

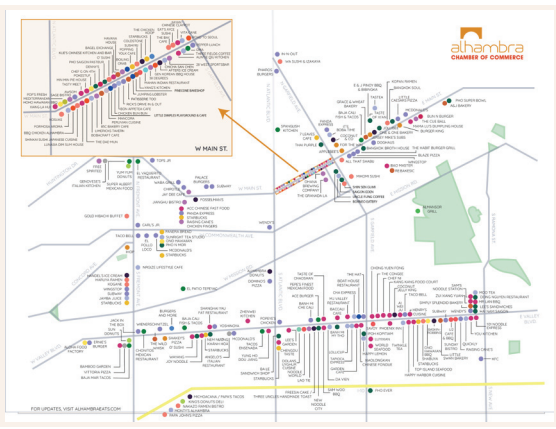
AROUND ALHAMBRA

alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



2026 FOOD EDITION | GATEWAY TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

aroundalhambra.org



INSIDE: Every Restaurant In Alhambra!

Student Leaders Take Oaths of Office for 2026-2027

by The Alhambra Unified School District

Two Alhambra Unified School District students formally began their new leadership roles during the August 25th Board of Education meeting, where Angelina Yip was sworn in as Student Board Member and Kevin Tang took the Oath of Office as Student Board Member Alternate. The oaths were administered by longtime Board Member Bob Gin, marking the official start of Angelina and Kevin's service for this school year.

Angelina, a senior at Mark Keppel High School, will serve as the student representative on the Board of Education, providing a student perspective during Board meetings and on issues affecting AUSD students and schools. Kevin, a senior at San Gabriel High School, will serve as the alternate and assume the Student Board Member role when Angelina is unable to participate.

Both students are serving for their fourth year as members of the district's Student Advisory Council. Angelina previously served as Student Board Member Alternate, making her new position a continuation of her involvement in student leadership.

The board meeting also provided an opportunity to publicly introduce the 2026-2027 Student Advisory Council, a group of 12 students representing AUSD high schools. Throughout the school year, SAC members will gather student perspectives, discuss issues affecting their peers, and share those ideas with district leadership.

Following the Board meeting, the district hosted a reception honoring the student leaders. Family members, friends, district leaders, elected officials, community members, and other supporters attended the celebration.

The evening recognized not only the students beginning their official roles, but also the broader role of student leadership in the district. Through the Student Board Member position and Student Advisory Council, AUSD students have opportunities to bring their experiences and perspectives directly into conversations about their schools and the district.

Angelina, Kevin, and the members of the Student Advisory Council will serve throughout the 2026-27 school year. Video of the Oaths of Office is available here: YouTube.com/@alhambrausd.



MKHS senior Angelina Yip (center) takes her seat at the dais as AUSD's 2026-27 Student Board Member. To the left is SGHS senior Kevin Tang, the district's Student Board Member Alternate, who also took his Oath of Office on August 25th. Rounding out the trio is AHS senior Leslie Chu (right). Like Angelina and Kevin, Leslie was also first elected to Student Advisory Council during her freshman year and has served on SAC for all four years of high school. (Photo Credit: Grant Sapcharoenlert, AUSD Media Assistant)



An Alhambra Foodie's Guide to the Perfect Outing

by William Henderson

As an Alhambra resident and self-proclaimed foodie, I want go-to food destinations for every occasion, especially when friends or family visit. I pride myself on matching my visitors' tastes to the restaurants, including when bringing food in, and often my meals are so well received that we want to spend time in Alhambra afterward. I've compiled a list below of my favorite places to take friends or family who want to explore Alhambra's diverse food scene for the first time, and for some, where to take them after to continue the fun.

• **Family Dinner:** Henry's Cuisine specializes in signature shareable Chinese dishes, like their spicy salt and pepper fried pork chop or their Vietnamese-style filet mignon. They're also famous for their garlic lobster and Alaskan king crab, which are definitely big enough to share. If it's your first time going, I recommend getting a couple of meat dishes, a veggie dish (I like their string beans with minced pork stir-fry), a soup dish, and something that you've never seen before. I get adventurous on menus like these and Henry's has never let me down. Afterward, if you still have an appetite, take the family to Handel's for dessert, where the four-scoop sampler offers enough to go around.

• **Date Night:** Sichuan Impression is known for their authentic dishes cooked with the famous numbing Sichuan peppers, but offers more than just spicy dishes. With a beautiful interior to match the gorgeous dishes that earned them their Michelin Big Gourmand designation, this is a great spot to take a date. I'm a spice lover, and in my opinion, the mapo tofu at Sichuan Impression is some of the best in Alhambra, if not the best. Line up your dinner with one of the art exhibits at Gallery Nucleus for a fun, romantic night out.

• **Movie Discussion:** Already have plans to go see a movie at Alhambra's Regal theater? You won't have much time to talk and get to know each other at the theater. Continue your conversation across the street at Road to Seoul, an all-you-can-eat KBBQ restaurant that's conveniently open until 2AM - perfect if you're getting out late and want some food for thought.

• **Impress Somebody:** Your VIP guest is coming to town, and you want to know what will leave a good impression. You should take them to Lunasia Dim Sum House, another Michelin Bib Gourmand-designated spot. In my opinion, dim sum works best for brunch, paired with good tea and as many different kinds of dumplings, noodles, tarts, rice dishes, veggies, and more that you can fit on the rotating table. After your brunch, head just down the street to Uncle Fung Coffee Stall, a family-owned specialty coffee shop that's become popular for its unique flavors.

• **Budget Lunch Break:** Sometimes you need a good lunch outing by yourself to tide you over until the next friend comes to visit. Looking for lunch that comes quickly and works on a budget? On Atlantic and Valley, Ba Le Sandwich Shop offers great Vietnamese sandwiches for under $10. The banh mi bread has that perfect crunch, and it's packed with veggies and flavorful meats. Grab your sandwich and head to nearby Granada Park to enjoy it outside.

• **Late Night After a Concert:** Out late with friends at a concert and need something filling and delicious? The Hat stays open until 1 AM every night and serves its famous pastrami burgers and chili cheese dogs. If you're going with friends, I also recommend sharing an order of the chili cheese fries.

AROUND ALHAMBRA

Alhambra Chamber of Commerce publishes Around Alhambra in a variety of formats, serving the diverse media preferences of our community members.
AroundAlhambra.org is regularly updated with original news and features, plus additional content from Alhambra businesses, schools, and organizations, as well as sponsored content from our advertisers. Our social media keeps our community up-to-date and engaged.

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We welcome submissions of comments, press releases, and community interest stories, and will make our best efforts to include appropriate content. Content appearing in Around Alhambra does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce or its Board of Directors.

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alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MAYOR'S CORNER



Mayor Adele Andrade-Stadler
City of Alhambra

As the seasons begin to change and Thanksgiving is around the corner, the craving for soups grows.

It was only yesterday that my husband came home from Ernie's on Valley and Cabrillo, holding a very large container of "great" menudo, a spicy hearty tripe soup flavored with an infusion of dried red chili, dried oregano and cumin. Its roots are Mexican and was brought over, becoming a go to soup for winter.

Alhambra is also home to several restaurants serving pho, including Pho Ever at 1 E. Valley Boulevard, Auntie Qui at 16 W. Main Street, and Hengry at 2718 W. Valley Boulevard, a five-star restaurant specializing in Guizhou cuisine. A Vietnamese soup dish consisting of broth, rice noodles, herbs and meat, pho is a staple of Vietnamese cuisine found everywhere from home kitchens and street stalls to restaurants around the world.

The dish is commonly said to have originated in Nam Dinh, though its exact history is debated. Wherever it came from, a good bowl of pho hits the spot.

You don't have to go too far to reach Ipoh Kopitiam, a cafe praised for its authentic Malaysian and Singaporean comfort food. The spices and recipes passed down from generation to generation and made from imported ingredients bring the authentic taste of Laksa soup to Alhambra.

Alhambra's diverse community of restaurants are why we get such incredible variety to choose from. I hope I've inspired some of you to get out there and try some of these wonderful authentic soups from different countries here at our home.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

Ramona Leadership Team Shares Success on National Stage

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Ramona School leaders shared their school's successful practices with educators from across the country during the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C.

After earning recognition as both a California and National School to Watch, Ramona Middle School had another opportunity to shine this summer when members of its leadership team traveled to Washington, D.C. to present at the National Schools to Watch Conference. Principal Dr. Debbie Kotani was joined by instructional coach Denise DiConti, recently-retired assistant principal Shelley Gee-Ryan, and Community Schools instructional specialist Eva Wong for the June 25-27 conference, where educators from across the country gathered to learn from schools demonstrating successful practices for middle grades students.

The Ramona team shared their school's approach to creating a strong learning community, including its schoolwide commitment to project-based learning (PBL). Their presentation offered conference attendees an inside look at how Ramona educators work together to engage students, create meaningful learning experiences, and build a school culture in which students are encouraged to take an active role in their education.

"Being able to share Ramona's story with educators from around the country was an incredible and memorable opportunity," Kotani said. "Our staff has worked hard to build a school culture centered on collaboration, real world applications, student

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Alhambra Formalizes Sister City Relationship with Kirishima, Japan

Alhambra is strengthening its connections around the world with the formalization of its sister city relationship with Kirishima, Japan.

On July 27, Mayor Jeff Maloney hosted a special ceremony in Alhambra to officially sign a sister city agreement with Kirishima, formalizing a friendship between the two communities. Sister city relationships are official partnerships between communities in different countries that encourage cultural, educational, civic, and economic exchanges, creating opportunities for residents and local businesses to build connections across borders. The agreement marks a new opportunity for Alhambra and Kirishima to strengthen their relationship through cultural exchange, economic development, and community engagement.

The official diplomatic visit included tours of local Alhambra businesses, giving the visiting delegation an opportunity to experience the city's diverse business community and learn more about its local economy. The visit also included a special reception attended by city dignitaries and community leaders.

The new relationship adds Japan to Alhambra's growing network of international sister cities, which also includes its friendship cities of Granada, Spain and Tequila, Mexico. These partnerships give Alhambra residents, businesses, students, and community organizations opportunities to connect with communities around the world and share ideas, traditions, and experiences.

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce is working alongside the City of Alhambra to support these international relationships and identify opportunities for local businesses and organizations to participate in future exchanges.

As Alhambra continues to grow as a diverse and internationally connected community, its sister city relationships offer another way to strengthen cultural ties, create economic opportunities, and expand the city's presence on the world stage.



News & Notes: Bite Size News

> Hengry as Restaurant of the Year

At the 2026 Annual President's Awards and Installation Dinner, Hengry 亨记 was named Restaurant of the Year, recognizing the restaurant's high quality and impact on Alhambra. Opened in late 2024, Hengry quickly distinguished itself with traditional Guizhou cuisine rooted in owner Leo Au's family history and a 30-year-old recipe for Miao Sour Soup. What began as a lifelong dream to carry his family's culinary heritage forward has grown into a restaurant that brings the flavors of Leo's hometown of Guiyang to Alhambra. Today, Hengry continues to share that heritage through its food, hospitality, and growing connection with the local community.

> Five Alhambra Restaurants Make Michelin Guide

To little surprise, Alhambra has once again earned its spot on the Michelin Guide. In 2026, five Alhambra restaurants were named: Lunasia Dim Sum House - Bib Gourmand, Chengdu Taste - Bib Gourmand, Sichuan Impression - Bib Gourmand, Ipoh Kopitiam - Bib Gourmand, Henry's Cuisine - MICHELIN Guide selection.

> A Satay Street Fest Coming Soon

A Satay Street Fest is in the planning stages for Alhambra, bringing residents and visitors to explore food, beverage, retail, community vendors, and more! This is still in the early stages of planning, so stay tuned by visiting aroundalhambra.org and follow @aroundalhambra on Instagram for updates on events like these and more!

THE CHAMBER VIEW

Nourishing the Community

As I travel around greater Los Angeles and proudly share that I work in Alhambra, supporting its economic and community development, the one constant comment I get is: "You must have the best lunch meetings!" My answer is, "The best breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, ice cream, boba, coffee, and so-much-more meetings."
One of Alhambra's indelible identities is our remarkably diverse and delicious food scene.

As part of the culinary scene found throughout the San Gabriel Valley, we share not just the joy of food with our neighbors, but also the fruits of this extraordinary economic engine. Eateries of all types, along with the entire food service ecosystem, drive employment and tax revenue. Restaurants account for 20% of the city's sales tax revenue. Hence, your patronage of our local restaurants, snack shops, and coffee houses helps fund city, county, and state programs that serve our community.

This issue of *Around Alhambra* focuses on all things food-related, to underscore how important this segment is to our community. Inside, you'll find an updated restaurant map and guide. This visual aid will help you find new eateries and see what's near your favorite spots, or just minutes from home, work, and school. The map also reminds us that restaurants employ thousands of people who rely on their stability and resilience, just as you enjoy these places for nourishing, tasty, fun, and memorable experiences.

In this issue, you'll also discover a much-anticipated feature: Alhambra's Restaurant of the Week. If you enjoy insider tips on the most popular dishes or want to see mouth-watering photos, sign up for the weekly email at AlhambraEats.com, where Alhambra's food news lives. Each week, you can learn more about a specific cuisine and owner, along with the dishes each restaurant is known for. Follow us on Instagram for the latest food and other news at @aroundalhambra and @alhambrachamber.

Throughout this issue, you'll also meet some of Alhambra's Food Friends! We've created a collection of characters designed to celebrate our community's food culture. The first six are featured here, each with a story about who they are and what makes their personalities unique. Keep your eyes and ears open for a variety of ways to receive limited-edition items featuring the Alhambra Food Friends. Stay tuned for more friends released throughout the year.

As you turn the pages of this special edition and save it to reflect on our community's diverse food culture, you'll see many ways to think about food. From the women leading our restaurant scene to self-guided tours to the next generation carrying forward some of our legacy businesses, these pages are filled with lively, insightful stories. Use this edition to choose where you'll dine next.

Take the Alhambra Eater's Challenge – see if you can eat at every restaurant in the city. Can you hit all 200+ establishments on the list?



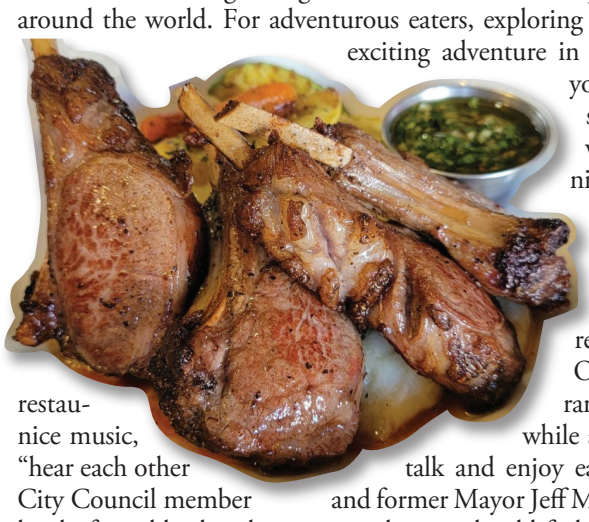
John Bwarie
CEO

Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
Competitor, Alhambra Eater's Challenge

Sage Bistro: Best of Both Worlds

by Glenn Barnett

Alhambra offers a growing number of restaurant experiences featuring cuisines from around the world. For adventurous eaters, exploring the city's dining scene can be an exciting adventure in gastronomy. Sometimes though, you want a restaurant that offers something a little more familiar while still giving you the opportunity to enjoy a thoughtfully prepared meal. At Sage Bistro, located at 521 W. Main Street, you can find both fine dining and traditional favorites in a relaxed neighborhood setting.



One Yelp reviewer described the restaurant as a "cute and quiet" spot with nice music, while another appreciated being able to "hear each other talk and enjoy each other's company." Alhambra City Council member and former Mayor Jeff Mahoney agrees. "This is the perfect kind of neighborhood restaurant that we should feel blessed to have in Alhambra," he shared. "Real, timeless food, cooked by good people. We are so happy to have them on Main Street and I wish them many more years of success."
The menu features high end choices such as New Zealand Lamb Chops, Chilian Sea Bass, Roasted Duck Breast and more, and comfort food including tasty dishes like Creamy Shrimp Pesto, Chicken Farfalle Pasta, Deviled Eggs and Linguini with meatballs (the best in town). Pair your meal with a glass of wine or a bottle of beer and settle in for dinner, enjoying Sage Bistro: the best of both worlds.

Alhambra and Dodger Stadium



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Alhambra has lots of Dodger baseball fans, but most are unaware of the connection that our city has with Dodger Stadium. The prime contractor for Dodger Stadium was the Vinnell Corporation, which was founded and headquartered in Alhambra.
The Vinnell Corporation was established in Alhambra in 1931 by Allan S. Vinnell as a hauling and excavating contractor. Over time, the company expanded into the construction of roads, freeways, buildings, military installations, and airports. Vinnell's major projects included portions of the Pan-American Highway, sections of the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington, and Dodger Stadium.
The Vinnell Corporation was located at 1145 Westminster Avenue in the industrial section of Alhambra. This portion of Alhambra adjacent to Fremont Avenue and Mission Road formed a significant industrial district of Alhambra with the C F Braun Corporation, one of the world's largest petrochemical engineering companies, and the Alhambra Foundry which produced manhole covers which can still be seen throughout Southern California. This industrial area of Alhambra established itself during the 1920's and 30's due to its close proximity to the Southern Pacific Railroad line, which previously ran at grade along Mission Road.
The Los Angeles Dodgers awarded the contract to build Dodger Stadium in 1959 to Vinnell, although certainly not because it had an impressive history of constructing sports venues. In 1959, Vinnell had never built a major league sports facility. The contract was awarded due to its experience with a building material that fascinated the Dodger owner, Walter O'Malley: concrete.
Owner Walter O'Malley was an unconventional major league baseball team owner. O'Malley was responsible for moving the Dodgers out to the West Coast in 1958 from Brooklyn, breaking major league's "color line" with Jackie Robinson, and proposing baseball's first domed stadium in Brooklyn. For O'Malley, choosing Vinnell was in line with his other risky decisions, and proved to be a massive success in Los Angeles.
Dodger Stadium's unconventional team included an architect who had never designed a major league sports stadium, a construction firm that had never built a major league sports venue, and the construction material, lightweight concrete, that varied from the baseball tradition of building ballparks with steel. The entire project was a massive gamble for O'Malley.
Walter O'Malley was trained as an engineer, then became a successful lawyer and progressed from part owner to majority owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Given his background, O'Malley understood the significance of concrete, which at the time was gaining immense popularity during the 1940's and 50's through America's emerging cities and highway infrastructure. Concrete displayed superior structural integrity and cost effectiveness.
"The first pre-requisite (in building the stadium) was concrete," said Mark Langill, the Dodger's Historian in the team's front office. "Dodger Stadium used a special type of light weight concrete."
O'Malley also selected his architect based on the individual's experience with concrete. Emil Prager had never designed a major sports facility, but understood how to work with concrete to make it happen. Praeger had designed the floating concrete breakwater known as "Phoenix" at the invasion of Normandy during World War II and received the Distinguished Service Cross for this. Praeger also served as a consulting engineer on the renovation of the White House in 1949.
"Their (Vinnell's) only early involvement was to bid on grading and the parking lot," said Dodger Historian Langill. Vinnell's bid for the grading and parking lot was accepted, which led to O'Malley asking them to consider building the entire stadium. One requirement O'Malley set was that Vinnell's vice president, Jack Yount, would be on site to supervise construction.
Construction of Dodger Stadium was successfully completed by the Vinnell Corporation in the spring of 1962 for 23 million dollars (1962 value) and the stadium itself became the first to be funded with private funds since Yankee Stadium in 1923. Initially the stadium seated 53,000 fans and later would be expanded to 56,000.
Vinnell remained headquartered in Alhambra until 1979, then relocated to Virginia to continue business. Without Alhambra and Vinnel, Dodgers Stadium would not be as incredible as it has remained to this day.

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. 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 Vinnell Corporation started grading and earthwork for Dodger Stadium at groundbreaking ceremonies on September 19, 1959.

From Nostalgia To Now: Shakey's Reimagines Restaurant For A New Era Of Connection



Shakey's Pizza Parlor, the iconic gathering place for friends and families since its 1954 inception as "Ye Public House," will celebrate the grand opening of its newly remodeled location in Alhambra this October.

Shakey's has reimagined the classic parlor experience for a new generation that craves nostalgia and community. In line with its new slogan, "The People's Pizza Parlor", the refreshed location combines the kitschy charm of Shakey's early days with modern updates, complete with curated 80s music and retro-inspired décor. The result is a warm, welcoming space where visitors can put down their phones, share a meal, and reconnect face-to-face.

Founded in Sacramento 71 years ago, Shakey's, became the nation's first pizza franchise known for its freshly made pizza, golden-fried chicken, and crispy Mojo® Potatoes. With roots in music and entertainment, the brand quickly attracted a loyal following and not only became a Southern California institution but part of pop culture itself, appearing in films like *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* and *Wayne's World* as well as television shows including *South Park, Six Feet Under,* and *Gilmore Girls*. Over the decades, its fan base has included stars such as Brad Pitt, Dave Grohl, Katy Perry, and Billy Bob Thornton, who often credit Shakey's as part of their own personal history.

Alhambra has been home to Shakey's corporate headquarters since 2004, when Jacmar Companies acquired the brand, giving the city a longstanding connection to the pizza parlor beyond its local restaurant.

That legacy continues today as Shakey's remains a neighborhood destination for food, family and fun. Kids have grown up playing in Shakey's Fun Zone arcade while their parents and extended family catch up over handcrafted pizza and cold beer. It is not uncommon to see multiple generations gather around the long communal tables, celebrating milestones and creating new memories.

Ramona Convent: Young Women Find Their Voice, Build Sisterhood, and Lead with Purpose



For more than a century, Ramona Convent Secondary School has been educating and empowering young women to become confident, compassionate leaders—and today, the Alhambra school continues to provide an educational experience rooted in academic excellence, faith, service, innovation, and sisterhood.

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Ramona is a Catholic, college-preparatory school serving approximately 300 students. Its intentionally close-knit community is one of its greatest strengths. With a 15:1 student-to-teacher ratio, students have opportunities to build meaningful relationships with teachers, discover their individual strengths, and receive the support they need to grow academically and personally.

More Than a Classroom

A Ramona education is designed to give students opportunities to discover what excites them.

Students can explore a robust STEM curriculum featuring engineering and robotics, an all-girls FIRST Robotics team, and a collaborative MakerSpace where ideas can become real-world solutions.Creativity also has an important place on campus. Ramona's Visual and Performing Arts offerings include drawing and painting, digital multimedia design, ceramics, journalism, theatre production, Comedy Sportz, choir, music lab, and dance.For student-athletes, Ramona offers 13 teams across eight sports, including volleyball, soccer, basketball, track and field, cross country, softball, swimming, and flag football. With more than 30 clubs and organizations, students have even more ways to find their community, develop leadership skills, and pursue their interests.



Faith, Service, and Leadership in Action

At the heart of the Ramona experience is a commitment to educating the whole person.Monthly liturgies, retreats, peer ministry, theology, service experiences, and interfaith learning encourage students to reflect on their values and lead with purpose. Through initiatives such as Service Day, Global Solidarity Week, and partnerships with organizations including the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Catholic Relief Services, students learn that leadership also means serving others and working toward social justice.

Ramona also recognizes that every student's educational journey is different. Financial assistance is an important part of making a Ramona education accessible, with 52% of students receiving financial aid and a Presidential Scholarship offering up to $10,000 per year.

Discover Ramona

Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2027-2028, and prospective families are invited to experience Ramona firsthand through campus visits, personalized Shadow Days, and opportunities to meet current students and faculty.

For families searching for an all-girls Catholic high school in Alhambra, a college-preparatory school in the San Gabriel Valley, or a community where their daughter can be challenged, supported, and encouraged to lead, Ramona offers something special: an education built not only around who a student is today, but who she has the potential to become.

Your Downtown Alhambra Dumpling Tour

by William Henderson

In a city with abundant food options, picking one spot can get overwhelming fast. Don't choose only one! Below is your guide to a Downtown Alhambra dumpling tour. It's recommended that you bring along at least a group of four, to split the orders at each restaurant. From soup-filled xiao long bao to crispy-bottomed sheng jian bao and Cantonese dim sum, there is plenty of variety for a full several-hour food tour outing with friends. Fill up your belly without fueling your car. No driving required!

Stop 1: Bao Master

Order: Kurobuta Pork & Crab Soup Dumplings

Start at Bao Master, where you'll order the kurobuta pork and crab soup xiao long bao. The restaurant serves six dumplings per order and, true to its name, offers several other delicious dumpling and bun options. While you wait for your fresh dumplings, grab a bowl of the complimentary congee offered to guests. Pro tip: when your xiao long bao arrives, cut a small hole in the top to let the steam escape.



Stop 2: Auntie Qiu Kitchen

Order: Pan-Fried Pork Buns

Head across the street to Auntie Qiu Kitchen, which specializes in Shanghai-style cooking. Their pan-fried pork buns are filled with savory pork and hot soup, though you'll notice a slightly different taste than your last spot if you're coming from Bao Master.

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Continuation from page 4

Stop 3: Sichuan Impression
Order: Wontons in Chili Oil
Continue down Main Street to Sichuan Impression for a change of pace. The wontons in chili oil bring Sichuan's signature heat to the tour, with tender dumpling wrappers coated in a fragrant, spicy chili oil sauce. They offer a different experience from the soup dumplings and pan-fried buns you've tried so far, adding a new spicy flavor before the final stop.



Stop 4: Lunasia Dim Sum House
Order: Shrimp Har Gow
Now it's time to switch things up. Walk down Main St to Lunasia, a Cantonese dim sum restaurant. Try the translucent shrimp har gao, a classic at dim sum restaurants.

Although you'll want to save some room for the next spot, Lunasia's menu also includes xiao long bao and other specialty dumplings, including spinach shrimp dumplings, if your group wants to keep exploring.

Stop 5: Min Min Pie House
Order: Pork and Celery Fried Dumplings
For the final stop, head in a different direction with Northern Chinese-style specialties at Min Min Pie House, just a bit further down Main Street. The pork and celery fried dumplings bring a heartier, savory flavor to the tour, finished with a crisp, golden exterior from the pan.

Bonus Stop: Mama Lu's Dumpling House
Order: Fish Dumplings
If you're still hungry, head to Mama Lu's Dumpling House for a dumpling you won't find elsewhere on the tour. The restaurant offers fish dumplings alongside its more traditional pork and pork-and-seafood options, giving the group a chance to try a lighter filling before calling it a day. If fish isn't your preference, Mama Lu's also offers steamed vegetarian dumplings.

These dumpling spots are all within walking distance, but if you're willing to explore, Alhambra offers many more dumpling options and cuisines throughout the city. Be adventurous, gather a group, and try somewhere you've never been before!

Alhambra: A Coffee Town

by William Henderson

Coffee fuels Alhambra. Even the busiest Alhambra residents and visitors know their favorite coffee spots and make time to go out of their way for a delicious cup. Alhambra's incredible restaurant scene has attracted a variety of specialty coffee shops. Like its cuisine, Alhambra's coffee culture ranges from one-of-a-kind local spots to larger chains. Coffee has become competitive, pushing coffee shop owners to focus on atmosphere, experience, complementary food flavors, and more as they try to make their cafe a destination worth visiting.

While boba was (and continues to be) a massive trend in the SGV, the coffee scene in Alhambra has truly taken off over the last few years. With the growing desire for "third places," a location to spend time at that is not home or the workplace, and the impact of working from home and cocooning that came with Covid, coffee hangouts have become a crucial part of incentivizing people back outside and into their community. A full coffee house means friendships being made and foot traffic for the nearby businesses, livening up a city.

A brief look back in the city's history marks iBrowse Coffee and Internet as the first Alhambra coffee shop with internet access, then called a "cybercafe." Located at 11 W Main St and founded by Ed Shorer and Imi Yang, according to shorer.com, iBrowse featured "art shows, live music a few nights a week, poetry readings, salon discussions, and the usual crazies." iBrowse closed in 2009, but it was the start of many coffee shops like it.

Since then, a variety of coffee shops have come and gone. In 2024, as the boba trend began to slightly wane, a rush of new specialty coffee shops came to town. Three Fields and Uncle Fung opened just around the corner from each other in Downtown Alhambra, marking a coffee revival in the city.

Less than a year after, Re:Bakesic opened by Sprouts, Pinecone Bakeshop opened next to Yang's, and Monolith brought the trend to Valley Blvd. After Monolith's success on Valley, Da Vien and San Fernando Coffee Company followed suit and opened new locations on Valley Blvd as well. Just this year, Starbucks has similarly expanded within Alhambra to two new drive-thru locations, one on Valley Blvd and the other on Raymond Ave across the street from the Costco.

The influx of coffee shops has encouraged each place to become distinct and stand out from the rest. Three Fields became home to a coffee run club and hosted speed dating events, Re:Bakesic regularly features freshly baked and creative pastries from original recipes, Uncle Fung has always leaned heavily into its Indonesian roots and beans for a unique flavor, and Monolith features an avant-garde interior with cocktail-like drinks to match the earthy decor.

Coffee makes Alhambra run, and the city's variety of coffee options offers destination spots beyond quick pick-me-ups, building community, giving the city a unique identity, and making Alhambra a more enjoyable and beautiful place to live, work, and visit.



Coffee being poured at Uncle Fung Coffee Stall

The Next Generation of Alhambra Restaurant Leaders

by William Henderson



Karen Cheung Lee, Second Generation at Sam Woo BBQ

Some of Alhambra's famous older restaurants aren't just around because they are popular and serve great food. What visitors don't always realize is that to keep a family-owned restaurant open for decades, the restaurant must be handed down to the second generation. In these long-standing establishments, owners' children make the hard decision to step into restaurants built on their parents' dreams. Somehow, they must make it their own.

For this new generation of restaurant leaders, taking over is not just inheriting a business. Taking over means learning the work, people, and strategies that built the company from the ground up, while building on that strong foundation with their own expertise and vision. Embodying this principle are three Alhambra favorites: Sam Woo BBQ, Fosselman's, and Phoenix Inn.

At Sam Woo BBQ, Karen Cheung Lee spent her childhood at the family's Alhambra restaurant while her parents ran the business. Her father opened the Alhambra location in 1983, and Karen is now carrying the legacy forward, focusing on preserving what longtime customers love while finding new ways to introduce Sam Woo to the next generation.

"It's very difficult stepping in to take over such a significant family business in the city," shared Karen. "As I take on more responsibility, I have to maintain our existing loyal clientele while also bringing in my own expertise. It's a full legacy. At the beginning, that meant going into the back of the restaurant and working alongside the cooks. Now, it means implementing my vision more fully, getting to know our customers personally, and continuing to build on what my family has created."

Fosselman's is equally famous in Alhambra as a historical landmark, dating back to its establishment in 1919 and the opening of its production facility in Alhambra in 1941. Fosselman's has remained a family business for multiple generations, and the younger members of the Fosselman family are continuing that tradition at the iconic Main Street ice cream shop. Grace, Grant, and Nick's involvement in the family allows hungry ice cream lovers to enjoy Fosselman's Ice Cream far beyond Alhambra, including the Huntington Library in San Marino, Jones Coffee Roasters in South Pasadena, and The Ice Cream Shop in Glendora.

Phoenix Inn's history spans three generations of the Chang family. In the 1970s, Kai Tai Chang took over the business after a decade working as a chef. Years later, his son and daughter-in-law brought the family business to Alhambra, opening a restaurant on Valley Boulevard in the late 1990s and adding a dessert shop. In 2021, leadership passed to the third generation, with Nick Chang becoming president. Today, Phoenix Inn operates restaurants in Alhambra, Arcadia, Los Angeles, Rowland Heights, South Pasadena and Temple City, but its dessert shop remains exclusive to Alhambra.

Carrying on a family restaurant does not have to mean keeping everything exactly as it was. The new generation doesn't give up their dreams just to continue what their parents did; they bring their own perspective, skills, and ambitions into the restaurant's future. For iconic spots like Sam Woo BBQ and Fosselman's, the same families who built the lasting foundations are shaping the bright future ahead.

The Distributors Behind Alhambra's Food Scene



by William Henderson

When people think about Alhambra's food scene, restaurants, bakeries, and cafes usually come to mind first. Alhambra's food scene extends beyond the places you can walk into, as many of the meals and drinks served across Southern California come from businesses operating quietly in Alhambra's industrial areas, warehouses, and commercial buildings.

From large-scale food distribution to noodle production, specialty imports, coffee roasting, and tea, these businesses help move food from producers to restaurants, retailers, and customers throughout the region.

Jacmar Foodservice Distribution
Jacmar has deep roots in Alhambra and has operated here for decades. Beyond owning Shakey's, its foodservice distribution business supplies restaurants and other foodservice operators with thousands of products, helping businesses keep their kitchens stocked with everything from food products to restaurant supplies.

LAMILL Coffee
LAMILL's Alhambra location isn't a coffee shop, but rather a full roastery and wholesaler operation. At the West Westminster Avenue facility, they store, grind, brew, and package high-quality coffee to supply businesses beyond their own cafes.



"LAMILL has called Alhambra home for over two decades," shared CEO Craig Min. "We are blessed to be a part of a community that is thoughtful, supportive and safe."

A-Sha Foods USA
Those familiar with A-Sha's famous air-dried Taiwanese noodles may not realize that the company's U.S. headquarters are right here in Alhambra. Headquartered on Date Avenue, A-Sha Foods USA handles the American side of the brand; its noodles originate in Tainan, Taiwan, and now reach retailers and customers across the country.

Continued on page 6

Kogi BBQ and Sam Woo Draw Crowds for Exclusive Alhambra Collaboration

by William Henderson



On the weekend of June 27, crowds lined the streets of Alhambra to experience the long-awaited collaboration between Alhambra favorite Sam Woo BBQ and Chef Roy Choi's globally recognized Kogi BBQ. Guests eagerly waited to try two limited-edition fusion creations available only during the two-day event: Roast Duck Kimchi Tacos and Char Siu Blackjack Quesadillas.

For Karen, one of the daughters of the family behind Sam Woo BBQ, the collaboration represented months of planning and decades of family tradition.

"We're known for our Cantonese barbecue. The food is good, and people love it," she said. "This event has been six months in the making, and we're excited it's finally happening."

Alhambra Mayor Jeff Maloney joined the morning crowd to sample the special menu and reflected on what the partnership means for the city.

"Alhambra is a food destination. We have some of the best restaurants in the entire country," Maloney said. "When you have somebody like Roy Choi and the Kogi brand coming here and recognizing Sam Woo, it reinforces that."

Much of Alhambra's dining reputation is built on family-owned restaurants where recipes and techniques have been refined and passed down through generations. As the oldest operating Sam Woo location, the Alhambra restaurant has become a fixture of the community, serving generations of loyal customers.

For Karen, carrying on the legacy of the restaurant and quality of the food is everything.

"When I was little, I remember sitting by the cashier while my mom made her coffee. I'd sit there talking with customers and capping sauce containers. This is where I grew up," she said. "There's a generation and a community that love our food. I am so passionate about continuing that legacy and making my parents proud."

While Chef Roy Choi and the Kogi brand have earned international recognition, the collaboration also highlighted the growing reputation of Alhambra's own culinary institutions. As visitors from around the world continue discovering the San Gabriel Valley, partnerships like this showcase why Alhambra has become one of Southern California's premier dining destinations.

Continuation from page 5

Gourmet Imports

At its Alhambra warehouse on South Meridian Avenue, Gourmet Imports connects producers and chefs, distributing cheeses, charcuterie, pantry items, baking, and more, supplying restaurants throughout the region. As they have grown, they have made the switch to sourcing many cheeses and charcuterie from artisans in the US who handcraft them, although they still remain true to their name and import.

Alhambra's food identity extends well beyond the restaurants lining Main Street and Valley Boulevard. From the noodles found at major retailers to coffee served at cafes and specialty ingredients used by professional chefs, businesses throughout the city play a behind-the-scenes role in getting food onto tables across Southern California.



Alhambra's Legacy Restaurants

by William Henderson

While new restaurants keep popping up around Alhambra, several longtime establishments set a strong precedent for the city and helped establish our community as a food destination. These restaurants shaped Alhambra's early reputation and still stand out as longtime favorites of residents, both old and young.

Bun 'N Burger
Since 1941
An Alhambra institution for more than 80 years, Bun 'N Burger serves classic breakfast and lunch favorites from its Main Street location. Burgers, breakfast plates, pancakes, and other diner staples have kept generations of customers coming back.

Fosselman's Ice Cream Co.
Since 1941
Fosselman's has been serving homemade ice cream from its Main Street shop since the early 1940s. The family-owned business remains one of Alhambra's most recognizable food landmarks, especially on hot days when lines form from residents flocking to the ice cream parlor for a sweet treat.

The Hat
Since 1951
The Hat started in Alhambra in 1951 and became known for its world-famous pastrami. More than 70 years later, the Valley Boulevard The Hat, the oldest standing location, still serves its famous pastrami sandwiches, chili cheese fries, and other favorites.

Angelo's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
Since 1962
Angelo's has served classic Italian food and pizza in Alhambra for more than six decades. The longtime Valley Boulevard restaurant remains a staple for pizza, pasta, and other Italian-American favorites.

Genovese's Italian Kitchen
Since 1980
Genovese's has been part of Alhambra's dining scene since 1980, serving a variety of Italian-American classics. Its longtime presence has made it a fixture for generations of local diners.

Savoy Kitchen
Since 1982
Savoy Kitchen has been serving Alhambra since 1982 and is especially known for its Hainan Chicken Rice. The restaurant's broad menu of Chinese and Western-influenced dishes has made it a longtime local favorite.

Sam Woo BBQ
Since 1983
Sam Woo BBQ has been part of Alhambra's Cantonese food scene since 1983. Now with four locations, its roast duck, char siu, roast pork, and other Hong Kong-style favorites have made it a longtime destination on Valley Boulevard. The menu is complemented by the authentic atmosphere and ordering style that Hong Kong BBQ is known for abroad.

Aloha Food Factory
Since 1994
Aloha Food Factory has served Hawaiian food in Alhambra since 1994. The family-owned restaurant is known for Hawaiian classics, breakfast favorites, and its popular macadamia nut pancakes.

Enjoy long-time favorites at these legacy restaurants, honoring your appetite and the traditions they have created in our community.

Pop's Brings Mediterranean Flair to Alhambra

by William Henderson

From the owners of AWSOM Wings Pizza & Burgers comes Pop's Fresh Mediterranean, a restaurant bringing delicious, healthy food to Alhambra's Main Street.

For the Kazarian family, Pop's builds on a long-standing relationship with food and hospitality. Brothers Danny, Harout, and Garo grew up around family cooking, drawing from recipes passed down through their parents while adding their own ideas along the way. "A lot of our family recipes are inspired by our parents' cooking with our own twists to it," said Jenny Kazarian, who helps run the restaurant with the family. That connection to food goes back even further in the family. "My dad is a fourth-generation bread maker, and there's a passion for food that runs in our family."

The restaurant's name and atmosphere reflect that same emphasis on family. "We want to bring people together, we love being around the table, and we want to bring our food and original family recipes and be able to share them with the rest of the community," Jenny said. The menu brings together fresh-off-the-grill kebabs, gyros, falafels, and homemade sides, with the family's recipes giving the dishes a personal connection to the food they grew up eating.

That sense of community has also shaped the restaurant's place in Alhambra. "Family is at the heart of everything we do. We want to welcome people into what we've built here, because in Alhambra, we truly feel like we're part of one big family," Jenny said. Since opening, the family has been encouraged by the response from local customers and the people who keep returning. For the Kazarians, Pop's is an opportunity to share food that has been part of their family for generations while becoming part of the community that has supported their restaurants over the years.



Secret Menus of Alhambra

by William Henderson

A juicy secret leads to a juicier burger, some hot tea leads to a new coffee, and getting the inside scoop leads to more ways to enjoy your ice cream when you know where to go, who to ask, and how to order in Alhambra. Below is a professional eater's secret menu list so you don't miss out on all the delicious, hidden gems at Alhambra eateries.

Most famously, In-N-Out has a large selection of secret menu items. When you visit Alhambra's In-N-Out, you can whiz past the double double on hyperspeed, ordering up to a 4x4 if you want four times the meat and cheese of a regular burger. For more veggies, order animal style. For lettuce instead of bread: order protein style. For a tastier shake, order chocolate/vanilla or neapolitan. In-N-Out's secret menu has become "Not So Secret," so visit https://www.in-n-out-.com/menu/not-so-secret-menu.

Monty's in Alhambra is known for their fried chicken and waffles, but you can also go double your fun off-menu if you know what to ask for. Try the Loaded Chopped Cheese Fries, made with waffle fries, cheddar cheese, two chopped beef patties, grilled onions, American cheese, Thousand Island sauce, and jalapeños. You can also order The Chopper, a cold cut sandwich with the meat chopped up on the bread, or the Chicken Buffalo Ranch Sandwich, which comes with grilled chicken, buffalo sauce, grilled onion, bacon, and your choice of cheese. These items aren't listed on the regular menu, so ask for them by name if your taste buds are tickled.

At Wendy's, the secret menu is less about knowing a special name and more about knowing how to combine the ingredients already behind the counter. One Wendy's-published hack worth trying is the Spicy Nugg Nacho, which combines Spicy Chicken Nuggets with chili, cheese sauce, sour cream, and ranch for a loaded, nacho-inspired take on the nuggets.

Wendy's has also shared other menu hacks, including topping Baconator Fries with Spicy Chicken Nuggets and ranch, and making a Frosty Float by combining a Frosty with a fountain drink.

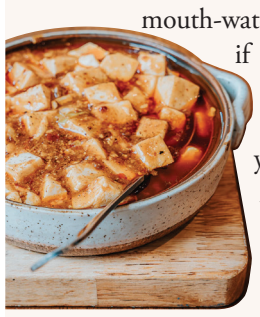
There's a certain satisfaction in ordering something that isn't posted on the menu, especially when you know exactly what to ask for.

The best secret menu items tend to spread the old-fashioned way: one person orders it, someone else sees it, and eventually it becomes local lore. In Alhambra, the menu is only the starting point for discovering delicacies.

Where to Find Alhambra's Best Mapo Tofu

by William Henderson

Alhambra residents often talk about mouth-watering dishes, but if you are an adventurous eater in the city, you might know mouth-numbing dishes don't get much coverage. Hot, spicy, or simply warm and fragrant, these dishes can feel life-changing. Alhambra has plenty of soups perfect for the upcoming cold months, but if you want to bring the heat and eat something hearty, filling, and delicious, get some mapo tofu. You can adjust your spice level, but die-hard eaters often recommend turning up the heat on this classic Sichuan mapo-style dish.



You will have a hard time picking favorites, since each restaurant makes its mapo tofu slightly differently, so here are options to guide your decision.

Phoenix Inn Cuisine

Phoenix Inn is a good option if you want a rich, filling, and perhaps familiar take on mapo tofu. The restaurant serves its version with pork, making it a little heartier than the meatless versions you'll find elsewhere.

Lunasia Dim Sum

Lunasia's mapo tofu makes a good counterpoint to its famously delectable dim sum. The tofu is soft and silky, with enough heat to break up an order of dumplings, buns, and other steamed bites. It's a good addition to the table if your group wants something spicy alongside your other dishes.

Chengdu Taste

Chengdu Taste's mapo tofu has the fermented, savory depth you expect, with Sichuan peppercorns bringing that distinctive numbing sensation. This is for diners who crave the heat and crunch only peppercorns deliver.

Xiang La Hui

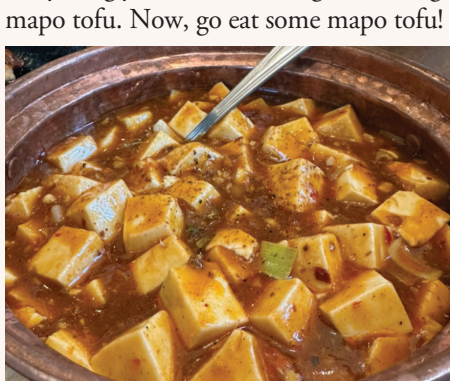
Xiang La Hui makes a meatless mapo tofu with the kind of peppercorn punch that gives the dish its name. The Los Angeles Times specifically singled out the restaurant's version for its spicy, gingery, garlicky flavor, and intense numbing effect.

Sichuan Impression

Sichuan Impression serves its mapo tofu with minced beef and green garlic, adding a little more texture and savoriness. The Sichuan peppercorn is still front and center, making this a good choice if you want a classic version with a little bouquet of additional flavors.

While it's hard to pick a favorite from these restaurants, your favorite mapo tofu may be one you can make at home with friends. While your recipe might not be quite as good as the ones you'll find in a professional kitchen, getting a group together and involved in cooking makes the dish all the more special.

Alhambra residents are lucky to live in a city with such a wide variety of grocery stores and restaurants, and you can find everything you need to cook great-tasting mapo tofu. Now, go eat some mapo tofu!



Taco Tuesday Deals in Alhambra

by William Henderson

Taco Tuesday is reaching a new level of popularity in Alhambra, with a recent wave of new Mexican restaurants opening across the city. This weekly "food holiday" is a great occasion to get friends together and try a new spot at discount prices. Here's a roundup of Taco Tuesday deals around Alhambra to know before you decide where to eat.



Baja Mar Taco

The new Baja Mar Taco on Valley Boulevard is keeping things simple with $1.99 asada, al pastor, and chicken tacos every Tuesday. The tacos come on doubled corn tortillas with onion and cilantro, making it easy to order a few different meats and see which one becomes your favorite.



Baja Cali Fish & Tacos

Baja Cali Fish & Tacos takes Taco Tuesday in a different direction with fish tacos for $2.79 each or four for $9.99. The regular price is $4.49, so the four-taco deal is a great excuse to load up on crispy fish tacos, cabbage, pico de gallo, and crema.



Michoacana

Michoacana offers $2.25 carne or pollo tacos on Tuesdays and Fridays, giving you another reason to stop by for a few tacos before moving on to the ice cream and other Mexican treats the shop is known for.



38 Degrees

At 38 Degrees, Tuesday tacos are $3 all day, with the lineup going beyond the usual carne asada and pollo. The restaurant's taco lineup includes tempura-fried avocado, fish, smoked brisket, and pork banh mi, so this is the deal to check out when you want something a little different.

Plenty of good spots in our community offer tacos and great deals, if you know where to look. Gustavo, a local resident, shared, "I used to try out a bunch of different places, but now I just stick to my favorites." With new restaurants still opening and Taco Tuesday deals giving you a reason to try them, your favorites might change sooner than you think.





New in Alhambra:
Restaurants, Bakeries and More

by William Henderson

Alhambra is filled with dining options, and the list keeps growing. If you take the same routes around town and don't keep your eyes peeled, a new restaurant, bakery, or dessert shop can open without ever hitting your radar. Over the past year, Alhambra has welcomed a new wave of food businesses, with even more on the way. Check out the list below to see some of the newest openings you may have missed!

Restaurants

Bao Master
Downtown Alhambra welcomed Bao Master, a new Chinese restaurant specializing in xiao long bao, handmade noodles, and steamed and pan-fried buns. Their restaurant, next to the Sprouts parking lot, offers free congee while you wait for your food, a charming atmosphere with cute bao mascots, and beautifully plated family-style dishes for a delightful shared dining experience.

Mama Lu's Dumpling House
For years, Alhambra residents have gone to Monterey Park for Mama Lu's xiao long bao, pan-fried buns, handmade dumplings, and other Chinese dishes, but now they can eat all their favorites in their own city at the newest location on Main St.

Bangkok Broth House
A new Thai restaurant has joined Main Street with a menu built around flavorful broths and Thai noodle dishes. Bangkok Broth House offers specialties including boat noodles and other Thai favorites for diners looking to try something different in Downtown Alhambra.

Raising Cane's
Raising Cane's has opened a new Alhambra location on Palm Avenue, bringing its signature chicken finger meals, crinkle-cut fries, Texas toas,t and Cane's Sauce to west Alhambra.

Baja Mar Tacos
Baja Mar Tacos has expanded from its Pico Rivera location to Valley Boulevard, bringing another Mexican dining option to Alhambra. Their daily specials give you a reason to stop by throughout the week, with different deals to look forward to. Missed Taco Tuesday? You can still get your taco fix on Wednesday with their $2 fish taco special.

Oma
A new addition to Downtown Alhambra on Main St, Oma offers a modern Mexican sit-down restaurant experience with bold Mexican flavors and fresh ingredients. Chef Gilbert brings three decades of experience to the restaurant's cuisine, drawing inspiration from different regions of Mexico. Despite the high-quality dishes and ingredients, the food still comes out fast and is affordable for a delicious lunch in the city.

Jersey Mike's
A new Jersey Mike's has just opened at 333 E. Main Street, Suite A, in the former GameStop space. The location brings the sandwich chain's made-to-order subs to Downtown Alhambra, much to the delight of many hungry gym-goers at the UFC Gym across the street.



Best of Downtown Award Winners



The community has decided and the winners of the 2026 Best of Downtown Alhambra Awards are in! Honored at Alhambra City Hall on September 28, this year's winners represent the local businesses that make Downtown Alhambra a destination for dining, shopping, beauty, entertainment and more.

Taking the top honor, reLASH was named Downtown Alhambra Business of the Year. Located on West Main Street, reLASH specializes in eyelash extensions, lash lifts, brow treatments and cosmetic teeth whitening.

Owner Layla Chan takes a personalized approach to every service, tailoring lash styles and brow shaping to each client's features and preferences. With careful technique, thorough consultations and natural-looking results, reLASH has built a loyal clientele since opening in 2014.

Together, these businesses give Downtown Alhambra its character, with local owners offering places and services that keep people coming back to Main Street.

From restaurants serving cuisines from around the world to neighborhood coffee shops, specialty retailers, fitness studios and entertainment venues, Downtown Alhambra offers residents and visitors plenty to discover.

Each business adds to the variety that makes spending an afternoon on Main Street worthwhile, whether you are meeting friends for a meal, shopping locally or trying somewhere new.

Congratulations to reLASH and all the 2026 Best of Downtown Alhambra Awards winners! Explore the full list of winners and photos, then plan your next visit to Downtown Alhambra at downtownalhambra.com.

Bakeries & Desserts

Pinecone Bakeshop + Cafe
Pinecone Bakeshop + Cafe brings a new bakery and cafe concept to Downtown Alhambra, emphasizing seasonal pastries and desserts. The menu features fruit tarts, cakes, and other baked goods. The sweet treats rotate with the seasons to ensure ingredients are fresh. Enjoy with coffee and tea for a sweet stop along Main Street.

Handel's Homemade Ice Cream
Handel's Homemade Ice Cream opened a new location on Fremont Avenue to a chorus of hallelujah from aficionados, bringing its extensive selection of ice cream flavors to Alhambra. The shop makes its ice cream fresh daily and offers dozens of flavors ranging from classic favorites to more adventurous seasonal options.

Coffee & Drinks

Monolith Coffee
Monolith Coffee opened on Valley Boulevard with a specialty coffee menu that takes a more creative approach to the traditional cafe. The shop serves carefully crafted coffee drinks alongside a selection of pastries, making it a new destination for our city's coffee lovers.

Coconut & Co.
Coconut & Co. opened on Main Street with a menu centered around young coconut, tropical fruit, and Southeast Asian-inspired flavors. The shop offers refreshing drinks and desserts, bringing something delectably different to Downtown Alhambra's growing selection of dessert and beverage spots.

Starbucks
A new Starbucks has just opened by Costco, adding the long-time favorite coffee option to reinvigorate tired shoppers in the area. Designed for its neighborhood location, this Starbucks is drive-through and walk-up only, serving as a quick coffee stop rather than a full indoor experience.

Alhambra's Women of Food

by William Henderson



From Left to Right: Karen Cheung Lee, Kelly Xiao, Carmen Seetho, and Shelly Lin

Women represent generations of restaurant owners, chefs, and entrepreneurs in the celebrated Alhambra food scene. Among these shining stars are women who have built new concept eateries, carried the legacy of their family restaurants, and introduced new flavors and ideas to the city.

Here are just a few of the women making their mark on Alhambra's much-lauded cuisine.

Kelly Xiao, Sichuan Impression
Kelly Xiao co-founded Sichuan Impression with Lynn Liu because the two women, both originally from Chengdu, longed to bring the Sichuan flavors they grew up with to Southern California. They opened their first location in Alhambra in 2014, and the restaurant has since expanded to multiple locations and earned Michelin recognition. Rich, savory, surprising, and delicious!

Carmen Seetho and Shelly Lin, Coconut & Co.
Best friends Carmen Seetho and Shelly Lin built Coconut & Co. around their shared connection to Southeast Asian food and culture. After traveling throughout Asia to research flavors and concepts, the pair brought their vision to the San Gabriel Valley, first opening in San Gabriel before moving to Alhambra with a new location on Main Street. Their research paid off as visitors enjoy tastes and textures found nowhere else. For example, the young Thai green coconuts used in their drinks have a remarkable signature taste that is unforgettably delicious.

Karen Cheung Lee, Sam Woo BBQ
Karen Cheung Lee represents the next generation of one of Alhambra's longtime restaurant families. Her father opened Sam Woo's Alhambra location in 1983, and Karen has returned to the family business, helping carry the restaurant into its next chapter while building on the traditions that made it a local institution. If you have not been to Sam Woo's, you are missing out on one of the most delectable combinations of flavors, ingredients, and signature dishes in our community.

Rola Elhurr, Burgers & More
Rolla Elhurr, owner of Burgers & More, is responsible for a longtime Alhambra favorite, building a neighborhood restaurant around burgers, breakfast, and a mouthwatering menu that keeps regulars coming back. After taking over the family business in 2020, Rolla valiantly kept it alive throughout the pandemic, maintaining the classic meals customers crave again and again.

The profiles of these wonderful women restaurateurs only scratch the surface of so many women shaping Alhambra's food scene. From family restaurants passed down through generations to businesses built from an idea between friends, outstanding women leaders like these and many more play a major role in deciding what Alhambrans eat next.

AUSD Celebrates its 2026-2027 Employees of the Year

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Congratulations to AUSD's 2026-2027 Employees of the Year: Jose "Joe" Castilla, Tom Kohout, and Travis Arroyo. They represent the best iof the best of AUSD's amazing staff

Three outstanding members of the Alhambra Unified School District team have been named AUSD's 2026-2027 Employees of the Year, recognizing their dedication to students, families and colleagues.

The honorees, who were first announced in spring, are Manager of the Year Tom Kohout, principal at Marguerita School; Teacher of the Year Travis Arroyo, a teacher in the LIFT (Learning Independence For Transition) program; and Classified Employee of the Year Jose "Joe" Castilla, a Student Information System Technician in Data Processing.

In addition to being named AUSD Teacher of the Year (TOY), Arroyo was selected as one of 16 Los Angeles County TOYs, placing him among an elite group of educators from across the region. Travis was officially announced as a County Teacher of the Year at the 2026 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year luncheon on September 25th, marking the third consecutive year that an AUSD teacher was selected as part of the County's "Sweet 16."

The colleagues of the Employees of the Year found a special way to celebrate each honoree by creating videos highlighting their contributions and the impact they have made throughout the district. The videos were shared during AUSD's All-Staff Welcome Back Meeting and Breakfast on August 12th and can be viewed on the District's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@alhambrausd).

During the meeting, each Employee of the Year was also recognized by the AUSD Board of Education and presented with a commemorative bell to proudly display. "Our employees are the heart of our district," Superintendent Denise Jaramillo said. "Every day, they bring their expertise, compassion, and commitment to the work of supporting our students and families. Joe, Tom, and Travis represent the very best of AUSD, and we are grateful for the difference they make in the lives of those they serve." Please join AUSD in congratulating these three exceptional employees and celebrating all of the dedicated staff members who make our schools and district community stronger every day.

AUSD's Anti-Bias Project Named Golden Bell Finalist

by The Alhambra Unified School District

Alhambra Unified School District has been named a finalist for the California School Boards Association's (CSBA) prestigious Golden Bell Award for its districtwide Anti-Bias Project, an initiative designed to build belonging through student voice, education, and action to strengthen belonging and create more inclusive school communities. As part of the award application process, a validation visit was held September 15th, giving a CSBA representative an opportunity to learn more about the project and see first-hand how the initiative is being implemented across AUSD. The Golden Bell Awards recognize outstanding school programs and governance practices that contribute to student success.

The Anti-Bias Project grew directly from what AUSD students told district leaders about their experiences. In spring 2024, AUSD invited every sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade student to participate in a "ThoughtExchange" survey about whether students from different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds were treated with respect at their schools. A total of 1,655 students responded.

While students celebrated the diversity of their schools, their responses also revealed that diversity alone does not guarantee a sense of belonging. Students reported hearing racial, ethnic, cultural, and disability-based slurs and expressed frustration when harmful language was dismissed as joking or went unaddressed by adults.

"The most powerful part of this project is that it began by listening to our students," said Dr. Lily Jarvis, Director of Educational Equity and Accountability. "They told us what they were experiencing, and although some of what we heard was difficult, our educators responded by creating tools that help students and adults recognize bias, interrupt harm, build empathy, and take meaningful action. As we guide students through these lessons, we are nurturing a cultural shift, one that equips every member of our school community to lead with understanding, empathy, and responsibility and helps ensure that every student feels seen, valued, and respected."

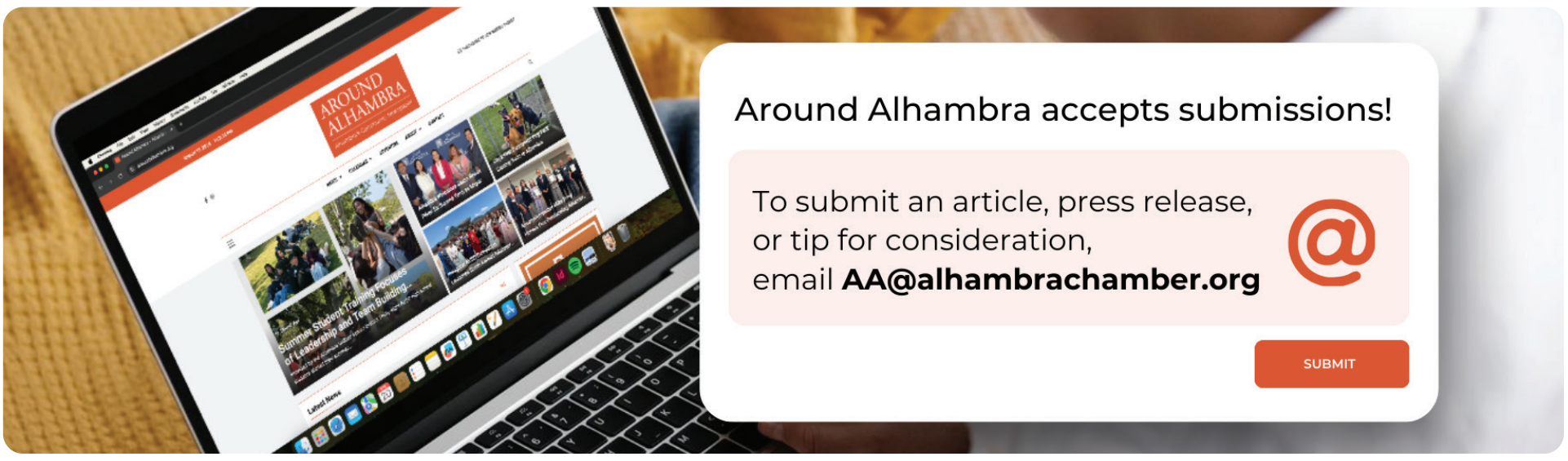
Developed by AUSD educators through the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Summer Coalition, the Anti-Bias Project launched during the 2024–25 school year. Rather than viewing incidents of bias solely as disciplinary matters, the project treats them as opportunities for education, reflection, accountability, and restoration. The initiative includes a K–9 Anti-Bias Framework, grade-level curriculum aligned with the Social Justice Standards, and an educator toolkit focused on "Interrupting Harm" and creating "Teachable Moments." The district has also provided training for administrators, counselors, instructional coaches, and teachers, while parent workshops help families continue conversations about identity, inclusion, and belonging at home. A customized field was added to the district's Student Information System to allow AUSD to track incidents of school-based bias, while student and family surveys, listening sessions, and school climate data help the district monitor progress and refine the work.



Northrup third-grade teacher Pilar Cunningham explains her students "Wrinkled Heart" activity, part of the Anti-Bias curriculum, to Mr. Florencio Briones (far left) and members of the AUSD EDI Summer Coalition Team.

Florencio Briones is a Board Member for El Monte Union High School District. As a member of CSBA, he served as the validator for AUSD's Award Application. He reviewed AUSD's Anti-Bias Project, asked probing questions, and observed classroom lessons to ensure the details of the application are a true reflection of the work actually being done in AUSD classrooms. Although Briones could not publicly share his final recommendation to CSBA, he gave strong feedback and positive recognition for the program's components and the work he witnessed in action.

The Anti-Bias Project represents AUSD's effort to turn student voice into sustained, districtwide action. As the district awaits the official Golden Bell Award announcement, the September validation visit marks an important milestone in recognizing that work. Golden Bell Award recipients will be recognized at CSBA's annual conference in December.





AUSD Food & Wellness Fair Invites Families and Staff to Help Shape School Menus

by The Alhambra Unified School District

Join AUSD for the 22nd Annual Food & Wellness Fair on October 26th! Sample potential new school menu items, explore wellness activities, and share your feedback. Your taste buds can help shape what's served in AUSD cafeterias! Reservations are required. Contact your school office to attend.

What's on the cafeteria menu for Alhambra Unified students? Students, families, and staff members can help decide!

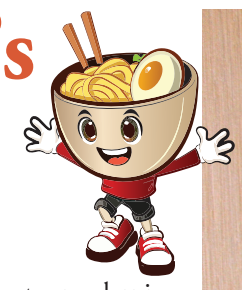
The district's 22nd annual Food & Wellness Fair will bring the community together on Monday, October 26th, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at San Gabriel High School. Hosted by AUSD's Food and Nutrition Services, the event offers opportunities to sample potential new breakfast and lunch items and share feedback that will help shape the district's future school cafeteria menus.

"The Food & Wellness Fair gives our students and families an opportunity to taste new foods and tell us what they think," said Dwayne Dionne, Director of Food and Nutrition Services. "Their feedback is an important part of helping us develop menus that students will enjoy while meeting required nutritional standards." Food tasting is just one part of the fun. Attendees will also explore wellness and physical activity stations, learn more about nutrition, participate in fun activities for all ages, and enter opportunity drawings, including a special grand-prize drawing for students only.

The Food & Wellness Fair is an important part of AUSD's commitment to listening to its students and families. Because students are the ones enjoying the school meals every day, their voices and preferences are an important part of creating menus that are nutritious, appealing, and enjoyable.

Reservations are required to attend. Families and staff members should contact their school office to reserve a spot. Come hungry, bring your appetite for fun, and help AUSD decide what should be on our menus!

Celebrating Bob Gin's Legacy of Service



by The Alhambra Unified School District



After more than 24 years of service on the Alhambra Unified School District Board of Education, Congressmember Judy Chu honored Bob Gin with a Lifetime Achievement Award during her 2026 Congressional Leadership Awards ceremony on August 15th. As Gin prepares to conclude his final term in early December, the recognition celebrates his decades of service to students, families, and the entire Alhambra Unified community.

For nearly a quarter century, Robert (Bob) Gin has been a dedicated presence in the Alhambra Unified School District, devoting his time, energy, and heart to students, families, and the community. As he prepares to conclude his final term on the AUSD Board of Education, Gin's decades of service were recognized by Representative Judy Chu with a Congressional Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gin received the honor during the 28th Congressional District Leadership Awards ceremony on August 15th, recognizing his longstanding commitment to public education, volunteerism, civic engagement, and bringing people together throughout the San Gabriel Valley. His journey in education began as a parent volunteer and PTA leader at Brightwood Elementary School. From there, his involvement grew into leadership roles at the school, district, and community levels, eventually leading to his election to the AUSD Board of Education in 2002, including multiple terms as board president.

During his 24 years on the Board, Gin helped guide AUSD through some of the most significant milestones in the district's history. He was part of the leadership that brought together the Alhambra City School District and Alhambra High School District to create a seamless, unified TK-12 system. He also helped lead the district through the passage of $389 million in bond funding to modernize every AUSD campus.

While those accomplishments are an important part of his legacy, Gin's impact extends far beyond the decisions made in the Board room. "Bob Gin is known throughout our community for his ability to build relationships and bring people together. He has invested in generations of our students, believing deeply in their potential and encouraging them to find their voices as leaders. His mentorship, his commitment to our schools, and his genuine care for our students, families, and staff members have left a lasting mark on AUSD," said AUSD Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo, who nominated Gin for this prestigious recognition. "We are incredibly grateful for the many ways Bob has served our district and our community, and we will carry his legacy of service with us for many years to come."

Gin has consistently advocated for student achievement, family engagement, special education, student wellness, and opportunities for young people to have a voice in their schools and community. He has been a particularly dedicated mentor to AUSD's Student Advisory Council and Student Board Members. Gin personally mentors each Student Board Member, helping students prepare to participate confidently in Board meetings while encouraging them to become active civic leaders. He also provides scholarships from his own resources to each outgoing Student Board Member, reflecting his belief in investing in the next generation.

Gin has also helped AUSD build educational partnerships with schools in Korea, China, and Taiwan, creating opportunities for cultural exchange, collaboration, and global learning. His contributions have earned recognition from organizations including the Alhambra Educational Foundation and the Chinese American Educators Association, who have both also honored him with Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Throughout his career, Gin has viewed public service as an opportunity to support students, strengthen schools, build partnerships, and create connections across generations and cultures. As he prepares to step down from the Board after almost 25 years, the Congressional Lifetime Achievement Award provides a fitting opportunity to celebrate his remarkable legacy of service. His impact can be seen not only in the programs and initiatives he helped advance, but also in the students he mentored and the many people he brought together along the way.



Ramona School celebrated their opportunity to represent AUSD at the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C. Pictured in front of the U.S. Capitol are, left to right, instructional coach Denise DiConti, Principal Dr. Debbie Kotani, retired assistant principal Shelley Gee-Ryan, and Community Schools instructional specialist Eva Wong.

Continuation from page 2

voice, and learning that extends beyond the classroom. It was especially rewarding to share the positive impact of our whole child approach and how project based learning has helped students grow as learners while making meaningful connections between their education and the world around them."

The conference was also an opportunity for the Ramona team to connect with educators from across the country and bring new ideas back to their school. For a team whose work has earned recognition at both the state and national levels, the experience offered an opportunity to celebrate Ramona's accomplishments while continuing to learn and grow.

The Washington, D.C. trip marked another milestone in Ramona's Schools to Watch journey. As the first AUSD school to earn both state and national Schools to Watch recognition, Ramona continues to demonstrate what is possible when educators work together around a shared vision and a commitment to student success.

AUSD High Schools Join New MAC-12 Conference

by The Alhambra Unified School District



It's the start of a new era for local athletics as AUSD's high schools join the Metro Alliance Conference, where they will compete with each other and fellow high schools across the San Gabriel Valley. MAC-12 brings together 12 high schools with a focus on competitive equity, increased opportunities, and strong athletic experiences for student-athletes. League placement will be based on competitive performance, allowing teams to compete against programs with similar levels of success.

A new chapter in Alhambra Unified School District athletics has begun as Alhambra High School, Mark Keppel High School, and San Gabriel High School join the newly-established Metro Alliance Conference, better known as MAC-12.

Formerly members of the Almont League (which consisted solely of ALhambra and MONTebello district schools), AUSD's three high schools now join nine other schools from across the San Gabriel Valley. MAC-12 is composed of Arroyo, Alhambra, Bell Gardens, El Monte, El Rancho, Mark Keppel, Montebello, Mountain View, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Schurr and South El Monte high schools.

The new conference is designed around a competitive equity model, giving student-athletes opportunities to compete against programs with comparable levels of competitive success. Rather than keeping schools in fixed leagues year after year, MAC-12 will use a system that allows league placement to change based on competitive performance.

For most sports, the conference will operate with two leagues, the Metro League and Alliance League. The conference constitution specifies that schools' combined rankings will be used to create the leagues. At the conclusion of each season, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section rankings will be used to determine league placement for the following year.

For the 2026-2027 fall season:

- **Football:** AHS and SGHS will compete in the Alliance League, while MKHS will compete in the Conference League.
- **Girls Volleyball, Girls Tennis, and Flag Football:** SGHS and MKHS will compete in the Metro League, while AHS will compete in the Alliance League.
- **Cross Country:** AHS and MKHS will compete in the Metro League, while SGHS will compete in the Alliance League.
- **Girls Golf:** AHS and MKHS will compete in the Metro League.
- **Boys Water Polo:** AHS and MKHS will compete in the Metro.

> "Joining MAC-12 provides our student-athletes with an exciting new athletic experience and a conference structure that emphasizes competitive equity," said Dr. Marisa Palacios, AUSD Director of Secondary Education. "We are excited about the opportunities this new conference will create for our students and our athletic programs, while continuing to build strong relationships with schools throughout the San Gabriel Valley."

The MAC-12 conference model also recognizes that different sports have different competitive structures. Cross country, wrestling, and track and field will use enrollment and CIF divisional placement as part of their league structure. Several sports with fewer participating schools, including boys golf, water polo, and swimming, will operate as single-conference sports. Football will be divided into three leagues: Metro, Alliance and Conference.

MAC-12's goals extend beyond competitive placement. According to the conference constitution, the organization is intended to encourage participation and equitable opportunities for students, promote good sportsmanship, foster positive relationships among member schools and communities, and maintain the educational value of interscholastic athletics. The conference will also provide opportunities for league championships and CIF Southern Section postseason competition, with playoff berths determined according to league standings and CIF rules.

For AUSD's student-athletes, the transition represents more than a change in the name on their league schedule. It introduces a new model intended to create competitive balance while giving teams opportunities to build new friendly rivalries and strengthen relationships with schools throughout the region.

As the Moors, Aztecs and Matadors begin competing in MAC-12 this fall, AUSD looks forward to continuing to support our student-athletes and athletic programs as they enter this exciting new era.

AUSD High Schools Spotlight Student Talent through Fall Theater Productions

by The Alhambra Unified School District



AUSD high school theater students are taking the stage this fall with four productions featuring comedy, music, drama, and Halloween thrills. Scan the QR codes for tickets, performance dates, and additional information, and come out to support the talented student performers and technical theater students who bring these productions to life.

The curtain is rising on a busy fall season for Alhambra Unified's high school theater programs, with four very different productions coming to stages at Alhambra, Mark Keppel, and San Gabriel high schools. Whether you enjoy comedy, musical theatre, or Halloween thrills, these productions offer an opportunity to enjoy local theater while supporting the talented students and staff who make each show possible.

San Gabriel High School: The Odd Couple

San Gabriel High School will present Neil Simon's classic comedy The Odd Couple with a unique twist. Audiences will have the opportunity to see both the traditional male version, featuring Oscar and Felix, and Simon's female version, featuring Olive and Florence. Two different student casts will bring the productions to life, giving audiences a chance to compare the two takes on Simon's hilarious story of friendship and very different roommates.

Performances are scheduled for October 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, and 10th in San Gabriel High School's auditorium. The October 10th schedule includes a matinee performance at 1:00pm and a later 5:00pm evening performance. Visit https://sghsdrama.ludus.com for cast-specific performance date/times or to purchase tickets.

Alhambra High School: CAGED Haunted House

For those who prefer their theater with a few scares, Alhambra High School Theater will present CAGED, its annual haunted house, on October 9th from 3:00pm to 8:30pm. This year's immersive experience explores physical and psychological confinement, taking visitors through environments shaped by fear, obsession, isolation, and the human mind.

CAGED is designed and constructed by AHS Technical Theater students, who bring the experience to life through sets, lighting, sound, special effects, and live performances. This one-day-only haunted house is open to the public, but is not advised for children 12 and under. CAGED will be held at Alhambra High School, with tickets and additional information available at http://ahstheater.com.

Mark Keppel High School: The Man Who Came to Dinner

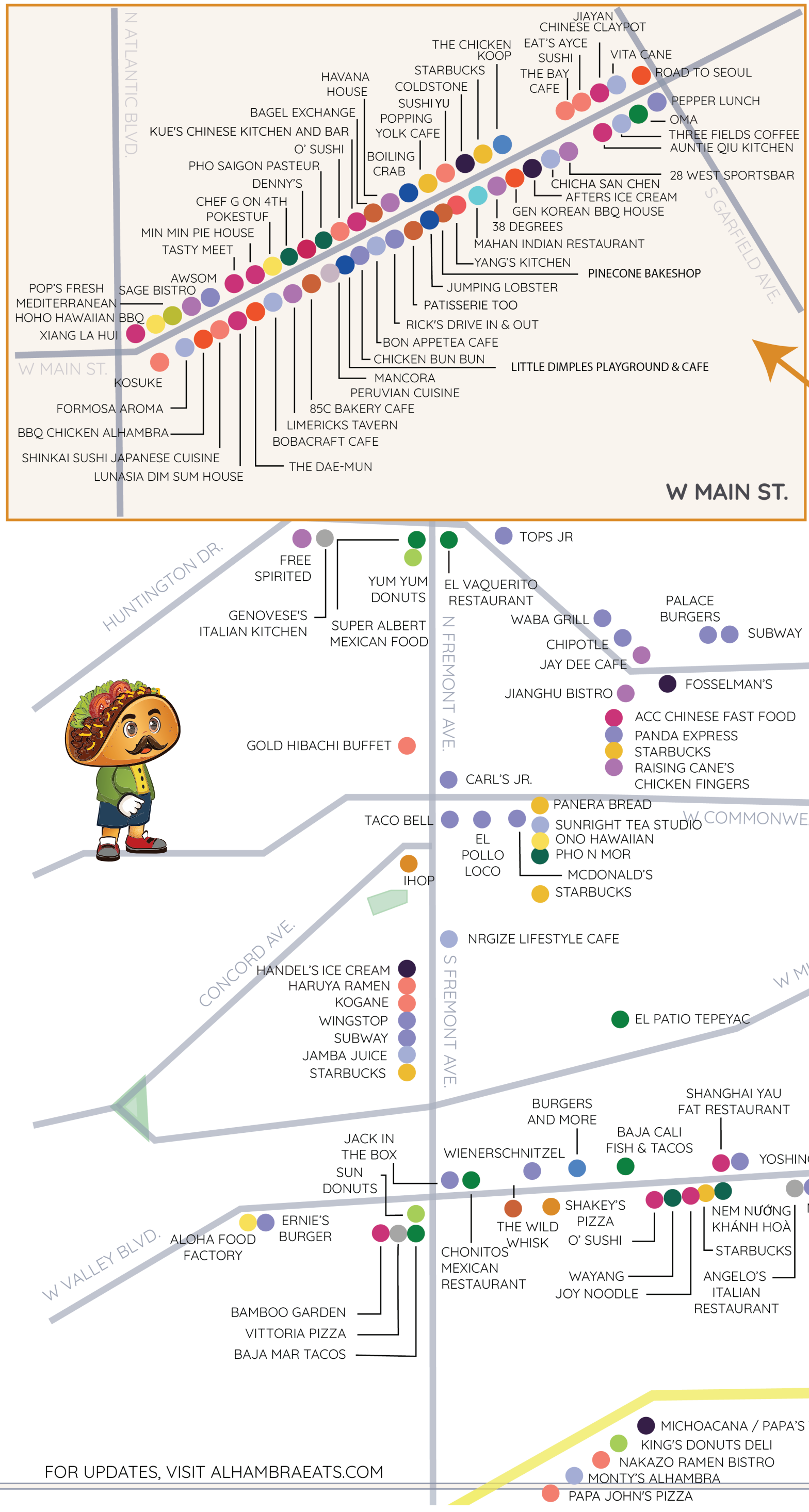
Mark Keppel High School Theatre Company will present the classic comedy, The Man Who Came to Dinner, October 14-16. The production marks the first show directed by Amy Hughson. Hughson is a veteran AUSD teacher, but is new to Keppel's drama department. This production serves as an introduction to a new chapter in MKHS drama under her leadership.

A special performance for AUSD students and staff members will be held October 14th, starting at 4:00pm, followed by public performances on October 15th and 16th at 7:00pm. This fast-paced comedy promises plenty of chaos and laughs as an unexpected houseguest turns an ordinary home upside-down. Learn more or purchase tickets at https://www.mkhstheatrecompany.com.

Alhambra High School: Urinetown

Alhambra High School Theater will launch a second fall performance with the stage

Continued on page 16


N ATLANTIC BLVD.
S GARFIELD AVE.
W MAIN ST.
JIAYAN CHINESE CLAYPOT
EAT'S AYCE SUSHI
VITA CANE
THE BAY CAFE
ROAD TO SEOUL
PEPPER LUNCH
OMA
THREE FIELDS COFFEE
AUNTIE QIU KITCHEN
28 WEST SPORTSBAR
CHICHA SAN CHEN
AFTERS ICE CREAM
GEN KOREAN BBQ HOUSE
38 DEGREES
MAHAN INDIAN RESTAURANT
YANG'S KITCHEN
PINECONE BAKESHOP
JUMPING LOBSTER
PATISSERIE TOO
RICK'S DRIVE IN & OUT
BON APPETEA CAFE
CHICKEN BUN BUN
LITTLE DIMPLES PLAYGROUND & CAFE
MANCORA PERUVIAN CUISINE
85C BAKERY CAFE
LIMERICKS TAVERN
BOBACRAFT CAFE
THE DAE-MUN
THE CHICKEN KOOP
STARBUCKS
COLDSTONE
SUSHI YU
POPPING YOLK CAFE
BOILING CRAB
HAVANA HOUSE
BAGEL EXCHANGE
KUE'S CHINESE KITCHEN AND BAR
O' SUSHI
PHO SAIGON PASTEUR
DENNY'S
CHEF G ON 4TH
POKESTUF
MIN MIN PIE HOUSE
TASTY MEET
AWSOM
SAGE BISTRO
POP'S FRESH MEDITERRANEAN
HOHO HAWAIIAN BBQ
XIANG LA HUI
KOSUKE
FORMOSA AROMA
BBQ CHICKEN ALHAMBRA
SHINKAI SUSHI JAPANESE CUISINE
LUNASIA DIM SUM HOUSE
PHAROS BURGERS
N ATLANTIC BLVD.
HUNTINGTON DR.
FREE SPIRITED
GENOVESE'S ITALIAN KITCHEN
YUM YUM DONUTS
SUPER ALBERT MEXICAN FOOD
TOPS JR
EL VAQUERITO RESTAURANT
N FREMONT AVE.
WABA GRILL
PALACE BURGERS
SUBWAY
CHIPOTLE
JAY DEE CAFE
JIANGHU BISTRO
FOSSELMAN'S
ACC CHINESE FAST FOOD
PANDA EXPRESS
STARBUCKS
RAISING CANE'S CHICKEN FINGERS
GOLD HIBACHI BUFFET
CARL'S JR.
WENDY'S
W COMMONWEALTH AVE.
PANERA BREAD
SUNRIGHT TEA STUDIO
ONO HAWAIIAN
PHO N MOR
MCDONALD'S
STARBUCKS
TACO BELL
EL POLLO LOCO
IHOP
NRGIZE LIFESTYLE CAFE
CONCORD AVE.
S FREMONT AVE.
W MISSION RD.
ALHAMBRA DONUTS
DOMINO'S PIZZA
EL PATIO TEPEYAC
HANDEL'S ICE CREAM
HARUYA RAMEN
KOGANE
WINGSTOP
SUBWAY
JAMBA JUICE
STARBUCKS
JACK IN THE BOX
SUN DONUTS
BURGERS AND MORE
WIENERSCHNITZEL
BAJA CALI FISH & TACOS
SHANGHAI YAU FAT RESTAURANT
YOSHINOYA
ZHENWEI KITCHEN
POPEYE'S CHICKEN
W VALLEY BLVD.
ERNIE'S BURGER
ALOHA FOOD FACTORY
THE WILD WHISK
SHAKEY'S PIZZA
O' SUSHI
NEM NƯỚNG KHÁNH HOÀ
STARBUCKS
MCDONALD'S
TACOS ENSENADA
YUNG HO DOU JIANG
BA LE SANDWICH SHOP
STARBUCKS
CHONITOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT
WAYANG
JOY NOODLE
ANGELO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
BAMBOO GARDEN
VITTORIA PIZZA
BAJA MAR TACOS
MICHOACANA / PAPA'S TACOS
KING'S DONUTS DELI
NAKAZO RAMEN BISTRO
MONTY'S ALHAMBRA
PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA
THREE UNCLES
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IN-N-OUT
WA SUSHI & IZAKAYA
N GARFIELD AVE.
E & J PINOY BBQ & BIBINGKA
KOPAN RAMEN
BANGKOK SOUL
TASTEA
LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA
E MAIN ST.
GRACE & WHEAT BAKERY
PHO SUPER BOWL
A&J BAKERY
MCDONALD'S
BAJA CALI FISH & TACOS
TASTE OF XI'AN
BUN N BURGER
THE CUE BALL
PANDA EXPRESS
SPANGLISH KITCHEN
IT'S BOBA TIME
JOLLIBEE
MAMA LU'S DUMPLING HOUSE
BURGER KING
ONE & ONE BAKERY
7 LEAVES CAFE
COCONUT & CO
JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS
DOGHAUS
THAI PURPLE
FOR THE WIN
BANGKOK BROTH HOUSE
THE HABIT BURGER GRILL
APPLEBEE'S
BLAZE PIZZA
ALL THAT SHABU
WINGSTOP
BAO MASTER
RE:BAKESIC
MIKOMI SUSHI
OHANA BREWING COMPANY
THE GRANADA LA
SHIN SEN GUMI
SAIGON EDEN
UNCLE FUNG COFFEE
BORNEO EATERY
E MISSION RD.
ALMANSOR GRILL
S GARFIELD AVE.
S RAMONA ST.
S ATLANTIC BLVD
CHONG YUEN FONG
THE CONGEE
TASTE OF CHAOSHAN
THE HAT
CHEF NI
PEPE'S FINEST MEXICAN FOOD
BOAT HOUSE RESTAURANT
KANG KANG FOOD COURT
COCONUT JELLY KING
SAM'S NOODLE STATION
MOO TEA
CHA EXPRESS
TACO BELL
ACE BURGER
ZUI XIANG YUAN
DONG NGUYEN RESTAURANT
MJ VALLEY RESTAURANT
AI WEI JU
SIMPLY SPLENDID BAKERY
MR LAN BBQ
BANH MI CHE CALI
HENRY'S CUISINE
LEE'S SANDWICHES
BACCALI CAFE
SUBWAY
WENDY'S
HAI NAM SAIGON
XING FU TANG
E VALLEY BLVD.
SAVOY
PHOENIX INN
101 NOODLE EXPRESS
IPOH KOPITIAM
BASKIN-ROBBINS
U2 CAFE & BBQ
BANH MI MY THO
YOU KITCHEN
LUYIXIAN
LEE'S GARDEN
TWINKLE TEA
WORLD SEAFOOD
SUNDAY BISTRO
QUICKLY
ONO HAWAIIAN BBQ
RAISING CANE'S
CHENGDU TASTE
LOLLICUP
HAPPY LEMON
LITTLE SWAN BAKERY
SHABUYA
TAPIOCA EXPRESS
XIAOLONGKAN CHINESE FONDUE
KFC
DOLANS UYGHUR CUISINE
STARBUCKS
GARDEN CAFE
TOP ISLAND SEAFOOD
NOODLE WORLD
HAPPY HARBOR CUISINE
LAO TIE
DA VIEN
SAM WOO BBQ
I-10
PHO EVER
FREESIA CAKE / HANDMADE TOAST
NEW NOODLE CITY
S NEW AVE.

2026 ALHAMBRA EATS RESTAURANT GUIDE

American

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
• *21 E Main St*
Burger King
• *600 E Main St*
For the Win
• *19 E Main St*
International House Of Pancakes
• *701 S Fremont Ave*
Jersey Mike's Subs
• *333 E. Main St*
Shakey's Pizza
• *2234 W Valley Blvd*

American-Mexican Fusion

Burgers And More
• *2133 W Valley Blvd*
The Chicken Koop
• *101 W Main St C*

Asian Fusion

Noodle World
• *700 Valley Blvd*
Savoy Kitchen
• *138 E Valley Blvd*
Sunday Bistro
• *1032 E Valley Blvd*
U2 Cafe & BBQ
• *1200 E Valley Blvd*
Yang's Kitchen
• *112 W Main St*

Bakery

85 Degrees Bakery Cafe - Alhambra
• *300 W Main St*
A&J Bakery
• *1300 E Main St*
Bagel Exchange
• *137 W Main St*
Grace & Wheat Bakery
• *111 E Main St*
Little Swan Bakery
• *1024 E Valley Blvd*
Patisserie Too
• *126 W Main St*
Pinecone Bakeshop
• *116 W Main St*
Re:Bakesic
• *188 S Monterey St*
Simply Splendid Bakery
• *1273 E Valley Blvd*
The Wild Whisk
• *2428 W Valley Blvd Ste D*

Bar / Lounge

28 West Sportsbar
• *28 W Main St*
38 Degrees
• *100 W Main St*
Free Spirited
• *3020 W Main St*
Havana House Cigars & Lounge
• *133 W Main St*
Jay Dee Cafe
• *1843 W Main St*
Jianghu Bistro
• *2000 W Main St*
Lao Tie
• *640 W Valley Blvd*
Limericks Tavern
• *300 W Main St #110*
Ohana Brewing Company
• *7 S 1st St*
The Cue Ball
• *934 E Main St*
The Granada L.A.
• *17 S 1st St*
Vino's Back Alley
• *10 N 1st St*

Cafe

7 Leaves Cafe
• *151 N Garfield Ave*
Bon Appetea Cafe
• *7 S 2nd St*
Panera Bread
• *2300 W Commonwealth*
Popping Yolk Cafe
• *119 W Main St*
Sage Bistro
• *521 W Main St*

Cajun / Creole

Boat House Restaurant
• *25 W Valley Blvd*
Boiling Crab
• *129 W Main St*
Jumping Lobster*
• *118 W Main St*

Chinese

Min Min Pie House
• *405 W Main St*
101 Noodle Express
Taiwanese
• *1408 E Valley Blvd*
ACC Chinese Fast Food
• *38 S Palm Ave*
Ai Wei Ju
• *31 E Valley Blvd*
Auntie Qiu Kitchen*
• *16 W Main St*
Baccali Cafe
Hong Kong-Style
• *245 W Valley Blvd*
Bamboo Garden
Szechuan
• *2632 W Valley Blvd*
Bao Master
• *108 S Monterey St*
Chef Ni
• *21 E Valley Blvd*
Chengdu Taste
Szechuan
• *828 W Valley Blvd*
Chong Yuen Fong
• *7 E Valley Blvd*
Garden Cafe
Hong Kong-Style
• *228 W Valley Blvd*
Happy Harbor Cuisine
• *736 E Valley Blvd*
Henry's Cuisine
• *301 E Valley Blvd*
Jiayan Chinese Claypot
• *11 W Main St*
Joy Noodle
• *1900 W Valley Blvd*
Kang Kang Food Court
• *27 E Valley Blvd*
Kue's Chinese Kitchen and Bar*
• *201 W Main St*
Lee's Garden
Taiwanese
• *1428 S Atlantic Blvd*
Lunasia Chinese Cuisine
• *500 W Main St*
Luyixian
Shanghainese
• *2 E Valley Blvd #1E*
Mama Lu's Dumpling House
Taiwanese
• *910 E Main St*
MJ Valley Restaurant
• *203 W Valley Blvd*
Mr Lan BBQ
• *1277 E Valley Blvd*
Phoenix Inn Chinese Cuisine
• *208 E Valley Blvd*
Sam Woo BBQ
• *514 Valley Blvd*
Sam's Noodle Station
• *1281 E Valley Blvd*
Shanghai Yau Fat Restaurant
Shanghainese
• *1721 W Valley Blvd*
Sichuan Impression
• *235 W Main St SuiteB*
Taste of Chaoshan
• *501 West Valley Blvd*
Taste of Xi'an
• *345 E Main St*
Tasty Meet
• *417 W Main St*
The Bay Cafe
• *39 W Main St*
The Congee
• *19 Valley Blvd*
Top Island Seafood
• *740 Valley Blvd*
World Seafood Restaurant
• *1412 S Garfield Ave*
Xiang La Hui
Szechuan
• *621 W Main St*
You Kitchen
• *1402 E Valley Blvd*
Yung Ho Dou Jiang
Cantonese
• *1124 W Valley Blvd*
Zui Xiang Yuan
Szechuan
• *1269 E Valley Blvd*

Coffee / Tea / Boba / Juice

Boba Craft
• *410 W Main St*
Cha Express
• *35 W Valley Blvd*
Chicha San Chen
• *30 W Main St*
Da Vien
• *308 W Valley Blvd*
Formosa Aroma
• *560 W Main St B*
Happy Lemon
• *1411 S Garfield Ave*
Jamba Juice
• *1131 S Fremont Ave B*
Lollicup Fresh
• *228 W Valley Blvd*
Monty's Alhambra
• *2132 S Fremont Ave*
Moo Tea
• *1457 E Valley Blvd*
Nrgize Lifestyle Cafe
• *920 S Fremont Ave*
Quickly
• *1328 E Valley Blvd*
Starbucks Coffee
• *101 W Main St*
Starbucks Coffee
• *2120 W Main St*
Starbucks Coffee
• *1131 S Fremont Ave A*
Starbucks Coffee
• *2400 W Commonwealth Ave*
Sunright Tea Studio
• *2320 W Commonwealth Ave*
Tapioca Express
• *228 W Valley Blvd*
Tastea
• *349 E Main St #104*
Three Fields Coffee*
• *12 W Main St*
Uncle Fung Coffee
• *19 S Garfield Ave*
Vita Cane Alhambra
• *9 W Main St*

Dessert

Afters Ice Cream
• *36 W Main St*
Alhambra Donuts
• *701 S Atlantic Blvd*
Baskin-Robbins
• *838 E Valley Blvd*
Coconut & Co
• *15 E Main St*
Coconut Jelly King
• *29 E Valley Blvd*
Coldstone
• *101 W Main St Ste B*
Fosselman's
• *1824 W Main St*
Freesia Cake
• *640 W Valley Blvd Ste B*
Handel's Homemade Ice Cream
• *1127 S Fremont Ave*
Michoacana/ Papas Tacos
• *2130 S Fremont Ave*
One and One Bakery
• *111 E Main St*
Three Uncles Handmade Toast
• *640 W Valley Blvd Ste B*

Diner

Bun N Burger
• *1000 E Main St*
Denny's
• *369 W Main St*

Donuts

King's Donuts Deli
• *2140 S Fremont Ave*
Sun Donuts
• *2644 Valley Blvd*
Yum Yum Donuts
• *9 Fremont Ave*

Event Space / Catering

Almansor Grill
• *700 S Almansor St*

Fast Food

Ace Burger
• *525 W Valley Blvd*
Awsom Wings Pizza & Burgers (former Alondras)
• *515 W Main St*
Blaze Pizza
• *100 E Main St*
Carl's Jr.
• *2521 W Commonwealth Ave*
Chicken Bun Bun
• *222 W Main St*
Chipotle Mexican Grill
• *2121 W Main St*
Doghaus
• *410 E Main St*
Domino's Pizza
• *703 S Atlantic Blvd*
El Pollo Loco
• *2528 W Commonwealth Ave*
Ernie's Burgers
• *2970 W Valley Blvd*
In-N-Out Burger
• *1210 N Atlantic Blvd*
Jack in the Box
• *2531 W Valley Blvd*
Jollibee
• *347 E Main St*
Kentucky Fried Chicken
• *1425 S New Ave*
Little Caesars Pizza
• *715 E Main St*
McDonald's
• *909 E Main St*
McDonald's
• *2310 W Commonwealth Ave*
McDonald's
• *1520 W Valley Blvd*
Palace Burgers
• *1703 W Main St*
Panda Express
• *5 E Main St*
Pharos Burgers
• *1129 N Garfield Ave*
Popeye's Chicken
• *1013 W Valley Blvd*
Raising Cane's
• *1300 E Valley Blvd*
Rick's Drive In & Out
• *132 W Main St*
Subway
• *1129 S Fremont Ave A*
Subway
• *1701 W Main St*
Subway
• *1020 E Valley Blvd*
Taco Bell
• *2588 W Commonwealth Ave*
Taco Bell
• *241 E Valley Blvd*
The Habit Burger Grill
• *100 E Main St*
The Hat
• *1 Valley Blvd*
Tops Jr
• *2407 W Main St*
Waba Grill
• *2121 W Main St*
Wendy's
• *245 S Atlantic Blvd*
Wendy's
• *1201 E Valley Blvd*
Wienerschnitzel
• *2301 Valley Blvd*
Wingstop
• *1129 S Fremont Ave*
Wingstop
• *100 E Main St*
Yoshinoya West/Beef Bowl
• *1701 W Valley Blvd*

Hawaiian

Aloha Food Factory
• *2990 W Valley Blvd*
Hoho Hawaiian BBQ
• *555 W Main St*
Ono Hawaiian BBQ
• *2320 W Commonwealth Ave*
Pokestuf
• *401 W Main St*

Indian

Mahan Indian Restaurant
• *110 W Main St*

Mediterranean

Pop's Fresh Mediterranean
• *525 W Main St*

Italian

Angelo's Italian Restaurant
• *1540 W Valley Blvd*
Charlies Trio Cafe
• *47 W Main St*
Genovese's Italian Kitchen
• *2900 W Main St*
Vittoria Pizza
• *2622 W Valley Blvd*

Japanese

All That Shabu
• *100 E Main St*
Eat's Ayce Sushi
• *17 W Main St*
Haruya Ramen
• *1129 S Fremont Ave*
Kogane
• *1129 S Fremont Ave*
Kopan Ramen
• *645 E Main St*
Kosuke Ramen
• *618-B W Main St*
Kyoto Gyukatsu
• *150 E Main St*
Mikomi Sushi
• *2 S Garfield Ave*
Nakazo Ramen Bistro
• *2120 S Fremont Ave*
New Gold Hibachi Buffet
• *2223 W Commonwealth Ave*
Pepper Lunch
• *6 W Main St*
Shabuya
• *820 E Valley Blvd*
Shin Sen Gumi
• *45 S Garfield Ave*
Shinkai Sushi Japanese Cuisine
• *500 W Main St*
Sushi Yu
• *115 W Main St*
Wa Sushi & Izakaya
• *1132 N Garfield Ave*

Korean

BBQ Chicken Alhambra
• *560 W Main St*
Gen Korean BBQ House
• *68 W Main St*
Road To Seoul
• *1 W Main St*
The Dae-Mun
• *410 W Main St*

Mexican

Baja Cali Fish & Tacos
• *31 E Main St*
Baja Cali Fish & Tacos
• *2001 W Valley Blvd*
Baja Mar Tacos
• *2620 W Valley Blvd*
Chonito's Mexican Restaurant
• *2505 W Valley Blvd*
El Patio Tepeyac
• *800 S Palm Ave*
El Vaquerito Restaurant
• *14 Fremont Ave*
Oma
• *8 W Main St*
Pepe's Finest Mexican Food
• *511 W Valley Blvd*
Spanglish Kitchen
• *526 N Atlantic Blvd*
Super Albert Mexican Food
• *2600 W Main St*
Tacos Ensenada
• *1142 W Valley Blvd*

Peruvian

Mancora Peruvian Cuisine
• *240 W Main St*

Southeast Asian

Ba Le Sandwich Shop
Vietnamese
• *1426 S Atlantic Blvd*
Bangkok Broth
Thai
• *150 E Main St*
Bangkok Soul
Thai
• *707 E Main St*
Banh Mi Che Cali Restaurant
Vietnamese
• *647 W Valley Blvd*
Banh Mi My Tho
Vietnamese
• *304 W Valley Blvd*
Borneo Eatery (Kalimantan)
Indonesian
• *19 S Garfield Ave*
Chef G on 4th Thai Street Food
Thai
• *5 N 4th St*
Dong Nguyen Restaurant
Vietnamese
• *1433 Valley Blvd*
E & J Pinoy Barbecue and Bibingka
Filipino
• *345 E Main St*
Hai Nam Saigon
Vietnamese
• *1425 E Valley Blvd*
Ipoh Kopitiam
Malaysian
• *1411 S Garfield Ave*
Lee's Sandwiches
Vietnamese
• *1289 E Valley Blvd*
Nem Nuong Khánh Hoà
Vietnamese
• *1700 W Valley Blvd*
New Noodle City
Vietnamese
• *628 W Valley Blvd*
Pho Ever
Vietnamese
• *1 E Hellman Ave*
Pho N Mor
Vietnamese
• *2320 W Commonwealth Ave*
Pho Saigon Pasteur
Vietnamese
• *235 W Main St*
Pho Super Bowl Restaurant
Vietnamese
• *1300 E Main St*
Saigon Eden
Vietnamese
• *29 S Garfield Ave*
Thai Purple
Thai
• *27 N Garfield Ave*
Wayang
Indonesian
• *1936 W Valley Blvd*

Uyghur

Dolan's Uyghur Cuisine
• *742 W Valley Blvd*

Restaurants marked with an asterisk (*) are opening soon.

AUSD Launches Enrollment Impact Committee Community Conversations

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Retired Assistant Superintendent Patricia Mahony facilitates a discussion with Garfield Elementary parents as they provide input at one of 50 Community Conversations the district is holding to listen to questions, ideas, and perspectives about the future of Alhambra Unified School District.

The conversation about the future of Alhambra Unified School District is officially underway. AUSD recently launched its series of Enrollment Impact Committee (EIC) Community Conversations, giving families, staff, students, and community members an opportunity to learn more about the district's enrollment trends, ask questions, share ideas, and talk about what they value most about AUSD.

The first Community Conversations brought groups together at several school sites last month. Over 50 conversations have been scheduled with parents, staff members, and student representatives to hear their perspectives and participate in an open discussion about the future of the district.

These conversations are an important next step following seven months of work by the EIC, which has studied enrollment trends, demographic data, and factors affecting enrollment in AUSD, while comparing the district's experience with neighboring school districts, Los Angeles County, and California. These conversations give the district an opportunity to listen and gather input before reports are presented to the Board, who will ultimately make the decisions about how AUSD will address declining enrollment in our schools. Every voice matters, and community participation will help inform the district's thinking about what comes next.

If you missed the Community Conversation at your child's school, there are still a few more opportunities to participate this month, including a convenient virtual Community Conversation on October 15th for those who are unable to attend in person. The schedule of remaining Community Conversations is available at: https://tinyurl.com/EICCommunity-Conversations.

All educational partners are also encouraged to complete the EIC Community Survey, which is still open. The survey provides another opportunity to share what you value about AUSD and what you believe should be considered as the district looks toward the future: https://tinyurl.com/EICCommunitySurvey. If you responded to the survey early on, but have since attended a Community Conversation and learned more, you are welcome to log in (using your same email address) and revise your answers as needed.

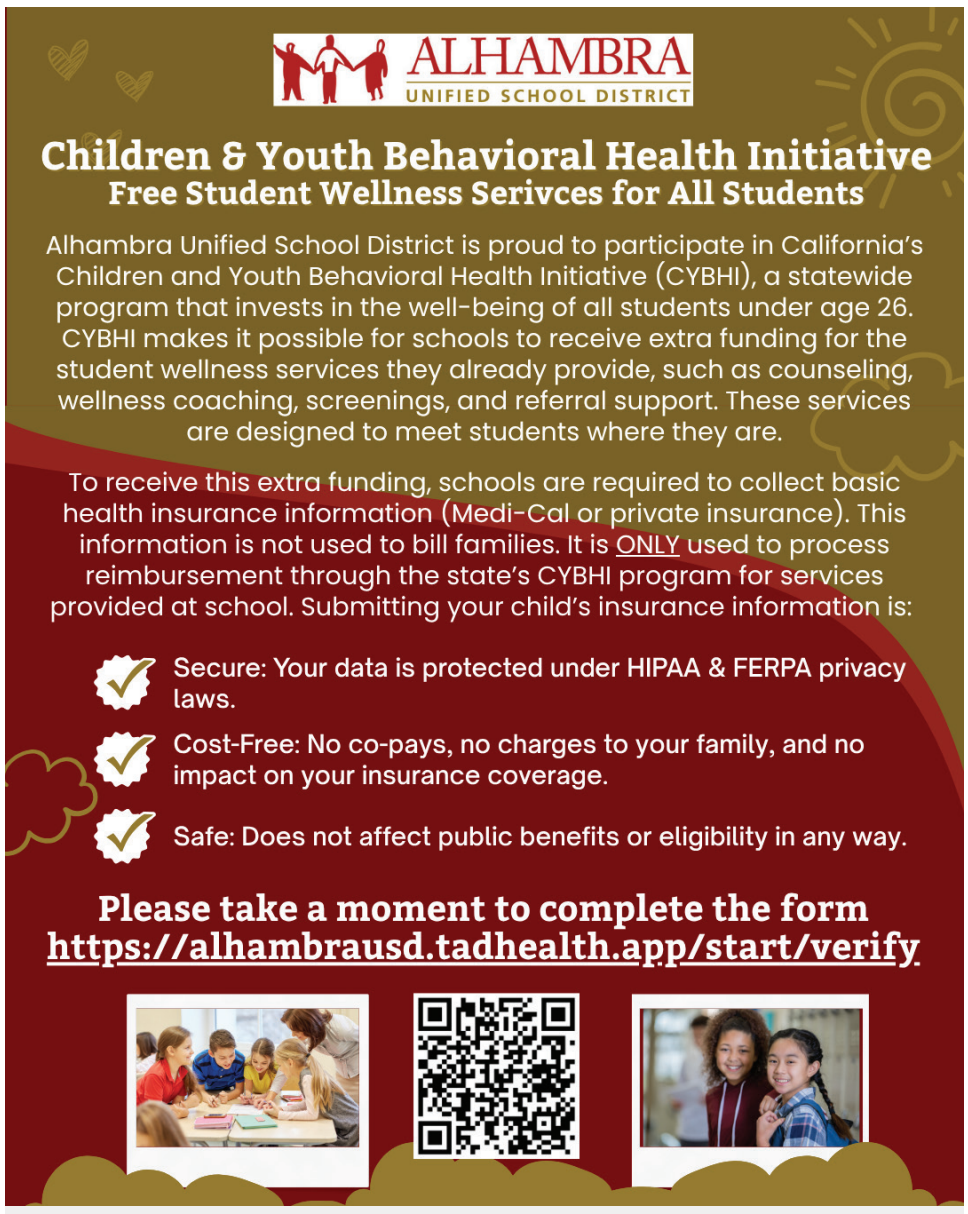
In addition, AUSD encourages educational partners to watch the district's introductory EIC video on the AUSD YouTube channel (www.YouTube.com/@AlhambraUSD) to learn more about the enrollment challenge and the work underway to help reimagine the future of AUSD.

Your participation is an important part of this process. Please attend a Community Conversation, complete the survey, watch the video, and make your voice heard.



Families Can Help Support Student Wellness Services through CYBHI Registration

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Families can complete the form online at https://alhambrausd.tadhealth.app/start/verify or scan the QR code included on the CYBHI informational flyer. To learn more about CYBHI and how this initiative supports student wellness, please review the accompanying flyer or visit this Frequently Asked Questions webpage: https://intercom.help/tad-health/en/articles/14011466-tadhealth-verify-faq .

Every student deserves access to resources that support their overall well-being and help them learn, grow, and thrive. Through California's Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI), Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) can receive additional funding to support student wellness services already available on school campuses, including counseling, wellness coaching, behavioral health screenings, and other social-emotional supports.

To help the District continue providing these important services, AUSD is asking families to provide their child's health insurance information through a secure online form. The information allows the District to receive reimbursement for eligible wellness services provided to students at school, helping sustain resources that support student health and success.

"There is a strong connection between student wellness and academic success," said Lindsey K. Ma, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services. "The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative provides AUSD with an important opportunity to strengthen and sustain comprehensive school-based behavioral health services and supports for our students. Through CYBHI, we are expanding access to wellness and counseling services while building stronger systems of support that recognize the whole child. We are grateful for the partnership of our families, staff, and community as we continue working together to ensure every student has the support they need to thrive."

There is no cost to families to participate, and providing insurance information will not affect a student's health insurance benefits or access to care. The information collected will only be used to allow AUSD to receive reimbursement for eligible CYBHI services and will be protected to safeguard student and family privacy.

Families are encouraged to take a few minutes to complete the CYBHI insurance information form at https://alhambrausd.tadhealth.app/start/verify. Each family's participation helps AUSD continue offering wellness resources that support students' academic, social, and emotional success. AUSD appreciates partnership and continued support from our students and families.



~300 STUDENTS

15:1 STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

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Including: National Honor Society, Science Club, ASL Club, Pre-Med Club, Art Club

100% GRADUATES ADMITTED COLLEGE

89% PASS RATE ON ALL AP EXAMS



ATHLETICS

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Welcoming applications for Fall 2027

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- Meet students and faculty
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Is Ramona the Right Fit?

- Ramona is ideal for students who are:
  - Motivated and curious
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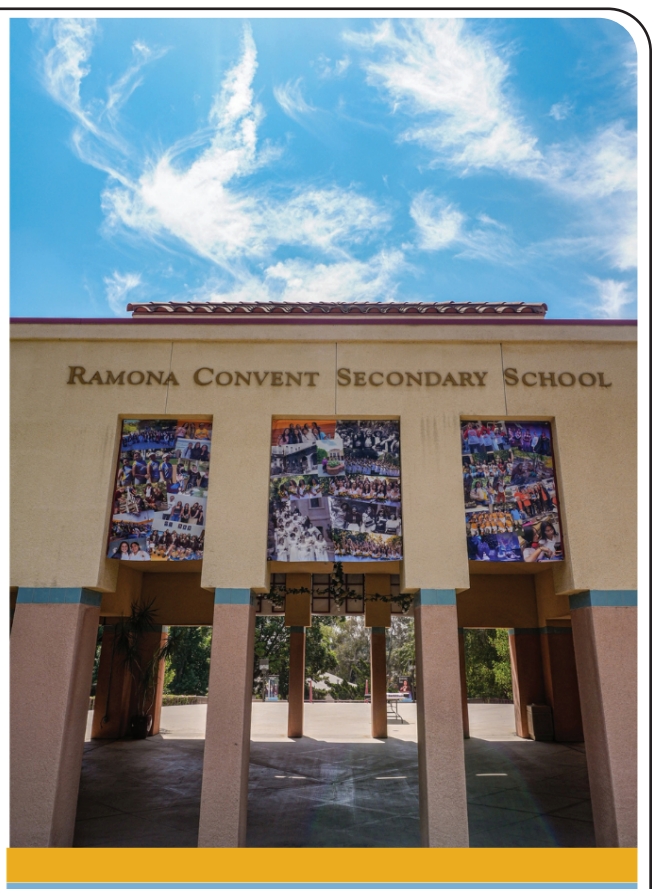
GET IN TOUCH:

SCAN ME

Phone Number
(626) 282-4151

Email Address
Admissions@RamonaConvent.org

School Address
**1701 W. Ramona Rd.
Alhambra, CA 91803**



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ALHAMBRA PUMPKIN RUN 2026

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LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT | BEER GARDEN
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FARMERS MARKET

SIGN UP
ALHAMBRAPUMPKINRUN.COM

Continuation from page 11

production of the irreverent musical comedy Urinetown. Set in a future where a severe water shortage has led to a government ban on private toilets, the musical uses humor, memorable songs, and an inventive story to satirize politics, corporate power, and social inequality.

AHS performers and technical theater students are working together to bring the production to life through music, choreography, comedy, sets, and technical elements. Performances will be held November 13th, 14th, 17th, 20th, and 21st in the Alhambra High School Auditorium.Tickets are available at http://ahstheater.com.

AUSD families and community members have plenty of opportunities this fall to experience the creativity and dedication of local student theater. Audiences might only see the performers onstage, but each production also represents countless hours of work by students designing, building, lighting, running sound, managing backstage operations, creating costumes and props, and making live theater happen. Come out, enjoy a show, and support the many talented young artists and theater technicians of AUSD.



Oct-Dec 2026

ALHAMBRA Restaurant of the Week

PRESENTED BY THE ALHAMBRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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!

Oct 12 to Oct 18

Sam Woo BBQ is known for its Cantonese barbecue, with roast duck, char siu pork, and crispy roast pork displayed in the window and served over rice or alongside noodles. The menu also features wonton soup, chow mein, fried rice, and other Chinese favorites, offering plenty of options for a quick lunch or a more substantial meal.

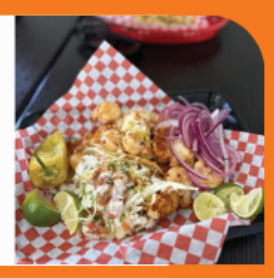
Visit them at 514 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



Oct 19 to Oct 25

Baja Mar Taco brings Baja-style Mexican seafood to Alhambra, with fish and shrimp tacos among its signature offerings. The menu also includes carne asada and al pastor tacos, burritos, and other Mexican favorites, giving diners options whether they are stopping in for a quick taco or putting together a full meal. Look for taco specials that make it easier to sample several varieties.

Visit them at 2620 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



Oct 26 to Nov 1

Banh Mi & Che Cali serves Vietnamese favorites, from bánh mì sandwiches filled with savory meats, pickled vegetables, cilantro, and jalapeños to rice plates, noodle dishes, and spring rolls. The shop is also known for its chè, traditional Vietnamese sweet desserts made with ingredients such as beans, jellies, fruit, and coconut milk.

Visit them at 647 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



Nov 2 to Nov 8

Shakey's Pizza pairs its classic pizzas with fried chicken and its signature Mojo Potatoes. Known for its family-friendly atmosphere and group dining, Shakey's will soon celebrate a grand reopening with a redesigned restaurant, bringing a refreshed look to the longtime pizza destination.

Visit them at 2234 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



Nov 9 to Nov 15

Sun Donuts serves freshly made donuts, from glazed classics and chocolate-topped favorites to apple fritters and bear claws. The shop also offers breakfast sandwiches and Vietnamese coffee for customers looking to grab a quick bite and drink.

Visit them at 2644 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



Nov 16 to Nov 22

Founded in Tokyo in 1899, **Yoshinoya** is known for its signature gyudon, featuring thinly sliced beef simmered with onions in a savory, slightly sweet sauce over rice. The menu also includes chicken bowls and other options for a quick Japanese-style meal.

Visit them at 1701 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



Nov 23 to Nov 29

Wa Sushi & Izakaya serves sushi, sashimi, specialty rolls, and Japanese entrees, with a menu that covers everything from familiar favorites to cooked dishes. Bento boxes and small plates round out the selection for lunch or dinner.

Visit them at 1132 N Garfield Ave, Alhambra



Nov 30 to Dec 6

Ernie's Burgers serves classic American burger stand fare, with a menu of burgers, fries, sandwiches, and other grilled favorites. It's a longtime style of casual dining built around made-to-order burgers and familiar sides.

Visit them at 2970 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



Dec 7 to Dec 13

Shinkai Sushi Japanese Fusion combines traditional Japanese offerings, including sushi and sashimi, with specialty rolls and creative preparations. Diners can explore a range of seafood selections, with omakase options offering a more curated experience guided by the chef.

Visit them at 500 W Main St Unit D, Alhambra





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

alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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AUSD High Schools Make Their Mark in U.S. News & World Report's Annual Rankings

by The Alhambra Unified School District

All three Alhambra Unified School District high schools have earned recognition in the 2026–2027 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings, highlighting the academic achievements and opportunities available to students across the District. Alhambra High School, Mark Keppel High School, and San Gabriel High School each earned a place among the top public high schools in California in the annual rankings, which evaluate more than 27,000 public high schools nationwide.

U.S. News & World Report bases its rankings on six indicators of school quality: college readiness, state assessment proficiency, overall student performance, college curriculum breadth, underserved student performance, and graduation rate. Together, the indicators are designed to provide a broad look at how well schools are preparing students for success after high school.

"These rankings are a reflection of the dedication and hard work we see every day across our three high schools," said Dr. Marisa Palacios, AUSD Director of Secondary Education. "Our students are challenging themselves academically, our educators are committed to helping every student reach their potential, and our families continue to provide important guidance along the way. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our students and the teams who support them."

The recognition comes as AUSD continues to offer students a wide range of opportunities to prepare for college, careers, and life beyond high school. Academic programs, college and career preparation, advanced coursework, and support services all contribute to helping students pursue their individual goals.

AUSD congratulates the students, teachers, staff, and families of Alhambra High School, Mark Keppel High School, and San Gabriel High School on this recognition and for the many accomplishments that continue to make the District's high schools places where students can learn, grow, and prepare for their futures

Complete rankings and information about the methodology are available through the U.S. News & World Report website:
https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/california/rankings.



All three AUSD high schools earned recognition in the 2026–2027 U.S. News & World Report's list of the Best High Schools. The high rankings for Alhambra High School, Mark Keppel High School, and San Gabriel High School were impressive and reflective of the collective efforts of each school community!



Please scan the QR codes in the accompanying flyer to view the student compacts and the recently-updated Board Policy.

AUSD Introduces New Mobile Electronic Communication Device Policy

by The Alhambra Unified School District

When students returned to school this year, they learned that Alhambra Unified School District implemented a new Mobile Electronic Communication Device Policy designed to support learning by minimizing distractions during the school day. The new policy, summarized by the phrase "Off and Put Away!" requires students to keep mobile electronic communication devices, including cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and similar electronic devices, turned off and stored away during the instructional day.

High school students will be allowed to use their cell phones during their lunch period, but not during instructional time. Meanwhile, students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade cannot use cell phones at all during the school day, including during recess or lunch.

Exceptions may be made in the event of an emergency or with permission from a school administrator. The policy also makes clear that mobile devices may not be used for academic dishonesty, cheating, or in any way that infringes on the privacy rights of others. Families should also be aware that the district and schools are not responsible for mobile devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged on campus or during school-sponsored activities.

The new policy aligns with California's efforts to create more focused learning environments while maintaining appropriate access to technology when needed. Families are encouraged to review the student compact for their child's grade level and Board Policy 5131.8 for complete details before the start of the school year.

Alhambra City Council CANDIDATES



Running for Alhambra City Council District 5:
Adele Andrade-Stadler



Running for Alhambra City Council District 1:
Amy J. Wong



Running for Alhambra City Council District 5:
Melissa Michelson



Running for Alhambra City Council District 1:
Ron Sahu

Alhambra voters will head to the polls on November 3 to elect representatives to three City Council districts. District 1 has two candidates on the ballot, District 2 has one unopposed candidate, and District 5 has three candidates.

Ahead of the election, Around Alhambra asked candidates in contested races to respond to the same set of questions about their priorities, policy positions, and vision for the city. The responses give voters an opportunity to hear directly from the candidates about why they are running, what they hope to accomplish, and how they would approach key issues affecting Alhambra. Candidates who submitted responses are presented in the order they were received at aroundalhambra.org.

AUSD Students Launch Early Journey Toward College Degrees

by The Alhambra Unified School District



Students participating in AUSD's 2026 AA Pathway gathered with their families and program leaders at the pathway kickoff, marking the beginning of their journey toward earning both a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree.

A cohort of Alhambra Unified School District freshmen are getting an early start on college, with the opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts degree before they graduate from high school in 2030.

Students in the 2026 AA Pathway, along with their families, gathered in August for a kickoff event celebrating the start of their Early College Program (ECP) journey. Offered through AUSD's partnership with East Los Angeles College (ELAC), the pathway allows students to earn college credits while completing their high school coursework.

The AA Pathway is designed for students entering ninth grade and provides a structured course sequence that can lead to an associate degree by the time they graduate from high school. College courses are taught by ELAC instructors and offered at no cost to AUSD students. Many courses are also transferable to California State University and University of California campuses, although students should verify transferability with their intended colleges and universities.

At the kickoff, students and families learned more about the pathway, expectations and resources available to help them succeed. Students also had an opportunity to meet others who will be taking the journey alongside them.

The AA Pathway builds on AUSD's long-standing ECP, which offers students multiple opportunities to earn college credit while completing their high school requirements. Through a variety of pathway options with ELAC, students can begin earning college credit as early as the summer prior to starting their freshman year.

Dr. Leann Huang, AUSD's Coordinator of College and Career Preparation, expressed her appreciation of the continued work with the ELAC team and the opportunities they provide AUSD students. "We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with East Los Angeles College and the opportunities they are providing for our students," Dr. Huang said. "This pathway gives students a true headstart on their college education and allows them to finish their high school careers with both a high school diploma and an AA degree. It's an incredible accomplishment for them and can open the door to so many possibilities as they take their next steps toward a bachelor's degree and their future careers."

Students will also have a support team throughout the program. AUSD's high schools have College & Career Counselors who assist with enrollment, monitor student progress, and connect students with resources. ELAC provides additional counseling and virtual support.

For these freshmen, the kickoff marked the beginning of an opportunity to earn college credits, gain experience with college-level coursework and work toward an associate degree before high school graduation.

Students interested in the Early College Program should visit their school's College and Career Center or www.ausd.us/ecp.

Alhambra's New Run Crew

As the summer season picks up, more people around Alhambra are getting outside and moving. For those looking for a running group that is consistent, welcoming, and easy to join, Renaissance in Motion is building something worth checking out. The group meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. outside the Regal Theater at Renaissance Plaza (Main St and Garfield Ave). Most runs are 3 to 4 miles, with routes changing weekly to highlight different parts of Alhambra and the surrounding area.

Renaissance in Motion follows a simple approach: start on time, stay together, and keep moving. Runs are no-drop, with captains leading and regrouping at key points to ensure no one is left behind. With paces ranging from rough-

read the full article at aroundalhambra.org



AUSD Schools Continue to Earn California PBIS Recognition

by The Alhambra Unified School District



AUSD is proud to celebrate these nine schools recognized through the 2026 California PBIS Recognition system, including six Platinum, two Gold, and one Silver honoree.

Nine Alhambra Unified School District schools are being recognized this year for their commitment to creating positive, supportive school environments through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Six of those AUSD schools earned the highest level of recognition, Platinum: Brightwood School, Granada School, Monterey Highlands School, Ramona School, William Northrup School, and Ynez School. Garfield School and San Gabriel High School earned Gold recognition, while Park School received Silver recognition.

California PBIS Recognition honors schools for developing and implementing PBIS systems with fidelity. The framework focuses on creating positive school environments by establishing clear expectations, teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors, using data to guide decisions, and providing students with the support they need to be successful.

While the recognition levels highlight the strength of each school's PBIS implementation, the work behind the awards happens every day in classrooms, offices, hallways, and throughout each school community. "PBIS is really about creating school environments where students know they belong, understand what is expected of them, and have the support they need to be successful," said Dr. Wendy Molina-Solis, AUSD Director of Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports. "These recognitions reflect the dedication of our school teams and the collaborative work they do every day to make positive, supportive environments a reality for our students."

PBIS is a schoolwide effort that requires collaboration among administrators, teachers, classified staff, counselors, students, and families. The nine AUSD recognitions reflect the sustained work of school-based PBIS teams, as well as district leadership supporting schools as they strengthen their systems and practices. They celebrate educators and staff who work to make positive behavior support part of students' everyday experiences. By creating consistent expectations and providing support when students need it, PBIS helps schools build environments where students can learn, grow, and thrive.The nine recognized schools will have an opportunity to publicly celebrate their accomplishments with educators from throughout the state at the Annual California PBIS Conference in Sacramento this month.Having nine schools recognized at three different levels is a significant accomplishment for AUSD and a testament to the commitment of staff across the District. Congratulations to Brightwood, Granada, Monterey Highlands, Ramona, William Northrup, Ynez, Garfield, San Gabriel High School, and Park School, as well as the many staff members who make this work possible.



(Draft) AUSD CLASSROOM SCREEN TIME GUIDELINES
26/27 Pilot
Board Recommendation • Technology & Information Services

Purpose. In response to community concerns about student screen time, AUSD BOE recommends the following daily classroom screen time guidelines. These figures represent total educational device use during the instructional day across all subjects and include district-issued technology.

Daily Classroom Screen Time by Grade Band

Grade Band	Daily Classroom Screen Time	Guidance
TK – 1	No classroom screens	Teacher-directed instruction only. No independent i-Ready sessions.
2	Up to 20 min/day	Short, purposeful sessions tied to a specific learning objective.
3 – 5	Up to 30 min/day	Blend direct instruction with brief, targeted digital practice.
6 – 8	60 – 120 min/day	Recommended range across all content areas combined.
9 – 12	90 – 180 min/day	Recommended range across all content areas combined.

Assessment Exemption
Required assessments, including i-Ready diagnostics, SBAC testing, and other state- or district-mandated testing, do not count toward classroom screen-time caps.

Implementation Recommendations

Instructional Shifts
- Keep i-Ready diagnostics in place for assessment purposes.
- Reduce independent i-Ready / personalized-learning time, especially in lower grades.
- Shift toward more teacher-directed small-group intervention.
- Cap excessive weekly online minutes across all platforms combined.

Site Responsibilities
- Schools justify educational screen use against a clear learning objective.
- TK–1 classrooms use teacher-led instruction in place of independent device time.
- Site administrators monitor weekly usage and address outliers.
- Teachers balance digital tools with offline reading, writing, and hands-on work.

Alhambra Unified School District

**Guidelines are based on LAUSD's screentime policy*

These proposed guidelines are being piloted this year. AUSD would greatly appreciate student, parent, and staff input as we review and refine the proposal throughout the year.

AUSD Seeks Community Feedback on Proposed Classroom Screen Time Guidelines

by The Alhambra Unified School District

As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting student learning and well-being, Alhambra Unified School District is seeking feedback on proposed classroom screen time guidelines that are being piloted during the 2026-2027 school year. The proposal was drafted in response to community input regarding student screen use and outlines recommended daily classroom screen time by grade level.

The proposal includes no classroom screen use for transitional kindergarten through first grade students, age-appropriate daily screen time recommendations for grades 2 through 12, and exemptions for required assessments such as iReady diagnostics, SBAC, and other mandated testing. The guidelines also encourage a balanced approach to instruction by reducing independent screen-based activities, increasing teacher-directed learning and small-group instruction, and incorporating more offline reading, writing, discussion, and hands-on learning experiences.

"Our goal is not to eliminate technology from the classroom, but to ensure it is used intentionally and in ways that best support student learning," said Ms. Janet Lees, AUSD Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. "These proposed guidelines are designed to help us strike a healthy balance between the benefits of digital tools and the value of face-to-face instruction, collaboration, and hands-on learning. We encourage all of our families to share their perspectives as we shape these guidelines together."

Families, staff, and community members are encouraged to review the draft proposal and complete a short, anonymous survey to share their feedback. The survey takes approximately three minutes to complete, and responses will help inform the pilot program and future decisions regarding technology use in AUSD classrooms.

The survey is available at: www.tinyurl.com/AUSDScreenTimeSurvey2026. Community feedback is an important part of the process, and AUSD encourages all families to participate.

Student Ambassadors Take on Leadership Roles at Inaugural AUSD Summit

by The Alhambra Unified School District

A new group of student leaders is ready to represent career and college opportunities across the Alhambra Unified School District after participating in the inaugural AUSD Student Ambassador Leadership Summit in August. The full-day summit brought together students from Alhambra High School, San Gabriel High School, and Mark Keppel High School who have committed to serving as Career Technical Education (CTE) and Early College Program (ECP) Student Ambassadors during the 2026-2027 school year.

Throughout the year, these ambassadors will serve as student representatives for CTE and ECP programs. They will participate in district and school events, help promote and recruit students for program opportunities, connect with industry professionals, and find ways to give back to their schools and community. The leadership summit provided students with an opportunity to build the skills they will need in their new roles. Students also took a deeper look at AUSD's CTE and ECP offerings, participated in team-building activities, and learned how to develop and deliver an effective elevator pitch.

The ambassadors put their skills into practice by presenting their pitches to a panel of district administrators that included Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo, Assistant Superintendent Janet Lees, and Director of Secondary Education Dr. Marisa Palacios. Dr. Leann Huang, Coordinator of College and Career Preparation, also helped lead the summit and supported the students as they prepared to step into their leadership roles.The College & Career Counselors played an integral role in the development of the student ambassador program, leading the selection process by reviewing student applications and facilitating interviews. Their support will continue throughout the school year through monthly meetings with the student ambassadors, which will focus on strengthening leadership skills, expanding college and career knowledge, and preparing them to serve as informed and effective representatives of their schools and programs.

"This summit represents a goal our College and Career Preparation team has been working toward for a long time," Dr. Huang explained. "We are excited to give students a platform to share their experiences, develop their leadership skills, and help other students discover the opportunities available to them through CTE and ECP.

Student voices are powerful, and we are looking forward to seeing the impact they make throughout the school year."

The summit also emphasized the importance of students being able to confidently communicate their experiences and opportunities with their peers. As ambassadors, students will have the chance to become knowledgeable advocates for programs that can help their classmates explore career interests, earn college credit, and prepare for life after high school.

The inaugural summit marked the beginning of what AUSD hopes will become a growing student leadership opportunity. With students representing all three comprehensive high schools, the ambassador program will help strengthen connections among students, schools, college and career programs, and the broader community. For the students who participated, the day was more than a training session. It was their first step in a yearlong opportunity to develop as leaders while helping peers see new possibilities for their futures.



AUSD's inaugural CTE and ECP Student Ambassadors from Alhambra, Mark Keppel, and San Gabriel high schools gathered for the August 7th Student Ambassador Leadership Summit, where they developed leadership and communication skills and prepared to serve in this capacity throughout the 2026-2027 school year.

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ALHAMBRA FOOD FRIENDS ™

Introducing the Alhambra Food Friends, who are, the embodiment of the vibrant flavors and diversity of food that make up the exciting food scene in Alhambra, the culinary gateway of the San Gabriel Valley.



Pearl captures the lively energy of the variety of boba stores across Alhambra. She is a bold and spirited bubble tea who's social attitude can bring anyone together.

Pearl is tough, energetic, and social. She is the ring leader of the **Alhambra Food Friends.**



Just as rich ramen broth warms you, **Nori** (Alhambra's Ra-MAN) warms up every room he enters. He is cautious, and he makes sure the Alhambra Food Friends don't rush into anything too hastily.

He also looks out for the other Alhambra Food Friends and makes sure no one is left out. He's always watching and listening so he knows exactly how to care for his friends.



Flavors of Mexico are found across Alhambra, and **Rico**, the playful (and a little mischievous) taco, represents them well. His jokes are a little cheesy, and he can spice up any conversation with his lively energy.

With his many jokes, Rico is the life of the party, always cheering up his Alhambra Food Friends when they are down and inspiring awesome adventures.



Soft and sweet, **Bunnie** is a pineapple bun who loves planning the outings for the Alhambra Food Friends. When somebody isn't feeling well, she's quick to show up with freshly made food and medicine before they even ask.

Bunnie is often quieter than the others, but she notices the little things that everyone else misses. She is thoughtful and caring, never letting anyone feel forgotten.



Filled with warm soup and an even warmer heart, **Bobby Bao** is the xiao long bao with a tough exterior and a heart of gold. He may seem like a big, strong guy, but he's really a total softy who loves taking care of his friends.

Bobby is warm and loving, always ready with a helping hand, a listening ear, or a little encouragement when someone needs it. His gentle heart and caring nature make him someone the Alhambra Food Friends can always count on.



With plenty of layers to him, **Rolland** is an egg roll who is thoughtful, observant, and always curious about the world around him. He notices the little details that everyone else misses and has a habit of picking up on things before anyone else does.

Rolland loves figuring out how things work, exploring new ideas, and making connections. His curiosity often leads the Alhambra Food Friends somewhere unexpected.

ALHAMBRA TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
FROM 6 – 8 PM
Renaissance Plaza, 1 E. Main Street

FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA | LIVE MUSIC | FAMILY FUN!



DOWNTOWN ALHAMBRA

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ALHAMBRA DAY OF SERVICE

Give back and make an impact in your community!

JOIN US ON SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 7, FROM 8 – 11 AM

The Alhambra Day of Service is 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! Register as a volunteer today by scanning the QR code.

For more information, visit **alhambrachamber.org** or email: **hello@alhambrachamber.org**

SCAN QR CODE TO VOLUNTEER

- **Valley Boulevard:** 2644 W. Valley Blvd.
- **Downtown Alhambra:** 104 S. 1st St.
- **Marguerita Garden:** 1603 Marguerita Ave



Presented by:

alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

City of Alhambra

2027 ALHAMBRA LUNAR NEW YEAR

Celebrate the Annual Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival on

Saturday, February 13, 2027 from 9am to 5pm

in the heart of Downtown Alhambra!

This year's festival will feature all-day entertainment with:
Lion dancers | Live Chinese character demonstrations
Cultural Passport and Prizes | Kids Zone | Main Stage Performances

This Main Street event will feature activities for the whole family:
Food | Vendors | Cultural Demonstrations | Live performances

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VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES

Explore our vendor zones designed for businesses and organizations.

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- FOOD TRUCKS
- KIDS ZONE
- FOOD VENDORS
- WELLNESS WALKWAY
- MERCH BOOTHS

Position your brand where community, culture, and celebration meet. Join us as a vendor or sponsor and make your business part of this highly visible Alhambra tradition.

For more information, visit AlhambraLunarNewYear.com