



Los Alamitos Honors Los Al Girls 10U Softball Gold All-Star Team

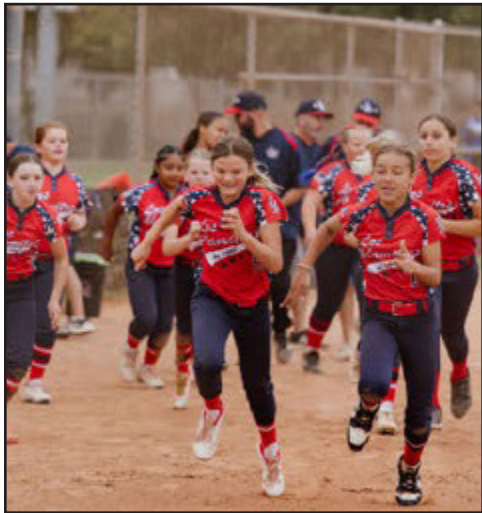


The Los Alamitos Girls Softball 10U All Stars coaches and players all receiving a certificate at the Los Alamitos City council Meeting on September 28, 2026.

The Los Alamitos Girls Softball League 10U Gold All-Star team was recognized by the Los Alamitos City Council during its September meeting following a historic summer that saw the team advance to the Western National Championship. The achievement marked the first time in 16 years that a Los Alamitos Girls Softball League team had reached the national championship. The team began its postseason run by battling through tough competition at the district level before advancing to the state tournament. At states, the girls faced some of the top teams in California in a demanding series of games that tested their skill, endurance and teamwork. The tournament included four consecutive games on July 4 in temperatures reaching approximately 90 degrees. Despite the demanding schedule, the team continued to compete and support one another, ultimately earning the opportunity to represent Los Alamitos at the Western National Championship in Oregon. During the City Council recognition, Head Coach/Los Alamitos Police Captain Kain Gallagher thanked the players, coaches, families and community members who helped make the season possible. “Making it to nationals for the first

time in 16 years was an incredible achievement that these girls earned every bit of,” Captain Gallagher said. The players dedicated much of their summer to the team, practicing nearly every day and continuing to work on their skills even when practices ran long. Captain Gallagher said the experience went beyond developing better softball players. The coaches emphasized teamwork, trust and supporting one another throughout the season. Players learned to celebrate each other’s successes and, just as importantly, pick one another up after difficult plays and challenging games. “By the end of summer, they weren’t just better softball players,” Captain Gallagher said. “They were better students of the game. They were better friends. They were better supporters of one another.” The team’s accomplishments were also supported by its families and members of the Los Alamitos community. Captain Gallagher thanked parents for rearranging their summers around practices and tournaments and recognized local residents and businesses for rallying behind the team during its postseason run. The Los Alamitos Girls Softball 10U was presented with certificates of recognition to each team member. The

consisted of: Olivia Roddy, Kinsley Gallagher, Holly Hayes, Lila Hertzog, Brynleigh Pettersen, Mary Jane Pitts, Mia Symborski, Natalie Vigil, Evelyn Dunson, Harper Barnes and Kenley Gurzi. The City also recognized the coaching staff, including Marty Hayes, Travis Barnes, Jason Roddy, Ken Symborski, and Head Coach/Captain Kain Gallagher, for their commitment throughout the season. The 10U All-Stars’ run to nationals represents a memorable chapter for Los Alamitos Girls Softball and a summer of hard work, perseverance and teamwork for the young athletes who represented the community on the national stage.



The Los Alamitos Girls Softball 10U All Stars running onto the field.

Upcoming Events Calendar

City Meetings

City Council Meeting
Date: October 26, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission Meeting
Date: October 7, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

Planning Commission Meeting
Date: October 28, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

City Events

Elevate Women’s Conference
Date: October 7, 2026
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center
Time: 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Annual Community Shred Event
Date: October 12, 2026
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center
Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Trunk or Treat
Date: October 24, 2026
Location: Little Cottonwood Park
Time: 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

More events can be found on the City website: cityoflosalamitos.org

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Mayor's Business Spotlight: Fish and Coral Store



Los Alamitos is home to a diverse collection of small businesses that bring character, expertise, and unique experiences to the Los Al community. One of those businesses is the Fish and Coral Store, a locally based specialty aquarium business recently featured through the City of Los Alamitos Mayor's Business Spotlight Program. Recently, The Fish and Coral Store was featured as part of the City of Los Alamitos Mayor's Business Spotlight Program, a complimentary economic development initiative designed to highlight the diverse local businesses that help make Los Alamitos unique. Through the program, local businesses have an opportunity to share their story and showcase what they offer through a brief on-camera interview featured on the City's communication channels.

The Mayor's Business Spotlight is just one of several ways the City works to support and promote the local business community. Through its economic development efforts, the City works to connect businesses with available resources, promote local shopping and dining, support business retention and growth, and create opportunities for businesses to connect with the community.

For The Fish and Coral Store, the spotlight offers an opportunity to introduce more residents to a business built around a shared passion for fish, aquariums, and the underwater environments that can be created right at home.

Located at 10572 Chestnut Street in Los Alamitos, The Fish and Coral Store is a family-owned business that began in 2022 when two friends with a passion for fish and saltwater aquarium building decided to turn that passion into a business. Today, the store serves aquarists of all experience levels, from someone setting up their first saltwater aquarium to experienced hobbyists looking to expand or enhance an existing reef system. And there is plenty to explore.

The Fish and Coral Store offer an extensive selection of saltwater fish, corals, invertebrates, aquariums, aquarium equipment, and maintenance supplies. Their online catalog includes everything from tanks and stands to lighting, filtration and skimming systems, pumps and wave-makers, aquarium controllers, dosing equipment, water-quality testing supplies, fish food, salt, aquascaping

materials, and coral propagation supplies.

For those looking to add life to their aquarium, the store carries a variety of marine species, including clownfish, gobies, cardinalfish, and blennies, along with both captive-bred and wild-caught fish. Their coral selection includes multiple varieties of cultured coral and other invertebrates. What sets the business apart, however, is not simply the number of products available. The Fish and Coral Store emphasize the experience and knowledge behind what they do. Their team has years of experience with fish and aquarium maintenance and aims to share that knowledge with fellow aquarists. Whether customers need guidance selecting equipment, maintaining water quality, or creating a thriving saltwater environment, the team encourages customers to reach out for advice.

The store also offers products from established aquarium brands and is a Platinum Dealer for Red Sea aquariums, providing customers with access to premium aquarium systems and equipment.

While the business serves customers online throughout the country, having a local presence in Los Alamitos gives Southern California customers the opportunity to shop locally and arrange in-store pickup. The store is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, with additional times available by appointment and 24-hour online services.

The story of The Fish and Coral Store is also a reminder of why shopping local matters.

Small businesses bring unique products, services, expertise, and experiences into our community. They give residents opportunities to discover something new without having to look far from home, while helping strengthen the local business community that contributes to the character and vitality of Los Alamitos.

The Mayor's Business Spotlight is one way the City helps shine a light on those businesses. By sharing their stories, residents can learn more about the people, passion, and ideas behind the businesses operating right here in the community.

The next time you are looking for something new, consider starting close to home. Visit a local shop, try a neighborhood restaurant, explore a specialty business, or recommend a local business to a friend.

Because when we shop local, we help support the businesses that help make Los Alamitos the community we call home.

To learn more about The Fish and Coral Store, follow @thefishandcoralstore on Instagram and Facebook or visit their website at fishandcoralstore.com. To learn more about the Mayor's Business Spotlight Program, visit www.cityoflosalamitos.org.

Los Alamitos Swears In Reserve Officer Gutierrez, Restarts Officer Reserve Program



Chief Michael Claborn and Officer Gutierrez posing after the swearing in and pinning ceremony.

The Los Alamitos Police Department is bringing back a program built around service, experience and a simple idea: more people working together to support the Los Al community. During the City Council Adjourned Regular Meeting on Monday, September 28, Officer Gutierrez was sworn in as a Police Reserve Officer for the Los Alamitos Police Department, marking an important step in the department's efforts to re-establish its Reserve Program. Reserve officers are trained and vetted law enforcement professionals who serve on a part-time basis, providing additional support to a police department while maintaining the same commitment to public safety and service. For the Los Alamitos Police Department, the program provides greater flexibility in staffing and adds another trained officer to the department's resources when additional support is needed. But the value of a Reserve Program goes beyond staffing numbers. It creates another opportunity for experienced law enforcement professionals to give their time back to the community. Los Alamitos Police Chief Michael Claborn noted at the Council meeting that the City has not had a Reserve Program for quite some time, making Officer Gutierrez's appointment an exciting opportunity to restart a program centered on service to the community. "The Reserve Program gives us another way to bring experienced, qualified officers into our organization while providing additional resources to serve our residents," Chief Claborn said. "It's a benefit to the department and, ultimately, to the community we serve." Chief Claborn also highlighted the experience and commitment Officer Gutierrez brings to the department as the program gets underway. "Officer Gutierrez brings a wealth of experience and a genuine desire to continue serving," Claborn said. "I believe he will be a tremen-

dous asset to our department and to the residents of Los Alamitos." Officer Gutierrez brings with him law enforcement experience and, perhaps most importantly, a personal connection to the profession and the Los Alamitos Police Department. In 2020, his daughter-in-law, Officer Gutierrez-Sanchez, joined the Los Alamitos Police Department. Watching her begin her career in law enforcement and attending her swearing-in ceremony re-kindled something in Officer Gutierrez. Standing there as she began her journey, he felt the familiar pull of putting on the uniform and returning to a profession he deeply valued. That sense of family and community ultimately helped draw Officer Gutierrez to Los Alamitos. His decision to serve as a Reserve Officer is also a reminder that public safety is strengthened by people who are willing to give their time, experience and energy to the communities they call home. For a Reserve Officer, the commitment is significant. Candidates must meet established requirements, complete the vetting process and demonstrate that they are prepared for the responsibilities that come with wearing a police uniform. That commitment also extends beyond the individual officer. The support of family plays an important role in allowing law enforcement personnel to devote their time and energy to serving the public. The return of the Reserve Program represents another way Los Alamitos is investing in its community and supporting the officers who protect it. It is a partnership between the department, its officers, their families and the residents they serve. Officer Gutierrez's swearing-in is more than welcoming one new member to the department. It marks the beginning of a new chapter for a program grounded in experience, service and community, and another example of people choosing to give back to the place they call home.

Los Alamitos Awarded for Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting



The City of Los Alamitos was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The honor was formally presented to Administrative Services Director Craig Koehler during the September City Council meeting. Director Koehler said as he accepted the award, “I’m honored to accept

this award on behalf of the City and of the department. It wouldn’t be possible without a dedicated team that I’m proud to work with.” He praised Finance Manager Barbara Biscocho, Accountants Danny Wang and Megan Lobato, and Finance Assistant Andrea Balderas for their work on the report. “Again, it’s always a team effort and something we strive for every year.” This is the 11th consecutive year that the City of Los Alamitos Finance Department has received this award. This award signifies the City’s efforts to consistently provide accurate financial reporting, showcasing its commitment to transparency. The ACFR serves as the City’s most comprehensive annual financial disclosure, providing elected officials and residents with a detailed look at City’s finances. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) is refining how local governments’ financial reports are evaluated for one of the public sector’s most widely recognized honors, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Report-

ing, as agencies adjust to updated terminology and standards issued in recent years. Each year, thousands of governments submit their Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) to the GFOA’s Certificate of Achievement (COA) program. The reports are reviewed by members of the organization’s staff and the Special Review Committee, a nationwide panel that includes financial statement preparers, independent auditors, academics, and other finance professionals experienced in governmental accounting. The committee evaluates each submission using a detailed checklist meant to determine whether the report follows generally accepted accounting principles and complies with GFOA program policy. These standards are governed by the GFOA Executive Board and its Special Review Executive Committee, which periodically updates criteria to reflect changes in accounting rules. Reviewers are selected to avoid conflicts of interest; no reviewer is as-

signed to a report from their home state, and none may come from the same firm that performed the report’s independent audit. That structure is intended to preserve objectivity and to maintain the credibility of the award. Governments across the country have gradually begun incorporating the ACFR title into their reporting, aligning with GFOA’s directive while maintaining consistency in financial disclosures. Following the standard’s release, the GFOA updated its COA program checklists to reflect the new terminology. These updated checklists and review criteria are part of a broader effort to maintain clarity, transparency, and comparability in governmental accounting. As public agencies continue navigating changes in reporting standards, the GFOA’s award process remains a benchmark for high-quality financial disclosure. This COA represents the City’s commitment to accountability, financial stewardship, and adherence to accounting principles.

An Explanation of How the Los Al General Plan Affect the Lives of Residents and Visitors

When residents think about city planning, they may picture a new building, a street improvement, a park project or a new business opening. Behind many of those decisions, however, is a much larger document that helps guide how a community grows, develops and maintains its character: the General Plan. Think of it as a long-term blueprint for the City. It establishes goals and policies that guide decisions involving land use, transportation, housing, economic development, parks, public safety, natural resources and other aspects of community life. “Planning for the future is about more than looking at one project or one neighborhood,” said Assistant City Manager Ron Noda. “The General Plan gives us a framework to look at the community as a whole and consider how individual decisions fit into the larger vision for Los Alamitos.” California law requires cities to maintain a comprehensive General Plan covering areas such as land use, transportation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety. Cities can also include additional elements that reflect their unique needs. Los Alamitos’ current General Plan was adopted by the City Council on

March 23, 2015, replacing the previous plan adopted in 1990. Developing the plan took approximately three and a half years and included about 40 public meetings, giving residents and other community members opportunities to help shape the City’s future. The plan brings together many pieces of community life. The Land Use Element addresses where residential, commercial, industrial, recreational and other uses belong. The Mobility and Circulation Element considers how people get around, including driving, walking, bicycling and public transportation. The Housing Element addresses housing needs and availability, while the Open Space, Recreation and Conservation Element looks at parks, open spaces and natural and cultural resources. Other elements address safety and emergency preparedness, noise, economic development and regional growth management. Together, they provide a framework for considering how individual decisions can affect the community as a whole. Creating a General Plan is not simply a matter of writing a document and putting it on a shelf. The process begins by examining the community as it exists today—its neighborhoods,



An overhead view of Katella Ave. next to the Los Alamitos Civic Center facing away from the 605 Freeway.

businesses, infrastructure, transportation network, housing, environment and public facilities. From there, the City can identify challenges and opportunities and develop goals, policies and actions for the future. “The community input is an important part of the process,” Assistant City Manager Noda said. “A General Plan should reflect the needs and priorities of the people who live, work and invest here.” The effects of a General Plan are often gradual. A policy supporting better pedestrian connections may eventually contribute to sidewalk or crossing improvements. Land-use policies can help guide redevelopment, while economic development policies can support local businesses and attract investment. Housing and safety policies can help the City respond to changing needs. In other words, the General Plan helps connect the dots. It also is not a “set it and forget it” document. Communities change, as do state laws, transportation patterns, technology, housing needs and development opportunities. Cities periodically review and update portions of their plans to keep them relevant. “Updating a General Plan doesn’t always mean starting over,” Assistant City Manager Noda said. “Sometimes it’s about making

thoughtful adjustments so the plan continues to reflect where the community is today while keeping sight of where we want to go in the future.” That may be one of the best ways to think about planning for a city. A house does not need to be completely rebuilt every time a room needs an update. Similarly, a community’s long-term vision does not necessarily need to be rewritten every time circumstances change. As Los Alamitos continues to evolve, the General Plan provides a framework for making thoughtful decisions while preserving the qualities that make the community unique. “Los Alamitos has a strong sense of identity, and planning is one of the tools we have to help maintain that identity while responding to the needs of a changing community,” Assistant City Manager Noda said. “The goal is to make thoughtful decisions today that help create a community residents will continue to be proud of in the future.” Ultimately, general planning is about looking beyond the next project or budget year and asking what kind of community does Los Alamitos want to be in the years ahead? The answer is built over time through community input, careful planning and the many decisions that collectively shape the future of the City.



A photo of the shovels and hard hats used to signify the groundbreaking of the renovated Soroptimist Park.

Serve Los Al Volunteers Partner with Neighborhood Preservation to Aid Residents in Need



Serve Los Al volunteers posing in front of Katharine Cisneros’ house after completing the clean up process.

The annual Serve Los Al event encourages community members to work together on a variety of service projects throughout the City. This effort highlights the community’s commitment to strengthening local resources and fostering civic pride. Volunteers gathered on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Middle School Amphitheater to enjoy a complimentary breakfast and to grab a volunteer T-shirts. Following the assembly, participants departed for their assigned service locations, where projects ran from 9 a.m. to noon. There were volunteers of all ages ready to assist the residents who had signed up through the City’s volunteer portal ahead of the event. Under an early summer sun, volunteers and City staff spent four hours Saturday assisting a local resident with yard maintenance and neighborhood clean-ups. At about 10 a.m., a team of Neighborhood Preservation officers, Parks and Recreation staff, and area residents gathered at the home of Katharine A. Cisneros, who lives on Snark Street.

Cisneros, a widow, told staff she had struggled to keep up with the outdoor work her late husband once handled. The work crew included Senior Neighborhood Preservation Officer Javier Marquez, Neighborhood Preservation Officers Riley Hill, Jorge Magana, and George Zaragoza, along with Parks and Recreation staff including Community Resources Supervisor Tara Farajian, Recreation Coordinators Angel Hernandez and Carson Deterding, Recreation Specialist Leo Hekma, Senior Recreation Leader Jamie Sellers, and Recreation Leaders Diego Gardea, Gavin Korzeniowski, Isaac Choi, Sean Makieil, Stephanie Bassard-Jones, and Nadia Kim. Cisneros’ property was one of the volunteer sites identified for general exterior maintenance. Hedges around the home had become overgrown, palm fronds had accumulated, and a tree on the property showed signs of disease. Working in temperatures that climbed to 95 degrees, the seven person group pruned hedges, cleared dead palm

fronds, and de weeded the planters throughout the garden. Staff members said the work required significant physical effort in the heat but was fueled by a shared goal of helping a neighbor who needed extra support. During breaks, Cisneros spoke with volunteers about her life since her husband’s passing. She shared how much pride he once took in caring for the yard and how maintaining it alone had become increasingly difficult. She also showed the team several of her paintings. Staff described her as a skilled artist with a long history of capturing landscapes and colorful scenes on canvas. The effort on Snark Street was just one of several projects completed across Los Alamitos during the Serve Los Al event. This annual volunteer day continues to grow, drawing residents, faith groups, nonprofits, and City staff into hands on work aimed at strengthening community connections. The event offered a meaningful

glimpse into how small scale clean-up projects can improve the quality of life for residents who may be struggling or overwhelmed. Residents who are 50 years old and higher can apply for individual projects year-around, independent of the citywide volunteer day. Staff members believe the model could help address maintenance issues before they become safety or code concerns, while also building trust and cooperation between residents and the City of Los Alamitos. For Cisneros, the assistance provided not only a refreshed outdoor space but also a moment of community support during a difficult period. As the team packed up tools and debris late Saturday afternoon, she thanked each volunteer for their time and care. For more information about Serve Los Al or other events coordinated by the Los Alamitos Recreation and Community Services Department, please visit www.cityoflosalamitos.org/recreation.



The Neighborhood Preservation team from left to right: NP Officer Jorge Magana, NP Officer Riley Hill, Sr. NP Officer Javier Marquez, and NP OfficerGeorge Zaragoza.



ANNUAL COMMUNITY SHRED EVENT

A CERTIFIED MOBILE SHRED TRUCK WILL SHRED DOCUMENTS PROVIDED IN PERSON ON SITE



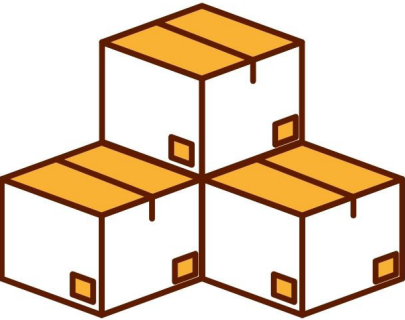
Monday, October 12, 2026
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. OR
Until the Truck is Full



10911 Oak Street
Los Alamitos, CA 90720



- Limit of 4 bank boxes per car
- Staff will be available to assist with boxes
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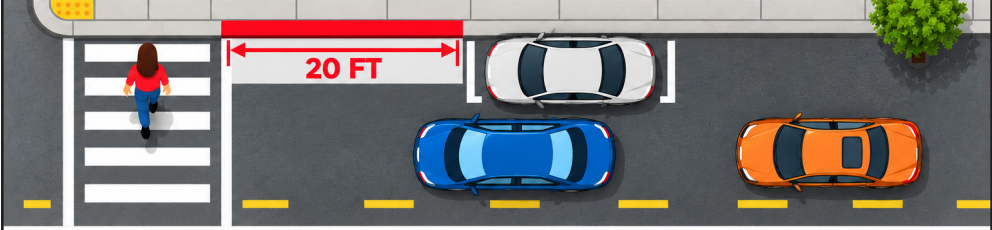


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AB 413 | KEEP CROSSWALKS CLEAR



As part of California’s AB 413 pedestrian safety requirements, the City will be painting portions of curbs near crosswalks red in certain neighborhoods to clearly identify areas where parking is prohibited.

These improvements help increase visibility at crossings and create safer streets for pedestrians and drivers.

4