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WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OCTOBER 2018

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VOL. 24 NO. 10



## Whittier named finalist for Most Business-Friendly City Award by LAEDC

The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) has named Whittier as a finalist for the 2018 Most Business Friendly City Award. Whittier previously won this prestigious award in 2012 and winners are required to wait 5 years before they are able to apply again. In their congratulatory letter to the City of Whittier, representatives from the LAEDC mentioned that it was rare for a city to be selected as a finalist on the first try after having won the recognition.

This year, Whittier is a finalist in the 50,000 or more population category, alongside two other finalists: the City of Inglewood and the City of Rosemead. Cities recognized in the 50,000 and under category include Azusa, Duarte, Monrovia, San Gabriel and Santa Fe

Springs. Winners from both categories will be announced at the 23rd Annual EDDY Awards in November.

Some of the criteria that made Whittier stand out among other applicants included the short timeframe for approval of business licenses and renewals, monthly business outreach efforts, the relationships formed with local workforce development groups, the city's Guide to Doing Business in Whittier booklet, and an annual update of the city's Economic Development strategy.

The Whittier Chamber is proud of this recognition, which acknowledges our city's dedication to fostering a business-friendly atmosphere and highlights our combined efforts to provide assistance and resources to local businesses, both

big and small, through their programs and partnerships within the community.

The Whittier Chamber has played a significant role as the city's biggest partner in many of these efforts. First and foremost, as the largest and leading business organization in the area, the Chamber is the biggest advocate for all business and works daily to create a strong local economy. In addition to providing valuable business resources, the Chamber offers myriad opportunities for building business relationships through networking events, co-hosts quarterly Broker Roundtable events, offers two business development expos each year and annually brings the entire business community together to honor our police department with our Silver Shield Awards

Banquet. The Chamber also hosts the annual State of the City event, an Economic Forecast event, and offers free business mentoring, and educational workshops and webinars on a variety of business-related topics. The Chamber's Business Watch program provides safety information to all businesses and our Shop Local program goes community-wide to promote keeping shopping and sales tax dollars in the city. Through their respective efforts, the Chamber and the City serve as partners in creating a positive business climate.

The Chamber joins the City of Whittier in thanking the LAEDC for the recognition as well as those who continue to invest in Whittier with quality stores, restaurants and businesses.



## Nationally acclaimed motivational speaker to give key address at Women in Business "Power Brunch"

*Women inspiring women to be the best they can be in the workplace and beyond*



Kathy Buckley

Riveting, truthful, and challenging are just some of the words that best describe Kathy Buckley, also known as "America's First Hearing-Impaired Comedienne." Buckley is more than a popular comic; her humor has a higher purpose to inspire and motivate. "My comedy disarms people. I truly believe that the only disability out there is

attitude. I love to make people laugh, but I love it even more if I can teach them something at the same time," stated Buckley.

Kathy began her career on a dare to enter a comedy competition to benefit a non-profit cause. Since that time, she has risen to become a veteran comedian who has been recognized with countless achievements and awards. She continues to tour the country appearing at comedy clubs and making guest television appearances on programs like The Tonight Show, Entertainment Tonight and Evening at the Improv to name a few. Buckley has also starred on her own HBO special, "Women of the Night," and was the focus of the Emmy Award-winning documentary, "I Can Hear the Laughter."

Buckley authored her autobiography entitled, "If You Could Hear What I See," and produced a one-woman television presentation on PBS of the same title.

Buckley's rise to the top was not an easy one... and that is what makes her presentation all the more compelling and inspirational. As a second-grader her disability was misdiagnosed and she was thought to be developmentally handicapped. As a young woman enjoying the beach in Los Angeles, she was run-over by a jeep and was near death. Full recovery took five years. Just one year later, she was diagnosed with cancer. She now holds the title of two-time cancer survivor. Buckley's presentation — which reflects upon her life experiences — is funny yet riveting and extremely inspirational.

The Whittier Area Chamber of

Commerce is honored to partner with the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce to bring Kathy Buckley to the Women In Business "Power Brunch" to share her motivational story on Friday, October 26 from 9 – 11 a.m. outside at the Clarke Estate (10211 Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs). This event is designed to inspire women of all ages to be the best they can be in the workplace and beyond. Regardless of whether you are new to the workforce, a young entrepreneur or a veteran business owner or loyal employee you will find inspiration in Buckley's journey. In fact, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn is making an investment in the future of our business community by

*Continued on page 7*

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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 10<sup>th</sup> 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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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



**Gary Lee Martinez,**  
*President of the Board*

October is already here! It's hard to believe we are 6 months into our 104th year of serving the business community and my time as President of the Board is halfway through. For me, being part of the Chamber has been, and continues to be, such a tremendous experience both personally and professionally. And it's events like the Hathaway Golf Classic that keeps members, old and new, connected to our Chamber. This year's tournament was another huge success and we had a great turn out at what looks to be yet another financially successful event. We were grateful that many past presidents were in attendance and we thank people like Vince Mele, Doug Rowan, Keith Mericle, Cheryl Estep, Dean Harako, Bonnie Watje, Shannon Gimbel Hammer, Rudy Hernandez, Chris Hardeman, and Laurie Perschbacher for their continued support of our Chamber.

Congratulations to ALL of the winners and many thanks to our major sponsors like Rose Hills, The Quad at Whittier, PIH Health, WPOA, Brookfield Residential and ACRO Printing, our Eagle sponsors, our hole hosts, our tee sponsors, those who donated a

raffle prize or silent auction item, and especially our golfers and wonderful volunteers. The proceeds from events like the Hathaway Golf Classic are what make it possible to offer excellent networking events and programs for free or low-cost to our Chamber members so thank you again to everyone who participated somehow and to our co-chairs, RD McDonnell, Nate Ploog and Laurie Perschbacher.

The Chamber recently collaborated with the Whittier Uptown Association and the Uptown Whittier Improvement District to provide a recommendation to the City Council on the Uptown Streetscape Plan. The three organizations weighed the 4 options that were presented by city staff and recommended option 3, Gardens of Uptown, with some modifications as follows: 32 trees, 6,000 SF of planting area, a combination of angled and parallel parking spaces, approximately 19,000 SF of gathering spaces and 4 parklets which can be used for outdoor dining. The Chamber supports the Uptown Streetscape Plan for 3 reasons: 1. We want the end result of the streetscape to be attractive and welcoming to our residents; 2. We want

to drive visitors from outside the area to Uptown as a destination location; and 3. We want it to be an economic development engine that will attract new, quality shops and restaurants that will ultimately generate increased economic activity within the city. The City Council accepted our recommendation and it is now up to city staff and the consultants to come back with a plan to implement. We'll keep you posted as things progress.

The Chamber has great networking opportunities every month that our members can attend. But remember, regardless of whether you attend an event or not, your Chamber continues to work for you and promote your business in your absence in so many ways. Please "like" our page on facebook, follow us on Instagram, link to us on LinkedIn, listen to us on Twitter and stay connected to our members and community. Also, check our website often to see what's new and exciting. We have a big reveal coming this month so stay tuned!!



**Richard Scrivanich**

**\$ TAX TIPS**

**Commuting Expenses to Temporary Job Locations**

Did you know that you can deduct "commuting" expenses between your home and temporary job locations? Daily transportation costs between your home and a regular work location are nondeductible commuting expenses. However, you may be able to deduct costs of going to and from your home and a temporary (not regular) job location. This deduction is allowed if your work fits one of the following descriptions:

- You have one or more regular places of business outside your home, but sometimes travel to temporary work locations in the same trade or business.
- You sometimes travel to a temporary work location outside the metropolitan area in which you live and normally work.

Generally speaking, employment at a work location is temporary if it is realistically expected to last (and does in

fact last) for no more than a year. So, for example, if you have a regular workplace, but you are assigned to another location for three months, your new work location is considered a temporary one. This means that you will be able to deduct your commuting expenses to the temporary location.

Sometimes a temporary location can turn into a regular one. This happens when your realistic expectation changes, so that work at a location that had been expected to last for a year or less is now expected to last for more than a year. Assume, for example, that a three-month assignment to a work location becomes permanent. In that case, your commuting expenses to that location won't be deductible after the date when your realistic expectation changed, even if the location is outside of your metropolitan area.

You must be able to substantiate the

auto expenses that you claim through adequate records, such as a log or diary. You can either use the standard mileage rate or deduct your actual expenses.

If your employer reimburses your commuting expenses, you needn't report the reimbursements as income if they are made under a so-called "accountable plan." An accountable plan is one that reimburses only deductible business expenses, requires you to substantiate your expenses, and requires you to return amounts in excess of your substantiated expenses. If the plan isn't an accountable plan, the reimbursement must be reported as income, and your deductible expenses must be claimed as employee business expenses.

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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# City Of Whittier UPDATE



MAYOR

Joe Vinatieri



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Congratulations are in order to our City and to all of our community partners for working together to foster our business-friendly environment in Whittier. Once again, we have been recognized by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) as a finalist in the Most Business-Friendly City competition! Whittier won the prestigious award in 2012. This year, Whittier is a finalist in the 50,000 or more population category, alongside two other finalists: the City of Inglewood and the City of Rosemead. Cities recognized in the 50,000 and under category include Azusa, Duarte, Monrovia, San Gabriel and Santa Fe Springs. Winners from both categories will be announced at the 23rd Annual EDDY Awards on November 8th, 2018. The City Council is proud of this recognition, which highlights our dedication to fostering a business-friendly atmosphere as well as our efforts to provide assistance and resources to local businesses, both big and small, through our programs and partnerships within the community. We thank the LAEDC for the recognition as well as

those who continue to invest in Whittier with quality stores, restaurants and businesses. A special thank you to the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce, Whittier Uptown Association and the Uptown Whittier Improvement Association for working together with City staff to make Whittier such a great place to do business!

October 5 is National Manufacturing Day, which gives us a chance to celebrate those who proudly stand behind goods and services made in America. On National Manufacturing Day, more than 1,600 American manufacturers will open their doors and take up the important work of inspiring our young people to pursue careers in manufacturing and engineering. Today's science, technology, engineering and math graduates will power the next chapter of American production and innovation, and harnessing their potential is an economic imperative. They create jobs through entrepreneurship, and their competitiveness revitalizes American manufacturing. I encourage you to explore local events taking place this month throughout our region and learn more about some of the fantastic manufacturing businesses we are

fortunate to have right here in Whittier, providing good paying jobs to so many in our community, like Russ Bassett Corporation, Hedman Heddors, Santa Fe Rubber Products and Rasmussen Iron Works to name a few. Thanks for those jobs!

In Uptown news, the City Council discussed the first phase of the much anticipated Uptown Streetscape Beautification Plan last month, which will pave the way for major improvements to our City's historic Uptown district. Of the design options provided, the Council asked staff to return with refinements on the "Gardens of Uptown" concept, which would feature a combination of angled and parallel parking, parking meters, 7,000 square feet of new landscape and 19,000 square feet of gathering space. A final adopted Streetscape Plan is still several months out, so we'll keep you posted. But in the meantime, thank you to the many residents and business owners who participated in public workshops over the course of the last two years providing essential feedback and guidance on what the community would like to see in Uptown. We are looking forward to seeing things take shape over the next several years,

and continuing to make Uptown Whittier a great place to live, work and shop.

Mark your calendar for some family fun happening this month. Casita del Pueblo and REACH will host the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Art and Music Festival on Sunday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Uptown Whittier. There will be food, special dance and musical performances, a vintage car show and all types of art on display. Find out more at casitadelpueblo.org.

On Saturday, October 27, join the Whittier Community Foundation and the Whittier Host Lions Club for the annual Spooktacular 5K Run/Walk. The 5K follows a fun path through Uptown and features prizes and costume contests. Children 12 and under can sign up for the Creepy Crawly Half-Mile Dash. All registered runners/walkers will receive a t-shirt and goodie bag and enjoy a free pancake breakfast. For more information call (562) 567-9460.

The holiday season is just around the corner! Please remember to SHOP WHITTIER for all of your gifts and treats over the next few weeks and show your support for our local businesses.



Whittier  
State of Homelessness  
Community Meeting

Come join your neighbors as we get updates and learn more about homelessness and efforts here in Whittier.

Saturday, October 20, 2018  
9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Hosted At The City of  
Whittier Senior Center  
13225 Walnut St.  
Whittier, CA

*Light refreshments provided*

For More Information  
[www.whittierhomeless.org](http://www.whittierhomeless.org)  
or email [admin@whittierhomeless.org](mailto:admin@whittierhomeless.org)

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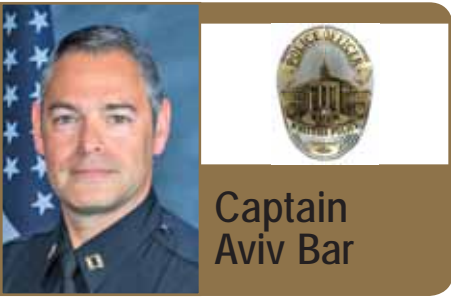
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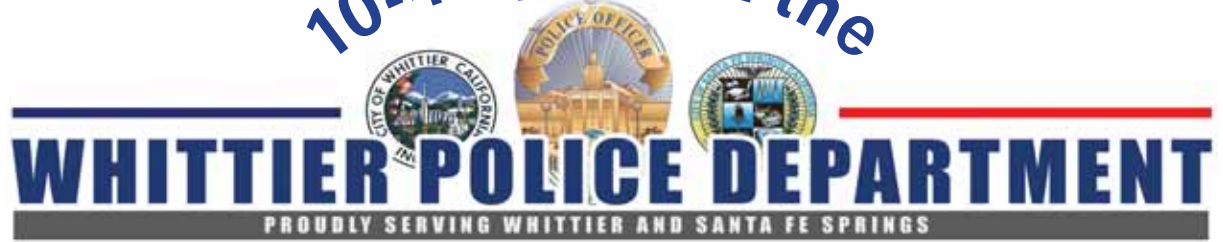
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# City Of Whittier UPDATE



## 10-4 tips from the



### Identity Theft Prevention

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft continues to be the number one fraud complaint nationwide. Credit card fraud was the most common form of identity theft, followed by government documents and benefits fraud, and fraudulent electronic fund transfer.

Criminals use a variety of approaches to obtain your personal information. They go "dumpster diving," by digging through garbage cans or communal dumpsters in search of cancelled checks, credit card and bank statements, or "preapproved" credit card offers. They steal credit card payments and other outgoing mail from private and business curbside mailboxes. They take important documents such as birth certificates, passports, copies of tax returns and the like during residential and commercial burglaries. They also steal or rob for wallets and purses—and all the credit and identification cards inside them.

Once identity thieves have obtained the necessary information to commit their crimes, they often make long-term financial commitments, like taking out mortgages or buying cars, using their victim's credit history. They establish, use, and abandon dozens of charge accounts—without paying. They may

also run up huge amounts of debt, and then file for bankruptcy in their victim's name, ruining their victim's credit history and reputation.

There are a number of simple steps you can take to help reduce the likelihood of becoming an identity theft victim.

#### Mail Controls:

- Don't put outgoing mail, especially bill payments, in personal curbside mailboxes. Use United States Postal Service mailboxes instead, or, better yet, drop off your mail inside a post office.
- Use a locked mailbox with a slot at home, if at all possible.
- Don't put outgoing mail in an unguarded "out box" at work.
- Don't write your account number on the outside of envelopes containing bill payments.
- When you're out of town, have the post office hold your mail for you or have someone you trust pick it up every day.

#### E-Commerce Controls:

- Look for evidence that you're doing business on a secure site. In your browser bar, look for https and the lock icon.
- If you pay bills online, use a secure site if that service is available.

- Don't give out your credit card number on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secure site.

#### Personal Banking Controls:

- Make sure nobody is standing right behind you when you're using an ATM machine. He or she may be trying to photograph your card number and password with a camera cell phone. Always shield your hand and the screen, even if no one's right behind you.
- Examine your credit reports from the major national credit reporting firms at least once a year to make sure no one has established credit in your name or is ruining your credit after stealing your identity. The recently enacted Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act requires that each of the three major credit reporting agencies provide consumers with a free credit report once a year.
- If you have to give out personal or financial information from a public phone or by cell phone, make sure no one is listening or wait until you're in a more secure location.
- Shred all financial statements, billing statements, and "preapproved" credit card offers and the like before throwing them in the trash

or recycling. Cross-cut shredding is best. No shredder? Use scissors to cut documents.

- Minimize the number of identification and credit cards you carry with you. Take only what's absolutely necessary.
- Cancel all credit cards that you have not used in the last six months. Open credit is a prime target if an identity thief spies it in your credit report.

#### Confidentiality Controls:

- Commit all passwords to memory. Never write them down or carry them with you. Strictly Confidential.
- Don't give out your financial or personal information over the phone or Internet, unless you have initiated the contact or know for certain whom you are dealing with.
- Don't exchange personal information for "prizes." Ask to have the offer put in writing and mailed to you so you can consider it more carefully.
- Give out your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary. Treat it as confidential information.
- Destroy the hard drive of your computer if you are selling it, giving it to charity, or otherwise disposing of it. Don't just erase the hard drive; physically remove it.

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](mailto:abar@cityofwhittier.org)

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS



Grub Burger Bar staff poses for a quick photo after serving their delicious burgers and fries at the August Tasty Tuesday



Chamber President, Gary Lee Martinez presents a certificate of appreciation to Jeff Nordschow from Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary for hosting Wake Up Whittier



Denise Cardoso – State Farm Agency is welcomed to the Whittier community with a ribbon cutting and friendly faces of the Whittier Chamber



U.S. Bank celebrates the grand opening of their newly designed branch on Whittier Blvd. complete with a ribbon cutting



Crunch – La Mirada celebrates the grand opening and ribbon cutting of their new location



The Crooked Gaff Kitchen & Oyster Bar commemorates their grand opening with a ribbon cutting complete with family, friends, and longtime customers

## Rio Hondo College to Offer Free Tuition for Two Years in Expansion of Rio Promise Program

Rio Hondo College recently launched a significant expansion of its Rio Promise program, offering free tuition for two years. Rio Hondo College is the first college in Los Angeles County to implement a second year of free tuition for students.

The Rio Promise program began in 2017-18 with 456 first-year students from local public high schools participating. In 2018-19, those numbers have nearly quintupled, with 2,215 first-year students participating after the College opened the program to all first-time college students. An estimated 443 students will qualify for the second-year program.

"Part of our mission as a community college is to eliminate barriers that prevent students from realizing their academic and career dreams," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "This expansion of the Rio Promise helps us to deliver on that mission and to retain our students to continue their educational journey at Rio Hondo College."

The Rio Promise is funded by donations and by leveraging Pell grants, California Promise grants and California Promise waivers.

The College's announcement featured comments from College President Dreyfuss, Board of Trustees President Madeline Shapiro and Rio Promise Scholars Cesar Arciniega and Brittany Morgan.

Arciniega, the first in his family to attend college, said the Rio Promise drew him to Rio Hondo College. The support he received before starting college and during his first year helped him discover a passion for English, which he plans to pursue at a four-year university.

"There is no place I'd rather be than at Rio Hondo College because of the Rio Promise," said Arciniega, a Whittier High School graduate who earned 31 units and a 3.61 GPA in his first year at



Cesar Arciniega      Brittany Morgan

Rio Hondo College. "Thanks to the Rio Promise I am on track to transfer to my dream school next year – UCLA."

Morgan, who comes from a seven-person home, said the Rio Promise tuition program is helping her complete her higher education journey to become an elementary school teacher.

"The Rio Promise has made it possible for me and my family to save up money so I can transfer to a university, knowing the financial burden will be lessened," said Morgan, an Arroyo High School graduate who earned 25 units and a 3.05 GPA in her first year at Rio Hondo College.

Morgan started her college journey as a biology major but soon discovered a love for teaching. Faculty and staff members helped her navigate the change in major and her path to transfer next year.

"I really like teaching kids," she said. "I like being able to explain something to them in a way they understand; and I like knowing I'm helping the kids on their journey, knowing I'm a part of it," she said.

To qualify for the first-year program, students must be entering their first year of college and enroll in a minimum of 12 units at Rio Hondo College; complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application; and submit all required forms from Rio Hondo College's Financial Aid Office.

To qualify for the second-year program, students must complete at least 24 units

from Rio Hondo College by the end of their first year with a minimum 2.0 grade point average; enroll in 12 units a semester their second year; complete the FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application; and submit all required forms from Rio Hondo College's Financial Aid Office.

All participants of the program receive ongoing support to foster success. Resources include:

- Workshops on study tips, time management, financial aid, etc.
- Early alert program to provide timely intervention and support
- Student success coaches to provide resources and support for students
- Counselors to help students define educational goals and develop educational plans
- Supplemental instruction in mathematics courses
- Support with understanding career options and preparation
- Exposure to four-year universities and support in transferring

College data shows that participants in the first-year Rio Promise program passed significantly more classes and were more likely to continue on their educational journeys.

In other counties, San Diego Community College District, Oxnard College and Santa Barbara City College are also at the forefront of offering free tuition programs to second-year students. Los Angeles Community College District announced a similar plan.

"This is a landmark moment for Rio Hondo College," Shapiro said. "With this expansion, we are fulfilling California's historic promise that community college would be accessible to all. Students who enroll in Rio Hondo College will be able to complete their certificates and two-year degrees without financial challenges."

### RUTH B. SHANNON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Singer/Songwriter

**DAVID WILCOX**  
Sat., Oct. 6 at 7:30 pm



Whittier College Theatre Arts Dept. presents  
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October 25-28



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Matthew 5:4

**Women in Business**  
*Continued from front page*

inviting young women from the local high schools who are interested in pursuing careers in business to attend the "Power Brunch" as her special guests. "We are excited to share this inspirational event with female student leaders and thankful for Supervisor Hahn's generous support," stated Lyn Carty, Associate Executive Director for the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce.

Before Buckley's presentation begins, attendees will enjoy networking, a business card exchange, fellowship, and a delicious brunch prepared by Geezers. "It's almost impossible not to be moved when you hear Kathy's story, but it's even harder not to laugh," stated committee chairwoman Claudia Fimbres, of Bluemoon On Stage. "I am really looking forward to networking and spending the morning with amazing business women from within my community. I truly hope our guests leave feeling empowered to take on any challenges that come their way!"

An important part of Buckley's message is to encourage audience members to make needed changes, become more self-confident and self-aware, and to strive for self-growth. If you are looking for a little motivation, or if you simply want to be inspired and entertained while networking with local business women, join us at the 2018 Women in Business Power Brunch. To RSVP, or to purchase tickets for members of your staff please register at whittierchamber.com or call the office directly a (562) 698-9554.



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# Hathaway Golf Classic

&  
19<sup>th</sup> Hole After Party Mixer & Awards Dinner

# Thank you

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Hathaway Golf Classic

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### Photos by



Doug Rowan from Quantum Econometrics served as the Long Drive Sponsor at the Hathaway Golf Classic



Chamber Executive Director Carol Crosby presents Luke Harrison from Harrison Electric with his big check for winning the helicopter golf ball drop



Closest to the Pin Sponsor Toni Segura-Lozano from Skin Perfect presents winners Jerry Morgan and Ellie Bewley with their awards



Mayor Pro Tem Josué Alvarado greeted Chamber members at the Hathaway Golf Classic 19th Hole After Party Mixer including Laurie Perschbacher, MAP Property Management, Elizabeth Martinez, Republic Services, Chamber Executive Director Carol Crosby, President Gary Lee Martinez, The Traveling Traveler, Greg Gunter, Greg's Auto Body and Edgar Fagen, Grocery Outlet



Closest to the Pin Sponsor Greg Gunter from Greg's Auto Body presents awards to the winners in the Men's, Women's and Senior divisions



Board members Trese Childs, DoubleTree Hotel Whittier, Tom Rios, Brookdale Uptown Whittier, Laurie Perschbacher, MAP Property Management, Greg Nicodemus, Credit Union of Southern California, Gary Lee Martinez, The Traveling Traveler, and Elizabeth Martinez, Republic Services show their Chamber support at the Hathaway Golf Classic





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## Thank you 2018 Hathaway Committee:



Hathaway co-chairs R.D. McDonnell and Laurie Perschbacher and Awards Sponsor Celia Alvarez from US Bank present a trophy to one of the winners of the golf tournament

**Hathaway Co-chairs:**  
RD McDonnell, McDonnell Group and Nate Ploog, DialMED Home Care

**Hathaway 19th Hole After Party Mixer chair:**  
Laurie Perschbacher, MAP Property Management

**Committee:**  
Guy Battaglia, Primerica  
Ross Gile, DigiCal  
Vanessa Monzon, State Farm - Cheryl Estep  
La Donna Munier, Friendly Hills Bank  
Toni Segura-Lozano, Skin Perfect Medical  
Bonnie Watje, ACRO Printing, Inc.  
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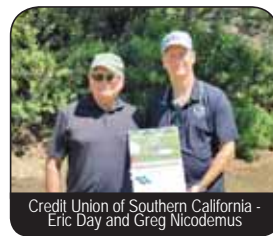
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To advertise in the **MEMBER MARKETPLACE** contact the Whittier Chamber at **(562) 698-9554**



<b>OCT</b>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31										

## RESTAURANT ROW

**October 5, 12, 19 & 26**  
 Certified Farmers 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

**OCT 4**  
 Speak out for those who cannot – Annual Lip Sync @ Whittier Community Theater (7630 Washington Ave.) 5:30 p.m. Community Leaders lip sync to help spread awareness to communities of hope to victims of domestic violence. Funds raised will benefit the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter. \$40 per person. For more information, call Yvette Morales at (562) 945-3937

**OCT 5**  
 CAPC, Inc. Celebrity Waiter Dinner & Dance @ DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel – Norwalk (13111 Sycamore Dr.) 6 p.m. The Celebration of Time themed event will include dinner, networking, dancing, themed tables, guest performers, a silent auction and more! To register or become a sponsor, contact Natalie Saenz at (562) 693-8826

**October 6 & 7**  
 ICON Volleyball Club Tryouts @ Southern California University of Health Sciences (16200 Amber Valley Dr.) 10 a.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. Sunday. Open to all skill levels, tryout fee is \$25 per player and is good for both days. For more information or to pre-register, call John (310) 722-4459 or Michael (714) 612-6682

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

**OCT 11**  
 Booktoberfest @ Central Library (7344 Washington Ave.) 7 p.m. An evening of live music, craft beers paired with gourmet appetizers, and amazing raffle prizes. \$55 for WPLF members; \$60 for nonmembers. Tickets are available at Central Library or www.whittierplf.org, for more information call Carole Hull at (562) 567-9929

**OCT 12**  
 Eric Burdon & The Animals @ La Mirada Theatre of the Performing Arts (14900 La Mirada Blvd.) 7:30 p.m. A member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame since 1994 and hailed by Rolling Stone as one of the 100 Greatest Voices of All Time, Burdon's music has forged new territory while also topping the charts for more than five decades.

**OCT 17**  
**Wake Up Whittier @ Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier (7905 Greenleaf Ave.) 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Network with over 150 business professionals. FREE for Whittier Chamber members; \$20 for non-members. Call (562) 698-9554 for more information**

**October 20 & 21**  
 Harmony Center Fine Art & Craft Fair @ Harmony Center for Spiritual Living (6550 Comstock Ave.) 9 a.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. Sunday. Free! There will be award-winning artists, outdoor cafe with snacks, live music, face painting, raffle prizes and a gallery-style display of the high school art contest submissions. Call (562) 440-6575 for more information

**OCT 21**  
 Fall Wedding & Events Soiree @ Friendly Hills Country Club (8500 Villaverde Dr.) 2 p.m. Free admission! Come find the wedding or event inspiration you've been looking for! For more information, contact Taylor Stewart at tstewart@friendlyhillsc.com or (562) 698-0331

**OCT 23**  
**SCORE Consultations @ The Whittier Chamber Office (8158 Painter Ave.) 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. SCORE mentors will help you and your business open new markets, reach new customers, and achieve new goals. By appointment only. FREE. For appointments call (626) 593-1120**

**OCT 24**  
 Casino Night & The Whole Child Costume Drive @ Brookdale Uptown Whittier (13250 E. Philadelphia St.) 6 to 8 p.m. This free business mixer will have poker, black jack, roulette, live music, food and beverages. Everyone is encouraged to bring a Halloween Costume to benefit the children served at The Whole Child (0-18 years). For more information, email Tom Rios at tomas.rios@brookdale.com or call (562) 945-3904

**OCT 26**  
**Women in Business Power Brunch @ The Clarke Estate (10211 Pioneer Blvd.) 9 a.m. Connect with other business women while hearing an empowering message from one of the nation's leading motivational speakers. \$25 for Chamber members; \$35 for non-members. Call (562) 698-9554 for more information or RSVP online at whittierchamber.com**

**OCT 27**  
 Whittier Spooktacular 5K Run/Walk @ Whittier Community Center (7630 Washington Ave.) 6:30 a.m. registration begins 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Join the Whittier Community Foundation and Whittier Host Lions Club for a 5K run/walk and Children's Creepy Crawly ½ mile. Registration: \$35 for 5K; \$18 for ½ Creepy Crawly. For more information call (562) 567-9400



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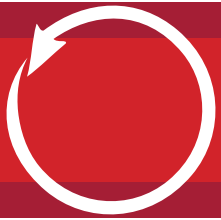


Halloween Capers @ the Greenleaf Grassy area along Greenleaf Ave. 3 to 6 p.m. This is a safe and festive event for all ages, come out and bring the little ones for trick or treating and much more. FREE for the entire family! For more information, call the Whittier Uptown Association at (562) 696-2662

**OCT 30**  
**Tasty Tuesday @ Mi Burrito (15856 Whittier Blvd.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy business networking and great food! \$10 pre-registration; \$15 at the door; \$20 for non-members. Call (562) 698-9554 for more information or visit whittierchamber.com**

Meet Whittier College President Dr. Oubre @ DoubleTree by Hilton – Whittier (7320 Greenleaf Ave.) 12 p.m. Join Soroptimist International of Whittier as they welcome the newest Whittier College President, Linda Oubre, Ed.D to the Whittier community. Dr. Oubre will be the program speaker at the October lunch meeting. \$19 per person. RSVP to Jan Mericle (562) 619-9466





## AROUND TOWN

### HOT's Día De Los Muertos Fundraiser

Hispanic Outreach Taskforce (HOT) has worked to empower residents and families in the greater Whittier/Rio Hondo area by providing college scholarships, critically needed programs, information about higher education, parenting, health and wellness, and the cultural arts for many years.

To help local high school seniors achieve their academic goals, HOT is asking you or your company to sponsor their Día De Los Muertos fundraiser, taking place Friday, November 9 from 7 to 11 a.m. at Friendly Hills Country Club. Proceeds from the fundraiser will help provide scholarships for college bound high school seniors and various programs to fulfill HOT's mission statement in the community. They are asking for donated items for silent & live auctions. To learn more about this fundraiser, contact Jess Montes at (626) 524-8592.

### PIH Health Earns National Research Corporation's Excellence Award for Ninth Consecutive Year

PIH Health Hospital - Whittier was awarded the National Research Corporation's (NRC) *Excellence Award* for the ninth consecutive year at the 2018 NRC Health Symposium in San Diego in August. The hospital was also presented with the *Consumer Loyalty Award*.

The *Excellence Award* recognizes healthcare organizations for their dedication to improving the patient experience. PIH Health was selected from NRC's extensive database of members ranging from small specialty hospitals to large multi-hospital systems. The organization was recognized as a top performer in the category of large hospitals with 300-plus beds. Award recipients were selected based on their achievement status within the categories that patients have identified as being most important to the quality of their care.

The *Consumer Loyalty Award* recognizes U.S. hospitals for success at garnering and retaining patient loyalty. The award is based on NRC's consumer loyalty study, which surveyed more than 310,000 households across the country from June 2017 through May 2018.

For more information on PIH Health's services, please visit [PIHHealth.org](http://PIHHealth.org) and for information on National Research Corporation, visit [nationalresearch.com](http://nationalresearch.com).

### Brookdale Uptown Whittier's Casino Night

Brookdale Uptown Whittier invites you to their free monthly business mixer and costume fundraiser. Join them for a casino night on Wednesday, October 24 at 6 p.m. complete with games, live music, food and much more! They encourage everyone to bring a Halloween costume for ages 0-18 to benefit the children serviced by The Whole Child. For more information or to RSVP, call (562) 945-3904.

### Christmas Carousel Home Tour 2018

The Assistance League of Whittier invites you to support their fundraiser, "Christmas Carousel Home Tour 2018" on Friday, November 30 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, December 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items will be available for purchase including homemade jellies and holiday cookies. Any leftover items will be sold at the Assistance League of Whittier, Chapter House at 6339 Greenleaf Ave. on Sunday, December 2 from 12 - 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 per person. Please visit [assistanceleague.org/whittier](http://assistanceleague.org/whittier) under "events" to purchase tickets. Tickets will be mailed to you after October 1. For more information, call the Assistance League of Whittier at (562) 693-6533.

### The Whittier Art Gallery Presents Reflections from *The Third Dimension*

The Whittier Gallery's 3D Group proudly presents its 10<sup>th</sup> show with the Gallery. Featured artist, Dawn Mendelson's work will be on display from October 3 to October 27, 2018. Art lovers have marveled at her whimsical life-sized murals in venues all over the Southland and beyond. The public is invited to the free reception on October 13 at 2 p.m. For more information, contact the Whittier Art Gallery at (562) 698-8710.

### Stater Bros. to Transfer Certain Assets of SuperRx Pharmacy to CVS Pharmacy

Stater Bros. Markets expect to complete the sale of certain assets of its SuperRx Pharmacies to CVS Pharmacy later this month. When the transaction is complete, pharmacy records and inventory from 22 Stater Bros. SuperRx pharmacy locations will be transferred to nearby CVS Pharmacy locations. By September 28, all 22 in-store SuperRx pharmacy locations are expected to be closed. Stater Bros. and CVS Pharmacy are working together to ensure that the transition will be seamless for patients and that their access to pharmacy care is not interrupted. Stater Bros. SuperRx customers will be notified of their prescription transfer dates via mail. For more information, visit [staterbros.com](http://staterbros.com).

### Harmony Center Hosts 9th Fine Art & Craft Fair

On October 20 and 21, Harmony Center invites all to "live creatively...shop harmoniously" at the 9th Annual Fine Art and Craft Fair fundraising event, held on the corner of Bailey and Comstock. The Fair is free to enter and open to all. The fair creates an opportunity for visitors to purchase one of a kind artwork and artisan crafts from selected award-winning makers, listen to live music, enjoy lunch, visit the high school artist displays, and participate in a variety of activities for kids. Don't forget to stop by the front counter to enter in drawings for Disneyland tickets and much more! Proceeds from the event benefit high school art contestants, the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter, and Harmony Center. For more information contact, Marilyn McCarty at [mmc.caligal@yahoo.com](mailto:mmc.caligal@yahoo.com) or call 562-440-6575.

### Photographer Michelle De La Vara continues Rebecca Merlino's Legacy

Michelle De La Vara is busy organizing and renovating the well-known studio where generations of local families went to have personal histories and precious memories captured. She is deeply aware that the transition is much more than a renovation. She is recreating a special space that many consider part of their own family tradition, while at the same time honoring her talent and the grit it took to bring her to this moment and place.

Effective September 1, De La Vara took over the lease of photographer Rebecca Merlino's studio which has been open more than 35 years in Uptown Whittier. De La Vara will continue to offer the portrait and studio sittings for which Merlino became renowned. The studio is currently undergoing renovations but will re-open early October under Michelle De La Vara Photography. Merlino will provide final sittings for current clients, by appointment, until the end of the year. For more information visit [michelledelavara.com](http://michelledelavara.com).

### Meet the New Whittier College President

You are invited to join the Soroptimists on Tuesday, October 30 at 12 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Whittier to meet and speak with the newly welcomed 15<sup>th</sup> President of Whittier College, Linda Oubre, Ed.D. Join them as they learn from Dr. Oubre about her goals for Whittier College especially as it relates to the community of Whittier.

The meeting includes a buffet lunch for \$19 per person and reservations may be made by calling Jan Mericle at (562) 619-9466.

### New Century Singers Presents Fall Concert

Join the New Century Singers Whittier as they perform their Fall concert, "Chasing the Blues Away," on Sunday, October 21, 3 p.m. at First Friends Church. The proceeds of the freewill offerings help to support the group and provide scholarships to music students. For more information, contact Terry Perkins, at [perkinstlee@gmail.com](mailto:perkinstlee@gmail.com) or (951) 203-4305.

### Sons & Daughters of Italy Monthly Meeting

Sons and Daughters of Italy are a national organization of men and women who represent the estimated 26 million Americans of Italian heritage. They are dedicated to promoting the legacy of their ancestors, customs, and contributions to the United States of America. If you have never visited them before, they invite you to be their honored guest (ospite onorato) at their next meeting.

This month's meeting is their annual Halloween party, so come in costume and bring kids in costume! There will be trick or treating for the children, and those that still think they are children. The October meeting will take place on Monday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Contact Bill at (626) 917-5962 for more information.

### East Whittier Lions Club Invites Community to Join and Make a Difference

The East Whittier Lions Club is seeking civic-minded men and women to join them in making a difference in the community. The club has been serving the Whittier area since its charter February 25, 1941. The club meets every Friday at Marie Callendar's Restaurant, 9829 La Serna Dr. at 7:00 a.m.

The Lions' motto is "We Serve" and East Whittier Lions Club has lived up to it for the last 77 years. Besides collection of used eye glasses

and hearing aids the club has been providing eye exams and glasses to students in need in the East Whittier City School District. Some of the club's annual service projects are Outstanding Freshman Awards for California and La Serna High Schools, annual White Cane Days, Children's Christmas Party and Student Speaker Contest. To learn more about East Whittier Lions Club or if you are interested in joining, email the club at [eastwhittierlions@gmail.com](mailto:eastwhittierlions@gmail.com).

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## Rio Hondo College President to Retire after 31 Years of Service

Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, who helped lead Rio Hondo College through the Great Recession, execute close to \$300 million in construction projects, open three regional campuses and create a historic four-year degree in automotive technology, will retire at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.



**Rio Hondo College President Teresa Dreyfuss will step down on June 30, 2019 after more than 31 years of service.**

Dreyfuss started at the College as an accountant in 1987 and rose through the ranks to become interim superintendent/president in 2012 and assuming the post permanently a year later. She announced her plan to step down on Aug. 17 to administrators, faculty and students attending a bi-annual FLEX staff development event.

Her last day will be June 30, 2019, ensuring time for a seamless transition in leadership.

"I have been fortunate to be a part of this community on so many levels, from my first job as an accountant to these last seven years as your superintendent/president. I have been humbled by the talented faculty, our dedicated staff and administrators, and, of course, our inspiring students," Dreyfuss stated.

In her roles as senior accountant, controller/business manager, chief financial officer and vice president of finance and business, Dreyfuss focused on ensuring the College's fiscal stability. During the Great Recession, Rio Hondo College avoided layoffs and furloughs, an achievement which is attributed to Dreyfuss' careful planning. Dr. Adam Wetsman, a Rio Hondo College anthropology professor and president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, praised Dreyfuss for her leadership. "Over the last half-dozen years, Teresa Dreyfuss has embodied everything a great college president should be," said Wetsman, who received the college system's 2018 Hayward Award for excellence in teaching, professional activities and commitment to students.

"While ensuring that student success and equity are the foundations for everything we do, she has overseen sound fiscal practices, solidified enduring connections with the community and maintained positive relationships with the faculty," Wetsman said. "Rio Hondo College is a better place because of

President Dreyfuss."

An immigrant from Taiwan, Dreyfuss often called on her journey to the presidency as a way to inspire Rio Hondo College students with their potential to succeed.

"I came into this country as an immigrant and discovered a place at Rio Hondo College, one of the most creative and dedicated communities I have ever experienced," Dreyfuss said. "I love

this College and what it has become."

"In some ways, this makes this coming year even more essential – for me, it's my last chance to complete projects on many fronts," Dreyfuss explained. "For the rest of the community, it will be about focusing on the business of education and starting the search for a new leader who reflects our shared values and goals."

Dreyfuss has been praised for her oversight of nearly \$300 million in capital projects. Since 2004, the College has built an Administration of Justice Building, Learning Resource Center, Applied Technology Complex, P.E. Complex, police and fire training facilities, a Student Services building and the Student Union. Regional campuses also opened in South Whittier in 2009, El Monte in 2012 and Pico Rivera in 2016.

Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri said Dreyfuss provided a perfect blend of fiscal stewardship and inspirational leadership. "She has a great sense of providing leadership for the academic program, the students and the faculty, while at the same time having a tight rein on the spending ... a balance that has brought strength to the college," Vinatieri said.

In 2013-14, Rio Hondo College became one of a select group of community colleges to host the Pathway to Law School program, which guides students from community college, through four-year universities, to one of eight top California law schools. Earlier this year, the College's program received the *Diversity Champion Award* from California LAW for excellence.

In 2017, the College created the Rio Promise, which offers a free year of tuition and priority registration to recent public high school graduates in its service area. A free tuition program for second-year students was recently launched. (see story, page 6)

## Your Home's Fall Checklist

By: Rob Marin, Realtor

Summer is gone, and fall is upon us, and now is the time to get your home ready for those cooler months. Here are some tips and tricks to prepare your home for the season.

- 1. Get your mind in the gutters**  
Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts.
- 2. Button up your overcoat**  
Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk.
- 3. Get on top of roof problems**  
Inspect your roof for damaged shingles, corroded flashing, or leaky vents.
- 4. Chill out**  
Adjust your irrigation systems for the seasonal change.

- 5. Freshen your filter**  
Clean or replace dirty furnace filters.
- 6. Give your furnace a physical**  
Have a professional inspect your heating system.
- 7. Gather round the hearth**  
Check fireplaces for soot or creosote build-up. Better yet, schedule a visit from a reputable chimney sweep.
- 8. Keep your family safe at home**  
A home safety check should be an annual ritual in every household. Test smoke and CO monitors, inspect (or install) fire extinguishers, review fire escape plans, and rid your home of old newspapers and other fire hazards.

For more information on this checklist, contact Rob at (562) 688-1873 or visit [robmarinrealty.com](http://robmarinrealty.com)



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# 10 Things You Might Not Know About Sexual Harassment: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

By Gail Cecchettini Whaley, J.D.

As business owners, we know we must prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. California employers must put up harassment prevention posters, distribute anti-harassment pamphlets and establish policies prohibiting harassment. If you're an employer with 50 or more employees, you're also required by law to provide training for your supervisors.

Despite our collective knowledge about the right thing to do, the problem has not gone away as evidenced by the growing #MeToo movement across the country.

Learning the following 10 things about sexual harassment may keep your employees – and you – out of trouble.

## 1. The "New" Harassment

Sexual harassment might look different today. Technology has opened up additional avenues of interaction and these days, texts, emails or social media posts on sites like Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat may also be causing problems in your workplace.

Employees also may be interacting after hours on social media – commenting on profiles, tweeting or viewing or "liking" posts. They might be making comments online that they might never feel comfortable saying face-to-face.

Whether they are using their personal cell phones, or company-provided equipment, to make harassing comments during or after work hours won't matter. Don't make the mistake of

thinking that because it happened after hours or on personal equipment, you can ignore it. Treat it just as you would any other harassment complaint. Train your workers to understand that online harassment of a co-worker after hours violates company policy.

## 2. Eyes on You: Staring, Glaring and Leering

Many types of unwanted physical, verbal and visual behaviors can constitute sexual harassment. While not all stares are sexual harassment, some are. There's a difference between a non-sexual stare from someone lost in thought versus blatant leering or other lascivious expressions.

## 3. Outside In, Inside Out

California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) provides broad protections against harassment to a number of individuals entering the workplace: employees, applicants, interns, volunteers and individual contractors. If vendors or customers continuously enter your workplace and harass your employees, you have to deal with that situation, too. Under FEHA, employers have an obligation to protect employees from sexual harassment committed by nonemployees coming into the workplace.

## 4. It's Not About Desire

Sexually harassing conduct does not need to be motivated by sexual desire. An example of this is when the

perpetrator acts out of hostility toward the individual because of the individual's gender or sexual orientation, not out of sexual desire. Abusive comments or hostile conduct directed toward someone because of his/her gender can amount to unlawful sexual harassment.

## 5. But It Was Consensual!

Despite all appearances, a relationship may not truly be consensual or welcome. This is especially true with the relationship is between a supervisor and a subordinate given the power dynamic involved. Because employers have a duty to prevent harassment in the workplace, managers will want to pay attention to any workplace romance due to legal risks and address conflicts of interest.

## 6. It Only Happened Once

Harassing behavior needn't be repeated to be unlawful. The standard is "severe or pervasive."

## 7. Nobody Has to Say Stop

It can still be unwelcome, unlawful harassment even if the victim never told the perpetrator to stop. Although a clear message from the victim that the conduct is offensive can put an end to it, never require the victim to tell the harasser to stop before you will act on the complaint.

## 8. Complaints Can Take Many Forms

There is no requirement that a

harassment complaint be made in a particular way. A complaint can be verbal, anonymous or lodged by someone other than the alleged victim. Managers should be trained that they're obligated to respond to harassment of which they're aware, including an incident that has been reported to them. California law requires employers to have a written policy that informs employees of their complaint mechanism.

## 9. Don't Just Prohibit "Unlawful" Harassment

Your company should have a zero tolerance policy that aims at prohibiting disrespectful and unprofessional conduct before it becomes a legal violation. Your policy should inform employees that the company will not tolerate harassment of any type and takes harassment claims seriously.

## 10. You Can't Promise Confidentiality

Promises that complaints are "confidential" should not be made. The company has a legal obligation to investigate the harassment and events and names may inevitably be disclosed during the course of the investigation. Instead of promising confidentiality, inform the complainant that you will disclose information on the complaint and investigation only on a need-to-know basis. Also stress your anti-retaliation policy to all parties and witnesses in the investigation

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Email: emanzano-paulus@forestlawn.com  
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Phone: (714) 784-6700  
Email: mzahlout@syrusaengineering.com  
Website: www.syrusaengineering.com



SYRUSA Engineering, Inc. is a woman owned small construction management business founded in 2009. They specialize in highways, roadways, bridges, structures, and trails. The SYRUSA team takes great pride in the many projects they have completed throughout Southern California and aim to improve each community they serve. Their motto is, "Building Better Together."

## HOSPITAL

### Barlow Respiratory Hospital

Julia Robinson Shimizu  
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Whittier, CA 90602  
Phone: (213) 202-6832  
Email: jshimizu@barlow2000.org  
Website: www.barlowhospital.org



Barlow Respiratory Hospital was founded in 1902 and is the only not-for-profit respiratory hospital in Los Angeles. The hospital is a long-term acute care hospital (LTACH) recognized for excellence in treating medically complex patients dependent on a ventilator to breathe and is a national leader in Ventilator Weaning. The hospital serves patients referred by hospital Intensive Care Units throughout Los Angeles and Southern California and has a distinguished Wound Care program. Barlow Respiratory Hospital is affiliated with UCLA Health for inpatient care and is a teaching facility for USC Keck School of Medicine. The hospital has been awarded the Gold Seal of Approval® for Respiratory Failure Certification by the Joint Commission. There are less than one dozen hospitals nationwide that have achieved this certification and Barlow is the only one in California. Barlow is also the only West Coast Passy-Muir Center of Excellence, recognized for treating patients with tracheostomies, on and off the ventilator.

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Michelle De La Vara is an multi award-winning photographer located in beautiful Uptown Whittier. Michelle De La Vara Photography was established in 2015 and provides a variety of photographic services including portraits, family photos, weddings, engagements, quinceañeras, seniors, events, headshots and more! Michelle works both in studio and outdoors, depending on her client's needs. She has taken over long-time photographer, Rebecca Merlino, and will continue to provide amazing photography for her clients' base. She has a dedicated passion and creative edge that really shines in her work.

# RENEWING MEMBERS

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

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**SOLA Lions Club of Whittier**  
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## TESTIMONIAL



“ The Whittier Chamber has given me the opportunity to grow my business within the local community and I know my investment is paying off! Some of my new clients have come to me from the Chamber, whether they saw my ad in the Business Focus or found my business information in the Community Resource Magazine. I encourage all business owners, if not a member already, to stop by and visit the Chamber office. Their staff and board members are warm & inviting and will make you feel right at home in the City of Whittier! ”



**Robert Reggio,**  
Associated Cabinets

# Congratulations to our Milestone Members this month!

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

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They are passionate about seeing smiles on people's faces when making their table side guacamole, lighting up flaming fajitas, or singing the birthday song. They look forward to the future in creating more family memories with all their guests.

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