

09/2022

AROUND ALHAMBRA

ALHAMBRA'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



www.alhambrachamber.org

2022 Alhambra Professionals Guide

Alhambra's business community is known for many things: our destination dining scene, our national stores like Target, and our high-quality professional services. It's these professional services that are known by reputation and are often less visible to visitors and sometimes, event residents. In this issue, we seek to change that.

You will find a guide of nearly 100 professionals that are doing business here in Alhambra as members of the chamber from the financial sector to home services to medical services. You will

find longtime businesses with decades of service to some that have opened up or moved here just recently. Use this guide as a starting point to find the services you need from local providers. Make sure to be clear about what you need done, ask questions to get an understanding if the service provider is the type that you need, and make sure to explore the various options listed in the guide for what you need.

You can find the guide at the center of this issue – pull it out and use it as a reference. You can also find it online with hyperlinks in the digital version of this newspaper.

City Council Election Update: six candidates vie for 3 seats on the Alhambra City Council

Six candidates have qualified for the ballot for the City of Alhambra General Municipal election for City Council Districts one, two, and five, taking place on November 8, 2022. The City Council of Alhambra is elected by its residents and serves a four-year term, representing one of the five council districts in the City of Alhambra. The districts, which were redrawn earlier this year, each have about 16,000-17,000 residents, with about 10,000-12,000 eligible voters. Each of the Council Members rotates to serve as Alhambra's Mayor for a period of nine months.

In the First Council District, three candidates are running for the seat currently held by incumbent Katherine Lee, who is running for reelection. The two challengers are Ari Gutierrez

Arambula, a businesswoman and community organizer, and Stephen Sham, a local business owner and former city councilman.

In Council District Five, incumbent Adele Andrade-Stadler, who currently serves as the City's Vice-Mayor and is running for reelection, is being challenged by Jeffrey Gomez, a journalist.

In the Second Council District, current council member Ross J. Maza is running unopposed.

The last day to register to vote for this election is October 24, 2022, and you can do so at registertovote.ca.gov. Watch this space next month for a more detailed profile of each candidate.

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AUSD school safety virtual town hall draws community together: Safety is everyone's responsibility

Just before the new 2022-23 school year started, AUSD gathered its law enforcement and first responder partners, parents, students, and staff for a School Safety Virtual Town Hall to talk about the district's safety protocols. The overriding message: It takes the active attention and participation of all of us to keep our students and staff safe. If you see something, say something.

Lieutenant Tai Seki and Sergeant Tai Laing with Alhambra Police Department and Captain Scott Wiese with the Monterey Police Department joined AUSD Superintendent Denise Jaramillo,

Board President Dr. Marcia Wilson, and the district leadership team in presenting an overview of the district's Prevent Protect Prepare protocols.

AUSD's strong relationships and close collaboration with community policing partners APD, MPPD, AFD and MPFD are the foundation of AUSD safety.

Prevention is the key. AUSD has a secured point-of-entry at all school sites; cameras at every entrance; campus supervisors on every campus; locks on doors; gated, closed campuses with fencing; bells and notification system for lockdowns and emergencies; emergency preparedness drills, among

>> see **AUSD SAFETY TOWN HALL** Page 19

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Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Jeff Maloney

Pedestrian safety must be a top priority

Like you, I consider myself extremely fortunate to live in a community like Alhambra. I may be biased, but I think it's a pretty great place to call home.

Still, every community can improve, including our own. Over the last few months, there have been several instances of **fatal crashes involving vehicles and pedestrians** throughout Alhambra. As a dad of two young children, my heart breaks when I think about the lives that have been lost and the families permanently altered by these tragic, yet avoidable occurrences.

The dangers are unfortunately ever-present, but they don't have to be. These collisions may seem inevitable, but they are not. We do not have to stand by and allow these tragic incidents to continue. We need not accept the status quo that has proven fatal to too many of our fellow Alhambrans.

We need to be more like Hoboken. Yes, **Hoboken, New Jersey**.

At first glance, Alhambra and Hoboken share many characteristics: both are medium-sized cities located directly adjacent to a major metropolitan center (Los Angeles and New York City, respectively). Both cities are residential communities where many people commute to big, nearby job centers.

However, just a few years ago, Hoboken implemented a series of simple, yet effective changes to its streets. Improvements to crosswalks, bike paths, parking, and street-scapes have proven to be extremely potent in reducing pedestrian deaths. The result?



Mayor Jeff Maloney

Hoboken has not had any fatal vehicle/pedestrian incidents since 2018 – ZERO.

Of course, there are other differences between our two cities, but the reality is clear: communities have many choices when it comes to pedestrian and alternative transportation safety. Hoboken's success has been too long and too consistent to be a fluke. Clearly these changes have made the difference. If they can do it, so can we. I am calling for our community to do just that: **invest in changes that prove to ourselves that we value the lives of our family, friends, and neighbors above all else.** In my opinion, all options must be on the table to address this serious issue.

Fortunately my colleagues on the City



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Council have unanimously recognized this as a deeply important issue. We recently awarded a contract to a well-respected transportation firm (**Alta Planning + Design**) to help us create and implement Alhambra's very **first pedestrian and bicycle safety plan**. Likewise, Councilmember Perez and I have convened a "Vision Zero" working group to explore these issues in depth and help to make recommendations to achieve zero vehicle-pedestrian fatalities, just like our East Coast counterparts.

City staff and our consultant recently

held a kickoff meeting to get the formal process underway. Soon we will begin a thorough public outreach and engagement effort, which will be led by **Active SGV** (a local advocacy nonprofit responsible for our wonderful 626 Golden Streets events). Please be on the lookout for an announcement of the public meeting schedule. I hope you all will participate!

As always, if you have any feedback on this, or any other issue, please email me at: jmaloney4alhambra@gmail.com.

I hope everyone had a great summer!



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Visit www.wsgvymca.org

AROUND ALHAMBRA

 alhambra
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Published by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce.

A monthly publication with a circulation of 34,000, Around Alhambra is mailed to every business and residence in the City of Alhambra and to all interested local, state, and county officials.

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

For advertising rates and other information, contact

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www.alhambrachamber.org

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ALHAMBRA
Restaurant
of the Week

PRESENTED BY THE ALHAMBRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Enjoy delicious, local cuisine!

The Alhambra Restaurant of the Week (ROTW) is a new initiative launched by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce to highlight the flavors of our neighborhood. Every week, we will showcase the diverse culinary offerings that represent the best of local dining in the City of Alhambra!

Aug 29 to Oct 9	Sichuan Impression	
Aug 29 to Sep 4		Sichuan Impression presents the most traditional and most authentic Sichuan cuisine to American eaters with the integration of genuine flavors and a new modern look. Visit them at 1900 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra
Sep 5 to Sep 11		Lovebirds Café & Bakery was established in 1984 and provides great food for the Alhambra neighborhood. Their café offers freshly baked breads, pastries, sandwiches, breakfast, group catering, espresso drinks and fruit smoothies. Visit them at 10 S First St., Alhambra
Sep 12 to Sep 18		Delhi Belly offers a flavor bank of extensive spices and a wide range of items to choose from. Combat your boring days with interesting flavors assured to steal your heart away at this Indian culinary spot! Visit them at 8 W Main St., Alhambra
Sep 19 to Sep 25		Charlie's Trio has over 50 years of experience serving the San Gabriel Valley area and over 20 years at their Alhambra location, the cafe offers the best Pizza & Broasted Fried Chicken Meals and one-of-a-kind pasta favorites. Visit them at 47 W. Main St., Alhambra
Sep 26 to Oct 2		Vino's Back Alley offers a large selection of boutique Wineries from California and all across the world, along with a fantastic small plate menu and seasonal craft cocktails. Visit them at 10 N First St., Alhambra
Oct 3 to Oct 9		pokeStuf offers fresh poke bowls using big chunks of fresh seafood served with their signature sauces, toppings made in-house, and refreshing tea Visit them at 401 W Main St., Alhambra

Follow the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about these restaurants or visit alhambraeats.com.



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The Chamber View

Funding, Food, and Professional Firms

By John Bwarie
CEO, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

The dog days of summer are truly here. Last month, we shared the news of the funding for the Shorb Community Center (\$25 million!), and this month, there's more good news. We're celebrating the approval of Alhambra's first dog park.

In so many ways Alhambra is the model of a community because we seek to thrive in every way that matters. We are welcoming new businesses, new residents, new achievements from our schools, and new opportunities to connect with each other. When we work together, we solve problems that impact us all. That is the model for community.

Every strong community has extraordinary professionals to take care of specific needs: legal, accounting, consulting, real estate, a myriad of health and wellness issues, and more. We are taking the time this month to highlight the professionals of our community – those who have a service or skill to offer you right here in our hometown. In this issue, we bring you the Professionals Guide. Save the page or download a digital copy to keep it handy. These are local professionals who understand where you are coming from!

Of course, we also continue to focus on the amazing foods of our community. Have you tried one of the restaurants of the week? Look for the listing in this issue and discover (or rediscover) what you've been missing. We are hearing back from these eateries - the ones define Alhambra's unique flavors. The community is coming out to support them, new customers are finding these hidden gems, and the program is driving attention from outside our



John Bwarie
CEO Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

hometown. Check out all the restaurants on alhambraeats.com — and make your next meal a special one.

Policy is always a critical part of forming a city's future, and Alhambra is on track to make news. This year is critical when it comes to policies that define the future of business in our city. The Planning Commission – and ultimately, the City Council – is currently considering the first-in-30-year update to the City's Zoning Code. It will redefine what it takes to operate businesses in the city. Every business owner, property owner, and resident should weigh in to help make it easier for small businesses to open here and for job-creating, tax-producing businesses to locate here. Simply sign up for email updates at AlhambraChamber.org to stay informed on this and other critical policies.

Enjoy the waning days of summer as we turn the corner to Fall.

ALHAMBRA MORNING KICK START FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

Your morning networking and learning event



5 Employment Laws Every Manager Must Know

The Alhambra Morning Kick Start for Business Growth is a business networking event that also provides participants simple tools to use to grow their businesses. Join other business leaders and take advantage of this member benefit.

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

9:00 - 10:15 AM

Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 South First Street, Alhambra

Chamber Members: Free
Non-Members: \$10

Reserve your space now at
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Tax Tips

Intermingling Funds

By Michael Aston, E.A.

Intermingling Funds

A common problem experienced by owners of small corporations is intermingling of funds. This occurs when a business owner uses his or her personal checking account for business deposits or payment of business expenses. Separation of funds can be a key in preserving the liability protection of the business. Courts can pierce the business by finding that the corporation is an "alter ego" of the shareholder, essentially stating that the corporation is not separate and distinct from the individual as evidenced by the intermingling of finances. Also, a shareholder who deposits personal funds or pays personal expenses from the corporate checking account is intermingling funds. Courts can cite this as evidence that the corporation is not a separate and distinct entity from the individual.

Tax Problems Caused by Intermingling Funds

Unintended tax consequences can occur when personal and corporate funds are intermingled. When a shareholder provides funds to or on behalf of a corporation, there are several different types of tax treatment that may apply, depending on the circumstances. For example, when a shareholder provides funds to a corporation, it can be classified as one of the following transactions.

- Capital contribution.
- Loan to the corporation.
- Repayment of a loan from the corporation.
- Expense reimbursement.
- Purchase.

When a shareholder purchases an item for the corporation from his or her personal funds, that shareholder is considered to have provided funds, or made a contribution, to the corporation. Classification is determined by how the transaction is structured and the circumstances surrounding the transaction. Providing funds to corporations without careful planning can cause unintended tax consequences. If an individual takes funds from a corporation checking account, the transaction can be classified as:

- Taxable dividend.
- Nontaxable distribution.
- Nontaxable expense reimbursement.
- Wages.
- Loan to the shareholder.
- Repayment of a loan from the shareholder.



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Failure to carefully structure transactions when taking disbursements from a corporation can result in otherwise nontaxable transactions becoming taxable, in addition to opening the corporation up for a court to pierce the corporate veil.

Personal Use of Corporate Assets

A similar situation with intermingling funds occurs when personal assets are used by the corporation and vice versa. If corporate assets are used for personal purposes, the IRS can reclassify expenses reported on the corporation tax return as expenses attributable to the shareholder rather than the corporation. On the other hand, if a corporation uses personal assets owned by the shareholder, this could indicate lack of separation of the shareholder and corporation, opening up the possibility of having the corporate veil pierced.

This information is from Tax Material, Inc and is for taxpayers and should not be relied upon as the authority. Taxpayers should seek professional tax advice for more information.

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The Alhambra Woman's Club will resume monthly meetings on Friday, September 2, 11am at Almansor Court

The Alhambra Woman's Club was founded over 100 years ago, and all new and former members who reside in Alhambra and the surrounding communities are invited to join in on September 2nd for good food, friendship, and joyous

entertainment. The SOUL VIPERS will provide this month's entertainment. Be prepared to dance!! The cost is \$25 for nonmembers and \$20 for members. Please call 626 289-9307 for a reservation by Sep 1.

Your Insurance

What is the difference between replacement cost and market value?

By Regina Talbot

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

What is replacement cost?

Replacement cost is the cost necessary to repair or replace your entire home. When you insure your home for its estimated replacement cost, your insurer will reimburse you (subject to your policy limits) for the cost of rebuilding or repairing your home, based on the size and structure of the home that was lost or damaged. The most appropriate way to estimate the replacement cost of your home is to hire a building contractor or other building reconstruction professional to produce a detailed replacement cost estimate. Or State Farm® Agent Regina Talbot can help you by utilizing an estimating tool from Xactware Solutions — to assist you with an estimate. Only the estimated replacement cost of the property's structure and its associated systems, fixtures and finishes will be included in the estimate; land value is included in a home's market value but should not be included in the amount of insurance you buy. Remember though, the ultimate decision on how much to ensure your home for is yours.

What are the benefits of replacement cost?

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

What are the risks of replacement cost?

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



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struction costs.

What is market value?

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

What are the risks of market value?

When you insure a typical home for its market value, you are at risk of having incomplete coverage. For example, imagine that a family buys a home for \$800,000 and takes out a homeowner's policy for the same amount. The estimated replacement cost for the home, though, is \$900,000. If a fire or other insured event destroys the house, the insurance settlement may be less than the actual replacement cost of the home. The family would either have to make up the difference themselves or build a new, less expensive home.

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

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High School Student-Run Nonprofit Organization, Project Talent Launch, Funds 40 Internships for High School Students

On Friday, August 5, community leaders gathered at La Casita Del Arroyo to celebrate Project Talent Launch (PTL), a student-run and student-founded nonprofit aiming to provide internships to all high school students, especially those in underserved areas. Every PTL Scholar who completes the program with a positive evaluation receives a \$1000 scholarship. Among those present at the event were Pasadena Councilmember Felicia Williams, The Dragon Kim Foundation co-founders Grace Tsai and Daniel Kim, and other members of the PTL community.

This year, the organization has raised nearly \$50,000, quadrupling their progress last year, to fund almost 40 internships that will continue throughout the school year. They have earned grants from

the Dragon Kim Foundation and have received donations from organizations such as Himalaya Capital, AGBO, and GoFundMe.

At the event, past and present Project Talent Launch scholarship recipients had the opportunity to share their experiences with PTL, including 2021 scholars Devan Kelly and Bethany Chow as well as this year's Ryan Galan Castellanos (Idealab), Logan Davis (The Office of Councilmember Felicia Williams), Summer Yang (Asian American Professional Association), and Fnu Anu (Visible Intellect).

"[Idealab] showed me that my aspirations weren't as out of reach as I believed. Because of this, I feel more confident not only in my abilities to interact with people from different fields but in my ability to secure positions in the future," reflected

Gabrielino High School graduate Ryan Galan Castellanos.

In its second year of operation, Project Talent Launch has grown exponentially under the leadership of its student co-founders, Steven Li, Streak Honey, and Alhambra resident David Lara. Moving forward, the team will continue working towards its mission to build equitable talent pipelines by making meaningful internships more accessible.

The organization is proactively working to establish internships in Alhambra and connect with students attending Alhambra, Mark Keppel, and San Gabriel High School. Internship opportunities will be available to students throughout the school year. Project Talent Launch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. You can find more information at their website, www.projecttalentlaunch.org where they have internships in various industries available to high school students.



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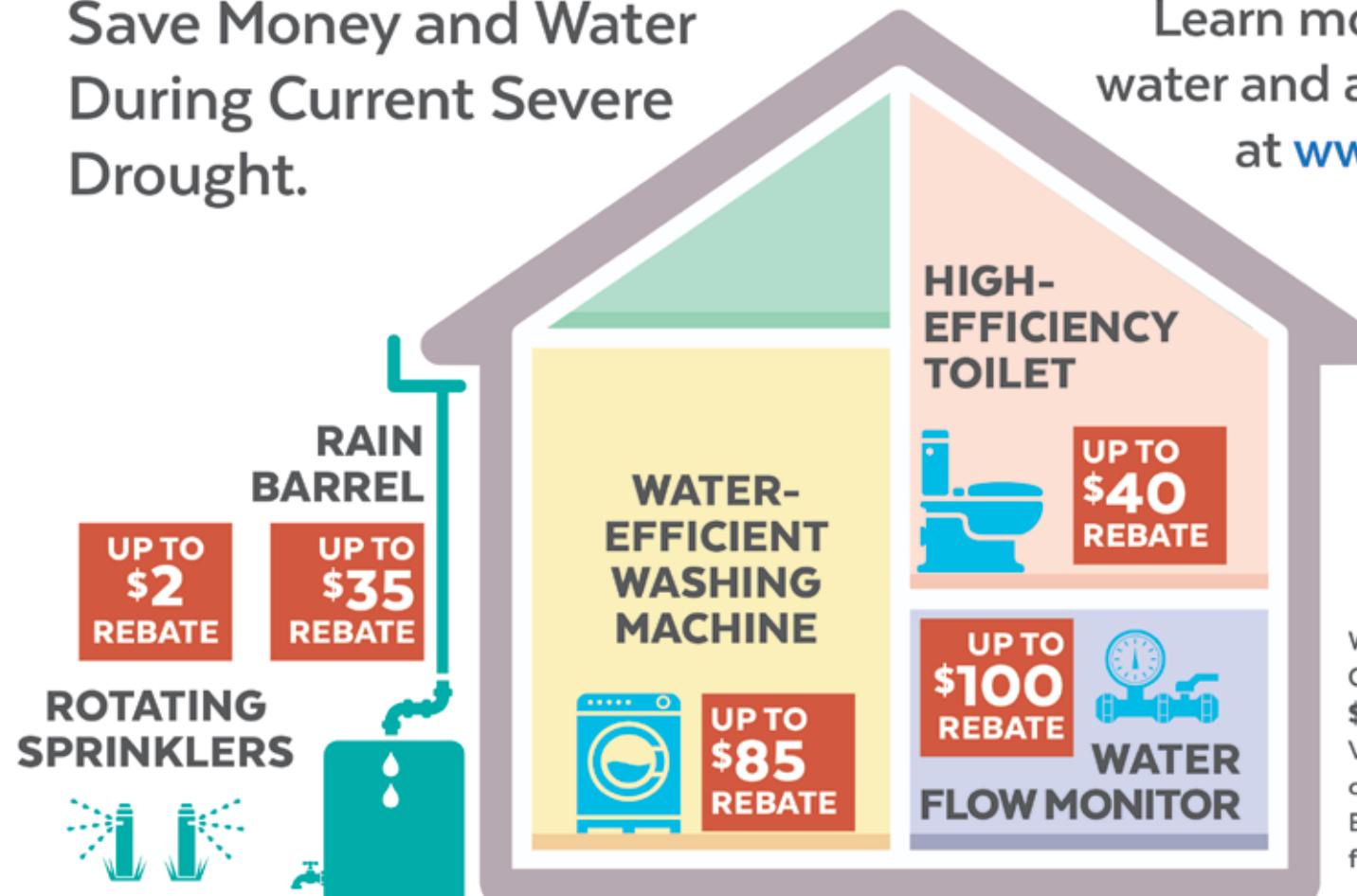
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Former Moors Pitcher Benny Olguiin



Head Coach Eric Bergstrom addressing Moors Football team after scrimmage

Local Sports News from Alhambra High School

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

Former Moors Pitcher Continues His Baseball Career

The Moors have produced many great baseball players over the years that have been successful in college and the pros. While at Alhambra, Benny Olguiin played on the Varsity team for three years, made the Almont All-League team each year, and was All CIF in 2017. He was also the Almont League MVP in 2017, as well as the team's MVP. He pitched three no-hitters for the Moors with one of them being a perfect game.

Due to the pandemic, it took the 2018 AHS graduate a little longer to progress past high school but he never gave up. Olguiin just finished his Pasadena City College career by leading the South Coast Conference (SCC) in ERA with a 2.51 mark while finishing with a 7-2 mound

record. He also struck out 68 batters in 72 innings and was the lone relief pitcher to be picked on the 2022 All-SCC First Team.

Benny will now continue his collegiate career at Cal State San Bernardino.

Alhambra Football

The Moors Varsity Football Team recently played a scrimmage against Rosemead HS and Bassett HS in preparation for the upcoming season. For the second time in five seasons, the Moors will start the season with a Freshman Quarterback leading the way. Bryan Leonard performed well in the scrimmage, throwing two touchdown passes and looked very calm under pressure for someone who just turned fourteen. He's got some talented receivers and running backs but an inexperienced offensive line. Let's hope for the best as the Moors begin their quest for another successful season under Head Coach Eric Bergstrom, who is in his 11th year at Alhambra.

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Women's Legs - Full	\$130
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Men's Legs - Upper	\$90
Men's Legs - Full	\$150
Abdomen	\$70
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From Ramona Convent: Exploration guides the philosophy of learning

Ramona welcomes the promise of a school year. Hope for the future began with the largest summer school program in recent years, an invigorating summer camp for young children, a weeklong college boot camp for the class of 2023, and volleyball and cross country tryouts in preparation for the athletic season. Faith-filled success continues to shine brightly upon the community.

This upcoming year will introduce newly developed courses to the curriculum that speak to the strength of women across cultures, celebrating the innovations made in science, math, law, literature, and the arts by women in the Black, Asian, Latinx and indigenous cultures.

Ramona's wellness program will continue to support individual and group counseling, and mindfulness through daily exercises of meditation and Tai Chi. Each grade level will participate in compassion

workshops where students learn self-love while living happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

They'll soon welcome Ms. Rachel Simmons, author of *"Enough as She Is: How to help girls move beyond the impossible standards of success to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives."* A must read for parents and educators of young women.

Ramona, a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for young women committed to excellence in education, graduates empowered, resilient, socially conscious leaders well prepared to meet the challenges of life as contributive members of the global community with the strength of a legacy of more than 130 years of distinction.

Ramona Convent Secondary School is located at 1701 W. Ramona Rd, Alhambra, CA 91803, (626) 282-4151. You may visit www.ramonaconvent.org.



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**SEPTEMBER
2022**
Daily Holidays and Observances

Here are all the special food days you can celebrate in September 2022 to help you decide how to eat across Alhambra. Where will you celebrate these special days?

- September 1 : National Gyro Day
- September 2 : National "Grits for Breakfast" Day
- September 3 : International Bacon Day
- September 4 : National Macadamia Nut Day
- September 5 : National Cheese Pizza Day
- September 6 : National Coffee Ice Cream Day
- September 7 : National Beer Lover's Day
- September 8 : National Date-Nut Bread Day
- September 9 : National "I Love Food" Day
- September 10: National Hot Dog Day
- September 11: National Hot Cross Bun Day
- September 12: National Chocolate Milkshake Day
- September 13: International Chocolate Day
- September 14: Eat a Hoagie Day
- September 15: National Linguine Day
- September 16: National Guacamole Day
- September 17: International Eat an Apple Day
- September 18: National Cheeseburger Day
- September 19: National Butterscotch Pudding Day
- September 20: National String Cheese Day
- September 21: National Pecan Cookie Day
- September 22: National Ice Cream Cone Day
- September 23: Hug a Vegetarian Day
- September 24: National Cherries Jubilee Day
- September 25: National Quesadilla Day
- September 26: National Dumpling Day
- September 27: National Corned Beef Hash Day
- September 28: National Strawberry Cream Pie Day
- September 29: National Coffee Day
- September 30: National Mulled Cider Day


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From Saint Therese Carmelite School: Benefit Auction on September 30th

Saint Therese Carmelite School (STCS), which has lovingly and proudly served the Alhambra community since 1926, will be holding its annual Little Way Dinner and Benefit Auction at the recently renovated Almansor Court, 700 S. Almansor St. on Friday, September 30th at 5:30 pm. The proceeds will go toward the Saint Therese Scholarship Fund, a need-based scholarship program for elementary students. Whether you are currently involved with our school or not, we invite you to join us for this unforgettable evening in support of our students and to perhaps grow new relationships in the Alhambra community.

As is tradition, it will truly be a night to remember. The night will begin in the beautiful Palm Court Terrace with happy hour and a chance to browse the highly coveted auction items. From hors d'oeuvres to photobooths and from drinks to music, our sunset cocktail hour is just the beginning. As we move into the Lakeview room, a live jazz band — the Modern Cocktail Society — will croon away while you enjoy your gourmet dinner. With a live auction, a silent auction, and an opportunity for a cash prize, you're bound to go home a winner.

Join the Carmelite Friars for this evening that is sure to be socially and spiritually charged, all while supporting our school. Tickets are \$100 per person before September 16th or \$130 after September 21st. If you're looking to invite some friends, consider supporting the school through a table sponsorship. Our Little Flower table

sponsorship includes a table for ten and sponsor recognition. To purchase sponsorships and tickets online, visit bidpal.net/stcsauction or purchase tickets in person by visiting the school at 1106 E Alhambra Rd.

Saint Therese Carmelite School was founded in 1926 and serves students in TK through eighth grade. The school educates students through the Catholic classical model to equip them with the logic, critical thinking, and language skills necessary to succeed throughout their lives. As an alternative to Common Core, this model is developmentally appropriate and aims to provide well-rounded education, including classic literature, mathematics up to Euclidean geometry, sciences, Catholic catechesis, Latin, music, art, and P.E. Recent graduates of STCS have been accepted to all area Catholic high schools. Above all, the school aims to form students in faith and virtue. For more information, please visit sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com and the school's Facebook page.



STCS kids at work

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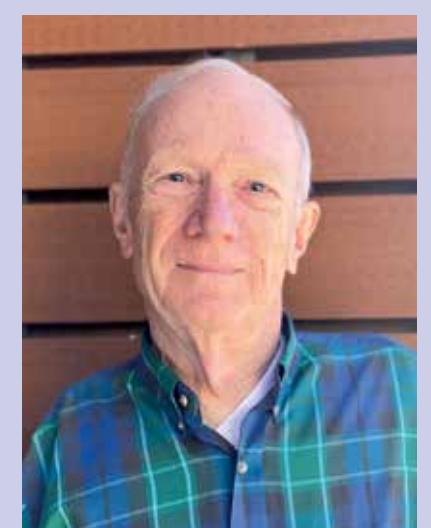
By Glenn Barnett

In 1960, when I was in the Eighth Grade at Martha Baldwin School, my father took me to a couple of meetings of the Alhambra City Council in the old City Hall. That building was located at third and Main St. where The Diner restaurant is now. While we were there, he introduced me to Council members D'Arcy Quinn, Norma Yokum, and the legendary Talmage Burke who served on the Council for 52 straight years.

A lot has changed in Alhambra since then. Many buildings and businesses are gone, though some remain. The American Legion Hall is still on Stoneman, where it has been since the 1920s. Most of the churches and all of the schools are still here, though Alhambra High School has been completely rebuilt. McDonald's at Main and Granada had just opened in 1960, one of the very first of the chain that would become international in size. It is just a block from Bun and Burger (opened in 1941), which has pictures on its walls of Alhambra as it looked decades before I came along. Further west, Carroll's Brake Service has been here since 1946, Wondries Ford in 1949 and Tom's Uniforms in 1954.

Fosseleman's Ice Cream has been here since 1941, though people wanted to tear it down to be part of a car dealership. Fortunately cooler heads prevailed and that treasure is still with us. Alhambra Hospital moved to its current location from an older building on the east side of Garfield between Bay State and Commonwealth. It was there, during World War II, that General George Patton visited his mother when she was a patient.

Over on Valley Blvd., The Hat was selling a cup of coffee for a nickel for many years. If you want to measure inflation, start there. At the corner of Almansor and Valley, the Alhambra



Glenn Barnett

Marketplace Shopping Center opened in 1957. Today only one of the original stores is still open. Can you guess which one? See the answer below.

Meanwhile, down the street the bowling alley now called Golden Mile Bowling was operating in 1960 under another name. In Crawford's Corner Shopping Center at New and Valley, there was an actual Crawford's Market.

Also on Valley, Angelo's Italian Restaurant opened in 1962. At Valley and Seventh Street there was, in the 60s, a Bob's Big Boy restaurant which is commemorated today by the current business, Noodle World. Go in for lunch or dinner and you will see what I mean. At Garfield and Valley, opposite The Hat, is a small shopping center which was carved out of the facade of the old Garfield Theater. It is worth a visit too.

Are there any businessmen or women still at it since 1960? I can think of only one. That would be Sam Artino of Sam's Barber Shop. He has been cutting hair in Alhambra since 1958. Finally, what is the only original business at the Alhambra Marketplace to still be around since 1957? It is See's Candies. Yum.

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Alhambra Historical Society to present “The Mystery of Alhambra’s Missing WPA Murals” on September 8

We've all been to Alhambra's main post office on Bay State Street. Whether it's to purchase stamps or mail a package, we've all stood in that line. And, these days, you usually find every person in that line looking down at their phone, scrolling away while they wait. After all there's not much else to look at, right?

Well, 80 years ago in the early 1940s, a patron of Alhambra's main post office would have had a very different experience. While standing in line to conduct their business, visitors would have been able to

look up and enjoy original tempera murals on the post office's walls. Sadly, today, those walls are bare; the murals are missing. But what happened to them? What did they look like? What was their subject matter? And, who was the muralist that painted them?

Those questions and more will be answered and presented at the September 8, 2022 meeting of the Alhambra Historical Society (AHS). AHS executive board member and Alhambra High School history teacher, Jose Sanchez, will present the



The Mystery of Alhambra's Missing WPA Murals

Sponsored by
Alhambra Historical Society

Everyone loves a good mystery! On September 8, Alhambra Historical Society will present how Alhambra High School history teacher Jose Sanchez and his students are working to solve the mystery of Alhambra's missing 1930's Work Progress Administration murals.

fascinating information he and his students uncovered about the murals while researching the history of Alhambra's main post office as a 1930's New Deal Works Progress Administration (or WPA) Works Progress Administration project. The WPA was a federal program created during the Great Depression designed to put people back to work while supporting arts and culture, preserving creative skills and stimulating the economy.

Join the Alhambra Historical Society at Alhambra High School's cafeteria (101 South 2nd Street, Alhambra, CA 91801) at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022 for the presentation entitled "The Mystery of the Missing WPA Murals."

The event is free to the public and light refreshments will be served. Parking will be available on the surrounding streets and in the Alhambra High School parking lot, which is located on the west side of South 2nd Street just north of the high school. To register for the event, please visit <https://AlhambraWPAmurals.eventbrite.com>.

If you'd like to learn more about the Alhambra Historical Society, the museum or future programming, please send an email to alhambrahistsoc@att.net or call (626) 300-8845. The museum, located at 1550 West Alhambra Road, Alhambra, CA 91801, is free to visitors and is open between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

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Getting Through It

“Imagining the Impacts of Big Disasters”

By Dr. Lucy Jones

People want to know what will happen in the next earthquake, fire, tsunami, or other big disaster in order to prepare for it. Scenarios can be powerful tools for anticipating and communicating the impacts of big disasters, if they are used correctly. They provide a story that can be related to and remembered. As a seismologist, I knew many things that would happen in an earthquake. With this scientific background, I could see how easy it would be to prevent those issues. Scientists started creating scenarios because we could see how the information we had about disasters was not being used. Understanding what makes a good scientific scenario is key to communicating and utilizing this vital information successfully.



Dr. Lucy Jones

it affects you.

In order for a scenario to be reliable, it needs to be interdisciplinary. Scenarios stitch together many different pieces of research from many types of experts to give you a comprehensive picture. If all the research is done by engineers, for instance, it may give great engineering analysis, but lack in its representation of Earth science. At a minimum, a scenario needs Earth scientists to describe what the Earth is doing, engineers to define what happens to structures, and social scientists to outline what happens to society and those who have to cope with the impacts.

However, a scenario is not a prediction of a particular event. A “plausible picture” is built through the integration of research and data, not a prediction of specifics. Knowing the precise details of an event is impossible since several assumptions are made when creating a scenario. Rather than saying, ‘this is an event that will happen’, scientists say, ‘if this event were to happen, no scientist would be surprised’. So, a scenario is a plausible look at what is likely to happen in a certain type of event.

Stories build emotional connections. They cause people to think about a disaster’s impact on them and what actions are worth taking. Because a scenario is a narrative, it can help foster this connection and promote viable preparedness actions. Look at the ShakeOut impacts for example. A common line of thinking would be to change the building code and make buildings really strong to solve the risk. Looking at the scenario and understanding the financial impacts, the best investment turns out to be strengthening the water system. Or maybe in a scenario with both an earthquake and a flood, the biggest impact discovered might be regulating construction behind levees. A more rational assessment of what is effective can be made through the use of scenarios. They allow you to compare pieces of information to and help make decisions because scenarios focus on how

Many of the losses described in scenarios can be prevented. An earthquake or a flood cannot be stopped, but critical systems can be moved out of flood plains, and pipelines that cross active faults can be reinforced. Individually, looking at the estimated amount of fire that follows earthquakes, an extra fire extinguisher can be added to your house. With scenarios, you can see what preparation really matters.

Dr. Lucy Jones is a seismologist and founder of the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society. She is the author of the book, *The Big Ones* (Doubleday, April 2018) and is also a Research Associate at the Seismological Laboratory of Caltech, a post she has held since 1984.



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People are taking the challenge! Conservation rates are increasing!

By Mark Paulson

A few months ago, I wrote about the fact that despite the severe drought and low water supplies, water use was increasing in southern California. Fortunately, conservation rates have increased the past few months...but our drought and water supplies have not! So, let's all continue to work together, to sacrifice and to adopt **long-term** water-use efficiency.

By long-term, we mean changing behavior, so that saving water becomes as natural as putting on your seat belt. By long-term, we also mean making permanent, lasting improvements around your home, yard and business such as: ensuring there are no leaks, buying and operating water-efficient appliances, installing an irrigation controller for outside water use,

changing landscaping to California Native plants, and installing pool and spa covers.

The street banner at the top of this article was produced by the District in partnership with Alhambra's water utility, and we each have other messaging, programs (including rebates and grants) and websites to help you conserve our precious water resource and save money.

Our partnership is complete only with **YOUR** participation. The weather is not getting any cooler, there's no rain or snow in the forecast, there's not much snow in the mountains to trickle down to replenish groundwater basins, and our access to imported water from northern California is reduced to 5% of what we'd planned for.

Alhambra has activated "Level 2" of

its drought contingency plan, so please continue to follow the guidance of the City Council and Alhambra's water utility (<https://www.cityofalhambra.org/575/Water-Conservation>). Water conservation works and is the cheapest means of saving water. Every drop of water we save is one that does not need to be pumped, stored, treated, imported, transported, recycled, desalinated...or paid for!

Please visit the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's website, www.sgvmwd.com, to learn more about our newest conservation information - gardening tips – which are customized to meet the needs of Alhambra property owners (bit.ly/SGVMWDAlhambra). Remember:



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



SoCalGas joins Ford to reduce emissions with cutting edge F-550 super duty hydrogen fuel cell electric truck

SoCalGas is working to replace 50% of its over-the-road fleet with clean fuels by 2025 and operate a 100% zero-emissions fleet by 2035. The collaboration with Ford to reduce emissions with the F-550 super duty hydrogen fuel cell electric truck is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) SuperTruck 3 program, which aims to significantly reduce emissions in

medium and heavy-duty trucks.

SoCalGas was chosen to evaluate how the truck can meet the rigorous demands of utility work, given the climate and terrain of its geographical location. The demonstration project will also include a temporary hydrogen refueling station at SoCalGas' Bakersfield facility. The truck is expected to deploy in 2025.

"The companies that drive our economy and especially our transportation sector must collaborate on developing innovative technologies as we make the transition to a cleaner tomorrow," said State Senator Josh Newman. "This groundbreaking project will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, but it also offers promise toward tackling

America's current energy challenges."

"We are honored to work with Ford on their strategy to help reduce emissions," said Neil Navin, vice president of clean energy innovations at SoCalGas. "This project is a critical step toward finding real-world solutions to decarbonize heavy duty transportation such as our utility fleet with Ford's H2 Fuel Cell Electric F-550."



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ALHAMBRA PROFESSIONALS GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Real Estate

11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Home for Sale

By Rudy L. Kusuma, Your Home Sold Guaranteed Realty

Alhambra - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away

altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To order a FREE Special Report, call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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



Soroptimist Club and Ramona Convent Secondary School team up to provide career guidance, mentorship to high school girls

By Julie Carlson

Find out about going to college or vocational training, acquire guidance on how to set and achieve career goals, and learn how to access professional role models and mentors at the **Soroptimist Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls** program. The conference will be held from 9:30 to 4 p.m., Saturday, October 8, at Ramona Convent Secondary School, 1701 W. Ramona Road, Alhambra.

Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Gabriel, and San Marino and Soroptimist International of City of Commerce are joining together to host the conference for secondary school-age girls. They will learn about career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, and overcoming obstacles

to success. Lunch will be provided.

In addition to learning important life skills, the girls will leave with a variety of other resources and fun items, including a dream workbook for keeping track of their goals, a certificate for participating at the end of the day, and other goodies. Every participant will also be eligible for door prizes.

Soroptimist International launched the Dream It, Be It curriculum in 2015. Since then, more than 84,000 girls around the world have participated. Girls and their parents/guardians can learn more learn program and sign up at <https://soroptimistalhambra.org>. If you need additional information send an email to soroptimistalhambra@gmail.com.

2022 Alhambra Beautiful Award Winners

Congratulations to this year's Alhambra Beautiful 2022 award-winners! Each year, the Alhambra Beautiful Awards recognize the City's most beautiful residential and commercial properties, with one residential winner from each of the five council districts and one at-large business. Submissions were accepted throughout the early part of the summer, with submissions sent in from all over the city. This program highlights the care and work that Alhambra home- and business owners take in making Alhambra beautiful. Special consideration was given to those with native and drought-friendly landscaping, and evaluation was made based on nominees descriptions and submitted photos.

Earlier this year, Governor Newsom issued an executive order which called on local water suppliers to move up to Level 2 as it pertained to their drought contingency plans. The public has been asked to take water conservation measures over the past few months and members of our community have found water saving and drought tolerant solutions to up-keep their yards. This year's winners have won their spot as some of the most beautiful yards in the City because they have demonstrated that, despite the fact that the state is in a drought, there are creative solutions to maintaining one's outdoor landscaping.

Alhambra Beautiful Awards are co-sponsored by the City of Alhambra and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce as a civic program to highlight contributions to the city and to inspire all residents to find ways to keep the properties looking welcoming and well-maintained. While there were only six winners this year, all the nominees had worked to demonstrate this commitment to their community.

This year's winners can be found at:



431 N Hidalgo Ave (District 1)



2200 S Campbell Ave (District 4)



1153 S 3rd St (District 2)



416 Westminster Ave (District 5)



204 S Marguerita Ave (District 3)



Alcole Properties, 606 S 6th Street (at large, business winner)



AUSD opens 2022-23 with messages of hope and unity from district leaders, recognition of Employees of the Year + Inspirational Words from CA Teacher of the Year

Alhambra Unified School District staff members paused their Back-to-School preparations on August 8 to gather together in the San Gabriel High School auditorium to celebrate the start of another school year. The feelings of optimism, excitement, and a sense of normalcy was palpable.

The morning opened with welcomes from superintendent Denise Jaramillo, board of education member Bob Gin, Alhambra Teachers Association president Ralph Hernandez, and California Schools Employee Association-Chapter 295 president Johnny Armendariz.

AUSD took another opportunity to publicly recognize the current Employees of the Year. The honorees were first announced in early May, but this event allowed AUSD the opportunity to recognize them in front of a larger group of their peers. Dr. Stephanie Richardson, principal at Garfield, is the current Manager of the Year. Garfield was actually a double-winner, because Garfield second grade teacher Zoraida Llorens was recognized as the district's Teacher of the Year. The final member of the honored trio was Cecilia Brenes, data entry control clerk in the special education department. A video created by each honoree's colleagues explained what made each of them so deserving of the recognition, and afterwards certificates and award bells were presented to each Employee of the Year.

A highlight of the morning were remarks by keynote speaker Virginia Vasquez. Virginia, who teaches at San Gabriel High School was last year's AUSD Teacher of the Year. She later moved on to become a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year, and is currently one of only five California Teachers of the Year. The entire room gave her a standing ovation as she approached the podium.

Virginia asked her colleagues to reflect on how far they've come since the start of the pandemic and reminded everyone that, despite the times we were physically isolated, we were all united by the common experiences and daily struggles. She also shared that although she originally felt

somewhat intimidated as she met so many amazing educators in her role as California Teacher of the Year, she found a commonality in that they too struggled to find their footing last year.

She encouraged AUSD staff members to have honest conversations about the difficult realities of education -- humanizing the profession to build community and support for one another by offering empathy, trust, and resources to those who need it. Virginia said those honest conversations have helped her return to this school year filled with renewed hope.

"It means we hold on to the hope and get rid of the fear. We speak up, we advocate, and we continue to remember our why. We find our community, and we continue aligning ourselves with people and causes that keep the sparks alive." Virginia asked everyone to take a look around this auditorium. "You'll find that you're not alone. There are struggles, but collectively, there are also more successes. This new year, process, reflect, and celebrate each victory." These were wise words from an amazing representative for public education.

Superintendent Jaramillo closed the morning by paraphrasing what then-Board member Dora Padilla said when Jaramillo was a first-year teacher. "Thank you for becoming an educator...and thank you for choosing Alhambra Unified."



STUDENT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

November 3, 2022 (Middle School)
 November 17, 2022 (High School)
 March 9, 2023 (Middle School)
 March 23, 2023 (High School)

All meetings held 6:30pm - 7:30 via Zoom!



The Board of Education and the Superintendent have enjoyed meeting with community members during these informal chat sessions. Please join us at a Community Conversations this year, and share what is on your mind.

Sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/AUSD-StudentConversations23>



AUSD is back at the Alhambra Farmers Market on most Sundays.

Please stop by our booth to meet with members of the AUSD Board of Education and Cabinet.

Find out about district programs, get answers to questions, learn about job opportunities, or just chat for a while.

CHINESE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (CAEA) SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON
July 30, 2022

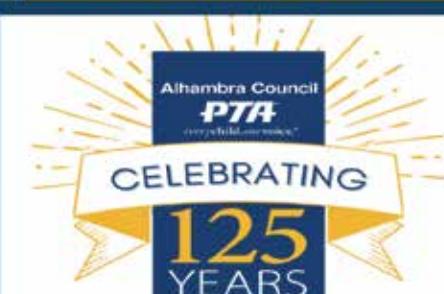


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Alhambra Council PTA everychild.onevoice.



AUSD SCHOOLS WITH PTAs

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- Emery Park Elementary School
- Fremont Elementary School
- Garfield Elementary School
- Marguerita Elementary School
- Mark Keppel High School
- Mt. Highlands Elementary School
- Northrup Elementary School
- Park Elementary School
- Ramona Elementary School
- San Gabriel High School
- Ynez Elementary School

CSBA GOLDEN QUILL AWARDS



Some of our favorite Sarah Reingewirtz AUSD moments...



Alhambra second-grade teacher Krystal Tran a perfect fit for distance learning



Alhambra Teachers Association food pantry gets big LIFT from special young adults




ALHAMBRA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

All meetings held 6:30pm - 7:30 via Zoom!

Thursday, September 29, 2022
 Thursday, October 20, 2022
 Thursday, January 19, 2023
 Thursday, February 16, 2023
 Thursday, April 27, 2023



The Board of Education and the Superintendent have enjoyed meeting with community members during these informal chat sessions. Please join us at a Community Conversations this year, and share what is on your mind.

Sign up at:
<https://tinyurl.com/AUSD-ParentConversations23>

Alhambra Teachers Association Food Pantry

3030 W. Main Street, Alhambra

The ATA Food Pantry will be OPEN in SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER:

September 7th & 21st
 October 5th & 19th
 9:00am - 12:00pm

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



AUSD Board + CA School Boards Association honor SCNG photojournalist for excellence in education visual storytelling

At their August 9 meeting, the AUSD Board of Education and the CA School Boards Association honored SoCal News Group photojournalist Sarah Reingewirtz with the 2022 Golden Quill Award for excellence in education reporting. Board president Dr. Marcia Wilson said, "With this award, the AUSD Board wants to recognize and express our deep appreciation to you for the public education stories that your photographs capture at a time when public education is at the center of the news."

Superintendent Denise Jaramillo added, "Sarah, you give your readers a wider window on what they might otherwise never learn about the students, teachers, and schools in the midst of historic disruption and reinvention."

Jaramillo went on to say, "That you have accomplished this through years of a pandemic and during the most difficult times newsrooms have ever faced speaks volumes about your professionalism, dedication, and strength."

Sarah Reingewirtz's photographs are hard to forget. Empathy and sensitivity are a signature of her work — her gift for catching the energy and emotion of her subjects convey stories in ways words cannot. Reingewirtz's ability to tell a story by capturing indelible images is exceptional.

Alhambra Unified School District has been the lucky recipient of Sarah's visual storytelling — her photos often accompany the stories by her colleague, SCNG reporter Robert Morales and are published in the Pasadena Star News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, among other SoCal News Group newspapers.

This is fitting: Robert Morales, whose stories are a master class in feature writing, was the recipient of the AUSD 2021 Golden Quill award for excellence in education reporting.

Two years ago, Sarah's joyful photos of 2nd grade teacher Krystal Tran teaching

her Ramona students from her computer in her kitchen captured the distance learning experience that Pasadena Star News readers could see no other way.

Her photos of AUSD Culinary Arts teachers Kendra Bradford and Elvia Nieto teaching their students at home from computers in the AHS Culinary Lab are full of high spirits. The teachers innovated drive-through customized meal kit distributions to allow their students to cook in their own home kitchens in 2020.

Reingewirtz's November photos of LIFT students assisting with the ATA Food Pantry recently reappeared in a story accompanying Robert Morales' most recent piece on the need for donations to keep the ATA Food Pantry open.

Reingewirtz's unforgettable photos of AUSD 2021 and 2022 high school graduations were the celebration the whole community needed to see.

AUSD is not alone in recognizing the talent of Sarah Reingewirtz. She was a 2022 World Press Photos winner and won the Press Photographers Association of Greater LA Award in three categories.

Ryan Carter, city editor for SCNG, joined the Board meeting via Zoom, to applaud Sarah and was moved by the Board's recognition of her stellar work. He said, "I'm the city editor for a trio of papers, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Pasadena Star News, and LA Daily News. When I first heard about your honoring Sarah, it meant so much. Sarah reminds us every day that photographers have been our heroes throughout these pandemic two-and-a-half years. They were on the front lines, capturing our communities. I am humbled by what Sarah and her colleagues are doing every single day. She captures humanity in every shot. So, I thank you, Sarah, and thank you Superintendent for such kind words and salute this board for acknowledging her work."

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alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Congratulations to Mark Keppel High woodworking technology students, Nathan Nguyen and Derek Xu, left to right in first photo, who were selected for a paid summer woodworking internship at the Architectural Woodworking Company in Monterey Park. Nathan and Derek worked on custom cabinetry + furniture for high-end clients like Netflix, gaining real-world experience at time that woodworkers are sought-after a pandemic-induced labor pool shrinkage.

MKHS woodworking tech student internships fuel career pathways

AUSD's woodworking tech students could finally begin summer internships in June 2022, after a pandemic hiatus since 2018. According to Paul Lam, Mark Keppel High School woodworking technology teacher, these internships are especially important now because the pandemic caused a labor pool shrinkage, "Skilled woodworkers are sought-after and our students can help fill the gap. It is an exciting time to pursue woodworking as a career."

Two of Lam's students won paid summer internships at Monterey Park's Architectural Woodworking Co., a firm known for its fine craftsmanship, innovation, and high-end clients like Netflix.

Thanks to Saul Martin, Architectural Woodworking's vice president and president of Society of Wood Manufacturing (SWM), Mark Keppel's incoming seniors, Nathan Nguyen and Derek Xu, were selected as paid summer interns to work on premium millwork and custom cabinetry.

Martin, who began his career as an

apprentice at the firm, says this collaboration between educators, local businesses, and the SWM, is a great way to find-up-and-coming woodworkers. He recently hired MKHS graduate, Yushi Sasaki, for a full-time position at Architectural Woodworking Company.

The art and craft of fine woodworking is often called a Renaissance trade. Woodworking technology is the original STEM and STEAM program, checking off multiple items: tech, engineering, math, art, design, and a deep knowledge of the biology of trees. As AUSD instructional coach David Byer points out, "STEM is more than coding and robots."

Woodworking is part of AUSD's Career Technical Education which integrates career-based learning and real world workplace experiences. Students and parents can learn more on the district website:

Career Technical Education (CTE) –
Career Technical Education – Alhambra Unified School District

Newly appointed principal of Ynez Elementary, Janice Phan Ed.D, who once trained for year to climb Mt. Fuji to see the sunrise at the summit, believes you can accomplish big anything with a little bit of consistent effort. Dr. Phan has fond memories of her first grade year at Ynez.

Northrup Elementary School's new principal, Lindsay Gilbert, is delighted to return the school where she often observed the assistant principal of Northrup from her infant car seat — because her mother was the Northrup assistant principal. Says Gilbert, "Maybe it was my very early internship in education — I have always wanted to do the work I watched my mom doing."

AUSD's new elementary principals bring strengths + history to their schools

In their new roles, recently appointed Ynez School principal, Janice Phan Ed.D, and Lindsay Gilbert, just named principal at Northrup School, bring with them warm early childhood memories at their respective schools.

Phan has never forgotten her time as a first grade student at Ynez, while Gilbert observed Northrup's assistant principal from her infant car seat — because her mother was Northrup's assistant principal.

As a child, Gilbert was fascinated by her mother's work with teachers, students families, and staff, and soon realized it was exactly what she wanted to do, too. Twenty-six years ago, Phan began her career as a classroom aide, and knew instantly that education was the professional pathway for her.

Gilbert and Phan are seasoned AUSD educators who view their work as a calling. They each have well-recognized gifts for building a sense of belonging, connection,

and community in any situation.

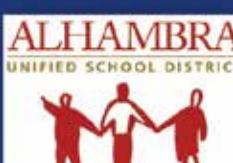
"I believe a strength of mine is the ability to build community," Gilbert said. "The positive connections and relationships that we forge in schools are a model and a lifelong legacy that our children need to be successful in life, in academics, and at work. It takes all of us working in harmony for students to bloom."

Phan says, "I want my students and families to know that I love to have fun and that's why I believe school should be engaging and student-centered. At Ynez school, we want to educate the whole child and support students in their educational journey while building those relationships to make our students' time here fun and memorable."

AUSD Superintendent Denise Jaramillo adds, "We are thrilled to have Dr. Phan and Ms. Gilbert at the helm of Ynez and Northrup. Their skills, talents, and wisdom are assets we treasure."

School Safety Virtual Town Hall

Prevent - Protect - Prepare



AUSD Website: www.ausd.us



Keeping Children Safe is our Community's Top Priority

TOPIC:

Check our website and social media for important information and updates!

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS FROM:

Alhambra Unified School District
Alhambra Police Department
Monterey Park Police Department

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AUSD SAFETY TOWN HALL From Page 1

other protections in place.

In addition, there are multiple student mental health and wellbeing protocols and programs at every campus and a system to link students to resources on and off campus. The district's Positive Behavior Intervention + Supports and Multi-Tiered systems of Supports offer all students a safe, predictable and supportive environment.

Parents have an important role in school safety. When parents keep open lines of communication with their child, monitor their social media accounts, meet their child's friends, monitor their child's grades, whereabouts, school attendance, and know their child's friends and activities, parents are protecting their children and the whole community.

All families and staff who live, work, or have loved ones in the cities of Alham-

bra or Monterey Park are urged to stay informed by signing up for emergency notifications via text:

Text the word ALHAMBRA to 888777

Text your Monterey Park zip code 91754 or 91755 to 888777

Superintendent Jaramillo closed the school Safety Town Hall by reminding everyone that the best way to create a safe and harmonious community is to connect and build relationships with those around us. "When we make others feel like they belong, we are building a safety net for everyone. By paying attention and being compassionate, we model for our children what a peaceful community looks like."

Slides and a recording from the August 4, 2022, AUSD School Safety Town Hall are available here: <https://sites.google.com/ausd.us/gatewaytosuccess>

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

RECORDING WILL BE POSTED ON:

<https://sites.google.com/ausd.us/gatewaytosuccess>



Working rock musician and AUSD 2005 Teacher of the Year, Dave Batti, found a way to have two careers he loves: Performing and conducting the Middle School Honor Orchestra. Try-outs are set for September. "I urge any student who really wants to join the orchestra to try-out, even if they are still beginners," Batti says. "When students are dedicated to playing an instrument, they want to put in the extra effort."

Rock Musician + 2005 AUSD Teacher of the Year inspires his students

When Dave Batti talks about music, his students, and performing his enthusiasm radiates through the Zoom screen.

Growing up, Batti was inspired by the Beatles. After teaching himself to play the trumpet, the violin, drums, and the guitar, he headed to Los Angeles to be a rock star. He was busy playing gigs with rock n roll bands, touring with John Mayall, the god-father of British blues, and playing with John Stewart of the Kingston Trio, when Batti saw an ad for an AUSD elementary school 4th-8th grade music teacher. He interviewed and got the job — which he absolutely loved.

Batti recently returned to conducting the Middle School Honor Band after he briefly retired in 2019. For 39 years, he taught music to elementary students, and for over 25 years, coached the Middle School Honor Orchestra. Batti says, "Music makes you young." At age 72, Batti is proof of the rejuvenating power of music.

"It has been such a fabulous gig to conduct the Middle School Honor Orchestra because every student wants to be there,"

Batti says. "These are the most dedicated students and it really fun for all of us."

Batti has found a way to do the teaching he loves while also performing. "As a performing musician I bring a different real-life perspective to teaching kids to play instruments and to work together to produce a beautiful show," he explains. "I bring all kinds of music to class to introduce students to a big range of sound and styles. It seems to be working."

As Batti's students move to high school, they often help him coach the Middle School Honor Orchestra. "My students really stay in touch over the years," he says. "Music has great lessons for every profession."

This year, Batti encourages 4th-8th grade students to try out for the Honor Orchestra in September — even if they are beginners. "We are rebuilding the Honor Orchestra after the isolation of the pandemic. If kids want to play, I want them to try out." Rehearsals are every Wednesday after school at Alhambra High School. To learn more, students and parents can talk to their school.



Before families left the event, members of the Tzu Chi Foundation made sure they had enough masks and other necessities for the beginning of the school year.



Volunteers gathered and filled over 200 backpacks with age-appropriate school supplies and materials. Families also received pre-loaded debit cards to purchase additional items they need for school.

Tzu Chi Foundation continues to assist AUSD families in need

Since 2017, the Tzu Chi Foundation has stepped up to ensure that the neediest AUSD students are ready to return to school. In partnership with Alhambra Unified School District, the Tzu Chi Foundation provided more than 200 students and their families with supplies and support for the new school year at an invitation-only August 5 special event.

Free uniforms and socks were offered to families before they entered the main distribution area where they received backpacks filled with school supplies that were carefully and specifically selected according to their particular age group. Students were also given a box of medical-grade masks and their parents were provided

with pre-loaded debit cards to assist with additional purchases for the new school year.

AUSD's long partnership with the Tzu Chi Foundation is invaluable to the district community. "The last two years have been so difficult for many of our families who struggle to cover their day-to-day expenses. Having to purchase clothes and supplies for a new school year adds an extra strain on their family budget," explains Patricia Mahony, AUSD assistant superintendent of student support services. "Thanks to the generosity of the Tzu Chi Foundation, we are able to lift the families' financial burden just a little and help set up those students for success in school."



Janet Lees, assistant superintendent of educational services, welcomes this year's new teachers to the AUSD family.



AUSD's new teacher orientation included team-building activities, guidance and support for the opening of the school year, introduction to key staff members, and getting to know each other over delicious food.

AUSD teaching family gains 30+ new members

Alhambra Unified School District welcomed over 30 new teachers to the AUSD family in August. Their journey with the AUSD officially began August 1 with extensive new teacher orientation and training.

The new teachers met key members of the district's leadership team, heard from the Alhambra Teachers Association and the California Teachers Association (who also provided meals during the training days), received their district laptops, and met some of their new colleagues. They continued their training and collaboration the next day, and then joined other AUSD certificated staff members for districtwide professional development in preparation

for opening the 2022-23 school year.

"The district has an amazing induction team, who work diligently to support our new teacher's success in the classroom and their final steps to clear their credentials," said Janet Lees, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services. The AUSD induction team, human resources division, and technology staff led two days of programs to help the new teachers, and will continue their mentoring throughout the year. "We're excited to see what our newest teachers will achieve and we look forward to them having a long and successful teaching career with AUSD," said Superintendent Denise Jaramillo.

From the Desk of Rev. Craig Statton

Staying Safe

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

Things have changed a lot since 2020. Most of us never thought we would experience a pandemic, and the changes we have had to make in our lives have been both inconvenient and frustrating. But some of these changes have started to make us rethink our future and how we want to live as we grow older. Some seniors think about staying in their homes while others think about moving to a senior living community. Each choice comes with some positives and some negatives which a person should consider, but in this pandemic season, a question about which choice will keep me safe from a communicable disease becomes part of the decision. I cannot speak for everyone, but as the CEO of Atherton Baptist Homes, we take the issue of safety very seriously at every level of our organization.

Just one example of our safety culture is fire safety. We have several fire systems including sprinklers, alarms, and smoke detectors which we are checking and rechecking on a regular basis. We practice fire drills monthly with our staff, and twice a year we have planned disaster drills to think about how we would act when the "big one hits." And we expand our culture of safety by equipping our staff with the proper equipment for their required duties. We have regular meetings to discuss safety measures in food service, maintenance of the campus, and caring for our residents at all levels of care. I mention all of this because doing things safely and properly is built into the culture of the community.

This commitment to safety has guided us in keeping our residents safe during the pandemic. From the very beginning, we were making decisions about acquiring Personal Protective Equipment as quickly as possible, setting up precautions such as temperature checks and health surveillance questions for residents, staff, and vendors, and closing parts of the campus and restricting visitors to maximize everyone's safety. We asked our staff and residents to begin wearing masks as soon as it became apparent this was an important tool in the fight against the virus, and our residents began to make masks for our staff and their fellow residents to try to keep everyone as safe as possible. When testing became available for our residents and staff, we began testing. We have had positive cases on campus, but because we were intentional in tracing and tracking these cases, we have limited the spread and limited the scope of the disease at Atherton. As you may be aware, in a pandemic everyone feels at risk, and yet good planning and rigorous implementation help us feel safer because we know what steps to take to keep ourselves and others safe.

As leader of a senior living community, we believe it is a privilege to be able to serve seniors and their families. When making a decision about where to live as we grow older, the answer will never be easy, but believing that the place where we live is safe because the safety is not just a stated value but a practiced value can make a big difference. Take care and stay safe!

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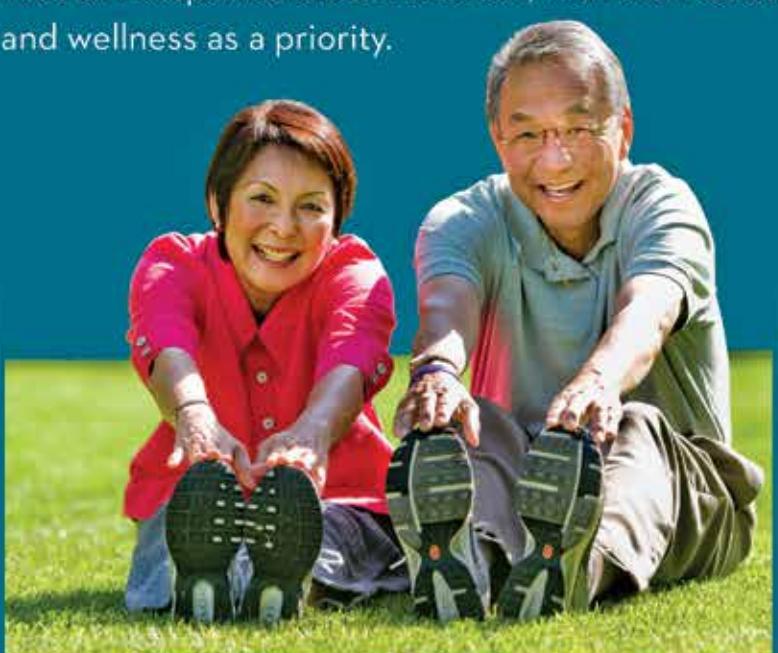


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Ask Dr. Dara, D.D.S.

Why does your tooth hurt after a new filling or crown?

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

If new dental work is causing you pain, consider these three potential causes and take action accordingly.

1. Reversible nerve irritation, also called Reversible Pulpitis

Because vibrations occur when the dentist prepares the tooth and drills off decay, the result may be temporary inflammation of the nerve and a slight swelling of the pulp. Because the pulp is in confined space, the swelling causes pressure on the nerve. You may experience temperature sensitivity and discomfort upon biting. The deeper the cavity, the higher the risk is for nerve irritation. You can expect the discomfort to resolve on its own in few days to a week. OTC medicine may help. Limit chewing on the side you had dental done.

2. High spot on the new restoration can cause a misaligned bite

After every new filling or crown placed in the mouth the dentist checks if the new restoration lines up properly with the rest of your teeth. However, your mouth is numb, which can interfere with your perception and correct judgment. If the new tooth is even slightly higher than the rest, you are putting extra pressure on it every time you close your mouth. On average, we chew each bite about 15-20 times, so imagine many time the tooth gets a hit. No wonder the tooth gets

sensitive almost instantly. If you suspect that this is the reason, do not wait for it to wear down on its own because the tooth may become tender. Visit your dentist and have your bite adjusted. It is easy and will bring instant relief.

3. Irreversible Pulpitis

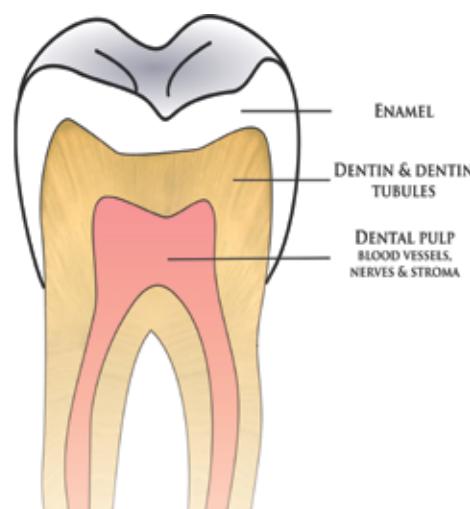
Sometime the nerve gets so irritated that it begins to die. This happens when the decay is very deep and close to the nerve or the tooth has undergone multiple fillings. Teeth with irreversible pulpitis start throbbing randomly and your pain worsens over time. Typically, with irreversible pulpitis you will not have complete relief of the pain using OTC medications. The solution is a root canal treatment and sometimes antibiotics are prescribed if infection has spread in the surrounding bone.

What you should know

Filings and crowns are a safe and effective way to treat dental cavities. Most will last you many years. Some sensitivity after getting a new restoration is common. However, it is important to speak with a dentist if the discomfort does improve within a few weeks, and especially if the pain is accompanied with fever or swelling.

Simple Anatomy of a Tooth

Right in the middle of the tooth is the **pulp** (in pink) where the nerve of the



The nerve endings are stored in the dentin. That's why when the enamel is missing and dentin is exposed we feel sensitivity to temperature and pressure changes.

tooth is located. The pulp plays vital role in early age when the teeth are developing. In mature teeth, the pulp is simply a signal system to alert where there is something wrong. Being so important, the nerve is protected by two layers. The outside layer, called **enamel** is the strongest structure in the human body and acts as a shield for the tooth crown. It is very condensed and free of any sensation. That's why cavities in very early stage are painless. The inside layer, **dentin** is built from small tubules, microscopic channels that travel from the pulp to the enamel border. Tubules house the nerve endings.



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

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



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Your Insurance

3 things you can do now to prepare for Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period

By Katherine Yu Simms

It's that time of year again.

Time to see if there's a Medicare option that better fits your needs and your budget. Don't delay. Here's where to start doing your research now.

Most people who want to make adjustments must wait for the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP), which runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 each year. That's when you can do things like:

- Disenroll from Original Medicare and enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan instead.
- Change from one Medicare Advantage plan to another.
- Move from a Medicare Advantage plan back to Original Medicare (parts A and B).
- Enroll in a Part D prescription plan, cancel your prescription drug coverage, or move from one prescription plan to another.

Since, in most cases, the opportunity to make changes comes just once a year, it's important to plan ahead. Here are three steps you can take to prepare today:

1. Annual Notice of Change (ANOC). The ANOC, which arrives in



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the fall, should list any coming changes to your plan's coverage, costs, or service area. Those changes will become effective Jan. 1. There's an easy-to-follow summary of plan changes near the beginning. All

>> see MEDICARE ENROLLMENT Page 23

Your Health

“Getting Organized”

By Sheila Yonemoto, P.T.

Many universal concepts embrace the idea of organization including the Chinese system of *Feng Shui*, which says you can harness energy to harmonize and enhance energy flow by the proper arrangement of your living and working areas. Removing clutter keeps the energy flowing and prevents stagnation.

Business management systems promote organized filing and well-ordered organizational charts for keeping things and functions in distinct areas to promote smooth flow within the company. Exercise programs often focus on developing specific muscle groups for balanced and coordinated function. Basic closet and garage organization allows for easy access and fast execution of tasks.

Even cell organization is more efficient when cell walls are intact, keeping things that should be in the cell *in* and keeping the things that shouldn't be in the cell *out*.

Entropy measures the degree of disorder in a substance or system. There is always balance in the universe. While one area gets more ordered, additional chaos occurs elsewhere. When entropy increases, available energy diminishes. Increased entropy equals more chaos and decreased entropy equals more order. More chaos means less energy, and more order means more energy.

Things either move toward more chaos or more sameness. However, Chinese philosophy says energy moves in a spiral manner. Think about organizing your house. You start in one area, and pretty soon, the rest of the room starts looking chaotic and disorganized compared to the clean area. You then feel compelled to organize the rest of the room. By comparison, other rooms in the house now seem very disorganized.

This whole concept of organization also applies to health. People start getting more fit by taking daily walks. As



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their legs begin to get firmer, they notice the flabbiness of their upper body muscles. That inspires them to start toning their upper body. Soon they notice they feel better eating certain foods and begin modifying their diet. Eventually, they enjoy more vigorous activities overall.

Change either moves toward more organization and order or in the opposite direction of increased chaos and disorder. Any attempt to increase the order in your life will increase the available energy for you. The natural flow of energy will influence your life, one way or another.

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

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT From Page 22

Medicare plans are required to send an ANOC by Sept. 30, or 15 days before the start of the AEP even if there aren't any changes. If you don't get yours, contact your plan.

2. Make a complete list of the prescription drugs you take. If you have medications you take regularly, be sure to see whether those drugs still will be covered when your current plan moves into the new year. Or, if you're considering changing to a new plan, check that plan's formulary for your prescription drugs. You can compare drug plans (Part D) and Medicare Advantage Plans on the official Medicare website: Medicare.gov.

3. If you haven't already, create an account at Medicare.gov and sign up for free email updates. The site offers an abundance of reliable information on Medicare basics, including contact information for organizations that offer

assistance to those with questions about enrollment.

Don't panic if something changes in your life and you need to make adjustments to your plan outside the AEP. You may be eligible to make changes during a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) if, for example, you move or leave your employer's coverage. You can get information about the rules for different SEP by simply contacting me, as I will assist in helping you find the most suitable plan which fits your needs.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Katherine Yu Simms, who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse financial advice recommended by this author or any other provider. For more information and to contact Katherine, email her at kysimms@rey-top.com.

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9th annual Alhambra Pumpkin Run & Hallowscream Festival is coming to Downtown Alhambra

Downtown Alhambra Business Association and the City of Alhambra brings you the 9th Annual Alhambra Pumpkin Run and Hallowscream Festival on Sunday, October 30, 2022 in Downtown Alhambra.

Alhambra Pumpkin Run is a 10K, 5K, and 1K run benefiting the Alhambra Educational Foundation. Proceeds from the run/walk are donated to help our Alhambra schools. The event begins at 7:45am and ends at 1pm followed by trick-or-treating on Main Street for the kids. The start-line is located at the corner of 1st Street and Main Street in front of Rick's Burgers, and

the festival is located on 1st Street between Main Street and Commonwealth alongside the City's weekly Farmers Market.

The festival includes a 10K and 5K run that starts on Main Streets and travels west on Main Street to El Molino Ave, Farmers Market, live music, Beer & Cocktail Garden, costume contest, kids zone, pumpkin patch, petting zoo and trick-or-treating on Main Street. Register to run at www.alhambrapumpkinrun.com before September 30th for the early bird pricing. Visit Instagram @alhambrapumpkinrun for more information.

Downtown Alhambra celebrates The 90'S at 38 Degrees & The Rabbit Hole

As part of the Downtown Decades summer series, Downtown Alhambra Business Association celebrated the 1990s on Saturday, August 13th at 38 Degrees and The Rabbit Hole on Main Street in the Downtown Alhambra Business District.

Downtown Alhambra celebrated the 90s at two separate locations; 38 Degrees hosted a 90s Hip-Hop and R&B listening party with DJ Aris, and The Rabbit Hole hosted a 90s party with video DJ RO. Community members and business staff dressed up in their best 90s costumes and celebrated with 90s inspired menu items

and cocktails named after their favorite 90s artist and TV shows.

Downtown Decades is the Downtown Alhambra Business Association's free summer series where, from June to September, each decade will be celebrated monthly. June and July were celebrated with two free events with a 70's and 80's costume party.

The final event in the series will be commemorating Y2K on Saturday, September 10th on Main Street. For more information and to RSVP for free future events, visit www.downtownalhambra.com or visit Instagram at @downtownalhambra.



Uniting Borders “Empowering Artists” displayed at Alhambra City Hall

The Academy of Special Dreams and The Alhambra present, Uniting Borders “Empowering Artists” 2022-2023, featuring the latest original works of art from a diverse group of more than 200 local and international artists. These artists represent a wide spectrum of race, ethnicity, gender, age and abilities, truly reflective of the diversity of our society. Of note are three international artists from Mexico: Martha Olivas Torres, Gabriel Cortez Gutierrez, and Maru Huerta. These artists deftly manipulate their paint brushes using only their mouths while seated in their wheelchairs.

Support to make this exhibition of inclusion possible is provided by The Alhambra, The California Arts Council, Sonryee, Centro Cultural Baupres, and Cultura Mazatlan. These and all the supporters provide the opportunity to strengthen, recognize, and

uplift diversity, equity and inclusion in the arts.

“Now that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us,” explained Academy of Special Dreams CEO Michael Dergar, “Our presentation of these artists serves to educate mainstream society that visual

art exhibitions must include people of all backgrounds and those with disabilities.”

This special exhibition will be on display at Alhambra City Hall lobby gallery during the month of September at 111 S. 1st Street, Alhambra, California.



Artist Martha Olivas Torres and Michael Dergar Founder of the Academy of Special Dreams and Cultura Mazatlán.

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Real Estate

Mortgage Rates and the Cost of Money

Gary Frueholz, Dilbeck Real Estate

As the cost of money increases, mortgage rates generally rise as they did this summer. For 30-year fixed rate mortgages, Spring rates in the 3% range are now in the 5% range. The cost of money is the annual rate charged for borrowing, including obtaining funds for a myriad of reasons such as investment capital, purchasing a home, or making improvements to your house. The rate homebuyers pay will include additional costs such as origination fees or "points" and other costs associated with the transaction.

Four primary factors drive the cost of money: productive opportunities, consumption, perception of risk, and inflation. When inflation increases, interest rates increase to keep up with the value of the dollar. If inflation decreases, mortgage rates drop. During times of low inflation, mortgage rates tend to remain more constant and fluctuate less.

Mortgage rates are tied to the basic rules of supply and demand. As inflation, economic growth, the Federal Reserve's monetary policy, and the state of the bond and housing markets move up and down, they all influence mortgage rates. Economists argue and debate about the weight of these influences, but homebuyers familiarity with these general factors are useful in assessing real estate.

This summer two key factors are inflation and the policy of the Federal Reserve. The Fed's policy appears in part to be a response to the inflationary pressures of this year.

The Federal Reserve System is the central bank of the United States and provides our country with a safe, flexible, and stable financial system. The Federal Reserve System is not owned by anyone. The Fed was created in 1913 by the Federal Reserve Act to serve as the nation's central

bank. Its Board of Governors is an agency of the federal government and reports directly to congress. The Fed is accountable to Congress.

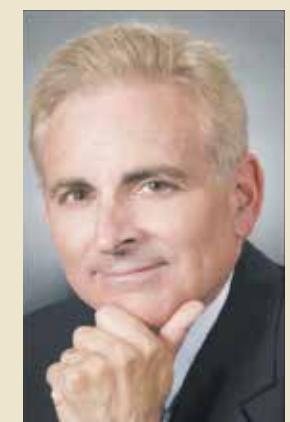
When the Federal Reserve makes it more expensive for banks to borrow by targeting a higher federal funds rate, the banks in turn pass on the higher costs to their customers. Interest rates for consumer borrowing and mortgage rates generally increase.

The Federal Reserve does not actually set mortgage rates. Rather the Federal Reserve System determines the Federal funds rate, which generally has an impact on the rates used by banks to loan money. The Federal funds rate is the rate that banks and other institutions lend money to one another overnight to meet mandated reserve requirements mandated by the government. In this line of "financial dominos," mortgage rates are impacted.

The impact of the Federal Reserve on mortgage rates is not a one-to-one relationship. It is more complicated and in part is derived from the impact the Federal Reserve decisions have on the bond market. Some of the lenders I know refer to the complexity of this relationship as "black magic."

For the home buyer, mortgage rates have gone up. This impact of increasing mortgage rates is just being analyzed now. Hard data on real estate housing prices resulting from recent Federal Reserve rate increases are just starting to come in. Data from month-end August and September will provide a clearer view of mortgage rate changes on our real estate market.

But soft data is indicating the real



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

estate market is leveling off. The Days on Market of listings increased during July and the balance of price changes on current listings has now shifted. This past spring, price changes in the Multiple Listing Service were equally divided between price increases and decreases. During this summer, the vast majority of price changes to listings are decreasing.

These recent mortgage rate increases may lead to an increase in inventories and a reduction in "bidding wars." That may actually help buyers in our real estate market.

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

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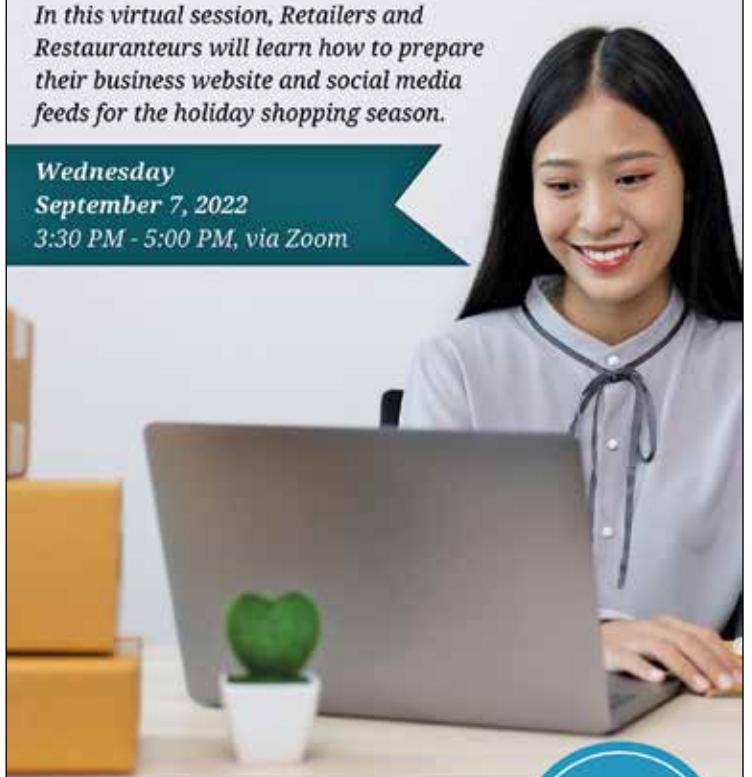
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Automobile

Accessory drive belts

When is it time for replacement?

By Javier Mendez

The accessory drive belts on our cars are a key component of important accessory systems. The charging, cooling, power steering, and air conditioning systems all rely on it. Failure of a belt can leave a driver stranded on the side of the road with an overheated car or dead battery. Replacing the belt as soon as wear is identified will ensure reliable systems operation and avoid unnecessary damage to system components or compromised performance.

The belts themselves have come a long way, and wear is not as obvious as on early designs. Prior to around 2000, belts were made of a neoprene material, and there were often individual belts for each accessory. These belts would dry out, crack, and flake as they wore. The need for replacement was obvious. Modern belts are made of a synthetic rubber (EPDM), which are less likely to crack. These belts are part of a system including spring loaded or hydraulic tensioners and guide pulleys. Most cars these days have only one belt that snakes around all the pulleys on the front of an engine, and they have multiple grooves that can grip better than earlier designs. This makes them a much more efficient space and weight design solution. They can last from sixty thousand miles to as much as one hundred thousand miles.

These modern belts wear down much like a tire: the material slowly wears away. As material is lost, these belts will sit lower in their grooved pulleys. This poor fit contributes to multiple problems. Belts can slip, which will lead to excessive heat that can damage accessory component pulleys and bearings. Slipping belts can also cause a screeching noise. When slipping, alternators may not output the necessary electric energy necessary for our vehicles to operate normally. Water pumps may not circulate coolant effectively, leading to higher operating temperatures. Air conditioning compressors can be affected in a similar way. Worn belts can cause a spring loaded tensioner to operate in a



Javier Mendez

Owner and operator
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range that can lead to failure.

The belt's condition should be checked at regular service visits. A gauge is used to check for wear, and a visual inspection will help to identify cracks or fraying. If fraying is found, the pulleys that the belt rides on should be carefully checked. There also could be an alignment problem that will impact the useful life of the next belt installed. If the belt has lasted over 60 thousand miles you may want to consider replacement of the guide/idler and tensioner assembly while you're there. Oftentimes, belt manufacturers offer a kit for these cases. You may be spending a bit more now but saving yourself a return visit soon after.

As always, if you have questions on this topic or other automotive issues feel free to reach out, we are glad to help. Drive safe Alhambra.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Jo's Garage, who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse advice recommended by this author or any other provider.

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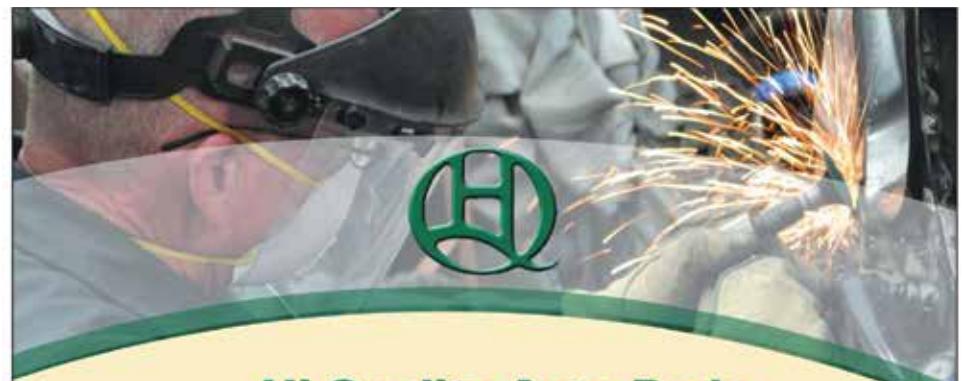
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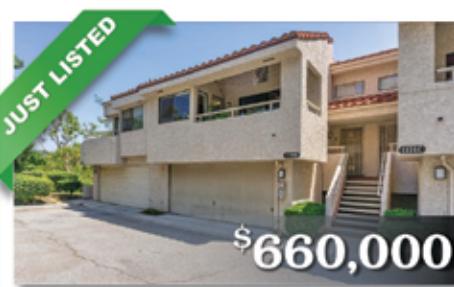
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City	Property Type	Average Price JULY '22	Average Price JULY '21	YOY%
Monterey Park	Single Family House	\$943,226	\$831,731	+ 13.41%
	Condo/Townhome	\$526,600	\$600,409	-12.29%
Alhambra	Single Family House	\$962,556	\$954,545	+ 0.84%
	Condo/Townhome	\$664,931	\$638,184	+ 4.19%