

AROUND ALHAMBRA



April - June 2026 | GATEWAY TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

www.alhambrachamber.org

Around Alhambra Online Daily and at Newsstands Quarterly

As news services are being shutdown across the region and state, the Alhambra Chamber, publisher of this Around Alhambra newspaper, is preserving our news services by ceasing postal delivery to save significant costs associated with postage and mailing fees.

The regular printed publication will be produced as a quarterly print issue and will be made available to the community at convenient locations, including the Alhambra Library, the Jocelyn Senior Center, and on news racks in Downtown

Alhambra and other high traffic areas. In addition, the Chamber will continue to actively publish news, features, events, and other local content on our popular online news site at AroundAlhambra.org. Visit the site to enjoy local content and make plans to get the most out of living and working in our vibrant community.

This will be the last issue mailed so please plan to visit AroundAlhambra.org for local news and events, and for food news, visit AlhambraEats.com.

How Alhambra Claimed Its Reputation as the Ideal Spot for Small Businesses to Launch

by William Henderson

Over the decades, Alhambra has cemented its status as the ideal location for small businesses to launch and expand. Its proximity to Los Angeles and central location, connecting all other cities in the San Gabriel Valley, has earned the community the nickname "The Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley." Beyond its strategic location, Alhambra's unique history and community development created an environment that supports business owners at every stage. For first-time business owners, Alhambra stands out thanks to its tight-knit community and family-friendly atmosphere. Efforts by the city and Chamber of Commerce to foster economic development have made Alhambra a place where businesses want to open and stay. Downtown Alhambra has become a destination for entertainment, dining, and local shopping, while Valley Boulevard is celebrated for its wide variety of authentic cuisines, drawing visitors from across the county. Alhambra's residents play a vital role in supporting small businesses. Grand openings become community events, with residents of all ages and backgrounds

turning out to support new owners and celebrate their city's growth and development. The consistent support from regulars in the city gives new businesses a chance to establish themselves and plan for growth. For businesses looking to expand, Alhambra has shown itself to be a strong choice for second, third, or fourth locations. With a range of commercial spaces available to lease and buy, the area's liveliness, significant foot traffic, and calendar of events attract many retail, medical, and restaurant owners looking to expand their businesses to a population eager to have them. The community's diversity and eagerness to explore new options often translate into a wide range of businesses flourishing here. Community events make a special contribution to that momentum. Festivals, street activations, and business-focused programs bring thousands of visitors into the city and highlight local businesses. For many businesses, these events create visibility that would otherwise take months to build. As businesses grow, Alhambra continues to offer expansion

Continued on page 7

Ramona School Earns State and National Recognition as a "Middle School to Watch"

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Ramona School earned state and national recognition as a Schools to Watch campus, the first school in Alhambra Unified School District to receive the designation. The community can learn more about Ramona School and Project Based Learning at their Open House and PBL Showcase on May 13th from 5:00pm until 7:00pm.

Ramona School has been officially named a Schools to Watch campus, becoming the first school in the Alhambra Unified School District to receive the recognition. Awarded through the California League of Middle Schools in partnership with the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, the designation recognizes middle schools that demonstrate academic excellence, innovative teaching, and strong systems that support the academic, social, and emotional development of young adolescents.

For Ramona School Principal Dr. Debbie Kotani, the recognition reflects the collective efforts of the entire school community. "It is truly an honor for our school to receive both a state and national recognition," said Dr. Kotani. "This achievement reflects the collective dedication and efforts of our students,

staff, families, Board and District leadership, and community partners."

A hallmark of Ramona's approach is its strong schoolwide emphasis on Project Based Learning (PBL). The instructional model encourages students to investigate real world issues through research, collaboration, and hands-on learning while academic standards remain embedded throughout the process.

"Here at Ramona, we embrace every student with the focus on the whole child," explained Dr. Kotani. "Through Project Based Learning, we engage our students in meaningful, real-world experiences while state standards are meaningfully embedded throughout the learning process and students enjoy their learning experiences. We strongly believe when learning is relevant and authentic, we help students see the purpose behind what they

Continued on page 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- > UFC Gym Celebrates Grand Opening in Alhambra 3
- > Alhambra High School Students Walk Out of School, Protesting ICE 4
- > Lunar New Year Festival Brings Thousands to Downtown Alhambra 4
- > Eating Around Alhambra - How Alhambra Evolved into the Dining Capital... 8

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

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

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

Please e-mail submissions to AA@alhambrachamber.org

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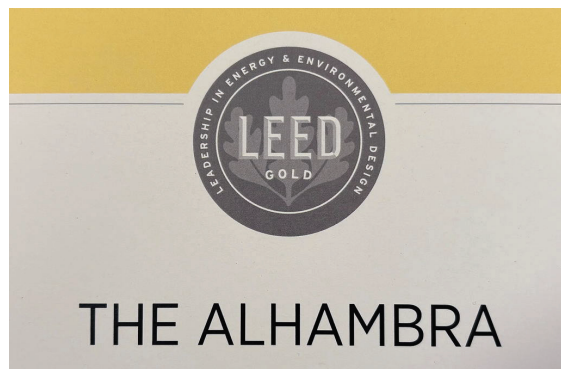
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Eco News from the Alhambra

by Kyrian Corona



The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has awarded The Alhambra a performance score of 70, LEED Gold, the fourth LEED-EB (Existing Building) certification for the property. LEED certification identifies The Alhambra Community as a showcase of sustainability and demonstrates leadership in transforming the building industry through a commitment to a healthy, sustainable future.

The Alhambra's eco-friendly innovations have earned it an ENERGY STAR score of 90, signifying that the building's energy efficiency exceeds that of 90% of similar properties nationwide and marking the 13th year of certification. On average, Energy Star buildings generate 35% fewer greenhouse gases than other similar buildings.

The Alhambra's Bloom Energy fuel cells generate clean, reliable electricity that meets approximately 75% of the campus's total energy demand, with lower CO2 emissions than the local electrical grid and virtually no particulate emissions that cause smog and respiratory diseases. In March 2020, The Alhambra installed EV charging stations in the parking garage. Since that time, the campus has avoided 169,406kg of greenhouse gas emissions, akin to planting 4,344 trees and letting them grow for 10 years.



MAYOR'S CORNER

Happy to Be Home

by Mayor Jeff Maloney

Recently, I found myself at Almansor Park just as the sun was setting, waiting for my son's little league baseball game to start. As I soaked up the sights and sounds of the park - the ping of the bats hitting the ball, the aunties and grandmas doing their stretching and dancing, and the groups of walkers and joggers doing laps around the track - I realized how good it felt to be part of this community here in Alhambra. Of course, this moment is a tough time for much of this country and for the world. Our communities in the Los Angeles area are on edge, not knowing how the latest dictates from Washington will impact our immigrant neighbors, families, and friends. The economy is uncertain, the labor market is tightening, and the cost of essential goods continues to rise. We now face war and violence on a scale not seen in decades. (And also, it was over 100 degrees in March!) There's no doubt we face challenges abroad, at home, and even in our own neighborhoods.

Fortunately, humans are resilient and the humans that call Alhambra home are more resilient than most. We have endured difficult times in the past and we have always come through with flying colors. I am optimistic that in the future, we will look back at this moment and realize that it has made us stronger and that we've been drawn closer together. In challenging times like these, we need to embrace what brings us together and celebrate what makes our nation and our community special. Over the next few months, we have many opportunities to bond: the World Cup comes to



Mayor Jeff Maloney
City of Alhambra

Southern California, Alhambra hosts a variety of community events throughout the spring and summer, the nation's Semiquincentennial (AKA the 250th birthday of the United States) is on July 4th, and our Dodgers start their quest for a Threepeat! Before you know it, 2028 will be here and the world will focus on our region as we host the Olympics and Paralympics. I know I will be taking advantage of all these events and more.

I am perpetually grateful that I get to call this community home and I know you are, too. When I think about what makes us Americans - and what makes us Alhambra residents - I know that we have so much more in common than what separates us. We can always have civil debates about politics and policy, but we must not forget what we share. So over these next few months, please join me in celebrating all of those wonderful ideals and values that make us who we are.

Play ball!

Want regular news updates and access to a community calendar full of all the free events and activities available to you as an Alhambra resident?

Visit aroundalhambra.org



News & Notes

> California Institute of Advanced Management Receives Transformative \$3 Million Gift to Establish Endowed Scholarship Funds

The California Institute of Advanced Management (CIAM) announced on February 9 a \$3 million philanthropic commitment to establish two endowed scholarship funds supporting graduate students with leadership potential and financial need. The commitment will be distributed as an immediate \$2 million gift, and an added \$1 million gift scheduled for 2027. Read the full article at aroundalhambra.org.

> City of Alhambra Hosts Peeps & Pedals, Combining Spring and Safety into One Fun Day for the Whole Family

On Saturday, March 28, 2026 the City of Alhambra held the 4th Annual Peeps & Pedals

Event, including live performances, a petting zoo, food trucks, and an opportunity for kids to explore the vehicles that carry out essential City services. Read more at aroundalhambra.org

> Alhambra Fire Department Offering Community Emergency Response Team Training on Thursdays Until April 9

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is offering training to become properly prepared for emergency situations. In the hours following a disaster, emergency response agencies may be overwhelmed and unable to respond immediately to your neighborhood. CERT program participants are provided with skills to survive a disaster and provide neighborhood assistance until emergency agencies arrive. These classes run from 9:00AM to 5:00PM on Thursdays through April 9, 2026. To learn more, visit aroundalhambra.org.

> Alhambra Recycles Event Held April 4

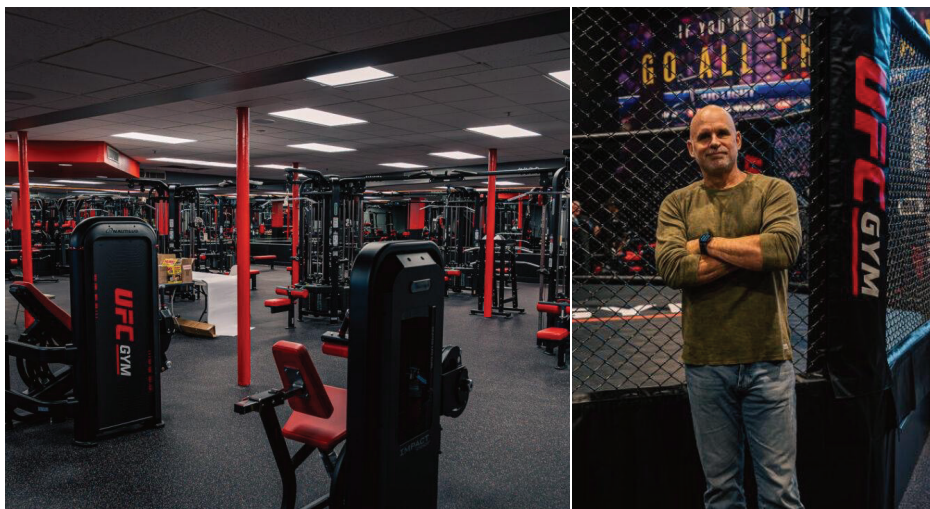
In collaboration with Republic Services, the City of Alhambra hosts bi-annual Alhambra Recycles Events to promote environmental sustainability and community engagement through proper disposal and recycling of materials. FREE services include plastic bottle & aluminum can recycling, in-person and on-site document shredding, compost giveaway, and electronic waste disposal. Celebrate Earth Month and recycle! The 2026 Spring Alhambra Recycles Event will be on Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Granada Park (2000 W Hellman Ave Alhambra, CA 91803) from 8AM to 11:30AM. Come early to enjoy all the perks! Be one of the first 125 vehicles to get a FREE Fossilman's Ice Cream voucher. Limit of 5 banker boxes (12"x10"x15") for document shredding. Household hazardous waste (HHW) will not be accepted. Drive-thru event only. For any questions, reach out to 626-570-3249 or recycle@alhambra.gov.

UFC Gym Celebrates Grand Opening in Alhambra

by William Henderson



On January 31, UFC Gym celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting of its newest Alhambra location with the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, marking the official debut of what has become the most pre-registered UFC Gym in the world. Hundreds of residents came out on opening day, packing the brand new three-story gym to get a workout in, meet UFC fighters Carla Esparza and Forrest Griffin, take part in fighting demos, enter giveaways, and more.



Guests were welcomed by UFC Gym Worldwide CEO Adam Sedlack and Alhambra location manager Brian Sherman, as the community cheered them on in their official ribbon-cutting and opening of business. "I thank the city of Alhambra for embracing us so nicely," shared Sherman. "We're going to do our best to help you get acclimated, get fit, be happy, and get results." Sedlack echoed that gratitude for the local community and the company's enthusiasm for being part of the city. "We are very excited about being in Alhambra. When we had the opportunity to look at this location, we first surveyed the community, and it became very clear that this community is absolutely amazing. It's really about a village coming together to create a special community, and that's exactly what happened. We leave today knowing that we're gonna be able to create a lot of amazing relationships going forward, and it's so important for us to give back to our community, not just today but as we move forward." Since opening day, the Alhambra UFC

Gym has positioned itself as a full-service fitness destination for residents of all experience levels. The gym offers group fitness classes, personal trainers, kids programs, combat sports instruction, and recovery rooms, all aimed at upleveling the active fitness scene in Alhambra and nearby cities. In the coming months, an outdoor pool is slated to open, further expanding the fitness offerings with additional classes and programming. Beyond the excitement and activity the new business brings to Downtown Alhambra, UFC Gym offers health, wellness, and active-living options for residents of all ages and experience levels. As the excitement from the opening-day rush settles, the gym's presence continues to strengthen the overall well-being of the Alhambra community by promoting healthier lifestyles. UFC Gym Alhambra is located at 15 E Main St, with parking available behind the building or in a variety of free nearby parking structures in Alhambra. To learn more, visit <https://www.ufcgym.com/locations/alhambra>.



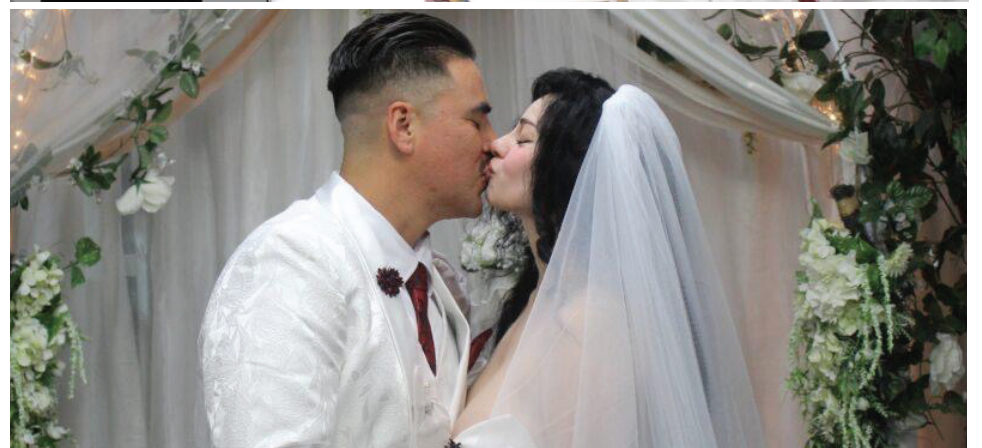
30 Couples Married on Valentine's Day in Alhambra

by William Henderson



On Valentine's Day 2026, love filled the halls of 1 Hour Marriage on Chapel Ave. in Alhambra as 30 couples chose February 14 to say "I do." From 10 am to 6 pm, the small, family-run business welcomed a steady stream of couples signing certificates, exchanging vows, and celebrating with close friends and family. Because the sentimental holiday ignited a surge of ceremonies, the entire Young family worked side by side to guide couples through one of the most meaningful moments of their lives. On the second story of 205 S Chapel Ave, Will and Linda Young run 1 Hour Marriage with their family: Yenmin, Candice, Goldie, and Riya. Linda started her business in 1990, initially offering immigration services to students requiring a visa change from

tourist status to student. Because California authorizes notaries to issue licenses, Linda shifted her business to focus on weddings. Their offices moved from Garfield to Main St, then, 15 years ago, arrived at a location perfectly named for their business's mission: Chapel Ave. Their goal is self-explanatory, offering full-service, low-cost, and fast wedding packages, including notary work and a ceremony. "We realized a lot of new immigrants don't belong to a church or actively practice religion in America, and they need this kind of service," Linda shared. "We offer in-language support for Mandarin and Spanish, and it can be especially helpful for people who have a hard time managing the language barrier when getting help at the county."



"I get to see so many happy faces coming in and out, and it brings us so much joy. We get to hear so many different stories; it's all very touching," shared Will. Linda resonated the sentiment: "We see people and get to hear how they fell in love; there's really nothing like it anywhere else. We get to witness so many special moments that are all about their closest relationships, with lots of supportive families and friends coming to our office with them." 1 Hour Marriage's services extend past the location that brought the Valentine's Day bounty of marriages to their location. "We do some last-wish marriages as well," shared Will. "We'll go to hospitals to meet elderly couples and can drive to restaurants, beaches, do weddings on yachts, and more. We get people from all

over the world coming to us for help, from Australia, Russia, Italy, Nigeria, Ukraine, and more, although most couples are from LA County." Throughout their history of officiating marriages (including ceremonies for Aubrey Plaza, Rita Ora & Taika Waititi, and a prank wedding skit on Nathan for You), the Youngs remained committed to serving their community and reducing the financial and social burden that hampers some weddings. Will and Linda estimated that in just the last 10 years, they've married over 8,000 couples, while still assisting with immigration and green cards. To see what they've been up to recently or to schedule your wedding, you may visit them on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, or their website at 1hourmarriage.com.

Alhambra High School Students Walk Out of School, Protesting ICE

by William Henderson



On the afternoon of January 30, as part of a National Shutdown, Alhambra High School, San Gabriel High School, and Mark Keppel High School students walked out of school to protest the actions of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE.

“This was entirely student-run, not organized by any staff or the district,” shared an Alhambra High School teacher in attendance, ensuring that the students were safe.

“Overall, to be an educator is to be part of a cause for social justice and the betterment of everybody. We, as educators, have to show kids that we’re with them and on their side,” shared another local teacher, who wished to remain anonymous. “Alhambra is a community that’s very diverse and immigrant-based. It’s crucial to show kids that the demonization of the immigrant, whether documented or undocumented, is false... I’m proud of these students, that they didn’t just take a free afternoon off to hang out with their friends.”

Tensions have been high in the Alhambra community, as with communities across

the country. Following a filmed encounter that circulated online, featuring a community member, Alhambra Police, and federal immigration enforcement agents, community members protested at the subsequent City Council meeting, expressing concerns, frustration, and anger with the police response.

“The whole reason I’m here is because of the APD and their promise not to support ICE,” shared an Alhambra High School student at the protest today. “I’m from an immigrant family, and for my whole life in Alhambra, I’ve felt safe as the police have always kept their word; but recently I feel that that’s changed. It’s encouraging to see the community come out to support this.”

Approximately 100 high school students gathered to protest, holding signs with messages including, “What matters more, the people or the system?,” “ICE out of Alhambra,” and “We are skipping our lessons to teach you one. No ICE!” Protesters remained peaceful, encouraging one another to stay off the grass, respect officers and the public, and remain nonviolent.

Lunar New Year Festival Brings Thousands to Downtown Alhambra

by William Henderson



On February 28, thousands of residents and visitors flocked to Downtown Alhambra to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The annual Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival, co-hosted by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and the city and one of the largest one day festivals held in Southern California, transformed Main Street into a vibrant hub of culture, food, and entertainment.

Chamber of Commerce, this event additionally brought out crowds to support locally owned businesses on Main Street, driving visitors to visit the lively food and entertainment on Main Street that Downtown Alhambra has become known for, with multiple Alhambra businesses breaking former records for sales.

Throughout the full day event, the festival’s Main Stage hosted a full lineup of live cultural performances, entertaining crowds with lion and dragon dances, traditional dances performances from across Asia including China, Korea, Thailand, and Japan, calligraphy, school bands, and a lively strings performance from local music school Fried Music. The festival catered itself to families as well, as children found plenty of activities to enjoy, from a towering rock climbing wall to Lunar New Year-themed game booths hosted by the city’s Parks and Recreation department.

Events like the Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival play a crucial role in highlighting the cultural diversity of the San Gabriel Valley and bringing the community together to celebrate. By bringing together visitors, businesses, and performers, the festival not only honored the long-standing Alhambra traditions, but reinforced the city’s well known reputation as a vibrant cultural destination in the San Gabriel Valley.



Sponsored by New Century Autos and with over 15,000 attendees and 150 booths, the Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival showcased local food vendors, artisan crafts, community organizations, and a variety of small businesses. Hosted by the Alhambra



AROUND ALHAMBRA IS NOW ONLINE!

www.aroundalhambra.org

YMCA in Alhambra Celebrates Grand Reopening and Officially Joins YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles

by William Henderson



On Friday, February 6, the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA in Alhambra celebrated their grand reopening and official joining of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, expanding their reach in the city and marking a new milestone for opportunities at the local nonprofit. Over a hundred local residents came out in the morning to celebrate the official ceremony and ribbon cutting with their community. “What has made the YMCA great for 114 years here in the city of Alhambra and neighboring cities is the volunteers and the



board members that truly give all in the spirit of service. That is invaluable,” shared Victor Dominguez, President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles.

“With this partnership, we will be infusing resources and opportunities, whether that be in youth development, healthy living, or social impact. Thanks to this reopening, a community in the West San Gabriel Valley will not go hungry, and a community in the West San Gabriel Valley will have access to childcare after school. We will ensure that everyone in our community will have that pathway to belonging.” Among the elected officials attending was Margaret Clark, a member of the YMCA board of directors and the former mayor of Rosemead. “Becoming a part of the YMCA Metropolitan LA is a strategic step forward,” she shared. “In union, we can respond more effectively to the community needs and extend the reach of our programs.”

The reopening was celebrated with refreshments, a lion dance, and a ribbon cutting ceremony, and residents were invited inside to visit the facilities, newly furnished with fitness stations and new programming.



“This YMCA has always been seen as a partner to the city: providing services, reaching out to the community, and doing things that the city at certain times wasn’t able to do,” said Alhambra Mayor Jeff Maloney. “It plays such an important role in filling those gaps, and we hope that continues for a long time.”

Talmage Burke - The Longest Serving Elected Official in California History

by Glenn Barnett

Born on November 22, 1918 and graduating from Alhambra High School in 1935, Talmage Burke enrolled at USC where he eventually earned his law degree. Burke became involved in Alhambra politics when his father, Montivel Burke, was elected to Alhambra’s City Council in 1942. After serving as the Mayor, Burke’s father was later elected to the California State Assembly in 1944.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Talmage was elected to the Alhambra City Council in 1952, becoming the inaugural second-generation mayor in Alhambra’s history. For an astounding 52 years, Burke was reelected to that office, until his eventual death in 2004. All while living in the house his father built in 1927, Burke held the office of mayor a record 15 times. When the move to term limits gained momentum, Burke had the entire council at that time grandfathered in. Because all future Council members are subject to term limits, no one will ever again serve as long as he did.

On Burke’s watch, the train tracks along Mission Rd. were reset underground. Dirt removed from the project was used to cover the old Alhambra City Dump, creating space for an additional nine holes at the Almansor Golf Course and completing the full 18-hole course.

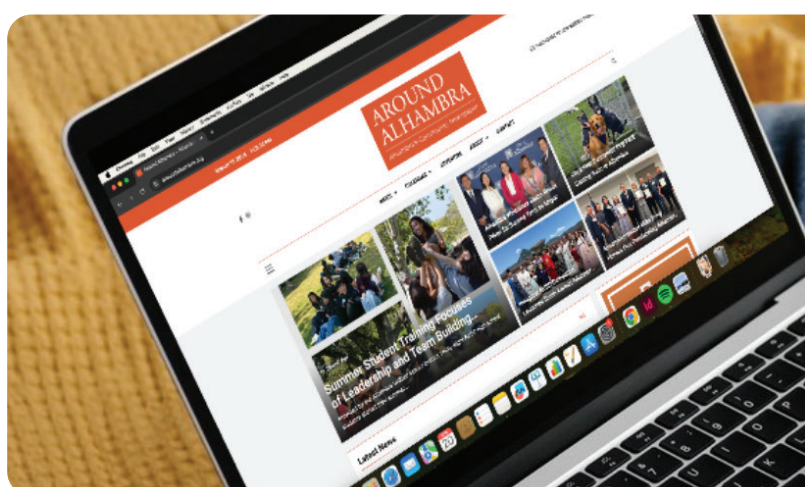
Other Council members stepped gently around him. In retirement, Mary Louise Bunker noted that to get anything on the City Council that she wanted accomplished, she had to make Talmage think it was his idea. She pointed to the creation of Almansor Court as one such project.

It is said that Talmage was also the biggest property owner in town. When the Auto Row was established on Main Street (to benefit the city government from the tax revenue of car sales), as many as 14 of his properties were involved. I can report on my own experience with Mr. Burke. I was



approached about running for city council in 1986 to fill the vacant seat when Council Member Michael Messina resigned, because his employer transferred him out of state for work. His wife Barbara opted to stand for election to replace him, making her my opponent. I was flattered to be asked to run for Council, and I said that I would take some time to think about it. I was trotted out to an event to meet and greet people, where I gave a short speech and noted that Talmage was in the room. I went over to him and told him that I had been asked to run for the vacant council position. He asked me which district I was in; I told him it was the 2nd District. He then said to me in no uncertain terms, “That’s Barbara’s seat.” That was all I needed to hear to decide not to run for office.

Among the Talmage legacy, there remain several buildings and a street named in Burke’s honor.



Around Alhambra accepts submissions!

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



SUBMIT




2026 STATE OF THE CITY

presented by
ALHAMBRA MAYOR JEFF MALONEY

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
THE GRANADA LA

Mayor Jeff Maloney, City of Alhambra




For tickets, sponsorship, and more information, visit www.alhambrachamber.org

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ALHAMBRA DAY OF SERVICE

Give back and make an impact in your community!
Join us on Saturday, April 18, from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM for the Alhambra Day of Service, a hands-on morning of service in partnership with the City of Alhambra. Volunteers will help care for key areas of our city and support services for local residents at:

After the service, join us for a community resource fair to learn about local programs and connect with neighbors. This is a great opportunity to serve your community, meet other residents, and make a visible difference in Alhambra!

For more Info, send an email to:
egarcia@alhambrachamber.org



SCAN QR TO REGISTER

- **District 3 Cleanup:** 1500 w Chestnut St., Alhambra, CA 91803
- **Downtown Alhambra:** 104 S. 1st St., Alhambra, CA 91801
- **Marguerita Garden:** 1603 Marguerita Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803



Presented by:  

Continuation from page 1

options. Businesses that open in Alhambra often choose to stay, adding locations or scaling operations without relocating elsewhere. That continuity strengthens the local economy and keeps investment within the community. Alhambra's commitment to nurturing its business community is essential for long-standing favorites and new ventures alike to thrive. Residents and visitors enjoy shopping, dining, and engaging with local businesses

on weekdays, during weekend excursions with friends, and on quick stops after work or at mealtimes, when long-time family-owned establishments and exciting new choices are top picks. For entrepreneurs and new business owners, Alhambra positions itself as the perfect spot to open a new venture in the bustling, vibrant community it is today.

Downtown Alhambra Business Association Hosts 15th Annual St Paddy's Day Pub Crawl, Bringing Hundreds to Local Bars

by The Downtown Alhambra Business Association



On March 17, the Downtown Alhambra Business Association hosted its 15th Annual St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl, continuing the tradition that draws crowds from across the San Gabriel valley to Alhambra for a night of celebration. Hundreds of attendees filled Main Street dressed in green, celebrating alongside their neighbors and visiting friends. Participating businesses in Downtown Alhambra joined in with one-day specials, themed drinks, and festive decorations, transforming the district. Shamrocks lined storefronts and packed patios and bars, highlighting the downtown businesses for the photo contest.

This year's event featured a lineup of local favorites, including Ohana Brewing Company, Havana House, 28 West Bar, Rabbit Hole, Charlie's Trio Cafe, Vita Cane, For The Win, Delhi Belly, Mahan Indian, and Happy Humble Hub, each contributing to the festival in their own way.



Celebrating Alhambra's Local Women Business Leaders

by William Henderson

Alhambra thrives because of the women behind the scenes driving impact through their businesses into their local community. Many of the women business owners go above and beyond to drive impact and enrich the lives of all the Alhambra residents and visitors they serve. After just finishing celebrating women's history month, as we continue into the rest of the year it is crucial to continue to highlight and recognize the incredible women who represent the spirit of Alhambra as they shape the economy, bringing their visions to life to creatively build spaces for communities to come together.

At VitaCane, located at 9 W Main St, owner Allison Mayrena runs a sugarcane and açai bowl restaurant focused on nourishing the bodies, minds, and souls of residents - especially the students that flock to her location after school. Past her business, Allison engages in supporting her community through her role as the president of the Downtown Alhambra Business Association, supporting many small businesses near her.

Jewelyn Co, founder of CoKreate, found at 919 S Fremont Ave Unit 348, has spent over 10 years bringing ideas to life through 3D printing as she encourages Alhambrans to unlock their innovation and creativity. Jewelyn is heavily involved in supporting local businesses through her role as a volunteer ambassador at the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and is quick to

show her love for her community through thoughtfully designed 3D printed gifts.

At Happy Humble Hub, located at 117 E Main St Units A&B, founders Huong Thai and Wendy Yu, spotlight local artisans and creatives at their beautifully decorated venue. Their community "third place" is designed around providing platforms for entrepreneurs wanting to affordably showcase their ideas and start their businesses in Alhambra. Both Huong and Wendy are deeply invested in their community, partnering with local businesses to liven up Downtown Alhambra. Maria Gao of Evike.com, located at 2801 W Mission Road, represents a different side of business leadership in Alhambra as she leads a nationally known brand to success in the city.

While her role leading Evike is impressive, her undertakings don't stop there, with years of experience as president of both the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and the Alhambra Police Foundation.

This list highlights just four, but there are thousands of women at work creating and driving the vibrant business scene in Alhambra. As you visit the businesses here, take a moment to appreciate all the hard work women business leaders in the city have invested and continue to invest into bringing our neighborhood to life. There's a story behind every business, and for many, a woman who took a risk, built something from the ground up, and put in tremendous effort to give back to her community.

Read more articles like these on aroundalhambra.org



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INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED FRANCHISE

Eating Around Alhambra - How Alhambra Evolved into the Dining Capital of the San Gabriel Valley

by William Henderson



Alhambra's extraordinary dining scene and reputation did not materialize overnight. San Gabriel Valley's dining capital was built over decades, through generations of small-business ownership, shaped by immigration, and a steady migration of eager diners who made their way from all over Southern California.

Before Alhambra was known for its restaurants, Main Street was a traditional commercial corridor. By the mid-20th century, Alhambra was one of the primary shopping and dining destinations in the region. As restrictions on immigration eased in the 1980s, the San Gabriel Valley saw a massive influx of Chinese and Taiwanese immigrants, who invested heavily in Alhambra, reshaping the city's cultural identity.

Along with stories, families, and a drive to succeed in a new country, many immigrants to America brought generational recipes passed down in their hometowns. Valley Boulevard specifically saw significant economic growth, as it was filled with Chinese restaurants offering cuisines and dining experiences unavailable anywhere else in the country. As the food scene expanded and new restaurant owners found their stride, the diversity of authentic cuisine became the backbone of the San Gabriel Valley's food scene.

Beyond the sheer number of new restaurants in Alhambra, what sets it apart is its focus on specific regions within each cuisine. This trend continues today, with brand-new restaurants like Hengry Restaurant (Guizhou cuisine) not merely showcasing generic versions of Chinese food, but homestyle cooking that accurately reflects specific regional dishes, with intensely different, experiential flavor

palettes. The depth and genuine care in the restaurants in Alhambra transformed the entire San Gabriel Valley into a national destination for its Chinese cuisine in particular, with Alhambra serving as the gateway and dining capital.

While new businesses continually reshape the identity of Alhambra's food scene, several legacy businesses that earned their spots continue to shine. On 1 West Valley Blvd, The Hat has stood the test of time. Starting with its Alhambra location, the oldest currently operating The Hat restaurant, the family behind it, the Conzineris, leveraged their success by opening 10 additional locations in California, with one in Las Vegas coming soon.

Similarly, Bun N Burger on Main Street remains a staple in the community, particularly for long-time regulars in Alhambra. Their retro aesthetic is unmissable as drivers make their way down Main Street. Sporting a two-tone green exterior, a neon sign, and the classic vintage look interior, Bun N Burger is one of the oldest standing diners in the city.

While longstanding restaurants built loyal followings, new cuisines introduced a new generation of residents to the area's evolving food culture. The city's dining scene is the heartbeat of the community's life force, with streets filling up around lunch and dinner time as residents and visitors eager to try new spots never run out of eateries to explore.

To this day, the hard work of small business owners from all cultural backgrounds enlivens a cluster of streets that drives Alhambra's status as the ultimate dining destination in the SGV.

Alhambra's Bucket List: Must Visit Spots and Activities for Newcomers and Longtime Residents

by William Henderson

Are you missing out on the adventures of living in Alhambra? While Alhambra is often praised for its community and culture, many residents - both longtime and new - settle into habits and patterns of day-to-day life, overlooking many of the exciting places that Alhambra offers. For anyone wanting to explore the city, whether you're settled in, just moved here, or are here visiting friends, below is a list of must-see locations:

1. Main Street and Valley Boulevard's Restaurants

These two corridors are the heart of the city. Main Street offers a mix of local shops, cafés, and restaurants, while Valley Boulevard is the gateway to the San Gabriel Valley's renowned dining scene. Each restaurant strives to set itself apart through unique regional dishes passed down from generation to generation, and there's always something new to try. Want our specific recommendations? Visit alhambraeats.com

2. Alhambra Parks

Alhambra's parks are ideal for families, fitness enthusiasts, and anyone who wants a quiet spot to enjoy the outdoors. With playgrounds, sports fields, and shaded walking paths, they're spaces that have brought the community together for decades. In mid-March, the city announced free wifi in these parks, turning them into great outdoor study spots as well.

3. Alhambra's Historical Museum - 1550 W Alhambra Road

Interested in discovering more about Alhambra's? Head over to the Alhambra Historical Museum, which is open from 1 pm to 4 pm on the first and third Saturdays of each month. It's filled to the brim with historical artifacts, articles, and more, and helpful volunteers from the Alhambra Historical Society are available to answer questions, offer insights into historical finds, and help you navigate the extensive historical catalogue.

4. Gallery Nucleus - 210 E Main St

Have you noticed the weekend crowds forming lines at the intersection of E Main Street and S Monterey Street? There's a reason for the excitement! Gallery Nucleus hosts regular events and features artists, showcasing rotating artworks, all free for the community to visit. Events are highlighted on their website, and along with weekend activities, the gallery is also open on weekdays if you're seeking a more relaxed visit.

5. Re:Bakesic - 188 S Monterey St, Unit 112; Shop Yuju - 226 W Main St; and Happy Humble Hub - 117 E Main St, Units A & B

Hosting a friend who is fun and trendy? Show off your style and taste on a tour of three chic, lively locations. Start your day at Re:Bakesic. Get there early to enjoy baked goods fresh out of the oven. Head over to Shop Yuju, where you can view works from local artists and find stickers, plushies, bags, and more. Finally, walk over to Happy Humble Hub to finish off your day in an exciting, fun space, either to attend an event or shop for goods made by featured artisans.

6. Little Dimples - 230 W Main St

Tired from all that adventuring around the city? Little Dimples, recently opened in Alhambra on Main Street, has an indoor playplace for little ones to run around in while parents get a moment to themselves. They regularly host weekend special guest appearances for kids and offer delicious croffles (filled croissant waffles) and coffee at their cafe.

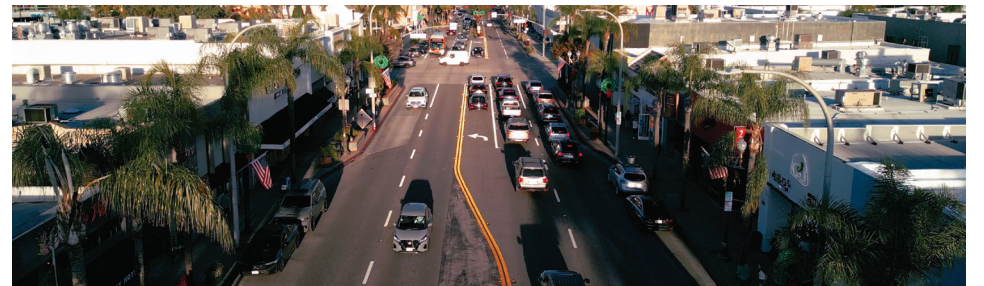
7. Ohana Brewing Company 7 S 1st St

Just off of Main Street on 1st Street, Ohana Brewing Company sets itself apart from many other bars by showcasing its unique approach to craft beers. Ohana crafts their own beers and curates a snack menu with specialities from other local businesses. During the evenings, tables are set up outside, making it a perfect spot for a casual date either before or after heading to the nearby Regal Alhambra theater.

8. Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival

The largest event of the year, the Alhambra Lunar New Year draws out tens of thousands of visitors to celebrate with unforgettable experiences, including live music and performances, family-fun activities, artisans, themed food, and more. Attendees also enjoy shopping among hundreds of vendors from the vast diversity of Alhambra businesses, plus the specials all across Main Street. This year's Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival just passed, but it'll be back next year even bigger and better!

Eager for more? Discover more of Alhambra's activities and must-visit destinations via the Alhambra Parks and Recreation Department's winter-spring leisure guide, available at alhambra.gov/294/Parks-Recreation.



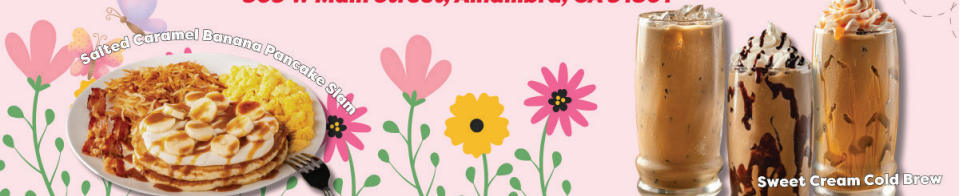
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Hengry Restaurant Hosts Penfolds Wine Tasting Event, Celebrating One Year Anniversary in Alhambra

by William Henderson



At 2718 W Valley Blvd. in Alhambra, Hengry celebrated their one-year anniversary at the beginning of this year with a wine-tasting event, partnering with Penfolds to elevate both the wine and their signature dishes through expertly selected pairings.

While Hengry officially opened in Alhambra in late 2024, the story of the restaurant began over 30 years ago. "The story of Hengry begins in my hometown of Guiyang, in Guizhou, China," shared Leo Au, the owner. "From 1991 to 1997, my family ran a very popular restaurant there. It all started with a tiny shop that served just one dish, Miao sour soup fish hotpot. At the time, no other restaurant



was offering it, and it quickly became a local favorite." In 1996, Leo's father decided to leave behind the success they had found locally to move to Los Angeles. "It was a tough decision," Leo recalls, "but eventually, my father said yes. He left Guiyang at the end of 1996, and two years later, we sold the restaurant and joined him in Los Angeles. I grew up in that restaurant. I watched my family work side by side, putting their hearts into every dish they served. Those memories are deeply rooted in my soul. When we came to Los Angeles, we didn't just bring our luggage; we also brought our recipes, our traditions, and our love for Guizhou cuisine. Most recipes we use at Hengry come directly from those years in Guiyang."

"For a long time, I dreamed of opening a place in LA where I could share the food I grew up with and honor my family's legacy," Leo explained. "Hengry is that dream come true. It's more than a restaurant; it's a tribute to my roots, my family's hard work, and the rich culinary culture of Guizhou. Seeing customers discover and fall in love with these flavors, many for the first time, is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

Alhambra's dining scene has been a key part of their success in the last year. At the wine tasting event, Leo shared how impactful the community's support has been to him in the first year of opening as he carries out his dream, and what an honor it has been to share his hometown with the city. If you stop by their restaurant today, ask for the Miao sour soup fish hotpot - the dish that started it all.



Summer Heat and Sweet Treats: New Businesses Help with Cooling Off During One of the Hottest Summers in Alhambra

by William Henderson

As Alhambra braces for one of its hottest summers on record, staying cool is absolutely essential. Fortunately, a new wave of businesses is opening their doors by summer, offering refreshing ways to beat the heat across the city.

Coconut & Co - 15 E Main Street

At the former location of Temptations Chocolate Factory, a premium coconut refreshments location is just in time for summer, offering coconut themed drinks, desserts, baked goods, and more! After a successful booth at the Alhambra Lunar New Year, residents are eager for the upcoming grand opening. For a sneak peek of what's coming to Alhambra and to get announcements about their grand opening, visit them on Instagram: @coconutncoinc.

Handel's Ice Cream - 1127 S Fremont Ave

Opening in April on Fremont Ave,

Handel's Ice Cream is a much needed addition to the vibrant ice cream scene of Alhambra. Make your back to school shopping day fun, stopping to get ice cream after shopping at Kohl's, visiting Cokreate 3D, then bouncing away the energy at the nearby Skyzone. To track updates, visit @handelsalhambra on Instagram.

UFC Gym's Outdoor Pool - 15 E Main St
Alhambra's new UFC Gym will be debuting their updated outdoor pool, transforming their summer workout plans. If you're feeling guilty after all the ice cream and delicious drinks, work off the calories through a mid-day swim at their newly opened facility.

With temperatures rising, these additions to our city are coming just in time. Alhambra's newest businesses are helping residents stay refreshed and cooled off all summer long.



Upcoming Featured Art at City Hall

Exhibiting Month	Artist Reception	Exhibition Title	Artist
July 2026	July 15, 2026 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Secret Life of Plants	Jim Newberry
August 2026	August 19, 2026 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Dancing Through Life	Shahla Reynolds
September 2026	September 16, 2026 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Uniting Borders 2026: Identity	Academy of Special Dreams



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Apr-Jun 2026



Support local, eat well!

Discover new favorite restaurants each week by visiting alhambraeats.com for fresh features and food news!

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>Apr 6 to Apr 12</p>		<p>Bangkok Soul recently opened on East Main Street, serving a wide range of classic Thai dishes including curries, street noodles, papaya salad, and pork jerky with sticky rice. They're quickly gaining popularity for the flavors and dishes they serve that reflect the everyday food staples found in Thailand.</p> <p>Visit them at 707 East Main St, Alhambra</p>	
<p>Apr 13 to Apr 19</p>		<p>KP Town Cuisine on East Valley is a mom-and-pop storefront offering authentic Kaiping dishes, from a city in the Pearl River Delta of Southern China. Their most popular dishes include their claypot eel, tofu dishes, and variety of soups.</p> <p>Visit them at 1328 East Valley Blvd, Alhambra</p>	
<p>Apr 20 to Apr 26</p>		<p>You Kitchen is known for its handmade dumplings and noodles, with a wide variety of fillings, from pork and chive to fish and lamb. It's become popular for its hand-pulled noodles, wontons, and the stuffed pancakes that reflect authentic Chinese cooking.</p> <p>Visit them at 1402 E Valley Blvd, Alhambra</p>	
<p>Apr 27 to May 3</p>		<p>Luyixian on Garfield and Valley has gained a large following from locals from their braised dishes, complete with soup on the side. They have a wide variety of food, but where they truly shine is the braised soups and rice plates, which are topped off with chili peppers.</p> <p>Visit them at 2 E Valley Blvd #1E, Alhambra</p>	
<p>May 4 to May 10</p>		<p>Dong Nguyen is a long-running Chinese-Vietnamese restaurant best known for Hainanese chicken rice and simple rice plate combinations. It's recognized for its consistency and focus on a few staple dishes, particularly chicken prepared with seasoned rice and ginger-based sauces.</p> <p>Visit them at 1433 Valley Blvd, Alhambra</p>	
<p>May 11 to May 17</p>		<p>MJ Valley Restaurant serves Cantonese seafood, including tofu dishes, duck, and salt pepper pork. Their lunch special is highly praised for it's high value and low price, and their traditional food steers away from being overly oily to provide filling and satisfying flavors that blend well with the complimentary soups and hot tea.</p> <p>Visit them at 203 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra</p>	
<p>May 18 to May 24</p>		<p>Yung Ho Dou Jiang is a Taiwanese breakfast spot known for traditional items like fresh soy milk, youtiao (fried dough sticks), and savory rice rolls. People visit for its wide range of classic morning dishes that reflect everyday Taiwanese breakfast culture, from stuffed flatbreads to warm, made-to-order comfort staples.</p> <p>Visit them at 1124 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra</p>	
<p>May 25 to May 31</p>		<p>A De Luo Si Fen recently opened near the CVS and Wendy's on Valley, offering its signature spicy and sour noodle soup. It's part of a growing movement of restaurants focused on just one main dish—in this case, their luosifen from Liuzhou, China.</p> <p>Visit them at 1269 E Valley Blvd, Alhambra</p>	
<p>Jun 1 to Jun 7</p>		<p>Coconut & Co hit it off with the Alhambra community at the Alhambra Lunar New Year, and is moving into the spot previously occupied by Temptations Chocolate Factory this year. Their menu features a variety of coconut drinks, desserts, and baked goods, making it the perfect stop to add to a visit with friends to the nearby Regal Alhambra.</p> <p>Visit them at 15 E Main St, Alhambra</p>	

Restaurant lineup is subject to change. For the most up-to-date info, visit alhambraeats.com.



Continuation from page 1



are learning and prepare them to be good citizens by researching ways to positively give back to our community.” Students say the approach helps make learning both meaningful and collaborative. “We deserve this award because we show great attitude, showcasing on how we can improve and never give up,” declared eighth grader Easgarrison Freire. “Teachers help make Ramona feel like a home. They help students who are struggling with academics or mental [issues].”

Easgarrison also pointed to PBL as one way that students work together to address real world topics. “PBL is an example that showcases our team’s effort and guidance to success, using real world problems,” he said. “Ramona is our home. We’re all united under the Mustangs. Go Mustangs!” Fellow eighth grader Ashley San said the school’s supportive environment and opportunities have helped students grow as leaders. “Ramona has helped me with their incredible support system, and has encouraged me to be a leader and improve in ways I wouldn’t have been able to achieve without the support I’ve garnered through the staff,

students, and opportunities.” Ashley also added that PBL helps students connect their studies to issues affecting their communities. “PBL is a great way for students to connect and solve real life issues that we have in our community.”

Parents say the school’s commitment to supporting the whole child is evident in the classroom and beyond. “As a parent, I have seen how our school focuses on developing the whole child in supporting academics, confidence, and emotional growth,” said parent Jackie Ugarte. “We are especially grateful to be part of such a collaborative and supportive school environment. Nothing compares to the peace of mind that comes with knowing our children are safe and well-cared for.”

The Schools to Watch program identifies middle schools across the country that are committed to academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, and a culture that supports every student. For Ramona School, the designation highlights a learning community where students, educators, and families work together to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

AHS Scores LA County Academic Decathlon Three-Peat. Mark Keppel and San Gabriel join Alhambra at the State Competition and Make AUSD History

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Alhambra High School clinched its third consecutive Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon championship with a winning score of 49,044 points and advanced to the California Academic Decathlon state competition in Santa Clara.

High school students from across the Alhambra Unified School District delivered an exceptionally strong showing at the 44th annual Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon, with all three of the district’s high schools qualifying to compete at the state level.

Teams from Alhambra High School, Mark Keppel High School and San Gabriel High School each placed among the top nine teams in Los Angeles County and earned a place at the California Academic Decathlon, held March 19–22 in Santa Clara. The milestone marks the first time all three schools from the district advanced to the in-person state competition in the same year.

Leading the way was Alhambra High School, which captured first place overall at the county competition for the third consecutive year. Competing against 61

teams and 475 students from across Los Angeles County, the team finished with a winning score of 49,044 points after a month-long series of academic challenges. The Academic Decathlon is a rigorous team competition that tests students in ten subject areas, including art, economics, literature, mathematics, science, music, social science, essay writing, speech and interview. The theme for the 2025–2026 competition was The Roaring Twenties. Students immersed themselves in the Jazz Age, with *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald serving as the featured long work. They studied the art, music and literature of the era, along with the social, cultural, and economic changes that defined the decade. The interdisciplinary theme challenged students to think critically and creatively across a wide range of subjects.

Families Help Shape School Menus at AUSD’s Annual Food and Wellness Fair

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Students, families, and staff members sampled potential breakfast and lunch menu items during the Alhambra Unified School District Food and Wellness Fair at San Gabriel High School. Participants rated the dishes and took part in wellness activities, helping Food and Nutrition Services gather feedback that will help shape future school menus.

Students, families, and staff from across Alhambra Unified gathered at San Gabriel High School for the annual AUSD Food and Wellness Fair, where they taste-tested potential additions to school breakfast and lunch menus. Held on February 21, the sunny Saturday event also featured wellness activities, food sampling, and opportunity drawings, continuing a long-standing district tradition.

At the fair, participants sampled different vendors offering a variety of food options, including mini pancake puffs with strawberry, Korean BBQ dumplings, mapo tofu, and many more. Attendees then rated the items on a scale from “Love it,” “Like it,” “OK,” “Don’t like,” “Really dislike,” or “Not sampled.” The Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) team later used these surveys to determine which items to introduce to the school menu.

As Dwayne Dionne, Culinary Specialist for FNS, explained, “Our highest-rated items will most likely be introduced to our March menu, with other items continuing in April and May.” These selections continued to rotate through monthly menus and adapt based on student feedback. Games and activities at the Food and Wellness Fair, hosted by the Nutrition Advisory Councils (NAC), allowed students to teach participants about wellness in fun and engaging ways. Mr. Paul Lam from Mark Keppel High School, advisor of their gardening club, shared that the event “gives students another way to help the community and provides fun and free food for students to

Students from all three Alhambra Unified schools spent months preparing for the competition, studying material connected to this year’s theme and honing both academic and presentation skills. Their efforts culminated at the Los Angeles County awards ceremony, held February 19 aboard the historic Queen Mary, where hundreds of medals were presented to top-performing decathletes.

The district’s teams were guided by dedicated coaches who supported students throughout the demanding preparation process: Jose Sanchez of Alhambra High School, Tin Tran of Mark Keppel High School and Tuong La of San Gabriel High School. With all three teams advancing to the state competition, Alhambra Unified

enjoy.” NAC also hosted six booths, including a farmer’s market where attendees could take home fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Food and Wellness Fair concluded with an opportunity drawing that recognized twelve attendees, along with one final grand prize for a student who attended the fair. Prizes included a large wagon filled with items useful for preparing nutritious meals, as well as lunch pails with various supplies.

After more than two decades of hosting the event on a minimum day at an elementary school, the Food and Wellness Fair shifted its schedule this year. Instead of a weekday event, it was held at a high school on a weekend. William Fong, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, explained that scheduling conflicts led to the change and that the district would evaluate the format moving forward. “Starting the Food and Wellness Fair in 2003, it has been at least 23 years,” Fong said. “A lot of the time, adults’ tastes are different from students’, and students are the true customers. It is important for them to have direct communication with vendors through this event.”

This annual event continues to play an important role in giving students a voice in developing school menus, learning about Food and Nutrition Services, and understanding the regulations that guide school nutrition programs. Keep a lookout as new items show up on the school menus in the coming months.

continues to demonstrate the strength of its academic programs and the commitment of its students and educators. Results from the state competition were not available at the time of this publication deadline. Updates on the teams’ performances will be shared on the district’s social media channels and in its digital newsletter. The top-performing teams at the state competition will advance to the national Academic Decathlon competition in April.



Naomi Chan Reigns as Queen Bee Once Again

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Naomi Chan celebrates a back-to-back victory and a well-earned return to the County competition. (Photo Credit: Kellyn Chea, AUSD Communications Intern)

Naomi Chan of Northrup School captured her second consecutive district spelling bee title at the Alhambra Unified School District's competition on February 11th. Students in grades four through eight from across the district were invited to participate, starting with site-level competitions at seven schools. Two winners from each school advanced to the district competition, where the final rounds tested contestants with increasingly challenging vocabulary. In total, fourteen students competed at the district level, with Naomi ultimately taking the top prize and earning the opportunity to advance to the Los Angeles

County Competition last month. Reflecting on the final round, Naomi shared that she felt "very nervous" because if she missed the word, "the competition would run longer." When she spelled the final word correctly, she said she felt "very excited." Preparing for that moment took significant dedication. Leading up to the competition, students studied spelling lists and definitions for hours. Most rounds required competitors to spell words aloud, while alternating rounds asked them to match a word to its correct definition. Throughout the Bee, contestants had to pay especially close attention

to homonyms, words with the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings. Naomi's mother shared that in preparing for the spelling bee, Naomi practiced "thousands of words" and was glad "she was able to come through today." Northrup Principal Lindsay Gilbert added that Naomi "really persevered" and said she is "very proud of her," especially as Naomi advanced to the county competition last year and will once again represent the district. The return of the district spelling bee has also been meaningful for the AUSD community. After several years without the event, AUSD brought it back last year, with Instructional Coach May May Lee serving as coordinator. She explained that many students and families had expressed interest in reviving the spelling bee, and students at her own school were especially eager to participate.

With that encouragement, she expanded the opportunity districtwide. Ms. Lee shared that the experience has been worthwhile and that students have truly enjoyed taking part. The full list of site winners who competed at this year's district-level competition were:

- 4th–5th grade: Zoey Chio, Chanel Garza, Tinayue (Tina) Kan, Ryan Lu, Liam Luong, Vox Prak, and Victoria Situ.
- 6th–8th grade: Naomi Chan, Ahmad Farag, Ethan Ho, Shawn Li, Cecilia McNally, Calvin Mei, and Charlotte Yang.

AUSD Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo expressed pride in "seeing our students do so well," marking another successful competition. With her second consecutive district title, Naomi Chan moved on to the Los Angeles County Competition on March 18 at Almansor Court as the official representative for AUSD.



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Congratulations to the Class of 2026!



Alhambra High School
Thursday
May 28, 2026
5:00pm



Mark Keppel High School
Friday
May 29, 2026
5:00pm



San Gabriel High School
Wednesday
May 27, 2026
5:00pm

All AUSD high school graduation ceremonies will be held at Weingart Stadium at East Los Angeles College

Graduations: AUSD's three high schools will celebrate the Class of 2026 with graduation ceremonies at East Los Angeles College (ELAC). As the celebration draws nearer, the school will reach out with more details and ticket information

Discover, Connect, and Celebrate at the Alhambra Unified's Community Fairzz

by The Alhambra Unified School District



ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
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For more information on how businesses and local organizations can join in, please scan the QR code:

Businesses, individuals, and community vendors interested in participating are encouraged to sign up using the QR code on this event graphic

Alhambra Unified School District will host a Community Fair on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Marguerita School, located at 1603 Marguerita Avenue in Alhambra. The event is free and open to all students, families, staff, and community members. Designed as a districtwide showcase of AUSD schools and community partners, the fair will highlight programs and activities from across the district. All sites have been invited to host a booth to share information about the various achievements and opportunities that make their schools unique. Students will also have the chance to perform throughout the morning, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. The event is being overseen by the district's Community Schools coordinators: Harvey Chin of Granada School, Lynn Greep of Northrup School, Leah Ruiz of San Gabriel High School, Tammy Scoria of Ynez School, Eva Wong of Ramona School, and Cathleen Wu of Marguerita School. Together, they are working to ensure the

fair reflects the strengths of each campus while bringing the district together in one shared space. In addition to school showcases, the fair will spotlight community partnerships and local organizations that support AUSD students and families. Attendees can look forward to tables and booths, student performances, music, giveaways, food, arts and crafts, games, and activities for all ages. There are numerous opportunities for businesses, organizations, and community members to get involved. Participants may volunteer at the event, host a table, distribute giveaways, provide informational materials, contribute donations, or offer student activities. The AUSD Community Fair promises to be a welcoming and engaging morning that celebrates student talent, strengthens partnerships, and highlights the vibrant school communities across the district. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on April 25th.

Mark Your Calendar for AUSD Promotions and Graduations

by The Alhambra Unified School District

As the school year comes to a close, Alhambra Unified School District is preparing to celebrate one of the most meaningful milestones in a student's journey. Across our campuses, families, educators, and staff will gather to recognize the hard work, growth, and accomplishments of our students during this special season of graduations and promotions. From our youngest learners in preschool to students in our LIFT (Learning Independence for Transition) program, and from elementary school promotions to high school graduation ceremonies, each celebration marks an important step forward. These moments reflect years of

learning, perseverance, and support from families, teachers, and school communities. The accompanying graphics provide the dates and times for promotion ceremonies at our elementary schools, preschool programs, and LIFT classes, along with graduation ceremonies for each of our comprehensive high schools. We invite families and community members to review the schedule and plan ahead as we come together to honor the achievements of our students. Congratulations to all of our students reaching these important milestones. We look forward to celebrating with you and your families in the weeks ahead.

2026 PROMOTION CEREMONIES

Baldwin Almanson Court May 28th 8:30am	Garfield Alhambra Park May 28th 9:30am	Monterey Highlands Monterey Highlands May 27th 8:30am	Repetto Barnes Park May 28th 9:00am
Brightwood Almanson Court May 27th 9:00am	Granada Alhambra Park May 26th 8:30am	Northrup Alhambra Park May 27th 8:00am	Scanlon Early Education Center Scanlon Campus May 27th AM Class 9:00am PM Class 12:30pm
Emery Park Alhambra Park May 27th 11:00am	LIFT LIFT Campus May 28th 9:30am	Park Alhambra Park May 28th 8:00am	
Fremont Alhambra Park May 27th 9:30am	Marguerita Marguerita Auditorium May 27th 11:00am	Ramona Barnes Park May 26th 9:00am	Ynez Barnes Park May 27th 9:00am

Congratulations



Promotions: Promotion ceremonies for our eighth-graders, Scanlon Early Education Center, and our LIFT (Learning Independence For Transition) program will take place across the community. These celebrations recognise students' growth and mark an exciting step forward in their educational journey.

AAA Lunar New Year Banquet Celebrates Students and Community

by The Alhambra Unified School District

Guests gathered for the Asian American Association's 36th Lunar New Year Banquet on February 27th to celebrate the Year of the Horse and recognize student scholarship recipients. The annual event highlighted community, culture, and the achievements of students across the Alhambra Unified School District.

The banquet venue was filled with attendees, with forty-five tables and more than 400 guests in attendance. The event was lively and filled with a strong sense of community and belonging, as guests mingled and gathered to celebrate together. "We're so excited for the 36th annual

continued on page 16



Asian American Association Lunar New Year Banquet

2026

Staff, students, community members, and special guests gathered for the Asian American Association's 36th Lunar New Year Banquet on February 27th, celebrating culture, community, and student achievement. The evening featured traditional lion dance performances, festive dining, raffles, and recognition of the 2026 AAA Scholarship recipients from Alhambra Unified's high schools. (Photo Credit: Reyna Guan and Meghan Teo, AUSD Communications Interns)

continuation from page 15

banquet, to celebrate our scholarship winners and just being here to celebrate the Year of the Horse,” AAA President Dr. Leann Huang said. “We were so touched by everyone’s stories. It was rewarding and fulfilling to read the scholarship essays from so many students. As part of the district, we’re here for the children.” The event moved into full swing as guests enjoyed delicious dishes at their tables, watched traditional lion dance performances, and participated in raffles for prizes. During the evening, the recipients of the 2026 Asian American Association Scholarships were recognized: Joyce Li (Alhambra High School), Megan Han (Mark Keppel High School), and Joyce Ma (San Gabriel High School). “The food was delicious, and the environment felt especially festive and joyful because the celebration was part of the Lunar New Year festivities,” Joyce Ma said. “I had the opportunity to receive certificates from Judy Chu, Mike Fong, the City of San Gabriel, and more. It was an honor to take photos with them and be recognized for this scholarship.” Keiko Rakin, AUSD Student Board Member and the event’s co-mistress of ceremonies, also shared her thoughts after volunteering at the banquet alongside

other Student Advisory Council members. “This is a great event to celebrate all the great things happening in the community and to recognize our amazing student leaders and scholarship recipients,” said Rakin. She said she felt proud to help with the banquet’s festivities, describing the evening as a meaningful and energizing experience on a personal level.

Angelina Yip, another member of the Student Advisory Council, expressed a similar sentiment. “Congratulations everyone! This Lunar New Year celebration is for the seniors, meant to celebrate you and all your hard work. This is a night for you,” Yip said. She said that her three years on the council assisting with the annual banquet have been among the most meaningful experiences of her high school career, as being part of the event helped bring her closer to the community.

For Yip and many others in attendance, the banquet was a meaningful way to celebrate the Lunar New Year and the accomplishments of students. The community will gather again next year, on February 26, 2027 to celebrate the Year of The Goat. Plans are already underway to make it an even bigger event.

PTA Hosts a Night of Belonging

by The Alhambra Unified School District



The community celebrated creativity and student voice at the Alhambra Council PTA Reflections Awards Ceremony, where AUSD students were honored for their inspiring work centered on this year’s theme, “I Belong!” Congratulations to all of our talented participants and award recipients. (Photo Credit: Emily Liu)

“I Belong!” was the theme of the 2025–2026 Alhambra Council PTA (ACPTA) Reflections program. The theme explores belonging and identity, with over 300,000 students ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade submitting entries across six categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

On the evening of January 16th, forty-five students were honored at the Reflections Awards Ceremony at Gallery Nucleus, where their stunning artistic pieces were displayed for attendees to view and admire. Each student was formally recognized for their creativity and efforts, receiving Awards of Excellence, Merit, or Honorable Mention.

Emmelyn Chan, a seventh-grade student from Brightwood School, received an Award of Merit for her photography piece, Stillness, I Belong, focused on daruma

dolls. “One of them had a really unique color on its face compared to the others that had white faces, showing that the darumas all belonged even though some may be different or scratched,” Chan said of her piece. Just like the daruma doll in the photo, Chan feels a sense of belonging when she is with the people who make her happiest.

Clara Lam, a seventh-grade student from Martha Baldwin School, also received an Award of Merit for her literary piece titled “Where I Belong,” centered on nature. “The forest is really calming, pretty, and I’m in scouting,” Lam shared, explaining why she chose nature as her topic. Lam’s personal connection to nature has grown through her time in Scouting America, and the comfort of the forest became her inspiration.

Beyond acknowledging the students’ efforts and art pieces, it is also important

Workshops Offer Family Support for AUSD TK and Kindergarteners

by The Alhambra Unified School District

Little Learners,
Big Beginnings:
A Family Welcome Workshop

Presented by
Alhambra Unified School District
Student Support Services

Is your child starting TK or Kindergarten soon?
Do you have questions like...

- What should we know before the first day?
- What if my child cries at drop-off?
- How important is attendance?
- How can I help my child feel confident?

This is a family-centered workshop designed to help you feel confident and supported as your child begins school.

Northrup Elementary

409 S Atlantic Blvd, Alhambra, CA 91801

May 5, 2026 5PM

May 14, 2026 8:30AM

Granada Elementary

100 S Granada Ave,
Alhambra, CA 91801

May 6, 2026 8:30AM & 5PM

Ynez Elementary

120 S Ynez Ave,
Monterey Park, CA 91754

May 7, 2026 8:30AM & 5PM

Reserve Your Spot

Questions? Contact Dr. Wendy Molina-Solis
Director of MTSS 626-943-3481

Childcare provided at
all workshops!



These workshops offer a welcoming space for families to learn, ask questions, and take the first steps together toward a successful start to school. Please refer to the accompanying image for exact dates, times, and locations.

Families whose children will begin Transitional Kindergarten (TK) or Kindergarten in August are invited to attend “Little Learners, Big Beginnings: A Family Workshop,” a series of family-centered sessions hosted by the Alhambra Unified School District’s Student Support Services team.

The counselor-led workshops are designed to help families feel confident and supported as their children begin their school journey. During the sessions, families can learn what to expect on the first day of school, how to support their child through the transition, and why regular attendance plays an important role in early learning. Parents and guardians will also have the opportunity to

ask questions and connect with district staff. Workshops will be held at three elementary school campuses across the district: Northrup Elementary School, Granada Elementary School, and Ynez Elementary School, but information will apply to families at all AUSD sites. Sessions are offered at both 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to accommodate family schedules, and childcare will be provided at all workshops. Families interested in attending one of the workshops on May 5th, 6th, 7th, or 14th are encouraged to reserve a spot in advance. For more information or to register, contact Dr. Wendy Molina-Solis, Director of MTSS, at 626-943-3481.

to note that two Award of Excellence recipients from the First District judging will advance to the California State PTA Reflections Judging. Alhambra High School student Emmett Lee and Repetto School student Ronan Dutcher earned this distinction. The district extends its warmest congratulations to both and looks forward to seeing how they do in the next round. Emmett Lee created a film that serves as an allegory for identity, race, and gender. The film’s main character has gray skin to represent the isolation of being different, standing out because they lacked what the colorful world around them had. “Everyone belongs in this world,” Lee stated when

explaining his work. He also encourages other students to enter their own pieces in the future, saying, “Go for it,” no matter what art form they may wish to submit. As the evening came to a close, the 2025–2026 Reflections Chairperson, Mrs. Mia Ibranan, shared her final thoughts. “I think all too many times that, as children, they don’t get that credit for their profoundness. They have big ideas and they see things just like we do. It’s all very inspiring to see it all on display tonight,” she said. Mrs. Ibranan encouraged families and children to keep making art and to carry the messages behind each piece in their hearts, noting that art is in every corner of the world.

AHS Senior Nathaniel Hernandez Named Boys and Girls Club “Youth of the Year”

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Alhambra High School senior Nathaniel Hernandez was interviewed by KABC-TV moments after being named the 2026 Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of West San Gabriel Valley and Eastside. Hernandez has been a member of the club since 2016 and will go on to represent the organization at the Los Angeles County Youth of the Year competition.

Alhambra High School senior Nathaniel Hernandez has been named the 2026 Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of West San Gabriel Valley and Eastside, earning the organization’s highest honor along with a \$5,000 scholarship. The Youth of the Year recognition is the most prestigious award presented by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, celebrating young people who demonstrate outstanding leadership, service, academic achievement, and a commitment to making a positive difference in their communities. For Nathaniel, who has been a club member since 2016, the recognition reflects years of personal growth and connection at the club. “To me, being the Youth of the Year has always been about being the spark for my generation,” Hernandez said in an interview

following the announcement. “Boys and Girls Club has always been family. I’ve been greeted by amazing people who have taught me to be the person I am today.” Nathaniel will now represent the West San Gabriel Valley and Eastside clubs at the Los Angeles County Youth of the Year competition, continuing his mission to encourage others to spread kindness and support their communities. He will, hopefully, continue to progress through the national level of the competition. Two other outstanding students were also recognized during the event. Carla Alvarez and Maya Valenzuela were named runners-up and each received \$2,500 scholarships, while all 16 Youth of the Year candidates were surprised with \$500 scholarships in recognition of their achievements.

Keppel Coders Close Four Year Streak with Third Place Finish

by The Alhambra Unified School District



That’s a wrap! After four consecutive years finishing in the Top 10, Drexel Ngo, Athicha Chanpradub, Alina Ramos, and Evan Lau announced that this would be their final year competing in the Congressional App Challenge.

“I Belong!” was the theme of the 2025–2026 Alhambra Council PTA (ACPTA) Reflections program. The theme explores belonging and identity, with over 300,000 students ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade submitting entries across six categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. On the evening of January 16th, forty-five students were honored at the Reflections Awards Ceremony at Gallery Nucleus, where their stunning artistic pieces were displayed for attendees to view and admire.

Each student was formally recognized for their creativity and efforts, receiving Awards of Excellence, Merit, or Honorable Mention. Emmelyn Chan, a seventh-grade student from Brightwood School, received an Award of Merit for her photography piece, Stillness, I Belong, focused on daruma dolls. “One of them had a really unique color on its face compared to the others that had white faces, showing that the darumas all belonged even though some may be different or scratched,” Chan said of her piece. Just like the

San Gabriel High Students Leave Their Mark with New Campus Murals

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Student artists proudly stand with the two murals unveiled at San Gabriel High School’s Open House. Created by Team Da Vinkis and Team Spidey after months of collaboration, the murals celebrate Matador pride and the growth, determination, and creativity of SGHS students.

Visitors to San Gabriel High School’s recent Open House were welcomed by two newly unveiled student-created murals, the result of months of dedication and collaboration by SGHS students. The projects showcased the creativity of student artists while adding new artwork for the school community to enjoy. Ten students worked in two teams of five to design and complete their own murals: “Team Da Vinkis” and “Team Spidey.” Team Da Vinkis created their piece in front of the school’s administrative office, while Team Spidey completed their mural next to the SGHS College and Career Center. Team Da Vinkis set out to celebrate the growth and development of SGHS students throughout their high school years. Their mural depicts a younger version of a Matador on the left side and an older version on the right, symbolizing the journey students take during their time at SGHS. Team Spidey created a mural titled La Matadora, featuring a Matador and a bull engaged in bullfighting. The imagery represents the determination and strength of SGHS students as they face challenges and pursue their goals.

Ky Ma, a sophomore at SGHS and a member of Team Da Vinkis, reflected on her experience working on the project with her teammates. “The longer I looked at it, the more imperfections I saw with our mural, but I still loved it because it embodied all the memories I made along the way,” Ma said as she enthusiastically recalled the process. “I love my teammates and all the moments we shared! It was the best year of high school ever!” As both teams presented their murals during the unveiling, attendees applauded the students’ work and expressed appreciation for the teachers and staff who helped make the project possible. Now permanently displayed, the murals stand as colorful symbols of student creativity and Matador pride.






2026 ROTARY MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS

<p>Carmen Arreola, Ynez Vickie Chien, Northrup Christina Diaz, MKHS Stephanie Dunne, Moor Field Cynthia Hutchins, Brightwood Katey Huynh, Moor Field Tam Lai, Baldwin Cuong (Paul) Lam, MKHS Francine Lam, Brightwood Melisa Lee, Brightwood Kathleen McKay, LIFT</p>	<p>Tiffany Ng, Ynez Amy Ngo, AHS Michelle Pena, AHS Jamie Pitts, Moor Field Margarita Ramos, Ynez Yuki Tai, Northrup Judy Wong, Emery Park Phillip Wong, AHS Selina Woo, Repetto Stephanie Yoon, Mty Highlands</p>
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\$3,987 AWARDED THIS YEAR

THANK YOU TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF
ALHAMBRA AND MONTEREY PARK!
(TOTAL DONATION: \$250,554 OVER 35 YEARS)

Emmaus Lutheran School Varsity Boys Crowned League Champions

by Emmaus Lutheran School



The Emmaus Lutheran School Varsity Boys Basketball Team has officially earned the title of League Champions, finishing an extraordinary undefeated season and showcasing what it truly means to compete with excellence, integrity, and heart.

After a dominant regular season, the Comets advanced to the League Championship Game on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, where they secured the championship title and completed their perfect season.

Their success didn't stop there. The team went on to compete in the 2026 California Lutheran Schools State Basketball Tournament on February 28, where they finished an impressive 3rd place in the state! Seventh grader John Harney was also honored by being selected to the All-Tournament Team, an award recognizing the top players who demonstrated outstanding skill, leadership, and performance

throughout the tournament. The varsity girls' team had a similarly strong showing at the State Tournament, finishing 4th place overall. Seventh grader Miley Chan was selected to the All-Tournament Team, recognizing her excellent play and contribution to the team's success during the tournament. Excellence On and Off the Court While their athletic performance has been thrilling to watch, what truly sets this group apart is who they are beyond basketball. Many of these student-athletes are members of the Principal's List or Honor Roll, and several participate in band, student government, drama, and other school activities. Their commitment to excellence extends far beyond the hardwood floor.

One of their 8th-grade teachers shared: "These boys are not only amazing athletes — watching their speed and agility on the court is incredible — but they are also

some of the sweetest, hardest-working students I've had the pleasure to teach. They are intelligent, disciplined, and kind — qualities you don't always find in junior high students. It has been such a joy to see them succeed."

A School Where Students Thrive For many families, Emmaus has been a place of growth for years. One Emmaus parent shared:

"What I love about Emmaus is that through the years — my son has been here since preschool — Emmaus has provided a safe and loving place for him to grow not only academically, but also through sports and school activities. He has had opportunities to try new things, build confidence, and become a well-rounded young man. He loves school, and I love that he loves it." Emmaus Lutheran School has been voted Favorite Preschool, Favorite Elementary School, and Favorite Middle School by the San Gabriel News Group — and accomplishments like this championship season show why.



EMMAUS COMETS
2026 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
VARSITY BOYS 2026

Principal Cynthia Spiva added: "Our small class sizes and family-like environment allow us to truly meet the needs of each student. God has richly blessed us here at Emmaus, and we love sharing His love with our students and their families. Emmaus is a wonderful place for students to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and physically."

More Than a Championship The varsity boys' undefeated season is certainly something to celebrate — but even more meaningful is the character, teamwork, and faith they demonstrate every day.

Congratulations to these League Champion Comets. The school, family members, friends, and community are incredibly proud of each team member. For more information about Emmaus Lutheran school, visit www.EmmausAlhambra.org or call (626) 289-3664. Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is now open.

Summer Learning and Fun Bloom at Ramona Convent

by Veronica Fernandez



Ramona Convent Secondary School is excited to welcome students to its co-ed Summer Programs on its beautiful 19+ acre campus in Alhambra. This year's Summer Camp, open to students in grades K-5, offers days filled with laughter, dancing, exploring, painting, reading, and creative play. Summer School, designed for students in grades 5-12, provides engaging academic enrichment in a

supportive and inspiring environment. Throughout the summer, students will learn, create, and build lasting friendships while enjoying the vibrant campus experience that Ramona Convent offers.

Registration opened in March and space is limited, so early enrollment is encouraged. Learn more or enroll at ramonaconvent.org.

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CONVENT SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

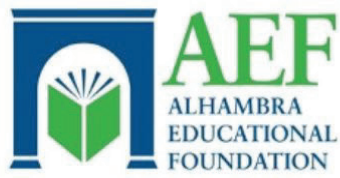


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To learn more, visit ramonaconvent.org
1701 West Ramona Road | Alhambra, CA 91803 | (626)282-4151



2026 SUMMER SCHOOL

REGISTER NOW

K-8 Summer ACADEMY

June 8 - July 17, 2026

6 Weeks

K-8 Summer Academy
Incoming Grades: K-8th

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Enrichment Classes

Math • Reading • Writing • Science •
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Location:

MARGUERITA SCHOOL

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Incoming 4th - 8th

Location:

MARK KEPPEL HIGH SCHOOL

K-3 AFTERNOON

DAY CAMP

till 5:30 pm

Location: **MARGUERITA SCHOOL**

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5 Weeks

**WASC Accredited &
NCAA Approved**

Summer High School
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Earn High School Credits

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Offering Courses in:

- Math • Science •
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HS Catalog Link

**Updates posted at
www.aef4kids.com**

AEF Congratulates all three of our High School Academic Decathlon Teams!



Alhambra High School



Mark Keppel High School



San Gabriel High School

Congratulations to the 2026 Academic Decathlon teams from all three high schools in the Alhambra Unified School District who will be advancing to the California Academic Decathlon! Their achievements reflect countless hours of preparation and a commitment to excellence that extends beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of our decathletes!



The Garfield Center at 320-330 S Garfield: In the Center of It All

by William Henderson



At the corner of Garfield and Commonwealth, The Garfield Center exemplifies the thriving business environment of Alhambra and what draws so many diverse businesses to expand or open right in the heart of Alhambra. Built in 1988, this medical/office condominium hosts a variety of stores and services throughout its three stories. Similar to many other bustling areas in Alhambra, parking is in abundance, with 256 spaces of parking available for the building.

With three major hospitals nearby, smaller medical companies at the building attract increased clientele and thrive. This is what makes Alhambra so appealing to first-time entrepreneurs and growing businesses: being in the center of it all. Alhambra's walkable and busy commercial areas have attracted a variety of new businesses lately, notably a new Mama Lu's location in the former Wahib's-turned-Jiang-Nan-Spring and a UFC gym in the former LA Fitness location. "The City of Alhambra is incredibly proactive for new businesses and driving progress.

They have moved quickly with business permits, cleared boundaries for new businesses opening, and consistently been incredibly easy to work with" shared Michael Chang, the realtor and manager representing the building. "There's also been an influx of high quality businesses coming to the city lately, largely due to its

strategic location as it's just north of the I-10 freeway, east of LA, and right next to Pasadena." Existing businesses at this office condo have shown repeated past success in Alhambra. Beverly Hills Orthodontics, Chinatown Service Center, UCLA, and Garfield Health Center Medical Group all operate in the medical scene, while nearby stores and the proximity to restaurants on Main Street show potential for a cafe.

This building converted to commercial Condos in early 2025 while retaining its existing tenants, of which over 50% have been at for over 10 years. "It's a commonly used slogan, but it truly is the gateway into San Gabriel Valley," said Chang.

"It's both affordable and the community here make it perfect for businesses wanting to open up a new spot. The demographics make it especially attractive to retailers and medical businesses, and at 320-330 S Garfield specifically, we're seeing 30,000+ cars passing by daily as it is located right next to Downtown Alhambra." The opportunity to own a property in the heart of Alhambra doesn't come along often, and this time, it comes with the parking needed to help a business thrive. We can't wait to see what opens up next. For more information on this location, view the article at aroundalhambra.org.

Revisiting the Legacy of the 710 Freeway

by Cynthia Harbott

Stretching from the Port of Long Beach northbound before abruptly ending in Alhambra, the 710 Freeway serves as a critical artery for commuters and freight traffic across the Los Angeles region. A vestige of the Eisenhower-era Interstate Highway System, the 23-mile stretch stands as a testament to one of California's longest running infrastructure battles – a legal and political standoff that continues to shape transportation in the San Gabriel Valley.

At a recent event hosted by the Alhambra Historical Society, engineer Dr. Ron Sahu traced the lesser known history surrounding the freeway, explaining that understanding the evolution of Los Angeles itself is essential to understanding the development of the 710.

Sahu began with the region's early relationship to trade and geography, recounting how Spanish explorers first surveyed the Los Angeles coastline in search of viable harbors. By the 19th century, westward expansion and the rise of the railroad connected California to larger markets, helping cement the Port of Los Angeles as a cornerstone of the state's growing economy.

The arrival of the automobile in the early 20th century forever transformed the region. LA quickly became one of the nation's first car-dominated cities in the United States. The momentum accelerated

during President Dwight D Eisenhower's administration with the creation of the Interstate Highway System – a nationwide effort to link ports, cities, and major freight corridors. Interstate 710 was a product of that vision as a key north-south route designed to move products and commuters between the harbor and inland communities.

The freeway reached Alhambra by 1965, but plans to extend it into Pasadena were halted by the cumulative efforts of grassroots campaigns, as residents raised concerns about rising air pollution, historic preservation, and the irreversible changes the highway would have on the city's neighborhoods. Among the most prominent advocacy groups were the "710 Freeway Fighters" in South Pasadena, who mobilized against the potential demolition of homes and historic landmarks. Their sustained campaign to preserve the city ultimately became a decisive influence in the fate of the 710.

While the 710 ended in Alhambra, the search for practical traffic solutions continued. A new project known as the SB 710 Terminus Task Force is undertaking the responsibility of determining the future of the corridor – complicated in part by a 1950s boundary agreement that placed the Caltrans-owned land entirely within Alhambra's city limits.

The freeway's origins are less well known

Alhambra Chamber to Host Business Opportunity Forum on April 9



華埠服務中心
Chinatown Service Center

Businesses looking to open a new location or expand are invited to attend the upcoming Alhambra Business Opportunity Forum on April 9 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Hosted at the Chinatown Service Center PACE Center, located at 762 E Main St, Suite A, Alhambra, CA 91801, this forum will bring together key local partners in the city to provide every resource needed to open a new location here.

This event is co-hosted by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Alhambra Business Association, the City

of Alhambra, and the Chinatown Service Center. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect directly with the organizations that offer valuable resources, guidance, and support for moving commercially to Alhambra.

For businesses just getting started or opening new locations, this forum is the best way to get involved with community partners and learn how and where to open your next location in Alhambra, the gateway to the San Gabriel Valley.

than its controversies. Planning began in 1933, funded entirely by the City of Long Beach, which wanted a freight route connecting the port to LA's car manufacturing plants in Vernon and Maywood. The flow of goods eventually reversed, and Long Beach became an import port instead – but opposition to the freeway's extension had already begun, with the first resolution against it filed as early as 1947.

The legal battle was waged chiefly by South Pasadena, using three laws as instruments: the National Historic Preservation Act (1966), the National Environmental Policy Act (1970), and the California Environmental Quality Act (1970). A federal district court judge ultimately issued an injunction blocking Caltrans from proceeding. Alhambra, by contrast, did not mount an equivalent legal response.

A tunnel compromise was floated but collapsed under its own costs, which would have required tolls that diverted truck traffic onto the 210 – drawing new opponents into the fight. By 2012, even the City of Los Angeles, which had previously sued to complete the freeway, voted to oppose it. In 2017 the California Transportation Commission formally relinquished the upper corridor, and Senate Bill 710 removed the gap from any future completion plan.

When the tunnel funds were redistributed, Alhambra received \$141 million through Measure R.

The human cost of the unfinished freeway also surfaced during the Q&A. One audience member, who said she lives on Short Street near the terminus, observed that the families most affected by the traffic spilling off the freeway onto surface streets are predominantly Latino and immigrants. For Historical Society's Vice President, Chris Olson, events such as this serve as an opportunity to foster public engagement. "I've learned so much," she remarked. "And this was instructive for me. This is a really great place for civic engagement to begin – with information."





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

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

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

The Ghosts of Alhambra's Railroads

by Gary Frueholz, Engel & Volkers Real Estate

Alhambra draws much of its history and personality from having a railroad previously running through it. Prior to being placed into the "trench" along Mission Road in the 1970's, the Southern Pacific railroad line ran at grade next to Mission and served one of the largest petro chemical equipment manufacturers in the world, the C. F. Braun Corporation at Fremont Avenue and Mission Road. The Alhambra Foundry further west on Mission had rail sidings leading into it, where it poured molten metal into items such as manhole covers that can now be seen throughout all of California. This railroad created an industrial hub in the southwest section of Alhambra that was pivotal in establishing jobs and tax revenue for our city.

The rail line in Alhambra was the second transcontinental route ever completed in the United States. It ran from Los Angeles to Texas and then to New Orleans in Louisiana and was completed on January 12, 1883, with its golden spike being driven in at Langtry, Texas. The route was completed by the "Big Four", (Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins, and Charles Crocker), who constructed the initial transcontinental route in the central part of the United States in 1869. Later, this route became known as the Sunset Route, in honor of the crack Southern Pacific passenger train, the Sunset Limited.

During this time, prominent passenger trains would often have their own magazines, with the Sunset Limited's magazine, Sunset Magazine, long outliving the train itself. The train itself was gorgeous, with passenger cars painted red, orange, and

black to represent the colors of a sunset, creating an impressive atmosphere of a hotel on wheels. Southern Pacific's railroad station at Mission Road and Palm Avenue was a popular destination and embarking site for passengers who sought to avoid the congestion of Los Angeles. These, however, were not the only railroad tracks running through Alhambra. Alhambra's major streets such as Huntington Drive, Main Street, and Ramona Road had Pacific Electric Red Cars running along them, creating an extremely efficient means of mass transit for the city and attested to the strategic location of Alhambra. Although these tracks, along with the Pacific Electric and Southern Pacific, are now long gone, evidence of the city's railroad past is still with us, and the ghosts of Alhambra's railroads can be seen to this day. Huntington Drive is a lovely, wide thoroughfare at Alhambra's northern boundary with San Marino, thanks largely to its wide median, displaying lovely trees and green grass that have made it a favorite with joggers. Previously, that center median contained four Pacific Electric standard gauge tracks (four feet, eight and one half inches) which ran to downtown Los Angeles. Tracks from this line branched up Fair Oaks Avenue and Oak Knoll Avenue at junctions to Pasadena. The Oak Knoll Junction ran to the base of the mountains and connected to what was referred to as Southern California's "Eighth Wonder of the World", the Mount Low Railway. Stops were made at the cross streets of Marengo Avenue, Marguerita Avenue, Fletcher Avenue, Garfield Avenue, and Almansor Street.

The Pacific Electric was the largest electric railway system in the world in the 1920's and the brainchild of Henry Huntington, the nephew of Collis P. Huntington.

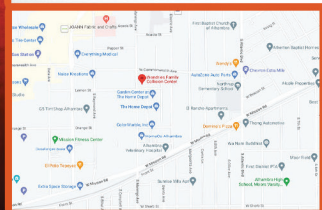
Today, the ghosts of Alhambra's railroads can be seen at Story Park. Have you ever wondered why Story Park is neatly divided by Woodward Avenue into two sections that slope down to the Alhambra Wash? Where Woodward Avenue now resides, there once was a Southern Pacific Railroad trestle. The trestle was part of the Southern Pacific Duarte Branch line that served orange groves, Azusa gravel pits, and passengers. As the trestle grew older, the railroad filled in dirt below it to provide support as a cheaper alternative to rebuilding the bridge, although the remnants of the trestle can still be seen. On the dirt path from Woodward Avenue down to the tennis courts at Story Park there is a row of wood columns that belonged to the trestle and that are still visible. These ghosts of the old trestle are cut off and extend approximately twelve inches above ground.

More ghosts of Alhambra's railroad history can be found near Alhambra Park. In the late 1800's, Alhambra had an incredible winery, known as The San Gabriel Winery. This winery covered more than 800 acres between Alhambra Road and Mission Road and was considered the largest winery in the entirety of California. The winery also had a rail line that served it from the Southern Pacific line along Mission Road in Alhambra and from Pasadena. Rails from this line can still be seen poking through the asphalt at the intersection of Raymond Avenue and Vine Street.

Alhambra's impressive past can be viewed through the ghosts of its railroad history. If you know where to look, you can still see some of these ghosts.



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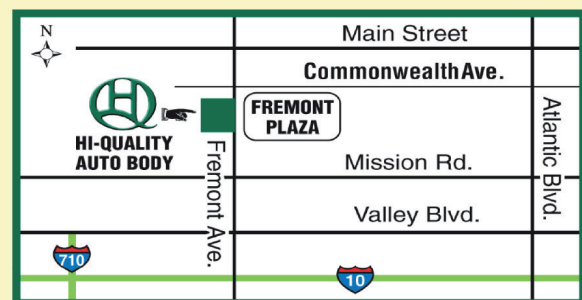
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What are the 3 Medicare Enrollment Periods?

by Katherine Yu Simms

Medicare enrollment periods are categorized into three groups: initial, special, and general. These are specific time frames during which you can enroll in Medicare under certain circumstances, such as delaying enrollment if you continue working past age 65. As such, you may qualify for more than one at different times in your life. You won't need to take advantage of any of the enrollment periods if you're receiving Social Security benefits at least four months before you turn 65, in which case you'll be signed up automatically for Medicare. Your enrollment is effective at the beginning of your birthday month or the start of the previous month if your birthday is on the first. You should receive your Medicare card in the mail three months before your coverage starts.

Initial enrollment period (IEP)

Unless you qualify for Medicare early because of a disability, the first time you're eligible to enroll is during the seven-month initial enrollment period that starts three months before the month you turn 65 and ends three months after your birthday month. If your birthday is on the first of the month, your initial enrollment period is shifted one month earlier.

Special enrollment period (SEP)

You have an extra opportunity to enroll in Part B after age 65 without a late enrollment penalty if you qualify for a special enrollment period. The most common reason for a SEP is if you or your spouse is still working and has health insurance from that employer. You can enroll in Medicare at any time while you have that coverage and up to eight months after your employment or coverage ends, whichever comes first.

General enrollment period

If you didn't sign up for Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period and you don't qualify for a special enrollment period, your next chance is during the general enrollment period. You can also enroll at this time if you missed your IEP and you don't qualify for premium-free Part A.

The general enrollment period runs January 1 to March 31 each year. Your coverage begins the first of the month after you sign up, but you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty. 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.

Preventing Slips and Falls: Protecting the Seniors We Love

by Julia Saenz

Two and half years ago, my father had a stroke. We were lucky because he survived and although he lost some strength on his left side, he can do all his daily activities. His doctor recommended that he no longer drive, and as a family, we decided that he would move in with me and my husband. He now occupies the room that our daughter left behind when she went to college.

Like several people we know we are the sandwich generation, taking care of both our parents and our children.

We love having our dad near us. We help sort his 15 daily pills, manage his medical appointments, and make sure he has his meals and social activities. We've been advised by his doctors to take him into the ER, if he falls, since he takes a blood thinner. We do our best to help prevent falls, like by ensuring good housekeeping so that there aren't items on the floor and



by Mary Claire Kitayama from Allied Pacific IPA

Aging is a natural part of life — and it can be a healthy, vibrant stage with the right habits and care. The good news is that you don't need to make huge changes to feel a difference. Even small steps can lead to big improvements in your health, energy, and quality of life.

Move a Little More

Regular movement helps maintain strength, balance, and flexibility, important for staying independent. You don't need gym membership to get started. Try short daily walks, gentle stretches in the morning, or light weight exercises at home to keep muscles strong and joints flexible.

Eat for Energy

As you get older, your body need nutritious foods to support bone health, immunity, and digestion. Choose colorful fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains. Drink plenty of water. Cutting back on processed foods and sugary drinks can help manage weight, blood sugar, and your energy.

Stay Social

Spending time with others is just as important for health as diet and exercise. Join a local group, take a class, volunteer, or make time to meet friends. Staying connected can lift your mood, sharpen your mind, and even reduce your risk of certain health problems.

See Your Doctor Regularly

One of the most powerful steps you can take is scheduling regular check-ups, even when you feel fine. These visits help your doctor track changes in your health, manage chronic conditions, and answer your questions.

Prevention Starts With Screenings

Screenings can find health issues early, when they are easier to treat. For many older adults, these may include:

- Blood pressure and cholesterol checks
- Diabetes testing
- Cancer screenings (such as colonoscopy or mammogram)
- Vision and hearing exams
- Bone density testing
- Seasonal flu shots and other recommended vaccines

Medicare and most insurance plans cover many of these services. Ask your doctor which screenings are right for you based on your age, health history, and family history.

Healthy Aging is a Team Effort

Taking small, consistent steps in your daily routine, combined with regular visits to your doctor, can keep you feeling strong, active, and engaged in life. Healthy aging is not just about adding years to your life — it's about adding life to your years.

Why Fall Prevention Matters

Falls are the leading cause of injury among adults aged 65 and older. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in four older adults falls each year, yet less than half tell their doctor about it (CDC, 2024). Falls result in over 3 million emergency department visits annually and more than 1 million hospitalizations among older adults (CDC, 2024).

Even more concerning, falls are the leading cause of traumatic brain injuries in seniors. For individuals taking blood thinners—like my father—a fall can quickly become life-threatening because of the risk of internal bleeding (National Institute on Aging [NIA], 2023).

Beyond physical injuries, falls often create a fear of falling again. This fear can cause seniors to limit their activities, which leads to reduced strength, loss of balance, and increased fall risk—a dangerous cycle (NIA, 2023).

Common Causes of Falls

Falls typically happen due to a combination of risk factors. These include:

- Muscle weakness and balance problems
- Side effects from medications (especially sedatives, blood pressure medications, or blood thinners)
- Vision problems
- Foot pain or improper footwear
- Home hazards such as loose rugs, poor lighting, and clutter (CDC, 2024)

For stroke survivors like my father, even mild weakness on one side can increase instability and fall risk.

Practical Steps to Prevent Falls at Home

Many falls are preventable, and small changes can make a big difference.

1. Improve Home Safety

Simple home modifications are among the most effective prevention strategies:

- Keep walkways clear of clutter and cords

- Remove loose throw rugs or secure them with non-slip backing
- Install grab bars in bathrooms near toilets and inside showers
- Use non-slip mats in bathtubs and showers
- Ensure adequate lighting throughout the home, especially in hallways and staircases
- Install handrails on both sides of stairways

The CDC reports that reducing home hazards significantly lowers fall risk (CDC, 2024).

2. Review Medications

Some medications increase dizziness or drowsiness. A regular medication review with a healthcare provider can identify drugs that may increase fall risk or interact with one another (NIA, 2023). For seniors taking blood thinners, prevention is especially critical because even minor falls can result in serious bleeding.

3. Encourage Strength and Balance Exercises

Exercise programs that focus on balance and muscle strengthening—such as Tai Chi—have been shown to reduce falls (CDC, 2024). Even light daily activity helps maintain mobility and independence.

The Emotional Side of Prevention

Fall prevention is not just about safety—it's about preserving dignity and independence. As caregivers, we want our parents to remain active and confident. For our family, prevention is part of daily life. Clearing pathways, organizing medications, attending doctor appointments, and staying vigilant are all acts of love. While we cannot eliminate every risk, we can significantly reduce the chances of a life-changing accident.

Caring for aging parents is a privilege. By making fall prevention a priority, we protect their health, independence and quality of life.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Important facts about falls. <https://www.cdc.gov/falls>

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What You Need to Remember

Crowded or misaligned teeth can lead to uneven pressure, enamel wear, and eventually tooth sensitivity.

The most effective long-term solution is to correct the alignment and bite while repairing any teeth that have already been affected.

Can Malocclusion Cause Tooth Sensitivity?

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



Yes, crowded or misaligned teeth can cause tooth sensitivity. They can also lead to more serious dental problems if not addressed.

How Crowded or Misaligned Teeth Cause Sensitivity

When teeth are crowded or the bite is uneven (a condition called malocclusion), the forces from chewing are not distributed evenly across the teeth. This can cause several issues:

- 1. Premature enamel wear**
Some teeth receive more pressure than others. Over time, this wears down the protective enamel layer. Once the enamel thins, the inner layer of the tooth (dentin) is exposed, leading to dentin hypersensitivity.
- 2. Gum Recessions**
Misaligned or crowded teeth can place excess pressure on certain teeth and surrounding gums. Over time, this stress, combined with plaque buildup in crowded areas, can cause the gum tissue to pull away from the teeth. This exposes the tooth roots, which can result in tooth sensitivity and further gum and bone loss.
- 3. Harder to Clean Crowded Areas**
Crowded teeth trap plaque and food particles more easily. This increases the risk of cavities and gum recession, both of which can also cause sensitivity.

4. Increased Risk of Grinding Damage
People with uneven bites often develop bruxism, where they clench or grind their teeth, especially at night. Grinding accelerates enamel wear and can make teeth very sensitive.

5. Buccal Abfraction
This is a type of tooth damage that appears as a small wedge-shaped notch near the gumline on the cheek (buccal) side of the tooth.



It is thought to occur when excess biting forces or an uneven bite cause the tooth to flex slightly, leading to loss of enamel and dentin at the cervical area (near the gum). This can cause tooth sensitivity and enamel wear.

What Happens If the Problem Is Not Treated If misalignment continues for years, it can lead to:

- increased tooth sensitivity
- flattened or chipped teeth
- cracked enamel
- gum recession
- jaw pain or headaches
- problems with the jaw joint (TMJ)

Eventually, some teeth may require crowns, root canals, or other restorative treatments. Solutions. The good news is that these problems can be corrected. The sooner, the better.

1. Orthodontic Treatment
Straightening the teeth and correcting the bite is often the most effective solution. Treatments include braces or clear aligners such as Invisalign. Proper alignment distributes bite forces evenly and reduces abnormal wear. Teeth that have a balanced bite last longer.

2. Night Guards
If grinding is contributing to the wear, dentists often recommend a custom night guard to protect the teeth during sleep.

3. Sensitivity Treatments
To manage symptoms, dentists may recommend:

- desensitizing toothpaste
- fluoride treatments
- dental bonding to cover exposed dentin
- laser desensitizing treatment

4. Restorative Repair (if wear is advanced)
In cases where teeth are already worn, dentists may use bonding, veneers, or crowns to rebuild the damaged areas and restore the bite. In some situations with nerve exposure, a root canal is necessary before the crown restoration.



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