



# The Los Al Loop



*Your Source for Los Alamitos Community News.*

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## Homegrown Talent Graduates, Sworn In as Newest Los Al Officer



Officer McLeod sworn in by Acting Chief South with his mother Erin, grandfather Keith, and girlfriend Elda

The Los Alamitos Police Department welcomed its newest officer at the April City Council meeting, as Officer Joshua McLeod was officially sworn in by Acting Chief Luke South. The ceremony marked both a personal milestone for Officer McLeod and a proud moment for the department, which has seen his growth from police aide to full-fledged officer. Officer McLeod’s journey began in April 2024, when he was hired by the Los Alamitos Police Department as a police aide assigned to the Traffic Division. There, he gained critical field experience and a deeper understanding of community policing. Prior to joining the department, Officer McLeod had already demonstrated a strong commitment to law enforcement through his involvement with the Long Beach Police Department Explorer Program, where he achieved the rank of sergeant during tenure with the program in high school. Born and raised in Long Beach, Officer McLeod is a graduate of Milikan High School’s Class of 2022. Though he originally hoped to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps, Officer McLeod was medically disqualified due to food allergies. That twist of fate, however, opened the door for his continued pursuit of public service

through a career in law enforcement with the City of Los Alamitos. Following high school, Officer McLeod attended Long Beach City College, where he majored in business. His determination and work ethic led him to the Orange County Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy, from which he graduated on April 24, 2025. At the academy graduation, Acting Chief South, himself a retired 26-year veteran of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, personally presented Officer McLeod with his badge during graduation. Not only did Acting Chief South have the honor of presenting Officer McLeod with his badge, but he also played a pivotal role in helping him reach this milestone. Officer McLeod shared that Acting Chief South offered valuable guidance throughout the hiring process, particularly during the rigorous background investigation. “Captain South would give me advice and helped me navigate the background part of getting the position,” Officer McLeod noted. This mentorship highlights the department’s commitment to fostering internal growth and adds to the “homegrown” nature of Officer McLeod’s journey, developed and supported entirely within the City of Los Alamitos.

The badge pinning ceremony was a heartfelt occasion, attended by Officer McLeod’s mother, Erin; grandfather, Keith; and girlfriend, Elda. Also in attendance was Michelle Schuetz, representing Assemblymember Tri Ta, who presented Officer McLeod with a certificate recognizing his service and induction into the Los Alamitos Police Department. As Officer McLeod begins his policing career, his story stands as a testament to the importance of local recruitment, mentorship, and perseverance in building the future of law enforcement in Los Alamitos.



Officer McLeod receiving his badge from his grandfather, Keith.

## Upcoming Events Calendar

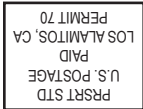
### City Meetings

- City Council Meeting  
Date: May 19, 2025  
Time: 6 PM
- Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission Meeting  
Date: June 4, 2025  
Time: 7 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting  
Date: May 28, 2025  
Time: 7 PM
- Traffic Commission Meeting  
Date: June 11, 2025  
Time: 7 PM

### City Events

- Neighborhood Clean Up  
Date: May 17, 2025  
Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Location: Corner of Pine Street and Florista Street
- Memorial Day (City Hall Closed)  
Date: May 26, 2025  
Time: All Day  
Location: Los Alamitos City Hall
- Spring Classes End  
Date: May 31, 2025  
Time: All Day  
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center
- Summer Classes/Day Camp Starts  
Date: June 9, 2025  
Time: All Day  
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center
- Summer Concert Series  
Date: Every Thursday in June 2025  
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Location: 10902 Pine Street

More events can be found on the City website: [cityoflosalamitos.org](http://cityoflosalamitos.org)



### KEEP UP WITH US IN 2025

(562) 431-3538

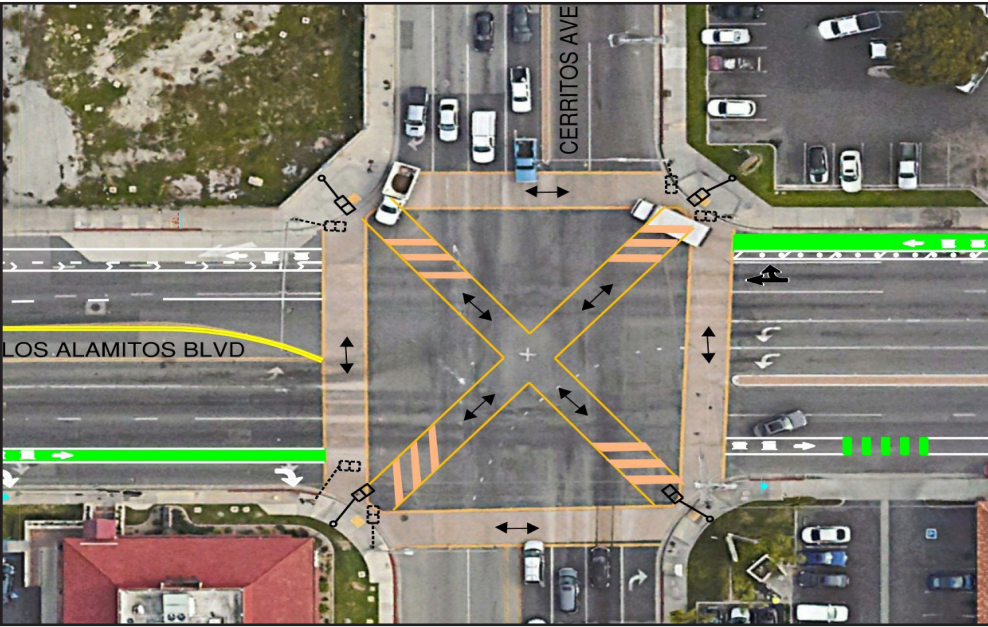
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## City Council Gives Direction for Los Al Blvd.



City staff presented a traffic study to the City Council at the April City Council Meeting concerning the updated striping at the Cerritos Ave. and Los Alamitos Blvd. intersection to discuss potential changes to improve traffic flow.

Over the past few years, the City has been integrating Active Transportation Plan (ATP) improvements into its Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), with a special focus on routes serving the two middle schools and high school. Completed projects include enhancements along Cerritos Ave. and Los Alamitos Blvd. Bloomfield St. is currently in the design phase, and a fourth project targeting Oak, Florista, and Walnut Streets is now under early assessment.

However, improvements to the Cerritos Ave. and Los Alamitos Blvd. striping changes have received complaints concerning traffic congestion. Concerns center on right-turning vehicles being blocked by pedestrian crossings, most notably students, causing backups that extended down the boulevard.

In response, the City conducted a traffic study in February 2025, collecting video and vehicle turning movement data during peak hours. The study confirmed significant conflicts between high pedestrian volumes and vehicular flow. The study showed that approximately 9,600 vehicles pass through the Los Alamitos Blvd. and Cerritos Ave. intersection on the average school weekday.

To address the issue, four potential solutions were presented to the City Council for consideration:

1. Revert to Previous Roadway Configuration: Restore old pavement markings and remove the bike lane, allowing right-turning vehicles to stack outside of through traffic lanes.
2. Install an “Exclusive Pedestrian Phase” (Scramble): Introduce a signal phase that allows all pedestrians to cross the intersection at once, including diagonally, while all vehicle traffic is stopped. This could be paired with improved signal timing between intersections and potential upgrades to ADA curb ramps.
3. Remove a Left-Turn Lane and Add a Right-Turn Lane: To reduce congestion from turning vehicles, eliminate one northbound left-turn

lane and replace it with a dedicated right-turn lane. However, this would potentially cause new backups for left-turn vehicles.

4. Widen the Eastside Sidewalk for a Shifted Bike Lane: Expand the sidewalk on the east side of Los Alamitos Blvd. to accommodate a raised, separated bike path. The City Council directed staff to provide a solution that incorporates options 1 and 2. Staff was directed to review the potential of adding the Exclusive Pedestrian Phase (Scramble) to the intersection and find potential relocation options for the bike lane to improve traffic flows.

Staff will return with a comprehensive report detailing these directives, at which point the City Council will determine the best way to balance traffic efficiency with the city’s long-term transportation and safety goals. The ATP remains a critical part of Los Alamitos’ vision for safer streets. However, as these developments show, aligning infrastructure upgrades with real-time traffic realities requires ongoing community input and flexible planning.

In line with California’s growing emphasis on sustainable, pedestrian-friendly cities, the City of Los Alamitos continues to implement its ATP, a comprehensive initiative to increase walking and biking, promote public health, and enhance safety for non-motorized users.

Initially adopted in 2021 following a year-long process with robust community engagement, the ATP serves as a blueprint to transform Los Alamitos into a more walkable, bikeable community. The plan was shaped through various outreach efforts, including virtual workshops, public surveys, social media campaigns, and a dedicated Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC included representatives from local agencies such as the Los Alamitos Unified School District, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Caltrans, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and members of the City’s advisory commissions. As a result of that process, the ATP identified 18 key corridors and streets for recommended improvements, including Katella Ave., Cerritos Ave., and Los Alamitos Blvd.

## City Responds to Resident Concerns

In response to community feedback, the City of Los Alamitos is adjusting recent improvements made to Lexington Drive to better balance parking needs with neighborhood livability. The initial enhancements, part of a traffic-calming and parking expansion effort, included angled parking and a new stop sign. While these changes increased available parking and helped slow traffic, residents quickly reported unintended consequences, including reduced visibility for turning vehicles and headlights from parked cars shining into homes. City staff and officials took swift action. City Manager Chet Simmons personally visited the area to assess the situation firsthand. With the original project delivered on time and under budget, Development Services Director Ron Noda directed his team to explore options for improving the current traffic-calming layout.

As a result, the City will convert the angled parking on the east side of Lexington Drive back to parallel parking to address visibility and headlight concerns. The west side will retain angled spaces to preserve added capacity. The revised configuration strikes a balance between safety, functionality, and neighborhood impact.



“I’m happy to report that collaboration between the residents and the City continues to bear fruit,” said City Manager Simmons regarding the pending improvements. The City Council has given staff the latitude to work closely with the community to find and implement the best solutions for this project and others in the past as well.

The City will also move forward with the next phase of the broader parking improvement initiative in the area, continuing its efforts to address long-standing issues with a focus on community input and practical design. Work on implementing the parking adjustments and associated safety enhancements, including the new stop sign, is expected to begin soon.

## LAHS Students Learn: Every 15 Minutes



OCCA Firefighters simulate a car rescue for LAHS students.

In a moving and impactful demonstration of the real-life consequences of impaired driving, multiple local agencies came together on April 3, for the Every 15 Minutes program at Los Alamitos High School. The simulation was coordinated by The Youth Center Los Alamitos and hosted in partnership with Orange County Fire Authority Battalion 1, Los Alamitos Police Department, Seal Beach Police Department, California Highway Patrol, the Orange County Coroner’s Office, and Falck Ambulance. The Every 15 Minutes program is a nationally recognized initiative that sheds light on the devastating impact of teen drinking and driving. The program takes its name from a once-frequent statistic: every 15 minutes, someone in the U.S. died as a result of an alcohol-related traffic collision. The event aims to instill a lasting impression on high school

students by simulating the real-world response to a fatal DUI crash. As part of the dramatization, select students portrayed the victims of a staged DUI collision on campus. Emergency responders rushed to the scene to perform a realistic rescue operation. Firefighters used the “jaws of life” to extract the mock victims from the wreckage, while paramedics placed injured students into ambulances. Simultaneously, officers questioned and detained the student actor portraying the impaired driver. The simulation reached an emotional climax when officials from the Coroner’s Office arrived to pronounce the “fatalities” and remove the deceased from the scene—driving home the heartbreaking consequences of impaired driving. By participating in Every 15 Minutes, Los Alamitos emergency responders and partner agencies reaffirm their commitment to public safety.



# Los Alamitos Unveils Balanced Budget, Stays Strong Amid Economic Uncertainty



In the face of growing national economic uncertainty, the City of Los Alamitos remains a model of fiscal strength and proactive governance. At the April City Council meeting, the City received a presentation on the proposed biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2025–26 and 2026–27, showcasing a continued commitment to balanced growth, sound financial management, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

Despite a challenging economic landscape marked by slowing national GDP growth, rising inflation, and consumer caution, Los Alamitos confidently enters the next fiscal cycle. City Manager Chet Simmons noted at the beginning of the budget presentation that Los Alamitos hasn’t experienced a typical financial year since 2020. From the COVID-19 pandemic to subsequent federal recovery funding, then talks of recession and a soft landing, and now renewed concerns over inflation, the City has taken a fiscally conservative and disciplined approach to funding City operations. This budget reflects the stability Los Alamitos has built and the progress it intends to make.

The City has posted a budget surplus for five consecutive years and

will maintain a structurally balanced budget going into the next biennium. These achievements have enabled Los Alamitos to not only maintain a AAA bond rating but also grow its financial reserves, reduce unfunded liabilities, and expand public services, all key objectives of the voter-approved Measure Y. The measure, aimed at ensuring fiscal sustainability and service enhancement, has supported everything from public safety improvements to infrastructure investments. City leaders credit the City’s financial success to transparent financial practices, collaborative leadership, and a clear vision for long-term community benefits. The priorities identified in the proposed budget are infrastructure upgrades, modernization of City operations, and continued investment in public safety and community development. One major focus will be the implementation of the City’s Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP), which outlines strategies to attract and retain businesses, revitalize commercial corridors, and enhance the overall economic vitality of the community.

The City will also deepen its partnerships with key regional agencies and local nonprofits. Collaborations with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), and local service organizations will help strengthen emergency preparedness, expand community programs, and align regional resources to better serve Los Alamitos residents.

City officials emphasized that while the economic environment remains unpredictable, the City remains prepared. City Manager Simmons noted that while Los Alamitos is planning for a “normal” financial year, it remains fully ready to adapt to any unexpected economic challenges.

## Measure Y Funding Uses FY 2024-2025



The City of Los Alamitos, following the passage of Measure Y during the 2020 General Election, has successfully expanded funding for police services, enhanced service delivery, improved infrastructure, and addressed long-deferred maintenance. In the current fiscal year (July 2024 – June 2025), Measure Y funds have supported several major projects, including the redevelopment of Sterns Park and Labourdette Park, street repaving efforts, repairs to a Community Center building, and resurfacing of Laurel Park with new tennis and pickleball courts, among others. The City remains committed to utilizing Measure Y funding as intended to invest in the community’s future.

- Projects Completed or Underway:
- Stern’s Park Project
  - Phase II Residential Streets
  - Labourdette Park Project
  - Community Center Roof Repair
  - Laurel Park Tennis Court Project
  - Police Department Property Room Remodel
  - Bradbury/Rossmoor Sign Lighting
  - Demo of LATV/Public Works Building
  - Community Center Sound System / AV Upgrade
  - Police Department Storage Unit
  - Outdoor Awning & Lighting
  - Civic Center Master Plan
  - Pine Street Design
  - Pavement Master Plan Upgrade
  - Howard and Maple PMP

# Mayor’s Business Spotlight: Chartreuse



For nearly 25 years, Chartreuse has been a creative cornerstone in the community, a place where furniture meets function, style meets substance, and customers are treated like family. At the helm is owner Allison Word, whose journey into the world of interior design started unexpectedly during her first year at California State University, Long Beach. Initially pursuing a path in education, Allison discovered her true calling after taking an interior design course. A chance encounter with a fellow student who worked at Chartreuse led her to visit the store, and she instantly fell in love with the environment. She was interviewed and hired at just 18 and never looked back. Today, she has owned the store for more than eight years.

Allison loves interacting with customers and appreciates how every day is different. That passion, paired with resilience, has carried Allison and the store through both personal and professional challenges. Eight years ago, she tragically lost her husband in a car accident.

Chartreuse sets itself apart by offering personalized service without the hefty price tag of design fees. Staff will take customers’ paint samples

and measurements to help tailor each piece to the client’s vision. All of the furniture is locally made, further reinforcing the store’s commitment to the community.

The store prides itself on staying ahead of evolving trends. As technology has driven home spaces to become smaller and more efficient, so too has furniture design shifted. Chartreuse offers a versatile mix of modern, traditional, and transitional styles that adapt to each home and customer’s needs. Transitional refers to a blend of styles that fits seamlessly into a variety of home aesthetics based on each client’s preferences.

Looking ahead, Allison is focused on keeping up with new design concepts and fresh color palettes to meet her clientele’s changing tastes.

Chartreuse is open Tuesday through Saturday and closed on Sundays and Mondays. The best way to see their latest designs and connections is through Instagram (@chartreusehomefurnishings), where they regularly post new pieces and inspiration.

Whether you’re furnishing a new home or refreshing a favorite room, Chartreuse offers more than furniture; it offers connection, creativity, and community.

## MOSQUITO SEASON

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District  
ocvector.org

### LIFE CYCLE OF AN Aedes MOSQUITO

**MAINTAIN YOUR DRAIN**

It's crucial to keep your yard drain well-maintained if you want to avoid breeding *Aedes* mosquitoes in it. These mosquitoes are known for their ability to lay eggs in even the smallest water sources, and a clogged or neglected drain can easily become a breeding ground for them.

In addition to yard drains, other sources such as bird baths, flower pots and gutters should also be regularly cleaned and maintained.

### MOSQUITOES IN ORANGE COUNTY

Are you tired of getting bitten by mosquitoes while enjoying a nice walk or relaxing on your porch with a cup of coffee? This mosquito is known as the ankle biter, also known as the *Aedes* mosquito. These black and white striped mosquitoes are known for biting during the daytime and can be found in every city in Orange County.

While the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District conducts wide area treatments, smaller sources of water around your patio, yard or indoor space can also attract mosquitoes. These insects only need a small amount of water to complete their life cycle, so it is important for every resident to take an active role in mosquito control.

### RESOURCES

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) provides a range of resources to help residents take an active role in mosquito control.

One of the resources offered is the DIY page. This page provides step-by-step instructions on how to control mosquitoes in your yard. You can learn how to identify mosquito breeding sources, eliminate stagnant water and use insecticides safely and effectively. Visit [ocvector.org](http://ocvector.org) for more information.



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