



# The Los Al Loop



*Your Source for Los Alamitos Community News.*

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thelosalloop.org

## Senior Services Master Plan Approved by Los Alamitos



The City of Los Alamitos is taking a significant step towards enhancing the quality of life for its older adult residents with the adoption of a Senior Services Master Plan (SSMP) with Resolution No. 2025-04. As one of the first cities in Orange County to develop such a plan, Los Alamitos is demonstrating its commitment to fostering a community where residents can age gracefully and confidently. The plan aims to anticipate and address the current and future needs of residents aged 50 and older, focusing on health, safety, inclusivity, mobility, and accessibility. To guide the development of the SSMP, the City formed a Senior Advisory Advocate Committee, which included City Council members, the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Commission, representatives from the Los Alamitos Senior Club, the Police Department, and the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). These groups provided valuable input throughout the process, ensuring that the SSMP reflected the needs and desires of the community's older population. Throughout 2024, an extensive marketing and public outreach campaign took place, including flyers, press releases, social media outreach, and focus group discussions at senior-

fo-cused events and programs. Feedback collected from these efforts played a crucial role in shaping the SSMP. In October 2024, GeroFusion presented preliminary survey findings to the Senior Advisory Advocate Committee, followed by completing the final report in December 2024. The draft SSMP was reviewed and approved by the Senior Advisory Advocate Committee on January 29, 2025, and the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Commission on February 5, 2025. Both bodies endorsed the plan to move forward for final review by the City Council, which was adopted at the February meeting.

The SSMP will serve as a blueprint for the City's programming and infrastructure decisions for the next two decades, ensuring that the needs of residents aged 50 and older are met with thoughtful, forward-thinking solutions. The full report on the City's website includes an extensive list of recommendations in Section 7.3, which outlines strategies to maintain and expand senior services with sustainable growth. With the SSMP in place, Los Alamitos is preparing for the challenges and opportunities that come with an aging population, ensuring that the City remains resilient and adaptable.



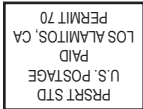
## Upcoming Events Calendar

### City Events

- City Council Meeting  
Date: March 24  
Time: 6 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting  
Date: March 26  
Time: 7 PM
- Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission Meeting  
Date: April 2  
Time: 7 PM
- Traffic Commission Meeting  
Date: April 9  
Time: 7 PM

### Community Events

- Weekend of Art  
Date: March 14 & 15, 2025  
Time: 14th - 5 PM - 8 PM  
15th - 12 PM to 7 PM  
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center
  - OCFA Open House  
Date: March 15, 2025  
Time: 10 AM - 3PM  
Location: 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine CA 92602
  - Teen Expo  
Date: April 12, 2025  
Time: 8AM - 3PM  
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center
  - Spring Carnival  
Date: April 19, 2025  
Time: All Day  
Location: Little Cottonwood Park
  - Arbor Day  
Date: April 26, 2025  
Time: 3PM - 6PM  
Location: Little Cottonwood Park
- More events can be found on the City website: [cityoflosalamitos.org](http://cityoflosalamitos.org)



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Stay Informed of Everything Los Alamitos



Los Alamitos Boys Basketball Team celebrating the third CIF-SS Division 1 championship with a photo.

Los Alamitos High School’s Boys Basketball team made history in dramatic fashion on Saturday, March 1, by securing its third CIF-SS Division 1 championship with a thrilling 63-60 victory over Mira Costa at Toyota Arena in Ontario. The Griffins delivered an outstanding all-around team performance, claiming the program’s first title since 2007, a year that now carries even more significance, as their current head coach, Nate Berger, was a player on that championship-winning team. This win is a full-circle moment for Berger, who has now etched his name into the school’s history books not only as a star player but also as a championship-winning coach.

The path to the championship was anything but easy, as Los Al battled through a tough playoff bracket. The Griffins opened with a hard-fought win over Vista Murrieta in the first round before edging out Long Beach Poly in a tight matchup. They continued their run by defeating Rolling Hills Prep in the quarterfinals and then delivered a dominant performance against Crean Lutheran in the semifinals to earn their spot in the title game.

In the final showdown against Mira Costa, the Griffins displayed their trademark tenacity and teamwork. With every possession critical, key players stepped up, hitting clutch shots and making defensive stops when it mattered most. The Griffins held their nerve in the final seconds to secure the 63-60 victory. This win marked the culmination of months of hard work, perseverance, and a shared belief that they could bring the championship trophy back to Los Alamitos.

The significance of Saturday’s victory extends beyond just the school’s trophy case. Los Alamitos’ triumph marks a major achievement for public high school basketball, as the Griffins became the first public school to win the CIF-SS Division 1 title since Chino Hills accomplished the feat in 2018.

For Coach Nate Berger, the victory holds a special personal meaning. As a former Griffin himself, Berger’s journey has come full circle, from helping to win the 2007 championship as a player to now leading his

team to victory as a coach. His deep connection to the program and understanding of what it takes to win at this level has been instrumental in guiding his players through the highs and lows of the season. Now, with a championship as both a player and a coach, Berger’s legacy within the Los Alamitos basketball program is cemented, leaving an indelible mark on the school’s history.

The Griffins’ championship run was a showcase of resilience, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. This title will be remembered not just for the thrilling games, but for the way the team came together, fought for each other, and believed in their collective ability to achieve greatness.

But the journey isn’t over yet for Los Alamitos. Fresh off their CIF-SS Division 1 title win, the Griffins are now preparing for the Division I State Regionals, where they will face off against Cathedral Catholic of San Diego. The matchup is set for Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. on their home court, where the Griffins will look to continue their postseason success and add another chapter to what has already been a historic season. With momentum on their side and the taste of victory still fresh, Los Alamitos is ready to take on the next challenge in pursuit of even greater heights.

- LOS ALAMITOS GRIFFINS  
ROSTER
- 1 Liam Gray (C) 6’0” SR

2 Kevens Wempe 5’7” JR

3 Matt Mejico 5’10” SR

4 Wesley Trevino 6’3” SR

5 Samori Guyness 6’0” SR

10 Matt Lau 5’9” JR

11 Kedric Delaney 6’3” SR

13 Joe Ojeda 6’3” JR

20 Cam Lovingier (C) 6’4” SR

21 Will Morales 6’4” SR

22 Tyler Lopez 6’5” JR

23 Landon Dorsey 6’2” JR

30 Sean Lee 6’2” JR

33 Trent Minter (C) 6’6” SR

40 Jordan Taylor 6’3” SR

42 Ethan Lee 6’2” JR

Head Coach: Nate Berger (4th Season, 91-29)

Head Assistant: Hayden Moy (7th Season)

Assistants: Juston Couch, Dennis Canning

Good Evening Los Al Presents a Future for the City Whil Showing Accomplishments



Management Analyst Megan Shimada kicking off the Good Evening Los Alamitos event.

The City of Los Alamitos hosted its annual “Good Evening Los Al” event on January 28, 2025, to celebrate the many accomplishments made over the past few years and offer a preview of the exciting initiatives planned for the future. This year’s theme, Milestones + Destinations: Looking Back and Moving Forward, reflected the community’s journey of progress and growth. The event highlighted key achievements while setting ambitious goals for the coming years.

Held at the newly renovated Community Center, the event showcased the improvements made possible through state grants and diligent city staff efforts. Despite the scope of the renovation, the project was completed under budget, allowing the Community Center to now offer expanded services previously unavailable to residents. A wide array of attendees, from city officials to community members, enjoyed the evening’s festivities, which included complimentary food, soft

drinks, and a special video presentation by the City’s executive team. The video, titled Milestones & Destinations, provided a comprehensive overview of the City’s accomplishments and future plans. It featured each department’s highlights—from the Finance Department’s commitment to maintaining transparent fiscal policies to the Police Department’s unwavering dedication to keeping Los Alamitos safe for residents and visitors.

The City emphasized the teamwork and dedication of its staff, who continually strive to improve services for the community. The video presentation is available on the City’s YouTube channel and will also air on the Public Access, Educational, and Government (PEG) Channel 3.

The Good Evening Los Al event marked not only a celebration of past achievements but also a clear vision for the future, as Los Alamitos continues to grow and innovate.

Employee of the Quarter: Luis Reyes



Luis Reyes, Lead Foremen, holding EoQ Belt

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 Luis Reyes for the Winter 2024 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

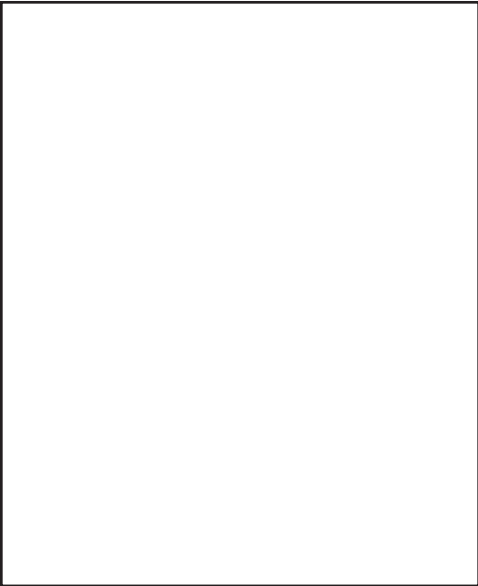
a quarterly basis, ensuring that excellence is rewarded throughout the year. Any City of Los Alamitos employee can nominate fellow full-time, non-executive employees who have been with the City for at least one year and are off probation. Executive Staff members are ineligible, and employees who have won the award within the last two years are also excluded from 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 will be announced city-wide via email at the beginning of April, July, October, and January.



# Los Alamitos Approves E-Bike Enforcement



Placeholder caption

The City of Los Alamitos is taking steps to improve safety surrounding the increasing use of electric bicycles (E-bikes) within the community. At the January 21, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, the Council introduced Ordinance No. 2025-01, which aims to regulate E-bike use in response to safety concerns raised by both law enforcement and residents. Like many cities across Orange County, Los Alamitos has seen a significant rise in E-bike use as more residents seek eco-friendly and cost-effective alternatives to driving. However, this surge has brought with it increased safety risks. According to a 2024 report by the Orange County Grand Jury, E-bikes have a higher accident rate than traditional bicycles, making safety regulations and public education a top priority. The Grand Jury’s report, titled

“E-Bikes: Friend or Foe,” was released in June 2024. It highlighted the lack of consistent E-bike regulations across Orange County’s 34 cities, including those serviced by the Orange County Sheriff’s Department. While the California Vehicle Code provides general guidance, the report emphasized the need for uniform policies at the local level to address E-bike safety, particularly in cities, school districts, parks, and unincorporated areas. In response to the Grand Jury’s recommendations, the Los Alamitos Police Department took the lead in developing Ordinance No. 2025-01. Officers with experience in traffic control and accident investigation researched E-bike regulations and worked with legal experts and other agencies to craft an ordinance that prioritizes rider safety, public education, and enforcement. In November 2024, the draft ordinance was presented to the Los Alamitos Traffic Commission, which requested clarifications on certain sections. Following minor revisions, the final version of the ordinance was submitted to the City Council for review and approval. The ordinance introduces a new chapter to the municipal code, Chapter 10.45 “Electric Conveyances,” which will establish rules for E-bike operation within the city. It empowers the police department to enforce these rules and enhances efforts to educate the community on safe riding practices.

# Midtown, The Newest Neighbor in Los Al

The Los Alamitos City Council has approved officially renaming the “Apartment Row” neighborhood to “Midtown,” reflecting the community’s desire for a name that better represents the area’s identity. The City Council considered Resolution No. 2026-06 at the February City Council Meeting. Apartment Row, the largest and most densely populated neighborhood in Los Alamitos, is home to approximately 1,900 housing units and over 4,000 residents. The neighborhood is bounded by Lexington Drive to the east, Farquhar Avenue to the south, the Town Center Mixed Use Zone on the west, and the Katella Avenue/Green Avenue alley to the north. While city records show that the area was once referred to as “City Gardens” around 1924, there is no historical documentation on how or when it became known as “Apartment Row.” In early 2024, residents expressed to City Council members that the current name did not reflect the neighborhood’s character or vision for the future of the area. In response to resident feedback, the City Council launched a public engagement campaign to explore renaming the neighborhood. From June to August 2024, the city’s pub-

lic engagement platform, GoVocal, hosted an online survey, which was promoted through the city’s weekly e-newsletter, local newspapers, mailers, and social media. Of the 89 residents who participated in the survey, 75 percent supported changing the neighborhood’s name. The favored name, “Midtown,” was chosen to reflect the neighborhood’s central location and its growing prominence within the city. Following the community survey, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2025-06, officially renaming the neighborhood to Midtown. The new name is intended to give the area a fresh identity that resonates with both current and future residents of the neighborhood. The renaming of Apartment Row to Midtown marks a significant step in rebranding one of Los Alamitos’ key residential areas. As the city continues to evolve, this change represents a renewed sense of pride and unity within the community, allowing residents to better identify with the neighborhood’s distinct character. With City Council support and widespread resident approval, the Midtown name is expected to become a defining part of the Los Alamitos community for years to come.

# Mayor’s Business Spotlight: Donut Boss



At the February 18, 2025, City Council Meeting, Donut Boss received well-deserved recognition as the Los Alamitos Business Spotlight. This award celebrates the integral role that small businesses play in shaping and supporting the community, and Donut Boss is a prime example of that. Owned and operated by Kevin Babiera and his wife, Erica, Donut Boss is more than just a donut shop, it’s a beloved staple for residents and visitors. Kevin and Erica and their two young children were present to accept the award. Kevin expressed his gratitude and said, “I’d like to thank the mayor. It’s truly a pleasure to be showcased.” The couple took over the shop two years ago, following a family tradition of running donut shops. When they discovered Donut Boss was up for sale, they jumped at the opportunity to bring their vision to life in Los Alamitos—a city they’ve always adored. Kevin expressed that the family has operated businesses in Cerritos, but they always knew they wanted to open a shop in the City of Los Alamitos. What sets Donut Boss apart is their dual drive-thru, which allows customers to quickly grab their favorite treats without leaving their car. From classic donuts to seasonal flavors, they offer something for everyone.

Each month, the shop rolls out new, festive creations. With St. Patrick’s Day around the corner, customers can look forward to donuts topped with Lucky Charms and other fun additions to their food. Beyond donuts, Donut Boss serves a variety of lattes and specialty drinks, with six new beverages introduced every month. This makes it a one-stop shop for all your cravings. With 25 donut flavors, there’s always something exciting to try. The Los Alamitos Police Department and many residents are loyal fans of Donut Boss. The shop has become a local favorite not just for its delicious treats but also for its welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere. The Mayor’s Business Spotlight is a free program that promotes locally owned businesses in Los Alamitos. This month’s honors show a testament to the community’s appreciation for Donut Boss. Kevin, Erica, and their team are committed to serving the city they love and look forward to continuing their tradition of offering sweet treats and exceptional service to the Los Alamitos community. Donut Boss is located at 3381 Katella Ave, Los Alamitos, and is open from 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and open from 6:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekends.

<b>Administration</b> City Manager - Chet Simmons Administrative Services Manager - Chelsi Wilson City Clerk/Director of Communications- Windmera Quintanar, MMC
<b>Development Services (Dev Svcs)</b> Dev Svcs Director/Deputy City Manager - Ron Noda Dev Svcs Manager - Irving Montenegro
<b>Finance</b> Director of Finance - Craig Koehler Finance Manager - Barbara Biscocho
<b>Police Department</b> Chief of Police - Michael Claborn Operations Captain - Luke South Administrative/Investigation Captain - Kain Gallagher
<b>Recreation &amp; Community Services (RCS)</b> Director of RCS/Director of Intergovernmental Affairs - Emeline Noda Recreation Manager - Jennifer Sisoev Recreation Manager - Jason Bruton



# Sterns Park Opens to the Public After Delay



The City of Los Alamitos celebrated the completion of the Sterns Park Rehabilitation Project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 18, 2025. The newly redesigned and ADA-compliant park was officially opened to the public in an event attended by City Council members and the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission, who came together to mark this important milestone. The Sterns Park Rehab Project is part of a larger initiative aimed at revitalizing parks across Los Alamitos, made possible by increased funding from Measure Y and the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This project began on June

7, 2023, at a Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Commission meeting, where various site amenities were reviewed. Shortly after, on October 23, 2023, the City Council approved the purchase of new playground and fitness equipment, followed by the awarding of demolition and construction contracts at the December 18, 2023, City Council meeting. However, the project experienced a brief delay due to environmental concerns. Community members notified the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) about the presence of a Swainson’s Hawk nesting in a tree adjacent to Sterns Park. The Swainson’s Hawk, a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), is at risk due to habitat loss, urban development, and environmental challenges. In compliance with environmental regulations, the City postponed construction until after August 31, 2024, to allow time for the hawk hatchlings to fledge and safely leave the nest. Following the successful completion of the project, Sterns Park is now open and ready for play.

# How the City Budget Works at Los Alamitos

The City of Los Alamitos follows a unique two-year budget cycle, which helps city officials better plan for both current and future needs of residents. This approach allows the city to allocate funds for operational costs not only for the current fiscal year but also for the following year, providing more stability and foresight. The budget process consists of several key phases: preparation, review/approval, adoption, implementation, and auditing. The budgeting process begins with staff members reviewing the city’s current needs. These could range from ongoing services, like public safety, to infrastructure projects, to supply needs. During this phase, the city’s finance team allocates funding requirements to specific line-items in the budget, ensuring each department’s needs are accounted for. Once the first draft of the budget is prepared, it goes through a multi-level review process. Initially, the finance team reviews the draft, making adjustments where necessary. The revised draft is then forwarded to the City Manager, who has the authority to make further adjustments as he or she sees fit. After the City Manager and staff finalize the budget, it is presented to the Budget Standing Committee who approves submittal to the City Council for review. At this stage, council members have the opportunity to request changes and adjustments based on their priorities and community feedback through a public hearing. Ultimately, the City Council has the final say in approving the budget. Once the City Council approves the

budget, the implementation phase begins. This is where the city’s allocated funds are put to use. Major projects, such as the development of the new Community Center, are outlined in the final budget, along with smaller, routine expenditures that keep the city running smoothly. Each line item in the budget reflects different operational costs, ensuring that all departments have the resources they need to serve residents. Even though the budget is adopted, it remains a “living document” that can be adjusted throughout the year. Unforeseen expenses, like emergency repairs, can occur. For example, this past year, Los Alamitos had to carry out unplanned repairs on the Police Department due to a gas leak. To address such unexpected costs, the city conducts a Mid-Year budget review. This process allows city officials to reassess revenues and expenditures, making adjustments as needed. If a department requires additional supplies or funding, they can request further resources during the Mid-Year review. The City of Los Alamitos is in the midst of its Mid-Year budget process, and city officials are aiming to finalize the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 budgets by May. Once completed and approved by the City Council, these budgets will guide city operations for the next two years, ensuring that both planned projects and unexpected needs are addressed. With this thoughtful and strategic approach to budgeting, Los Alamitos continues to prioritize the needs of its residents while maintaining financial responsibility.

# Los Alamitos Commissioners Honored



The City of Los Alamitos hosted its annual Commission Appreciation Dinner on February 10, 2025, honoring the dedicated efforts of its City Commissioners. The event, held to express gratitude for the hard work of the volunteer commissioners, recognized their vital role in shaping the city’s operations and decision-making processes throughout the year. City Commissioners, who volunteer their time to serve their community, engage in a range of activities, including attending meetings, offering recommendations to the City Council, and representing their commissions at

various city events. The annual dinner serves as a gesture of thanks for their commitment and involvement. This year’s event featured a special performance by the Los Alamitos High School Combo Band. The student musicians captivated the audience with a mix of drums, cello, electric guitar, and saxophone, earning a standing ovation from the commissioners for their impressive talent. In addition to the celebration, the City of Los Alamitos has recently transitioned to a smaller, five-member commission structure, reducing the number of members from seven to better align with City Council seats and to introduce district-based representation. Some commissions will retain seven members until the current terms of certain commissioners expire, after which they will operate under the new five-member model. The dinner underscored the city’s appreciation for the invaluable contributions made by its commissioners and their volunteerism.

# Los Al OCFA Saves Resident from Buring House in Rossmoor Despite Hydrant Failure



OCFA FireFighters working to douse the flame at 12501 Foster Road after the nearby fire hydrant bursts.

On Monday, February 10th, the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), from the Fire Station #2 located in Los Alamitos, responded to a distress call from a resident at 12501 Foster Road in Rossmoor, reporting that her house was on fire and she was trapped on the second floor. Firefighters arrived to find smoke billowing from the second floor of the two-story home and the 64-year-old resident calling for help from a second-floor window in the backyard. Crews quickly forced their way through a metal gate, placed a ladder at the window, and safely rescued the resident, who was transported for evaluation. Inside the house, dense and obstructive contents made it difficult for crews to advance hose lines and locate the fire’s origin. About 10 minutes after arriving, a fire hydrant failure further complicated efforts, forcing crews to retreat and adopt a defensive strategy while securing additional water supplies. Despite the growing intensity of the fire and limited access to the property, firefighters contained the blaze to the home, preventing damage to nearby structures and avoiding any injuries to first responders. The rescued resident was later discharged from the hospital and reunited with firefighters, who, along with Red Cross volunteers, offered support in the aftermath of the incident. The City of Los Alamitos contracts Fire, Emergency Medical and Rescue Services from the OCFA. The OCFA, established on March 1, 1995, is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, representing the 22 cities it protects, along with the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Formerly known as the Orange County Fire Department from 1980 to 1995, the OCFA is one of California’s largest regional fire service organizations, serving over 1.4 million residents across 550 square miles, including 175,000 acres of wildland. Among the 62 fire stations across Orange County, Fire Station #2, located at 3642 Green Avenue in Los Alamitos, stands as a longstanding station established in 1944.