

## It Is Imperative We Support The Greenleaf Promenade Project

Uptown Whittier is a cherished jewel of the city that has long awaited revival. Plans for revitalization have surfaced many times over the past three decades, yet tangible progress has not been realized. However, amid these challenges, the Greenleaf Promenade project has emerged as a generational opportunity, representing a significant commitment to breathe new life into the area.

In 1987, Whittier faced a formidable trial when a powerful earthquake struck, causing widespread destruction amounting to an estimated \$100 million. At that time, City leaders pledged to rebuild and revitalize Uptown Whittier in response, setting the stage for subsequent efforts.

Despite these many attempts, the execution of revitalization plans stumbled over the years. The unveiling of the Uptown Specific Plan in the early 1990s was a key moment but failed to translate into substantial progress. Subsequent strategic planning in 2008 outlined ambitious goals, including housing units and commercial space construction, but faced significant challenges and delays. Parking infrastructure, critical to revitalization efforts, encountered numerous hurdles over the years, reflecting the challenges impeding progress. However, in December 2023, the Whittier City Council voted to allocate \$20 million to the revitalization of Uptown Whittier, marking the inception of the

Greenleaf Promenade project.

The Greenleaf Promenade project holds immense promise for Uptown Whittier's future. Beyond token fixtures and limited urban renewal, it aims to stimulate the economy, elevate property values, and instill civic pride in our community. By creating vibrant public spaces and enhancing walkways, it will attract residents, businesses, and visitors, revitalizing the district — a result long overdue. The project will benefit everyone, including the businesses and building owners many of whom are Whittierites; lifelong and those who came here to make it home.

However, the journey towards revitalization comes with serious challenges. Special interest groups continue to impede progress, hindering efforts to address the genuine needs of the community. Despite these obstacles, the Greenleaf Promenade represents a rare opportunity to realize the long-awaited revitalization of Uptown Whittier. We must seize this opportunity now!

Three groups within the city are united in this effort — Uptown Whittier Improvement Association, Whittier Uptown Association, and Whittier Chamber of Commerce — to drive this project forward and transform Uptown for future generations. This coalition of Whittier community members has been built and is growing daily. **A website, [www.reviveuptown.com](http://www.reviveuptown.com) has been**



**launched by the members. Share this website with members of your organization; our collective voice is needed now more than ever.** Whittier stakeholders are rallying behind the Greenleaf Promenade project. By supporting proactive urban renewal initiatives, we can build a prosperous Uptown Whittier and turn the promise of the Greenleaf Promenade into reality.

*See what's inside*

**page 6-7**  
Whittier Chamber Celebrates 110 Years

**page 12-13**  
Spring Cleaning

## Whittier Chamber Awards Randy Basurto Scholarships to Six Seniors

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**WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
8158 Painter Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90602



At the latest Wake Up Whittier at the Community Center, the Whittier Chamber celebrated the achievements of six outstanding seniors from its Student Chamber Program who were awarded the prestigious Randy Basurto Scholarship. This scholarship, a testament to the memory of the late Randy Keith Basurto, a dedicated

board member and volunteer, aims to support the educational endeavors of deserving high school seniors in the Whittier Union High School District. Randy, who tragically passed away from a heart attack at the age of 46 in 1998, continues to be honored through this scholarship fund. Each recipient is recognized for their academic

excellence, active participation in school activities, and their significant contributions to the local business community.

The scholarship awards, totaling \$500 each, are intended to assist the recipients in pursuing their chosen educational paths, whether in college, trade school, or professional certification programs. The event not only celebrated the achievements of these exceptional students but also highlighted the community's generosity in supporting their futures.

Andrew Escamilla from La Serna High School, Kevyn Garcia from California High School, Emily Gonzalez from California High School, Joseph Iacobucci from Pioneer High School, Yolanda Mares from Whittier High School, and Erik Villa from Whittier High School were the proud recipients of this year's scholarships.

*Continued on page 9*

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2024-2025 Board of Directors

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Shannon Hammer, Shannon G'S Flowers

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Boys & Girls Club of Whittier | Pico Rivera

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Jere E. McDonald, An Accountancy Corp.

Marc Patterson,

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Whittier Chamber Business Focus Official Publication of the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce

This publication is mailed to 12,000 licensed businesses in the city of Whittier, all Whittier Chamber members, and Whittier residents in selected areas.

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

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

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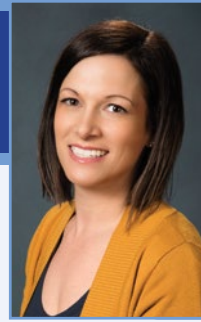
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Shannon G'S Flowers

Shannon Hammer, Chair of the Board

Greetings all! My name is Shannon Hammer and I am the proud owner of Shannon G's Flowers in Whittier. I am honored to serve as the Chamber's Chair of the Board of Directors this year. Thank you to our past Chair, Gregg Durkee, for his service to the Whittier community. The Chamber's great performance this last year is the direct result of his leadership.

Our Board is made up of a group of very dedicated individuals who bring diverse talents and experiences to the organization. I am excited to work with each of them this year. Together with staff, we are committed to building a prosperous community through business leadership.

As a business owner myself, I have seen how instrumental the Chamber

has been in helping to expand my customer base, helping to promote our business and encouraging involvement in the Whittier community. A thriving business community is an element of a healthy community, and I'm proud to bridge the two together in this role.

As we embark on this new chapter together, I'm excited to join forces with the Chamber's member businesses, advancing the Chamber's mission and standing as a dedicated champion for the business community. I am a firm believer that anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you. And I am confident that through the joint collaboration of our Chamber Board, our City Council and the many wonderful stakeholders of Whittier—that great things are in store for us as we continue to work

together!

While the pandemic has concluded, many of our businesses are still in the ongoing process of recovery. A process which has only been exacerbated by inflation and the increasing costs of goods, services, labor and nearly all aspects of running a business. Throughout the post-pandemic recovery process, the Chamber remains a reliable resource for our community, providing support through educational initiatives, advocacy, marketing, and networking opportunities.

Continued on page 4



The 110% Club

Thank you to our generous members who have chosen to be part of our 110% Club. Their additional investment of 10% of their dues allows the Chamber to support business growth and strengthen the economic vitality of our region.

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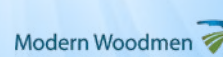


SCAN ME

Celebrating 110 Years as a Chamber! Interested in Joining the 110% Club? Learn More!

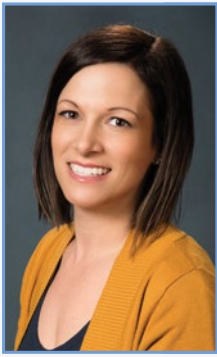
CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

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





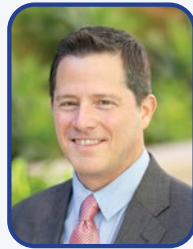
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Chair of the Board



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Gina Lopez



**Immediate Past Chair**  
Gregg Durkee



**Vice Chair - Administration**  
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**Vice Chair - Business Information**  
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**Vice Chair - Community Affairs**  
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**Vice Chair - Finance**  
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**Vice Chair - Marketing & Networking**  
Constanza Pachon



**Vice Chair - Membership**  
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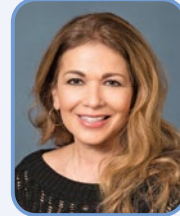
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Paul Hernandez,  
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Kevin Koga,  
PIH Health



Jere McDonald, Jr.,  
Jere E. McDonald,  
An Accountancy Corp.



Antoinette Lou,  
Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary



Marc Patterson,  
East Whittier City School District



Michael Seril,  
Michael Seril Fitness Studio



**Ambassador Chair**  
John Bogdanov,  
Telworx

## Business Leaders Join Chamber Board

Congratulations to the following business and community leaders who were elected by the Chamber membership to represent them on the Board of Directors. Each person will serve a 2-year term, with a maximum of 3 terms.



### Antoinette Lou

As the Director of Community Relations and Communications at Rose Hills, Antoinette Lou plays a pivotal role in shaping the organization's community outreach and communication strategies. With over 19 years of experience in marketing, promotion, events, and community relations, Antoinette brings a wealth of knowledge and creativity to her role.

Since joining Rose Hills in 2014, Antoinette has been instrumental in producing impactful community events, driving business development opportunities, and strengthening relationships within the community. Her dedication to maintaining Rose Hills' brand standards and enhancing the organization's social media presence has been key to its success.

Antoinette holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration – Management and Human Resources from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Her passion for connecting with the community and fostering positive relationships make her an invaluable asset to the team. With a keen eye for detail and a commitment to excellence, Antoinette is truly a driving force behind Rose Hills' community relations and communication efforts.



### Marc Patterson

Marc Patterson was born and raised in Whittier. Marc is now in his seventh year as the Superintendent of the East Whittier City School District which serves 7,800 students from Transitional Kindergarten to 8th Grade. He is extremely proud of the 1,200 employees who serve these amazing students and their families.

EWCSO is committed to preparing everyone of the 7,800 students in the district to be 21st century learners. Each day, the staff works to instill the traits of the 5 Cs into their instruction and overall experiences of their students. These 5 Cs of Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Community go far beyond the content of the grade level. These

5 Cs are critical attributes for students to be successful in school and beyond.

While the district has the highest test scores in the surrounding area, Marc is especially proud of the district's focus on ensuring that all students have access to high quality programs beyond the traditional curriculum. The district is in its second year of offering their Broad Course of Study Program. This program provides Art, Music, Engineering/Robotics, and Physical Education classes, by credentialed teachers to all elementary school students. In addition to this, EWCSO has an extensive after school program where students from across the district can participate in school sponsored clubs, activities, or be a part of their district wide Dance and Coding program. To support this program, the District has created partnerships with a number of Chamber partners to deliver these opportunities.

In his spare time, Marc loves to go to country concerts, relax and watch his sophomore son Jack play on his varsity lacrosse team.



### Michael Seril

Michael Seril was born in the Philippines but hit the ground running in the USA in '85, choosing the serene charm of Lancaster, CA, as his home base. The story takes a turn towards athleticism with Mike dominating varsity sports – basketball, football, wrestling, and volleyball. This early sporting chapter sparked a lasting love for fitness that has become a cornerstone of what he does.

Fast forward to 1999, Mike has earned a degree in Kinesiology Exercise Science, topping it off with a Master's in 2001 from Cal State University Northridge. While navigating the academic hustle, Mike also began personal training at a private studio in Tarzana, CA.

In 2006, Mike was awarded the highly prestigious NSCA (National Strength & Conditioning Association) Personal Trainer of the Year, a national award given to one personal trainer throughout the country. Not just confined to gym walls, Mike also has been recognized and published in over 120 fitness articles including, *Men's Health*, *Shape*, *Muscle & Fitness*, *NY Times*, *Washington Post* and *Reuters Media Company*.

In 2005, MSF Studio was founded in Whittier and in 2006 Channel 7 News honored Mike with the Jefferson Award for commendable community service. Mike also does countless amounts of community service and support for non-profits, including the Boys and Girls Clubs, The Whole Child, The Whittier Community Foundation, Interfaith Food Center, Los Nietos Educational Foundation, CHOC, the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, and many more.

Lastly, Mike enjoys mountain biking, golf, and strolls with his furbaby Eva "Da Diva" Seril. Beyond fitness, Mike Seril's journey is a lifestyle story, inspiring others to break a sweat, give back, and make a lasting impact.



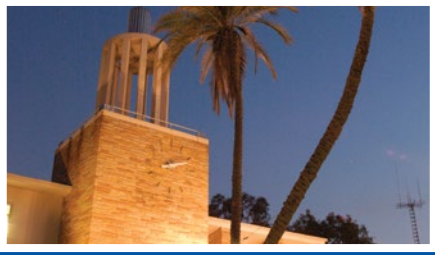
### John Bogdanov

Since joining Telworx at the end of 2014, John has traveled a winding journey during which he has grown from a would-be lone wolf to embracing the support of the teams at Telworx, and master agency under whom they work. He has walked in the shoes of a small business owner, owning a residential assisted living home. He has experienced real estate investing and syndication. Embracing the idea that teaching is the best way to learn, he has taken advantage of the opportunity to learn and teach memory skills to an international audience, as well as financial literacy at USC. Understanding the importance of personal development, John has leveraged the opportunity to be part of a collaboration which has made him an Amazon #1 best-selling author. Most recently, he has been studying how the methods and techniques used by hostage negotiators can be applied to his daily interactions.

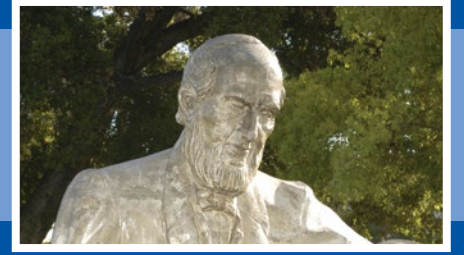
All of these experiences allow John to engage with his clients from different perspectives than that of simply a channel agent. Even more, they allow him to demonstrate his understanding of his clients' perspectives, to articulate the world the way they see it.

The journey led to John making Whittier his home in 2016 and joining the Chamber to represent Telworx in 2018. He has enjoyed serving the Chamber and its membership as an ambassador as well as through participation in several committees including Hathaway and Silver Shield. Outside of Chamber activities, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, serving as a board member of USC Marshall Alumni Association, and occasionally sneaking in a round of golf.





## City Of Whittier UPDATE



### MAYOR'S MESSAGE



MAYOR

Joe Vinatieri



Spring has sprung in Whittier! Thanks to those of you who came out to join us for our annual Eggstravaganza and Keep Whittier Prettier Earth Day clean-up. What makes the City's events so special is the time we spend together as families, neighbors, and friends. As we continue to inch closer to the warm summer months, be sure to visit [www.WhittierRec.com](http://www.WhittierRec.com) and register for a list of new classes, activities, and events happening around town like swim lessons, pickleball, softball, and more. There's something for everyone to enjoy – Whittier's... on the Move!

Thanks to all of you who voted in the General Municipal election last month. I appreciate the opportunity to serve our wonderful community for another term as Mayor and help ensure that Whittier remains a great place to LIVE, WORK, and SHOP for today and future generations. No matter how big or small a decision may be, my objective remains the same: what is best for the people of Whittier. I am focused on making Whittier the best place in Southern California to raise a family (and grandkids too!). I'm honored and humbled to help guide our city forward and continue building on the progress we've made in recent years.

Congratulations are in order for Cathy Warner on her re-election and serving as Mayor Pro Tem representing Council District 3. I also want to welcome our newest City Council member, Mary Ann Pacheco, representing Council District 1. Mary Ann is a great addition to the City Council with a history of educational leadership at Rio Hondo College and community service as a board member for many local organizations. Together with Council members Octavio Martinez and Fernando Dutra, we will be working collaboratively to address challenges and enhance the quality of life for our community. Finally, I'd like to thank outgoing Council member Jessica Martinez for her dedicated service over the last four years – she has been a great team member and we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

It's budget season at the City, which means there's much to consider as we review and analyze revenues, expenditures, and our priorities for the new fiscal year. The City Council and staff will participate in the annual

budget study session during a special City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, which will be streamed live from the City's website and available for viewing on cable channel 3. The fiscal health of our city is of utmost importance, and although this year we are facing some challenges, we remain in a strong position as we kick off another budget cycle. Public safety continues to be our first priority. Thanks to past and current City Council's conservative oversight, as well as the passage of Measure W, the City has been able to continue offering the highest quality service and programming for our community. As always, the Council will be reviewing our programs, services, and operations to ensure efficiency and long-term sustainability and we will be keeping you updated over the next few months on how those funds are being utilized to benefit residents and their families.

As part of the current workplan, the Council continues to prioritize ongoing and future projects that align with our strategic goals related to public safety, financial stability, quality of life, maintaining a strong economic base, and enhancing transparency. In recent weeks, we've achieved some lofty goals including adoption of a Parks Master Plan which will help us assess and prioritize upgrades and improvements at our green spaces; we added new state-of-the-art lighting to the Murphy Ranch Little League fields just in time for the summer baseball season; we finished infrastructure projects including paving heavily traveled Santa Gertrudes Rd. and starting construction on the \$5M Murphy Reservoir Project; and awarded \$186,000 to local social services agencies helping Whittier residents with a variety of needs. Similarly, things to look forward to in the coming months include more park improvements at Kennedy and Broadway Parks, selection of a design for a new 2.14-acre park at First Ave. off the Greenway Trail, and a ribbon cutting for the new pickleball courts at Leffingwell Park; necessary paving of Palm Avenue between Beverly Blvd. and Whittier Blvd.; critical upgrades to Fire Station 17; and the official unveiling of the City's new brand including enhanced gateway monuments and refreshed signage throughout town later this summer. Investment in streetscape beautification and a

walkable, family-friendly promenade along Greenleaf remains a top priority, as is all the other exciting developments happening in Uptown Whittier like the Alpha Beta project on Comstock Ave. and proposed enhancements to King Richard's just down the street, not to mention the much-anticipated opening of Rodeo 72 at The Groves. There's no slowing down now!

As a reminder, I invite all of our local military personnel and veterans to join the City for our annual Memorial Day ceremony at City Hall on Monday, May 27 at 9:00 a.m. Come salute our servicemembers with honorable presentations and hear remarks from City Council members, locals veterans groups, and others. Families are invited to commemorate the national holiday together in front of the Civic Center and thank those men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. I encourage everyone to bring their children to learn that freedom isn't free.

Finally, I want to thank the Parks, Recreation & Community Services team, as well as the dedicated staff at the Whittier Public Library, for the work they are doing to prepare for a lively and engaging summer season. Both departments have a wide variety of interactive events and programs to enjoy like "Read to a Dog," Stay & Play Storytime, and Rec 'N Read at rotating parks, as well as day camps, our popular VolunTEENS program, and our movies and concerts in the park series, just around the corner. Visit [www.WhittierRec.com](http://www.WhittierRec.com) to register for PRCS classes and [www.WhittierLibrary.org](http://www.WhittierLibrary.org) to learn more about participating in the annual summer reading program.

Watch for details on upcoming events by following @WhittierCityGov on social media and participate at City Council meetings the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. On that note, happy Mothers' and Fathers' Day to all the dedicated parents out there and I look forward to seeing you all at the annual Business Expo in June!

#### A Message from the Chair - continued from page 2

The Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce is now in its 110th year of being a leading force in the community in the areas of business development and workforce development. We are proud to serve as the catalyst for business growth, the convener of leaders and influencers to get things done and the champion for a thriving community. As part of our work for this year, we hope to strengthen and create new programs that will

further assist our members, residents, community stakeholders and the City itself. This year, we relaunched the Student Chamber Program in partnership with Whittier Union High School District and have plans to further grow and strengthen the program in the Fall of 2024. The Nonprofit Network program continued this year with even more opportunities to educate our nonprofits, on topics of specific interest to them,

planned for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year. Lastly, the Chamber will be redoubling our advocacy efforts at the State and Local levels by introducing a Legislative Leadership Luncheon series to allow for increased dialogue with our elected officials about issues of importance to the City and the Whittier business community.

Finally, I want to especially thank our membership. All of our efforts are to serve you and help your businesses and

organizations thrive. We can't do this alone and we appreciate your partnership and support. I encourage you to take advantage of all that the Chamber has to offer. We look forward this year to increasing our focus on providing value to you through promotion, education, advocacy, connection, and economic development. I am excited to meet and work with you!



Chief  
Aviv Bar



### Purses and Wallets Do Not Belong In Parked Cars

There are many reasons why you should never ever leave a purse or wallet in a parked vehicle. Here are a few:

- Window smash - at least \$300 to replace
- Lock punch - at least \$300 to replace
- Your credit cards will be maxed out before you discover the break in
- Your debit cards will be maxed out before you discover the break in
- Your checks will be used to fraudulently ravage your bank accounts
- Your ID card and other wallet/purse documents will be used to open lines of credit in your name. Identity theft take years to clean it up.
- Your identity information will be sold to many other crooks
- You will have to cancel all cards, close all bank accounts, reopen new accounts, and reissue cards and checks.

- You will spend hours updating direct deposit, automatic payments, credit cards on file with various websites and provider.
- Having your driver's license or ID card stolen means standing in line at the DMV and no photo ID for a while. Definitely complicates shopping, verifying ID when flying, and making transactions at the bank.

This is what we hear victims sadly go through on a regular basis and we take reports of purses and wallets stolen from cars. You, your family, friends and neighbors can avoid the loss and hassles - don't leave purses or wallets in parked cars - not on the floorboard, not behind the seats, not under the seats, not in the glove box, not in the center console, and not in the trunk. take it with you always.

Vehicle burglaries are almost 100% preventable. If you lock your doors, alarm your vehicle, and leave nothing visible inside, you can reduce the chances of becoming a crime victim.





**SPONSORS**



**GROOVE GARDEN BOOTH**..... (Ballroom) - **\$450**  
 10' x 10' booth space, prime location in the Ballroom, 2 classroom - size covered tables, 2 chairs, special signage, FREE electricity  
**\*\*Participate on the Stage Map for an additional \$50**

**GROOVE GARDEN TABLE**..... (Ballroom) - **\$350**  
 Prime location in the Ballroom, 6-foot covered table, 2 chairs, special signage  
**\*\*Participate on the Stage Map for an additional \$50**

**MELODY MEADOWS BOOTH**..... (Boardroom) - **\$400**  
 8' x 10' booth space in the Boardroom, 2 classroom-size tables, 2 chairs, special signage, FREE electricity  
**\*\*Participate on the Stage Map for an additional \$50**

**MELODY MEADOWS TABLE**..... (Boardroom) - **\$250**  
 6 - Foot covered table, 2 chairs, basic signage in the Boardroom  
**\*\*Electricity available for an additional \$10**  
**\*\*Participate on the Stage Map for an additional \$50**

**STAGE MAP** ..... **\$50**  
 Direct people to your table by participating in the Stage Map. Display your logo on the Map that is handed out to every expo attendee. Expo goers will be asked to visit each table on the Stage Map and have their Map stamped. Each completed Map will be eligible for the grand prize drawing.

**ACOUSTIC ARENA TABLE**..... (Hallway) - **\$250**  
 6 - Foot covered table, 2 chairs, basic signage in the Hallway  
**\*\*Participate on the Stage Map for an additional \$50**

**15 SECONDS OF FAME** ..... **\$200**  
 Marketing package social media upgrade. Making your business the HEADLINE of the show!

**LINE UP** ..... **\$150**  
 Headline on our Line Up! Whether you are participating in the Business Expo with a table or not you can market your business with your company name and logo on the Line Up. All Line Up participants will get extra exposure in Chamber communications.



**YES! I AM INTERESTED IN .....**

- Groove Garden Booth (\$450)
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- Melody Meadows Table (\$250)
- Melody Meadows Booth (\$400)
- Acoustic Arena Table (\$250)
- Stage Map (\$50)
- Electricity (\$10)
- Linen (\$10)
- Line Up (\$150)
- 15 Seconds of Fame (\$200)

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Email to [mckenna@whittierchamber.com](mailto:mckenna@whittierchamber.com) • For more information please call the Chamber at 562.698.9554

Get ready to rock out at ChamberChella! The Annual Whittier Chamber Business Expo is back at it with a twist of music festival vibes! Don't miss this unique opportunity to showcase your business to a diverse audience of local businesses! Sponsorships are available now - secure your spot and be part of the harmony! This event is FREE and open to the public!  
**\*Don't miss your chance for a \$20 headshot by Ernest Peralta Photography!**





# Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce Celebrates 110 years!



Shannon Hammer, from Shannon G's Flowers, was introduced as the 2024-2025 Chair of the Board for the Whittier Chamber of Commerce. Hammer introduced herself at the Whittier Chamber of Commerce 110 years Annual Meeting and Installation dinner at the DoubleTree Hotel Whittier on Thursday, April 4.



Honoring Bruce Lazenby of Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary, R.D. McDonnell of R2KS Design, and Julia Emerson of So Cal Gas (not pictured) for their service as they retire from the Board of Directors



Kwan Lee, 2022-2023 Chair and Nicole Shahanian, Whittier Chamber President and CEO, present Gregg Durkee, 2023-2024 Immediate Past Chair of the Board with certificates of recognition for his year of service on the Board of Directors



The Whittier Chamber Ambassadors were recognized for their continued volunteered support and efforts to the Whittier Chamber and community



The 2024-2025 Chamber Board of Directors were sworn in by Mayor Joe Vinatieri at the Annual Meeting & Installation Awards Dinner



**BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**

The Business Person of the Year Award recognizes business leaders who have demonstrated success in both civic and professional areas, specifically in the areas of growth, leadership, achievement, and community service. This person has a well-rounded approach to business operation and growth, a unique marketing approach, and/or a special customer focus that results in a successful business.



**Business Person of the Year 2023-2024**

Michael Seril and Adina Cozma from Michael Seril Fitness Studio were awarded Business Person of the Year presented by former Councilwoman Jessica Martinez

**RISING STAR OF THE YEAR**

The Rising Star of the Year award celebrates a promising individual who has shown exceptional talent, ambition, and potential in their field, demonstrating early success and making a significant impact despite being relatively new to their profession or industry.

The Rising Star is an individual who generates ideas, is willing to take risks, believes in themselves, and invests their time, talent, and treasure to make their business successful. This individual is seen as a role model both personally and professionally.



**Rising Star of the Year 2023-2024**

(L-R) Former chair of the board Kwan Lee, from Martplan Insurance, presented the Rising Star of the Year award to Joshua Canada, from Whittier College

**COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD**

The Community Partners are inspiring individuals, organizations or businesses who, through their selflessness, strength and self-sacrifice, have been agents of change, positively benefitting other in and around the Whittier community.



**Community Partner Award 2023-2024**

The Community Partner of the Year was awarded to RMH Dance & Productions. Owner Rudy Hernandez accepted the award, presented by David Gonzalez, President of the Uptown Whittier Improvement Association (Not pictured: Maria Hernandez)

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

The Volunteer of the Year is someone who gives their time and talent, often behind the scenes, and doesn't hesitate to do whatever is asked. They are someone who gives 100% to any committee, program or commitment made to the Chamber. This person is creative, reliable and always willing to lend a hand.



**Volunteer of the Year 2023-2024**

Retiring board member R.D. McDonnell presents the Volunteer of the Year award to John Bogdanov from TelWorx. John Bogdanov is the Ambassador Chair and is serving his first year on the Board for 2024-2025

**AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR**

This is a peer-driven award that is voted on by members of the Ambassador Team and is given to someone who goes above and beyond in the areas of member retention and attraction.



**Ambassador of the Year 2023-2024**

Steve Rosas, 2022-2023 Ambassador of the Year, presents Nancy Gomez from Tacos and Grace with the 2023-2024 Ambassador of the Year award for her volunteer efforts this past year and connecting with new and long-standing businesses

**BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

The Business of the Year Award recognizes the company that demonstrates all-around excellence in business. These businesses make significant contributions to economic growth and quality of life in the Whittier area. Nominees have been in business for at least three years and are committed to making the Whittier area a better place to live, work and do business.



**Business of the Year 2023-2024**

Aaron Melendrez and his wife Sarah from Uptown Provisions accept the Business of the Year Award from Immediate Past Chair, Gregg Durkee



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## Your Medicare Shop Around the Corner Medicare Supplement (aka Medi-Gap) Plans and Prescription Drug Plans (PDP's)

Did you know you can switch your Medicare Supplement (Medi-Gap) Plan at any time? You may have read or seen this phrase somewhere or had a casual conversation with friends or colleagues. To add clarity to this topic or understand why you may want to change to another carrier, here are a few reasons why:



Paul Viveros,  
REBC, RHU  
Whittier Health  
Insurance  
Solutions

- Medical Supplement (Medi-Gap) Plans are filed with the Department of Insurance the exact same way and the coverages are identical.
- Therefore, we are looking at the "price" and the "carrier's name".
- As market rates increase, we make it a practice to market our clients' plans every year ensuring they are getting the best "value" for the same plan - in this scenario, the main components in underwriting are age and zip code.

The process is simple:

- Meet with your trusted advisor, fill out an application (which includes health questions, and submit it to different carriers for consideration).
- The carrier's underwriter will process the application and can come to one of two outcomes: an approval or a declination.
- Most reasons for a decline are due to health issues.

However, California is one of the states that has a "birthday rule" for Medicare Supplement (Medi-Gap) Plans. This means you may submit an application during your birthday month window and be "guaranteed issued" (GI). Your plan would have to be a lateral or downgrade from your previous plan with most carriers. It's a very simple process since you will be GI - no health questions need to be filled out.

Maintenance is important and keeping costs down is getting harder to do in our environment; I call it "getting your house in order". It may seem like a lot of work, but most clients we talk to appreciate they went through this simple process, especially when they can save a great deal of premium on their plan.

Prescription Drug Plans (PDP's) follow a different set of rules and everyone shares the same window of opportunity to evaluate and make changes to their plan during the Annual Election Period (AEP) October 15th - December 7th for a January 1 effective date.

If you missed this window, there may be an opportunity to change your plan if you fall under a Medicare rule and a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared a certain disaster in your area. Reach out to your advisor and have a discussion.

If you do not have an advisor and would like to evaluate your plans, visit our Medicare Enrollment Resource Center located in the red brick building in Uptown Whittier right under the Social Security Building. We have Senior Health Care Consultants, each with over 25 years of experience and their goal is to help you uncover all available options and make a thoughtful, informed decision about your Medicare coverage.

Paul is a Registered Employee Benefits Consultant (REBC) and a Registered Health Underwriter (RHU). Whittier Health Insurance Solutions (WHIS) is located at 7200 Greenleaf Ave., Suite 170-C, Whittier, CA 90602.

**Cheers to 50 Years!**  
50th Annual Gala & Auction

September 21, 2024  
5:30 p.m.

Friendly Hills Country Club  
8500 Villaverde Dr.  
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**Randy Basurto Scholarships - Continued from front page**

Each student shared their plans for higher education, reflecting a diverse range of ambitions and aspirations. A few schools they are set to attend include Rio Hondo Community College, Cal State Fullerton, California State University, Northridge (CSUN), the University of La Verne, the University of California, Irvine (UCI) or the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), and California State University, Long Beach.

The ceremony also extended gratitude to the generous sponsors whose contributions make these scholarships possible. Athens Services, Credit Union of Southern California, Kaiser Permanente, PIH Health, Republic Services, U.S. Bank, and Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary were recognized for their significant support.

As the event concluded, sponsors were invited to join for a group photo, symbolizing the collaborative effort that makes the Randy Basurto Scholarship a beacon of hope for aspiring students in the Whittier community.

For more information on how you can contribute to the Randy Basurto Scholarship Fund, please contact Chamber President and CEO, Nicole Shahanian, at Nicole@WhittierChamber.com




**MAY**  **JUNE**

## AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Ambassadors are **volunteers** who believe in the Whittier Chamber's mission & values

**Steven Rosas - Ooma** 

**Nancy Gomez - Tacos & Grace** 

Steve Rosas is a Senior Solution Specialist for Ooma Inc. Ooma is revolutionizing the way people connect with a cloud-based communication platform. They offer affordable and reliable phone service for business, packed with features like virtual receptionists, call recording, call forwarding, and mobile and desktop app. With crystal-clear call quality and easy setup, Ooma is the smart choice for anyone looking to streamline their communication needs without breaking the bank.

He has been a member of the Whittier Chamber for five years now and has been one of our most active Ambassadors; he was even awarded Ambassador of the year in 2023! Steve enjoys welcoming and acquainting newcomers with individuals who share common interests at Whittier Chamber events.

Steve has been on the Whittier Chamber Ambassador Team for three years and has enjoyed being introduced to most of the people around the Whittier community. What

**Nancy Gomez – Tacos & Grace**

Nancy Gomez is the CEO and founder of Tacos & Grace. They provide catering for all occasions and have a variety of different food options that cater to different lifestyles ranging from three to five-course meals.

After joining the Whittier Chamber in June 2021, she became incredibly active and joined as an Ambassador. She has loved being able to make a difference in the community by attending all chamber events. "It gives me the opportunity to meet new individuals and share with them all the amazing opportunities the chamber offers," Nancy said.

Nancy was also named the Ambassador of the Year in April at the 110th Year Annual Meeting and Installation for her outstanding service. She is on the Hathaway Golf Classic committee and the Business Expo committee. Nancy regularly attends ribbon cuttings as she believes it is important to show

he loves most about being an Ambassador has been connecting with the fantastic individuals I encounter at the events, alongside the remarkable staff who orchestrate it all flawlessly.

Steve's favorite experience of being a Whittier Chamber Member has been participating in our Hathaway Golf Classic. He is on the Hathaway committee and enjoys being a Hole Host at the event.

Steve was asked what are some of your plans for the Spring? He expressed, that he wants to spend more time with his grandson and enjoy the nature around him.

Steve expressed, "The Whittier Chamber is truly exceptional, and its impact cannot be overstated. However, to fully experience its benefits, active participation is key. Building trust and familiarity is crucial in business relationships. My strong suggestion to all is this: if you wish to reciprocate the Chamber's support, consider joining as an ambassador. It's a decision you will not ever regret."

support and love to our new Chamber members.

Outside of the Whittier Chamber, she is also the Head Chef of Operations at City Reach Church. She believes it is a great privilege to serve her pastors and the church community.

When asked, "what is a highlight of a contribution you made?" Nancy stated, "I was honored to host the King of Uganda and King Oyó of Tooro and showcase my popular dishes."

Nancy stated, "Being an ambassador allows me to be more involved with my beautiful hometown. Like our Mayor Joe Vinatieri says, 'Live in Whittier, do business in Whittier and shop in Whittier.' Also, how can I not mention our amazing Chamber staff? They help us business owners connect with each other to make this city great."



**Ambassador Team 2024-2025**

**Ambassador Chair**  
John Bogdanov, *TelWorx*

- Ambassador Team**
- Catherine Badame, *Action Trophy*
  - Van Broussard, *Farmer's Insurance*
  - Michelle Calzada, *Blue Mar Travel*
  - Steven Flores, *Modern Woodmen of America*
  - Nancy Gomez, *Tacos & Grace*
  - Zimri Gutierrez, *AZ Whittier Florist*
  - Paul Hernandez, *State Farm Insurance*
  - Rob Marin, *Rob Marin Realty*
  - Marie Murillo, *MAP Property Management*
  - Laurie Perschbacher, *MAP Property Services*
  - Pete Rodriguez, *Loan Officer*
  - Steve Rosas, *Ooma*



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# AROUND TOWN

## TelWorx

### Email: The Good, the Bad and the Scary



John Bogdanov,  
TelWorx

Ever wonder why so much attention is paid to phishing emails and how to recognize them in your security awareness training program? For those who are confused, wondering what a security awareness training program is, hang in there for a moment. That will be addressed shortly.

Phishing is still the preferred method for criminals to attack your business. It seems a couple of aspects of email make it so preferable. First, email addresses are readily available. We all use email for so many things it feels ridiculous to keep our email addresses secret. Second, email generally relies on human interaction. More than 90% of security incidents are the result of human error.

In spite of the potential dangers of email, it doesn't seem like we are going to stop using it any time soon. That would be a little like not driving because you're scared of being involved in a collision. Just like checking your blind spots before changing lanes, there are things you can do to reduce the risk of using email. Following are three red flags that an email message could be malicious:

**Unsolicited:** Is someone you don't know initiating the conversation?

**Urgency:** Is there pressure to act rapidly, if not immediately?

**Clicking:** Is there a request to click a link, open attachments or download something?

Taken individually, none of these three absolutely means an email is malicious. There are plenty of legitimate reasons to send an unsolicited email. Some circumstances are urgent, requiring quick action to be taken. Sometimes the best way to send a link or deliver a file is through email.

However, the combination of all three should certainly raise your guard. Of course, the challenge is that often we have too much going on to properly scrutinize our inboxes. The criminals are counting on this. We only have so much capacity for making decisions. We are all vulnerable when that capacity is running low.

Back to that security awareness training program...or maybe lack thereof. A good program will help you develop an unconscious competence regarding security, so that you don't have to stop and think about whether an email is potentially malicious. You will automatically recognize the red flags and take the appropriate action. The only way to reach that level is with regular, ongoing training. The annual training that satisfies the minimum industry compliance is not enough.



### Visiting Angels

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*This client is elderly, diagnosed with Alzheimer's and lives alone.*

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When we called our client's family to let them know what happened they were extremely grateful to Zamanta's actions that saved their loved one.

This is just one story, but our caregivers regularly make a life-saving difference with our clients.

**Do you have a loved one with Alzheimer's, Dementia or do they just need some extra care?** Our Certified Home Care Manager will come to your home for a no-cost consultation, call Visiting Angels Whittier to schedule at (562) 947-5390.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



The Whittier Chamber of Commerce welcomed the 2024-2025 Board Members at the annual Board Retreat at South Coast Winery in Temecula



Mayor Joe Vinatieri congratulates One Heart at a Time Foundation at their official ribbon cutting held at the Whittier Chamber office



Shelter's Right Hand held their 28th Annual 5K Walk on Saturday, April 20, 2024. This event help raise funds for the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter

### Congratulations to these other Whittier Chamber Members who also celebrated a Ribbon Cutting:

- Global IT
- One Heart at a Time
- Zapien's Salsa Grill
- Athena Acupuncture
- Melrose Vintage



# It's Time for Spring Cleaning

Time to Look For a New Place to Live?

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# with the Whittier Chamber

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State Farm Insurance - Clayton Agency	(562) 947-4795
State Farm Insurance - Fabio Soto Agency	(562) 698-6769
State Farm Insurance - Paul Hernandez	(562) 943-2700
Team M&M Insurance Agency	(562) 693-6440
Wolff Insurance Agency	(562) 351-1524

## Time to Refresh Your Mind, Body & Soul?

**Chiropractors**

Aligned Movement	(562) 888-3315
Back Body Mind Chiropractic	(562) 907-7700
Crockett Family Chiropractic	(562) 390-3013
Friends Chiropractic	(562) 698-1275
Urteaga Chiropractic & Sports Medicine	(562) 274-7771

**Counseling**

Helpline Youth Counseling	(562) 273-0722
Spiritt Family Services	(562) 903-7000

**Dance Instruction**

Dance Image	(562) 449-5393
RMH Entertainment	(562) 693-9911
Steps of Gold	(562) 307-6112
Uptown School of Dance	(562) 309-5155

**Dentists, Orthodontists & Periodontists**

Choi, Brian, D.M.D.,	(562) 698-8739
Citrus Grove Orthodontics	(562) 693-4171
Dentists of Whittier General & Cosmetic Dentistry	(562) 414-5025
Lowe & Rossopoulos, D.D.S.	(562) 907-4522
Luzid Smiles	(562) 550-0808
Novak, Brian, D.M.D, Inc.	(562) 947-7811
Parminter, Robert, D.D.S.	(562) 698-0943
Perfect Smile Dental Group	(562) 351-1012
Perri, Bigley & Parvizpour Dental Corp.	(562) 698-8272
Ramirez & Ezaki Dentistry	(562) 947-9958
Tanabe, Theodore A., D.D.S.	(562) 698-0387
Warner, David A., D.D.S.	(562) 945-7621

**Fitness Gyms/Trainers/Sports Center/Yoga**

Crossfit Whittier	(562) 464-5500
Curves Whittier	(626) 400-9499
Eric Will Gymnastic Center	(714) 525-5909
Fitness Resolute	(562) 902-2162
Heart & Soul Yoga	(562) 321-7691
Lighthouse Sports Center LLC	(562) 991-4375
Michael Seril Fitness Studio	(714) 306-9002
Unstoppable Fitness Inc.	(323) 384-7905
Whittier Fit Body Boot Camp	(626) 765-1336
YMCA of Greater Whittier	(562) 907-6530
Zero Givens Whittier	(562) 264-5966

**Health & Wellness**

Athena Acupuncture & Wellness Center	(626) 415-8938
Greenleaf Botanicals	(562) 454-4862
Holistic Clinica	(562) 360-1071
Jelina Shah Consulting	(303) 324-6350
Optimal Health & Wellbeing	(310) 560-7001

**Healthcare**

All In One Clinic	(562) 325-5336
Carbon Health Urgent Care	(562) 539-2517
Friendly Hills Pediatrics	(562) 378-6800
Friends of Family Health Center	(562) 690-0400
Kaiser Permanente	(562) 657-4452
MDH Network Inc.	(562) 567-0031
Orchard Post Acute Care, The	(562) 693-7701
PIH Health	(562) 698-0811
VCC: The Gary Center	(562) 264-6000

**Health Food**

Bee Hive Market & Deli, The	(562) 945-9002
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**Hearing Aids**

Whittier Hearing Center	(562) 698-0581
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**Hospitals**

Kaiser Permanente	(562) 657-4452
PIH Health	(562) 698-0811
Whittier Hospital Medical Center	(562) 945-3561

**Massage Therapy**

Sacred Space Massage Therapy & Bodywork	(562) 267-9931
Flor De Luna	(562) 324-4770

**Medical Spa**

Picasso Medical Aesthetics & Spa	(562) 945-1830
Skin Perfect Medical	(562) 222-8927
South Bay Medical Spa	(562) 273-3337
Whittier Springs Spa	(562) 645-2278

**Optometrist**

Acuvision Family Optometry	(562) 696-1883
Golden Optometric Group	(562) 692-1208
Poolsaad Family Vision Optometry	(562) 945-7300
Rice, Derek, O.D.	(562) 947-0391

**Physical Therapy**

Professional Physical Therapy Association, Inc.	(562) 945-1587
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**Salon/Hair Stylists/Barbers**

AB Barbering	(831) 383-4508
Agave Beauty & Spa	(562) 762-9888
Alana Spa & Salon	(323) 835-5417
Bambino Barber Lounge	(562) 315-5164
Salon Cheval	(562) 696-7979
Salon Emeren	(562) 418-4300
Uptown Barbers	(562) 696-0406

**Skin Care**

Mary Kay	(562) 322-0123
Skin Room, The	(562) 536-1142

**Travel Agents**

Blue Mar Travel	(562) 380-3330
Traveling Traveler, The	(562) 907-7938





## Want to Give Your Business a Boost?

### Advertising Specialites/Promotional Products

ACRO Printing, Inc.	(562) 945-9638
Ad infin Item	(415) 459-1146

### Business Development Consultants

Empire Academy	(323) 717-2551
Long Beach Small Business Development Center	(562) 938-5100
Rise Up For You	(949) 229-0208
RMLLC	(323) 983-3379
Zen Business	(844) 493-6249

### Business Services

Betr	(626) 383-0231
Brand Gratitude	(562) 646-6067
Silegra	(323) 505-8663
TelWorx	(626) 594-9822
WhittierJobs.Com	(562) 652-5207

### Computer Services

InfoNetworks LLC	(888) 454-2000
Global IT	(562) 698-2500
Osos, One Stop Office Solutions	(562) 464-9600
P.C. Help Desk, The	(562) 869-4435
Plotchain, Inc.	(714) 477-3062
Robust Managed IT	(562) 464-3644

### Consulting

Big Creek Intelligence	(877) 769-5499
Biz Life Coach	(562) 310-3031
Zocalo 10	(562) 900-0316

### Graphic Design/Embroidery/Screen Printing

Adobe	(408) 753-5826
Embroidery Goods Inc.	(562) 456-0505
Social Savvy Design	(562) 453-0724

### Human Resources

Employers Choice Screening	(562) 319-0413
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### Management Consulting

Neece Coaching & Consulting	(562) 587-8126
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### Marketing Agencies

Marketing Link Solutions	(909) 619-3730
Ouu I Love	(714) 452-4051

### Office Leasing

Gateway Management Company	(562) 696-6900
Horizon Executive Suites	(562) 550-3700
Whittier Business Center	(213) 446-3801
Whittier Square Building	(562) 945-5959

### Payroll

ADP	(562) 310-0050
Hearland Payment Systems	(626) 688-8542
Payroll Ready	(949) 325-6770

### Printers

ACRO Printing, Inc.	(562) 945-9638
Crocker Signs & Printing	(562) 698-0711
PIP Printing & Marketing Services	(562) 921-5188
Sir Speedy Printing Center	(562) 698-7513

### Professional Development

Rise Up For You	(949) 229-0208
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### Security Services

Absolute International Security	(626) 858-7188
Alltime Security Alarm	(626) 300-0877
Aleco Security & Protective Solutions, Inc.	(562) 646-6272
Level2 Security	(714) 422-9488
S & L Security Inc.	(866) 348-8330

### Signs

Crocker Signs & Printing	(562) 698-0711
GP Graphics	(562) 943-7345
Say Yay! Lawn Signs	(562) 682-4606
Sign It! Signs & Graphics	(562) 696-1168

### Telecommunications

AT&T	(760) 284-2909
InfoNetworks LLC	(888) 454-2000
Ooma Inc.	(747) 221-1339
Telcog Communications	(844) 548-8647
TelWorx	(626) 594-9822

### Web Design

Asurge	(909) 583-5312
Digical Web Designs	(562) 696-2222
Geea Agency	(562) 665-0293

## Looking For Help Spring Cleaning Your House or Office?

### Air Conditioning

A Cool House	(562) 547-2527
Energy Control HVAC	(562) 945-6966
Marathon HVAC Services	(562) 693-2553
Norwalk-La Mirada Plumbing + HVAC	(562) 868-7777
Spot On Heating Air & Plumbing	(562) 945-0979
Varitek Heating & Air Conditioning	(562) 536-2197

### Carpet Cleaning

Terrance Jones Professional Carpet Cleaning	(714) 319-1358
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### Cleaning Services

Best OC Cleaning	(562) 713-7714
Lupe's Cleaning Service LLC	(562) 652-2228
New City Cleaning Services	(562) 267-1080
Southland Window Cleaning Company	(562) 547-7988
Star Kleeners	(562) 415-8876

### Custom Cabinets

Caseworkinstallations.com	(909) 440-4264
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### Drycleaning

Marketplace Cleaners	(562) 692-1718
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### Electrical Contractors

Harrison Electric & Solar	(562) 695-8321
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### Fire & Water Cleanup Restoration

Servpro of Whittier	(562) 698-5368
Tri-Star Construction	(714) 237-9980

### Fireplace & Water Cleanup Restoration

Rasmussen Gas Logs & Grills	(562) 696-8718
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### General Contractors

BMV Construction	(800) 595-3298
Hebert Design Werks	(562) 447-0383
LAE Construction, Inc.	(562) 947-8961
MAP Property Services, Inc.	(562) 945-3404
MPG Construction Inc.	(562) 947-8961
RJP Construction	(310) 892-1719

## Does Your Car Need Spring Cleaning, Too?

### Auto Body Shops

Carstar - Larry's Auto Body	(562) 946-1527
Golden West Coach	(562) 696-5466
Greg's Auto Body	(562) 789-1300
Hadley Auto Body	(562) 692-3793

### Auto Associations

Automobile Club of Southern California	(562) 698-3721
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### Auto Dealers

Alexander Auto Sales Inc.	(562) 696-1222
Gilmar Automotive Group	(562) 868-7000
Ocean Honda of Whittier	(562) 280-2838
Toyota of Whittier	(562) 698-2591

### Auto Repairs

Bill & Jim's Auto Repair	(562) 695-0404
Cooks Tires & Service	(562) 632-1027
F.F. Gomez, Inc.	(562) 693-3500
Garber's Independent BMW	(562) 941-9545
Henry's Auto Repair	(562) 693-1036

### Car Wash

Googie Car Wash	(562) 464-0000
Quick Quack Car Wash	(219) 455-5618
Signature Mobile Detailing	(424) 268-0586

### Towing

A7 Towing Inc.	(626) 412-2140
Bob & Dave's Towing Inc.	(562) 693-9596

### Glass

A Plus Advanced Tinting	(310) 889-4591
M & M Glass, Inc.	(562) 945-6212

### Hardware

James Hardware Company	(562) 691-1711
Oromill Lumber & Hardware	(562) 698-9453

### Paint Suppliers

Bob Downey & Sons' West Whittier Paint Co.	(562) 692-7214
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### Pest Control

Lady Bugs Termite & Pest Control	(562) 691-6677
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### Plumbers

Drain It Plumbing	(562) 602-521
Gabriel Plumbing	(562) 942-9999
Navi & Sons Plumbing	(213) 749-1046
Norwalk-La Mirada Plumbing + HVAC	(562) 868-7777
R.K. Knight Plumbing	(562) 947-5588
Spot On Heating Air & Plumbing	(562) 945-0979
Tru Plumbing Mechanical	(562) 991-3805

### Rentals

1st Jon, Inc.	(877) 566-8646
Orbit Event Rentals	(562) 696-8875
PDQ Rentals	(562) 944-3206

### Roofing

Dr. Solar & Roofing	(562) 693-4648
Stay Dry Roofing	(562) 567-7663
Storm Guard Construction	(951) 218-5176

### Solar Power

Dr. Solar & Roofing	(562) 777-4677
Harrison Electric & Solar	(562) 695-8321

### Trees

California Arborist	(562) 698-3280
West Coast Arborists, Inc.	(714) 991-1900

### Water Softeners

Special 'T' Water Systems, Inc.	(562) 945-7595
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### Windows

Elite Vinyl Windows	(562) 945-7700
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## Need Help with Taxes & Financial Planning?

### Accounting/Tax Service

Accurate Taxes	(562) 632-1104
Americana Tax Planning	(562) 209-6218
EM Bookkeeping & Tax Service	(714) 801-5982
Haas Business Service	(562) 698-9538
Harrington Group	(626) 403-6801
Hart & Vandenberg, CPAs	(562) 945-2821
Harvey & Parmelee, LLP, CPAs	(562) 698-9891
Integrity Tax & Notary Services	(562) 237-2005
Jere E. McDonald, An Accountancy Corp.	(562) 945-1558
Uptown Advisors	(562) 273-9500

### Financial Services

Cetera Advisor Networks - Christopher George	(562) 945-7787
Cetera Advisor Networks - Douglas Rowan	(562) 945-7787
Credit Union of Southern California	(866) 287-6225
Edward Jones - Jason Clardy	(562) 846-4416
Foster Company, The	(562) 278-6420
Integrity Independent Financial & Insurance Services	(909) 858-0196
Madsen Financial Coaching	(805) 407-6466
Merlin Insurance & Investments	(626) 586-2909
Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.	(714) 257-4481
Modern Woodmen of America - Steven Flores	(626) 260-2589
Morgan Stanley - Vince Daigneault	(800) 356-1333
U.S. Bank	(562) 698-2521

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Communication Solutions for Today and Tomorrow

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PACIFIC BELL GTE

Consulting, Design, Sales and Service.





## RENEWING MEMBERS

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

### MAY/JUNE 2024

<b>Action Trophy</b> (562) 451-3048 <b>Member Since: 2021</b>	<b>Century 21 Cornerstone</b> (562) 698-0348 <b>Member Since: 2003</b>	<b>Friends Chiropractic</b> (562) 698-1275 <b>Member Since: 2008</b>	<b>Ocean Honda of Whittier</b> (562) 280-2838 <b>Member Since: 1942</b>	<b>Soroptimist International of Whittier</b> (562) 652-3451 <b>Member Since: 1998</b>
<b>Adobe</b> (408) 753-5826 <b>Member Since: 2023</b>	<b>Clearman's Steak N Stein Inn</b> (562) 699-8823 <b>Member Since: 2013</b>	<b>GP Graphics</b> (562) 943-7345 <b>Member Since: 2010</b>	<b>Options For Learning</b> (626) 699-8060 <b>Member Since: 2014</b>	<b>Star Kleeners</b> (562) 415-8676 <b>Member Since: 2013</b>
<b>All In One Clinic</b> (562) 325-5336 <b>Member Since: 2023</b>	<b>Credit Union of Southern California</b> (866) 287-6225 <b>Member Since: 1981</b>	<b>Harmony Center For Spiritual Living</b> (562) 508-1314 <b>Member Since: 2004</b>	<b>The P.C. Help Desk</b> (562) 869-4435 <b>Member Since: 1996</b>	<b>Stay Dry Roofing</b> (562) 567-7663 <b>Member Since: 2023</b>
<b>America's Job Center of California – SASSFA</b> (562) 946-2237 <b>Member Since: 1994</b>	<b>Crepes &amp; Grapes Café</b> (562) 696-3255 <b>Member Since: 2004</b>	<b>Harrison Electric &amp; Solar</b> (562) 695-8321 <b>Member Since: 1970</b>	<b>Pacific Palms Resort</b> (626) 810-4455 <b>Member Since: 2012</b>	<b>Tri-Star Construction &amp; Restoration Services, Inc.</b> (714) 237-9980 <b>Member Since: 2013</b>
<b>American First Credit Union</b> (562) 355-6242 <b>Member Since: 2014</b>	<b>Dal Rae</b> (562) 949-2444 <b>Member Since: 2023</b>	<b>Harvey &amp; Parmelee, LLP, CPAs</b> (562) 698-9891 <b>Member Since: 1959</b>	<b>Perisho &amp; Associates</b> (562) 547-6568 <b>Member Since: 2014</b>	<b>Uptown Pizza Company</b> (562) 693-2729 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>
<b>Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud &amp; Romo</b> (562) 653-3200 <b>Member Since: 2004</b>	<b>Dance Image</b> (562) 699-5459 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>	<b>Hebert Design Werks</b> (562) 447-0383 <b>Member Since: 2010</b>	<b>Pipe Technology</b> (310) 644-6800 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>	<b>Water Replenishment District of Southern California</b> (562) 921-5521 <b>Member Since: 2016</b>
<b>Aura's World</b> (562) 698-4500 <b>Member Since: 2021</b>	<b>East Whittier Arts Education Foundation</b> (562) 665-6963 <b>Member Since: 2015</b>	<b>Jersey Mike's Subs #20343</b> (323) 201-8500 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>	<b>PMI County Line</b> (562) 955-4022 <b>Member Since: 2023</b>	<b>Western Hose &amp; Gasket</b> (310) 355-1500 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>
<b>The Bee Hive Gourmet Café &amp; Market</b> (562) 945-9002 <b>Member Since: 2020</b>	<b>Eric Will Gymnastic Center, Inc.</b> (714) 525-5909 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>	<b>Lambert Inn</b> (562) 693-1099 <b>Member Since: 2006</b>	<b>Professional Physical Therapy Association, Inc.</b> (562) 945-1587 <b>Member Since: 2015</b>	<b>Whittier Community Foundation</b> (562) 248-6880 <b>Member Since: 2009</b>
<b>Bill &amp; Jim's Auto Repair</b> (562) 695-0404 <b>Member Since: 2004</b>	<b>F.F. Gomez, Inc.</b> (562) 693-3500 <b>Member Since: 2013</b>	<b>Law Office of Alberto Munoz</b> (562) 291-6100 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>	<b>Richard Nixon Foundation</b> (714) 364-1161 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>	<b>Whittier Place Senior Living</b> (562) 777-1477 <b>Member Since: 2023</b>
<b>Brand Gratitude</b> (562) 646-6067 <b>Member Since: 2019</b>	<b>First United Methodist Church</b> (562) 698-0022 <b>Member Since: 2016</b>	<b>Los Nietos School District</b> (562) 692-0271 <b>Member Since: 2021</b>	<b>Rose Hills Memorial Park &amp; Mortuary</b> (562) 699-0921 <b>Member Since: 1953</b>	<b>Whittier Village Stadium Cinemas</b> (562) 945-5271 <b>Member Since: 1996</b>
<b>Brickhouse Pizza</b> (562) 693-9523 <b>Member Since: 2015</b>	<b>Friendly Hills Inn</b> (562) 698-6731 <b>Member Since: 2014</b>	<b>Martplan Insurance Agency, Inc.</b> (562) 691-9414 <b>Member Since: 2016</b>	<b>San Miguel Apartments</b> (562) 698-1290 <b>Member Since: 2009</b>	<b>The Wishing Well</b> (562) 464-9474 <b>Member Since: 2021</b>
		<b>MW Investment Group, LLC</b> (626) 710-6377 <b>Member Since: 2022</b>		

## Congratulations to our Milestone Members this month!

Thank you to the following businesses that have been longstanding partners with the Whittier Chamber in helping to support our thriving economy.

### May

**30 Years**  
**America's Job Center of California – SASSFA**  
(562) 946-2237

**La Posada**  
(562) 945-2651

**40 Years**  
**Lenihan, Bill & Joanie**  
(562) 693-8460

**15 Years**  
**Jere E. McDonald, An Accountancy Corporation**  
(562) 945-1558

**Sharpstone Realty, Inc.**  
(562) 217-7646

**MPG Construction Inc.**  
(562) 947-8961

**Acuvision Family Optometry**  
(562) 696-1883

**Visiting Angels**  
(562) 947-5390

**10 Years**  
**Options For Learning**  
(626) 699-8060

**5 Years**  
**Farmers Insurance – Claudia Sambrano Agency**  
(562) 270-9777

### June

**10 Years**  
**Veracruz Restaurant**  
(562) 693-3274

**Lowe & Rossopoulos, D.D.S.**  
(562) 907-4522

**5 Years**  
**East Whittier Presbyterian Church**  
(562) 698-9948

**Automobile Club of Southern California**  
(562) 902-4600

**Tepeyac & Tequila Sports Bar**  
(562) 695-2277

## CHAMBER CALENDAR

### May

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
May 7, 2024  
Athena Acupuncture

**Wake Up Whittier**  
May 15, 2024  
White Emerson Pavilion

**Small Business Survival Guide: Tax Preparation**  
May 16, 2024  
7355 Greenleaf Ave. Suite 202

**V.A.C.E. Lunch & Learn Webinar Series**  
May 16, 2024  
Online Via Zoom

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
May 22, 2024 • 12 P.M.  
Bio-One of Orange

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
May 29, 2024  
Melrose Vintage

### June

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
June 12, 2024  
Lambert & Gunn Tattoo Parlor

**2024 Business Expo "ChamberChella"**  
June 18, 2024  
DoubleTree Hotel Whittier

**Small Business Survival Guide: Investments & Wealth Management for Business Owners**  
June 20, 2024  
7355 Greenleaf Ave. Suite 202

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
June 20, 2024  
Cooks Tires & Service





# NEW MEMBERS

## MARCH/APRIL 2024

### ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES

**Somar Bookkeeping Solutions**  
Joseph Ramos.....(562) 508-4176  
www.somarbookkeeping.com



Somar Bookkeeping Solutions was established in 2021 to provide both local and nation-wide small to medium sized businesses with the best Bookkeeping Services available! Using the industry leading platform, QuickBooks Online, Somar is able to provide 100% complete, full cycle accounting. Tax services will also be offered for select Bookkeeping Clients beginning with the 2024 tax year! As a registered CPA owned California Professional Corporation, Somar has you covered!

### ACUPUNCTURE

**Athena Acupuncture & Wellness Center**  
Maria Barrera.....(626) 415-8938  
7007 Washington Blvd.  
Whittier, CA 90602  
www.athenaacupuncture.me



### AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

**Varitek Heating & Air Conditioning**  
Xavier Guevara.....(562) 536-2197  
1360 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90605  
www.varitekcomfortsystems.com



### BASKETS

**KT's Custom Baskets**  
Katie Simpson .....(626) 202-6507  
www.instagram.com/ktcustombaskets

### CANDLES

**Mia Bella Candles**  
Linda Cooke .....(626) 379-2149  
www.scent-team.com/corporate



### CIVIC MEMBER

**Bonnie Bilitch**

### CLEANING SERVICES

**Nate's Cleaning Service**  
Nate Dillon .....(657) 246-6123  
318 East Florence Ave.  
La Habra, CA 90631  
www.natescleaningservicesca.com



**New City Cleaning Services**  
Jaston Epp.....(562) 267-1080  
5842 Greenleaf Ave. #A  
Whittier, CA 90601  
www.newcity.cleaning.com



### CONSTRUCTION

**R & C Construction & Design**  
Carlos Jones.....(562) 228-3334  
12325 Imperial Hwy., #21  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
www.rcconstruction.com



### CONSULTING

**Biz Life Coach**  
Tina Gill .....(562) 310-3031  
15950 Ridgeview Lane.  
La Mirada, CA 90638  
www.bizlifecoachbytinagill.com



### CONTRACTOR

**Ari Design Build Inc.**  
Zabdiel Lugo.....(323) 543-2046  
1510 Oxley St., Suite C.  
South Pasadena, CA 91030  
www.aridesignbuild.com



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Open Classrooms Inc.**  
Yvett Rebelo .....(562) 852-1041  
251 Park Avenue South, 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10010  
www.openclassrooms.com/en/us-apprenticeship-for-business



### FITNESS GYMS & TRAINERS

**Curves**  
Sharon Duncan.....(626) 400-9499  
13131 Whittier Blvd.  
Whittier, CA 90602  
www.curves.com



### HANDYMAN

**Jeff Randolph & Sons Handyman Service**  
Jeff Randolph .....(562) 761-4312  
6047 Bright Ave.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
www.jeffrandolphhandymanservices.com



### HEALTH CARE

**Imperial Healthcare Center**  
Alvin Luna.....(562) 943-7156  
11926 La Mirada Blvd.  
La Mirada, CA 91768  
www.imperialhcc.com



Hello, we are Imperial Healthcare Center. Our nursing approach is centered around creating a personalized care plan for each individual, taking into consideration their unique needs and preferences. We believe in treating our patients with dignity and respect, and our staff members are trained to provide compassionate care with enthusiasm and dedication.

Our specialized services, such as rehabilitation, wound care, post-operative care, and therapeutic dietary services, are designed to meet the specific needs of each patient and promote their overall well-being. We understand the importance of working closely with families to ensure that their loved ones receive the best possible care.

### HOSPICES

**Bristol Hospice**  
Jill Richards .....(562) 904-6777  
4010 Watson Plaza Dr., Suite 140  
Lakewood, CA 90712  
www.bristolhospice.com/greater-los-angeles



**Life Comfort Care, Inc.**  
Martin Mariano.....(626) 297-9245  
4650 Arrow Hwy., A10  
Montclair, CA 91763  
www.lifecomfortcare.com

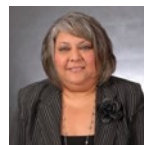


Life Comfort Care, Inc., located in Montclair, California is licensed and certified by Medicare and MediCal and accredited by the Joint Commission (JCAHO) as a hospice provider. We provide our services throughout the Counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Orange and surrounding areas.

Our Mission is to provide an individualized quality plan of care to our patients with life limiting illness, with emphasis on enhancing comfort and preserving a dignified and meaningful life in the company of their loved ones, in the comfort of their homes.

### NOTARY PUBLIC

**On the Go Mobile Notary & Life Scan Services**  
Rebecca Lira .....(562) 329-2376  
12325 Imperial Hwy., #21  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-lira



### OFFICE LEASING

**Horizon Executive Suites**  
Sarah Ortiz .....(562) 550-3700  
7355 Greenleaf Ave., 2nd Floor  
Whittier, CA 90602  
www.horizonexecutivesuites.com



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### ORGANIZATIONS

**Junglemania Family Services**  
Jessica Perez .....(562) 567-7417  
12501 Philadelphia St.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
www.junglemaniafamilysupport.com



Junglemania is a nonprofit mental health organization. We focus in working with mothers and fathers experiencing postpartum. In our community, 1 in 3 mothers will experience Postpartum depression. We offer individual therapy, support groups, case management, and workshops.

**Whittier Veterans Resource Center**  
Kenneth Gonzales..(562) 567-9905  
7344 Washington Ave.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
www.whittierlibrary.org/services/veterans-resource-center



**Never Fighting Alone Foundation**  
Robert Garcia .....(714) 403-8135  
5571 St. Ann Ave.  
Cypress, CA 90630  
www.hotheadclothing.com



### ORGANIZATIONS (CONT.)

**Hope & Promises**  
Art Pena.....(562) 550-0044  
7106 Sorensen Ave.  
Whittier, CA 90606  
www.hopeandpromises.com



Domestically, Hope & Promises has been involved in providing food, water and supplies through local outreaches and our local Food Pantry. Internationally, Hope & Promises has completed humanitarian works in El Salvador, Honduras, Uganda, Indonesia, India and Mexico.

In the middle of a global pandemic, Hope & Promises distributed over 465,000 pounds of food locally and internationally.

With the help of many volunteers and donors around the world, we served more than 130,000 families.

### PHARMACIES

**Whittier Community Pharmacy**  
Vishal Patel.....(562) 273-5222  
15141 Whittier Blvd., Suite 115  
Whittier, CA 90603

### REAL ESTATE

**Seven Gables Real Estate**  
Michele Jonietz.....(562) 619-8560  
12651 Newport Ave.  
Tustin, CA 92780  
www.sevengables.com



What began as a desire to bring higher standards to an industry that, at the time, was plagued with mediocrity, the founders of Seven Gables Real Estate had a clear purpose of doing real estate differently.

### RESTAURANT

**Pikey's Pizza**  
Theresa Lewis .....(562) 325-8257  
11343 La Mirada Blvd.  
La Mirada, CA 90604  
www.pikeyspizzacompany.com



### RETAIL

**Casita Del Pueblo**  
Yolanda Garcia .....(562) 693-2844  
13100 Philadelphia St.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
www.casitadelpueblo.org



**Melrose Co.**  
Robert Ruiz.....(562) 907-5555  
6739 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA 90601  
www.instagram.com/melrose.vintage



### SENIOR CARE

**Personal Touch Senior Resources**  
Rebecca Lira .....(562) 329-2376  
12325 Imperial Hwy., #21  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-lira



### SIGNS

**Imagine That Workshop**  
Gabriel Ceja-Garcia.....(562) 714-1032  
10309 Foster Rd.  
Downey, CA 90242  
www.instagram.com/imaginethatworkshop



Imagine That Workshop is a Hispanic/Latino family-owned custom signage and engraving business that strives to exceed your imagination and expectations. We create custom indoor and outdoor signs as well as custom engravings for businesses that want to stand out and for clients that may be looking for something uniquely created for them.

### SPA

**Healing Therapy**  
Laura Pantoja .....(562) 945-2010  
12470 Washington Blvd.  
Whittier, CA 90602  
www.healingtherapyspa.net



### TATTOO SHOP

**Lambert & Gunn Tattoo Studio**  
Jay Abuan.....(562) 417-9412  
14221 Lambert Rd.  
Whittier, CA 90605  
www.instagram.com/lambertandgunn



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