

Martinez, what's in a name?

Chamber kicks off 105th year of service with new Chair of the board



Elizabeth Martinez will take over as Chair of the Board from Gary Lee Martinez on April 1

For the past 12 months, Gary Lee Martinez, owner of the Traveling Traveler, has successfully been at the helm of the Whittier Chamber. Beginning April 1, another notable Martinez will lead the way with Elizabeth Martinez of Republic Services stepping in as the next volunteer Chair of the Board

for the start of the Chamber's 106th year. Although Gary and Elizabeth are not related, they share some strong leadership similarities including their belief in the organization, and their love for Whittier and the businesses the Chamber serves.

For over a century, the Whittier

Chamber has proudly served the interests of businesses within our community. On Thursday, April 4th, the Chamber will highlight the accomplishments of the past year and honor the volunteers and businesses who made it possible at the 105th Installation Dinner and Annual Meeting being presented by U.S. Bank. This year's event is taking place at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Whittier with the evening's festivities kicking off with a poolside networking hour (weather permitting) beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by a Mexican buffet and dinner program starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets to this special event are \$50 per person and include great networking, delicious food, entertainment, and a few fun surprises.

During the program we will retire five outstanding board members. Chris Hardeman (owner of DialMED Home Care), Krista Lesa (Property Manager for Terramar Retail Centers which manages The Quad at Whittier),

La Donna Munier (VP Relationship Manager for Friendly Hills Bank), Tom Rios (Sales Manager for Brookdale Uptown Whittier), and Bonnie Watje (owner of ACRO Printing Inc.) have all contributed greatly to the success of the Whittier Chamber.

In addition, incoming Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Martinez, will announce her Executive Committee, introduce her Board of community leaders, and install 5 new Board members. The new board members are Celia Alvarez, (branch manager for U.S. Bank), Judy Bradt (owner of A Special Event), Shannon Hammer (owner of Shannon G's Flowers, Party Planning, Gifts, and More), Kwan Lee (owner of Martplan Insurance Agency) and Nate Ploog (COO of DialMED Home Care). "We have assembled a great team for next year," stated Martinez. "I am grateful to each member of the Board for graciously committing their time and talents to the organization this upcoming year."

Continued on page 2

Rise in Homeless Encampments Affects Businesses, Residents

What's being done and how you can help

Many residents and businesses have expressed great concern over the rise in homeless encampments popping up throughout Whittier. Citing issues of safety, uncleanliness and obstruction of use of public property, Whittier residents are asking what can

be done? It appears that Whittier has a rights issue... between the rights of the homeless and the rights of the people who want to use our parks and public spaces. Whittier's City Council, the Whittier Police Department, and City staff openly share the community's concerns and frustrations and are working on a number of fronts to respond. However, there are significant limitations placed upon cities' authority to enforce anti-camping ordinances, or take other actions to remove individuals from public spaces.

The primary limitation in enforcing encampments is last year's 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, frequently referred to as the "Boise" case. This decision effectively limits cities' ability to enforce anti-camping ordinances on public property, if a jurisdiction does not have enough shelter beds to accommodate the individuals who are violating the curfew/camping rules. Like Whittier, most cities lack adequate shelter bed space to address the growing number of individuals experiencing homelessness. While Whittier currently has 45 year-round emergency shelter beds with an additional 40 shelter beds during the cold weather season, the beds are normally full and do not provide sufficient capacity for the estimated 200+ individuals experiencing homelessness in Whittier.

Whittier's Police Department and



LA-HOP is a valuable new tool to get services to vulnerable residents living on the street. It makes it easier and more efficient for the public to request help and have it dispatched to connect homeless persons with outreach workers. The portal takes the guesswork out of figuring out geographic boundaries, by seamlessly routing requests and tracking the response.

Go to www.la-hop.org to report issues related to homelessness.

City staff are working with social service partners to address the encampments. This includes Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), LA County's Homeless Outreach Services Team, Whittier First Day, Jovenes, The Whole Child, The United Way, The Salvation Army, County Supervisor Janice Hahn's office, and others. Many of our local homeless service providers conduct daily outreach to each of our homeless residents and coordinate with social services staff and Police Department when appropriate.

"The City shares the frustration of the

community in not being able to see each and every unsheltered individual moved to a safe housing condition," stated Mayor Joe Vinatieri. "Whittier is committed to addressing homelessness as it impacts all members of the community, not just those living on the streets. We are continuing to aggressively seek ways to move individuals into shelters and not have them living in the parks and public spaces as housing is a fundamental part of basic human dignity. Quite often, we encounter persons who decline the

Continued on page 13

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**Whittier Chamber Business Focus
Official publication of the Whittier Area
Chamber of Commerce**

This publication is mailed to all licensed businesses in the city of Whittier, all Whittier Chamber members, and 4,500 Whittier residents in selected areas.

We welcome comments, press releases, and community interest stories. The Whittier Chamber reserves the right to approve and edit submitted material.

The inclusion of advertising, logos, or paid advertorial, or reference to any products, process, service, trade name, trademark, or manufacturer in this publication is not an endorsement by the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce.

Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Elizabeth Martinez,
Chair of the Board

It is a profound honor to serve as the 105th Chair of the Board of the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce. I am excited to collaborate with my fellow board members and I look forward to getting to know more of our local businesses in the coming year. For those of you who don't know me, I am the Municipal Relationship Manager for Republic Services. I have been with Republic Services for 16 years and I am very proud to work for a company that has been serving the great Whittier community for over 30 years. Although the new Chamber year just kicked off on April 1, I am happy to report that the Chamber Board has been hard at work developing a plan for the year. Our Board is made up of a group of very dedicated individuals who bring diverse talents and experiences to the organization. Together with staff, we are committed to building a prosperous community through business leadership.

The Chamber is a 501(c)6 non-

profit organization established as an advocacy-based entity. We fight for the needs of businesses within the area we serve. Our volunteers and staff spend countless hours each year, exclusively representing the needs of businesses within our community.

“ Although we offer great networking events and programming, the true benefit of the Chamber is the fact that 100% of our membership receives value without having to be involved. ”

All of our members, and quite frankly the community in general, benefit from the issues and behind the scenes advocacy work the Chamber

of Commerce does on their behalf. Together we are stronger, and this year we will continue to represent local business needs regarding workforce development, Uptown revitalization, participation on the Whittier Consortium on Homelessness, security and safety through our Business Watch program and the partnership with the Whittier Police Department, Greenway Trail expansion, Gold Line Eastside Extension transportation discussions and so much more.

Thank you to all our members for investing not only in your personal businesses, but the vitality of your community as well. You are key investors and we appreciate the important role you play in our organization. I am truly looking forward to a successful and fun year!



Richard Scrivanich

\$ TAX TIPS

Casualty Gains (Part 2 of 2)

As you may recall, in last month's Tax Tips we began a discussion concerning the IRS rules applicable casualty gains. In this article, we'll wrap up our discussion of the IRS rules concerning casualty gains.

Principal residences. Where the property damaged by the casualty is the taxpayer's home it may be even easier to avoid tax on a casualty gain. As you may be aware, if you used your home as your "principal residence" (e.g., not merely as a vacation home) for at least two years out of the previous five, you can exclude up to \$250,000 of gain on its sale (\$500,000 for married couples filing jointly, as long as the use tests are met by both spouses). This exclusion cannot be used more than once in a two-year period.

Significantly, for our purposes, these exclusion rules apply to gains from the destruction of the home as well. Thus, casualty gains of up to \$250,000 (\$500,000

for married couples) can be excluded from gross income if the destroyed property is a principal residence.

If the casualty gain on a home exceeds the amount of the exclusion, the excess amount can be deferred under the involuntary conversion rules. In this case, to defer the remainder of the gain, the cost of the replacement property need only be equal to the insurance proceeds minus the excluded amount.

Example. A single taxpayer's home is destroyed by a hurricane and the taxpayer is paid \$400,000 by his insurance company. The taxpayer's basis in the home was \$100,000 so the casualty gain is \$300,000. The first \$250,000 of this gain is excluded from gross income under the rules that apply to sales or exchanges of principal residences. The remaining \$50,000 of gain is deferred under the involuntary conversion rules as long as

\$150,000 (\$400,000 minus \$250,000) of the insurance payment is spent, within the required period, on replacement property.

Finally, additional tax help may be available if your home is destroyed by a casualty that is part of a Presidentially declared disaster. Special rules make it easier to avoid gain on insurance payments you receive for your personal property damaged in the disaster. And the involuntary conversion timing rules are expanded to allow you a four-year period calculated similarly to the two-year period described above. Further, a five-year period calculated similarly to the two-year period described above applies for certain disasters designated by statute.

In summary, while casualty gains may be taxable, a variety of rules can be used to defer or avoid tax in many cases. The rules can be complex, however, and frequently large amounts are at stake.

If you have any questions concerning casualty gains, please do not hesitate to call me at (562) 698-9891.

Chamber Installation - continued from front page

Outgoing Chair of the Board, Gary Lee Martinez, will present awards to outstanding businesses and volunteers who have helped make the past year a success. "It has been a great honor to serve as Chamber President this past year," exclaimed Martinez. "I am so grateful for all the support I received from countless outstanding business and community members," he added.

During the program the Whittier

Chamber's amazing Ambassador team, under the leadership of co-chairs Tom Guerrero, of Say Cheese Photography, and Peter Rodriguez, of Farmers Insurance, will also be installed. "Each member of the Whittier Chamber Ambassadors takes great pride in welcoming and engaging members. We are excited to kick-off another great year," shared Guerrero.

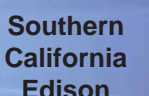
Sponsors for this event to date

include Presenting Sponsor U.S. Bank and Community Partners Republic Services, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary, PIH Health, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel – Whittier, Athens Services and Associated Cabinets.

Reservations for a table or individual seat at the event can be made by visiting www.whittierchamber.com or calling (562) 698-9554.

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

The CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE is a dedicated group of influential businesses that help shape our community vision and support the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce's ability to strengthen the regional economy.



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Chair of the Board



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Bryan Tabizon



Immediate Past Chair
Gary Lee Martinez



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Debra Legan



Vice Chair, Business Information
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City Of Whittier UPDATE



MAYOR

Joe Vinatieri



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Just like that, it's April! There's a lot happening in Whittier right now, so much so that we've added extra City Council meetings just to cover everything! Over the last few weeks, City Council directed the Whittier Uptown and Whittier Improvement Associations to submit proposals for a valet program, something residents and businesses alike have noted as a step in the right direction since its inclusion in the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan adopted back in 2008. With the design for a new parking structure in the works, the addition of a valet service could further enhance the Uptown shopping and dining experience, which is great news for our businesses. Staff will review the proposals and the matter will come before the City Council again in the coming months for consideration. In other Uptown news, City Council also moved forward with selecting a design concept for the Uptown Whittier Streetscape Plan. Community members were invited to weigh in on the various design options and, from that feedback, we have chosen one that would encourage walkability and allow for parallel parking, outdoor dining areas, upgraded landscaping and potential open space. Also, the process for local non-profit organizations to host special events has gotten a bit easier, after having made some minor modifications to the existing

Temporary Use Permit requirements. The City Council is proud to support our local partners who request to host annual fundraisers and community gatherings and we hope that this change offers a more streamlined process. We look to be just as busy into the spring as we continue to address challenging issues regarding homelessness and housing, the City's budget and other important items.

On the topic of homelessness, many of you have asked me what we are doing to address this issue within our community. Whittier's City Council, Police Department and City staff share the community's concerns about homelessness and we are working on a number of fronts to respond to this situation. This year alone, Whittier has committed \$274,766 for social service organizations to provide homeless services, outreach and coordination along with homelessness prevention activities. Additionally, the City Council has adopted a three-year Homeless Action Plan, which details various initiatives to be carried out in partnership with local and regional agencies including Whittier First Day, The Whole Child and many others. Please visit the City's website at www.cityofwhittier.org to learn more about the City's ongoing commitment to addressing homelessness and ensuring our community remains a clean, safe and vibrant one for all who reside here.

I want to share a special thank you to the folks at KaBOOM! and Amway for their generous support of our most recent

remodel of Broadway Park. Thanks to the Whittier Community Foundation, the Whittier Host Lions Club and countless community members and volunteers, Broadway Park has been transformed with new, upgraded playground equipment, picnic seating and artwork. I appreciate all of the hard work everyone put into bringing this beautiful new play space to life and know that our residents and their families will be enjoying it for years to come.

Speaking of parks, the City celebrated Arbor Day last month by inviting local students out to learn more about the significance of maintaining our local trees and keeping Whittier green. The City is proud to have been recognized as a Tree City USA for a 35th year and, to celebrate, students helped dig and plant some new ones at Michigan Park! Thank you to our Parks, Recreation & Community Services staff and the families who helped us celebrate the annual holiday with demonstrations and goodies.

There are a number of great community events taking place this month so be sure to mark your calendars for all the fun ahead. The 23rd annual Shelter's Right Hand 5K Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, April 13, kicking off at 8:00 a.m. at Central Park in Uptown. Each year, our community comes together to take a stand against domestic violence by supporting one of Whittier's great nonprofit organizations. Thank you to the many sponsors who help make this such a successful event each year.

Also that day, taking place at 11:00 a.m., the City of Whittier will host our annual Eggxtravaganza at Parnell Park. Children of all ages are welcome to attend and enjoy an egg hunt, inflatable attractions, face painting and, of course, pictures with the Easter Bunny himself! Wristbands are \$5 per child and egg hunts will be coordinated by age bracket starting with age 2 and under at 11:30 a.m. Please call (562) 567-9450 for more information.

Later this month, join the Whittier Chapter of the United Nations Association for Whittier's 4th annual Earth Day celebration, happening at the grassy lot off of Greenleaf Avenue on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This family-friendly event will include a "smart car" display, guest speakers and booths featuring environmentally-friendly tips and alternatives. Come learn more about how you can help reduce our community's carbon footprint and ensure sustainability into the future.

Lastly, please join me on Friday, April 19, 2019, for the 53rd annual Whittier Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the Doubletree Hotel, located at 7320 Greenleaf Avenue in Uptown. This year's speaker is former NFL football player and current Director of Ministry for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Chris Rix. Registration begins at 6:45 a.m. for the breakfast event and tickets are available for purchase online at www.whittierprayer.org.

I wish you and your family a very happy Easter!

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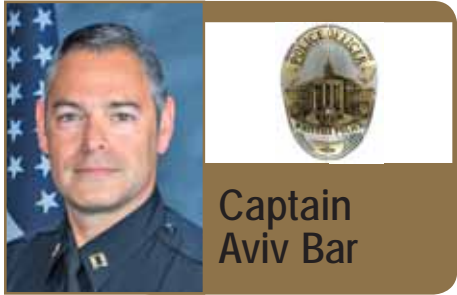


City Of Whittier UPDATE



10-4 tips from the WHITTIER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Captain Aviv Bar

School Lockdown Information

their security procedures. We use three different levels of lockdown requests from schools, depending on the police activity nearby.

Although they sound scary to parents, lockdowns are very effective in preventing incidents from getting onto school grounds. The next time you hear from another parent or read on social media that a local school is on lockdown, just know that your school staff and the police department are working together to best protect the students.

While we're on the subject of schools, a police car parked at your kids' school does not mean there is any danger to the students. We often see a frenzy of concerned social media postings when one of our police cars is spotted at a local school. Our officers stop by local schools to say hello, to take various minor crime reports, and to deal with truancy and other family issues on a regular basis. We work closely with school administrators and the school districts to inform parents if there is a safety issue taking place.

As a parent, I understand the instant anxiety that happens when you hear that your kids' school is under a lockdown. The main thing to remember is that lockdowns are preventive in nature and that most times, a lockdown does not mean that there is a problem on campus.

Police activity takes place in all areas of the city, sometimes in close proximity to a school. When our officers, watch commander or dispatchers realize that certain police activity is occurring near a school, we may contact the school and ask them to lock down temporarily.

Asking a school to lock down helps us complete the police activity knowing that the nearby campus will not be easily accessible to a suspect we are about to detain or one that we are looking for. It also lets the school know we are nearby and enables them to utilize

Aviv Bar is a Captain with the Whittier Police Department and oversees the Patrol Division. He can be reached at (562) 567-9253 or via email at abar@cityofwhittier.org



The Whittier Chamber helps the Whittier Community Foundation, along with KaBoom!, the Whittier Host Lion's Club, and Amway volunteers build a playground for Whittier's kids at Broadway Park.



Chamber President/CEO Carol Crosby painted the amphitheater at Broadway Park with Whittier Community Foundation Board members Shannon Gimbel-Hammer, Foundation President Fran Shields and Mike Gimbel



Councilmember Henry Bouchot and Whittier City School District Board member Polly Vigil supported the community's efforts to rebuild Broadway Park



City Manager Jeff Collier, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Greg Alaniz, Assistant City Manager Shannon DeLong and Mayor Joe Vinatieri joined Whittier Community Foundation Board members Carol Crosby and La Donna Munier in creating a positive place for kids to play



In under 6 hours, Broadway Park had colorful new play equipment installed and great new features for all to enjoy






2019 STATE OF THE CITY

SAVE THE DATE:
MAY 23, 2019
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6 CHAMBER MIXER & SILENT AUCTION

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019 | 4-7 PM



Orange you glad to be a Whittier Chamber member?

Increase your networking power at CAPC's 6-Chamber Kaleidoscope Mixer & Silent Auction!

On **Thursday, May 9th** from 4 to 7 p.m., 6 local chambers of commerce will join together at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Norwalk for the 17th annual CAPC, Inc. Kaleidoscope Mixer & Silent Auction Fundraiser. This year CAPC, Inc. invites you to Taste, Network, Shop and Support! Not only will this event give the chamber and community members SIX times the networking opportunities, but also amazing spring shopping opportunities and delicious samples from local restaurants and caterers. The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Norwalk is located at 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650.

City residents, business professionals and chamber members are encouraged to show their city pride by wearing clothing or accessories that correspond with the color of their chamber. This year there will be members from Cerritos, La Habra, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier chambers of commerce. Each chamber has been assigned a color: Cerritos is purple, La Habra is yellow, Norwalk is red, Pico Rivera is blue, Santa Fe Springs is green and **Whittier is**

orange. Orange you glad to be a Whittier Chamber Member?

Businesses and community members can support this event in many different ways. If you are a local restaurant, you can participate as a food vendor and offer samples of a famous dish. Businesses or community members may donate items to the silent auction, serve as a Friend of CAPC Sponsor for \$100 and receive signage at the event and in the printed program, or come with co-workers, family or friends to network and shop!

All the proceeds from the silent auction, raffle and sponsorships will go directly to supporting the services provided by CAPC, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that empowers individuals with disabilities to maximize the quality of their lives in their home communities.

We hope you'll join us on May 9th to Taste, Network, and Shop in support of CAPC, Inc.!

For more information visit www.capcinc.org or contact Natalie Saenz at info@capcinc.org or at (562) 693-8826.

WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FIESTA Whittier Chamber Installation Dinner

Annual Meeting



Gary Lee Martinez
Outgoing 2018-19
Chair of the Board



Elizabeth Martinez
Incoming 2019-20
Chair of the Board

Thursday, April 4, 2019

DoubleTree by Hilton Whittier Los Angeles
7320 Greenleaf Ave, Whittier, CA 90602

\$50 per person.
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Please join us for an evening of fun as we celebrate our amazing members and volunteers!

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New Required Poster for California Employers Effective April 1

Look out, California employers! Another posting is required. Last month, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the Fair Employment and Housing Council's (FEHC) changes to the Family Care and Medical Leave (CFRA Leave) and Pregnancy Disability notice (now called Family Care and Medical Leave and Pregnancy Disability Leave), adding information about the New Parent Leave Act (NPLA). California employers covered by the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) and the NPLA are required to post this new notice effective April 1, 2019.

The NPLA is a narrowly tailored California leave law that took effect last year. Both the CFRA and NPLA provide 12 weeks of unpaid, job protected leave to bond with a newborn or a child placed with the employee for adoption or foster care. The CFRA applies to employers who have 50 or more employees and the NPLA applies to employers who have less than 50 employees but have at least 20 employees. While the CFRA provides additional medical leave, the NPLA does not and is limited to baby bonding leave.

Over the past year, the FEHC has been working on regulations to mirror CFRA's baby bonding leave requirements with the newly enacted NPLA. Unfortunately, last week, these efforts came to a standstill when most of the proposed regulatory changes were withdrawn from the regulatory process. What remains, however, is defining the NPLA in the CFRA definition section; amending the CFRA required notice (as mentioned above); and adding reference to FMLA in the CFRA medication certification form.

No additional changes were approved; the FEHC will have to go back to the drawing board before employers see more guidance on the NPLA.

For now, effective April 1, 2019, employers with 20 to 49 employees will need to post the Family Care and Medical Leave and Pregnancy Disability Leave notice in their workplace and employers with 50 or more employees will need to replace their existing notice with the new version.

Make sure you have an updated poster. If you purchased a poster with the Whittier Chamber, you have Poster Protect. Poster Protect is beneficial to your business because if a mandatory change happens in 2019, like this new notice, you will automatically receive a replacement poster at no additional cost. For more information, visit hrwatchdog.calchamber.com.

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28	29	30											

April 5, 12, 19, & 26

Certified Farmer's Market @ Uptown Whittier (Philadelphia St. and Bright Ave.) 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Purchase farm-fresh produce from local vendors. Free admission. For more information call (562) 696-2662

April 2, 9, 23, & 30

Whittier Network Connection Meeting @ Marie Callender's (12402 Washington Blvd.) 7:15 a.m. One of Whittier's oldest and longest running networking groups. Be a guest for a free breakfast during your first meeting. For more information, call Luke Harrison at (562) 695-8321 or visit www.whittiernetwork.net.

April 12 & 19

Pathways for Citizenship @ Rio Hondo College (3600 Workman Mill Rd.) Part 1: April 12. Part 2: April 19. 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Students and families learn about different pathways they can obtain their residency or citizenship. Parking is \$3. For more information, please call (562) 463-7023.

April 2

LEADS Club Business Networking @ La Habra Heights Café (2461 W. Whittier Blvd., La Habra) 7:15 a.m. LEADS Club is an international networking and referral organization. Business people are given the opportunity to promote their products and services to a captive audience. \$15 breakfast fee. To determine if your business category is available, or if you have any questions, contact Lily Ramos at (310) 730-9492.

April 4

FIESTA! Whittier Chamber Installation & Annual Meeting @ DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Whittier (7320 Greenleaf Ave.) 5 p.m. Join us for great networking, celebrating the success of our past year, and look forward to what's to come in 2019-20! \$50 per person. Purchase tickets at www.whittierchamber.com or call (562) 698-9554.

April 5

Together We Dream Conference @ Rio Hondo College Campus Inn (3600 Workman Mill Rd.) 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is Rio Hondo's second annual conference. They will have useful information for their undocumented, dreamer, DACAmented, and AB540 students. Open to the community. For more information, call (562) 463-7023.

Special Children's League Annual Fundraiser @ Los Coyotes Country Club (8888 Los Coyotes Dr., Buena Park). 11 a.m. Fundraiser includes a luncheon, silent auction, raffle, door prizes, and "Zingo!" All proceeds go directly to the Whittier area community organizations and district schools that serve people with severe, lifelong disabilities. For more information, call Lena Carreras at (562) 500-8658.

California Guitar Trio @ Ruth B. Shannon Center (6760 Painter Ave.) 7:30 p.m. The universe of guitar knows no boundaries for The California Guitar Trio since 1991. The trio's questing spirit drives it to explore the intersections between rock, jazz, classical, and world music. General admission is \$30; Student admission is \$10. For more information, call (562) 907-4203.



April 6

Art & Antique Spring Street Fair @ Historic Uptown Whittier on Philadelphia St. (Between Greenleaf & Painter Avenues) 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free to attend. Visit www.whittieruptown.org for more information or email info@whittieruptown.org.

Free Compost by Athens Services @ Whittier Senior Center parking lot (13225 Walnut St.) 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Whittier residents only. Must bring ID or bill for verification. Bring shovels, dolly, and sturdy containers. This is a self-serve event. Visit Around Town section for more information.

April 8

Sons and Daughters of Italy Meeting @ The Masonic Lodge (7604 Greenleaf Ave.) 6:30 p.m. Special guest, author and international speaker, Mr. William Giovinazzo will speak at this meeting about his book "Italianità: The Essence of Being Italian and Italian-American". 50/50 raffle included. \$10 per person, children under 12 are free. For more information, call Bill Viverto at (626) 261-2879.

April 9

SCORE Consultations @ The Whittier Chamber Office (8158 Painter Ave.) 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. SCORE mentors will help you and your business open new markets, reach new customers, and achieve new goals. By appointment only. FREE. To make an appointment call (626) 593-1120

April 12

The Whole Child's Starry Night Fundraiser @ A Friendly Hills residence in Whittier. Location disclosed upon ticket purchase. 5:30 p.m. Come together as a community to support those most in need. Dress in festive attire and plan on wearing shoes for walking in the grass. Tickets are \$150 per person. Contact Sara at sgertler@thewholechild.org for more information.

Casino Night @ La Habra Community Center (101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra) Don't miss out on this opportunity for a date night or evening out with friends while supporting all Lowell Joint Education Foundation District schools! \$25 per person. Includes catered dinner from Casa Adelita, 1 soft drink, & \$100 in gaming chips. For more information, call Laura Fox (562) 715-3743 or email laurafoxhomes@gmail.com.

April 13

Shelter's Right Hand 23rd Annual 5K Walk @ Central Park (6628 Friends Ave.) 6:30 a.m. registration. 8 a.m. walk. Join Shelter's Right Hand in "Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence". Join hundreds of Whittier residents and community supporters helping to raise funds for the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter and put an end to domestic violence. For more information, call (657) 549-2251.

Eggxtravaganza & Family Faire @ Parnell Park (15390 Lambert Rd.) 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join the City of Whittier for egg hunts, photos with the Easter bunny, inflatable attractions, face painting, a family faire, and more! Egg Hunt times: 2 & under, 11:30 a.m., 3 & 4, 12:00 p.m., 5 & 6, 12:30 p.m., 7 & 8, 1:00 p.m. 9 & 10, 1:30 p.m. \$5 per wristband. For more information, please call (562) 567-9420.

April 17

Wake Up Whittier @ Whittier Community Center (7630 Washington Ave.) 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Hosted by the City of Whittier. Enjoy your first meal of the day and network with other business professionals. FREE for Whittier Chamber members; \$20 for prospective members. Call (562) 698-9554 or visit www.whittierchamber.com for more information.

April 23

SCORE Consultations @ The Whittier Chamber Office (8158 Painter Ave.) 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. SCORE mentors will help you and your business open new markets, reach new customers, and achieve new goals. By appointment only. FREE. To make an appointment call (626) 593-1120.



April 26

A Taste of Rio @ Rio Hondo College (3600 Workman Mill Rd.) 6 p.m. This popular and festive event, produced by the Rio Hondo College Foundation, brings together more than 450 guests for an evening of delicious food, fine wine and beer, delightful entertainment, and opportunity drawings. Must be 21 or over to attend. \$75 VIP, \$50 at the door, and \$35 pre-sale. Purchase tickets at www.riohondo.edu/a-taste-of-rio/. For more information, call Erika Perret-Martinez at (562) 463-6645.

April 27

Fashion to a Tea: Runway of Curiosity @ Whittier Museum (6755 S. Newlin Ave.) 11:30 a.m. This year, the Whittier Museum is hosting an Alice in Wonderland-themed party showcasing the unusual & oddest pieces from their textiles collection. Members pay \$40 and non-members pay \$45. All children 12 and under are \$20. For more information, visit whittiermuseum.org.

April 28

HOT's Positive Image Awards @ Friendly Hills Country Club (8500 Villaverde Dr.) 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Hispanic Outreach Taskforce is hosting its 20th Annual Positive Image Awards. They will be honoring individuals that have been a staple to the community and who volunteer hours of their time to dedicate to non-profits. \$100 per person. For more information, call Jess Montes at (626) 524-8592.

April 30

Tasty Tuesday @ Ravello Bar 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy networking at lunch and supporting a local restaurant! \$10 for pre-registered Chamber members and \$15 at the door; \$20 for guests and prospective-members. Call (562) 698-9554 for more information.

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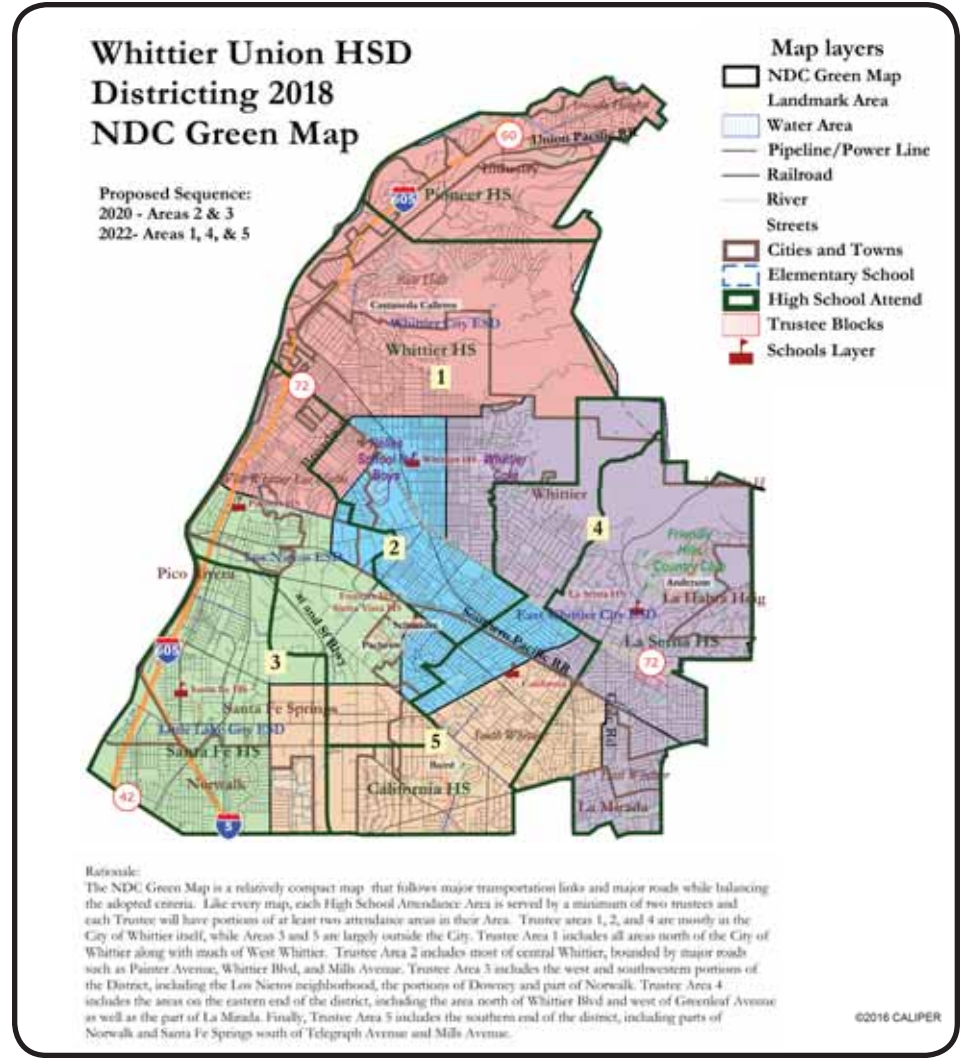
WHAT'S COOL IN YOUR SCHOOL

Whittier Union Board of Trustees Selects Final Trustee Map, to be Presented to County

The Whittier Union High School Board of Trustees at its Feb. 19 meeting adopted a final trustee map – NDC Green – and sequence of elections as it prepares to transition from at-large elections to by-trustee area elections beginning in November 2020. The Board made its decision following hundreds of comments taken during several community open houses, feedback submitted on the District Formation website and input provided during seven public hearings at the Board of Trustees meetings. The map will be presented to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization for final approval in the coming months. “We want to thank our entire school community for participating in this process, making your voices heard and helping to support Whittier Union’s inclusive and transparent culture,” Superintendent Martin Plourde said. “While it is a new day for Whittier Union, we remain committed to fostering diversity and ensuring that every Board of Trustees action is based on what is best for the students and families throughout this community.” The NDC Green Map creates trustee voting areas that follow major transportation links and roads while balancing Board criteria. Each trustee voting area will encompass portions of at least two high school attendance areas. Trustee Area 1 includes all areas north of the city of Whittier, along with much of West Whittier. Trustee Area 2 includes most of central

Whittier, bounded by major roads such as Painter Avenue, Whittier Boulevard and Mills Avenue. Trustee Area 3 includes the west and southwestern portions of the District, including the Los Nietos neighborhood, and portions of Downey and part of Norwalk. Trustee Area 4 includes the areas on the eastern end of the District, including the area north of Whittier Boulevard and east of Greenleaf Avenue, as well as a portion of La Mirada. Trustee Area 5 includes the southern end of the District, including parts of Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs south of Telegraph and Mills avenues. The California High School attendance area falls under Trustee Areas 2, 4 and 5; La Serna High School falls under Areas 4 and 5; Pioneer High School falls under Areas 1, 2, 3 and 5; Santa Fe High School falls under Areas 3 and 5; and Whittier High School falls under Areas 1, 2 and 4. The first election under the by-trustee area voting model will take place in 2020 beginning with Areas 2 and 3. Areas 1, 4 and 5 will be up for election in 2022. Residents will vote for a single Board of Trustees candidate residing in their newly drawn trustee area. The District formation process began in October 2018 and was led by a demographer and legal team to ensure maps met legal and regulatory criteria and a community outreach firm to ensure the process was inclusive and transparent. The process included six community open houses in November and December, seven

public hearings and 10 one-on-one presentations. For more information on the district formation process, visit www.elections.wuhd.org as three community stakeholder group



Community Colleges Board of Governors Recognizes Rio Hondo College

Rio Hondo College received the California Community Colleges’ highest honor – a 2018-19 Exemplary Program Award – for its alternative fuels program, in keeping this year’s award theme of “Environmental Responsibility.”

Riverside City College, Santa Barbara City College and Sierra College received honorable mentions.

“These colleges are successfully training students to combat climate change and sustainably address food insecurity on campus,” said California Community Colleges Board of Governors President Tom Epstein. “The collaborations among faculty and students to achieve these important goals serve as models for other community colleges throughout the state.”

Rio Hondo College received the Exemplary Program Award, on Jan. 16 for its alternative fuels program, which includes hybrid, fuel cell, compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, liquid petroleum gas and electric vehicle technologies.

Rio Hondo College’s alternative fuels program involved extensive work with community colleges and universities across the nation on safety standards to

improve technician safety. The program prepares students and employees to become alternative fuels specialists at transit agencies, government maintenance facilities, heavy equipment dealerships or independent repair facilities.

“This is a terrific recognition of the strength of Rio Hondo College’s automotive technology program,” Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. “For many years now, we have been at the forefront of innovation and industry partnerships to create a program that trains our students for the jobs of today and tomorrow.”

The annual Exemplary Program Awards, sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, were launched in 1991 to recognize outstanding California community college campus programs.

Award nominees demonstrate overall program success; faculty engagement; demonstrate a response to the needs of students, faculty and the college; collaboration among other programs on campus or within the community; support the community college mission; and serve as models for other community colleges.



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Getting to Know You... A Q & A with Omnigold Realty



The Whittier Chamber sat down with Chamber member Regina Guevara of Omnigold Realty to discuss her business and get to know her a little better. Although Regina is a newer business owner in the City of Whittier, she isn't a new real estate agent on the block.

Chamber: When did you start Omnigold Realty?
Regina: "I started my business on November 10, 2016."

Chamber: What did you do before Omnigold Realty?
Regina: "I worked as a hair stylist."

Chamber: How did you decide to go into Real Estate?
Regina: "I would listen to the real estate agents that would come into the salon, sharing about how happy their clients were after they purchased a home. I thought, 'I would like to become a real estate agent too'. So, a friend encouraged me to take the exam and the rest is history."

Chamber: Why did you choose Whittier to do business?
Regina: "I chose to do business in the city of Whittier because it's where I reside. Whittier is a great city."

Chamber: How long have you been in the real-estate business?
Regina: "I have been in the real estate business for over 25 years."

Chamber: What type of Real Estate do you specialize in?
Regina: "I specialize in residential real estate."

Chamber: What do you want the Whittier community to know about you and your business?
Regina: "I want the community to know that I am a real estate broker and I am here to serve you. I am honest. I have integrity. I respond to my clients' real estate needs in a timely manner and I have knowledge of the purchase process and real estate market. I am successful in negotiating a fair market value for my clients."

Chamber: Is there anything else you'd like to share with the Whittier community?
Regina: "I feel that it is imperative to give back to the community by supporting other local business within the city. OMNIGOLD REALTY is a real estate company you can trust. If you're not satisfied, neither are we."

Visit Regina at 10846 Beverly Blvd., Ste. A in Whittier or give her a call at (562) 964-0107.



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AROUND TOWN

Friends of the Whittier Hills provides Poisonous Plant presentation

Friends of the Whittier Hills member, Bruce Everett, will be presenting at this year's Annual Membership Meeting. Bruce is a retired neurosurgeon and graduated from Harvard College and USC School of Medicine. While in the Army, he was the youngest neurosurgeon in Vietnam. This year's Annual Meeting will be at the Whittier Art Association and Gallery, 8035 Painter Avenue in Whittier on Monday April 29 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Since his retirement in 2010, Bruce has been pursuing photography, hiking and trekking. In September of that year, he became a Docent in the Puente Hills Habitat Authority and began photographing flowers in the Preserve. Since then, he has identified 120 different wild flowers in the preserve. This year's presentation on Wildflowers of the Preserve will focus on poisonous species. The meeting will begin with a 15-minute business meeting to elect officers for the year and then Bruce's informative presentation.

Whittier Art Gallery features work from Whittier City School District students

For the fourth year, all elementary and middle schools in the districts have been given scholarships by the W.A.A. to enter work, ranging from drawings to sculptures—with paintings in all mediums from pastel to oil. And much more. There is exciting new talent emerging in our area and this show has become one of the Gallery's most popular events. This gallery is open from Wednesday, April 3rd to Saturday, April 13th, at the following times: Wed. – Fri. 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and

Sat. – Sun. from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be two receptions. One on opening day, April 3, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and another a week later, on April 10th, at the same hours. The public is invited, and there is no charge. Viewers are always amazed by the professionalism and skill of these young artists, so save the date—you don't want to miss this show! For more information, call the Whittier Art Association and Gallery at (562) 698-8710.

Athens Services Provides Free Compost to Whittier Residents

On Saturday, April 6th, 2019 Athens Services will provide free compost to residents of Whittier at the Whittier Senior Center parking lot (13225 Walnut St.) from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Whittier residents are required to bring their IDs or a bill to verify residency. Bring shovels, dolly, and sturdy containers because this is a drive-up self-serve event. Gloves and eye protection are highly recommended. Plastic bags or containers larger than 32 gallons are not allowed. There is a 30-gallon limit for the first hour. Athens' compost is a blend of organic material including a mix of green waste, wood waste, and food scraps (which may contain small particles of glass). Their compost is OMRI Listed and licensed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Participation in the event and all items accepted are at your own risk. It is the attendees' responsibility to practice safe lifting and take all protected measures to guard against injury or any other loss. Visit www.athensservices.com for more information.

Congresswoman Linda Sanchez hosts 38th Congressional District High School Art Competition

On Wednesday, April 24th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Rep. Linda Sanchez is holding a Congressional Art Competition at Parnell Park. Take advantage of this unique opportunity for your business to support student artists and promote the arts in the local schools. The committee of the 17th Annual High School Art Competition is asking for your generous contribution in sponsoring this program. This event relies solely on sponsors for financial support. Funds raised, and in-kind donations will be used exclusively to celebrate the talented students in the 38th Congressional District and to provide scholarships to all the winners. If you are interested in supporting the competition, please contact Steven Nagy at (562) 860-5050 or CA38artcomp@gmail.com.

Whittier Museum Hosts "Fashion to a Tea: Runway of Curiosity" Fundraiser

This year, the Museum is hosting an Alice in Wonderland-themed party showcasing the unusual & oddest pieces from our textiles collection. Don't be late! Save the date! Saturday, April 27th from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A full lunch will be served, including tea sandwiches (some vegetarian), scones, fruit, dessert, tea (black and herbal), and lemonade. All proceeds go directly back to the Whittier Museum to support exhibits, events, archival activities, and building upkeep. Support the Museum by purchasing a ticket or becoming a sponsor! Members are \$40, non-members are \$45, and all children 12 and under are \$20. If members are purchasing tickets for non-member guests in your party, you may buy all tickets at the member price. Visit www.whittiermuseum.org to purchase tickets!



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AROUND TOWN

Whittier High student named Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier Youth of the Year

Youth of the Year is a cornerstone of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier experience. It is a year-round program that helps Club members become knowledgeable teen spokespersons for their Club and community. The Youth of the Year program celebrates youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character and accomplishments. Youth of the Year honorees are recognized for service to their club and community, academic performance, and contributions to their family. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier Youth of the Year recognition is the highest honor a Club member can achieve. This year Samantha G. (Whittier

High School), Ariana C. (Whittier High School), Kaylene R. (La Serna High School) and Maricruz P. (El Rancho High School) competed to be named the 2019 Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier Youth of the Year. The process to become Youth of the Year is extensive for members. In addition to their school and afterschool duties, the candidates have various requirements to fulfill as they participate in the program, including writing three essays, preparing a speech and being interviewed by a panel of judges. Samantha G. from Whittier High School was selected as the 2019 Youth of the Year! To read more, visit www.whittierchamber.com under Member News.

Whittier SOLA Club Named Club of the Year

The SOLA Lions Club was founded in 2009 with the sole purpose of serving and supporting Special Olympics (SO) Athletes. SOLA's mission is: "To help provide sports and training programs for any individual with intellectual disabilities and thereby improve their lives and the lives of everyone they touch." SOLA supports Special Olympics Athletes for who they are: Champions! SOLA was the first Special Olympics Lions Club to support the athletes directly.

In 2017-2018 the SOLA Club conducted competitions for local Special Olympics athletes in the greater Los Angeles area in four sports: swimming, basketball, bowling and softball. The Club conducted all aspects of the competitions, including planning, executing and follow-up for each competition held. Each competition includes set-up, registration of athletes, teams, volunteers, opening ceremonies, actual competition, lunch, final competition, medal presentation, and clean-up. To read more, visit www.whittierchamber.com under Member News.

WAKE UP WHITTIER



Renett Banagas and Mary Garcia from Helpline Youth Counseling, Inc. appreciate the Easter baskets that were donated by guests at Wake Up Whittier.



Thank you to Mix Fruit for serving mouth-watering "agua fresca" at the March Wake Up Whittier.



Networking in session at Danielle Nava Consulting's table at the March Wake Up Whittier.



Over 180 guests at Wake Up Whittier exchanged ideas and made new connections.



Mayor Pro Tem, Josué Alvarado, Whittier Chamber President, Gary Lee Martinez, Mayor Joe Vinatieri, and Councilmember Henry Bouchot support the Whittier Chamber by attending the March Wake Up Whittier.

Rise in Homeless Encampments - continued from front page

offer of housing and other services to address the fundamental reason they are homeless. We wish there were simple solutions, but the causes and circumstances associated with homelessness are many and varied – which make solutions correspondingly complex. Please be assured the issue of homelessness is the biggest issue the City of Whittier is focused on and all our departments are working on a solution to the public impacts of unsheltered individuals in our community. This is not an acceptable condition to allow to persist and that is why Whittier is working to bring solutions forward as quickly as possible," Vinatieri explained.

Whittier is actively working to create additional interim housing to meet the growing need in the community, but it takes time to secure a site, construct improvements, and start providing shelter services. Whittier is in conversation with LA County in an effort to obtain Measure H funding and other funding for interim housing. Furthermore, Whittier is also working in a leadership role as part of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments' Homeless Task Force to seek regional solutions that will address the issue of homelessness in Southeast LA County.

Residents are encouraged to assist in addressing the homeless issue by using the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) website for requesting outreach services for those individuals experiencing homelessness (la-hop.org). LAHSA is the regional homeless services agency, and the more often residents note that an individual is in need, the more resources can be allocated to assist in ensuring they receive appropriate services to facilitate being moved into a shelter and more permanent housing situations.

Additionally, resources that are currently available are just scratching

the surface to what is needed to overcome this crisis. Residents are also encouraged to be part of the solution by joining the Everyone In LA campaign to help educate and promote additional resources in order to increase affordable housing available to our homeless neighbors. As a community of advocates to end homelessness, your support is critical to this movement. Find out more at www.everyoneinla.org.

An update on homelessness in Whittier can be found on the City website under Current Interests in the Whittier Transportation tab. The City's Homeless Action Plan contains a four-pronged approach to homelessness:

1. Coordination to increase housing stock and shelter beds
2. Increase public awareness of homelessness and resources available
3. Ensure city policies support shelter capacity and affordable housing development
4. Maximize existing homeless prevention efforts and explore ways to enhance prevention efforts

The Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce is proactively representing the interests of business as a member of the Whittier Consortium on Homelessness. "It is our responsibility to advocate for businesses whose properties and operations are being negatively impacted by the challenges presented by those experiencing homelessness," stated Elizabeth Martinez, Chair of the Board. "We have already participated in job-readiness and shelter bed discussions and we will continue to work with the City and its partner agencies to address this very serious issue affecting our members and our community and provide updates on our progress," she explained.



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Congratulations to our Milestone Members this month!

Thanks to the following businesses that have been partners with the Whittier Chamber in helping to create a thriving economy.

105 years:

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 (626) 544-0880

60 years:

PIH Health
 (562) 698-0811

15 years:

Friendly Hills Bank Payroll
 (562) 691-5522

Loya, Ruud & Romo
 (562) 653-3200

10 years:

Cosmic Express Corp
 (562) 236-1868

Golden Optometric Group
 (562) 692-1208

5 years:

Friendly Hills Inn
 (562) 698-6731

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 mark@hadleytow.net



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RENEWING MEMBERS

Thanks to the following members for renewing their Chamber membership and for supporting our efforts to build a strong local economy

- | | |
|--|--|
| Bill & Jim's Auto Repair
(562) 695-0404 | Kirschenbaum, Norm & Theola
Civic Member |
| Candlewood Country Club
(562) 941-1228 | McDonnell Group
(562) 907-4426 |
| Catering by Herach & Ara
(323) 728-0573 | Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
(714) 257-4481 |
| Chemique Pharmaceuticals
(562) 698-0921 | Muhlestein, Jeanne
(562) 698-1809 |
| CIL Freight, Inc.
(626) 964-3232 | New Century Singers Whittier
(562) 698-5739 |
| Credit Union of Southern California
(866) 287-6225 | Olive Crest
(562) 977-6960 |
| Domis Team – Linda Domis
(562) 884-5373 | Pacific Western Bank
(562) 902-2292 |
| DoubleTree by Hilton – Whittier
(562) 945-8511 | Perisho & Associates
(562) 547-6569 |
| Foltz, Sylvia
Civic Member | San Miguel Apartments
(562) 698-1290 |
| Friendly Hills Bank
(562) 947-1920 | Soroptimist International of Whittier
(562) 652-3451 |
| Friends Chiropractic
(562) 698-1275 | Sprinkler Fitters U.A. Local 709
(562) 698-9909 x114 |
| Friends of the Whittier Library Bookstore
(562) 696-4498 | Stater Bros. Markets – Mulberry Dr.
(562) 941-7711 |
| Harvey & Parmelee, LLP, CPAs
(562) 698-9891 | Stater Bros. Markets – Whittier Blvd.
(562) 696-3212 |
| Hispanic Outreach Taskforce (HOT)
(562) 789-0550 | Whittier Community Foundation
(562) 567-9400 |
| | Whittier Square Building
(562) 945-5959 |

NEW MEMBERS

MATTRESSES


Sleep Number
Jeremy Rogers
13553 Whittier Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90605
Phone: (562) 358-3720
Email: 11044.whittierca@sleepnumber.com
Website: www.sleepnumber.com



Sleep Number is a sleep and wellness brand established in Minnesota in 1987. They now have a retail presence in all 50 states and nearly 12 million people sleeping their beds. Their mission is to improve lives by individualizing sleep experiences. Their stores live up to that mission by providing holistic sleep solutions focused on the needs of each individual.

SCHOOLS

East Whittier City School District
Marc Patterson
14535 Whittier Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90605
Phone: (562) 907-5900
Email: mpatterson@ewcsd.org
Website: www.ewcsd.k12.ca.us



Ensuring that ALL 8600 of their students are prepared for success in high school and beyond is East Whittier City School District's ultimate goal. Their dedicated staff and Board work tirelessly to achieve our vision of "Opening the Door to Every Child's Future." To make this commitment a reality, they focus on teaching their students the 21st Century Skills of Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication and Community. To see their phenomenal work in action please take a glance at Twitter and Instagram @ewcsd_supt!



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“ Through the years, being a Whittier Chamber member has been a plus for my business. Chamber membership has given me an opportunity to get to know other local business people and, over the course of time, develop relationships. One of the best chamber benefits is the monthly Wake Up Whittier breakfast. It provides the chance to meet business people you might not normally come in contact with. My experience has been that it translates into more business opportunities. I've been a member for 27 years and would not hesitate to recommend Chamber membership to anyone!

”

Steve Burns, Steven Burns Photography
(562) 696-2065



Thank you to La Casita Olvera for hosting a great networking event!



La Casita Olvera staff pose for a quick photo before serving all-you-can-eat tacos to over 30 hungry Chamber guests at February's Tasty Tuesday.

Shop this Spring



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 GameStop • GNC • H&R Block • Hawaiian Island BBQ • HeaRx
 Maki Yaki Japanese Grill • Marshalls • Maya Threading and Beauty • Michaels
 Natalie's Nails & Spa • N2 Nitrogen Ice Cream • Petco • Rite Aid • Ross Dress for Less
 Rubi's Frosty Freeze • Sally Beauty Supply • Sprint • Staples • Subway • T-Mobile
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