Lowe’s Heroes and The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce presented a dedication ceremony on Nov. 7 to celebrate the completion of several renovations to the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce as part of a city-wide Lowe’s Heroes project. From left: City Councilmember Stephen Sham; Mayor Gary Yamauchi; Mark Paulson, Chamber past president; Chris Horan, Lowe’s Burbank store manager; Shanna Gibbo, Chamber executive director; Jon Phillips, Lowe’s Covina store manager; Parish Chen, Chamber past president; Tony Gonzalez, Amaris Schuller; and Evan Rejes, Lowe’s Burbank installed sales manager.

Representatives from Special Olympics L.A. 2015 held a press conference at Cal State L.A. last month to announce that the City of Alhambra and City of Monterey Park will play a vital role in welcoming the World Games delegations to Southern California next summer through the “Host City” program.

Lowe’s Heroes, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce celebrate completion of renovation projects

Approximately 350 Lowe’s Heroes from more than 30 stores offered time and skills to completely remodel Chamber building

Alhambra, Monterey Park have vital roles in upcoming Special Olympics World Games

Representatives from Special Olympics L.A. 2015 held a press conference at Cal State L.A. last month to announce that the City of Alhambra and City of Monterey Park will play a vital role in welcoming the World Games delegates to Southern California next summer through the “Host City” program.

San Gabriel High School journalism, yearbook staffs shine

San Gabriel High School’s journalism and yearbook staffs shine at California State University Northridge’s Generation Journalism Day on Oct. 25. The student journalists swept the features writing category with senior Kadera Laos winning first place; second place, second place, junior Ileana Perez, third place; and senior Jennifer Thai, honorable mention. In News, junior Erin Truong took first place and junior Amy Ye earned honorable mention. In Photojournalism, senior Jazzmin Perez claimed second prize for her portfolio, and in Editorial Cartooning, junior Emmanuel Maresca earned a special recognition for his cartoon. The students also attended workshops led by professional journalists from The Wall Street Journal, The Associated Press, and Univision.

26th annual Rose Queen and Court Luncheon will take place Dec. 2. See Pg. 13A for details.
‘Thanks for the Memories’

By Mayor Gary Yamauchi

“Trick or treat” echoes through my mind because I had an unusual and very exciting Halloween this year. My neighbor on the corner of Alhambra Road and Campbell Avenue really out-did himself this year with spooky decorations completely covering his front yard. So many people pulled their cars over to examine his fantastic hard work. Many of those parking continued to walk down my block, so instead of the usual 26 to 30 “treaters” coming to my home, this year I had approximately 250! Yes, we ran out of candy, but it was joyous to see so many children in their costumes. I just love Halloween.

November brought Thanksgiving, and I always try to take it to a higher level. I want to use the Mayor’s Corner to thank so many people and organizations who have helped me and therefore, have contributed to the welfare and betterment of the City of Alhambra and our residents.

On the top of my list is our great City staff, led by City Manager Mary Swink. They have continued to do amazing things, not only with public viewed events, but also behind the scenes with budgeting, strategic planning, and a genuine concern for the success of our City in all areas including community service, public safety, and care for our residents. Thanks to you all for a great job.

Of course I am including the police officers and firefighters. We all need to forward a word of thanks to each of them for their unselfish efforts as they strive to intervene between us and harm’s way. We are indebted.

And speaking of debts, I am still paying off my debt to all the veterans (Nov. 11 was Veterans Day). I truly appreciate the many years, days, and hours they served to protect all the freedoms we take for granted so often. Let’s all think about the wonderful rights we have and the freedom we strive to protect between us and harm’s way. We are indebted.

Finally, I have unselfishly contributed to all the Mayor’s Medals, which I had designed to present to people who have unselfishly contributed to their fellow citizens over a lasting period of time. It is not a medal of great value, but it means an awful lot to me to present them to people I have had the pleasure of working with over the years.

Thank you to Joanna Vargas and Raymond Poon for helping to make our 5k run a tremendous success with their work on the sign ups and their involvement with the community fair. It was a terrific day, especially for our maiden run. There were 1,400 runners and walkers!

A big thanks goes to Lowe’s Home Improvement stores for picking the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce to be awarded as a “Local Hero.” Lowe’s crews came in and completely remodeled the Chamber of Commerce office with new flooring, cabinets, bathrooms, and all the trimmings. What a great job they did finishing in about two to three weeks. Stop by the Chamber office and take a peek.

The grand opening of Al’s Tasty Beef and Nancy’s Pizza was fantastic. Management allowed me to make my own Tasty Beef (hot and wet), and it was really so much fun and delicious. Thank you Al’s Tasty Beef.

There are many more people to thank, and some will be given the Mayor’s Medal, which I had designed to present to people who have unselfishly contributed to their fellow citizens over a lasting period of time. It is not a medal of great value, but it means an awful lot to me to present them to people I have had the pleasure of working with over the years.

Thank you all for your valuable continued support as I head into my final two laps as your Councilmember. I have enjoyed the trip up to this point and hope the remaining two years of my term will be a wonderful time for the City of Alhambra.
Recent City Council actions

The following are highlights from the Oct. 27 and Nov. 10 City Council meetings.

Recognition

Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino was commended for its advocacy, action, and awareness to promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) and Domestic Violence Month (November) through its “Color Me Pink” and “Color Me Purple” campaigns, respectively.

With one in eight women in the United States being diagnosed with breast cancer (232,570 new cases in 2014), and a woman being beaten every nine seconds without respect to economic status, both are serious issues affecting society and deserving of the utmost attention and action.

Larry Stevens, an Alhambra native, Alhambra High School graduate (1943) and former Alhambra Fireman who served the City for 31 years, including 18 years as Fire Captain, was commended not only for his public service, but also as an American hero who honorably served his country during World War II. Mr. Stevens, a B-17 tail gunner in the 8th Air Force, completed 35 combat missions over Europe and was awarded an air medal and distinguished Flying Cross for Meritorious Achievement in Aerial Flight, as well as a medal by the Russian government. He was also recognized for writing a book, It Only Takes One: Memoirs of a Tail Gunner about his war experiences.

National Caregivers Month was recognized through a resolution to recognize the 1,701 home care workers who provide service in the City of Alhambra, as well as to bring greater awareness to family caregiver issues, including the potential need for more home care workers as the number of Americans who are 65 years and older is expected to double in the next 30 years. The resolution also noted the contributions of caregivers and the impact they have on the local and national economy.

Contracts/Agreements

Ramona, Inc., was awarded a Public Works contract for a Sewer Spot Repair Project.

E.C. Construction Company was awarded a Public Works contract for the City’s 2014 HUD Street Rehabilitation Project (see related article on page 8A).
The overflow crowd gathered at the Alhambra Park Veterans Memorial was visibly moved at the beginning of the annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Celebration with a recitation of Alhambrians who have died in multiple wars — a “Fallen Veterans Honor Roll” — a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice paid to keep the nation safe and secure. From World War II to Iraqi Freedom, the list went on.

The City of Alhambra and American Legion Post #139 again hosted this annual memorial event, replete with other moments of pride, including:

- The Alhambra High School “Mighty Moors” Marching Band for their musical entertainment and zestful playing of the National Anthem.
- Members of Cub Scout Pack 375 and Girl Scout Troop 3111 for their precious handling of memorial wreaths.
- The Alhambra Police Department Color Guard for the Posting of the Colors.
- American Legion Post #75 Honor Guard for their 21-Gun Salute.
- A soul-searching rendition of God Bless America provided by Paolo Kespradit.

Mayor Gary Yamauchi noted the importance of this gathering, suggesting that it should take place more frequently.

Following the ceremony, refreshments were offered at American Legion Post #139 headquarters. The City of Alhambra provided a family event in the park, complete with music, games, arts and crafts, information booths, and lots of memories of a morning paying tribute to the veterans.
California voters overwhelmingly vote for 2014 Water Bond

BY MARK R. PAULSON, DIRECTOR SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Voters signaled their strong support of long-term water reliability and water quality measures on Election Day, Nov. 4. While there was a broad base of endorsements for the Water Bond heading into Election Day, it was up to voters to make the outcome official, with nearly two-thirds of voters supporting the Water Bond which appeared on the ballot as Proposition 1: the Water Quality, Supply & Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. The bond will provide $7.5 billion in funding for critical water supply projects such as storage, groundwater cleanup, water quality, recycled water, and storm water capture. The continuing drought is leading the state and many cities to impose mandatory water use restrictions and price increases to curb water use. Earlier this month, the State Water Resources Control Board began releasing data showing per capita water use by cities in California as another means of encouraging water conservation. Here in the San Gabriel Valley, local groundwater supplies are at record low levels, but there is enough water stored to last one or two years, even if the current drought continues. Long range weather forecasts are predicting just a relatively mild El Niño effect, coupled with lower than average precipitation locally and snowfall in the mountains. It takes a long time to get into a drought and a long time to get out.
Children’s activities

Homework Help for children ages 5 to 12, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays in the Children’s Room. High school volunteers assist children with their daily homework assignments on a first-come, first-served basis. No Homework Help from Monday, Dec. 22 through Wednesday, Dec. 31.  

Gingerbread House Workshop for children ages 5 to 12, 3:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, in Reese Hall. Celebrate the holiday season by making a gingerbread house. No registration is required, but space and supplies are limited.

Music & Movement Morning for families with children ages 2 to 5, 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, in Reese Hall. Stories, music, movement, and fun. No registration required.

Holiday Family Film, *The Polar Express* (PG), at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, in Reese Hall. Based upon the Caldecott Award-winning book by Chris Van Allsburg. On Christmas Eve, a doubting boy boards a magical train that’s headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus’ home. Features the voices of Tom Hanks.

Children’s Story Times

Family Story Time for children ages 4 to 12, 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the Story Time Room. This program includes stories, puppets, and other activities. No Story Time on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

Early Literacy Story Time for children ages 0 to 5. Early Literacy Story Times, with a new format, are now being offered in a series of six-week sessions. Participants must register for each session, and they will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to Alhambra residents. Registration forms must be filled out, in person, in the Children’s Room by the child’s parent. The parent must have a valid Alhambra Civic Center Library card. Children may only be registered for one Story Time each session and must meet the age requirement before the first program in the session. Due to space limitations, each registered child must be accompanied by one adult only at each Story Time program.  

Alhambra resident registration: Satur- day, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7.

Non-Alhambra resident registration: Monday, Dec. 8, through Sunday, Dec. 14, or until all available spaces have been filled.  

Winter Session 2015: Thursday, Jan. 8 through Friday, Feb. 13.

Baby Story Time, 0-12 months old: 10:15 a.m. Thursdays.

Toddler Story Time, 1-2 years old: 11:15 a.m. Thursdays.

Register online for Family Excursions, Leisure Classes

Online registration for Family Excursion and Leisure Class programs, two of the most popular Community Services programs, begins this month for activities starting in January.

The key dates to remember:

- Friday, Dec. 5 – launch day for online registration, at which time participants may start creating accounts and browsing the many programs available to them.

- Monday, Dec. 8 – registration begins for Alhambra residents. Open registration for Alhambra residents and non-residents alike is Monday, Dec. 15.

- To create an account and register, go to the City of Alhambra Web site, www.cityofalhambra.org, and click on the link available on the home page.

- In addition to 24/7 online availability, a copy of the Leisure Activities Guide will be delivered to residents’ U.S. mail addresses in early December.

- Early online registration ensures participation in programs for which there will be a significant interest. Scroll through the Family Excursion program listings, then register the whole family in the excursions of choice.

- Queen Mary and Long Beach Aquarium: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. The fee is $45 for adults and $35 for children ages 3 to 11.

- Joshua Tree National Park: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 21. The fee is $25.

- LA live and LA kings game 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 21. The fee is $56, which includes game ticket.

- USS Midway and Old Town San Diego: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 18. The fee is $25.

- Cajun and Blues Festival, Simi Valley, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 23. The fee is $25.

In addition to the Cajun, Creole, zydeco, and blues entertainment on multiple stages, there will be more than 150 food, beverage, and craft booths. The Kids Area includes bounce houses, rock climbing walls, slides, gyroscopes, and a Kid’s Craft area.

- Catalina Island: 8:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. June 20. The round-trip boat transportation is $79 for ages 12 and above and $65 for children ages 3 to 11. Activities on the island, which include zip lining, snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, museums, miniature golfing, and more, are not included in the fee.

- Online registration, in addition to Family Excursion and Leisure Class programs, will also be available for Youth and Adult Sports programs, senior programs, and Aquatic programs.

Questions concerning the online registration service will be answered weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 626-570-3242.

What residents need to know about holiday recycling

Residents should be aware of the one-day trash delay following Christmas and New Year’s holidays. This year, regular Thursday service takes place on Friday and Friday service on Saturday.

- Christmas tree recycling will take place from Friday, Dec. 26 through Friday, Jan. 9. When disposing of holiday items, the city urges residents to recycle properly by placing bows and ribbons in the green trash container, gift boxes in the blue recyclable container, and live wreaths in the black yard waste container. Front yard decora- tions should be removed by Feb. 1.

- Trash, recycling, and yard waste contain- ers should be moved in from the curb on the same day of service and not left at the curb overnight so they don’t look unsightly or present a safety hazard.

- Allied Waste Services (AWS), the City’s trash provider, picks up bulky items and consumer electronics (TVs, computers, radios, etc.). Pickup requires a call first to AWS at 888-742-5234 to schedule a pick-up time. Electronic items are picked up on Wednesdays only. Bulky items are picked up on the scheduled collection day and should be set at the curb by 6 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. Customers with more than four bulky items should consid- er renting a temporary dumpster available through Allied Waste Services.

- Household hazardous waste (HHW) should never be placed in the trash. Take products such as motor oil, paint, turpen- tine, acid or lye-based cleaners, household and car batteries, pesticides and garden herbicides to a collection event. For more information, visit www.CleanLA.com.

- Take household batteries (rechargeable or alkaline weighing less than 11 lbs.) to one of the following locations: Alhambra Camera, 121 E. Main St.; Dat Chong Jewelry Company, 1231 E. Valley Blvd., 626-308-1848; Main Pharmacy, 103 N. Garfield Ave., Suite D, 626-576-0890.

- Take household electronics (refrigerators, TVs, stereos, microwaves, etc.) to one of the following locations: Allied Waste Services, 1421 W. Garfield Blvd., Suite D, 626-576-0890; Allied Waste Services, 640 E. Alhambra Blvd., Suite D, 626-570-3242; Allied Waste Services, 407 W. Valley Blvd., Suite #4, Alhambra, CA 91803.

- Take hazardous household waste (HHW) to the Alhambra Recycling Center, 105 E. Alhambra Blvd., 626-570-3242; or to Allied Waste Services, 1421 W. Garfield Blvd., Suite D, 626-576-0890.

- Take yard waste, leaves, and small tree limbs to the Alhambra Recycling Center, 105 E. Alhambra Blvd., 626-570-3242; or to Allied Waste Services, 1421 W. Garfield Blvd., Suite D, 626-576-0890.

- Take yard waste, leaves, and small tree limbs to the Alhambra Recycling Center, 105 E. Alhambra Blvd., 626-570-3242; or to Allied Waste Services, 1421 W. Garfield Blvd., Suite D, 626-576-0890.
Progress continues on Alhambra's Rose Parade float, "Go For Broke." The 41-foot-long float is based on the Go For Broke Monument in Little Tokyo. It will display images of the 21 Japanese Americans soldiers of the segregated 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd regimental Combat Team who earned the Medal of Honor. The Congressional Gold Medal will be featured as well, with depictions of its front and back on each side of the float, next to an American flag and a rendering of the bald eagle. Seven Nisei veterans will ride on the float. "Go For Broke" was the motto of the 442nd RCT soldiers, who gave it everything they had on the battlefield.

Joslyn Center to host Holiday Craft Fair Dec. 3

The Joslyn Adult Recreation Center, 210 N. Chapel Ave. in Story Park, will host a Holiday Craft Fair from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Local crafters will highlight their wares for shoppers who want to find that special gift for the holidays or just the right decoration to add interest and color to their own home décor.

An early arrival will ensure the widest variety of crafts available for purchase, but a visit anytime during the day will please the eye and the pocket book.
Each year, the City of Alhambra receives an allotment of federal funding from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), which it can use for a wide range of projects from first-time homebuyer and home rehabilitation programs to street repairs — and much more. Funding comes from HUD’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs. Funding also helps support economic development (job creation) and services such as fair housing, lead-based paint detection and removal, case management, and code enforcement services.

While the City’s allotment has been subject to reductions in funding over the past couple of years, some very important capital projects have been undertaken of considerable benefit to the community. Last year, for example, CDBG funds helped provide for the installation of ADA-compliant doors at the Joslyn Senior Center and Fire Department Headquarters, as well as a self-operated ADA lift at the Alhambra Park Pool.

This year and into next, the City will spend up to $350,000 in CDBG funds to make needed repairs at the Granada Park Gym and Almansor Park Gym. Additional funding will also be used to help fund the City’s Annual 2014 HUD Street Rehabilitation Project and 35 ADA ramps, as well as to install a HAWK beacon (High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk) at Valley Boulevard and Seventh Street that will greatly enhance pedestrian safety at this busy intersection.

The Granada Park Gym rehabilitation project will consist of painting, roofing, replacing flooring, adding new lighting and HVAC, and repairing the basketball courts. These are all improvements that will enable the community to gain the full potential use of this facility.

Repairs to the Almansor Park Gym will consist of installing a new HVAC system and other ancillary improvements in the first half of 2015, in time for next year’s summer season.

The 2014 HUD Street Rehabilitation Project will include significant repairs to sections of Almansor Street, Adams Avenue, Los Higos Street, Monterey Street, Stoneman Avenue, Second Street, Third Street, Fourth Street, Fifth Street, Seventh Street, Eighth Street, Ninth Street, Olive Avenue, Curtis Lane, Electric Lane, Benito Avenue, Curtis Avenue, Marguerite Avenue, and two alley segments south of Valley Boulevard between Garfield Avenue and Almansor Street. The project should start in early December. Affected residents will receive a post card from the Public Works Department providing more information. Anyone with questions can phone Public Works at 626-578-5067.

The installation of 35 ADA ramps will take place at cross streets intersecting with Atlantic Boulevard, Almansor Street, Stoneman Avenue, Second Street, Eighth Street, and a few other minor intersections.

With an urgent need to address immediate concerns in that corridor, the City has received permission from HUD to use HUD funds to install a HAWK traffic control system at Valley Boulevard and Seventh Street. A HAWK beacon (High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk) is a traffic signal used to stop road traffic and allow pedestrians to cross safely. The purpose of a HAWK beacon is to allow protected pedestrian crossings, stopping road traffic only as needed. The project is currently under design and will be going out to bid shortly.

HUD administers CDBG and HOME funds to cities to ensure the availability of decent and affordable housing to prevent slum and blight; to ensure a suitable living environment and stimulate economic growth; and to address a serious need or threat that has a particular urgency. HUD requires local governments to seek input from residents on the use of such funds. The next official public review period will take place next spring.

City will benefit from implementation of significant HUD-funded projects in 2015

With shovels in hand, representatives of Shea Properties and members of the Alhambra City Council gather some dirt, signifying the celebratory groundbreaking and start of the future Alhambra Place mixed-use development at the southeast corner of Main and Garfield. From left are, from Shea Properties, Jeff Cunningham, Andres Friedman, Greg Anderson, Brad Deck, and Colm Macken (CEO) and from the City of Alhambra Mayor Gary Yamauchi, Vice Mayor Luis Ayala, and Councilmembers Barbara Messina, Dr. Steven Placido, and Stephen Sham.

The 10.5 acres of land will be transformed into 140,000 square feet of specialty retail and dining space and 260 luxury apartment units complete with the high-end amenities desired by today’s renter. The retail half of the project is expected to be completed by the holiday shopping season in 2015, and the residential units will follow.
Temporary parking enforcement suspended during Christmas, New Year’s holidays

As a courtesy to residents who will entertain guests during the Christmas and New Year’s holidays, the City of Alhambra Police Department will grant a temporary reprieve from overnight parking enforcement restrictions. As there will be no overnight parking restrictions on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2 a.m. through Sunday, Jan. 4, there is no need for residents to purchase temporary overnight parking permits during this time period.

Enforcement will resume on Monday, Jan. 5, at 2 a.m.

Temporary Overnight Parking Permits are otherwise available for purchase throughout the year for $3 per night (10 consecutive nights maximum). The permits are available at either the parking permit kiosk, located in the lobby of the Alhambra Police Department, 211 S. First St., or they can be purchased online at cityofalhambra.org under “Online Services.”

For additional information about parking restrictions, phone 626-570-5120, or visit the city’s Web site.

The City of Alhambra wishes all residents and guests a happy and safe holiday season and New Year.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS From Page 1A

largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015 — including an anticipated 7,000 athletes, 3,000 coaches, 30,000 volunteers, and 500,000 spectators. It will be the largest such event to occur in the Southernland since the 1984 Olympic Games.

As one might expect, a large number of volunteers will be needed to support the Games and provide hospitality to the various international delegations — a perfect opportunity for the diverse and genial populations of Alhambra and Monterey Park. Volunteers are certain to be the backbone of the Special Olympics “Host Town” program success as athletes pursue their lifelong dreams and goals.

For the athletes who come to take part in the Games, all of whom are intellectually challenged, the Games will be more than an opportunity to compete in sports. As one former Special Olympics athlete noted: “It gives us a safe place to try new things, a place to socialize, a place to compete, and a place to grow outside of sports. It enriches lives and promotes change for both people with special needs and perceptions of people with special needs. Special Olympics gives us a can-do environment.”

Three days prior to the Games, select Host Towns from San Diego to San Luis Obispo will host the delegations. During this time, the City of Alhambra will serve not only as the “Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley” along with the city’s neighbor, Monterey Park — but also welcoming “international gateway” to about 100 guest athletes, coaches, and families from one or two delegations. Half will be hosted by Alhambra and the other half by Monterey Park. The delegations will be lodged at Cal State University, Los Angeles.

Besides housing, host towns will provide delegates with meals, training locations such as gyms, sports and track fields, and transportation to and from training locations. It will also be the Host Town’s responsibility to provide guests with a glimpse of American culture, through the perspective of the local community, sharing with them local environment and landscapes, local customs, local music and artistic expressions, and more. Host town communities will help them adjust to life in Southern California with opportunities to participate in local recreational activities, enjoy local entertainment, and eat at local restaurants.

As the City of Alhambra begins in preparations for the Host Town program, it is seeking as many volunteers as possible who would like to assist in providing hospitality and help to coordinate activities. According to individuals and groups that have served as Special Olympics volunteers, the benefits of involvement include greater personal satisfaction, increased tolerance, and re-examination of personal values. To find out about volunteering opportunities in the Host Town program, interested participants are urged to contact City staff at 626-570-5011 or Chamber staff at 626-282-8481.

One of the organizations that will have a preeminent role in formulating community activities will be the newly formed Alhambra Community Coordinating Council. It will have a central role in planning and execution of the Special Olympics Alhambra Tournament, as well as a variety of other forthcoming projects, including Community Beautification, Holiday Toy & Food Drives, Service Awards, and the America in Bloom and All-American City Award. Membership in the Coordinating Council is free and open to all community groups, organizations, agencies, schools, individuals, and businesses in the City of Alhambra. To apply, complete the online registration form available on the City’s Web site www.cityofalhambra.org under “Community Life Section” or “Alhambra Community Coordinating Council.” Or for more information, contact Paolo Kespradit at 626-570-5011 or pkespradit@cityofalhambra.org.

Of all the events hosted by the respective cities throughout the year, this may well be one of the most important of all. It will be an opportunity to come together and meet the differences in the lives of these special guests and to gain the satisfaction that comes from helping others and encouraging lasting friendships.

Alhambra Firefighters ignite Spark of Love toy drive

The Alhambra Firefighters Association will again join ABC7, firefighters throughout Southern California, the City of Alhambra, and the YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley in the “Spark of Love” toy drive to collect toys for distribution to needy children for the holidays.

While the Spark of Love effort kicked off in mid-November, December remains a critical time for collecting toys and sporting equipment for the needy. The drive officially ends on Saturday, Dec. 20.

All donated toys will be distributed to needy children and families through the YMCA. Make a huge difference in a child’s life by donating an unwrapped toy or piece of sporting equipment and delivering that item to one of the following sites:

- Alhambra City Hall, 111 S. First St., weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley, 401 Coto St.
- Alhambra Fire Department, Station 71, 301 N. First St.
- Alhambra Fire Department, Station 72, 1215 S. Sixth St.
- Alhambra Fire Department, Station 75, 2200 W. Main St.
- Alhambra Fire Department, Station 74, 2505 W. Norwood Place.

For further information, please contact Sergio Casanova at the Alhambra Fire Department: 626-588-2382.

City hosts Holiday Home Decorating Contest

The City of Alhambra presents its second annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Recognition can be earned in four different holiday home decorating areas:

- Best use of lights.
- Best animation display.
- Most creative.
- Best lawn display.

Winners in each category will receive a commendation at a City Council meeting, recognition in the January Around Alhambra newspaper, and a lawn sign bestowing recognition on homeowners for their creative efforts.

To qualify for contest participation, residents must fill out a Holiday Home Decorating Contest entry form, available at City Hall, or by phoning 626-570-5011 during weekday business hours, and submit the completed form by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, to the Community Services Department, 111 S. First St., Alhambra.

Contest judging will take place from Monday, Dec. 15, through Friday, Dec. 19. Winners will be announced on Monday, Dec. 22.
The Alhambra Police Department is pleased to report that year-to-date figures for overall crime in Alhambra have fallen 9%. So far in 2014, residential burglaries have decreased 25%; commercial burglaries have dropped 16%; auto theft has gone down 10%; and bike theft has fallen 27%.

What is notable is that all of these are typically “crimes of opportunity,” when the perpetrator recognizes that he or she has an opportunity to commit the act at that moment and seizes upon it. Such crimes are typically difficult to solve, as little physical evidence is generally left behind. In addition to the loss of personal property, victims also lose precious personal time having to notify banks, cancel credit cards, possibly obtain a new driver’s license, or deal with the loss of personal items. These crimes can be thwarted by reducing the temptation of those who would steal. Since the holiday shopping season is the most vulnerable time of the year, residents are reminded of ways to reduce their chances of becoming a victim.

Securing the home:

• Make the home look occupied and difficult to break in. Never post notes on the front door such as “gone shopping” or leave UPS/Fed Ex packages on the steps.
• Get a home alarm system and activate it when away. Many burglars, deterred by a window sticker or home alarm protection sign, count on homeowners not using their system because they are inconvenienced.
• Before leaving the house or going to bed, always lock all outside doors and windows.
• Replace door and window locks that are not totally secure. Key-in dead bolt locks provide minimum security. Sliding glass doors are vulnerable, but special locks are available for added security. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for the best choices. Buy the best locks that are affordable.
• Most windows can be pinned for security by drilling a hole on a slight downward slant through the inside of the window frame and halfway into the outside frame — then use a window security pin, available at most hardware stores, or a nail in the hold to secure the window.
• Change locks immediately if keys are lost or stolen. When moving into a new home, also change all the locks.
• Leave lights on when not home. If leaving for any length of time, use automatic timers on select lamps that will turn them on in the evening and off during the day. Have adequate exterior lighting, including a motion-sensitive light for backyards.
• Don’t let mail build up when away. Have a friend or neighbor pick it up daily, or put a mail hold on through the post office. Arrange for the lawn to be mowed.
• Trim trees and shrubs so intruders can’t use them as hiding places.
• Keep garage doors closed and locked, as well as garden sheds; keep lawn mowers, barbecues, and bicycles out of sight. Place curtains over garage windows.

Securing vehicles:

• Do not leave keys; garage door opener; valuables, such as laptop computers, tablets, backpacks, or purses; or items with personal information in plain view.
• Do not leave doors unlocked or windows/unlocked.
• Do not move valuable items to the trunk while in public view.

The public is encouraged to report suspicious activity and to stay informed by joining social media sites such as the Alhambra Police Department’s (APD) Facebook, Twitter and Weibo (in Chinese) sites, as well as communicate with neighbors and APD at Nextdoor.com.

Be safe, and have a Happy Holiday and New Year.

### Academy of Special Dreams artworks grace City Hall lobby in December

December’s featured artist in the City Hall lobby, 111 S. First, is Todd Tostado. He is devoting his college education to graphic design, with an emphasis on computer graphics, and is preparing himself for a future in the graphic arts industry.

What makes his work special is that while in high school, he lost the use of his arms and hands.

Mr. Tostado, representing the Academy of Special Dreams — dedicated to the proposition that all persons, regardless of their disabilities, should have equal opportunities to express their talents and be successful in the arts — regained his ability to draw as a senior in high school, when he received a computer from his parents and discovered a basic drawing program. He has learned to use a wide variety of industry-standard graphic software programs. While the programs are designed for commercial use, he prefers using them to create works of fine art.

Mr. Tostado is interested in 3D modeling and animation software and now uses the design software to create art in various styles. “Through my art, I’m able to express my thoughts and feelings concerning the world I live in and the people in my life. My art also gives me independence as it’s something that I can do without assistance from anyone. In fact, it’s one of the few things in my life that I have complete control over. When I’m working on a piece of art, I’m able to forget that I am disabled, as in actuality I am using the same tools as everyone else. Thus, through my art, I am at last equal to all others, but of course I still maintain my own personal and unique viewpoint,” he said.

The Academy of Special Dreams works to increase public awareness, appreciation, and recognition of the creative talents of people with disabilities by providing opportunities that encourage, promote, and showcase their artistic expression.

Meet the artist at a reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8. Throughout the month of December, enjoy this exhibit weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Monday evenings when the City Council or the Planning Commission schedules a meeting.

For further information concerning the City Hall Art Gallery please phone 626-570-5091.

### City Hall CRIME REPORT

The following crimes were reported to the Alhambra Police Department during October. The areas of occurrence are listed to the nearest block — not exact addresses.

**District One**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary (3)</td>
<td>200 N. Monterey</td>
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<td>Burglary (5)</td>
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**District Two**

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<tr>
<td>Burglary (2)</td>
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<td>Burglary (3)</td>
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<td>Burglary (8)</td>
<td>2000 S. Chapel</td>
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<td>Burglary (8)</td>
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<td>Grand Theft Auto (6)</td>
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<td>Grand Theft Auto (4)</td>
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<td>Burglary (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary (3)</td>
<td>1200 S. Edith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary (3)</td>
<td>200 W. Valley</td>
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<td>Burglary (3)</td>
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**District Four**

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<td>Burglary (2)</td>
<td>1900 S. Orange Grove</td>
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**Bennett/Benito**

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<td>Burglary (2)</td>
<td>2100 S. Edgewood</td>
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<td>Burglary (2)</td>
<td>1600 S. Calabas</td>
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<td>Burglary (2)</td>
<td>2300 S. Benito</td>
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John and Chris Fosselman, co-owners of Fosselman’s Ice Cream Company, have lived in the San Gabriel Valley for 47 years. Since 1941, their family ice cream shop has been a fixture on Main Street. Part of their staying power comes from listening to the community and catering to the surrounding demographics.

For the past 25 years, the Fosselman brothers have run Fosselman’s Ice Cream Company. They are the third generation to run the business that first started in 1919 in Waverly, Ohio.

“The Fosselman brothers have run Fosselman’s Ice Cream Company for 95 years,” said Chris. “With holiday flavors like cinnamon, pumpkin, and egg nog and community favorites like red bean, taro, and salty caramel ice cream, Fosselman’s attracts old and new customers every season.”

John and Chris Fosselman, co-owners of Fosselman’s Ice Cream Company, have lived in the San Gabriel Valley for 47 years. Since 1941, their family ice cream shop has been a fixture on Main Street. Part of their staying power comes from listening to the community and catering to the surrounding demographics.

For the past 25 years, the Fosselman brothers have run Fosselman’s Ice Cream Company. They are the third generation to run the business that first started in 1919 in Waverly, Ohio.

“We are able to adapt and make flavors on request like red bean, taro, salty caramel ice cream, and pear champagne sorbet that keeps our wholesale accounts and the community coming back every season,” said Chris.

They pride themselves on being an ice cream shop that makes all its products on site with good quality ingredients and their signature family recipes. The base recipe hasn’t changed much since they first opened. Extracts that are used to flavor the ice cream are high quality and mostly cooked in the ice cream shop. They distribute and sell their ice cream to hundreds of accounts, and they listen to the community and cater to the surrounding demographics.

Along with the popular ice cream flavors, they have also been creating ice cream cakes. In one weekend they will make more than 35 custom ice cream cakes. They have also been a part of many community events. Fosselman’s Ice Cream is involved in several organizations including coaching for Little League, serving on the Five Acres Board, and helping with golf tournaments.

“For 49 years, we have been a part of the community and Alhambra has become our home,” said Chris. Fosselman’s Ice Cream Company is located at 1824 W. Main St. They are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday. The phone number is 626-282-6533. The ice cream shop accepts cash only for payment. Find them online at www.fosselman.com. “Like” their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FosselmansIceCream. Follow them on Twitter @Fosselmans.

Fosselman’s Ice Cream has served the community for 95 years.
The California Chamber of Commerce has released a list of new employment laws scheduled to go into effect in 2015 or sooner that will have an impact on businesses in California.

Some of the new laws for 2015, such as mandatory paid sick leave, make significant changes to California’s legal landscape. These laws are reviewed below.

Other new laws make changes to different parts of existing law or may only affect employers in specified industries, such as farming.

For more details on these, visit http://www.calchamber.com.

Unless specified, the following list of new legislation goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2015.

Mandatory paid sick leave

Paid sick leave, mandated in AB 1522, titled the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014, requires employers to provide paid sick leave to any employee who worked in California for 30 days at an accrual rate of one hour for every 30 hours worked.

Employers are allowed to limit an employee’s use of paid sick leave to 24 hours or three days in each year of employment and may put a maximum cap on total accrual of 40 hours or six days. The effective date for employers to begin providing the paid sick leave benefit is July 1, 2015.

The law contains many different nuances, such as detailed record keeping and notice requirements.

Penalties for noncompliance

Time off for emergency duty: expanded category

Assembly Bill 2536 adds new personnel to the list of employees eligible for protected time off for emergency duty. AB 2536 also requires an employee who is a health care provider, as defined, to notify one’s employer when the employee is needed as an emergency rescue personnel and also to notify the employer at the time that the employee learns that he or she will be deployed for emergency duty.

Discrimination, harassment and retaliation protections

Several new laws expand employer protections for employees.

Assembly Bill 1443

• Adds unpaid interns and volunteers to the list of individuals protected from harassment under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

• Prohibits employers from discriminating against an individual in an unpaid internship or another limited duration program to provide unpaid work experience for that person.

• Extends religious belief protections and religious accommodation requirements to anyone in an apprenticeship training program, an unpaid internship or any other program to provide unpaid work experience for a person in the workplace or industry.

Nondiscrimination: driver’s licenses for undocumented persons

Assembly Bill 1660 makes it a violation of FEHA for an employer to discriminate against an individual because he/she holds or presents a driver’s license issued to undocumented persons who can submit satisfactory proof of identity and California residency. Such discriminatory actions will constitute national origin discrimination under FEHA.

These driver’s licenses are often referred to as “AB 60 driver’s licenses,” after the name of the bill passed last year.

AB 60 driver’s licenses are scheduled to start being issued on Jan. 1, 2015.

AB 1660 clarifies that actions taken by an employer that are required to comply with federal immigration and employment verification requirements under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) do not violate California law.

AB 1660 also provides that it is a violation of FEHA for an employer to require a person to present a driver’s license, unless possessing a driver’s license is (1) required by law; or (2) required by the employer and the employer’s requirement is otherwise permitted by law.

AB 360 further requires any driver’s license information obtained by an employer to be treated as private and confidential.

Immigration-related protections

Several new laws relate to criminal background checks.

Assembly Bill 2751 expands the definition of an unfair immigration-related practice to include threatening to file or filing a false report or complaint with any state or federal agency. Currently, by the criminal code, the employer’s requirement is otherwise permitted by law.

Assembly Bill 326 allows employers to use e-mail for workplace safety reports.

Assembly Bill 1852 requires a business that provides specified services to minors to provide an annual list of the top 500 employers with the most number of employees involved in a public assistance program. The report will be made public and will be prepared starting in January 2016.

“Employer” is defined by the law as an individual or organization with more than 100 employees that are beneficiaries of the Medi-Cal program.

Harassment prevention training: prevention of abusive conduct

Assembly Bill 2055 requires employers that are subject to the mandatory sexual harassment prevention training requirement for supervisors to include a component on the prevention of “abusive conduct,” beginning Jan. 1, 2015. “Abusive conduct” is specifically defined by the new law.

This new law does not mean that an employer can sue for abusive conduct in the workplace unless, of course, the conduct becomes discrimination or harassment against a protected class. The law merely requires training on prevention of abusive conduct.

Wage and hour

Several new laws will increase employers’ wage-and-hour obligations in 2015. Many of the new laws in the wage and hour arena deal with increasing penalties and expanding liability, instead of imposing significant new obligations on employers.

Background checks

Several new laws relate to criminal background checks.

Chamber News Around Alhambra

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RENOVATION

From Page 1A

of a city-wide Lowe's Heroes project.

Lowe's employees from more than 30 Los Angeles area stores volunteered their time to renovate the Chamber’s building.

More than 350 volunteers gave over 1,000 hours of time and their skills to install flooring, bathrooms, kitchens, and window coverings. The employees painted walls, replaced ceilings, and renovated both floors of the facility.

Updates to the building, such as a newly designed reception and lobby area, have made the facility more functional and inviting for the community businesses.

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce’s primary purpose is to enhance economic vitality for the betterment of the community. The renovated facility will provide the staff and local community with an updated and comfortable workspace.

“We feel this upgrade of our facility will help us attract those starting new businesses and be able to better serve our membership,” said Sharon Gibbs, executive director of the Chamber.

Lowe’s Heroes is a company-wide volunteer initiative that offers Lowe’s employees the opportunity to work on a project in their own neighborhoods, helping to make their communities better places in which to live, work, and play.

About Lowe’s in the community

Lowe’s, a Fortune 100 home improvement company, has a 50-year legacy of supporting the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. Since 2007, Lowe’s and the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation together have contributed nearly $200 million to these efforts.

For more than two decades, Lowe’s Heroes employee volunteers have donated their time to make Lowe’s communities better places to live. To learn more, visit LowesHeroes.com/SocialResponsibility and LowesTheCommunityChamber.com.
Chamber to host Rose Queen and Court Luncheon Dec. 2

27 Quick and Easy Fix Ups to Sell Your Home Fast and for Top Dollar

Alhambra - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's away to help you to be as prepared as possible. To assist homeowners, a new industry report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar.” It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible. In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home. You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

Order your free report today. To order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW. This report is courtesy of Rudy L. Kusuma

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce thanks these members for renewing their memberships and for their continued support:

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce thanks these members for renewing their memberships and for their continued support:

See Alhambra’s 87th Rose Parade float, “Go For Broke,” the World War II units made up of Japanese Americans, whose brave efforts in combat earned them that iconic name. In 2011, Go For Broke received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor given by the U.S. Congress. The 2015 float, constructed by the award-winning Phoenix Decorating Company, will feature the images of 15 Go For Broke veterans and seven heroic survivors of that acclaimed group.

Cost: $10 for members $15 for non-members For more information about the Business After Hours Mixers, phone the Chamber at 626-282-8481.

To renew your membership with a credit card, please phone the Chamber at 626-282-8481.

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce thanks these members for renewing their memberships and for their continued support:

58 Facets
321 W. Main St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-282-9034
Member since 2012

Alhambra Latino Association
1915 W. Mission Road
Alhambra, CA 91803
626-308-2423
Member since 2002

Alhambra Professional Pharmacy
530 S. Garfield Ave., Suite 104
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-458-8099
Member since 2004

Bethany Church of Alhambra
21 N. Olive Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-282-9054
Member since 2010

Calif Mart
1000 E. Valley Blvd.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-284-8919
Member since 2010

Cafe, Inc.
560 W. Main St., #215
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-215-8779
Member since 2013

Howard's Appliances, Inc.
1915 W. Mission Road
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-934-9413
Member since 2011

Joyce Dance Performing Arts Center
216 E. Main St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-281-9858
Member since 2008

La Cafeina Cafe
408 S. Palm Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803
626-458-4469
Member since 2013

Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles
110 W. Woodward Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-284-2467
Member since 2007

Mission Super Hardware
501 W. Valley Blvd.
San Gabriel, CA 91776
626-284-7031
Member since 2007

Plast College
1000 S. Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-906-5443
Member since 2013

Podley Properties
2121 W. Main St.
Alhambra, CA 91803
626-284-7021
Member since 2010

Superstore #2
320 W. Alhambra Road
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-284-3258
Member since 2006

Team NuVision/Renae Elmer
842 E. Valley Blvd.
Alhambra, CA 91801
888-226-3508
Member since 2012

The Hat
1 W. Valley Blvd.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-282-8140
Member since 2003

Tomi Sushi
17 W. Main St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-458-0388
Member since 2013

To renew your membership with a credit card, please phone the Chamber at 626-282-8481.

Thank You!
EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754

Apply Now!

Why East Los Angeles College

Located in the city of Monterey Park, the East Los Angeles College campus is the largest in the Los Angeles Community College District with an enrollment of more than 66,000 students.

The two-year college primarily serves 14 neighboring communities east of downtown Los Angeles and offers associate degree programs in more than 25 fields, along with occupational programs and academic transfer courses.

The campus has evolved with the introduction of the new Performing and Fine Arts Complex, which houses the Vincent Price Art Museum, the Fine and Visual Arts Building, and the Performing Arts Building.

The college is set to complete a comprehensive Student Success and Retention Center, a Math and Science Complex, a Campus Center and Bookstore, and a full-service satellite campus in the City of South Gate. These additions will expand the college’s ability to serve its students.

The college is also noted for its list of alumni-turned-local leaders, including former Mayor of Los Angeles Antonio Villaraigosa, former Los Angeles Sheriff Leroy D. Baca, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina.

Facts and Stats

- Approximately 66,000 students
- Urban college located in a large city/urban setting
- 100 percent admitted (open enrollment)
- Hispanic-Serving Institution
- Average student age: 25
- Commuter College

(323) 265-8650
www.elac.edu

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 9
2015

CLASSES BEGIN
East Los Angeles College seeks to not only increase the number of students transferring into STEM fields, but also to unite theory and its application. This semester's installment on Mixing Arts and Science will focus on the conservation of murals, with the focus on a particular historic and controversial mural in Los Angeles, *América Tropical* by Mexican Muralist, David Alfaro Siqueiros. Siqueiros was commissioned to create a mural for Olvera Street in 1932. The unveiling of this mural was met with great controversy which led to it being completely whitewashed by 1938.

We invite you to learn from a panel of experts the science of art conservation, the engineering of the interpretive center, and the controversy that surrounded Siqueiros' work. We will also hear of the impact of science on the arts and the integration of arts in science by renowned artist and muralist, George Yepes.

**Panel Speakers**

- Christopher F. Espinosa  
  Panel Moderator  
  General Manager,  
  El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument

- Leslie Rainor  
  Senior Project Specialist,  
  Getty Conservation Institute

**Guest Speakers**

- George Yepes  
  Artist, Murals, and Retector

- Karen Rapp  
  Museum Director,  
  Vincent Price Art Museum

- Mohamoud Karimzadeh, AIA  
  Principal Architect,  
  City of Los Angeles  
  Bureau of Engineering

**EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE**

1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754

This event is free and open to the public. Free parking available at Parking Structure P3.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Martha C. Pelaez, STEAM Project Director | pelaezmc@elac.edu | (323) 780-6793

Dr. Armando Rivera, GANAS Program Director | riveraAM@elac.edu | (323) 780-6730

Sponsored by the US Department of Education under HSI Initiative - P03-01-00092
Downtown Alhambra hosts costume contest, trick-or-treating

About 200 children participated in Downtown Alhambra’s annual Halloween costume contest Oct. 25 at Renaissance Plaza, at Garfield and Main. Many more went trick-or-treating at participating businesses.

Prizes for first, second, and third places and a judges award were given in each age category. Entertainment was provided by Pink Ladies Jazz and Rated G Hip Hop performance groups and the All Stars Competition Team, all from Jayvee Dance, 216 E. Main St. Students from Poprock Academy, 11 S. Second St., also entertained. Emcee for the event was Mookie Washington.

Winners in the 0-2 age category
First Place — Kcee Navarro, 1, “Claw Machine”  
Second Place — Maxwell Rivas, 1, “Dracula”  
Third Place — Benjamin Hernandez, 1, Uncle Pennybags Monopoly Man”  
Judges Award — Sydney Cha, 9 months, Frosted Flakes’

Winners in the 3-4 age category
First Place — Diego Majarro, 4, “Jake and the Neverland Pirates”  
Second Place — Allenah Zepeda, 4, “Sleeping Beauty”  
Third Place — Emma Ochoa, 4, Sharktopus”  
Judges Award — Lily Brenhaug, 4, Princess Celestia”

Winners in the 5-6 age category
First Place — Kit Navarro, 6, Transformer Bee”  
Second Place — Mickey, 5, “Edward Scissorhands”  
Third Place — Juliet Sanchez, 5, “Sharpee”  
Judges Award — Adrian Lopez, 6, “Man with Yellow Hat”

Winners in the 7-9 age category
First Place — Alyssa Hernandez, 7, “Flower Pot”  
Second Place — Jessica Diaz, 9, “Cousin It”  
Third Place — Karyme Martinez, 8, “Granny”  
Judges Award — Angel Zambiano, 8, “Cowboy”

Winners in the 10-12 age category
First Place — Juliana Hernandez, 10, “Day of the Dead”  
Second Place — Derick Cardoza, 10, “Headless Horseman”  
Third Place — Andi Flores, 10, Satyr”  
Judges Award — Adam Arrowad, 10, “Lion King”
American Renascent Center to host fourth annual Christmas toy give-away Dec. 16

The American Renascent Center will host its fourth annual Christmas toy give-away from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., or while supplies last, Tuesday, Dec. 16, at IHOP Restaurant, 701 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra.

This event is sponsored by IHOP Restaurant, Khol’s, Mattel, American Renascent Center Support Groups, and the community of Alhambra.

For more information, contact Ty Johnson at 323-534-8980 or Jimmie Carrilla at 323-868-7184. Visit online at www.americanrenascentcenter.wordpress.com.
St. Nicholas, Fiesta de Guadalupe coming to St. Therese School

Children of all ages are welcome to celebrate St. Nicholas Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at St. Therese Parish Courtyard, 1106 E. Alhambra Road, corner of Alhambra Road and Vega Street. This free event will be a festive kick off to the holiday season.

Not to be confused with Santa Claus, St. Nicholas is the cherished patron saint of children. St. Nicholas is celebrated throughout Europe as the bearer of gifts and treats for good children. European children are encouraged to leave their boots in front of the fireplace at night in hopes of finding them filled with small presents and treats the next morning. St. Therese hopes to bring the spirit of St. Nicholas to children at this event.

The day’s festivities will include the story of St. Nicholas, free holiday crafts and activities, photo opportunities with Santa, free holiday snacks and beverages, and a special opportunity to receive a St. Nicholas inspired treat in a personally crafted boot. In addition, the school will be open for tours, and applications for enrollment will be available. There will also be a raffle for a limited number of free previews for children to experience a week as a St. Therese student.

On Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m., St. Therese will host Fiesta de Guadalupe in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe’s feast day. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the revered patroness of the Americas. She is also recognized as the single most important cultural and unifying symbol of the Catholic Church in Latin America.

Guests attending this cultural fiesta will enjoy music and dancing. Traditional Mexican food will be available for purchase. The evening’s festivities will include Mariachi music, Baile Folklórico performances, and much more. In addition, those who wish to venerate Our Lady of Guadalupe are invited to attend a special Spanish Mass at 5:30 p.m. and are also welcome to visit the church’s Guadalupe Courtyard, which will be open throughout the night.

For more information, please visit www.stthereseschoolalhambra.org or phone 626-289-3364.
To inquire about these adoptable animals, contact the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159, or visit at 851 E. Grand Ave., San Gabriel. Adoption hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The shelter is closed on Mondays. Directions and photos of many more dogs and cats can be found online at www.sgvhumane.org.

The adoption fee for cats is $99, which includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, de-worming, FIV/FELV/heartworm testing, and microchip. A $120-$135 dog adoption fee includes microchip, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, and de-worming, as well as a free health check-up at a participating vet (some breeds slightly higher).

Take advantage of the new cat adoption program to celebrate kitten season. The “Me and My Shadow” companion adoption program allows pet adopters to have “twice the fun at a third of the cost.” When adopters take a second kitty, who must be “black like a shadow,” the cost is only $29.

Downtown Alhambra’s annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at the Renaissance Plaza, located at the northeast corner of Main and Garfield. Free photos with Santa will be available after Santa arrives by fire truck to light the Christmas tree at 6 p.m. Music will be provided by the Swingin’ 8 Balls. Complimentary refreshments will be offered.

To inquire about these adoptable animals, contact the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-3159, or visit at 851 E. Grand Ave., San Gabriel. Adoption hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The shelter is closed on Mondays. Directions and photos of many more dogs and cats can be found online at www.sgvhumane.org.

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San Gabriel Valley
New Gen Rotary Club
initiates ‘Winter Wishes’

BY KENNY LIAN, SECRETARY, SAN GABRIEL VALLEY NEW GEN ROTARY CLUB

As we approach the new quarter of our third year, our young but thriving club of 26 young professionals is closing out 2014 with our holiday project, “Winter Wishes.” By teaming up with the Asian Youth Center (AYC), a 501c3 non-profit for youth and families, this project will engage and “give back” to four AYC families in a variety of ways.

In late October, we hosted the families for an evening of fun at Frontera’s Mexican Restaurant. Over dinner, we got to know the families and their needs and challenges. We made blankets together, and the kids took part in art and craft making. Through these activities, we learned about a young boy who endures a childhood struggle of a single-parent mom who is not finished.

During the upcoming winter months, SGV New Gen Rotary will continue Winter Wishes by presenting each family with a Thanksgiving care basket, personal treats and gifts, and valuable resources that will be tailored to each family. Then, in December, Winter Wishes will close out with a festive holiday party. Since day one of our club’s formation, we set out to be the “back-breaking club,” and not the “check-writing club,” when referring to our ability to perform community service. It is our mission to not only lend a giving hand to those in need, but also to influence our fellow citizens by encouraging them to “give back” to the places that they call home.

To this end, our members are currently brainstorming ways to support one another. Please support Winter Wishes by giving a gift or donating your resources for the benefit of the families. To find out more, make the call to 626-315-0273, or send an e-mail to klian.newgen@gmail.com.

Ramona Convent Secondary School introduces new director of technology integration, educational innovation

At the start of the 2014-2015 school year, Ramona Convent Secondary School appointed Sr. Margaret Spiller, SNJM, as the director of Technology Integration and Educational Innovation. She teaches technology-related classes in the STEM department.

Sr. Margaret began her teaching career with chemistry and physics classes and said she loves teaching both science and technology subjects because “they are so hands-on and they encourage students to try new things, experiment, learn from successes and failures, and have fun in the process.”

Sr. Margaret continues to be innovative in a school with an already excellent and rigorous curriculum. “With the accelerating rate of change in our shrinking world, we need not only to keep Ramona relevant in our 21st century, but also to continue to offer the forward-looking and innovative education that the Sisters who founded our school provided for the young women at the turn of the 19th century. Just as the Sisters did in 1889, we need now to incorporate more intentionally and focus more tightly on the skills and habits that will be essential for our current students in their colleges and careers: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and citizenship.”

In her free time, Sr. Margaret loves to travel. She has traveled to Lesotho and Nicaragua, working with fellow Holy Names Sisters, loves participat- ing in cultures that are different from her own, and is fascinated with the beauty and challenges of these countries. She enjoys astronomy and attending astronomy-related events, even though she considers herself an amateur.

Last school year, St. Margaret spent several months at Holy Names High School in Oakland as interim principal, leading the school in the search for a permanent principal. The Holy Names High School Community was so moved by her dedication to the mission of the school that they awarded her the Durocher Award, their highest honor for outstanding leadership and service.

Sr. Margaret recently presented “Girls in STEM” at CUE (Computer Using Educators) in Napa. She and a colleague from Holy Names High School in Oakland shared their experiences with classes and projects that engage young women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). As part of the presentation, she highlighted Ramona’s new and unique course in physical computing and shared how our Ramona students are responding to the course. Ramona Convent is celebrating 125 years of educating young women in grades nine through 12 through academic excellence, spiritual depth, and dynamic leadership. The school invites the community to stop by to meet Sr. Margaret and experience the STEM program at Ramona.
Feeling down? Research shows dance can lift mood

People who love to dance say that dance makes them feel powerful and that it gives them a way of expressing themselves and their feelings. A recent study published in *Science Direct* shows that dance has consistent effects for improving psychological health. A large meta-analysis combining 23 evidence-based studies within the last 20 years has shown positive effects of dance and movement therapy on health concerns such as perimenopause, depression, and anxiety, among others. “No wonder dancing is so fun,” said Ti DeVera, Jayvee Dance Center studio manager. “It makes us better. After a stressful day at work, that mid-week Zumba class or a Streetease class,” said Ms. DeVera. “You can also gain confidence and improve your social life.”

“Bring in this article for a complimentary consultation,” said Ms. DeVera. “For more information, contact the studio at 626-281-3790, or visit the front desk.”

Linwoods Fine Chinese Works of Art Auction set for Dec. 9

The early winter’s chill has ushered in myriad earthily delights of yesteryear. In celebration of an encouragingly successful season, Linwoods Auctions of Southern California is pleased to present a veritable treasure trove of antique arts, unique jewelry, distinctive period furniture, and fine art masterpieces at an exclusive one day auction event in their auction house and gallery showroom on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Linwoods Auction House will offer a variety of Chinese arts and antiquities, precious stones, fine jewelry, and rare furnishings at the early winter event. December auction items include a wide variety of porcelain works, jade, jadeite sculptures and soapstone carvings, precious gemstones, scroll paintings, ancient silk courtiers’ robes, embroidered silk panels, and museum-worthy furniture pieces.

Memorable lots from the December auction include a magnificent collection of Kesi-woven silk embroidered courtiers’ robes and embroidery panels from the Imperial court of the Qing dynasty. Another notable offering is a number of HuangHuali furniture pieces of the highest quality and craftsmanship. A discerning lifetime collector is also parting with scroll paintings, porcelain works, and select pieces acquired from the celebrated auction houses of Christie’s, Sotheby’s, and Bonham’s.

Linwoods is a full-service auction house that provides distinguished service in the areas of appraisal and consignment together with decades of export sales and acquisitions for its growing network of international clients. With a promising first year in Southern California, Linwoods has plans in place for monthly online auctions and quarterly in-house auctions.

The Dec. 9 event will begin at 2:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Pre-auction viewing downstairs will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 1 through Thursday, Monday through Friday, or by appointment. Linwoods Gallery is located at 1215 E. Main St., Alhambra 91801.

For additional information, please view the fully illustrated catalog via the Internet at www.linwoodsauction.com.
Wells Fargo donates $63,000 to nonprofits, schools in Greater Los Angeles at annual Greater San Gabriel Community Connections Breakfast recognizing positive impact of local organizations

Wells Fargo recently held its annual Greater San Gabriel Community Connections Breakfast in which more than $63,000 was donated to nonprofit community organizations and schools across the eastern region of Los Angeles. The heartwarming annual event took place in Pasadena at Noor, where 63 Wells Fargo community bank leaders selected an organization to donate a $1,000 grant in unrestricted funding.

Opening the event were Sandy Walia, Wells Fargo Greater San Gabriel area president; David DiCristofaro, Greater Los Angeles region president; Jonathan Weedman, head of the Wells Fargo Foundation in Los Angeles; and Congresswoman Judy Chu delivered remarks. “We are proud to continue this tradition of honoring local nonprofits and schools, because at Wells Fargo we know we can only be as strong as the communities we serve,” said Ms. Walia. “We would like to recognize the organizations that are doing important work in our communities and helping our neighbors who need it most.”

As an added bonus, this year’s event also featured the donation of a life-sized plush pony to one lucky nonprofit attendee. Congresswoman Chu randomly selected the Rosemead Rebels, the winning nonprofit, from a bowl full of the names of all 63 organizations.

“Thi event is really my very favorite day of the year,” said Mr. DiCristofaro. “This is the one day when we are able to say ‘thank you’ for the truly significant, and often challenging, work nonprofits and schools are doing every single day to make our communities better.”

Wells Fargo first introduced the Community Connections Breakfast program in 1999 in Los Angeles to allow team members the opportunity to select community organizations to receive an unsolicited charitable contribution. Since then, Wells Fargo regions across the country have adopted the program allowing managers nationwide to participate and reach more local organizations.

In 2013, Wells Fargo donated more than $275 million across the country, with $29 million of that donated right here in Los Angeles and surrounding areas,” said Mr. Weedman. “In fact, because of this focus on philanthropic giving and volunteerism, Wells Fargo was recently named among the ‘top corporate philanthropists’ in the nation by The Chronicle of Philanthropy, and has been the leading corporate donor in Los Angeles for the past seven years.”

The 2014 Community Connections Breakfast grant recipients included A Place Called Home; ACF Western USA; Alhambra Police Department; American Cancer Society; American Red Cross San Gabriel Valley; Armenian American Nurses Association; Bellflower Unified School District; Bolton & Company; Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena; Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach; Calvary Chapel of Downey; Athletic Department; Carmelita Sisters; Clothes the Deal; Columbia School; Community Hospital, Long Beach; Corona Avenue Elementary School; C-V Alliance, Community Values for Crescenda Valley; Dolores Mission School; Door of Hope; Drew Child Development Corporation; D’Veal Family and Youth Services; Eggleston Youth Center; El Nido Family Centers; Epic Program of Cal State L.A. Educational Participation In Communities; Faison Center for Entrepreneurship; Grace Bible Church; Gamball Foundation; Hathaway-Sycamores; Help the Children; Homenetsmen Ararat; Hope House for the Multiple Handicapped Inc.; Huntington Library; Huntington Park Police Department; Ideal Youth; Immaculate Conception School; International Institute of Los Angeles; La Plaza de Cultura y Artes; Life Light Educational Foundation; National Assistance League; Oak Avenue Intermediate School; Olive Crest; Operation Hope; Our Lady of Perpetual Help School; Police Activities League; Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial Committee; Pasadena Educational Foundation; Pasadena Humane Society; Pasadena Playhouse; People for People; Quality of Life Services, Inc.; Rosemary Children’s Services; Rosemead Rebels; Ruben Salazar High School; San Gabriel Valley Humane Society; San Marino High School Football Team; South Pasadena Kiwanis Club; St. Francis Medical Center Foundation; The Wall Las Memorias; UEDF Food Bank; Victory Bible Church; Villa Esperanza; and YMCA West San Gabriel Valley.
Local barber collects toys to donate for Christmas

Sam’s Barbershop, 1103 E. Main St., Alhambra, is collecting toys for Christmas to donate to Friends of Foster Children. The toy drive will end on Dec. 20.

Friends, customers, and volunteers will be in the barbershop the weekend the toy drive ends preparing the toys for Santa.

For many years, Sam’s Barbershop owner Sam Artino has accepted voluntary donations from his customers. His barbershop rapidly fills up with canned goods and grocery store gift cards prior to Thanksgiving and toys before Christmas. Each of his customers who donate write their names and amounts donated on cards, and they are taped to the mirrors and wall.

Mr. Artino does not like to take credit for this charity drive. “I don’t do this; my customers do it,” he said.

Friends of Foster Children, Arcadia, serves foster children throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Pastor Mario Figueroa (left) of Cory’s Kitchen food bank and Sam Artino, Sam’s Barbershop, collected canned goods and grocery store gift cards before Thanksgiving to donate to Cory’s Kitchen. Mr. Artino’s toy drive for Friends of Foster Children, which began the day after Thanksgiving, ends on Dec. 20.
Alhambra Preservation Group tours Union Station

In the 75 years since it was built, Los Angeles Union Station has captured the hearts of architectural historians, travelers, railroad enthusiasts and civic leaders, while simultaneously shaping the future of Southern California. On a Saturday morning in November, two dozen members of Alhambra Preservation Group were treated to a guided walking tour of this celebrated historic landmark, including a deeper look at its remarkable art, architecture, and social history.

The annual fall field trip to sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places is always a popular and well-attended event for members of the organization who join or renew early. Alhambra Preservation Group is a non-profit community organization whose mission is to ensure that the historical, architectural, and cultural resources of Alhambra are identified, protected, and celebrated for their contributions to the city’s heritage, economy, and environment. APG hosts a variety of informative and entertaining activities throughout the year, including its Heritage Home Awards program in the fall, which recognizes the efforts of property owners who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Alhambra’s built environment.

The recipients of the organization’s 2014 Heritage Home Awards, presented on Nov. 19 in Reese Hall of the Alhambra Public Library, will be featured in future articles of Around Alhambra.

For more information about APG, please phone 626-755-3467, or visit the organization’s website: www.Alhambra-Preservation.org.

Primary students begin Educational Foundation’s new K-3 Instructional Music Program

The Alhambra Educational Foundation (AEF) and the Alhambra Unified School District have started the first of the kindergarten through third-grade instructional music classes at half of the District’s 13 elementary schools.

Since October, three credentialed music teachers have been teaching students an interactive standards-based music curriculum that has the students learning about rhythm, harmony and melody, and singing and exploring various musical instruments and the sounds they can make. Teachers Dana Ara, Erica Jones, and Alyse Thompson are engaging students with regular lessons at Etiwanda Park, Park, Garfield, Marguerita, Fremont, Granada, and Northrup elementary schools through February 2015.

The program will rotate to the six remaining elementary schools — Brightwood, Monterey Highlands, Ramona, Baldwin, Ynez, and Repetto — in February and will continue through May 2015. All kindergarten, first-, second-, and third-grade students in the Alhambra School district will receive up to 16 music lessons in their classrooms during the year in this program fully funded by AEF.

“We are so excited to be able to provide this program to our AUSD students,” said AEF Executive Director Sheryl MacPhie. “The parents, teachers, principals, and most importantly, our students, are thrilled and energized to have this music curriculum a part of the AUSD educational program, and we are so grateful to our generous donors who have helped make this program a reality.”

AEF is now raising funds to ensure the continuation of this program for the 2015-16 school year. With a target fundraising goal of $300,000 by July 31, 2015, AEF counts on donations from parents, community members, and local businesses.

The Alhambra Educational Foundation is the primary fundraising partner of the Alhambra School District. Since its inception in 1993, AEF has donated more than $1.8 million to the District to provide funding for a variety of educational programs, curriculum, and equipment that benefit all students and schools. All proceeds from AEF’s fundraising efforts, including the annual Service to Education Gala dinner, AEF’s annual appeal, and the Taste of Alhambra community event, benefit all the schools and students of the Alhambra School District.

For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation to AEF, please go to www.aef4kids.com and follow AEF on Facebook.
Northrup students learn financial literacy

Students in Phillips Vi’s math class are making money count. As a dedicated educator at William Northrup School, led by Principal Stacie Colman-Hsu, Mr. Vi is teaching students about the true value of money. This year with the advent of Common Core, Mr. Vi is implementing “financial literacy” as part of his mathematics Universal Access (UA) curriculum.

Some of the areas he will cover, along with his mathematics curriculum, will include personal finance (income, expenses, savings, home buying, budgeting, car purchase, etc.), interests and loans, tax basics, credit cards and credit history, credit bureaus and FICO score, and building a safety net.

Mr. Vi sees the value in showing students the importance and the relationship between knowing their math facts and understanding the relationship that the latter has on their daily lives. “In addition to understanding and enjoying math, I want students to see its relevancy and applicability in everyday life," he said. “Financial Literacy UA would not have been possible without the incredible and ongoing support from Mrs. Colman-Hsu.

Students alike are excited to have the opportunity to learn about money in their math class and are becoming more interested as they begin to see the impact and the relationship between money, math, and shopping.”
Alhambra Unified School District hosted its seventh annual College Fair on Oct. 16 at San Gabriel High School. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., more than 80 representatives from colleges, vocational schools, and the military were available for questions. Many colleges, including those in the University of California and California State Systems, compete in the Alhambra area to try to attract more students.

Students learned about how colleges view applicants. “Berkeley acceptance is different from other schools,” a representative of UC Berkeley said. “Instead of scoring one for everything, Berkeley looks at everything and scores you holistically with one score from one to five with one being the highest.”

Including local universities, there were many out-of-state colleges recruiting students in the San Gabriel Valley. Some schools came all the way from Indiana and Pennsylvania.

Hawai‘i University was also present, trying to attract students living on the West Coast. “Students from the West Coast get a good discount when applying for this school,” the Hawai‘i representative said. “They would only pay about $15,000, while non-residents who want to get in would have to be charged $30,000 for tuition.”

Parents and their children attended the fair and said it was extremely helpful. “I’ve been at the college fair for four years now,” parent Maria Chow-Kakazu said. “And it’s very beneficial to look at all the colleges because it’s a really good learning experience.”

Coordinator Monica Marquez believes that the college fair is also a beneficial factor toward the students’ futures. “Overall it’s a nice experience for students of all ages,” she said. “They can come and explore the many different options like community colleges, four-year colleges, or they can jump into the workforce and look at technical institutes. They can all get their answers from one location.”

This article was written by Frank Lieu, junior, reporter, The Matador; San Gabriel High School.
AEF supports college counselors on campus

About 50 years ago, the national college enrollment rate for high school graduates was 45%, a number that climbed up to 70% in 2009. While this rapid ascension can be attributed to a number of factors, including increased gender equality, the outstanding component of the growth is the quality of support in the college application process in America’s schools.

In trying to emulate that growth, the nonprofit fundraising organization Alhambra Educational Foundation (AEF) partnered with the Alhambra Unified School District to offer students an alternate avenue of aid by opening up new part-time college counselor positions on high school campuses.

The project will include personalized help and tours to various colleges in California, assisting the student body with concerns they may have about their college prospects.

“The college counselors focus on helping students research college options and application processes, as well as integrate some career preparation,” AEF Executive Director Sheryl MacPhee said. “Not all students are suited for a four-year university, and we want students to know that. We want to help students explore more types of colleges and help find the best fit for the students.”

Not to be confused with the guidance counselors already present at the high schools, the AEF-funded counselors will specialize in helping students demystify the concept of college. The project hopes to relieve some of the strain that guidance counselors experience when meeting with hundreds of seniors every fall, while simultaneously boosting college enrollment rates.

“The guidance counselors work to hard. They all have a huge workload between them with a lot of students, so there’s not a lot of time to devote to individual college processes,” Ms. MacPhee said. “Many juniors and seniors are starting to go through those processes, so we want to solve two problems by lightening workloads and providing individual help to those that need it.”

To date, there are three planned counselor positions: Janice Liu and Suzana Yu are respectively stationed at Alhambra High School and Mark Keppel High School, while the counselor at San Gabriel has not yet been established.

The feedback for the project so far has been extremely positive, especially from students looking to apply to college in the next two years.

“I’m really glad AEF decided to start something like this,” sophomore April Vuong said. “Applying to college always seemed so stressful and confusing, and I was worried about how I would get through the process. But now that I know they’re opening up these positions, I’m a bit relieved. It’s nice to know the support is there.”

From this point forward, AEF hopes to eventually add more full-time counselor positions to increase the amount of support given to students in need of a helping hand in the process or simply information about the prospects.

“It’s about knowing what’s possible,” Ms. MacPhee said. “If you know what’s possible, then your expectations can grow, and you can go after your dreams.”

This article was written by Rebecca Lei, senior, editor-in-chief, The Matador, San Gabriel High School.

**Alhambra High School’s Homecoming**

Alhambra Moors face off against the Schurr Spartans during the Homecoming game at Moor Field on Oct. 31.

From left are Freshman Princess Claudia Anzora, Sophomore Princess Violet Cordova, Homecoming Queen Danielle Medrano, Junior Princess Jade Laos, and Senior Princess Josephine Lim.

AHS Principal Duane Russell waves to bystanders during the first annual Homecoming Parade.

From left: Senior Prince Ivan Yu, Junior Prince Raymond Lam, Homecoming King Robert Saris, Sophomore Prince Dmitri Madyomo, and Freshman Prince Kobe Lu.

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**NEGLECTED TEETH**

**Before**

**In One Visit**

**TEETH RESTORED**

This example shows how Dr. John Chao saved a severely neglected tooth in **ONE EASY COMFORTABLE VISIT** and at a fraction of the cost of implants! (individual results vary)

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John Chao, DDS, MAGD*
USC School of Dentistry, Faculty, Anxiety Management

*Master, Academy of General Dentistry
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