



The Los Al Loop



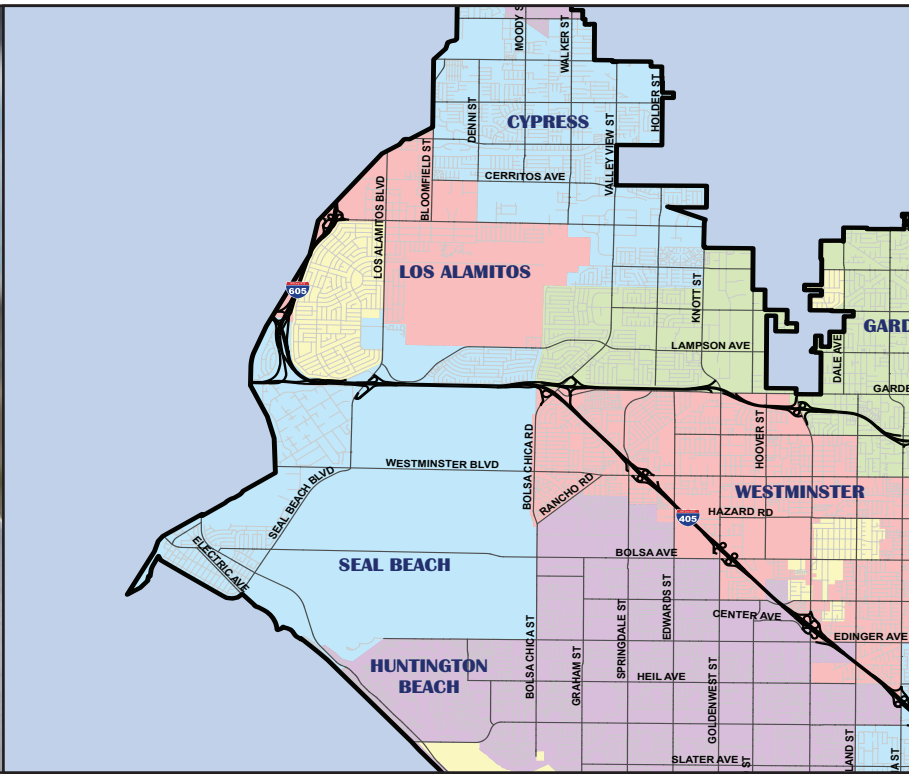
The City celebrated 66 years of cityhood on March 1, 2026.

Volume 2 Issue 3

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

thelosalloop.org

OC Supervisor Janet Nguyen Provides Legislative Update to Los Al



Supervisor Janet Nguyen (left) and the portion of the Orange County Supervisor's First District showing Los Alamitos and the directly surrounding communities.

On February 9, 2026, First District Orange County Supervisor Janet Nguyen delivered a legislative update in person at the Los Alamitos City Council meeting; an appearance that underscored both her ongoing support for the City and Los Alamitos' growing prominence within Orange County as "The Best City Ever."

County Supervisors typically do not attend city council meetings in person unless there is a significant issue or a strong working relationship. Supervisor Nguyen's visit is indicative of a deepening partnership and reflects Los Alamitos' emergence as a rising star in Orange County from a regional coordination standpoint. The City has been intentionally strengthening relationships at the county, regional, and federal levels to expand services, leverage funding opportunities, and promote stronger intergovernmental collaboration under the leadership of City Manager Chet Simmons and Director of Recreation and Community Services/Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Emeline Noda. Supervisor Nguyen's presence highlighted that commitment to partnership and shared priorities at the February Council Meeting.

Supervisor Nguyen, who previously served in the State Senate, was instrumental in securing a \$2.5 million state grant for improvements to the Los Alamitos Civic Center Complex. Now representing Orange County's First District on the Orange County Board of Supervisors, which includes Los Alamitos, she continued that support by providing an update on county initiatives and local investments.

Recapping her first year back on the Board, Supervisor Nguyen reported that her office attended more than 1,500 community events, opened 3,667 constituent and small-business cases, authored and passed 17 county ordinances, and issued more than 3,200 certificates and proclamations. Her district includes Los Alamitos, Garden Grove, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, La Palma, Seal Beach, Westminister, and the unincorporated communities of Midway City and Rossmoor.

Supervisor Nguyen emphasized efforts to restore public trust following the embezzlement of \$10 million in pandemic relief funds by a former county supervisor. She outlined new internal controls requiring all purchasing to go through the County CEO's office to prevent fraud and ensure nonprofits receiving public funds are thoroughly vetted. "We will be transparent, we will bring back

integrity, and we will make sure no one ever does this again," Supervisor Nguyen said.

In response to Council questions regarding whether recovered funds would be returned to District 1, Supervisor Nguyen explained that federal coding requirements would determine allocation, but noted that two other supervisors have publicly stated the funds should return to the First District. She affirmed her commitment to advocating for the 640,000 residents she represents if a formal board vote becomes necessary. Supervisor Nguyen also highlighted reforms at Orange County Animal Care, building on legislation she authored in the State Senate requiring shelters to maintain medical records. The shelter now publishes monthly intake, adoption, and euthanasia reports, provides full medical records for animals, and has returned to full-time public hours after pandemic-related restrictions. She also hosted a district pet expo to increase adoption awareness. "Because they don't have a voice. We have to be their voices," Supervisor Nguyen said, noting that euthanasia rates have dropped significantly at the shelter.

On environmental policy, Supervisor

Continued on Page 3

Upcoming Events Calendar

City Meetings

City Council Meeting
Date: March 23, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

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

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

Traffic Commission Meeting
Date: April 15, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM

City Events

Weekend of Art
Date: March 27-28, 2026
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center - 10911 Oak St.
Times: 27th- 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
28th- 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Spring Carnival
Date: April 4, 2026
Location: Little Cottonwood Park
Time: 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Paws for the Planet
Date: April 25, 2026
Location: Laurel Park
Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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

THE LOS AL LOOP STAFF

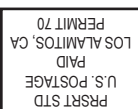
CITY CLERK/DIR OF COMM.
Windmera Quintanar
EDITOR
Matt Lightner
ASSISTANT EDITOR
Katherine Preciado
WRITERS
Suzannah Ives

KEEP UP WITH US IN 2026

(562) 431-3538 CITYOFLOSALAMITOS.ORG

FOLLOW US @CITYOFLOSAL

REGISTRATION: LOSALRECREATION.MYREC.COM



3191 Karella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5600
Los Alamitos
CITY OF



Los Alamitos City Clerk's Office Plays Key Role in Maintaining Public Access



From left to right: City Clerk Windmera Quintanar, Clerical Assistant Katherine Preciado, Deputy City Clerk Eleanor Granflor posing in front of the Council Chamber.

The City Clerk's office serves as the backbone of local government operations, providing the structure, continuity, and accountability that allow a city to function effectively. As the central hub for public records, legislative processes, and official documentation, the office plays a critical role in ensuring transparency, accuracy, and accessibility for residents, staff, and elected officials.

Appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the City Council, the City Clerk is a trusted steward of the public record and a key advisor on procedural and statutory requirements. This position carries a broad portfolio of responsibilities—ranging from managing City Council agendas and minutes to overseeing elections, maintaining municipal codes, and safeguarding vital records. Through meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to open government, the City Clerk helps keep daily operations running smoothly while ensuring the City remains in full compliance with state law and local regulations.

In addition to maintaining official records, the City Clerk oversees municipal elections, ensuring that voting processes meet state and local requirements. The Los Alamitos City Council has five districts and elects a mayor annually. During election years, the City Clerk's office guides candidates through the filing process, communicates throughout the process, and provides voter information to residents. The City Clerk's Office also recruits annually for Commission seats with expiring terms for four Commissions: Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission, Personnel Appeals Commission, Planning Commission, and Traffic Commission. Applicants must be Los Alamitos residents and registered voters.

The office also plays a key role in ethics and accountability with the City Council and City staff. Under the State Political Reform Act, the City Clerk ensures that elected officials and certain employees file required disclosure forms, promoting transpar-

ency in financial interests and potential conflicts. The City Clerk's Office serves as the official filing officer for campaign disclosure statements, local ballot measures, and Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interest) for Los Alamitos. All disclosure statements are available to view online through the City's Laserfiche Public Portal.

For residents, the City Clerk's office is often the first point of contact for information about city government documents. Whether requesting a copy of a council resolution, filing a claim or registering to vote, citizens rely on the office for accurate and timely service. The Clerk's Office has added passport services for new applicants to its list of services as well. Compliance with the California Public Records Act is another critical responsibility. The City Clerk responds to requests for public documents, balancing transparency with legal requirements for confidentiality. A Public Records Request allows anyone to inspect or copy City of Los Alamitos records unless exempt. Requests can be made online, in person, or by email to the City Clerk's office.

As cities face increasing demands for transparency and digital access, the role of the City Clerk continues to evolve. Many offices are adopting technology to streamline agenda preparation, records management, and public access to documents. These innovations aim to make government more accessible while maintaining the integrity of official records. The City of Los Alamitos Records Management Program, adopted by the City Council and managed by the City Clerk's Office, ensures compliance with State and Federal public records laws. It governs the creation, maintenance, and disposition of City records, promoting transparency and efficiency. The program includes an annual retention schedule update and a dedicated records management day for physical and digital records.

For more information about the City Clerk's offices, please visit www.CityofLosAlamitos.org/CityClerk.

Los Alamitos Bans Sale of Nitrous Oxide Products to Protect Community Safety



A batch of typical nitrous oxide canisters.

In a decisive move aimed at strengthening public safety and addressing a growing concern among residents, the Los Alamitos City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 2026-01, a new law prohibiting the sale of nitrous oxide products within City limits. The ordinance, approved earlier at the February City Council meeting, reflects the City's commitment to safeguarding the well being of its community members—particularly its youth—amid rising misuse of the substance statewide.

Nitrous oxide, often referred to as "laughing gas," has legitimate uses in medical and culinary settings. However, in recent years it has become widely misused as a recreational inhalant, commonly known on the street as "whippets." When inhaled, nitrous oxide can produce a brief euphoric effect, but it also carries serious health risks, including oxygen deprivation, nerve damage, impaired judgment, and in severe cases, death. The canisters used for recreational inhalation have also been linked to dangerous driving incidents and neighborhood disturbances.

The ordinance is a proactive response to concerns raised by residents, law enforcement, and local business owners who have witnessed an uptick in discarded nitrous oxide canisters in parks, parking lots, and residential streets. These small metal cartridges—often found in clusters—have become a visible reminder of a problem that many feel has escalated too quickly to ignore.

Under Ordinance No. 2026-01, the sale of nitrous oxide products for non medical, non industrial purposes is strictly prohibited. Businesses found in violation may face fines or other enforcement actions. The ordinance does not restrict legitimate medical or dental use, nor does it interfere with commercial operations that rely on nitrous oxide for lawful, regulated purposes. Instead, the new law targets the retail availability of consumer grade cartridges that are most commonly misused.

City leaders emphasize that the measure is not merely punitive, it is preventive. By reducing access to nitrous oxide products, the City aims to curb recreational abuse before it leads to more serious public safety issues. This ordinance is about protecting

our community and ensuring that Los Alamitos remains a safe place for families, and that means addressing emerging threats before they become crises.

Local law enforcement has voiced strong support for the ordinance, citing the dangers associated with nitrous oxide misuse. Officers have reported incidents involving impaired drivers under the influence of the substance, as well as late night gatherings where canisters are used and discarded in large quantities. These situations not only endanger those directly involved but also create hazards for pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists.

Nitrous oxide misuse has become increasingly prevalent among teenagers and young adults, in part because the cartridges are inexpensive, easy to conceal, and widely available. By removing the retail supply within City boundaries, Los Alamitos hopes to reduce the temptation and accessibility that often contribute to experimentation among youth.

Beyond health and safety concerns, the ordinance addresses quality of life issues that residents have raised for months. Neighborhoods littered with spent canisters face environmental and aesthetic impacts, while the gatherings associated with misuse often generate noise, vandalism, and other disturbances. The ban is expected to help restore a sense of cleanliness and security in affected areas.

While some business owners initially questioned whether the ordinance would affect their operations, most have expressed understanding and support after learning about the scope and intent of the measure. The City certifies that the ban applies only to consumer grade nitrous oxide cartridges commonly sold in smoke shops, convenience stores, and online marketplaces—not to regulated commercial or medical uses.

As Los Alamitos moves forward with implementation, City officials plan to work closely with businesses, schools, and community organizations to raise awareness about the dangers of nitrous oxide misuse. Educational outreach will play a key role in ensuring that residents understand both the purpose of the ordinance and the risks associated with recreational inhalation. To learn more about the Ordinance, please visit the City website at www.cityoflosalamitos.org.

With the adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-01, Los Alamitos joins a growing number of California cities taking action to address nitrous oxide misuse at the local level. The ordinance represents a clear message: the safety and well being of the community come first. By acting now, City leaders hope to prevent future harm, protect vulnerable residents, and maintain the high quality of life that Los Alamitos is known for.

How the Los Al Loop Is Written: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Your Community Newsletter



The City of Los Alamitos Council Chamber front entrance.

Creating the Los Al Loop is a detailed and highly coordinated effort that blends journalism, editing, graphic design, photography, and production into one cohesive publication. While readers see only the finished product—clean headlines, compelling stories, and polished layouts—each issue reflects a structured workflow built around accuracy, clarity, and timeliness. At its core, the Los Al Loop is about transparency: providing residents with clear, direct insight into how decisions are made, how public funds are invested, and how City services are delivered.

Producing the Los Al Loop requires close collaboration across City departments and a shared commitment to keeping residents informed about the decisions, services, and initiatives shaping their community. The newsletter serves as an accessible bridge between City Hall and the public, translating complex policies, budgets, and infrastructure projects into in-

formation that is understandable and meaningful.

The process begins well before any article is drafted. Each issue is strategically shaped around key actions from the previous month's City Council Meeting, as well as major programs, infrastructure projects, public safety updates, and community events on the horizon. Typically, the Editor, Matt Lightner, meets with Director of Communications/City Clerk Windmera Quintanar the day after the Council Meeting to outline the next edition. Together, they identify feature stories, recurring sections, public notices, and special announcements that will form the backbone of the publication. This intentional alignment with Council actions ensures residents receive timely summaries of policy decisions and understand the impacts to the community.

"This newsletter is truly a team effort," City Clerk Quintanar said. "Every department contributes in some

Supervisor Nguyen

Continued from Page 1

Nguyen discussed her role on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) board, where she advocated against proposed Rules 1111 and 1121 that would have phased out residential gas-powered water heaters and furnaces. She argued that the measures would have imposed significant costs on residents. She also supported a collaborative agreement with the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to pursue zero-emission goals while protecting local jobs. Additionally, she noted that the AQMD approved millions of dollars in funding for Orange County schools to transition bus fleets to zero-emission vehicles.

Locally, Supervisor Nguyen celebrated the \$2.5 million secured for the Los Alamitos Civic Center Complex, which houses the community center, police department, and fire facilities. Completed improvements include a new roof, upgraded lighting, ADA accessibility enhancements, and modernized kitchen and dance spaces. The investment reflects a shared commitment between the City and County to improve public facilities and community services.

City Manager Simmons praised

Nguyen's continued advocacy, stating, "Soliciting and securing \$2.5M for our residents is just the latest in a long line of ways she's shown dedication to our City." He continued, "Partnerships like the one Los Alamitos shares with Supervisor Nguyen are a continued effort that Director Noda is spearheading with the support of the Council to further Los Alamitos' regional goals to be 'The Best City Ever.'"

Supervisor Nguyen closed her remarks by reaffirming her focus on transparency, support for law enforcement, and balanced environmental policy. "We all want clean air, but we also don't want to sacrifice today for tomorrow," she said. "We want both." Her visit not only provided a comprehensive legislative update but also reinforced the City of Los Alamitos' expanding regional presence. As the City continues to cultivate strong relationships at the county and regional levels, events like this signal a collaborative future focused on service delivery, fiscal responsibility, and coordinated governance for the benefit of residents.

Los Alamitos continues to strengthen regional ties with the County Board of Supervisors, the state, and the federal government in an effort to continue to be "The Best City Ever."

way—whether it's providing information, reviewing content for accuracy, taking photos at events, or helping us tell the story of the work happening across the City. The Los Al Loop reflects the collective dedication of our entire City."

Once the editorial plan is established, writing and editing assignments are distributed among contributing staff. The reporting phase often involves reviewing City documents, consulting subject matter experts, researching prior Council actions, and attending public events such as ribbon cuttings, community meetings, and press conferences. This deliberate research process reinforces transparency by ensuring articles are grounded in verified facts and official records. The objective is not only to report what happened, but to provide meaningful context that helps residents understand how decisions are made and how they affect daily life.

Articles are structured using the traditional "inverted pyramid" approach—placing the most essential information (who, what, when, where, why, and how) at the top. This ensures readers can quickly grasp the core message.

After drafts are completed, articles move into a multi-layered editing process. The Editor reviews content for readability, structure, and alignment with City messaging. Executive Staff then conduct comprehensive reviews for grammar, spelling, punctuation, and consistency with established communication standards. This rigorous review process reinforces public trust by ensuring that information shared with residents is accurate, polished, and responsible.

Simultaneously, staff members capture photographs throughout the month at City events, programs, and milestones. These images visually connect residents to their local government and highlight the people behind the work—public safety personnel, public works crews, administrative staff, and

community volunteers.

Finally, the Editor assembles the publication using design software.

After layout approval, The Los Al Loop moves into production. Thousands of copies are printed, folded, and prepared for distribution. In addition to the printed edition delivered directly to every household in Los Alamitos, the newsletter is published online at <https://thelosalloop.org/>, ensuring convenient digital access for residents who prefer to read electronically.

City Manager Chet Simmons emphasized that the publication reflects the character of the community it serves. "A citywide newsletter like the Los Al Loop is uniquely Los Alamitos," Simmons said. "It represents our commitment to transparency and direct communication with residents. Not every city produces a publication of this scale and quality, but in Los Alamitos, we believe our residents deserve consistent, comprehensive updates about their local government."

Assistant City Manager Ron Noda added, "The Los Al Loop touches so many areas similar to Development Services. It's a great tool to show what the City is working on at every level, promoting Los Alamitos as 'The Best City Ever.'"

The final step—distribution—ensures that every residential address in the City receives a printed copy, reinforcing the City's commitment to inclusivity and outreach. By proactively delivering information rather than requiring residents to seek it out, the City underscores its belief that transparency is not optional—it is foundational to good governance.

Ultimately, the Los Al Loop is more than a newsletter; it is a structured, transparent communication platform grounded in accuracy, accountability, and teamwork. Each issue offers residents an inside look at their city government, strengthens public trust, and deepens the connection between the City and the community it proudly serves.

Administration

City Manager - Chet Simmons
City Clerk/Director of Communications - Windmera Quintanar
Administrative Services Manager - Chelsi Wilson

Development Services (Dev Svcs)

Assistant City Manager/Development Services Director - Ron Noda
Development Services Manager - Irving Montengro

Finance

Director of Finance - Craig Koehler
Finance Manager - Barbara Biscocho

Police Department

Chief of Police - Michael Claborn
Operations Captain - Kain Gallagher
Administrative/Investigation Captain - Luke South

Recreation & Community Services (RCS)

Director of RCS/Director of Intergovernmental Affairs - Emeline Noda
Recreation Manager - Jennifer Sisoev
Recreation Manager - Jason Bruton



Miller Children's & Women's Hospital
MemorialCare.

CITY OF Los Alamitos California
My City ♥ My Los Al

FREE ADMISSION

Spring Carnival

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

LITTLE COTTONWOOD PARK
(4000 FARQUHAR AVENUE)

www.cityoflosalamitos.org/recreation

MULCH + COMPOST GIVEAWAY **FREE EVENT**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UWS, THE CITY WILL HOST THIS FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FOR LOS ALAMITOS RESIDENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
8 A.M. - 11 A.M.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD PARK
4000 FARQUHAR AVENUE

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:
LIMIT TWO (2) BAGS PER HOUSEHOLD
ID REQUIRED
DRIVE-THRU EVENT
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Full info...
SCAN ME!




2 DAY VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS EXHIBITION

CITY OF Los Alamitos California
My City ♥ My Los Al

Weekend of Art

Presented by the Los Alamitos Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Commission

FRIDAY March 27, 2026 5:00 - 8:00 PM	SATURDAY March 28, 2026 12:00 - 7:00 PM
---	--

LOS ALAMITOS COMMUNITY CENTER (10911 OAK ST.)
WWW.CITYOFLOSALAMITOS.ORG/RECREATION



CITY OF Los Alamitos California

PAWS FOR THE PLANET

Join us... **LAUREL PARK** **SATURDAY, APRIL 25** **9AM-NOON** *Arbor Day & Pet Expo Event*

- Face painting
- Eco Friendly Activities
- Free Saplings
- Help Plant a Tree
- Dog Costume Contest
- Pet Adoptions & Vendor Fair
- Pup playtime at the new dog park

My City ♥ My Los Al
CITYOFLOSALAMITOS.ORG
562.430.1073

FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER: