



Alhambra Chamber of Commerce CEO Sharon Gibbs, on top, was selected by Sen. Susan Rubio, on bottom, as Senate District 22's 2021 Outstanding Female Professional.

Chamber CEO Sharon Gibbs named Outstanding Female Professional

On March 31, State Sen. Susan Rubio of the 22nd California Senatorial District presented her 2021 Woman of the Year Awards to coincide with Women's History Month. This year, Sharon Gibbs, CEO of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, was honored for her tireless efforts to support local businesses and the economy during COVID. She was selected by Sen. Rubio as the Senate District 22's 2021 Outstanding Female Professional.

>> see **WOMAN OF THE YEAR** Page 14

City of Alhambra Councilmembers, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce celebrate Grand Reopening of Alhambra Renaissance & IMAX Theatre

Friday, April 23, was the reopening day for Regal Edwards Alhambra Renaissance Stadium 14 & IMAX at Main and Garfield in Downtown Alhambra. Joining Cathii Van Riper and Tom Yamak from the theatre were Alhambra Chamber President Suzi Dunkel-Soto; Alhambra Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez; Vice Mayor Katherine Lee; Councilmembers Jeffrey Maloney and Ross Maza; Ted Slaught, managing partner, Hillcrest Development Partners; and Henry Lo, representing Assemblymember Ed Chau.

Mayor Pérez presented a certificate on behalf of the City of Alhambra.

From left are Suzi Dunkel-Soto, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce president; Henry Lo, representing Assemblymember Ed Chau; Vice Mayor Katherine Lee; Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez; Tom Yamak, Regal Edwards Alhambra Renaissance Stadium 14; and Councilmembers Ross Maza and Jeff Maloney.



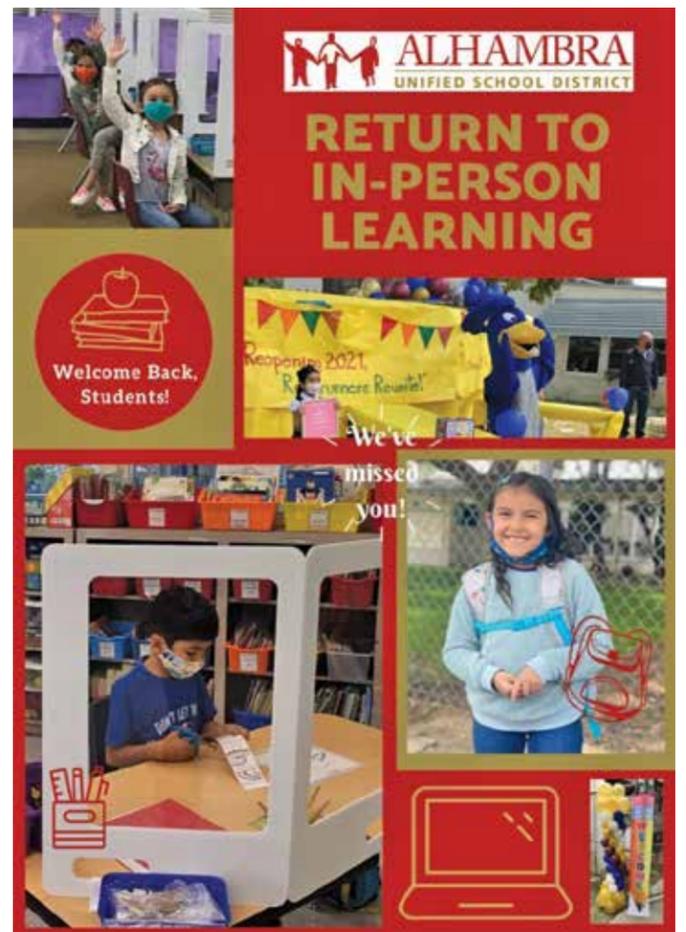
>> see **ALHAMBRA RENAISSANCE & IMAX THEATRE** Page 5

After 13 months of AUSD school closures, some students return to campuses

AUSD schools have been empty for over 400 days. That began to change on April 12 when some TK through second-grade students at nine elementary schools started their first day of afternoon in-person learning. By April 19, all AUSD campuses welcomed back the 10% of students out of a total of 16,000 who opted for the opportunity to return to their schools.

Of course, school looks a lot different now — students are all masked and spaced six feet apart. Teachers are figuring out new ways to correct papers and assignments while being mindful of their physical distance. Kids have to stay far apart from one another at recess, get their temperature checked, and exit their classrooms slowly, one by one. With every safety protocol in force, each school went to great lengths to make the return to a physical classroom a celebration. Big smiles were on lots of faces.

>> see **RETURN TO SCHOOL** Page 19



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ALHAMBRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
104 S. First Street
Alhambra, CA 91801

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Mayor's Corner

Thank you, Alhambra!
 This spring season has represented renewal for the Alhambra community. Thousands of residents, city staff, public safety officials, and health care workers have been fully vaccinated, while cases of coronavirus have declined dramatically. Our restaurants and shopping centers have begun to reopen. These successes are a result of your commitment to the public good — each and every single one of our residents plays an integral role in keeping one another safe and healthy by continuing to abide by safety standards. As we near the end of the pandemic, Alhambra is preparing to build back even better than before.

I want to thank all our residents for trusting me to lead you during such a critical time period. In the past six months, we've accomplished many of the goals I set out during my campaign: we have vaccinated more than 50% of Alhambra residents, reopened our economy, and set out new progressive policies to protect frontline workers and reduce environmental waste. It's been the honor of my life to serve as mayor of my hometown, and I look forward to continuing my work on the council over the next three years. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Our city's team is here to help ensure that our residents have the best quality of life.

2021 State of the City

On April 7, I provided the 2021 State of the City for the first time in two years. The event was held virtually and open to the public via Zoom and Facebook. Despite the event's virtual environment, hundreds of participants tuned in to learn about the city's recent accomplishments and our plans for the future. Residents are able to re-watch the State of the City via Facebook

on the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page or via the City Council meeting recording on Monday, April 12, on the city's website.

Thank you to the City of Alhambra staff and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce for assisting with putting together this successful event!

Housing, Housing, Housing

In an effort to better educate our residents about the Regional Housing Needs Assessment or RHNA, all councilmembers hosted town halls with consultant Chris Blakney to answer questions about the state's housing crisis, changing state laws, and our new RHNA goals defined by state housing laws. Each of these townhall conversations have been recorded and shared.

We'll continue the conversation around housing on Tuesday, April 27, with a Know Your Housing Rights workshop with the Housing Rights Center. During the conversation, we'll discuss California's new COVID-19 rent relief program that will cover 80% of unpaid rent for landlords and renters. You can learn more about this program at <https://housing.ca.gov/>.

US Bank continues community philanthropy

On Friday, April 9, I joined US Bank and Aloha Food Factory in donating lunch and dinner to Alhambra Hospital to thank our health care workers for their heroic work throughout the pandemic. The health care workers and staff were extremely grateful for the delicious food that was hand delivered by the owners of Aloha Food Factory, Aaron and James. Thank you to Branch Manager Michael Win, the US Bank team, and Aloha Food Factory for your kindness and philanthropy! Our community is blessed to have businesses like yours in Alhambra.

In response to the recent attacks against



By Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez

the AAPI community, US Bank has made a commitment to provide \$60,000 to AAPI organizations. In Los Angeles, the Asian Youth Center (AYC) was selected as a grant recipient and will receive \$10,000 to support additional research and survey work with Asian residents in the San Gabriel Valley to help guide future policy work and community programs. AYC has led efforts to distribute food to families in need throughout the pandemic through their Emergency Food Program and recently launched a free virtual tutoring program for low-income students seeking assistance with their classes.

Alhambra Easter Basket Drive-Thru event

In celebration of Easter, Alhambra Police Department hosted an Easter Basket Drive Thru event for our local families. More than 200 families participated in taking a socially distanced photo with the Easter Bunny and receiving some candy treats. It was lovely to see so many of our little ones so egg-cited to participate in the Easter festivities! Thank you to the Alhambra Police Officers Association, Evike, and Promax for hosting this fun community event.



Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez representing the City of Alhambra at the Grand Reopening of Regal Edwards Theatre April 23.



The health care workers and staff at Alhambra Hospital Medical Center were extremely grateful for the delicious food that was hand delivered by the owners of Aloha Food Factory, Aaron and James.



The YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley

2021 SUMMER PROGRAMMING LEARNING BEYOND COVID-19 THROUGHOUT SUMMER

Grades K-8th Grade: 7:30a.m – 5:30p.m

Full Day: \$700/month • Half Day: \$500/month

Full Day Includes All Activities From 7:30am to 5:30pm

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Summer Program Learning Beyond COVID-19

When?
Summer 2021
Monday – Friday K-8th Grade
7:30am – 12:30pm

What We Offer?
Breakfast and Lunch, and Snack
Online Access All Day
Homework Assistance with Projects
Educational Enrichments (STEM)

Your Peace of Mind is Our Priority

- Licensed Registered Nurse on Staff
- Daily Entrance and Exit Temperature and Well Check of Children
- Mandatory Mask Worn
- Same Daily Staff Assignment
- Fingerprinted Live Scan
- All Staff trained and certified in CPR/First Aid, Child Abuse Prevention, and Mental Health.

Afternoon Half Day Program

When?
Summer 2021
Monday – Friday K-8th Grade
Half Day 1:30pm – 5:30pm

What We Offer?
Snack
Swimming Lessons/Club
Cooking Classes/Club
Art Projects
No Refunds

Field Trips *extra charge
Playground Activities
Exercise Programs
Reading Club
Ratio 1-10










Site: YMCA 401 E. Corto St. Alhambra, CA 91801 Contact: Valarie R. Gomez
 Cell: 626-660-6681 or E-Mail: Val.ymca@gmail.com • Visit Us At www.wsgvymca.org

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.

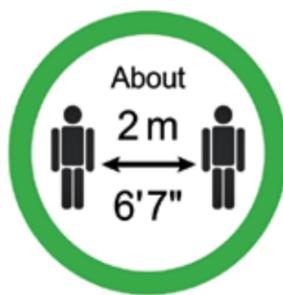
CUSTOMERS ARE ASKED TO DO THEIR PART BELOW:



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:

You can download any free QR Code reader from your phone's App Store.

ALHAMBRA RESTAURANTS: DELIVERY, TAKEOUT OR OUTDOOR DINING



SCAN ME

OPEN ALHAMBRA BUSINESSES AND SERVICES



SCAN ME

CDC Compliant: Delivery • Takeout • Patio Dining • Indoor Restaurant Dining • Online Shopping • In-Store Services

Increasing number of housing units called for

The State of California finds itself in a housing crunch. The homeless situation is a real and growing crisis. Even those who are housed face problems. Studies have found that one half of all renters in the state and one third of home owners are enduring a cost burden in the payment of rent or mortgages. One sixth of all housing units are said to be over crowded.

As an approach to solve this problem, each municipality in the state is being asked to plan for increasing the number of housing units in its jurisdiction by a considerable amount. Alhambra must incorporate this proposed housing element into the city's General Plan, which has been underway for several years. Each municipality's plan will be reviewed by the state.

The state is requesting that Alhambra make plans to add 6,825 housing units to its home inventory. The current inventory is just over 30,000 units, so the increase would be about 22%. This can be accomplished in a number of ways including

garage conversions, construction on vacant land, city owned land, and rezoning unused commercial or industrial properties to permit multi-unit residential housing. One currently popular method is to construct multi-storied buildings with small businesses on the ground floor and housing above. This is a technique that has been practiced as long ago as ancient Rome.

To share this situation with as many people as possible, each member of the City Council has been holding Town Hall meetings via Zoom for their district's residents. Concerns that have been brought up by citizens have to do with rent stabilization or rent control, the mixture of affordable housing, and re-zoning issues.

There may be future Town Halls on this issue. Find out when the Town Hall in a certain district will be held by visiting the City of Alhambra web site and search for "town halls."

Be sure to be heard on this important plan for the future of Alhambra.

Sign kids up for Camp Alhambra

The Parks and Recreation Department is happy to announce the popular summer camp for kids will again be available this year. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 1 through Aug. 6, there will be activities and learning opportunities for kids ages 7 to 12. Camp Alhambra will be offered at the Granada Park gym building at 2000 W. Hellman Ave.

Registration began in March, so don't delay in signing the kids up for the time of their young lives. The cost is \$100 per child resident in Alhambra and \$115 for non-residents. Extended care is available from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. for an extra \$25 and after camp hours for working parents, also for \$25. A sibling discount is available. Register by calling 626-570-5081, or go online to www.cityofalhambra.org.

There will be organized themed activities for each week, and the Alhambra Library will provide reading time every week. Kids will also enjoy performance art, field trips, and swimming in the safety of the Granada Park pool. This year will be in line with the COVID restriction in place during the June and August time frame. A virtual parents



Registration began in March, so don't delay in signing the kids up for the time of their young lives.

meeting will be held via Zoom at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 20. Get the details when registering.

In the past Camp Alhambra has filled up fast, and lots of kids are eager to repeat their participation every summer until they outgrow it. Don't miss out on this opportunity for girls and boys to learn from new experiences, meet new friends, and have a great time.

Summer food service is back

This year, as in the past, children ages 1 to 18 identified by the Alhambra Unified School District can receive a lunch and a snack five days a week, Monday through Friday, at one of these park sites: Story Park, Almansor Park, Alhambra Park, and Granada Park. Contact the parks for serving times.

The Summer Lunch Program will begin June 1 and continue until Aug. 6. Due to COVID precautions, the lunches will be distributed on a grab 'n' go basis as they were last year.

All meals are available without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. This is no small undertaking. In

recent summers, over 50,000 lunches and snacks have been provided to Alhambra's kids through the partnership of Alhambra's Parks and Recreation Department and the United States Department of Agriculture. The program distributes lunches and snacks to children during the summer months when they may not have access to

school lunches. Over the last 20 years, the City of Alhambra has made great use of this program to be of service to Alhambra's young residents and their families.

For more information, call the office of Parks and Recreation at 626-570-5081 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit www.cityofalhambra.org.

REBATE SAVING\$: \$25 BONUS FOR WASHING MACHINES AND RAIN BARRELS



\$110

RAIN BARREL

UP TO ~~\$35~~ REBATE

\$60



WATER-EFFICIENT WASHING MACHINE

UP TO ~~\$85~~ REBATE



IRRIGATION CONTROLLER

UP TO \$80 REBATE



HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOILET

UP TO \$40 REBATE



ROTATING SPRINKLERS

UP TO \$2 REBATE



APPLY FOR REBATES AT WWW.SGVMWD.ORG

LIMITED TIME ONLY FROM MARCH 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021


**AROUND
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.

We welcome comments, press releases, and community interest stories and will make every effort to include all appropriate information. Articles submitted and printed in Around Alhambra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce or its Board of Directors. Please e-mail submissions to djenkins@alhambrachamber.org.

For advertising rates and other information, contact

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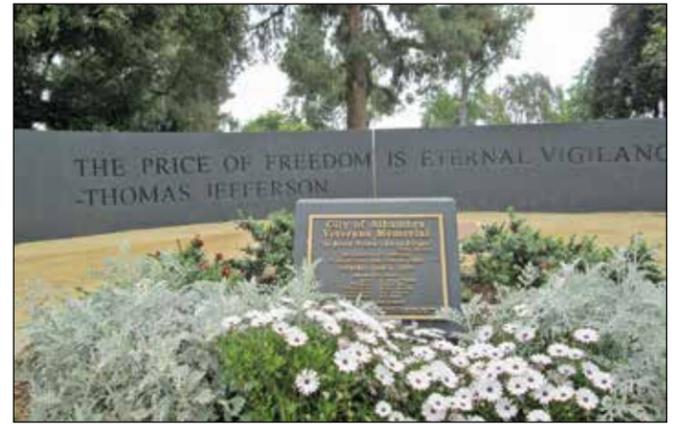
Memorial Day is a time to remember, reflect

The City of Alhambra is preparing a video celebration of Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, that will be posted on the City of Alhambra's social media sites including Facebook and Instagram. Take a moment on Memorial Day to watch the video and offer a quick prayer to those who have died in service for the country and thank them for their "last full measure of devotion."

Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed every year on the last Monday of May. The object of Memorial Day is to commemorate all of the men and women who have died while serving in the military of the United States of America.

The history of Memorial Day dates back to the American Civil War. It started as an event to honor soldiers who had died during that war and all of the wars since.

A number of the fallen lived in Alhambra and are commemorated at Veteran's Corner at Alhambra Park with their names inscribed on bricks in their



A number of the fallen lived in Alhambra and are commemorated at Veteran's Corner at Alhambra Park with their names inscribed on bricks in their own section of the corner.

This year, like last year, the Memorial Day event in Alhambra and elsewhere around the country is being modified because of the pandemic.

ALHAMBRA RENAISSANCE & IMAX THEATRE From Page 1A

Henry Lo presented a certificate on behalf of Assemblymember Ed Chau.

Also attending and helping organize the event were Alhambra Chamber Ambassadors and staff.

Reopening plans include a wide range of health and safety measures that adhere to the CinemaSafe protocol and guidelines. Materials previewing the new theater experience, including b-roll, photos, and safety infographics, can be viewed on their website at REGmovies.com.



▲ Alhambra City Councilmembers, Chamber Ambassadors, and Regal Edwards employees enjoy the Grand Reopening of the Alhambra Renaissance & IMAX Theatre.

◀ Henry Lo, representing Assemblymember Ed Chau, presents a certificate to Tom Yamak, Regal Edwards Theatre. From left are Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez; Vice Mayor Katherine Lee; Mr. Lo; Ted Slaught, managing partner, Hillcrest Development Partners; Mr. Yamak; and Councilmembers Ross Maza and Jeff Maloney.

Mayor Pérez celebrates first 100 days in office, major victories

Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez recently marked her first 100 days into her historical first term as the youngest female mayor in San Gabriel Valley history.

"Despite a worldwide pandemic, we have continued to pioneer solutions for major issues such as economic revitalization, environmental protections, and protecting the public's health," she said. "We have accomplished a tremendous amount of work since I was sworn in on Dec. 14. I look forward to the months ahead."

One of Mayor Pérez's most important measures was to facilitate the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to emergency personnel, city staff, and residents. Within her first 50 days, the mayor accomplished her goal of vaccinating all emergency

personnel and staff who requested the vaccine. So far, the City of Alhambra has opened three COVID-19 vaccination clinics for residents, staff, police officers, and firefighters. Twenty six percent of all Alhambra residents have been vaccinated, while 58.6% of residents 65 and older are vaccinated.

In addition, Mayor Pérez has led innovative, progressive initiatives, such as:

- Limiting excessive third party app delivery fees to protect local businesses.

- Creation of Alhambra's first composting program to launch this summer.

- Approval of 45+ units of affordable housing for low-income families.

- Creation of opt-in ordinance for plastic utensils that will help fight environ-

mental waste and reduce cost for mom and pop restaurants (passed first reading 5 – 0, vote pending).

- Establishing hero pay, an initiative that would provide hazard pay for retail workers in grocery and pharmacy stores for 120 days (passed first reading 4 – 4, vote pending).

- Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products to youth and limited smoking in public areas (motioned, draft ordinance pending).

- Worked with Housing Rights Center to create hotline hours for Alhambra residents in need of housing related assistance.

- Updated city employment applications to include gender non-binary.

- Completion of the Stormwater

Master Plan, making Alhambra the first city in the upper Los Angeles watershed to complete a plan.

Finally, in response to the horrific nationwide racially charged assaults on Asian Americans, the mayor issued a proclamation condemning hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Accompanied with this proclamation was a letter of support for Hilda Solis' motion to identify more than \$800,000 in funding to expand Los Angeles County's Anti-Hate program, which was passed unanimously. The mayor continues to support communities of color by helping facilitate community building events.

SB 1383 ushers in new organics recycling programs

California Senate Bill 1383, which was signed into law in 2016, is bringing changes to how residents and businesses handle organic waste.

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 establishes a goal of reducing the volume of organic waste disposed in California landfills by 75% by 2025. As defined by the law, organic waste includes lawn and landscaping debris, wood and lumber, food, food-soiled paper, and other paper and cardboard products. Currently, two-thirds of this material is landfilled. As organics break down in landfills, they create methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that the state of California has identified as a factor in climate change.



For residents

- Providing new blue recycling carts for all clean, dry paper and cardboard products.
- Supplying new green carts for lawn and landscaping debris, as well as food scraps.

- Delivering a free new kitchen pail to make it easy to collect scraps inside the house and transfer them directly to your green cart.

- Furnishing new black carts for trash only (no recyclables and no yard or food waste).

For businesses and multi-family properties

- Providing blue carts or designated recycling dumpsters for all clean, dry paper and cardboard products.

- Offering a subscription service for organics collection, including both lawn and landscaping debris and food waste.

- Supplying carts or dumpsters, as needed, for lawn and landscaping debris and food waste.

- Assisting businesses in donating the maximum amount of edible food they would otherwise dispose to food pantries and other agencies that feed the hungry.

For more information, please call Julian Reyes at 747-245-9152, or e-mail alhambra@republicservices.com.

In addition, SB 1383 establishes a goal of increasing edible food recovery by 20% by 2025. The regulations specify that certain food-related businesses must donate the maximum amount of edible food they would otherwise dispose to food recovery organizations. Mandated food donors fall into two tiers, with the larger food providers, such as wholesale food vendors and supermarkets, required to have an edible food donation program in place by Jan. 1, 2022. Other food businesses will need to have a donation program in place by Jan. 1, 2024.

Republic Services is preparing to roll-out programs that will help residents and businesses in the City of Alhambra meet the goals of SB 1383.

Return of the Rose Parade, Alhambra's float

In April, the City Council gave the go ahead for Alhambra's 95th year of participation in the New Year's Day Rose Parade in Pasadena on Jan. 1, 2022. Planning is already underway. One sign of collective recovery is that the world famous Rose Parade is back.

For more than 130 years, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association has welcomed each New Year's Day with the most popular parade on earth, live and televised. The theme of the parade is "Dream. Believe. Achieve," which expands beyond the initial focus on education and will include a celebration of perseverance and strength, science and scientists, health professionals, first responders, and essential workers.

Already 20 marching bands have been selected to march in the parade. These bands represent 10 different states and four countries.

In Alhambra, plans are afoot for the design of its float. Alhambra is one of the longest running participants in the parade, which is a source of pride to residents.

The all-volunteer Tournament of Roses Association has chosen reading among young people as a cause it wants to support. The association is backing the Nation Ed-



Alhambra High School students A.J. Ceja, left, and Joshua Soto work on the 2018 Alhambra Rose Parade float.

ucation Association's program called Read Across America Day. This year it took place on March 2. Volunteer readers, working remotely through Zoom, read to classes of elementary students.

Among the guest readers was Tournament member Steve Perry of the Alhambra Educational Foundation. Mr. Perry and additional members served as guest readers at Alhambra Unified School District elementary schools, which also received a donation of 1,000 books from the Tournament and Literati. Thanks to volunteers like Steve Perry, the dozens of Alhambra residents who will help decorate Alhambra's float, and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, which will host a luncheon for the Rose Queen and her Court, everyone is involved in the Rose Parade activities.

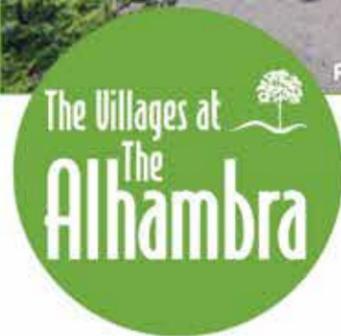
It takes The Villages to...

-  Create 16 acres of walkable, bikeable paths and open space
-  Secure millions in funding for Alhambra schools
-  Put housing adjacent to transit and reduce traffic



Proposed North Park, The Villages

THE RATKOVICH COMPANY



It's decision time, show your support here!



SCAN ME

Questions or suggestions? Send us an email at info@thevillagesalhambra.com or call us directly at (626) 727-9304 and we will be happy to set up a call or a zoom meeting.

www.thevillagesalhambra.com

Mayor outlines legislative proposals, policy directions for upcoming year at State of the City Address

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce hosted a virtual State of the City on April 7. While the State of the City is an annual event featuring the Mayor and the City Council of Alhambra, this was the first time it was held online.

There were over 80 in attendance on the Zoom webinar and over 1,400 views on Facebook Live. Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez gave an update on the state of the city. Vice Mayor Katherine Lee and Councilmembers Ross Maza, Jeff Maloney, and Adele Andrade-Stadler joined the live webinar and greeted the participants.

A Power Point presentation was given, highlighting the various programs and services the City of Alhambra provides. Even with the pandemic restrictions, the city has been able to continue its excellent service to residents.

Mayor Pérez outlined the income and expenses of government and shared the multiple ways in which the money is spent for the benefit of the community. Public Safety was high on the list, keeping the Police and Fire departments constantly upgraded with the most advanced equipment and training.

The Parks and Recreation Department also came in for commendation by adapting its community programs to keep the public active but safe during the year of COVID. The library too has stayed open for curb side pickup of the loan of their materials. The community is full service and that means that services have continued throughout this past year and are prepared to return to normal as California lessens its pandemic restrictions.

Alhambra is also working to support its most vulnerable residents, serving weekly curbside pickup lunches to seniors at the Joslyn Center and lunches with snacks to school-aged children during the summer at city parks. There is now a no fault eviction moratorium in place and even Emergency

Year in Review: Working Together
Our highly desirable location, diverse community, regarded amenities, public safety teams, and quality community services make Alhambra a truly desirable place to live, work, and play.

Collaboration is Key

Community Involvement:

- Boards and Commissions
- Citizens Police Academy, Neighborhood Watch, Explorers, CERT, Fire Cadet Program
- Sports, Youth Sports, Scouts, YMCA
- Rose Parade, Joslyn Center, Alhambra Library
- Civic Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Alhambra Unified

Key Projects

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Measure AL
- Grants
- Affordable Housing Projects on Main Street and Chapel
- Inclusionary Housing Ordinance
- Historic Preservation
- 710 Mobility Improvements
- Shorb Feasibility Study
- Commercial and Residential Waste Hauling Contract
- Aggressive Homeless Outreach and Support Services
- Intergovernmental and Community Relations

Van Nguyen

Francella Aguilar

Housing Assistance for COVID-impacted households.

For the business community, ease of application is provided for outdoor dining service, and there has been no interruption of municipal water services, waste hauling, or transportation services while maintenance continues on existing infrastructure. The popular weekly farmers market has adopted social distancing while remaining open.

Work is underway by departments that most residents are unaware of. The Management Services Department provides outreach to the homeless and is constantly applying for and receiving grant money that helps fund government services without cost to the tax payers. The Finance Department, among other things, is seeking reimbursement for expenses due to COVID related services.

Looking to the future, councilmembers hoped to address adding more green space, revitalizing areas of Main Street and Valley Boulevard, and adding affordable housing, bicycle lanes, and alternative transportation.

Councilmembers have held Town Hall meetings and will continue with a Housing Update Townhall series.

The State of the City was hosted by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, with President Suzi Dunkel Soto welcoming the attendees. CEO Sharon Gibbs helped moderate the event.

- Sponsors for the event were:
- The Alhambra
 - The Villages at the Alhambra
 - Republic Services
 - Transtech Engineering
 - Southern California Gas



A formal promotional and swearing-in ceremony took place at the Alhambra Police Department April 22. Among those promoted were Chief Eric Parra, top left; Assistant Chief Garrett Kennedy, top right; a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, three Corporals, an Executive to the Chief of Police, a Communications Supervisor, and a Property Clerk. The department also added seven Police Officers and a Cadet to the Alhambra Police family.

ALHAMBRA HOUSING SUMMIT

MEETING THE DEMAND:
HOUSING IN ALHAMBRA AND THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

May 13, 2021 ⬆ 1pm to 3pm

Join leading experts in addressing the housing needs in Alhambra, what it takes and how the community can help to solve the housing crisis.

Featuring
Alhambra Mayor Sasha Renee Perez
Ma'Ayn Johnson, Housing Manager, SCAG
Michael Ruane, EVP, National CORE
Bill Huang, Director of Housing, City of Pasadena
and more!

Register to attend this virtual event at:
AlhambraMain.org

Presented by the Alhambra Main Street Alliance
in partnership with the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce



Unlike so many manufacturing outlets, Special Signs can fabricate and produce everything at its own facility in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley in the next door city of San Gabriel.



Fern Chavez, manager of 2nd Time Around, said they sometimes get visits from Hollywood prop people looking for items to adorn a movie set. Perhaps the most unusual item they have sold was an antique hospital gurney, which was purchased by two standup comedians for their act.

There's something special about Special Signs

Special Signs has been around since 1984. It is a family owned and operated company, with deep roots in the community. The business was originally located at 42 W. Main St. in Alhambra for three years before finding more space at its current location, 115 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel.

In keeping with their founder Ly N. Diep's innovations and his mastery of the art of making signs for all occasions, the next generation has developed the company into one of the best and longest-running sign businesses in Southern California.

Hung Diep, Mr. Ly's son and current owner, has managed to collect all of that accumulated knowledge and tooling under one roof so he can provide his customers with everything from concept to creation of any sign project in one place

while holding down costs. Their products and services cater to a multilingual community. Signs in different languages are no problem.

The signs they have created over the years range from banners to neon signs and include real estate signs, advertising and banner flags, and even the use of illuminated channel letters. Unlike so many manufacturing outlets, they can fabricate and produce everything at their own facility in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley in the next door city of San Gabriel.

For more information, please e-mail them at signs@specialsigns.net, or call the business at 626-285-8870. Better yet, come into the store, wearing a mask, and see what they can do. Business hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Special Signs is closed on the weekends.

2nd Time Around graces Alhambra's Fifth District

Beginning this month, Around Alhambra will feature a business suggested by one of the Alhambra City Councilmembers, in turn, to be highlighted for public awareness. This month, Councilmember Adele Andrade-Stadler, who represents the Fifth District, would like everyone to know about a unique store in her district called 2nd Time Around.

For 16 years, the 2nd Time Around store has offered antiques and vintage items for sale. Six years ago, the business was purchased by real estate agent Noé Piña. He couldn't resist it. His first job as a 16-year-old boy was in a vintage shop in Montebello known as Cool Jerks. There he bought and sold merchandise, learned where to find "the good stuff," and how to price it. In other words, he learned the business. It was a great apprenticeship that gave him the training he needed for the vintage store business. 2nd Time Around was a natural fit.

In the pre-COVID era, he opened up the store's limited back room space for displays and sales of paintings by local artists and plans to do so once more in the post-COVID era. Again his background proved valuable as he was a fine arts graduate of Otis College of Art and Design. Mr. Piña is a modern Renaissance man.

Tending to his real estate business, he has enlisted the support of longtime friend Fern Chavez to manage the store and run

the day-to-day operations. Together they have mastered the art of finding treasures through estate sales, auctions, donations, and the willingness to pick up and haul away items from moving or garage sales.

Mr. Piña likes to say, "We have a little of everything," and a walk through 2nd Time Around will prove the point. It would be easier to mention what they don't have rather than what they do have. Ms. Chavez said they sometimes get visits from Hollywood prop people looking for items to adorn a movie set. Perhaps the most unusual item they have sold was an antique hospital gurney, which was purchased by two standup comedians for their act. The most expensive item was a Lucite "Z" chair that sold for \$4,000.

The vintage/antique business is not easy, but this intrepid pair makes it seem so. Venture on over to 2801 W. Valley Blvd. to see the wonders collected in a small space. They can be reached at 626-656-6185. See their website for store hours at <https://www.seconddtimearoundca.com/contact>.

Virtual Networking

Good Day Alhambra

Co-sponsor: **alhabra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** and **SoCalGas**

Virtual **zoom**

Wednesday, 5/12/2021 • 9-10 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

Meeting ID: 892 5968 1268

Tools To Help Your Business

alhabra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Virtual **zoom**

Wednesday, May 19, 2021
 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Come learn about tax-saving opportunities

Hosted by: **Jeff Prang, Los Angeles County Assessor**

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang will present to Alhambra Chamber members on tax-savings opportunities for home and business owners. The assessor will also discuss Proposition 19, which has placed tighter restrictions on property transfers between family members. The tighter restrictions will lead to some families being reassessed when they pass on property to their children. Prop. 19 also expands benefits for seniors, people with disabilities, and those affected by natural disasters.

Speaker: **Jeff Prang**
 Los Angeles County Assessor

Come meet Assessor Prang and ask questions.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZltc-mqqz4rE9MJloVNWqRQW2xqO1djdUcu>
 Meeting ID 860 4025 5197



Carol's Salon has provided nail care services in Alhambra for over 30 years.

Carol's Nail Salon reopens

BY JEWELYN CO

Carol's Nail Salon, 106 S. First St., has provided nail care services in Alhambra for over 30 years. The COVID pandemic of 2020 put this small family business in a stand-still for almost a year, and now it has reopened with a few adjustments in services.

Carol's Nail Salon offers a relaxed, safe, and healthy atmosphere with consistently cleaned and comfortable spa chairs, manicure bar, and a private room for body waxing, threading, and eyelash extension services. Adhering to the policies and protocols reinforced by health and safety regulations, Carol's Nail Salon requires both staff and customers to keep face masks on and practice six feet social distance. They frequently sanitize the equipment, tools, and work areas. Spa chairs and manicure stations are occupied with every other seating. A part of the protocol may include the standard procedure of checking customers' temperatures and COVID screening for signs and symptoms. Carol's Nail Salon assures that new nail fillers, buffers, and spa liners are used for every customer.

"I enjoy and love this profession very much, and it was difficult when we had to close for business last year," said owner Carol. "We had to figure out how to make a living.

We did not open or operate when restrictions were lifted because it would have



Sanitized spa chairs.

been difficult for us to bring our equipment in and out all the time, the weather conditions are unpredictable, and we did not have an accommodating space outside or in the back to do our services."

Building occupancy is limited in the salon, and the number of staff and customers are cut down. Carol's Nail Salon continues to offer manicures, pedicures, full sets, long faux nail fills, gel nails, acrylic nails, nail polish touch ups, foot spa services, body waxing, eyebrow threading, and the newly added service of eyelash extensions. David Do, Carol's husband, said. "We have lost a lot during the closures. We had to dispose of many of our materials and supplies because they went bad after not being able to use them. We had to buy new supplies and materials and other items like the wall guards and hand sanitizers to keep everyone safe."

Business has been slow because customers are still hesitant about going in for a service, yet since the vaccine has been released, clients are returning. "I hope to have more business and for customers to return soon,"

Tax Tips

Tax deadline, unclaimed refunds

There are roughly 1 million people who are owed around \$1.3 billion dollars in refunds for taxable year 2017. If you haven't filed your 2017 income tax return, your statute expires on May 17, 2021. That means, you lose the refund.

According to the IRS bulletin, here are some facts about unclaimed refunds:

- The unclaimed refunds apply to people who did not file a federal income tax return for 2017.
- Some people, such as students and part-time workers, may not have filed because they had too little income to require them to file a tax return. They may have a refund waiting if they have taxes withheld or if they qualify for certain tax credits.
- The law generally provides a three-year window to claim a tax refund. For 2017 returns, the window closes on May 17, 2021.
- The IRS must have your tax return by May 17, 2021; proof of delivery is suggested.
- After three years, unclaimed refunds become the property of the U.S. Treasury. There is no penalty for filing a late return if the taxpayer is due a refund.
- The IRS may hold 2017 refunds if taxpayers have not filed tax returns for 2018 and 2019. The U.S. Treasury will apply the refund to any federal or state tax owed. Refunds may also be held to offset unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

Taxpayers who are missing forms W-2, 1098, 1099, or 5498 for prior years should ask for copies from employers, banks, or other payers. Taxpayers who can't get these copies can request a wage and income transcript either at www.irs.gov or by mail. Taxpayers can also file a Form 4506-T to get a transcript.

The three-year window usually applies to a refund from an amended return. In general, you must file a form 1040X Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return within three years from the due date you filed the original return. That means the deadline for most people to amend their 2017 tax return and claim a refund will expire May 17, 2021.

The State of California has a four-year statute, and the IRS has a three-year statute. The deadline to file for a refund for your 2016 California return was April 15, 2021. Just like the IRS, use it or lose it.

For more information, you can go to www.irs.gov for the federal return, www.ftb.ca.gov for the California return, or speak to your tax professional.



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.

For more information, you can go to www.irs.gov for the federal return, www.ftb.ca.gov for the California return, or speak to your tax professional.

Carol said.

Services for waxing, threading, and eyelash extensions are based on appointments only. New hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Hours vary depending on

appointment availability. Appointments are preferred, and walk-ins are limited. Contact Carol's Nail Salon for appointments and information on their services at 626-576-5512.

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Eyelash Extensions**

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COVID guidelines observed

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Michael Aston, EA
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and for their continued support:*

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626-289-3664
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5000 E. Main St., fourth floor
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626-289-5454
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| <p>Alhambra Coin Center
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1024 E. Garvey Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91755
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626-872-2150
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| <p>Alhambra Performing Arts Center
1850 W. Hellman Ave.
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5947 Oak Ave.
Temple City, CA 91780
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| <p>Awards By Champion
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909-592-9113
Member since 2015</p> | <p>Mancora Peruvian Cuisine
240 W. Main St., Unit A
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626-940-5402
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115 N. San Gabriel Blvd.
San Gabriel, CA 91775
626-285-8870
Member since 2001</p> |
| <p>Bravo CDJR of Alhambra
1100 W. Main St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
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1000 S. Fremont Ave., Bldg. A9W
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626-282-0140
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| | | <p>W. Y. International, Inc.
2000 S. Garfield Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90040
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Thank You!

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

alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Social Virtual Mixer

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

4pm - 5pm Virtual zoom

Hosted by Iona Work Spaces

Please join us for our May Social Mixer. We have fun activities planned.

- 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/j/zoom/register/tZcqc-yqzlrE9QuDyaulauo8m8rh7f0pMSQ>
Meeting ID: 837 4525 9190

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<p>Alhambra America's Job Center 2550 W. Main St., Suite 101 Alhambra, CA 91801 323-832-1274 ayela.org <i>AYE has a track record of success in providing entry level employees with a broad range of companies such as Bank of America, CVS, UPS, St. Francis Medical Center, and Walgreens.</i></p>	<p>Wife of the Party 318 S. Date Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803 626-872-6810 thewifeoftheparty.com <i>Selecting an event planner is a bit like dating; we believe that it needs to be a perfect fit from the beginning. If our company's qualities mesh with yours, then it's a match! We're prepared to invest time and trust into our partnership and make decisions together. As a dependable family-owned company, we are flexible, intelligent, and truly care about the life-changing potential of a well-orchestrated event. We want your special day to be one where you remember the event, not the practicalities.</i></p>
<p>City Security Company, Inc. 430 S. Garfield Avenue, Suite 401 Alhambra, CA 91801 626-458-2328 Citysecuritycompanyinc.com <i>For over two decades, City Security Company has provided security service to the Greater Los Angeles Area. Our services range from unarmed uniformed security guards, armed guards, high profile protection, to licensed private investigations.</i></p>	<p>WHO Design Studio P.O. Box 763 Alhambra, CA 91802 626-379-9877 wdsver.co Architectural Design <i>We bring teams of creative and technical talent together to help our clients achieve their mission. Our integrated services include Architectural and Interior Design, Construction, Project Management, and Construction Management.</i></p>

Welcome!



Talbot Insurance Agency Inc. State Farm Insurance Regina Talbot, Agent, 626-357-3401 Insurance License #: 0G05807

Protect your home and family with home security

The types of home alarm systems and what to consider to improve your home security.

Types of home security systems

Alarm systems can be wired or wireless. You must decide if you wish to install the system yourself or contract with a licensed installer.

Monitored or unmonitored security systems?

Monitored systems are those where a private company watches your system 24 hours a day, every day, alerting the police if something goes wrong and you can't be contacted. Many alarm systems offer a "self-monitoring" feature where the user receives alerts by phone, text, e-mail, or smart phone technology. Unmonitored systems have on-site sirens and flashing lights that alert your neighbors of a break-in, meaning that you'll be relying on them to contact police if you aren't home. The best security comes from monitored systems because their vigilance is constant. They typically function in the following way:

- The system's sensors are triggered in some way, such as a door opening.
- The system waits 30 – 45 seconds to give the homeowner a chance to deactivate the system to prevent false alarms.
- If the alarm is not deactivated, the security system sends a message to the monitoring company over telephone lines or by a wireless device.
- The monitoring company receives the message and verifies the alarm, generally by placing a call to the home or homeowner's mobile phone. If they do not receive the proper passcode or do not receive an answer, the company calls the police.
- The police respond.

Hardwired or wireless security systems?

Traditional or hardwired security systems use some or all of the following components:

- **Control panel:** All the operations of the alarm system are centered in this panel, including the connections to the central monitoring station, either through a phone line or cellular/radio means.
- **Central monitoring station:** If the system is monitored, and the alarm is set off, the control panel sends a message here.
- **Touchpads:** This is where the system is armed and disarmed. They should be placed near doors so they can be armed on your way out and disarmed after you return. Most work on a passcode system.
- **Key fobs:** Similar to your car lock/unlock fob, this will allow you to arm and disarm your alarm system from outside the

premises without using a passcode.

- **Sirens:** A siren will sound an alert when an alarm is set off.
- **Door and window sensors:** These set off the alarm when a door or window is opened. Glass break sensors are also available and recommended.
- **Motion detectors:** Motion detectors are activated by movement within the protected room. There are various styles to meet the individual needs of the homeowner.
- **Video monitoring:** Surveillance video is an option with most systems at an additional cost. The images can be sent to the monitoring station directly, captured and stored locally, and/or viewable online by computer or smart phone. Doorbell cameras are also an option.
- **Alert panic buttons:** The central station of an emergency situation that requires immediate response by the police. These buttons are also known as duress alarms.
- **Carbon monoxide and water detection:** Some monitoring systems providing carbon monoxide detection and water detection.

The latest wireless home security systems may come as part of comprehensive smart home suites that in addition to cameras, door and window alerts, and other crime-fighting features, such as smoke and heat sensors, include carbon monoxide alarms and water detectors. Learn about additional ways to secure your home.

Choosing an alarm company

If you're looking to get a security alarm system, do your research. Before calling any alarm companies, speak to the local police first. Get an idea of how long it takes them to respond to a home security alarm after being contacted by an alarm company. Valuable time can be lost, as well as valuables themselves, which may influence your purchase decision. Next, ask them about fines for false alarms.

Ask about extra costs to the monitoring fees billed by the companies, such as for copies of alarm reports. Beware of long-term contracts from these companies because they may be difficult to break if you decide to cancel service or move from your home. Inquire about warranties and safety guarantees. Verify whether the equipment is to be purchased or leased.

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

City of Alhambra
DISPOSABLE FOODWARE ITEMS
ORDINANCE NO. O2M21-4783

BY REQUEST!

- The Alhambra City Council passed Ordinance No. O2M21-4783 in an effort to help reduce plastic waste and save restaurants money.
- Effective May 22, 2021, restaurants will provide disposable foodware items like plastic utensils with your order only if you ASK for them to be included.
- The Ordinance will require third-party delivery app vendors to add an option to allow customers to request utensils.
- To learn more about the Ordinance, visit: <http://bit.ly/AlhUtensils>.

alhambra
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Innovation and Preservation

Alhambra Beautiful Awards Water Wise

Please nominate a residence, commercial property or multi-family residence for Alhambra Beautiful Water Wise 2021 Awards. This year's awards will be specifically focused on Water Wise landscaping. Eligible properties must be within Alhambra city limits.

Check Award Category:

- Residential single family house
- Multi-family residential
- Business maintenance of existing facilities
- Business new construction

Date _____

Property Address _____

Property Owner Name (If Known) _____

Property Owner Email _____

Phone _____

Describe Why You Believe This Property Deserves An Alhambra Beautiful Award

Nominations must be received in the Chamber office by May 24, 2021.

PLEASE SUBMIT A PHOTO OF THE PROPERTY
With your submission by mail or email to:
Alhambra Beautiful Awards
c/o Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 S. First St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
(626) 282-8481
sgibbs@alhambrachamber.org



The Academy of Special Dreams' Wheels Up 2021 art show features original works of art by a diverse group of local and international artists who represent a wide spectrum of race, ethnicity, gender, age, and abilities.

The Academy of Special Dreams, The Alhambra present Wheels Up 2021 art exhibit through October

Wheels Up 2021, an inclusive art exhibition featuring the work of international artists, is on display at The Alhambra Galleries, 1000 S. Fremont, through October.

A virtual exhibition can be found on the Academy of Special Dreams' website at [specialacademy.org](http://www.specialacademy.org) and also at <http://www.thealhambra.net>.

Academy Community Ambassador from England OBE (Order of the British Empire) Anna Kennedy, Academy supporter actor Marco Rodriguez, Dory Perdomo, and Maru Pombo from Mexico and Colombia are only a few of the art influencers working with artist and founder of the Academy Michael Dergar in this movement of inclusion and art internationally. "Their goal is to feature original works of art by a diverse group of local and international artists who represent a wide

spectrum of race, ethnicity, gender, age, and abilities, truly reflective of the diversity of our society," Mr. Dergar said. "This inclusive art exhibition underscores the principle that the struggle for social justice that has taken root in our country must incorporate everyone in society, including people living with disabilities.

"On behalf of the Academy of Special Dreams Foundation, we thank our extended family the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, The Alhambra and The Ratkovich Company and all our sponsors for your support and initiative to help us, but most of all to help us in our mission of making a more inclusive society."

Wheels Up will be exhibited virtually at the Los Angeles City Hall Bridge Gallery in the academy's yearly Disability Art Show in the summer.



Alhambra Kiwanis President Wai Lee presents a \$500 check to Valarie Gomez, West San Gabriel Valley YMCA CEO, to assist with the completion of expansion work at the new children's playground area.

Alhambra Kiwanis return to service

Members of the Alhambra Kiwanis Club are busy planning activities that will enable their return to active community service as soon as possible.

In the interim, they have participated in local food distributions for families in need of assistance and are discussing opportunities with the West San Gabriel

Valley YMCA and the City of Alhambra to move forward in the near future.

Club members are regularly meeting at the YMCA on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Alhambrians with a desire to help the community may join club members in service by contacting the club secretary, Ron Cope, at 805-551-1899.

Southern California Gas Company sets bold net zero emissions pledge

Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas), the largest gas utility in the U.S., announced the company's bold commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its operations and delivery of energy by 2045.

This commitment makes SoCalGas the largest gas distribution utility in North America to set a net zero target including scopes 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions, which would eliminate not only its own direct emissions, but also those generated by customers' energy delivered by SoCalGas' energy infrastructure.

SoCalGas' commitment aligns with the Paris Climate Agreement's recommendations and reflects the company's focus on supporting California with a resilient gas grid through the energy transition to support a carbon neutral economy.

SoCalGas, which serves nearly 22 million residents, representing half the state's population, has a long record of emissions reduction progress in support of California's environmental goals. This includes implementing energy efficiency programs, delivering increasing amounts of carbon-negative renewable natural gas (RNG), and developing zero-carbon hydrogen technologies, among others. These efforts have resulted in carbon reductions of over 3.2 million metric tons of carbon

dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), the equivalent of removing more than 700,000 passenger vehicles off the road for an entire year.

Over the next five years, SoCalGas plans to invest in initiatives to decarbonize, diversify, and digitalize the business. To guide SoCalGas' path to net zero, the company released a Climate Commitment Announcement. Select commitments along SoCalGas' path to net zero include:

By 2025 to achieve net zero energy for 100% of SoCalGas' newly constructed buildings and major renovations of buildings over 10,000 square feet.

Replace 50% of SoCalGas' over-the-road fleet with electric, hybrid, natural gas, and/or fuel cell electric vehicles.

Establish statewide hydrogen blending standards.

Complete five hydrogen pilot projects.

By 2030 to eliminate 100% of vented gas during planned transmission pipeline work.

Achieve net zero energy for 50% of all SoCalGas existing buildings.

Deliver 20% renewable natural gas.

By 2035 to operate a 100% zero emissions over-the-road fleet.

Achieve net zero energy for 100% of SoCalGas buildings.

For more information and the latest news, visit newsroom.socalgas.com.



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In the April edition of Around Alhambra, the Alhambra Jewelry & Gold article listed the wrong hours for the store.

Here are the correct hours:

Tuesday: Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sundays/Mondays: Closed



For the first time in its 26-year history, the Alhambra Latino Association (ALA) hosts its first virtual fundraiser: Lotería Game Night.

Alhambra Latino Association hosts Lotería Game Night to raise funds for high school scholarships

BY DOMINIC TOVAR

On a Friday evening in March, Alhambra and other community friends laughed with joy as they played energetic rounds of virtual lotería, a classic card game also known as Mexican bingo. Popular game cards included La Concha, La Chancla, and El Twitter. Although the night was stocked with laughs, tears, and moments of inspiration, the gathering had philanthropic purpose too. For the first time in its 26-year history, the Alhambra Latino Association (ALA) hosted its first virtual fundraiser: Lotería Game Night.

The event was hosted by Corina Jimenez of Sofie Marketing & Events. Attendees purchased customized cards and played gripping rounds of lotería, winning door prizes throughout the evening. Nearly 50 community members attended the sold out event on March 19 to play and, of course, to raise scholarship funds for graduating Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) seniors.

A highlight of the evening was a viewing of a short film produced by a student of Alhambra High School's service club called VISA, also known as "Voice of Immigrant Students of Alhambra." The club serves immigrant students with educational resources, access to legal aid, and food bank programs. The short film, titled *A Place ...* by Angel Diaz, touched on the filmmaker's immigration story and left viewers with a resounding feeling of hope.

Lotería Game Night was sponsored by local businesses and organizations including AEF, Republic Services, Transtech Engineers Inc., ATA, Final Cut Woodworks, and VISA Boosters. "We are honored to support the Alhambra Latino Association and the hard-working students in the community," said Albert Chang of Transtech Engineers, Inc.

Family foundation sponsors included the Recendez Family as well as the Melba and Primo Castro Family.

ALA is committed to support the educational and cultural growth of the children and parents in the Alhambra Unified School District. Members include business owners, local educators, parents, and community members.

Due to the ongoing state of the pandemic, the nonprofit will make its 2021 Awards Ceremony & Fundraiser completely virtual. Last year's event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 shut down. In a normal year, the annual event recognizes five scholarship winners, one from each AUSD high school and one community stakeholder. For more information on the upcoming awards ceremony, which will be from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 21, please visit www.alhambralatinoassociation.com.

ALA, a 501(c)3 non-profit, accepts donations for student scholarships and other programming via check (P.O. Box 6062 Alhambra, CA 91802) and Paypal. Visit their website for more information.

Pandemic response legislation passes key committee

The Assembly Committee on Business and Professions approved AB 691, authored by Assemblymember Ed Chau (D-Monterey Park), which would make permanent authorization for certified optometrists to administer COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

In an effort to quickly administer COVID-19 vaccines to 40 million Californians, the California Department of Consumer Affairs recently authorized a waiver that allows certified optometrists to

administer COVID-19 vaccines to people 16 years of age or older, including epinephrine or diphenhydramine by injection for the treatment of a severe allergic reaction. The waiver is expected to stand during the declared state of emergency, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislation is needed to make this authorization permanent, especially as optometrists undergo vaccine training, required by the waiver, and most experts expect the need for ongoing booster shots.



From left are James Kuang and Arron Luong, Aloha Food Factory; Michael Win; Glenn Barnett; Blanca Andrade; Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez; and Vice Mayor Katherine Lee. (Photo: Susan Bonilla)

US Bank serves lunch to Alhambra Hospital

For the second time this year, the Alhambra branch of US Bank has served hot meals for front line medical staff at Alhambra Hospital. But their service to the community did not end there. The 400 lunches that were provided to hospital workers this time were purchased from Aloha Food Factory, located at 2990 W. Valley Blvd., helping out one of Alhambra's important small businesses as well. The owners of Aloha were grateful for the business and were fully engaged with the distribution of the food.

Aloha serves up traditional home-style Hawaiian cuisine like macadamia nut pancakes, kalua pig, and spam musubi. Each delighted hospital staff member received an Aloha Plate consisting of either beef, chicken, or vegetarian options,

premium white rice, fresh vegetables, and a macaroni salad, which all hit the spot.

The first 200 meals showed up at 11 a.m. with Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez and Vice Mayor Katherine Lee on hand to observe the proceedings and thank both Michael Win, the branch manager of Alhambra's local US Bank, and James Kuang and Arron Luong, the owners of Aloha Food Factory, for their generosity. The second 200 meals showed up at 5 p.m. to serve the late afternoon shift.

US Bank is rapidly becoming known as a good corporate citizen in town from their location inside the Albertsons Market at 2400 W. Commonwealth Ave. Alhambra Hospital and its dedicated employees were glad of their helping hand.

Alhambra passes Hero Pay Ordinance

The Alhambra City Council passed the Hero Pay Ordinance on April 12. It will go into effect May 22 to Sept. 19 unless it's extended. Ordinance No. O2M21-4784 covers employees working in the City of Alhambra regardless of immigration or work status.

The City Council finds that frontline grocery retail and drug retail workers are essential workers who face potential exposure to COVID-19 through interactions with customers and co-workers. Because of their work on the frontlines, grocery retail and drug retail workers have been met with COVID-19 exposures and outbreaks in their workplaces.

The Hero Pay Ordinance temporarily requires grocery retail and drug retail employers to provide an additional \$5 per hour hazard pay to employees working frontline positions as compensation for the hazards these employees face during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Employees may be entitled to Hero

Pay if their employer meets the following criteria:

- The employer is a grocery store, drug store, or large retailer that sells groceries and/or drug products.
- The employer is a publicly traded company or employs 300 or more people nationwide.
- The employer employs more than 10 employees at the store where the employee works.
- The store where the employee works is located in the City of Alhambra.
- The employee is physically present at the store when they are performing work for the employer.

Please refer to Alhambra Municipal Code Chapter 5.85 for specific information about covered employees and employers. Learn more about the ordinance at <https://bit.ly/AlhHeroPay>, and view the Hero Pay Workplace Employer posting at <http://bit.ly/HeroPayPosting>.



Appreciation cards made at MKHS Alliance's Keppel Cares Cards event for essential workers and posters are presented to the employees of Garfield Medical Center (GMC). From left are Sharon Woo, Kelly Zhao, Allyson Suzuki, GMC Director Alex Antolin, Roselyn Chin, GMC Director Zyliza Webber, Alliance VP and Keppel Cares Cards Chairman Keith Lee, Colette Han, GMC CEO Patrick Petre, Karen Shieh, GMC Director Joyce Tsang, Lawrence Shieh, Mitchell Wong, GMC Director Kathleen Connors, and Michelle Li. (Photo credit: Shirley Wong)

Keppel Cares Cards presented to Garfield Medical

BY SHARON WOO, MKHS ALLIANCE PRESIDENT

The Alliance's Keppel Cares Cards event for essential workers was chaired by their Vice-President Keith Lee, a senior at Mark Keppel High School (MKHS). Over 1,500 cards were made for all the employees of Garfield Medical Center (GMC). Keith, his assistant Allyson Suzuki, and Keppel students presented the cards to GMC CEO Patrick Petre, his directors, and staff on March 31.

Petre told the audience, "This type of recognition by the community means a lot ... We'll distribute these to the employees and let the employees know that they are appreciated by the young men and women of Mark Keppel."

"Just seeing the actual number of cards in person was a bit shocking," Keith said. "I really do want to express my thanks to the volunteers who worked so diligently on this event, as well as the employees at Garfield Medical Center. I was excited to be able to deliver so many cards to them. They are true heroes."

"On behalf of the MKHS Alliance, I would like to thank all of the hardworking staff of the Garfield Medical Center for everything that they do to keep our community safe during these unprecedented times," Allyson added.

In the midst of the pandemic, Alliance students wanted to show their support for health care and educational workers

by having a card-making event and also host a bake sale fundraiser for Alliance, a non-profit organization that advocates and fundraises for MKHS.

During the two-day outdoor Keppel Cares Cards event, people had appointments to work on their cards onsite and to pick up their pre-ordered baked goods. The student-designed card covers were also available online so people could print out the cards and work on them at home. Thanks to Keppel students; members of CSF, FBLA, HOSA, Leo Club, NHS, SkillsUSA, Tri-H, UNICEF, band, orchestra; alumni; and parents, almost 2,000 cards were made for essential workers — exceeding the goal.

Card cover designs were made by publicists Anne Chhor, Kelly Zhao, Allison Chiang, Nathan Tran; Ambassador Kayli Choi; Keith Lee; and Allyson Suzuki. Baked goods and food were made by ambassadors Justine Lee, Ashley Perez, and Allyson Suzuki; publicist Amanda Lee; alumni parents Isabelle Sato, Janet Yu, Charles Yam and Sharon Woo; alumni Evan Sakuma and Stacie Woo; future MKHS parent Traci Young; parents Christine Takatani-Chung and Shirley Wong; and MKHS teacher Janice Yaklich Luckey.

Almost \$1,000 was raised from the bake sale. Contact slwoo@sbcglobal.net to make a tax deductible donation to MKHS Alliance.



Mayor Pérez emphasized efforts in Alhambra, including increased police vigilance, to guard against these crimes.

Chinese American Community Affairs Council holds press conference on hate crimes

In 2013, Derick Ma founded The Chinese American Community Affairs Council (CACAC) to assist the growing Chinese community and new immigrants both socially and economically. Due to recent events, Mr. Ma held a press conference on March 27 regarding hate against Asian Americans.

The press conference was held at the Top Island Sea Food restaurant at 740 E. Valley Blvd. in Alhambra, which donated their dining room for the occasion. Among the speakers were U.S. Rep. Judy Chu, State Assemblymember Ed Chau, Alhambra Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez, Los Angeles County Sheriff Capt. Mark Reyes, and the

representatives of Los Angeles Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Hilda Solis.

Rep. Chu shared her actions in Congress to pass legislation against hate crime criminals and announced that she was going to Atlanta, scene of the recent murders, the following day. Assemblyman Chou spoke of his efforts at reversing the trend in Sacramento. Mayor Pérez emphasized efforts in Alhambra, including increased police vigilance, to guard against these crimes. Sheriff Capt. Reyes suggested ways to prevent crimes of opportunity by explaining that individuals should not carry a lot of cash or valuables that could make them targets for thieves.

Virtual Bite Back Tour prepares Alhambra residents to get ready for springtime mosquitoes

Mosquitoes beware, Alhambra residents are more prepared.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (SGMVCD) and community leaders teamed up for an informative, live Bite Back Tour stop in Alhambra in March.

Watch the archived video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyh6-pCjjsU>.

The Bite Back Tour is an effort to provide free, fun, and educational mosquito prevention content to residents in the San Gabriel Valley.

"As spring and mosquitoes arrive, we need to take care of stagnant water," said former Alhambra Mayor and City Councilmember Stephen Sham. "We need to do our part to solve this mosquito problem."

Mr. Sham is a trustee on the SGMVCD Board.

"This was not your typical lecture from a public health agency," said SGMVCD Public Information Officer Levy Sun. "We keep discussions casual, so it's a fun 30-minute session for viewers. We discuss topics such as repellents, mosquito traps, and how mosquito control does its work in the field."

The public can watch live from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on SGMVCD's website, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook as the Bite Back Tour visits a new city each week.

For additional information, please visit www.BiteBackChampion.org.



WOMAN OF THE YEAR From Page 1

"I want to congratulate Sharon Gibbs as this year's Outstanding Female Professional for Senate District 22," Sen. Rubio said. "She has been the executive director of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce for eight years. Her dedication, hard work, and many accomplishments in her time at the chamber have brought numerous success stories to local businesses. She has been a huge supporter for the City of Alhambra, including at Rose Parades, city events, and ribbon cuttings for new businesses. Mrs. Gibbs' Back to Work Alhambra speaker series has provided support to the many residents and business owners in need throughout the pandemic. She has always been there to help and mentor others, particularly young women.

"I want to personally thank you for all the exceptional work you do in our community. I know the past year has

presented challenging circumstances to overcome for us all, so I am looking forward to meeting with you for a joyous occasion. On behalf of the California State Senate and the 22nd Senate District, thank you for your continued contributions to the community."

The small businesses Mrs. Gibbs supports are vitally important in serving the community with options in food, housing, fitness, insurance services, medical care, legal services, social interaction, and much more.

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce advocates and represents business interests and issues affecting the community. It provides an environment to help members prosper and succeed through a working partnership with all levels of government and community organizations to achieve a prosperous local economy and quality of life.

Enjoying leisure activities in time of COVID is possible

Cal State LA launches Pandemic Diaries digital history project

BY PINKI CHEN

Last December, I was invited by a few friends to sing karaoke, using our own microphone and carefully keeping social distance while trying to have some leisure activity during the pandemic. I knew that singing increases one's lung capacity and is a great remedy to help people in living a long and healthy life, so, I decided to take up singing as a new hobby in addition to ballroom dancing four times a week.

Mr. Ma from Star Dancing Studio started a new recording studio. He repeatedly asked me to record a song in his studio. I thought it might be an interesting project to record a song sharing my 22 years' career as an event organizer: managing the annual Alhambra Lunar New Year celebration with a festival on Valley Boulevard and an art exhibit at the city hall. I particularly appreciated the confidence given by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and having the vital services provided by the Public Works and Police Department.

The process began in early January looking for and selecting photos. It was like walking into a tunnel of time recalling the participation of my two daughters when they were very young and receiving the overwhelming support from my partners, colleagues, event sponsors, and festival vendors.

I had to choose a song to reflect the theme and also match my voice range. I then learning the necessary skills of inhale/exhale and pitch. There were numerous rehearsals and recordings. Finally, I completed the recording and went into post production in mid-April.

For more than a year, we have lived through the most difficult and tragic times of our lives. However, I felt that I don't have to be beaten by the virus. I could be physically trapped in the house, but my mind and spirit should not be trapped at the same time.

Due to the pandemic, my job as a board member of the Los Angeles County Assessments Appeals has changed to virtual meetings. Just like thousands of other workers, I spent more time at home. With fewer outside activities and restricted contacts with family and friends, we all had to live by ourselves. I learned to enjoy myself



Pinki Chen, who received the Past Presidents Recognition Award from the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, says she learned to enjoy herself while being alone during the pandemic.

while being alone.

It is the first time I discovered that there are many things one can do being alone. I decided to take on this challenging project doing something I never imaged I could accomplish. This experience taught me that even during the pandemic, we can still be creative and have fun along the way! I also wanted to share that it is never too late and we are never too old to pursue one's hobbies and dreams.

I bought my first house in the Midwick tract in 1980 and have worked in Alhambra since then. Now, I am happily retired and living in a nice community in Alhambra, which is my roots in my adopted homeland. The song *I Really Care* expresses my sincere gratitude to all the people who helped me along the way. I hope you will take the time to hear the song, even if it is in Chinese. You will get to know the event history and see a lot of familiar faces among the 60 photos in the video.

A second singing MV and a dance video will be released this month. Please visit the site to watch the MV on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/MDu6pGks4WI>. Your comments on YouTube will be greatly appreciated.

While navigating through the coronavirus pandemic since March 2020, the Cal State LA community has been adapting to a new normal of online learning, teleworking, social distancing, and sheltering in place.

Each of the tens of thousands of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who make up that community potentially has a unique or personal story about life under COVID-19.

With that in mind, Cal State LA is inviting every member of that vast, varied community to contribute digital diaries to a project that will collect and archive firsthand accounts of this historical moment.

"The Cal State LA community is very diverse, and what we try to do in Special Collections and Archives is collect stories of our diverse campus community," said Azalea Camacho, an archivist and special collections librarian who is the lead on the project.

"This is really important because usually their stories are missing from historical records, and they are not preserved," Ms. Camacho said. "The goal is to capture such experiences now, as they are happening."

The Cal State LA Pandemic Diaries Project, organized by the University Library Special Collections and Archives, aims to provide future researchers and historians with a better understanding of how individuals, as well as the collective community, adjusted to the uncertainty of this unprecedented time.

More than 100 student digital diaries have been submitted to date, but the Special Collections and Archives is seeking additional video or audio recordings, photographs, and written accounts to represent the full diversity of cultures and voices of Cal State LA and its surrounding community.

Ms. Camacho encouraged members of the neighboring communities and local businesses to also share their successes and challenges.

Their stories are "important and histor-



A notification regarding alternative instruction at Cal State LA is displayed on a digital screen on campus. (Photo: Emilio J. Flores/Cal State LA)

ically significant," she said. "The project's goal is to bring awareness of how our community is experiencing the pandemic, so it is important for everyone to voice their opinions and perspectives."

In addition to Ms. Camacho, the project team includes Jamie Zeffery, digitization projects assistant, who handles the digital submissions and processing of the digital diaries, and Juily Phun, professor of Asian and Asian American Studies, who provided the questions to guide participants through capturing their digital diaries.

Some of the questions that can be used as prompts for individuals who are recording their digital diaries include:

- How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting your life, family, or instruction?
- What is your daily life like during quarantine?
- What changes have you made to your daily routine to stay safe?
- What feelings are you experiencing?
- Have you had any revelations or realizations?

To submit a digital story, photo, or document, and for information on how to record a digital diary, visit the Pandemic Diaries Project instructions webpage. A virtual exhibition of the project will be displayed on the University Library website near the end of the spring semester.



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Summer school at Emmaus Lutheran School will focus on academics, particularly language arts (reading, comprehension and writing) and math. The goal is to incorporate academic status and reinforce basic concepts to achieve success while incorporating STEM related activities with sports and summer camp activities, crafts, Bible study and water play.



All activities in a safe, clean and socially-distanced facility with qualified teachers and staff.

Three two week sessions:
Session 1 June 1 - June 18
Session 2 June 21 - July 9
Session 3 July 12 - July 30

\$555/student/session
\$510 for subsequent sibling K-8

Students may be enrolled in one, two or three sessions.

Academic 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sports & Camp 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Day Care 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Daily

For more information about the summer program contact
Emmaus Lutheran School
626-289-3664
www.EmmausAlhambra.org
840 S. Almansor St., Alhambra (next to Almansor Park)



Students enjoy a safe, socially distanced outdoor lunch and fun festivities on campus.

Ramona Convent students return to on-campus life

After months of protocol planning, Ramona Convent welcomed back half of its student body on Monday, April 12. Faculty, staff, freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors were overjoyed to not only be on campus again but to see one another in person.

From drop-off to pick-up, each day ran smoothly. The welcome celebration included a cheer squad with administrators sharing warm "hellos and welcome backs" as well as mid-week surprises of baked

desserts and ice cream.

The second half of the student body was celebrated in the same manner the following week. After months of protocol planning, the task force made up of parents, teachers, administrators, and students worked hard at planning and implementing a specialized hybrid schedule. This allows half of the student body to be on campus one week at a time.

One day soon, all will be together on campus again.

10 Questions to Ask Before You Hire a Real Estate Agent

Alhambra - Not all real estate agents are the same. If you decide to seek the help of an agent when selling or buying your home, you need some good information before you make any moves. Choosing a real estate agent is one of those critical issues that can cost or save you thousands of dollars. In this FREE special report, we give you the specific questions you should be asking to ensure that you get the best representation for your needs. Before you hire any real estate agent, call and get a

copy of a FREE Report entitled "10 questions to Ask Before You Hire an Agent". To order a FREE Special Report, call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1006. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out the questions the others would prefer you never ask!

This report is courtesy of Rudy L. Kusuma Real Estate Broker Lic# 01820322. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2012



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.

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.



Chihuahua mix • Adult • Female • Small

Autum is a 5-year-old cream colored Chihuahua mix who is looking for a loving forever home of her own. She is a very shy girl who may take some time to get to know you. Autum really enjoys checking everything out and being walked, but she gets scared of other dogs that are too forward. She needs a family that is patient and understanding and has experience with shy dogs. If Autum sounds like the dog for you, please call the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159 to schedule a "Meet and Greet" appointment with Autum. Her adoption fee is \$130, which includes spay surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Website: www.sgvhumane.org.



American pit bull terrier • Adult • Male • Large

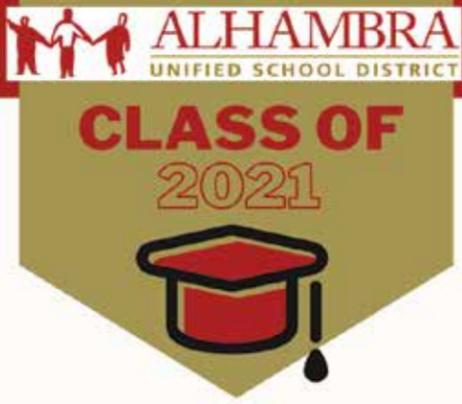
Smokey is a 4-year-old blue American pit bull terrier. He is a sweet, social, and happy dog who loves to be pet. He also likes to play fetch and go on long walks. Smokey loves people but is not a fan of other dogs. Smokey would do well as the only dog in the home. He would like to hang out with you, sunbathe, take naps, or play with toys. 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.



German shepherd mix • Adult • Male • Large

Chaffa is a great adult family dog. He is a 7-year-old German shepherd mix with a gorgeous black, brown, and tan colored fur coat. Chaffa is gentle dog who knows some commands including, sit, stay, down, and go to bed. He is good on a leash and likes to play with toys. Chaffa is a wonderful dog who needs a forever home. If you are interested in Chaffa, contact the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159 to schedule a "Meet and Greet." His adoption fee is \$145, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Website: www.sgvhumane.org.

Visit us at www.sgvhumane.org



IN-PERSON COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL
Thursday, May 27, 2021
1:00pm
Location: Rose Bowl Stadium

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL
Thursday, May 27, 2021
5:00pm
Location: San Gabriel H.S. Stadium

MARK KEPPEL HIGH SCHOOL
Thursday, May 27, 2021
6:00pm
Location: Rose Bowl Stadium

SAN GABRIEL HIGH SCHOOL
Thursday, May 27, 2021
8:00am
Location: Rose Bowl Stadium

DRIVE-THRU CELEBRATIONS

ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL
Monday, June 7, 2021
Time TBD
Location: Alhambra High School

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL
Thursday, May 27, 2021
Time TBD
Location: San Gabriel High School

MARK KEPPEL HIGH SCHOOL
Wednesday, June 2, 2021
Time TBD
Location: Mark Keppel High School

SAN GABRIEL HIGH SCHOOL
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
Time TBD
Location: San Gabriel High School

Save the Dates - More info. to follow...

AUSD class of 2021 to celebrate in-person commencement ceremonies
Graduating seniors at all AUSD high schools are getting their wish for a special send-off. Thanks to lots of behind-the-scenes work by many, the class of 2021 at Alhambra High, Mark Keppel High, and San Gabriel High will celebrate their graduation at the Rose Bowl. Graduates at Independence High will celebrate their milestone at the San Gabriel High Stadium. In addition to the first in-person commencement since 2019, the class of 2021 will also have drive-thru festivities.

Happy Mother's Day
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Most of AUSD staff vaccinated thanks to partnerships

More than two-thirds of the AUSD staff received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine thanks to partnerships with the City of Monterey Park, Herald Christian Health Center, and Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing.

At a recent Monterey Park City Council meeting, AUSD Superintendent Denise R. Jaramillo spoke virtually to personally pay tribute to the partners. She told the audience, "The City of Monterey Park set the bar for creating-through-crisis as we worked together to carve a new path for our communities to get their lifeline COVID-19 vaccines locally."

Ms. Jaramillo told the councilmembers that the whole-hearted willingness, inventive problem-solving, and

superb organization of the City of Monterey Park, City Manager Ron Bow, Chief Kelly Gordon and the MPPD, Fire Chief Matt Hallock and the MPFD, and the MP Department of Public Works inspired the Alhambra Unified community.

"By joining forces and working in tandem with Herald Christian Health Center, and Azusa Pacific School Nursing,

we were able to vaccinate more than two-thirds of our 2000-member AUSD staff and provide district volunteers and a local venue at Mark Keppel High for Monterey Park residents to receive their vaccines," she said. "Deepening our partnership with Monterey Park is a true silver lining of the pandemic, and we can't wait to work together on future projects."



An AUSD staff member and a volunteer student nurse from Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing give the thumbs up sign for the second COVID-19 inoculation at the MKHS vaccine clinic organized in partnership with the City of Monterey Park and Herald Christian Health Center. The partnership made it possible for more than two-thirds of the 2000-member AUSD staff to receive their vaccines.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Congratulations

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AT THE:

2021 COUNTY & STATE ACADEMIC DECATHLONS

MARK KEPPEL

Los Angeles County Result: 1st Place
Back-to-Back Champion
#1 Super Quiz
#3 Scoring Decathlete: Lan Trieu
Advanced to State Competition

SAN GABRIEL

Los Angeles County Result: 3rd Place
#1 Scoring Decathlete: Joseph Pandur
Advanced to State Competition
First Time Advancing to State

ALHAMBRA

Los Angeles County Result: 5th Place
#3 in Super Quiz
Advanced to State Competition

Historic Results at the Los Angeles County Competition:
Alhambra Unified School District took THREE of the Top Five spots
For the first time ever, THREE teams from the same district qualified for the State Competition in the Same Year
Alhambra Unified School District earned TWO of the Top Three spots in each category (Honor, Scholastic, & Varsity)

California State Result:
3rd Place Overall in the State
3rd Place in their Division
2 Gold Medals
7 Silver Medals
5 Bronze Medals

California State Result:
1 Silver Medal
7 Bronze Medals

California State Result:
3rd Place in their Division
4 Gold Medals
3 Silver Medals
5 Bronze Medals

CONGRATULATIONS, ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM!

State Championship Qualifiers & Competitors

- Collin Duong / Student Congress
- Ishaq Khan / Student Congress
- Sariah Perera / Student Congress
- Amy Wong / Student Congress
- Xinyu Huang / Dramatic Interpretation
- Ashlynn Kyaw / Dramatic Interpretation
- Sam Luo / Dramatic Interpretation
- Sophia Hua / National Extemporaneous
- Serena Lin / National Extemporaneous
- Hayley Chang & Kyley Chang / Duo Interpretation
- Kyana Pham & Ashlynn Kyaw / Duo Interpretation
- Han Li / Impromptu
- Rebecca Wu / Original Advocacy
- Meghan Webster / Oratorical Interpretation
- Grace Yee / Original Oratory
- Kimberly Huang / Original Prose & Poetry
- Andrew Ma / Student Congress Presiding Officer
- Elizabeth Han / Children's Literature
- Zulian Hehe / Children's Literature
- Ariel Ramirez / Children's Literature
- Rebecca Wu / Children's Literature
- Tina Duong / TikTok
- James Han / TikTok
- Justin Lim / Poetry

National Championship Qualifiers & Competitors

- Collin Duong / Student Congress - Senate & Poetry
- Ishaq Khan / Student Congress - Senate & Expository
- James Han / Student Congress - House & Prose
- Colin Ngo / Student Congress - House
- Ashlynn Kyaw / Dramatic Interpretation
- Nicolas Quach / World Schools Debate
- Xinyu Huang / Prose
- Sam Luo / Prose

AHS SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM ADVISOR:
MR. KEVIN TONG

ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

With gratitude and a bond of unity with the AAPI community, the Alhambra Unified School District's Board of Education and the Cabinet hosted a special outdoor ceremony to thank members of the Taiwanese-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Los Angeles (TACCLA) for their generosity in donating 50,000 face masks to the district. President of TACCLA Lisa Liu said, "This year, with the reopening of schools in our community, TACCLA would once again like to give back by launching a new Masks for Schools Program."

Board of Education

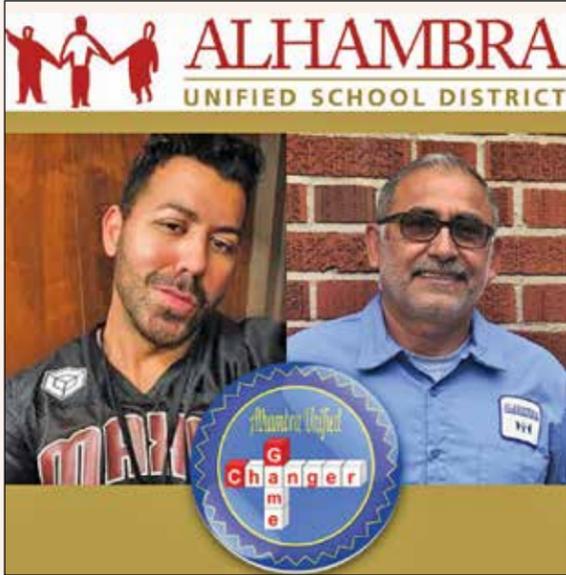
- Kenneth Tang, President, District 2**
- Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President, District 1**
- Kaysa Moreno, Clerk, District 3**
- Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member, District 5**
- Robert L. Gin, Member, District 4**

Denise R. Jaramillo, Superintendent & Secretary to the Board

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2020 - 2021

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BRAVO Game Changer Award winners

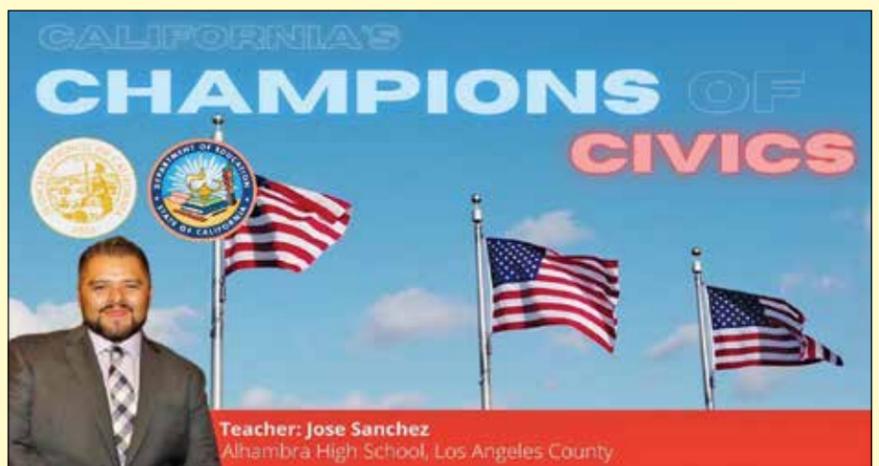
Left, Mark Keppel High dance teacher extraordinaire Activate Arroyo's energy has kept his students connected and motivated. On the right, Emery Park custodian Eduardo Fernández's kindness and professionalism make everyone's day.



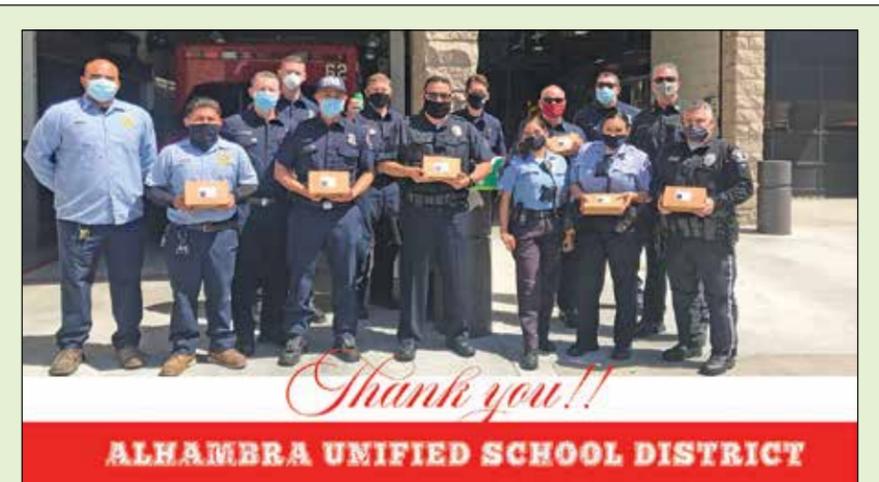
Baldwin students get empowered: A special middle school virtual assembly featured Ernie G, an empowerment speaker, actor, and comedian, who encouraged students to look for the gifts that have come out of an unprecedented year, including being grateful for this time when circumstances have forced everyone to be more reflective and to work on bettering themselves. He encouraged students to breathe intentionally to help with anxiety, hug their parents, believe that they are deserving of the wonderful things in life. Principal Chris Takeshita has been friends with Ernie G since high school. In this photo, Ernie G reacts to Mr. Takeshita reminding him of a time he beat him in basketball, while Assistant Principal Candace Montesanti-Griego, sixth-grader Luis Ramos Ingles, and seventh-grader Diego Rivera look on.



Principals of the three AUSD comprehensive high schools were among the many who previewed the Rose Bowl in anticipation of the upcoming in-person commencement ceremonies planned for the class of 2021. From left are San Gabriel High Principal Debbie Stone, Mark Keppel High Principal Jeannie Gutierrez, and Alhambra High Principal Dr. Marisa Palacios.



Alhambra High teacher Jose Sanchez was one of three teachers honored as a 2021 Champion of Civics by the Judicial Council of California and the California Department of Education as part of the 2021 Civic Learning Initiative. This year's Civic Learning Awards were adapted to celebrate people and programs successful in engaging students in civic learning, particularly those not putting civics aside during the pandemic.



The district recently arranged for thank you food truck lunches from Patty Meets Bun for the Monterey Park Fire Department for their help in the vaccination clinics that inoculated two-thirds of the AUSD staff. Monterey Park Fire Chief Matt Hallock sent this photo and commented, "Hands down one of the best burgers I've ever had."



The Alhambra-San Gabriel branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) generously donated books to Granada and Northrup Schools. AAUW is a longtime supporter of AUSD, sending multiple AUSD female middle schoolers to Tech Trek STEM summer camp each year (except during summer 2020, due to COBID-19). On hand were AAUW members Jane Anderson (former AUSD teacher and board of education member) and Kathleen Doby, pictured with Granada Principal Chris Ng and Assistant Principal Lindsay Gilbert, top, and Northrup Principal Dr. Rosa Northcott, bottom.



RETURN TO SCHOOL From Page 1

Superintendent Denise R. Jaramillo said she hopes students get to experience a bit of normalcy. "We want them to have a moment to see some other children and interact — even though socially distanced — to be able to wave and say hello to another human being."

Morning at-home distance learning continues for all AUSD students through

the end of the 2020-21 school year. The district offered parents the option of adding an afternoon in-person component to their student's day. Approximately 1,800 students returned for the last six weeks of the academic year, taking the first small steps toward the longed-for full re-opening in the fall.

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Seniors benefit from spring cleaning

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

For me, the arrival of Easter is a signal that spring is in the air. In Colorado where I grew up, Easter brought the first shoots of green in the grass, some buds on the trees, and a splash of much needed color from sprouting daffodils and tulips. Southern California has less of this seasonal change, but the temperature does begin to warm, and the days get longer as spring takes hold. Around our house, the advent of spring also meant that some basic chores called “spring cleaning” were on Mom’s calendar. The marketers of that day did a great job, and I remember the phrase she would use to challenge us: “It’s time to make everything ‘Spic-N-Span.’” I remember the satisfaction we all felt during a week or two of frenzied activity that transformed cupboards, closets, windows, bedrooms, and floors from the dusty confinements of winter into the sparkling newness of spring. Things have greatly changed from those days, but my family still performs a version of this same event each year.

It turns out that the ritual of spring cleaning is important for all our lives. Our best intentions find us stacking and acquiring articles, periodicals, items, and “stuff” that we know will either revolutionize our lives, help out families, or give us some joy for the next day or week. If you are like me, we must admit that many of these items end up unread, under-utilized, or accumulating dust because we have moved on to the next pressing moment. Spring cleaning is a time to simplify our lives by sorting,

thinning, and discarding all the unnecessary “stuff” we have. Once a year or so, amidst our busy, consumer-driven lifestyle, it’s good to be reminded of what is basic versus what is discretionary.

Seniors can be especially resistant to “sweeping away the stuff” that we really don’t need. Many of us grew up with an ethos of saving just about everything; think of all those cans of nails and screws, spare parts, balls of twine, brown paper bags, empty jars, cardboard, and wood that once had a place in the basement. We haven’t adjusted well to all that is disposable in our society. All of us have seen those television shows where hoarders live on the verge of mental illness because their need to retain all their stuff has overwhelmed all hope and common sense. Let’s face it: at some point, life is going to be much more about **doing** than it is about **having**. Seniors who engaged annually in this practice of spring cleaning are much more able to handle the stress of downsizing when the time comes. So, let’s be brave and get spring cleaning! Here are a few tips to help you get started:

1. Break it down into small bites: Make a checklist so you have a plan. Listing the areas that need to be cleaned, piles that need to be sorted, or even choices that need to be made allows you to have a sense of control in what may seem like an overwhelming task. Even a list of 100 items will result in a plan that makes it much easier to organize your time and efforts.

2. Get the family involved: Don’t be afraid to ask for help from loved ones. When we were kids, mom set aside the

time for spring cleaning and everyone participated. As we get older, it can be overwhelming to sort, clean, and clear a whole house; asking for help should be a natural extension of your relationships.

3. Make yourself throw it away! Our lives are filled with a gadget for everything and an outfit for every occasion. Some of this “stuff” is either past its prime or was never all that useful to begin with. It is better to admit you made a mistake and part ways with the item rather than let it take up space for another year. A professional organizer would charge you money to make three sorting piles: yes, no, and maybe. You can do this yourself. Everyday items you often use go in the “yes” pile. For items you’re hesitant to part with, place them in the maybe pile. Don’t discard things with sentimental value.

4. Organize for importance: Review and sort all your important financial, health, and legal documents and organize them into one space. This will save you time, money, and stress in the event of an emergency.

5. Be prepared for an emergency: Make sure all your mechanical and

emergency systems are in good working order. For example:

- Program emergency contact numbers and Medical ID information into your smartphone (or an easily accessible list in your home).
- Double check that your fire extinguisher is charged and not expired.
- Test smoke and CO2 alarms for live, active batteries.
- Compile an up-to-date list of any medicines (prescriptions and over-the-counter) which you take regularly.
- Make sure your first aid kit is stocked and build an accompanying kit of water bottles, a blanket, flashlight with batteries, back-ups of commonly taken medicines, non-perishable snacks, etc.
- Service your furnace, A/C, or water filters.

I don’t suppose many of us relish the ritual of spring cleaning with its sorting, purging, organizing, sanitizing, mopping, vacuuming, and dusting. But setting aside time for this routine maintenance will make a significant difference in your future; and just think how good it feels when your world is Spic-N-Span!



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Joslyn Center finds creative ways to serve seniors

Last year, the Joslyn Adult Center was challenged by the COVID outbreak and sadly had to close its doors to keep Alhambra's senior citizens safe. While closed to the usual hustle and bustle of their weekly activities, Joslyn continues to carry on their Case Management Program, which helps seniors over 60 to obtain assistance (in English, Mandarin, and Spanish) and live independently and safely in their homes for as long as possible.

However, going the extra mile, staff members began thinking outside the box. They were soon able to reinvent their programs for seniors. Joslyn began a curbside pickup of their weekly food distribution with cars and Senior Ride vans driving up to the distribution point. They also provide free delivery of food to the homebound.

Joslyn also began delivering their informational talks over Zoom. To increase the number of participants, they are working to film these talks, with valuable information for seniors, and place them on the City of Alhambra Facebook page and hopefully YouTube as well: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=city+of+alhambra.

Around Alhambra will keep residents up to date on their progress.

Last year also saw the beginning of Drive in Movie Night. A select number of cars drove into the Joslyn Center's parking lot at dusk and were treated to a movie on a big screen. Car radios provided the sound.

This year, the creative staff is offering day time Car Bingo. Seniors are provided with score cards while sitting in the safety of



This year, the creative staff is offering day time Car Bingo. Seniors are provided with score cards while sitting in the safety of their cars. They listen on their car FM radio as the numbers are called.

their cars. They listen on their car FM radio as the numbers are called. Winners receive prizes that have included crockpots, bath towels, snacks, and various home goods.

The next Car Bingo event will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 27. It will be in the Joslyn Center parking lot, 210 N. Chapel Ave. A donation of \$5 gets seniors 10 games of bingo (one card per game), and a dauber. Light refreshments are provided. Participants must have a working FM radio to participate. There is limited parking space, so sign up now. To register, call the Joslyn Center at 626-570-5056 during business hours, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday, or online at cityofalhambra.org.

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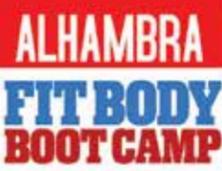
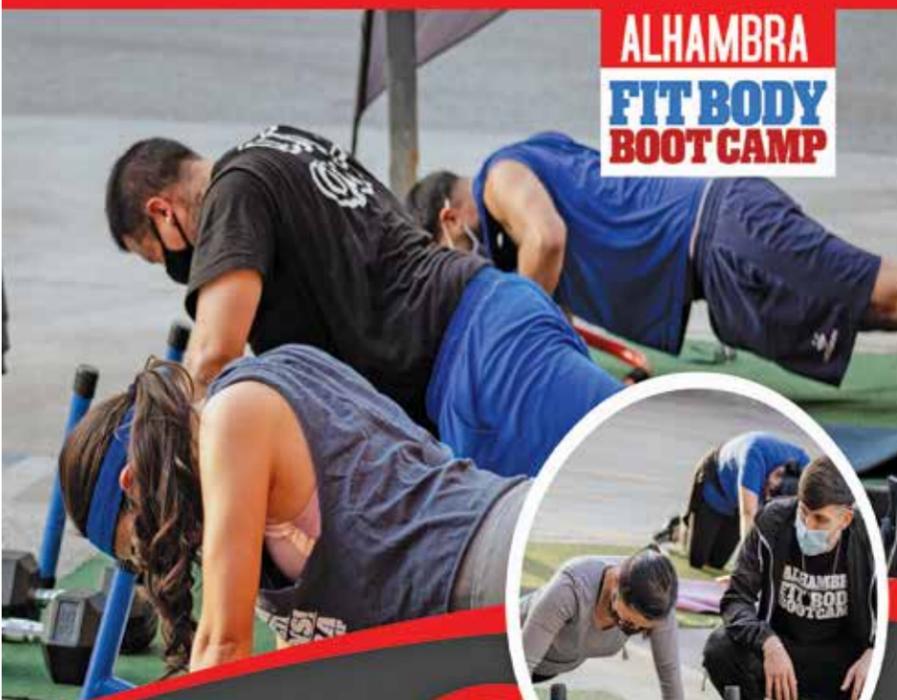
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Hate teeth cleaning? Here are some ways to make it more enjoyable

In my practice, I have patients who love to come for cleaning because they don't feel any discomfort. I also have patients who are extra sensitive and need some accommodations in order to tolerate it.

No matter what types of people are sitting in my chair, my job is to properly clean their teeth in order to help them cure the problem and prevent future ones.

If you are the second type and dental cleaning is uncomfortable for you, I hope these tips will help make your next visit more enjoyable.

1. More frequent visits: Of course when it hurts you would like to do it less often, not more. The truth is the more frequently you go, the less there is to clean. The standard time between teeth cleaning visits is six months. Sure, there is no one size fits all, but if you wait longer, the tartar build up accumulates on the tooth surface, harboring lots of bacteria and irritating

the gums. That makes the gums more sensitive to the touch and in many situations they easily bleed.

2. Take ibuprofen before and after your visit. This can help with pain during the cleaning and the soreness after. Consider taking about 400 mg. an hour before the cleaning and 400 mg. again six hours after the cleaning. This reduces the inflammatory reaction.

3. Get topical gel to numb your gums. Ask your hygienist to get you numbed for the cleaning. In my office, we have an anesthetic mouthwash and topical gel that the hygienists apply with a Q-tip onto the gums for five minutes before the cleaning. This works well for my most sensitive patients.

4. Get topical fluoride treatment. Finish your teeth cleaning appointment with the application of topical fluoride. Topical fluorides strengthen teeth, making them more resistant to acids and sugar in order to fight against cavities and sensitivity.



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.

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5. Use a desensitizing toothpaste. Do not switch to a desensitizing toothpaste completely but rather use it as an ointment. That means you will brush with your regular tooth paste, floss, and finish your hygiene regimen as usual. Then get a little desensitizing toothpaste on your tooth brush and apply it on the tooth surfaces and

don't rinse for 20 – 30 min after that. This will help if the reason for the sensitivity comes from your teeth.

6. Use an electric toothbrush. An electric toothbrush will help you in two ways: brushing better and brushing more gently. Improving your technique with the electric brush will better clean the areas that are difficult to reach and avoid gum inflammation. At the same time, the electric toothbrush will help you not to over brush your teeth and avoid recessions. Gum inflammation and gum recessions are both main reasons for increased sensitivity.

7. Get flossing: Flossing removes plaque that remains under the gums and in between your teeth after you finish brushing. Skipping it will put you at risk of gum inflammation, caries, and gum recession. If regular floss is too difficult to handle, try flosser or flossing sticks.

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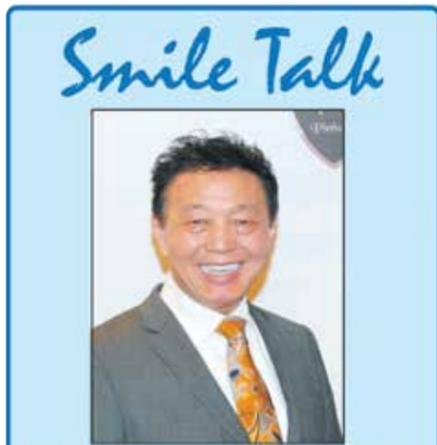
High blood pressure hard to control? It may be your gums

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 Associated 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 has 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 that gum disease may impact outcomes in patients with high blood pressure since 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 that their findings add to a body of evidence linking



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 to poorer heart health.

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.

Common sense

BY SHEILA YONEMOTO, P.T.

Common sense regarding activity level means using good judgment about how much you are able to do without causing injury. I remind patients to only do what they can do safely. This is especially true of very active individuals who find themselves less active because of an injury and wish to quickly get back to normal routine. They feel they should be doing more, despite the fact that the body is injured and cannot live up to the old standards yet.

To develop more common sense, take an honest look at what really IS versus what you WISH it were. Put things in the correct perspective to make logical decisions. Don't think "I ought to be able to," but rather, "This is how I am currently." Also remember your condition can change if you embark on a course to improve it. But it does take some planning and training.

Here are a few examples of how common sense is violated in "normal" people. Teachers with back pain end up grading papers for long hours in order to meet a deadline, sitting on the floor and bending over for four hours at a time. A group of 40-year-olds get together for the annual picnic and play tennis, basketball, and football all in one day, just like in college.

Listen to your body. It gives you signals when it has had enough of an activity. If you have reason to suspect your emotions may get the better of you, do some pre-planning. Estimate what you think your limits are and then plan to do only 60 – 70% to provide a margin for error.



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.

It is not uncommon to have flare-ups, but patients usually recover in a short time. The feeling you will never recover following one of these episodes is usually more harmful than the actual physical setback. Keep moving ahead rather than taking two steps forward and one back. There will be times you will be spared any hardships from taking those chances. But, as the professional, I feel it is my duty to keep you moving toward the target without causing unnecessary delays or unwanted changes in the course.

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Marie Callender's nearby, convenient

BY GLENN BARNETT

There actually was a woman named Marie Callender. During the 1940s, she put her prodigious baking skills to work making pies for local Orange County restaurants. By 1948, Marie and her husband and son opened up their own restaurant, and before long Marie was baking up to 200 pies a day (poor woman).

Today there are 30 Marie Callender's restaurants across the country and fortunately for us, there is one next door in Monterey Park at 220 S.

Atlantic Blvd, just south of Garvey. As of this writing they are open for indoor and outdoor seating at 50% capacity, and their full bar is open for business. Of course their easy-to-like comfort food is available for takeout and delivery. Their pot roast and beef stroganoff are as good as I remember, and I can highly recommend those delicious dishes.

Also their great soups, chili, salads, burgers, and sandwiches are totally worth the in-store dining experience as well as take out or delivery to your door. Did I mention their pie? It is hard to find fruit pies these days, but Marie Callender's has them. Some are seasonal but worth the wait. My favorite is rhubarb, but you can decide for yourself.



Coming up soon is Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9. It is a big day for both mom and Marie Callender. Make your reservations early.

A holiday tradition has been evolving at Marie Callender's. That is the creation of complete Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, with sliced turkey and all the "fixins" to enjoy at the restaurant or take home and share with the whole family. It has become a tradition for many local families such that Thanksgiving and Christmas are the restaurant's busiest days of the year. Thanksgiving can see 1,500 dinners served as well as 7,000 pies. Christmas will witness 1,200 sit down or take out dinners.

Coming up soon is Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9. It is a big day for both mom and Marie Callender. Make your reservations early. And did I mention the pie? Call for reservations (and pie) today at 626-281-9548.

Alhambra Performing Arts Center reopens in August with legendary Inesita, Flamenco Alhambra

General Manager and Artistic Director Bill Yee, who is also an award-winning ACF chef, announced the Alhambra Performing Arts Center (APAC) season will begin Saturday, Aug. 14, featuring legendary Spanish dancer Inesita and her Flamenco Alhambra. Inesita has performed with her Flamenco troupe at the Alhambra Performing Arts Center for over a dozen years to the delight of thousands. She has been dancing for over 80 years and has appeared in Bob Hope's *Here Comes the Girls* movie in the

early '50s, TV shows, major concerts, and almost every type of venue. She is well known world-wide.

Resumption of the concert series will be subject to the COVID-19 health safety protocols at the time.

APAC is starting its 15th season this year and is still hosted at Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church at 1850 W. Hellman Ave., Alhambra, which is also home to Mr. Yee's Alhambra Culinary School and L.A. Omelets Catering Services.



Yang's Kitchen, 112 W. Main St., has returned to serving diners. The restaurant, which opened in August 2019 and quickly rose to local and national prominence for its meticulously sourced Chinese cooking, served as a neighborhood grocery store throughout the pandemic, only occasionally preparing family-style meals and one-off specials. But with Los Angeles' lowered COVID infection rates and increase in vaccinations, the restaurant is reopening with updated lunchtime offerings, a reimagined brunch menu, and a new 18-seat patio.

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Mother's Day Dining guide

Mother's Day is May 9, and it may be a special day for families, but it is a great occasion for local restaurants. Many restaurants in the city have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic for about a year, and now they have reopened for indoor dining just in time to celebrate and appreciate mom's special day.

Restaurants offer dine-in, pickup, takeout, delivery options

38 Degree Ale House and Grill, 100 W. Main St. 91801 (626-282-2038), serves American cuisine and the finest craft beer on tap with a variety of selections. Open for limited indoor dining and outdoor dining, as well as takeouts and delivery via Grubhub and Postmates. 38 Degree's bar and kitchen specials, cocktail hours, menu, and hours information can be found at <http://www.38degreesalhambra.com>.

Alondra Hot Wings, 515 W. Main St. 91801 (626-576-7119), serves breakfast daily from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a variety of breakfast items like the Alondra's Benedict, the breakfast pizza, and morning cocktails to get the day started. Dine in, pick up, or have orders delivered to enjoy the best hot wings and pizza in town. Check www.lovealondras.com for more menu information, hours, and online ordering.

Angelo's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, Inc., 1540 W. Valley Blvd. 91803 (626-282-0153), a neighborhood Italian restaurant that has crafted traditional Italian food since 1962. Celebrate the special day with great selections of Sicilian-style pizzas, pastas, soups, salads, and sandwiches, while pairing them with their collection of wines. Takeout and delivery are available.

Baja Cali Fish and Tacos, 31 E. Main St. 91801 (626-940-5549) and 2001 W. Valley Blvd. 91803 (626-872-0479), brings genuine Baja Cali style foods from fish tacos, burritos, tostadas, and fresh seafood cocktails. New items on the menu includes Surf & Turf, Baja Cali Bowls, and chicken avocado burrito. Weekday specials are available and menu information can be found online at www.bajacalifishandtacos.com, or follow their social media @bajacalifishandtacos on Instagram and Facebook. Takeout, pickup, and online ordering for delivery are available.

Big Catch Seafood Restaurant, 2 S. Garfield Ave., Suite 100, Alhambra 91801 (626-282-8612), serves Asian cuisine and fresh seafood such as crawfish, lobster, shrimp, clams, crab legs, and fish. Now available for indoor and outdoor patio dining. Enjoy a dine-in happy hour special menu Monday through Sunday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 9 p.m. last call. Visit <https://bigcatchseafoodhouse.com> for menu, hours, and online ordering information.

Bun 'N Burger, 1000 E. Main St. 91801 (626-281-6777), since 1941 has served the community of Alhambra traditional homemade American and Mexican dishes such as the flamed broiled 100% beef burgers, steaks, and all-day breakfast dishes. Fresh homemade menu-do is available on the menu on Saturdays and Sundays. Outdoor seating dining and takeout orders are available. Open seven days a week with hours of service from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information on menus and restaurant hours, visit them at www.originalbunburger.com.

Charlie's Trio, 47 W. Main St. (626-284-4943) and **Vino at Trio's** wine bar, 10 N. First St. (626-284-4674), are open for indoor and outdoor dining. Delicious Italian dishes from pastas, seafood, and pizza that are freshly made to order. Pair dishes with one of their great selections of local and imported wines. Order for catering to celebrate at home. Celebrate with a Sunday brunch at Vino's Back Alley available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check their website at www.charliestrio.com and www.vinotrios.com for more information on menu, online ordering, hours, and weekly specials.

Denny's Restaurant, 369 W. Main St. 91801 (626-281-6701), is America's diner open for service 24 hours daily. Denny's has a great variety of delicious dishes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Enjoy dishes from the value menu, classic favorites, and signature slams. Outdoor seating, takeout, and online orders for delivery are available. Visit their website at www.dennys.com for menu list and restaurant specials.

The Diner on Main, 201 W. Main St. 91801 (626-281-3488), has reopened and is back for indoor and outdoor dining. This stylish retro '50s diner serves all American diner favorites like juicy burgers, steaks, sandwiches, soups, salads, and hand-dipped shakes. Breakfast menu items are served all day. Be sure to treat mom for delicious made-from-scratch pies and cakes. Menu, hours and other specials are available online at www.dineronmainrestaurant.net.

El Rancho Restaurant, 511 S Garfield Ave. 91801 (626-300-9320), located at the corner of Garfield Avenue and Mission Road, offers authentic Mexican foods with choices of tacos, burritos, combination plates, and daily specials. Enjoy popular dishes like the huevos rancheros, chile relleno, and fish tacos. Mexican juicers such as horchata, tamarindo, and jamaica are refreshing with every dish. Open for outdoor seating dining. Takeout, pickup, and online ordering available via Doordash.

Garden Cafe, 228 W. Valley Blvd. Suite #101 (626-289-1833), Chinese, American, and Hong Kong style cafe with a variety of dishes such as rice dishes, pastas, noodles, hot grilled plates, soups, and salads. Serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Available for outdoor seating dining, pickup, and takeout. Visit their website at <https://gardencafegroup.com> for menu, hours, and contact information.

Genovese's Italian Kitchen, 2900 W. Main St. (626-289-5667), offers freshly crafted homemade Italian dishes and meals for the whole family. Celebrate Mother's Day with their classic Italian dishes such as the shrimp scampi pasta, sausage and beef lasagna, and the margherita pizza. Dinner specials are available for sharing. Genovese's Italian Kitchen is open for takeout and outdoor self-seating. Visit www.genoveseskitchen.com for information on hours and menu items.

JJ2 Bakery, 150 E. Main St. #100, 91801 (626-741-5388), has a great variety of sweet treats for you and loved ones. Enjoy freshly baked Taiwanese breads, delightful cakes, and refreshing drinks. Pre-order Mother's Day cakes and treats online or in-store. Visit their website at www.jjsquaredbakery.com for hours, menu, pickup and delivery options information.

La Chuperia Cantina, 118 W. Main St., (323-427-6491), hours are 4 to 11 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 3 p.m. to midnight, Thursdays; 4 p.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays; and 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sundays.

Limerick's Tavern, 300 W. Main St., Suite #110 (626-872-1504), Alhambra's Irish modern gastropub serves classic Irish and American comfort food, craft beers on tap, and signature cocktails. Treat mom for Limerick's popular dishes such as the Irish nachos, street tacos, corned beef & cabbage, and the chicken wings. Indoor and outdoor patio dining, takeout and pickup, and delivery are available. Information on hours, happy hour specials, menu, and online ordering is available on their website at <https://www.limerickstavern.com>.

Mahan Indian Restaurant, 110 W. Main St. 91801 (626-458-6299), serves traditional Indian cuisine with a great variety of curries and tandoori dishes on the menu. Mahan also offers healthier options of vegan and gluten free specialties. The Mother's Day special consists of family dinner for four people, which includes an appetizer item Gobi manchurian wings, barbecue item of tandoori chicken, meat curry of chicken tikka masala, or vegetable curry item of chana masala, bread with a choice of plain naan and garlic naan, and two portions of basmati rice for \$59 plus tax. Open for dine-in, takeout, and delivery. Visit their website at <http://www.mahanrestaurant.com> for information on menu, hours, specials, and online orders.

Mancora Peruvian Cuisine, 240 W. Main St., Unit A (626-940-5402), a casual-dining Peruvian restaurant featuring flavorful dishes like the Tallarines Verdes Con Bistec served with Peruvian pesto spaghetti topped with tender grilled milanesa, and Arroz con Mariscos prepared with rice and seafood. Open for indoor and outdoor seating dining. Takeout, pickup, and online orders for delivery is available. Visit their website at <http://www.mancoraperuvian.com> for hours, menu, and online ordering information.

Marie Callender's Restaurant, 220 S. Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park 91754 (626-281-9548), offers a daily lunch, dinner menu along with their delicious famous pies and desserts. Marie Callender's has an extensive list of dishes on their menus from burgers, pastas, sandwiches, desserts, and the famous Heartland Chicken Pot Pie. Delicious pair and share dishes are great for the celebration. Lunch combo menu has a great selection of dishes from burgers to comfort classics. Pick up some of Marie's famous pies and desserts to sweeten the occasion. Restaurant hours, happy hour specials, and full menu information are available at www.mariecallenders.com. Pickup, takeout, delivery services, and indoor dining are available seven days a week.

Phoenix Inn Restaurant & Dessert, 208 E. Valley Blvd. 91801 (626-299-1238), is a place to go for fast-casual dining, or simply a nice sweet dessert. They offer Chinese cuisine and desserts with many delicious and savory items on the menus like the Phoenix special shrimp & pork wonton soup, deep fried squid w/ spicy salt, shrimp & glazed walnuts, sliced prime rib w/ Korean barbecue sauce. Treat mom with sweet desserts and drinks such as their signature puddings, rolls, and mixed fruit delight. Check out their lunch and dinner special menu and new hours of service at www.phoenixfood.us.

Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 2234 W. Valley Blvd. 91801 (626 289-7851), since 1954 has been the go-to gathering place for occasions and celebrations. Bunch of lunch is back on the menu, and all Shakey's classic dishes such as thin crust pizzas, PCM combos are available daily. Bring home their handcrafted pizzas, crispy fried chicken, and signature Mojo Potatoes and make it a "PCM" (pizza chicken mojo) combo night. Indoor dining is now available. Visit www.shakeys.com for store hours, online or phone-in orders, delivery and pickup options.

Steven's Steak & Seafood House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce 90040 (323-723-9856), has a wide variety of dishes on the menu such as their famous prime ribs, steaks, fresh seafood, pastas, salads, and sandwiches. Pair a dish with a glass of wine from their collection of wines. New lunch menu has a great variety of options from world-famous sandwiches, burgers, and hot dogs, and salads. For information on restaurant hours, menu list, reservations, check their website at www.stevenssteakhouse.com. Special events and entertainment are postponed due to CDC guidelines and will return soon.

Ritter's Steam Kettle Cooking, 1800 W. Valley Blvd. 91803 (626-872-6464), has a unique style of Creole/ Cajun cooking where dishes are made to order and cooked using steam kettles without overcooking. Famous flavorful pan roast, delicious Cajun seafood dishes, Po' Boy sandwiches, and gumbo. Indoor dining, pickup, takeout, and online ordering are available Tuesday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday through Sunday from noon to 8:30 p.m. For more information on Ritter's menu, online ordering, and hours, visit www.rittersskc.com.

Saigon Eden, 29 S. Garfield Ave., 91801 (626-289-0239), serves authentic Vietnamese dishes with a blend of unique flavors and textures. They have a wide selection and choices of delicious appetizers and desserts, including banh mi (French bread sandwiches), fried rice noodles, and noodle soups. Local favorites are

the pho soups and banh xeo (pan fried rice crepe with shrimp). Indoor dining is now available. Restaurant hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Sichuan Impression, 1900 W. Valley Blvd. 91803 (626-283-4622), serves premium Sichuanese cuisine with a great variety of spicy and non-spicy items on the menu. Indoor dining, takeout, and pickup orders available. Visit their website at www.sichuanimpression.com for menu and hours of restaurant information.

Tastea, 349 E. Main St., Suite 104, 91801 (626-289-8886), serves crafted and refreshing smoothie and tea drinks. Treat mom for some treats and order online or through their app and earn rewards. Try their spring drink flavors like the Cantaloupe Crush and the Tropical Bliss. Or get a cold or hot milk tea drink to soothe the weather mood. Tastea is temporarily available only for online orders such as pickup and delivery at this time. Visit www.gotastea.com for online orders, menu, and store hours.

The Hat, 1 W. Valley Blvd. (626-282-0140), this casual chain has served piled-high pastrami sandwiches and large portions of fries since 1951. For fast and casual dining, order for takeouts and outdoor self-seating. Visit <https://www.thehat.com> for information on menu, online ordering, gift cards, hours, and other locations.

The Shredded Carrot, 2428 W. Valley Blvd., Suite D (626-660-6071), has a wide selection of delicious daily made and baked sweet treats. Mother's Day themed cakes are available for pre-orders and walk-in orders. Cakes with or without fresh flowers will be available in a variety of flavors and sizes starting at \$30 and up. Call, or visit their website at 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), offers authentic Thai dishes like Thai BBQ chicken, yellow curry, spicy basil fishcake with bamboo shoots, Thai Paradise fried rice, Tom Yum Paradise noodle soup, and Pad Thai. Available for to-go and delivery orders only at this time. Contact The Thai Paradise for more information on hours and special menu, or visit them at www.thethaiparadise.com.

Twohey's Restaurant, 424 Fair Oaks Ave., South Pasadena, has relocated out of Alhambra and continues to serve classic comfort food. Experience their iconic classic diner theme and features a full bar, two outdoor patios, a soda fountain counter, and a private dining room. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner popular favorites and famous dishes are available for socially distant indoor and heated outdoor patio dining. Information on hours, menu, and new location, visit <http://www.twoheys.com>.

Wing Stop, 100 E. Main St., Suite 150, 91801 (626-282-9464), serves finger licking chicken wings with many options of flavors to choose from. Order by group packs 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. Available for carryout and delivery services, including the option for no-contact delivery. Check their website at www.wingstop.com for information on menu, restaurant hours, and other special deals.

Yang's Kitchen, 112 W. Main St. 91801 (626-281-1035), serves healthy, fresh, and locally sourced ingredients and delicious food. Lunch menu is available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open for limited outdoor patio seating, takeout, pickup, and online ordering. Marketplace available with limited goods and pantry items. For more information on menu, restaurant hours, takeout ordering online orders, hours, and menu, visit www.yangskitchenla.com.





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.

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.



An outline of California's rent control law

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, statewide rent control in California for most residential properties became a reality. The rent control laws, however, do not apply to a rental property that was issued a certificate of occupancy in the last 15 years. The statutes also do not apply to most single-family residences, provided that (a) the owner is not a real estate investment trust, a corporation, or a limited liability company where one of the members is a corporation, and (b) the required statutory language is included in the lease agreement for tenancies commencing or renewing on or after July 1, 2020.

Also commencing on Jan. 1, 2020, unless otherwise permitted by California law, a landlord cannot increase the gross rental rate for a rental unit over a continuous 12-month period more than the change in the regional cost of living index where the property is located plus 5%, and gross rental rate increases are subject to a maximum cap of 10% over a continuous 12-month period regardless of the change in the cost of living index. The gross rental rate is determined using the lowest rental amount charged in any month in the immediately preceding 12 months. Even if a rent increase does not exceed the amount permitted under the statute, a landlord is prohibited from increasing rent more than twice in any continuous 12-month period.

Although the law took effect on Jan. 1, 2020, the statute retroactively applies to all rent increases that occurred on or after March 15, 2019. If a landlord increased the rent amount more than the amount permitted under law, after March 15, 2019, and prior to Jan. 1, 2020, the rent amount on Jan. 1, 2020, is reduced to the amount of the rent on March 15, 2019, plus the maximum permissible increase under the statute. The landlord does not have to refund the tenant any rent payments that were in excess of the permissible rent increase that the tenant made prior to Jan. 1, 2020.

If a rental unit is vacant, a landlord is permitted to reset the gross rental rate for the unoccupied unit to market rental rates. The statute, however, prevents a landlord from terminating the tenancy of a tenant that has continuously occupied a rental unit for at least 12 months, unless the landlord has "just cause" for removing the tenant. The statute establishes two different "just cause" standards.

At-Fault Just Cause: A landlord is permitted to terminate a tenancy for "at-fault just cause," which includes, among other reasons, the tenant's (a) failure to pay rent, (subject state and local Pandemic Eviction Restrictions), (b) criminal activity or use of the rental unit for an unlawful purpose, (c) breach of a material term in the lease, or (d) refusal to execute a written renewal or extension of the lease after a landlord's written request. If a lease violation is curable (i.e., late payment of rent), a landlord must give a tenant the reasonable opportunity to cure as mandated by the law.

A landlord may also terminate a tenancy for "no-fault just cause," (subject state and local Pandemic Eviction Restrictions) which includes, among other reasons, (a) if the landlord or a member of the landlord's family wants to occupy the unit, (b) if the landlord wants to demolish or substantially remodel the property, or (c) if the landlord must comply with a local ordinance or order issued by a governmental agency. If a landlord wants to terminate a tenancy for "no-fault just cause," it must compensate the tenant with relocation assistance equivalent to one month's rent.

A landlord is required to give a tenant notice of certain rights under the rent control laws by providing the tenant with the required statutory language. For leases entered into on or after July 1, 2020, the statutory language must be included as an addendum to the lease or as a separate written notice signed by the tenant. For leases existing prior to July 1, 2020, the notice must be provided to the tenant no later than Aug. 1, 2020, or an addendum to the lease can be added by said date.

The rent control laws will expire on Jan. 1, 2030, unless the legislature extends or reenacts them.

California's new rent control laws do not preempt existing municipal rent control ordinances that are stricter (as long as they comply with Costa-Hawkins, which prohibits local governments from establishing rent control on apartment units built after the earlier of (a) Feb. 1, 1995, or (b) the date established by a municipality's local rent control ordinance to exempt newly constructed properties). As such, landlords must ensure they cross-reference any local ordinances.

Please seek professional legal counsel to confirm this rent control outline.



New California real estate laws allow conversion of garages into ADUs (accessory dwelling units).

Once upon a time ... in real estate

Once upon a time ... in Alhambra's real estate, a city vigorously enforced zoning restrictions on converting garages into additional units in R-1 zoned neighborhoods. But that was "once upon a time."

Due to the affordable housing crisis and COVID-19 impacts on rentals, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed several bills allowing homeowners to construct additional units on their property in R-1 zoned neighborhoods on Oct. 19, 2019. These bills significantly supported the emerging effort to allow additional housing units in neighborhoods previously zoned for one home per lot.

The additional units are officially called ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units) and empower homeowners in California to build a small freestanding home, sometimes called granny flat, and convert garages into residential spaces.

The movie *Once Upon A Time ... in Hollywood* captures the transition between one era of Hollywood and movie making into a new period. And this current time in California real estate may mark a key moment of transition in the zoning laws of our state.

The governor said as a result of the acute affordable housing crisis in the Golden State, he decided to take this action to increase the housing stock of affordable housing. Effectively the definition of R-1 zoning has been redefined. The true impact will be evaluated during upcoming years.

Gov. Newsom has set a goal to construct 3.5 million new housing units in the state by 2025. A recent report by the California Department of Housing and Community Development shows that 80,000 homes are built in our state each year on average.

A key component to reaching the governor's aggressive goal is to redefine zoning and allow additional units in R-1 zoned single family neighborhoods. In some cases, garages can be utilized and such a conversion of a garage has the added benefit of starting with a partially constructed building. The reduced size of these additional units along with increased supply in theory would dictate more modest

rental rates.

Homes located in single family zoned neighborhoods are expensive. In Alhambra, nearly half of a sale price on a single-family residence is generally for the lot the house is located on. In other words, Alhambra dirt is expensive.

Reasons for this desirability of homes in R-1 neighborhoods stem from the characteristic of lower density. Lower density leads to less noise, easier parking, greater privacy, less street traffic, and space for a family backyard. Critics of R-1 zoning argue that it exacerbates income inequalities, contributes to climate change, and is an inefficient use of land.

In some cases, a second ADU may be added to a property. These units are called JADU (Junior Accessory Dwelling Units). A JADU can not be larger than 500 square feet. Both the ADU and JADU may be rented but not sold separately from the primary residence.

Municipalities vary on their permitting costs, building codes, and position on Airbnb rentals. A concern is that Airbnb use of ADUs could reduce local hotel revenues. An ADU must have a minimum of 150 square feet and associated parking requirements have been waived.

As the movement to do away with single family residence zoning gains momentum, there is an unusual alliance of groups. Social activists say eliminating R-1 zoning will increase affordable housing. Real estate investors, who usually are at odds with social activists, are in increasing numbers supporting this movement since it will increase the "income profile" of a property and produce greater profits. Homeowner organizations have been somewhat quiet so far on this debate, but as it gains traction, they likely will become more vocal.

The goal of redefining single family zoning may be seen as noble, but the ultimate results and consequences are yet to be determined. And as Quentin Tarantino captured the feeling of an era past in his movie in the late 1960s, *Once Upon A Time ... in Hollywood*, these recently passed California laws on ADUs may mark the passing of one era to a new reality in real estate.

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Developing the unique driving feel of the GR 86 through friendly rivalry with Subaru.

Toyota Gazoo Racing presents world debut of new GR 86

On April 5, Toyota Gazoo Racing (TGR) gave the new GR 86 its world debut in an online event held together with Subaru Corporation (Subaru). Following the GR Supra and GR Yaris, the new GR 86 is the third global model in TGR's GR series of sports cars. The new GR 86 is scheduled to launch in Japan in autumn 2021.

Toyota developed the original 86 with the goal of delivering the dreams and the joy of driving inherent in sports cars to its customers. Conceived as a front-engine, rear-wheel-drive vehicle with intuitive handling and instinctive responsiveness, the 86 launched in 2012. Since then, the vehicles have been used as base models for a variety of participatory motorsports, including rallies, one-make races, gymkhana, and dirt trials, while others have been uniquely customized. A total of more than 200,000 86s have been sold worldwide, playing the role of reliable partners for their owners.

TGR's new GR 86 and Subaru's new BRZ were jointly developed. Yet, although the two vehicles share the same vehicle base, the two companies focused on imbuing their respective models with a distinct driving feel. While engaging in friendly rivalry with the BRZ development team, TGR sought to develop a vehicle that would provide happiness to 86 fans, and realize an evolution of the 86's unique driving sensations. As a result, the new GR 86 is specially designed for sports performance, and provides direct and satisfying driving performance of the highest order.

In 2019, Toyota and Subaru entered into a new business and capital alliance, as part of which the two companies committed to jointly engage in making ever-better cars. The new GR 86/BRZ is not only a concrete example of this commitment, but also represents a new challenge for both companies, as they seek to subvert conventional ideas of cooperation in the automotive industry. Going forward, Toyota and Subaru intend to further ally their respective strengths, deepen their relationship, and so pursue the possibilities of making ever-better cars.

Key features of the GR 86

Interior and exterior designs embrace responsive handling and functional beauty

Exterior: With fender tops that extend horizontally to the beltline, the GR 86

boasts a stance distinctive of front-engine, rear-wheel-drive vehicles. Its low, horizontal underbody and narrow cabin rear combine to create a broad, low-center-of-gravity appearance.

The front of the vehicle features the GR-specific Functional MATRIX Grille, which fuses performance and emotionality.

Interior: The operating system — which includes the various switches and the horizontally accented instrument panel — is optimally located to create a space that enables the driver can concentrate on driving.

The display features a 7-inch TFT screen. Its opening animation sequence is inspired by the piston movements of the GR 86's horizontally opposed engine, and fosters a sense of excitement even before the drive begins.

The evolutionary new 2.4L horizontally opposed four-cylinder engine retains the unique qualities of the 86.

Sporting a lightweight, compact engine with a low center-of-gravity in line with previous iterations, the GR 86 increases its displacement size from 2.0 to 2.4L. The engine delivers superior driving performance as a consequence, achieving 0-100km/h acceleration in just 6.3 seconds — down from the 7.4 seconds of the outgoing model. Engine responsiveness has also been enhanced, providing smooth, stress-free sensations from low to high rpms.

Inheriting an extremely low center-of-gravity front-engine, rear-wheel-drive package, the new GR86 provides a step-change in agility.

The dimensions of the new GR 86 are almost identical to the previous model. Limiting both the overall height and hip-point of the vehicle helps lower the center-of-gravity and enhance turning performance, and so delivering the agility required of an 86.

The use of aluminum for the roof panels results in a lower center-of-gravity, while aluminum fenders and updated front seats and mufflers contribute to reduced weight.

Body rigidity has been improved, with the goal of offering pleasurable handling in all speed ranges — from urban driving to the upper limits of performance. Torsional rigidity has been enhanced by approximately 50% over the previous model for greater steering stability.



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Javier Mendez
 Owner and operator
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 At the Kerechuk building
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Going a million miles

What does it take to keep a vehicle going forever?

In all my years in the automotive service and repair business, I have often had the pleasure of helping customers reliably drive vehicles into the hundreds of thousands of miles. At other times, I have had to deliver bad news about costly repairs that could have been avoided. Two keys to high mileage and reliability are fluid services and regular inspections. More frequent fluid services may be in order, depending on use conditions.

Oil change intervals have evolved to as much as 15,000 miles with specially formulated full synthetic oil. The oil in your

engine plays many roles. Besides lubrication, it helps cool engine parts, forms seals, and cleans and prevents corrosion. The oil's ability to do these things deteriorates with use. Most vehicles today are equipped with on-board monitoring systems to let you know when it is time for service. Early systems simply counted miles whereas modern systems take into consideration driving conditions. If you normally drive short trips and stop and go, or if you drive in extreme temperatures or carry heavy loads, your engine will need servicing more frequently. It is also likely that some oil will be consumed by your engine when it has higher mileage, so the level should be checked on a monthly basis.

Transmission fluid is very important as well. Fluid intervals have gone from the common 30,000 miles to a "lifetime fill." Synthetic formulas have contributed to these extended intervals. Dip sticks have even been eliminated on many applications. While the fluids can stay in most transmission longer than before, extreme conditions

still cause oxidation and chemical breakdown. I have seen some transmissions stop working normally simply due to lack of fluid service that caused build-up within the transmission.

Another often overlooked vital fluid is brake fluid. The service interval varies from two years to never. Dirt, contamination, and moisture from the surrounding air will affect the fluid and your brake systems performance. Moisture build-up alone can lead to expensive and avoidable repairs.

Regular inspections are another important maintenance point. Many repairs can be dealt with for reasonable cost if caught early. Leaks, for example, can be dealt with easily when minor. Often valve cover or camshaft solenoid leaks go unidentified and lead to rubber suspension bushings saturation, causing them to fall apart.

Talk to your trusted automotive service provider, and make sure you are addressing the topics of repair and maintenance in line with your long-term goals with the vehicle in your driveway.

Jo's Garage Inc.
 Automotive Service and Repair

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

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