

## Brighten up the holidays at Downtown Alhambra's Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony

We are taking our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony to you this year by going "virtual!" Warm up so Hot Cocoa and Watch our Tree Lighting live, as well as some holiday entertainment from the comfort of your home.

Join Downtown Alhambra's Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony Livestream, on Friday, December 4, 2020, at 6:00 PM on Facebook/downtownalhambra.

Entertainment will include the unveiling of "Holiday Sing-Along and Dance Video Remix" along with performances by PopRock Academy. The sing-along and dance remix is a compilation of submissions by our community families and businesses.

This yearly event, which is a collaborative effort between the Downtown Alhambra Business Association (DABA) and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, hopes to shine a light on the area's local businesses and community while keeping all safe.

## Donations sought for virtual Spark of Love Toy Drive

The Alhambra Firefighters Association, the City of Alhambra, and the Alhambra Unified School District are asking for your help to bring smiles to children's faces this holiday season.

We are joining ABC7, along with the Southern California Firefighters, Toys for Tots, and Subaru, in hosting the 28th year of the Spark of Love Toy Drive.

This special community campaign collects new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for underserved children and teens in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Ventura, and Riverside counties.

Due to the effects of the pandemic and devastating wildfires, our community partners anticipate this year's requests for toys will be higher than ever. To help meet this historic demand and ensure deserving kids receive some holiday joy, Spark of Love is going online, transitioning to an all-virtual effort.



### How to donate

Even though COVID safety protocols prevent Alhambra Fire stations and school district sites from setting up collection boxes, supporting the Spark of Love has never been easier. Safe, quick, and convenient donations are

possible through the Spark of Love registry. Financial donations are also welcome, as they allow us to provide toys for communities with overwhelming needs. The toy drive runs through Dec. 24.

Buy a toy: Myregistry.com/giftlist/sparkoflove.

Text to give: Text "SPARK" to 24365.

Donate online: <https://supportlafld.kindful.com> (select Spark of Love from drop down menu).

All proceeds will go to buying toys or sports equipment for children.

For more information on how to donate, please e-mail Heather Blais-Pickering, or contact her at 626-825-2886, or visit our website <https://www.cityofalhambra.org/events/spark-of-love-toy-drive-2020>.

## AUSD employees feted in milestone celebration

When the nation's schools pivoted in spring 2020 to drive-thru celebrations for milestone moments, small armies of Alhambra Unified School District staff collaborated to meticulously choreograph drive-thru graduations, promotions, and student award recognitions. To make each event memorable, meaningful, and logistically flawless required many dozens of employees.

For this year's annual employee service recognition ceremony, AUSD staff members received a drive-thru celebration of their very own. In a typical year, employees who reach milestones of 15, 20, and even 40 years with the district are honored in May in the district board room. Like so many plans, this ritual was shelved due to COVID-19.

The 178 AUSD employees were instead recognized on



This photo collage captured some of the fun moments that were part of the 2020 AUSD Employee Service Recognition Ceremony at San Gabriel High School Oct. 23.

Oct. 23 at a music-filled, festive outdoor celebration at San Gabriel High School. Among the staff members who deserved the most accolades were those who have given a lifetime of service to

AUSD by achieving the 40-year mark, with special congratulations going to Gloria Fernandez, Gloria Ramirez, and Joy Soh.

The AUSD employee service celebration was an especially

>> see **AUSD MILESTONE CELEBRATION** Page 14

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## Mayor's Corner



By Mayor Sasha Rene Perez

2020 brought us a worldwide pandemic, record breaking wildfires, and nationwide civil unrest — it will not be a year we soon forget. But it has also opened our eyes and our hearts to what is most important: the moments of joy and light we share with one another.

As we begin the holiday season, I would like to take a moment to thank the Alhambra residents who have stepped up this year to serve our neighbors. Local organizations such as the First Baptist Church of Alhambra, the Asian Youth Center, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, and Alhambra Teachers Association have all played a major role in ensuring that families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic would still have access to nutritious food. I would also like to thank Alhambra's firefighters, police officers, nurses, and doctors for protecting our community during this difficult time.

Their unrelenting determination to serve has continued to give all of us hope.

### Local elections

Alhambra residents broke new voting records this year with over 70% of residents voting in the Nov. 3 General Election. This level of turnout is unprecedented and an indicator of an extremely engaged electorate. I would like to congratulate Alhambra Councilmember Jeff Maloney for being re-elected to a second term along with newly elected Alhambra Unified School Boardmembers Kaysa Moreno, Kenneth Tang, and Marcia Wilson. I'd also like to congratulate Grassroots Alhambra for successfully passing Alhambra's first campaign finance and electoral reform measure, Measure V. Thank you all for voting and letting your voice be heard!

### Special thanks

On a personal note, I would like to

thank the voters of Alhambra for trusting me to lead our city during this unprecedented time. I ran on a platform focused on economic recovery, environmental protections, government transparency, historical preservation, and traffic safety — and I intend on providing you all with the kind of quality results my hometown deserves.

### Shop local

We have excellent restaurant and retail destinations throughout Alhambra — on Main Street, Valley Boulevard, and beyond. Give back to our community this holiday season by shopping local. Our small businesses are the backbone of this community and now, more than ever, they need your support to stay alive.

Happy Holidays Alhambra! May your spirit be filled with kindness, compassion, generosity, and hope.

## City of Alhambra Housing Element update

The City of Alhambra has just begun a year-long process of updating the Housing Element of its General Plan. The Housing Element discusses numerous factors relating to housing, such as current housing types, future housing need, zoning, and programs and policies governing housing development.

This Housing Element will cover the planning period from October 2021

through October 2029. Alhambra received a draft allocation of 6,808 units that it must plan and zone capacity for over these eight years. Residents, landlords, employees, and businesses are encouraged to share their input as the city plans for a range of housing types suitable for many segments of the population. Visit <https://www.alhambrahousingelement.com> to learn more about how to get involved.

## Republic Services is a leader in organics recycling

Republic Services is doing its part to help divert yard and food waste away from landfills and to contribute to the circular economy. Last year, Republic Services processed 1.7 billion pounds of yard and food waste at 12 organics recycling facilities in six states, creating more than 275,000 tons of compost. Recently, the National Waste & Recycling Association named Republic Services the Organics Recycler of the Year.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, yard and food waste currently make up about 30% of the municipal solid waste that's sent to landfills. With their organics programs, Republic Services recovers safe and edible food for people and animals to consume and diverts organics to their compost facilities that recycle the material into a nutrient-rich soil amendment, which reduces erosion, builds healthier soils, and helps plants grow.

Several of Republic Services' composting facilities are technologically advanced and located in California, where there is a greater demand due to legislation mandating the diversion of organic waste from landfills. At the Otay Landfill in Chula Vista, California, the composting facility is completely off the grid, using solar-powered fans and a cover technology requiring little energy consumption to trap odors, dust, and emissions. In Anaheim, California, Republic Services installed its first organics preprocessing operation, where specialized equipment processes as much as 20 tons of food waste per hour.

Republic Services has also invested in



Recently, the National Waste & Recycling Association named Republic Services the Organics Recycler of the Year.

a food recovery program in Los Angeles County. We currently partner with multiple non-profit organizations to collect surplus food from commercial businesses and help feed Los Angeles families in need. These efforts have provided over 800,000 meals. In 2017, we began transporting food surplus that would otherwise go to waste to the Los Angeles Zoo. Now 10 tons of food each month is recovered and delivered to the zoo to feed animals.

"Organics diversion is being debated across the country, and legislation is driving this material out of landfills," said Chris Seney, director of organics operations for Republic Services. "Organics is an emerging industry with an enormous amount of opportunity, and Republic Services is proud to be taking the lead."

Republic Services is already providing organics collection to many commercial customers in Alhambra. If a business is ready to begin an organics recycling program or to improve a current program, call Julian Reyes at 747-245-9152 for assistance.



Alhambran Hilda Lohguan is the new library director.



Patrons are asked to limit library use to 30 minutes only for express services such as checking out materials, getting a new library card, requesting information, making photo copies, printing documents, or using computers.

## New Library Director Hilda Lohguan has roots in Alhambra

BY GLENN BARNETT

Hilda LohGuan is Alhambra's new librarian, with roots in Alhambra. As a child, she attended Park Elementary School, and today her three sons are enrolled in an Alhambra school. From here she headed off to Cal State Fullerton to study bio-chemistry. In graduate school, however, she changed her mind, transferred to an online program at Colorado State University, and began to study library science and technology.

She had found her calling. For 23 years she worked in the Los Angeles County Library system serving in different parts of the county and in many capacities from adult literacy to programs for children. In that time she became thoroughly familiar with the multi-faceted modern library.

Now she is ready to serve her home town as library director, and she has a tough assignment. She has to reopen the library during the time of COVID. Starting Nov. 3, a phased reopening of our beautiful library began for essential services. "As we move forward, we will evaluate our services to continue offering the community an enriching experience," she said.

Initially, curbside pickup will continue Mondays and Fridays while Tuesday through Thursday only the first floor will be open. Patrons are asked to limit library use to 30 minutes only for express services such as checking out materials, getting a new library card, requesting information, making photo copies, printing documents, or using computers. Library patrons are required to wear masks and practice social distancing when inside the library. For complete information on phase one of the library opening, see the November edition of Around Alhambra.

Hilda is also looking to the future of Alhambra and the library's mission to the community. She would like to see a situation where a library van could take and retrieve books and other materials to the homes of people who can't get to the library itself. It would be similar to the old concept of a book mobile but updated for today's needs.

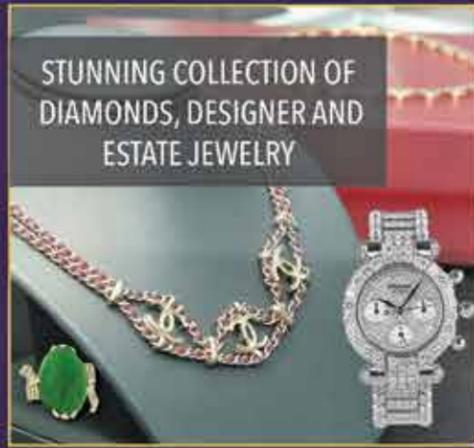
Hilda LohGuan is taking on a big job in opening up the library facility to continue its important services to the community while keeping the public safe. Her lifetime of connections to Alhambra will aid her in understanding what needs doing.

To Advertise in Around Alhambra call 626-282-8481

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Sunday Closed

\*On items \$1,000 or more. Some items excluded. See staff for details.

**AROUND ALHAMBRA**

Published by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce.

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

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

For advertising rates and other information, contact

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# Alhambra firefighters tackle the wildfires of summer

BY GLENN BARNETT

Through a state-wide agreement, firefighters from throughout the state respond to emergencies beyond their jurisdictions. The Alhambra Fire Department is no exception. When wildfires break out and our fire department gets a request for help, an engine company is dispatched to assist with containment and suppression of these destructive fires.

This summer our firefighters were especially vigilant and busy. They responded to at least four major fires throughout the state. Each of these engine companies was involved with structural defense (protecting homes and property), firefighting, cutting scratch lines to deny fuel to the fires, fighting spot fires, progressive hose lays to increase the distance they were able to attack fires, community relations, and various other activities as needed.

One of our firefighters, Capt. Samuel Calabrese, led crews that fought the Glass Fire in the Napa area for nine days. While there, they protected the Schramsberg Winery and the Castello Di Amorosa Winery. After returning from Napa, Capt. Calabrese led a team at the Bobcat Fire in the Devil's Punchbowl area for two days.

He said of his experience, "It was a privilege for my crew and me to go out into our great state to help other communities. We truly felt the appreciation from the people who live in these areas, and I feel our presence on the fire line made a difference. It was great, not only to see other agencies throughout our state but throughout the country showing up to battle these blazes. In a time of trouble, our country can truly pull together to accomplish some amazing goals."

Another busy firefighter this summer was Capt. Monica Gonzalez. She led an engine company to the Monrovia area of the Bobcat Fire. They remained on the front line for six days. She was also dispatched to defend against the Blue Ridge fire in the Chino Hills area for 4 1/2 days. Capt. Gonzales said it was a good experience for her crew. They engaged in structure protection and firefighting. "No one got hurt, and everyone learned a lot about fighting these dangerous wind-blown fires."

Alhambra was also represented at the dangerous CZU Lightning Complex Fire near Santa Cruz where Capt. Larry Ramirez led an engine company that remained on the front lines for 17 days.

Here is a list of our dedicated firefighters who helped to save homes and businesses throughout California:



Firefighter/Paramedic Travis Barbadillo and Firefighter Ethan Jahnkow survey the Bobcat Fire before going into action.

E71: CZU incident (Santa Cruz area) (17 days)

Capt. Larry Ramirez

Engineer Michael Martel

Firefighter/Paramedic Eddie Maldonado

Firefighter Skylar Fielding

E72: Bobcat incident (Monrovia Area) (six days)

Capt. Monica Gonzalez

Engineer Jorge Ruiz

Firefighter/Paramedic J.J. Tolentino

Fire Fighter John Orrante

E71: Bobcat incident (Valeremo Area/Devil's Punchbowl area) (two days)

Capt. Samuel Calabrese

Engineer Steven Hall

Firefighter/Paramedic Travis Barbadillo

Firefighter Ethan Jahnkow

E71: Glass Fire incident (Napa area) (nine days)

Capt. Samuel Calabrese

Engineer Michael Martel

Firefighter John Orrante

Firefighter Skylar Fielding

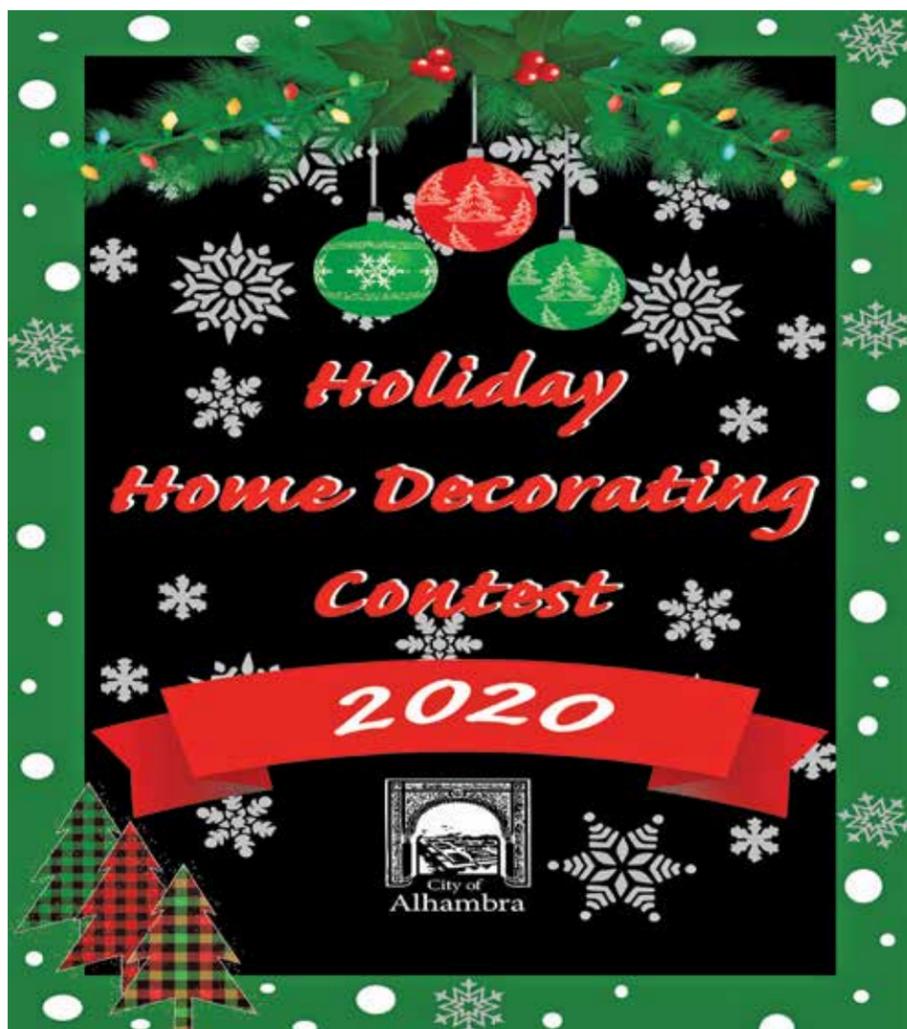
E71: Blue Ridge incident (Chino Hills area) (three days)

Capt. Monica Gonzalez

Engineer James Manriquez

Firefighter/Paramedic Garrett Gomez

Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Kreglow



## Spread holiday cheer with Holiday Home Decorating Contest

The City of Alhambra is inviting residents to spread holiday cheer around their neighborhoods with festive homes.

Show us your bright lights and creative inspiration in the Holiday Home Decorating Contest.

Judges are looking for best use of lights, best animation display, best lawn display, and most creative homes. Five homes will be chosen as winners.

Contest rules:

- Applications will be accepted until 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 11.

- Contest is limited to what can be seen from the street side of the house at night.

- Judging will take place between Dec. 14 and Dec. 18 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please have decorations on no later than 6 p.m. this week.

- Winners will receive a special visit the night of Dec. 22.

- Participants are requested to keep their houses decorated through Jan. 8 so the community can enjoy them.

Entry forms are available at City Hall, Alhambra Park office, and on [cityofalhambra.org](http://cityofalhambra.org). Please return it to the Parks and Recreation Department, 500 N. Palm Ave., Alhambra 91801, or e-mail it to the Alhambra Park office at [parksandrec@cityofalhambra.org](mailto:parksandrec@cityofalhambra.org).

Medicare decisions are highly personal and can be overwhelming to figure out. There may be as many different questions about Medicare as solutions as there's not a 1 plan that fits all. But certain questions seem to come up more often than others. Here are some of the most common Medicare questions and answers:

BY KATHERINE YU SIMMS

**1. How much does Medicare cost?**

Medicare Part A is free for the vast majority of American seniors, but has a deductible of \$1,340 per benefit period, as well as coinsurance requirements if your hospital stay lasts more than 60 days or if your skilled nursing stay extends beyond 20 days.

Medicare Part B has a monthly premium. For 2020, the standard monthly premium is \$144.60, but high-income seniors pay significantly more than this. At the high end, seniors with incomes over \$320,000 (joint tax return) or \$160,000 (individual) have to pay \$376.00 per month. In addition,

Medicare Part B has an annual deductible of \$198 for 2020.

Part D, prescription drug coverage plans, come with an average monthly premium of \$32.74 in 2020.

**2. What does Original Medicare (Parts A and B) not cover?**

One of the most important things for seniors to know is what Medicare doesn't cover. While this isn't an extensive list, Original Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, dental care, eye exams or glasses, dentures, acupuncture, hearing aids, and routine foot care.

**3. What's a Medicare Advantage Plan?**

You can get your Medicare benefits through Original Medicare, or a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO). If you have Original Medicare, the government pays for Medicare benefits when you get them. Medicare Advantage Plans, sometimes called "Part C" or "MA Plans," are offered by private companies approved by Medicare. Medicare pays these companies to cover your Medicare benefits. If you join a Medicare Advan-



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

tage Plan, the plan will provide all of your Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Medicare Part B (Medical).

**4. How much do Medicare Advantage Plans cost and what does it include?**

In addition to your Part B premium, you usually pay one monthly premium for the services included in a Medicare Advantage Plan. Each Medicare Advantage Plan has different premiums and costs for services, so it's important to compare plans in your area and understand plan costs and benefits before you join. Medicare Advantage Plans picks up where Original Medicare leaves off which covers dentures and implants, eye glasses, hearing aids, acupuncture, chiropractor, podiatry, and transportation, and gym memberships.



Al Garcia, Daniel DeSoto and Sam Artino.

*Sam's Barbershop has been collecting and donating toys for Christmas for over 40 years. This year's recipient is Friends of Foster Children – San Gabriel Valley. If you would like to be part of making a child's Christmas, bring one of more new unwrapped toys to Sam's Barbershop at 1103 E Main St. in Alhambra.*



Communities Coming Together

**Alhambra High School Community Blood Drive**

Held at Almansor Park in the Gym  
800 S Almansor St.  
Alhambra, CA 91801

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020**  
**12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To schedule your life-saving appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: Almansor

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

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



presents

**2021 Tournament of Roses Celebration**

**With former Rose Parade Queens**

Every year the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce hosts a Tournament of Roses Queen and Court luncheon. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions that event will be different this year. This year former Rose Parade Queens have been invited to share what it was like to be on the Court and to participate in Parade festivities, give advice, learn fun facts and more.

We will also have a Student Art Contest. Alhambra students have been invited to share their vision of "WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT ALHAMBRA?" Artwork will be submitted, and the winners will be announced at the Zoom luncheon.

**Tuesday, December 15**

**12 noon – 1:00 p.m.**

Via zoom

Please contact the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce  
626/282-8481

[ihernandez@alhambrachamber.org](mailto:ihernandez@alhambrachamber.org)  
to make a reservation and receive sign in information.

Medicare Annual Enrollment Period  
October 15 – December 7, 2020

Important Medicare questions

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



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

**Happy Safe Holidays!**  
**Call 323.854.2868**

# Tax Tips

## Back door Roth IRA

Generally, you can only contribute to a Roth IRA if you have taxable compensation and income less than the top of the phaseout range for your filing status (see IRS.com for limits). If your income is greater than that threshold amount, you are prohibited from contributing directly to a Roth IRA.

A "backdoor Roth IRA" allows a taxpayer to bypass income limitations by first making a nondeductible contribution to a traditional IRA and then converting it into a ROTH IRA. If the contribution happens soon after the original contribution, there will be little or no taxable income or tax assessed. Due to the distribution rules for traditional IRAs, this works best if you have no other traditional IRAs.

Generally, if you are prohibited from making a direct Roth IRA contribution, you are phased out from making a deductible traditional IRA contribution as well. Therefore, in order to make a backdoor Roth IRA contribution, you would first make a nondeductible contribution to a traditional IRA. Nondeductible contributions are considered to be made with money you have already paid tax on (after tax).

You can withdraw all or part of the assets from a traditional IRA and reinvest then in a ROTH IRA. The amount that you withdraw and timely contribute to the Roth IRA is called a conversion contribution. If properly rolled over, the 10% additional tax on early distribution will not apply.

There are no income limitations on converting a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. The conversion is treated as a rollover, regardless of the conversion



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

method.

If this is something that may interest you, my suggestion is to speak to a professional who is familiar with backdoor Roth IRAs. It is really important that they understand nondeductible contributions. If it is done incorrectly, it may cause extra taxes.

The information for this article is from ©2020 Tax Material, Inc.



The Alhambra Coin Center Team from left: David Hunt, Shelley Griffiths, Malcolm Varner, Rita Li, and Kevin Rodriguez

## Alhambra Coin Center one of largest, most popular coin stores in state

The Alhambra Coin Center was founded in 1975 at its current location on the southwest corner of Chapel Avenue and Main Street by brothers Malcolm and Jay Varner, both of whom are recognized experts in rare coins and numismatics. One of the most respected outlets for collectable coinage, the Alhambra Coin Center is still owned and operated by one of its founders, Malcom Varner.

Among other achievements, Malcom is a lifetime member of the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG) and has served on the Board of the Industry Council of Tangible Assets (ICTA), serving for two years as national chairman of the board.

The small shop has grown over the years to become one of the largest and most popular coin stores in the state. They sell retail to the public and also serve as a wholesaler to other coin companies and numismatists across the country. Staying ahead of the national trends, the Alhambra Coin Center has expanded from solely dealing in coins to offering bullion and antiques, jewelry including estate jewelry, diamonds and

gem stones, antique pocket watches, and other luxury items. These include high-end handbags, sterling silver, and pop culture items.

In addition to selling, they are also paying cash for items of value that people are ready to sell. To learn more, see their web site at <https://alhambracoin.com/> to find out how to sell or buy these valuables.

"This was the first coin shop I went to when I was a kid," said a longtime customer and coin collector. "They were very patient with me and answered all my questions politely and respectfully and always showed me what I would ask to look at (assuming they had any). That was the beginning of a long relationship. I always feel welcomed and respected when I go there."

Coin and valuables collectors know the Alhambra Coin Center is located at 254 E. Main St., Alhambra 91801. Their phone number is 626-282-1151. Their e-mail address is [info@alhambracoin.com](mailto:info@alhambracoin.com). Store hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

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

<b>Alhambra Latino Association</b> P.O. Box 6062 Alhambra, CA 91802 626-864-4460 Member since 2002	<b>Dynasty Builders</b> 1501 W. Hellman Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803 626-299-0811 Member since 2012	<b>Tina Marie Siu &amp; Annie Siu, DDS</b> 2585 Huntington Drive San Marino, CA 91108 626-796-0615 Member since 1955
<b>All Souls World Language Catholic School</b> 29 S. Electric Ave. Alhambra, CA 91801 626-282-5695 Member since 2001	<b>Jeffrey Maloney</b> Member since 2014	<b>Spark After School Academy</b> 2168 S. Atlantic Blvd. #222 Monterey Park, CA 91754 626-232-7606 Member since 2013
<b>Automobile Club of So. California</b> 401 E. Main Street, Suite 101 Alhambra, CA 91801 626-289-4491 Member since 1981	<b>Marie Callender's Restaurant</b> 220 S. Atlantic Blvd. Monterey Park, CA 91754 626-281-9548 Member since 2011	<b>The Shredded Carrot</b> 2428 W. Valley Blvd., Suite D Alhambra, CA 91803 626-660-6071 Member since 2018
<b>Costco - Alhambra</b> 2207 W. Commonwealth Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803 626-289-7164 Member since 1987	<b>Office Depot</b> 1200 W. Valley Blvd. Alhambra, CA 91803 626-943-0900 Member since 2013	<b>U. S. Storage Centers - Alhambra</b> 2500 W. Hellman Ave. Alhambra, CA 91801 626-872-6922 Member since 2010
<b>Days Inn</b> 15 N. First St. Alhambra, CA 91801 626-308-0014 Member since 1988		

*Thank You!*

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

## WELCOME OUR *New* CHAMBER MEMBERS!

**Nopali Properties**  
P. O. Box 3684  
South Pasadena, CA 91031  
626-872-0809  
[nopaliproperties.com](http://nopaliproperties.com)

*Nopali Properties, LLC, is a professional real estate solutions firm that buys and sells properties throughout the Greater Los Angeles area, with a focus on buying distressed properties and rehabilitating and reselling them to retail buyers. Our goal is to revitalize our historical communities while preserving our abundant culture and encouraging homeownership across Los Angeles.*

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Services are offered to anyone who needs them. You do not have to meet any financial guidelines. Spouses and boyfriends are encouraged to visit. The staff and volunteers of the center are bi-lingual. All services are confidential and free of charge.

*Welcome!*



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626-282-1084

**Michael Aston, EA**  
[michael@alhambrataxcenter.com](mailto:michael@alhambrataxcenter.com)



# Introducing Nopali Properties, LLC

Last year, three Alhambra residents opened a new business here in town. Amanda Fornelli, her husband David, and her brother Oscar Bustos opened Nopali Properties. They are serving the greater Los Angeles area with professional real estate solutions. All three owners are bi-lingual in English and Spanish to better serve customers.



Oscar Bustos, Amanda Fornelli, and David Fornelli of Nopali Properties.

Their company buys and sells homes and other properties. Nopali is focusing its attention on buying distressed properties that need love and attention, rehabilitating and beautifying them before reselling them in turn-key condition to retail buyers.

They serve as diligent investors and are thoughtful contributors to the local economy and neighborhoods. They strive to revitalize historical communities while preserving Alhambra's unique local culture. Their business model includes promoting the importance of homeownership across the Los Angeles area. Nopali is committed to donating a percentage of all of its profits to support the efforts to house the homeless in the Los Angeles area.

Nopali specializes in assisting clients with situations such as foreclosure avoidance, selling property without realtor commissions, relocation assistance, vacant properties and houses in major disrepair, environmental or structural problems, and much more. When doing business with Nopali, it is important to know they are not real estate agents. That means they don't work on commission and can pass the savings along to sellers and buyers.

Just as important, they are here to support the elder population in making the often necessary and sometimes difficult transition from living in their own homes

to a place of assisted living. Amanda and her team specialize in respectfully answering real estate questions from older adults seeking the best advice in these life changing situations.

In many cases, the Nopali team is able to purchase distressed properties from older adults in cash and on their timeline, freeing up much needed funds for their transition to long-term care. They are also able to assist older adults with moving costs to ensure a stress-free process.

Nopali Properties wants potential clients to know they are truly committed to helping each individual customer. They take pride in their rapid response, integrity, and over-delivering on customer service. That means putting the client's needs first, whether they are selling or buying a home. In making these important decisions, they can help clients realize their real estate goals.

Feel free to contact them at 626-872-0809, or e-mail real estate questions to [info@NopaliProperties.com](mailto:info@NopaliProperties.com) For more information, visit their web site at <https://www.nopaliproperties.com>.



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

# How renters insurance protects landlord, renter

## Purchasing renters insurance is a smart move

While a Rental Dwelling Policy covers the building itself for the property owner, a Renters Insurance Policy covers the personal belongings of the tenant and also provides liability coverage for certain types of bodily injury or property damage. Purchasing renters insurance with coverage for personal property is a smart move. But, most tenants won't purchase it unless a landlord requires it.

### Benefits of renters insurance

Renters insurance protects the renter. In many cases, the insurance a landlord carries covers only the building. Personal property loss or damage, caused by theft, vandalism, or fire are typically not covered by the landlord's policy. Without renters insurance, the tenant may have to bear the financial burden of a loss to their personal property.

### A renters policy might:

- Compensate you if your belongings, like a bike, a laptop, or a television, are lost, stolen, or damaged.
- Protect against liability claims from a guest injured while in or near your rental.
- Cover your personal property, like your cell phone, clothes in a storage unit, or laptop left in your car, regardless of where it's located.

### Benefits for landlords

By requiring renters insurance, landlords potentially avoid liability claims from tenants due to damaged property caused by fire or other covered losses. A tenant's rental insurance policy could help with:

- Relocation expenses
- Protection against property damage

If a tenant's belongings are stolen, that tenant might sue their landlord for failing to protect their property. However, if their renters insurance covers the damage for their lost belongings, they're less likely to sue the landlord for damages.

### • Damage or injuries from pets

A rental insurance policy might help mitigate the risks of damage or injuries caused by pets to others or others' property. However, if your pet causes damage to your apartment, it may not be covered by your renters policy.

### • Rental Dwelling Insurance Premiums

With the tenant's renters policy potentially covering the cost of damage to the renter's personal property, there might be less claims against the landlord's rental dwelling policy.

### • Screening potential tenants

Like a tenant's credit score, requiring proof of renters insurance might be an indicator of a potential tenant's ability to pay rent on time.

### How do landlords require renters insurance?

The landlord may require renters insurance by including a clause in the lease that says: "Lessee is required to provide proof of renters insurance within 14 days of the lease start date."

While landlords require renters insurance to help minimize their risks, renters insurance also benefits the tenant to protect their property and minimize their risk. It's a method to help ensure respect of property by both parties, keeping the rental in tip top shape.

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



**Notary services**  
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**Alhambra Chamber of Commerce**  
104 S. First St.  
Please phone 626-282-8481  
for an appointment.







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Joanna Vargas is the creator and owner of Live Fully Academy Online.



Clarissa Fawk is an instructor at Live Fully Academy Online.

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# The Fit Factor becomes Live Fully Academy Online

The Fit Factor Studio that was once located on Main Street in Downtown Alhambra has transformed into "Live Fully Academy." The Live Fully Academy is not only fitness, but a lifestyle led by creator and owner Joanna Vargas. It is an online fitness community for women who want to stay connected and gain physical and mental strength while they're working out at home.

The company offers fitness, a monthly book club, a Facebook group community, access to over 100+ pre-recorded classes, and quarterly fitness planning. Live Fully Academy is completely based on Zoom so that patrons can take classes on the go and be safe in their own homes. Affordable

monthly prices are available for online.

"Do you want to get a head start on your fitness before the holidays, but can't afford to," said Ms. Vargas. "No problem! Join the Live Fully Academy this month to get this insane deal! Your month is FREE the moment you sign up from today until Dec. 31, 2020."

To get the first free month, visit the website at [www.thefitfactorstudio.com](http://www.thefitfactorstudio.com), or visit them on Facebook and Instagram, @thefitfactorstudio. Use promo code FREEMONTH when signing up to join the new community today. New announcements will be posted all month long on social media, so like and follow them to get new updates daily.

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*Virtual Networking*

**Good Day Alhambra**

alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Virtual ZOOM

Thursday, 12/9/2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

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

**Raffles!**

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

*Virtual Networking*

**Tools To Help Your Business**

alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Virtual ZOOM

Wednesday, December 16, 2020  
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Would you like to participate in the upcoming Mastermind Session 3 and receive solutions from your peers?**

Hosted by: **Robert Fukui**  
High Point Marketing

Speaker: Robert Fukui

Market research shows that over 70% of business owners who receive some type of coaching or counsel improve performance, relationships, and communication skills. Starting October 21 the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce will conduct a series of Mastermind Sessions, where three to five chamber members will receive practical solutions to their business challenges from fellow members.

**Participation works like this:**

- Business owner presents a business issue they would like help in solving by writing a one paragraph description of the issue prior to the mastermind event.
- During the mastermind session, the owner will have 5 minutes to present the issue to the group of fellow chamber members.
- The group will then have 5 minutes to ask clarifying questions.
- The group will then have 5 minutes to provide feedback on the owner's situation.

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMud-6urDwuEtS-JYF3HAXiNEOQd9VsBmSs>

# Cal State LA President Covino elected to lead executive committee of Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities

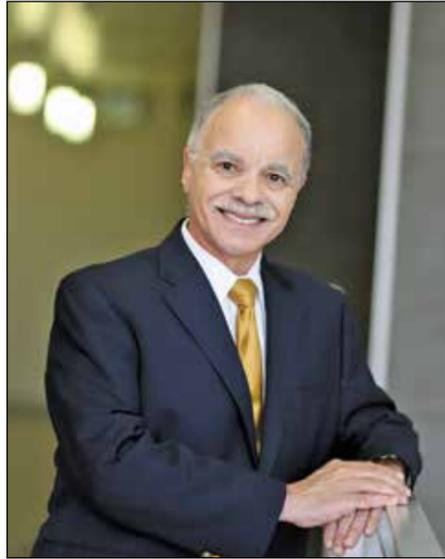
Cal State LA President William A. Covino was recently elected as president of the executive committee of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU).

The announcement was made following elections that were held virtually during a meeting of the CUMU president's council. CUMU member institutions are dedicated to engaging and enriching their communities through strategic partnerships that provide pathways to higher education and promote economic development and urban revitalization.

"I'm honored to now serve as president of CUMU," Mr. Covino said. "Relationships are at the heart of CUMU's work. By fostering and strengthening relationships with communities across the nation, we increase our capacity to be a part of positive change. I look forward to continuing the collaboration that is the hallmark of CUMU."

Mr. Covino has served as the CUMU executive committee's vice president/treasurer since his election to that position in 2018. He will serve a two-year term as president.

In 2018, CUMU and The Democracy Collaborative launched the Higher Education Anchor Mission Initiative to use the expertise and resources of colleges and



President William A. Covino. Photo credit: J. Emilio Flores/Cal State LA.

universities to develop solutions to pressing problems and help the communities they serve flourish. The initiative is supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Cal State LA was one of 33 higher education institutions selected to lead the initiative as anchor institutions or mission-driven organizations that serve as economic engines in their regions and are linked to the long-term well-being of their local communities.



Ramona Student Ambassadors show middle school guests how to roar like a tiger during the opening pep rally session.

## 1st ever Tiger Play Day at Ramona Convent a 'virtual' success

Tiger Play Day is an annual event hosted on the Ramona Convent campus where students in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth get the opportunity to experience what it's like to be a student at Ramona. Although the event was offered virtually this year, over 80 middle school girls joined the Zoom event proudly wearing yellow Tiger Play Day T-shirts and were prepared to explore, create, and discover with hands-on activities in the comfort of their own homes.

Prior to the event, each participant received a spirit pack filled with art supplies to create their own tiger sculpture and forensics project materials to participate in a fingerprint activity. They danced and cheered with Ramona student ambassadors and were excited to find a surprise In-N-Out gift card in their spirit pack. The

on-campus crew consisted of Ramona science and art teachers, tech support, president, principal, and vice principal, student ambassadors, the Ramona tiger, and the enrollment team.

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

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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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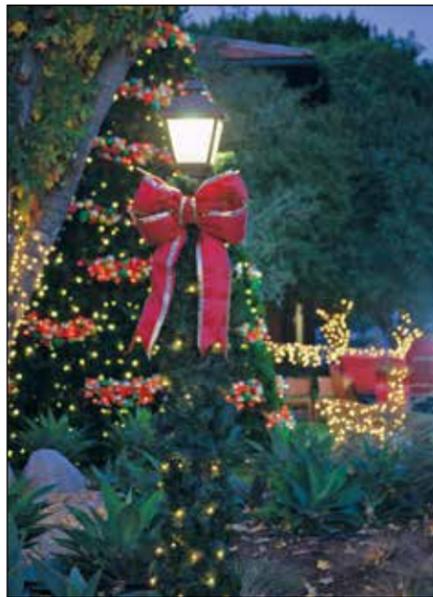
f t yelp

# The Alhambra Outdoor Holiday Wonderland

The Alhambra Outdoor Holiday Wonderland

December 17 - 19 from 6pm-8pm

The Alhambra welcomes you and your family to experience an outdoor Holiday Wonderland of lights and music. Enjoy a stroll through our central courtyard and mingle with whimsical deer, snowmen, polar bears, and penguins dotting the landscape. Our giant fir tree is all decked out in festive array, providing the perfect backdrop for photo opps. And before you leave, stop by our mailbox to mail your letters to Santa. All visitors must comply with the current health regulations by wearing a mask and maintaining social distance during the walk. Parking is available at the main gate visitor lot at the South Fremont Ave. entrance.



## Uniting Borders Art Exhibiton to tour Mexico, Colombia, Europe, United States, Canada

"The Academy of Special Dreams and Baupres Gallery Cultural Art Center present Uniting Borders 2021-2022, an inclusive art exhibition featuring original works of art by a diverse group of 25 local and international artists who represent a wide spectrum of race, ethnicity, gender, age, and abilities, truly reflective of the diversity of our society," said Michael Dergar, CEO, Academy of Special Dreams. "This exhibition underscores the principle that the struggle for social justice that has taken root in our country must incorporate everyone in society, including people living with disabilities." The opening date is Jan. 21 in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico.

The Academy of Special Dreams Foundation and Baupres believe their mission includes educating society that disability is a natural part of the human experience,

and people with disabilities should not be excluded from participating in society due to discrimination or bias based on perceived disabilities.

The academy thanks Dory Perdomo, artist and cultural promoter Maru Pombo, Julieta Lomeli, Lic. José Ángel Tostado Quevedo Director General de Cultura Mazatlan and all artists and supporters of the friends and volunteers supporting this mission of inclusion and art.

For more information, please visit [www.specialacademy.org](http://www.specialacademy.org).

"Please visit the current exhibition at The Alhambra, 1000 S. Fremont Blvd., Alhambra 91803, to bring public awareness, recognition, and appreciation to our artists with many abilities," said Mr. Dergar.

For more information, please visit [www.specialacademy.org](http://www.specialacademy.org).

**Community Crisis Center, Presents "Christmas In The Garden" Toy & Food Give Away:**

December 17th, 2020 (Thursday)  
From 11am - while supplies last.  
Located @ 5466 Huntington Drive S  
LA, CA 90032  
Families with disabled children should arrive @ 10:30am!  
Contact: Tel @ 323-534-8980

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## 27 Quick and Easy Fix Ups to Sell Your Home Fast and for Top Dollar

Alhambra - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that deci-

sion, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's away to help you to be as prepared as possible. To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible. In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or

worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

Order your free report today. To order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

with Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles

**Christmas Sunday Services 聖誕主日崇拜**  
**Sunday, December 20 | 主日 12月20日**  
 9:00 am | Mandarin Service: 國語堂崇拜  
 English Service: 英語堂崇拜  
 11:00 am | Cantonese Service: 粵語堂崇拜

**"Christmas Tree In My House" Service**  
**"聖誕樹在我家"平安夜崇拜**  
**Thursday, December 24 | 週四 12月24日 7:00pm**

All worship services are online 所有崇拜聚會均在線上舉行

國語堂崇拜      粵語堂崇拜      English Service  
[mandarin.mbcla.org](http://mandarin.mbcla.org)   [cantonese.mbcla.org](http://cantonese.mbcla.org)   [english.mbcla.org](http://english.mbcla.org)

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# Hallowscream Costume Contest for Kids, Spooktacular Giveaways for adults celebrated virtually Oct. 31

Downtown Alhambra celebrated Halloween safely this year by going “virtual” with their annual Hallowscream festivities on Oct. 31. This included the annual Hallowscream Costume Contest for Kids, as well as the Spooktacular Enter to Win Giveaways for adults.

Participants, ages 0-12, for the kids’ costume contest submitted their photos or videos online and competed in four categories that included Spookiest, Funniest, Cutest, and Most Original. The finalists and winners for each category were chosen based on the highest number of votes cast by the public, which voted via the online photo gallery on the Woobox online platform.

The finalists and winners were announced on Downtown Alhambra’s Facebook livestream presentation Oct. 31. (Watch a replay of this presentation at <https://www.facebook.com/DowntownAlhambra/videos/272475534143342>.) Winners from each category won \$75, and second and third placers received \$50 and \$25, respectively. Winners from each category then moved on to the Grand Prize phase and competed for a Grand Prize of \$250.

Entries for the Spooktacular Enter to Win Giveaway were submitted and processed through Downtown Alhambra’s website ([downtownalhambra.com](http://downtownalhambra.com)). Win-

## Grand Prize Winner

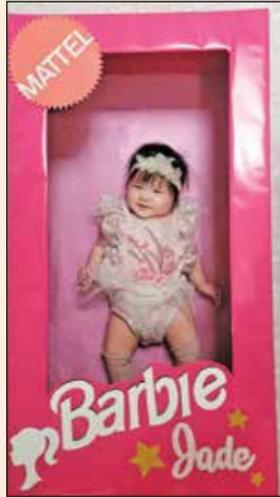


Sebastian Quintanilla - Buzz Lightyear/To Infinity and Beyond

ners were randomly selected and also announced on the Facebook livestream presentation. Prizes awarded included gift cards and vouchers from local Alhambra businesses to help stimulate business and patronage.

Though the events were a little different this year, event organizers were happy to see people participate. Conversely, participants appreciated and enjoyed them.

## Cutest Category



First place, Jade Bao – Barbie Playing Dress Up



Second place, Samantha Quintanilla – Social Butterfly



Third place, Abbie Son - Peacock

## Spookiest Category



First place, David Marquez – Chucky



Second place, Kathleen Marques – Grim Reaper



Third place, Melanie Marquez – Student Zombie 2020

## Funniest Category



First place, Leanne Kolkela - Starbucks Barista and Frapa Drink



Second place, Shelly Chen – Horse Eating Plants



Third place, Myles Kim – Scarecrow Needs a Break

## Most Original Category



First place, Sebastian Quintanilla - Buzz Lightyear/ To Infinity and Beyond



Second place, Liam Cuchado – Original Rock Star Kid



Third place, Arianna Pineda – Penelope Pedaling Car

# Alhambra Pumpkin Run is 7th annual success

The Alhambra Pumpkin Run celebrated its 7th annual anniversary on Oct. 31. As challenging as it was to create a run to be virtual due to COVID, it also turned out to be one of the most fun and memorable years for runners. Runners everywhere were invited to be a part of this historical event and included new participants in Alhambra and even runners from Australia. Though COVID pressed pause on many 2020 events, it provided the Alhambra Pumpkin Run staff a new opportunity to reach new horizons that weren’t ideal before.

The Alhambra Pumpkin Run kicked off the month of October with Instagram challenges to

provide runners the opportunity to get prizes, discounted runs, and free runs.

What a fun month it was to receive runners’ videos showing off their stamina by showing how many burpees they could in 30 seconds and showing their version of the famous movie clip in Rocky, where they ran up a flight of stairs to claim victory. In the last week of October, Pumpkin Run celebrated a few more times by offering contest submissions such as Best Halloween Décor and Best Carved Pumpkin and receiving grant submissions to help selected families in this time of need. So much happiness went into planning the event, and the staff

appreciates everyone who joined them for the ride.

The main day event took place Oct. 31 on Alhambra Pumpkin Runs Instagram IG Live Party that started at 7:30 a.m. and ended at 9 a.m. The IG live started off with Host Lucky Smith, who has hosted pumpkin runs’ latest annual events. Lucky’s hosting was beyond expectations, which made the virtual experience feel as if they were back at the starting line on Main Street again. The IG Live had many memorable moments, including Lucky interviewing Alhambra’s Mayor David Mejia and having runners join IG live to chat, announce contest winners, and more.



Don Skiver, participating runner.



Tracy Wong and daughter, who participated in the 1K.



Three new members of the Alhambra Unified Board of Education will be sworn in on Dec. 15 at the annual transition meeting. The sitting board also selects its new president, vice president, and clerk at this time. The community is invited to the Zoom swearing in ceremony to welcome Dr. Marcia Wilson, Ken Tang, and Kaysa Moreno representing Districts 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

## Three new AUSD Board of Education members take oath of office Dec. 15

In a historic local voter turnout to decide three seats on the Alhambra Unified School District Board of Education out of a slate of six candidates, three challengers won their races. Newcomers Dr. Marcia Wilson, Ken Tang, and Kaysa Moreno, all longtime educators, were elected to Districts 1, 2, and 3 board seats, respectively.

They join the five-member board at its annual BOE transition meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. when they will take the oath of office and select a new president, vice president, and clerk.

The public is invited to the Zoom swearing in ceremony and future Zoom Board of Education meetings by visiting [www.ausd.us](http://www.ausd.us) <https://alhambra.agendaonline.net/public>.

“When six community members care deeply enough about AUSD students, families, teachers, and staff to run for public office and voters turn out in record numbers, it is a sign that everyone’s deeply

engaged,” Superintendent Denise R. Jaramillo said. “Communities flourish when its leaders embrace respectful engagement guide our vision for student education through the pandemic and beyond.”

Superintendent Jaramillo congratulated the new members, all educators, saying, “We warmly welcome Dr. Wilson, Mr. Tang, and Mrs. Moreno to our five-member board and look forward to working with them and current board members, Joanne Chavez and Bob Gin. In this time like no other, we are united by our profound commitment to our students, families, and employees.”

The outgoing Board of Education members, Wing Ho, Jane Anderson, and Patricia Rodriguez-Mackintosh have given more than three decades of combined service to the community. “Their long legacy of dedication to our community will be remembered,” said Superintendent Jaramillo.

## If all AUSD families submit new form, schools will regain millions for student programs

Alhambra Unified School District stands to regain much-needed extra funding for schools, but it hinges on making sure all families complete the new Alternate Income Form by Dec. 18.

The new process gives each AUSD family a small action step to take this year in order to bring millions of dollars to their child’s school for beloved programs like robotics, visual and performing arts, technology purchases, and after-school care.

However, all families must complete the Alternate Income Form before Winter Break begins and submit by Dec 18 to make a difference.

Filling out the form takes 15 – 30 minutes to complete, but the funding for student programs will last all year.

Only complete one form per family. Include all members of the house in the household count.

Please provide the following while completing the Alternate Income Form:

- The names and incomes of every member of your household.
- The school, grade, birthdate of every student in your household.
- Social security number and electronic signature.
- (Optional) A valid e-mail address or phone number for district communication about the status of the Alternate Income Form.

Parents can visit the district home page at [www.ausd.us](http://www.ausd.us) or their child’s school website or use this link: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>.

AUSD does not share personal information with other federal, state, or local agencies. For more information, please refer to AUSD Board Resolution No. 16-17-16 Resolution Regarding the Board’s Commitment to Ensure Safe Haven.



This beautiful production poster was created and designed by MKHS freshman Brianna Wong.

## The show must go on(line)!

KIANA KANEGAWA, SENIOR | MKHS THEATRE COMPANY PRESIDENT

And for decades, one Christmas classic always reminds us of the importance of the love of family and friends: *It's A Wonderful Life*. The Mark Keppel High School Theatre Company is proud to put on this radio play for their fall production, the first of its kind at MKHS.

The Theatre Company is treating Distance Learning as a growth experience for both stage technicians and actors. For this production, they will collaborate with the orchestra and choir to add music and more ambiance to the performance. These musicians are under the leadership of Justin Lee as Keppel Orchestra director and April Mendiola as vocal director for MKHS' new choir, "A Keppela."

Tim Gillette serves as technical director for the show. For the first time, stage technicians will do Foley work. Foley is the reproduction of everyday sound effects to enhance audio quality, named after sound effects artist Jack Foley. The technicians will use new software to edit audio files and create the numerous sounds throughout the show. When asked about the biggest challenge the stage technicians will face, Tyler Suzuki, a tech theatre thespian and the Theatre Company representative said, "We've never done this before, so it's hard to say, but I'm going to say coordination. It might get hard to get all of these different audio bits done by different people, at different times, with different programs." The technicians keep in close contact through Zoom or on a messenger group chat, so

each member will know their individual and collaborative work required to make this show a success.

For the actors, this production will be a challenge as they try to convey mood and emotions without the use of body language and other visuals. Lag time will also be a challenge in the recording process, but the actors are developing techniques, like reacting faster to audio cues, to overcome this. Most students have multiple roles and must make numerous distinct voices throughout the recording. This style of production is unfamiliar to the students, but they are adapting and looking forward to their voice and scene work.

To help the team stay close and connected, the students have group rehearsals and discuss the show's progression in group chats. Additionally, Page Phillips, the production director, has added Zoom rehearsals and additional voice work outside of the school day. She builds community among the cast and crew by having them participate in research of the time period, exercises on styles of vocal work, and many ensemble building activities.

This show is for all who miss their loved ones and can't be with them, and Mark Keppel Theatre Company hopes everyone will be reminded that it truly is a wonderful life and that, despite obstacles we may have to face, the show must go on(line)!

"It's a Wonderful Life" will be performed at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19 and Sunday, Dec. 20. Tickets are \$5 each and available at <https://MKHSTheatreCompany.com.AnywhereSeat.com/channel.php>.



During their Attendance Matters Spirit Week, Brightwood students made sure to log-in to their Distance Learning class on time and dressed according to the theme of the day. Staff members, parents, and even pets participated! Top row: Caden and Shaie Minohara, grade 8 and 6, and Abigail Lau, grade 4. Bottom row: May Lee, sixth-grade teacher, with "Sadie," Dylan, and Genevieve Yip, grade 3 and kindergarte, and Principal Robby Jung.

## Brightwood students show their school spirit

Despite not being together on campus, Brightwood students still found a way to connect with each other through a school-wide Spirit Week focused on the importance of attending school every day and being on time.

With fun themes like "Great attendance is 'tied' to great learning!" (tie-dyed clothing and/or a tie), "There's nothing tacky about being on time!" (mismatched outfits), and "Good attendance leads to bright futures!" (bright, neon clothing), students were able to keep connected with each other even while being separated. Some parents and staff members also joined in with the students and dressed according to the themes.

Counselor Monica Rivera led the charge to get as many students to participate as possible. She collected the submitted photos and organized them into collages which were then shared on the school's, PTA's, and district's various social media platforms.

Brightwood will continue to hold thematic Spirit Weeks, with their next one focusing on anti-bullying. The themes are creative and bring a smile to students' faces when they log-in to Zoom and see what their peers are wearing, but the topics are also intended to serve as a springboard for more serious discussions at home and in school.

### AUSD MILESTONE CELEBRATION From Page 1A

buoyant experience for everyone on hand because of Booster Enterprises, a company known for creating imaginative elevating events everyone remembers. The company has a long-standing fundraising relationship with several district schools. For instance, Booster generously offered a DJ, inflatable arch, and much more for Brightwood School's eighth-grade promotion. Asked if the company would again be willing to provide assistance, Booster Enterprises General Manager Jordan Kaufman immediately volunteered their services. "Booster's mission is to strengthen schools. It informs everything we do, especially in a pandemic. So, when our schools need to fundraise virtually, or there are social-distancing safety measures in place on campus, or if administrators simply want to celebrate students or staff through a drive-thru event, we are ready and excited to make it happen," said Mr. Kauffman. "Because we know when students are learning and feel safe, our entire community grows stronger. We're honored to serve AUSD and so many other wonderful districts this year."

The event surpassed high expectations. Honored employees entered the SGHS parking lot, greeted with happy music blasting and a long line of board members, administrators, and other leaders cheering and clapping. As honorees drove through the pageantry of large flags, balloons, and arch, they received cookies, a certificate, and a pin. Booster's DJ announced their name, job

location, and number of service years. Staff members decorated their cars and brought their family members to celebrate with them. In between cars, the joy continued with impromptu dancing, shout-outs about the Dodger game later that evening, birthday recognitions, and even a conga line.

So many people contributed to this event. The superintendent's office provided certificates, pins, and cookies. SGHS administrators and facilities team orchestrated hosting logistics at their site. Emery Park loaned their bubble machines. The human resources division arranged invitations and balloons. Boardmember Wing Ho live-streamed the event, while Alhambra Teachers Association President Tammy Scordia helped take photos of the honorees. And, of course, Booster provided all the additional details that made the event extra special.

"It was truly a team effort, and we're so pleased we were able to give our employees the type of recognition they deserved," said Director of Human Resources Stacie Colman-Hsu. "It was heartwarming to see how much our employees enjoyed the celebration and how much the leadership team enjoyed being their cheerleaders. We cannot thank Booster enough for donating their services and amazing staff in order to make our first employee service recognition drive-thru a memorable celebration that connected all of us as recognized our dedicated AUSD employees."



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Mr. Brendan Brown's MKHS Mandarin class Zoom thanks Pasadena Star News reporter, Robert Morales, for joining their Zoom class for his story on how together, teachers and students, are reinventing 21st century education at Alhambra USD during a pandemic.

# Alhambra Unified Continues Distance Learning through January 31, 2021

As the United States moves into a "third wave" of COVID-19 infections, Alhambra Unified School District has continued lengthy discussions on when to it can safely bring students back. Based on all current Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) data and recommendations, the AUSD Board of Education at its October 27, 2020 meeting, made the difficult decision to have students remain in Distance Learning (DL) through at least the end of January 2021.

Los Angeles County is currently still in the "Widespread" (purple) tier, based on the number of COVID-19 cases and positivity rate. Although cases and positivity rate were briefly in the "Substantial" (red) tier, the county was not able to sustain that level for the required two weeks before officially moving into that tier (and then would have had to remain at that level for another two weeks).

If the county were to move to the "Substantial" tier within the next couple of weeks (which is highly unlikely), any potential re-opening date would then take place in December, which would then coincide with the flu season and would not provide time to develop consistency in

the various student safety protocols before winter break begins.

Rather than having students, families, faculty, and support staff endure the ongoing uncertainties related to the potential reopening during the next couple of months, the District decided to wait until January to consider reopening in a Hybrid Learning (HL) model. If Los Angeles County has moved into the "Substantial" tier when students return from winter break in January (and can remain at that level for the required four weeks), then the District will consider moving to HL at the beginning of February 2021.

In the meantime, the District continues to focus on strengthening and refining its DL model of learning. "However, we also understand that some students, especially those with special needs, may require additional support to mitigate any learning loss," Superintendent Denise R. Jaramillo said. "We have begun to bring back some students for individual assessments and, in accordance with what DPH will allow, we are also looking at bringing back small cohorts of students for specialized in-school services. Eligible students will be notified by their site administrator and/or case carrier when these services become available."

Every year the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce hosts a Tournament of Roses Queen and Court lunch. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions that event will be different this year. This year we will invite former Rose Parade Queens to share what it was like to be on the Court and to participate in the Parade festivities, give advice, and learn fun facts and more. We would like to share with this group what it's like to be an Alhambrian, through the eyes of our youth. This will all take place on Zoom.

The Alhambra Chamber is sponsoring an art contest – come up with a creative art work of "WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT ALHAMBRA?"

### ABOUT THE CONTEST

- Open to all students enrolled in grades K-12 in the City of Alhambra, or Alhambra Unified School District.
- All artwork must be exclusively original and cannot incorporate anything, in whole, or in part that is owned or created by any third party.
- Artwork must relate to the theme, "WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT ALHAMBRA?" celebrating our city, our neighbors, our friends, our teachers.
- All mediums are welcome (for example: colored pencil, pen, crayons, markers, paint, digital design).

### QUESTIONS

Please contact the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce 626/282-8481, or email [sgibbs@alhambrachamber.org](mailto:sgibbs@alhambrachamber.org).

### ENTRY FORM

Please provide the requested information below. Cut and attach to the back of your artwork. Entries must be received by December 11, noon, at the Chamber office, 104 S. First St., Alhambra 91801.

Contest is limited to enrolled K-12 Alhambra Unified School District students, and those students who are Alhambra residents attending a non-AUSD school. (Please print clearly, thank you).

First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

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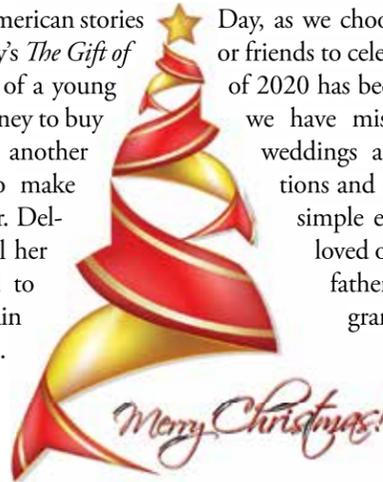
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# A Christmas gift

One of the favorite American stories of Christmas is O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*. It is the story of a young couple who has little money to buy Christmas gifts for one another and as result decide to make sacrifices for one another. Della decides to cut and sell her beautiful hair to afford to buy a pocket watch chain for her husband, Jim. Jim decides to sell his pocket watch to buy a set of ornamental combs for his wife to use with her beautiful hair. When they exchange the gifts, they realize they now have gifts that they cannot use and yet have far more than they imagined — they have a priceless and sacrificial love for one another, which is greater than what money can buy.



Day, as we choose not to travel to family or friends to celebrate the holiday. The year of 2020 has been a year of sacrifice when we have missed births and funerals, weddings and anniversaries, graduations and celebrations, as well as the simple exchange of a meal with a loved one or the hug and kiss of a father or mother, aunt or uncle, grandparent, or friend.

So much about what makes life enjoyable and meaningful has been missed this year because of the pandemic. And yet, perhaps like Della and Jim, we have seen moments of love that have showed us how alive the gift of the magi is. Even though we have not seen our grandchildren in person as often this year, my wife has the joy of reading several books to them through FaceTime each day. I got to share the joy of watching lifetime Dodger fans eat "Dodger Dogs" at Atherton and then watch their team win the World Championship for the first time in 32 years. I have had the joy and awe of watching men and women who work at Atherton — the Essential Workers — make sacrifices in their lives in order to keep the men and women they serve and care for at Atherton safe.

It has been a hard year, but there are still Magi among us. Their wisdom still fills our world, and their gifts are still greater than all the gifts that money can buy. May you have the merriest Christmas this year.

From Atherton

O. Henry ends the story by comparing the gifts to the Bible story of the gifts that the Magi, "wise men," gave to the Christ child. Then he said, "Of all who give gifts, these two were the most wise. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are the most wise. Everywhere they are the wise ones. They are the magi."

In the year of COVID, Christmas will be different. There will be fewer parties and social gatherings. Many of us will avoid the traditional Christmas shopping at our favorite stores, going to a special Christmas concert or seeing the Nutcracker performed at a theater. Many of us may have to make sacrifices on Christmas Eve or Christmas

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# Pacing yourself

BY SHEILA YONEMOTO, P.T.

Pacing physical activities helps you to “go the distance.” Often a person wakes up feeling energetic, does as much as possible before pain sets in, and then collapses for the rest of the day. A runner who runs as hard and fast as he can at the beginning of a race often runs out of energy and speed at the end.

You need to determine for yourself what you can realistically do, such as the duration of an activity, the amount of the load, the number of repetitions, and the number of different activities you can do in a day. For example, a person with arthritis may be able to do 20 minutes of walking, carry eight pounds comfortably, stand for 10 minutes, sit for 30 minutes comfortably, and raise his arms overhead five times before getting tired.

I often use the example of driving a car. Although the car is able to go 120 miles an hour, you rarely, if ever, drive at this speed. If you did, you might blow up your engine. I recommend moving frequently during the day. Try to stand and walk after 20 minutes of sitting and make phone calls in a different position. This helps get the blood moving through the system. The muscles act as pumps in the circulatory system, helping to get the blood back to the heart for more oxygen.

Neck and shoulder stretches are helpful if done periodically during the day. Doing ankle pumps or extending your knees will stretch leg muscles and helps pump blood from the legs to the heart. Get up and



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

stretch periodically during those Zoom meetings.

Vary your activities throughout the day. If you sit at a computer all day, take a walk and focus your eyes at far distances. This focusing will exercise eye muscles and help prevent loss of far distance vision. With some planning and setting realistic goals, you can get more done with less effort and more enjoyment.

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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.

- Fewer visits to the dentist's office.
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# Microorganisms on the tongue could help diagnose heart failure, according to research presented to the European Society of Cardiology

Normal tongues are pale red with a pale white coating. Heart failure patients have a redder tongue with a yellow coating, and as the appearance changes as the disease becomes more advanced, the tongue coating differs between heart failure patients and healthy people, according to the research presented by author Dr. Tianhui Yuan, No.1 Hospital of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine.

This study investigated the composition of the tongue microbiome in participants with and without chronic heart failure. The study enrolled 42 patients in the hospital with chronic heart failure and 28 healthy controls.

The researchers found that heart failure patients shared the same types of microorganisms in their tongue coating. Healthy people also shared the same microbes. There was no overlap in bacterial content between the two groups.

Five categories of bacteria distinguished heart failure patients from healthy people, with decreases in levels of Eubacterium and Solobacterium, bacteria found in normal mouths.

The author suggested that more research is needed, but the results suggest that tongue microbes, which are easy to obtain, could assist with wide-scale screening, diagnosis, and long-term monitoring of heart failure.

The underlying mechanisms connecting microorganisms in the tongue coating with heart function deserve further study.

It is interesting to note that tongue color, configuration, and texture have been the hallmark diagnosis in Chinese medicine, dating back thousands of years. Perhaps the confluence of Western and Chinese medicine in this regard portends more interesting developments in the future.

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# Mahan Indian Restaurant serves Indian food, outdoor dining experience

BY JEWELYN CO

Mahan Indian Restaurant, 110 W. Main St, continues to serve authentic Indian cuisine. Customers have the option to order pick up or delivery or to enjoy freshly made-to-order on-site meals at Mahan's front and back patio dining.

The family owned restaurant chose not to close because they believed that remaining open is the best way to survive in this pandemic, and to continue to provide service for their customers.

Health precautions and safety measures for customers and staff are important to their business, and Mahan made adjustments to their services to keep a well and safeguarded environment. Mahan makes it convenient for customers by offering curbside pickups for customers, who would not have to leave their vehicles and can remain safe. They use touch-free menus, and customers can view the menu items via

the QR code and their cell phones. Tables are spaciouly distant from one another to comply with safety codes. "Business is slow, but serving outside is nice," said server Pawan KC.

Mahan may have temporarily stopped serving their well-known lunch buffet, but the lunch box specials are a great deal of a meal with a choice of protein, vegetables of the day, rice, and panan bread. For an additional \$3, they can substitute the choice of protein for lamb. Substitution or special requests can be made. Customers can still enjoy Mahan's regular menu items, such as the samosa chaat, which is a crunchy deep-fried turnover filled with chickpeas and potatoes and blended with Indian spices, and the chicken tandoori marinated with an in-house blend of spices, yogurt, and herbs and then cooked in an open fire clay oven. Great for sharing is the Mahan Mix Grill prepared with varieties of meat



Anil Sharma serves chaat samosas.

and tandoori prawns marinated with fresh herbs, vegetables, and spices served over a sizzling grill. Vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free dishes are available for healthier options. The Lunch Box special is available for outdoor dining, pick up, and delivery.

Information and menu are available online at [www.mahanrestaurant.com](http://www.mahanrestaurant.com). Check them out on [yelp.com](https://www.yelp.com). Mahan offers third



Mahan's back patio dining.



Mixed grill vegetable korma, stuffed naan chicken, and mango lassi drink.

party delivery services such as Grubhub, Postmates, Uber Eats, and Doordash. Follow their social media @mahanindianla on Facebook and Instagram.

# Twoheys Restaurant, a San Gabriel Valley landmark since 1943, opens in South Pasadena



L-R Executive Chef Gerardo Talamantes, Sr., Executive Chef Enrique Elias, restaurant patron Jaime Jarrin (broadcaster Los Angeles Dodgers), Co Owners Gregory Mallis, Tanya Christos with Mayor Bob Joe, Jim Christos, Charlie Christos and South Pasadena Chamber Board of Director Chair Andrew Berk. PHOTO BY: Esteban Lopez | The South Pasadenan News

Amid Twoheys' signature signage as a backdrop, the owners of Twoheys Restaurant in South Pasadena staged an official ribbon cutting November 18, 2020. Present for the ceremony were South Pasadena civic and community leaders. The event saluted the legendary restaurant's continued legacy as one of Southern California's well-known American eateries. [www.twoheys.com](http://www.twoheys.com)

Twoheys, formerly in Alhambra, has been in the San Gabriel Valley since 1943 and home of the Original Stinko burger continues the tradition of serving customers from near and far who come to enjoy family-friendly American fare -- burgers, onion rings and soda fountain favorites, including its award-winning sundaes. Throughout its illustrious history, Twoheys has welcomed well-known celebrities including American Actors Cary Grant, Mickey Rooney,

Bill Murray, American Painter/Illustrator Norman Rockwell and Author/Screen Writer Ray Bradbury.

To mark the official opening, co-owner Tanya Christos recognized family members (parents Paul and Mary Ann Mallis, Gregory Mallis, Jim Christos and Charlie Christos) and Director of Operations Bill Hamal who welcomed South Pasadena Chamber Board of Directors: Chair Andrew Berk, Past Chair Sam Hernandez, President & CEO Laurie Wheeler. During the morning event, South Pasadena Mayor Bob Joe presented Twoheys with a certificate from the City of South Pasadena and Field Deputy Savannah Moore of Los Angeles County Supervisor (5th District) Kathryn Barger's office also presented a certificate to the Twoheys' owners. A third certificate was also given on behalf of California State Senator Anthony Portantino.

"We are truly honored to open Twoheys in South Pasadena, a location rich in history, and invite both long-time customers and new patrons to experience old time favorites and new menu items while making memories for future generations to come," says Christos.

Twoheys is open for breakfast, lunch, happy hour and dinner Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., closed on Tuesdays. Executive chefs, Gerardo Talamantes, Sr. and Enrique Elias, have created a menu that reflects both classic American fare from the original menu and new menu items that feature starters, soups/salads, sandwiches/clubs/melts, traditional favorites, specialties, classic burgers, and breakfast served until 3 p.m. each day. Vegetarian and vegan selections are also available.

Twoheys boasts a total seating capacity of 199 with patio dining that can accommodate 90 diners in a socially responsible manner and an indoor private dining room that will seat up to 30 guests as safety mandates are lifted. The family-favorite restaurant also has its own soda fountain which serves Twoheys famous bittersweet, milk chocolate and caramel sundaes.

Twoheys is located at 424 Fair Oaks Avenue in South Pasadena. For more information, call 626 284-7387, email [info@twoheys.com](mailto:info@twoheys.com) or visit [www.twoheys.com](http://www.twoheys.com). Follow and Tag Twoheys @Twoheys\_Restaurant on social media.

## San Gabriel Valley Humane Society

To inquire about these adoptable animals, contact the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159, or visit at 851 E. Grand Ave., San Gabriel. Adoption hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The shelter is closed on Mondays. Directions and photos of many more dogs and cats can be found online at [www.sgvhumane.org](http://www.sgvhumane.org).

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

vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, and de-worming, as well as a free health check-up at a participating vet (some breeds slightly higher).

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

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

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



**American Pit Bull Terrier • Adult • Male • Large**

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



**Boxer and Shepherd Mix • Adult • Male • Large**

Max is a handsome two-year-old Boxer/ Shepherd mix with a reddish brown and white fur coat. He is very sweet and is learning to build trust with new people. Once Max gets to know you, he is extremely affectionate. He would do best in a home with an experienced dog owner. Max loves to play with toys and is dog friendly. He would prefer a home with few adults. He knows and responds to commands such as "sit" and "lay down" and is treat motivated. His adoption fee is \$145, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Call the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society 626-286-1159 to schedule a "Meet and Greet" appointment with Max. Website: [www.sgvhumane.org](http://www.sgvhumane.org).

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



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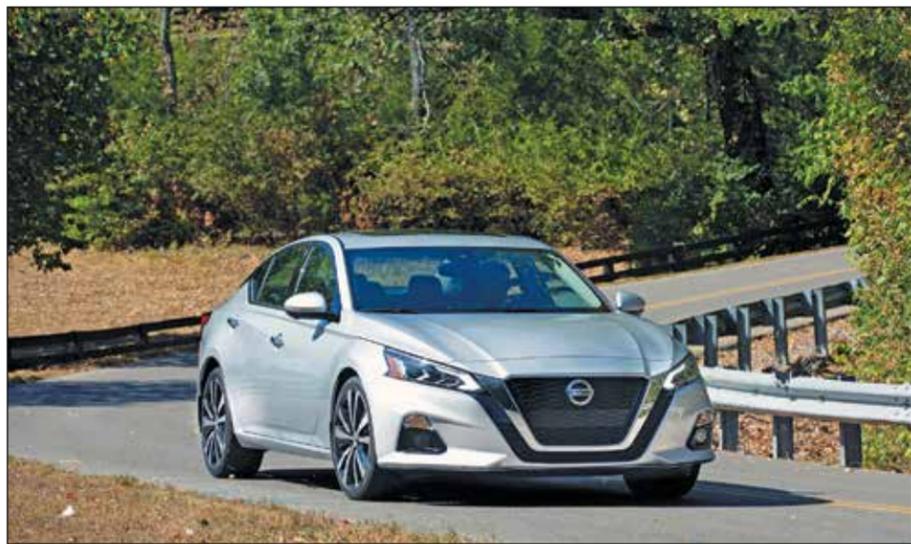
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## 2021 Nissan Altima U.S. MSRP starts at \$24,300

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With available Intelligent All-Wheel Drive, ProPILOT Assist, and more, the 2021 Nissan Altima offers technology that makes the drive experience more confident, more fuel efficient, safer, and more fun. It is available now at Nissan dealers nationwide with a starting MSRP of \$24,300.

For the 2021 model year, the Altima SR grade is repositioned above the SV grade, bringing the lineup order of S, SV, SR, SL and Platinum in line with other 2021 Nissan sedans. Also new for 2021 is an optional SV Premium Package with moon roof, heated front seats, and Intelligent Lane Intervention.

Now in its third year since its total redesign, the 2021 Nissan Altima is offered in a choice of five well-equipped grade levels, front-wheel, and Intelligent All-Wheel Drive, and a choice of two advanced engines, including the innovative 2.0-liter VC-Turbo inline four-cylinder.

Along with its lean, architectural styling and confidence-inspiring driving performance, Altima features a range of available safety and convenience features, including standard Automatic Emergency Braking, Intelligent Forward Collision Warning, and Intelligent Driver Alertness on all grades.

Altima again features available Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies such as ProPILOT Assist, a single-lane "hands-on" highway driving assistance technology that eases driver workload by reducing the amount of driver acceleration, steering, and braking input under certain driving conditions. Available Safety Shield® 360 includes Automatic Emergency Braking

with Pedestrian Detection, Rear Automatic Braking, Lane Departure Warning, radar-based Blind Spot Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, and High Beam Assist. Nissan's Intelligent Around View® Monitor is standard on Altima Platinum.

The 2.5-liter DOHC inline four-cylinder direct injection engine, which is standard on all grade levels, is rated at 188 horsepower and 180 lb-ft of torque (FWD). The 2.0-liter VC-Turbo inline four-cylinder, rated at 236 horsepower and 267 lb-ft of torque, delivers near V6-level performance with four-cylinder fuel economy. The VC-Turbo is available on Altima SR VC-Turbo front-wheel drive grade. Both engines are matched with a next-generation Xtronic transmission.

In addition to its standard front-wheel drive, the 2021 Altima also offers Intelligent All-Wheel Drive, which is standard on Altima Platinum and available on SV, SR and SL grade levels equipped with the 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine. The system uses an advanced torque split control strategy that automatically redistributes torque to the wheels (from 0:100 front up to 50:50 front-to-rear) according to road and driving conditions.

Key interior features range from standard power driver's seat to a selection of audio and infotainment choices, including a Bose® Premium Audio system with nine speakers.

For more information on the 2021 Altima, along with the complete lineup of Nissan vehicles, please visit NissanNews.com.

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# Alhambra: It's still A Wonderful Life



April 9, 1947

RKO Studios – 780 Gower Street  
Hollywood, California

It is gratifying to me to learn that as the theme for your 1947 annual you have chosen the same central idea as presented in *It's a Wonderful Life*; that this is a wonderful life, indeed ... and I am sure that, like these years you have spent at Alhambra City High School, you will always be able to say to yourself at all times: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

Frank Capra  
Director of *It's a Wonderful Life*

Frank Capra is one of Hollywood's best known directors. He took time to write a letter to the editor of the Alhambra High School yearbook. Mr. Capra complimented her on the annual's theme and provided a reminder that what makes life wonderful is touching others' lives. The letter is in the front of the 1947 Alhambra High School yearbook.

And just as Mr. Capra's George Bailey did not initially understand how many lives he would touch, you can not help but wonder if Alhambrians really understand how many lives they have touched in the past, when Frank Capra wrote his letter to Alhambra High School, and still today with the city's service clubs, food distributions, and continued excellence in education.

Back in the post World War II era, Alhambra High School was a place where lives were touched. The school's teachers and students combined to produce nationally acclaimed writers, comics, producers, and athletes.

Perhaps the funniest student to ever graduate from Alhambra High was Stan Freberg, class of '44. Mr. Freberg performed his comedy routines on television shows such as *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The Tonight Show*, took over for Jack Benny on

## Understanding Real Estate

By Gary Frueholz  
DILBECK REAL ESTATE

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



CBS radio with his own zany show in the late 1950s, and acted in the madcap comedy, *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*. His start in entertainment came through voice acting with notables such as Mel Blanc at Warner Brothers and providing the voice of KTLA's Cecil, the Seasick Sea Serpent.

Mr. Freberg's gene pool drew from a Baptist minister father and a professional magician uncle. His irreverent humor got its start at Alhambra High School where he was dubbed "Dr. Satire." Perhaps his most memorable prank was drawing a large crowd to McKay's drugstore as he threatened to jump off the fifth floor, only to be pulled off the roof by two men dressed in white, and then displaying a sign urging students to vote for him in upcoming student elections.

Arnold Shapiro graduated from Alhambra High in 1958. The ex-Moor attended UCLA and took a job with David Wolper Productions after his college graduation. From an early age, Mr. Shapiro knew he wanted to be a freelance producer and writer of television documentaries.

He is best known for his 1978 Oscar and Emmy award winning documentary, *Scared Straight!* His other television productions include *Rescue 911*, hosted by William Shatner, and the CBS reality series, *Big Brother*. In the 1990s, Mr. Shapiro produced the most watched non-news documentary special ever broadcast on American television, *Scared Silent: Exposing & Ending Child Abuse*, which was hosted by Oprah Winfrey.

Continued NEXT MONTH

# Why Apartment Rents Have Remained Strong Through the Pandemic

Apartment rent payments overall have remained stable throughout the pandemic—a welcome surprise considering the rapid increase in unemployment. The reason? Renters have been prioritizing rent payments. This is according to Freddie Mac, which recently reviewed several apartment rent data sources, including National Multifamily Housing Council, The Household Pulse Survey, LeaseLock, Apartment List and National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts.

All of the outlets reviewed used vastly different criteria and methodologies, ultimately leading to different rent collection results. However, despite these variances, Freddie Mac found that rent collections were strong across the board. There was an average of 93.6% full or partial rent payments in May and 94.2% full or partial rent payments in June.

Freddie Mac found four major variances in the data related to timing, survey size, sample group and whether or not partial payments were included. Due to the pandemic, rent payments have come in later than the typical five-day grace period. While most payments were still made earlier in the month, payments also came in later than usual and continued to come in throughout the month. The survey size varied dramatically, with some outlets looking at national numbers and others looking at too small a sample size. In addition, the sample group also varied between data outlets with some looking only at large and institutional owners, while others conducted household polls. Overall, there many missed single-family rentals, small units and small apartment units. Finally, partial payments were included in some reports and only full payments in others, which impacted the results.

One cautionary note when evaluating these findings: In a separate report, the National Multifamily Housing Council recently noted that rent payment data is only one way to view the health of the market. Rent collections vary by geographic region and by asset class, ultimately leading to a misrepresentation of the market when

viewed from a macro perspective. The organization noted that rent payments make it seem like the market is holding up, but really, the market is not performing well, especially with some major metros reporting severe decreases in average rent payments and investment activity.

### Can It Last?

Earlier in the pandemic, rent collections were buoyed by unemployment insurance and the extended CARES Act unemployment insurance as well as stimulus. Since then, many renters have also dipped into savings accounts to make the rent payments and it is expected that the expired unemployment benefits will likely impact rent collections in some way. Freddie Mac has yet to see a decline in payments following the expiration of the benefits in July; however, the lack of a permanent replacement will likely put pressure on rent collections through the end of the year, according to the organization.



Commercial Real Estate

BY MARK PAULSON

ANTHONY VENTI REALTORS, INC.

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

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**Get Rid of Burn or Acne Scars with  
Skin Resurfacing** Call for Price

**Stop Underarm Sweat/Odor with  
Safe, Non-Invasive, Fast FDA-cleared  
MiraDry** Call for Special Price

**Soften Deep Scars & Burns & Refresh  
Damaged and Aged Skin  
ScarFX / ActiveFX** Call for Price

**Get Sexy Long Full Lashes with  
Latisse \$130 for 5mg**

## Laser Hair Removal Specials!



In all treatments different parts of the body count as different areas. | Every patient is unique and results may vary. | All prices and promotions are subject to change without notice. | Pricing can vary based on skin type and total treatment time required. | Call for consultation.

Sideburns

Lips

Chin

Ears

Ladies' Face

Gentlemen's Face

Arreola (Nipples)

Underarms

Neck (Front)

Neck (Back)

Half Arms

Full Arms

Bikini (Standard)

Bikini (Strip)

Bikini (Brazilian)

Full Bikini (Men)

Legs (Lower)

Legs (Upper)

Legs (Full)

\$40

\$30

\$30

\$45

\$65

\$85

\$40

\$45

\$35

\$40

\$50

\$80

\$45

\$55

\$65

\$85

\$70

\$70

\$120

Feet

Abdomen

Tummy Trail

Buttocks

Shoulders

Women's Chest (Partial)

Women's Chest (Full)

Men's Chest (Partial)

Men's Chest (Full)

Full Back (Women)

Full Back (Men)

Lower Body (Women)

Upper Body (Women)

Lower Body (Men)

Upper Body (Men)

Full Body (Women)

Full Body (Men)

Touch-up (15 Min)

\$35

\$55

\$40

\$50

\$45

\$40

\$60

\$60

\$90

\$85

\$110

\$190

\$235

\$210

\$265

\$380

\$450

**Botox \$8 per Unit**

**Dysport \$8 per 3 Units**

### Other Cosmetic Procedures

Full Face IPL Photofacial \$200  
(price per treatment)

Hands IPL (per treatment) \$250

Belotero<sup>®</sup> (per syringe) \$380

Juvederm<sup>®</sup> Ultra Plus XC \$450  
(per syringe)

Radiesse (per syringe) \$450

Restylane<sup>®</sup> (per syringe) \$420

Acne Scar Removal \$250  
(starting price)

Spider Vein Removal \$200+  
(starting price)

Tattoo Removal \$150  
(starting price)