

THE BUSINESS FOCUS

CONNECTING THE BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES.

WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEBRUARY 2019

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VOL. 25 NO. 2

Chamber offers mandated Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for supervisors and employees

By January 1, 2020, employers with at least five employees must provide: (1) at least two hours of sexual harassment prevention training to all supervisory employees; and (2) at least one hour of sexual harassment prevention training to all non-supervisory employees in California. New employees must be trained within six months of assuming their position, and once every two years thereafter.

The Whittier Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with local employer Compliance Training Group (Division of Employers Choice Online, Inc.), to offer mandated sexual harassment prevention training to all Whittier area employers. The training will be offered three different times throughout 2019, with the first training to be held on Thursday, February 27 at Parnell Park. Both the 2-hour training for supervisors and the 1-hour employee training will be offered on each of the three training dates. Other trainings are scheduled for June 26 (offered in both English and Spanish) and October 23.

This on-site training will be conducted by an experienced sexual

Continued on page 4



Chamber brings community together to celebrate the Whittier Police Department Silver Shield Awards Banquet set for February 22

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 few years have been a tumultuous period for law enforcement and communities throughout the nation. Our own police department experienced tragedy first hand a few years ago and, in its wake, our community came together without hesitation to show support for the men and women of the Whittier Police Department. Thousands of businesses and residents participated in the *Whittier Strong* campaign by wearing buttons of support, visiting our beautiful police memorial, sharing

condolences and demanding change in legislation. While other communities are now understanding the importance of rallying behind their police, sheriffs and first responders, 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 21st Anniversary of the Silver Shield Awards Banquet & 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," stated Silver Shield chair Laurie Perschbacher. "On this very special night, attendees get a small glimpse into the lives and sacrifices of the men and women who protect us daily," she continued. At the event, stories are told, those who went above and beyond the call of duty are honored, retirees are recognized and the connection between community and law enforcement is strengthened.

There are a variety of ways residents

and businesses can show their sense of pride and partner with the Whittier Chamber to celebrate our Whittier Police Department officers, staff and volunteers. For only \$100 you can sponsor an officer to attend the Silver Shield event. "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," explained Carol Crosby, Chamber Executive Director. Residents and businesses can also purchase a tribute advertisement in the printed program for as little as \$180.

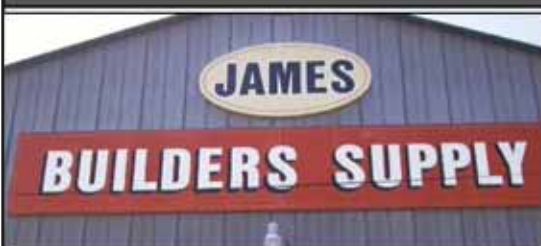
The event is taking place on Friday, February 22 at the Pacific Palms Conference Resort in the City of Industry. Tickets to attend the dinner and awards banquet are \$100 per person. If you, or a business or organization you know, is interested in getting involved this year, please contact the Whittier 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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**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.

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.

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(562) 698-9554 • (562) 693-2700 FAX
www.whittierchamber.com
info@whittierchamber.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Gary Lee Martinez,
President of the Board

January has passed, and February is here, I hope everyone is keeping up with those New Year's resolutions by participating in the many networking opportunities the Chamber has to offer. "Join the Team in 2019" at one of our events such as Wake Up Whittier or Tasty Tuesday coming up this month!

In the spirit of February, the month of love, help us show our appreciation for our everyday heroes. The 21st Annual Silver Shield Awards Banquet will be held on Friday, February 22 at the Pacific Palms Conference Center in the City of Industry. Call (562) 698-9554 to purchase

a ticket or sponsor a police officer for only \$100 and help us honor the brave men and women who keep Whittier a safe and thriving community!

I would also like to thank everyone who was involved in the success of this year's Sweet Success Business Expo. There's nothing better than starting off the New Year with a networking event for all to enjoy. Whether you purchased a booth/table, sponsored or attended the event as a guest, it was great to see so many of our members support each other!

Now, let's talk about Valentine's Day! This year keep the support going by

shopping for your "special someone" right here in Whittier at one of our many Chamber member businesses. Having some trouble finding the right gift or the right restaurant? Check out the ad on page 3 for a directory of members who can help and don't forget to visit ExploreWhittier.com and WhittierChamber.com for new members listed every day. This Valentine's Day think outside the heart-shaped box and shop local!



Richard Scrivanich

\$ TAX TIPS

Tax breaks to those who do volunteer work for charity

If you are a volunteer worker for a charity, you should be aware that your generosity may entitle you to some tax breaks.

Although no tax deduction is allowed for the value of services you perform for a charitable organization, some deductions are permitted for out-of-pocket costs you incur while performing the services (subject to the deduction limit that generally applies to charitable contributions). This includes items such as:

- Away-from-home travel expenses while performing services for a charity (out-of-pocket round-trip travel cost, taxi fares and other costs of transportation between the airport or station and hotel, plus lodging and meals). However, these expenses aren't deductible if there's a significant element of personal pleasure associated with the travel, or if your services for a charity involve lobbying activities.
- The cost of entertaining others on behalf of a charity, such as wining and dining a potential large contributor (but the cost of your own entertainment or meal is not

- deductible).
 - If you use your car while performing services for a charitable organization you may deduct your actual unreimbursed expenses directly attributable to the services, such as gas and oil costs. Alternatively, you may deduct a flat 14¢ per mile for charitable use of your car. In either event, you may also deduct parking fees and tolls.
 - You can deduct the cost of a uniform you wear when you do volunteer work for the charity, as long as the uniform has no general utility (e.g., a volunteer ambulance worker's jumpsuit). You can also deduct the cost of cleaning the uniform.
- No charitable deduction is allowed for a contribution of \$250 or more unless you substantiate the contribution by a written acknowledgment from the charitable organization. The acknowledgment generally must include the amount of cash, a description of any property contributed, and whether you got anything in return for your contribution. This presents a problem

where you as a volunteer make a contribution on behalf of rather than directly to a charity. One way around this is for the charity to pay for the expenses, itself, and then be reimbursed by you (or you can make the donation before the expense is incurred). If this isn't possible, you can safeguard your deductions as follows:

- Get written documentation from the charity about the nature of your volunteering activity and the need for related expenses to be paid. For example, if you travel out of town as a volunteer, get a letter from the charity explaining why you're needed at the out-of-town location.
- If you are out-of-pocket for substantial amounts, you should submit a statement of expenses and, preferably, a copy of the receipts, to the charity, and arrange for the charity to acknowledge in writing the amount of the contribution.
- You should maintain detailed records of your out-of-pocket expenses—receipts plus a written record of the time, place, amount, and charitable purpose of the expense.

If you have any questions regarding the above discussed topic or any other tax matter, please feel free to give me a call at (562) 698-9891.

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Looking to treat your loved ones this Valentine's Day?

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 your loved one is someone else or yourself, we've compiled some of our favorite ideas and places for celebrating this special day. From dance lessons to 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 Valentine's Day super special! For a visual listing of great things to do in Whittier, visit explorewhittier.com.

Valentine's Must-Haves

FLOWERS, BALLOONS, GIFTS, SPAS, SWEETS, & JEWELRY

A Special Event – (562) 695-9570
Aura's World – (562) 698-4500
Coby Madison Jewelers – (562) 947-6234
Edible Arrangements – (562) 943-8151
Fejjab Spa – (562) 351-6430
Heavenly Choice – (323) 346-8575
Laura's Loaves & Goodies, Inc. – (562) 697-6117
M & M Sports Massage – (562) 693-6770
Oasis Jewelry – (562) 908-1113
Pacific Palms Resort – (626) 810-4455
Picasso Medical Aesthetics & Spa – (562) 945-1830
Salon Cheval – (562) 696-7979
Shannon G's Flowers, Party Planning, Gifts, & More – (562) 789-5808
Skin Perfect Medical – (562) 464-5777
Skin Room, The – (562) 536-1142

EAT

Alondra's Hot Wings – (562) 236-5300
Auntie's Restaurant – (562) 464-1959
Bee Hive Market & Deli, The – (562) 945-9002
Bizarra Capital – (562) 945-2426
Brickhouse Pizza – (562) 693-9523
Buffalo Wild Wings – (562) 943-2813
California Grill – (562) 907-7017
Candlewood Country Club – (562) 941-1228 x226
Catering by Herach & Ara – (323) 728-0573
Chick-fil-A – (562) 902-1550
Clearman's Steak n Stein Inn – (562) 699-8823
Colonia Publica – (562) 693-2621
Commoner, The – (562) 464-1761
Corner Bakery Café – (562) 693-7755
Costco Wholesale – (562) 524-0002
Crepes & Grapes Café – (562) 696-3255
Crooked Gaff Kitchen & Oyster Bar – (562) 698-0078
Dakara Sushi – (562) 698-0707
DoubleTree by Hilton - Whittier – (562) 945-8511
Dunkin Donuts – (562) 693-5281
Edible Arrangements – (562) 943-8151
Friendly Hills Country Club – (562) 698-0331
Grub Burger Bar – (562) 781-7878
Havana House Cigars & Lounge – (562) 698-2245
Holiday Inn La Mirada – (714) 739-8500
Juan Great Fiesta – (562) 945-1785
Juan's Rotisserie Chicken – (562) 944-0418
La Casa Del Cocinero – (562) 295-6678
La Casita Olvera – (562) 947-3683
La Pescadora – (562) 698-4144
Lascari's Italian Deli – (562) 943-1113
Laura's Loaves & Goodies, Inc. – (562) 697-6117
McDonald's – (562) 693-3590
Mi Burrito Mexican Grill – (562) 905-6023
Mimi's Café – (562) 947-0339
Mix Fruit – (562) 464-5755
N2 Nitrogen Ice Cream – (562) 693-8887
Nekter Juice Bar – (562) 315-5945
Nixon Steakhouse – (562) 698-3355
Norms Restaurants – (562) 907-2760

Off the Hook Fish Grill – Hadley St. – (562) 696-6191
Off the Hook Fish Grill – Whittier Blvd. – (562) 632-1497
Orchard's BBQ & Grill – (562) 902-1825
Original Roadhouse Grill – (562) 945-7796
Pacific Palms Resort – (626) 810-4455
Pizza 21 – (562) 801-3689
Pizza Press, The – La Habra – (562) 905-6060
Pizza Press, The – Whittier – (562) 266-3113
Quad at Whittier, The – (562) 693-5543 x1210
Ravello Bar & Grill – (562) 945-8723
Rick's Drive In & Out – (562) 698-4464
Rockies Frozen Yogurt – (562) 698-7679
Shakey's Pizza Restaurant – (562) 692-4043
Silver Palace – (562) 947-4043
Steve's BBQ – (562) 789-0200
Swiss Park Banquet Center – (562) 699-1525
Tacos Baja – East Whittier – (562) 943-6163
Tacos Baja – South Whittier – (562) 945-8121
Tepeyac & Tequila Sports Bar – (562) 695-2277
Tres Chiles BBQ – (562) 968-9447
Turnbull's Tavern – (562) 693-7773
Veracruz Restaurant – (562) 693-3274
Whittier Marketplace, The – (949) 851-1224
Whittwood Town Center – (949) 252-3873
Wowo's Smokin' Hot BBQ & Catering – (562) 273-5473
Zen's Tea House – (888) 866-4299

SHOP

Arnie's Dollar Plus – (562) 842-3028
Aura's World – (562) 698-4500
Beauty Lush Salon & Spa – (562) 665-9176
Bee Hive Market & Deli, The – (562) 945-9002
Bridge of Faith – (562) 322-5265
Bright Plaza Pharmacy & Home Medical Equipment – (562) 943-2813
Costco Wholesale – (562) 524-0002
Edible Arrangements – (562) 943-8151
Epic Auto – (844) 437-4228
Flag Shop, The – (562) 945-3377
Friends of the Whittier Library Bookstore – (562) 696-4498
Gon'z Decorations, Inc. – (562) 698-4669
Green Pear Organics – (562) 360-2571
Grocery Outlet – (562) 464-0466
Havana House Cigars & Lounge – (562) 698-2245
Inline Electronics – (562) 632-1157
James Hardware Company – (562) 691-1711
Ken Grody Ford – (714) 521-3110
Liquor Mart – (562) 693-7731
Marsdens Comfort Shoes & Pedorthic Foot Care – (562) 698-7281
Mary Kay – (714) 394-0593
Michaels Furniture – (562) 696-2999
Milestone Truck Sales, Inc. – (562) 341-6608
Oasis Jewelry – (562) 908-1113
Ocean Honda of Whittier – (562) 280-2838
Oceanic Arts – (562) 698-6960
Orchard's BBQ & Grill – (562) 902-1825
Oromill Lumber and Hardware – (562) 698-9453
Quad at Whittier, The – (562) 693-5543 x1210
Rasmussen Gas Logs & Grills – (562) 696-8718
Sargent's Sporting Goods – (562) 696-2120

Sears – (562) 902-2000
Shannon G's Flowers, Party Planning, Gifts & More – (562) 789-5808
Shelter's Right Hand-Auxiliary to the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter – (562) 696-6382
Sofital Signs – (562) 335-1316
Stater Bros. Markets – Mulberry Dr. – (562) 941-7711
Stater Bros. Markets – Whittier Blvd. – (562) 696-3212
Super Market La Venadita – (562) 693-8989
T-Mobile – (562) 693-7565
Toyota of Whittier – (562) 698-2591
Whittier Drugs & Medical Supply – (562) 789-5852
Whittier Marketplace, The – (949) 851-1244
Whittwood Town Center – (949) 252-3873
Zen's Tea House – (888) 866-4299

STAY

Days Inn-Whittier – (562) 944-4760
DoubleTree by Hilton-Whittier – (562) 945-8511
Friendly Hills Inn – (562) 698-6731
Holiday Inn – (714) 739-8500
Lambert Inn – (562) 693-1099
Pacific Palms Resort – (626) 810-4455
Vagabond Inn Whittier – (562) 698-9701

PLAY

Automobile Club of Southern California – (562) 698-3721
Beauty Lush Salon and Spa – (562) 665-9176
Candlewood Country Club – (562) 941-1228 x226
Children's Museum at La Habra – (562) 905-9693
Chorale Bel Canto – (888) 460-9222
Dream Event DJs – (714) 749-8828
Fejjab Spa – (562) 351-6430
Friendly Hills Country Club – (562) 698-0331
Havana House Cigars & Lounge – (562) 698-2245
Icon Volleyball Club – (562) 631-0130
L.A. Dance Connection – (562) 693-9202
M & M Sports Massage – (562) 693-6670
Pacific Palms Resort – (626) 810-4455
Picasso Medical Aesthetics & Spa – (562) 945-1830
Ravello Bar & Grill – (562) 945-8723
Ritz Gardens Banquets, LLC – (562) 902-8755
RMH Entertainment – (562) 693-9911
Salon Cheval – (562) 696-7979
Secure Transportation Company – (800) 997-1952
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Turnbull's Tavern – (562) 693-7773
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Whittier Art Association & Gallery – (562) 698-8710
Whittier College – (562) 907-5043
Whittier Community Theatre – (562) 696-0600
Whittier Museum/Whittier Historical Society – (562) 945-3871 x102
Whittier Pony Baseball – (562) 322-3011
Whittier Regional Symphony – (562) 698-8626
Whittier Village Stadium Cinemas – (562) 945-5271
YMCA of Greater Whittier – (562) 907-6530



- for a complete, updated list
- for a visual directory of places to treat your loved ones
- for places to Eat, Shop, Stay, and Play!





City Of Whittier UPDATE



MAYOR

Joe Vinatieri



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you to the Whittier Chamber for hosting yet another successful Business Expo last month at the Whittier Community Center. Cheers to those of you who made it out and enjoyed some good old-fashioned networking. It's a testament to the Chamber to see such a strong, proactive and engaged business community. I hope you enjoyed kicking off the New Year, enjoying food from some of our best local restaurants and getting to know many of your fellow Whittier businesses, big and small!

Coming off our 2018 Most Business-Friendly City award from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, our City of Whittier staff is energized and committed to bringing that same energy and assistance into 2019. Working with our local partners and leveraging our collective resources, allows us to help anyone from the emerging entrepreneur to the corporate institution. The City's Economic Development homepage links directly to a shared County-wide site selection 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 businesses looking to come to town or relocate. The "Guide to Doing Business in Whittier", plus a staff personally dedicated to assisting businesses with all of their permitting and development needs, round out the ways in which we dedicate resources to helping our businesses grow and thrive.

The City's outcomes-based budgeting approach has led the City to receive, for the seventh year in a row, the Operating Budget Excellence Award for our fiscal year 2018-2019 from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. As you know, we are a no/low property tax city (meaning we have a lower portion of property taxes you pay coming to our city in comparison to most cities), and we are absolutely dedicated to ensuring your tax dollars are used efficiently while providing the high level of service and

responsiveness you have come to expect from Whittier. The City Council will kick off the next year's budget planning process at our February 12 meeting, when we will explore opportunities to leverage community resources, know-how and commitment to ensure our businesses continue thriving and our residential neighborhoods are safe and prosperous in every economic cycle. However, we have some major fiscal challenges on the near horizon. Visit www.cityofwhittier.org to find out more about our Council meetings and to learn more about growing your business in 2019.

The City of Whittier is also excited to begin offering to our residents cleaner, renewable energy through the Clean Power Alliance starting this month! Customers should have received an automatic pre-enrollment notice indicating that you will begin receiving the Clean Power rate, which is the 50% renewable energy generation the City selected. Once enrolled, customers can upgrade to the 100% Green Power level, select the 36% Lean Power level or opt out entirely. With Clean Power Alliance, you will continue to receive the same delivery system, billing and support for your home or business that you've always known from Southern California Edison (SCE), and SCE will continue to deliver power to your home or business, send one bill and be responsible for resolving any issues with your electricity service. Clean Power Alliance service for non-residential customers (i.e. commercial, municipal, industrial and agricultural) will begin in May 2019. Starting in March, these customers will begin receiving notices in the mail letting them know about their new energy supply choices with Clean Power Alliance. Visit www.cleanpoweralliance.org for a list of frequently asked questions, a bill comparison tool and more information on how Whittier is supporting building a greener, more sustainable future for our community.

Speaking of sustainability and future

plans, have you downloaded the new ShakeAlertLA app for your phone yet? This early warning system could make all the difference during an emergency by offering a head start notice that an earthquake is about to take place. It also provides tips and information on preparing for the next quake. Through this new technology, you will be able to receive an alert advising you to seek shelter and prepare for the shaking, which may be just enough time to take safety precautions for yourself or members of your family. The app is available for both iPhone and Android devices. Learn more at www.shakealert.org.

Figuratively shaking things up in town, development has picked up and you'll continue to see more projects taking shape over the next few months. We are excited to see The Groves in Whittier at the former Fred C. Nelles site transform and begin construction in 2019. Once completed, the new lifestyle center will be anchored by prominent retailers and top notch restaurants offering new shopping choices and gathering spaces for residents and visitors. Uptown Whittier is also bustling and we hope to see new restaurants at the Nixon building, the former Amber Blu site and the former Forkin Good location in the coming months offering communal dining, ethnic cuisine and upscale vegetarian and vegan options.

Finally, please save the date for the annual Silver Shield Awards Banquet on Friday, February 22, at the Pacific Palms Resort honoring the brave men and women of the Whittier Police Department. The event is a great way for Whittier residents and businesses to show our gratitude to local law enforcement 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 to recognize our dedicated officers.

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

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Continued from front page



harassment instructor and investigator who will provide an overview of the prohibitions against harassment, discrimination, and retaliation under state and federal law. The training will include:

- Examples of what constitutes unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation in the workplace
- Remedies and solutions available to employees
- Real-life hypothetical and practical information
- Interactive question-and-answer session

Cost for the 2-hour supervisor training is \$50 for Chamber members; \$65 for nonmembers. Also included in the supervisor training is a session on background screening best practices. Cost for the 1-hour employee training is \$30 for Chamber members; \$45 for nonmembers. All trainings will follow the same time schedule with supervisor training from 8-10 a.m., background screening best practices from 10 – 10:30 a.m. and employee training from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. All attendees will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training session. While other options are available for this required training, this live and interactive training by experts offers the best way to educate your employees. Visit www.whittierchamber.com to register you and your employees today.

There will be a limited number of seats available at each training session, so reserve your seats early at www.whittierchamber.com. If you have a large group of employees that need to be trained, contact the Chamber office at (562) 698-9554 for information on live webinars or on-site training.

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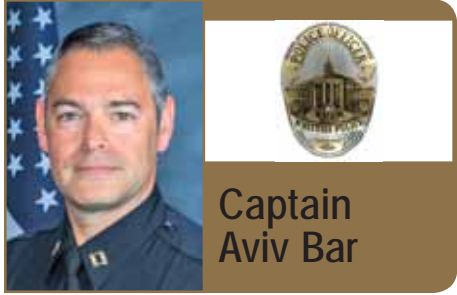
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City Of Whittier UPDATE



10-4 tips from the



Captain Aviv Bar

Getting Pulled Over

Officers make traffic stops for various reasons, the most common reason is for traffic violations, but we also make traffic stops relating to criminal investigations, calls about suspicious activity, stolen cars, and cars that show warrants when we run the license plate - just a few examples.

A traffic stop is one of the most dangerous activities an officer does during a workday. Rarely does a month go by without some video online of a traffic stop where the driver shot at or assaulted the police officer. When an officer pulls a car over for a violation, they have no idea who the driver or passengers are... it's a BIG unknown that can end up being a mom on the way to pick up a kid from baseball practice or a wanted armed convicted felon, determined not to return to prison.

This "unknown" keeps every officer at a very high state of readiness as they approach a vehicle after pulling it over. As you look in your mirrors, you may see the officer observe your car for a bit, they may have their hand on their weapon as they walk up, they may place their hand on your trunk, and they may stop to look at the back seat and inside your car for a bit before they walk up to your window. Some of these actions may appear to be "stand-offish" but they are simply safety and readiness procedures officers follow to make sure they are safe and ready in case a violent confrontation takes place. We say in our profession that we

always "hope for the best, but prepare for the worst".

We expect our officers to be courteous and professional, and to provide the reason for the stop when they talk to the driver. Because hands can hold or reach for weapons, officers will expect to see your hands when they interact with you - best practice is to keep your hands on the steering wheel. The officer may actually ask you "can you keep your hands where I can see them please?" - Nothing personal here and not implying that you are a bad person... but hands are a huge safety concern for officers during a traffic stop. You will be asked to provide a driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. Because your hands will be heading into glove boxes, wallets and purses, let the officer know where things are located.

If a driver is issued a citation, a signature is not an admission of guilt - just a promise to appear in court. Any argument or disagreement about the violations will need to take place in court. It doesn't happen often, but refusing to sign a citation means that we have to take the driver into custody and bring them to court.

Traffic stops are stressful experiences for drivers and officers alike... common courtesy and safety considerations will help reduce tension and anxiety for everyone involved.

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

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS



Whittier Chamber and community members gather to celebrate the ribbon cutting ceremony for Whittier's newest pizza restaurant, Pizza 21!



WHAT'S COOL IN YOUR SCHOOL

Rio Hondo College receives \$664,000 federal childcare grant to boost college attendance by parents

Rio Hondo College will receive \$664,220 in federal grant dollars over the next four years to remove financial barriers to childcare that can prevent students with children from attending college.

The Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant will provide the College with \$166,055 annually to subsidize up to 75 percent of the cost of childcare for parents who are Pell Grant recipients or Pell Grant eligible.

When added to state funds received by Rio Hondo College for its on-campus Child Development Center (CDC), the grant provides the opportunity to eliminate costs for childcare for parents in need. The federal dollars will be provided on a sliding scale, depending on family need.

"Rio Hondo College is deeply committed to providing the promise of a higher education to all members of a community as a pathway to a more fulfilled life," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "Childcare costs are a significant barrier to achieving that dream."

CDC Director Shireetha Gethers, Ed.D., said the College is committed to serving as many parents as possible. Already this year, the CDC expanded

its service to 2-year-old children. The service means parents no longer need to wait to potty train their children before taking advantage of the College's stellar facilities.

With a capacity to serve 105 children, the CDC currently has openings available in classrooms serving all ages.

"Rio Hondo College's CDC offers a range of preschool and transitional services to children from ages 2 to 5," Gethers said. "This grant will expand our ability to provide parents with not only the convenience of childcare on campus, but top-level services to ensure their children get the best possible start on their own educational paths."

The grant will fund a new administrative position to manage CCAMPIS programs, which include a slate of parenting classes and regular visits with a counselor for parents.

The CDC - which provides care from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Friday in coordination with the College's academic schedule - is also applying for accreditation by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The accreditation, which will take more than a year to complete, is a voluntary step that will signify the high-quality early-learning services Rio Hondo College's CDC offers.

2 new ways to stay connected to your community!



1... get the free app

Search WHITTIER CHAMBER in the app store

Easily register for events, browse the community calendar, read member news, search our directory of members and access the Business Focus Newspaper and At A Glance E-newsletter. The Whittier Chamber app makes it easy for you to enjoy all the features of whittierchamber.com conveniently on your mobile device. Available in the Apple Store and Play Store

2... visit ExploreWhittier.com

Discover great local places to EAT. SHOP. STAY. and PLAY

Looking for something fun to do in Whittier? Want to try a new restaurant? Are you in need of a little pampering? Check out this searchable visual directory designed to make "shopping local" even easier. Simply click on a category to be directed to great local places to eat, shop, stay and play. Updated daily...



Want to promote your business on ExploreWhittier.com, call the Chamber office at (562) 698-9554 to reserve your spot!

YOU'RE INVITED...

Meet N' Greet Open House

New Member Orientation



Whether you're a new member, a new representative of a current member, or someone who is thinking about joining the Whittier Chamber, this FREE event is for you!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019
9:30 A.M. TO 11 A.M.
WHITTIER CHAMBER OFFICE
 (8158 Painter Ave.)

- Learn what's in it for YOU
- Meet other new members, the Chamber staff, Board of Directors, Ambassadors, and volunteers
- Discover how to maximize your Chamber benefits
- Explore how to market your business through the Chamber!
- Find out what the Chamber does for business

We'd LOVE to know if you're coming! Please RSVP by February 11 to courtney@whittierchamber.com or call (562) 698-9554.



Catering By Herach and Ara: Serving the community for 35 years

For 35 years Catering by Herach and Ara has been putting the SPECIAL in special events throughout Southern California. When asked about their longevity and long-term success as a premiere caterer, owner Ara Balayan humbly replied, "We are successful because of our great and committed staff; the quality of our products (we don't take short cuts), fair and reasonable pricing and most importantly... our consistency. We are honored to have a long list of returning customers, some of whom we have had the pleasure of working with for over 20 years on corporate and private events. We will continue to serve them as long as they need us." In addition, Catering by Herach and Ara has been fortunate to have some long term and loyal employees like executive chef, Juan Tafoya (22 years) and Kenya Delgado; Jose Haro; Francisco Galiana; Maricela Varela and Martin Hernandez who have been part of the team for over 10 years.

The creative chefs from Catering by Herach and Ara have tantalized many guests with their original recipes and continental menus includes Italian, Mexican, Chinese, Mediterranean and Japanese cuisine. Some of Ara's most memorable catering events include serving the royal family of Saudi Arabia for ten days in 1989 during the Gulf War, receiving film credits on movies starring Ned Beatty, Heather Locklear and the Carradine brothers, the joy of countless wedding and corporate events...and the challenge of trying to serve 1,000 in under one hour!

Catering by Herach and Ara has always given back to the community. "My philosophy has been that business, small or large, is always a two-way street. As a business owner I feel I have a responsibility to give back to the community so we all may prosper. If it turns in to a 'take all – keep all' mentality no business will have the support of the community," explained Balayan. Catering by Herach and Ara has proudly supported the Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier, local YMCAs, the Arthritis Foundation, March of Dimes, ALS, the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit organizations over the years. "I feel we have been blessed to have the support of the local community and that has helped make our business thrive and succeed. For this, I am very thankful," concluded Balayan.



Catering by Herach and Ara was established in 1984. They are a full-service catering company that offers complete event planning, staffing and coordination of rentals and equipment. Themed parties, props and support equipment are available to help make your event as unique and memorable as possible. Catering by Herach and Ara is fully licensed, insured and experienced. They offer basic drop-off service, "family" style and full formal silver service with professional uniformed attendants. It is their pleasure to make sure your event is planned and orchestrated successfully.



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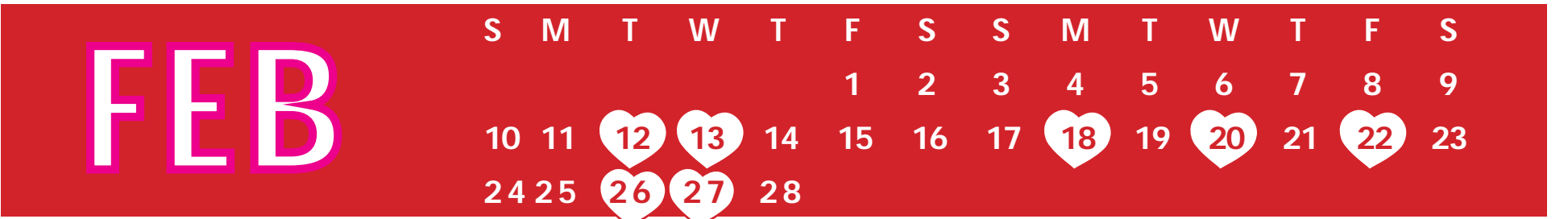
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February 1, 8, 15 & 22

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.

Live Jazz Night @ Crepes & Grapes Café (6560 Greenleaf Ave.) 7 to 9 p.m. Live Jazz featuring Edmund Velasco and Mark Massey with ½ off select bottles of wine. No cover charge. For more information, visit www.crepesandgrapescafe.com/events

FEB 2

Coffee with Congresswoman Linda Sanchez @ La Monarca Bakery (6001 Rosemead Blvd.) 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please join Congresswoman Linda Sanchez to meet and have an intimate discussion on issues that are important to you. Free to attend. RSVP to www.eventbrite.com/e/coffee-with-the-congresswoman-tickets-54891026538

Quartermania @ Whittier High School Cafeteria (12417 E. Philadelphia St.) 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring quarters for bidding and dollars for shopping opportunities, shared-pot & merchandise drawings, live & silent auctions. \$15 per person. For more information, call (562) 698-8121 x2010

FoxTale Entertainment presents Queen Nation @ Whittier Center Theatre (7630 Washington Ave.) 7 to 9 p.m. Come and watch the world's longest running and most popular Queen tribute band. General seating \$25; premium seating \$28. Purchase tickets at queentributewhittier.brownpapertickets.com

Stan Ridgway "Songs and Stories" @ Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts at Whittier College (6760 Painter Ave.) 7:30 to 10 p.m. Stan Ridgway returns to the Shannon Center, with Pietra Wexstun (vocals, keyboards), Joe Berardi (drums & percussion) and special guest Petra Haden. \$30 per person. To purchase tickets, visit www.shannoncenter.org

FEB 3

Whittier Regional Symphony presents Fame and Fortune @ Vic Lopez Auditorium at Whittier High School (12417 E. Philadelphia St.) 3 to 5 p.m. Great composers who found praise as "outsiders" and YAC winner Violinist Aubree Oliverson. Admission is free, donations are accepted. For more information, call (562) 698-8626

FEB 7

Youth of the Year @ Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts (6760 Painter Ave.) 6 to 9 p.m. Celebrate youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character and accomplishments. \$25/person. Purchase tickets by calling (562) 945-787 x114

FEB 8

Free Record-Clearing Assistance Clinic @ Rio Hondo College Board Room (3600 Workman Mill Road) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If your criminal record is a barrier to opportunities, attend this free clinic to consider your options and meet with attorney's and paralegals. Free parking in student lots. To schedule an appointment, call (562) 463-7066 or (562) 463-3133

SI Whittier Dreamliner - Aloha! Cruise @ Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Whittier (7320 Greenleaf Ave.) 5:30 to 9 p.m. Soroptimist International of Whittier is hosting their annual fundraiser, "SI Whittier Dreamliner - Aloha Cruise" and is inviting the community. \$80 per person. For more information, visit info@siwhittier.org

FEB 9

Charles Phoenix – Addicted to Americana @ Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts @ Whittier College (6760 Painter Ave.) Charles Phoenix is known for his live comedy slide show performances, madcap Test Kitchen videos, "field trip" tours, and colorful coffee table books, all celebrating classic and kitschy American life and style. General \$30; Student & Child \$10. Tickets available for purchase at www.shannoncenter.org

FEB 12

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 13

New Member Orientation and Open House @ The Whittier Chamber Office (8158 Painter Ave.) 9:30 to 11 a.m. All new and prospective members are welcome to come and learn all about the chamber and how to use your membership. FREE. For more information call the Chamber (562) 698-9554

Black Lives Matter Founding Member Dr. Melina Abdullah @ Rio Hondo College Wray Theater (3600 Workman Mill Road) 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Listen to Dr. Abdullah examine the interracial alliances and coalitions that have been successful in the past and the prospects for Black-Brown solidarity for the future. Free admission. For more information email rcastaneda-calleros@riohondo.edu

FEB 17

Felici Piano Trio @ Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts @ Whittier College (6760 Painter Ave.) 2 to 4 p.m. The Felici Piano Trio is the musical home of Belgian pianist Steven Vanhauwaert German violinist Rebecca Hang and American cellist Brian Schuld. General \$25; Seniors \$20; Students & Children \$10. To purchase tickets, visit www.shannoncenter.org

FEB 18

CHAMBER OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS DAY

FEB 20

Wake Up Whittier @ YMCA of Greater Whittier (12510 Hadley St.) 7:30 a.m. 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 or visit www.whittierchamber.com for more information.

Ribbon Cutting @ Arden Escrow Services, Inc. (14831 Whittier Blvd. Ste 102) 4 p.m. Stay for networking and light refreshments. Free to attend. For more information call (562) 698-9554

FEB 22

2019 Silver Shield Awards Banquet @ Pacific Palms Resort (One Industry Hills Pkwy.) 5:30 p.m. Registration, 6:30 p.m. Dinner. Awards banquet and appreciation dinner honoring the men and 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

FEB 23

East Whittier Lions Wine Tasting Charity Event @ Whittwood Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Ave.) 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join the East Whittier Lions for a wine tasting event with appetizers, raffle prizes, a silent auction and much more! \$55 per ticket or \$100 for two. For more information call (562) 201-1941

FEB 26

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 @ La Casita Olvera (16258 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. For more information, visit www.whittierchamber.com.

FEB 27

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training @ Parnell Park (15390 Lambert Rd.) 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This on-site training will be conducted by an experienced sexual harassment instructor and investigator who will provide an overview of the prohibitions against harassment, discrimination, and retaliation under state and federal law. Prices vary, contact the Whittier Chamber (562) 688-8554 for more information or register online at whittierchamber.com

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WAKE UP WHITTIER



Whittier Chamber Board President Gary Lee Martinez with The Traveling Traveler thanks Rio Hondo College President/Superintendent Teresa Dreyfuss for hosting another successful networking breakfast on behalf of the Chamber



The Shelter's Right Hand-Auxiliary to The Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter celebrates 25 years as a Whittier Chamber member with a certificate from Board President, Gary Lee Martinez



Gary Lee Martinez, Whittier Chamber Board President presents Shannon Gimbel-Hammer from Shannon G's Flowers, Party Planning, Gifts & More a certificate celebrating 15 years as a Whittier Chamber member



Kim Praster from The Skin Room accepts a certificate celebrating 5 years as a Whittier Chamber member



The Chamber congratulates the Assistance League of Whittier on 15 years as a Whittier Chamber member



Whittier City Police Officers attend Wake Up Whittier in support of the 21st Annual Silver Shields Awards Banquet

WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

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Matthew 5:4



LABOR LAW



How to allow employees to take vacation before accruing the time

By David Leporiere, Cal Chamber Alert

I want my employees to have 10 days of vacation each year, but I don't want them to have to wait to use it while it accrues. Can I just give them a lump sum of 10 days of vacation at the beginning of each year?

In 1982, the California Supreme Court issued its decision in the case of *Suastez v. Plastic Dress-up Co.* (31 Cal 3d 774).

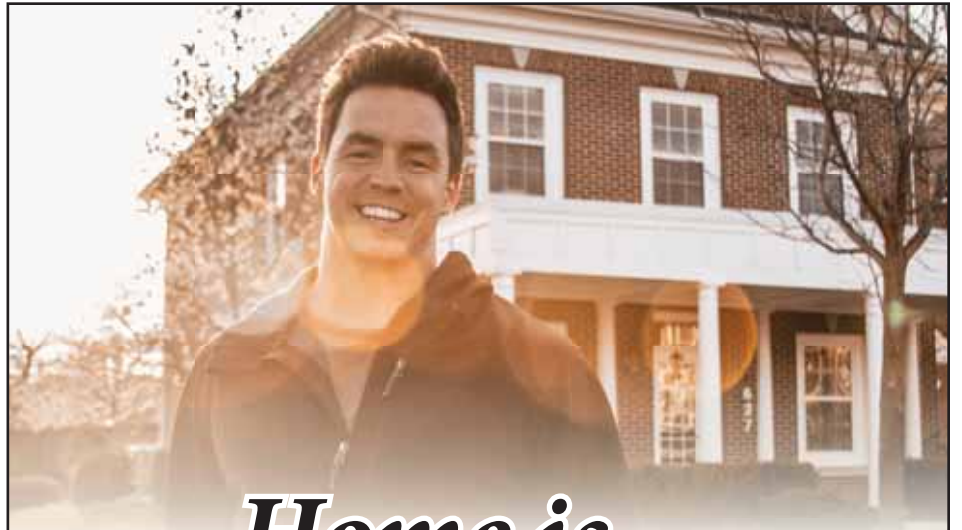
In that case, the court held that vacation entitlements constitute deferred wages which vest as they are earned, and any entitlement to vacation is a proportionate right and vests as labor is rendered (*Division of Labor Standards Enforcement Policies and Interpretations Manual*, Section 15.1.1).

Since that time, the State of California has taken the position that vacation benefits may be provided only on an accrual basis, and not in a lump sum format.

If you don't want to make your employees wait to use their vacation until it has fully accrued, you can allow them to take the time off before the entire yearly amount has accrued. You can allow the employees to take more paid vacation time off than they have accrued, which would result in a negative balance in their vacation account. You can set a limit on how far into the negative you will allow an employee to go before he/she can no longer take paid time off.

If the employee has a negative balance, that amount will shrink as the employee works throughout the year, and it will eventually return to a positive balance, provided the employee does not leave his/her employment while having a negative balance in his/her account.

If the employee's employment ends while he/she has a negative vacation balance, you are entitled to recover the value of that vacation that was advanced; however, it cannot be done through a payroll deduction.



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AROUND TOWN

5K Walk in Uptown Whittier to benefit victims of domestic violence

Registration is underway for the Shelter's Right Hand 23rd Annual "Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence" 5K Fitness Walk to benefit the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter. On April 13, 2019, hundreds of community members and Honorary Chairperson, Debi Crawford, are expected to step out in support of victims of domestic violence. From Central Park, walkers will follow a 3.1 mile scenic walk through historic residential and business districts of Uptown Whittier.

The Shelter's Right Hand is pleased

to announce that Crawford's Putty and Janice Hahn Fourth District, County of Los Angeles are the presenting sponsors of the Walk. Generous grants from these sponsors make it possible for all entry fees, sponsorships, and individual donations to go directly to the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter.

For registration and event information, visit the Shelter's Right Hand website at www.sheltersrighthand.org. Donations to benefit the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter are payable to Shelter's Right Hand, P.O. Box 9304, Whittier, CA 90608.

Hillcrest Festival celebrating its 59th year

Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts will be celebrating its 59th year February 22-24, 2019 at Hillcrest Congregational Church in La Habra Heights. Nearly two hundred artists will be exhibiting and selling their artwork, and many artists will 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.

Admission and parking for the festival is free to all attendees. Festival hours are 10:00 am – 5:00 pm on Friday and Saturday, and 11:30 am – 5:00 pm on Sunday. For more information visit hillcrestfestivaloffinearts.com.

The Whittier Art Gallery's February Display

This month at The Whittier Art Gallery you can find two great displays all month long. From February 6-9, 2019 you can view My Quilt Studio, 3rd Exhibition, a showcase for 12 dedicated quilters. Learn the history behind quilts and how they were never considered fine art. From February 13-23, 2019 you

can find Beloved Journey: Paintings by Francisca which includes fine paintings in watercolor, collage, acrylic, pastel and oil. The public is invited to a reception for this artist on Saturday, February 16 at 5 p.m. For more information on these displays or the reception, please call the Gallery at (562) 698-8710.

Spring job, internship and resource fair

The Center for Career and Re-Entry Services at Rio Hondo College cordially invites you to participate in their Spring Job, Internship and Resource Fair on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event will allow students to network with recruiters to discuss employment and internship opportunities. The participation fee is \$120 for one recruiter and \$15 for each additional recruiter. After March 31st, registration will increase to \$130.00.

The registration fee includes the opportunity to meet and talk with students, continental breakfast and lunch, table with chairs, canopies will not be guaranteed (we have limited number of canopies available, we ask if you have one to please bring it) and free parking. To register as an employer and more information, please visit whittierchamber.com under Member News for full details.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier to name Youth of the Year on February 7th, 2019

Youth of the Year presented by Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuaries is a cornerstone of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier experience. It celebrates youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character and accomplishments. This year, Samantha G. (Whittier High School), Arianna C. (Whittier High School), Maricruz P. (El Rancho High School) and Kaylene R. (La Serna High School) will compete to be named Youth of the Year.

The winner will be announced on

February 7th, 2019 at the Ruth B. Shannon Center at Whittier College. Event begins at 6 p.m. for hor d'oeuvres and ceremony begins at 7 p.m. Winner of the first round will move forward to Los Angeles competition with the chance of being named Los Angeles County Youth of the Year. Tickets are available online at www.bgcw.org or by contacting Wendy Murrietta at (562) 945-3787 ext. 114. For the full story, visit whittierchamber.com under Member News.

Whittier High School Theatre Company Spring Musical

The Whittier High School Theatre Co. is staging its spring musical, The Drowsy Chaperone on March 14-16 and are asking the community for assistance. There are several different ways to support the production, purchase tickets to attend the performance, sponsor a cast or crew member, purchase advertisement space in their program, donate prizes for their silent auction or make a cash donation. If you are interested in donating, please contact Whittier High School at (562) 698-8121 x2010.



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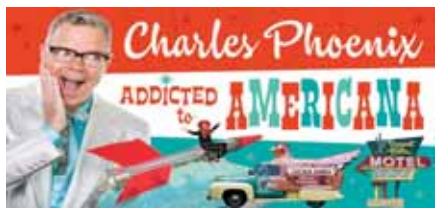
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(562) 698-9771

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Stone, Dr. Barbara S.

Birt, Cindy

Law Office of Robert L. Haendiges
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Tanabe, Theodore A., D.D.S.
(562) 698-0387

Blake P. Sanborn Insurance Agency, Inc.
(562) 943-7174

M & M Glass, Inc.
(562) 945-6212

Town House of Whittier
(562) 236-9069

Bob & Dave's Towing Inc.
(562) 693-9596

Ocean Honda of Whittier
(562) 280-2838

West Coast Arborists, Inc.
(714) 991-1900

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Shannon, Ruth B.

Whittier High School Alumni Assoc.
(562) 698-8121 X1227

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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 and our wellness protocols may be the answer you've been looking for...

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"When Dr. Yani and I went over my X-rays I was afraid I would need surgery on my neck. She reassured me that she could help me. I did exactly what Dr. Yani instructed me to do at home...icing my upper back and daily stretches. I truly believe that with the Proadjuster and Dr. Yani's help I was able to feel like my old self again. I can't believe how fast I felt the improvement and I'm even sleeping better too. I'm so happy! Thank you again Dr. Yani for all that you do for your patients."
- Veronica Hernandez



For more information, please contact Dr. Yani Feliciano at:
Friends Chiropractic
6736 Friends Avenue
Whittier, CA 90601
Tel (562) 698-1275
www.proadjusterchiropractic.net



JOIN ME IN BECOMING A CHAMBER MEMBER

TESTIMONIAL



“ I joined the Whittier Chamber in July of 2018 because it is one of the best and most effective ways to network with local business owners and community leaders. Since joining the Whittier Chamber has been very supportive, not only by providing several regular networking events but also in helping to promote my business. Every local business should consider joining the Chamber. Your returns will significantly exceed your investment. ”



John Bogdanov;
Telworx Inc.

Congratulations to our Milestone Members this month!

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Yvonne Alfaro
Whittier, CA
Phone: (562) 706-7736
Email: 1agentalfaro@gmail.com



LA/OC Latin Professionals mission is to assist and support all small businesses by forming a strong organization that empowers each and every business as well as the communities around them through a united standard of ethics, honesty, integrity, hard work, and self worth. They are always helping each other through referrals to assist others and their businesses as well. "Unidos hacemos la diferencia".

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Email: garok@myworldenterprises.com
Website: www.lovealondras.com



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15 Reasons You Should Join the Whittier Chamber of Commerce

Have you considered joining the Whittier Chamber? Are you wondering if it's worth the investment? Or maybe you haven't considered it at all because you think it's the kind of thing that only insurance agents do. Maybe you think your business is too small or chamber membership isn't necessary in today's world. Before we get into why you should have a chamber membership for your business, it's important to know that the Whittier Chamber – and all chambers of commerce – on a local, state, and national level are advocating for your business (and other businesses in their area) even if you never join the chamber. Chambers have a legislative agenda that reflects the needs of businesses in their area. This advocacy is happening on your behalf at no cost to you. However, if you want your specific concerns and voice to be heard, being a member is a good way to do this.

Besides being an advocate for your business, why should you join the chamber, and does it make sense for your business? You can decide after understanding some of the benefits of joining the chamber. While specific benefits vary by chamber of commerce, with membership at the Whittier Chamber you:

1. Are part of a like-minded group dedicated to helping business
2. Are able to seek assistance or mentorship from established business people.
3. Can advise the chamber of the needs of your particular industry
4. Can host a meeting at the chamber office (for a small fee). This is a

good benefit for new businesses and entrepreneurs who work from their homes but need an office or meeting space

5. Will be made aware of legislative issues facing your business. There's a lot that goes on in the local, state, and federal levels, too much for the average business owner to track on their own. The chamber will help keep you informed about issues that could affect you like taxation, legalization, and permitting issues

6. May be a part of free "How To's" and other learning session topics to help your business-like workplace safety or employment law changes

7. Might be able to lead a session in your area of expertise to better position yourself as an industry expert and put you in contact with the types of people who need your business or service

8. Are eligible to be a part of a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Chambers may also help with other special business milestones like anniversaries and expansions.

9. Will be included in the Chamber's shop local campaigns

10. Are able to get great exposure for your business on the Chamber's website with a complimentary listing

11. Will get seen in the Chamber's Business Directory. The Whittier Chamber has online and printed forms of online directories that may help your business get more traffic and customers

12. Will benefit from the Chamber

being a resource for the community. If you'd like help connecting to a certain part or person within the community, the Chamber may just be able to help

13. Access to online resources. The Chamber has free webinars and resources available to you and your employees

14. Will benefit from an experienced staff of 6 who can help you customize a marketing plan that fits your needs and budget

15. Will likely receive referrals from the Chamber. You'd be surprised how

many people contact the Chamber for opinions on local businesses. You have local citizens and travelers who see the Whittier Chamber as a reliable source for information

If you have a business need, it's likely the Whittier Chamber can help you in some way. They'll either be able to provide direct solutions or connect you with others who can help you solve your business challenges.

Are you in? Call the Whittier Chamber today to sign up and start enjoying the benefits of membership!



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