

AROUND ALHAMBRA



MARCH 2024 | GATEWAY TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

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Citizen Leaders of Alhambra *An Inside Look at Alhambra's Boards & Commissions and the People Who Run Them*

Alhambra is governed not only by elected officials like our City Council members but also by a cadre of citizen leaders who serve on various boards and commissions — 12 to be exact. These citizen-led entities play a crucial role in shaping the city's policies, addressing community needs, and enhancing the quality of life for locals. Here, Around Alhambra delves into the intricacies of Alhambra's commissions, their functions, and the individuals who contribute to their success.

Navigating Alhambra's Boards and Commissions

Alhambra's commissions encompass diverse areas, from arts and cultural events to transportation and youth engagement. Appointed by the City Council, these commissioners serve as advisors, consultants, and advocates, each contributing their expertise and

passion to drive positive change in the community.

The complete list of Alhambra Boards and Commissions is as follows: **Arts & Cultural Events Commission, Board of Library Trustees, Civil Service Commission & Board of Appeals, Design Review Board, Environmental Sustainability Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, HCDA Citizen Advisory Committee, Human Relations Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Transportation Commission Commission, and Youth Commission.**

Governed by the Brown Act, these boards and commissions operate transparently, ensuring their deliberations and decisions are accessible to the public. >> See **Citizen Leaders of Alhambra, p 2.**



"These 12 Alhambra USD students elected by their classmates as grade-level representatives at each high school have done an outstanding job serving as the District's 2023-24 Student Advisory Council," Superintendent Dr. Jaramillo said.

AUSD to 8-11th Grade Students: Help Shape District's Future, Run for 2024-25 Student Advisory Council

AUSD wants students to make their voices heard and make a difference in their community. The district's Student Advisory Council (SAC) is gearing up to elect next year's grade-level representatives. The 12-member council plays a crucial role in ensuring that student voices are at the forefront of district decision-making processes, advocating for positive change, and fostering an inclusive environment where everyone belongs.

The district urges 8th-11th grade students to run this spring to be representatives on the 2024-25 SAC. Being elected a member means having a chance to influence decisions directly impacting students' educational experience. Additionally, each year the council votes one of the members to be the student board member for the next school year. The elected student board member for 2024-25 will follow AUSD's

first-ever student board member, Justin Wang, who graduates in May. The student board member actively engages with district administrators and the community, attends board meetings, and advocates for the interests of fellow students on a district-wide level.

For the 2024-25 year, incoming freshmen representatives will be elected from their elementary/middle schools as finalists for ninth-grade representatives and then go through one more step in the selection process to allow them to take on their role earlier. In this inaugural year, freshmen did not get elected until September. The election timing change will allow the three elected freshmen to participate in the important June leadership training and team building.

>> See **AUSD to 8-11th Grade Students: Help Shape District's Future, p 14.**

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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 to and printed in *Around Alhambra* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce or its Board of Directors.

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Citizen Leaders of Alhambra

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The Brown Act

The Brown Act, also known as the Ralph M. Brown Act, is a California state law that governs open meetings for local legislative bodies, such as city councils, school boards, and other local government agencies. Enacted in 1953, the Brown Act ensures transparency and public access to government decision-making processes by requiring that meetings of these bodies be open to the public and properly noticed in advance. It also prohibits secret meetings and serial meetings, where members of a legislative body deliberate or discuss matters outside of a public meeting. The Brown Act promotes accountability, transparency, and public participation in local government decision-making.



Empowering Citizen Leadership: The Role of Alhambra's Commissions

While the City Council holds the authority to appoint commissioners, it is the commissioners' dedication to civic service that defines their impact. With term limits allowing for a maximum of eight years of consecutive service (except Youth Commission service, which is limited to four consecutive years), these citizen leaders bring fresh perspectives and unwavering commitment to their roles. Through their efforts, they influence policy decisions, advocate for community needs, and champion initiatives that promote the well-being of Alhambra's residents.

Each commission plays a distinct yet vital role in advancing Alhambra's interests. For instance, the Arts & Cultural Events Commission spearheads initiatives that celebrate the city's rich cultural heritage, while the Environmental Sustainability Commission advises on sustainability initiatives and promotes environmental awareness. Similarly, the Human Relations Commission fosters inclusivity and equality by ensuring it hears and represents all voices in civic matters.

A Deeper Dive Into Each Alhambra Commission & The People Who Donate Their Time to Run Them

Most of Alhambra's boards and commissions have at least five members — one for each of the city's districts. However, some have up to 10 or 15 members (while others have multiple vacancies). These individuals are not paid; they donate their time and efforts to these commissions to help forward the causes they believe in. They come from all walks of life and age groups but are often teachers, parents, former or aspiring politicians, and activists.

The Arts & Cultural Events Commission boasts a dedicated team comprising Danielle Massaro, Brian Canseco, Gail Hermano, Susan Saunders, and Laura Longoria. Together, they are responsible for curating and enhancing Alhambra's cultural landscape. Their duties extend beyond mere event coordination; they are entrusted with developing compre-

hensive plans and strategic recommendations presented to the Alhambra City Council. These recommendations shape the city's cultural narrative by advocating for enriching and inclusive experiences through city-sponsored events and activities in public spaces across Alhambra.



The Board of Library Trustees oversees the comprehensive management of Alhambra's public library system, ensuring it remains a beacon of knowledge, culture, and community engagement. The board's collective expertise and commitment reflect the library's integral role in the community, composed of Kerry Situ, Maria Conchita Banuelos, Nicolas Quach, Heather Kitching, and Gerald Perez Cortina. Beyond day-to-day operations, the board upholds adherence to both general law and the Alhambra City Charter, safeguarding the library's compliance with regulatory frameworks. Additionally, all library policies, including the essential Library Behavior Policy codified in the Alhambra Municipal Code, § 2.32.080, undergo meticulous review and approval by the Library Board of Trustees, ensuring alignment with the institution's mission and values.



The Civil Service Commission and Board of Appeals plays a pivotal quasi-judicial role within the framework of Alhambra's governance, overseeing critical hearings and decision-making processes that uphold the principles of fairness and adherence to established guidelines. Composed of Julia Plascencia, Laura Tellez-Gagliano, Lee Lieberg, Matthew Rutzen, and John Hatem, the commission embodies a commitment to impartiality and integrity. Additionally, the commission serves as the City's Civil Service Commission, overseeing the implementation and enforcement of civil service regulations to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and meritocracy within the municipal workforce.



The Design Review Board wields significant influence over the aesthetic aspects of planned developments, particularly in commercial, industrial, and residential projects. Current members such as Michael Daninger, Stanley Tsai, Ankit Udani, Jennifer Ng, and Nora Hernandez are entrusted with ensuring coherence and harmony in the city's architectural landscape. Its multifaceted

duties include exercising design control over all commercial, industrial, and residential planned development permits reviewed by the Planning Commission. Additionally, the board scrutinizes uniform sign plans for all multi-tenant buildings to maintain visual consistency and enhance the city's visual appeal. Moreover, it serves as a vital consulting entity to the City Council on matters pertaining to design control and signage, offering expert guidance and recommendations to uphold Alhambra's architectural standards and aesthetic integrity.



The Environmental Sustainability Commission plays a pivotal advisory role in formulating and advancing energy and resource conservation initiatives to safeguard the environment and bolster the city's sustainability efforts. The commission currently faces a vacancy in District 2, presently leaving its membership to four individuals: Lisa Massaro, Kim Luu, Katie Chan, and Yvette Corona. These committed members bring expertise and passion, driving the commission's mission forward. Among its official duties, the commission advises the City Council on matters concerning the Clean Power Alliance, offering insights and recommendations to steer Alhambra towards a greener and more sustainable future.



The newly established Historic Preservation Commission is dedicated to safeguarding Alhambra's rich historical landmarks and recognizing their intrinsic value in preserving its cultural heritage. This commission holds the vital responsibility of striking a delicate balance between preservation efforts and the inevitable growth and development of the city. Despite its critical role, the commission currently has no members. However, as a newly formed committee, people may soon fill these essential roles.



The Planning Commission, comprising ten members, two selected by each City Council member, is instrumental in guiding Alhambra's urban development. This advisory body provides expert insights on zoning and planning matters, maintaining a crucial balance between fostering growth and upholding zoning regulations for sustainable development. Recently, the commission played a pivotal role in updating the zoning code to meet the community's evolving needs.

The members are Jacob Mojarro, Russ Bryden, Christopher Juarez, Wing Ho, Eric Garcia, Calimay Pham, Chris Olson, Kent Tsujii, Antonio Gardea, and Karla Grijalva.



The Design Review Board, comprised of 5 members, is critical in overseeing the design aspects of planned developments, with a primary focus on commercial, industrial, and residential projects to ensure coherence in the city's architectural landscape. Their responsibilities encompass exercising design control over all planned development permits for commercial, industrial, and residential projects reviewed by the Planning Commission. Additionally, they review uniform sign plans for multi-tenant buildings and serve as a consulting body to the City Council on design control and signage matters. Among the members is Jennifer Ng, appointed by Sasha Renee Perez, who is notably active in advocating for historic preservation in Alhambra, particularly concerning architectural elements. Jennifer's extensive involvement with the Planning Commission and the City Council in the Zoning Code Update process underscores her commitment to enhancing the city's architectural integrity and urban aesthetics.



The HCDA Citizen Advisory Committee holds a pivotal advisory role in community development projects that wield considerable influence in shaping the fabric of urban spaces within Alhambra. While the committee ideally consists of 10 members, the current composition includes five individuals: Yvette Cardenas, Andrea Giese, Bonita Sharma-Ngan, Lewis McCammon, and Bill Vallejos. Tasked with providing guidance in planning, implementing, and evaluating the City's Consolidated Strategy and Plan for Housing and Community Development Programs, the committee members play a vital role in ensuring the alignment of these initiatives with the community's evolving needs and aspirations.



The Human Relations Commission of Alhambra plays a pivotal role in the city. Charged with fostering community cohesion and inclusivity, the commission diligently promotes goodwill and better relations among all residents. With a focus on advocating for underrepresented groups, including undocumented individuals, Asians, Latinos, the LGBTQI+ community, and people living with disabilities, the commission serves as an advisory body to the City Council. Currently, its membership comprises

two dedicated individuals: Scott Chan representing District 3 and Ken Tang representing District 5, with additional seats awaiting passionate advocates committed to advancing the cause of equality and diversity in Alhambra.



The Parks & Recreation Commission in Alhambra holds an influential advisory role in matters concerning recreation and developing parks within the city. With a keen focus on enhancing community well-being through leisure activities, the commission provides recommendations on the orderly and consistent development of parks and recreation facilities. Comprising nine members, the commission works tirelessly to ensure that recreational opportunities are accessible and diverse for all residents. This commission comprises nine members — Rene Nava, Donald Mumford, Lucy Banuelos, Suzi Dunkel-Soto, Anthony Seto, David Nguyen, Maurice Norrington, Elizabeth Jacoby, and Daniel Perez — with one vacant seat in District 3.

Committed to ensuring efficient and safe mobility throughout Alhambra, the Transportation Commission is a crucial advisory body to the City Council on traffic and transportation matters. With a mandate to focus on building and maintaining a well-connected city, the commission consists of ten members, with each City Council Member appointing two representatives. Addressing issues ranging from traffic congestion to public transit accessibility, the commission's work is vital in shaping the city's transportation infrastructure. There are nine members: Antonio Chavira Jr., Gwen Chen, Lillian De Loza Gutierrez, Steven Placido, Albert Lu, Henry Aviles, Omar Galicia, Cliff Bender, and Monica Calderon. One seat is vacant in District 3, offering an opportunity for an engaged individual to contribute to the city's transportation initiatives.



Finally, The Youth Commission of Alhambra serves as a vital voice for the city's younger population, emphasizing the significance of youth engagement in civic matters. With an advisory role related to youth activities and needs, the commission provides a platform for young residents to express their perspectives and concerns. Comprising twelve members, the commission represents the diverse interests and aspirations of Alhambra's youth. However, three seats remain vacant, awaiting enthusiastic individuals eager to advocate for the needs and interests of the city's younger generation. Currently, there are 12 members with three seats vacant: Chen Yu Wang, Zachary Oliva, Arabella L. Hernandez, Natalia D. Rosales, Isabella S. Hernandez, Jason Quach, Andy Taing, Marilyn Gonzalez, Iren Lam, Daniela Andrade, Joselyn Cooper, and Tatiana Hernandez.

Some commissions have advisory

roles, providing recommendations or advice to decision-making bodies such as city councils or boards of directors. Others have decision-making authority, where they have the power to approve or reject proposals, issue permits, or allocate resources. Each commission is unique yet united in its efforts to improve the City of Alhambra from a resident's perspective.

Why Join a Board or Commission?

Being a member of one of Alhambra's Commissions can be a rewarding experience, but it also requires hard work and commitment. While not for everyone, a thriving community like Alhambra is full of people suited for these critical and often time-consuming roles.

An example of such a person is Lewis McCammon, a long-time activist and Alhambra community member. Though twice-retired from his role as a teacher, he continues to devote much of his time to Alhambra by being vocal at City council meetings and on the HCDA Citizen Advisory Committee.

As a seasoned member of the Planning Commission and a prominent figure on the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Wing Ho is another individual who epitomizes civic engagement and community leadership in Alhambra. With a professional background in architecture and a deep-rooted connection to the city spanning over two decades, his journey from civil servant to community advocate offers valuable insights into the importance of active participation in local governance.

Reflecting on his multifaceted roles, Ho underscores his unwavering commitment to building a better community together. Having navigated the challenges of serving on the School Board during the pandemic, his ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and leverage his expertise in architecture has been instrumental in driving positive change.

For Wing, serving on the Planning Commission is not just a duty but an honor to represent the community's interests. He dedicates substantial time and effort to prepare for meetings, recognizing the importance of thorough deliberation and informed decision-making.

Encouraging greater citizen engagement in civil service and local businesses, he emphasizes the significance of AAPI representation and the need for more opportunities for underrepresented communities. Inspired by his mentor, the late Stephen Sham, Wing believes in paying it forward by nurturing future leaders and fostering inclusive dialogue.

While recognizing the challenges in navigating Alhambra's zoning code and planning initiatives, he remains optimistic about the city's progress and emphasizes the importance of continuous improvement and collaboration between city councils, commissions, and community stakeholders.

How to Get Involved

For Alhambra residents who are passionate about contributing to their community, serving on a commission offers a meaningful opportunity to make a difference. Filling out a Civic Service Application serves as the gateway to becoming a commissioner, providing insight into the consideration process and requirements for eligibility. Residents can also stay informed about local issues by participating in commission meetings, voicing their concerns, and collaborating with fellow community members to shape Alhambra's future.

Citizen leadership is at the heart of our city's progress. Through their dedication, expertise, and advocacy, Alhambra's commissioners exemplify the spirit of civic engagement, working to address community needs.

Visit cityofalhambra.org/351/Boards-Commissions to learn more and sign up to receive notifications.

What is a Board/Commission?

Commissions are official bodies typically established by governments or organizations to address specific issues or oversee particular functions within a community or institution. These bodies are often composed of individuals appointed or elected to serve in a leadership or advisory capacity.

Commissions focus on specific areas of concern or interest, such as education, transportation, health, and urban planning. They may make policy recommendations, provide oversight, conduct research, or implement programs and initiatives.

Depending on their mandate, boards and commissions may have various roles and responsibilities, such as conducting studies or investigations, holding public hearings, drafting reports or recommendations, reviewing proposals or applications, and monitoring compliance with regulations or policies.

Commissions often engage with the community to gather input, raise awareness about issues, and foster collaboration. This may involve hosting public forums, conducting outreach activities, or partnering with community organizations.

Overall, commissions play a vital role in addressing complex issues, promoting civic engagement, and ensuring effective local, regional, or organizational governance.

This Month's Board & Commission Meetings

Planning Commission Regular Meeting

March 4, 2024, 7:00 PM

HCDA Citizen Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

March 5, 2024, 7:00 PM

Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting

March 6, 2024, 7:00 PM

Board of Library Trustees Regular Meeting

March 12, 2024, 6:00 PM

Youth Commission Regular Meeting

March 12, 2024, 6:00 PM

Design Review Board Regular Meeting

March 12, 2024, 7:30 PM

Transportation Commission Regular Meeting

March 13, 2024, 7:00 PM

Environmental Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting

March 14, 2024, 6:00 PM

Planning Commission Regular Meeting

March 18, 2024, 7:00 PM

Arts & Cultural Events Committee Regular Meeting

March 20, 2024, 7:00 PM

City Council Regular Meeting

March 25, 2024, 6:00 PM

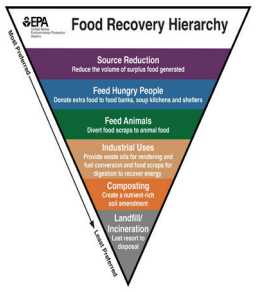
Design Review Board Regular Meeting

March 26, 2024, 7:30 PM

NEWS & NOTES



> Huntington Memorial Hospital Blood Drive at The Alhambra a Success
 The Alhambra was thrilled with the turnout at the recent Huntington Memorial Hospital Blood Drive held on The Alhambra's local campus. 31 successful donors' generosity will help to save up to 78 lives!



> Alhambra & SGVCOG Awarded Grant for Food Recovery Efforts
 The City of Alhambra was awarded first place for the 2024 Childhood Obesity Prevention/Environmental Health & Sustainability Awards at the United States Conference of Mayors' 92nd Winter Meeting! The grant funds will go towards the SGV Regional Food Recovery Program, an effort to reduce food waste, mitigate climate change, and feed the region's food-insecure residents.

> Enter the 2025 Tournament of Roses Student Art Contest
 Alhambra Unified Elementary School students are invited to participate in the Student Art Contest to inspire the design for the City's 2025 Tournament of Roses Float! Artwork must relate to the 2025 theme "Best Day Ever!" Deliver your artwork in person or by mail to the Parks and Recreation Department at Alhambra City Hall (111 S. 1st Street) by **Thursday, March 14**. The winner will receive two VIP tickets to the 2025 Tournament of Roses Parade!

> Alhambra High Off to State After Winning LA County Academic Decathlon
 The Alhambra High team, coached by Jose Sanchez, recently won the 47th annual Academic Decathlon. The team and other winners will next move on to the state competition, which will begin on **March 6**. State winners will then move on to the National Academic Decathlon in Pittsburgh from April 25-27.

> Asian Youth Center Set to Receive Statewide Award
 AYC and its Executive Director Michelle Freridge will be honored with the Chinese Women's Business Association of California's YuXiu Award on **March 16**! Congratulations on this incredible honor.

> Apollo Medical Gets a New Name
 Alhambra-based company Apollo Medical Holdings Inc. recently announced a leadership transition and rebranding along with a new company name — Astrana Health.



Why You Should Join the Republic Services Family

Nationwide, Republic Services employs more than 35,000 people who make 5 million daily pickups and operate more than 300 facilities, including recycling centers, organics processing operations, and landfills. The highly skilled team members are passionate about the work they do to protect the environment and the communities they serve, which are typically also the places they call home.

"At Republic Services, we cultivate a workplace where people matter. The intersection of human centricity and climate leadership empowers our team to make a meaningful impact on our environmental responsibility and community," said J.P. Robinson, general manager of the Sun Valley division, which serves Alhambra. "Working here isn't just a job; it's a journey of purpose and pride, contributing to a more sustainable today,

tomorrow, and forever." Republic Services seeks to hire people who have strong values and can help foster a culture of helpfulness, belonging, and safety. The organization is committed to an inclusive and safe workplace where you can be authentic daily.

If you seek a purpose-driven, well-paying career, consider joining the team at Republic Services. Available jobs in the region include drivers, equipment operators, mechanics, shop technicians, material sorters, laborers, customer service specialists, dispatchers, recycling coordinators, sales representatives, office support staff members, and more. To see and apply for open positions, visit RepublicServices.jobs.

To learn more about local services for residents and businesses, visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/Alhambra-ca.

Bridging the Digital Divide — Broadband Infrastructure in Alhambra and the SGV

In an era where connectivity has become a lifeline for various aspects of daily life, the significance of broadband infrastructure cannot be overstated. Yet, despite its ubiquity, disparities in broadband access persist across the SGV. According to data from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), approximately 256,000 households in the SGV lack access to computers, painting a stark picture of the digital divide prevalent in the region.

The pandemic spotlighted this issue, as it exacerbated existing inequalities and underscored the urgent need for robust broadband infrastructure. From remote work to accessing essential services like unemployment portals and telehealth appointments, reliable internet connectivity emerged as a non-negotiable necessity for individuals and businesses alike.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the SGV Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has embarked on a comprehensive broadband planning initiative with set goals to address the digital

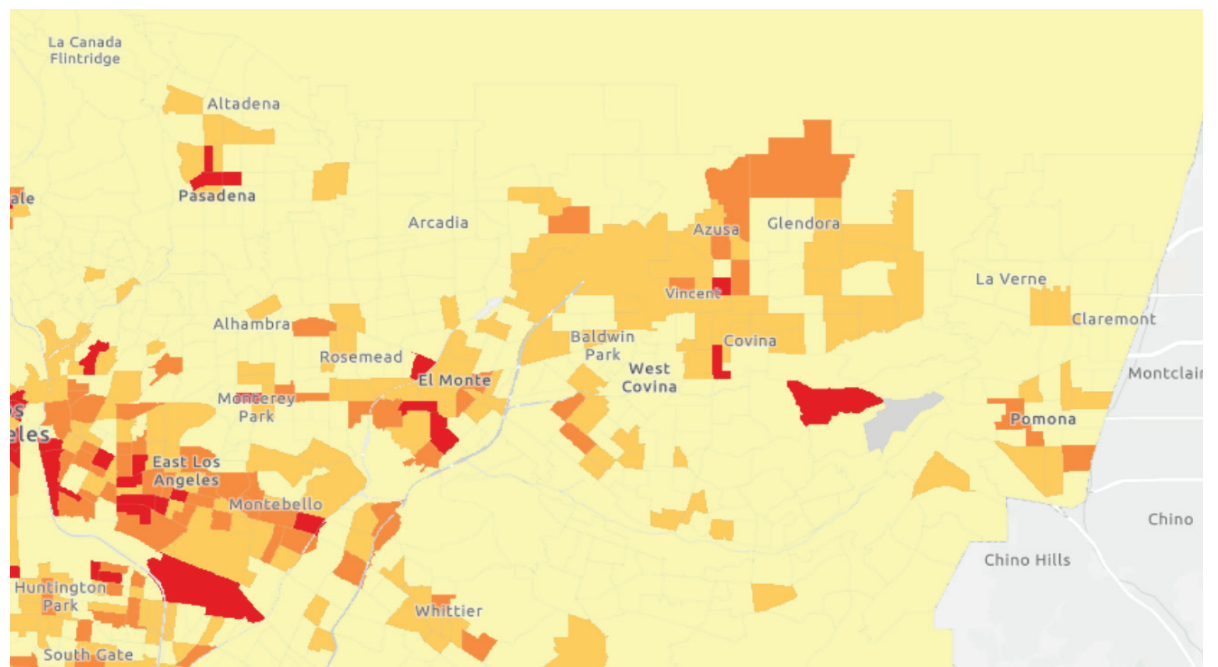
divide. One of the key initiatives is the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative, which seeks to expand access to broadband infrastructure across the region.

To inform their strategy, SGVCOG has conducted extensive research on the ground, including focus groups and surveys, to gauge the community's needs and challenges. Armed with valuable insights, the COG is updating its plan, focusing on data collection, analysis, and an outreach phase slated for completion by June 2024.

As the COG

presses forward with its efforts to bridge the digital divide, the ultimate aim is to not only expand access but also ensure that individuals and businesses across Alhambra and the SGV have the freedom

to choose from a range of reliable broadband options. With concerted action and community engagement, the vision of a digitally inclusive future for all residents of the SGV seems to be within reach.



Source: Delete the Divide, LA County Internal Services Department

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Déjà vu All Over Again? Water Supply Conditions Poised to Improve

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

Last month's article suggested we be patient with Mother Nature as El Niño and the winter rain and snow accumulations were not as robust as had been forecasted. As our comparison of water supply data from January to February shows, Mother Nature is again proving her mettle. Storms, nearly as fierce as a year ago, have led to improved rainfall and snowpack accumulations — improvements in our reservoir system and groundwater supplies will surely follow.

With more storm activity forecasted for the latter part of winter, we also hope to see an increase in the amount of imported water we receive from the state to replenish local groundwater supplies. Despite these improvements, we can't let our optimism stop us from using water wisely. It's almost certain that drought conditions will return since we use more water than Mother Nature provides. So, if we all increase our conservation "ethic" and make water-saving as natural as wearing a seat belt and other good habits, we can help sustain our improved water conditions.

Rain or shine, here are some basic ideas to help make conservation a year-round practice.

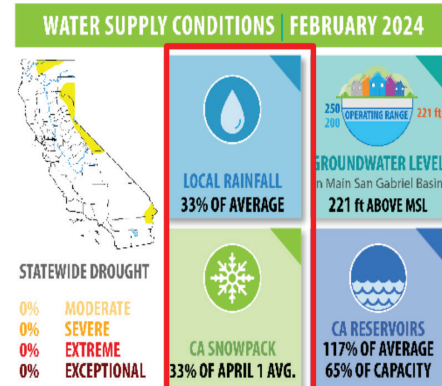
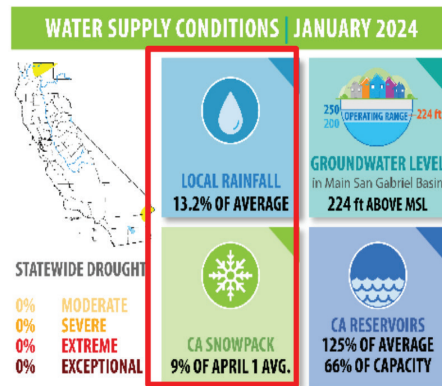
First, reset your irrigation controllers and systems to water less frequently and in smaller amounts as the weather is cooler and rainier, and sunshine is not as intense. After it rains, turn off your watering system for a few days.

Second, purchase a rain barrel that can capture stormwater for reuse around your home. If you buy a rain barrel, the District will provide you a rebate of up to \$35 (sgvmwd.com/water-conservation/#rebates).

Third, there is still time to plant California Native Plants and other drought-resistant vegetation to give your plants and their



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roots a head start before warmer spring and summer months arrive (visit sgvmwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CalScape_Alhambra_web.pdf for more information).

Please visit the District's website for more information, and please consider scheduling an educational presentation by contacting Evelyn Reyes or Albert Lu, External Affairs staff, at 626-969-7911 or info@sgvmwd.com.

All Around the Town



The YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley

By Glenn Barnett



Glenn Barnett

The Alhambra YMCA, as it was called then, was housed in the building that still sits on the Northeast corner of Almansor and Main St. I learned to swim there in 1954 and swam there regularly for many years. There was also a weight and exercise room. On the top floor was a basketball court, and besides pickup games, there was a league of local YMCAs from Pasadena to Long Beach that fielded teams of high school students who played basketball against each other. After all, basketball was a YMCA invention. There was also a banquet room at that "Y."

For me, my favorite YMCA experience was at Camp Ta Ta Pochon. In a local Native American language, that means "everlasting friendship." This beautiful camp in the San Bernardino Mountains is surrounded on three sides by the San Gorgonio Wilderness area. It is the highest camp in the mountains and is refreshed by a year-round mountain stream. The tallest old-growth pine trees on the mountain are contained on the campgrounds.

I spent a part of five summers there as a camper and then as a counselor. Activities included archery, crafts, and hiking to Jenks Lake for swimming and canoeing. There were day hikes to other places, too, but when I got to the end, I had no idea where I was. There were campfires with storytelling, singing, and lots of camara-

derie. I have lots of good memories from those days.

As time passed, the grand old building that housed the Y became increasingly challenging to maintain. Alhambra joined with other cities to create the YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley. Money was raised for a new and modern building at 401 E. Corto St. in Alhambra.

Community needs changed, too. More emphasis has been placed on after-school and summer programs for kids, including swimming in the 6-lane, 25-yard indoor heated pool. All lifeguards are Red Cross-trained and certified, and safety around the water is emphasized. Swimming lessons are available for pool newcomers.

There is homework assistance in the after-school programs. Fitness training and lots of free time on two state-of-the-art playgrounds. Fitness programs are available for people of all ages through group water exercise classes.

A growing national need is having enough to eat. Our Y has teamed with Tzu Chi, an international Buddhist service organization, to distribute food to families with pre-determined needs. Alhambra and our surrounding areas are blessed with the service of the YMCA.

There is so much more going on at the YMCA. Check out details of activities they may have available for you.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have comments for Around Alhambra? Is there a mistake or typo in the paper? We want to hear from you!

Email AA@alhambrachamber.org to let us know.

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The Alhambra Butterfly Garden is a Certified Butterfly Habitat

The Alhambra's Butterfly Garden is officially certified as a butterfly habitat by the North American Butterfly Association. This lovely garden extends along the whole east side of the A9 building, forming a luscious foliage-filled corridor for butterflies to feed and shelter.

To be certified, a butterfly garden must provide both greenery for the caterpillars to eat and nectar for the butterflies. The Alhambra Butterfly Garden is home to 18 different shrubs, trees, grasses, and perennials, all of which attract butterflies. Although the habitat is not species-specific, it generally attracts Monarchs, West Coast Ladies, Marine Blues, Painted Ladies, and Western Tiger Swallowtails.

songbirds.



Seaside Daisy is a California native plant that provides nectar and attracts all native butterflies.



Woolly Blue Curls is a fragrant small evergreen shrub with blue flowers that supports caterpillars, butterflies, and birds.



Desert Willow supplies caterpillar food and has a tolerance for hot, dry climates due to its thin, willow-like leaves. The tree produces a lovely bell-shaped flower, ranging in color from purple to light pink, and will bloom from May through September.



Carolina Cherry is a small flowering evergreen tree. When it blooms in spring, it provides nectar and attracts butterflies. Later, the colorful fruits are eaten by



Salvi Pozo Blue, commonly known as the Gray Musk Sage, has tall, showy spikes of violet-blue flowers and aromatic blue-gray leaves. It attracts many species of butterflies and hummingbirds.

Remembering Mimi Alvarez and Her Journey of Hope

By Gary Yamauchi

Mimi Alvarez passed just before Christmas. Many of you will recall Mimi as a young teen with several serious medical ailments. The symptoms of her illnesses meant that she could not be exposed to light as it would burn her skin. She used a wheelchair and had to be fed intravenously.

The residents of Alhambra came out for a city-wide fundraiser to support her. Among the volunteers were some local churches that held "free" weekly car washes (donation-based), and the Rotary Club of Alhambra helped wash the cars. The Police and Fire Departments each collected substantial donations, and our City staff and many others spent many hours of their own time assisting Mimi in raising nearly \$40,000. The money

was used to send Mimi via private jet to a hospital in Boston for treatment.

Mimi was very religious and would pray multiple times a day. Here is a portion of a poem that she liked. It was printed on the program at her memorial service.

"My First Day in Heaven"

By Barbie Mendivil

... I look upon my Savior's shining face,
As I thank him for his saving grace.
I look around my home here & there.
I thank Him for no burdens to bear.
This was well worth all of my pain.
For all the Beauty of heaven to gain.
It was worth all my trials and testings.
Nevermore I'll ever be alone.
I'm home in Heaven.
Yes! I'm home!



Student Mentorship at Emmaus Lutheran School

This year, Emmaus Lutheran School in Alhambra has adopted more programs to build a community where students of all ages come together to grow, support each other, and celebrate their shared values. One of the unique programs that sets Emmaus apart is its Chapel Buddy system, where older students mentor and assist younger ones in various activities, fostering a sense of responsibility, leadership, and camaraderie.

This innovative program was recently showcased in a week-long celebration of National Lutheran School's week, where students participated in a range of engaging activities led by their Chapel Buddies. One of the highlights was a series of Chapel Buddy activities, which included Bible trivia, a Gratitude Chain, and a discussion on the Holy Spirit. The older students took the lead, guiding their younger counterparts through these experiences.

In addition to these activities, the stu-

dents from the Kindergarten class also had the opportunity to show the Preschool-4 students what a day in Kindergarten looks like. This not only helped the younger students feel more comfortable about transitioning to the next grade but also allowed the older students to take on a leadership role and share their experiences.

The week culminated in a Winter Olympics relay race tournament, organized and led by the 8th graders. Students competed in a variety of fun and creative events, including hockey with pool noodles, sledding on wheeled coasters, and "skiing" on paper towels. The event brought together students of all ages, promoting teamwork, sportsmanship, and school pride.

The Chapel Buddy system at Emmaus Lutheran School is more than just a program; it's a testament to the school's commitment to building a strong, supportive community where students can thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

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Unwrap the Magic of the Season with the 2023 Alhambra Holiday Gift Guide

AUSD 2023 Food & Wellness Fair Brings Community Together to Set New Items for School Menus

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Call Jim
737-61

The Chamber View

Serving the Whole Community

By John Bwarie



John Bwarie
CEO Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

This past month, the Alhambra community celebrated the Lunar New Year with a festival that attracted more than 10,000 people from across the region. While the numbers were impressive for those attending, what was more impressive was the composition of the attendees. Scanning the crowd, you saw families from all backgrounds, groups of friends laughing and eating, and the earnestness of young and old captivated by cultural performances from around the Pacific.

While the majority of attendees were local and AAPI, the attendees represented the diversity of our whole community. That's our responsibility as the leaders of a civic organization like a Chamber of Commerce: to serve the whole community. It's a goal that we often meet, but we can always do more. As an organization representing hundreds of people with different backgrounds, politics, and opinions, we work to create diverse opportunities that connect with and engage the full spectrum of sectors of our community. And when we're at our best, we're able to bridge the gap between our differences to create a stronger, unified community.

Anyone seeking to lead, to inspire, to empower others has to explore all the ways it is possible to serve all members of the community. When people think of the Chamber of Commerce, they think of our role to serve businesses — which is the core of what we do. At the same time, we have a greater calling: to build a strong community where residents, visitors, business owners, and employees can thrive. As with the Lunar New Year Festival, we have been working to showcase the vibrancy of

our community to those who may have only one notion or preconception of what our community is about. We are the gateway to the San Gabriel Valley, and we take this to heart. We are the gateway to delicious food, the gateway to understanding diverse cultures, and the gateway to opportunity for those seeking to find a place to call home.

As you reflect on your place in our community, consider who you can include, who you can add to your circle, and how you can build on the support and service we need for our whole community. Consider visiting a new restaurant that isn't in your routine. Shop locally and get to know the name of the manager at our local Target (it's Zach!). Take the plunge to join a local civic organization like the Rotary and Historical Society or support the groups serving our community, like the Asian Youth Center or NAPAFAA.

March will bring new opportunities for people from across the region to come to Alhambra, especially with the opening of SkyZone, and it's a reminder that we have the ability to create a strong, welcoming community where people want to be.

Alhambra Events Calendar

March 2024

MAR 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 **Alhambra Farmers Market**
Sunday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 on the 100 block of South Second Street from 8:30 AM - 1 PM

MAR 9 **SkyZone Alhambra Grand Opening**
Saturday, March 9 at SkyZone (1021 S Meridian Ave) from 10 AM - 11 PM

MAR 17 **DABA St Patrick's Day Pub Crawl**
Sunday, March 17 in Downtown Alhambra from 3 PM - 'TIL

MAR 23 **Peeps & Pedals Spring Festival**
Saturday, March 23 at Alhambra Park from 9 AM-12:30 PM
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Tax Tips

Tax Tips: Tax Credits & Deductions

By Michael Aston EA

Tax credits and deductions change the amount of a person's tax bill or refund. People should understand which credits and deductions they can claim and the records they need to show their eligibility.

Tax Credits

A tax credit reduces the income tax bill dollar-for-dollar that taxpayers owe based on their tax return.

Some tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, are refundable. If a person's tax bill is less than the amount of a refundable credit, they can get the difference back in their refund.

To claim a tax credit, people should keep records to show their eligibility for the tax credits they claim and check to see if they qualify to claim any credits next year on their tax return.

Deductions

Deductions can reduce the amount of a taxpayer's income before they calculate the tax they owe.

Most people take the standard deduction. The standard deduction changes each



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

year for inflation. The standard deduction amount depends on a taxpayer's filing status, age, whether they're blind, and whether the taxpayer is claimed as a dependent by someone else.

Some people must itemize their deductions, and some people may choose to do so because it reduces their taxable income more than the standard deduction. Generally, if a taxpayer's itemized deductions are larger than their standard deduction, it makes sense for them to itemize.

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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Michael Aston, EA



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Your Insurance

How to Deal With Parking Lot Accidents

By Regina Talbot
State Farm Insurance Agent,
Insurance License # 0G05807

Parking lot crashes may only be common fender benders, but all parties involved should know what to do when one happens.

On a typical weekend, and especially during certain holidays, parking lots at malls and supermarkets are packed, increasing the possibility of a fender bender and door dings on your car, truck, or SUV.

If you hit, scrape, or otherwise damage a parked car — or if you're the victim of such an accident — don't panic. Here are some simple steps you can take.

What to Do If You Damage a Car in a Parking Lot

Don't drive away from the accident scene, no matter how minor. If another customer or a surveillance camera spots you, you could be punished with hit-and-run charges.

Track down the other car's owner. Head into the store and speak to someone at the customer service desk. Describe the vehicle to the employee and have them announce it over the store's loudspeaker.

Leave a note. If you cannot find the other driver, jot down essential information — your name, phone number, and a brief explanation of the accident — and place it in a secure spot on the car. Write down the license plate number and take a photo of the damage if you have a camera or smartphone with you.

Call the police. Depending on how extensively the car has been damaged, you should involve the police. They'll document the accident, and they can help you find the other car's owner.



Regina Talbot
Talbot Insurance Agency
regina@reginatalbot.com

What to Do If Your Car Is Damaged in a Parking Lot

Contact your insurance agent as soon as possible. Your agent will help you determine the next steps.

Record evidence. Take pictures of the damage with your phone or a camera.

Take thorough notes. If the other driver is still around, jot down their name, address, phone number, driver's license number, and insurance company. Gather as much information as possible.

Get back up. Before leaving, ask others in the parking lot if they witnessed anything. Also, head back into the store and find out if they have security camera footage you can check.

What to Do If You Witness a Crash in a Parking Lot

Provide assistance. If the offending driver is gone, help the other driver document the damage. Give the driver your contact information in case their insurance agent or the police need to contact you for further comments.

More assisted-driving features are being introduced to aid with parking. But these technologies can't drive for you — it's still important to stay cautious behind the wheel.

Contact Regina Talbot at (626) 357-3401 for more information.

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH
3:00 PM**

Downtown Alhambra Celebrates St. Patrick's Day With Their 13th Annual Pub Crawl

Downtown Alhambra Business Association will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Main Street on **Sunday, March 17**, with their 13th Annual St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl. The Pub Crawl event will start at Shorb Plaza, south of Lovebirds Cafe, at 10 S. 1st Street. Green clothing is highly encouraged.

The St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl is free for all 21 and over. Crawlers will check in starting at Shorb Plaza (at the alleyway and

fountain) at 2:30 pm and move from bar to bar throughout the evening as a group led by a bagpipe player. The first 50 people to RSVP and the first to line up will receive a free commemorative St. Patty's Day t-shirt!

Visit businesses on Main Street for St. Patrick's Day promotions and celebrations. For more information and to RSVP for the Pub Crawl, visit downtownalhambra.com or Instagram at [@downtownalhambra](https://www.instagram.com/downtownalhambra).

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Record Attendance at 30th Annual Alhambra LNY Festival Last Month

The Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival marked its 30th anniversary in grand style on Sunday, February 18, drawing an estimated crowd of over 10,000. Despite initial weather forecasts of potential rain, the skies remained clear throughout the day, undoubtedly contributing to the festival's unprecedented success. Festival staff and participants were delighted to see folks from around the SGV and even further gather in droves by the event's start at 9 am. Three blocks of Main Street were blocked off to traffic for the festivities, and at times throughout the day-long street festival, the sea of attendees filled the entire area.

Dozens of booths offered a little bit

of everything — there were games, free health screenings, hot food, informational opportunities, raffles, handmade goods for sale, and more, all side by side. Media coverage included ABC7 and LAist, who each also had their own booths where festival goers could pick up swag, take pictures, and enjoy other activities. Also, several food trucks and businesses on Main Street were open for business, many with long lines of eager customers.

Taylor Weik, a first-time festival goer who lives in Pasadena, said about her ALNY experience, "I was pleasantly surprised to see just how many vendors there were, from food stalls to small

business owners to local organizations. I don't come to Alhambra often, so it was nice to walk around and explore the area even after the festival ended."

Local elected officials, including Judy Chu, Sasha Renée Pérez, Jeff Maloney, Mike Fong, and María Elena Durazo spoke and gave well wishes for the new year. Festival sponsors, including Daniel Lin of New Century Autos and the owners of the new SkyZone, also took the stage to express their support for the community and its vibrant LNY traditions.

The festival's Main Stage served as a focal point for entertainment, featuring captivating performances by local tal-

ents of all ages. Performances featured AUSD, Vez Guitar Academy, Asian Arts Talent's Foundation, and a dance battle hosted by DABA. There was also a lion dance and a dragon dance that paraded around the stage and festival grounds. Christopher T. Balmaseda, President of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, expertly emceed the main stage, keeping the energy high throughout the day.

As the festivities drew to a close, many vendors found themselves overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response from visitors, with several reporting sold-out merchandise and early closures. Starting the Year of the Dragon with so much good luck certainly does seem auspicious!



A live calligraphy demonstration by Fuzhong Gan



Performers on stilts



Assemblymember Mike Fong



Free health screenings



Many booths offered fun activities



Festival sponsor Cal State LA



Sponsor New Century Autos had multiple tents at the fest

Images courtesy of Mel Saldonido Photography



The Wellness Pavilion sponsored by Allied Pacific IPA



The crowd the ALNY Festival



The Kids Zone sponsored by SkyZone Alhambra



The festival's cherry blossom tree provided a gorgeous photo backdrop



Representative Judy Chu, Vice Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez, and Chamber President Chris Balmaseda



Senator Maria Elena Durazo



The Money God poses with festival attendees in the #abc7eyewitness photo booth



A performance by the AATF (Asian Arts Talent Foundation)



Even pets were dressed up for the festival



Special Dragon Dance Parade along Main Street





Capture Treasured Memories with Mel Saldonido Photography

When it comes to immortalizing an important event in your life, it is important to hire a photographer who can beautifully capture the best moments for prosperity while also maintaining a professional and pleasant demeanor.

Alhambra, look no further than Mel Saldonido Photography.

Having honed his skills behind the lens for many years now, Mel Saldonido,

owner and photographer of the locally based business, takes pictures of important events like weddings, engagement announcements, and family gatherings. The Chamber had the pleasure of working with Mr. Saldonido during the 2024 Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival, and his work exceeded all expectations. See his portfolio and contact Mel Saldonido on Instagram at @melsaldonidophotography.



Images courtesy of [instagram.com/melsaldonidophotography](https://www.instagram.com/melsaldonidophotography)



Enjoy delicious, local cuisine!

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

March 4 to March 10



Free Spirited serves alcohol-free cocktails, making this brand-new establishment the first of its kind in the state. Modeled after an old speakeasy and housed inside the historic Caramba building, it's an excellent spot for any outing. They also serve tasty food from tacos to caviar.

Visit them at 3020 W Main St, Alhambra



March 11 to March 17



Wendy's is a classic fast food spot you're likely already familiar with, now in Alhambra! Serving renowned menu favorites like burgers, fries, and Frosties, the new Wendy's is also committed to catering to our community in particular, with location-specific discounts and events.

Visit them at 1201 E Valley Blvd, Alhambra



March 18 to March 24

TOPS JR

Tops Jr. is a classic local eatery that has been in business since 1952. With its signature retro look and old-school menu, a visit here is always like taking a trip backward in time. The diner's specialty is pastrami, but it's also famous for its delicious burgers and fries. Dogs allowed.

Visit them at 2407 W Main St, Alhambra



March 25 to March 31



Applebee's is the perfect option when craving an affordable, delicious meal with options that range from classic American to chicken alfredo. The famous chain bar and grill provides hearty comfort food in a relaxed setting and is open daily until midnight and available for catering.

Visit them at 21 E Main St, Alhambra





Local Sports News from AUSD High Schools

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

2024 Varsity Baseball

The heavy rains in early February delayed the start of the baseball season for the Alhambra Moors, but other local teams got some games in. Keppel lost two games to Arroyo 17-2 and 17-4 before beating El Monte 15-1. San Gabriel beat Bassett (La Puente) 4-2 in their first game.

2023-2024 Varsity Basketball

Three local basketball teams secured berths in the CIF Southern Section Playoffs, with the Keppel Girls team winning three games and advancing to the semi-finals. The Keppel Boys lost their first round game to Long Beach Jordan and their first round game to Arrowhead Christian.

2024 Varsity Soccer

Three local soccer teams also qualified for the CIF Southern Section Playoffs, with the Alhambra Girls team winning their first three games to advance to the semi-finals. The Keppel Girls won their first two games before losing in the quarter finals. The Alhambra Boys lost their first round game to Firebaugh (Lynwood) in a shootout after scoring 0-0.

2024 Varsity Football

The Alhambra Moors Football recently

held its awards banquet. The winners include:

Team Most Valuable Player –

Michael Ramos

Cary Couch Blue & Gold Award –

Michael Ramos

Offensive MVP –

Julian Khavari

Defensive MVP –

Adan Duenas Fregoso

Most Improved Player –

Ethan Ayala

Linemen of the Year –

Jonathan Ventura & Shawn Samaniego

Coaches Award –

Christian Mina & Kevin Sasso

Almont League First Team –

Michael Ramos & Ethan Ayala

Almont League 2nd Team –

Adan Duenas Fregoso, Shawn Samaniego, Christian Mina & Anthony Rosales

Two Alhambra players, Michael Ramos and Jonathan Ventura, participated in an All-Star game held at Cantwell High School on February 10, along with Moors Coach Mike Mackintosh. All proceeds from the game were donated to support homeless veterans.

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2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR GRADES 9 - 12

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Ramona Convent Students Attend Harvard Model Congress

Mr. Matt Marshall, Ramona Convent Social Studies Department Chair, recently accompanied 11 student leaders from the class of 2025 to the Harvard Model Congress (HMC) in San Francisco.

HMCSF is one of the best civic engagement conferences under the umbrella organization of Harvard Model Congress, the nation's oldest government simulation conference run exclusively by undergraduates at Harvard College. Students spent several weeks preparing for this exciting forum centered on small-group learning, inspiring debate, cooperation, and legislation. They were motivated to expand their perspectives

and to understand the issues at hand in a new, more nuanced way. HMCSF also offers attendees the unique opportunity to dive into the issues and debates facing the United States Congress today.

Mr. Marshall shared, "They made friends, actively debated, contributed their perspectives, argued Supreme Court cases (and won!), and even proposed legislation! They can't wait to be involved in HMCSF next year."

To learn more about Ramona Convent Secondary School at 1701 W. Ramona Rd., call 626-282-4151 or visit ramonaconvent.org.



AUSD to 8-11th Grade Students: Help Shape District's Future, Run for 2024-25 Student Advisory Council

from page 1

Election information will be distributed to AUSD school sites in mid-March. "We want students to be on the lookout and make sure to follow the steps for your school's elections," said Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo. "Being part of SAC means you will actively contribute to positive change, develop invaluable leadership skills, and leave a lasting impact on the AUSD community."

AUSD 2023-24 SAC members are:

Alhambra High School: Justin Wang, Student Board Member (gr. 12); Arely Lovato (gr. 11); Keiko Rakin (gr. 10); and Leslie Chu (gr. 9)

Mark Keppel High School: Kaitlyn Cao, Student Board Member Alternate (gr. 12); Madison Kang (gr. 11); Reuben Wu (gr. 10); and Angelina Yip (gr. 9)

San Gabriel High School: Mindy Wu

(gr. 12); Yingjie (gr. 11); Jasmine Ung (gr. 10); and Kevin Tang (gr. 9)

Justin Wang, Alhambra High senior, SAC chairman, and student board member, urges interested students to reach out to any current Student Advisory Council member to ask questions, find out more about running for the council, and learn what is involved in being part of SAC.

"If you are passionate about making a difference and want to play a role in shaping AUSD's future, don't miss out on this opportunity to become a member of the Student Advisory Council by running for 2024-25 grade-level rep at your school." Justin urges. "Together, we can work towards creating a school environment where students' voices are valued and heard."



These talented MKHS performers have already given a sneak peek of the first 20 minutes of the production when they were recently invited to provide the entertainment for the Tournament of Roses leadership retreat.

"You Can Sit With Us": Mean Girls Takes Center Stage at Mark Keppel High

This month, Mark Keppel High School brings the iconic musical Mean Girls to life with their much-anticipated spring musical. Featuring a cast of 40 actors, 30 tech students, and 50 musicians, their adaptation will captivate with its humor, smart dialogue, and great music.

Mean Girls is based on the 2004 film, which later became a hit stage musical and is now a popular film musical. It is the story of Cady Heron, a teenager who transfers from Africa to Illinois and must sort out how to maneuver from homeschool to

public high school. Filled with memorable characters, witty dialogue, catchy tunes, and insightful commentary on teenage life, the production is an entertaining experience for everyone.

Audiences have the chance to join in the fun as Cady, the legendary Plastics, and the lovable misfits navigate the hilarious world of teenage cliques, crushes, and cafeteria drama. It promises to be "so fetch." Catch the full performance of Mean Girls at MKHS on March 8-9 or 15-16. Tickets are available at mkhs.myschoolcentral.com.

Alhambra Unified School District NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

March 4 - 8, 2024

High Schools




CELEBRATE

- ★ PICK UP A FREQUENT DINER CARD ON 03/04/24 FROM YOUR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA AT BREAKFAST
- ★ HAVE SCHOOL BREAKFAST EVERY DAY DURING THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK AND GET A STAMP ON THE CARD EACH DAY
- ★ SUBMIT THE FULLY STAMPED CARD TO THE CAFETERIA ON FRIDAY 03/08/24 FOR THE GRAND PRIZE DRAWING!
- ★ VIP PASS GOOD FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH FOR YOU AND UP TO 3 FRIENDS!

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FRONT OF THE LINE

Food & Nutrition Services www.ausd.us (626) 943-6590

During the week of March 4-8, AUSD celebrates 2024 National School Breakfast Week to remind families that children who eat a healthy school breakfast feel stronger, focus better, and achieve more academically.

Surf's Up with National School Breakfast Week

The 2024 National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) campaign in March encourages students to take advantage of healthy breakfast options at school. Alhambra Unified joins the country in celebrating NSBW from March 4-8.

Busy weekday mornings make it a challenge for many families to find time for a healthy breakfast. AUSD schools make it easy for students to get a nutritious breakfast, complete with fruit and low-fat or fat-free milk, to make sure they are fueled and better able to listen, learn, and focus in class.

AUSD's Food and Nutritional Services (FNS) team put together fun incentives for the week. Students who eat school breakfasts every day during NSBW are eligible to win a variety of prizes at the elementary level or a front-of-the-line VIP pass for

the selected high school student and up to three friends.

The NSBW campaign theme, "Surfs Up with School Breakfast," reminds the district community that school breakfasts are a healthy, energizing start to the day for students. Studies show that students who eat school breakfast are more likely to reach higher levels of achievement in reading and math, score higher on standardized tests, have better concentration and memory, be more alert, and maintain a healthy weight.

"A healthy breakfast at the start of the day helps ensure students are nourished and ready to learn," said William Fong, who was recently promoted to Director of FNS. "National School Breakfast Week is one way our team helps educate students about all the nutritious and delicious choices we offer each day."



"AUSD and our families are very fortunate to have a strong partnership with AEF," said Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo. One of AEF's current major fundraising projects is to raise a total of \$250,000 for science enrichment camp for every sixth-grade student.

AEF Continues Ambitious Fundraising for Science Camp, Asks Community to Join Adopt-A-Camper Program

AEF board members presented the district with a \$50,000 check at a recent AUSD Board of Education meeting. These funds will go toward sending every Alhambra Unified School District sixth grader to science enrichment camp in the month of March — and every spring in the future. To make science camp an ongoing reality for students, AEF is continuing to raise the funding needed.

At science camp, 1,031 sixth graders will have an immersive experience that offers a hands-on approach to scientific inquiry while they participate in lively, engaging

activities. Science camp promotes teamwork, resilience, strong peer relationships, and a sense of responsibility for the environment.

"AUSD is committed to providing students with enriching experiences like science camp because we know transformative opportunities like this one can be life changing for our children," said Janet Lees, assistant superintendent of education services.

AEF president Steve Perry urges, "We are asking for the community's assistance. If you are able to become a sponsor of AEF's Adopt-A-Camper program, please make your donation" through this link: paypal.com/

fundraiser/charity/2257144.

He points out that many of the students have never seen the mountains, never left SGV, or ever spent a night away from home. Perry adds that donors of \$50 and above will receive a commemorative ornament as a token of appreciation.

At the check presentation ceremony, AEF surprised the district by announcing another donation of \$10,000 to support AUSD's Visual and Performing Arts programs with the purchase of musical instruments. This donation was made possible by a recent grant through the Pasadena Showcase House of Design.

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2023-2024 REFLECTIONS AWARDS
“I am Hopeful Because...”

Primary (Pre-K-Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5)
Middle School (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), Special Artist (All Grades)

	Dance Choreography			
	Emilia Kao	Brightwood Elementary School	Primary	Award of Excellence
	Marissa Helguera	Martha Baldwin School	Intermediate	Award of Excellence
	Sarah Demus	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Middle School	Award of Excellence
	Film Production			
	Ellie Yao	Brightwood Elementary School	Primary	Award of Excellence
	Elise Date	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Intermediate	Award of Excellence
	Valerie Chong	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Middle School	Award of Excellence
	Emmett Lee	Alhambra High School	High School	Award of Excellence
	Literature			
	Desmond Roura	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Primary	Award of Excellence
	Olivia Gagnon	Brightwood Elementary School	Primary	Award of Merit
	Chloe Suh	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Intermediate	Award of Excellence
	Jett Lin	Martha Baldwin School	Intermediate	Award of Merit
	Desiree Chong	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Middle School	Award of Excellence
	Hannah Vasquez	Emery Park School	Middle School	Award of Merit
	Cadence Tanaka	Brightwood Elementary School	Middle School	Honorable Mention
	Angeline Chau	Mark Keppel High School	High School	Award of Excellence
	Jada Leung	Alhambra High School	High School	Award of Merit
	Music Composition			
	Aaron Zheng	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Intermediate	Award of Excellence
	Queena Yang	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Middle School	Award of Excellence
	Photography			
	Mila Lim	Brightwood Elementary School	Primary	Award of Excellence
	Scout Wong	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Primary	Award of Merit
	Paige Okita	Brightwood Elementary School	Intermediate	Award of Excellence
	Abby Chen	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Intermediate	Award of Merit
	Marisa Park	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Middle School	Award of Excellence
	Alexis Ho	Brightwood Elementary School	Middle School	Award of Merit
	Grace Alo	Alhambra High School	High School	Award of Excellence
	Kadence Au	Mark Keppel High School	High School	Award of Merit
	Visual Arts			
	Mila Lim	Brightwood Elementary School	Primary	Award of Excellence
	Hayden Lin	Martha Baldwin School	Primary	Award of Merit
	Kaylee Chan	Ynez School	Primary	Honorable Mention
	Ethan Chatzipantsios	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Primary	Honorable Mention
	Imani Prieto	Emery Park School	Primary	Honorable Mention
	Emily Wong	Brightwood Elementary School	Intermediate	Award of Excellence
	Chloe He	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Intermediate	Award of Merit
	Bella Rojas	Ynez School	Intermediate	Honorable Mention
	Eileen Wang	Wm. Northrup Elementary School	Intermediate	Honorable Mention
	Nina Tierney	Martha Baldwin School	Intermediate	Honorable Mention
	Nathan Yao	Brightwood Elementary School	Middle School	Award of Excellence
	Michelle Lee	Monterey Highlands Elementary	Middle School	Award of Merit
	Yuxin Lai	Martha Baldwin School	Middle School	Honorable Mention
	Angeline Chau	Mark Keppel High School	High School	Award of Excellence
	Nicole Del Villar	Alhambra High School	High School	Award of Merit
	Zuyuan Zhou	San Gabriel High School	High School	Honorable Mention
	Nicholas Lee	Emery Park School	Special Artist	Award of Excellence

The 22 “Award of Excellence” winners were submitted as Alhambra Council’s entries in the First District PTA Reflections program.



Alhambra Council PTA Honors 2023-24 Reflections Art Competition Winners + Participants

In January at Mark Keppel High, the Alhambra Council PTA celebrated all 43 of this year's outstanding AUSD entries in the PTA Reflections Art Competition, which included 22 Award of Excellence winners, 12 Awards of Merit, and nine Honorable Mentions. The competition theme “I am hopeful because...” inspired beautiful TK-12 submissions from seven elementary schools and three high schools.

Three student entries were selected to submit to the California PTA for possible state-level recognition:

- Desiree Chong (Monterey Highlands School): Literature Category, Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Division
- Queena Yang (Monterey Highlands School): Music Composition Category, Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Division
- Mila Lim (Brightwood School): Photography Category, Primary (Gr. TK-2) Division

Students submitted entries in dance, film, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. One highlight of the celebration was the Art Gallery, which showcased the visual arts, photography, and literature categories. Watch the video here: youtu.be/IYUuc5H5RhI.

To experience the wonderful selections in the dance choreography, film production, and music composition categories, watch this video: youtu.be/CatRr7-Q-vE.

“Congratulations to Desiree, Queena, and Mila, the talented Alhambra Council PTA’s Reflections award winners, every student artist who submitted an entry, and all who celebrated with them,” said Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo. “Thank you to the PTA’s at every site for organizing the individual competitions and providing opportunities for our student to showcase their artistic abilities.”



Joyous Marguerita School Rededication & Time Capsule Ceremony Celebrates Its Past, Present and Future

Marguerita School principal Thomas Kohout always knew he wanted to do something special for students, staff, and families to celebrate the completion of the school's three-year modernization construction project. At the same time, he wanted to pay tribute to Marguerita's 93-year history as a hub of the community and source of lifelong connections for alumni and former employees. He also hoped to capture the strength of the Huskies' spirit for future generations.

After months of collaborative planning from an enthusiastic community, the plan was hatched. Together, they created the joyful Marguerita Rededication + Time Capsule Ceremony on Friday, January 19, 2024, which beautifully accomplished the remarkable trio of goals, creating memories for everyone who participated.

Arriving guests were greeted by the music of AUSD musicians. Upon entering the school, guests, current and former Marguerita families and staff, and city officials

were treated to a gallery walk of historical photos and refreshments followed by a special presentation in the school auditorium.

Inside the auditorium, Marguerita's music students played. Principal Thomas Kohout welcomed special guests, shared highlights of Marguerita's history, and told the story behind the January 19 campus rededication.

Among the special guests were several former principals, including Gary Fox, Carl Nagata, and Teresa Johnson. Then Marguerita's teacher and alumni representatives announced the contents of the time capsules before the celebration moved to the front of the school.

Musicians played. Final comments were made. Five time capsules were sealed into their casing of metal, cement, and brick—to be opened in fifty years—in January 2074. As one guest pointed out, "Today's ceremony is another splendid chapter in the history of Marguerita School."



This collage of photos from Baldwin's mini Farmer's Market event shows the excitement and enjoyment of students appreciating farm fresh food and learning how the produce makes its way from local growers to family tables.

Baldwin Students Delight in Farmer Teresa's Fresh Produce & Tales of Farm-to-Table Journey

AUSD's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) department partnered with Martha Baldwin School to bring Farmer Teresa from Old Grove Orange Farms to show what it takes to grow the food they eat. Farmer Teresa's stories about how all that produce makes it from the farm to their tables captivated students.

As a bonus for her January visit, Farmer Teresa created a mini Farmers Market filled with fresh produce direct from her farm. The bright colors and sweet aromas of fresh-from-the-earth fruits and vegetables sparked the curiosity and excitement of the TK-8 grade learners.

During each grade-level assembly, Farmer Teresa, assisted by Baldwin's student Nutrition Advisory Council (NAC), talked about Old Grove Orange Farm (which specializes in bringing fresh locally grown produce to schools and districts), the importance of agriculture, and what life is like on the farm.

The highlight came when the students could immerse themselves in the vibrant colors and textures of the farm-fresh produce. They eagerly sifted through the many bins of fruits and vegetables, carefully selecting their favorites for sampling.

"It was incredible to see the students' faces light up as they explored the varieties

of produce and all their different colors and sizes," said Kathy Mach, AUSD Food Service Field Supervisor. "Their delight reaffirms how important it is that we connect students with the source of their food and talk about what Farmer Teresa calls the nutrient superpowers of produce."

Farmer Teresa's visit was a reminder of the labor and care that goes into each piece of produce students consume. With her enthusiastic guidance, students could recognize and value the hard work and dedication of farmers who bring food to their homes and schools.

Principal Chris Takeshita expressed gratitude for Farmer Teresa's visit and the efforts of FNS to connect students' meals to the school's curriculum. "Today's lesson went beyond textbooks and classrooms and brought an appreciation of agriculture to life for our students," explained Takeshita. "We are grateful to Farmer Teresa for sharing her knowledge and passion with our students and for giving our NAC students the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills during events like these."

Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo said, "We are thankful to Farmer Teresa and to AUSD's Food and Nutrition Services for thrilling our students in such a fun-filled and educational day."



Top, SGHS thespians unveil a sneak peek of their exhilarating April musical *In the Heights* by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Bottom left to right, Alhambra High's stunning Ballet Folklórico, Mark Keppel trumpet player Adrian Gomez playing Latin favorites with guitarist David Holquin, and SGHS's Vietnamese Club fashion show featuring their elegant twist on traditional Vietnamese dress.

ALA's Celebrating Our Cultures Festival Spotlights AUSD Community's Many Heritage Traditions in Music, Dance, Fashion, Food, Storytelling

The Alhambra Latino Association (ALA) has always known that cultural festivals strengthen a community's capacity for joy, creativity, and togetherness. That energy was on display at their Celebrating Our Cultures Festival on a rare sunny February afternoon filled with magnificent student music, dance, drama, art, storytelling, fashion design, and SGHS's Nutrition Advisory Council's delicious smoothies freshly mixed on the blender-bike. Students from all three high schools entertained families and celebrated AUSD's cultures. Student clubs and community organizations were on hand to share resources.

Alhambra High School's Ballet Folklórico and the Dream Center brought their gifts for dance and storytelling to the

celebration. Mark Keppel's Aidan Gomez, trumpet player for the MKHS band, and guitarist David Holquin played much-loved Latin music favorites. A lively Matorador band ensemble entertained, the SGHS Vietnamese Cultural Club presented their elegant twist on traditional Vietnamese dress in a fashion show, and SGHS thespians unveiled a sneak preview of their exhilarating upcoming April musical, *In the Heights*, by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Adding to the cultural mix were students from SGHS Bravo Way Club and Corazon Latino.

To learn more about the Alhambra Latino Association or to make a donation, please visit their website: alhambralatinoassociation.com



Images courtesy of: Doug Chan Wing

South Korean Students Warmly Welcomed at AHS and MKHS, AUSD's Cultural Exchange Program Grows

In January, Alhambra High School and Mark Keppel High School each welcomed a group of South Korean high school students with colorful banners and bands playing for a festive first day of hospitality, part of the district's expanding South Korean Student Cultural Exchange program.

Both schools treated their delighted South Korean visitors to a delicious luncheon of tacos or In-n-Out burgers, entertained them with a variety of high-energy student performances, posed for selfies, and followed up with campus tours. For ten days, the South Korean students stayed in the homes of AHS and MKHS families and joined their host students in classes, sports, clubs, and social activities.

AUSD is sending a group of very excited AHS and MKHS students to South Korea for their own exchange opportunity in March during spring break.



Assistant superintendent of educational services Janet Lees joined the latest AUSD graduates from the National Institute for School Leaders (NISL) as they celebrated their achievement. From left to right: Debora Palafox-Perry, Garfield School instructional coach; Janet Lees; Lindsay Gilbert, Northrup School principal; and Dr. Stephanie Richardson, Garfield School principal.

AUSD Leaders Commit to Intensive Professional Learning, & Best Practices of Highly Effective Schools

Alhambra USD is celebrating its most recent graduates from the National Institute for School Leaders (NISL): Northrup principal Lindsay Gilbert, Garfield instructional coach Debora Palafox-Perry, and Garfield principal Dr. Stephanie Richardson.

NISL, a program of the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE), is a nationally recognized, research-proven, professional learning program for school leaders. Over the course of 12-15 months, NISL participants engage in 12 intensive, interactive multi-day units to deepen their understanding of content and processes to make positive changes in their schools and district. Units include a focus on world-class schooling vision and goals, research on learning, and sustaining transformation through capacity and commitment. The broader goal is to build a better, more equitable U. S. public education system.

Each year, small cohorts of AUSD administrative and instructional leaders

participate in NISL, with these three graduates among the most recent group to complete the program. Currently, more than 20 AUSD educational leaders are participating in NISL as an Alhambra cohort, a unique opportunity for them to collaborate with a large group of peers and to propose meaningful changes they can implement together. This group is scheduled to complete their program in early June.

"We applaud our school leaders for embracing the enormous commitment that the National Institute for School Leaders program demands," superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo said. "This highly respected program based on three decades of research into the world's top-performing education systems is one of the ways we are building and empowering the district's leadership bench to give educators and students the tools they need to become world class."

Do You Have Your Tickets for the PTA Founders Day Dinner & Awards Celebration Yet?

Join the **March 8** fun-filled Founders Day evening of dinner, silent auctions, and raffles. The PTA Founders Day is an opportunity to celebrate and thank PTA Honorary Service Award recipients — all those amazing people who are champions of AUSD, district PTAs, schools, students, and families.

Proceeds from this fundraiser support operating costs and projects, including the PTA Reflections Art Program and PTA scholarships for AUSD high school seniors. The contributions make it possible for Alhambra Council PTA to continue fulfilling its mission to positively impact the lives of children and families.

Support this magnificent effort by contacting your local PTA to purchase a ticket.

Details:

- Friday, March 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm
- Hilton Los Angeles / San Gabriel Hotel
- 225 West Valley Boulevard in San Gabriel
- \$60 per person
- NOTE: Tickets NOT available at the door.

Alhambra USD Leaders Honor Their Own

AUSD is a member of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the largest professional organization for school leaders in the United States. Its top priority is to advocate in the best interests of public school elementary and high school students and to develop, empower, and inspire equity-minded educational leaders.

As an ACSA chapter member, the Alhambra Management Association (AMA) gives its managers the opportunity to honor their peers through ACSA's annual leadership award program. AMA has announced eleven AUSD team members who have been recognized for ACSA chapter awards and nominated to continue for ACSA Region XV recognition. The eleven honorees listed on the accompanying graphic will be recognized in a special ceremony in April.



Josephine Romano Lyden, seated left, worked at the Index of American Art in the late 1930s on art projects documenting early American artifacts and later as an art instructor with the Alhambra Unified School District.

Prominent Women Artists Who Called Alhambra Home

By Joyce Amaro
Alhambra Historical Society

To commemorate Women’s History Month, the Alhambra Historical Society is profiling three nationally recognized female artists who once called Alhambra home — Florence Upson Young, Marjorie Reed, and Josephine Romano Lyden.

Florence Upson Young was born in 1872 in Iowa and received art training at

the Chicago School of Art and the prestigious Art Students League in New York. She moved to Alhambra in the 1920s; her home and studio were at 29 South Granada Avenue, just south of Main Street. No doubt Ms. Young was drawn to Alhambra as many of her artist friends and associates lived just blocks away on Champion Place — better known then as Artists’ Alley. Ms. Young’s subjects ranged from California desert, sea, and mountain landscapes to California Missions to Chinatown. Her paintings circa 1932 of “China City” — the current location of LA’s Union Station — are especially noteworthy. Pomona College’s Museum of Art has the most extensive collection of Florence Young’s paintings. Alhambra’s Historical Society Museum is the proud owner of three of Ms. Young’s original watercolor paintings, entitled “San Gabriel Mission,” “A View of Mt. Wilson,” and “The Old Mill.” Ms. Young died in 1974 in San Gabriel.

Marjorie Reed was one of the artists known as “The Eight Artists of Champion Place” and the only woman artist to be included in this group. Born in Illinois in 1915, Ms. Reed moved to Southern California with her family in 1927. Her father, Walter Reed, worked as a freelance graphic artist for an LA-based commercial art company, and Marjorie began working with him at 14. After graduating high school, Ms. Reed discovered Alhambra’s Artists’ Alley. She often walked or roller skated the 16-mile round trip from her family’s home in Highland Park to Alhambra to receive art instruction from the renowned California landscape artist Jack Wilkinson Smith, who lived at 16 Champion Place. After a near-death encounter with a car, the Smith family in-

vited Ms. Reed to live with them, and she officially became the youngest member of Artists’ Alley. Ms. Reed is best known for her oil paintings of stagecoaches and stations. Over the course of her life, she created a series of 30 paintings depicting the various stage stations along the California Butterfield Overland Stage Route. The success of this collection led to her completing paintings for each of the six states through which the Butterfield Stage Route traverses. Ms. Reed died in 1996 in Vallecito, CA.

Josephine Romano Lyden was born in Alabama in 1915 but grew up in LA’s Lincoln Heights area and received her art training at the LA Art College. She worked with other prominent artists, including Frank Lloyd Wright and Walt Disney, in the late 1930s at the Index of American Design. During this time, Ms. Lyden collaborated with Edith Towner and created a watercolor/graphite painting of an 1880s Mollie Bentley doll. This painting is now housed at the National Gallery of Art. When the war hit in the 1940s, Ms. Lyden worked as an electrical/mechanical draftswoman and technical illustrator. After World War II, Ms. Lyden moved to Alhambra and lived here until she died in 2009. She worked as an art instructor for many years in the LA Unified School District and the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese. At age 86, she was still working at the Alhambra Unified School District as an art instructor.

Visit the Alhambra Historical Museum this month to learn more about the women who influenced, led, and shaped the Alhambra we know today. Learn more at alhambrahistoricalsociety.org or email alhambrahistsoc@att.net.

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Ask Dr. Dara, D.D.S.



What is the Best Dental Crown?

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

Patients often ask what the best dental crown is. The short answer is that the best crown is the one that fits properly. However, there is more to it!

Dental crowns are a very common dental treatment, though it is impressive how a badly broken tooth can become brand new again. When correctly done, a crown could last a very long time.

A crown is a custom-made, tooth-shaped cap that fits over the remaining damaged tooth to strengthen and improve the chewing function. Crowns are made from different materials. Most commonly used are metal, metal covered with porcelain, or only a porcelain material like lithium disilicate and zirconia. Each material has its advantages and considerations. For example, zirconia is strong and the best material for the back teeth but less aesthetic. Lithium disilicate has a natural look, great aesthetics, and good strength. That's why it is widely used for front and back teeth but will not be the best option for a person who grinds.

What Are the Criteria for a Well-Fitting Crown?

Sealed margin: This is detectable by an x-ray taken with the crown on to see if the margin of the crown is closed entirely all around.

Comfortable bite: Usually, the dental crown procedure is done under local anesthetic, and often, the patient is still numb when the dentist is checking the bite. Once the anesthetic wears down, deciding if you need to return for bite adjustment is easier. Don't wait for it to settle on its own! Crowns are made of solid material and will take a long time



Dr. Dara, D.D.S.
Advanced Dentistry Alhambra
daradds@yahoo.com

to self-adjust.

Good contact with the adjacent teeth:

The crown should touch the adjacent teeth without adding too much pressure. You should be able to feel resistance when you floss but not have a hard time doing it. If there is a space between the crown and the adjacent teeth, it may cause food impaction, gum irritation, and decay.

Aesthetics: Your crown should look beautiful but natural. Shape and color should match the adjacent teeth.

Caring for Your Crown

The crown is not susceptible to decay, but the tooth under the crown can still have cavities. To prevent this, continue brushing at least twice daily and flossing every night.

Porcelain is a very strong material but can still break, so avoid chewing ice or using your teeth as a bottle opener.

Be sure to see your dentist for regular exams and professional teeth cleanings.

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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Disclaimer: We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all your options.



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Your Insurance



What is the Medicare IRMAA for 2024, and When Does It Apply?

By Katherine Yu Simms

The income-related monthly adjustment amount, or IRMAA, is a fee you pay on top of your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums if you make a yearly income above the annual thresholds.

What is IRMAA?

The Medicare income-related monthly adjustment amount, or IRMAA, is a surcharge on Medicare premiums for Medicare Part B (medical insurance) and Part D prescription drug plans. It applies only to Medicare beneficiaries with a modified adjusted gross income above \$103,000 for an individual return and \$206,000 for a joint return. If your earnings are below this threshold, IRMAA doesn't apply to



Katherine Yu Simms
 Medicare Insurance Agent
 loverygoldenyears@gmail.com

How is the Medicare IRMAA Calculated?

The Medicare IRMAA for Part B and Part D is based on your income and is calculated on a sliding scale. When calculating whether IRMAA charges apply to you, Medicare uses the adjusted gross income amount you reported on your IRS tax return from two years prior to the current year.

What are the 2024 IRMAA Brackets?

Your final IRMAA payment amount depends on your income and tax filing

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 Medicare Insurance Agent
 License #0M21975

- 1** How well does my current plan meet my needs?
- 2** What are my other Medicare plan options?
- 3** I'm turning 65 soon, where do I go and what do I do?
- 4** What is the difference between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage?

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status. Here's the breakdown.

Medicare Part B IRMAA

If the Part B IRMAA applies to you, the amount you owe will be added to your Part B premium, which is \$174.70 per month in 2024 for most people.

For 2024, beneficiaries whose 2022 income exceeded \$103,000 (individual return) or \$206,000 (joint return) will pay a premium ranging from \$244.60 to \$594, depending on income.

Do I still have to pay the IRMAA if I choose Medicare Advantage?

Some people mistakenly think they can avoid paying IRMAA charges if they sign up for Medicare Advantage instead of Original Medicare. However, IRMAA applies to all Medicare beneficiaries whose earnings are high enough to make them eligible. This is because everyone on Medicare Advantage still owes the Part B

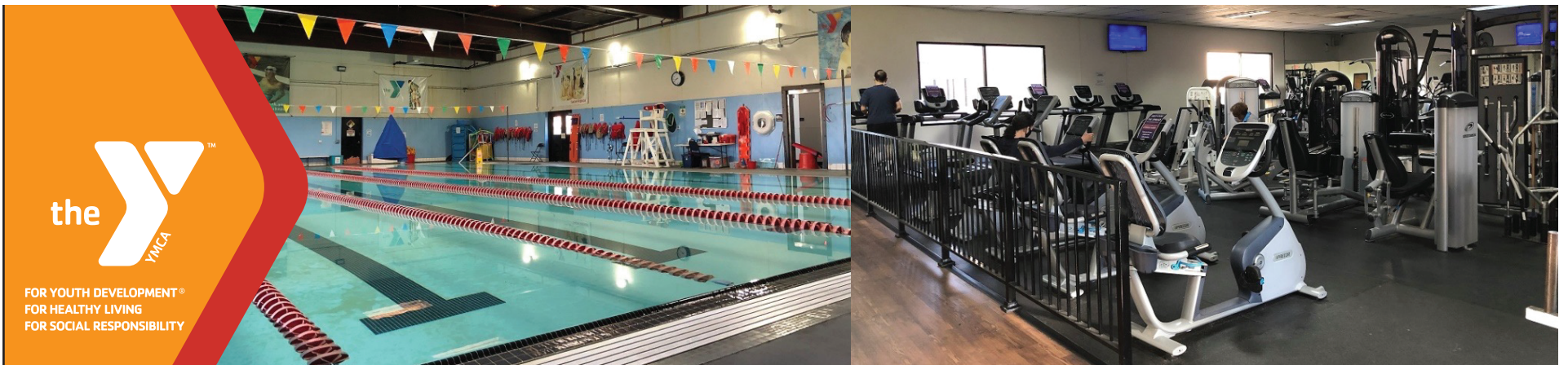
premium of \$174.70 per month in 2024 and any applicable IRMAA charges.

Additionally, if you have a Medicare Advantage plan that includes prescription drug coverage, the Part D IRMAA also applies.

If you have additional questions about Medicare, please contact Katherine Yu Simms for a cost-free consultation!

Only some plans are available in your area. Any information provided is limited to plans offered in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all your options.

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(Individual Results Vary)



趙企安醫生

John Chao, D.D.S.

Research Assoc. Prof., Post-Grad Periodontics
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Adjunct Asst. Prof., Behavior Science, USC
畢業于USC
美國紐約州立大學牙週病研究教授(SUNY)



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Anthony's Med Spa is a great destination when you're looking to treat your loved ones or yourself. Since its establishment in 1999, the spa has encouraged wellness in Alhambra. With over 20 years of massage and skin care expertise, it is synonymous with quality services promoting relaxation, beauty, and overall well-being.

At Anthony's Med Spa, a team of skilled practitioners offers a diverse range of massage techniques tailored to individual preferences and needs. From the therapeutic benefits of deep tissue massage to the balancing effects of acupressure, clients can choose what best suits their desired experience, with each session aimed at enhancing both physical function and mental relaxation. Since Anthony's Med

Spa prioritizes holistic well-being, it also offers rejuvenating skincare treatments that encompass various therapeutic procedures. Specialized services like eyelash enhancements and professional waxing are also available, providing a full suite of wellness and beauty offerings.

Anthony's Med Spa is an oasis of tranquility in Alhambra, where clients can escape the demands of daily life and indulge in the restorative power of massage and skincare. From massage therapies that rejuvenate tired muscles to skincare treatments that enhance natural beauty, Anthony's Med Spa remains a haven for relaxation and self-care in the heart of Alhambra.

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2024 Community Real Estate Outlook in Alhambra

As 2024 unfolds, Alhambra's real estate market is at a crossroads. Insights from local brokers shed light on the current trends and prospects. Among them are Pauline Mejia and Robert Ip, two prominent figures engaged in the real estate scenes of Alhambra and the SGV. They recently spoke with the Land Use and Economic Development Committee about what to expect in 2024.

Despite the continued presence of aging, empty structures throughout the city, the industrial sector remains remarkably resilient, boasting a steady influx of buyers. While some may view certain buildings as obsolete, the market continues to display vitality, with robust activity and many

leasing opportunities available, with more likely to come.

The Alhambra office real estate market presents a more nuanced picture, characterized by what Ip says some have even described as a "bloodbath" of subleases. Entrepreneurship is rising, evidenced by a surge in new business owners opting for shorter lease terms. Incentives such as free rent are becoming commonplace, reflecting the tenant-centric nature of the market.

The retail sector, a cornerstone of Alhambra's economic landscape, is undergoing notable shifts. With the minimum wage now \$20, sit-down restaurants are streamlining operations to minimize labor

costs. Meanwhile, local street-level retail is witnessing a proliferation of businesses like boba shops and tattoo studios, attracted by the lower startup costs.

While Alhambra boasts a well-leased commercial landscape dominated by larger tenants, there's growing curiosity about diversifying family-oriented activities. With new venues like SkyZone Alhambra, the potential for entertainment venues like escape rooms, laser tag arenas, and fitness centers looms on the horizon, with weekends presenting prime opportunities for monetization. However, financing such ventures poses initial challenges, which can make them difficult to get off the ground.



As Alhambra navigates its current real estate market, Mejia and Ip remain optimistic about the city's enduring appeal and potential for growth. With a keen eye on evolving consumer preferences and market dynamics, Alhambra stands poised to embrace new opportunities and cement its status as a vibrant community hub in the SGV.

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Real Estate

Unusual Marriages in Real Estate

By Gary Frueholz
Engel & Volkers Real Estate

“Necessity makes odd bedfellows” – anonymous.

Real estate can create unusual alliances or “marriages” when organizations with different viewpoints unite over critical issues when sharing a common objective.

One of our country’s oddest and least appreciated marriages was between the industrial sector of the United States and the emerging conservation movement during the late 1800’s. Conservationists such as George Bird Grinnell teamed with industrialists like Louis W. Hill of the Great Northern Railroad to lobby Congress for the designation of National Parks during this period. This marriage helped mold our National Parks system, which produced names such as Glacier, Zion, and Yellowstone.

Yellowstone was designated a National Park in 1872; the National Parks Service was created in 1916. During that interval, there was effectively a void of any real government management of these national assets. The marriage between corporate America and the conservation movement would change that.

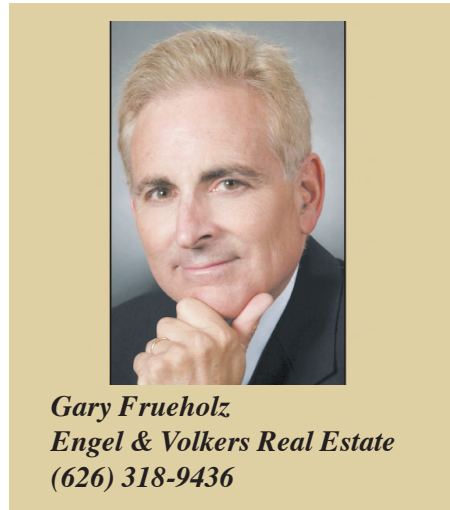
J. P. Morgan of US Steel and Jay Cooke of Wall Street took notice of this recently discovered real estate and saw an opportunity. Their connection to this opportunity would come through one of that century’s major industrial institutions — railroads.

In 1871, Jay Cooke encouraged Congressman William Kelley of Pennsylvania to designate Yellowstone as a National Park. While Cooke exerted influence on Congress, J.P. Morgan organized the bond issue for the Northern Pacific Railroad.

At the same time, America was developing a national pride in the majesty of our country’s natural resources, which fueled the emerging conservation movement. The United States began to believe our natural wonders rivaled the great castles and cathedrals of Europe. Indeed, Americans began to refer to their magnificent redwood forests with their beams of light shining through the trees as cathedrals. The real estate of our country started to bridge the existing culture gap with Europe.

In the early 1870s, conservationists such as John Muir and Ralph Waldo Emerson also lobbied Congress to designate Yellowstone as a National Park. In 1872, as Congress received encouragement from railroads and conservationists, Yellowstone was named America’s first National Park.

Renowned conservationist Dr. George Bird Grinnell dubbed the mountains of northern Montana “the Crown of the Continent.” Dr. Grinnell vigorously lobbied Congress for a decade to establish Glacier National Park without much luck. He also encouraged Louis W. Hill of the Great Northern Railroad to become involved in this effort. As Hill assumed the Presidency of the Great Northern in 1907, he used his new power to advocate for a Glacier Na-



Gary Frueholz
Engel & Volkers Real Estate
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tional Park to Congress. Just a year later, in 1908, Congress introduced legislation to create Glacier National Park.

The motives may have been as different as financial profits versus conservation of resources, but the goal of designating national parks created a marriage of these powerful American institutions.

The Northern Pacific took the north boundary of Yellowstone while the Union Pacific Railroad laid track to the park’s west end. The Santa Fe laid its right of way to the southern rim of the Grand Canyon and then built the El Tovar Hotel. The Great Northern constructed hotels, built trails, and floated boats in the lakes of Glacier National Park to attract tourists. As railroads affiliated with these national parks, they assumed the various parks’ persona in their marketing. The Santa Fe became the Railroad of the Grand Canyon, while the Great Northern urged Americans to see “America’s Alps” by taking their trains to Glacier National Park.

But like many troubled marriages, even though the partners’ objectives were the same, their motives were different. Here, with America’s conservation movement and her railroads, there was this irreconcilable disparity that created tension and distrust. Conservationist George Bird Grinnell began accusing the railroads of engaging in a “land grab.”

Congress provided a resolution to this situation by passing the National Parks Service Organic Act of 1916 to “conserve natural and historic objects and wildlife...for future generations.” With this Congressional act, the 44 years of private management of national parks would come to an end and be replaced by the National Parks Service. Without this initial marriage between the industrial sector of the United States and its emerging conservation movement during the late 1800s, the newly formed National Parks Service would have had a distinctly different collection of national treasures to oversee.

Gary Frueholz is a realtor with Engel & Volkers Real Estate, a past member of the Alhambra Planning Commission, a Certified Senior Real Estate Specialist, Certified International Property Specialist, and can be reached at 626-318-9436. See his stories at garysstories.com.

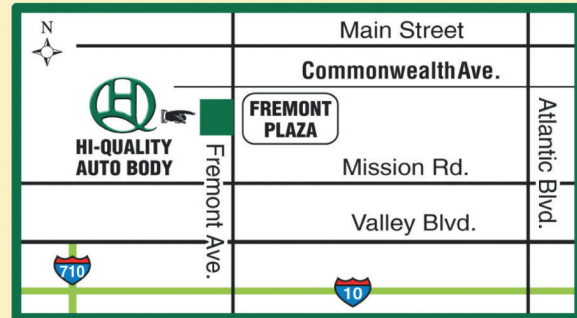
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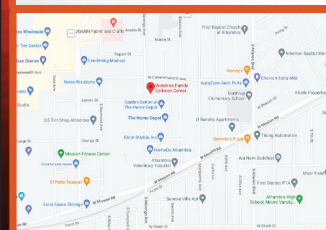
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