



The Los Al Loop



Your Source for Los Alamitos Community News.

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thelosalloop.org

Debbie Kent Named 2026 Americana Honoree by Cypress College



Debbie Kent (middle) pictured with Chief Michael Claborn (left) and Cypress College Foundation Executive Director Howard Kummerman (right) at the January 20, 2026 Los Alamitos City Council Meeting following Kent's Americana Award announcement.

For nearly five decades, Debbie Kent has been a cornerstone of the Los Alamitos community, dedicating her life to education, volunteerism, and civic engagement. Kent will be recognized by the Cypress College Foundation as an Americana Honoree at the 51st Americana Awards Gala for her continued dedication to the community and its residents.

A retired teacher in the Los Alamitos School District, Kent has lived in the city for 47 years and spent 45 of those years volunteering for various local non-profit organizations.

Kent's impact on the community reaches far beyond the classroom. Her leadership and dedication have shaped countless programs and organizations over the years. As president of the Los Alamitos Museum Board of Directors, she played a pivotal role in preserving the city's rich history, ensuring that future generations can appreciate its cultural heritage. For 35 years, Kent served as program chairman for the Youth Center Board of Directors, where she also held positions as president and secretary. Through these roles, she championed initiatives that provided vital resources and opportunities for local youth. Her influence extended into education as well. For two decades, Kent served

as president of the McAuliffe Faculty Club, fostering collaboration and unity among teachers and staff to create a supportive environment for students. Beyond her professional commitments, Kent devoted time to youth development as a Girl Scout assistant leader and through active involvement with the Los Alamitos Community Foundation. These efforts reflect her unwavering passion for empowering children and strengthening families within the community.

Kent's lifelong commitment to service is a testament to her belief in the power of education, leadership, and community engagement. Her legacy continues to inspire others to give back and make a meaningful difference in volunteering.

Kent's remarkable achievements have earned her widespread recognition and numerous honors throughout her life. Academically, she maintained an exceptional record, earning a place on the Honor Roll throughout junior high, high school, and college. Her talents extended beyond the classroom, as she excelled in athletics—distinguishing herself as a Bobby Sox All-Star and later as a Women's Double A Softball All-Star. In 1971, she received the Camp Fire 10-Year Award and later earned MVP titles in

basketball and softball at Long Beach City College.

Kent's professional career has been equally impressive. She received the McAuliffe Honorary Service Award for her outstanding contributions to education and was named Teacher of the Year by the Seal Beach Lions Club in 2017. That same year, the Los Alamitos Museum recognized her as an Honored Citizen, celebrating decades of volunteer service that enriched the local community. Most recently, in 2024, Kent was celebrated as the Youth Center's "Hero of the Heart," a distinction that underscores her unwavering dedication to youth programs and her profound impact on generations of young people.

Kent's story is one of perseverance and passion. Whether organizing programs for the Youth Center, leading faculty initiatives, or preserving local history, she has consistently demonstrated a commitment to making Los Alamitos a better place for future generations.

"The City of Los Alamitos is proud to have Debbie as a community member who supports various organizations and continues to be an active role model for everyone in the community," stated City Manager Chet Simons.

Upcoming Events Calendar

City Meetings

City Council Meeting
Date: March 16, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission Meeting
Date: April 1, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

Planning Commission Meeting
Date: February 25, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

Traffic Commission Meeting
Date: February 11, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

City Events

Race on the Base
Date: February 28, 2026
Location: JFTB - 11206 Lexington Dr.
Time: 7:00 AM

Weekend of Art
Date: March 27-28, 2026
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center - 10911 Oak St.
Times: All day

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

THE LOS AL LOOP STAFF

CITY CLERK/DIR OF COMM.
Windmera Quintanar

EDITOR
Matt Lightner

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Katherine Preciado

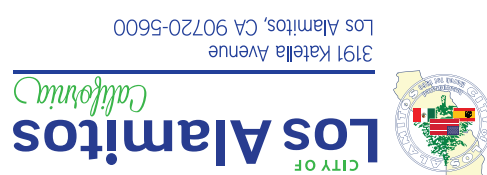
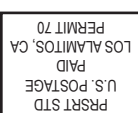
WRITERS
Jasmine Delos Reyes
Suzannah Ives

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(562) 431-3538 CITYOFLOSALAMITOS.ORG

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Stay Informed of Everything Los Alamitos



City Website

The City of Los Alamitos website www.cityoflosalamitos.org is full of valuable information to keep you informed all year long. You can find everything from City Council and Commission Agendas, to City Employment Opportunities, the Municipal Code, Department information from Administration including City Clerk, Finance, Human Resources, Development Services, Police, and Recreation and Community Services. You can find links to services including Fire, Animal Control, Mosquito and Vector Control, Street Sweeping, Trash Collection Services, and Golden State Water. Business information is also listed including Bid Opportunities, Building and Safety, a Business Directory, Code Enforcement, Economic Development, and Planning. Featured News information is also listed on the homepage and press releases under “Your City.”



City Events & Meetings, Community Events Calendar

A City Events & Meetings calendar can be found on the City’s website on the homepage and the Community Events can be found on the Recreation & Community Services page at www.cityoflosalamitos.org. Update your social calendar with City events such as Race on the Base, Weekend of Art, Elevate Teen Expo, Spring Carnival, Senior Prom, 3rd of July Fireworks Spectacular, Summer Concert Series, Elevate Senior Expo, Celebrate Los Al, Elevate Women’s Conference, Trunk or Treat, Winter Wonderland, Decorating Contests, Good Morning or Good Evening Los Al, Coffee With a Cop, City meetings, and local Los Alamitos-based service non-profit community events for the coming year of 2026.



Weekly E-Newsletter and Social Media

Sign up for our weekly E-Newsletter on the City’s website and receive emails with important information about upcoming Los Alamitos events, programs, and services. Follow us on social media @cityoflosal and @losalamitospd on Instagram and Facebook for the latest updates and happenings in the City of Los Alamitos.



My Los Al App

Need to submit a Service Request or report an issue? Download and use the My Los Al app for easy access and to receive the latest updates on your request. My Los Al is your easy and convenient way to report an issue, and submit a concern for topics including animals, building-related issues, City or Public Property, health and safety, landscaping, property maintenance, public nuisance, public right-of-way, short-term rental violations, streets & traffic (i.e. potholes), and zoning violations or issues.



My Los Al Engage

A citizen engagement platform mylosalengage.com is available for you to sign up and receive notifications regarding significant development projects as an important part of our efforts to improve inclusion and transparency. Our goal is to ensure our community is aware of projects occurring in the City and know where to look for information and be able to participate as an active citizen in the public input process.



Monthly Newsletter

Stay informed about all the latest happenings in Los Alamitos with The Los Al Loop! The Los Al Loop is a monthly newsletter that will provide residents with up-to-date information on City events, programs, and services. From community festivals and recreational activities to City Council meetings and essential updates, The Los Al Loop ensures that you’re always in the loop. Whether it’s about upcoming holiday celebrations, workshops, or public service announcements, this newsletter is your go-to source for staying connected with the City of Los Alamitos.

City of Los Alamitos - City Hall

3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos CA 90720
(562) 431-3538

Los Alamitos Community Center

10911 Oak Street, Los Alamitos CA 90720
(562) 430-1073

Los Alamitos Police Department

3201 Katella Ave, Los Alamitos CA 90720
(562) 594-7232

Mayor’s Business Spotlight for January 2026: Celebrating Taboon Mediterranean Express



Rabi Haddad receiving certificate of recognition during the Los Alamitos January 20, 2026 City Council Meeting.

The City of Los Alamitos is proud to spotlight Taboon Mediterranean Express Los Alamitos as the Mayor’s Business Spotlight of the Month for January 2026, honoring a local gem that brings authentic Mediterranean cuisine and rich cultural flavors to the community.

Located on Los Alamitos Boulevard, Taboon Mediterranean Express is part of the family-run Taboon Mediterranean brand—helmed by a third generation of Mediterranean chefs dedicated to preparing dishes with freshly sourced herbs, spices, and ingredients. The restaurant serves a vibrant variety of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern favorites, with a menu that includes kebabs, shawarma, wraps, hearty salads, mezze platters, and traditional desserts.

Whether you’re stopping in for lunch, dinner, or takeout, Taboon Mediterranean Express offers flavorful options that cater to a wide range of tastes, including vegetarian and gluten-friendly choices. Fans of the Los Alamitos location regularly enjoy classics like the grilled Beef Kabab and Chef’s Special Salad, as well as crowd-pleasing appetizers and house favorites. The restaurant’s commitment to quality and hospitality reflects the Mediterranean ethos that “healthy meets delicious.” Taboon Mediterranean Express also provides an online reservation system and offers delivery and take-out for the convenience of local patrons.

“We are delighted to recognize Taboon Express Los Alamitos,” said Assistant City Manager Ron Noda. “Their dedication to authentic cuisine, warm service, and community engagement enriches our local dining scene and exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit of Los Alamitos.”

Owner Rabi Haddad started the Taboon with a location in Long Beach seven years ago, but he stated that the Los Alamitos location has been a

“dream come true” during his acceptance during the Los Alamitos January City Council Meeting.

The goal of Taboon has always been to provide patrons with a healthy, warm, and nutritious meal.

Taboon Mediterranean Express came to Los Alamitos from a desire to move from Los Angeles County to Orange County.

Haddad spoke about how Taboon Mediterranean Express serves authentic Middle Eastern Mediterranean food from Jordan, Israel, and Jerusalem. Haddad hopes residents and community members will come to eat and said the restaurant also offers catering options.

Haddad has always focused on food as health. Natural flavor is the spice that makes food great. Taboon Mediterranean Express focuses on the natural flavors of the food, unlike what people can find in regular fast food.

Haddad loves the people who come into the restaurant and meeting new and different people who react to the food in the best way possible. Food represents different cultures, and Taboon shows Los Alamitos the best of Middle Eastern Mediterranean cuisine.

Catering is offered with notification needed based on the size of the request. Anything can be done with the kitchen that they have available.

There is a catering discount for 15-20 people, with travel up to 100 miles if needed.

Taboon Express invites residents and visitors alike to experience Mediterranean flavors in a welcoming setting. For more information, visit their website at taboonmediterranean.com or call (562) 493-4494 to make a reservation or order online.

Come celebrate Taboon Mediterranean Express’ recognition this January, and support a local business that continues to make Los Alamitos a vibrant place to live, dine, and explore.

Los Alamitos Advances Modern Banking Services to Enhance Transparency and Efficiency

The City of Los Alamitos is taking a significant step forward in modernizing its financial operations by initiating a comprehensive review of its banking services, underscoring the City's commitment to transparency, operational efficiency, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

The City Council approved the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP 2026-01) seeking qualified public depositories to provide comprehensive banking services at the January City Council Meeting. This effort marks the City's first detailed evaluation of its banking services in more than 18 years and reflects a proactive approach to ensuring that municipal financial systems keep pace with evolving technology and best practices.

The RFP process will allow the City to assess whether current and prospective banking partners can deliver superior service, competitive earnings, credit rates, and reduced overall banking costs—while also supporting enhanced transparency and accountability in the City's finances.

A major focus of the RFP is expanding electronic banking capabilities. The City is exploring broader use of Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions and a strategic shift away from paper checks, which can be a time-consuming process.

The proposed banking services emphasize secure, technology-driven solutions, including online image retrieval, two-factor authentication for ACH and wire transfers, mobile banking access, and seamless integration with the City's financial management system, Tyler INCODE. These

tools will allow City staff to manage accounts more efficiently, reconcile transactions faster, and respond promptly to issues—benefits that ultimately support better service delivery to residents and businesses.

In addition, the RFP seeks banking partners capable of offering advanced fraud prevention services, such as ACH debit blocking, positive pay for checks and electronic payments, and real-time exception reporting. These safeguards are designed to protect public funds while ensuring transparency in the Finance Department.

The Budget Standing Committee reviewed the RFP at a Special Meeting on January 12, 2026, affirming the importance of aligning financial operations with modern standards.

“This is one more step that the City is taking to modernize financial processes while also making sure that the residents are receiving the best services from the City while being as transparent as possible”, stated City Manager Chet Simmons.

By benchmarking incumbent banking services against other qualified financial institutions, Los Alamitos is positioning itself to make informed, data-driven decisions. The initiative reflects a broader commitment to innovation, accountability, and continuous improvement—ensuring that the City's financial infrastructure supports its evolving needs and maintains the trust of the community it serves.

As Los Alamitos moves forward with the RFP process, residents can expect a continued emphasis on transparency, security, and smart use of technology in managing public resources.

Employee of the Quarter: Matt Lightner



The City of Los Alamitos Employee of the Quarter Awards (EoQ) Program, aimed at recognizing full-time City employees for their exceptional work performance and dedication, has recognized Management Analyst Matt Lightner for the Winter 2025 quarter. The Employee of the Quarter Program honors individuals who display a strong work ethic, provide high-quality customer service, and consistently go above and beyond in their respective departments or across city operations.

The awards program spotlights city employees who stand out among their peers for their remarkable contributions. The program is designed

to acknowledge these employees on a quarterly basis, ensuring that excellence is rewarded throughout the year. Any City of Los Alamitos employee can nominate fellow full-time, non-executive employees who have been with the City for at least one year and are off probation. Executive Staff members are ineligible, and employees who have received the award within the past two years are ineligible for re-nomination.

Award recipients are publicly recognized during a City Council meeting with a Certificate of Recognition, receive an additional 10 hours of vacation pay, and have their name and photo displayed on the Employee of the Quarter plaque. Additionally, they will be given a unique “Employee of the Quarter Recognition Belt,” a rotating item passed from one recipient to the next.

With four employees receiving this prestigious honor each year, the program aims to celebrate those who make exceptional contributions to the City of Los Alamitos. Recognitions are announced city-wide at the beginning of each quarter.

Los Alamitos Assumes Operations of Sunburst Field, Expanding Recreation Services



The field locations that make up Sunburst Field on the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) property.

The City of Los Alamitos continues to advance its commitment to serving residents through expanded recreational access, long-term facility stewardship, and strong interagency collaboration. Through two significant agreements approved by the City Council, Los Alamitos is strengthening its ability to deliver high-quality services across the community—both by assuming operational responsibility for Sunburst Field and by renewing a long-standing joint use partnership with the Los Alamitos Unified School District (LAUSD).

Together, these actions reflect the City's proactive approach to maximizing public resources, improving access to recreational amenities, and ensuring facilities are well-managed, safe, and available to all residents.

As part of an agreement with the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), the City of Los Alamitos will assume operational responsibility for Sunburst Field, a 7.89-acre sports complex located at 4370 Farquhar Avenue. The agreement allows the City to directly manage and oversee use of the four-field baseball facility, ensuring consistent standards for safety, maintenance, and permitted activities.

By taking on day-to-day operations, the City will oversee scheduling, staffing, supervision, and enforcement of athletic facility rules and regulations. City personnel will be present during authorized activities to monitor field use, promote safety, and protect public assets, while coordinating approved programs and events that serve the broader community.

The City will also implement regular maintenance, seasonal rest and renovation periods, and closures when necessary to protect participant safety or allow for repairs. An annual maintenance calendar will guide these efforts, ensuring Sunburst Field remains a high-quality and reliable recreational asset.

In addition, the City has adopted a comprehensive Sunburst Field Code of Conduct that emphasizes sportsmanship, inclusivity, and respect. Harassment, discrimination, and un-

safe behavior are strictly prohibited, reinforcing the City's commitment to a welcoming, family-friendly environment for players, volunteers, and spectators.

The agreement authorizing City operations at Sunburst Field is in effect through January 19, 2027, with all permitted uses coordinated directly through the City.

Complementing the City's expanded role at Sunburst Field, Los Alamitos has also approved an amended and restated Joint Use Agreement with LAUSD for the Oak Middle School Gymnasium and the City Community Center. The updated agreement formalizes a 20-year partnership that builds on decades of shared use and cooperation between the City and the District.

Under the agreement, LAUSD will retain ownership and primary control of the Oak Middle School Gym during school hours, while the City will have access during evenings, weekends, holidays, and school breaks to support community recreational programming. The District will remain responsible for routine maintenance of the gym, while the City will continue to maintain and operate the City Community Center at its sole expense.

The agreement also includes the transfer of ownership of the Oak and McAuliffe Field lighting systems from the City to the District, shifting long-term maintenance and utility costs accordingly. In addition, the City and District will collaborate on a lot line adjustment involving adjacent properties, further clarifying ownership and maintenance responsibilities for Community Center Building 2.

These updates provide long-term clarity, improve operational efficiency, and ensure both agencies can plan responsibly for future facility needs without creating new or unbudgeted expenses.

Assistant City Manager Ron Noda emphasized that both agreements reflect the City's broader strategy of

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The UWS Race on the Base Returns to JFTB February 28, 2026

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The 2025 UWS Race on the Base first wave of triathletes at the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB).

Athletes and spectators are invited to the Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, for competitive racing as the annual Reverse Triathlon and 5K Run/Walk return on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

Bib pickup, registration, and packet pickup will take place on Friday, February 27, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Joint Forces Training Base, located at 11206 Lexington Drive, Los Alamitos. Late packet pickup and registration will reopen early Saturday morning, beginning at 5:30 a.m.

Race day activities begin Saturday,

February 28, with the transition area opening at 5:30 a.m. The first Reverse Triathlon wave will start at 7:00 a.m., followed by the 5K Run/Walk at 7:15 a.m. The second Reverse Triathlon wave will begin at 8:30 a.m. Participants are strongly encouraged to arrive at least one and a half hours early to allow sufficient time for parking, check-in, and race preparation.

The Reverse Triathlon features a unique race order, with each individual or relay team completing a 5K run, a 13.1-mile bike ride, and a 200-meter pool swim. The first wave includes

athletes and relay teams anticipating a finish time of 1 hour and 30 minutes or less, while the second wave is designated for athletes with finish times over 1 hour and 30 minutes, as well as Athena, Clydesdale, and Challenged Athletes divisions.

Overall awards will be presented to the top three male and female finishers and relay teams from Wave 1 only, while both waves will be eligible for age-division awards. Participants competing in Wave 2 will not be eligible for overall awards.

For safety and race integrity, athletes must wear race numbers and timing chips at all times. Relay teams are required to transfer the timing chip at designated transition points. Course rules include staying to the correct side of cones during the run and bike segments, observing no-drafting and no-blocking rules on the bike course, and adhering to strict transition area protocols.

The event will take place rain or shine, with no refunds or transfers offered. Spectators are asked to remain off the course to ensure athlete safety. For more information please visit <https://www.raceonthebaselos.com>.

working collaboratively to expand services and deliver the best possible outcomes for residents.

“Whether we’re partnering with the School District or coordinating with the Joint Forces Training Base, our staff is focused on collaboration, accountability, and maximizing every opportunity to serve the community,” said Noda. “These agreements allow us to expand recreational access, protect public resources, and ensure our facilities are managed professionally and sustainably. The goal is always the same, producing the best results for the residents of Los Alamitos.”

Through thoughtful partnerships and strategic management of shared facilities, the City of Los Alamitos continues to invest in recreation, youth programs, and community spaces—demonstrating its commitment to expanding services in every way possible while preserving the quality and accessibility of public amenities.

Noda continued to explain “that Los Alamitos continues to strive to improve relationships with surrounding organizations in the pursuit of being ‘The Best City Ever.’” These agreements are another example of the work that staff is able to produce.”

Los Alamitos Invites Artists of All Ages to Participate in 2026 Weekend of Art



The Weekend of Art display from 2025 which showcased artists from the community at the Los Alamitos Community Center.

The City of Los Alamitos in partnership with the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Commission, is inviting artists of all ages and skill levels to participate in the annual Weekend of Art, scheduled for March 27–28, 2026, at the Los Alamitos Community Center.

Artists interested in exhibiting their work must submit an application by Friday, March 19, 2026. The event is open to all artists and is designed to celebrate creativity, community engagement, and artistic expression across all age groups.

The exhibition will be open to the public on Friday, March 27, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 28, from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. An awards ceremony recognizing outstanding artists will take place on Saturday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m.

In addition to the art exhibition, the Weekend of Art will feature children’s art activities, arts-and-crafts booths, live performances, and opportunities for the community to engage directly with local artists. The event is free to attend and welcomes participants and visitors of all ages.

Awards will be presented in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional visual art categories across multiple age divisions, including elementary, middle school, high school, adult, and older adult artists. Special honors will also be awarded, including the Mayor’s Award, Commissioner’s Award, and People’s Choice Award. High school students may also be eligible for \$300 scholarship. Award recipients will receive a certificate, award ribbon, and a gift card to Art Supply Warehouse in Westminster, with prizes of \$100 for first

place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place in each division.

For additional information or questions regarding artist participation, interested individuals may contact the Recreation and Community Services Department at (562) 430-1073, email Carson Deterding at cdeterding@cityoflosalamitos.org, or visit the website at <https://cityoflosalamitos.org/303/Weekend-of-Art>.

The Weekend of Art continues to be a signature event, highlighting Los Alamitos’ commitment to arts, culture, and community programming.