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WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEBRUARY 2018

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VOL. 24 NO. 2



The Easter Bunny made an appearance at Whittier's Wild West Business Expo to remind everyone about the City of Whittier's Eggstravaganza on March 24 at Parnell Park



Student Chamber leaders represented Cal, La Serna, Whittier, Frontier and Sierra High Schools

For more photos of Whittier's Wild West Business Expo turn to pages 4, 10 & 11



The Best Stroke Care, Right in Neighboring Montebello

When someone has a stroke, they need emergency medical care to help protect their brain from extensive damage. "Strokes can be devastating," says Gautam Ganguly, MD, a Neurologist and the Stroke Program Medical Director for Beverly Hospital. "But the faster you treat them, the less likely you are to have a disability."

That's why Beverly Hospital has become a certified stroke center—a hospital where patients receive the best stroke care, as outlined by the American Stroke and American Heart Association. Living or working near such a center means ambulances don't have to take you to a hospital further away.

As certified stroke center, Beverly has proven it can quickly diagnose an ischemic stroke and treat it with a drug called Tissue Plasminogen Activator (tPA), which dissolves the blood clots that cause most strokes. Hospital teams have only a short window of time to give

the drug. "At Beverly, we have the equipment and the medical staff in place to accurately diagnose a stroke in a timely manner, and we are successfully treating many stroke patients with tPA," Dr. Ganguly says.

Some other steps Beverly takes to make sure strokes are treated quickly are:

- A dedicated stroke team that immediately responds when a stroke alert sounds in the hospital.
- That team includes neurologists and neurosurgeons who can treat stroke patients 24/7.
- Special stroke training to all staff members and specialized training to those who respond to strokes.

"We do all of this because we want our surrounding communities to have immediate access to the best stroke care, as soon as possible, near their home," Dr. Ganguly says.

www.beverly.org | 309 W. Beverly Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640

Lilia Felix was receiving care at a local health center when she noticed that her face felt numb. At first she ignored it, thinking the lack of sensation would go away, but after 10 minutes she realized it was actually getting worse. As soon as she shared her symptoms, the center's staff called 911 and she was quickly transported to the Emergency Care Center at Beverly Hospital. Her fears were well founded: Lilia was having a stroke.

"From the moment I arrived at Beverly to the moment I was told I was ready to go home, I received great care from everyone," Lilia says. She adds with a grin, "the nursing staff was phenomenal, but I must say I was a pretty good patient."

After four days at Beverly Hospital, Lilia was happy and ready to go home. She is a great example of someone who received proper stroke care as soon as possible. Lilia received the proper medications within the specified time frame and has very little neurological deficit only a few days after having a stroke. She is happy to share her experience so that others know they can count on Beverly Hospital for the best care.

At Beverly Hospital, we are constantly looking for everything we can do to provide the best medical care and we will provide even more care and services to the community as we continue to expand and develop Beverly's critical services. In 2018, we will open our doors to brand new and private maternity suites, new Gastroenterology (GI) Laboratory, and we will break ground on the expansion of our Emergency Care Center where we will double our capacity from 16 to 32 beds.



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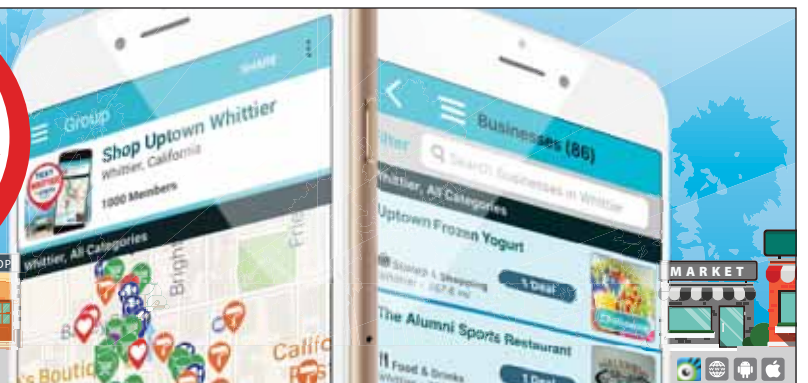
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**Whittier Chamber Business Focus
Official monthly publication of the
Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce**

This publication is mailed monthly to all licensed businesses in the city of Whittier, all Whittier Chamber members and 4,500 Whittier residents in selected areas. Papers are also distributed via various community locations such as Whittier Library, Community Center, Senior Center, City Hall, etc. Total monthly readership is 20,000.

We welcome comments, press releases and community interest stories. All submissions are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The Whittier Chamber reserves the right to approve and edit submitted material.

The Business Focus is also an excellent vehicle within which to advertise! For current advertising rates or to submit an article, email info@whittierchamber.com or call (562) 698-9554.

Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce
8158 Painter Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-9554 • (562) 693-2700 FAX
www.whittierchamber.com
info@whittierchamber.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of January started with a bang! We had a wonderful first Wake Up Whittier of 2018 at Rio Hondo College. It was a great time of networking, learning about new Chamber members and exchanging business cards. I met Jennifer Morales of Resolutions who just moved in the office building on the corner of Mar Vista and Painter. I drive by her office every day and it was a pleasure to meet her!

The Whittier Police Department and the Chamber are excited that this year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Silver Shield Awards Banquet. It is hard to believe that one year ago this month Keith Boyer was taken from our community. We as a community have rallied behind our Police Department and have shown an outpouring of support. I still drive around town and see trees that have black and blue ribbons tied around them. Captain Bar was saying at last month's Wake Up Whittier that our community is one of a kind. He said that people wave to them when they are out on patrol.

Other communities get another kind of wave. If you would like to participate in this wonderful opportunity to support our police department staff, volunteers and police officers who protect and serve our great city and the city of Santa Fe Springs, we are looking for individuals and businesses who would like to sponsor police officers to attend the event. This is our 906 Friend Sponsor and is \$100.00. We have other opportunities including ads in the tribute program and table sponsors. Please contact our Executive Director, Carol Crosby at carol@whittierchamber.com for all the details.

There is a fundraiser that's coming up that will benefit the La Serna High School Keith Boyer Memorial Scholarship. This Rock 'n Roll concert will feature Keith's former band, Mrs. Jones' Revenge, and will be held on February 17th at 7:30 pm at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$39.50 and can be purchased by calling the box office at (562) 964-9801 or going to the La Serna High School website.



*Laurie Perschbacher,
President*

With Dancing with The Whittier Stars fast approaching, be watching social media for fundraising events from this year's cast of dancers. There are two Chamber Board members who are dancing so let's help support them and the Whittier Community Foundation. The Foundation has donated over \$80,000 this year alone to the Whittier Police Department and more than \$750,000 to so many other improvements to our beautiful city.

If you haven't yet received your new Community Resource Magazine which includes a complete Business Directory, City map, and important resources, please stop by the Chamber office and pick yours up before they are gone. Remember, this magazine will be updated every 6 months to make sure that all of our members are being recognized throughout the year.



Richard Scrivanich

\$ TAX TIPS

Administrative Appeals Within the IRS

If you are involved in a dispute with IRS or are currently undergoing an audit, you should be aware of your rights to appeal tax determinations within IRS. This approach tends to be less costly and formal than litigating the matter in court, and often results in satisfactory resolution of the issues involved.

You can file an appeal with the IRS Office of Appeals (Appeals) in your region if you disagree with the result of your tax examination. The appeal can be filed before you file a Tax Court petition, or even after one is filed (but before litigation). You can also file an appeal to contest certain penalties, or after rejection of a refund claim or compromise offer in a collection case. Under special procedures, you can also appeal a lien, levy, or seizure by IRS, as well as an IRS rejection of, or attempt to terminate, an installment arrangement for tax payments.

A taxpayer can request early referral of certain eligible unresolved issues from IRS's Examination Division to Appeals.

It is also possible to resolve a tax dispute through a mediation process in

limited situations. The tax law requires IRS to prescribe procedures under which either taxpayers or Appeals can request nonbinding mediation on any issue that is still unresolved after the conclusion of either: (1) appeals procedures or (2) unsuccessful attempts to enter into a closing agreement or a compromise. IRS has established procedures for requesting mediation of certain issues, for cases that are already in the Appeals administrative process. If the parties do not reach an agreement on an issue being mediated, they may request arbitration for the issue if the issue meets the requirements for arbitration. The IRS also has "fast track" programs under which certain taxpayers that are already under examination can get an expedited resolution of their cases.

Arbitration is generally available for cases in which a limited number of factual issues remain unresolved following settlement discussions in Appeals. Arbitration is optional for both the taxpayer and Appeals. Either the taxpayer or Appeals may submit a request to arbitrate after consulting with the other party.

Neither party may appeal the decision of the arbitrator or contest the decision in any judicial proceeding, but the decision by the arbitrator doesn't bind or otherwise control the parties for tax years not covered by the arbitration. IRS specifies issues for which arbitration isn't available. Although no formal appeal procedure exists for the denial of a request to arbitrate, a taxpayer may request a conference with the Appeals Team Manager to discuss the denial. The denial of a request to arbitrate is not subject to judicial review.

An administrative appeal can also be made by filing an application with the office of the Taxpayer Advocate. The Taxpayer Advocate or his designee can issue a Taxpayer Assistance Order based on a determination that the taxpayer is suffering or is about to suffer a significant hardship as a result of the way in which the tax laws are being administered by IRS.

What's important to keep in mind, is that there are procedures that represent a middle ground between merely giving in to IRS, or waging a costly all-out war through litigation.

If you have any questions concerning the IRS appeals process, please do not hesitate to call me at (562) 698-9891.

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Chamber votes to support ballot initiative

The Whittier Chamber board of directors voted to support and partner with the City of Whittier and a coalition of crime victims, law enforcement, business owners and public safety leaders throughout California to pass the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2018. “As the champions for the business community, it is the Chamber’s job to monitor and fight legislation that is bad for our businesses,” stated Chamber board president Laurie Perschbacher of MAP Property Management. “We believe reforms need to be made to current legislation to keep us safe and we are proud to support the Keep California Safe movement and encourage residents to sign the petition and demand change.”

The proposed initiative will make changes to AB 109 and Props 47 and 57. AB 109 was signed into law in 2011 and transferred responsibility for housing and supervision of some sentenced felons to counties. Prop 47, passed by voters in 2014, reduced sentences for drug possession and thefts under \$950. Prop 57, passed in 2016, dealt with the early release of state prison inmates & tougher rules to get juveniles charged as adults.

The Keep California Safe initiative will enact a broad swath of critical reforms including:

- Reclassifying currently “non-violent” crimes like rape of an unconscious person, sex trafficking of a child and

14 other serious crimes as “violent” — to prevent the early release of inmates convicted of these crimes

- Reforming the parole system to stop the early release of violent felons, expand parolee oversight, and strengthen penalties for parole violations
- Reforming theft laws to restore accountability for serial thieves and organized theft gangs
- Expanding DNA collection to include those convicted of drug, theft, domestic violence and other serious crimes to help solve rape, murder and other violent crimes — and to exonerate those wrongly accused

Whittier is “ground zero” for the beginning of this movement to keep California safe again, according to City of Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri. “It is because of a fundamental flaw in the current prison reform laws” that allowed Officer Keith Boyer’s murderer to be on the streets on post release community supervision despite having violated his probation five times, he explained. Among other reforms proposed, this initiative would make sure that, upon the third violation, the felon would be in front of a judge and back in prison or jail and off the street.

“We are positioned as a community to be a leader in changing the law statewide so that other communities do not have to suffer what we’ve gone through with regard to losing an officer,” explained Vinatieri who, along with



Councilmember Fernando Dutra, Mayor Pro Tem Cathy Warner and Mayor Joe Vinatieri joined public safety leaders, law enforcement, crime victims and business owners at a press conference announcing the Keep California Safe initiative

dozens of District Attorneys from as far away as Ventura and Tulare counties, gathered in January to hold a press conference in front of the Whittier Police Memorial. “Enough is enough!” Vinatieri exclaimed. “If the politicians in Sacramento who enacted this great experiment called prison reform can’t be counted on to keep us safe, then the only persons who can do so is us,” he explained.

There will need to be 366,000 valid signatures collected from across the state to qualify the initiative for the November ballot and the coalition is aiming to gather 600,000 by the end of April 2018. “Our most powerful asset in getting this initiative qualified is you,” explained Michele Hanisee, President of the Association of Los Angeles Deputy District Attorneys, representing nearly 1,000 District Attorneys who work

for the county of Los Angeles.

The Whittier Chamber urges you to share information about the initiative with your co-workers, family, friends, neighbors and on social media. More importantly, California residents from all counties are encouraged to sign the petition. “We would like to pull 10,000 signatures from Whittier,” explained Vinatieri. Petitions are available to sign in the Chamber office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For more information, visit the Keep California Safe facebook page or read the entire proposed initiative (#17-0044) on the Attorney General’s website at <https://oag.ca.gov/initiatives/active-measures>.







WE WANT YOU...

to be part of our Ambassador Committee!

Whittier Chamber Ambassadors are a team of enthusiastic, highly visible, prestigious volunteers who play an essential role in member recruitment, communication and retention.

AMBASSADOR APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

If you are energetic, dependable, outgoing, responsible and have a desire to increase your visibility in the community, we encourage you to apply to be a Whittier Chamber Ambassador!

For more information call 562 698-9554 or email info@whittierchamber.com

SAVE THE DATE

The 22nd Annual Whittier Host Lions

Sight for Kids, Etc.

Wine Tasting • Dinner Event • Auction

Saturday, March 24, 2018
5:30 p.m.

WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER
7630 Washington Ave.

Last Year's Participants

Auntie's Bakery & Cafe • Azabu Restaurant • Brickhouse Pizza • Café n' Stuff Catering
California Grill • Ciao Italia Ristorante • Cilantros Tacos • Hermosa Catering
Lift Coffee Roasters • New Canton Restaurant • Phlight Restaurant & Wine Bar
Ravello Bar & Grill • Rocky Cola Café • Sage Restaurant & Lounge • Simply Irresistible
Spin Lounge • Steve's BBQ • Tepeyac Restaurant & Tequila Sports Bar • The Bottle Room
The Chicken Coop • The 6740

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City Of Whittier UPDATE



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



MAYOR
Joe Vinatieri

Cheers to the many of you who made it to the Whittier Community Center last month for the Chamber's annual Business Expo. I am always excited to see how proactive and engaged our small business community is and it was a great opportunity to meet and get to know some of Whittier's newest businesses. Attendees enjoyed sampling food from local restaurants and networking with hundreds of business professionals making it a great way to kick off the New Year. Congratulations to Chamber staff on another successful and well-attended event!

A new crime legislation group, Keep California Safe, held their inaugural press event on January 11 at the Whittier Police Memorial. This coalition of D.A.'s, victim's groups, concerned citizens, local government leaders is working to qualify a ballot initiative ("Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2018") for the November 2018 state ballot. Their initiative aligns closely with our goal of reforming crime legislation that the City has worked to achieve during the past year. You can read the entire proposed initiative (#17-0044) at <https://oag.ca.gov/initiatives/active-measures> on the Attorney General's website. Here's a summary:

- Reclassifies currently "non-violent" crimes like rape of an unconscious person, sex trafficking of a child, and 14 other serious crimes as "violent" to prevent the early release of inmates convicted of these crimes.
- Reforms the parole system to stop the early release of violent felons, expand parolee oversight, and strengthen penalties for parole violations.
- Reforms theft laws to restore accountability for serial thieves and organized theft gangs.
- Expands DNA collection to include those convicted of drug, theft, domestic violence and other serious crimes to help solve rape, murder and other violent crimes, and to exonerate those wrongly accused.

We need 600,000 signatures by early April to qualify. Go to www.KeepCalSafe.org to get your petition. Let's remember officer Boyer by changing the law.

The City's Economic Development team is working, in partnership with the Los Angeles County CEO's office, to provide a user-friendly tool for those interested in opening a business in Whittier. Location plays a vital role in the success of any business and the County's new site selector gateway, which can be accessed at www.locatelacounty.com, will offer easier access to availability and other important criteria through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to link new or expanding businesses with local opportunities. The City's Economic Development homepage will soon link directly to the portal which utilizes up-to-

date real estate information and various filters, including zoning, square footage, demographics, consumer data and other criteria, to identify locations best suited for each business and provide side-by-side comparisons. We are sure that this new resource, combined with the City's current list of Economic Development services, will offer greater assistance to anyone looking to open a business or relocate in Whittier.

Last month, the City Council approved the development of the former Five Points Car Wash site. The project will preserve the historic Googie architecture carwash and develop a new gated apartment development that will provide much needed market rate housing to a long under-used part of Whittier.

Construction is also underway at the Whittier Crossing shopping center at the new Grub Burger Bar restaurant, as well as Off The Hook Fish Grill located next door. I am excited for them to open soon, as I'm sure you are, and we will continue to see progress made on their final improvements over the coming weeks. Local chef Ricardo Diaz and the Whittier Brewing Company are hard at work transforming the bottom level of the Nixon Plaza building in Uptown into the new Poet Gardens communal restaurant. The public market concept and pop-up food stations are sure to attract residents and visitors alike and we are anticipating their grand opening celebration very soon. At the other end of Greenleaf Avenue, the owners of incoming Super Mex have re-submitted plans and are looking forward to serving authentic Mexican cuisine and hosting special events in their new banquet facility later this year.

Save the date for the annual Silver Shield Awards Banquet on Friday, February 23, 2018, at Pacific Palms honoring the brave men and women of the Whittier Police Department. The event is a great way for local residents and businesses to show local law enforcement officers our gratitude and support for their continued service, either by attending the dinner or sponsoring an officer. I look forward to seeing our community come together for this very special evening next month.

The City also invites you to attend Whittier Remembers, a special time of community gathering to remember our fallen police officers. We'll meet at the Whittier Police Memorial at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, for a brief solemn ceremony honoring Whittier Officers Keith Boyer, John Pierce, and Mike Lane for their sacrifices. This date marks one year that Officers Boyer and Hazell were horrifically fired upon...an event that deeply impacted our community.

Remember to Shop Whittier this Valentine's Day and share some love with your fellow local businesses this Valentine's Day!



For more photos of Whittier's Wild West Business Expo turn to pages 10 & 11



Judy Bradt from A Special Event poses with her 12' cactus made of balloons



Paymaneh Maghsoudi, Director of Library Services, Conal McNamara, Director of Community Development and Jeff Collier, City Manager support Whittier businesses at the Chamber's Expo



The State Farm Insurance bear celebrates the Business Expo sponsors



Steve Boyer and Freddie Wilkens from REACH talk to Expo attendees about the many programs and services they provide for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities



Thanks to the awesome Business Expo committee including Vanessa Monzon from State Farm Insurance, co-chair Theresa Oliver from ARCPoin Labs of Santa Fe Springs, co-chair Susan Ayala from Athens Services and Realtor Rob Marin



Chamber Executive Director Carol Crosby, Captain Aviv Bar, Francella Aguilar from Republic Services, Chief Jeff Piper, Greg Nicodemus from CU SoCal, Chris Hardeman from DialMed Home Care and Elizabeth Martinez from Republic Services enjoy networking with over 500 people at the Expo



Christina from Achieve Beyond was the lucky winner of the Exhibitor Rally networking game and received a free ad in the Business Focus



The Traveling Traveler owner Gary Lee Martinez and his staff present Prospecting Map winner Rebecca Leopold with a trip to Las Vegas

Happy Valentine's Day

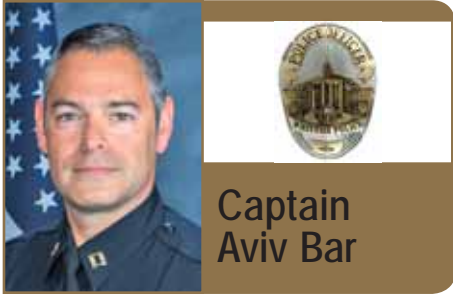


City Of Whittier UPDATE



10-4 tips from the

WHITTIER POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Lost and found portable electronics



Portable electronics like cell phones and tablets have become an inseparable part of our lives. Whether you are managing your family or managing a business, these mini computers are extremely helpful and we depend on them for many things throughout our day.

Because they are portable and we take them to so many places in the course of a day, phones and tablets are also susceptible to being lost or unintentionally left behind at stores, school, parks, parties, or at the workplace.

While it is highly advisable to use security access features so others won't have access to your personal information, that security layer also makes it difficult if not impossible to identify the owner of the device in the event that it is found by someone else. Even law enforcement receiving found devices by the public, does not have an easy way to identify the rightful owner if access to the device is locked.

A simple and low-tech solution to increase the chances of receiving your high-tech device back when lost - is a simple label. Use a common label maker

to create a label that instructs others to call a family member in the event they find your lost device. Keep it short i.e. "If found call xxx-xxx-xxxx). This simple approach can provide an immediate way for someone to contact others who know you and who could notify you that your device has been found. Some devices allow for contact information to be displayed on the password login screen, however if your device is found with a dead battery, that information will not display.

Take a few minutes and add a label to the back of your device. This small label could be the difference between getting your device back and having to purchase a new one instead.

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

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Chamber of Commerce leaders from neighboring cities, City of Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri and Council member Fernando Dutra, CAPC consumers and staff celebrated the organization's new offices which are now located in the Special Activities Building at the corner of Washington Avenue and Walnut



Whittier City Council Candidates' Forum

Tuesday, March 6
6:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
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Come and hear from the candidates who are running for Mayor and the candidates who are running for Districts 2 and 4 share their thoughts and plans for Whittier's future

For more information call the Whittier Chamber at 562 698-9554

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BENEFIT CONCERT

**In Memory of
Officer Keith Boyer**

Sat., February 17, 2018
7:30 p.m.

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RIO HONDO COLLEGE to provide free tax preparation help to families in need through April 12

IRS-certified students from Rio Hondo College will provide free basic income tax return preparation for individuals and families who earned \$54,000 or less in 2017 as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.



The program will run Fridays from Feb. 2 through April 13 at the Rio Hondo College main campus and the Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera. The program will cycle between the two sites:

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 9, 23, March 9, 16, 23 and April 12: Rio Hondo Administration of Justice Building, 3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier
- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 2, March 2 and April 6: Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera, 9426 Marjorie St., Pico Rivera

No appointment is needed. VITA volunteers will help prepare forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ, including standard and itemized deductions, and earned income tax credit. VITA does not handle Form 1040NR, married couples filing separately, Schedules C, D, E, F and SE, rental property or farm income. Applicants for aid will need:

- Photo identification for all those on the return
- Social Security cards
- Birth dates for filers and all dependents
- Wage and earnings forms (W-2, W-2, 1099-R)
- Interest and dividend statements (Form 1099s)
- Copy of 2015 federal and state returns, if available
- Blank check with bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit
- Other data: interest statements, day care records, day care tax ID number

For more information call (562) 463-7359 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Rio Hondo College, located in Whittier, California, is committed to the success of its diverse students and communities by providing dynamic educational opportunities and resources that lead to degrees, certificates, transfer, career and technical pathways, basic skills proficiency, and lifelong learning. For information on the College or its programs, please call (562) 692-0921 or visit www.riohondo.edu.

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Heart & Home

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Breakthrough Treatment Now Available In Whittier

Whittier, CA - Imagine forty years ago if you were told that lasers would replace scalpels in surgery or that robotic instruments would build cars; you may not have believed it. By the same token, would you believe that chiropractic treatments could be performed using a special hand-held instrument developed by NASA scientists; all while you were sitting in an upright position without any turning or twisting movements?

According to Dr. Yani Feliciano, "This new form of computerized treatment is so gentle and effective, that it truly amazes even the most skeptical patients. It's called the Ultralign and it's the newest version of the Proadjuster which is the latest, state-of-the-art technology in existence today, and the only one in Whittier."

This technology can safely and gently analyze and treat the spine and other joints to remove the nerve impingement that is often the cause of pains in the low back, neck, shoulders and elsewhere in the body. It also works on a variety of muscular conditions to loosen tight muscles with ease and comfort. Many patients say that it's like getting a mini-massage. Even patients with knee, hip and foot problems such as plantar fasciitis are being helped. It is also covered by most insurance companies including Medicare.

Dr. Yani says that "The secret to this technology lies in its ability to deliver an extremely precise and gentle adjustment." She says that, "Even though traditional forms of adjusting also work, people are drawn to this new technique because of how gentle it is and does not involve any twisting, especially in the neck."

Many people like getting adjusted with traditional manual techniques, all of which are safe and effective. But there are a large number of people who never get to experience the amazing benefits of chiropractic because they are scared to have their spines adjusted in that way," says Dr. Yani. Now, there is no longer a reason to be wary.

This technology is perfect for anyone who has been thinking about going to a chiropractor, but hasn't yet made that decision. Dr. Yani wants everyone to be able to experience these same benefits and if you have nerve interference causing any of the following conditions, the Ultralign may be the answer you've been looking for...

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"I thank God for Dr. Yani and her sister Dr. Miyoshi. They are God's angels. They're passionate about their work. They have such good hearts and are very caring! They take the time to listen to you. The ProAdjuster is fabulous. It doesn't hurt!!! I go in hurling and come out feeling so good! I have gone in crying and she fixed me up and by the time I got home, the pain was gone. Isabel is always energetic and a joy!!! They make you feel so at home. Before you walk in you can be sad because you're in a lot of pain, but once you're in there, they are full of smiles and joy and helpfulness and your sadness goes away!" -Pam Correa

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www.proadjusterchiropractic.net

WAKE UP WHITTIER



R.D. McDonnell from McDonnell Group, Tom Rios from Brookdale Uptown Whittier, Curt Skotnicki from YMCA of Greater Whittier, Trese Childs from DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton Whittier and Elizabeth Martinez from Republic Services network at Wake Up Whittier



Chamber members representing the YMCA, Bright Plaza Pharmacy, Southland Window Cleaning and Rio Hondo College discuss the Chamber's table topic of the day



Whittier City Council member Josué Alvarado provides a City update to over 170 business professionals at Wake Up Whittier



The Chamber introduced its newest members including Maria Hernandez from WFG, Nancy Hicks from Farmers Insurance and Steve Lopez from Aleco Security



Aaron Perez from Rio Hondo College and Suraj Devraj from 3E Yoga & Therapy trade business cards during Wake Up Whittier



Catalina Gonzalez from ACRO Printing, Louis Gomez from F.F. Gomez, Whittier City Council member Josué Alvarado and Rio Hondo College Superintendent and President Teresa Dreyfuss enjoy table networking time



Chamber Board President Laurie Perschbacher presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Rio Hondo College Superintendent and President Teresa Dreyfuss for hosting the January Wake Up Whittier

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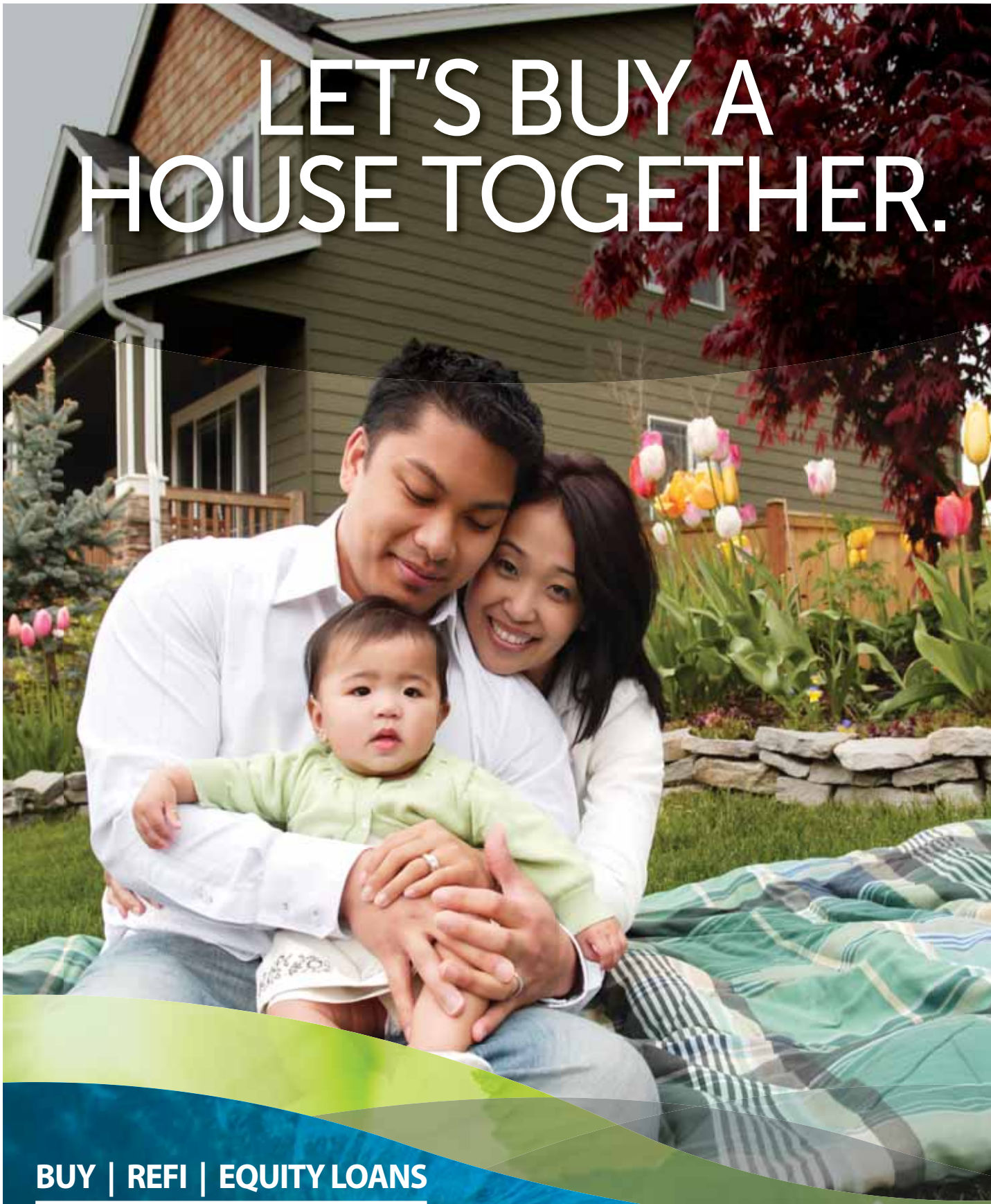
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Oromill Lumber owner Rick Porter, right, stands with Adrian Jimenez in front of their retail store which sells everything from ladders to paint to tool parts



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Oromill Lumber, Inc. is a co-operative business with the Do it Best company. They are not just a lumberyard, they provide many departments and services such as, plumbing, electrical, garden, hardware, paint, building materials, janitorial supplies, key copies, special orders, deliveries and more.

Oromill Lumber, Inc. has been involved in the community and with surrounding Whittier schools, local businesses and Whittier Chamber programs.

They are open to the public Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Consider them to be your local family hardware store. They have knowledgeable staff, offer deliveries, free popcorn, coffee and shopping spree giveaway opportunities. Stop in and let them be of service to you. They will work hard to earn your business.

Oromill Lumber, Inc. would like to thank the community for 60 years of support and they look forward to another 60 years in the beautiful city of Whittier.



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Chamber celebrates 20th year

OF HONORING THE WHITTIER POLICE DEPARTMENT AT SILVER SHIELD EVENT

Law enforcement officers are empowered with the awesome responsibility and authority to maintain public order. At the same time, officers have the unique opportunity to engage with citizens, identify and solve problems, and positively affect their communities daily. The Whittier Police Department responds to thousands of calls for service each year. Our officers and civilian personnel all play an important role in defining the quality of life in Whittier and as a community we couldn't be more grateful for their service.

The past year has been a tumultuous period for law enforcement and communities throughout the nation. As we begin 2018 we can't help but be reminded of how tragically 2017 began for the men and women of the Whittier Police Department and our community. February 20th marks the one year anniversary of when Officer Boyer and Officer Hazell were senselessly gunned down while responding to a routine traffic collision off Mar Vista Street. Sadly, Officer Boyer lost his life that morning and Officer Hazell, other responding officers and the entire WPD family will never be the same. In the wake of this tragedy, our community came together without hesitation to

show our support for the Whittier Police Department. Thousands of businesses and residents participated in the *Whittier Strong* campaign by wearing buttons of support, visiting the memorial, sharing condolences and demanding change in legislation. In fact, as a community we have made it clear that Whittier will not stand by idly and allow bad legislation to endanger the lives of our officers and residents. Each of us can play a role in demanding changing by signing the Keep California Safe petition (see article on page 3 for more details).

The last few years have been difficult for law enforcement across our nation. And for the first time, in a long time, communities are understanding the importance of rallying behind their police, sheriffs and first responders. However, we are proud to say the Whittier community has ALWAYS stood with our police department and never wavered in our appreciation for their dedication to protect and serve the people of Whittier and Santa Fe Springs. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Silver Shield Awards Ceremony & Appreciation Dinner. It is our honor to organize this very important community event which salutes the officers, civilian employees and volunteers of the Whittier Police Department. There are a variety of ways residents and businesses can partner with us on Silver Shield. For

only \$100 you can sponsor an officer to attend Silver Shield. We have renamed this donation level the **906 Friend Sponsor** because 906 is police code for "backup and support" and that is what we are asking the community to do. You can also purchase a tribute advertisement in the printed program for as little as \$180. The event is taking place on Friday, February 23rd at the Pacific Palms Conference Resort in

the City of Industry. Tickets to attend the dinner and awards banquet are \$100 per person. If you, or a business or organization you know, is interested in getting involved this year, please contact the Whittier Chamber at (562) 698-9554 or info@whittierchamber.com. For your convenience, you can view sponsorship and advertising options, RSVP and make payments online at whittierchamber.com.

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25	26	27	28										

February 23, 24 & 25
58th Annual Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts @ Hillcrest Congregational Church (2000 West Road, La Habra) Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free and open to all art enthusiasts of any age! Enjoy displays, contests, workshops, children's art, food and fun. Visit www.hillcrestfestivaloffinearts.com or (562) 947-3755 for more information

FEB 1
2 Chamber Mixer @ Ravello Bar & Grill (6746 Greenleaf Ave.) 4 to 6 p.m. The Whittier and Santa Fe Springs Chambers of Commerce will host a joint mixer. Free for Whittier and SFS Chamber members; \$10 for non-members. RSVP at www.whittierchamber.com

FEB 8
Youth of the Year @ Ruth B. Shannon Center (6760 Painter Ave.) 6 p.m. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier will recognize outstanding youth and present the Youth of the Year award. \$25. For more information contact Wendy at (562) 945-3787 x114

FEB 9
Soroptimist International Whittier Dreamliner Fundraiser @ DoubleTree Whittier (7320 Greenleaf Ave.) 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Board the "SI Whittier Dreamliner" for a fun evening of food, drinks, and lots of games and entertainment. \$75 per ticket. Contact Petra for more information at (562) 652-3451

FEB 13
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

FEB 17
Afternoon tea with Chorale Bel Canto @ Liberty Community Plaza (14181 Telegraph Rd.) 3 p.m. The Chorale will sing while you enjoy tea and traditional refreshments. \$45. For more information call (888) 460-9222

Benefit concert @ La Mirada Theatre (14900 La Mirada Blvd.) 7:30 p.m. Featuring Mrs. Jones' Revenge. Proceeds will go to Keith Boyer Memorial Scholarship at La Serna High School. Balcony tickets: \$35; Orchestra tickets: \$37.50. Visit lamiradatheatre.com to purchase tickets.

FEB 19
CHAMBER OFFICE CLOSED
IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS DAY

FEB 21
Wake Up Whittier @ Whittier Museum (6755 Newlin Ave.) 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Enjoy your first meal of the day and network with other business professionals. FREE for Whittier Chamber members; \$20 for non-members. Call (562) 698-9554 for more information

FEB 22
Ribbon cutting @ Oromill Lumber (12107 Philadelphia St.) 12 p.m. Celebrate Oromill Lumber's 60th Anniversary with a ribbon cutting. Free. For more information call (562) 698-9554

FEB 23
20th Annual Silver Shield Awards Banquet @ Pacific Palms Conference Center (One Industry Hills Pkwy., City of Industry) 6 p.m. Registration, 7 p.m. Dinner. Awards banquet and appreciation dinner honoring the men of women of the Whittier Police Department. Individual tickets \$100. If you would like to become a sponsor or have questions, please contact the Chamber at (562) 698-9554


Comedy night @ Friendly Hills Country Club (8500 Villaverde Dr.) 6 p.m. The East Whittier Lions Club's fundraiser will feature professional comedians, a choice auction, dinner and more. \$80 per ticket or \$150 for two. To purchase tickets, contact Art at (562) 201-9141

FEB 27
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


Tasty Tuesday @ The Pizza Press (15309 Whittier Blvd.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy business networking and great food! \$10 pre-registration; \$15 at the door; \$20 for non-members. Call (562) 698-9554 for more information or visit www.whittierchamber.com




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Sunday 11:30 am – 5:00 pm

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Featured Artists:
Sheryl Sauer & Hannie Goldgewicht

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AROUND TOWN

The Whole Child names new CEO

The Whole Child (TWC), one of Southern California's leading agencies providing services for at-risk children and their families, is delighted to announce the appointment of Constanza Pachon as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective January 2018. Constanza's selection caps off a rigorous search conducted by TWC's board. "We had several talented executives interested in joining our organization; Constanza's passion for our work and her strong record of success growing mission-driven organizations stood out," said Lyonel Alexandre, Board Chair of The Whole Child. "We were looking to bring a new perspective to our industry and innovative ideas for TWC's role in today's world; Constanza certainly brings both. We are fortunate to have her as our new CEO and eager to see the organization's impact grow under her leadership," he continued.

Constanza brings over 15 years of experience in non-profit management to TWC. "The proper development of children and families from underserved communities is an unparalleled building block of social inclusion and equity. The work being done at The Whole Child is at the forefront of this cause," said Constanza Pachon. "I am honored to become TWC's next leader and look forward to partnering with its dedicated team and board to increase its reach and impact. We will seek to improve the lives of many more families in the region, and be a strong advocate for fairness in our communities," she added.

About The Whole Child (TWC): Established in 1957, The Whole Child is a respected leader in the fields of child and family care, youth emotional health, and family housing. TWC serves almost 10,000 families per year in Southern California and is an active advocate on behalf of at-risk children. The Whole Child's mission is to give children the skills, support and security they need to build emotionally healthy lives and become caring, responsible adults. Learn more at www.thewholechild.info

Shelter's Right Hand sets date for Annual Walk

Save the date for the 22nd Annual Shelter's Right Hand 5K Walk which will take place at Central Park on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Walk with family and friends through the beautiful and historic Uptown Whittier as the community "steps out against domestic violence." Every dollar raised benefits the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter which provides safety, shelter and hope to victims of domestic violence. For Walk information, visit the Shelter's Right Hand website at www.sheltersrighthand.org.

Whittier Art Gallery closed through February

The Whittier Art Gallery will be closed for the month of February for repairs. The very popular *Everything Clay* show return in March when the Gallery re-opens. Information about the show will be available in the next issue of Business Focus. For more information about the Whittier Art Gallery, visit www.whittierartgallery.org.

Celebrating 58 years of outstanding art

Showcasing a wide variety of art, the Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts will be celebrating its 58th year on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 23, 24 and 25, 2018 in La Habra Heights. Nearly two hundred artists will be exhibiting and selling their artwork and many artists will personally be demonstrating their artistic skills during the festival. In addition, there will be free art workshops for children on Saturday and Sunday and festival attendees can browse, shop, enjoy free musical entertainment and have lunch or a snack at the Starving Artist Café during the three-day event.

Art aficionados will enjoy watercolor and oil paintings, unique handmade jewelry, ceramics, pottery, hand-woven clothing, photography, stained and fused glass, bronze and metal sculptures, carved wood, and a great selection of handcrafted one-of-a-kind items in the Arts & Crafts Boutique. Each year, many first-time exhibitors, as well as long-time

favorites, are selected to participate.

The festival committee is proud to announce that two Featured Artists have been chosen for the 2018 festival: Sheryl Sauer (acrylics and mixed media designs) and Hannie Goldgewicht (sculpture, ceramics, and basketry).

Admission and parking for the festival is free to all attendees. All festival areas are open during the 3-day weekend, including the indoor galleries, artist demonstrations, outdoor exhibits, the patio area, the outdoor stage and the Arts & Crafts Boutique.

Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. On-site parking is available and information regarding off-site overflow parking with free shuttle is available on the website. The Festival of Fine Arts will take place at 2000 West Road, La Habra Heights. Call (562) 947-3755 or visit hillcrestfestivalofflinearts.com.

New Century Singers Whittier presents 49th Annual Scholarship Concert

New Century Singers Whittier is honored to host the California Women's Chorus 2018 Convention in conjunction with their 49th Annual Scholarship Concert. The event will spotlight the Singers' scholarship winners. The Convention will take place on Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 2 p.m. at DoubleTree by Hilton Whittier, 7320 Greenleaf Ave. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by contacting Brigitta Weger at (562) 607-4876 or brigweg@aol.com.

Sons and Daughters of Italy invites community to monthly meeting

Sons and Daughters of Italy is a national organization of men and women who represent the estimated 26 million Americans of Italian heritage. They are dedicated to promoting the legacy of their ancestors, customs, and contributions to the United States of America. If you have never visited them before, you're invited to be their guest.

The monthly dinner will take place on Monday, February 12 at 6 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. After dinner, there will be an opportunity to play BINGO for fun prizes. They will also be conducting their regular 50/50 raffle.

The Hacienda Lodge is a fraternal non-profit organization. Proceeds from all fundraisers go toward their annual donations to various charities and a scholarship fund for local high school students. For more information contact Guy Battaglia at (909) 944-3390.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier to name Youth of the Year

Youth of the Year presented by Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuaries 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 Club of Whittier Youth of the Year recognition is the highest honor a Club member can achieve. This year Daniela R. (Whittier High School Junior), Clara V. (Whittier High School Senior), Jade R. (Whittier High School Senior) and Sarah S. (Whittier High School Senior) will compete to be

named Youth of the Year. The process to become Youth of the Year is extensive for Club members. In addition to their school and afterschool duties, the candidates have various requirements they must fulfill to be able to participate in the Youth of the Year program. The winner of the Youth of the Year will be announced on February 8, 2018 at the Ruth B. Shannon Center at Whittier College. The event will begin with hor d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. and the ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The winner of the first round of competition will move forward to the Los Angeles competition with the chance of being named Los Angeles County Youth of the Year.

Tickets to attend the event are available online at www.bgcw.org or by contacting Wendy Murrietta at wendy@bgcw.org or (562) 945-3787 ext. 114.

City of Whittier and FoxTale Entertainment present Turn the Page

Hey, all you rockers out there (yes, you know who you are!) lets show the millennial generation what real rock is all about. Come experience this energy packed performance starring Sam Morrison in "Turn the Page," a tribute to legendary Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band. Based out of Southern California, Turn The Page has sold over 750,000 downloads on iTunes from their Bob Seger Tribute albums and has been featured on CNBC News as one of the nation's top tribute bands! With over 10

years on the road, Sam Morrison and Turn the Page continue to tour the US bringing Bob Seger's music to his fans.

For a truly memorable concert experience, "Turn the Page" will provide "old time rock and roll" that will take you back and make you remember, because after all, rock and roll never forgets!

Turn the Page will perform at Saturday, March 24 at 7 p.m. at Whittier Center Theatre, 7630 Washington Ave. To purchase tickets call (562) 567-9430 or visit www.bobsegertribute.brownpapertickets.com.

FREE HELP WITH BUSINESS ISSUES

SCORE's experienced business mentors are available for free one-on-one appointments on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce office.

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Filling Your Vacant Units



Laurie Perschbacher,
MAP Property Management &
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In today's market as property owners there are not a lot of options for marketing as there were even 5 years ago. The Internet has become the main way of letting the world know about your vacancy. But are you using the right Internet Listing Site? There are several that are the most popular and easy for most property owners to post their listing. But what about all the others? How do you get your listing on those? By using a professional property management company, their software usually has access to posting to highly visited sites and can generate more activity for your vacancy.

There are so many important details to add to your listing such as posting photos that are enticing to prospective tenants. Is your marketing description attracting people who want to rent your unit? Do you list all of the amenities in your ad? What about pets? When you get those prospective tenants to your property are you asking the right questions when you hold your showings? Here are a few sample questions:

1 – Is this the first apartment you have visited? This question gets right to the point and gives a bit of insight regarding their experience with the process.

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3 – What would make YOU a good tenant? This gives the prospect the chance to talk about themselves. You can learn a lot about them by what they share.

4 – What do we need to do to show you that this is the right community for you? They probably won't be expecting this question but go ahead and put it out there anyway. It shows them that you are confident in your community and your team's ability to deliver on tenant satisfaction.

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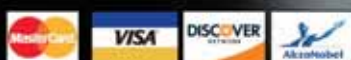
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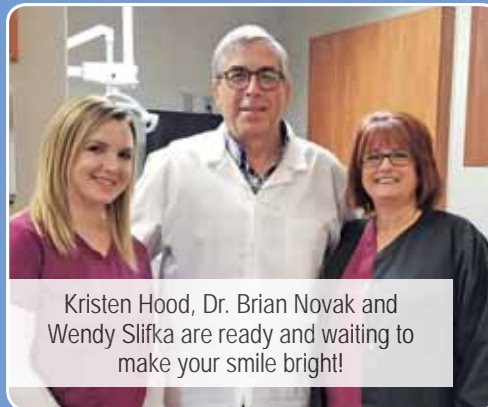


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Visiting Our Members



Kristen Hood, Dr. Brian Novak and Wendy Slifka are ready and waiting to make your smile bright!



New Chamber member Eric Leckey proudly displays his new Chamber plaque



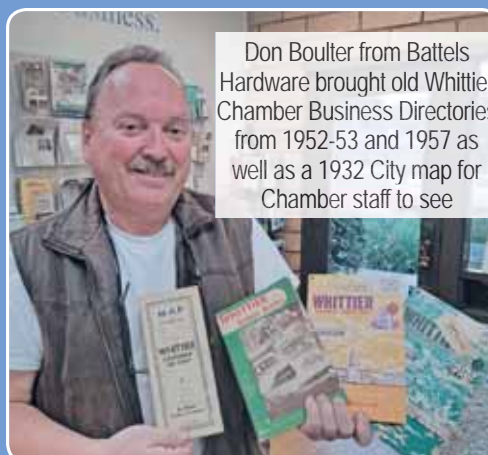
Tony and Gina from Guadalajara Xpress are ready to cook up some delicious Mexican food at their restaurant located at 12504 Philadelphia St.



Area Manager Ana Heffington (2nd from left) and her staff from Nifty After Fifty, take a moment from training their clients to chat with Chamber staff and volunteers



Chamber Ambassador Pete Rodriguez from Farmers Insurance and Board member Bonnie Watje from ACRO Printing, Inc. make a membership visit to Liquor Mart's Damien Valdez and owner Mario Valle



Don Boulter from Battels Hardware brought old Whittier Chamber Business Directories from 1952-53 and 1957 as well as a 1932 City map for Chamber staff to see



Chamber Ambassador Louis Gomez from F.F. Gomez proudly displays his AAA membership card alongside Branch Manager Rachel Chavez and her team from Automobile Club of Southern California



Bo Hernandez and the team from Caldwell Insurance display an appreciation award they received from Philadelphia Insurance for having the Whittier Chamber as a customer for more than 20 years

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

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It's almost Valentine's Day again — that time of year when you let your loved one (maybe yourself!) know just how much they mean. Whether you're in a relationship or happily single, we've compiled some of our favorite ideas and places for celebrating this special day. From dance lessons to a spa day to a dinner out on the town or even a trip away for the weekend, the Whittier Chamber has great businesses that can help make your day super special! For more great Chamber members, visit our website at www.whittierchamber.com

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NEW MEMBERS

CHURCH

East Whittier Presbyterian Church
Christine Simpson
14061 Second St.
Whittier, CA 90605
Phone: (562) 698-9948
Email: chambermember@ewpc.org
Website: www.ewpc.org



The year was 1907. Thirteen Whittier citizens “of the Presbyterian persuasion” gathered for prayer and worship. Located in uptown Whittier, “the Little Brown Church” was used for the next three decades. After World War II, the church grew rapidly. It became obvious that Presbyterians needed two church facilities to serve the expanding Whittier population. Land was purchased, and on September 30, 1951, the congregants dedicated the East Whittier United Presbyterian Church at 14061 East Second Street, where it stands today as a symbol of caring and service to all who enter. The Mission of EWPC is “to serve the Lord Jesus Christ by sharing His love and His Good News as we serve our community.”

REAL ESTATE

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Paul & Tiffany are 3rd generation Realtors who come from a long lineage of real estate professionals. They are a brother/sister team whose family has been serving the Greater Los Angeles area since the 1950’s – it’s in their blood! They were born and raised in Whittier and it’s still their home today. They do a lot of business in their backyard and they also work in the Greater Los Angeles market, including Orange County. Paul & Tiffany are creative, fun and experienced, with high attention to detail and a relentless drive to exceed expectations. In addition to selling homes, they specialize in new construction sales and work with investors of single family residences, duplexes, triplexes & fourplexes.

SENIOR LIVING

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Website: www.atriacovina.com



Atria Covina is a small, warm, close-knit senior living community where older adults can receive a quality of life and quality of care. They rent studio apartments, provide daily services such as dining, cleaning, transportation, and to keep them active they provide an array of activities with weekly outings. If they prefer to stay in and relax, they have a nice courtyard and library. Also, their community is conveniently located near shops, restaurants, banks, medical facilities and places of worship that enhance retirement living. From their beautiful landscape to their spacious senior apartments and dedicated care staff, Atria Covina makes for remarkable retirement community living.

JOIN ME IN BECOMING A CHAMBER MEMBER

TESTIMONIAL



“ Since joining the Whittier Chamber, I have been able to network, make contacts, establish relationships and expand my business growth and reach. The focus on community by the chamber and its members, allows the opportunity to serve others as my business grows. With having so many activities, events and resources, it’s become one of my favored tools and one of my best decisions.”

Rob Marin, Realtor
(562) 688-1873



To All Chamber Members:
According to our by-laws, the Chamber must present to the entire membership the slate of candidates nominated to fill vacancies on our Board of Directors. The by-laws state:
D. Nominations by Petition. Additional names of candidates for Directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signatures of at least twenty-five (25) qualified members of the Chamber. Such petition shall be filed with the Nominating Committee within ten (10) days after notice has been given of the names of those nominated. The determination of the Nominating Committee as to the legality of the petition(s) shall be final.
E. Determination. If no petition is filed within the designated period, the nominations shall be closed and the nominated slate of candidates shall be declared elected by the Board of Directors at their regular February Board Meeting.
If a legal petition shall present additional candidates, the names of all candidates shall be arranged on a ballot in alphabetical order. Instructions will be to vote for candidates to fill the exact number of vacancies. The Executive Director shall mail this ballot to all active members at least 15 days before the regular Board Meeting in March.
The ballots shall be marked in accordance with instructions printed on the ballot and returned to the Chamber office within ten days. The Board of Directors shall at their regular March Board meeting declare the candidates with the greatest number of votes elected.

- Current board members up for renewal of their 2-year term:**
Laurie Perschbacher,
MAP Property Management
Bryan Tabizon,
Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary
Cheryl Estep, State Farm Insurance
Oscar Hernandez,
Boys’ & Girls’ Clubs of Whittier
John Hsu, STC Management
Greg Nicodemus,
Credit Union of Southern California

Board of Director Nominees 2018-2019

New board candidates (elected to 2 year term: April 2018 – March 2020):

Susan Ayala, Athens Services • Louis Gomez, F.F. Gomez • R.D. McDonnell, McDonnell Group • Monica Peters, Hebert Design Werks



Susan Ayala

Susan serves as the Government Affairs Manager for Athens Services which provides recycling and solid waste services to all neighborhoods, residents and businesses in the area west of Ocean View Avenue including the Uptown business district. She is a California native and Whittier resident who is active in the community as a board member for the Boys’ & Girls’ Clubs of Whittier, Soroptimist Int’l of Whittier, Whittier Rotary, advisory committee for the Whittier Uptown Association, and as the co-chair of the Chamber’s recent Business Expo. Susan is looking forward to being a member of the Chamber’s Board of Directors. “I am excited to assist other chamber board members with business networking events, and legislative advocacy,” she said. “I want the businesses in the city that I live and work in to thrive, by volunteering my time to helping them build relationships with other business members or potential new clients, educating members on business matters, and advocating on their behalf in the legislative space,” she added.



Louis Gomez

Beginning in 2005 Louis joined FF Gomez with a clear vision of expanding the company. As the operations manager he focuses heavily on productivity and useful procedures to help drive business growth. Since joining FF Gomez the company has seen significant growth in the waste industry market. This increased success allowed the company to move its manufacturing center into the heart of Whittier. This is where Louis saw a great opportunity to become an influential member in the community. “By being a member of the Whittier Chamber, I believe I can impact the city in a positive way by creating concrete relationships with local business owners who also seek to create lasting changes in the community,” he explained. As a candidate for director of the Whittier Chamber, Louis is excited to draw parallels from his business experience and provide a clear vision for Whittier. Louis envisions a diverse and vibrant city that is home to a variety of individuals contributing and aiding to its success. His previous experience working with local municipalities provides an adequate skill set that he will use in this new position.



R.D. McDonnell

R.D. McDonnell, AIA is a licensed architect and principal of McDonnell Group, a Design/Construction Managers & Consultants firm founded in Whittier in 1994. R.D. has nearly 40 years of combined professional experience in the fields of architecture, planning, civil engineering and construction. He has been actively involved with the City of Whittier, having recently completed 16 years of service on the City of Whittier Planning Commission. Being a strong advocate for the business community, R.D. always closed PC meetings by encouraging residents to “Shop Whittier.” Prior to that, he served 5 years on the Design Review Board, and also served on the Sign Ordinance Task Force and Whittier Historic Train Depot Task Force.
The McDonnell family have been residents of Whittier for 26 years. R.D. and his wife Kathleen have supported a variety of Whittier-based non-profit organizations, which include Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier, CAPC, Inc., Interfaith Food Center, PIH Health Foundation, Rotary Club of Whittier, YMCA of Greater Whittier and Whittier Community Foundation. R.D. is currently serving on the Whittier Community Foundation Board. R.D. is excited to join the Whittier Chamber Board of Directors and contribute his skills and experience to the Whittier business community.



Monica Peters

Monica Peters is the owner of Hebert Design Werks and a general contractor and designer specializing in residential interiors. She has worked in the Whittier area since 1984 when she first moved to Southern California.
Monica believes that her experience being a member of the Chamber of Commerce has been one of the most rewarding things that she has done personally and professionally. Monica served as an Ambassador for the Chamber for several years. “I have had the opportunity to get to know many of the members on a completely different level,” Monica explained. “Membership has also allowed me to reach an audience that I would not normally be able to in regards to my business,” she continued.
“If being a board member allows me to give back to the Chamber any portion of what I have received by being a member then I am excited and willing to do so,” she stated.

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GameStop • GNC • G-Stage • H&R Block • Hawaiian Island BBQ • HearX
Maki Yaki Japanese Grill • Marshalls • Maya Threading and Beauty • Michaels • N2 (Gelato)
Petco • Quad Dental • Rite Aid • Ross Dress for Less • Rubi's Frosty Freeze
Sally Beauty Supply • Sprint • Staples • Subway • T-Mobile • The Avenue • The Olive Garden
The Quad Cleaners • The UPS Store • TJ Maxx • Vallarta Supermarkets
Weight Watchers • Yogurtland

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