of this shared experience, they came home as lifelong friends.

According to Susie Young, TK teacher at Emery Park, “This experience was truly amazing and eye-opening. Interacting with South Korean educators and students not only broadened my understanding of global education but will enrich my teaching practices when the students return.”

The program was a result of a continuing partnership between AUSD and Edupeoples, spearheaded by Jaden Choi. This partnership has already seen over 100 students and educators from various schools in South Korea welcomed by AUSD, and over 30 AUSD students have traveled to...

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AROUND ALHAMBRA

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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

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NEWS & NOTES

> City Approves Plan for First-Ever Community Center

The new \$25 million community center will provide space for senior citizens, students, and families to play, work, and study throughout the week. It will also be a historic preservation initiative at the former Shorb Medical Center. Visit cityofalhambra.org to stay up to date with the project.

> Annual San Gabriel Valley Got Skills? Talent Show

The 21st annual Got Skills? Talent Show will be held on Friday, September 6 at the Barnes Park Amphitheatre in Monterey Park. All youths (ages 12-18) are invited to audition, with cash prizes awarded to the winners. For more information and to register to perform, visit tinyurl.com/gotskills2024.

> Planet Fitness High School Summer Pass Program

Planet Fitness is offering free access to all Planet Fitness locations throughout the summer for teens aged 14 to 19. This initiative provides free access to all Planet Fitness locations until August 31, encouraging high school students to stay active and healthy during their break. To register, visit planetfitness.com/summerpass or head into your local Planet Fitness location (a parent must be present to sign the waiver).

> Summer Fun Under the Stars: Concerts and Movies Return to Alhambra Park

Alhambra's Concerts and Movies in the Park series returns every Friday and Saturday evening throughout July at the Alhambra Park Bandshell. Both events begin at 7 PM. To view the full schedule of performances and movies, visit cityofalhambra.org.

> Certified Nursing Assistant & Home Health Aide Training Program for Youths Now Accepting Applications

Comfort Paradise Training Institute is dedicated to providing high-quality training programs for youths in the Alhambra community who wish to pursue careers as Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and Home Health Aides (HHAs). CPTI offers high-quality, state-approved 5-weeks CNA and 1-week HHA training programs. Visit comfortparadiseti.org to learn more.

> Rotary Club Celebrates 100-Year Anniversary

The Alhambra Rotary Club recently celebrated 100 years of service in the Alhambra community and welcomed Ayla Jefferson as its 2024-2025 President. It also merged with the Monterey Park Rotary Club, bringing together the two communities to better serve their cities.



Summer is Here! Where to Beat the Heat Around Alhambra

Following a brutal, extended heatwave over the Fourth of July weekend and dangerously high temperatures across much of California, summer temperatures won't let up again until October. What should be a joyful, relaxing summer vacation for students and the perfect summer getaway for adults now comes with heightened risks from excessive heat warnings and wildfires.

Here are some places you, friends, and family can go to stay cool this summer.

LA County Cooling Centers

San Gabriel Library

500 S. Del Mar Ave San Gabriel

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday-Wednesday: 12 pm - 8 pm

Thursday-Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm

El Sereno Branch Library

5226 S. Huntington Drive Los Angeles

Hours of Operation:

Monday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tuesday: 12 noon - 8 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thursday: 12 noon - 8 p.m.

Friday - Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

The closest cooling center is the San Gabriel Library, followed by the El Sereno Branch Library. These LA County cooling centers are free, indoor air-conditioned locations like libraries and recreation centers for residents to stay cool during extreme heat conditions. Enjoy a new book, computer access, and other resources while you're there!

Visit ready.lacounty.gov/heat/ to view other cooling locations. Some locations are pet-friendly; view the full list to learn more.

Alhambra Pools & Water Playground

Alhambra Pool (June - Mid August)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and

Sunday: 12:30 pm to 3 pm

STAY HEALTHY IN THE HEAT

HOT CARS CAN BE DEADLY

Don't leave children or pets in cars. Call 911 if you see a child or pet in a car alone.

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

Call 911 if you see these symptoms: high body temperature, vomiting, and pale and clammy skin.



Call 211 for Cooling Centers where you can go for free to stay cool.

Thursday: 7 pm to 8:30 pm (JULY ONLY)

Granada Pool (June - Mid August)

Tuesday, Thursday, and

Saturday: 12:30 pm to 3 pm

Tuesday: 7 pm to 8:30

pm (JULY ONLY)

Water Playground Hours

Monday through Sunday:

10:00 am to 6 pm

Alhambra has two pools and a water playground available for the community to enjoy some aquatic fun while under the sun. Pre-registration is required, along with a small fee, for recreational swimming.

Both parks also offer swimming lessons for all ages and water aerobics classes.

Other Locations

The state of California also recommends visiting public air conditioned facilities such as movie theaters and shopping malls. Catch the latest blockbuster at Regal Edwards Alhambra Renaissance on Main Street or browse the shopping plazas across town.

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy a sweet, icy treat. From the iconic Fosselman's Ice Cream Co. to Vita Cane's sugar cane juice, Alhambra has options for every craving. Remember to stay hydrated whether you're out having fun under the sun or you're staying home.

City's First Permanent Dog Park Coming Soon to Alhambra

By Nancy Liu



Image courtesy of www.cityofalhambra.org

Following the success of the “Paw-Pup Dog Park” last fall, the Alhambra City Council decided at its regular meeting on June 24 to move forward with plans for a permanent dog park.

During the pilot project, which brought fenced play areas for dogs of all sizes to a temporary park next to the Alhambra Golf Course, Alhambra residents responded overwhelmingly in favor of establishing a permanent dog park for the city, with about 99% of the 1300 responses to the city’s survey being positive. The community turnout was key in the city’s decision to create a space for Alhambrans and their furry best friends to get outside, mingle, and play.

The city first established the “Paw-Pup Dog Park” in September 2023 as a two-month pilot project to gather feedback from city residents. In June 2024, following the favorable response to the project, the city council authorized staff to move forward with design specifications for a permanent dog park. The future park will

be located near the site of the “Paw-Pup” project area, as over 89% of participants expressed that the temporary installation was in a good location.

“The Alhambra City Council is thrilled to see this initiative advancing,” said Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez. “Alhambra residents have long expressed their desire for a permanent dog park, particularly following the success of our pilot program. Now, we are able to make this a permanent feature for our residents and their furry friends!”

As next steps, the city is seeking professional engineering and design services to provide plans and specifications for the Alhambra Dog Park Project, with an anticipated start date of September 23. Anticipated dog park amenities include trees, synthetic turf, walking paths, a restroom facility, secure double fencing, benches, shade structures and dog play features. To stay up-to-date with progress on the project, visit the city of Alhambra’s website or social media pages.



Images courtesy of facebook.com/cityofalhambra

Alhambra Welcomes Sasha Renée Pérez for Second Term as Mayor

from Page 1

“Our council is working to improve the lives of all Alhambra residents. I’m really happy with what we’ve done so far and I’m really excited for the years and months to come,” said Pérez.

During her first tenure, Pérez demonstrated her commitment to small businesses and public policy to improve the lives of Alhambra residents. Her first motion as mayor capped the fees that third-party food delivery apps, like Doordash and Grubhub, were allowed to charge restaurants, which was key for allowing local restaurants to stay open during the pandemic. She also implemented “Hero Pay” for Alhambra’s front-line essential workers such as firefighters, police officers,

grocery store clerks, pharmacy workers, and city staff.

Pérez has a strong history of supporting critical infrastructure projects on the city council. She pioneered Alhambra’s first-ever bike and pedestrian plan and put forth a comprehensive sustainability plan in front of Congress to bring in \$680,000 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the city’s long-term environmental needs.

“This is truly special because Sasha understands the significance of being mayor in such a remarkable city,” said Congresswoman Judy Chu, who administered the oath of office ceremony in June. “This is the kind of person we need in elected office — someone who’s shown

leadership in so many ways in protecting families, uplifting communities, and fighting for equal rights.”

Aside from her contributions to the city council, Perez is an educator and civil rights advocate who is dedicated to advancing equitable access to higher education, as a first-generation college graduate herself, and to supporting California’s working families. She was raised by working class parents — a union electrician and a Los Angeles County social worker — and attended Mark Keppel High School. She was the first in her family to graduate college with degrees in Political Science and Economics from California State University, Los Angeles.

Pérez will not be running for re-election in the Alhambra City Council this November, as she was selected as the Democratic candidate for State Senate District 25 following the primary elections earlier this year.

In regards to her last term as mayor and tenure on the city council, she said, “It is bittersweet. I’ve loved serving this city, I’ve lived in the city of Alhambra my entire life. I went to Mark Keppel High School and it makes me so proud to be from here. To get to represent this city on the council has brought me so much joy and so much pride.”

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Scan the QR code to sign up or visit: bit.ly/AroundAlhambra



The Chamber View

Summer is a Season of Change in Alhambra

By John Bwarie

This summer, change is coming to Alhambra, and our community is better for it. We continue to see new businesses choosing Alhambra as their home. And as you find new places to shop and support, whether at the new Happy Humble Hub that is helping to revitalize the eastern stretch of Downtown Alhambra or at any number of the new restaurants opening across the city, it's time to make sure to shop local. With every new business owner that chooses to open in Alhambra, they are working to earn your business and patronage. It's up to all of us to choose to support the businesses that support our community so they can flourish here.

This comes in many forms, and one way is to support the business leaders who volunteer their time to make our community stronger. One change coming to the Chamber starting this month is a new program to recognize local real estate professionals who are truly part of the Alhambra community. Many real estate agents represent that they know or understand our community, but those that are actively involved are more likely to know exactly how to help the buyers and sellers they represent. This is why we created the Alhambra Community Real Estate Professional designation for individuals who are truly committed to our community.

A great example of this is one of our outgoing Chamber board members: Past-President Suzi Dunkel-Soto. For years, she has served on the Chamber board, having just completed more than 5 years as an executive board member and more than that as a regular board member. But she also volunteers her time as a City Commissioner. Currently, she serves as a Recreation and Parks Commissioner, and she also spent years as a Planning Commissioner. All of this means she knows the community, she is directly connected to those who can make living here even better, and she is giving of her own time to make change. We thank Suzi for her decades of Chamber service and look forward to her continued efforts to make Alhambra event better.

Another great change at the Chamber starting July 1st is the new board members joining the board. The membership voted to add three new business leaders to the esteemed group currently leading the business community: Evelyn Ku, CEO of Alhambra Hospital; Jamie Alvarez, Owner and Founder of Baja Cali; and Herman Whitaker, Director of Admissions at Platt College. These three individuals join a group of impressive leaders from various sectors who are helping to support economic growth and business

success, as well as working to strengthen the community overall in the changing landscape of operating a business in 2024. We welcome these new additions, as well as the elevation of Maria Gao of Evike.com as our new president and Wing Ho of TAG Design Works as president-elect. With these new leaders, the Chamber will continue to be on a trajectory for stability, growth, and relevance to serve our members, businesses in the city, and the community as a whole.

The last exciting change coming this summer is an update to Around Alhambra as a news source and community asset. As you see in this issue, we will now be publishing every other month with direct mailing to every household in Alhambra and distribution locations across the community. Since online sources continue to be the primary source of news and information for our community, we are investing in a new, robust news site to be updated on a daily basis to make sure critical information and news can be shared more timely. This will also be a place for a comprehensive and regularly updated community calendar, as well as video and other digital content to achieve the mission of Around Alhambra: to inform, connect, and activate the greater Alhambra community. We invite you to



John Bwarie
CEO Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

visit AroundAlhambra.com this month as it takes shape. Come back often to see new digital features, assets, and resources, as well as insights on what is happening in and around our community. We invite you to share your stories and news with us so that we can tell a more complete and timely story about our diverse and dynamic community by simply emailing us at AA@alhambrachamber.org.

As these changes shape the future of our community, we will continue to work on behalf of a more vibrant and resilient community. We invite you to join us in this effort – simply contact us at hello@alhambrachamber.com to connect with us on this community journey.



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How Does the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Help Alhambra?

By Mark Paulson, Board of Directors, Division I – Alhambra San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

I've served on the board of directors for the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District since 2007, representing the northern section of Alhambra. Dr. Steven Placido was elected to our board in 2016 to represent the southern section of Alhambra and the northern section of Monterey Park. My purpose in these monthly public information articles is to inform you about water supply, finance, infrastructure, and conservation. This month, I'd like to tell you more about the District.

The District was created in 1959 as voters in our four member cities decided they wanted a greater say in water supply matters... a very wise decision! Our mission is to "provide reliable supplemental water for the communities of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner."

While 80% of the water we use is groundwater from local wells, the San Gabriel Valley uses more water than Mother Nature provides. Thus, we need to "import" about 20% of our water from northern California. The District is one of 29 "State Water Contractors" who are allocated imported water each year to supplement water supplies in our four member cities. The actual amount of water we receive varies yearly based on water supply conditions (rain, snow, reservoirs, local wells, etc.).

Other benefits the District provides to Alhambra include:

- Low-cost water; in fact, the least expensive wholesale water rate in the Valley, helping keep your water rates low.
- Loans and grants focused on infrastructure, including funds to help



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

build the city's water treatment facility, and conservation, including rebates on water-saving equipment and installation of water-wise landscaping at City Hall, the Fire Department headquarters, and the YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley.

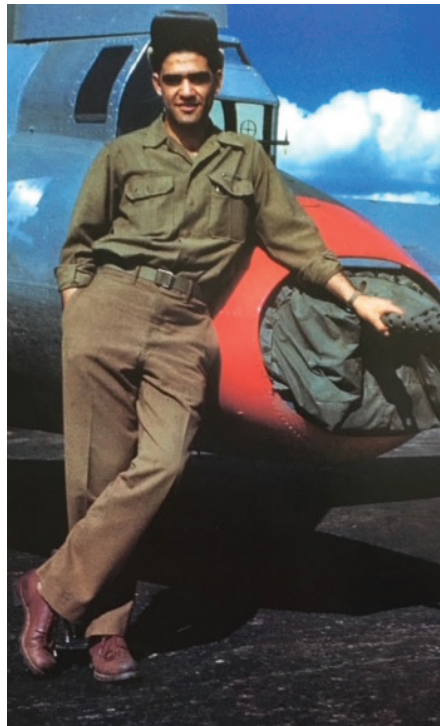
- Our Opportunities for Water Leadership Community Grants (O.W.L. Grants) and school outreach programs have assisted many of Alhambra's schools and non-profit organizations in educating students about water and conservation.

After several years of severe drought, water supply conditions have improved. But, the drought will return. We are working closely with our member cities to prepare for the future, and appreciate the partnership we've enjoyed in Alhambra for nearly 65 years. Please visit our website – sgvmd.com – to learn more. Thank you, Alhambra!

All Around the Town

'Mr. Alhambra' Larry Stevens Turns 100 This Month

By Glenn Barnett



Glenn Barnett

While in England, Stevens would fly 35 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. On June 6, 1944, he flew over Normandy on D-Day. Later, as a part of Operation Frantic, his plane flew non-stop to Soviet Ukraine, bombing enemy targets in eastern Europe along the way. From Ukraine he flew on to Italy, bombing the oil fields in Romania before flying back to England.

After serving, and surviving, his 35 missions, he was sent home, where he immediately volunteered for service in the Pacific. He trained as a tail gunner in a B-25 bomber. The war ended before he could be sent into combat again. In addition to the American issued Distinguished Flying Cross, he was awarded a Soviet Air Medal for his participation in Operation Frantic and the prestigious French Legion of Honor (Légion d'honneur) Medal for helping to liberate France.

After the war, Stevens returned to Alhambra and went to work in his father's lath and plaster business. For several years he helped to build local churches, businesses, homes, and public buildings, including the offices of the True Light Presbyterian Church and San Gabriel High School. While continuing his construction work, he was hired by the Alhambra Fire Department and served the city as a firefighter for 31 years, retiring with the rank of Captain. He still attends Fire Department reunions and other functions.

Few among us can say that we have served our city and our country like Larry Stevens. Happy Birthday, Mr. Alhambra.

What are the qualifications to be Mr. Alhambra? Consider this. Larry Stevens was born in Alhambra in July of 1924. He was enrolled in the first kindergarten class at Marguerita Elementary School and graduated from Alhambra High School in 1943, in the midst of a world at war.

Like most of the boys graduating from high school that year, Larry joined the military. He took photography classes at AHS and thought he might fly reconnaissance missions, so he joined the Army Air Corps. The Army had other ideas and trained him to be a gunner. While in training, he learned that his older brother Ernest had been killed while fighting with General Patton's Army in Sicily. Several Alhambra men died in that war.

As a part of the 8th Air Force, Larry would be stationed in Great Britain as a tail gunner manning two .50 Caliber machine guns in the tail end of a B-17 bomber as a member of its 10-man crew. Arriving at their barracks in England his crew was shown around their new living quarters. Larry noticed that there were 40 wallets lying on a table. He asked what they were for. The grim answer was, "We lost four planes yesterday. You are their replacements." The war suddenly became real.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have comments for Around Alhambra? Is there a mistake or typo in the paper?

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Restaurants Exempt from California's Hidden Fees Legislation

By Nancy Liu

After a last-minute decision from Gov. Gavin Newsom, restaurants in California are now exempt from new rules barring hidden fees like credit card surcharges.

The law, SB 478, went into effect on July 1 and is often referred to as a "junk fee" law. It aims to protect consumers from unexpected charges at the end of a purchase. These charges are often listed as "processing fees," "service fees," or "admin fees." Think Ticketmaster fees that turn a \$20 concert ticket into a \$40 bill or hotels that add "resort fees" onto bookings.

For restaurants, these are usually service fees in addition to taxes and tips. Many businesses have added surcharges for credit card payments. Credit card processors levy high fees on credit card transactions, which don't apply to debit cards or cash purchases.

The Durbin Amendment, part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act put forward by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), limits transaction fees on debit card purchases. While Sen. Durbin has put forth similar

legislation for credit cards called the Credit Card Competition Act, it has yet to be passed into law and faces heavy criticism from skeptics. Cash payments bypass card processors entirely, and thus cost nothing extra to the business to accept.

Gov. Newsom's decision means that customers may still see extra fees on their bills at the end of the night at restaurants, bars, and other food service establishments such as caterers. On the other hand, these businesses will still see some reprieve from the high fees that they have to pay in order to accept card payments for their goods — a much needed boon in this economy.

However, restaurants are still required to disclose if they charge a service fee prior to the customer receiving the bill. The amendment to SB 478 says that the price listed must be the full price that the consumer is required to pay. Any additional charges must be stated clearly either on the menu or elsewhere in the establishment, though the charge doesn't need to be reflected in item prices.

Alhambra Events Calendar July - August 2024

July 7, 14, 21, 28 | August 4, 11, 18, 25

Alhambra Certified Farmers Market
Sunday from 8:30 am to 1 pm
100 S 2nd St.

July 17 | 5:30 PM

L.A. Weather Paint Night
Reese Hall, Alhambra Library
101 S 1st St.

July 22 | August 12, 26

City Council Meetings
City Hall
111 S 1st St.

August 6 | 6:00 - 8:30 PM

APD's National Night Out
Almanson Park
800 S Almanson St.

August 10 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Oil Filter Exchange Event
O'Reilly Auto Parts
800 E. Valley Blvd.

August 14 | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Youth Services and Education Meeting
Alhambra Unified School District
1515 W Mission Rd.

August 22 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Nonprofit Summit
Happy Humble Hub
117 E Main St.

August 24 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

LA County HHW Collection Event - Alhambra
Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters
900 S Fremont Ave.

September 1 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Alhambra Craft Market Grand Opening
Renaissance Plaza
24 N Garfield Ave.



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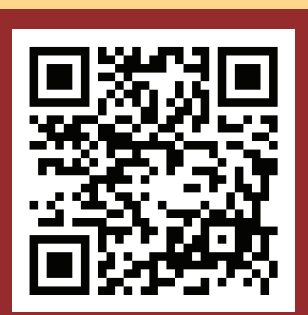
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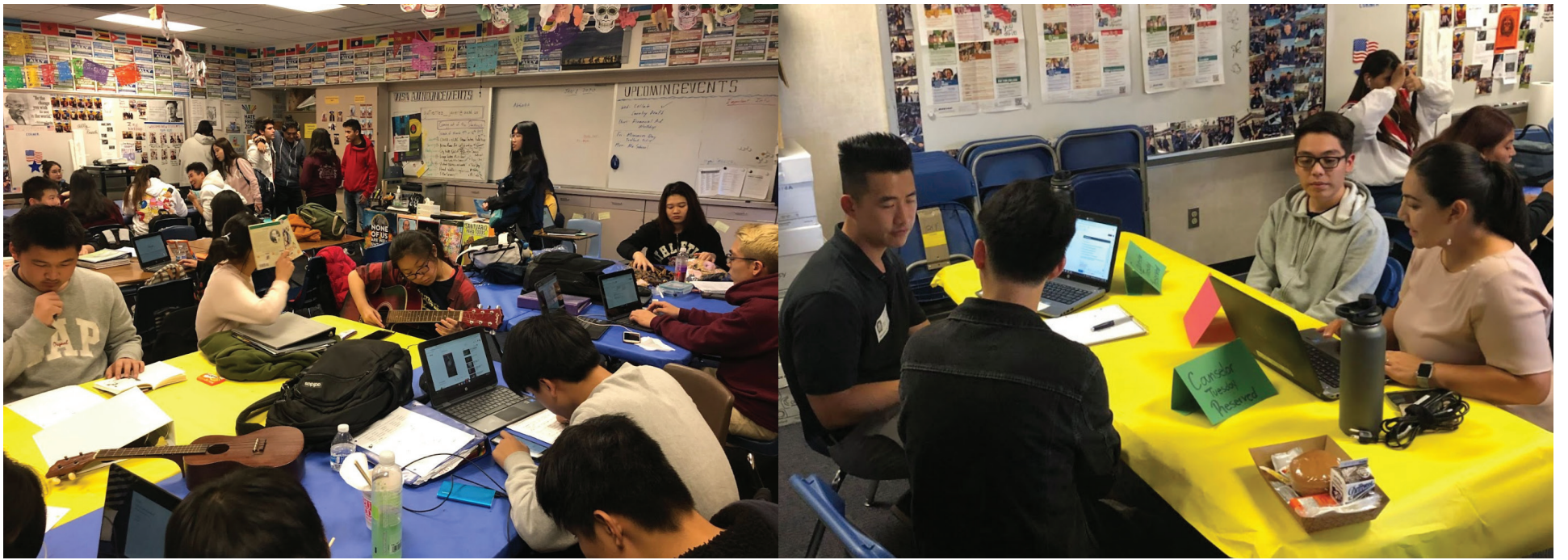
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Alhambra, City of Immigrants, Ratifies June 2024 as Immigrant Heritage Month Together With Dream Resource Center at Alhambra High

By Nancy Liu

As of 2022, 46.2% of Alhambra residents were born outside of the country — over three times the national average of 13.6%. Even within California, the state with the highest percentage of immigrants in the nation at 26.5%, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Alhambra stands out.

In recognition of “the long and rich history of immigrants in Alhambra that have played a vital role in diversifying our community, and in celebration of the contributions of generations of immigrants to our city,” Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez declared June 2024 as Immigrant Heritage Month in Alhambra. She handed the certificate to Bryan Kim, a representative from the Dream Resource Center at Alhambra High School, during the June 24 city council meeting.

The declaration is a testament to the rich, inclusive culture residents have built in Alhambra over decades. Since its incorporation in 1903, Alhambra has welcomed several waves of immigrants from all over the world, most notably Italians in the 50s, Mexicans in the 60s, and Chinese in the 80s. These immigrants — and everyone who followed — put down roots and became the cornerstone of Alhambra’s vibrant community.

The legacy left by generations of immigrants can be seen just by driving through the Chinese business district along Valley Boulevard, or visiting the family-owned restaurants that have served Main Street for decades.

“The City of Alhambra continues to implement culturally responsive practices in our community engagement policies to ensure that all are included. Alhambra recognizes the abundant diversity of its residents and workers that serve our city, adding a range of perspectives to our community and helping to move our community forward,” Mayor Pérez added in her statement.

June is a historical month for immigrants in the United States. In 2019, Congress declared June to be Immigrant Heritage Month. The United Nations recognizes World Refugee Day on June 20, which was first established in 2001. Decades ago, on June 15, 1982, the Supreme Court ruled in Plyler v. Doe that all children residing in the U.S. are entitled to equal access to education, regardless of their legal immigration status.

In 2017, the Alhambra Unified School District declared itself a “safe haven” district, meaning that children can receive education regardless of their identity, including immigration status. The move came in direct response to former President Trump’s anti-immigration rhetoric and threat to cut off funding to sanctuary cities welcoming undocumented immigrants.

Students at Alhambra high schools have done wonders in building a community for themselves and their fellow students. Alhambra High, Mark Keppel High School, and San Gabriel High School all have Dreamer Resource Centers, a

resource for immigrant students at their respective schools.

“The Dreamer Resource Center stands as a testament to the power of community and the enduring spirit of inclusivity,” shared Javier Gutierrez, history teacher at Alhambra High and faculty advisor to the AHS DRC. “[We’re] dedicated to supporting all vulnerable communities but in particular undocumented students and their families.”

The DRC supports students in every way possible, from academic assistance and legal aid to parent education classes and leadership development. The Alhambra High DRC, where Gutierrez works, even has a “community cupboard” pantry providing free food, snacks, hygiene supplies and school materials to students facing food insecurity or other financial vulnerabilities.

To date, over four thousand unique students and over forty thousand sign-ins have been recorded at just the AHS center since its inception in 2017, according to Gutierrez. The center is a key member of the Dream Allies Network, which promotes collaboration and resource-sharing among schools in the Alhambra Unified and Los Angeles Unified school districts.

Dream Centers are run by students at high schools and colleges throughout the nation. It’s named after the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act legislation proposed by United States Senators Dick Durbin

(D-Illinois) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) in 2001, which has since been introduced several times and has yet to be passed into law by Congress.

Still, the DREAM Act attests to the movement of support for undocumented students that started with Plyler in the 80s.

When receiving the certification for Immigrant Heritage Month, Bryan Kim, staff member at the DRC, shared, “My parents were asylum-seekers from Cambodia and lived through the genocide. For families and communities that immigrate, this really means a lot. For folks that are going through genocide now currently and those that have a history of immigrating during famine, they are welcome into the United States. I’m doing my best through the Dream Centers and the work we do in schools to help provide that message.”

“The Dream Center was born out of helping and supporting immigrant students and families regardless of status,” he continued. “We’ve been active in a lot of our students’ lives and we’re doing our best to expand and provide resources for all of our students and families in need.”

The DRC welcomes support from the community. It has an ongoing call for donations of non-perishable foods such as canned goods, rice, pasta, oatmeal, cereal, and peanut butter. Donations can be dropped off at the Alhambra Teachers Association. To learn more about the DRC and other ways to support its efforts, visit ahsdreamcenter.org.

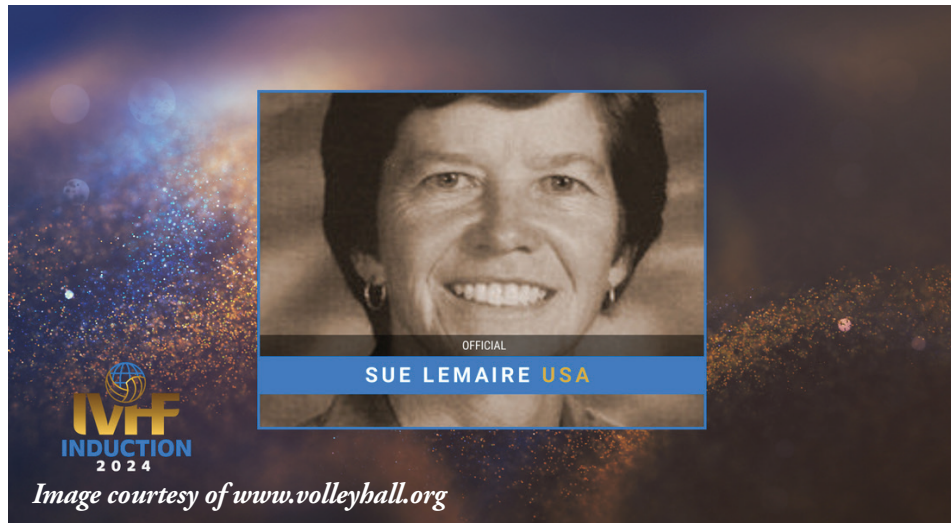
AROUND ALHAMBRA IS CHANGING TO BI-MONTHLY!

Starting this month, Around Alhambra will now be covering two months in every edition. You can expect to read a brand new Around Alhambra on the following dates:

- July/August Issue: July 15
- September/October Issue: September 6
- November/December Issue: November 1

Or, get daily news updates online, coming soon at AroundAlhambra.com!





San Gabriel Alumna Elected to International Volleyball Hall of Fame

By Terry Lawton

Sue Lemaire was elected into the International Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke, Massachusetts, with an upcoming induction on October 19. Sue is a 1966

graduate of San Gabriel High School and 1970 graduate of Fresno State University. She received a MS from Long Beach State in 1983. Sue taught sixth grade physical

education in the Walnut Valley Unified School District until her retirement in 2010 and currently resides in Walnut, California.

Sue began her distinguished career with her International Indoor Volleyball Referee rating in 1982 and her International Beach Volleyball Referee rating in 1993. She was the first woman in the world to receive her certification with the FIVB volleyball governing body. This led to her assignment at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games in beach volleyball, which was also the first time women were assigned to officiate volleyball matches in any Olympic Games. Sue also officiated beach volleyball during the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Over the course of her career, Sue officiated many matches for the USA Men's and Women's national volleyball teams and traveled to Europe, Japan, China, Russia, South America to work matches at the international level.

In Southern California, Sue was active locally working high school CIF matches in the Southern Section (covering San Gabriel Valley) and Los Angeles City Section. She

served in many positions for the local San Gabriel Valley officiating units, was the National Federation State Representative for California, and served on the National Federation Rules Committee.

Sue also was a recognized leader at the collegiate level. She served as the Rules Interpreter for NAGWs, which governed women's collegiate volleyball, and was on the USA volleyball rules committee. Sue officiated many Championship Final Four matches for AIAW and NCAA. Sue worked many years for United States Volleyball officiating championship matches at the adult and junior level.

During her career, Sue was recognized with many prestigious professional awards: Professional Association of Volleyball Officials Hall of Fame, USA Will Peck Emeritus Award, USA Karen Johnson Humanitarian Award, USA Golden Whistle Award, USA Leader in Volleyball Award, and the Fresno Hall of Fame, among others.

The City of Walnut will be honoring Sue on July 24 with a City Proclamation.



TNT Mailboxes & Shipping Wants Alhambra to be the Core of Mailing Services in San Gabriel Valley

By Nancy Liu

With I-10 to the south and the 110 to the north, Alhambra is primed for both local and interstate travel. That's exactly why Tony Lau opened TNT Mailboxes & Shipping in Alhambra with the goal of becoming an essential node in the mailing network in the San Gabriel Valley.

TNT, which stands for "Tony and team," represents Lau's entrepreneurial spirit and his desire to give back to the Alhambra community. Mailboxes and shipping services are quite mundane, but are still essential to modern life. While sending handwritten letters isn't as common as it was a century ago, mail services have evolved to keep up with the times — especially driven by e-commerce.

Despite being centrally located to major transportation routes, Alhambra lacked a local service that offered both personal and business solutions under one roof, according to Lau. TNT Mailbox & Shipping was driven by his commitment

to supporting the Alhambra community and enhancing their everyday logistics and communication needs.

"We look forward to serving our community and contributing to its growth and success," said Lau.

TNT Mailboxes & Shipping promises a more personal touch than major providers like USPS and FedEx. One of their goals is to build lasting relationships with customers. The eponymous team behind TNT is a dynamic group of individuals hailing from various cultural and professional backgrounds, from logistics experts to customer service professionals, all brought together by the common goal of providing secure and efficient mailing solutions.

With its grand opening, TNT Mailboxes & Shipping is living up to Alhambra's motto of being the "Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley."

SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTS

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Your Insurance

How Does a Home Insurance Deductible Work?

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



Regina Talbot
Talbot Insurance Agency
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As you begin looking for a homeowners, condo, or renters insurance policy to help protect your investment, knowing your choices for the deductible is important. The deductible chosen can affect the premium paid.

What is a homeowners deductible?

A deductible is the amount you would feel comfortable paying towards a loss, should a claim occur, and it's to be paid or incurred by the insured before the insurance company pays their portion of the covered loss. The deductible amount can be a set dollar amount or a percentage of your home's insured value (1% or 2%). The deductible amount is determined by you when a policy is requested. As the insured, you can change the deductible amount any time after the policy is issued. Since a claim may occur in the future, you should always choose a deductible amount you are comfortable with.

How does a deductible work?

When you contact your insurance company about a claim, the insurer will determine the amount it will give you to cover the loss. When the claim

amount is paid, the amount determined by the insurer will be applied and your deductible amount will be subtracted. For instance, if you have a roof claim and the insurer determines the loss is \$5,000, you will pay the first \$500 (as per your deductible) and the insurance company will pay the remaining \$4,500. In general, each time a claim is filed, the deductible is applied.

Deductible vs premium for affordability

When deciding on a policy, a deductible can be a helpful way to move the premium price to something you're comfortable with. If a lower deductible is requested, the policy premium will typically be higher. However, if a higher deductible is selected, then the policy premium will be lower.

For more information, contact 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.

Tax Tips

Newlyweds Tax Checklist

By Michael Aston EA



Michael Aston, E.A.
Alhambra Tax Center
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Summer wedding season has arrived, and newlyweds can make their tax filing easier by doing a few things now. A taxpayer's marital status as of December 31 determines their tax filing options for the entire year, but that's not all newlyweds need to know.

Report a name change

Report any name changes to the Social Security Administration. The name on a person's tax return must match what's on file at the SSA. If it doesn't, it could delay any tax refunds. To update information, taxpayers should file Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card. It's available on SSA.gov, by phone at 800-772-1213 or at a local SSA office. Please note that the Alhambra SSA office moved from Garfield Ave to Main St.

Update addresses

Notify the United States Postal Service, employers and the IRS of any address change. To officially change their mailing address with the IRS, taxpayers must complete and submit Form 8822, Change of Address.

Check withholding

Newly married couples must give their employers a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Certificate, within 10 days. If both spouses are employed, they may move into a higher tax bracket or be affected by the additional Medicare tax. They can use the Tax Withholding

Estimator on IRS.gov to check their withholding and for help completing a new Form W-4.

Review filing status

Married people can choose to file their federal income taxes jointly or separately each year. While filing jointly is usually more beneficial, it's best to calculate the tax both ways to find out which makes the most sense. Taxpayers should remember that if a couple is married as of December 31, the law says they're married for the whole year for tax purposes.

Beware of scams

All taxpayers should be aware of and avoid tax scams. The IRS will never contact a taxpayer using email, phone calls, social media or text messages. First contact generally comes in the mail. To find out if they owe money to the IRS, taxpayers can view their tax account.

This information is from the IRS Tax Tip 2024-57.

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.

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AROUND ALHAMBRA IS GOING ONLINE!

Around Alhambra is launching its new online presence. Get ready to explore Alhambra like never before with the latest news, events, and updates right at your fingertips.

Stay tuned for more updates and be part of our vibrant online community!

www.aroundalhambra.com





Image courtesy of www.cityofalhambra.org

Challenging Economy Makes Restaurants Feel the Squeeze in Alhambra

By Nancy Liu

Beloved Alhambra restaurants with great quality, fresh ingredients and delicious food are struggling to remain open. They're familiar community favorites, but the cost of operating a business in Southern California has skyrocketed and strained local small businesses.

Burnt Belly is the latest casualty of the economy. Established in 2021, it provided fresh barbeque made daily until its closing three years later, in June 2024. First making a name for itself at Blossom Market Food Hall, Burnt Belly was so popular they opened their own brick and mortar store on Fremont Avenue in 2023.

By nature of its handcrafted barbeque, Burnt Belly had a limited stock that had to be prepared days in advance. With its unique, Korean-inspired twist on traditional American smoked barbecue, Burnt Belly quickly became

an icon of the diversity and ingenuity of Alhambra's incomparable restaurant scene. Unfortunately, the cost of running a restaurant proved to be too high to maintain both its good food and fair prices.

Here in Southern California, restaurants have access to the best ingredients, freshest produce, and a thriving foodie culture. But with rising costs of business and external pressures from delivery app fees to government regulations, it's more important than ever to get out and support local restaurants.

Check out Around Alhambra's June 2024 issue to find a list of new restaurants and other small businesses recently opened and opening soon in Alhambra, or keep reading to peruse July and August's Restaurants of the Week featuring a new restaurant every week.

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11th Annual Alhambra Pumpkin Run & Halloween Festival is Coming to Downtown Alhambra

Downtown Alhambra Business Association and the City of Alhambra proudly bring you the 11th Annual Alhambra Pumpkin Run 10K, 5K, and 1K, and the Halloween Festival on Sunday, October 27 2024 in Downtown Alhambra.

Alhambra Pumpkin Run is a 10K, 5K, and 1K run benefiting the Alhambra Educational Foundation. Proceeds from the run are donated to help our Alhambra schools. The event begins at 7:50 am and ends at 1 pm followed by trick-or-treating on Main Street for the kids. The start-line is located at the corner of 1st Street and

Main Street in front of Rick's Burgers and the festival is located on 1st Street between Main Street and Commonwealth alongside our weekly Farmers Market.

The festival includes a 10K and 5K run that starts on Main Streets and travels west on Main Street to El Molino Ave, as well as a Farmers Market, live music, Beer Garden sponsored by Ohana Brewery, adult and kids costume contest, kids fun zone and trick-or-treating on Main Street. Register to run at alhambrapumpkinrun.com. Visit our Instagram @alhambrapumpkinrun for more information.

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Denny's

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JUL - AUG 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!

<p>July 1 to July 7</p>		<p>28 West doesn't just have drinks — it also offers bites like tacos, pizzas, wings, burgers, and more. Catch your favorite sports games in a vibrant atmosphere with live DJs and classic cocktails, beer, and more. 28 West is open past midnight Thursday through Saturday. Visit them at 28 W Main St, Alhambra</p>	
<p>July 8 to July 14</p>		<p>Sushi Me is a casual option for great Japanese fare in downtown Alhambra. The founder has 10 years of experience creating delicious Japanese cuisine and offers a delectable spread of sushi, sashimi, and cooked options. Can't choose? Grab a lunch combo for an assorted spread of sushi or sashimi. Visit them at 115 W Main St, Alhambra</p>	
<p>July 15 to July 21</p>		<p>bb.q Chicken is recognized globally for its mouthwatering chicken — especially the Honey Garlic, a signature sauce that's sweet and savory with a mild tang of garlic. bb.q Chicken's iconic Korean fried chicken boasts lighter, crispier, and more flavorful options than traditional American fried chicken. Visit them at 560 W Main St Unit A, Alhambra</p>	
<p>July 22 to July 28</p>	<p>Gold Hibachi Buffet</p>	<p>Gold Hibachi Buffet is an all-you-can-eat seafood paradise with Japanese favorites including sushi, sashimi, teppanyaki, as well as dim sum and dessert options. Visit Monday through Thursday from 4 to 6 pm for happy hour (\$3 off per adult, min. 3 people) until July 31. Visit them at 2223 W Commonwealth Ave, Alhambra</p>	
<p>July 29 to August 4</p>		<p>Pokestuf has build-your-own poke bowls with fresh fish, toppings and sauces. A Hawaiian classic, Pokestuf is a great option for a quick, healthy, and delicious lunch. Enjoy a house-made tea or soda on the side to complete your meal. Visit them at 401 W Main St, Alhambra</p>	
<p>August 5 to August 11</p>		<p>Charlie's Trio Cafe opened in Alhambra over 20 years ago and is now a beloved downtown staple. Share a pepperoni pie with your family or browse the menu full of Italian dishes including specialty pizzas and pastas, plus a \$7.25 kids menu. Visit them at 47 W Main St #3510, Alhambra</p>	
<p>August 12 to August 18</p>		<p>Borneo Eatery brings Indonesian, Malaysian, and Singaporean dishes to Alhambra. Recognized by the Michelin Guide, Borneo Eatery has served skillfully crafted cuisine since 2009 with the goal of sharing its nostalgic Southeast Asian dishes with the San Gabriel Valley. Visit them at 19 S Garfield Ave, Alhambra</p>	
<p>August 19 to August 25</p>		<p>Wa Sushi & Izakaya is a family-owned restaurant established in 2022, named "harmony" in Japanese. Dine on fresh, high-quality sushi and drinks while surrounded by beautiful cherry blossoms in a cozy, welcoming atmosphere. Visit them at 1132 N Garfield Ave, Alhambra</p>	
<p>August 26 to September 1</p>		<p>Rick's Drive In & Out serves burgers alongside a full menu of traditional Mexican foods. An Alhambra mainstay serving multiple generations of residents, Rick's is a great option for families and students for a weekend breakfast or after-school hangout. Visit them at 132 W Main St, Alhambra</p>	

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





Catalyst San Gabriel Valley Serves Youths, Families, and Schools in Need

By Nancy Liu

Jesse Chang loves to create things. One of his more recent creations is the educational garden at Marguerita Elementary School, which he started along with members of the community through Catalyst San Gabriel Valley, a non-profit organization that aims to help support youths, families, and schools in the Valley.

Chang is the Executive Director at Catalyst San Gabriel Valley, which he became involved in when it was still Kingdom Causes Alhambra. He grew up on the East Coast, went to college for an art degree, then moved to Los Angeles to

attend seminary. Through his work in a local congregation, he felt led to do more in the local community, which ultimately led to taking part in what was then Kingdom Causes Alhambra.

Catalyst SGV is driven by three initiatives tackling family homelessness, healthy relationships training for youth 12-19, and adopting schools who need more support, including designing and creating gardens and greenspace for their campuses. These programs are called HOPE (Homeless and Parent Engagement) Project, Project RISE, and Adopt-a-School, respectively.

The organization does its best to get the community involved, but it isn't always easy. "We have to be respectful of people's privacy and confidentiality, so it's not always easy to just have volunteers show up at an event or meet up," Chang disclosed.

One of their biggest efforts throughout the year is an annual Thanksgiving food drive, where volunteers gather to make shelf-stable food in ziploc bags to help provide breakfasts and lunches for students who can't access meals on school campus due to the weeklong break. These meal kits go to benefit students at all AUSD schools.

"Alhambra is where this all started. My predecessor actually created the first collaborative network in Alhambra amongst local congregations, police, and AUSD. Over the last 12 years I had to make it my own and have expanded it beyond Alhambra and expanded our network," said Chang.

Catalyst SGV started as Kingdom Causes Alhambra in 2005, born from a network of faith leaders in the city who wanted to show their love for Alhambra in practical ways. It manifested as support for underserved youths, families, and schools in the San Gabriel Valley. In 2018, Catalyst SGV became its own separate 501(c)3 non-profit organization,

guided by Chang's understanding of what was needed in the community and his vision for what could be achieved.

"We're still figuring out how we can get our community to engage tangibly with our work in the community," Chang said. "Often those most in need remain hidden in our community, and we work to build trust and partnerships with our families and those in our community who want to help."

In 2023, Catalyst SGV raised over \$65,000 with its Back to School fundraiser, donated over 750 HOPE meals to families during the holiday season, supported 106 families with essential needs like housing support and clothing, provided 24 mini-grants to local school teachers for classroom enrichment, started the Marguerita School Garden, and much more.

For this year, Catalyst has three goals: develop staff to serve more youth, families and schools; deepen its community partnerships; and secure new sources of funding.

Chang wants the Alhambra community to know that in addition to Catalyst SGV's regular initiatives, "We can customize support and involvement as well, so we are open to creative ideas by our wonderful community, so please feel free to reach out."



Soroptimist Veronica Thee Service Awards Recognizes SGV Students for Outstanding Community Service

Soroptimist of Alhambra, San Gabriel, and San Marino had their 2024 Veronica Thee Service Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, June 5, at the San Gabriel Hilton. Five high school senior girls were awarded this year for outstanding community service. This award was named in honor of Veronica Thee, who was a member of Soroptimist for over 40 years. Veronica said if you want to "make a difference," volunteering is the best way to do it. Veronica's son, Ron Thee, attended the event.

The first place winner this year was **Tiffany Benitez**, a recent graduate of San Gabriel Mission High School. She joined LA VOICE, a dynamic social justice organization. In a rallying cry in support of SB567, a crucial bill aimed at shielding vulnerable individuals from eviction, Tiffany went to Sacramento and spoke to over 700 people, including state senators, which helped to get the bill successfully signed into law.

Viviana Mendoza, who graduated from Ramona High School Secondary School, was awarded for her service with Reading Partners, an organization committed to providing one-on-one literacy assistance to students in grade levels one through four. Viviana studied hard to become a tutor. She said that the students she worked with impacted her life positively in more ways than one.

Haley Yang, who graduated from Mark Keppel High School, was awarded for her service with Essential C.A.R.E. With this organization, she reached out to people making a difference in our community by lifting their spirits through care packages: nurses, doctors, educators, police officers, and firefighters. She became President of the organization and expanded their reach, donating over 1,000 packages to date.

Joyce Sycip, who graduated from San Gabriel High School, was awarded for her service with Affirmed by Grace, a ministry organization that informs the community about stereotypes of homeless individuals and provides the homeless population with essential needs. They are currently helping more than 80 people a day.

Kailey Trinh, who graduated from Gabriela High School, was awarded for her service with CodeDay, an organization that provides hands-on STEM-related opportunities to underserved students all over the world. She organized a coding event for all Los Angeles high school students. Her goal was to revitalize the high school coding community with skills to explore a future in technology, computer science, engineering, and beyond.

These five award winners show how volunteering really does "make a difference."

For more information on Soroptimist International of the Americas, please visit soroptimisthalhambra.org.



Pictured from left to right: PCC student Dylan Ryll, Alhambra Vice Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez, Alhambra Historical Society President Chris Olson, PCC student Dana Contreras and Alhambra Historical Society Vice President and owner of Iona Work Spaces Michael McCollum.

Alhambra Historical Society Annual Meeting Highlights Museum Digitization Project

by Joyce Amaro, Alhambra Historical Society

On the evening of June 4, the Alhambra Historical Society met at the beautiful Iona Work Spaces (1500 West Alhambra Road, Alhambra, CA 91801) for its annual meeting. As approximately 40 members enjoyed light hors d'oeuvres and drinks, Alhambra Historical Society President Chris Olson presented the evening's program, which included the 2023-24 annual report, the recognition of 13 volunteers, and the installation of the 2024-25 board of directors by Alhambra Vice Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez. Pasadena City College students Dana Contreras and Dylan Ryll capped off the evening with presentations on their work associated with the museum inventory and digitization project.

Contreras and Ryll provided an overview of the work they have completed since February, which included the creation of an online accession sheet, the digitization and optical character recognition (or OCR) of 5% of the museum's books, research into Alhambra families, and the photographing and uploading of 10% of the museum's items into CatalogIt, a plat-

form used by many museums to digitize assets and make them accessible online.

"The inventory and digitization of the Alhambra Historical Society Museum's assets is one of the goals identified in the society's recently developed strategic plan," stated Michael McCollum, Vice President of the Alhambra Historical Society and owner of Iona Work Spaces. "We recognize that this is a project that may take some time to complete, but we are thrilled to have launched it with the assistance of these students. We look forward to continuing our partnership with PCC moving forward," McCollum continued.

If you'd like to learn more about the ongoing digitization and inventory project of the Alhambra Historical Society Museum, please send an email to alhambrahistsoc@att.net or visit the museum during its hours of operation (1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month). You may also visit the Alhambra Historical Society at alhambrahistoricalsociety.org or follow @alhambrahistory on Instagram.



Congratulations to the Class of 2024

RAMONA
CONVENT SECONDARY SCHOOL

Members of the Class of 2024 earned over 6 million in Merit Scholarships, completed 18,083 hours of service to the community, and will be continuing their journey at the following schools:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| Azusa Pacific University | San Diego State University |
| California Baptist University | San Jose State University |
| Cal Poly Pomona | UC Berkeley |
| Cal Poly San Luis Obispo | UC Los Angeles |
| Cal State Fullerton | UC Riverside |
| Cal State Long Beach | UC San Diego |
| Cal State Los Angeles | UC Santa Barbara |
| Cal State Northridge | University of Hawai'i at Manoa |
| Cal State San Marcos | University of La Verne |
| Chapman University | University of San Francisco |
| Cypress College | University of Southern California |
| Glendale Community College | University of the Pacific |
| Loyola Marymount University | Whittier College |
| Mount Saint Mary's University | Woodbury University |
| Pasadena City College | |

Ramona Convent Commencement Honoring the Class of 2024

By Veronica Fernandez, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Ramona Convent Seniors were celebrated with a beautiful traditional ceremony. The sun shone brightly as did the spirit of our graduates, families, and friends.

Ramona was honored to welcome back Danielle Cendejas '00 as Commencement speaker. After graduating from Ramona Convent, she attended Gonzaga University where she studied Political Science and Applied Communications. She is currently a political strategist with more than 15 years of experience working with candidate and advocacy campaigns and was recently appointed to Gonzaga University's Board of Regents.

To start the ceremony, she stepped up to the podium and welcomed the Class of 2024 to the Ramona alumnae sisterhood and congratulated them on their hard work, dedication, and resilience. She reminded graduates that "your Ramona education is a competitive advantage. Remember that you've earned these opportunities. You belong. Know the value you bring to these spaces. When you have an opportunity to recruit a team, reach out to your sisterhood. Open the door for other women to join you on the journey. Be a mentor so that younger women can follow in your footsteps."

Sidney Nicole Barrientos, Class of 2024, Ramona Salutatorian, shared, "Starting

high school under full lockdown seemed impossible but everything turned out fine. We don't know what college will look like for each of us but no matter what, remember that change is good. Embrace change. Try new things. Keep on growing. Be brave, because all of us are capable of such great things." After each graduate received her diploma, an impressive list of honors and awards was read for each student.

The college prep and selection process is a four-year journey of exploration, self-discovery, hard work, and growth. Members of the Class of 2024 earned over \$6 million in merit scholarships and have been accepted to more than 170 colleges and universities across the United States, each student finding the school that's the best fit for her.

Ramona Convent is a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for young women committed to excellence in education. Ramona's graduates are empowered, resilient, socially-conscious leaders well prepared to meet the challenges of life as contributing members of the global community with the strength of a legacy of more than 130 years of distinction.

Ramona Convent Secondary School, 1701 W. Ramona Rd, Alhambra, CA 91803, (626) 282-4151 or visit ramona-convent.org.



1701 West Ramona Road, Alhambra, CA 91803
626.282.4151 • ramonaconvent.org

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Contact our ad representative, at 626-282-8481 or send an inquiry to aa@alhambrachamber.org to reserve your space today.



Exciting Summer Adventures Await Preschoolers at Emmaus

Nestled next to the serene Almansor Park, Emmaus Lutheran Preschool offered an exceptional summer program for children ages three to five. The preschool boasts large, beautiful classrooms and a spacious outdoor playground with a play area, providing an ideal environment for young learners.

This summer, the program was a hit with both students and parents alike. From Monday through Thursday, children engaged in morning lesson times that combined learning with fun activities. These structured sessions ensured that their young minds stayed active and engaged during the summer break.

Fridays, however, were a special treat at Emmaus Lutheran Preschool. Known as "Fun Fridays," these days were filled with exciting activities that students eagerly looked forward to each week. One of the highlights from this summer was the weekly special guest — including reptiles one week and a magician the second week.

The preschool introduced Water Fun Days right on campus, featuring a brand new water slide that quickly became a favorite among the children. The laughter and joy were infectious as the little ones splashed around, making the most of the warm summer days.

In addition to the water fun, the magic show with face painting was a fun experience for the students. Watching the amazement on their faces as they witnessed tricks and illusions, followed by the joy of having their faces painted, created lasting memories.

Perhaps the most thrilling event of the summer was the Reptile Show. This interactive assembly allowed preschoolers to touch and hold various reptiles, including snakes, lizards, a bearded dragon, and even a turtle. The children's excitement was palpable as they learned about these fascinating creatures in a hands-on manner. The Reptile Show quickly became the favorite assembly of the summer, sparking curiosity and a love for animals among the young students.

Emmaus Lutheran Preschool's summer program successfully blended education with entertainment, ensuring that children not only enjoyed their summer but also continued to learn and grow. With its beautiful facilities and proximity to Almansor Park, the preschool provided a perfect setting for a memorable summer experience for children ages three to five. Emmaus Preschool offers classes throughout the school year as well. For more information, call (626) 289-3664 or visit EmmausAlhambra.org

Emmaus Lutheran Preschool



Enroll Now!

Why Choose Emmaus Preschool?

- Christian Environment
- Beautiful classrooms
- Spacious yard & playground
- Literacy and Language
- Movement and Games
- Colors, Shapes, and Objects
- Cutting and Drawing
- Socializing and Sharing
- Loving teachers!



Come & Take a Tour!
626 289 3664
840 S. Almansor St Alhambra
www.EmmausAlhambra.org

Come & Join the Emmaus Family!

Inaugural AUSD Delegation Launches South Korean Educators Exchange Adventure

from Page 1

South Korea to experience unique learning opportunities. “We are so grateful for their gracious hospitality and for providing us with this incredible opportunity,” remarked Ynez principal Janice Phan, reflecting on the warm reception and insightful experiences throughout their stay. “Jaden and his team took such good care of us and treated us like family.”

This international exchange will impact the participants’ personal and professional growth. May May Lee,

instructional coach at Northrup, stated, “Being part of this exchange has motivated me to incorporate global perspectives into my work to help ensure students are prepared for an interconnected world.”

Their adventure was showcased at the June 25th Board of Education Meeting, where the team of educators shared detailed accounts of their experiences and insights, and expressed their hope that other AUSD educators will be able to participate in similar exchanges.



We are extremely proud that five of Mike Fong’s 2024 Outstanding Educators represent Alhambra Unified School District.

Assemblymember Mike Fong Honors Five Outstanding Alhambra Unified Educators

Assemblymember Mike Fong recently honored 16 outstanding educators from the San Gabriel Valley, including five of AUSD’s very own. The honored educators from Alhambra Unified School District were Dottie Burkhardt (Mark Keppel High School); Amy Ngo, Jose Sanchez, and Kevin Tong (all from Alhambra High School); and Kimberly Valentine (Moor Field Pre-School). Each one has demonstrated exceptional dedication and a significant impact on their students and community.

Family, friends, and colleagues joined them at the awards ceremony, held at the Rosemead Community Center on May 30th. The honorees were selected from over a hundred nominations submitted by students, colleagues and members of the

community in May.

“Last year, we started this tradition because I truly believe in the power and promise of education to uplift everyone in our community, and the people who make it happen each and every day deserve recognition,” said Assemblymember Mike Fong. “I am honored to continue this tradition this year and celebrate these amazing educators, who are truly changing lives.”

These five AUSD teachers are some of the best in the district, and serve as role models for their students and peers. Their recognition is reflective of their passion for teaching and their powerful impact on the lives of young learners. You can see highlights from the celebratory event at: <https://youtu.be/ambE000Frws>.



EVERY Alhambra Unified School District school (TK-12) was voted a Readers Choice BEST or FAVORITE school!



ALHAMBRA HS
BEST High School



ALHAMBRA USD
BEST School District



RAMONA
BEST Elementary School

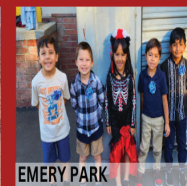
FAVORITE Schools in the San Gabriel Valley



BALDWIN



BRIGHTWOOD



EMERY PARK



FREMONT



GARFIELD



GRANADA



MARGUERITA



MARK KEPPEL HS



MONTEREY HIGHLANDS



NORTHRUP



PARK



REPETTO



SAN GABRIEL HS



YNEZ



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FAVORITE WORKPLACE

To Enroll or Apply for a Permit: www.ausd.us
For Employment Opportunities: <https://www.edjoin.org/alhambrausd>

Numerous accolades were awarded to AUSD in the June 23rd issue of the San Gabriel Valley’s Readers Choice awards. You can view the entire magazine online at <https://issuu.com/scng>.

AUSD and Every School in our District Voted as a San Gabriel Valley Readers Choice Award Recipient

In an affirmation of AUSD’s connection with its community, the readers of the Southern California News Group have voted AUSD as San Gabriel Valley’s Best School District! Additionally, Alhambra High School was voted as Best Public High School and Ramona School was voted as the Best Public Elementary School.

Each year, readers of Pasadena Star News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, and Whittier Daily News vote for a variety of organizations and businesses as the Best or a Favorite in their respective category. AHS and Ramona were not the only schools to be recognized. Not to be outdone, EVERY other AUSD school was voted as a “Favorite” in their category. Some schools were even recognized in multiple categories – highlighting the consistent standard of excellence across our district.

“I am deeply honored by the community support and the accolades for our district and for every AUSD school,” remarked AUSD superintendent Dr.

Denise Jaramillo. “The recognition by the Southern California News Group is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our educators, families, and the entire AUSD community who continually strive for academic excellence and to make meaningful connections.”

AUSD’s partner organization, the Alhambra Educational Foundation, was celebrated as San Gabriel Valley’s BEST non-profit organization, which further demonstrates the community’s strong support for AUSD’s education and enrichment programs. Several of AEF’s summer programs and initiatives also received Readers Choice recognition.

The strength of AUSD is dependent on our employees, and the 2024 designation as San Gabriel Valley’s Favorite Work Place underscores the supportive work environment our employees enjoy. We are continually hiring additional staff members and encourage local residents to be part of Team AUSD by visiting <https://www.edjoin.org/alhambrausd>.





AUSD Seniors Celebrate at Rose Bowl Stadium

For the fourth time, Pasadena's iconic Rose Bowl served as the location for the graduation ceremonies of Alhambra High School, Mark Keppel High School, and San Gabriel High School. High school graduation is a milestone for every student, but was especially poignant for this year's graduates, most of whom missed a traditional eighth grade promotion and spent their freshman year in Distance Learning due to the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The May 24 Rose Bowl graduation ceremonies were not just a celebration of academic achievement but also a reflection of the strength, adaptability, and resiliency of these young men and women. These are a few highlights from the AUSD Class of 2024 graduation ceremonies. Visit the Alhambra Unified School District's Facebook or Instagram pages (@AbambraUSD) to view additional photos. Congratulations to AUSD's Class of 2024!



Pictured here are Brightwood assistant principal Lee Hanacek, CHLA Senior Associate Director Connie Sanchez, seventh grader Kaitlyn Hui, seventh-grade teacher Tina Young, Joseph "Peppy" Sciarra, and Alhambra Rotary President Greg Cheng. The photo captures the spirit of kindness, generosity, and shared purpose that defines this collaborative effort to support CHLA.

Brightwood School's Generosity Shines for Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Prior to the pandemic, Brightwood teacher Tina Young launched a project with her seventh-grade students in which they folded origami cranes in the spirit of "Sadako and the Thousand Cranes." The cranes were then used to create intricate artwork, which Young would frame and present to Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). The art pieces would always feature the CHLA butterfly logo, and was intended to be part of an annual tradition with her Universal Access class.

The project was paused during the pandemic, but Young has since resumed the project with her students. In May, she presented two beautiful new pieces of origami art to Connie Sanchez, CHLA's Senior Associate Director of Developmental Foundation, to adorn the hallways of CHLA and inspire hope for all who pass by.

The presentation took place on May 21st at The Alhambra during one of the Alhambra Rotary Club's regular meetings, and coincided with Joseph Sciarra's annual fundraiser for CHLA. Sciarra, affectionately known as "Peppy," is a 99-year-old WWII veteran and a steadfast supporter

of CHLA – crediting them with saving his son's life many years ago. He raises funds for them every year, and his year's contributions brings his total donation to an impressive \$135,000.

This year's luncheon featured a surprise contribution from a Brightwood School student, adding a touch of creativity and youthful enthusiasm to the day. Brightwood seventh grader Kaitlyn Hui showcased her compassion and skills by raising funds for CHLA through crocheting. Hui handcrafted hundreds of colorful crocheted flowers, which she sold to generate donations. She funded the materials herself, ensuring that all proceeds went directly to the hospital. Her efforts netted an additional \$1,985 for CHLA.

Candace Griego, principal of Brightwood School, expressed her pride in the students and their teacher. "Kaitlyn Hui, Tina Young, and her students embody the spirit of generosity and creativity that Brightwood strives to instill in all our students. Their contributions have made a meaningful impact on our community and have shown how even small acts of kindness can lead to significant change."



This collection of photos could easily be interpreted as students just playing in the park. But each activity was actually a practical exercise to prepare these students to take on leadership roles during the 2024-25 school year.

Summer Student Training Focuses of Leadership and Team Building Skills

Thirty-eight AUSD high school students started their summer with an intensive two-day leadership and team-building program. On May 30 and 31, they made their way to the Monterey Park Service Club House, where they were guided by Mr. John Losey (from Into Wisdom Group) about "Finding the Leader in Each of Us."

The students were members of the district's Student Advisory Council or were identified as potential student leaders by their principal. The students, who represented all three AUSD high schools, engaged in a variety of innovative activities designed to develop essential leadership skills. Key topics included effective communication, building trust within groups, working collaboratively to achieve goals, and managing relationship conflicts and behaviors.

Dr. Denise Jaramillo, AUSD superintendent, emphasized the importance of providing these types of training opportunities for our youth. "Our student leaders and the Student Advisory Council are vital to our school community. Their dedication and enthusiasm are truly inspiring, and programs like this equip them with the skills they need to lead effectively and make a positive impact."

This is the second time AUSD has partnered with John Losey, having received overwhelmingly positive responses to his training the previous year. With a background in camp leadership, along with his extensive experience with Fortune 500 companies, Losey balanced short "chalk talk" discussions with outdoor physical activities – each illustrating an important leadership skill that could carry over into students' classrooms, on

the athletic field, in committees, and in larger community settings.

Board members and administrators were present to support the students during the training sessions, demonstrating their commitment to fostering the growth of future leaders. Their participation underscored the district's dedication to student development, leadership training, and valuing student voices. Justin Wang, AUSD's 2023-24 Student Board Member, was also there and provided assistance throughout the training as one of his last official duties before heading to UC Berkeley. His involvement exemplified the spirit of leadership and dedication promoted by the program, and his desire to leave a lasting imprint in his role.

Participating students seemed to take the training to heart as they reflected on how they will implement their new skills and knowledge when school resumes. Some emphasized a greater understanding of the role communication plays in leadership, that building and increasing trust is necessary to lead others, to listen carefully before acting, the importance of emotional intelligence, and the necessity of leaning on others to achieve a collective goal. Some students stated they felt challenged and inspired to take on new leadership roles at their schools, while others mentioned that the highlight of the days was meeting students from the other high schools and interacting with people they might not have otherwise had the opportunity to meet.

AUSD is looking forward to seeing the positive impact these young leaders will have in the upcoming school year, and to supporting them as they stretch and grow as leaders in the community.

Student Calendar

Student Calendar 2024-2025



ALHAMBRA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1515 W. Mission Road
Alhambra, CA 91803

August	13, 2024	Tuesday	SCHOOLS OPEN
September	2	Monday	Labor Day – Holiday
October	18	Friday	End of 1st Quarter Grading Period (Secondary School)
October	30	Wednesday	End of 1 st Trimester (Elementary School)
October	31	Thursday	Elementary Pupil Free Day (TK-8 th)
November	1	Friday	Pupil Free Day
November	11	Monday	Veterans Day – Holiday
November	25 – 29	Monday-Friday	THANKSGIVING BREAK
December	20	Friday	Secondary School Pupil Free Day (9 th -12 th & Lift) End of 1st Semester (Secondary School)
December	23, 2024 – January 3, 2025		WINTER BREAK
January	6, 2025	Monday	SCHOOL REOPENS
January	20	Monday	Martin Luther King Day – Holiday
January	27	Monday	Pupil Free Day
February	10	Monday	Lincoln’s Birthday – Holiday
February	14	Friday	End of 2 nd Trimester (Elementary School)
February	17	Monday	President’s Day – Holiday
March	14	Friday	End of 3 rd Quarter Grading Period (Secondary School)
March	31 – April 4	Monday-Friday	SPRING BREAK
May	26	Monday	Memorial Day – Holiday
May	30	Friday	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL End of 3 rd Trimester (Elementary School) End of 2 nd Semester (Secondary School)



Board Approved 1/16/2024

Plan Ahead for the 2024-25 School Year

Stay ahead this school year! Mark your calendar with these important dates and subscribe to our online calendar at ausd.us for automatic updates straight to your device. Then do the same for your child’s school. Never miss a moment with Alhambra Unified School District – it’s one key to staying organized!

ALHAMBRA USD 2023-24 GAME CHANGERS



SARA SAFA JESSE PALACIOS REBECCA ALVARADO KATHLEEN FUNES ERIN HALLA KIMBERLY “KIMMIE” NG



TOMAS MORATO KEVIN TONG JOHNNY DECKARD DOROTHY “DOTTIE” BURKHART JUAN MENDEZ KIMBERLY VALENTINE



VINCENT CHAN JEANNY CUEVAS JENNIFER MARTINEZ MALINDA AUSTIN SERGIO ESCOBEDO NATHAN SAPALICIO

This collage celebrates all of the 2023-24 AUSD Game Changers. We look forward to recognizing a new set of exceptional employees as Game Changers in the upcoming school year.

Game Changer Recognition Program Continues in 2024-25

AUSD is excited to announce the continuation of our Game Changer employee recognition program for the upcoming school year. As in previous years, the Game Changer program provides a way to celebrate outstanding employees for their dedication, commitment, and transformative impact.

This program integrates with the AUSD Badges program, which allows nominations of outstanding employees for the “Above and Beyond the Call of Duty” and “Spotlight” badges. Employees who are nominated for either of these badges become eligible to be a Game Changer.

Each Game Changer receives a \$100 award from Schools First Federal Credit Union, along with recognition by the AUSD Board of Education, and will be featured on the AUSD website. Parents, students, and colleagues are invited to nominate deserving individuals through the AUSD Badges program, beginning in mid-August. Visit ausd.us/badges, click on Recognition, choose either the type of badge, and fill out a brief nomination form with details about the nominee and why they deserve recognition. Each completed nomination helps to shine a spotlight on those who are making a significant difference in our school community.

AUSD will Host Safety Town Hall Ahead of New School Year

The community is invited to AUSD’s virtual School Safety Town Hall on Thursday, August 8. Families, students and staff members are encouraged to log on to be better informed about how the district partners with Alhambra and Monterey Park Police Departments to keep our students and staff members safe. As students and parents prepare for the upcoming school year, the Town Hall aims to share important safety information and highlight the strong partnership between local law enforcement agencies and the district.

Lindsey Ma, assistant superintendent of Student Support Services, reiterates the district’s commitment to ensuring a safe learning environment for all students and staff. “Education is our mission, but safety is our priority,” emphasizes Ma. “We work tirelessly with our local law enforcement partners to implement robust safety protocols and emergency response plans.”

Over the years, AUSD has adopted multiple security measures, including regular safety drills, enhanced surveillance systems, increased security staff, and the presence of school resource officers on campus. Panelists will go into further details of AUSD’s preparation and also

discuss the importance of community vigilance and the role of students, parents, and staff members in maintaining a secure school environment.

This joint Town Hall will spotlight the strong partnership between AUSD and our local law enforcement. The collaboration between agencies is crucial to maintaining a safe educational space where students can focus on learning without fear. Emphasis will also be placed on safety as a collective community responsibility. AUSD relies on open communication and mutual support to address concerns promptly and effectively.

We encourage families to submit questions ahead of time, so responses and concerns can be incorporated into the presentation. Community voices will assist AUSD in providing clarification on various safety issues and preparation. Questions can be submitted through this form: tinyurl.com/QuestionsSafetyTH2024 through August 1.

Parents can also submit questions during the Town Hall (as time permits). Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on August 8 at 6:00pm using this Zoom link: zoom.us/j/94541118591.

Prevent - Prepare - Protect

School Safety Virtual Town Hall

FOLLOW US:
[@AlhambraUSD](https://twitter.com/AlhambraUSD)

THURSDAY
AUGUST 8TH
6:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN THIS IMPORTANT MEETING!

Topic of Discussion

Keeping Children Safe is our Community's Top Priority

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS FROM:

Alhambra Unified School District
Alhambra Police Department
Monterey Park Police Department

JOIN US VIA ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/j/94541118591>

SUBMIT QUESTIONS BY AUGUST 1ST AT NOON

<https://tinyurl.com/QuestionsSafetyTH2024>

Scan the QR code on the graphic to submit a question prior to the Safety Town Hall. Then use the Zoom QR code to join us and hear the latest information about AUSD’s safety protocols.



Third and fifth graders in the Spanish Dual Immersion program celebrated with their families as they reached a milestone towards being biliterate in both Spanish and English.

Spanish Dual Immersion Program Celebrates Students' Biliteracy Milestones

Fremont's auditorium was filled with excitement on May 13 as students in the Spanish Dual Immersion program, their families, and teachers gathered together to celebrate the students' language proficiency achievements. The celebration included cultural performances and speeches that demonstrated students' Spanish language abilities.

Teachers then called up individual third and fifth graders to receive certificates commemorating their achievements. Grades 3 and 5 are two grade levels that align with the California Department of Education's key checkpoints. Another checkpoint will occur at the end of eighth grade, and then again in high school. Those who continue to meet all required criteria at the end of high school will have the prestigious Seal

of Biliteracy affixed to their diplomas, signifying they are proficient in multiple languages.

This annual celebration marks significant milestones in students' path to becoming bilingual and bicultural. Reflecting on the students' accomplishment, Principal Dr. Carly Chavez emphasized, "Becoming bilingual is a journey that requires dedication and perseverance. I am incredibly proud of our students' achievements and grateful for the support of our educators and families."

Following the ceremony, students enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to commemorate the day with special photos. The Fremont community looks forward to continuing to guide these students on their path to becoming literate in both English and Spanish.



The 12-member Student Advisory Council will play a pivotal role fostering an inclusive and student-focused educational environment. The implementation of SAC and a Student Board Member last year placed student voices at the forefront, and continues to positively impact the district and community. They are pictured here with superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo, assistant superintendent of educational services Janet Lees, and Board of Education president Bob Gin.

AUSD Announces Members of the 2024-25 Student Advisory Council

AUSD is proud to unveil the members of its 2024-2025 Student Advisory Council (SAC), composed of twelve outstanding students – one from each grade level (9-12) from Alhambra, Mark Keppel, and San Gabriel High Schools. SAC plays a vital role in ensuring student voices and perspectives are part of the district's decision-making process.

Leading the council this year will be AHS junior Keiko Rakin, who was elected by her fellow SAC members as chairperson and the second-ever AUSD Student Board member. Keiko is returning to SAC after completing a successful term last year. Also returning to SAC is newly-elected vice chairperson Madison Kang, a senior from Mark Keppel High School. Madison will also serve as Student Board member alternate. Keiko and Madison both bring invaluable experience and knowledge to their new leadership roles.

Four other students are returning from last year's SAC: sophomore Leslie Chu from AHS, sophomore Angelina Yip from MKHS, and senior Yingjie Liang and sophomore Kevin Tang – both from

SGHS. New to SAC this year are senior Michelle Lim from AHS, junior Jasmin Huang from MKHS, and junior Justin Yu from SGHS. Rounding out the rest of SAC are new freshmen representatives Emma Arroyo (AHS), Mia Morales (MKHS), and Emily Huang (SGHS).

Under the leadership of Keiko and Madison, SAC members will meet monthly to hear from various site- and district-level administrators, discuss topics of key interest, and advocate for meaningful changes. They will also gather input from peers at their schools and report back. Throughout the year, they will give presentations at Board of Education meetings and attend a variety of events as representatives of AUSD.

All members of SAC have already participated in leadership and teambuilding activities, and will soon receive training in governance. You will see more of them in upcoming publications and at district and community events throughout the year. Keiko and Madison will officially assume their roles on the Board after taking their oath of office at the August 6th Board of Education meeting.



By participating in our First Day Photos project, you'll contribute to a collective celebration of our AUSD community. Your photos will inspire others, and foster a sense of togetherness and shared experiences.

Share Your First Day of School Photos with AUSD!

The first day of the 2024-25 school year will be here before you know it, and AUSD is once again inviting our students, families, and staff members to be part of our special #AUSDFirstDay campaign. Capture those precious moments of the start of a school year and help us create a digital collective of what makes AUSD so special.

Whether it's a wide smile of a TK student wearing their first school uniform, a welcoming staff member greeting students at the gate/door, a bittersweet photo of a senior's final first day of school, or a happy family taking a picture at home before sending their children off to multiple schools...we want to see it all! Share the joy, enthusiasm, and emotions that encompass this special day.

Submitting your #AUSDFirstDay photos are easy. Snap your photos and

share them with us through this form: <https://tinyurl.com/AUSDFirstDay2024>. (Make sure to get the other parents' permission if you are sending us photos of your child with friends.)

Staff and family members may submit up to five #AUSDFirstDay photos for possible publishing / posting in local publications, digital newsletters, websites, and/or social media platforms. The submission form will open August 12th and will remain open through August 19th.

Make sure to follow Alhambra Unified School District on Facebook and Instagram (@AlhambraUSD). We will be posting Back-to-School shout-outs on our social media platforms during the first few weeks of the school year. Share your amazing photos with us and help us capture the joy of the opening of the school year across Alhambra Unified School District!



Induction Participants Celebrate Completion of Year 1 or 2 of their Program

On May 16th, AUSD congratulated teachers who completed Year 1 or Year 2 of their Induction program. A travel-themed celebration marked this culmination for newer teachers. Along their journey, the induction participants were supported by an exemplary Induction Leadership Team (ILT), composed of Ann Wilson, Diana Han, Deborah Garcia, Monica Hinojos, and Van Duong. Each ILT team member played a pivotal role in guiding our teachers through the early portion of their careers. Their dedication and expertise ensured each teacher received the mentorship and resources needed to succeed in the classroom, and to reflect thoughtfully on their teaching practices and ways to improve. Induction teachers are also supported by John Scanlan (Assistant Superintendent-Human Services), Stacie Colman-Hsu (Director-Human Services), Monica Yew (Secretary II), and an army of current and retired teachers who serve as mentors as these Year 1 and Year 2 teachers work to clear their credentials. Congratulations to all the AUSD teachers who completed Year 1 or Year 2 of their Induction programs – we wish for them a long and successful teaching career!

West San Gabriel Nonprofit Summit Coming to Alhambra in August

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce is hosting the West San Gabriel Nonprofit Summit for all San Gabriel Valley nonprofit organizations to meet other organization leaders and hear from experts. The summit, which will take place on Thursday, August 22 in Alhambra, will host speakers to discuss topics like fundraising, running an effective board, and marketing to help nonprofits better optimize their operations.

Registration is \$25 for members of the Alhambra Chamber and \$50 for non-members. If you're a member of a chamber within the San Gabriel Valley, check with your local chamber for a discount code. Register now at alhambrachamber.org.

WEST SAN GABRIEL NONPROFIT SUMMIT

**THURSDAY,
AUGUST 22, 2024
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Happy Humble Hub
117 E Main St Unit A & B, Alhambra

Member Pricing: \$25
Non Member Pricing: \$50

Hear from experts on...

- ✓ **Marketing** for better engagement
- ✓ **Fundraising** for increased revenue
- ✓ **Board Operations** for increased efficiency

Visit alhambrachamber.org/events to register



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Local Sports News from AUSD High Schools

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

2024 Varsity Baseball

I wrote an article here in December about Jacob Rodriguez, the deaf player on the Alhambra Varsity Baseball Team. Jacob worked hard and when the Moors season ended he batted .361 with 26 hits, 35 runs scored, 20 walks, and led the team in stolen bases with 19. He was a tough out and only struck out 2 times all season. My article and his hard work caught the attention of Coach Curtis Pride from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., a privately funded school for the education of the deaf and hard of hearing. Coach Pride even came out to California to see Jacob play in April and was impressed enough to offer Jacob a visit to the campus in Washington, D.C. Coach Pride, who is deaf himself, is a former Major League Baseball player. Unfortunately, the university decided to terminate their baseball program before Jacob could visit the campus. Jacob still has one more year at Alhambra and without a doubt will be playing baseball somewhere after high school.

2023-24 Postseason Awards

Several athletes from the three AUSD High Schools were recognized this past year for having outstanding seasons:

All CIF Southern Section

Xavier Salido, San Gabriel, Football
Jasmin Molina, Mark Keppel, Girls Soccer
Kayla Muramatsu, Mark Keppel, Girls Soccer
Kylie Ng, Mark Keppel, Girls Basketball
Robyn Guitron, Mark Keppel, Softball
Matt Garcia, Alhambra, Baseball
California Baseball Coaches Association
All Southern Section Division 6
Carlos Hernandez, Alhambra, Baseball
Jackson Akers, Alhambra, Baseball

San Gabriel Valley All-Star Games

Kyle Ng, Mark Keppel, Girls Basketball
Sarah Wong, Mark Keppel, Girls Basketball
Annie Ye, Mark Keppel, Girls Basketball
Marc Hernandez, Alhambra, Baseball
Carlos Hernandez, Alhambra, Baseball
Matt Garcia, Alhambra, Baseball
Tony Covarrubias, Alhambra, Softball
Robyn Guitron, Mark Keppel, Softball
Lauren Young, Mark Keppel, Softball
Navaeh Saldivar, Mark Keppel, Softball

Congrats to all of the outstanding high school athletes representing the Alhambra Unified School District.



Leadership Luncheon



August 8, 2024
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: TBA

with guest speaker
Evelyn Ku
CEO, Alhambra Hospital
Medical Center

The Chamber welcomes Evelyn Ku as the featured speaker for the Leadership Luncheon on August 8. Evelyn is CEO at the Alhambra Hospital Medical Center, with nearly two decades of experience managing nursing and hospital operations. Join us in August to hear from Evelyn about her leadership journey and meet other community leaders over lunch.

Members: \$25
Non-Members: \$40



Register Today:
alhambrachamber.org/events

Ask Dr. Dara, D.D.S.

Do You Need To Replace The Missing Back Tooth?

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



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

Q: I had a molar removed. Do I need to replace it since it is in the back, and no one really sees it?

A: Yes. Unless it is your third molar or so-called wisdom tooth. Although the missing tooth may not be highly visible, you must replace it.

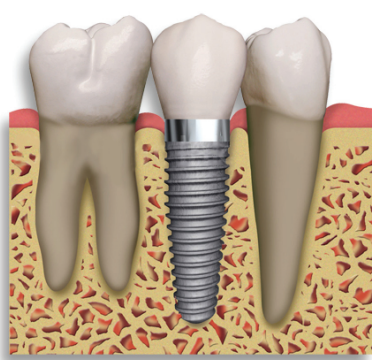
When a tooth is lost, ignoring the space it leaves can cause additional tooth loss or injury that may worsen with time.

When a tooth is missing, the remaining teeth in the jaw shift in an attempt to fill in the gap left by a missing tooth. The adjacent teeth tilt towards the empty space and the opposing tooth grows longer. Once shifted, those teeth no longer work properly and efficiently. The resulting crooked teeth can cause serious bite and joint problems.

Teeth lean on each other for support. Each tooth is supported by those around it. A missing tooth breaks the chain of support and weakens the overall structure of the mouth, causing overload and eventual loosening of the adjacent teeth.

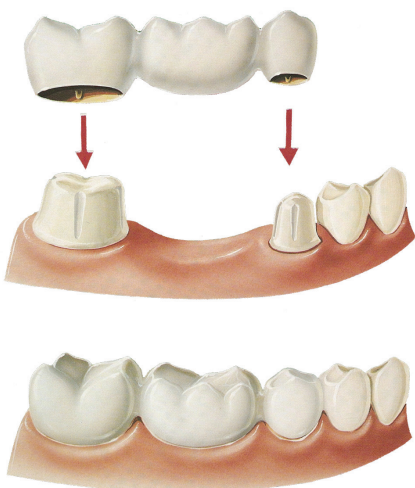
Due to the shifting of the teeth, cleaning in the area is more difficult, leading to an increase in accumulation of food and tartar, which in turn leads to the development of tooth decay and gum disease.

What are the options for tooth replacement?



1. **Dental implants:** Implants are titanium “tooth roots” that are planted in the bone.

Implants allow us to fill the gap without involving the adjacent teeth. Dental implants are an optimal solution because they not only look and feel like but also function similarly to natural teeth.



2. **A bridge** is custom-made from porcelain. It consists of three crowns splint together to fit over the two adjacent teeth and at the same time replace the missing tooth in the middle. The size of the adjacent teeth must be reduced.

In conclusion: Tooth replacement not only improves your smile and tooth function, but also protects your remaining teeth from damage.

If you are missing one or more teeth, it is vital to see your dentist and discuss which option works better for you.

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.

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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.

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SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm
The Alhambra

To reserve a ticket or to sponsor the event, visit www.alhamborchamber.org/events

Reducing Stress for First Time College Students

By Herman Whitaker, Platt College – Alhambra

Congratulations! You made it and yes it happened. **You are a new high school graduate.** As a dad of twins who are new high school graduates and as someone who has worked in higher education for over thirty-four years, I often hear the comments, “I can’t believe it is over” or “it hasn’t really sunk in,” and yet here we are. College is the next new chapter in life, and it can be exciting, but also stressful and overwhelming.

The transition from high school to your first year of college or transferring from one college to another can be stressful, daunting, and fearful, as well as the adventure of a lifetime. It is a time to explore the possibilities these new experiences and relationships can create. The following are some ideas about how to reduce stress and hopefully make the transition a little less hectic.



1. Explore Campus Resources: Familiarize yourself with all the resources available on campus, such as libraries, academic support centers, career services, health services, and student organizations. These resources can provide valuable support and opportunities throughout your college journey.

2. Get to Know Your Professors: Build relationships with your professors by attending office hours, participating actively in class discussions, and seeking their advice. They can provide mentorship, academic guidance, and potentially open doors to research opportunities or internships.

3. Time Management and Planning: Develop good time management skills by creating schedules or using planners to organize study time, classes, and extracurricular activities. Breaking tasks into smaller, manageable parts can make overwhelming assignments feel more achievable.



4. Explore Career Paths: Begin exploring potential career paths early on by attending career fairs, informational interviews, and workshops offered by your college’s career services office. Consider part-time jobs, internships, or volunteer opportunities related to your interests and career goals in the community or on campus.

5. Budget and Financial Planning: Learn to manage your finances responsibly by creating a budget for your expenses,

including tuition, books, housing, food, and leisure activities. Explore opportunities for scholarships, grants, part-time jobs and student discounts to help offset costs.



6. Stay Healthy and Balanced: Maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating nutritious meals, exercising regularly, getting enough sleep, and managing stress effectively. Balance your academic commitments with social activities and hobbies to prevent burnout and promote overall well-being.

7. Develop Good Study Habits and Stay Organized: Establish good study habits early. College classes will be significantly different from high school. Attending classes regularly, taking thorough notes, reviewing materials consistently, and looking for opportunities to engage your professors for better clarification when needed can be incredibly helpful. Experiment with different study techniques. Keep track of assignments, deadlines, and important dates using a planner or digital calendar. Don’t procrastinate or wait until deadlines are looming before getting started. Organize your study space to minimize clutter.

8. Set Academic and Personal Goals: Take the time to clearly define both short-term and long-term goals for your academic and personal life. Setting goals can help you stay motivated and focused, whether it’s achieving a certain GPA, participating in research, or joining a club.

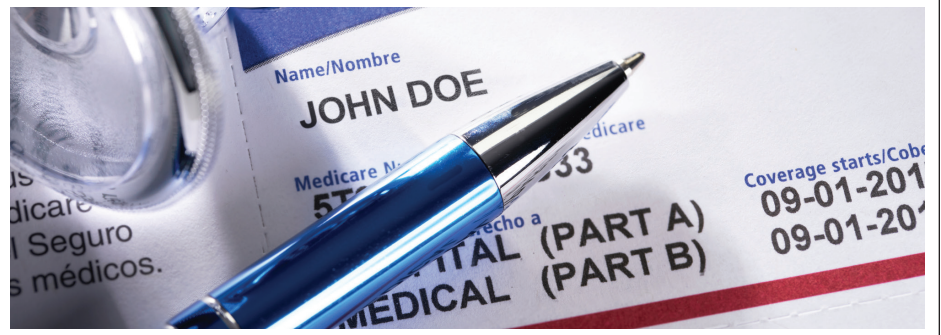


9. Embrace Diversity and Inclusion: Respect and appreciate the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds within your college community. Engage in conversations and activities that promote inclusivity and cultural awareness.

10. Have Fun and Explore Your Interests: Most importantly, give yourself permission to have fun. College is a time to explore new interests, hobbies, and passions. Attend campus events, join clubs, sports teams, and participate in activities that enrich your college experience and help you connect with others.

By proactively engaging in these activities and adopting a sense of curiosity, exploration and adventure, new college students can navigate their transition smoothly and make the most of their new college experience.

Your Insurance



Choosing Between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage



Katherine Yu Simms
Medicare Insurance Agent
lovemygoldenyears@gmail.com

By Katherine Yu Simms

People with Medicare can get their health coverage through either Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan (also known as a Medicare private health plan or Part C). Consider the following key differences between these two options when deciding how you want to receive your Medicare benefits.

Original Medicare: The traditional program offered directly through the federal government

- Includes Part A (inpatient/hospital coverage) and Part B (outpatient/medical coverage).

- Most doctors in the country take this insurance.

- Medicare limits how much an individual can be charged when they visit participating or non-participating providers.

- Beneficiaries receive a red, white, and blue card to show to providers when receiving care.

Medicare Advantage: Private plans that contract with the federal government to provide Medicare benefits

- Must provide the same benefits offered by Original Medicare, but may apply different rules, costs, and restrictions.

- May also offer certain benefits that Original Medicare does not cover.

- Some of the most common types of plans are Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs), and Private Fee-For-Service (PFFS) plans.

- Beneficiaries show the membership card from their plan when receiving care.

If you sign up for Original Medicare and later decide you would like to try a Medicare Advantage Plan or vice versa be aware that there are only certain enrollment periods when you are allowed to make changes.

Keep in mind that different areas have different Medicare Advantage Plans. A particular plan may not be available where you live.

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.

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Katherine Yu Simms
Medicare Insurance Agent
License #0M21975

- 1 How well does my current plan meet my needs?
- 2 What are my other Medicare plan options?
- 3 I'm turning 65 soon, where do I go and what do I do?
- 4 What is the difference between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage?

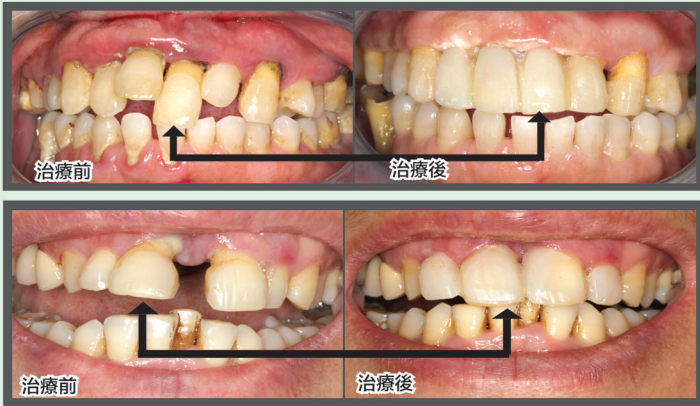
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These examples show how Dr. John Chao saved a hopelessly loose tooth in ONE EASY COMFORTABLE VISIT and at a fraction of the cost of implants!

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John Chao, D.D.S.

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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)



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From the Desk of Rev. Craig Statton



Summering with Seniors

Southern California has certainly delivered on its wonderful weather so far this year. The spring was mild; the mornings were cool, and the evenings made Dodger baseball a wonderful adventure. But summer arrived in July just like every year and with that some precautions are in order. As I have gotten older, I have also begun to realize that I must take more precautions during this season. My older body does not respond to the sun and heat as well. According to the CDC, seniors are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses and injury. As we age, our bodies become less efficient at regulating temperature and that puts us in danger of heat-related illnesses. With this in mind, here are a few tips to make summer more enjoyable by avoiding health complications.

Stay hydrated. It is recommended that we drink 8 or more glasses of water every day. If you are doing a physical activity such as a walk or hike, make sure to carry plenty of water.

Stay indoors during extreme heat. In extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation slows down and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature.

Take advantage of air-conditioned spaces. Air-conditioning is important

when it is hot and humid outside. If you do not have air-conditioning in your home, go to a movie theater, the mall, a friend or family member's home, or a community senior center.

Dress appropriately. The best clothes to wear in the summertime are loose-fitting and lightweight clothes in natural, breathable fabrics like cotton.

Protect your skin and eyes. Wearing sunglasses can block your eyes from harmful UV rays and protect your vision. Wearing hats and using sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher provides protection for the skin.

Know the early signs of heat related illnesses. Signs to look for include disorientation, excessive tiredness, headache, lethargy, nausea, a flushed face, high body temperature, rapid pulse, dizziness, and confusion.

Even though the sun and heat can be dangerous, outdoor activities and gathering with others are extremely important. Breathing fresh air, laughing, visiting with friends and family, and experiencing new activities not only renews the body, but enriches the soul.

Having said all of this, even though it is warmer, there is still nothing better than Dodger baseball so, "Let's play ball!"

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Jimmy Tram

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WHO WE ARE

Meet Clarence Yeung and Jimmy Tram, the co-Branch Managers of SoCal Group Brokered by eXp Realty.

Clarence has been a Realtor® since 2014, where he's worked in numerous brokerages before opening up the office. His decade long of experience is invaluable to the team.

Jimmy brought his business acumen to real estate in 2021. With his leadership, the team has grown exponentially since the office's grand opening back in July 2023.

Having both grown up in Alhambra, they are still local residents of the 626 and are dedicated to giving back to the community, whether through joining the Chamber or participating in city events.

WHY WORK WITH US

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Real Estate

Affordable Updates to Your Home

There are cost-effective ways to enhance and update your home. Typically, I encounter these issues when helping prepare a client's home for sale. But these improvements can be performed anytime to increase the livability and enjoyment of your home.

Realtors love analyzing the return on investment from remodeling projects when a seller prepares to list their home for sale. These studies do not give consistent results on the return experienced from remodeling projects. My experience on this subject leads me to three basic areas that do consistently yield a positive cash return. These areas are painting, flooring, and landscaping. This is not to say that any project in these areas will produce measurable gains or enjoyment, but a thoughtful approach can generally bring satisfying results.

Painting the exterior of a home can often cost between \$7,500 and \$10,000. Various realtor studies demonstrated that the increase in value appeared to be roughly one-and-a-half to twice the cost of painting. Painting interior rooms is one of the fastest ways to give your home a makeover. Whether you are selling or just remodeling your home, this project is quite visual and reminds you constantly of the improvement to your home. New

interior paint has another subtle effect; it produces a fresh, clean aroma in the home. The improvement not only plays to your visual sense, but also to your sense of smell.

Many of the homes in Alhambra have hardwood flooring. These hardwood floors are often covered with carpet and owners forget or are never aware of the potential for beautiful hardwood flooring available to them. The National Association of Realtors reported from a study conducted in 2022 that refinishing a hardwood floor increases the sale price of a home by nearly twice the cost of the project. Also, the study concluded that 54 percent of home buyers are willing to pay more for a home with finished hardwood floors.

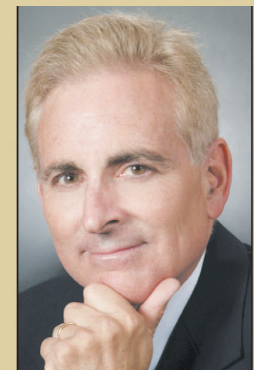
One of the most basic and obvious ways to add value to your home to prepare for a sale is to water and mow the lawn and trim the bushes. Front lawns have a powerful impact on "curb appeal" and are one of the first impressions a buyer forms on a home. Always try to have your lawn as nice as other lawns on the street. Not addressing the appearance of your landscaping is like leaving money on the table. A well-kept front yard leads to more relaxation for owners and can be a playground for children.

Installing an automatic irrigation system is an efficient and time-saving way to accomplish lawn care. Setting watering times for later in the evening is an effective way to avoid rapid daytime evaporation and also lower water bills. Planting trees can significantly increase value too, but trees take time to grow and are not a short-term fix. Also, make sure to avoid planting trees adjacent to sewer lines.

Another one of a buyer's first impressions of a home is the walkway to the front door. It becomes a lead-in line to the property and directs the eye to the front entrance. Walkways set the ambiance for a home. Planting flowers and installing lighting along the walkway are ways to add value and character to your home. Also, painting and refinishing a front door continues this theme of improving first impressions of a home.

Kitchen renovations are not as clear cut as painting, flooring, and landscaping for increasing the value of a home for sale. Kitchens have become a signature room for owners, so improvements made to a kitchen may not appeal to new owners who have a different vision for their homes. Changing fixtures such as faucets and cabinet doors, along with replacing lighting and some appliances are ways to improve a kitchen's appearance and functionality without doing a complete remodel.

Complete bathroom remodels can be expensive, but installing a pre-made bathroom vanity or shower is a less expensive



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

approach to increasing bathroom desirability. People desire a clean bathroom, so homes for sale need to address bathroom appeal.

These economic projects can bring a fresh look and feel to a home. Whether a homeowner is selling or wanting to improve their home's livability, there are cost effective ways to accomplish this objective.

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. See his stories at www.garysstories.com.

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Among the most prestigious awards of the evening were the three winners of the Sherwood Lee Outstanding Automotive Students of the Year: Justin Nathaniel Cruz (Alhambra HS), Samuel Carvajal (Mark Keppel HS), and Andrik Manuel Vasquez Cruz (San Gabriel HS). The award came with a \$500 scholarship for each recipient.

AUSD Celebrates Excellence in Automotive Technology

The district's annual Automotive Technicians' Awards Night was held on Thursday, May 9th. It was the 55th annual awards night to celebrate students for their technical competence, positive attitude, outstanding efforts, and achievements in the automotive field.

This event, a cornerstone of the district's commitment to Career Technical Education (CTE), was made possible through generous sponsors from All-Car Specialist, Trompers Car Club, Rio Hondo College, SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association), Snap-On Tools, Mr. Ashton Potter, Wondries Toyota and L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee, Inc. Awards were presented to students who not only demonstrated exceptional skill in technical aspects, but also exhibited a commendable

work ethic and dedication to their craft.

Dr. Leann Huang, Coordinator of College and Career Preparation at AUSD, emphasized the importance of award recognitions like this in nurturing future CTE talent. She remarked, "The Automotive Technicians' Awards Night has been a long-standing tradition and is one of my favorite events. It showcases the talent, hard work, and passion of the students, and helps them to realize they can excel in a competitive and technically demanding field."

CTE programs underscore the crucial role of vocational, hands-on training in preparing students for highly-skilled professions and to be life and future ready. Please visit ausd.us/cte to find out more about the CTE classes.



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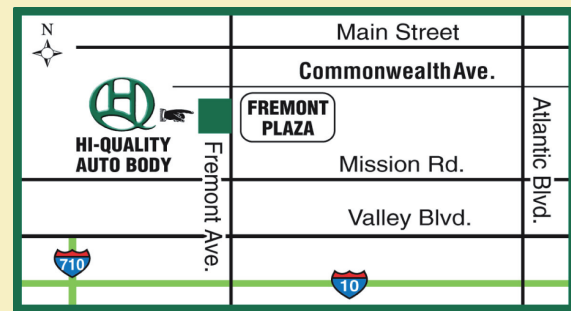


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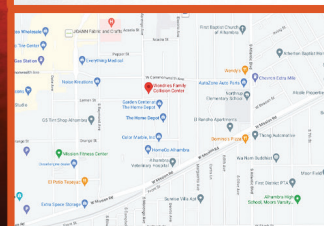
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Movies in the Park 2024

Saturday nights starting in July
Movies begin at Dusk

7/6
Teenage Kraken
Pirate and Mermaid Fairies



7/27

Elemental
Foam Party
*remember to bring a towel or change of clothes



7/13
Super Mario Bros Movie
Kids Concert



Preshows
begin at
7:00 pm

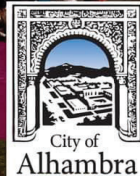
7/20
Tangled
Rapunzel & Flynn Appearance



8/3
Trolls Band Together
Poppy & Viva Appearance



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Concerts in the Park 2024

Fridays starting in July
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

7/5



U2xperience
(Rock/Cover)

7/19



Sangria Band
(Latin)

7/12



New Romantics
(Pop/Cover)

8/2



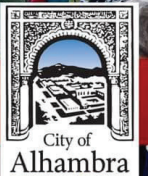
Smooth Sounds
of Santana
(Latin)

7/26



Like Totally Fer Sure
(80's)

Alhambra Park Bandshell - 500 N. Palm Ave.
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Popcorn Chicken Rice Plate

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