

# AROUND ALHAMBRA



JULY 2023 | GATEWAY TO SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

[www.alhambrachamber.org](http://www.alhambrachamber.org)

## Alhambra Breaks Ground on 44 Affordable Housing Units

On June 21, 2023, Alhambra's civic leadership gathered in a dirt lot on Chapel Avenue just north of Main Street for the groundbreaking celebration of a new, affordable housing development. Located in downtown Alhambra on a former city-owned surface parking lot, the Chapel Ave Apartments is a 44-unit affordable housing development with 24 units dedicated to Permanent Supportive Housing, including seven units dedicated to Transition Age Youth; 19 units for large families; and one manager's unit; being developed by Related California.

With over 45,000 square feet of residential unit space plus over 1,000 square feet dedicated to ground floor retail space, the five-story building will include amenities such as a covered playground, roof deck, community room, and shared laundry facility; residents will also have access to public transportation. A pedestri-

an bridge will connect the site to the adjacent city-owned parking structure.

According to Alhambra Mayor Adele Andrade-Stadler who spoke at the ceremony, "Today marks the beginning of a journey that will pave the way for more affordable housing in Alhambra. The Chapel project symbolizes our commitment to building a bright future and improving housing opportunities for our residents."

Local funders in the development include the City of Alhambra which contributed \$6.52 million in land and capital subsidy, the Los Angeles County Development Authority which contributed \$3.2 million in Affordable Housing Trust Funds through its NOFA Round 27 and 22 Federally-supported Project-Based Vouchers, and the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust which also contributed \$1.76 million in capital subsidy.



## "Meet the Managers" of Alhambra

Hundreds of businesses call Alhambra home. Many long-time, family-run businesses are well known and even beloved in our community, like Sam of Sam's Barbershop or any number of the restaurants on Valley Blvd. from Aloha Food Factory to You Kitchen. The city is also lucky to

have the investment of many retail corporations that find some of their busiest locations are here. Even these national (and sometimes international!) companies have local people running the stores and leading their teams... >>see **Meet the Managers of Alhambra, P11**

**ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Join the Alhambra Unified School District Team & be part of the **BEST WORKPLACE** in San Gabriel Valley!  
 Employment Opportunities: <https://www.edjoin.org/alhambrausd>

**Congratulations to these 2023 READERS CHOICE AWARD WINNERS:**

**FAVORITE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- Alhambra High School
- Brightwood Elementary School
- Emery Park Elementary School
- Fremont Elementary School
- Garfield Elementary School
- Granada Elementary School
- Marguerita Elementary School
- Mark Keppel High School
- Martha Baldwin Elementary School
- Monterey Highlands Elementary School
- Park Elementary School
- Ramona Elementary School
- Repetto Elementary School
- San Gabriel High School
- William Northrup Elementary School

**FAVORITE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Alhambra Unified School District

## AUSD, AEF + District Schools Rack Up 2023 Readers Choice Award Recognitions

Southern California News Group's June 25th issues of the Pasadena Star News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune and Whittier Daily News announced Alhambra Unified School District the winner of the 2023 Readers Choice Awards for Best Workplace and Favorite School District.

In addition, the Alhambra Educational Association won Favorite Nonprofit and three AUSD high schools and twelve elementary schools were voted Favorite Public Schools.

"We're thrilled that Alhambra USD has been recognized by the community as the 2023 Best Workplace," said Superintendent Denise Jaramillo. "At AUSD, we embrace a culture of inclusion and belonging, hire exceptional employees who become great colleagues, and treat all employees and points of view with respect. Our mentoring process and professional development opportunities are designed to build our leadership bench and... >>see **Readers Choice Award, P14**

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**FIREWORKS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE STREETS AS WELL**  
**CLEAR BAGS ONLY, PLEASE SEE GUIDELINES ON BACK**

**4TH OF JULY**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Prohibited: Alcohol, Smoking, BBQing, Fireworks, Coolers of any size, Non-clear bags and Weapons of any kind.  
 All bags, wagons, strollers, etc. are subject to search.

 **FOOD GAMES LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FIREWORKS @ 9 PM**

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**TUE JULY 4 2023**

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*Mayor's Corner*

By Mayor Adele Andrade-Stadler

As we look ahead to celebrate our nation's birthday with our families and friends, I feel it only appropriate to write a few things about leadership. It was Thomas Jefferson who wrote that governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

The consent of the governed would be the voters, our residents, our readers. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to lead and placing your trust in us. Trust that we are thoughtful, hardworking, troubleshooters that want the best for our constituency. Building trust comes with accountability, acknowledging your needs, listening, and meeting people where they are at.

Using data created by our surveys, we have identified your priorities for the city. The use of our staff and advisors is critical to making the priorities a reality. So it's appropriate to say building trust, collectively, drives solutions and helps make priorities happen so they don't fall to bureaucracy.

Barriers to trust can also be in the form of misinformation, a difference in opinion, and a lack of confidence of how services are administered.

Local, county, state, and federal gov-



**Mayor Adele Andrade-Stadler**

ernments need to dismantle old systems that have outlived their capacity to build confidence. We need to build new systems and invest in them through innovation. Innovations inside our city's departments create opportunities for working together to resolve problems and build trust.

If we are not starting from a place of trust, we cannot move mountains, and Alhambra has them.

Powering through the bureaucracy is the best that leaders can do!

Happy 4th of July!

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**LIFE-SAVING SWIM LESSONS**  
 兒童游泳課程  
 LECCIONES DE NATACIÓN PARA SALVAR VIDAS

**免費 FREE GRATIS**

**DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (DHH) CHILDREN**

THE YMCA OF WEST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY will offer life-saving swim lessons to Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children by integrating them and their siblings into our Saturday Swim Lesson program.

**失聰和聽力障礙(DHH)兒童游泳課程**

YMCA 為失聰和聽力障礙兒童提供游泳課程, 通過和他們的兄弟姐妹一起參加這課程來學習游泳技能。

**Niños sordos y con problemas de audición**

La YMCA de West San Gabriel Valley ofrecerá lecciones de natación para salvar vidas a los niños sordos y con problemas de audición (DHH) integrándolos a ellos y a sus hermanos en nuestro programa de lecciones de natación de los sábados.

- Children 2.5 years of age to 13 years old
- American Sign Language interpreters
- 50 minute Swim Lessons/4 times a month on Saturday mornings
- Instructors: American Red Cross Certified Lifesaving, First Aid/AED trained.
- The Swim Angelfish methodology: encompasses areas of focus and strategies for overcoming roadblocks with Autism, anxiety, motor issues, physical and sensory delays, discomfort, and trauma.
- Licensed Occupational Therapists will provide an internal audit to ensure the needs of the children are being met.
- Our inclusive swim lessons will allow DHH children and their siblings to develop friendships by participating in this integrated program.
- While SAFETY AROUND WATER has been a mission for YMCAs throughout California for over a decade, our goal is to help incorporate this mission into a space that can reach children and their families by offering them a comprehensive and progressive swim lesson program developed around our SAFETY AROUND WATER mission.

- 2 歲半至13歲的兒童
- 手語翻譯員註場
- 50 分鐘游泳課/週六早上 /每月4次

- Niños de 2,5 años a 13 años
- Clases de natación de 50 minutos/4 veces al mes los sábados por la mañana

**YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley**

401 E. Corto Street, Alhambra, CA 91801  
 626-576-0226 / 626-660-6681

Email: [info@wsgvymca.org](mailto:info@wsgvymca.org) • [www.wsgvymca.org](http://www.wsgvymca.org)

Grants funded by:



**EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**



# GOLF BALL DROP!



**Thursday, July 27, 2023  
6:00 pm  
Alhambra Golf Course**

**\$50 per Golf Ball or  
3 Golf Balls for \$100**

## Do you have a heart for the communities in the West San Gabriel Valley?

Join our Golf Ball Drop! All funds raised will stay here at our YMCA and be used to support programs that benefit children, families, veterans, and seniors of the West San Gabriel Valley.

Golf balls cost \$50 each or 3 golf balls for \$100. We are selling 1,000 golf balls, and the winner will receive \$5,000. Golf balls can be purchased at the YMCA front desk, from YMCA Board members, or on our secure website [www.wsgvymca.org](http://www.wsgvymca.org).

The golf ball that goes into the hole will win. If there is more than one ball in the hole, the \$5,000 will be evenly divided among the winners. If no golf ball goes into the hole, the golf ball closest to the hole is the winner. The winner does not need to be present at the actual event. Payment will be made to the winner(s) by check from the YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley.

Be creative! Pool your money with friends and family to purchase multiple golf balls. The more golf balls you buy, the greater your chances to win \$5,000.

Your donation is fully tax-deductible. Tax ID# 95-1644051.



### YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley

401 E. Corto Street  
Alhambra, CA 91801  
626-576-0226  
626-660-6681

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**現在  
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幼兒園 2-5歲  
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5歲-8年級

### YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley Preschool

# NEW PRESCHOOL NOW ENROLLING NEW BUILDING

**Learn-Explore-Discover  
Where Imagination Happens**

- Accredited and Qualified Teachers
- Flexible Hours

**Now Enrolling**  
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Afterschool  
Program  
TK-8th grade



- Daily Snacks and Meals
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YMCA 401 E. Corto St. Alhambra, CA 91801  
[www.wsgvymca.org](http://www.wsgvymca.org)  
Y: 626-576-0226  
License Facility#198021180 and #198021181

Contact the Y for more information:  
Preschool Director: Nicole Costanzo-Ponce  
Cell: 626-222-4676  
Email: [PreschoolDirector@wsgvymca.org](mailto:PreschoolDirector@wsgvymca.org)



# AROUND ALHAMBRA

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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 [AA@alhambrachamber.org](mailto:AA@alhambrachamber.org)

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## News & Notes



### > Credit Union of Southern California

Credit Union of Southern California celebrated the Grand Re-Opening of their Alhambra branch on Thursday, June 15. The branch is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment. To make an appointment, please visit [cusocal.org](http://cusocal.org).

*From Left to Right: Samantha Yates, Sarah Cisneros, Erik Fuentes, Charlene Martinez, Suzi Dunkel-Soto*



### > City of Alhambra's Annual 4th of July Fireworks Celebration

The City of Alhambra's annual 4th of July Fireworks Celebration will once again be held at Almansor Park from 4:00pm to 9:00pm. Attendees can enjoy games, live music, and food vendors free of charge. The fireworks display will start at 9pm. Please note that the gates to the park will close at 8:55pm.

To ensure safety, certain items and activities are prohibited, including alcohol, smoking, BBQing, fireworks, coolers larger than 5QT's, and any kind of weapons. Security personnel will conduct searches of bags, coolers, wagons, and strollers.

Road closures will be implemented for the event, specifically South Almansor Street between Corto St and East San Marino Avenue, as well as East Adams Avenue between South Almansor Street and South New Avenue. Additionally, parking is not allowed on South Almansor Street, South Granada Avenue, South Vega Street, and the section of East Los Higos Street east of South Sierra Vista Avenue from 8:00am to 11:00pm.

For more information about the event, please visit [cityofalhambra.org](http://cityofalhambra.org) or call (626) 570-3242.



### > Live Under a Bridge for \$250,000?

At the edge of Alhambra's city limits, a unique, one-bedroom property was listed on the market in early June for \$250,000, a bargain considering the median local home price stands at around \$785,000. The interesting twist? This petite apartment, with its terrace overlooking a stream and rooftop patio adjacent to a road bridge, is situated underneath that very bridge. Built in 1949, it lacks a designated parking space and needs a significant renovation; however, the 450-square-foot home has gotten a significant amount of attention from prospective buyers and the simply curious, according to Douglas Lee, the Compass Real Estate agent handling the property. In fact, this quirky home has garnered coverage in international news, which perhaps puts Alhambra on the radar for new visitors and sightseers.

*Photo courtesy of Douglas Lee of Compass Real Estate*

## The Chamber View

# Alhambra: A Community of Leaders

*By John Bwarie*

*CEO, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce*

For the past two years, I've been getting to know and appreciate what makes the Alhambra community vibrant and unique within the region. When I reflect on the meetings, events, and day-to-day interactions I've been part of, what clearly stands out is not just the people, but the active role the people take as leaders here.

From the time I was an 8th grade school president, I've spent my entire life building relationships to serve the community. And that's what I see here: people taking on roles to serve and improve their community. I've had the honor of working with some of the country's largest businesses including Apple and the Walt Disney Company, and I've also been able to serve and support local businesses in Alhambra, like those along Valley Blvd. and Main Street. Consistently, no matter the size of the organization, what makes the differ-

ence is the people, and more importantly, the roles they take within the community.

From City Manager Jessica Bquist to bank branch managers like Ivan Santosa (BMO/Bank of the West) to Miriam Mendez (Wells Fargo) and Planning Commissioners like Noya Wang and Wing Ho to business owners like Jaime Alvarez of Baja Cali and Mike McCullen of Iona Workspace, Alhambra is full of committed leaders. Each of these individuals represents dozens of active, engaged residents, employees, and business owners who are committed to bringing others along in doing what's right for our community.

Leadership is about taking a path with others. The Chamber is here to support our entire community as we move forward together. Our Day of Service gives everyone a chance to be involved, and so many stepped up to lead. Voting on issues to get more affordable housing built takes



**John Bwarie**  
*CEO Alhambra Chamber of Commerce*

leadership. And volunteering to serve on a nonprofit board – offering your time, talent, and resources – moves the community forward. Leadership is a process that begins with people. Alhambra has the people to lead our community to meet its potential.

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Tax Tips

# Tax Withholding

By Michael Aston EA

Whether someone is entering the workforce for the first time or changing jobs, filling out new hire paperwork can feel overwhelming. One of the forms employees must complete is a W-4, Employee's Withholding Certificate. This form tells employers how much money to withhold from the employee's pay for federal income tax. Individuals can also submit a new W-4 when their personal or financial situation changes and they want to update their withholding.

It's important for employees to know the correct amount of tax to withhold so they don't owe too much money when filing their tax return or have too much money withheld from their paychecks.

**Get tax withholding right.**

Federal income tax is a pay-as-you-go tax. Taxpayers pay the tax through their employers as they earn or receive income during the year. Employers take out (withhold) income tax from employee paychecks and pay it to the IRS in the taxpayer's name.

If an employee doesn't have enough tax withheld, they may face an unexpected tax bill and a possible penalty when they file a tax return next year. If they overpay or have too much tax withheld during the year, the employee will likely get a tax refund when they file their tax return. Adjusting the tax withheld up front may mean a bigger paycheck throughout the year.



**Michael Aston, E.A.**  
Alhambra Tax Center  
michael@alhambrataxcenter.com

**Taxpayers can use the Tax Withholding Estimator**

If a taxpayer isn't sure how much tax they should have withheld, they can use the Tax Withholding Estimator tool on IRS.gov to:

- Estimate their federal income tax withholding.
- See how their refund, take-home pay or tax due is affected by their withholding amount.

This information is from IRS Tax Tip 2023-82, June 15, 2023.

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



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Your Insurance

# What To Do After A Hit and Run

Here are five "dos and don'ts" for handling a hit and run

By Regina Talbot

When one party in an accident flees, it's important to stay to talk to witnesses and the police.

1. DO call 911 if you are in your car or someone is injured.
2. DON'T follow the fleeing driver. Leaving the scene of the accident could put you in a compromising position. You might miss getting eyewitness accounts — and police could question who's really at fault.
3. DO get as much information about the driver, car, and accident as possible, including:
  - License plate number
  - The other vehicle's make, model, and color
  - Description of damage to the other vehicle (take photos if possible)
  - Which direction the other vehicle was headed
  - Photos of the damage to your vehicle
  - Location, date, time, and cause of the accident
4. DON'T wait to call the police or your insurance company. Immediately file a police report or an accident claim. The official accident report will help police look for the



**Regina Talbot**  
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missing driver and be useful when you file your accident claim.

5. DO ask witnesses if they can supply additional information about the accident. If they give you or the police a statement, be sure to get their names and contact information.

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

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JULY 2023



# ALHAMBRA Restaurant of the Week

PRESENTED BY THE ALHAMBRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Enjoy delicious, local cuisine!

The **Alhambra Restaurant of the Week (ROTW)** highlights the unique flavors of our community. Every week, we showcase the diverse culinary offerings that represent the best of local dining in the City of Alhambra!

July 10 to July 16



**85°C Bakery Cafe** is not an ordinary cafe. Each cup of coffee is individually brewed with Guatemalan coffee beans for a smooth, rich taste. All of their drinks are handcrafted and made to order. Each store features an in-shop bakery with over 50 varieties of pastries baked fresh hourly. Their gourmet cakes are uniquely crafted by our award-winning master chefs.

Visit them at 300 W Main St #101, Alhambra



July 17 to July 23



With their flair for having a good time, warm hospitality and passion for excellent seafood, founders Yo'Daddy and Yo'Mama opened the first **Boiling Crab** in 2004. Now family and friends can experience the fun and taste of a backyard crab fest in the Alhambra neighborhood at this restaurant!

Visit them at 129 W Main St, Alhambra



July 24 to July 30



**Vittoria Pizza Alhambra** showcases a wide selection of pizza options, ranging from classic favorites like Cheese and Pepperoni to more adventurous creations. With a variety of toppings and crust options available, diners have the freedom to customize their pizzas to suit their preferences.

Visit them at 2622 W Valley, Alhambra



July 31 to August 6



**Sage Bistro** stands out as a fresh and innovative restaurant that skillfully combines the best of American and Italian culinary traditions while incorporating a captivating Asian twist. Step into this contemporary dining establishment, and you'll find yourself immersed in a world of delectable flavors and enticing aromas.

Visit them at 521 W Main St, Alhambra



Follow the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about these restaurants or visit [alhambraeats.com](http://alhambraeats.com).





*All Around the Town*

# The Parks and Recreation Department Stays Busy

By Glenn Barnett

No government agency does more to improve the quality of life in Alhambra than the Parks and Recreation Department (P&R). They are responsible for our parks and so much more.

Some of our parks have grown over the years. For instance at Almansor Park, the closing of the city dump allowed the community golf course to expand from 9 to 18 holes and includes a multi-level driving range, the first in the nation. P&R is responsible for its upkeep.

The southern end of the park used to be a part of Baldwin School's playground in the 50's when I was a student there. An arrangement was later made for the school and the park to share that space, increasing our city park space.

Our parks have also kept up with the times. A Veteran's corner was added to Alhambra Park. Veteran's and Memorial Day observances are held there, hosted by P&R. Also at Alhambra Park, the Los Angeles Dodgers recently gifted the city a state of the art playground. A pickleball court is planned for the near future. During the summer months, outdoor concerts and movies are offered at the Park's bandshell.

P&R maintains two public swimming pools at Granada and Alhambra Parks, with swim classes and free swims for all ages. Organized team sports from basketball to cheerleading headline the offerings for recreational activity for young people. Our parks have long hosted Little League baseball games. Seniors are served at Story Park with Senior Ride, food distribution,



**Glenn Barnett**

instructional seminars and social gatherings. It's all listed in the leisure guide.

The parks host other activities as well. Our library uses the park settings for storytelling outdoors in green space under the shade of trees. Here too, books can be checked out remotely. The Alhambra School District provides free and reduced cost lunches during the school year to qualified students and shares the information with P&R so they can qualify to distribute lunches during the summer months.

P&R also manage the weekly farmer's market on 2nd Street and recruits dozens of volunteers to decorate Alhambra's Rose Parade float. They host an Arbor Day observance and tree planting in the parks. In the spring, they host a traditional Easter egg hunt. On the fourth of July, they host a community picnic and fireworks display at Almansor Park. Parks and Recreation improves our quality of life.



# Goudy's Commitment to Excellence

In the heart of Alhambra's Auto Row, you'll find Goudy Honda, a family-run business that has been a part of the community for more than half a century. Boasting a comprehensive lineup of new Honda vehicles, along with a diverse array of quality pre-owned models, Goudy Honda Alhambra has solidified itself as the go-to Honda destination for Alhambra residents and the wider Southern California community.

Part of Goudy Honda's success lies in its auto repair and maintenance ser-

vices. Staffed by a team of highly trained technicians, all of whom are ASC Honda Certified, the service department at Goudy Honda makes sure that every vehicle gets the expert attention it deserves. Many customers continue to come back again and again because of the service and attention they receive, be it for standard upkeep or intricate repairs. And the use of authentic Honda parts guarantees optimal quality and performance, which is why Honda drivers turn to Goudy Honda!

Goudy Honda offers a broad selection



# "Save Water... Use it Wisely!"

## New Public Information Theme Reflects Changed Water Supply Conditions

By Mark Paulson, Board of Directors, Division I - Alhambra San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

As water supply conditions fluctuate, the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District updates and refreshes its public information theme and messaging. After several years of severe drought, recent heavy precipitation and water supply improvements statewide and in the San Gabriel Valley, the District has developed a new theme reflecting awareness that supply conditions have improved while still encouraging wise use of our precious natural resource.

The design replaces the former theme, "Saving Water...it's a good thing!" and incorporates new green and blue coloring along with water features. The new theme will be utilized on most District media and publications. We even have a fun design extension featuring H2Owl for school, youth, and community activities!

With summer here, please make sure your garden is water-efficient. It's a great time to check for and fix leaks, to install or upgrade your irrigation controller with the help of a rebate, and to make sure you've transitioned to smart, water-wise California Native Plants that use 1/7th the water of other plants. The District has utilized information provided by the California Native Plant Society and their very informative Calscape website ([www.calscape.org](http://www.calscape.org)) to create water-wise



**Mark Paulson**  
San Gabriel Valley  
Municipal Water District  
[info@sgvmwd.com](mailto:info@sgvmwd.com)

gardening tips customized to meet the unique climates of our four member cities - Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre.

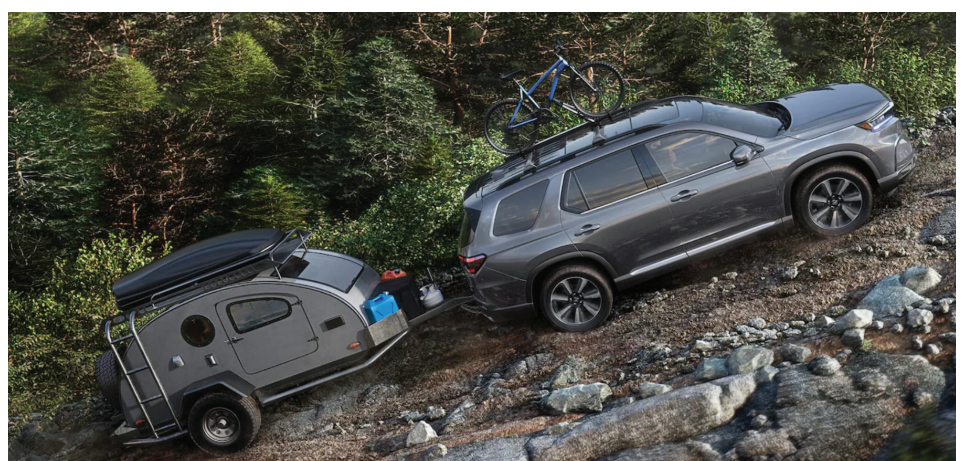
While we would recommend waiting until the hot dry summer months have concluded to do new plantings to give plants and their roots time to become established before hot, dry weather occurs, now is a good time to plan! These tips will save water and save money!

of financing options, and they even have special rates for military personnel as well as recent college graduates. They aim to secure the best prices and financing terms that align with each individual's unique situation.

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2023 Honda Pilot. Photo courtesy of Goudy Honda.



# The Safer Streets Series

## Pt. 1: The Unforeseen Medical Emergency Defense



**Alexander Tsao, Esq.**  
**Venerable Law**  
 info@venerablelaw.com

What would you do if another driver was suddenly rendered unconscious and veered across the centerline striking your vehicle in a head-on collision, causing you significant property damage and severe physical injury?

Would you be shocked to know that in California the above-described driver may have a defense against your claim for compensation? A valid defense to negligence has been recognized for a person who is suddenly stricken by an unforeseeable physical illness, which the person had no reason to anticipate, if that illness renders it impossible to control the car he/she is operating.

So what recourse would you have? You can be certain that the insurance adjusters and their defense counsel would raise this medical emergency defense as a bar against your claim, meaning they would rely on this defense to pay you nothing for your property damage or your physical injury. You may be left "holding the bag" so to speak for repairing or replacing your vehicle, as well as your medical costs/expenses; all for an accident that was caused by the other driver! This nightmare only gets worse if your auto insurance only provides for liability coverage and/or you do not have adequate medical insurance.

During our recent pandemic, the scenario described above isn't an unrealistic fantasy. It could definitely happen to anyone, and we're all just hoping it doesn't happen to us. However, wishful thinking without knowledge and planning is foolhardy, at best. In these situations, your best bet is to retain legal counsel with knowledge and experience specifically in personal injury cases, including passenger vehicle accidents, as early in the process as possible.

Competent attorneys will know that in claiming the medical emergency defense, the applicable insurance adjusters and their counsel will have the burden to affirmatively prove that (i) the defendant driver was telling the truth about his/her medical condition causing the accident; (ii) the cause of the medical condition the defendant driver experienced was physical, rather than mental; (iii) that the medical condition immediately rendered defendant unable to control his/her vehicle; (iv) that defendant driver had no reason to foresee this sudden physical medical condition, amongst other things. This burden of proof is not easily met, and diligent counsel may be able to disable such defense with well drafted written discovery and properly planned deposition questioning.

Pragmatically, this means that retaining good legal representation early on in your case may prevent an unforeseen scenario from playing out like a real-life horror film.

Stay safe out there and drive like your life depends on it, because it does.

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



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**Wednesday, July 26, 2023**  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM



Members: FREE with RSVP  
Non-Members: \$20

Though this event is complimentary for Alhambra Chamber Members, advanced registration is required.

For more information, visit [alhambrachamber.org/event-4913346](http://alhambrachamber.org/event-4913346)

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# Local Sports News from AUSD High Schools

Submitted by Mike Koski, President  
Alhambra High School Sports Hall of Fame Committee

## Alhambra Baseball

The Moors Baseball Program recently held their Awards Banquet for the 2022 season. Justin Flores was named the Varsity Ralph Kiner Most Valuable Player and also received the Max West Power Hitter Award. Daniel Coronado and Matt Garcia were named the Dan Larson Co-Pitchers of the Year while Joshua Candelaria was named Maynard Horst Most Inspirational Player. The Most Improved Player Award went to Jason Hernandez while Josh Soto took home the Gold Glove Award. Jason was also honored for setting a new school record for stolen bases in a season with 28 steals.

The Moors were well represented on the Almont All-League Team by First Teamers Justin Flores and Jason Hernandez, and Second Teamers Josh Soto and Carlos Hernandez. Honorable Mention went to Matt Garcia and Damian Chacon.

The Junior Varsity Most Valuable Player went out to Edgar Ponce while Ryan Gomez took the JV Pitcher of the Year and Walter Rodriguez was named the Most Inspirational Player.

Isaiah Lerma was named Most Valuable Player for the Frosh Team with Jacob Rodriguez taking home the Pitcher of the Year and George Jimenez received the Most Inspirational Player Award.

## San Gabriel Valley High School All-Star Baseball Game

After a two-year absence due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 26th San Gabriel Valley High School Baseball All-Star Game was held at San Dimas High School on June 5th. 51 seniors from 26 high schools were divided up into two teams, Blue and Red. The two teams played a great

game which was won by the Blue Team, 7-6. Former Moors Head Coach Steve Gewecke threw out the first pitch and was inducted into the SGV Coaches Hall of Honor prior to the game. The Moors were represented by Justin Flores who played the entire game rotating between outfield and first base.

## AHS Sports Hall of Fame Luncheon Update

After being postponed twice in the last year and a half, the AHS Sports Hall of Fame Luncheon will take place on Sunday, October 23rd, at Almansor Court. The Inductees are: Mike Blower (1965 Football), Sharon Grant (1967 Drill Team), Raul Morales (1969 Baseball), Joe Hiti (1978 Football/Baseball), Larry McGee (1978 Baseball), Reggie Hawkins (1981 Football/Track), Chris Aparicio (1986 Football/Baseball), Paige Hashimoto (1988 Basketball), Robert Montoya (1990 Football), Mary Ong (2005 Track), Steve Gewecke (Coach), Roger Lawson (Coach), 1939 Varsity Football Team, & 2012 Varsity Baseball Team.

Author Clive Cussler (1949), Super Model Cheryl Tiegs (1965) & Founder of Oakley Eyewear Jim Jannard (1967) will also be honored as Distinguished Alumni. The Keynote Speaker will be AHS Hall of Famer Michele Hopper Buchicchio, Class of 1973.

The cost is \$60 per person which includes your choice of two entrees, prime rib or chicken chardonnay, and includes salad, vegetables, rolls, dessert and beverage. For more information and a reservation form please go to our website at [ahshalloffame.com](http://ahshalloffame.com) or email us at [ahssportshalloffame@gmail.com](mailto:ahssportshalloffame@gmail.com).



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Moors SGV All Star Baseball Game participants: Josh Soto, Jackson Akers, Matt Garcia, and Damian Chacon.



Moors Baseball MVP, All League and All CIF Josh Soto



# “Meet the Managers” of Alhambra

from page 1

This month, we’re featuring three of the managers who are leading the national brands locally in Alhambra. Watch this space for future profiles of other managers.

### Meet Charles Ma



For well over 22 years, Charles Ma has been serving the Alhambra community as part of the Wondries Automotive group, where he currently is the General Manager of Kia of Alhambra - a role he’s held for just over a year. He is passionate about automobiles, customer satisfaction, and staff development. When asked to identify his favorite part of his job, Charles said, “Creating the next generation of leaders is number one for me. Not only training them to be the best in the automotive business but giving them the tools and skills that serve their communities.”

Charles cites his 29 years of service in the San Gabriel Valley, with 22 of those in Alhambra, as his greatest accomplish-

ment. He has called the community of Alhambra home since the beginning of his career, and like many longtime community members, he is amazed by its growth. He is a graduate of the National Automobile Dealers Association Academy and a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association Political Action Committee NextGen Leadership Club. Under his leadership, Kia of Alhambra has continued to be a leader in the city, including providing title sponsorship of the annual Alhambra Lunar New Year festival.

### Meet Ivan Santosa



As the Bank Manager for the Valley Blvd. branch of BMO Bank of Montreal (formerly Bank of the West), Ivan Santosa has been in the role for just over a year but has spent nearly his entire career in banking. Prior to his current role in Alhambra, he held a leadership role in a

bank in Little Tokyo where he helped lead the community engagement initiatives. Among Ivan’s goals here in Alhambra is to continue building community relationships by liaising with community leaders and engaging in community outreach activities.

When asked about his key responsibility, Ivan replied, “Growing the good for our customers and their businesses.” His favorite part of his role is leveraging his contacts to help his customers succeed in their business and career goals. This means connecting businesses to resources to help them grow, in particular, the unique small businesses and restaurants in Alhambra. Ivan is no stranger to small business, having helped start and run a family restaurant early in his career. Ivan is active in the community, volunteering with community projects like the recent Day of Service.

### Meet Zachary Orell



You may recognize Zach Orell because for 12 years, he has been the Store Director at the Alhambra Target. Zach leads a diverse team of 300+ employees, including nine exempt managers and 25 department managers in this high-volume store. In this role, Zach is responsible for driving sales and profits while guiding the Target team to deliver on their core roles and highest development potential. Above all, Zach is dedicated to operational excellence, maintaining brand standards, and ensuring guest satisfaction.

When asked about his favorite part of his role, Zach replied, “Building great teams! It is an absolute joy to develop a team and promote talent from within.” As his greatest accomplishment, Zach cites leading a leadership legacy by promoting great talent. To that end, Zach shared, “Out of the Alhambra store, we have promoted two Store Directors and two Business Partners to support the district within the last year.”

Zach led the store through a difficult time in 2022. As he recalled that calamity, he said, “There is an amazing sense of community in this city. When the roof collapsed, it was humbling to hear from the community how much they missed our Target. We felt all the love and support from our guests and our city when we re-opened our doors 2 months later.”



# PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

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 <p><b>DELHI BELLY</b> RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR '22-'23</p>	 <p><b>SEE'S CANDY</b> ALHAMBRA INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR (CORPORATE) '22-'23</p>	 <p><b>SAM'S BARBER SHOP</b> ALHAMBRA INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR (LOCAL) '22-'23</p>	 <p><b>EVIKE.COM</b> GROWTH AWARD '22-'23</p>	 <p><b>DOWNTOWN ALHAMBRA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION</b> NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR '22-'23</p>



**THE GRANADA LA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR '22-'23**

Join us on August 23, 2023 at The Alhambra for a reception celebrating a “Taste of Alhambra” followed by an awards presentation. For more information, to reserve a ticket, or to sponsor the event, visit [alhambrachamber.org/event-4913353](http://alhambrachamber.org/event-4913353)





Ramona Convent Secondary School Class of 2023

# Congratulations to the Ramona Convent Secondary School Class of 2023

Empowered and ready to make a difference in the world, the class of 2023 celebrated on Saturday, May 27, in the Rose Heath gardens of Ramona Convent. A picture-perfect, sunny day set the scene for Ramona's traditional graduation ceremony, where 66 graduates walked down the aisle with confidence and joy. The graduates, held yellow roses and smiling excitedly at proud relatives and friends, their biggest fans.

Carolina Torres, salutatorian, shared with her class, "Looking at the future, I

am both excited and nervous about what lies ahead. As graduates, we are entering a world that is constantly changing and evolving. I am confident that we possess the necessary skills, instilled in us by Ramona, to overcome any obstacle that may arise in our future. We've grown to be resilient, adaptable, and determined. We'll retain the skills, knowledge, and drive to make a positive impact on the world." Miss Torres is looking forward to continuing her educational journey at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts in

the Fall

A perfect score of 100% of students in the class of 2023 have been accepted to colleges across the country, with over \$8 million in merit scholarships. An impressive 86% will be attending UC, Cal State, or private Institutions. Also noteworthy: 61% of the class received Life Membership to the California Scholarship Federation and 36% are National Honor Society members. Upholding their commitment to service and social justice as they continue to lead and serve in our

evolving global environment, students have collectively completed a total of 13,240 hours of service.

Ramona Convent is known as a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for young women committed to excellence in education. Ramona's graduates are empowered, resilient, socially conscious leaders, who are well prepared to meet the challenges of life as contributing members of the global community, continuing the legacy of more than 130 years of distinction.

# Successful Day of Service

On June 3, 2023, more than 100 volunteers spanned out across Alhambra for the first Alhambra Chamber Day of Service, spearheaded by its Nonprofit Council. Maria Gao (Evike.com), Keith Ko (Chinese Bible Missions Church), and Joanna Vargas (Downtown Alhambra Business Association) coordinated the day

with key volunteers from local churches, nonprofits, and local businesses. The day was supported with donations from The Home Depot, Baja Cali, Raising Cane's, Starbucks, Republic Services, and New Century BMW. The Alhambra Day of Service showcased the best of the Alhambra community coming together.

Alhambra Chamber President Chris Balmaseda, Chamber Nonprofit Council Chair Maria Gao, and Chamber Board Members Kevin Houser and Nickie Chan joined volunteers from Bank of the West at the Atlantic Blvd / Valley Blvd location. Photo courtesy of Minh Trinh at MT Photography



Volunteers from Bank of the West help clean the streets along Atlantic Blvd and Valley Blvd. Photo courtesy of Minh Trinh at MT Photography



Alhambra Councilmember Katherine Lee volunteered along with local residents and members of local churches and organizations to help beautify the City. Photo courtesy of Minh Trinh at MT Photography



Team leads Joanna Vargas and Jewelyn Co gather with volunteers for the Main St / Garfield Ave location before heading to the streets to clean up trash, scrape gum, and sweep debris from the area. Photo courtesy of Minh Trinh at MT Photography



Team leads from Catalyst SGV pose with volunteers at Marguerita Elementary School after digging out weeds to prepare the ground for the planting of an educational nature garden. Photo courtesy of Minh Trinh at MT Photography

Volunteers at Marguerita Elementary School help dig out weeds and prepare the soil for the garden. Photo courtesy of Minh Trinh at MT Photography





## There Might Be A Monet In You! Free Drawing & Oil Painting Class For Alhambra Seniors!!

Many people opted for early retirement during the pandemic. Are you of them with more spare time now? Here is an opportunity for you to learn a new hobby and meet new friends in the community.

Painting encourages self-expression and critical thinking, which is good for our cognitive and emotional health. Art can be therapeutic too, helping to reduce feelings of anxiety, stress, and depression and may even help with muscle coordination and dexterity.

If you did not have the opportunity as a child to play with colors on canvas or were simply too busy with parenting or working, you can start experiencing the joy of drawing now! Surprise your family members with your caricatures at your next family gathering or impress friends with your own hand-painted greeting cards!

Beginner and intermediate students are welcome. Lessons will be conducted in Mandarin by experienced artist Parker Dean, starting Thursday, August 4, and continuing every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, from 9am to 12pm.

In support of the growing senior community in Alhambra, Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles is offering these classes for free. Students must register and need only to provide their own art supplies. Sign up soon as the class size is limited. For enquiry and registration, please email: sarahchoo@mbcla.org

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## AUSD, AEF + District Schools Rack Up 2023 Readers Choice Award Recognitions

from page 1

...and our extraordinary benefits package supports employees throughout their careers and retirement.”

Superintendent Jaramillo noted that AUSD employees often serve for decades, send their children and grandchildren to

district schools, and AUSD alumnae frequently return to work in district schools.

“With our history of decades of multi-generational, long serving employees, Alhambra Unified School District feels like a big family spread over 17

campuses,” said Superintendent Jaramillo. “We recently honored AUSD employees who have served the district for 20, 25, 30, and 35 years.”

Alhambra USD is always looking for remarkable people to join us in preparing

our community’s future leaders. Visit [www.edjoin.org](http://www.edjoin.org) or call 626-943-3060 for Certificated Teaching positions or 626-943-3070 for Classified Non-Teaching positions.

# Festivity-filled Final Week of School Celebrates the Class of 2023 at Ceremonies Throughout AUSD



It took four full days of festivities for Alhambra Unified to celebrate student milestones at 18 unique and memorable promotion and graduation ceremonies. The district began by honoring its littlest students at Moor Field’s preschool culmination and continued with eighth-grade promotions, high school graduations, and recognition of the 22-year-olds who completed the LIFT (Learning Independence For Transition) program. For the third year, AUSD high school seniors experienced an extra special graduation day at the Rose Bowl stadium in Pasadena. “We congratulate all our students in AUSD’s Class of 2023, and wish each one of them a beautiful transition to the next phase in their lives,” said Superintendent Denise Jaramillo.

### Spanish Dual Immersion Pathway to Biliteracy Celebration May 16, 2023



### Mandarin Dual Immersion Pathway to Biliteracy Celebration May 17, 2023



## AUSD Dual Immersion Students Move A Step Closer To CA Biliteracy Recognition

AUSD’s two Dual Language Immersion programs celebrated their third and fifth graders before the school year ended. Both of those grade levels are key checkpoints on their Pathways to Biliteracy.

Students are recognized in grades 3, 5, 8, and 12 if they meet the requirements for participation and achievement. Their final recognition will be at the end of high school when students who meet all the criteria will graduate with the prestigious California

Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma.

The Spanish program at Fremont celebrated on May 16th with singing, dancing, and recognition of the volunteers who helped them along the way. The following day, students in the Mandarin program at Northrup were honored as they gave speeches, were recognized by district administrators and board members, and took commemorative class photos.

Students in the District’s Mandarin and Spanish Dual Language Immersion programs hit three milestones during their program (if they meet all criteria), and then hit their final recognition when they graduate high school. Being bilingual brings students lifelong advantages and opens doors to more career opportunities





2022-2023 YEAR 1 INDUCTION CANDIDATES

ANA CAMPOS	ELIZABETH DOWNWARD	DANIELA ORTEZ-SILVA	LILIANA ULLOA
TIFFANY CENDEJAS	AMANDA GARCIA	ADRIANA RAMIREZ	SAULO VELEZ MONTENEGRO
KASEY CHEN	JARED LONG	MARIA RODRIGUEZ	SOPIA VUONG
GENE CHOW	VANESSA LY	SHADAY ROSALES	ANDREW WILSON
VU DAO	JOE-TSAIAH MARASIGAN	JENSINE RUVALCABA	JOANNA ZADA
JENNIFER DAZA	SHAYAN MIRI-LAVASANI	CAITLIN TESTA	JESSE TORIBIO
	ANTHONY MORENO	LARA DICICCO	

2022-2023 YEAR 2/ECO INDUCTION CANDIDATES

EUGENE AHN	NAOMI CRUZ	ARIANNA HAFT	VANESSA LUNA	MARIANA REYES
EALINT AUNG	ABBY DAHL	RIVA HON	ANDREW LY	ALBERTO TORRES
ROSALINDA BENITEZ	CANDICE DANIEL	AMY HUGHSON	JILLIAN MARTINEZ	GIULIANA VACCARO
VANESSA CALDERON	ERIC DELGADO	GABRIEL JIMENEZ	STEPHANIE MEYKA	JUAN VARGAS
JACQUELINE CARRANZA	BIANCA ESPINOZA	EMILY KIM	LORENA MOLINA	ANNIE WONG
COURTNEY CARTER	ALYSSA ESTRADA	PONNY LEUNG	RAYLENE PARIS-SALAZAR	ERIC YEE
BEVERLEY CHAO	CHAO-CHUN (LEO) FENG	WINNIE LIU	SHANE PURKISS	FUWEI ZHUANG

Induction candidates, mentors, administrators, and other supporters celebrated those teachers who completed the two-year induction program at the annual new teacher colloquium.

# Largest Group Ever Of New AUSD Teachers Complete Induction Program To Clear Their Credentials

Teachers are the epitome of life-long learners, and this year’s crop of newer AUSD teachers is no exception. With 26 Year-One teachers and 40 Year-Two teachers, this is the district’s biggest ever group of Induction teachers.

Induction is designed to provide new teachers with mentorship and support so they can be more effective in their classrooms and get support in those most challenging early years. During the program, each teacher completes a two-year, individual job-embedded system of mentoring, support, and professional

development. As part of the Individual Learning Plan (ILP), each teacher also selects specific California Standards for the Teaching Profession for their focus based on their teaching assignment and areas of growth.

AUSD’s talented group of instructional specialists model and coordinate the program for the Induction Leadership Team. They match each Induction candidate with a Content Mentor, who provides monthly grade level and/or subject area support. This serves to address any indirect matches, where

credentials, grade level and/or subject area are not exact between the candidate and the Induction Mentor.

“The district is grateful to the mentors, administrators, and colleagues who guide and support these teachers during the important early years of their educational careers,” Superintendent Denis Jaramillo said. “We give special thanks to our hard-working, dedicated Induction Leadership Team: Van Duong, Chia Han, Deborah Garcia Negrete, Monica Hinojos, Ann Wilson, and Monica Yew.”

Janet Lees, assistant superintendent

of education services, adds, “Induction candidates spend at least an hour per week working on their ILP or meeting with their mentor or support provider, so at the end of the two years, there is an appreciation for the collegial support, a sigh of relief at the completion, and a strong sense of accomplishment. We hope these teachers will continue to seek out ways to grow and develop their skills, and will have a long, successful career with AUSD.”

# Parents Of All Returning AUSD Students Reminded To Complete Short Alternate Income Form (AIF) Before School Starts August 8th

Every year parents of returning AUSD students must log into the Parent Portal to update their information before the school begins. New this year is the requirement for ALL parents to complete the Alternative Income Form (AIF) — if they have not completed the form since May 15, 2023.

AIF completion for each student ensures that AUSD receives the maximum

amount of federal funds for the district and each school. The AIF now determines student eligibility for services such as the Afterschool Adventures Expanded Learning Opportunities and fee waivers for high school testing and applications.

In addition to individual student benefits, the AIF information directly determines funding allocations to the district and to each AUSD school. In

2022-23, the lack of qualified completed Alternative Income Forms resulted in more than a \$10 million loss to AUSD, which of course, impacted staffing and services.

Before accessing any part of the Parent Portal, including student information and class assignments, parents will be directed to the Alternate Income Form to answer a few simple questions

regarding household size and income. “We appreciate — and depend upon — every parent’s assistance to ensure maximum funding for their child’s school and for district,” Superintendent Denise Jaramillo said.

Parents can visit <https://tinyurl.com/AUSD-AIF2023> for more information and AIF directions.





The AUSD Food + Nutrition Services Team won the 2023 Let's Get Healthy Leadership Award from the Dairy Council of California. Pictured at the Sacramento award ceremony, left photo: Vivien Watts, FNS Executive Director; William Fong, FNS Director; and Kathy Mach and Leina Chang, FNS Field Supervisors. Center photo: FNS nominator Morgan Carey from the Dairy Council of CA with the FNS team. Right photo: Let's Get Healthy Leadership Award.

# AUSD Food & Nutrition Service Team Honored For Leadership In Helping Students Get Healthy

AUSD'S Food and Nutrition Team was recognized by the Dairy Council of California with a 2023 Let's Get Healthy Leadership Award as a change-maker who educates, inspires, and empowers children and communities to develop lifelong healthy eating habits and equitable access to nutrition.

On display in their office, the crystal plaque is a reminder of the work FNS does to provide healthy, nutritious meals to 15,000+ AUSD students. "Food is a primal source of comfort, security, and inclusion," FNS Executive Director Vivien Watts

points out.

"We are lucky to have such a hardworking, dedicated team as part of the AUSD family," Superintendent Denise Jaramillo said at the June 6th Board of Education meeting applauding FNS. "They are passionate about keeping our students well-fed and healthy."

Learn more about how AUSD's FNS Team and other award recipients champion community health through nutrition by developing lifelong healthy eating patterns by watching this video: <https://youtu.be/EiyR0IIduL8>

# AUSD Honors Those Who Have Dedicated A Lifetime To Education



## Congratulations to the AUSD 2023 RETIREES!

Thank you for your service to the Alhambra Unified School District!



Honoring Those Who Have Given a Lifetime of Service to Education		
Richard Alvarado Highland High School 21 Years of Service	Arny Bandy Park View School 21 Years of Service	James Pappalardo Cesar Chavez School 20 Years of Service
Alfonso Aranda, Jr. Cesar Chavez School 17 Years of Service	Carol Lane Jones Alhambra High School 19 Years of Service	Concepcion Ramirez Peralta School 13 Years of Service
Richard Arroyo Cesar Chavez School 26 Years of Service	Stanley Lopez Alhambra High School 18 Years of Service	Vickie Sanchez Dorothy Swasey 18 Years of Service
Marlene Barwick Mark Keppel High School 26 Years of Service	Patricia Maloney Madison High School 24 Years of Service	Alyc Ying Decker Cesar Chavez School 22 Years of Service
Carolee Brown Special Education Dept. 27 Years of Service	Paula Bergman Madison High School 24 Years of Service	Yvonne "Mimi" De Alhambra High School 25 Years of Service
Josephine Cardia Cesar Chavez School 14 Years of Service	Joan S. Shinn Madison High School 24 Years of Service	Heather Valdez Cesar Chavez School 17 Years of Service
Anthony Cardia Cesar Chavez School 14 Years of Service	George Abner Madison High School 20 Years of Service	Heather Wilson Alhambra High School 22 Years of Service
Ismael Carrillo Cesar Chavez School 14 Years of Service	Marlene D. O'Connor Cesar Chavez School 26 Years of Service	Christine Williams Cesar Chavez School 26 Years of Service
Ismael Carrillo Cesar Chavez School 14 Years of Service	Marlene D. O'Connor Cesar Chavez School 26 Years of Service	Marlene Williams Cesar Chavez School 26 Years of Service
Ismael Carrillo Cesar Chavez School 14 Years of Service	Marlene D. O'Connor Cesar Chavez School 26 Years of Service	Marlene Williams Cesar Chavez School 26 Years of Service

May 15th was a bittersweet day as AUSD district staff joined together to say both thank you and good-bye to the employees who would soon be retiring. This year, all retiring employees (certificated, classified, and management) celebrated together at an all-staff reception. As of this writing, 27 employees have announced their retirement. Collectively, they have contributed 665 years of service to the Alhambra Unified School District.

## Alhambra Teachers Association Food Pantry

3030 W. Main Street, Alhambra

**ATA will continue to support the community during the summer:**

**July 12th & 26th**  
**August 9th & 23rd**  
**9:00am - 12:00pm**

**IF YOU NEED TO SET UP AN ALTERNATE DATE/TIME OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE PANTRY, PLEASE CALL 626-289-1933**

## Increase Student Funding

### Complete the Alternative Income Form (AIF)

Help us ensure that Alhambra Unified School District receives the maximum amount of federal funds for our schools.

The collection of household income is a necessary step to receive thousands of dollars in federal funds for the school that your child attends. All families should complete the Alternative Income Form (AIF), irrespective of their household income. One AIF per student is necessary.

*Complete the Alternative Income Form*

Scan the QR Code to access directions to fill in the AIF form.





Garfield's talented company of *Matilda Jr.* strikes a final pose before the audience erupted into applause and a standing ovation. Second grader Charlotte Keister (inset) impressed everyone in her first-ever stage performance as *Matilda*.

## Garfield's Spectacular Version Of Beloved Musical *Matilda Jr.* Wins Standing Ovations

Garfield School's sold-out, limited run production of the hit musical *Matilda Jr.* won standing ovations from delighted audiences at each May performance. Based on Roald Dahl's classic children's story, the musical tells the story of Matilda Wormwood — a young girl who uses her extraordinary powers to stand up to bullies, overcome adversity, and help her teacher reclaim her life.

The young Garfield cast captured audience hearts with their singing, dancing, and acting talents. When second grader Charlotte Keister was asked about her ovation-winning theatrical debut as Matilda, she said, "I absolutely love it and would love to do every play that is available to me!"

The lead role of Miss Honey was deftly played by sixth grader Sofia Guerrero, who had previous stage experience as emcee at Garfield's Winter Showcase. She plans to continue honing her dramatic skills, saying, "In the near future I hope to become a part-time actress. No matter what part,

I just want to be involved in drama. That is my dream."

Impressive performances by Kayla Fee (Agatha Trunchbull), Alexander Francis Yap (Mr. Wormwood), Sammy Freyre (Mrs. Wormwood), Christian Kai Rivadeneyra (Michael Wormwood) and the entire supporting cast added to the kid-friendly entertainment.

The full-scale production directed and choreographed by drama teacher Jennifer Langford and music teacher Danika Klebe included over a dozen musical numbers and featured familiar catchy songs like *Naughty, When I Grow Up*, and *Revolting Children*.

Parents and community members declared the show a hit, praising the school's dedication to the arts and the students for their first-rate performances. Principal Dr. Stephanie Richardson said, "The production's great success is testament to the hard work, creativity, and commitment of our students and staff."

## AUSD Middle School Honor Band Performs Annual Spring Concert In-Person For First Time Since 2019

Inspired by their conductor Dave Batti, some of Alhambra Unified School District's most talented, dedicated middle school musicians gather after school once a week during the school year to practice more advanced and intricate traditional and contemporary compositions. Many of these Middle School Honor Band students go on to join high school band or orchestra where some continue to work with Mr. Batti each week as volunteer instrument coaches for his middle school honor band members.

The highlight of the year is the Middle School Honor Band Annual Spring

Concert to perform for their family and friends. This year's concert celebrated their first in-person concert since 2019 due to pandemic restrictions.

No one was prouder and more excited than their conductor and retired AUSD music teacher Dave Batti, who said, "It is so wonderful to have the students perform in-person again for their culminating event!" Although this busy working musician and 2008 AUSD Teacher of the Year no longer teaches full-time, Mr. Batti leads the middle school honor band one day each week to the great joy of his students.



Members of the AUSD Management Team spent a poignant and reflective day at the Japanese American National Museum. If you cannot visit JANM in person, you can review many pieces of the exhibit online at: <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/a-life-in-pieces/video>. The cover of Stanley Hiyami's published diary can be seen in the inset of the photo.

## Diary of MKHS Student Incarcerated at Heart Mountain Fortifies Work on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for AUSD Leaders

AUSD administrators and managers spent time in June on their own professional development, focusing on equity and justice. Members of the district's equity, diversity and inclusion task force were among the memorable speakers of the day.

The Japanese American National Museum (JANM) workshop venue offered a fitting lens for reflection with their groundbreaking historical exhibits, videos clips and docent shared stories documenting the 1942 imprisonment of 100,000 Japanese Americans living on the West coast after Pearl Harbor. Local community members who survived the concentration camps shared their haunting experiences with the AUSD audience.

What hit closest to home was learning about 16-year-old Mark Keppel student, Stanley Hiyami. After President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 led to the forced removal of any one of Japanese ancestry living on the West coast, Stanley and his family were unconstitutionally incarcerated at the Pomona Assembly Center in California, and later sent to Heart Mountain concentration camp in

Wyoming. Two-thirds of those imprisoned were American citizens by birth.

Stanley kept a detailed diary during that time. He continued to write to his parents while serving in the legendary U. S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the segregated Japanese American unit that would become the most decorated unit in American history.

Stanley's diary and letters serve as one of the most comprehensive records of life in the concentration camps and for Japanese Americans living during that time. Under-scoring the importance of his contribution, JANM curators said that if a fire were to ever break out in the museum, Stanley's diary would be the first thing they would save.

Stanley was killed at the age of 19 trying to rescue a fellow soldier during combat. His legacy lives on through his diary, art, and letters donated to JANM by his family. "The invaluable Stanley Hiyami collection is a stark reminder that AUSD's work on equity, justice and individual dignity is essential to America's future," AUSD Superintendent Denise Jaramillo said.



This year's Middle School Honor Band spring concert was held at Garfield Elementary School on May 18th.





## Soroptimists Recognize Three Outstanding High Schoolers

On Wednesday, June 7, Soroptimists celebrated their 2023 Veronica Thee Service Awards at the Hilton in San Gabriel. Under the guidance of Dr. Karen Chao, these awards are given annually to three outstanding high school girls who have exhibited exemplary service in their community. This year was no exception.

The first-place award was given to Veronica Rios for her work with Borders of Hope. Knowing the long process immigrants go through to obtain their U.S. Citizenship, she became interested in the final component, The Citizenship Exam. She decided to co-start a program that would prepare immigrants to

take their test. This is the hardest and most costly part of becoming a U.S. citizen.

An online non-profit became official: The Citizenship Exam Prep Program. Moving forward, she plans to have fundraisers and be able to give low-income immigrants Grants to alleviate some of the financial burdens of the cost of the test. Veronica is a recent graduate of Ramona Convent Secondary School.

The second-place award was given to Natalia Osorios, another recent graduate of Ramona. She is a volunteer with Pens to Friends and co-founded the LA Branch. Pens to Friends is an organization sending letters to children in foster care facilities and children's hospitals. She admired the simplicity of letter writing as a way of building friendships and uplifting those who need it most. Through the power of

social media, their newly formed team received hundreds of volunteer applications from teens eager to write letters. Their partnership with the Friends Mission continued to spread far and wide. With the help of local community efforts, and social media presence, the Los Angeles Branch inspired the creation of volunteer branches across California and into many other states. "Together, we built a community that cultivated a sense of optimism and strength...one letter at a time."

Third place went to Xiuhui (Sophie) Lin whose volunteer service is with Garfield Health Center, a non-profit community health clinic focused on providing affordable healthcare to low-income families, mostly minorities. Because

she plans on pursuing a medical career, she applied to be a Youth Ambassador on the Garfield outreach team. She has been a volunteer with them for the past two years. Along with many other duties, she assisted the clinic in translating and helping patients fill out forms. "I felt happy to help families get vaccinated during the COVID-19 pandemic." She is currently the Secretary on the ambassador team and started a student-led chapter and served as President of the Garfield Health Center Youth Coalition at San Gabriel High School, where she was a recent graduate.

Congratulations to Veronica, Natalia, and Sophie for making this community a better place!



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Kathleen Doty with Lisa Woo's 2nd grade class at Washington Elementary School, SGUSD

# Colorful Stories Wins State Activity of the Year

*A Cool Win for Students and Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch, AAUW*

“Colorful Stories,” a project of Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch of the American Association of University Women, California (AAUW-CA), was selected as the “Activity of the Year.” Twenty-eight branch activities were submitted for consideration and Alhambra-San Gabriel came out on top! The award comes with a monetary prize of \$200 – a welcome addition to the funds for future school years. The organization issues a Thank you to all who have contributed to this project.

“Colorful Stories” provides books to students in the Alhambra, San Gabriel, and Montebello unified school districts. Featuring persons of color as protagonists and heroes, the books foster respect for

people of different races, religions, and cultures. In the inaugural year of 2020-2021, the group purchased 41 books for Alhambra School District with \$250 in seed money. In 2021-2022 donations increased and the project expanded to include San Gabriel and Montebello school districts with \$500 available for each district. Unfortunately, purchases were not made in 2021-2022 by any of the districts. However, the money donated was carried over to the 2022-2023 school year and augmented by continuing donations.

So far this year, San Gabriel Unified School District has purchased 80 books and Alhambra Unified School District has purchased 82 books. In September of

last year, Kathleen Doty, Colorful Books Chair, presented a check and bookplates identifying the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch as the donor to Lisa Woo, the San Gabriel teacher selected to receive the donation. In January of this year, Kathleen Doty presented Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch bookplates to Myriame Steep, Instructional Coach at Park School in Alhambra Unified School District. The Montebello school district will receive their donations soon.

The mission of American Association of University Women (AAUW) is to Advance Equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research, empowering women as individuals and

as a community since 1881. Alhambra/San Gabriel branch members fulfill the mission by participating in projects and presenting programs throughout the year.

For information about how to join AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch, and be part of this award-winning activity, visit the website: <https://alhsangab-ca.aauw.net>.



Myriame Steep, Instructional Coach Park School, Alhambra USD

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Your Health

# Can You Prevent Brain Problems by Using Less Plastic?

By Sheila Yonemoto, P.T.

I have had a whole house water filter for decades, ever since I smelled chlorine from the toilet. A hot shower vaporizes chlorine which enters the lungs. Skin pores also absorb chlorine.

Plastic disposable diapers and plastic water bottles are filling up our landfills and don't biodegrade for a very, very long time. Discarded plastics make up 18.5% of landfills and 90% of all trash entering the world's oceans. Studies show that there are nanoparticles of plastic in the water, in the air and in our food.

In an article from the Mercola website, swine, cows and humans show plastic particles in the blood. Plastic nanoparticles reduce the function of brain enzymes known to malfunction in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's patients.

The average person consumes 5 grams of plastic per week, about the amount in one credit card! There are even studies looking to make food out of paper and plastic to feed our military personnel. The idea is to turn plastic waste into fatty alcohols and acids and paper waste into sugar.

For a myriad of reasons, it's a good idea to reduce your dependency on plastic. Avoid buying bottled water in plastic containers. Get a filtration system. Buy a reusable glass or stainless steel water bottle. Use glass containers instead of plastic. Use cloth shopping bags. When my children



**Sheila Yonemoto, P.T.**  
Yonemoto Physical Therapy  
(626) 576-0591

were babies I used cloth diapers. Bring glass containers for leftovers when eating out. Reduce your waste and think about keeping the environment cleaner, especially our oceans and landfills. We will all be healthier.

Sheila Yonemoto, P.T., has been a physical therapist for more than 40 years, specializing in integrative manual therapy, using a holistic approach. She offers a Qi-gong "Chinese Energy" exercise class. Your first class is FREE. Call (626) 576-0591 or visit yonemoto.com.

*This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Sheila Yonemoto, P.T. who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse medical advice or any remedies recommended by this author or any other provider.*

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**Akira Hirose**  
Maison Akira



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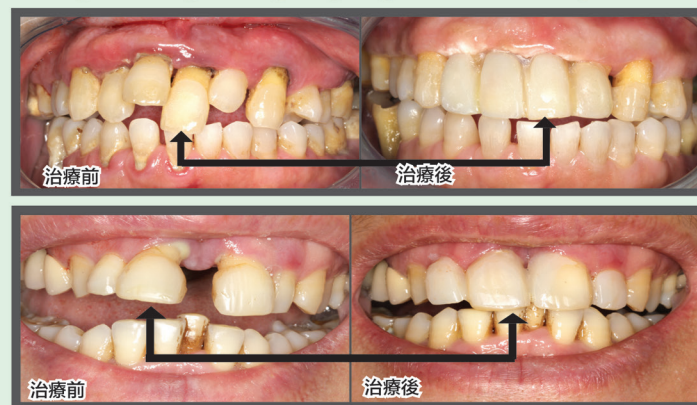
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美國紐約州立大學牙週病研究教授(SUNY)



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Ask Dr. Dara, D.D.S.

# Are Crooked Teeth Only an Aesthetic Problem?

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

For many people, straight teeth are associated with a beautiful smile. But is that all there is to see?

While well aligned teeth can make smile more attractive, straight teeth can also dramatically improve person's oral health and function. Seventy percent of the adult US population has some type of misalignment, such as crowding, spacing, open bite, deep bite/overbite, cross bite, or edge to edge bite. Left untreated, misaligned teeth can lead to gum disease, cavities, teeth fractures, and jaw joint pain.

Here are some of the main reasons why we like to have our teeth straight.

**Maintain proper hygiene and avoid gum disease and cavities.**

Straight teeth are easy to clean. When teeth are properly aligned, they are easier to brush and floss. Because crowded areas make it difficult to remove plaque and bacteria, bacteria will multiply and trigger gum inflammation. Left untreated, gum infection will progress to chronic inflammation of the gums and bone surrounding the teeth. That leads to bone loss and eventually, tooth loss.

Retained plaque and food also create acidic conditions that cause tooth erosions. That is the main cause for cavities and root canals.



**Proper bite to avoid premature teeth wear and breaking.**

When teeth are properly aligned and the bite is corrected, the teeth function much better. We want biting forces to be evenly distributed among the teeth during chewing. Teeth that are under excessive pressure because of a misaligned bite can develop chipping and deep grooves at the gum line. Excessive force can cause premature wear of the teeth and fracture of the edges of the teeth.

Excessive force can lead to gum reces- sions and uncomfortable sensitivity to cold and hot.

**Jaw joint health.**

Misalignment can cause chronic pain in the jaw joint. A bad bite can produce inadequate force on the jaw joints. That leads to joints pain, earaches, or sometimes headaches.

Now you see the total difference between crooked and straightened teeth. Straight teeth not only look good but will be easier to keep clean. They function bet- ter with less wear. Teeth that fit correctly



in the mouth last longer and need less dentistry.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Dr. Krasnodara Gashparova, DDS who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse medical advice or any remedies recommended by this author or any other provider.



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*Your Insurance*

## The Price of Delaying Medicare Enrollment

By Katherine Yu Simms

When you're eligible for Medicare but are no longer "actively covered" by your company's health care plan, you have eight months to sign up for Medicare Part B from the day you lose that coverage.

Being on COBRA doesn't count as "active coverage." Neither does post employment health care coverage you could receive through your retirement plan.

If you miss this eight-month special enrollment period, you might not be able to sign up again until the next Medicare general enrollment period, which lasts from Jan. 1 to March 31 every year.

And if you wait a year or more before signing up, you'll have to pay a 10% late enrollment premium penalty for each full year you don't sign up. That penalty never goes away.

You'll also get penalized if you don't sign up for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage right away.

Once your special enrollment period begins, you have two months to sign up for Medicare Part D. If you miss this deadline, you'll pay a cumulative 1% penalty for each month you delay signing up.

For example, if you wait a full year before signing up, your penalty will be 12% more than the standard monthly Medicare Part D premium. Like the



**Katherine Yu Simms**  
Medicare Insurance Agent  
lovemygoldenyears@gmail.com

Medicare Part B penalty, this one is permanent, too.

That's why it's important to know when you should first sign up for Medicare and under which conditions you may or may not need to enroll based on your current employment situation.

If you have questions with your current plan or want to explore other plans which may be more suitable for you, please contact me for a free consultation.

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Women and children of the Kizh nation in front of village houses. Photo courtesy of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Kizh Nation.

# People of the Willow Houses

*The History of the Kizh Nation,  
Presented by the Alhambra Historical Society*

On Thursday, July 20, 2023, Alhambra Historical Society will present its summer program entitled People of the Willow Houses - The History of the Kizh Nation at 7 p.m. at the Alhambra Masonic Center, 9 West Woodward Street, Alhambra, CA 91801. Andy Salas, Chairman of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, will highlight the history, customs and life of the Kizh people, who are recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles Basin. The Kizh Nation's Tribal Biologist, Matt Teutimez, will also be featured and will bring examples of medicinal plants used by the indigenous people of the San Gabriel Valley. To reserve your spot, visit <https://peopleofthewillowhouses.eventbrite.com>

"It is our honor and privilege to host a program highlighting the Kizh Nation," stated Chris Olson, Alhambra Historical Society President. "A main objective of the Alhambra Historical Society is to elevate the histories of all of Alhambra's peoples.

With our summer program, we hope to bring light to the rich history of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, the Kizh Nation."

The Kizh/Gabrieleño Indians once inhabited the entire Los Angeles basin with their lands reaching from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Channel Islands. They were first known by the Spanish as Kichireños or "people of the willow houses" and were the people who paddled out to greet Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo upon his arrival to California in 1542. Their original name having been lost due to assimilation into Spanish culture, the tribe came to be called Gabrieleño because of their forced labor with the building of the San Gabriel Mission. Today, descendants of the original Kizh nation still call Los Angeles County their home.

Those looking for more information may email the Alhambra Historical Society at [alhambrahistsoc@att.net](mailto:alhambrahistsoc@att.net).

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Real Estate

# Alhambra's Resilient Real Estate

By Gary Frueholz

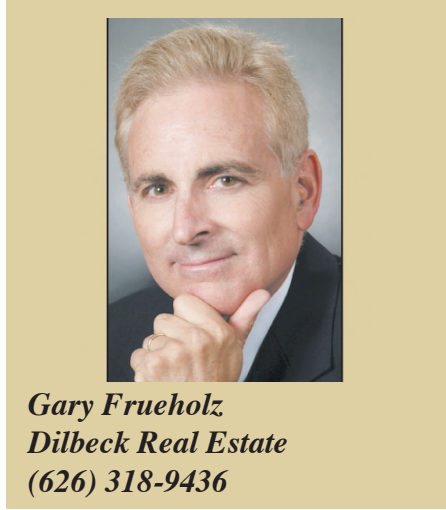
During the last year, single-family homes in the city of Los Angeles have experienced diminished real estate prices. Since last spring, prices in this category have declined by 7.5% in Los Angeles. However, Alhambra has shown impressive resiliency by declining only half that much during the same period. Prices of single-family homes in our city have declined, but only by roughly 4%. Real estate prices do not always continue upwards, so fluctuations of this nature are not unexpected.

Alhambra's price resiliency presents a pleasant reality for our city. Numerous factors and qualities of Alhambra support the strength of our real estate. Our city is adjacent to the city of Los Angeles, but yet not part of it. As a realtor, I describe Alhambra as being close to the "glitz" of Los Angeles without directly being a part of it. After a night at the Hollywood Bowl, Alhambra can come home to a relatively peaceful and quiet city.

Alhambra's close proximity to Los Angeles, plus our extensive park system, nationally acknowledged public school system, access to public transportation, and shopping outlets impact property values in a positive manner and strengthen our city's real estate to deal with market downturns.

One of Alhambra's important aspects is that it was incorporated in 1903. Consequently, Alhambra controls its police department, fire department, school system, real estate zoning requirements, and perhaps most importantly, its water system. Unlike much of Los Angeles, which does not have significant aquifers and relied heavily on Owens Valley water, Alhambra has its own wells to provide water and negotiate with other water districts. Alhambra is not a ward of Los Angeles with its water.

Also, Alhambra real estate benefits from being established during a time when land was less expensive. Typically, lots for houses in Alhambra are larger than many newer developments. Of the 20 single family detached homes listed in early June in Alhambra this year, the average lot size was 6,993 square feet. This



**Gary Frueholz**  
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(626) 318-9436

compares favorably with many newer developments where buyers often obtain a lot in the range of 5,000 square feet or less.

Houses in Alhambra often have their own unique architect and contractor. There is no repetitive monotony of architecture that is often seen in newer developments where neighboring houses are just mirror images. Alhambra's 26 historic neighborhoods demonstrate this diversity of architecture. The size of a property's lot influences value also. When you buy a home in the San Gabriel Valley, nearly half of what you pay for is the cost of the land, not the improvement on the land (i.e. the house). Sobering, but true. Land has great value in Southern California, and consequently, the value of a property is influenced by the size of the lot.

Through its incorporation, Alhambra maintains its independence which has imbued our city with the power and freedom to develop its unique personality. That unique personality and our city's services are appreciated by people and help produce our city's resilient 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, Certified International Property Specialist, and can be reached at 626-318-9436. See his stories at [www.garysstories.com](http://www.garysstories.com).

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



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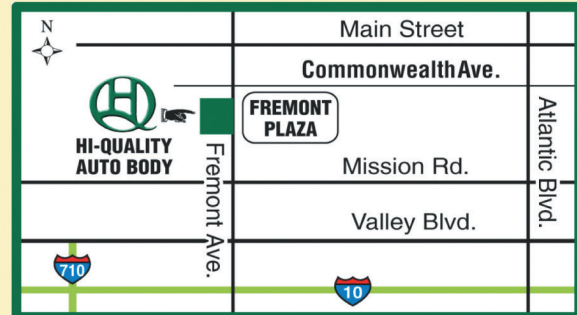
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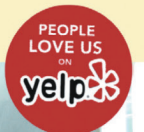
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### Movies in the Park 2023

Every Saturday night in July  
Movies begin at Dusk

7/1  
Turning Red  
Kids Concerts



7/22  
Frozen II Sing Along  
Anna & Elsa Appearance



7/8  
Princess and the Frog  
Tiana & Charlotte Appearance

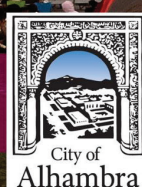
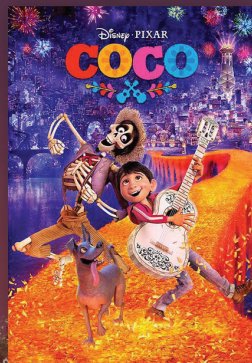


Preshows  
begin at  
7:00 pm

7/15  
Zootopia  
Animal Show



7/29  
Coco  
Magic Show



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For more information call (626) 570-3242

### Concerts in the Park 2023

Every Friday in July  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

6/30



The Band Fresh  
( Latin )

7/7



Dance Dance Evolution  
( Dance Hits )

7/21



Alumni Acoustic  
( Classic Rock )

7/14



Pop Vision Band  
( Pop/Rock Top 40s )

7/28



Latin Soul Band  
( Latin )



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