

Financial Boot Camp Workshops Offered to Protect the Health of Small Businesses

A 4-part intensive online workshop series for small business owners

Are you a small business owner who needs to better understand the financial health of your company? Do you receive financial statements from your accountant and not understand what those documents are telling you about the condition of your business? Do you need more information about how to secure a loan?

To answer these questions (and many more), the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Long Beach Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Corporate Sponsor Friendly Hills Bank, is offering a 4-part online workshop series, beginning Monday, May 16th. For a small \$20 investment for all 4 workshops, you will complete these sessions with a much-needed understanding of how to use your financials to grow your business.

Each of the 4 workshops will be presented virtually from 6pm to 7pm and will be taught by expert SBDC business advisors. Each session will be recorded and made available to those who register; however, all are encouraged to participate during the scheduled times so any questions you may have can be addressed at that time.

The sequence of workshops will be:

Monday, May 16, 2022
6pm to 7pm (virtual)

The 3 Fundamentals of a Small Business

Taught by SBDC business advisor, Steve Richardson. In this workshop, Steve will outline how a small business works, focusing on People, Profit and Product.

Monday, May 23, 2022
6pm to 7pm (virtual)

Understanding Your Financials

Taught by SBDC business advisor, Mike Huntley. In this workshop, Mike will de-mystify the language of the 3 key financial statements (balance sheet, P&L, and cash flow). He will also de-mystify the language of accounting and bookkeeping and underscore why

it is important and how it is 100% possible for every small business to understand all of these concepts.

Monday, June 6, 2022
6pm to 7pm (virtual)

Securing A Loan

Taught by SBDC business advisor, Max Ordonez. In this workshop, Max will demonstrate how the material taught in the previous two workshops is critically important to being able to secure a loan (of any kind). Max will de-mystify the language of lending and clarify what steps need to be taken to identify the right type(s) of lender(s) for your particular needs.



Monday, June 13, 2022
6pm to 7pm (virtual)

Live Q&A panel to address all that was discussed in the previous 3 workshops

Attended by all of the above-mentioned business advisors and moderated by Long Beach SBDC director, Brad Pollak.

Each participant who completes the 4-part workshop will receive FREE one-on-one mentoring session(s) with an SBDC expert. The value of attending the virtual workshops is that (a) you'll be

exposed to much-needed, helpful information to better understand your financials and (b) you'll build relationships with seasoned business advisors, who'll be able to work with you for many follow-up sessions so that you'll truly understand the material and be able to protect the financial health of your business.

All Whittier area businesses are invited to register for the Financial Boot Camp for Small Businesses. Upon registering, participants will receive the Zoom link for the workshops. For questions about the Financial Boot Camp for Small Businesses, please contact the Whittier Chamber at (562) 698-9554 or info@whittierchamber.com

About Corporate Sponsor Friendly Hills Bank

Friendly Hills Bank ("FHB") was founded in 2006 by a group of local business leaders who recognized the value of establishing a relationship focused bank for the local community. FHB opened for business on September 18, 2006 with an initial location in Whittier, California. Since then, FHB has expanded to Santa Fe Springs, Orange and Redlands.

Friendly Hills Bank is a financial services company focused on the enhancement of shareholder value through the delivery of high-quality personalized service to businesses and professionals in their local communities.

The key to providing these services is a personable and professional staff utilizing a consultative approach and the ability to efficiently utilize advanced technology.

FHB believes that they can most effectively execute these objectives through the benefits of public ownership and an active presence in the communities they serve.

About SBDC

The SBDC is the SBA's largest service program and provides high quality business & economic development assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs whether you are a startup, new business or growing business. The SBDC has been hosted by Long Beach City College since 2006 and in that time has helped thousands of area business owners increase their sales, obtain loans, streamline operations, utilize new technologies, expand into new markets, and position themselves for long-term growth.

See what's inside

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Meet the 2022-2023
Chamber Board of Directors

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Spring Cleaning Business Directory

City leaders to share community vision, development highlights at State of the City Address

City of Whittier staff and leaders, including Mayor Joe Vinatieri and City Manager Brian Saeki, will reflect on City accomplishments from the past year, review the City Council's strategic goals and more at the annual State of the City Address presented by the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee.

This popular event, in partnership with Corporate Sponsors Athens Services, Brookfield Residential, DoubleTree Hotel Whittier, PIH Health and Southern California Edison and Community Partners Kaiser Permanente, MAP Property Management, Republic Services, Southern California Gas Company, and Suburban Water, will be held in person on Thursday, May 26 at 8:30 a.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel Whittier. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. All businesses and residents are invited to attend this important business event and submit questions in advance or during the presentation. Tickets are \$25 per person and include breakfast and networking before and



after the presentation.

This year's Address will highlight the City Council's goals and objectives for the new fiscal year, as well as the City's budget, capital improvement projects, commercial development, business support, and public safety. City Manager Brian Saeki will also provide details regarding the updated General Plan, State housing requirements, the re-opening of the Central Library, the Greenway Trail extension, and progress in Uptown including the Greenleaf Promenade, streetscape enhancements, and development of the former Alpha Beta site and adjacent properties.

"Whittier is poised to have another great year ahead," stated Mayor Joe Vinatieri. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve as Whittier's Mayor for another term and to working alongside dedicated Council colleagues to

Continued on page 2

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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.

Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**The Chamber is a Vital Partner for
Your Business's Growth**



Kwan Lee,
Chair of the Board

I am honored to serve as the 109th Chair of the Whittier Chamber Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 year. Although the new Chamber year just kicked off on April 1, I am happy to report that the Chamber Board has been hard at work for months prior to that developing a plan for this year. Just like your business, the Chamber is still in the rebuilding phase and making adjustments in our "new normal." This year we built our staff back up again so we can serve you efficiently, and we are creating new programs that will help you stay connected and help your business or organization thrive. As we keep our eye on what's happening around us, we are also keeping our eyes out for you and your needs, and advocating on your behalf both right here at home and statewide.

I learned the value of hard work through my parents. They immigrated here when I was 8 years old and opened their first restaurant in Gardena. They worked 7 days a week and sometimes 20 hours a day so their children would have a better opportunity. My mother had limited resources growing up,

but she never refused to share what she had with others. That example is the reason why I give back to the community and volunteer for many nonprofit organizations.

My business, Martplan Insurance, is in La Habra, but I am connected to Whittier in many ways. I was a student-athlete at Whittier College, graduating in 1988, I purchased my first home in Whittier in 1992 and started my family there, and I purchased Martplan Insurance, which was located on Bright Street in Uptown Whittier, in 2007.

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.

The Chamber has been a vital partnership for the growth of our business. The Chamber not only creates opportunities to network, but I personally have made lifelong friends and business mentors for the continued success of our business. I

encourage you to stay connected to the Chamber and use it as a resource for your business.

All of our members benefit from the issues and behind the scenes advocacy work the Chamber of Commerce does on their behalf. Regardless of whether or not you attend events hosted by the Chamber, we are still working for you. Together we are stronger, and this year we will continue to represent local business needs regarding workforce development, economic development, Uptown revitalization, homelessness issues, security and safety through our partnership with the Whittier Police Department, Greenway Trail expansion, Gold Line Eastside Extension transportation discussions and so much more.

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

State of the City Address - Continued from front page

encourage economic development and provide support to the local businesses and organizations we are fortunate to have in Whittier. This year's focus will be ensuring that local tax dollars are spent on enhancing the quality of life for our residents through state-of-the-art projects and park improvements, critical upgrades to Whittier's infrastructure, opportunities for sustainable and innovative community development, and by furthering public safety outreach."

"Thank you to the Chamber staff and its membership for working collectively with the City to bounce back from the pandemic," stated the Mayor. "In the coming year, our continued partnership will ensure Whittier remains a great place to LIVE, WORK, and SHOP. Whittier's on the Move!"

"The Whittier Chamber is pleased to provide access to our local elected officials and City staff and host this important event for our business community," stated Chamber Chair of the Board Kwan Lee from Martplan Insurance. "These have, and continue to be, challenging times for all of us and the State of the City Address is an excellent chance for local businesses and residents to stay connected and get the latest information about our community's future," added Economic Development Committee Chair RD McDonnell. "There are exciting things happening in Whittier and we look forward to sharing them with you," added Lee.

Take advantage of this opportunity to hear firsthand what is happening in and around Whittier by participating in this special address to the community on Thursday, May 26. To register for the Whittier Chamber's 2022 State of the City Address, please visit www.whittierchamber.com.

The 110% Club

Arden Escrow Services, Inc. • Baker's Lock & Key • Bob Downey & Sons' West Whittier Paint Co.
Brickhouse Pizza • Brookdale Uptown Whittier • Crocker Signs & Printing
Haas Business Service • Lambert Inn • Law Office of Darin W. Barber, Esq.
Margo's Early Learning Center • Panagos, Bonnie Jo • Petropulos, Ted
Quad at Whittier, The • Second Church of Christ, Scientist
The UPS Store at The Quad • Whittier Republican Women Federated

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If you have a Facebook account and want to get instant Chamber updates directly on your phone, scan this code!

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.

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Kwan Lee,
Chair of the Board



Immediate Past Chair
Sandra Hahn



Chair-elect & Vice Chair of Finance
Gregg Durkee



Vice Chair - Administration
Nate Ploog



Vice Chair - Business Information
R.D. McDonnell, AIA, CSI



Vice Chair - Community Affairs
Susan Ayala



Vice Chair - Membership
Trese Childs



Vice Chair - Networking & Marketing
Judy Bradt



Vice Chair - Special Events
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DIRECTORS



Celia Alvarez,
U.S. Bank



Julia Emerson,
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Linda Garrido,
Coby Madison Jewelers



Paul Hernandez,
State Farm Insurance



Kevin Koga,
PIH Health



Bruce Lazenby,
Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary



Gina-Marie Lopez,
Whittier College



Daniela Ojeda,
Athens Services



Monica Peters,
Hebert Design Werks



Meri Rama
Century 21 Cornerstone



Curt Skotnicki,
YMCA of Greater Whittier



Ambassador Chair
Laurie Perschbacher,
MAP Property Management, Inc.

Business leaders join Chamber Board of Directors



Meri Rama - Meri is the owner of Focus Escrow and Century21 Cornerstone and leads a staff and a team of realtors who are among the industry's finest. Both companies are well known in the community with a reputation built on the principles of honesty, integrity and respect that have powered Meri's own successes.

Meri was born in communist Albania during an era of great political unrest and came to California when she was 23 to attend San Diego State University. Meri lives in Whittier and is the mother of two grown children, Julia and Christopher.

Meri is excited to join the Chamber Board and bring her positive attitude and organizational skills to the organization that, she says, does so much for our businesses and city.



Bruce Lazenby - Bruce has worked for Rose Hills for 38 years. He is the past Chief Engineer and VP of Development and for the past 9 years has served as the Executive Director for Business Development.

Bruce has spent much of his career serving the communities in which he works. Not only is this Bruce's second time serving on the Whittier Chamber Board of Directors, he has also served on the Board for the San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber, Arcadia Chamber, and Irvine Chamber. In addition, Bruce currently serves the community of Whittier as a Board member for the Whittier Community Foundation and the Whittier Public Library Foundation.

In his spare time, Bruce enjoys spending time with his grandkids, golfing, gardening, antique cars and traveling.



Daniela Ojeda - Daniela joined Athens Services in May 2021 with extensive experience in community service and government relations. Daniela holds a Masters in Social Work from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science in Child and Adolescent Development from California State University, Fullerton. She is passionate about empowering individuals and bringing diverse people together to improve the well-being of communities.

Daniela was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States when she was three years old. She has 2 beautiful children and resides in the City of Whittier with her family. She is honored to join the Whittier Chamber as part of the Board of Directors and excited to have the opportunity to work with diverse individuals and businesses in order to continue to enhance the overall and economic well-being of the community of Whittier.



Curt Skotnicki - Curt is in his 18th year in his YMCA Leadership & Executive Management Career and has been the President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater Whittier for the last 7 years.

During the pandemic, he has led the Y by serving our community needs in distance learning, childcare, adults with disabilities programming, and food distribution services.

Curt began his Y career with the YMCA of Greater Kansas City after a 16-year career in College Athletics as a Football Coach, Administrator and Teacher. In both careers, Curt has had the opportunity to support, lead and engage community groups and was an active member in their Chambers of Commerce.

Curt lives on Naples Island with his partner Gloria. He has 3 sons who live in Florida. Curt enjoys traveling to keep up with his boys, bicycling on his road or beach bike, as well as riding his Harley. He is an avid football fanatic and enjoys cheering on the Trojans and Chargers.

Curt is excited to join the Whittier Chamber in service to the business community and help connect the community.



Paul Hernandez - Paul is a State Farm Agent, owning his own Agency since 2013. Paul enjoys getting to meet and help a lot of people in his community with their insurance and financial needs. As a State Farm Agent, his core values are quality service and building relationships, mutual trust, and integrity. As an Agent he enjoys giving back to his community. Paul has been an active part of his community as a youth sports coach for baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. Paul also enjoys volunteering at his church as well as local food banks and the Boys and Girls Club. Paul has been involved with the Chamber for a number of years, serving on our Ambassador Team and most recently on our Greenleaf Promenade Taskforce.

In his spare time, Paul enjoys spending time with his wife of 24 years, Brenda Hernandez, and his two sons, Joshua and Jonah. The Hernandez family enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, off-roading, and attending sporting events.



City Of Whittier UPDATE



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



MAYOR
Joe Vinatieri

I don't know about you, but seeing my family, friends, and neighbors in person again and enjoying events together has made spring in Whittier that much brighter. Don't forget to visit www.WhittierRec.com for a list of new classes, activities, and events happening around town as we gear up for the summer season. Whittier's on the Move!

Thank you to the residents who took time to vote in the General Municipal election last month. Not a day goes by that I don't think about the mayor responsibility you have bestowed upon me. It is very humbling, and dare I say sometimes scary, but my faith and the spirit of service continue to guide me. Whether the decisions before me are seemingly mundane or controversial, the objective remains the same: what is best for the people of Whittier. I appreciate the opportunity to serve our wonderful community for another term and to roll my sleeves up with my fellow City Council colleagues and engaged residents to ensure Whittier remains a great place to LIVE, WORK, and SHOP now and for future generations.

I want to congratulate Fernando Dutra on his re-election to serve in Council District 4. I also want to welcome our newest City Council member, Octavio Martinez, representing Council District 2. Octavio is a great addition to the City Council who I know will offer thoughtful, yet poignant, discourse on various local projects and issues. Together with Council member Cathy Warner and

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Martinez, we will be working collaboratively to address challenges and enhance the quality of life for our community. I'd also be remiss if I didn't thank outgoing Council member Henry Bouchot who dedicated many hours to serving on the City Council over the last four years, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

May means that budget season is upon us, and we will have much to consider as we gear up for the year ahead. The City Council and staff will take part in our annual budget study session during a special City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, which will be streamed live from the City's website and available for viewing on channel 3. Residents are also invited to attend the session in person at the City Hall Council Chambers. The fiscal health of our city remains a top priority and we are very fortunate to be in a strong position as we kick off another budget cycle. The passing of Measure W in 2020 has allowed the City to continue offering great service, great events, and great programming for our community, even during the pandemic, and we will be keeping you updated over the next few months on how we are utilizing those funds to benefit our residents and their families. Similarly, the City recorded additional gains from construction and building activities, as well as property taxes in the past year, making this the first time the City Council has had a substantial surplus to work

with. Nevertheless, the Council will be reviewing our programs, services, and operations to ensure efficiency and long-term sustainability. But if a study session doesn't sound like your idea of a good time, consider joining Whittier City Manager, Brian Saeki, and me for the Chamber's annual State of the City Address on May 26, 2022 to hear more about progress on business support, public safety and crime prevention, Uptown redevelopment and streetscape, the Greenway Trail East and West extension, renovation and updating of the Whittier Senior Center, improvements at Whittier parks, expansion of local sports fields and athletic areas, and a personal favorite: a potential people-mover transit system.

I invite all of our local military personnel and veteran community to join the City for our annual Memorial Day ceremony at City Hall on Monday, May 30 at 9:00 a.m. Salute our servicemembers with special presentations and remarks from City Council members, locals veterans groups, and others. In speaking of our veteran community, I was pleased to honor the late Sgt. Jose Ramos and his family during the official dedication of the Whittier Post Office in his name. The U.S. Post Office located at 8520 Michigan Avenue is now the Jose Ramos Post Office, a fitting tribute to a local hero. Thank you to Congresswoman Linda Sanchez for her advocacy at the federal level and continued support of

veterans in Whittier. The City's Cultural Arts Commission, in partnership with the Art in Public Places Committee, will soon be unveiling a special Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans memorial at Central Park, the same location where Jose departed from on his cross-country trip to bring awareness to the challenges faced by veterans returning home from Vietnam. Prior to his passing, I shared with Jose and his wife that the City of Whittier would not forget his legacy, and later this month we will make good on that promise and ensure that his efforts were not in vain. Please watch for announcements on date and time in May and join us in honoring Whittier veterans for their service.

Mark your calendar for the long-awaited and much anticipated grand re-opening of the Whittier Central Library happening June 18, 2022. The community is invited to a celebration and walk through at the newly remodeled facility which offers expanded children and teen areas, upgraded technology and amenities, and a larger, full-service Veterans Resource Center. Thank you to the Whittier Public Library staff, the Whittier Public Library Foundation, and the Friends of the

Continued on page 9

WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE presents: *State of the City*

Thursday, May 26, 2022
8:00 a.m. - Registration & Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - Program

DoubleTree by Hilton - 7320 Greenleaf Ave.
\$25 per person
Register & pay online at bit.ly/WC-SOTC2022

Thank you to our sponsors:

2022 Summer Concert Series

LINE UP Mondays @ Central Park 13212 Park Street

June 27 Blue Breeze Band	July 25 City Beat Band
July 11 Like Totally Fer Sure	August 1 Woodie + the Longboards
July 18 Electric Vinyl	August 8 Pop Vinyl

Follow the fun: @Whittierpros

Thursdays @ Parnell Park 15390 Lambert Road

June 30 Upstream	July 21 Latin Nation
July 7 Charlie's Angels	July 28 Hard Days' Night
July 14 Hit Me 90s	August 4 Mariachi de Angeles de Pepe Martinez, Jr.

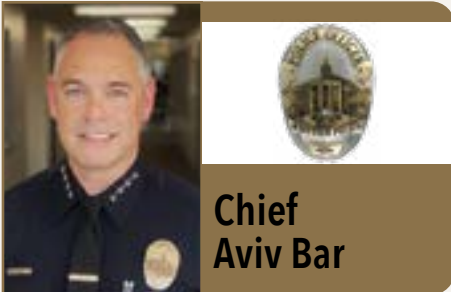
Concerts begin at 7 p.m.



City Of Whittier UPDATE



10-4 tips from the



Residential Burglary Prevention

Residential Burglaries. For the past two years, while many community members worked from home and most kids in our community attended school from home, we saw the lowest rate of residential burglaries in decades.

With life back to normal, residential burglars know that most homes are once again unoccupied during daytime hours, when most residential burglaries occur. With this in mind, here are some reminders to help reduce your chance of becoming a residential burglary victim:

- Lock all doors, windows and side gates when leaving your home, even for a quick errand.
- Arm your alarm system and ensure that an alarm sign on your property is clearly visible from the street. For apartments and condos, use an alarm sticker on the door or a nearby visible window.
- Make use of available video technology with a visible video camera or doorbell device.
- Get to know your neighbors, especially if they are home during the day, and ask them to report any suspicious activity on your property to the police department.
- Residential burglars are mainly after jewelry, cash, firearms, portable electronics, and designer fashion items. Make these items hard to find in your home.

Home burglars drive neighborhoods looking for easy targets. Make your home a hard target with alarm signage and visible video devices, locked access points and watchful neighbors.



Octavio Cesar Martinez Elected for Whittier City Council District 2

After all the votes were counted from the District 2 election that took place on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, it was concluded that Octavio Cesar Martinez was the victor.

Martinez, a small-business owner, led Sullens, manager of a cardiology practice, 1,256 to 1,101 during early returns. After 2,917 vote-by-mail ballots were counted Martinez extended his lead to 1,532, or 52.5%, to 1,334, or 45.7%.

Martinez said in a telephone interview that, "I will push for and work with and continue to bang the drum for a special prosecutor to prosecute our misdemeanor crimes."

"Whittier has a multi-million dollar budget so cost is not an issue. It's only impossible when you don't want to."

Here is a short introduction into the past experience of Octavio Cesar Martinez:

Octavio Martinez has been a resident of Whittier for over 35 years, where he and his wife Lilia, raised their three children. Octavio has been active as a community leader and is currently an appointed commissioner in Cultural Arts

for the city.

Octavio has extensive experience providing consulting services to leaders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors in both personal and professional development. He also advises leadership teams of small businesses, corporations, and other enterprises on leadership and team development. He has shared this knowledge with individuals and organizations throughout the United States, and around the world.

Locally, Octavio has served as a Volunteer Chaplain for both the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and the Whittier Police Department. For over 8 years, Octavio was the leader of a local non-profit, advised local leaders to identify local needs, develop partnerships, and implement outreach initiatives with the hope of promoting quality of life for our community.

Octavio is ready to bring his experience and quality leadership to city hall where "safe streets, economic opportunities, and serving the needs of our community always come first."



7 Ways to Reduce Your Chance of Being Burglarized

There are several ways that you can help to reduce the chance of being burglarized. Most commercial burglaries are a crime of opportunity. In other words, a suspect sees an item of value within a closed business, rapidly gains access by smashing a door or window, and then quickly takes the property and flees. This oftentimes happens within a matter of a few short moments.

The safety and security of our businesses is a high priority to the Whittier Police Department. Daily, our patrol officers remain highly visible and frequent businesses across the city to help deter theft and other criminal activity. In addition to our efforts, our business owners can partner with us and take the following measures to help reduce your business from being victimized while closed.

- Make sure all doors and windows are locked and secured
- An alarm is activated that covers doors, windows, and all access points
- Do not leave any items of value in plain sight that can be readily carried away
- Functioning security cameras should be prominently displayed at the business
- The exterior of the building including doors and windows should be well lit and visible
- Do not store any money in a cash register or another readily accessible location
- Post signage that the business is alarmed, monitored, and that no money is kept on site

Taking these precautionary steps can help to reduce the attractiveness of your business to a would-be burglar. Also, it is important that after hours contact information is on file and current with your alarm company and other stakeholders. Please continue to be vigilant by looking out for your business, and your neighboring businesses, and immediately report signs of suspicious persons or activity to the police department. The direct line to police dispatch is (562) 567-9240. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

If you have any questions, or would like additional suggestions on how to better secure your business, contact Whittier PD Community Relations Officer, Thomas Mattsson at (562) 567-9210.



Congresswoman Linda Sanchez secures funding for 3 Whittier projects

Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez voted for the bipartisan Omnibus Appropriations Agreement, which the Senate passed in March. The Omnibus Appropriations Agreement provides \$1.5 trillion in discretionary resources and supplemental funding that will help working families with the cost of living and create American jobs. It includes \$219.6 million that the Congresswoman secured to fully fund upgrades to the Whittier Narrows Dam to completion and ensure the safety of residents of the City of Pico Rivera and downstream communities. Additionally, for the first time in over a decade, that package includes funding for Member-specific community projects.

"I am honored that we were able to include funding for nine projects requested by our gateway cities. Taxpayers deserve to have a say in where their money is spent. These projects will make life better for Southern Californians and I am proud to deliver the funding needed to complete each one," said Congresswoman Sanchez.

The following Whittier community projects were included in the Omnibus Appropriations Agreement:

- **\$200,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier.** The funding would be used to make modifications that improve accessibility, safety, and equity at the Boys & Girls Club Whittier's Main Clubhouse. The modifications would include a fully ADA-compliant elevator, accessible restrooms, ADA-van accessible parking, accessible pathways, and related equipment and labor.
- **\$450,000 for the City of Whittier's Central Library Remodel and Improvement Project.** The funding will be used for enhancement to the Children and Youth Services section in Whittier Central Library, including updated furnishings, additional seating, technology stations, a children's story area, and special computers for early learners.
- **\$500,000 for The Whole Child – Mental Health and Housing Services.** The funding would be used toward construction of a 40-unit interim housing and 6,000 square foot supportive services center in Santa Fe Springs. Interim housing units would provide six to nine months of safe temporary housing, a crucial first step away from homelessness, and supportive services would be available to help families solve issues that caused their homelessness and to locate permanent housing.



Thank you for making this year's
Business Expo a success!



Gary Lee Martinez from The Traveling Traveler and Mayor Joe Vinatieri showing their Whittier pride at the Business Expo



Katherine Gutierrez from Kiddie Zone takes a photo with special guest Minnie Mouse



Ryan Ruiz from Raising Canes Whittier and his staff enjoy the night at the Business Expo



Whittier Fit Body Boot Camp trainers show their strength and their custom made program at the Business Expo



Senator Bob Archuleta Recognizes 2022 Women of Achievement for the 32nd Senate District

Senator Bob Archuleta recently hosted the 2022 Women of Achievement of the 32nd Senate District honoring 11 women, including several from the Whittier area.

This event, which is the first hosted by the senator's office in more than two years, celebrated the accomplishments of 11 women who have contributed to the well-being of their respective communities within the district.

"These women were nominated for their outstanding hard work and dedication to the district during the ongoing public health crisis," Senator Archuleta said. "Our district is fortunate to call home to a great number of women who make considerable contributions to their families, professions and individual communities, and we are honored to recognize these leaders for exemplifying the strength and abilities of all women in our Senate district."

The 2022 Women of Achievement representing the Whittier area were:

Virginia "Ginny" Ball

Ginny serves as a board member for a wide array of local non-profit organizations, including her ongoing work on behalf of Whittier First Day, a transitional living facility in Whittier. First Day serves approximately 2,300 individuals with critical social services, making them a beacon of hope for many who were displaced during the Covid-19 pandemic. During her time on the Whittier Area Chamber Board of Directors, Ginny founded the Whittier Apartment Owners Association, which brings landlords and tenants together to better understand their rights, discuss impactful legislation, and identify local resources. As such, she became a resource for people dealing with housing issues during the pandemic.

Dr. Irella Perez

Irella's journey from non-English speaking immigrant to school administrator, education advocate, environmentalist and children's book author, is an all-American story of self-reliance fueled by perseverance, passion and conviction. Irella has been one of many community leaders providing vital support to parents and students during the pandemic. Irella provided leadership, along with her colleagues on the Whittier City School

Board, to ensure quality education and mental health services to students during remote learning.

Isis Huckins

Throughout her career, Isis has worked quietly behind the scenes while bringing loved ones into the Professional Service's care at Rose Hills. She and her team ensure each family's loved one is treated with the utmost respect and care. Over the past two years, Isis and her team were extremely challenged to meet the demands of the community during the pandemic. She and her team worked 24 hours a day to ensure every loved one was appropriately cared for and each family could proceed with a dignified funeral.

Shannon Kolbjornsen

Shannon has served families in the funeral industry for over 15 years. Throughout her career, she has assisted families in making funeral arrangements, and providing visitation/funeral services for their loved ones. Over the past couple of years, her team at Rose Hills, while adhering to the various covid requirements, continued to serve families to the best of their abilities. As our community required an increasing demand for funeral services, Shannon coached her team to meet the demands without lowering the honor or respect given to each family.

Katrina Rodriguez, RN BSN

Katrina serves as clinical director of PIH Health Whittier Hospital's general medicine/respiratory unit. Through her exemplary leadership, Katrina spearheaded the primary covid-19 unit through the last three pandemic surges, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams to ensure that patients' needs are always at the forefront of care. She led efforts to establish communication plans for PIH Health's primary covid-19 unit. The plan ensures families can keep in contact and are kept up to date regarding the condition of their loved ones through Zoom visiting and daily update calls to a designated patient representative.

The Whittier Chamber joins in congratulating all of the award winners who have made an impact in our community.

Rick's Drive In & Out Celebrates 50th Anniversary

For 50 years Rick's Drive In & Out has been serving the Whittier community comfort food favorites including breakfast platters, classic hamburgers and tasty sandwiches. The Whittier Chamber had the opportunity to sit down with Rick and Marilyn Tewes for a quick interview to get the inside scoop on this Whittier staple.



How did you get started in the food industry?

In 1955, Rick immigrated from Germany with a goal of becoming his own boss. He got his start in the industry when he partnered with neighbors to open a Greek restaurant called Hercules in Lynwood, CA. Eventually the partnership dissolved and Rick set off on his own to open his first restaurant, Rick's Drive In & Out, in San Gabriel.

How many locations are there?

Over the years there have been 15 locations. The Tewes family continues to own two with one located in the City of Whittier and the other in Los Angeles. Rick, Marilyn, their daughter Toni, and restaurant manager Martha run the Whittier location and the Los Angeles location is run by Marilyn's sister, brother in law and nephew.

Why did you choose Whittier to open your business?

Rick became fast friends with their bread supplier. During a delivery, he suggested his current residence of Whittier as the home for a new restaurant. They built the restaurant from the ground up and they have been at the corner of Greenleaf Ave. and Penn St. ever since.

How many years has the Grand Illumination been a tradition and what was the inspiration behind it?

For 27 years Rick's Drive In & Out has hosted the popular Grand Illumination which features a tree lighting ceremony, performances from local

high schools and a visit from Santa. It started as a fun way to decorate for the holidays and has since become a family tradition. Residents look forward to the festive handmade decorations & ornaments and consider the Illumination to be the unofficial kick off to the holiday season.

How many employees do you have?

Rick's Drive In & Out is made up of a staff of 22. The majority of their employees have been there for many years with one of their cooks recently celebrating over 30 years with the restaurant. At Rick's they are more than employees, they are family.

What do you love about working in the food industry?

Rick's favorite part of working in the food industry is the people. Over the years, he's had the opportunity to form friendships with many customers and become a mentor for those looking to break into the industry.

**7254 Greenleaf Ave.
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-4464**



Toni, Martha, Marilyn and Rick serve up delicious hamburgers and friendly smiles



Then and now. In addition to owning a successful restaurant, Rick and Marilyn have been married for 62 years and have 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild



If you're looking for that classic hamburger stand quality, look no further than Rick's Drive In & Out. Their signature menu and friendly staff will keep you coming back time and time again.

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

June 23, 2022
Via Online Webinar

STOP

State of California Regulations

Employers with 5 or more employees are required to provide 1 hour of sexual harassment prevention training to non-managerial employees and 2 hours of sexual harassment prevention training to managerial employees within six months of hire date. All employees must be retrained once every two years.

The Whittier Chamber of Commerce provides in-person Sexual Harassment Prevention Training courses to businesses to help companies avoid unnecessary litigation in the workplace.

Presented By:

Course Options:

2 Hour Training for Managerial Employees:
8 A.M. - 10 A.M.
Members: \$50
Non-Members: \$65

1 Hour Training for Non-Managerial Employees:
11 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Members: \$30
Non-Members: \$45

1 Hour Training for Spanish Speaking Employees:
12 P.M. - 1 P.M.
Members: \$30
Non-Members: \$45

Course Features:

Compliant: This training course meets the latest legal requirement and will be conducted by a certified sexual harassment prevention expert.

Certified: Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of this course.

Register today at
WhittierChamber.com

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

at Friendly Hills Country Club

9 a.m. Registration
10:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

Online Registration begins June 15th
Sponsorships Available

Visit whittierchamber.com,
call 562 698-9554 or
email jessica@whittierchamber.com
for more information

CalChamber Releases 2022 Job Killer List

The California Chamber of Commerce released the first wave of bills to be included on its 2022 job killer list. The preliminary list includes 9 new bills and two carry-over proposals from 2021. CalChamber expects several additions to the list in the coming weeks.

"California companies are the economic engine that drives innovation and job creation in our state and are responsible for the record revenues the state is currently experiencing," said CalChamber President and CEO Jennifer Barrera. "Yet, the bills on this year's job killer list reflect a lack of appreciation of the economic realities and regulatory challenges employers—and especially small business employers—face as they continue to emerge from the impacts of this pandemic. A shrinking workforce coupled with California's oppressive legal climate, penchant for overregulation, and continued push for even higher taxes, will hamper the ability of California companies to remain competitive in the future. This year's job killer list highlights policies that will hurt job creation and will shut down or reduce investment in our economy."

The 2022 CalChamber Job Killer List includes the following bills:

Labor and Employment

AB 2095 (Kalra; D-San Jose) Unfair Denial of State Opportunities. Places new onerous administrative burdens on employers by requiring annual reporting of wage and hour data and employee benefits on an employer's entire United States workforce that will unfairly criticize employers for lawful conduct by publishing that data on the Labor and Workforce Development Agency's website and using such data to rank employers and deny them state opportunities and will subject employers to frivolous litigation and settlement demands.

AB 2182 (Wicks; D-Oakland) Expansion of Duty to Accommodate Employees and Litigation Under FEHA. Imposes new burdens on employers to accommodate any employee with family responsibilities, which will essentially include a new, uncapped protected leave for employees to request time off and exposes employers to costly litigation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act by asserting that any adverse employment action was in relation to the employee's family responsibilities, rather than a violation of employment policies.

SB 1044 (Durazo; D-Los Angeles) State of Emergency. Allows employees to leave work or refuse to show up to work if employee subjectively feels unsafe regardless of existing health and safety standards or whether employer has provided health and safety protections and subjects employers to costly Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) lawsuits if they dispute the employee's decision or need to have another employee take over any job duties.

SB 1162 (Limón; D-Goleta) Publication of Pay Data. Encourages litigation against employers based on the publication of broad, unreliable data collected by the state. Undermines employers' ability to hire, imposes

administrative and record keeping requirements that are impossible to implement, and subjects employers to a private right of action and penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA).

Taxation

AB 2289/ ACA 8 (Lee; D-San Jose) Wealth Tax. Seeks to impose a massive tax increase upon all forms of personal property or wealth despite California already having the highest income tax in the country. This tax increase will drive high-income earners and job creators out of the State as well as the revenue they contribute to the General Fund.

AB 1771 (Ward; D-San Diego) Targeted Tax on Certain Home Sellers. Seeks to impose a tax—in addition to the capital gains tax—of 25% on the profits from a home resold within three years after it is purchased. The tax rate is reduced on a sliding scale for seven years thereafter. This will worsen housing unaffordability and constrain the already limited housing supply.

SB 1301 (Becker; D-Menlo Park) Fossil Fuel Investment Surcharge. Arbitrarily raises taxes on companies that invest in fossil fuel businesses based upon the financing amount. This adds another layer of expenses onto the fossil fuel industry that will significantly increase the costs of doing business, thereby increasing prices paid by consumers for goods and services in California.

CEQA

AB 1001 (Garcia, Cristina; D-Los Angeles) Expands CEQA and Hurts Housing. Creates new highly subjective, non-quantifiable and litigation-bait standards in CEQA that will threaten California's economic recovery and ability to construct much needed

housing. It also removes local government discretion regarding how to analyze and mitigate proposed project impacts, thereby making projects more expensive, harder to build and more likely to be thrown into courts by NIMBY opposition. *2021 carry-over bill.*

Privacy and Cybersecurity

SB 1189 (Wieckowski; D-Fremont) New Private Right of Action for Biometric Information. Creates legal liability for businesses large and small, potentially in the millions to tens of millions of dollars, while not providing any exceptions, such as for the use of biometric data for safety, security, or other reasonable purposes. Also imposes new, untenable restrictions on the use and disclosure of biometric information in a thinly veiled attempt to undermine the California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA) limited private right of action for data breaches.

Workers' Compensation

SB 213 (Cortese; D-San Jose) Workers' Compensation Presumption: Hospital Employees. Expands Costly Presumption of Injury. Significantly increases workers' compensation costs for public and private hospitals by presuming certain diseases and injuries are caused by the workplace and establishes an extremely concerning precedent for expanding presumptions into the private sector. *2021 carry-over bill.*

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

AB 2764 (Nazarian; D-Van Nuys) Livestock Ban. Bans new or expanded commercial animal feeding and processing operations for meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy. Will increase food prices for Californians and force food to be imported from out of state to meet consumer demand.

Drive-Thru Community Event for City of Whittier Residents

Electronics Recycling – Compost Giveaway – Paper Shredding

May 14, 2022 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Parnell Park 15390 Lambert Rd, Whittier, CA 90604

Electronic Waste Recycling

- ✓ Allowed items: TVs, computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, and similar items.
- ✗ No batteries, appliances, dishwashers, AC units

Compost Giveaway

- ✓ Bring your own sturdy container

Paper Shredding

- ✓ ID will be checked for City of Whittier residency
- ✓ Whittier Chamber business members must RSVP online

Paper Shredding Guide

- ✓ Paperclips/plastic clips okay
- ✓ Plastic bags must be open, best to bring paper in boxes
- ✗ No binders
- ✗ No cardboard
- ✗ No electronic or batteries for shredder



ID will be checked for City of Whittier residency.
Brought to you by the City of Whittier and Republic Services.



TOYOTA OF WHITTIER



**BUY LOCAL
SUPPORT WHITTIER
BIG SAVINGS**

NO HAGGLE • NO HASSLE



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CHAMBER CALENDAR

MAY

May 3 • 12 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting at Nevera Juice Bar

May 6 • 4 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting at Wallstreet Realty/Capital BOC

May 10 • 12 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting at RBanquet

May 14 • 8 A.M.
Chamber Shredding Day
Parnell Park

May 18 • 7:30 A.M.
Wake Up Whittier
Johanna's Decor & Creations

May 20 • 4 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting at Paul & Tiffany Real Estate

May 24 • 4 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting at Monikstyles Barbershop

May 26 • 8:30 A.M.
2022 State of the City
DoubleTree Hotel Whittier

May 31 • 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Tasty Tuesday
Frisco's Carhop

JUNE

June 3 • 4 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting at Parlor Bar

June 7 • 12 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting at Oasis Jewelry

June 9 • 4 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting at Michael Seril Fitness Studio

June 15 • 7:30 A.M.
Wake Up Whittier
The Groves at Whittier

June 23 • 8 A.M.
Sexual Harassment Prevention Training
(Webinar)

**For up-to-date calendar information visit
www.whittierchamber.com**



Bob Van Oosting and LeRoy Schmaltz celebrate Oceanic Arts' 60 years in business in Whittier with a final aloha ribbon cutting



Maricela Loera, Tina Rubio and Betzy Mendez with 1st Day Lending celebrate their ribbon cutting ceremony on a sunny spring day



Chamber Ambassador and member Zimri Gutierrez celebrates the 4-year anniversary of AZ Whittier Florist with a ribbon cutting ceremony with friends, colleagues and family



Local Whittier resident Kenya Castaneda from Farmers Insurance celebrates her ribbon cutting ceremony with her friends, family and the support of the Whittier Chamber



Coach Charles Green and Coach Ray from Whittier Fit Body Boot Camp celebrate their ribbon cutting ceremony with members of the Whittier Chamber



Rick Tewes from Rick's Drive In & Out celebrates 50 years of business with the Whittier Chamber of Commerce

Congratulations to these businesses also celebrating ribbon cuttings
My Auction House • Uptown School of Dance

Mayor's Message - Continued from page 4

Whittier Public Library for their collective efforts to bring this project to fruition. Again, special thanks to Senator Bob Archuleta, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn for their generous contributions to help fund the large-scale expansion. The Summer Reading Program kicks off in June – it's the perfect time to visit the new Whittier Public Library!

Finally, congratulations are in order for Whittier resident and longtime Whittier Chamber member, Virginia "Ginny" Ball, on having been honored recently by not one but two elected officials representing Whittier as part of their respective "Women of the Year" recognition programs. Ginny was selected as a 2022 Distinguished Woman of Achievement by both Senator Bob Archuleta and Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, each citing her contributions as a local business owner and Chair of the Apartment Owners Association, her long history of volunteerism, and her role in shaping Whittier's future through her involvement in a variety of important local causes. I congratulate her on behalf of the City Council, and I thank her for her continued willingness to help those in need and create meaningful change in Whittier.

On that note, happy Mothers' and Fathers' Day to all the great, hardworking parents out there. As always, there's much to be grateful for this year and I wish all of you a special day with your little ones. Watch for details on our popular Concerts in the Park series, which returns in June to Central Park and Parnell Park on Mondays and Thursdays this summer, our 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular at York Field, and other upcoming events by following @WhittierCityGov on social media. Here's to the warmer weather, bluer skies, and groovy tunes ahead of us. Remember, Whittier's on the Move!

Looking for help spring cleaning your house or office?

Air Conditioning	
ALOHA AIR CONDITIONING INC.	(562) 693-2553 x231
ENERGY CONTROL HVAC	(562) 945-6966
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PRO-TECH CARPET & TILE CARE, INC.	(562) 447-4300
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UPTOWN FLOORING & DESIGN, INC.	(562) 945-4407
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SERVPRO OF WHITTIER	(562) 698-5368
TRI-STAR CONSTRUCTION & RESTORATION SERVICES, INC.	(714) 237-9980
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Whittier Chamber



COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

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



2021-2022 Community Hero Award

Chamber President/CEO Carol Crosby congratulates Executive Director Oscar Hernandez on receiving the Community Hero Award on behalf of the Boys' & Girls' Club of Whittier as well as his retirement from the Chamber's Board of Directors

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

The Ambassador of the Year is someone who goes above and beyond to make new members feel welcomed, helps to retain existing members through phone calls and visits and helps out at Chamber programs and events.



Ambassador of the Year 2021-2022

Sandra Hahn, 2021-2022 Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board and John Bogdanov from Telworx present Steven Flores from Modern Woodmen of America with the Ambassador of the Year award for his efforts this past year to visit Chamber members in their place of business

CHAIR OF THE YEAR

The Chair of the Year award goes to someone who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and achieved positive outcomes within a committee or group. This person is someone who is organized, reliable, creative, respected, and hands-on.



Chair of the Year 2021-2022

Sandra Hahn, Chair of the Board 2021-2022 and former awardee Cheryl Estep, State Farm Insurance present the Chair of the Year award to Laurie Perschbacher for her leadership of the Ambassador Team

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Volunteer of the Year is someone who gives 100% to any committee, program or commitment made to the Chamber. This person is typically creative, reliable, generous with their time, talent and treasure and doesn't hesitate to do whatever is asked. Just like this past year that has been anything but ordinary, the Chamber broke tradition and presented this award this year to 2 amazing volunteers.



Volunteer of the Year 2021-2022

Sandra Hahn, Chair of the Board 2021-2022, and former awardee Nate Ploog with DialMED Home Care, present the Volunteer of the Year award to RD McDonnell for his work reenergizing the Economic Development Committee this past year



Volunteer of the Year 2021-2022

Shannon Gimbel Hammer from Shannon G's Flowers is presented the Volunteer of the Year award for her work throughout the year with the Chamber's special events such as the Hathaway Golf Classic, Business Expo and Annual Meeting & Installation



Business & Community Awards 2022

COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Community Partner Award goes to a business that has gone above and beyond to make Whittier a special place.



Community Partner of the Year 2021-2022

Sandra Hahn, 2021-2022 Chair of the Board presents Rick Tewes from Rick's Drive In & Out with the Community Partner of the Year Award for his 50 years in business and his contributions to the Whittier community through the hosting of the Grand Illumination, the unofficial kickoff to the Whittier holiday season



Community Partner of the Year 2021-2022

Sandra Hahn presented the Community Partner of the Year award to Bright Plaza Pharmacy owners Toby and Dana Porter and Dr. Pat Petti for providing education, vaccines, boosters, Covid testing, PPE and more to our employees and local schools

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The Business of the Year is chosen based on the business's overall contributions which lead to the prosperity of the Whittier community.




Business of the Year 2021-2022

The Business of the Year award was presented to Credit Union of Southern California for their support of Whittier nonprofits and the Whittier community during the past 2 years




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Monday, May 30, 2022 SkyRose Chapel Courtyard
10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Family activities, military display, remembrance trees, Honoring Heroes photo display, keepsake frame
11 a.m. to noon Program featuring vintage aircraft flyover, performances, and keynote address by Andre N. Coulombe, *Brigadier General (CA), Deputy Commanding General Civil Support, 40th Infantry Division*

*To see your loved one on our **Honoring Heroes display**, bring a horizontal 6"x4" photo to the event, or email a photo to Events@RoseHills.com by May 20. Photos will be displayed in a keepsake frame. Please do not submit original or irreplaceable photos, as we cannot guarantee their return.*

Flag placements will be performed on **Friday, May 27** in Gates 8 to 11. If you'd like to participate, please email Events@RoseHills.com.

For more information: Facebook.com/RoseHillsMemorialPark/events



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Phone 562-547-6569 • Fax 562-945-2564
 jerryperisho@gmail.com


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Leadership, business and confidence power coaching available at special Chamber member pricing

Through a partnership with Rise Up For You, a company that focuses on enhancing company culture and personal development through transformational coaching, training and experiential workshops and events, the Whittier Chamber is offering Power Coaching sessions at a discounted rate.

Power Coaching is a transformative 1-1 process customized around each individual. Join specially trained coaches for a quick power session at your convenience to support your day-to-day challenges and provide mindset hacks and accountability. These coaches provide cutting-edge tools and techniques developed from the latest science-based research and data to develop each client. They provide their expertise in soft skills, analysis, business development, and personal growth to inspire their clients to tap into their full potential.

Through this monthly subscription, you can choose 1 or 2 power sessions a month to support your growth for as low as \$149 per month!

For more information, or to register, visit the chamber's website at www.whittierchamber.com and follow the link in the Featured Stories & Events box.


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Ambassador Chair
 Laurie Perschbacher,
 MAP Property Management, Inc.
 Catherine Badame, *Action Trophy*
 Alyssa Barrios, *Mary Kay*
 John Bogdanov, *TelWorx*
 Van Broussard, *Farmer's Insurance*
 Michelle Calzada, *Blue Mar Travel*
 Marianne Duron, *Say Yay Lawn Signs*
 Clarissa Estrada,
 Credit Union of Southern California
 Steven Flores, *Modern Woodmen of America*
 Nancy Gomez, *Tacos Cabrones*
 Ysenia Guerra, *Drain It Plumbing*
 Zimri Gutierrez, *AZ Whittier Florist*
 Paul Hernandez, *State Farm Insurance*
 Rob Marin, *Rob Marin Realty*
 Marie Murillo,
 Lady Bugs Termite & Pest Control
 Pete Rodriguez, *Valley View Home Loans*
 Steve Rosas, *Ooma*
 Lucy Spencer, *Laurea Real Estate*
 Lauren Sweeney, *Rise Up for You*
 Christy Wyant, *Martplan Insurance*

MAY  **JUNE**
AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT
 Ambassadors are **volunteers** who believe in the Whittier Chamber's mission & values
 

Rob Marin – Rob Marin Realty

Rob Marin is a realtor for his own real estate company, Rob Marin Realty. He helps people with all their real estate needs such as selling, buying, downsizing, resources and referrals. He is a Senior Real Estate Specialist, specifically attuned to the unique needs of helping senior citizens with handling their real estate needs. Rob has been an active member of the Whittier Chamber for six years and has been part of the Chamber's Ambassador Team for five years.

When it comes to being a Chamber Ambassador, Rob has enjoyed being a part of a special group that enjoys giving back to the community. Rob loves to meet new people and enjoys getting new members engaged with the Chamber. Rob is also the Vice President of the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter, a member of the Whittier Rotary Club and is a supporter of various charities in Whittier.

Rob loves attending as many Wake Up Whittiers as possible, as well as ribbon cutting ceremonies, the Business Expo and the Annual Meeting & Installation. Rob says, "I believe we were put on this earth to love one another and help one another, especially those who are in need. I am aspiring to integrate that into every aspect of my life."

Catherine Badame - The Recognition Place at Action Trophy

Catherine Badame is the marketing director/partner of The Recognition Place at Action Trophy. The Recognition Place specializes in celebrating life's achievements by providing personalized gifts, corporate awards, team/league trophies, name plates and name tags and so much more!

She has been a member of the Whittier Chamber for a year now and has been with the La Habra Chamber for 42 years. Catherine believes the best part of being in the Chamber is the opportunity to know more about other businesses and business owners in her local community.

Catherine has been on the Whittier Chamber Ambassador Team for six months and has truly enjoyed every second of it. What she loves most about being an Ambassador is getting to know other Ambassadors and building relationships and learning more about Whittier.

Since Catherine has been a Chamber Ambassador, she has been going to as many Wake Up Whittier events as she can and takes the time to support other Chamber members at their own ribbon cuttings. Catherine's favorite experience has been filming her video for Shop Home for the Holidays. "It was a lot of fun to film and it was exciting to give away a fabulous prize to someone who shops local!" she explained.

Catherine is looking forward to meeting and getting to know you all and she "hopes she is able to be a great cog in this machine."



AROUND TOWN

L.A. CADA celebrates 50th Anniversary

Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (L.A. CADA) will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on June 16, 2022 at Hotel Maya in Long Beach. It will be a special time for supporters and friends to come together to commemorate over 50 years of service to underserved and disadvantaged individuals and families struggling with substance use and mental health issues.



has increased from \$4 million to over \$32 million.

Bill Tarkanian, Director of Program Development will address the agencies current and future plans for expansion.

The event will feature powerful testimonies from L.A. CADA program graduates. Their lives were changed and renewed through their participation in L.A. CADA's intensive rehabilitation programs. Executive Director, Juan Navarro, will pay tribute to the organizations history by highlighting the significant milestones that have grown the agency from a staff of fifty to almost five-hundred today, and a budget that

Additionally, representatives from Los Angeles County Supervisor, Janice Hahn's office, will speak about the impact L.A. CADA has had in the health and well-being of our communities.

A Latin jazz band will provide musical entertainment and guests will enjoy an extensive selection of appetizers and beverages. The event will help raise much needed funding to support L.A. CADA's programs and services to help people in desperate need of hope and life transformation. For more information please visit their website at www.lacada.com/50thcelebration or call (562) 777-7500.



Whittier Host Lions Club Celebrates 100 Years in Whittier

In commemoration of its 100th year anniversary (1922-2022) the Whittier Host Lions Club (WHLC/Club) selected supporting the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter (WCCS) as its major project endeavor.



\$160,000. Over the years WHLC has held numerous community fundraisers and so believes in the crucial nature of WCCS's mission that it was prepared to fund the necessary costs. In

WCCS is a city of Whittier-based nonprofit that since 1977 has provided victims of domestic abuse safe and secure housing and support. WCCS provides its services free of charge to women, men and children regardless of race, class culture, religion, economic standing, age, immigration status or physical or mental disability. Due to an ever-increasing demand for its services, WCCS had outgrown its existing office space and was in desperate need of larger facilities. WCCS asked WHLC to assist it with tenant improvements and office furniture as it sought to move to a much-needed larger location. The Club communicated with the City of Whittier who offered WCCS City-owned office space at a favorable lease. The Club agreed to fund the necessary tenant improvements and furniture. The total cost of the tenant improvements and furniture was estimated to be approximately

furtherance of this cause the Club contributed approximately \$80,000 and sought and received matching funds of \$80,000 from Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) thereby making the relocation project financially feasible. Thanks to the dedication and efforts of WHLC; Downey Lions Club; LCIF; Lions of District 4-L2; City of Whittier; builder Carty General Contracting and others, in April 2022, WCCS moved into its new state of the art expanded custom-designed office space. Special thanks for this 100-year commemorative project goes to the memory of the many many past members of WHLC whose commitment to service this Club was founded upon (your commitment to service runs through our veins). In addition, thanks is extended to the greater Whittier area community at large for supporting the Whittier Hosts Lions Club in this and its other community service achievements.



Chorale Bel Canto celebrates 40th season

Chorale Bel Canto, a community chorus based in Whittier since 1982, is proud to celebrate their milestone 40th season. They'll cap it off with their season finale on May 14, 2022 at 4:00pm at First Friends Church, 13205 Philadelphia St. The *Psalms for the Soul* concert will feature Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein, and include psalm settings by Rutter, Vaughan Williams, Ginsburg, and more. CBC is proud to be joined for this concert by singers from Whittier College Choirs, directed by Prof. Alexandra Grabarchuk, singers from the Chaffey College Choir, directed by Prof. David Renta, and the La Habra High School Chamber Singers, directed by David Montoya.

In recognition of the plight of Ukraine, this concert will be a benefit for Ukrainian refugees. All proceeds from ticket sales and donations will go to the Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles and the World Central Kitchen, nonprofits providing food and medical supplies. They invite you to attend the concert in support of refugees, where you will indeed hear psalms for the soul. If you are unable to attend but wish to donate to the cause, please visit their website or mail donations, with memo line Ukraine, to Chorale Bel Canto, P.O. Box 451, Whittier, CA 90608.

CBC has performed three to four concerts per year in the Whittier area for forty seasons. Director Dr. Linda West Brown leads their volunteer singers who come from all walks of life. They rehearse on Monday evenings in Whittier and welcome all interested singers to audition. For more information or tickets, please visit their website www.ChoraleBelCanto.org or contact Karen Bourgaize, Executive Director, at cbc.execdirector@gmail.com.

The Christian Science Church in Whittier to Host Free Lecture

The Christian Science Church in Whittier is hosting a free lecture titled "Spiritual discovery in a time of upheaval" on Saturday, May 14, at 11 a.m. in the church edifice at 8705 Catalina Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Discovery is what has progressed humanity throughout history, be it through new inventions or new views of fundamental human rights. Spiritual discovery is about stripping away surface-level appearances in order to see our lives and the world through the nature of an all-good God that is Life and Love itself. This lecture is about how we find real change and healing through new views of people, power, and prayer.

The lecturer is Tom McElroy, a native of Whittier, now living in the Boston area. After college, Tom worked in finance, and volunteered as a prison Chaplain in men's, women's, and youth correctional facilities. Now, as a Christian Science practitioner, he prays with people from many different walks of life in order to help them find spiritually-based solutions to issues ranging from health problems to financial and relationship difficulties. Tom has spoken about the practice of Christian Science for general audiences, and groups in universities, churches, and prisons, throughout North America, Europe, Africa and Australasia. For more information please call (562) 693-9116.

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WHAT'S COOL IN YOUR SCHOOL

Río Hondo College Selects Dr. Marilyn Flores as New Superintendent/President

Río Hondo College and the Board of Trustees has appointed Dr. Marilyn Flores as its new Superintendent/President to continue leading the College on the path of prosperity, achievement and success.



Dr. Marilyn Flores, Superintendent/President Río Hondo College

The Board unanimously appointed Flores on March 24. Flores will begin her tenure once contract negotiations are finalized and will succeed Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, who will retire on June 30, 2022.

“Congratulations to Dr. Flores for being selected as my successor, I know she will do an honorable job by uplifting our students, staff, administration and community with her leadership,” Dreyfuss said. “It has been an honor serving the community as Superintendent/President and I know that the College is being left in capable hands. Dr. Flores: I salute you and know that you will succeed because Río Hondo College is where student success starts.”

Flores is currently the vice president of academic affairs at Santiago Canyon College in Orange County and previously served as interim president for Santa Ana College.

“We are proud to announce

Dr. Marylin Flores as our next Superintendent/President,” Board of Trustees President Vicky Santana said. “Río Hondo College has a legacy of achievement and we know Dr. Flores will continue this proud tradition as our new leader. The Board is confident that she will continue our College's efforts of diversity, equity and inclusion, which are fundamental to advancing educational justice and opportunity.”

Flores holds a master's degree in education from the University of California, Los Angeles as well as a Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies and doctorate of philosophy in institutional leadership and policy studies from the University of California, Riverside.

“I am thrilled and excited to serve as the next Superintendent/President of Río Hondo College,” Flores said. “I firmly know that through the support of the Board of Trustees, the staff and administration, Río Hondo College will continue to thrive, excel and serve its community with excellence. I believe the work that I have done over the course of my career in community colleges has led me here to this College and this community. I could not be more excited to join you and serve our students.”

Río Hondo College is an educational and community partner committed to advancing social justice and equity as an antiracist institution that collectively invests in all students' academic and career pathways that lead to attainment of degree, certificate, transfer, and lifelong-learning goals. For information on the College or its programs, please call 562-692-0921 or visit www.riohondo.edu.



TWC's Interim Housing Facility & Supportive Service Center in Santa Fe Springs

The Whole Child Celebrates Full Entitlements and Funding of Interim Housing project for Homeless Families

The Whole Child is celebrating the recently completed entitlements and funding for their upcoming project in Santa Fe Springs. Located at Lakeland Rd. and Laurel Ave., the overall project, “From Homeless to Homeowner,” is a first of its kind in California and will be developed over five acres of land offering interim, permanent supportive and ownership housing opportunities for low-income and vulnerable seniors and families, and homeless families with children.

The Interim Housing component of the development has received support from across the spectrum, with Supervisor Janice Hahn of the 4th District being its most ardent champion from inception, providing seed funding of \$4.8 million to the project. Supervisor Hahn states, “This is an important project that will not only provide safe temporary homes for families with children experiencing homelessness, but will also provide these families with some stability and the support they need to get back on their feet. This is going to fill a gap in our system in the Southeastern region of LA County and I am proud to support The Whole Child's effort here.”

The Interim Housing facility will be a three-story building fully developed and managed by The Whole Child. The site could provide interim housing to up to 40 homeless families at any time and is expected to serve over 150 families per year. It will feature a robust supportive services center with consultation rooms, family room, teen area, computer lab, playground and

pantry, among other amenities.

The City of Santa Fe Springs provided the land and \$1.1 million funding. Congresswoman Linda Sanchez recently allocated \$500,000 to The Whole Child's Interim Housing project. Governor Gavin Newsom also announced awardees of the Homekey2 program, including an allocation of \$5.6 million toward The Whole Child's project; in the announcement he said, “We are continuing to act with urgency to fund quality Homekey projects, because that's exactly what the moment demands – swift, decisive action to assist the most vulnerable Californians.” The Whole Child's Homeless to Homeowner project has received \$2.7 million in philanthropic funding.

With entitlements and funding completed, the project will break ground in June 2022.

Constanza Pachon, Chief Executive Officer of The Whole Child, states, “We are grateful to The City of Santa Fe Springs, Supervisor Janice Hahn, and our many philanthropic partners for their early and unwavering support of this project. We are glad to have found a path to full funding with the support of Governor Newsom and Congresswoman Sanchez. We are all deeply committed to a shared vision of ending family homelessness.”

The Whole Child's Development team for this project includes experienced housing developer, The Richman Group; award-winning architectural firm, SVA Architects; and general contractor, Ravco Inc.

About The Whole Child

The Whole Child (TWC). A 65-year old nonprofit organization based in Whittier, envisions a world that values the individual needs of each child and secures access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive and live a full, happy life. Our MISSION is to help families raise emotionally and physically healthy children and have a place to call home.

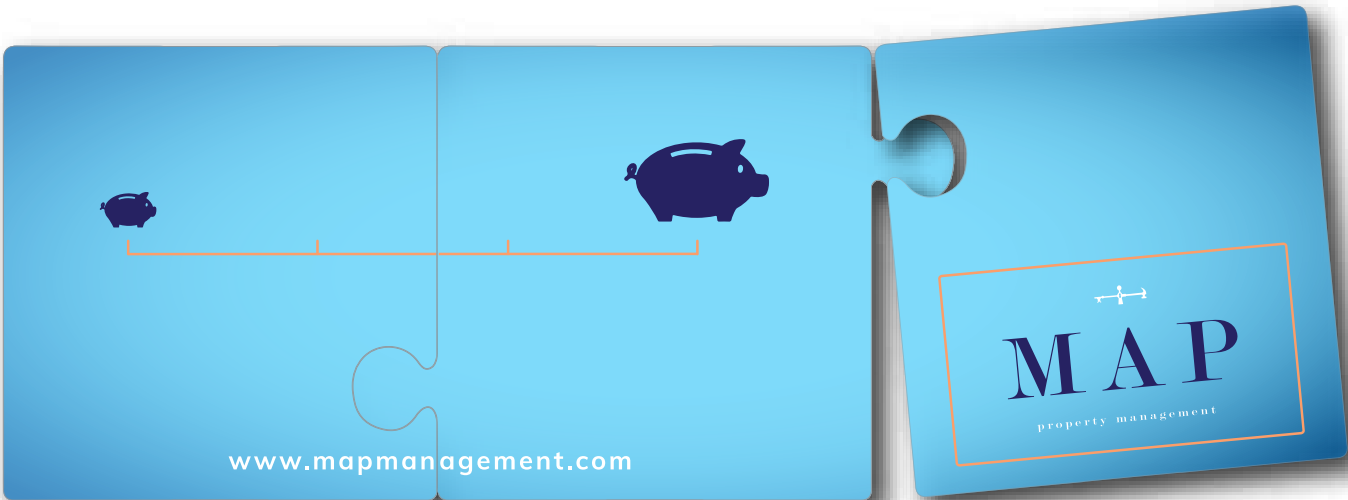
Founded in 1957, The Whole Child provides Mental Health services to at-risk children experiencing trauma and behavioral challenges; Housing Services to families experiencing or at the risk of homelessness; Parenting Education to prevent child abuse/neglect; and Nutrition Education to combat childhood obesity. Today, we provide our array of multidisciplinary services across 10 locations in LA County to more than 3,000+ families annually, 8,000+ people, including 4,500+ children. 78% of our clients are low to extremely low-income families with a single female head of household who is raising 2-3 children. For more information, visit www.thewholechild.org





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Member Since: 1971

Brickhouse Pizza
(562) 693-9523
Member Since: 2015

Crocker Signs & Printing
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Member Since: 1970

East Whittier Arts Education Foundation
(562) 665-6963
Member Since: 2015

Family Church Whittier
(562) 698-6737
Member Since: 2005

Financial Partners Credit Union
(562) 904-4590
Member Since: 2016

Friends Chiropractic
(562) 698-1275
Member Since: 2008

Haas Business Service
(562) 698-9538
Member Since: 1965

Martplan Insurance Agency, Inc.
(562) 691-9414
Member Since: 2016

My Auction House
(714) 202-6430
Member Since: 2021

Neece Coaching & Consulting
(562) 587-8126
Member Since: 2016

P.C. Help Desk, The
(562) 869-4435
Member Since: 1996

Panagos, Bonnie Jo
Member Since: 1995

Petropulos, Ted
Member Since: 2003

Professional Physical Therapy Association, Inc.
(562) 945-1587
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San Miguel Apartments
(562) 698-1290
Member Since: 2009

Soroptimist International of Whittier
(562) 652-3451
Member Since: 1998

Southerland, Sylvia
Member Since: 2017

Southern California Edison
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Member Since: 1992

Sprinkler Fitters U.A. Local 709
(562) 698-9909
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State Farm Insurance - Clayton Agency
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Member Since: 2009

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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.

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Global IT
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50 Years
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45 Years
Rick's Drive In & Out
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40 Years
PDQ Rentals
(562) 944-3206

30 Years
Advanced Benefit Center
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R.K. Knight Plumbing
(562) 947-5588

20 Years
Keeling Agency Insurance Services
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JUNE

Bright Plaza Pharmacy & Home Medical Equipment
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15 Years
Beverly Hospital
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Sudick, John K., D.D.S. & Choi, Brian, D.M.D.
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10 Years
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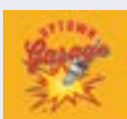
5 Years
VCC: The Gary Center
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JOIN ME IN BECOMING A CHAMBER MEMBER

TESTIMONIAL



Erica & Jorge Baez,
Uptown Garage



“ The Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in our success as a new small business in Whittier. The Chamber has offered Uptown Garage opportunities for exposure that has helped our business thrive. These include the celebration of our Ribbon Cutting, participation in the Whittier Business Expo, Wake Up Whittier, distribution of the Door-to-Door flyer, invitations to other ribbon cuttings and networking events. Being a member has helped us establish our presence in the city of Whittier as they advocate for our business

and connect us with other members. The Chamber has also done a fantastic job in keeping us informed of policies and issues that affect the local area and state. The team behind Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce is exceptional, their extra touches in communication and engagement is what truly makes this Chamber special and successful. Becoming a member of the Chamber has been the best investment we have made as a small business owner, and we highly recommend other businesses to join and benefit from all the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce has to offer. ”

Save this Summer



**Big 5 • Blaze Fast Fire'd Pizza • Burlington • Chili's • China Wok • Dollar Tree
 Don Roberto's Jewelers • Famous Footwear • Fantastic Sam's • Fashion Q • Five Below
 GameStop • GNC • H&R Block • Hawaiian Island BBQ • Hear USA • La Michoacana
 Maki Yaki Japanese Grill • Marshalls • Michaels • Natalie's Nails & Spa • Petco • Rite Aid
 Ross Dress for Less • Rubi's Frosty Freeze • Sally Beauty Supply
 Schoolsfirst Federal Credit Union • Staples • Subway • T-Mobile • The Olive Garden
 The Quad Cleaners • The UPS Store • TJ Maxx • Vallarta Supermarkets
 Weight Watchers • Yogurtland
 NOW OPEN – Doubleju & Cricket Wireless
 COMING SOON – Casa de Cafe**

Whittier Boulevard & Painter Avenue • Whittier