

## Help City of Alhambra plan for future potential housing growth

Join the virtual Housing Element Community Forum on Feb. 17

The City of Alhambra is updating the Housing Element of its General Plan. The Housing Element guides the city's plans for housing and outlines important aspects like future housing needs, different housing types, zoning, and policies that can make housing more affordable and more available. This update project will run through October, and the policies and programs in the Housing Element will be in effect from October 2021 through October 2029.

The Housing Element is not a mandate to build new housing — it is a requirement to plan for housing. The state told the City of Alhambra that it must zone capacity for 6,808 new housing units over these eight years, and the city is in the process of figuring out how and where to put this housing capacity. This capacity must address both market-rate and affordable housing needs. The city is working on creating new programs and strategies to ensure that these new housing units meet the identified needs of all community members. While this project involves zoning, it differs from the Alhambra Zoning Code Update project that is also underway. See <https://www.alhambrcodeupdate.com/> for more information on that project.

The city wants residents' input on how and where this housing should go, as well as what programs or strategies it should consider. There are lots of ways to get involved:

- Attend the virtual community forum from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17. Registration is required with details to be posted on the project website soon.
- Visit the project website at <https://www.alhambrahousingelement.com/> and sign up for project e-mails.
- E-mail comments, questions, and ideas to [HousingElement@CityofAlhambra.org](mailto:HousingElement@CityofAlhambra.org). Comments in any language are welcome.

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## Tesla comes to Alhambra



The Tesla Corporation will open a facility at the former Alhambra Mazda location. After major improvements, Tesla hopes to open in the spring. The new facility will offer sales and service. This will be a huge boost to Alhambra's Auto Row.



MKHS math teacher Angel Kuo is the latest AUSD teacher to complete the grueling process of becoming a National Board Certified teacher. Often seen walking with a clipboard in hand, Ms. Kuo constantly jots down notes about the class so she can reflect and improve her teaching. (Photo taken as part of Ms. Kuo's NBCT documentation prior to the district going into a Distance Learning model.)

## Keppel's Angel Kuo shares journey to teaching gold standard

Mark Keppel High School math teacher Angel Kuo joins the ranks of those who are transforming the profession. In December, Ms. Kuo earned her hard-won credential as National Board Certified teacher. Called the gold standard in teacher certification, NBCT recognizes teachers who continually reflect and improve their own practice to help

students achieve dramatic improvement and growth.

The UCLA graduate began the arduous process in 2018, completing two of the four components each year. Ms. Kuo said it was the hardest thing she has done in her career. Requirements included assessments, analyzing student data and progress, writing extensively on her findings, submitting

>> see **MKHS MATH TEACHER** Page 14

# Mayor's Corner



By Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez

As a public servant and a private citizen, ensuring the health and safety of all Alhambra residents has been my top priority. That is why I'm very excited to share that the COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan has begun. Our police officers, firefighters, city staff, and health care workers have been vaccinated to ensure we can safely serve our residents. Next up, all residents 65 and older will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine beginning Jan. 21. This is a critical step in protecting the health of Alhambra's senior residents.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been shown to be safe and very effective in large studies that involved a diverse mix of people. These vaccines prevented 95% of cases of COVID-19 disease. While the vaccine stops people from getting sick, however, it is not yet clear if it stops them from spreading COVID-19 to other people. So, everyone must still wear a face covering, physically distance, and not gather. Below, I've included common questions and responses from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

**How does a vaccine work?**

Vaccines work by preparing the body's immune system to recognize and fight off germs. They reduce your risk of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defenses to build protection. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds. It:

- Detects the invading germ, such as a virus or bacteria.
- Makes antibodies. Antibodies are proteins produced naturally by the immune system to fight disease.
- Remembers the disease and how to fight it. If you are exposed to the germ after getting the vaccine, your immune system can quickly destroy it before you become sick.

Our immune systems are designed to remember. After we get one or more doses of a vaccine, we are protected against the disease for a period of time. This is what makes vaccines so effective. Instead of treating a disease after it happens, vaccines can prevent us from getting sick in the first place.

**How many shots of COVID-19 vaccine will I need?**

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines that are being tested are given in two doses a few weeks apart. It is important to get the same kind of vaccine for both shots.

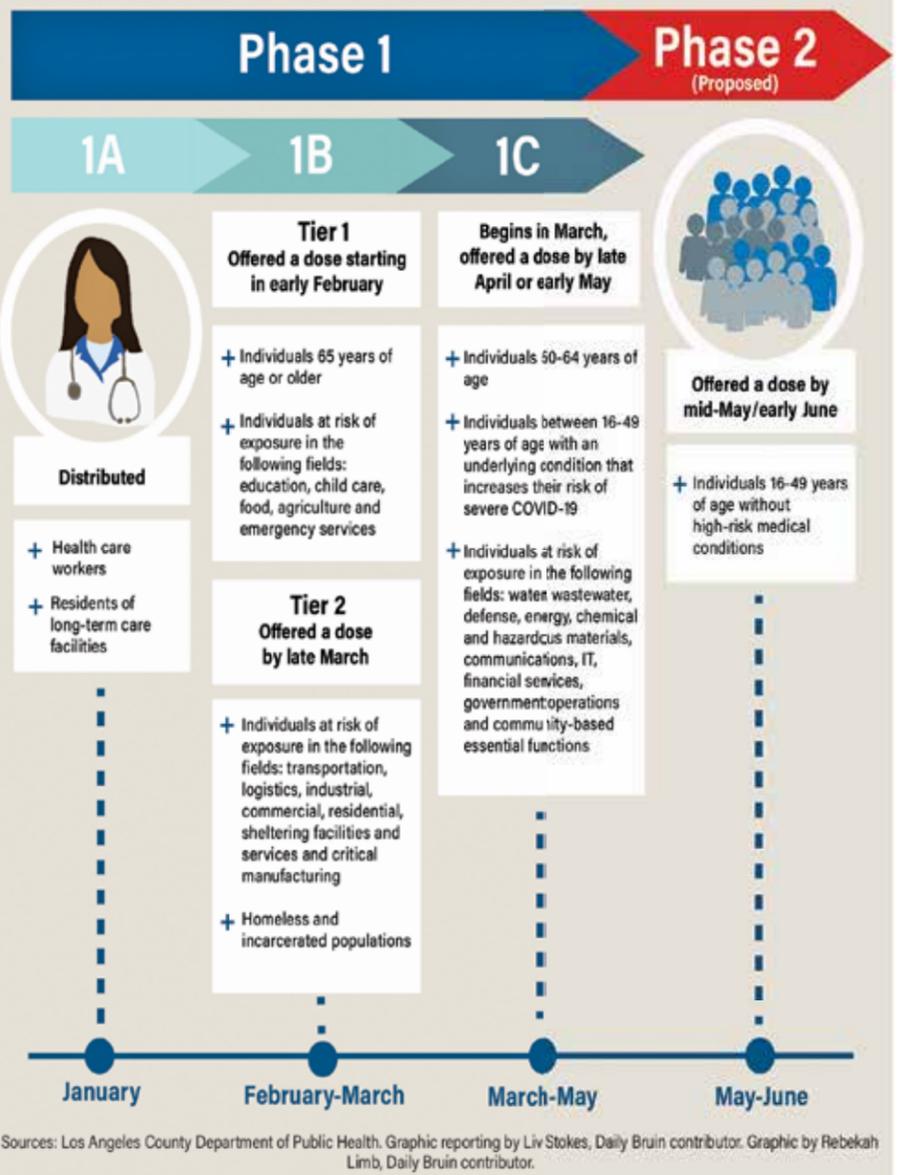
**Will I have to pay to get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

No. Your doctor or pharmacy may charge a fee for giving the vaccine, but it should be covered by public and private insurance companies. People without health insurance can get COVID-19 vaccines at no cost. There are no out-of-pocket payments.

**Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](http://VaccinateLACounty.com) to schedule an appointment or call 833-540-0473 for assistance between 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

## Tier System Explained with Estimated Timelines



**What is California's vaccination plan?**

The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine marks the beginning of the end of the pandemic. There is hope. As we navigate our return to a new normal, I hope you

will join me in continuing to serve our neighbors in need. Our collective efforts have made a monumental impact on the lives of everyday people.

May God bless you with abundant joy and health, Alhambra!

# Protect yourself

With all the online and social media bartering applications available these days, The Alhambra Police Department wants to make sure residents take steps to protect their safety:

- Never meet with anyone alone. Always take someone with you.
- Always meet in a public place.

• If possible, always do the transactions during the daytime, never late at night.

• Never get into someone's car and let them drive to a different area to complete the transaction.

• If possible, avoid going into someone's house or apartment and never go

into someone's house or apartment alone.

• Never share personal information with anyone other than your first name. Person to person bartering transactions do not require personal identifying information.

• Don't be so quick to accept a personal check from someone. The check

could be fraudulent and/or the account closed.

• Bartering crime victims should report the crime immediately to the local police jurisdiction of where the crime took place.

• Please remember: If the deal is too good to be true, it probably is.

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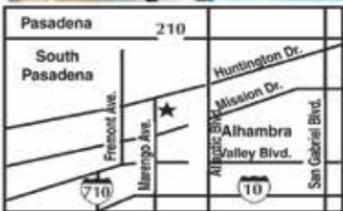
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## Apply for Veronica Thee Service Award

The Veronica Thee Service Award recognizes young women who make the community and world a better place through volunteer efforts. The award is named after Veronica Thee, who took pride in being a Soroptimist for 40+ years. She was known as the "smiling lady." She had an open heart and loving spirit.

Three awards will be given out for a total of \$3,600 and \$100 to each non-profit organization. Candidates for the award should visit [www.soroptimistalhabra.org](http://www.soroptimistalhabra.org) for more information and to download an application. The deadline to turn in applications is March 15.

# WE ARE ALHAMBRA SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

## Adjusting to the



Alhambra businesses have pivoted and adjusted their daily structure to serve you safely. CDC compliant practices have been adopted on site to ensure protection and prevention from the Covid 19 virus.

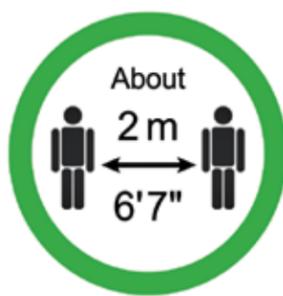
### CUSTOMERS ARE ASKED TO DO THEIR PART BELOW:



Wash Hands Thoroughly



Use Soap or Hand Sanitizer



Keep Safe Distance from Other People



Stay at Home if Sick



Use Face Mask or Respirator

TO FIND OUT WHAT RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES ARE OPEN, SCAN THESE QR CODES:

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ALHAMBRA**

Published by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce.

A monthly publication with a circulation of 40,000, Around Alhambra is mailed to every business and residence in the City of Alhambra and to all interested local, state, and county officials.

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104 S. First St.  
**Must call for appointment.**  
**626-282-8481**  
**Observe COVID-19 guidelines.**



The new U.S. Bank office opens inside Albertson's at Fremont and Commonwealth.

## U.S. Bank to open in Alhambra

U.S. Bank is a full-service financial institution and currently the fifth-largest commercial bank in the United States. U.S. Bank is expanding and looking for innovative ways to serve their customers and community. One pioneering way they do this is by meeting the community where they already are, such as at essential businesses they currently frequent, like the grocery store. That is the strategy behind U.S. Bank's newest Southern California location opening in Alhambra early this year in the Albertsons Market at Fremont and Commonwealth. Branch manager Michael Win has more than 14 years of experience in the banking industry.

U.S. Bank is also helping small business owners with the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan assistance. Assistance is free, and business owners do not currently need to bank with U.S. Bank to take advantage of the program. Mr. Win also announced that U.S. Bank has extended hours into the evening (Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

for greater convenience. The new Alhambra branch will have Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish speaking bankers to assist customers in their language of choice.

U.S. Bank is committed to serving its millions of retail, business, wealth management, payment, commercial, corporate, and investment services customers across the country and around the world as a trusted financial partner, a commitment recognized by the Ethisphere Institute naming the bank one of the 2020 World's Most Ethical Companies. →With their "One U.S. Bank" philosophy, they bring the power of the whole bank to every Alhambra customer — all in the convenience of their local grocery store.

Drop in to the newest U.S. Bank branch inside the Albertsons location at 2400 W. Commonwealth Ave. Contact them at 626-349-3748, send an e-mail to [michael.win@usbank.com](mailto:michael.win@usbank.com), or visit U.S. Bank at [www.usbank.com](http://www.usbank.com) to stay up to date with company news.

## A home office away from home

One of the most innovative ideas to come out of late 20th century urban architecture is to repurpose buildings that were used for manufacturing and turn them to other uses. That is the idea that Michael McCollum brought to Alhambra. Using his experience of refurbishing several buildings in L. A., he noticed a boarded up, one-story, century-old 7,500-square-foot brick building at 1500 W. Alhambra Road. He bought the building in 2015 and went to work.

Among Mr. McCollum's priorities were natural light and openness. He opened up the ceiling to expose the beautiful redwood beams, took layers of paint off the red brick walls, and increased lighting with skylights, glass doors, and floor-to-ceiling windows that offer illuminating natural light.

He created what is called a co-working space. Co-working facilities offer access to professionally furnished offices without the cost of signing a long-term lease, acquiring furniture, or the hassle of running an office. This flexibility is a plus in such uncertain times.

Professionals and creatives can draw on the energy of others in the same field and different fields. Members in Mr. McCollum's building have included people working in design, architecture, tech, app development, branding and marketing, law, finance, HR, consulting, accounting, and other fields.

"The pandemic has certainly



Inside Iona workspaces, showing a wall of windows and exposed redwood beams.

presented both challenges and opportunities," Mr. McCollum said. Workspace needs are changing from group activities to individuals working remotely. To accommodate the trend to personal use, and with more people wanting to work a few days of the week closer to where they live, Iona Workspaces offers individual dedicated desks. In addition, Mr. McCollum is now reconfiguring some of the building space into smaller offices of 200 square feet. These offices are perfect for individuals who need more dedicated space than a cramped home office allows. They offer more privacy than a dedicated desk and 24/7 access to the building. These unique office spaces should be ready in the spring.

To learn more about Iona Workspaces, Mr. McCollum has created a

virtual walkthrough of the building on the Iona web site, <https://www.iona.work>, that shares information about its members, community events, the history of the building, and holding office events (after the pandemic).

The private work spaces share a break room, private conference rooms, and a lounge or living room area to take a rest. As a bonus, Iona Workspaces is adjacent to Burke Heritage Park with its expanse of tree-shaded lawn and its xeriscape garden in a quiet residential neighborhood. There is access to high-speed internet and ample free street parking.

Visit the website to take the virtual walkthrough and for details including their COVID policy and a way to contact them by e-mail. Or call 323-496-3539.

# Can I enroll during this time?

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period may let you switch plans. This enrollment period runs from Jan. 1 – March 31. Here's how it works:

- If you already have a Medicare Advantage plan (an additional form of coverage that may include vision, dental, hearing, and prescription drugs), you can switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan.
- You can drop your current Medicare Advantage plan and return to traditional Medicare, then sign up for a stand-alone Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.
- You generally can't make other coverage changes during this period. For example, if you have traditional Medicare Part A and Part B, you typically can't sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan or a Medicare Advantage plan.



*Katherine Yu Simms has supported seniors in making difficult and important decisions for many years. She can be reached at 323-854-2868, or e-mail [kyusimms@rey-top.com](mailto:kyusimms@rey-top.com).*

**Is Medicare free?**

Some Medicare Advantage plans are advertised as "free" plans. While these plans may be premium-free, they are not completely free: You will still have to pay certain out-of-pocket costs.

**What is a Medicare out-of-pocket maximum?**

A Medicare out-of-pocket maximum is the limit on how much you will pay out of pocket for all your Medicare costs in a single year. There's no limit on out-of-pocket costs in original Medicare.

All Medicare Advantage plans have a yearly out-of-pocket maximum amount, which varies depending on the plan you are enrolled in. Enrolling in a Medigap plan can also help lower yearly out-of-pocket costs.

**Can I use Medicare when I'm outside my state?**

Original Medicare offers nationwide coverage to all beneficiaries. This means you're covered for out-of-state medical care.

Medicare Advantage plans, on the other hand, offer coverage only for the state you live in, though some may also offer in-network services out of-state.

Whether you have original Medicare or Medicare Advantage, you should always make sure that the provider you're visiting accepts Medicare assignment.

**What do I do if I lose my Medicare card?**

If you have lost your Medicare card, you can order a replacement from the Social Security website. Simply log in to your account and request a replacement under the "Replacement Documents" tab. You can also request a replacement card by calling 800-MEDICARE.

It can take around 30 days to receive your replacement Medicare card. If you need your card for an appointment before then, you can print a copy of it by logging into your myMedicare account.



*Republic Services employees continue to protect public health and safety as the pandemic changes life in communities.*

# Republic Services is committed to serve

Republic Services' goal is to keep the communities they serve clean and safe, and that has never been more important than over the past year. As a global pandemic rocked communities, Republic Services' team worked to provide essential services, making sure that recyclables, green waste, and trash were collected on a weekly basis.

To provide uninterrupted service and ensure the health of their workforce, they provided necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), increased cleaning and disinfection of trucks, equipment and facilities, and changed the ways they work in some cases to ensure proper social distancing. In addition, Republic Services leveraged their tools and technology to enable employees to work from home where possible. Nationwide, their 36,000 employees rose to the challenges and continued to serve as passionate stewards of the environment and the communities.

As an industry leader, Republic Services has always been committed to keeping communities clean in a safe and environmentally responsible way, with a focus on preserving precious natural resources and extracting as much value as they can from the materials they collect. This includes sorting through recyclables, consolidating loads for transport, and disposing of waste

in highly engineered landfills where they recover energy from decomposing waste. It's what they mean when they say, We'll handle it from here.®

For instance, at Republic's Materials Recovery Facility in Anaheim where the City of Alhambra's material is delivered, Republic Services can process 6,000 tons of discards per day, separating materials by type and producing in excess of 500 large bales of recyclables every day. Also, they have installed an organics preprocessing operation, where specialized equipment effectively separates contamination from food waste and prepares it for composting or other end markets.

Republic Services is committed to serving the Alhambra community and protecting the shared environment. The community can help them preserve natural resources by properly preparing recycling at home and at work. Be sure that only empty, clean, and dry recyclables go into recycling carts or bins and that only green waste goes into the green waste cart or bin. Please don't contaminate materials by putting trash into the recycling or green waste containers.

For more information about proper recycling, visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](http://RecyclingSimplified.com), or call Julian Reyes at 747-245-9152 for assistance.

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

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*Thank You!*

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

**Medicare Open Enrollment Period**  
**January 1 - March 31, 2021**

**Important Medicare questions**

- 1 When am I eligible?
- 2 What are my choices for Medicare and supplements?
- 3 How much do the plans costs?
- 4 When and how do I sign up?

*I speak Mandarin and Cantonese*  
**Katherine Yu Simms**  
Medicare Insurance Agent  
License #0M21975

**Happy Lunar New Year**

**Cell 323.854.2868**

# Tax Tips

## Second economic payment

The Federal Government announced the second economic payment of \$600 per adult and \$600 per dependent child. The payments started during the last week of December and continued until Jan. 15.

If you did not receive the \$600 payment by Jan. 15 there's no need to worry. The IRS will give you the money when you file your year 2020 Income Tax Return.

To qualify for the full payment, your income must be less than:

- Single – \$75,000.
- Head of Household – \$112,500.
- Married Filing Jointly – \$150,000.

The law stated the amount that a taxpayer receives is based on their year 2020 tax return numbers. However, the IRS paid out the funds based on your year 2019 tax return numbers.

Below is from the IRS website:

**Who can claim the Recovery Rebate Credit** – Eligible individuals who did not receive the full amounts of both Economic Impact Payments may claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2020 Form 1040 or 1040-SR. To determine whether you are an eligible individual or the amount of your Recovery Rebate Credit, complete the Recovery Rebate Credit Worksheet in the instructions for the 1040 and 1040-SR.

Generally you are eligible to the Recovery Rebate Credit if you were a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien in 2020, can't be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer for tax year 2020, and have a Social Security number valid for



Michael Aston is an Enrolled Agent engaged in his family business at Alhambra Tax Center, 1009 E. Main St., Alhambra. Alhambra Tax Center has served Alhambra residents since 1970. He can be reached at 626-282-1084. Tax questions, or any other questions, can be e-mailed to michael@alhambrataxcenter.com. To view previous topics, read his blogs at www.alhambrataxcenter.com.

employment that is issued before the due date of your 2020 tax return (including extensions).

You must file form 1040 or form 1040-sr to claim the Recovery Rebate Credit even if you are normally not required to file a tax return.

To get more information on the Recovery Rebate Credit, go to irs.gov, or contact your tax preparer.



F.F. Gomez founder Francisco Gomez and Jorge Gomez with the custom truck they built.

# F.F. Gomez Inc. implements cutting edge technology

BY JORGE GOMEZ

San Gabriel Valley waste hauler Valley Vista Services (VVS) prides itself on supporting small and local businesses throughout the Los Angeles region. Over the 60+ years that VVS has been in business, they have made the purchasing of American-made and manufactured goods to be at the heart of their business model. This benefits local economies while independently owned businesses have the opportunity to thrive.

It's for this reason that VVS and many other local businesses have contracted Alhambra Chamber of Commerce member F.F. Gomez, Inc., for the construction and assembly of custom manufactured refuse trucks for their growing fleets. Since 2004, VVS and Gomez have developed strong working relationships for the design and fabrication of some of the most advanced refuse trucks on the market. With over 40 years of experience in the waste management industry, F.F. Gomez has been recognized for innovative engineering and quality custom-built truck bodies. The attention to detail and commitment to safety is what VVS President Dave Perez loves most about working with Gomez. "The team at F.F. Gomez is outstanding," Mr. Perez said. "They care about our needs as a growing company and deliver solutions that help our drivers on the front lines

perform at their peak."

Recently, F.F. Gomez designed and built a one-of-a-kind organics collection truck for the upcoming launch of VVS's Organic Waste Recycling Program. When these trucks become operational, it will be a groundbreaking achievement for both Gomez and VVS as they implement cutting-edge technology to help take their local communities into a new era of sustainability.

Besides their passion for the waste industry and delivering the best for their customers, VVS and F.F. Gomez are bonded by their shared experience of being a multi-generational family-owned and operated business, both of which were founded by immigrant parents. Francisco F. Gomez, the founder of F.F. Gomez, immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico and has lived in Alhambra since 1973. He and his sons, Louis and Jorge, play a significant role in the day-to-day operations and work directly with customers to guarantee the excellence that F.F. Gomez is known for.

The Perez brothers, owners, and operators of Valley Vista Services are excited not only for each family's legacy to continue, but for what this partnership means to the community of Alhambra. They hope it is just the beginning of many fruitful relationships to come in the City of Alhambra.



# Good Day Alhambra



Wednesday, 2/10/2021 @ 9:00 a.m.



Jump start your morning and join the Chamber for a fun morning business virtual networking opportunity. Virtual Good Morning Networking is a morning networking opportunity that enables you to connect with fellow chamber members over your computer or phone. This free networking event is open to members and non-members.

**Raffles!**

Register in advance for this meeting:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0vcuCupjooHNynERV0U\\_Ra2dZ9r5FEtPM6](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0vcuCupjooHNynERV0U_Ra2dZ9r5FEtPM6)

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*Welcome!*

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Joesgarage.com

Jo's Garage Inc. is a family-owned full service automotive maintenance and repair facility with over 30 years of industry experience. We are located in the Kerechuk building. We service foreign and domestic gasoline, hybrid, and electric cars and light trucks. We have helped our many satisfied customers maintain their vehicles into the hundreds of thousands of miles. We welcome you to join them and give us a try.



From left are Julio Sosa, Ruth Failer, Rivi Shulman, and Armando Cardona, of Tom's Uniforms.

## Social Virtual Mixer

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021  
4pm - 5pm Virtual **zoom**

Hosted by **EVIKE.COM**

Please join us for our February Social Mixer. We have fun activities planned and look forward to 2021 with you!

- Rounds of 1:1 Breakout sessions to share and network with other business attendees
- Bring your own food/drink (support our local restaurants)
- Raffle prizes

Register in advance for this meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcqc-yqzlrE9QuDyaulaou8m8rh7f0pMSQ>

## 7 Things You Must Know Before Putting Your Home Up for Sale

Alhambra - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money. This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market.

The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market. As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars.

The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To order a FREE Special Report, call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1000. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

*This report is courtesy of Rudy L. Kusuma Real Estate Broker Lic# 01820322. Not intended solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract.*

## Tom's Uniforms: an Alhambra tradition since 1954

Tom Shulman was born in Russia. His family left when he was just 5 years old, first to Mexico and then to America where the family settled in Boston. As an adult, Tom wanted to open his own business. He moved to California and opened up a clothing store called Tom's in Alhambra in 1954.

Originally at 112 E. Main St., Tom's moved to its current location at the Corner of Chapel and Main Street in 1964. Tom's wife, Alice, said that at that time there were several clothing stores but few restaurants. Now it is the other way around. Tom began selling clothing for adults and children, but there was stiff competition for children's clothing from stores like Woodruffs. So Tom focused on adult wear. Later, to set himself apart from the other stores, Tom offered clothes for customers who were "Big and Tall." As the clothing business moved to malls and then online, Tom looked for a niche market and found it in uniforms.

Located in Alhambra for 67 years, family owned and operated, Tom's Uniforms is one of the largest uniform stores in the San Gabriel Valley. They maintain a large inventory of police, fire, industrial, medical, and restaurant uniforms. They also carry police, fire, and medical shoes, boots, and accessories. Expert tailoring is provided by two onsite tailors who have both been

working for Tom's for 40 years.

In April 2018, Tom's owner, Jeffrey Robert Shulman (son of founder Tom Shulman), died. Jeff's wife, Rivi, now runs the business and is keeping Tom's Uniforms family owned and operated. Rivi admits that it isn't easy to fill Jeff's shoes, but she is determined to succeed.

There are some very large uniform businesses in California and beyond, but Tom's has built relationships over the years with fire, police, and sheriff departments. They also have contracts for security guard uniforms at such places as JPL, Huntington Hospital, and Huntington museum. Tom's also serves the medical community with scrubs and lab coats. In addition to custom tailoring, they can provide embroidery and sewing services.

One may never need a uniform, but it is encouraging to see an Alhambra business change and adapt to new circumstances while remaining relevant as an industry standard in a tough business. Tom's has adapted and changed many times. Tom's Uniforms is a shining example for any business that wants to reinvent itself to change with the times.

Tom's is located at 303 E. Main St. Store hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact them at 626-281-5341, or e-mail [info@tomsuniforms.com](mailto:info@tomsuniforms.com).

## Virtual Networking

### Tools To Help Your Business

Virtual **zoom**

Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

### Understanding the CalSavers Law for 2021

Hosted by: **Primerica**

CalSavers is state sponsored retirement program that was implemented on July 1, 2019. This law require all employers in California to register and participate in this program. The purpose of this law is to allow all workers have a portable and low cost way to save for retirement.

**In this workshop you'll learn:**

- What is the deadline to register your company for 2021
- How much will this law cost your business
- What are the penalties for non-compliance
- How to make your company exempt

Speaker: **Sam Yue**  
Investment Adviser Representative  
Primerica Advisors  
Insurance License #0F18814

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAqdu6tqT4qHNIUPajjisuc7Y6sbv7fs5pb>

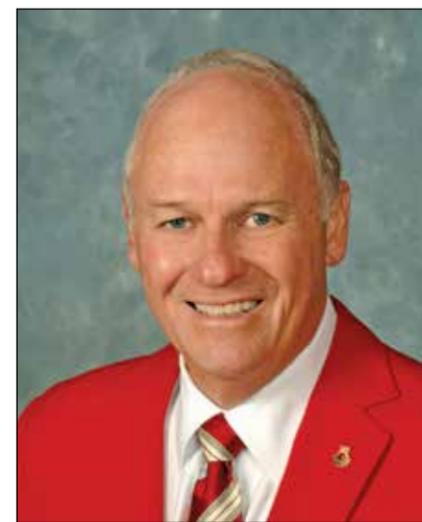
## Obituary

Ronald H. "Corky" Conzonire, longtime owner of The Hat on Valley Boulevard, has died. He also established the Belly Buster Sandwich Shops on Valley Boulevard.

Mr. Conzonire was born and raised in Alhambra. He graduated from Fremont Elementary School and Alhambra High School.

He was president of the Tournament of Roses for the 2009 Rose Parade, with his theme, "Hats Off to Entertainment." He invited the Alhambra High School District Marching Band to march in that year's Rose Parade. He joined the Pasadena Tournament of Roses in 1987 and served as vice chair to the 1997 Queen & Court and 1998 float construction committees.

He was a great community leader and will be truly missed.



Corky Conzonire was a longtime owner of The Hat on Valley Boulevard.



Joseph Diaz, son, on left, and Joe Diaz, father.

## Mr. Rooter Plumbing serves community for 26 years

Mr. Rooter Plumbing is a large family of independently owned and operated plumbing companies united by a common set of values and a shared belief in providing the best customer service possible. The local Mr. Rooter is in next door Monterey Park. Owners Lorraine and Joseph, AKA "Joe the plumber," Diaz have been in the plumbing business for 26 years and serve the local area including Montebello, South San Gabriel, Rosemead, Pasadena, La Cañada, and of course Alhambra. The busy Diaz family also owns the Mr. Rooter franchise that serves the community of Temecula.

As fully licensed and insured plumbers, Mr. Rooter serves not only residential customers but also has contracts with several city, county, and even state agencies for plumbing work. They are even licensed to work on street sewers. During this time of COVID, Joe and his plumbers wear masks and maintain social distancing when they are at their customers' homes.

Joe and Lorraine enjoy a Five Star Yelp

rating, which they have worked hard to achieve. Here is one glowing review: "We have had to use plumbing services twice during this pandemic. The first time was during Easter weekend when it was pretty hard to locate a plumber. Thankfully, Mr. Rooter was available. The second time was early August. Both times they made an appointment for service quickly. We had Jaime as our plumber both times. He was prompt, courteous and professional and took care of the issue quickly each time (clogged shower and slow drain kitchen sink). He also wore a mask and was respectful of distancing, as needed. I would highly recommend their service."

The Yelp recommendation is repeated several times. Call them next time there is a plumbing issue.

Mr. Rooter is located at 221 W. Pomona Blvd., Monterey Park. They are available 24 hours a day for all plumbing emergencies large and small. Phone them at 323-721-1243 for free estimates.



What clogs your drain is your business.

Unclogging it is ours.

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PLUMBING

a neighborly company

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221 W. Pomona Blvd.  
Monterey Park, CA 91754

**Tel: 323-721-1243**

Independently Owned and Operated



**Jo's Garage Inc.**

Automotive Service and Repair

**(626) 872-0705**

120 E. Valley Blvd., Alhambra, CA 91801

At the Kerechuk Building

[www.josgarage.com](http://www.josgarage.com)

A Sincere Note to Alhambrans,

After working many years as service manager in nearby San Gabriel helping my customers with their car maintenance, diagnosing and solving problems that others could not, I have started my own car repair business. Using my many years of expertise I am here to assist you in maintaining a high standard of trouble-free automobiles.

Jo's Garage is a family owned full service facility. We service foreign and domestic gasoline, hybrid and electric cars and light trucks.

I welcome you to join my many happy, satisfied customers and give us a try. You will not be disappointed and your car will thank you!

Javier Mendez  
Owner



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Talbot Insurance Agency Inc. State Farm Insurance Regina Talbot, Agent, 626-357-3401 Insurance License #: OG05807

## What is the difference between replacement cost and market value?

Learn the difference between the replacement cost and market value coverage type

When you purchase homeowners insurance or renters insurance, you'll make a number of decisions. One of the most important is the amount of homeowners or renters coverage that best meets your needs. Understanding your options will help you make an informed choice that safeguards your real estate and your family's financial future.

### What is replacement cost?

Replacement cost is the cost necessary to repair or replace your entire home. When you insure your home for its estimated replacement cost, your insurer will reimburse you (subject to your policy limits) for the cost of rebuilding or repairing your home, based on the size and structure of the home that was lost or damaged.

The most appropriate way to estimate the replacement cost of your home is to hire a building contractor or other building reconstruction professional to produce a detailed replacement cost estimate. Or your State Farm® agent can help you by utilizing an estimating tool from Xactware Solutions to assist you with an estimate. Only the estimated replacement cost of the property's structure and its associated systems, fixtures, and finishes will be included in the estimate; land value is included in a home's market value but should not be included in the amount of insurance you buy. Remember though, the ultimate decision on how much to ensure your home for is yours.

### What are the benefits of replacement cost?

In the event of a loss, replacement cost coverage gives your family the best chance to return to their home and usual quality of life with minimal financial interruption. For the best protection, experts recommend that you insure your home for at least 100% of its estimated replacement cost.

### What are the risks of replacement cost?

Replacement costs can change over

time, so you should review your homeowner's policy annually to make sure its coverage meets your needs. Inform your insurer if you have upgraded or improved your home, because these alterations may increase your home's estimated replacement cost. Also, you'll want to stay informed about changing market conditions in your area. Rising labor, materials, and transportation costs can directly affect your home's estimated replacement cost. For maximum protection, consider a policy that includes an inflation clause that automatically adjusts to account for changes in construction costs.

### What is market value?

Market value is the amount that a buyer would pay to purchase your home and its land in its current condition. Unlike your home's estimated replacement cost, its market value is influenced by factors beyond the material and labor costs of repairs or reconstruction, such as proximity to good schools, local crime statistics, and the availability of similar homes. Also, the land itself will be included in the home's market value, although it will not be covered by the homeowner's policy.

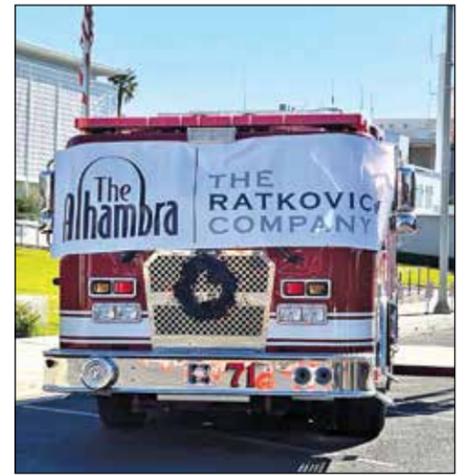
### What are the risks of market value?

When you insure a typical home for its market value, you are at risk of having incomplete coverage. For example, imagine that a family buys a home for \$600,000 and takes out a homeowner's policy for the same amount. The estimated replacement cost for the home, though, is \$700,000. If a fire or other insured event destroys the house, the insurance settlement may be less than the actual replacement cost of the home. The family would either have to make up the difference themselves or build a new, less expensive home.

For more information, contact State Farm Agent Regina Talbot at 626-357-3401.



The Rotary Club of Alhambra Adopt-a-Family/Spark of Love event was held Dec. 19. All proceeds go to buying toys or sports equipment for the children.



## The Ratkovich Company donates \$10,000 to Rotary's Spark of Love event

The Ratkovich Company recently donated \$10,000 to the Rotary Club of Alhambra Adopt-a-Family/Spark of Love event, which was held Dec. 19.

This is the ninth year The Ratkovich Company has participated in this important cause, which helps keep the spirit of Christmas alive. Due to the donations and efforts of volunteers from the event, 109 families and 223 children were able to get

holiday gift bags.

All proceeds will go to buying toys or sports equipment for the children. The Spark of Love Toy Drive is the largest community toy drive in the nation. The Spark of Love Toy Drive originally began in 1993 as a partnership between KABC-7 and firefighters from the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and Ventura.

## Ramona Convent student-athlete signs National Letter of Intent

Ramona Convent Secondary School congratulates student-athlete Laurencia Botts on signing her National Letter of Intent with the Cottey College volleyball program. "Laurencia has one of the most impressive resumes we have seen in recent years being involved in over 18 clubs and sports," Cottey College said. Laurencia shared her accomplishment in an intimate signing ceremony with her family.

Laurencia also shares her athletic talents with the Ramona Tiger swim and basketball teams. She has served as captain for all three sports, won the Coach's Award and First Team All-Horizon League in 2019. She has also received the Coach's Award for basketball as well as being recognized as a Scholar-Athlete with Distinction and a three-time Triathlete Award winner. "Playing sports at Ramona has helped me develop good communication and listening skills and has trained me to work well with my teammates," Laurencia said. "I've pushed myself to be not just a team leader but also the coachable athlete I can be."

Off the court, Laurencia is dedicated to service in the community. She has worked as a SYEP Intern for Kaiser Permanente in the area of HR Disability Management & Consulting. She's been using the "safer at home time" to create an entirely free educational resource for youth that focuses on environmental sustainability called EnviroGames and polished her entrepreneurial skills by running a beach jewelry business. She also works as a volunteer at St. Therese Carmelite School, her elementary school and her current parish.



Laurencia is looking forward to studying biology at Cottey college and aspires to become a pediatrician because she loves helping others and working with children.

Laurencia is looking forward to studying biology at Cottey college and aspires to become a pediatrician because she loves helping others and working with children.

Ramona is a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for girls in grades nine through 12. Ramona graduates face the future with an extraordinary education, a global vision fueled by Catholic values, an independent spirit, confident leadership skills, the support of their Ramona sisters, and the strength of a legacy of more than 130 years of excellence.

Ramona Convent Secondary School is located at 1701 W. Ramona Road, Alhambra 91803. For more information, call 626-282-4151, or visit [www.ramonaconvent.org](http://www.ramonaconvent.org).

  
alhambrachamber.org

contact us



VISIT THE CHAMBER ONLINE AT  
[alhambrachamber.org](http://alhambrachamber.org)

# What's your favorite restaurant or business?

Many businesses in Alhambra remain open during this unusual time. Restaurants are offering takeout and delivery. Many residents are doing their part by patronizing these establishments. We would like you to tell us which is your favorite restaurant or business and why you like them. Perhaps you have some

ideas on how to support our community businesses.

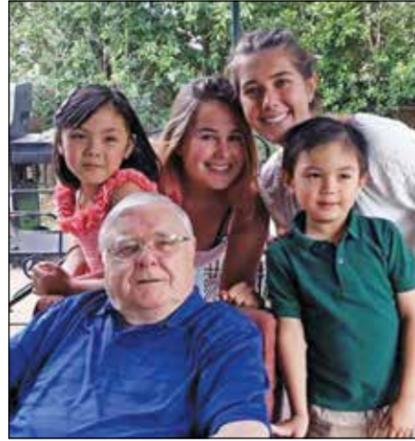
Share your enthusiasm with others by e-mailing your favorite restaurants and businesses to the Chamber of Commerce at [rvalerio@alhambrachamber.org](mailto:rvalerio@alhambrachamber.org). We will publish them in *Around Alhambra*.



The Classical European Music Academy Los Angeles (CEMALA) perform at the White House in December, offering a program of Vivaldi and Mozart. CEMALA, a comprehensive violin school directed by trained violinist Magdolna Berezvai, has had to cancel an ambitious schedule for 2021 because of COVID. A return to Carnegie Hall in June was cancelled as well as trips in the planning stage to the Sydney Opera House in Australia and another tour in China. The musicians, ranging in age from 4 to 12, have performed in Iceland; Austria; Hungary; the Czech Republic; an Italian concert tour that included concerts in Rome, Florence, and Venice; Carnegie Hall in New York; Sea World; Universal Studios, and Disneyland. They also performed for the L.A. Lakers.

## Obituary

# Alhambra Tax Center founder Raymond Aston dies



Raymond Aston (July 21, 1934 – Jan. 10, 2021) and his grandchildren.

decided it was time to sell his motorcycle and see the world. His next step in life was Toronto, Canada, which is where he married his childhood sweetheart Jean.

After visiting Los Angeles during 1959, Raymond and Jean decided Southern California was where they were going to start a family. Raymond and Jean moved to Alhambra in 1962. In the late 1960s, Raymond was a partner in an Aluminum conduit business, Alflex, located in Alhambra. In 1970, Raymond started a little income tax office next to Alhambra's El Rey Theatre. And last year "Alhambra Tax Center" celebrated its 50th anniversary. One of Raymond's greatest delights at Alhambra Tax Center was when a client sat at his desk, and Raymond would crack jokes and make them laugh. Besides billiards, Raymond's other hobbies were fishing, golfing, and lawn bowling.

On Sunday, Jan. 10, Raymond Aston, loving husband, father of four, and grandfather of four, passed away at the age of 86.

Raymond was born on July 21, 1934, in Smethwick England, to Arthur and Martha Aston. His early years were spent in an air-raid shelter because of the aerial bombings of WWII. During his schooling years, Raymond was a champion English Snooker player (billiards). During the year 1957, he de-

Raymond is preceded in death by his father, mother, brother (Derek), and sister (Diane). He is survived by his wife (Jean), his four children (Steve, Peter, Jenny, and Michael), his three granddaughters (Breana, Sarina, and Michaela), and his grandson (Derek).



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Rotary Club of Alhambra awards Mini Grants to teachers from Alhambra School District elementary and high schools.



From left: Adolfo Gonzalez, Mazatlan Rotary Club North president; Dory Perdomo; Felipe Osuna, TVP; Fernanda Rodriguez, director CRRi Mazatlan; Michael Dergar; Erika Bernal; and Academy Community Ambassador Julieta Lomeli.

# Rotary Club of Alhambra presents 29th annual Mini Grants awards to Alhambra School District teachers in Distance Learning

The Rotary Club of Alhambra presented its 29th annual Mini Grants awards to 25 Alhambra Unified School District teachers in a ceremony Jan. 12 via a virtual district board meeting.

The grants were presented by Dr. David Snyder, chairman of the Mini Grant selection committee, and Valarie Gomez, president of Rotary Club of Alhambra.

Open application for the Mini Grants was from October to November 2020. The number of recipients this year have

dropped in comparison to past years, with 32 applications, due to Distance Learning this school year. The Rotary Club granted about \$6,000 that went to teachers from Alhambra School District elementary schools and high schools. Rotary has donated over \$230,000 in Mini Grants over the years.

Additional funding was provided by The Alhambra, Kerechuk Motors, Republic Services, Transtech Engineering, Spark Academy, and Beggis H. Lieberg, DDS.

# Alhambra Rotary, Academy of Special Dreams provide wheelchairs to families

Alhambra Rotary Club, in collaboration with the Academy of Special Dreams Foundation, donated 20 wheelchairs to Grupo Rotario Mazatlán Norte and other institutions to help the most vulnerable families in need of wheelchairs in Mazatlán, Mexico.

"Thanks to the generosity of many, including Bianca Cruz, Isabel Carlo, Helen Woo, and many friends of the academy, we were able to provide these wheelchairs and financial support to very low income families and artists with disabilities," said

Michael Dergar, CEO of the Academy of Special Dreams Foundation. "Our mission was to help provide mobility for the recipients so they can enjoy full inclusion and integration in the mainstream of society."

"The Academy of Special Dreams is honored to officially welcome Julieta Lomeli as the Academy Community Ambassador based in Mazatlan, Mexico. She is a determined and passionate media expert transforming our community and helping us to make a more inclusive society."

**VISIT THE CHAMBER ONLINE AT [alhambrachamber.org](http://alhambrachamber.org)**

## San Gabriel Valley Humane Society

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 10:30 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](http://www.sgvhumane.org).

The adoption fee for cats is \$99, which includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, de-worming, FIV/FELV/heartworm testing, and microchip. A \$130 - \$145 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).

Save money with the Buddy Program. Adopt two pets at the same time for a reduced fee.

The Senior for Senior Program offers pets for \$39 each.

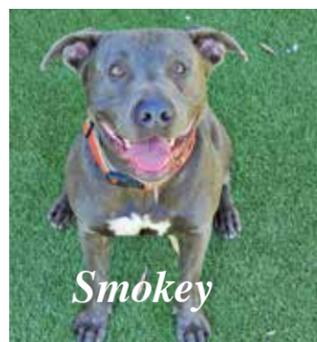
The San Gabriel Valley Humane Society is the local, affordable choice for spay and neuter, vaccinations, and **TNR (trap, neuter, and release) for feral cats.** Check out the website for information on the adoptable pets and adoption programs: [www.sgvhumane.org](http://www.sgvhumane.org).

Visit us at [www.sgvhumane.org](http://www.sgvhumane.org)



**Great Dane and pit bull mix • Young • Male • Large**

Sol is a black and white 1-year-old Great Dane and pit bull mix. He likes people and loves to play. Sol is not house trained but is a quick learner. He enjoys going for a walk and would be happy to join your family. His adoption fee is \$145, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Call the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159 to schedule a "Meet and Greet" appointment with Sol. Website: [www.sgvhumane.org](http://www.sgvhumane.org).



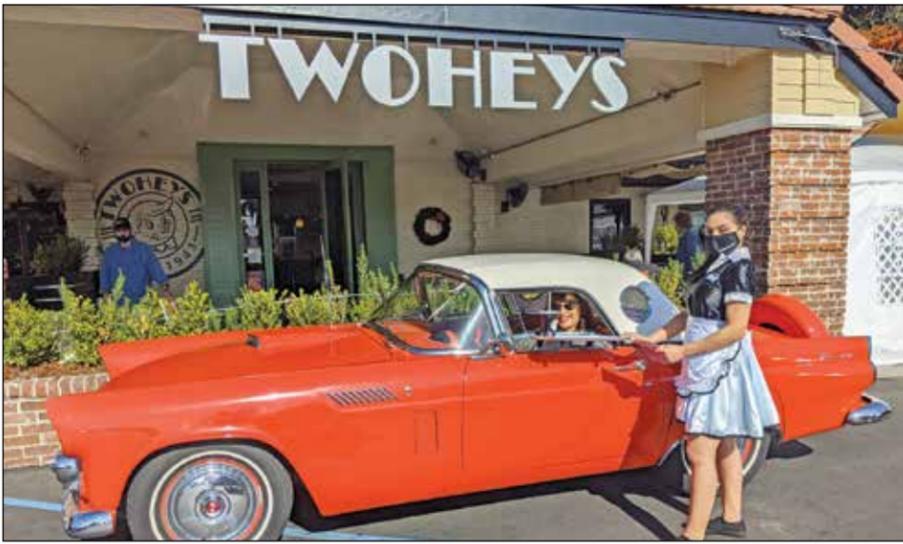
**American pit bull terrier • Adult • Male • Large**

Smokey is a 4-year-old blue American pit bull terrier that came to us from a homeless situation. At first he was a bit nervous and scared. Since his arrival at the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society, Smokey has improved tremendously. He is now a more social, happy dog that loves to be pet, play fetch, and go on long walks. He hasn't shown any further signs of discomfort toward our staff since working with him. Smokey would do well as the only dog in the home. His adoption fee is \$145, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Call the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159 to schedule a "Meet and Greet" appointment with Smokey. Website: [www.sgvhumane.org](http://www.sgvhumane.org).



**Labrador and pit bull mix • Young • Male • Large**

Meet Ramon! He is a 1-year-old tan Labrador pit bull mix. Ramon has lots of energy and needs someone who will be able to train him. He will require long walks and someone he can play with. He gets really excited around people and wants to play. Ramon is a very strong dog, who will need a strong handler. He thinks he's a puppy, a very large puppy. He needs a forever home. He is also good around other dogs. His adoption fee is \$145, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Call the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159 to schedule a "Meet and Greet" appointment with Ramon. Website: [www.sgvhumane.org](http://www.sgvhumane.org).



# New curbside carhop is latest trend at Twohey's Restaurant in South Pasadena

*Southern California eatery pivots to bring back classic tradition — 21st century style*

With a nod to its past — serving classic family-friendly American fare with colorfully clad carhop waiters/waitresses on roller skates back in the 1950s and 1960s — Twohey's Restaurant in South Pasadena has recently revived the nostalgic tradition by debuting a new Curbside Carhop — 21st century style. The newly opened restaurant, that has been making memories in the San Gabriel Valley since 1943, continues its legacy as one of Southern California's well-known American eateries.

"We are proud to re-introduce the carhop dining concept that was first introduced by the Twohey family decades ago. We believe that bringing back this tradition allows diners to visit more often while enjoying our old time favorite/new menu items and practicing safety protocols from the safe haven of their own cars," said co-owner Tanya Christos.

Loyal customers now have the convenience of ordering breakfast, lunch, and dinner from Twohey's to-go menus by calling 30 minutes in advance to place an order and reserving one of six designated parking spaces by calling 626-284-7387 and pressing 1. Upon arrival at the restaurant, customers need to call back and let the restaurant know the number of the reserved carhop parking space. The restaurant will bring the to-go food to each car on a classic carhop tray that clips to the vehicle's window for a contact-free but fun dining experience from the comfort of one's car. The restaurant is open six days a week, except Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**American Red Cross**

*Give blood.* Help save lives.

**San Gabriel Valley  
Medical Center  
Community Blood Drive**

Held in the CHEC Building at  
261 Junipero Serra Dr  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: SGVMC to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Scan to schedule an appointment

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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## Support The Villages at The Alhambra to Support Alhambra's Small Businesses.

Join hundreds of your neighbors who support adding new housing to The Alhambra campus at 1000 South Fremont Avenue.



**Why?** The key to Alhambra's economic rebound is helping small businesses rebuild. Up to 1,061 new housing units will infuse new customers and jumpstart local businesses right here in Alhambra at a time when they need it most.

*We thank all of our supporters and here is a message to our fellow Alhambrans from one of our supporters, an Alhambra small business owner.*

### Viability of Small Businesses Depends on More Housing Now

Like everyone else in the wake of 2021 there is an unease every day as I open for business with questions still swirling about the pandemic, the timing of vaccine rollout, the new viral strand, and a host of other uncertainties. We are clinging to consistency in keeping our business open against a backdrop of volatility. This has been the new normal as small businesses like ours fight the battle of survival.

While we buy time in the short term, however, our focus is the long term viability of our business. While there is relief coming from the federal and state governments, we know it is our local government decisions that will impact our business the most. These are decisions that will either build our community sustainably and promote economic development, or ones that could stagnate growth and lead to lots of empty boarded up storefronts for the hundreds of small businesses Alhambra is known for.

This is why it is essential now more than ever that our City Councilmembers approve more housing units without delay, like those being proposed by The Ratkovich Company. The Villages at The Alhambra will bring 516 new for-sale dwelling units and 545 new rental apartments to our City at 1000 S. Fremont Avenue. We desperately need this infusion of homes, new patrons and an economic boost to local businesses.

Considering the unprecedented circumstances we continue to endure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our businesses are in crisis mode. And the worst thing leadership can do in a crisis is throw up barriers to housing development, community investment and progress. We need this housing. We need the short and long term economic benefits that will come with it, and we need it as soon as possible.

This is a city known for its strength of its cultural diversity, which is a direct result of a strong small business environment. When you think of Alhambra, you think of the over 100 eateries in Main Street's "restaurant row" and the numerous ethnic dining establishments with specialties such as Chinese, Cajun/Creole, Italian, Mexican, Japanese Fusion, Korean, Spanish, Indian, British/Indian, Thai, Hawaiian, Vietnamese, the list goes on. And you think of the thriving entertainment establishments that feature live music, a state-of-the-art movie theater with 14 screens and IMAX, and a small live-theater offering original and traditional plays.

But does the City consider those business owners, many of whom are struggling, when they decide on housing issues? Or are they only hearing the cries of those concerned with affordable housing percentages? We urge them to consider both. We urge them to consider that to rebound as a City from a pandemic-impacted era, we must look at the whole picture of what Alhambra needs to rebound and thrive. We urge our leaders to put small businesses and our livelihoods ahead of politics and percentages.

**Steve Fields**  
Owner, *Just Grillin'*  
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# AUSD elementary students love new visual arts classes

For longtime AUSD art teacher Jenny Tang, distance learning wasn't the only challenge she faced this school year. Ms. Tang also transitioned from ceramics to drawing and painting and shifted grade levels from high school to teach visual arts at four elementary school sites: Baldwin, Granada, Park, and Ramona schools.

Granada Principal Chris Ng was excited for his students to have an additional option for art this year. "Our students have a variety of abilities and interests, so having visual and performing arts options allows them to shine in their preferred area."

Ms. Tang estimates that 80% of her students have never had art lessons before. One of her main goals is to encourage students to not be embarrassed by their artwork and to be open-minded.

To ensure her students have what they need to create art at home, Ms. Tang and school staff assembled individual art supply kits for drive-through pick-up. She started off with pencils and colored pencils,

moved on to acrylic and water color paints, and will soon be adding pastels.

Her classes have been popular, with more students interested than could actually enroll. She now sees almost 400 students each week, but is determined to provide feedback on every piece of artwork they submit.

When students let Ms. Tang know how much they enjoy her class or how they have grown because of it, their comments inspire her to build her program despite the challenges of Distance Learning.

As Park School seventh-grader Nicole Del Villar explained, "For me, the best part about this art class is that it lets me do the thing I love while having my classmates and my amazing teacher cheering me on along the way!"

AUSD plans to expand arts education in the elementary and middle school grades to give students more choice and more exposure to the various arts prior to entering high school.



These are just a few examples of the artwork by AUSD's sixth-through eighth-grade students in Jenny Tang's art classes at Baldwin, Park, Granada, and Ramona. The artists, clockwise from top-left: Sophia Galvan (sixth grade, Ramona), Jazmin Munoz (eighth grade, Baldwin), Nicole Del Villar (seventh grade, Park), and Aydan Tat (eighth grade, Baldwin).



MKHS ASB officers, clockwise from top left, Kylie Lam, Michelle Swe, Marcelo Yip, and Christian Kim serve as hosts of the premiere episode of "Keeping Up With Keppel." KUWK is an original online series created by MKHS Associated Student Body officers to keep classmates connected, smiling, and informed while learning from home. Tiffany Hu, ASB commissioner of Cultural Affairs, said "KUWK is a fun way for ASB to spread school spirit and connect with our fellow Aztecs during quarantine. During these episodes streamed through our Zoom classes, we give announcements and interact with students and teachers as we all are navigating Distance Learning." New episodes of KUWK now air monthly and all episodes are available at <https://markkeppelasb.weebly.com/> or through their Instagram account (@mkhsasb).



Thanks to the generosity of San Gabriel High alumni Alyssa Tan (left), Jimmy Huynh (right), Lotus Property Services, Inc., and help from Janny Zhang (not pictured), the holiday season was brighter for three SGHS families and 16 other families in the local community. Proud SGHS Principal Debbie Stone said, "San Gabriel High School is like a family. When things get tough, our community reaches out to help each other."

## Obituary



Dora Padilla  
Oct. 4, 1934 – Jan. 8, 2021

Dora Padilla, a longtime trustee in the Alhambra Unified School District, has died from COVID-19.

She grew up in East Los Angeles with her parents, Mexican immigrants Herman Swarto and Soleda Swarto (nee Maese) and sister Solange. After graduating from Bishop Conaty High School, she worked as a secretary for the architectural firm Barker & Ott. She became a

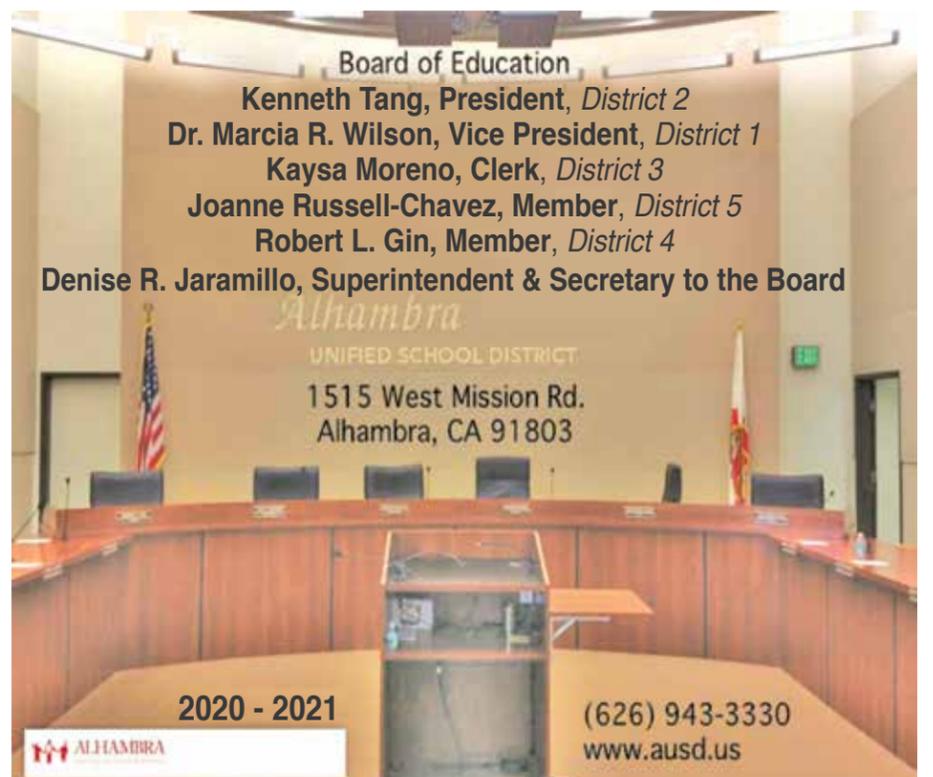
homemaker after marrying Al Padilla in 1956, but the secretarial skills never left, and decades later she took notes at school board meetings in shorthand.

A self-described "PTA mom" frustrated by a lethargic school board, she successfully ran for office in 1978. She served five terms, the last devoted to major renovations at Alhambra High, where the library was named in her honor. She was a frequent defender of arts education, opposing proposals to cut back funding on instruction for music and visual arts.

Her campaign slogan came from an inspirational message she had seen painted on a wall during a family vacation in Mexico: Querer al niño es educarlo. To love a child is to educate a child. It's not surprising that many of her children's friends took to calling her "Mom" too.

Her husband died last October, and her son, Daniel, died last March. She is survived by daughter Lisa and son Steve. A celebration of life will be held in the future.

Donations may be made in her honor to the scholarship fund of the Alhambra Latino Association: [www.alhambralatinoassociation.com](http://www.alhambralatinoassociation.com).



# Sometimes great efforts take longer than we hoped

By Rev. Craig Statton, CEO, Atherton  
214 S. Atlantic Blvd. Alhambra

For the residents who live at Atherton, World War II was part of their shared experience. Most have memories of the impact of the war: the anxiety they lived with as family or friends served in Europe or the Pacific, the grief they felt at the loss of a loved one, the internment they endured, and the shared sacrifice that was part of the effort. Most remember the ration books sent to their family that allowed them to buy tires, gasoline, fuel oil, coal, firewood, nylon, silk, shoes, and sugar. The war had upset the flow of commerce, and to aid the war effort, the president called on all Americans to join the effort and be willing to sacrifice to "win the war."

Through my 65 years of life, I have never experienced that same call to sacrifice for the greater good of my nation — until the pandemic struck this past year. We, the

citizens of the United States, were asked by leaders to stay home, social distance, wash our hands regularly, and wear masks. I understand this has been controversial for some, and they have chosen to ignore it. But for many it was and is seen as a way to keep themselves safe from the virus and also help reduce the spread of the infection, which causes incredible pressure on our health care resources and on our essential workers.

As we enter a new year, and the pandemic continues, we are still being asked to sacrifice in the same way and also to embrace a new tool in the fight against the virus: a vaccine. It is quite remarkable that a vaccine that is considered to be 95% effective when fully administered could have been developed in such a short time. This is both a remarkable feat and a concern for a lot of people. Many people wonder if vaccines developed so quickly are safe for the general population, which has a variety of

predispositions and health conditions. I am one who has tried to follow these developments and am confident enough to say that I believe these vaccines are safe and will make a major difference in our battle against this virus.

Because Atherton is a senior living community,

we were among some of the first to receive the vaccine. Our skilled nursing residents received the Moderna vaccine at the end of December, and our other residents received the Pfizer vaccine in the middle of January. As I write this, Atherton has vaccinated over 450 people, and I am pleased to say that we have only had one person who had a significant reaction. This person did have some pre-existing conditions, but within 24 hours was doing well and showing no other side effects from the vaccination. Most of our residents had sore arms from where the shot was administered, and one person had a spike in blood pressure that was back to normal within an hour. Based on these experiences, we believe the initial vaccination of our residents was safe.

The scientists tell us that we will have to vaccinate well over 200 million people in our country to begin to end this pandemic. This will take a significant amount of time, so I am telling our residents that even though they have been vaccinated, they still need to wear a mask, wash their hands, and practice social distancing. Our shared sacrifice will not end just because our group of people got vaccinated, but we will add our names to the building blocks of ending the pandemic. Most of the WW II rationing ended in August of 1945, four years after it started, but the rationing of sugar lasted until 1947. Sometimes great efforts take longer than we had hoped, but the war ended well, and America recovered and prospered. We pray for that same result as our generation sacrifices together.

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# Optimizing your health

BY SHEILA YONEMOTO, P.T.

In this time of COVID-19, why not focus on areas of life that you can impact, rather than waiting for a vaccine to make you feel safe?

Make use of this time to improve your health. Try to get more sunshine and better sleep, drink more water, laugh more often, take time to interact with people, and see what you can do to help others.

Some of the risk factors for COVID-19 are obesity and diabetes. Some easy suggestions for weight loss include drinking more water, getting more sleep, moving more, and eating more organic fruits and vegetables. I suggest filling half of your plate with plants of various colors. Chew your food 30 – 70 times per bite so you can absorb the nutrients easier. Take walks after eating.

There has been so much dirt and dust around my house recently, from the recent fires, perhaps, that I have been making it a daily habit to sweep the driveway, the sidewalk, and the steps to get in a little extra movement each day. I find doing housework is a great way to burn off calories. I have used this time at home to clean out closets and bookshelves. I even cleaned under the sinks and in the garage and have thrown out unnecessary items.

For diabetics, I recommend *Preventing and Reversing Diabetes* by Dr. Neal Barnard. He states that changes can be seen in as little as three to four weeks. The diet is heavily plant based. Many doctors believe



*Sheila Yonemoto, P.T., has been a physical therapist for more than 30 years, specializing in integrative manual therapy, using a holistic approach. She can be reached at Yonemoto Physical Therapy, 55 S. Raymond Ave, Suite 100, Alhambra 91801. Sheila offers a Qigong "Chinese Energy" exercise class. Your first class is FREE. Call 626-576-0591 for more information, or visit [www.yonemoto.com](http://www.yonemoto.com).*

that diabetes can be prevented and helped with changes in lifestyle, particularly diet.

Intermittent fasting is an easy way to stimulate ketogenic metabolism, which burns fat and stimulates autophagy. Start with dividing your day into a 12-hour window of eating and a 12-hour window of not eating. Try eating between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and not eating from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. You could do a water fast one day a week with no food and only water for 24 hours, but this is hard for most people.

Qigong boosts the immune system. I have a video on my website that instructs you how to do this and only takes 10 minutes a day.

Good luck in improving your health, and stay safe!

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**Akira Hirose**  
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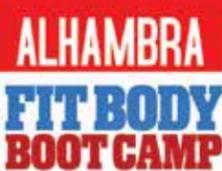
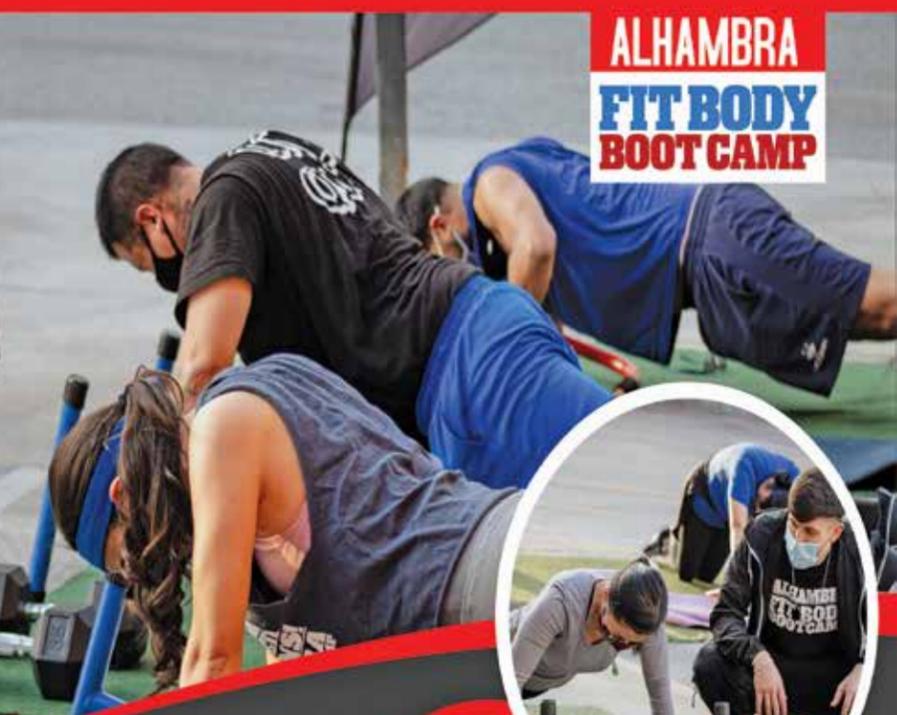


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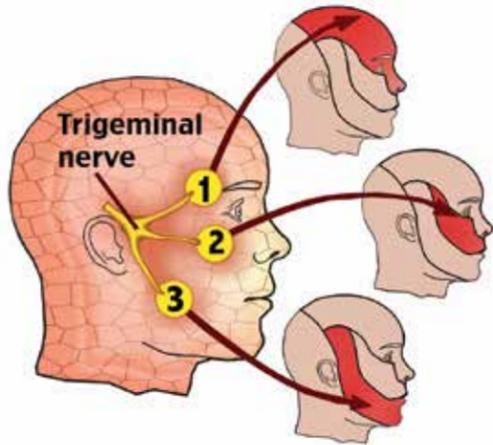
# A toothache that's not a toothache

How can you feel a toothache that's not coming from your teeth? Because the pain feels like it's coming from your tooth, it's natural to assume that all toothaches are caused by cavities, loose fillings or crowns, infection of the nerve or gums, impacted wisdom teeth, or some other tooth-related problem.

It could be very frustrating to have to visit the dentist multiple times and even sometimes do dental procedures and the pain still does not go away.

That is because pain in one area in the mouth may originate from other areas.

Other sources for non-dental pain:



**Trigeminal neuralgia** is an inflammation or damage of the main nerve that give sensation to the teeth, gums, jaw, and surrounding muscles. When irritated, the nerve may cause the teeth to feel overly sensitive and easily mistaken for a severe toothache. However, no amount of root canals will relieve the pain, and your dentist will need to do many X-rays and additional temperature testing for the teeth.

**Temporomandibular joint disorder (TMD)**

This is the most common reason for non-tooth related pain. Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) is a double hinge that connects the jaw to the skull and regulates the

movement of the jaw.

TMD may be due to mechanical (clenching and grinding) or infection of the joint. Pain from the joint may feel like it's coming from the teeth, jaw, or muscles, and may even mimic an earache. Sometimes to diagnose TMD, a general dentist may refer you to an orofacial pain specialist or a rheumatologist.

**Other pain related to jaw clenching/teeth grinding.**

Sometimes we clench or grind our teeth while asleep or stressed out. This can cause muscle tenderness, jaw pain, joint disorder, and sore teeth. The treatment is usually a night guard to protect and relieve the pressure on the teeth and the TMJ.

**Sinus condition**

The roots of the upper molars are very close or even in the maxillary sinus. The maxillary sinuses are empty spaces in the upper jaw on both sides of the nose. Any sinus congestion can put pressure on the tip of the roots where



Ask  
Dr. Dara,  
D.D.S.

Dr. Dara Gashparova, D.D.S. is located at 70 S. Palm Ave., Alhambra 91801. Readers with dental questions or concerns should contact her at 626-289-6131, or e-mail daradds@yahoo.com.

the nerve is, which could feel like a toothache. The easiest way to distinguish sinus pain from a toothache is to see if decongestants or antihistamines alleviate the pain.

When other pain conditions feel like dental pain, you may need to make multiple trips to your general dentist office or see a specialist with additional training in oral-facial pain.

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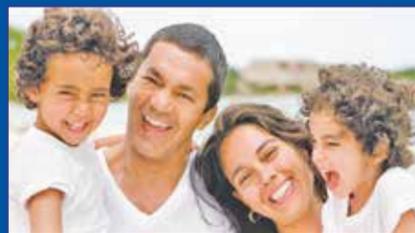
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## High blood pressure hard to control? It may be your gums

It is currently estimated that one in three U.S. adults is living with high blood pressure, yet less than half have their condition under control, according to the American College of Cardiology. A recent study confirmed the link between gum disease and high blood pressure. This study, published in the American Heart Association journal *Hypertension*, included more than 11,750 U.S. adults who were examined between 2009 and 2014. The goal of the study was to see if gum disease had any impact on blood pressure control.

After analysis, researchers found that among those with high blood pressure, those with gum disease had 2.3 – 3 mm Hg higher systolic blood pressure than those with healthy gums. Furthermore, patients with gum disease were also less likely to have their blood pressure under control with medication than those with good oral health.

The authors of this study suggest gum disease may impact outcomes in patients with high blood pressure. These results indicated treatments for high blood pressure may not be as effective in patients with gum disease as it would in patients with good oral health. Hence, taking care of the teeth and gums may be an important way to help promote a healthy blood pressure.

Although the investigators cannot state, yet, there is a cause and effect between the two diseases, they point out their findings add to a body of evidence linking gum disease to poorer heart health.




*Dr. John Chao is the inventor of the Pinhole® Surgical Technique. For more information, contact Dr. Chao at 100 S. First St. Alhambra, CA 91801 or phone at 626-308-9104. Visit Dr. Chao's website, chickenswelcome.com*

Gum disease, also referred to as periodontal disease, causes chronic inflammation of the gums. It currently affects nearly half of Americans over 30. Experts believe that inflammation from gum disease may trigger or worsen inflammation in other parts of the body, including blood vessels and arteries.

The best way to prevent gum disease is to see your dentist regularly and follow home care instructions, especially as to minimizing sugar intake.

So, if you follow your dentist's advice, your dentist not only can save your teeth, but also your life.



Food service workers, including front and back of the house staff, need continual professional training and education on how to safely work during the current pandemic. Chef Yee's program is starting to address some of the major issues to help food service workers who are a critical component in food safety for the public.

## Alhambra chef provides Covid-19 safety training for food service workers

ACF award-winning Chef Bill Yee, a certified Covid-19 food safety instructor, recently graduated a class of food service workers on what it takes to operate their businesses during the pandemic. Chef Yee received his ACF (American Culinary Federation) Covid-19 Safety Training certification in late 2020, and through his Alhambra Culinary School organized a one-day Covid-19 workshop to share his knowledge and experience during the pandemic.

His workshop also provides the funda-

mentals of what it takes to be a professional chef. A full uniform, French chef knife, and other equipment is included. Many food service workers did not have the opportunity for formal culinary school training, so educational workshops such as this one are highly valued, especially during these times.

Chef Yee's class includes an introduction on culinary fundamentals with professional texts such as author Wayne Gisslen's *Professional Cooking*, *Servsafe Sanitation Guidelines*, and the *ACF Covid-19 Safety Training*

program. Emphasis is on PPE (personal protection equipment) such as wearing the proper masks, PM 2.5 filter, face shields, latex/nitril gloves, disinfectants, CDC, and the National Restaurant Association protocols.

Industry leaders are also invited to present their products and services, such as Sylvia Tam's Beviva Food line for people with sensitive gut issues and Chef Lidia Felix's line of Rim Paste adding more flavors to beverages and appetizers.

Food service workers, including front

and back of the house staff, need continual professional training and education on how to safely work during the current pandemic. Chef Yee's program is starting to address some of the major issues to help food service workers who are a critical component in food safety for the public.

Contact Chef Yee at bizwind@yahoo.com for information on his Covid-19 Safety Training Program for food service workers, or call 626-230 5435.

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# Valentine's Day Dining Guide



Valentine's Day is Sunday, Feb. 14, and does not have to be cancelled during the pandemic. Celebrate by ordering to-go or delivery services from members of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce who offer treasures of great feasts and gifts appropriate for the day while practicing safe and healthy protocols.

**38 Degree Ale House and Grill**, 100 W. Main St. 91801 (626-282-2038), has a great full menu of family meals, craft cocktails, and beers to-go available for phone orders only. Full menu items are available online and call for takeout or have food orders delivered with Grubhub and Postmates. 38 Degree Ale House also has weekly offers like Taco Tuesday and Wing Wednesday specials. Visit [www.38degreesalhambra.com](http://www.38degreesalhambra.com) for menu and hours information.

**Alondra Hot Wings**, 515 W. Main St. 91801 (626-576-7119), "home of the best hot wings in town," is offering specials on crafted 16 inch two topping pizza, 16 pieces wings with two choices of sauces and a large Caesar salad for \$35 that feeds up to party of four. Full menu items include their popular hot wings in 17 different flavors, signature pizzas, pastas, and sandwiches. Online and phone orders available with pick up or third party delivery service. Check out [www.lovealondras.com](http://www.lovealondras.com) for more information on specials and restaurant hours.

**Angelo's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, Inc.**, 1540 W. Valley Blvd. 91803 (626-282-0153), since 1962 has served homemade Italian dishes such as pizzas, pastas, and sandwiches. There are many items to choose from Angelo's lunch and dinner menu specials that are great for sharing with the loved ones. Contact Angelo's for more information on menu specials and placing orders. Pickup and delivery options available.

**Baja Cali Fish and Tacos – Main**, 31 E. Main St., Alhambra 91801 626-940-5549 / **Valley Blvd.**, 2001 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra 91803 (626-872-0479), serves varieties of genuine Baja Cali style dishes like fish tacos, burritos, tostadas, and fresh seafood cocktails. New on the menu are the Surf and Turf items prepared with seasoned grilled shrimp and asada, rice, beans, salsa, and savory sauce. Order for pickup, takeout, or get it delivered via Doordash. Menu and ordering information is available online at [www.bajacalifishandtacos.com](http://www.bajacalifishandtacos.com).

**Big Catch Seafood Restaurant**, 2 S. Garfield Ave, Suite 100, Alhambra 91801 (626-282-8590), a seafood house in the heart of Downtown Alhambra, offers a wide variety of Asian food dishes and seafood. Their top menu items include the Chu Toro Carpaccio and the Uni pasta which can be ordered online and be delivered via Grubhub. For menu specials and restaurant hours information, visit [bigcatch-seafoodhouse.com](http://bigcatch-seafoodhouse.com)

**Bun 'N Burger**, 1000 E. Main St., Alhambra 91801 (626-281-6777), a family-owned restaurant, serves traditional homemade American and freshly made Mexican favorites such as the flame broiled 100% pure beef burgers, sandwiches, steaks, tortas, enchiladas, and serving breakfast dishes all day. Most wanted item is the savory with spice and loaded with fresh ingredients is the menudo available Saturdays and Sundays only. Order for takeouts or pickups only. More information on menus and restaurant hours, visit [www.originalbunburger.com](http://www.originalbunburger.com).

**Charlie's Trio**, W. Main St., Alhambra (626-284-4943), and **Vino at Trio's wine bar**, 10 N. First St. Alhambra (626-284-4674), serves delicious Italian dishes, and they have a great selection of wines. Enjoy the occasion with special meal deals like the broasted chicken and pasta meal, or the pizza and salad deal. Join Vino's "Expensive" wine club for members only benefits. Call or order online and place an order for pickup or third party delivery service. Check out their website at [www.charlietrio.com](http://www.charlietrio.com) and [www.vinotrios.com](http://www.vinotrios.com) for more information on special deals, restaurant hours, and delivery options.

**Denny's Restaurant**, 369 W. Main St., Alhambra 91801 (626-281-6701), for more than 65 years has been serving classic American comfort diner food like sizzlin' skillet, 100% beef burgers, and the world famous Build your Own Grand Slams. Enjoy and share Denny's on Demand family packs and Value menu items. Open 24 hours daily, order over the phone or online for pickup and delivery options. Visit their website at [www.dennys.com](http://www.dennys.com) for menu list, restaurant specials, and hours information.

**Fanny's Flowers**, 5947 Oak Ave., Temple City 91780, (626-287-1653), is a full service florist for all occasions and events with fresh flower arrangements and designs. Some of their best selling Valentine's Day arrangements are Classic Roses by Fanny's Flowers, Chic & Romantic, Collection of Color by Fanny's Flowers, and Lush and Lavish by Fanny's Flowers. Pre-order online or call in. Fanny's Flowers is offering curbside pick-up and no contact delivery services. Visit [www.fannysflowers.net](http://www.fannysflowers.net) for more information on Valentine's Day specials and pre-orders.

**Fosselman's Ice Cream**, 1824 W. Main St., Alhambra (626-282-6533), for over 100 years have been delighting taste buds with their hand-made ice creams using the finest ingredients with no preservatives. Enjoy from 48 delicious flavors they offer including their flavor of the month specials. Come on in and pick up handmade heart shaped ice cream cakes in a variety of different flavors to celebrate the occasion. Have a treat and choose from their soda fountain specialties, or grab to-go hand packed pints, quarts, and half gallons ice cream and sorbet in selected flavors. Available for delivery are half gallon ice creams and sorbet, and specialty cakes only. Visit [www.fosselmans.com](http://www.fosselmans.com) for more information on shop hours, online ordering, and delivery.

**Garden Cafe**, 228 W. Valley Blvd. Suite #101, Alhambra (626-289-1833), offers a wide selection of Chinese, American, and Hong Kong Style dishes. Serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for to-go and pickup only. Weekly set dinner specials are available to-go from Monday through Thursday. Visit [www.gardencafegroup.com](http://www.gardencafegroup.com) for information on restaurant hours and menu list.

**Genovese's Italian Kitchen**, Alhambra (626-289-5667), is a classic pizzeria serving favorite Italian dishes like pizza, pasta, soups, and salads. Crafted by Chef Hugo and Chef Aricia, a Special Valentine's Day menu will be served on this special day with heart shaped pizzas, and special family dinners for two, three, and four people. All special dinners on Valentine's Day come with a dessert. Takeout, call in, or order online for pick up or third party delivery options available. Visit [www.genovesekitchen.com](http://www.genovesekitchen.com) for information on hours and menu items.

**JJ2 Bakery**, 150 E. Main St., #100, Alhambra 91801 (626-741-5388), has a great variety of sweet treats for you and loved ones. Enjoy fresh baked Taiwanese breads, delightful cakes, and refreshing drinks. Visit their website at [www.jjsquaredbakery.com](http://www.jjsquaredbakery.com) for hours, menu, pickup and delivery options information.

**Limericks Tavern**, 300 W. Main St., Ste #110, Alhambra (626-872-1504), re-opening for take-out and delivery on Feb. 1, serves classic Irish and American comfort food and a great selection of beers on taps. Local favorites such as the Limericks Burger, street tacos, fish and chips, and the Irish nachos can be enjoyed for takeout and delivery. Visit [www.limerickstavern.com](http://www.limerickstavern.com) for restaurant hours, online ordering, and delivery information.

**Mahan Indian Restaurant**, 110 W. Main St. (626-458-6299), serves delicious curries, tandoori meats, biryani, and tikkas. Great for sharing is the chicken tandoori, filled with flavors of blended spices, yogurt, and herbs, and the Tikka Masala, cooked with a choice of protein served with a tomato-based curry. They offer options of vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free dishes. For a full menu, online orders, delivery and pick-up options, restaurant hours information, visit [www.mahanrestaurant.com](http://www.mahanrestaurant.com).

**Mancora Peruvian Cuisine**, 240 W. Main St., Unit A, Alhambra (626-940-5402), has a great selections of Peruvian dishes on the menu like the Lomo Saltado served with Sliced filet mignon wok sauteed with red onions, tomatoes, aji amarillo, soy sauce and cilantro, and Bistec a lo Pobre, prepared with tender grilled milanesa cut served with seasoned white rice, french fries, plantains, and fried egg. Mancora is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call for more information on orders and menu items.

**Marie Callender's Restaurant**, outside Alhambra located at 220 S. Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park 91754 (626-281-9548), a family favorite serving home-style meals from pastas, burgers, sandwiches, and famous pies. Great deal specials like the Pair and Share comes with one appetizer, two entrees, and two slices of pie are perfect to celebrate the occasion. Restaurant hours, full menu information, online ordering, and delivery service are available at [www.mariecallenders.com](http://www.mariecallenders.com).

**Phoenix Inn Restaurant & Dessert**, 208 E. Valley Blvd., Alhambra 91801 (626-299-1238), offers Chinese cuisine with a vast variety of entrees to choose from rice dishes, noodle soups, seafood and meats, and sweet desserts. Enjoy sweet desserts and drinks such as their signature puddings, rolls, and mixed fruit delight. Call in or order online for takeout and pickup. Check out their lunch and dinner specials, and all menu items at [www.phoenixfood.us](http://www.phoenixfood.us).

**Ritter's Steam Kettle Cooking**, 1800 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra 91803 (626-872-6464), serves flavorful Creole Cajun dishes cooked using jacketed steam kettles for even and fast cooking without overcooking every dish. Most popular dish on the menu is Ritter's Famous pan roast, a tomato cream-based dish with special spices, trinity (green peppers, onions, and celery) and served with several choices of seafood, chicken, and even andouille sausage, topped off with jasmine rice. For more information on Ritter's specials, menu, orders for takeout and delivery, and restaurant hours, visit [www.rittersskc.com](http://www.rittersskc.com).

**Saigon Eden**, 29 S. Garfield Ave., Alhambra 91801 (626-289-0239), serves authentic Vietnamese dishes. A wide selection of choices ranging from appetizers to desserts on the menu including banh mi (French bread sandwiches), fried rice noodles, and noodle soups. Try the local favorite Pho soups and banh xeo (pan fried rice crepe with shrimp). Available for takeout and pickup only. Call in for more information on menu items and restaurant hours.

**Shakey's Pizza Parlor**, 2234 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra 91803 (626-576-7851), home of the famous Pizza Chicken Mojos has been serving fresh baked pizza dishes, crispy fried chicken, and mojo potatoes for years. For a limited time, add on a 10-slice pizza for just \$5.99 with an order of a large PCM combo. Available for pickup and takeout only. Information on menu, online ordering, and restaurant hours is available online at [www.shakeys.com](http://www.shakeys.com).

**Sichuan Impression**, 1900 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra 91803 (626-283-4622), serves authentic Sichuan cuisine with combinations of spicy and flavorful ingredients in every dish. Popular dishes such as the Toothpick Mutton is chunk of lamb skewered on toothpicks stir fried with dried chilis and coated with cumin spices, and the Hong-Xing Diced Rabbit served stir friends with rabbit, peanuts, scallions, and other special house mix of chilis will leave your mouth numb from the high level of spiciness. For information on menu, restaurant hours, pickup, takeout, and delivery options, visit [www.sichuanimpression.com](http://www.sichuanimpression.com).

**Tastea**, 349 E. Main St., Suite 104, Alhambra 91801 (626-289-8886), serves innovative and handcrafted drinks and appetizing snack bites like the Karate Chicken, Butthead's Fries, and Shrimp on It. Try their promotional items and local favorites such as the Matcha Milk Tea, Bootea Shaker, and the Horchata Crunch. Sign up for Tastea rewards and download the app on your smartphone device to receive great benefits and earn reward points. Orders are available through app and online ordering with options to pickup or delivery service only. Visit [www.gotastea.com](http://www.gotastea.com) for online orders, menu, and store hours.

**The Shredded Carrot**, 2428 W. Valley Blvd., Suite D, Alhambra (626-660-6071), has a wide selection of delicious daily made and baked sweet treats. Available now until Valentine's Day are their Hot Cocoa Bombs and Hot Tea Bombs. Pre-order now for their Valentine's Day cookies and cakes such as their Boxed Breakable Heart with an assortment of treats for \$45, boxed or bagged cookies starting at \$12 and up, assortment of cakes and cheesecakes (6 inches starting at \$20 and up, 9 inches starting at \$30 and up). Call or visit their website at [www.theshreddedcarrot.com](http://www.theshreddedcarrot.com) for pre-orders, online ordering, hours of operation, and menu items.

**The Thai Paradise**, 909 W. Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel 91776 (626-570-8887), serves authentic Thai foods like Pad Thai, Yellow Curry, Pineapple Fried Rice, and Tom Yum Paradise Noodle Soup. Lunch specials are not available on weekends and Valentine's Day. Dinner menu will be served all day. Available for takeout and delivery only. More information on menu items, specials, online ordering, and delivery options, visit [www.thethaiparadise.com](http://www.thethaiparadise.com).

**Wing Stop**, 100 E. Main St., Suite 150, Alhambra 91801 (626-282-9464), has 24 flavors of chicken wings on the menu from classic plain to atomic spicy. Order by group packs, bundles, or by pieces, and add a choice of sides such as seasoned fries, veggie sticks, and Cajun fried corn. Make it more flavorful by dipping the wings in homemade ranch, bleu cheese, or honey mustard dip. Check their website at [www.wingstop.com](http://www.wingstop.com) for information on special deals menu, restaurant hours, pickup, takeout, and delivery services options.

**Yang's Kitchen and Marketplace**, 112 W. Main St., Alhambra (626-281-1035), serves their dishes with locally sourced sustainable and organ ingredients such as their popular dish, Chicken Rice Bowl, is served with cage-free slow cooked chicken served with organic California white rice. Their marketplace has a great variety of locally sourced groceries and crafted items. Pre order housemade 8-inch round Basque cheesecake for \$45 each available from Feb. 12 through Feb. 15 for the occasion. For more information on menu, restaurant hours, and pickup/takeout ordering, and delivery services, visit [www.yangskitchen-la.com](http://www.yangskitchen-la.com).

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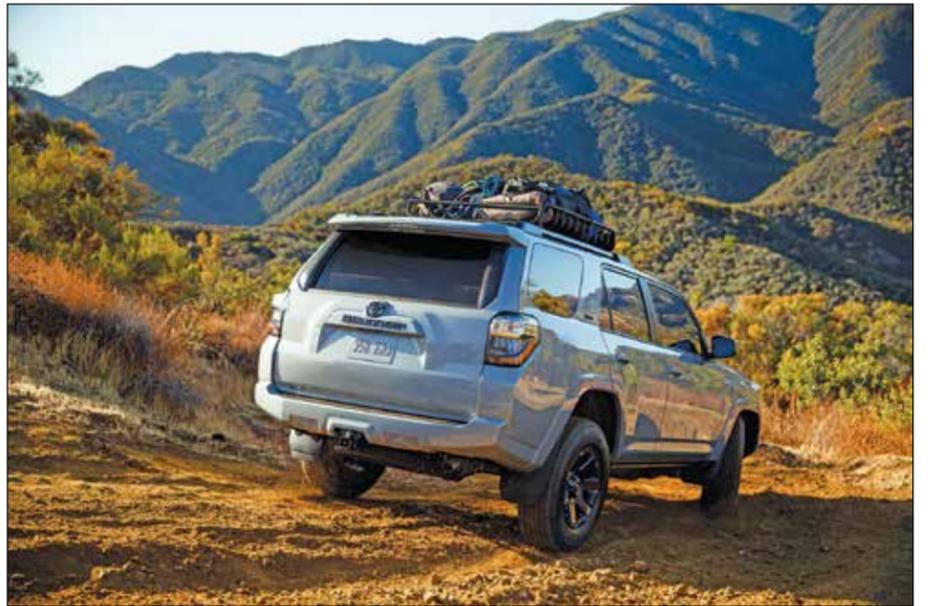
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The new Trail Special Edition for 2021 carries in, carries out in style.

# Happier trails: 2021 Toyota 4Runner adds new Trail Special Edition

The Toyota 4Runner has been a bonafide, certified, fortified adventure SUV since the original rolled out in 1984. With its core DNA as a body-on-frame, do-anything SUV fully intact, the 4Runner enters 2021 with a new Trail Special Edition, several TRD Pro enhancements, and new LED headlights across the lineup. Whether the destination is a secluded trailhead, local boat ramp, or traffic-clogged school drop-off zone, the 4Runner gets its crew there with comfort, versatility, and proven Toyota reliability.

### TRD Pro gets even more pro

The TRD Pro badge on any Toyota truck or SUV signifies the most off-road-capable vehicle in its respective line. The 4Runner TRD Pro lives up to its mission for 2021 with new detail upgrades. First, carrying on a new-color tradition among Toyota trucks, the 2021 4Runner TRD Pro replaces Army Green with Lunar Rock. (Toyota is coincidentally developing a genuine out-of-this-world off-roader, a lunar rover made to carry astronauts on extended moon surface explorations.) A new wheel design not only turns heads, but also aids handling.

### 4Runner: basic training

With room for up to seven, the fifth-generation 4Runner remains the most capable of its proud family tree, and it is also the most accommodating and most comfortable. The vehicle's inherent strength starts with its tough-as-nails body-on-frame construction featuring a four-link rear axle and coil-spring suspension. The robust chassis is also the source of 4Runner's comfortable ride quality.

### Guts and glory

Whether blazing trails or navigating the concrete jungle, 4Runner is up to the task with a gutsy 270-horsepower 4.0-liter V6 engine. The powerplant's 278 lb.-ft. of peak torque gives it plenty of get-up-and-go, and Dual Independent Variable Valve Timing

with intelligence (VVT-i) optimizes torque across the engine's operating range.

### Arsenal of traction tech

The Toyota 4Runner offers the right tool for the off-road mission, because some people go farther off the beaten path than others. An array of technologies enhance the capability provided by the 4Runner's high-strength chassis and 4WD. Standard Hill-Start Assist Control (HAC) provides additional control when accelerating from a stop on a steep incline. The system helps to briefly hold the vehicle stationary while the driver transitions from the brake pedal to the accelerator.

### High-tech suspension options

The 4Runner TRD Off-Road models and the Venture Special Edition can be outfitted with Toyota's Kinetic Dynamic Suspension System (KDSS), which allows extended wheel travel at slow speeds for greater off-road capability and control. The KDSS system hydraulically adjusts the lean resistance provided by the stabilizer bars. Sway resistance is reduced for off-road driving to help minimize any tendency for wheel lift. On pavement, KDSS enables the bars to work conventionally, reducing body lean to enhance agility and control.

### The latest in audio and connectivity

In addition to Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and Amazon Alexa compatibility, the 4Runner's multimedia systems for 2021 are packed with in-demand features. Starting with the SR5 and TRD Off-Road grades, these include an 8-in. touchscreen display; USB media port; hands-free phone capability; advanced voice recognition and music streaming via Bluetooth® wireless technology; and SiriusXM® with three-month All Access trial. Connected services include Safety Connect® with one-year trial and Wi-Fi Connect with up to 2 GB within a three-month trial.

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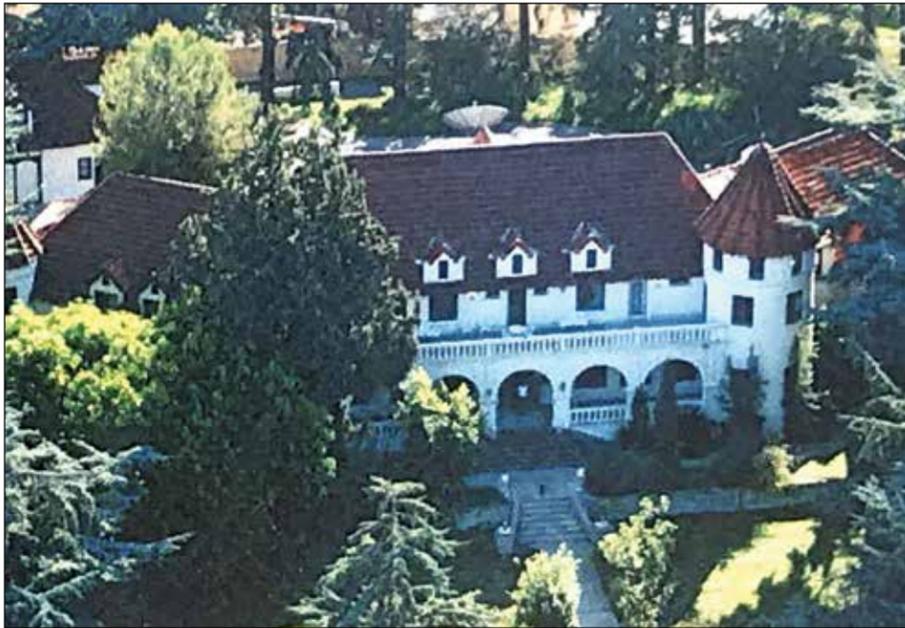
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## Understanding Real Estate

By Gary Frueholz  
DILBECK REAL ESTATE

Gary Frueholz is a realtor with Dilbeck Real Estate, a past member of the Alhambra Planning Commission, a certified Senior Real Estate Specialist and a Certified International Property Specialist. He can be reached at 626-318-9436 or at gary.frueholz@dilbeck.com. See his stories at www.garysstories.com.



The Pyrenees Castle is located in southwest Alhambra and has eight bedrooms and 10 bathrooms.



The Pyrenees Castle was built in 1925 by Sylvester Dupuy as a replica of castles he saw as a boy in France.

# Alhambra is not Beverly Hills

“Alhambra is not Beverly Hills,” said noted journalist of the *New York Post* and *Time, Inc.*, Stephen Silverman in the television documentary *Mugshots: Phil Spector – House of Blues Murder*.

What the journalist was getting at is that even though Alhambra’s real estate composes a vibrant middle class American community, it is not the playground and home to wealthy entertainment types of the stature of Phil Spector. But in Spector’s case ... it was.

Spector’s home from 1998 until his incarceration in 2009 for the murder of actress Lana Clarkson would be in Alhambra. And with Spector’s death last month, the curious case of Phil Spector and Alhambra has received significant attention.

Zillow lists the median price of a home in Beverly Hills at \$ 3,655,362, while a typical single family detached home in Alhambra runs \$ 739,171.

Harvey Phillip Spector was the innovator of pop music’s iconic “Wall of Sound,” which utilized Hollywood session professionals known as the “Wrecking Crew” to project a powerful blend of horns, percussion, strings, and guitars

into a pop orchestra. Spector described it as a Wagnerian approach to rock and roll. Starting in the 1960s, Spector’s producing would propel the Crystals, Ronettes, and Righteous Brothers into international prominence while he later worked with numerous artists such as John Lennon, the Beatles, and Beach Boys.

In 1998, Spector, purchased an estate in Alhambra known as the Pyrenees Castle. Those who knew him said it was because Alhambra’s real estate was close to the Hollywood scene and yet distanced enough to provide some separation from the vices of the entertainment mecca.

Sitting on top of a hill in southwest Alhambra at 1700 Grand View Drive is a classic mansion that would seem more suited for Beverly Hills or Brentwood. Over the years it has been known as the Pyrenees Castle. It was constructed in a French Chateau architectural style with elaborate red tile roofs, beautiful spires, a grand entry way with marbled flooring, magnificent chandeliers, a courtyard with a water fountain, and three story tall turrets that make it look all the more imposing.



Commercial Real Estate

BY MARK PAULSON

ANTHONY VENTI REALTORS, INC.

Mark Paulson is a Realtor in Alhambra specializing in the sale and leasing of commercial real estate. He has been a real estate professional since 1976.

## Options for struggling landlords whose tenants can’t pay rent

Critical eviction moratoriums don’t offer much relief for mom-and-pop landlords who still have to pay to keep their buildings operating.

**Q:** I own a duplex, and one tenant hasn’t paid rent since last March. I am losing considerable rental income, and the tenants haven’t made any attempt to pay back rent or negotiate a move-out or payment plan. I rely on this rental income to pay mortgage, taxes, and maintenance — I am not an institutional landlord with deep pockets who can weather this. Do I have any legal recourse? How can this go on for so long with no relief?

**A:** With so many people suddenly unable to pay their rent amid the pandemic, state and federal lawmakers have passed multiple eviction moratoriums, including the latest on Dec. 28. But these laws and executive orders have provided little relief for landlords who still have to pay to keep their buildings operating.

The laws in California halt almost all

evictions.

The law does offer minimal relief for landlords: It prevents lenders from foreclosing on property owners with 10 units or fewer until May 1 if they have experienced a COVID-related hardship. But they’re still responsible for the mortgage, taxes, water, and heating bills.

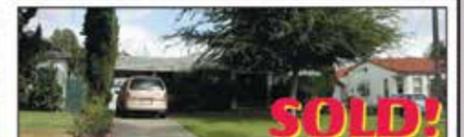
Try to negotiate some sort of payment plan with your tenants. The legislation delays evictions, but it does not erase the back rent.

If a tenant has lost their job and are unable to pay the rent, offer them information about unemployment and rent assistance or other benefits. Perhaps they could pay a reduced rent in exchange for waiving past debt, providing you with some income and them with some financial relief. Be sure to put whatever you agree upon in writing, and all parties should sign it.

Aside from that, you will have to wait to see if future relief bills provide any assistance to help you weather this storm.

Source: nytimes.com

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The Pyrenees Castle still exists and although it is protected by security gates, it can be viewed from a distance as you travel along Fremont Avenue and look west toward Cal State University Los Angeles. The red tile roofs can be seen between the various pine trees that surround it. The County Recorder lists the livable space at 8,686 square feet with eight bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, and a lot covering 2.66 acres.

Sylvester Dupuy built the Pyrenees Castle in 1925 as a replica of a chateau he had admired as a young boy growing up in southern France near the Pyrenees mountain range, which separates France from Spain. Dupuy had been successful in the Alhambra area with agriculture and livestock where he owned a large tract of land and 5,000 sheep.

Dupuy hired John Walter Smart, who had designed the Alhambra Post Office, to create his dream home, which utilized

flooring made of maple from the original Alhambra High School. The castle had tremendous potential for entertaining and housing a large family.

The Dupuy family sold the castle in the 1940s, and it worked its way through a number of owners over the years. But the Pyrenees Castle probably never enjoyed a more spectacular time than when it entertained the French Olympic team during the 1932 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games.

This year the house was listed for sale initially at \$ 5,500,000 and later lowered to \$ 3,998,000. The property is now in escrow and in the process of being sold.

Phil Spector himself would capture the irony of his selection of Alhambra as his home when he said during an interview, “I bought myself a beautiful and enchanting castle in a hick town where there is no place to go that you shouldn’t.”



# NISSAN OF ALHAMBRA

## NISSAN OF ALHAMBRA - Here to Serve YOU!

**New Location | New Owner | New Attitude**

# Grand Opening Sale!

**NISSAN ROGUE 2021  
NOW IN STOCK**



### 2020 NISSAN SENTRA sv

NISSAN OF ALHAMBRA PRICE

**\$19,736**

OR LEASE FOR  
**\$99** FOR 24 MONTHS  
OR \$0 DOWN  
per month + tax



\$19,736 is your net offer after all applicable discounts and rebates. MSRP = \$21,865 less -\$1,129 Nissan of Alhambra Dealer Discount off MSRP. Less -\$1,000 Nissan Customer Cash, Less -\$0 \*Nmac APR Nissan Customer Cash (must finance with NMAC for well qualified buyers) in lieu of NMAC Special APR financing. Conditional -\$500 \*\*College Grad discount (To qualify, the purchase date must be within the next six months of graduation or if you have graduated from college in the last two years. You must finance with NMAC.) 1 at this exact offer Model#12110, last 8 of Vin#LY262686. May not be combined with any other offers or discounts. ALL CARS ARE SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. Nissan of Alhambra has the right to end any auction at any time if the car sells on location or with any other retail/auction site. We do our best to remove or end listings / auctions as fast as we can but some take up to 48 hours to be removed. Prices do not include additional Dealer installed accessories, fees including government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any Dealer documentation fees, any emissions testing fees or other fees. All prices, specifications and availability subject to change without any notice. Offer Expires 11/30/2020. 24 Months -\$99 + Tax per month -\$4,988 initial payment. Excludes taxes, title, and license. \$4,988 initial payment + \$1,100 NMAC lease cash = \$6,088 total due at signing. On approved above average credit. Offer valid only when financed through Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation.) Subject to residency restrictions. \$0 security deposit. \$0 security deposit. 12,000 miles per year, \$0.15 per excess mile. Based on \$20,736 selling price. \$21,865 MSRP Incl. destination charge. Must take delivery from new car stock. Offer expires 2/28/2021.

### 2020 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S

NISSAN OF ALHAMBRA PRICE

**\$19,338**

OR LEASE FOR  
**\$129** FOR 36 MONTHS  
OR \$0 DOWN  
per month + tax



\$19,338 is your net offer after all applicable discounts and rebates. MSRP = \$25,435 less -\$3,847 Nissan of Alhambra Dealer Discount off MSRP. Less -\$2,250 Nissan Customer Cash, Less -\$0 \*Nmac APR Nissan Customer Cash (must finance with NMAC for well qualified buyers) in lieu of NMAC Special APR financing. Conditional -\$500 \*\*College Grad discount (To qualify, the purchase date must be within the next six months of graduation or if you have graduated from college in the last two years. You must finance with NMAC.) One at this exact offer Model#13110, last 8 of Vin#LC279289. May not be combined with any other offers or discounts. ALL CARS ARE SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. Nissan of Alhambra has the right to end any auction at any time if the car sells on location or with any other retail/auction site. We do our best to remove or end listings / auctions as fast as we can but some take up to 48 hours to be removed. Prices do not include additional Dealer installed accessories, fees including government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any Dealer documentation fees, any emissions testing fees or other fees. All prices, specifications and availability subject to change without any notice. Offer Expires 11/30/2020. 36 Months -\$129 + Tax per month -\$4,688 initial payment. Excludes taxes, title, and license. \$4,688 initial payment + \$1,575 NMAC lease cash = \$6,263 total due at signing. On approved above average credit. Offer valid only when financed through Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation.) Subject to residency restrictions. \$0 security deposit. \$0 security deposit. 12,000 miles per year, \$0.15 per excess mile. Based on \$21,588 selling price. \$25,435 MSRP incl. destination charge. Must take delivery from new car stock. Offer expires 2/28/2021.

### 2020 NISSAN LEAF sv

NISSAN OF ALHAMBRA PRICE

**\$26,776**

OR LEASE FOR  
**\$119** FOR 24 MONTHS  
OR \$0 DOWN  
per month + tax



\$26,776 is your net offer after all applicable discounts and rebates. MSRP = \$36,170 less -\$3,394 Nissan of Alhambra Dealer Discount off MSRP. Less -\$6,000 Leaf Customer Cash, Less -\$0 \*Nmac APR Nissan Customer Cash (must finance with NMAC for well qualified buyers) in lieu of NMAC Special APR financing. Conditional -\$500 \*\*College Grad discount (To qualify, the purchase date must be within the next six months of graduation or if you have graduated from college in the last two years. You must finance with NMAC.) 1 at this exact offer Model#17110, last 8 of Vin#LC306855. May not be combined with any other offers or discounts. ALL CARS ARE SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. Nissan of Alhambra has the right to end any auction at any time if the car sells on location or with any other retail/auction site. We do our best to remove or end listings / auctions as fast as we can but some take up to 48 hours to be removed. Prices do not include additional Dealer installed accessories, fees including government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any Dealer documentation fees, any emissions testing fees or other fees. All prices, specifications and availability subject to change without any notice. Offer Expires 11/30/2020. 24 Months -\$119 + Tax per month -\$2,888 initial payment. Excludes taxes, title, and license. \$2,888 initial payment + \$10,375 NMAC lease cash = \$13,263 total due at signing. On approved above average credit. Offer valid only when financed through Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation.) Subject to residency restrictions. \$0 security deposit. \$0 security deposit. 12,000 miles per year, \$0.15 per excess mile. Based on \$32,776 selling price. \$36,170 MSRP Incl. destination charge. Must take delivery from new car stock. Offer expires 2/28/2021.

### 2020 NISSAN PATHFINDER S FWD

NISSAN OF ALHAMBRA PRICE

**\$25,812**

OR LEASE FOR  
**\$219** FOR 36 MONTHS  
OR \$0 DOWN  
per month + tax



\$25,812 is your net offer after all applicable discounts and rebates. MSRP = \$33,725 less -\$4,413 Nissan of Alhambra Dealer Discount off MSRP. Less -\$2,500 Nissan Customer Cash + \$1,000 Nissan Bonus Cash, Less -\$0 \*Nmac APR Nissan Customer Cash (must finance with NMAC for well qualified buyers) in lieu of NMAC special APR financing. Conditional -\$500 \*\*College Grad discount (To qualify, the purchase date must be within the next six months of graduation or if you have graduated from college in the last two years. You must finance with NMAC.) One at this exact offer Model#25110, last 8 of Vin#LC634531. May not be combined with any other offers or discounts. ALL CARS ARE SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. Nissan of Alhambra has the right to end any auction at any time if the car sells on location or with any other retail/auction site. We do our best to remove or end listings / auctions as fast as we can but some take up to 48 hours to be removed. Prices do not include additional Dealer installed accessories, fees including government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any Dealer documentation fees, any emissions testing fees or other fees. All prices, specifications and availability subject to change without any notice. Offer Expires 11/30/2020. 36 Months -\$219 + Tax per month -\$4,088 initial payment. Excludes taxes, title, and license. \$4,088 initial payment + \$4,375 NMAC lease cash = \$8,463 total due at signing. On approved above average credit. Offer valid only when financed through Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation. Subject to residency restrictions. \$0 security deposit. \$0 security deposit. 12,000 miles per year, \$0.15 per excess mile. Based on \$29,312 selling price. \$33,725 MSRP incl. destination charge. Must take delivery from new car stock. Offer expires 2/28/2021.

## OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

**\$1995**



Conventional Oil only, some models may not apply, see dealer for details. Expires 2/28/2021.

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